



INTERREG V INDIAN OCEAN

# SUMMARY FOR THE ATTENTION *of citizens*

Annual Implementation Report  
as of 31/12/2021

## PRESENTATION

As part of the regional policy of the European Union, the Interreg Indian Ocean programme is an instrument for financing European Territorial Cooperation, which aims to strengthen ties and exchanges between Reunion, Mayotte and the countries of the Indian Ocean.

The Interreg programme covers 2 strands:

**Cross-border cooperation (CB)**, which covers cooperation between Reunion and the member-states of the IOC (Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros, Mauritius), to the amount of €41.4M,

**Transnational cooperation (TN)**; which covers cooperation between Reunion and the following countries: Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Maldives, India, Australia and the French Southern and Antarctic Territories, to the amount of €21.8M.

**The Interreg Indian Ocean programme is managed by the Regional Council of Reunion.**

The programme finances cooperative operations implemented by actors from Reunion or Mayotte, in partnership with actors from Indian Ocean countries.

**11 COUNTRIES**

France (Reunion, Mayotte, French Southern and Antarctic Territories), Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles, Tanzania, Kenya, Maldives, India, Australia, Mozambique

**5 PRIORITIES**

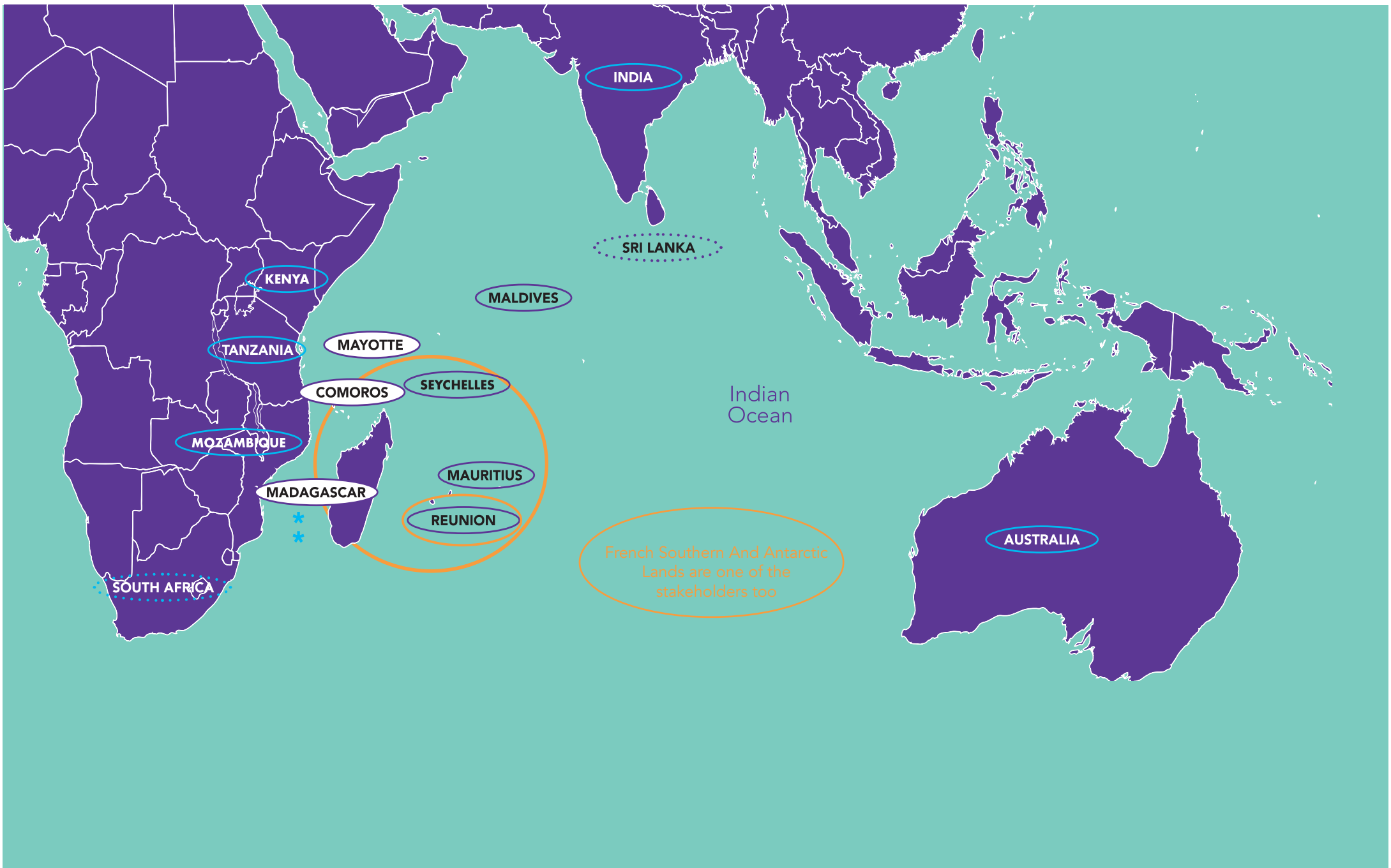
- Developing international research and innovation potential in the Indian Ocean
- Supporting the development of economic exchanges in the Indian Ocean
- Reinforcing collective capacities for adapting to climate change, as well as prevention and management of risks
- Reinforcing knowledge and promoting the natural and cultural heritage
- Increasing the level of skills through support for training and exchange operations

**€74,3M**

TOTAL BUDGET

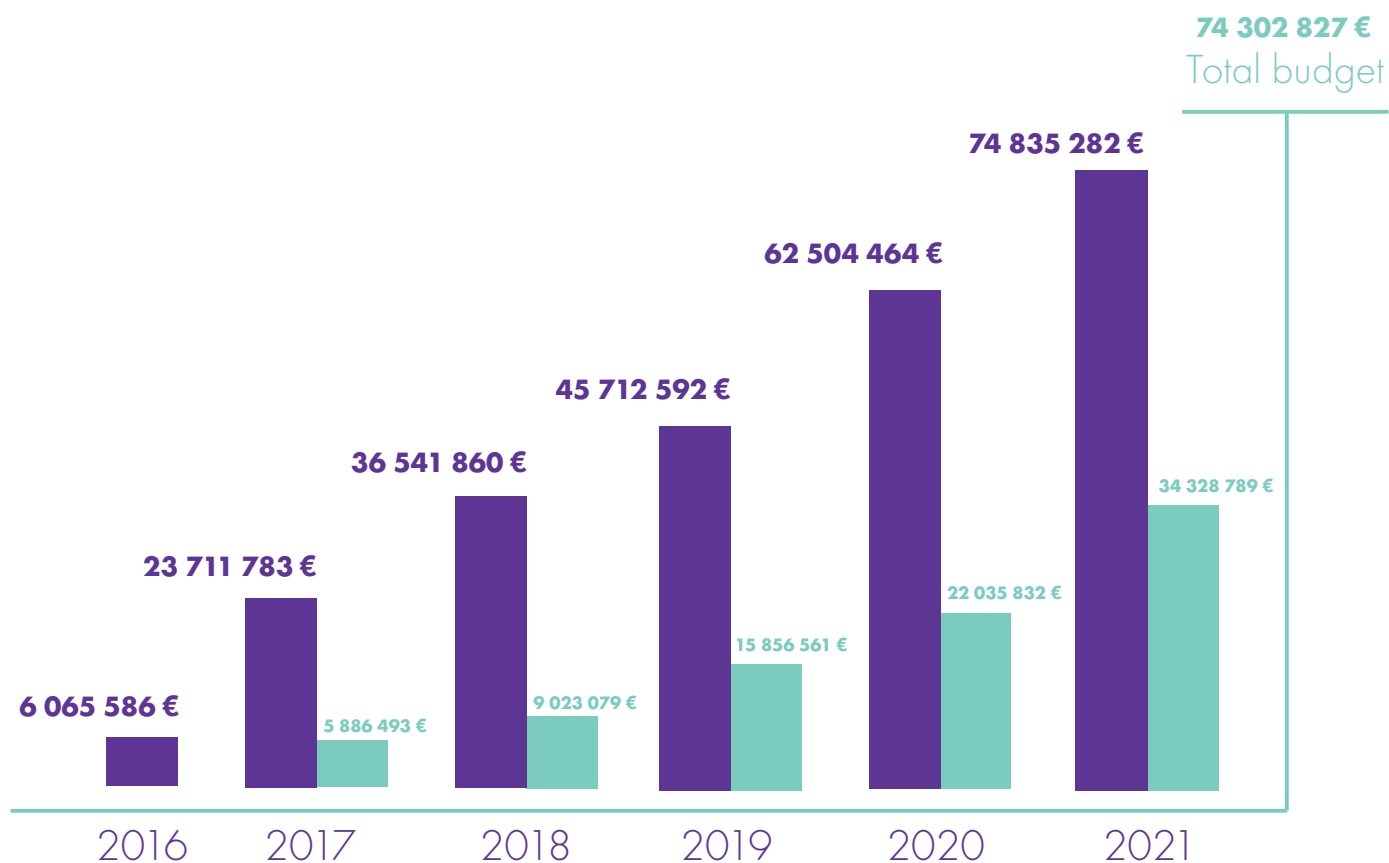
→ € 63,2M FEDER

→ €11,1M national funding



-  Area affected by cross-border cooperation
-  Countries affected by transnational cooperation
-  Countries affected by transnational cooperation that did not sign the agreements to this day

# A POSITIVE DYNAMIC BUT IMPACTED BY THE HEALTH CRISIS



## TOTAL CUMULATIVE AMOUNT OF SELECTED PROJECTS

- TOTAL FUNDING ENGAGED
- TOTAL AMOUNT FUNDED AND CERTIFIED

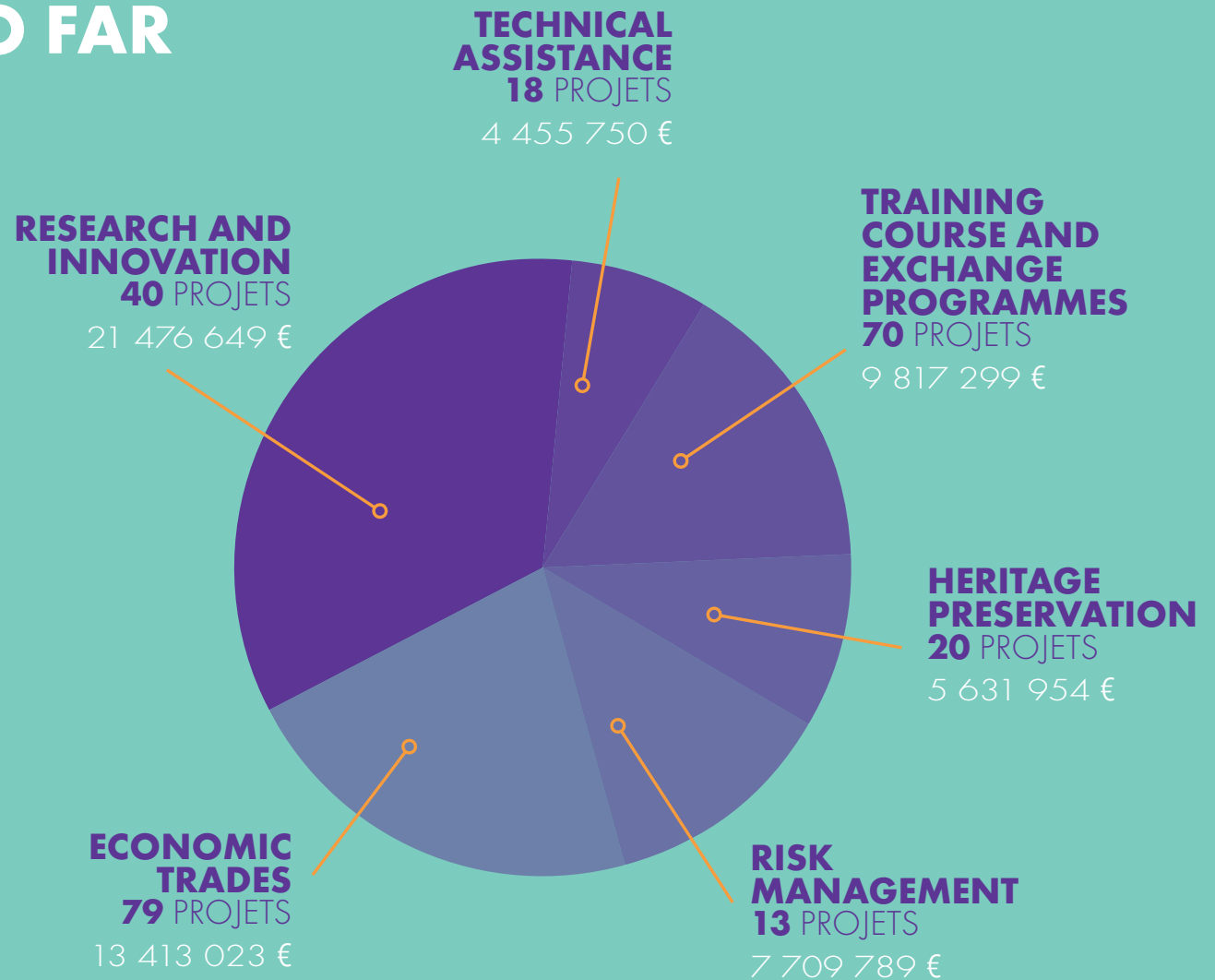
Since the INTERREG programme started in July 2016, 240 projects have been supported, among which 35 in 2021.

Programmed projects represent a total eligible cost of **€74,8M** (i.e. 101 % of the financial package). The funding provided by Europe is **€63,2M**. Programming has therefore increased steadily since the start of the scheme.

Eligible expenditure incurred and certified also increased, reaching **€34,3M**, i.e. 46 % of the financial package.

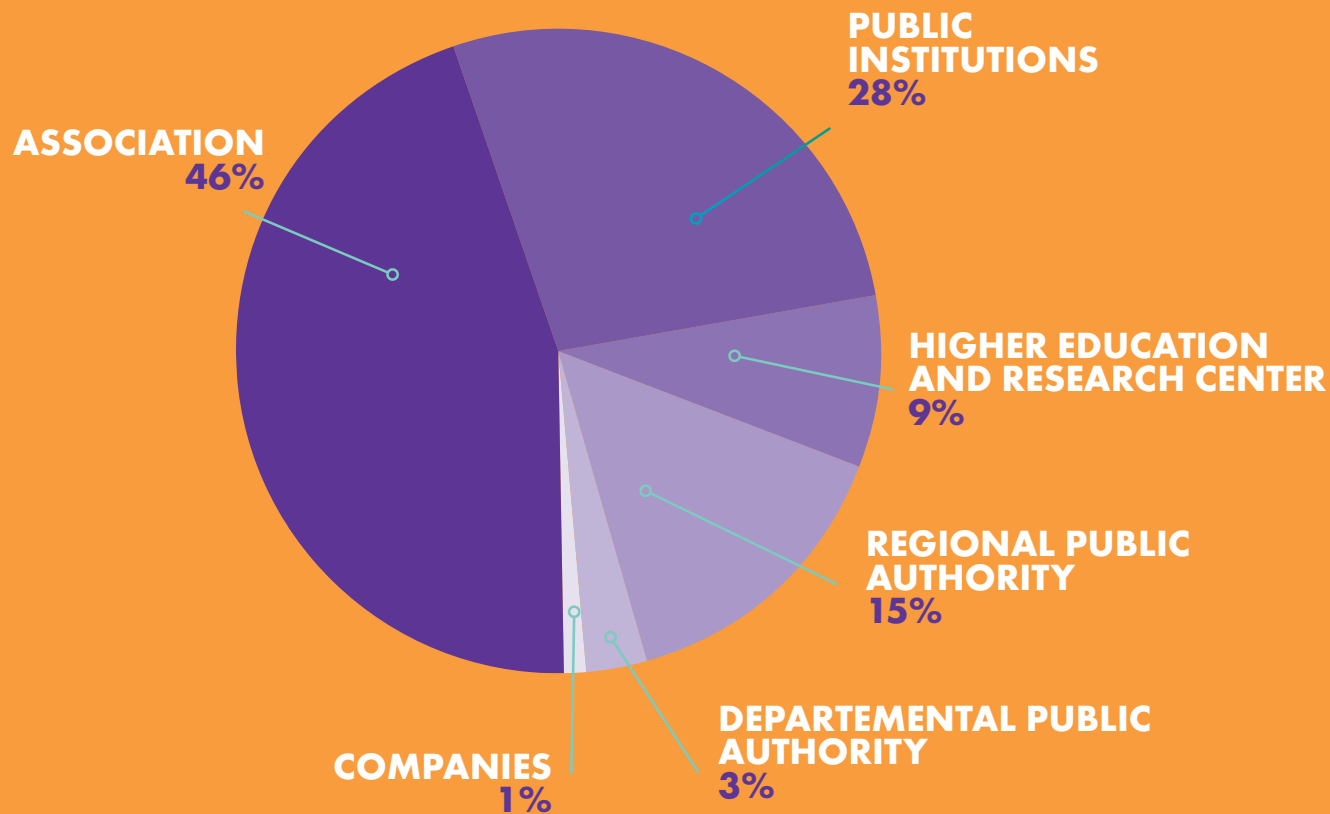
Most of the projects programmed in 2021 could not, however, be implemented as planned (trips cancelled, events postponed, etc.) and will have to be modified and extended into 2022. In fact, the reduced frequency of programming and certification underline the pandemic's long-term impact (particularly noticeable in the certification phase), due to projects lagging behind schedule.

# 240 PROJECTS SUPPORTED SO FAR



NUMBER OF PROJECTS AND ENGAGED FUND  
IN TERMS OF THE PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

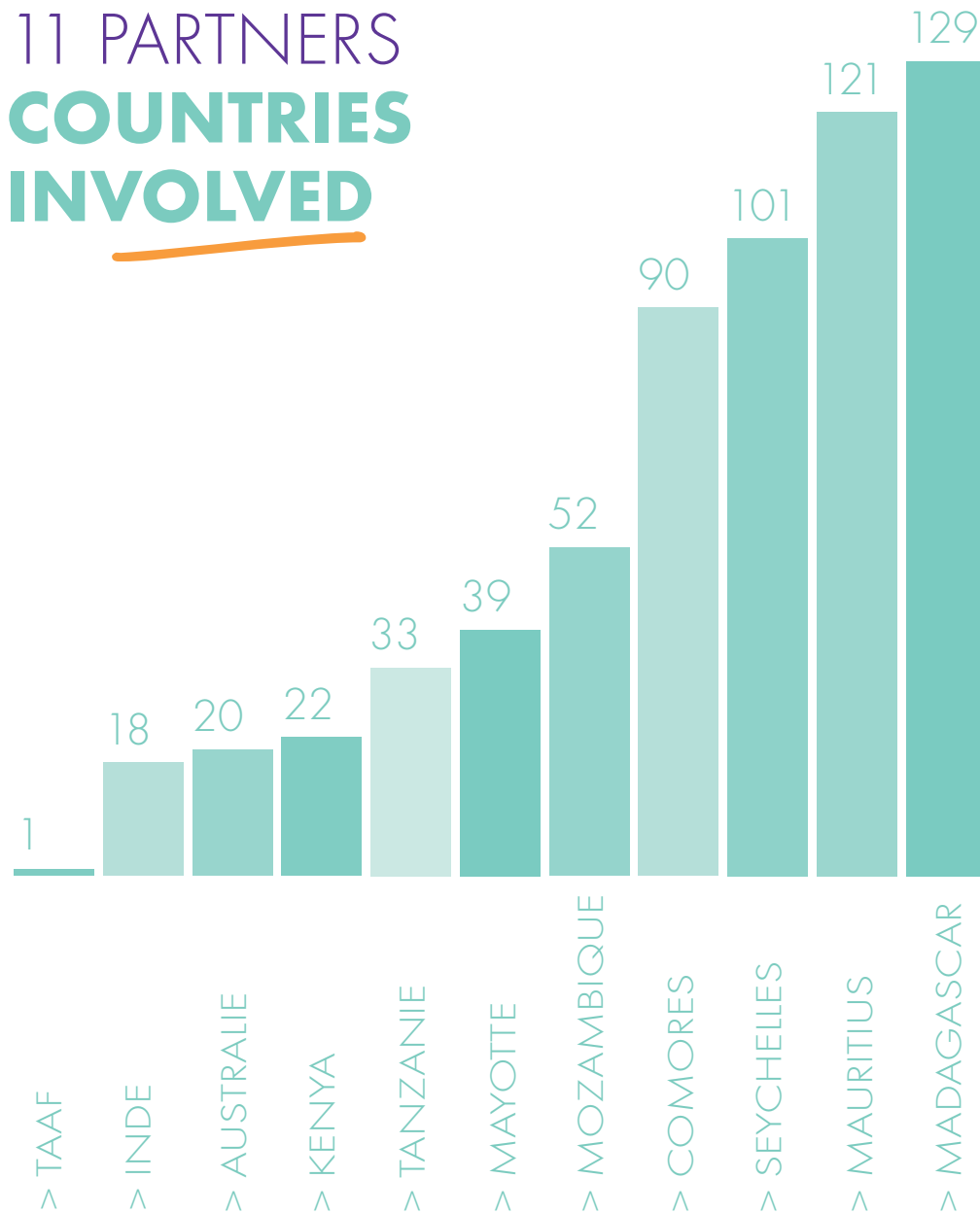
# PROJECTS HELD BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACTORS FROM REUNION AND MAYOTTE



NUMBER OF PROJECTS IN TERMS OF PROJECT CARRIERS

The INTERREG Indian Ocean programme is primarily aimed at French stakeholders from Reunion Island and/or Mayotte, who are signatories of the funding agreements with the Reunion Island Regional Council. Although most projects are led by Reunion stakeholders, 39 projects involve actors from Mayotte and 5 of those are led by Mayotte operators. The list of the Indian Ocean INTERREG programme beneficiaries can be found on the following page: <https://regionreunion.com/sites/interreg/article/interreg-documents-telecharger>

# 11 PARTNERS COUNTRIES INVOLVED



**NUMBER OF PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN WITH PROGRAMME PARTNERS**

All projects supported by the INTERREG Indian Ocean programme involve at least one foreign partner from the area. Indian Ocean partners generally contribute to the development of the projects and their implementation, and sometimes their financing and personnel mobilisation for their implementation. Most of the projects supported involve several countries. IOC countries (Madagascar, Mauritius, the Comoros and Seychelles) and Mozambique are strongly involved.

# A FEW EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 2021

## RESEARCH: THE BIODIVERSITY OF PLANTS IN MADAGASCAR AND REUNION ISLAND AS A SOURCE OF ACTIVE MOLECULES AGAINST THE DENGUE VIRUS (PHYTODENGUE)



Dengue fever is an infectious disease transmitted by mosquitoes of the genus *Aedes*, which is very common in Reunion and Madagascar. Medicinal plants are known to be effective against the dengue virus (*Aphloia theiformis*, *Doratoxylon apetalum*, etc.). This project will screen the different plant extracts available in both Reunion and Madagascar in order to identify at least 6 plant extracts capable of preventing infection by the dengue virus using cell-based tests. The bioactive natural compounds will then be identified on a chemical level, before the development of synthetic analogs can begin. This project will also include training activities for students from Reunion and Madagascar on the research project's specific features (phytochemistry, medicinal chemistry and experimental virology). Its results will be showcased through publications and participation in regional and international conferences.

## ENVIRONMENT : MASCARENE ARCHIPELAGO ELASMOBRANCHS OBSERVATORY (MAEO)



Led by the association entitled Agence de Recherche pour la Biodiversité à La Réunion (ARBRE), this project is based on an eco-participatory network of sea users in Reunion, Mauritius and Rodrigues (scuba divers, free divers, swimmers, fishermen, etc.) which will make it possible to collect data concerning the biology and behaviour of rays and sharks. Thanks to cameras deployed on some sites, this data will be supplemented by 'in situ' observations which will enable the identification of those species present. At some sites, stationary dives will be used to test the effectiveness of the data collection devices and to complete them.

All observations will be fed into a database which will then be analysed to obtain a spatial and temporal distribution map of the targeted Elasmobranch species across the Mascarene Islands, and these maps will be available on the project website.

The results of these observations and analyses will be displayed during scientific conferences (such as the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association congress), conferences for the general public, two films (one of 10 minutes presenting the project and one of 15 to 20 minutes detailing the achievements and results). Several talks will also be given in schools.

## ECONOMY: THE PAPAM PROJECT FOR PERFUMED, AROMATIC AND MEDICINAL PLANTS



This 2-year project is first and foremost an inventory of the cosmetic, pharmaceutical and spice sectors in Reunion, Mauritius and the Seychelles (including a list of different stakeholders and an inventory of the plants used) and their potential for development across the Indian Ocean, as well as in Europe and internationally. Technical and economic studies will also be carried out by experts and the two international volunteers assigned to the project (development of a 'Nagoya' charter and a charter of ethical practices, regulations and standards to be respected for the marketing and feasibility studies of a shared processing demonstrator) and will lead to the dissemination of practical guides for companies. Alongside this, Qualitropic will provide support to ensure sectors are better structured (workshops, strategy identification, etc.). Finally, an evaluation of the training needs of the various actors in the three territories concerned will be carried out in order to establish a strategic training document for the project's three sectors.

## TRAINING: INDIAN OCEAN REGIONAL EXCHANGE UNIVERSITY INDIAN OCEAN-REUNION



Launched on 26th November 2021, during the IOC Ministerial Council, this project is based on partnerships established between the University of Reunion and 10 universities across the Indian Ocean region (Seychelles, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius and Kenya). It plans to provide support for 80 mobility projects, including:

> 58 students:

45 students from the Indian Ocean region will be able to study at the University of Reunion for one year, between the second year of their Bachelor's degree and their Master's degree,

13 students from Reunion Island will spend either one semester studying, a summer school or an internship at one of the partner universities here in the Indian Ocean

> 22 employees:  
10 employees from across the Indian Ocean will be hosted at the University of Reunion and 12 employees from Reunion will be hosted at one of the partner universities, with the aim of following a training course, giving lectures or carrying out research.

This student mobility project is the culmination of the Interreg Higher Education Mobility Project.

# A FEW INDICATORS

9

**COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED**  
SUPPORTED IN 2021

2

**NEW RESEARCHERS**  
WORKING ON INTERREG INDIAN OCEAN PROJECTS IN 2021

54

**TRAINING SESSIONS**  
ON PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RISKS

13

**COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS**  
ON PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

180

**PARTICIPANTS**  
IN JOINT EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

16

**ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY VOLUNTEERS** IN 2021

440

**COMPANIES** THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ACTIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL (PROSPECTING ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL FAIRS/ SEMINARS ETC.) SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAMME

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021

## Health crisis

All steering committees continued in 2021, with sessions organised by videoconference and by the exchange of written documents. For the first time, the Interreg Monitoring Committee was organised in a hybrid format (part face-to-face and part remote) on 6th and 7th December. Representatives from Mayotte, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and the European Commission participated and exchanged information on the progress of the current programme as well as on the work carried out concerning the preparation of the next Interreg VI programme. The Regional Council's offices in Madagascar, the Comoros and Mauritius increased their involvement with European Union delegations by participating in workshops and working meetings on how to manage the pandemic and implement various related cooperation projects (Team Europe Covid, Team Europe Initiative, etc.). They excelled in relaying information concerning the spread of the virus across the region.

Several meetings, trips and events had to be postponed to 2021, such as the Indian Ocean Music Market, the Indian Ocean Media Meeting, the 3rd Indian Ocean Meetings, and some were organised in hybrid format (part face-to-face and part remote)

## Préparation du programme Interreg VI océan Indien

The monitoring committee, gathered by the end of 2021, duly recorded the progress of the preparation of the INTERREG VI programme led by the Reunion Island Regional Council in close relationship with the European Commission.

The nine following countries have already agreed with the content of this future programme : Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania, Kenya, India, Maldives, Australia, and concerning France : Reunion Island, Mayotte, French Southern and Antarctic territory. In conjunction with French and European diplomacy, discussions are ongoing to obtain agreements from remaining countries : Mozambique, South Africa and Sri Lanka.

The INTERREG VI Indian ocean programme has been sent the 1st april 2022 to the European Commission.

