

INFORMATION
LETTER
#3

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Interreg
Océan Indien



#RégionRéunion

INTERREG VI

2021-2027

A EUROPEAN
PROGRAM
DEDICATED TO
COOPERATION
PROJECTS
IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



In a world marked by growing uncertainties and global challenges, the European cooperation programme Interreg VI Indian Ocean represents a fundamental pillar of regional solidarity.

This programme embodies an ambitious and progressive vision: that of a region united in diversity, where each island and community contributes to the building of a common destiny and sustainable development.

Together, we have the responsibility to address the major challenges of climate change, food and health security, and economic integration, by promoting joint initiatives that foster stability and regional co-development.

Regional co-development is not just an ideal; it is an imperative that calls us to act collectively for the benefit of our populations.

Following its operational launch in 2024, the Interreg VI OI programme, strongly supported by the European Union, is experiencing dynamic progress, with 63 cooperation operations planned in total, 24 of which are presented in this third newsletter.

I would like to acknowledge the continuous involvement of our partners from neighbouring islands in the supported projects, both bilateral and multilateral: Mauritius stands out with 46 projects, followed by Madagascar with 40 projects, the Seychelles with 28 projects, and finally the Comoros with 24 projects. Mozambique also proves to be an important partner, with 12 recorded cooperation projects.

I would also like to highlight the close collaboration established with our colleagues from the Department of Mayotte, who manage the Interreg VI Mozambique Channel programme on their side. In 2025, seven coordination committees were held, allowing us to define common priorities and share good management practices. Mahoran structures are also involved in eleven projects on various themes: sustainable tourism, agricultural research, biodiversity, etc.

At the end of this year, the launch of a joint NDICI-FEDER call for projects focused on two key areas of co-development: sustainable food security and disaster risk management. The management of a new financial envelope from the European NDICI fund by the local authority will involve our third-country partners more closely and strengthen the impact of the projects on the populations and territories concerned.

The Regional Council of Reunion island has made it a priority to strengthen our ties of friendship and partnership with the countries of the region. In this regard, two national Interreg workshops were organized this year, first on Sister Island Mauritius, then in the Comoros.

A qualitative assessment of the Interreg operations was conducted by the cooperation partners, highlighting the roots and dynamism of these projects.

The strengthening of ties with our close neighbours has also been reflected in the accession of South Africa to the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme.

We are proud to once again count the Rainbow Nation among the programme's partners. Already, promising prospects for cooperation are emerging, particularly in the fields of cultural and sports cooperation, with the signing of a bilateral framework agreement on December 20th.

Huguette BELLO,
President of the Regional Council of Reunion Island

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

REMAPHASOL

General objective : Enhancing the biodiversity of the Indian Ocean through new eco-friendly extraction methods. The aim is to find more environmentally friendly alternatives to conventional solvents, which are often polluting and costly.

PROJECT : The CYROI public interest group has an infrastructure available to companies and public laboratories in La Réunion and the Indian Ocean: the cyclotron. The cyclotron is the tool needed to manufacture a radioisotope, and enables research activities to be carried out on 3 themes (metabolic diseases, infectious diseases and the enhancement of terrestrial and marine biodiversity).

Madagascar is characterized by extremely rich biodiversity: 83% of vascular plants are known to occur only in Madagascar. La Réunion, on the other hand, is a hot spot for global plant biodiversity, and is marked by the use of medicinal plants by its inhabitants.

This collaborative project between Reunion Island and Madagascar aims to enhance the value of the Indian Ocean's plant biodiversity by developing eco-responsible extraction methods, notably based on natural solvents (NaDES), known for their antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anti-microbial properties. It draws on the exceptional wealth of endemic flora in Madagascar and Reunion to seek sustainable alternatives to toxic solvents. The aim is to extract and characterize secondary metabolites from medicinal plants, then evaluate their biological properties using cellular and microbial models. This project also involves the University of Reims.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on October 10, 2023 - action sheet I.I "Partnership research projects between players in the zone on common issues".

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : GIP CYROI (project leader)

MADAGASCAR : University of Antananarivo

OTHER : University of Reims (Champagne-Ardenne)

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 594 370.38	€ 122 535.95
	€ 816 906.33	

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

MELAPI : « Ecological Myths and Narratives in Indian Ocean Literature and Artistic Practices: Contributing to the Construction of an Indian Ocean Heritage »

General objective : To create a platform for federating narratives on the imaginary of the Indian Ocean, and to contribute to the empowerment of island societies through the transmission of hidden knowledge and memories.

PROJECT : The islands and countries bordering the southwest and the greater Indian Ocean share myths and stories about water, land and the creatures that live there. The subjects of the Indian Ocean convey extraordinarily diverse knowledge about their native and adopted ecosystems: this knowledge constitutes ecological narratives that contribute to the empowerment of populations.

This project aims to create a network of researchers around the Indian Ocean, fostering interdisciplinary partnerships (literature, anthropology, natural sciences, etc.) and making accessible ecological and cultural knowledge that is still not widely disseminated. It aims to structure a corpus of texts, federate narratives on the imaginary of the Indian Ocean via a dedicated platform, and contribute to the empowerment of island societies through the valuation of local memories and identities.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on October 10, 2023 - action sheet 1.3 "Networking players, sharing scientific knowledge and capitalizing on, disseminating and popularizing research results".

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : University of Reunion Island (project leader), Association MOV_A

MAURITIUS : University of Mauritius

MADAGASCAR : University of Toliara, University of Antsiranana

COMOROS : University of Comoros

INDIA : Pondicherry University

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 274 339.37	€ 48 412.83
	€ 322 752.20	

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Indian Ocean Health Research Congress (CoReSOI) – 4th Edition

General objective : Develop and enhance research and innovation capacities, as well as the use of advanced technologies.

PROJECT : The 4th edition of the Indian Ocean scientific congress highlights a crucial and timely theme: health and the environment. In response to the growing effects of climate change on biodiversity and human health, this event aims to bring researchers together to devise concrete solutions tailored to the realities of the region, with particular attention to vulnerable populations (children, people with chronic illnesses, etc.). The congress will also feature practical workshops to support young researchers in their projects. Beyond knowledge sharing, the event seeks to strengthen ties among the region's scientific, medical, and policy stakeholders and to raise the profile of the University Hospital of Réunion (CHU de La Réunion) and the island itself on the national and international health research stage.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on October 10, 2023 – Action Sheet 1.3 “Networking of stakeholders, sharing of scientific knowledge and actions for capitalization, dissemination, and outreach of research results.”

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : University Hospital Center - CHU (project leader)

MADAGASCAR : Ministry of Health of Madagascar through the General Directorate of Healthcare Services, Faculty of Medicine of Antananarivo

AUSTRALIA : BAKER Heart & Diabetes Institute, University of New South Wales - Kirby Institute Kensington

INDIA : All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)

SEYCHELLES : Ministry of Health of the Republic of Seychelles

COMOROS : Ministry of Health, Solidarity, Social Protection, and Gender Promotion of the Union of the Comoros

MAURITIUS : Ministry of Health and Wellness of Mauritius

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 131 783.23	€ 23 255.87
	€ 155 039.10	

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

COREPÊCHE

General objective : Develop and implement solutions that promote the resilience of small-scale coastal fisheries in the southwestern Indian Ocean and the ecosystems that support them.

PROJECT : Sustainable management of coastal marine resources is a vital issue for the southwestern Indian Ocean region, particularly in Madagascar, where over-fishing and the degradation of habitats such as mangroves and coral reefs threaten the food and economic security of local populations. In light of these challenges, transnational cooperation is essential to harmonize strategies and support local communities.

In this context, the COREPÊCHE project, led by IRD Réunion, is a continuation of the CORECRABE project (co-financed by Interreg V OI). It aims to extend the interdisciplinary approach initiated for mangrove crab fishing to octopus and reef fish fisheries. COREPÊCHE is developing an interdisciplinary methodology for collecting, sharing, and analyzing data and knowledge in economics and socio-ecology. It uses innovative approaches in information science, such as participatory data collection and collaborative information systems. Through exchanges and training activities based on the project results, organized during thematic meetings, the project will encourage adherence to resource management strategies, science-society transfers, and cooperation on coastal fisheries issues.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on October 10, 2023 – action sheet 1.1 “Partnership research projects between stakeholders in the area on common issues”.

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Research Institute for Development - IRD (project leader), University of Reunion Island
MADAGASCAR : Institute of Fisheries and Marine Sciences - IHSM, National Center of Oceanographic Research - CNRO, University of Mahajanga, University of Antananarivo

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	1 287 751,33 €	227 250,23 €
	1 515 001,56 €	

RESEARCH

DiagAustral - Pathophysiology and detection of flavivirus infections of public health priority in the Indo-Pacific region

General objective : Strengthen collaborative research and economic cooperation to promote joint solutions and value creation at the regional level.

PROJECT : The DIAGAUSTRAL project is a collaboration between the University of La Réunion and the University of Queensland (Australia). It aims to address a major health issue in tropical and subtropical regions: dengue fever, a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes, which circulates in four forms called serotypes (DENV-1 to DENV-4). The same person can be infected several times, with an increased risk of severe forms. Rapid and specific diagnosis is therefore essential.

DIAGAUSTRAL aims to develop a rapid diagnostic test capable of detecting dengue infection early and distinguishing between different serotypes. To achieve this, the project relies on the detection of the viral NS1 protein, a key marker present in the blood at the onset of infection. The main steps include: identifying the variable regions of NS1 proteins using bioinformatics, producing these proteins in the laboratory, and then generating specific synthetic antibodies capable of recognizing them. These antibodies will then be used to develop a simple, rapid, and inexpensive diagnostic test.

The project involves four laboratories specializing in biochemistry, virology, bioinformatics, and biotechnology in Réunion and Australia (PIMIT, DSIMB, Watterson, Peters). It also includes training for young researchers, research missions in Brisbane, and the promotion of results in the form of scientific publications and communications to the general public.

Ultimately, DIAGAUSTRAL will provide the region with a platform capable of producing viral proteins and antibodies locally in order to respond quickly to future epidemics, while strengthening regional and international scientific cooperation.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest on October 10, 2023 - action sheet 1.1 "Partnership research projects between actors in the area on common issues."

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : University of Reunion Island (project leader)

AUSTRALIE : University of Queensland

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 274 163.67	€ 48 381.83
	€ 322 545.50	

RESEARCH

Science 2030 Indian Ocean Phase 1

General objective : Build a strong and sustainable regional scientific network in the Indian Ocean area, bringing together stakeholders in research, innovation, and training.

PROJECT : The Science 2030 Indian Ocean project is aimed at a wide range of partners: universities, research organizations, public institutions, technology companies, NGOs, students, and future researchers. This first phase (2024-2026) aims above all to connect these actors, identify common challenges (such as climate change, health, biodiversity, and the blue economy), and then jointly design pilot projects adapted to local realities. In concrete terms, this will involve organizing a series of collaborative workshops in different countries in the region, where participants will discuss their needs, share their expertise, identify existing projects, and work on creating new concrete scientific cooperation projects.

At the same time, the project will lay the foundations for a regional scientific hub led by the University of Réunion, in conjunction with the French Association for Research and Innovation in Australia (AFRAN) and partner Australian universities. It will also involve producing an overview of scientific cooperation in the area, formulating recommendations to public authorities (in terms of mobility, governance, and research strategy), and promoting the work of the European Union and France in the region.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest on October 10, 2023—action sheet 1.3 “Networking of stakeholders, sharing of scientific knowledge, and actions to capitalize on, disseminate, and popularize research results.”

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : UNIVERSITY OF REUNION ISLAND (PROJECT LEADER)

AUSTRALIA : AUSTRALIAN-FRENCH ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION - AFRAN, FRENCH EMBASSY IN AUSTRALIA, UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 116 022.16	€ 20 474.50
	€ 136 496.66	

RESEARCH

DENPHYTOVIR : Indopacific task force for the control of dengue through the development of active biomolecules isolated from regional biodiversity

General objective : This project, developed in partnership with Madagascar, Mauritius and India is about combating dengue fever, a disease that is spreading rapidly in many tropical and subtropical regions. It is based on the identification and study of traditional plants from the Indo-Pacific region in order to discover new natural antiviral molecules.

Objectives :

- To identify medicinal plants traditionally used in the Indo-Pacific region,
- To establish a comparative molecular map of these species
- To characterize antiviral active molecules against the dengue virus, in vitro and in vivo.

PROJECT : The project involves six international teams (Reunion Island, Madagascar, Mauritius, India, Malaysia, and the United States) bringing together expertise in virology, phytochemistry, analytical chemistry, and ethnopharmacology. This collaboration aims not only to discover new treatments, but also to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity, train students, raise public awareness, and file patents. DENPHYTOVIR thus aims to become a model for collaborative "One Health" research, combining human health, the environment, and scientific innovation to strengthen the fight against dengue fever and future epidemics.

2 actions are planned :

- Action 1 : research and development of natural antiviral molecules by (1) sampling plant extracts from Indo-Pacific biodiversity using a transdisciplinary approach ; (2) investigating the phytochemical composition of the extracts selected for a multi-informative molecular network integrating antiviral data. This phase will contribute to the selection of plants of interest for a phytochemical study ; (3) characterizing of the antiviral activity of isolated molecules.
- Action 2 : Project coordination, training, promotion, and communication. The project leader will coordinate the entire project, including decision-making, financial and ethical aspects, progress toward objectives and results, etc. Training courses for students enrolled in the Master's program in tropical infectious diseases at the University of Réunion and partner countries, covering the various aspects of the research project will be organised. Finally, the results will be published in high-impact journals and popular science magazines. Participation in regional and international conferences to communicate the major results is also included.

REFERENCES : This project was selected under the Interreg VI Indian Ocean program launched on October 10, 2023 - action sheet 1.1 "Collaborative research projects between regional stakeholders around shared challenges".

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Research Institute for Development - IRD (project leader)

MADAGASCAR : International Laboratory Affiliated - University of Antananarivo

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 744 310.33	€ 131 348.88
	€ 875 659.21	

TRAINING

Program of regional cooperation actions to promote training and exchanges between working people. Professional mobility for FORMA'TERRA trainees and reciprocal mobility for trainees from REAP AAOI establishments and their partners

General objective : strengthen and pool the skills of agricultural staff and players within the professional agricultural establishments of the Network of Professional Agricultural Establishments in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (REAP AAOI) and the farming community.

PROJECT : The EPLEFPA FORMA'TERRA was created in 1986, with the aim of providing agricultural education and vocational training.

The EPLEFPA's FORMA'TERRA program aims to strengthen and pool the skills of agricultural players in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean. It focuses on training and regional cooperation projects to tackle climate change, improve food resilience, preserve the environment through sustainable practices and produce healthy food. The program also seeks to promote the circular economy as a lever for development. To achieve this, it implements coordinated strategies, promotes professional mobility for learners and staff, and encourages the exchange of tools and expertise in agricultural training engineering. Specific objectives include building professional capacity, organizing mobility for the study of agrarian systems, and holding events to transfer knowledge and promote regional cooperation. Activities will take place in Reunion, Madagascar and Mauritius.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on June 26, 2024 - action sheet 3.1 "Training and experience sharing in the Indian Ocean".

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : EPLEFPA FORMA'TERRA (project leader)

MADAGASCAR : Association Cactus for life, Agro-ecological technical center of southern Madagascar

MAURITIUS : Association « Académie du Vélo Vert », Faculty of agriculture of Mauritius

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 65 059.19	€ 11 481.04
	€ 76 540.23	

TRAINING

Support for the development of pedagogical and agricultural technical skills in partner institutions of the Indian ocean region

General objective : To improve equal access to quality and inclusive education, training, and lifelong learning through the development of accessible infrastructures.

PROJECT : The project is based on the transfer of agricultural knowledge and know-how to young people, teaching teams, and farmers in the partner countries. It also includes support for the structuring of new agricultural institutions, the creation of shared pedagogical modules, and the implementation of training programs tailored to the needs of each territory. For the year 2025, the program includes sixteen actions taking place in Réunion and the partner countries.

The initial actions focus on Rodrigues, with support for the local teams in recruiting trainees for the CAPa ARC training program, followed by remote and on-site assistance. A refresher course for the Rodrigues trainers is held in Réunion to ensure the correct application of the CAPa curriculum. The team from Saint-Joseph also travels to Rodrigues to support the launch of the program. This training lasts nine months and involves joint mobilization of staff from Saint-Joseph and the Saint-Gabriel Agricultural High School. Specific support is also provided to the director of the Rodrigues school to strengthen leadership capacity, while local farmers receive training in food processing with a focus on hygiene and safety.

In Madagascar, the project supports the creation of the future agricultural high school in Besely through training missions for its director and educational team. Leadership exchanges between Madagascar and Réunion aim to reinforce local governance. Technical training in market gardening and beekeeping is also planned for the teaching staff of the École du Monde association, with the goal of developing a self-sufficient campus to serve local development.

In Mozambique, the EPLEFPA of Saint-Joseph hosts academic staff from the Universities of Licungo and Eduardo Mondlane for intensive training on livestock farming, agri-food processing, antimicrobial resistance, and dairy product analysis. These educators will then adapt the training content to their local context and integrate it into their university modules. Additionally, six students from these two universities are hosted in Réunion for a three-month stay. They follow technical and pedagogical courses, participate in practical training, and complete internships in agricultural enterprises.

All of these actions, coherently structured, aim to build long-term skills, share educational tools, and develop a professional exchange network throughout the Indian Ocean region. This project thus contributes to fostering a collective dynamic in support of sustainable agriculture, local employment, and the professional integration of young people into strategic sectors for partner territories.

REFERENCES : This project was selected under the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest which closed on June 26, 2024: 3.1 - "Training and experiences sharing in the Indian Ocean".

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Vocational High School for Horticulture and Agriculture (project leader)

MADAGASCAR : Ecoles du Monde association

MOZAMBIQUE : Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Eduardo Mondlane University, Faculty of Agriculture of Licungo University in Quelimane

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 457 306.49	€ 80 701.15
	€ 586 249.97	

ECONOMY

Strengthen sustainable growth and SME competitiveness, as well as job creation within SMEs, including through productive investments.

General objective : Strengthen sustainable growth and SME competitiveness, as well as job creation within SMEs, including through productive investments.

PROJECT : The “Club Export Réunion” is reinforcing its commitment to developing trade exchanges with countries in the Indian Ocean zone. Building on partnerships established in 2023, it aims to create a favorable framework for the internationalization of Réunionese companies. Despite internal constraints in 2024, the association has refocused its efforts on developing economic networks, organizing business meetings, and supporting companies through targeted sectoral analyses. Actions undertaken include missions to Madagascar, “Country Focus” events, and communication campaigns to highlight cooperation projects. The goal is clear: to build a sustainable dynamic of regional cooperation and to position Réunionese companies in neighboring markets.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on October 10, 2023 – Action Sheet 1.5 “Development of cooperation in the economic field.”

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Club Export Réunion (project leader)

MADAGASCAR: Franco-Malagasy Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIFM), Toamasina Business Group (GEPAT), Madagascar Business Group (GEM)

MAURITIUS: France-Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Business Mauritius

KENYA : FUHREN Global Investment

MOZAMBIQUE: France-Mozambique Chamber of Commerce and Industry

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 94 967.73	€ 16 759.01
	€ 122 399.91	

2024 Action Program – Component 3: VIE for Associations and Economic Organizations

General objective : Strengthen sustainable growth and SME competitiveness, as well as job creation within SMEs, including through productive investments.

PROJECT : The project involves recruiting an International Corporate Volunteer (VIE) who will act as a liaison between their host organization in Mauritius, Business Mauritius, and the Club Export Réunion in order to implement joint projects aimed at developing economic exchanges. Relations with the Seychelles, through Club Export partnerships, will also be part of the VIE's responsibilities.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on October 10, 2023 – Action Sheet 1.5 “Development of cooperation in the economic field.”

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Club Export Réunion (project leader)

MAURITIUS : Business Mauritius, Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI)

SEYCHELLES : Seychelles Chamber of Commerce

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 51 143.89	€ 9 025.39
	€ 51 143.89	

ECONOMY

Strengthening sustainable inter-island tourism in the Indian Ocean

General objective : Increase tourist arrivals in the Indian Ocean (a). Facilitate exchanges and skills between players (b).

PROJECT : Since its creation in 2012, the Vanilla Islands Organization has been implementing annual tourism cooperation programs in partnership with the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and the Seychelles, promoting the assets of each territory and sharing best practices in order to boost the tourism sector in the Indian Ocean region.

As part of its sustainable tourism development strategy, the association is continuing its efforts to strengthen infrastructure and innovation, particularly in the digital sphere; protect the environment through the promotion of ecotourism; expand sustainable partnerships and cooperation; and raise awareness of sustainable tourism and the development of sustainable cruising.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on August 12, 2024 - action sheet 3.4 "Support for tourism development".

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Vanilla Islands Organisation (VIO) (project leader)

MAURITIUS : Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA)

MADAGASCAR : National office of tourism of Madagascar

SEYCHELLES : Seychelles Tourism Board

MAYOTTE : Mayotte Departmental tourism committee

COMOROS : National tourism office of Comoros

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 227 412.81	€ 40 131.67
	€ 267 544.48	

Regional cooperation program between ports in the southwestern Indian Ocean, East Africa, and Southern Africa

General objective : To improve port trade in the Indian Ocean region by harmonizing management practices and upgrading port skills in order to better respond to changing economic patterns, ecological transition, and the digitization of logistics chains.

PROJECT : The cooperation program of the Grand Port Maritime de La Réunion continues and expands on the actions previously co-financed by the Interreg V OI program. It consists of three main activities. The first involves organizing Maritime Weeks aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and promoting diversity in port professions. The second focuses on the exchange of best practices in the digitalization of operations (Smart Port) and environmental management (Green Port). Finally, the third activity concerns the development of skills and career paths, in particular through immersion training, in conjunction with regional partners and with a view to increasing the number of women in port professions.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on October 10, 2023 – action sheet 1.7 “Development of cooperation in the maritime field.”

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Grand Port maritime de La Réunion - GPMDLR (project leader)

SEYCHELLES : Seychelles Ports Authority - SPA

MAURITIUS, COMOROS, MADAGASCAR : Association of Indian Ocean Islands Ports - APIOI

MOZAMBIQUE : A Portos e Caminhos de Ferro de Moçambique, E.P. (Mozambique Ports and Railways Authority), France Mozambique Chamber of Commerce and Industry

KENYA, TANZANIA : Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa - PMAESA

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85 %	REGIONAL COUNCIL 10 %	GPMDLR 5 %
	€ 1 910 117.26	€ 224 719.68	€ 112 359.84
	€ 2 247 196.78		

BIODIVERSITY

Surveillance Missions of the OSIRIS II Patrol Vessel for the Preservation of Fishery Resources and the Marine Environment (2025–2027)

General objective : Monitor fishing activities in the southwest Indian Ocean using the OSIRIS II patrol vessel.

PROJECT : The surveillance missions will aim to protect marine biodiversity, particularly fishing resources, in the southwestern Indian Ocean region. This will be done within the framework of expanded cooperation with countries such as Mozambique, Kenya, and Tanzania. The project is also part of the Indian Ocean Commission's (IOC) MCS (Monitoring, Control and Surveillance) program, ensuring France-Reunion's continued participation in this regional cooperation, which is organized by the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan (PRSP). In short, the aim is to improve the monitoring and protection of fishing areas while strengthening collaboration between countries in the region.

This project is linked to the new SWIO regional program, co-financed by European NDICI funds.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on June 24, 2024 – Action Sheet 2.4 “Biodiversity Protection Projects.”

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Direction de la mer du sud de l'océan Indien - DMSOI (project leader)

IOC COUNTRIES: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Réunion, extended to Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique (all members of the Ecofish program)

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 1 083 286.75	€ 191 168.25
	€ 1 274 455.00	

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



ACTION PROGRAM – RED MASC PROJECT

General objective : Improve the protection and preservation of nature and biodiversity, strengthen green infrastructure, particularly in urban areas, and reduce all forms of pollution.

PROJECT : The RED MASC project aims to strengthen the conservation of the Mascarene Islands' flora by providing an accurate and up-to-date assessment of the degree of threat to each species. It consists of four actions: the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) pre-assessment and global assessment of strictly endemic species in Réunion, expert workshops to refine the assessments, consolidation and formatting of the assessments, and finally the promotion and communication of the results.

REFERENCES : This project was selected under the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on June 24, 2024 - Action Sheet 2.4 "Biodiversity Protection Projects."

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Mascarin National Botanical Conservatory - CBNM (project leader)

MAURITIAN : Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF)

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 121 015.90	€ 21 355.75
	€ 142 862.86	

CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Reunion Island – Madagascar: Structuring, innovation, and awareness-raising for a circular and sustainable textile industry in the Indian Ocean region

General objective : To promote the transition to a circular economy that uses resources efficiently.

PROJECT : This project, led by the RUNWAY association, aims to develop the circular economy in the textile sector (TLC: Textiles, Linen, Footwear) between Reunion Island and Madagascar. It is based on five actions: studies and assessments, technical and economic feasibility, awareness-raising and mobilization of stakeholders, communication, and coordination. The goal is to reduce environmental impact, strengthen economic resilience, and structure a regional circular economy, create local jobs, and promote sustainable cooperation between the two territories.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest on November 15, 2024 – action sheet 2.3 “development of the circular economy in the Indian Ocean.”

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : RUN-WAY Association(project leader)

MADAGASCAR : Natoria Defenders Association, French Institute of Madagascar (IFM)

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 154 573.44	€ 27 277.67
	€ 181 851.11	

RISK MANAGEMENT

Project for cooperation and capacity building in disaster risk management

General objective : Promote adaptation to climate change and disaster risk prevention.

PROJECT : This project is led by the French Red Cross through PIROI (Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform). Its overall objective is to help reduce the impact of disasters linked to natural hazards, health crises, and climate change on populations in the southwestern Indian Ocean. More specifically, the project aims to strengthen the capacities of institutions, actors of the CRCR Movement (Red Cross-Red Crescent) and populations in the area in terms of prevention, preparedness, and response to natural disasters. The CRF-PIROI will increase its training offer for risk management actors in order to strengthen their knowledge, skills, and level of expertise.

The ability to cope with natural disasters can be strengthened through the implementation of various measures, including the establishment of emergency stockpiles to anticipate disasters, the creation of simulation exercises, and the implementation of technical training on risk management.

The expected results relate to the dissemination of educational tools, the organization of regional workshops, the development of simulation exercises, and the provision of equipment for volunteers. By strengthening regional resilience, the project contributes directly to the European objectives of climate change adaptation and risk prevention.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on November 15, 2024 – action sheet 2.2 “Risk prevention and management in the Indian Ocean.”

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : French Red Cross (project leader)

MAYOTTE : Mayotte Red Cross

MAURITIUS : Mauritius Red Cross

SEYCHELLES : Seychelles Red Cross

MOZAMBIQUE : Mozambique Red Cross

COMOROS : Red Cross of Comoros

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 950 073.41	€ 167 660.01
	€ 1 117 733.42	

CULTURE

Historical Sound Archive of the Indian Ocean: collecting, preserving, and sharing musical heritage (PHOI)

General objective : Preserving, promoting, and passing on the musical heritage of the Indian Ocean islands.

PROJECT : The project has three main objectives: collecting traditional musical practices, developing the phoi.io digital platform, and disseminating this heritage to the general public. Field missions (recordings and training), technical improvements to the platform and digitization of archives, and cultural activities (workshops, conferences, educational materials) will be carried out throughout the project. Finally, communication initiatives will ensure the visibility of the actions carried out.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on October 10, 2023 – action sheet 3.3 “Strengthening cultural, artistic, and sporting exchanges in the Indian Ocean.”

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Regional Center for Contemporary Music - PRMA (project leader)

SEYCHELLES : National Institute for Culture, Heritage and the Arts

MAURITIUS : François Mitterrand National Conservatory of Music

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 457 306.49	€ 80 701.15
	€ 538 007.64	

CULTURE AND MOBILITY

Dance of the Crossroads: The Body in All Its States of “Souls”

General objective : To establish a platform for regional choreographic excellence and offer real professional opportunities to the artists and teachers involved, while contributing to the enrichment of our shared cultural heritage.

PROJECT : « Danse des Terres Croisées » is an artistic and cultural cooperation project bringing together Madagascar, Réunion, and Mauritius around dance. Designed as a space for encounter and innovation, this project promotes the fusion of cultures and choreographic styles, from sega to traditional Malagasy dances, hip-hop, contemporary dance, and classical dance.

Through a dynamic of exchanges, cross-training, and professionalization, it aims to:

- Help Madagascan dancers perfect a variety of techniques to enrich their choreographic language;
- Strengthen the teaching skills of Madagascan dance teachers, enabling them to become leaders of artistic projects;
- Allow dancers and teachers from Réunion to open up to new influences through workshops led by artists from the three territories;
- Promote the circulation of knowledge and artists, particularly through residencies and educational exchanges in Mauritius and Madagascar.
- Driven by a desire for collective creation and regional inclusion, this project focuses on training as a lever for unity and artistic diversity in the Indian Ocean region.

REFERENCES : Ce projet a été sélectionné au titre de la fiche-action 4.2 « Projets de petite échelle favorisant la coopération entre citoyens » du programme Interreg océan Indien.

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Mi Danse Association (project leader)

MAURITIUS : Compagnie des Frères Joseph from the Kor & Danse dance school

MADAGASCAR : K’OLO DISARAGA Association, Tahala Company Association

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 9 842.57	€ 1 736.92
	€ 11 579.49	

SPORT AND MOBILITY

Exchanges and skills development for technical officials and young people during the Réunion Badminton Fortnight and the Mauritius Open

General objective : Jointly develop the skills of badminton players across the Indian Ocean region to meet international standards.

PROJECT : This operation is divided into two phases. The first, organized in Réunion in June/July 2024, enabled the pooling of areas of work for training, the harmonization of sporting practices, and the sharing of best practices and skills. Coaches from Madagascar and Mauritius benefited in particular from training to better adapt their methods to the standards of Réunion and local teams. The second phase involved a group of young athletes from Réunion, accompanied by their coaches and official representatives, traveling to Mauritius to share their skills and discuss sporting practices.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest – Action Sheet 4.2 “Small-scale projects promoting cooperation between citizens.”

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Ligue Nouvelle Badminton Réunionnais - LNBR (porteur de projet)

MAURITIUS : Mauritius Badminton Association

MADAGASCAR : Badminton Federation

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 15 447.81	€ 2 726.08
	€ 19 810	

SPORT AND MOBILITY

Reunion-Rodrigues training camps and tournaments: phase 1 and phase 2

General objective : Develop wrestling as a sport and improve standards in Réunion and Rodrigues by organizing competitions in partner countries.

PROJECT : Created in 1998, the Regional Wrestling Committee of Réunion (C.L.R.R.) is affiliated with the French Federation, which promotes the sport and structures its activities to promote high-level competition, particularly with a focus on students studying sports science. As part of a long-term partnership between the Regional Wrestling Committee of Réunion and the Wrestling Committee of Rodrigues, exchanges have been in place since 2003 between the two entities, with a long-term development strategy. In 2024, the 21st exchange between the two committees took place in two phases :

- the first enabled 11 young wrestlers from Réunion and their coaches to travel to Rodrigues. The program included daily training sessions, a training camp, a wrestling tournament, cultural activities, and academic support,
- the second welcomed 11 young athletes from Rodrigues and three coaches for a series of technical, educational, and cultural exchanges. The young people took part in a 16-hour weekly training course, with temporary school integration and cultural visits.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest – action sheet 4.2 “Small-scale projects promoting cooperation between citizens.”

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Comité Régional de Lutte of Reunion Island (project leader)

RODRIGUES/MAURITIUS : Comité Régional de Lutte of Rodrigues

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 11 781.41	€ 2 079.07
	€ 13 860.48	

SPORT AND MOBILITY

For a united and sustainable Indian Ocean Tchoukball

General objective : This project, developed in collaboration with two Madagascan partners, will involve preparing and implementing exchanges around the organization of the 2nd Indian Ocean International Tchoukball Open (OIBOI) in Réunion.

Specific objectives :

- Develop tchoukball in the Indian Ocean region as a sustainable and responsible activity;
- Offer new opportunities for intercultural exchange, education, and learning to more young people, especially young women ;
- Enable young people to enjoy a unique intercultural and sporting experience through exchanges and encounters with other teams ;
- Enable coaches to develop their skills and exchange practices.

PROJECT : As part of its long-term partnership with the NGO Bel Avenir and the Aina association, the Tchoukball League of Reunion Island will welcome its partners to Reunion Island to discuss the 2nd International Tchoukball Open in Reunion Island. The partners are involved in organizing this international tournament and the sports education project.

This program includes preparing for exchanges starting in May 2025, organizing the Open, which is part of the international sports calendar, and strengthening intercultural skills and activities around the Open, in line with the principles of promoting gender equality, environmental responsibility, education through sport, and the development of sports-related professions.

REFERENCES : This project was selected under the Interreg VI Indian Ocean program - action sheet 4.2 "Small-scale projects promoting cooperation between citizens".

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Tchoukball Reunionese League (project leader)

MADAGASCAR : Bel Avenir Association, Aina Association

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 15 491.34	€ 2 733.76
	€ 18 225.10	

SPORT AND MOBILITY

Cooperation between the Saint-Denis judo club and the Mauritian judo federation

General objective : Improving cooperative governance in the Indian Ocean.

PROJECT : The project aims to perpetuate the partnership between the Saint-Denis Judo Club and the Mauritian Judo Federation. Its ambition is to strengthen sports and cultural exchanges between young people from Réunion and Mauritius, while helping to improve the performance level of competitors.

Its implementation is based on a six-year cooperation program, the first stage of which will begin in March 2025 with the preparation of the young athletes. The project will lead to the organization of a training camp and participation in an international tournament in Mauritius in March 2026. Twenty young people aged 14 to 17, accompanied by three supervisors, will take part in this exchange.

The project also includes joint working sessions for technical staff and referees to promote knowledge sharing and the development of training methods. To make this sport more accessible and to promote it, 50 judo uniforms will be donated to children from disadvantaged areas.

All of these actions are intended to support mutual enrichment, athletic improvement, and the promotion of judo among young people in a spirit of lasting cooperation..

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest - action sheet 4.2 "Small-scale projects promoting cooperation between citizens ".

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Judo Club de St Denis (porteur de projet)

MAURITIUS : Fédération Mauricienne de Judo

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 13 702.60	€ 2 418.10
	€ 16 120.70	

ECONOMY

Reunion Region's antennas in Comoros, Madagascar, and Mauritius: 2023–2024

General objective : Strengthen economic partnerships between the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Réunion by networking public and private actors, supporting project leaders and improving governance of cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

PROJECT : This project aims to strengthen regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean through the Réunion Region's branches in Madagascar, the Comoros, and Mauritius. The branches provide technical representation for the local authority and participate in the joint development of strategic projects, raising awareness and strengthening the skills of institutional actors, as well as identifying complementary sources of funding. The objective is to improve the governance of cooperation and consolidate links between territories.

REFERENCES : This project was selected under action sheet 4.1, «Strengthening skills, sharing experiences, and coordination among stakeholders.»

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Regional Council - Human Resources Department (project leader)

MADAGASCAR : Ministry of Foreign Affairs

COMOROS : Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MAURITIUS : Ministry of Foreign Affairs

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	€ 382 960.47	€ 67 581.26
	€ 450 541.73	