

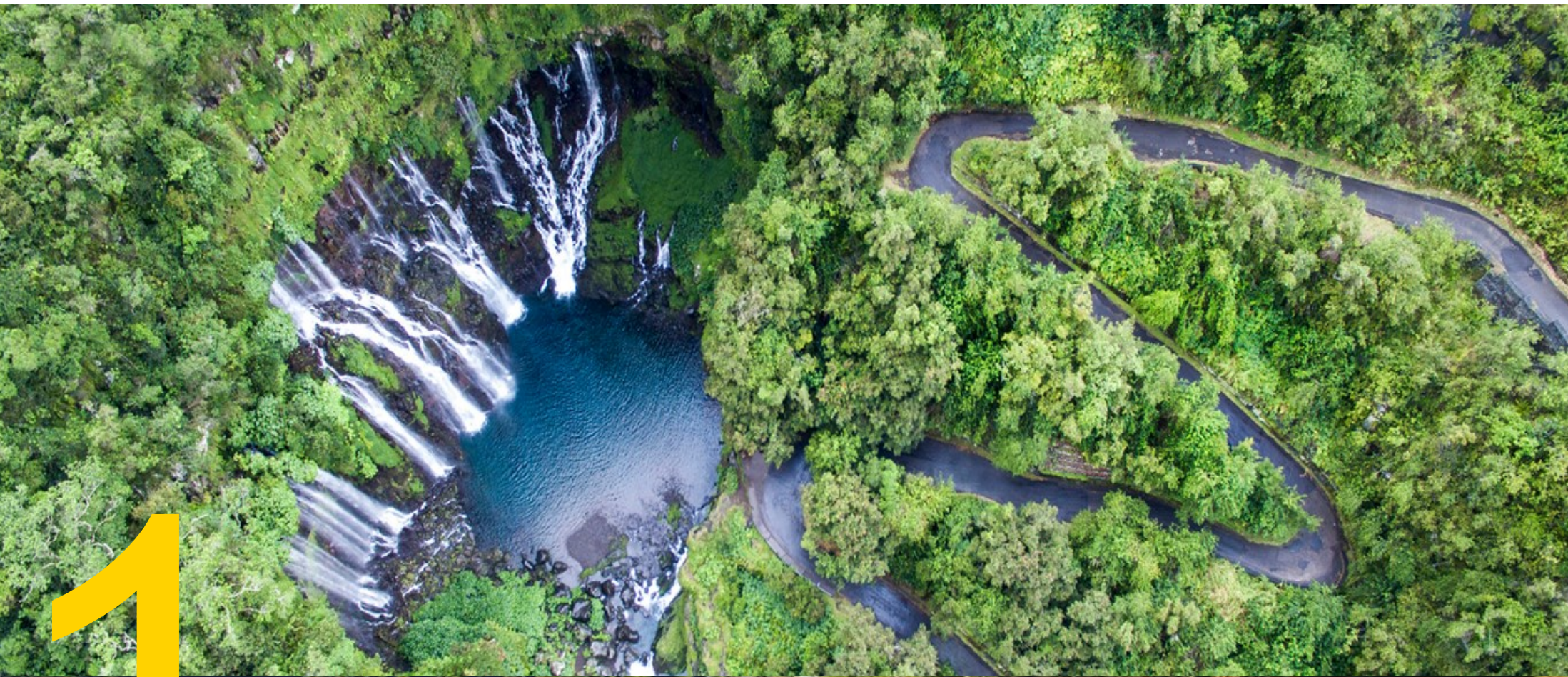
Preparation of the 2021-2027 Interreg Indian Ocean Programme – Context, framework and methodology

Regional Council of Reunion Island



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INTERREG : an European programme dedicated to cooperation in Indian Ocean

INTERREG 2014-2020 : a programme to strengthen cooperation in Indian Ocean

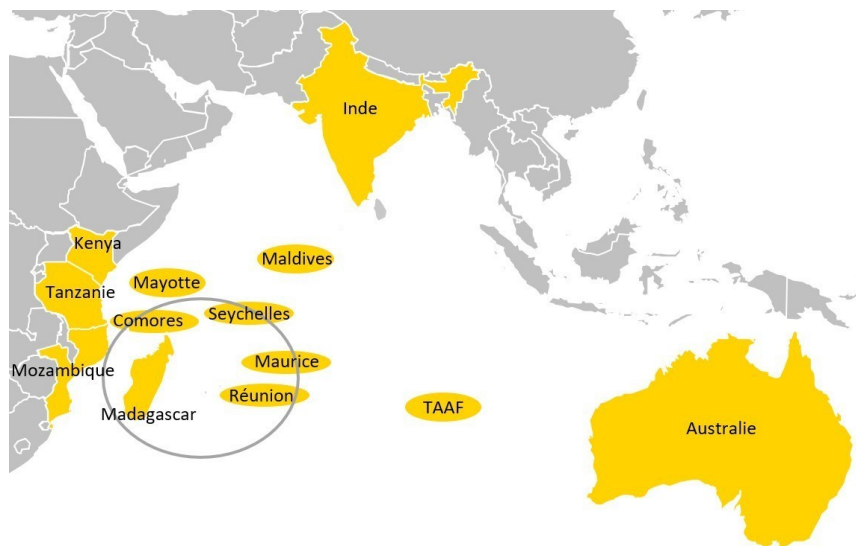


- The Interreg Indian Ocean programme is financed by European Union as part of its regional policy (European Regional Development Fund– ERDF). It aims at strengthening cooperation links between Reunion Island and Mayotte Island and countries across the Indian Ocean.
- ERDF is implemented under shared management (UE Member-States manage it). France entrusts ERDF management to its regions. Thus the Regional Council of Reunion Island is the Interreg Indian Ocean Programme managing authority.



The Interreg Indian Ocean programme has a budget of **€ 63.2 M of ERFD funds for the period 2014-2020**, covering 2 strands of European territorial cooperation :

- **Cross-border cooperation** between Reunion Island and the member-states of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) : Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros and Mauritius, to the amount of **€ 41.4 M**,
- **Transnational cooperation between** Reunion, Mayotte, and the following countries : Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros, Mozambique Tanzania, Kenya, Maldives, India, Australia and the French Southern and Antactic Territories, to the amount of : **€ 21.8 M**.



 Transnational cooperation

 Cross-border cooperation

INTERREG 2014-2020 : a programme to strengthen cooperation in Indian Ocean



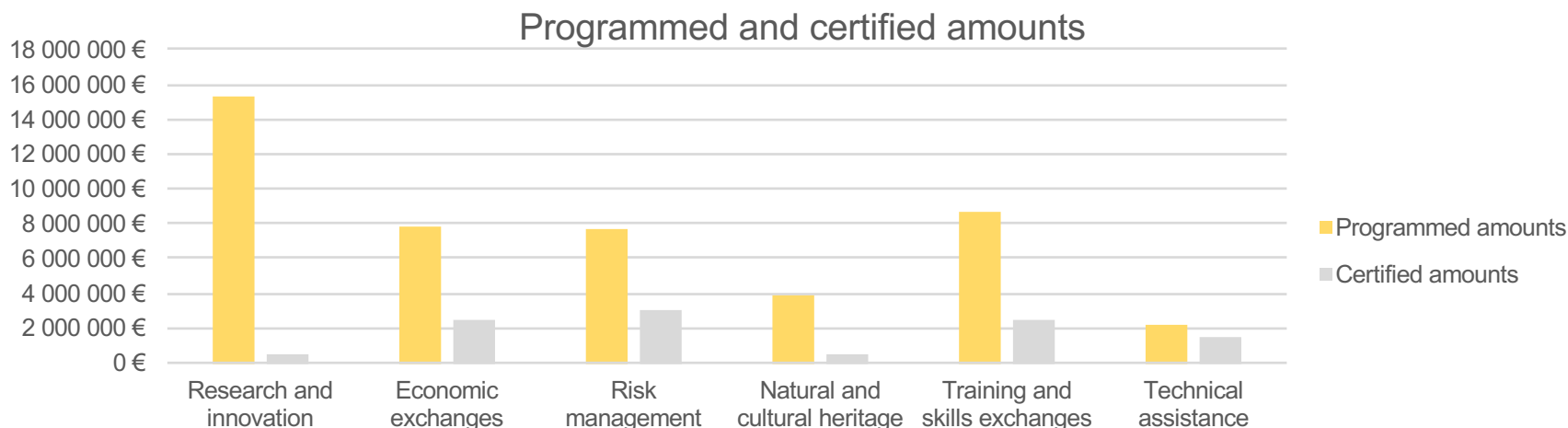
The Interreg programme 2014-2020 is organized around 5 strategic priorities :

ERDF BUDGET

Axis 1 & 2	Increasing the international potential of research and innovation in the Indian Ocean	€ 23.72 M
Axis 3 & 4	Supporting the development of economic exchanges in the Indian Ocean region	€ 11.18 M
Axis 5 & 6	Strengthening the collective capacity to adapt to climate change and risk prevention and management	€ 6.98 M
Axis 7 & 8	Strengthening the knowledge and development capacities of the natural and cultural heritage of the Indian Ocean region	€ 5.35 M
Axis 9 & 10	Raising the collective level of expertise by supporting training and exchanges	€ 12.13 M



On 31/12/2019, 62% of the amounts of the Interreg Indian Ocean programme has been engaged



INTERREG 2014-2020 : a programme to strengthen cooperation in Indian Ocean

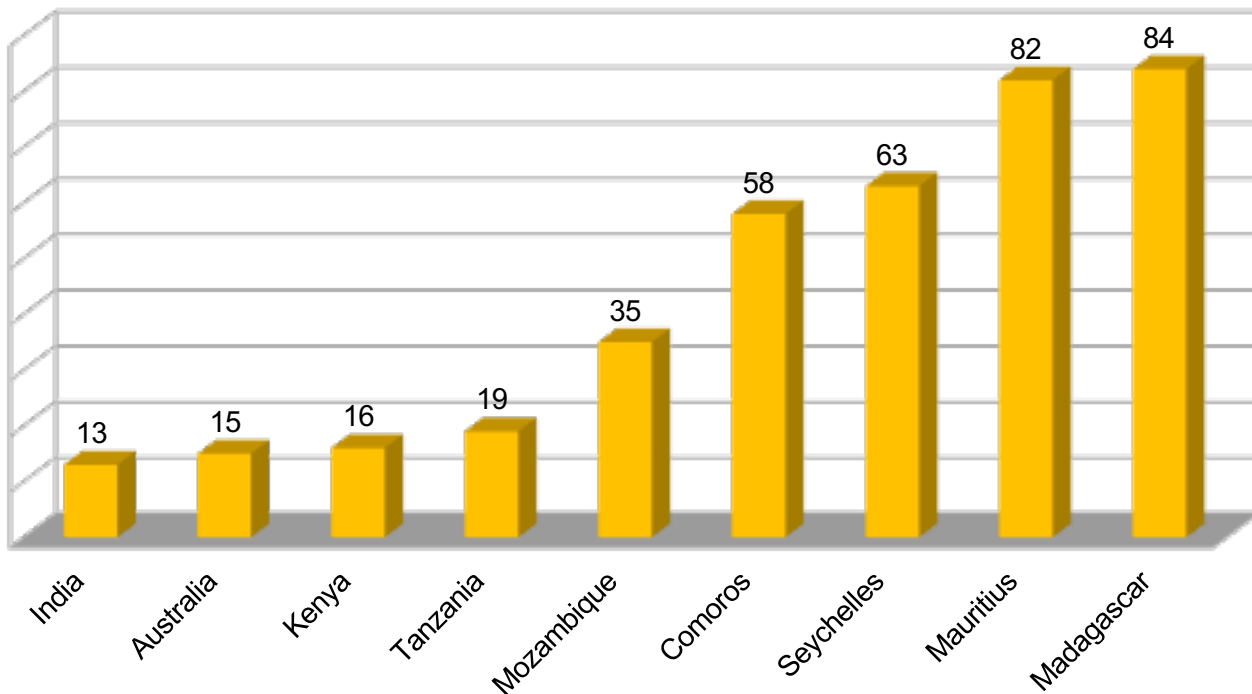


On 31/12/2019, 167 projects have been financed by the Interreg Indian Ocean Programme.

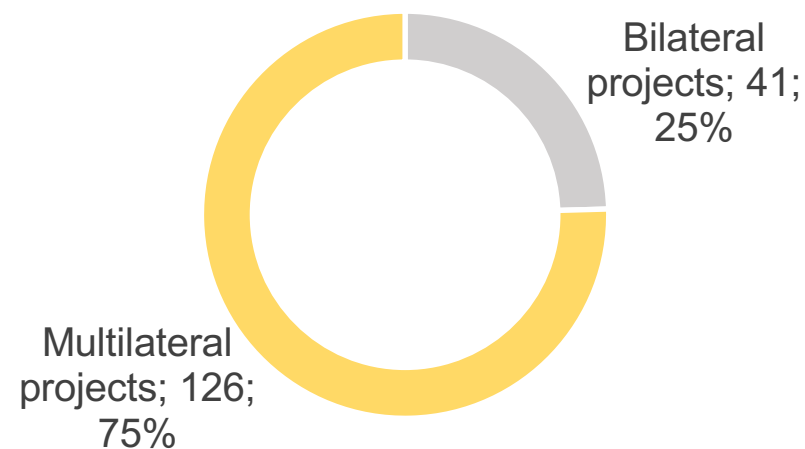
These projects are implemented by project leaders from Reunion or Mayotte, in partnership with actors from the partner countries.

Most projects involve several partner countries (multilateral projects)

Number of projects implemented with partners countries



Number of bilateral and multilateral projects



INTERREG 2014-2020 : a programme to strengthen cooperation in Indian Ocean

A few examples of projects supported in 2019

Research : Bourbon vanilla characterization



The project involves the University of Reunion Island, in partnership with the Universities of Mauritius and Antananarivo, for biochemical and microbiological characterization of vanilla produced in different areas in Reunion Island, Mauritius and Madagascar.

Skills reinforcement : exchanges within the Agricultural Professional Establishments network



Field trips in Madagascar for the students from the Saint-Paul Agricultural Institute (Reunion). Internships and trainings in Reunion for students and teachers from the Malagasy and Mauritian partner institutes.

Economy : support for Cap Business actions

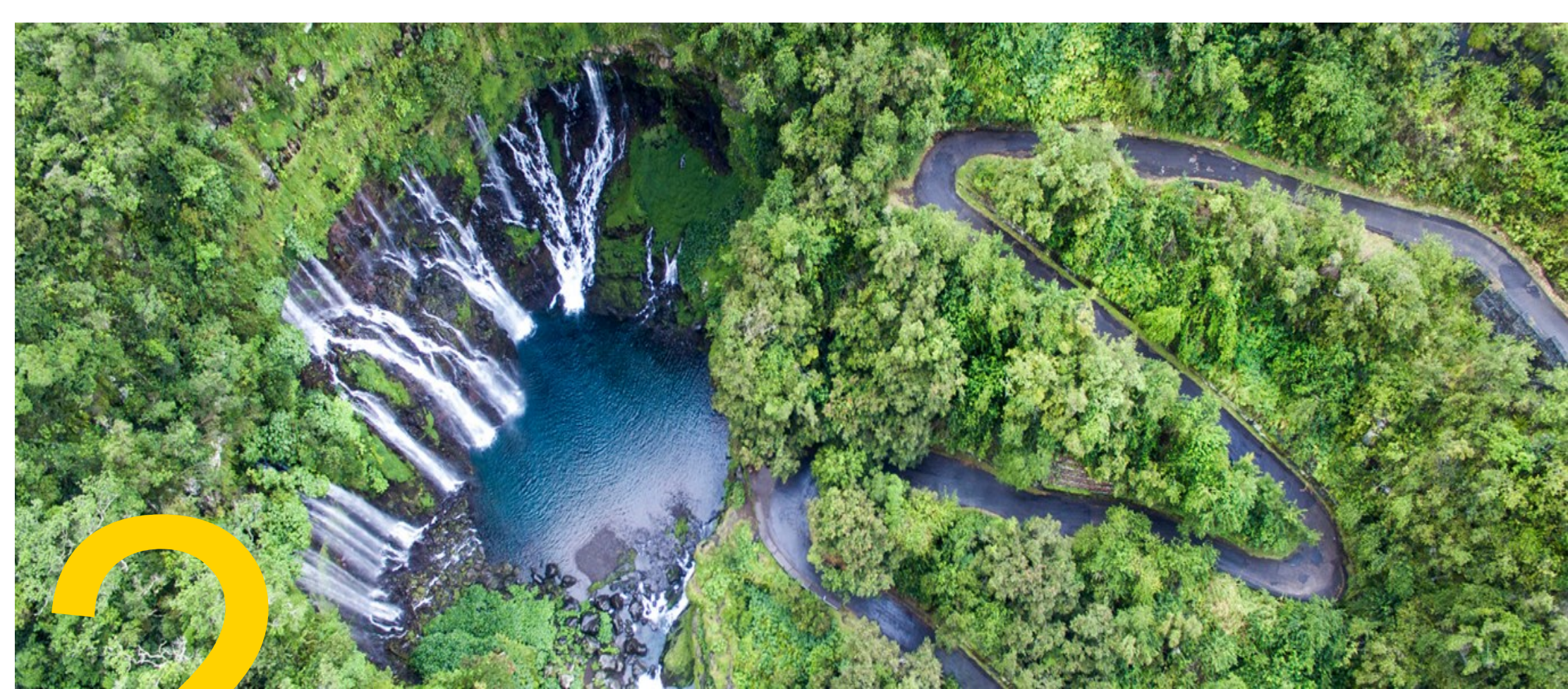


Organisation of the 12th edition of the Economic Forum of the Indian Ocean Islands in 2019 and co-funding of the programmes director's position and 2 international volunteers.

Preservation of the environment : the Indian Ocean coral reef in our hands



Through this project, the French Research Institute for Development sensibilizes pupils of 100 classes from Reunion, Mauritius and Seychelles to the protection of coral reefs, with innovating and playful tools.



2 Presentation of the European framework for 2021-2027

The new INTERREG strategic framework for 2021-2027

Modalities of the Interreg programme are governed by European regulations related to European territorial cooperation. A proposed regulation published in May 2018 provides for the following strategic and specific objectives (COM(2018) 374 final):

Strategic Objective 1 A smarter Europe



- ▶ Research, technological development and innovation
- ▶ Competitiveness of SMEs

Strategic Objective 2 A greener Europe



- ▶ Energy transition, resilience to climate change
- ▶ Sustainable resource management: water, circular economy, biodiversity

Strategic Objective 3 A more connected Europe



- ▶ Digital connectivity
- ▶ Modes of sustainable transport

Strategic Objective 4 A more social Europe



- ▶ Labour market efficiency and access to employment, education and training
- ▶ Health, social inclusion and the fight against poverty

Strategic Objective 5 A Europe that is closer to its citizens



- ▶ Territorial cooperation strategies

Specific Objective "Improved INTERREG governance"



- ▶ Institutional capacities of government and stakeholders to implement the programme

Specific Objective "A safer and more secure Europe"



- ▶ Mobility at borders and migration management
- ▶ Security

The new INTERREG strategic framework for 2021-2027

Focus by theme on the 3 strategic objectives

- ▶ The draft regulation requires that at least 60% of the funds must be allocated to a maximum of three of the five ERDF strategic objectives.

An improved coordination of EU funds dedicated to regional policies and foreign aid

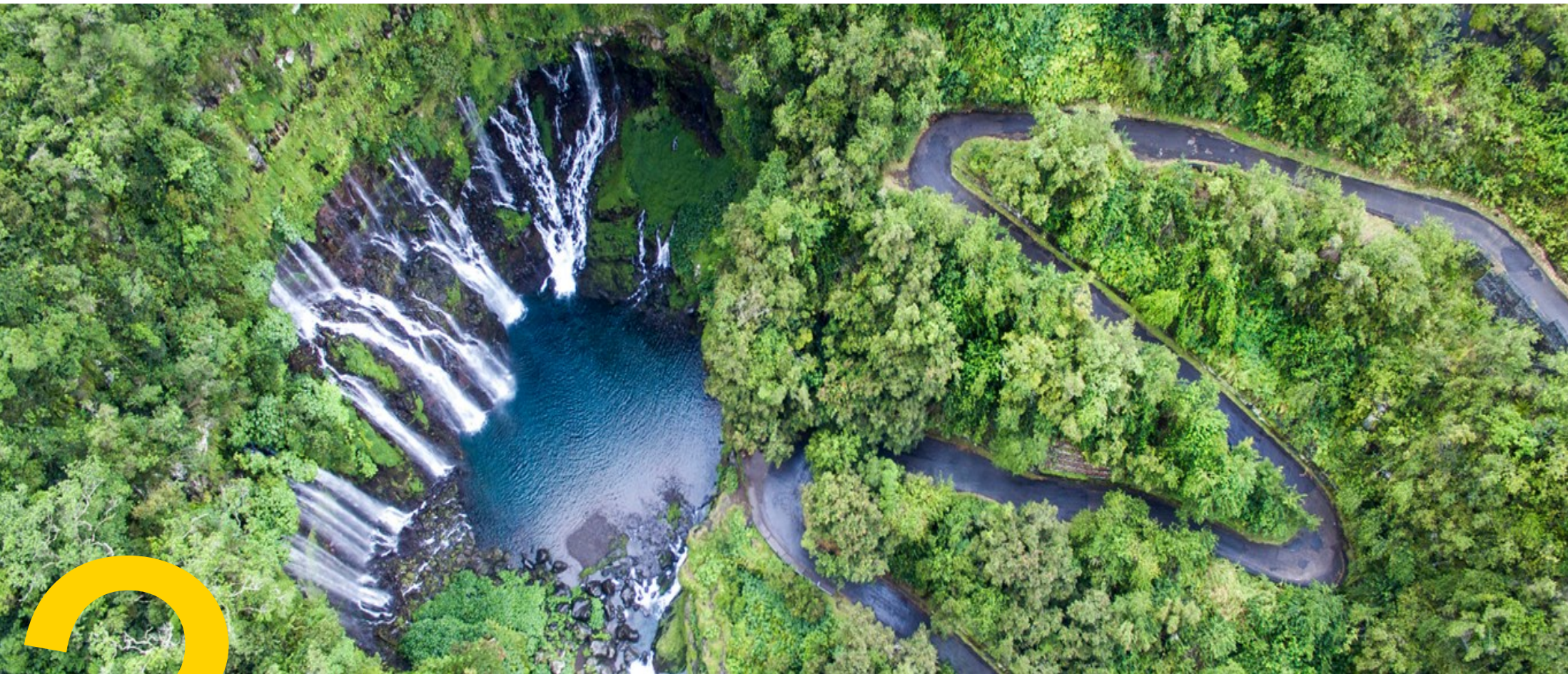
- ▶ The ERDF is part of the European Union's regional policy.
- ▶ The EU also provides funding as part of its cooperation and foreign aid policy. The European Development Fund is one of these measures.
- ▶ One of the objectives of the next programming period is to improve the link between ERDF and EDF funding, with arrangements for shared, direct or indirect management.

Further simplification

- ▶ The draft regulation will remove the distinction between a transnational strand and a cross-border strand for programmes concerning the Outermost Regions, in order to avoid the complexities and inflexibilities noted during the 2014-2020 programming period.

Approval from partner countries

- ▶ At the moment the Interreg programme is submitted, the European Commission requests the approval of partner countries on its content.



3

Methodology and timetable for the preparation of the Interreg programme for 2021-2027

General approach to the preparation of the Interreg 2021-2027 programme



For the preparation of the Interreg 2021-2027 programme, the Regional Council of Reunion is accompanied by the Ernst & Young consultancy firm.

The preparatory work concerns cooperation between Reunion and Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Australia and French Southern and Antarctic Lands. Cooperation between Mayotte and the countries of the zone will be dealt with separately.



The first step in drawing up the programme consists of carrying out a **shared diagnosis** of existing cooperation between Reunion and countries across the Indian Ocean. This step will include a documentary review, telephone interviews with key stakeholders in the region and a written consultation of all partners.

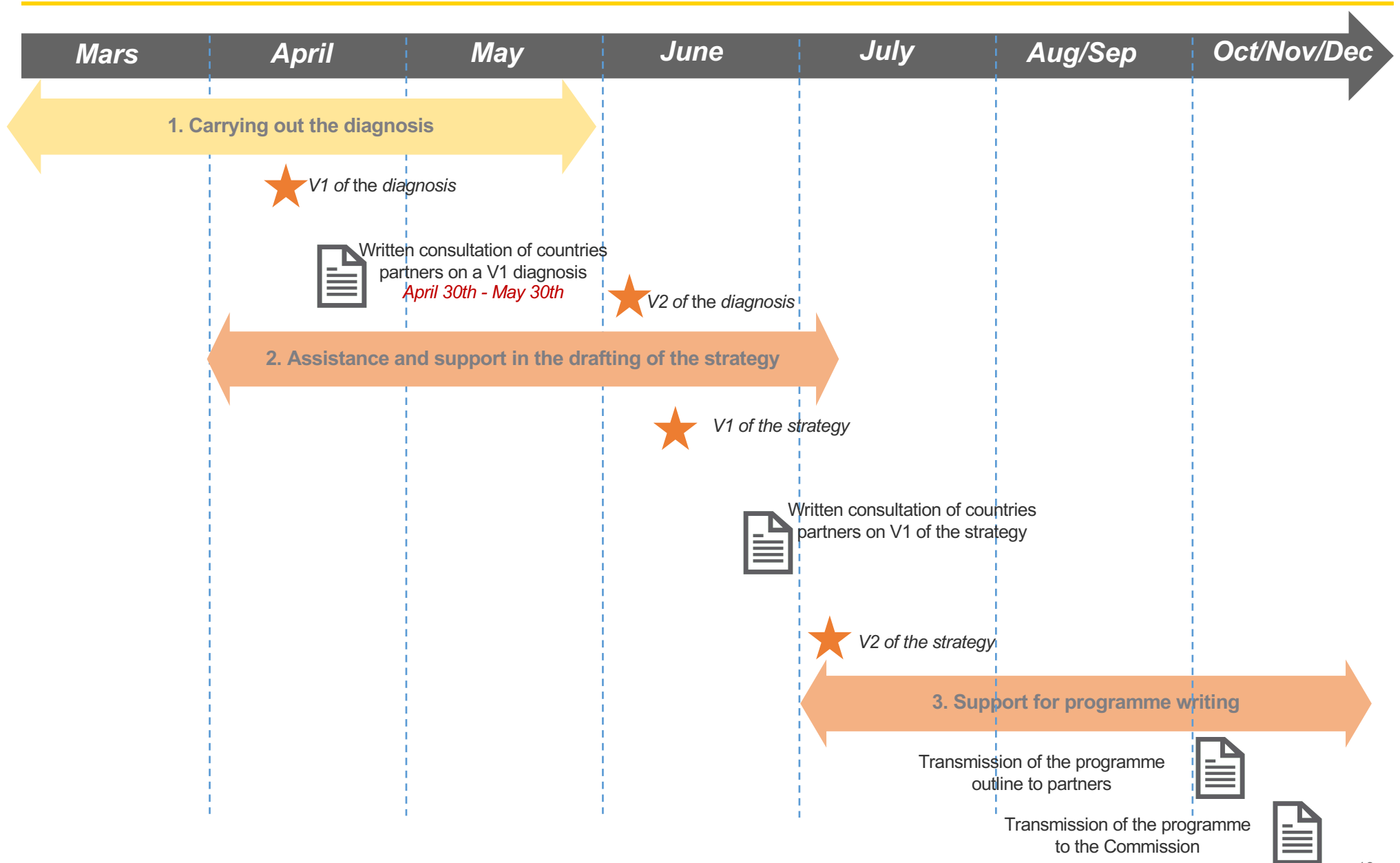


Based on this diagnosis and the challenges identified, the second step of this approach aims to define the **usage strategy** for funds earmarked for cooperation for the coming programme. Partner countries will also be involved at this stage through a written consultation.

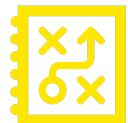


This work will lead to the drafting phase of the Interreg 2021-2027 programme. The main guidelines of the programme will be forwarded to partner countries.

Steps and timetable for preparing the Interreg programme for 2021-2027



Consultation with partner countries on Version 1 of the Diagnosis



A first version of the diagnosis will be sent to potential partner countries of the Interreg 2021-2027 programme before April 30th.



Feedback expected before May 31st :

- ✓ Comments and proposals for additions to the diagnosis
- ✓ Proposed priorities for cooperation between partner countries and Reunion Island

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Animation of Interreg Programme

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