

INTERREG  
PROGRAMMES IN THE  
**OUTERMOST  
REGIONS**

2014–2020

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**Editorial team**

Kelly Zielniewski, Bérengère Roeges and Laura Belenguer.

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Page 39 – Ferry route between Albina (Suriname) and Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni / Author: Rock Cohen / Source: [www.flickr.com/photos/robdeman/1714630028/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/robdeman/1714630028/)

**Contact**

[kelly.zielniewski@interact-eu.net](mailto:kelly.zielniewski@interact-eu.net)

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# Editorial

May 2022



**Elisa Ferreira**  
Commissioner for Cohesion  
and Reform

The nine European outermost regions are often associated with periphery and remoteness. However, this is a matter of perspective and priorities. For a geopolitical Europe that wants to play its full role in global affairs, these regions are outposts of Europe in the rest of the world. They are gateways for engagement with the surrounding regions, from the Atlantic, to the Caribbean, from Latin America to the Indian Ocean. Cooperation with their neighbours is essential for their development, as well as to promote European interests in the world.

For this purpose, the European Union provides support in the form of cooperation programmes under INTERREG. A total of 295 million euros from the European Regional Development Fund has been allocated to INTERREG programmes for these regions in 2014-2020. This is a sign of European solidarity and support for outermost regions, but also of projection of our values and engagement with the rest of the world delivered through cohesion policy.

Six cooperation programmes adopted for 2014-2020 have enabled Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion, Saint-Martin, the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands to implement projects with third countries and overseas countries and territories in their neighbourhood.

This brochure shows how INTERREG programmes contributed to the regional development of outermost regions and a closer integration with their neighbours. This dimension is highlighted in the recent Commission's new Strategy for the EU's outermost regions, adopted on 3 May 2022 and by the increased support to such projects in the 2021-2027 period, through a dedicated strand of INTERREG totalling EUR 329 million euros from the European Regional Development Fund.

INTERREG programmes enable beneficiaries to share knowledge, structure economic sectors, strengthen trade and develop access to targeted markets, and encourage the emergence of networks of partners.

They also support the renewal or construction of key cross-border infrastructures, and the installation of equipment in partner countries' territories.

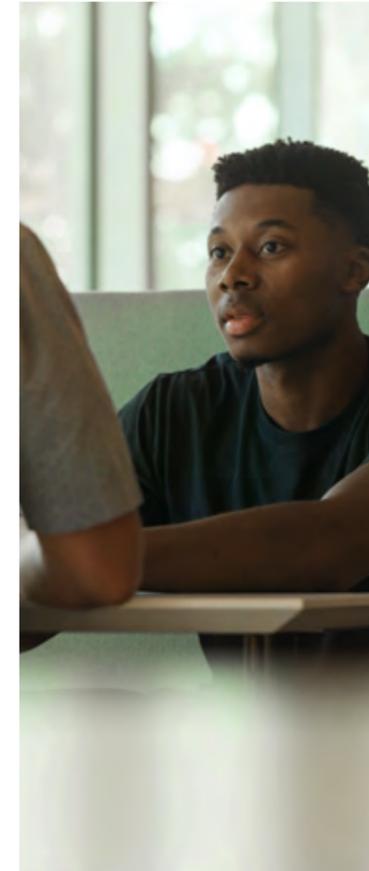
They promote access to employment for young people by enhancing their language skills and supporting the learning and social inclusion of people with disabilities. They help to protect the exceptional biodiversity of these regions, and to strengthen citizens' capacity to respond to climate, seismic and volcanic risks.

The cooperation programmes in the outermost regions also provide innovative solutions to crisis situations and to the specific problems raised by the increase in endemic diseases.

I hope this first brochure on INTERREG programmes in the outermost regions helps raising awareness on the achievements of the European Union far from its continental area. I also hope that it inspires the next generation of programmes and projects in these territories.

Cooperation will be a key to unlock the potential of our outermost regions and contribute to Europe's geopolitical goals.

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# Caribbean





# Interreg Caribbean

**Total budget**  
85.723.442 €

**ERDF Contribution**  
64.292.905 €

**Projects approved**  
36 projects,  
45 partners

## Cooperation area

The «INTERREG V Caribbean» cooperation programme for the period 2014-2020 focuses on cooperation between the outermost regions of Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Saint Martin, and around forty third countries and overseas colonies and territories (OCT) located in the Caribbean basin. Almost all these countries are members of one of the programme's three regional economic organisation partners in the Caribbean: Association of Caribbean States (ACS), CARICOM (Caribbean Community) and OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States).

The programme has a cross-border strand for the cooperation between Guadeloupe, Martinique and the OECS countries; and a broader trans-national strand relating to cooperation between Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Saint Martin and all the countries and territories that are part of the programme.

## Priority areas

- 1 Increasing the competitiveness of enterprises by implementing joint projects at Caribbean level, involving partners from research, education and business.
- 2 Increasing natural hazard response capacity by improving knowledge of natural hazards and putting in place shared risk management systems, in particular by developing shared observation tools and a geographic information system (GIS) suitable for crisis management.
- 3 Protecting the cultural and natural environment by improving the management of vulnerable or protected spaces and by jointly developing sustainable tourism in the Caribbean.
- 4 Responding to shared health issues at Caribbean level through joint pandemic prevention and management measures, in particular innovative eHealth actions.
- 5 Supporting the development of renewable energies with the OECS countries.
- 6 Strengthening human capital by developing education in Caribbean languages (English, Spanish and French) and student and professional mobility within the Caribbean.

1

Increasing in a sustainable and inclusive manner the competitiveness of Caribbean-based businesses, sources of wealth and employment

**12.787.911 €**

2

Increasing natural hazard response capacity

**16.535.984 €**

3

Protecting and upgrading the natural and cultural environment in the Caribbean

**16.863.881 €**

4

Developing at Caribbean level a concerted response to shared healthcare issues

**5.795.100 €**

5

Supporting the development of renewable energies in the Eastern Caribbean

**5.118.339 €**

6

Strengthening human capital

**3.442.985 €**

ERDF Contribution

# ELAN

Linguistic Exchanges and Innovative Learning through Mobility

## Project overview

The ELAN project seeks to improve the command of the languages in use in the Caribbean and to boost student mobility, training, and school exchange programmes within the Caribbean basin. The objective is to reinforce young persons' skills in order to facilitate their access to the labour market, to enhance the attractiveness of territories and finally, to promote a shared Caribbean identity as the basis for an efficient and sustainable regional integration.

In this context, the main actions of the project consist in setting up long-term school partnerships, in facilitating linguistic and cultural exchanges, and in supporting pedagogical innovation. ELAN also promotes higher education and enables the mobility of teachers as well as of interns in vocational training.

## Results achieved

More specifically, the project has made possible:

- the launch of an immersion programme for baccalaureate holders of OECS countries with a minimum level of A2 in French, along with a study project in the French West Indies;
- the organisation of linguistic, pedagogical and cultural exchange workshops;
- the development of an immersion and research project about educational systems and practices in Saint Lucia;
- the launch of the "ELAN Ambassadors" initiative, aiming at accompanying student mobility in the OECS;
- the allocation of mobility grants and aids for travel;
- the support to students with mobility and administrative procedures;
- the mapping of the training and study offers in place in the Caribbean region.

*"Thanks to this project, students have had the chance to undertake their studies in French-speaking countries. It is really great for the region and allows integration. It is an unbelievable occasion for Caribbean citizens to find out more about a new culture and have such an experience during their studies."*

**John, student**, about his experience as part of the ELAN Immersion Programme

€ 3.025.000 €

EU 1.954.500 €

8 partners

01.01.2019  
31.12.2022



## Practical tool:

All the training programmes offered in the Caribbean can be viewed on RIGMAP ELAN, a mapping application to see all data related to study programmes in the Caribbean.





# TEECA

Trade Enhancement for Eastern Caribbean

## Project overview

The TEECA project (Trade Enhancement for Eastern Caribbean), led by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Martinique and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), supports thirty enterprises whose experience in the export sector is limited in five sectors identified as key in the Caribbean: agri-food, environment, information and communication technologies (ITCs), fashion and music.

Those enterprises that wish to export or develop an activity on a regional level are often hindered by obstacles such as market dynamics and the different types of stakeholders involved, the number of national regulations and local policies in place. In the framework of the INTERREG Employment and Innovation strategic axis, this project has enabled to overcome these difficulties by improving mutual knowledge and interregional trading relations. As a result, longer-lasting and inclusive trading relationships have been established in the eastern Caribbean region.

## Results achieved

The numerous actions made possible by this project include the development of a linguistic programme in French and English, the setting-up of a sales support office (Martinique - Saint Lucia) as well as the launch of an entrepreneurial challenge for Caribbean students in June 2019.

The first edition of the Caribbean Music Camp dedicated to the musical sector is another example of successful cooperation in the Caribbean musical industry. This camp for song-writing was a unique occasion for professionals of the music industry to improve collaboration and networking. This very first edition brought together beneficiaries of TEECA from the music industry, artists and producers from Martinique, Saint Lucia, Saint-Vincent, as well as international producers from the United Kingdom and the United States. They all joined forces to create songs that celebrate the diversity and richness of Caribbean music.

*“The TEECA project is first and foremost a human encounter between French- and English-speaking Caribbean entrepreneurs who share the aim of improving the region’s financial situation and employment rates through trading partnerships, development and innovation.”*

**Marie-Noëlle Catayee,**  
Head of the International  
Department of the Chamber  
of Commerce and Industry of  
Martinique

€ 1.487.879 €

EU 1.115.909,25 €

2 partners

01.11.2017  
31.12.2022



To know more about the 1<sup>st</sup> Caribbean Music Camp:



# Ready Together

Preventing climate risks in the Caribbean

## Project overview

The Caribbean is a region highly exposed to the risks of seismic, volcanic, and hydro-meteorological disasters. These phenomena are a constant threat to the region's safety and well-being (physical, material, health, socio-economic, etc.). Indeed, when they occur, inequalities increased and the accomplishment of Caribbean businesses' sustainable development aims are put at risk.

The READY Together project aims to reinforce the response capacities of Caribbean regions through a triple-tiered approach: emergency institutions and operators, economic stakeholders, and local populations. This comprehensive approach intends to be inclusive and participative to ensure an effective response to the needs of the most vulnerable population exposed to these natural risks and the effects of climate change.

## Results achieved

READY Together has carried out operational strategy studies and has organised a virtual conference to prepare relevant actors for the cyclonic season. Volunteers were trained, as well as the intervention teams operating in the territorial delegations. This project has also enabled the construction of storage warehouses of supplies and materials in Dominique and Saint Lucia, the update of a repository of awareness tools available for the campaign, and to inform professionals and the population about possible cyclonic risks.



*“The countries that benefit from this project are OECS member states. The first axis includes the institutions through emergency aid. The second one deals with small and medium-sized enterprises. The third one involves the population itself.”*

**Sendy Veera- Badren**, Head of Pirac and project Leader

€ 4.910.057 €

EU 2.911.909,66 €

4 partners

01.01.2019  
31.12.2022



## Did you know?

During the worldwide COVID 19 pandemic, the READY Together programme has provided support to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable Caribbean populations affected by the healthcare crisis. Food and hygiene kits were distributed in Antigua and Barbuda. Medical training on psychological first aid in an epidemic context was also organised to support the French Red Cross teams stationed in French Guiana and mobilised during territorial emergency actions.

# PACAM

Amazonian – Caribbean Dance and Circus Passport

## Project overview

The Amazonian – Caribbean basin is a rich area in cultural and artistic terms in the sphere of live performance, which is made up of as many numerous micro-markets as territories located in this large area. Nevertheless, the limited exchanges among artists, among the diverse artistic teams and cultural structures hinder the transmission capacities of skills and innovation, along with the production of live performances. Emerging young artists also find it difficult to access high-quality art trainings in the territory of the Amazonian – Caribbean region whereas established artists are often forced to immigrate to other territories (Europe, Canada, United States...) since the chances of employment at home are low.

The PACAM project has worked towards developing artistic streams in the Caribbean by creating complementary artistic features between different performance groups (dance, circus, street performers) and by proposing training programmes to cultural entrepreneurship. The project is articulated around three development axes:

- Facilitating the development of diversification of the range of tourist products offered in the Caribbean through cultural entrepreneurship, by creating innovative artistic products, by opening new markets, and by implementing economic models adapted to the specificities of the territories.
- Providing specific solutions to address training needs and employability of young artists, trainers, entertainers and cultural entrepreneurs.
- Upgrading the tourism portfolio on offer through the promotion and dissemination of artistic wealth in the Amazonian – Caribbean basin. The promotion and dissemination of artistic creations and territorial projects on a small and large scale that constitute a major axis in the project since its aim is to highlight the great Caribbean culture at festivals and events aimed at promoting Caribbean artists.

*“A contemporary Caribbean circus comes into being!” During the healthcare crisis, we have proposed a “Circus in all its phases”. The idea is to promote exchanges allowing completely different audiences to come together in order to create living postcards.”*

**Sophie BALZING,**  
Head of the Métis'Gwa Association

€ 1.786.392 €

EU 1.339.792 €

6 partners

01.02.2016  
31.12.2022



## Did you know?

Among the cultural and artistic heritage of Amazonian – Caribbean region, the Gwo'ka in Guadeloupe deserves special mention as it combines music, songs and dances. The general public, musicians and singers form a circle, in the midst of which the dancers appear and improvise as they wish. The Gwo'ka has been listed as a UNESCO world intangible heritage item since 2014.



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Saint Martin  
Sint Maarten

# Saint Martin Sint Maarten



# Interreg Saint Martin Sint Maarten

**Total budget**  
10.884.596 €

**ERDF Contribution**  
9.070.496 €

## Cooperation area

The INTERREG V Saint Martin - Sint Maarten cooperation programme for the period 2014-2020 focuses on cross-border cooperation between the French outermost region of Saint Martin and the Dutch Overseas country and territory (OCT) of Sint Maarten.

## Priority areas

- 1 Improving the level of infrastructure in water and sanitation, as well as environmental protection, in particular through the construction of a cross-border waste treatment plant. The programme also includes protection measures for biodiversity and ecosystems in the Simpson Bay lagoon.
- 2 Preventing risks of flooding through better management and control of rainwater, especially in the Belle-Plaine border area where recurrent flooding regularly causes considerable damage.

ERDF Contribution

1

Encouraging climate change adaptation and risk prevention and management

**1.200.000 €**

2

Preserving and protecting the environment, encouraging the resources efficiency

**6.800.000 €**

# Belle-Plaine

Protection against flooding of the Belle-Plaine district

## Project overview

The cross-border catchment area of Belle-Plaine is prone to a greater flooding risk in the South Orleans district on the French part of the island. This phenomenon is aggravated by economic growth and a poorly managed urban construction programme that failed to take water management into account. These recurrent floods have already caused significant damage and affect both public facilities and private property in the area. This situation is an obstacle to development. Accordingly, the programme has been put into effect to support the operations for protecting and strengthening the water and roadway infrastructures.

The overall aim of the operation is to protect the inhabitants, infrastructures and buildings in the sector to promote adaptation to climate change, along with risk prevention and management. The specific objective is to improve the management and regulation of water in gullies and ravines. The overall scope of the facilities is focused on the entire cross-border catchment area of Belle-Plaine.

## Results achieved

The hydraulic structure that crosses the main road servicing the urban area has been rebuilt to a suitable size as set out in the design studies. The embankments and homes located directly upstream and downstream of this structure have been protected from erosion and the risks associated with torrential run-off from the structures used. In addition, a civil engineering canal was built to protect the local service road bordering the ravine from the risks of erosion and subsidence. Finally, arrangements have been made to improve traffic flow and road safety for local residents (road crossing structures, protective wall, vertical signs). These works began in October 2019 and were completed in 2020.

*“The consolidation of hydraulic structures in the Orleans District was vital for protection from the risk of collapse posed by the existing structures. In the event of exceptional bad weather, this will allow us to ensure unhindered access for our technical vehicles to the more isolated sectors on the edge of the Dutch border.”*

Mr. Guillaume, Territorial Engineer,  
Saint Martin Community

€ 1.600.322€

EU 1.200.241,50€

2 partners

01.03.2019  
31.12.2022

## Did you know?

Saint Martin/Sint Maarten is the smallest inhabited island in the world that is divided between two countries: France and Holland. This division dates back to 23 March 1648 when the Treaty of Concordia was signed. The treaty remains in force to this day and allows for free circulation of goods and persons. There is no physical border between the two parts of the island.



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# Madeira Azores Canary Islands (MAC)





# Interreg Madeira Azores Canary Islands

**Total budget**  
148.831.183 €

**ERDF Contribution**  
126.506.503 €

**Projects approved**  
123 projects,  
956 partners

## Cooperation area

This cooperation programme operates in the outermost regions of Madeira, the Azores (Portugal) and the Canary Islands (Spain). Three nearby third countries were also invited to take part in the programme, namely Cape Verde, Mauritania and Senegal.

## Priority areas

- 1 Promoting research, technological development and innovation by improving scientific and technological skills in prioritised sectors; but also by increasing the technological transfer, dissemination and cooperation between enterprises and universities or other research centres operating in priority sectors.
- 2 Enhancing the competitiveness of enterprises by creating conditions to their internationalisation.
- 3 Promoting adaptation to climate change as well as risk prevention and management, by improving the response capacity to deal with natural risks that affect the cooperation area.
- 4 Preserving and protecting the environment, and encouraging the effective use of resources by improving the attractiveness and appeal of natural spaces within the areas of interest for tourism; along with the protection and upgrade of the preservation of natural spaces and their biodiversity.
- 5 Improving the institutional capacity and the effectiveness of public administration through the consolidation of cooperation strategies among the various stakeholders acting in the cooperation area.

1

Promoting research, technological development and innovation

**35.806.624 €**

2

Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs

**22.175.289 €**

3

Promoting climate change adaptation and risk prevention and management

**19.586.425 €**

5

Promoting the institutional capacity and the effectiveness of public administration

**10.140.857 €**

4

Conserving and protecting the environment, and promoting resource efficiency

**31.206.918 €**

# MARCET

Macaronesian network for the transfer of interregional and multidisciplinary technology and knowledge to protect, safeguard and monitor cetaceans in the marine environment, and to analyses and sustainably manageoffing the associated tourism activity

## Project overview

The MARCET project was born with the idea of creating and consolidating a multidisciplinary and interregional network for the preservation of cetaceans in the Macaronesian territories. This includes obtaining a quality-based environmental status of marine areas where they are found, bringing together experts in monitoring and following the health of those cetaceans, in conjunction with an oceanographic operation aimed at integrating, harmonising and optimising the knowledge, infrastructure and good practices used in the region under study. Moreover, the MARCET network targets the transfer and dissemination of cutting-edge science and technology to promote the growth and sustainable development of tourism activities directly and indirectly associated with whale watching.

## Results achieved

The project's most significant undertakings include the previously created MARCET network, featuring a virtual space for collaboration between different specialists (veterinarians, ecologists, oceanographers, chemists, engineers, whale watching companies, etc.) in the Macaronesian region, as well as the harmonisation and integration of working protocols from a multidisciplinary aspect, associated with the protection and preservation of cetacean populations in this region. It also provided the tourism sector involved in whale watching in Macaronesian territories with greater knowledge of the present situation.

These achievements have allowed for the implementation of a new project (MARCET II) to upgrade whale watching as a sustainable model of economic development within the Macaronesian archipelago (the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands and Cape Verde). Such an initiative should allow to reinforce our presence in the niche eco-tourism market represented by this activity while, at the same time, establishing sustainability criteria applied to resident species of cetaceans that bring in tourists.

*“The MARCET Project has allowed us to shift the perspective as to how the preservation of marine areas and the cetacean populations living in them is viewed. The complexity of an oceanic ecosystem that is not bound by borders requires a joint effort among regions and experts in different fields of knowledge if we wish to live in balance with the environment that surrounds us and upon which we depend.”*

**Jesús De la Fuente**, Scientific and technical coordinator of the MARCET project, Canary Islands

€ 1.212.840,15 €

EU 1.030.914,13 €

20 partners

01.11.2016  
31.12.2019



## Did you know?

The Macaronesian region is a veritable hotspot of biodiversity. Among the species living in this zone, cetaceans occupy a prominent position in terms of their abundance and diversity. Indeed, 32 different species have been seen to live or pass through these waters.



# CLIMA-RISK

Technological strategies and solutions towards climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management in the countries of the “Wider Neighbourhood”

## Project overview

CLIMA-RISK focuses its actions on the development of studies into strategic territorial planning, ensuring resilience to the effects of climate change in the area of cooperation, and also on the development of technological solutions to guarantee the supply of food, electricity and drinking water in response to natural disasters.

The main aim is the development of technological strategies and solutions to adapt to climate change, risk management and prevention during natural disasters in the countries forming the ‘Wider Neighbourhood’. The project is based on:

- The development of systems and tools, including software, coordination and connectivity protocols, professional training tools and standards that improve the Government’s capacity to respond when faced with natural disasters.
- The development of technological strategies and solutions to supply energy and cold drinking water, as well as sewerage and waste water treatment in emergency situations associated to natural disasters.
- The development of architecture and territorial planning to withstand natural risks.

## Results achieved

User-ready modular systems have been devised and manufactured, using standard containers, for supplying electricity and cold drinking water in refugee camps in emergency situations. Likewise, a free-standing modular bathtub and natural water treatment plant for use in refugee camps have been manufactured from recycled plastics and put into use. An IT tool to aid in the decision-making process has also been developed to supply electricity and drinking water, along with the sewerage and waste water treatment in emergency cases or for planning purposes in refugee camps.

On a wider basis, CLIMA-RISK has managed to improve capacity in terms of preparation and reaction in participating third-party countries and local staff, but also through the strengthening of the industrial fabric of the Canary Islands through the technological transfer of products developed and knowledge acquired for the manufacture of modular systems for energy production and cold drinking water. The project has also enabled virtual visits to the Red Cross logistic centres offering humanitarian aid, and has provided a virtual gallery showing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

*“The West African islands share features in terms of risks and efforts to tackle global warming. These projects enable us to share experiences, tools and state-of-the-art measures aimed at prevention and responding to emergency situations.”*

Flora Pescador, ULPGC, Spain

€ 2.470.587,65 €

EU 2.099.999,50 €

9 partners

01.06.2016  
31.12.2021



## Did you know?

In 2019, the CLIMA-RISK project received the IBERDROLA International Energy Cooperation Award, an award given by IBERDROLA in recognition of its international cooperation actions in energy matters.



# SOSTURMAC

Sustainable revaluation of the natural and architectural heritage, and development of low-carbon tourism initiatives in the Canary Islands and Cape Verde

## Project overview

SOSTURMAC focuses on promoting sustainable actions that upgrade the natural and architectural heritage of the cooperation area by favouring conservation and bringing added value to its sustainable and cultural tourism portfolio. The Canary Islands and Cape Verde are two volcanic island territories belonging to the Macaronesian region which share geographic and natural features. The two regions have a rich natural, cultural and architectural heritage, as well as countless tourist attractions. This makes them highly attractive regions in terms of sun and beach tourism. However, as remote territories, they have to find formulas that combine tourism, enhance their heritage and reduce their dependence on energy.

SOSTURMAC has identified the key elements of the natural and architectural heritage in these regions in terms of conservation and potential tourist attraction; it has also proposed actions that contribute to their sustainability and foster eco-tourism as an opportunity for social and economic growth.

## Results achieved

SOSTURMAC contributes to repositioning the Canary Islands and Cape Verde as innovative, sustainable tourism destinations, involving both visitors and the local population in conserving and disseminating their heritage. Various technological, training, diffusion and awareness actions have been undertaken, and numerous studies, reports and publications have been made. It is worthwhile highlighting the sustainable measures implemented on the Island of Fogo (Cape Verde) related to its heritage. The measures carried out to improve energy sustainability within the municipality of São Filipe (National Heritage Site) and in the Fogo National Park (Protected Natural Space) serve as examples for replication in other areas.

The project has also enabled the consolidation of "Bioclimatic Houses ITER" (Tenerife) as Living Lab and tourist products, the conception of "Zero-CO2 Tourist Accommodation", a new eco-innovative tourist product for high natural value sites, and the creation of a compact "smart" weather station known as "MeteoINT".

*"Nowadays, thanks to SOSTURMAC, our head office is more sustainable, more comfortable and has greater potential for promoting our natural values and offering better services to both tourists and the local population. Working alongside our European partners has been enriching."*

**Helia Barros**, project stakeholder (Parque Natural do Fogo), coordinator, Cape Verde

€ 1.011.605,77 €

EU 859.864,90 €

9 partners

01.01.2017  
30.06.2021



Project website  
<http://sosturmac.iter.es>



## Did you know?

Several excursions, both to the Canary Islands and to Cape Verde, are available and detailed on the SOSTURMAC website. These descriptions outline the departure and arrival points, the level of difficulty of the proposed route, main points of interest, etc.



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# Amazonia

French Guiana

Suriname

Amazonas - Brazil

Amapá - Brazil

Pará - Brazil



# Interreg Amazonia

## Cooperation area

The "INTERREG V Amazonia" cooperation programme for the period 2014-2020 focuses on cross-border cooperation between the outermost region of French Guiana with Suriname and the State of Amapá in Brazil, but also on transnational cooperation involving French Guiana, Suriname and the States of Amapá, Amazonas and Pará, in Brazil.

## Priority areas

- 1 Improving the transport available within the cooperation area in order to increase mobility in this part of Amazonia, in particular through the establishment of a new, higher-capacity ferry on the Maroni river to provide a road link between French Guiana and Suriname.
- 2 Protecting and upgrading the exceptional biodiversity and natural and cultural heritage through joint environmental preservation actions, in particular pilot schemes to restore biodiversity after mining operations, and specific actions to protect the flora, fauna and environments in shared or adjacent spaces.
- 3 Tackling healthcare and social issues by continuing scientific and health cooperation, particularly when it comes to the fight against HIV and vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever, the development of remote medicine (telemedicine), the establishment of preventive health projects, shared education and exchanges of medical personnel.
- 4 Developing trade in key sectors such as agri-food, renewable energies, information and communication technologies, ecotourism and projects to bring about better mutual knowledge of markets and of joint education for entrepreneurs.

**Total budget**  
27.838.098 €

**ERDF Contribution**  
18.899.049 €

**Projects approved**  
21 projects,  
14 partners

1

Transportation/Improving mobility of freight and persons

**7.791.000 €**

2

Nature-culture/ Preserving and protection the environment and promoting resource efficiency

**3.714.120 €**

3

Healthcare and Social Inclusion

**4.305.860 €**

4

Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs

**1.588.069 €**

# MALANI

Construction and commissioning of a new ferry across the Maroni River

## Project overview

The idea of commissioning a larger-capacity double-ended vessel across the Maroni River began in 2014 as the ferry "La Gabrielle" could no longer meet the demand. Indeed, the growth of cross-border transit recorded and the prospects offered with the upgrading of the road from Albina (a border town) to Paramaribo (the capital of Suriname) required a better-equipped ferry. This large-scale infrastructure will make it possible to connect two territories, increase trade and provide safe circulation of people in dynamic border areas. The commissioning of the new ferry will serve as a basis for the increase in exchanges throughout the Guiana Shield.

## Results achieved

The ferry under construction will feature two single-propeller azimuth thrusters mechanically driven by two 200 HP marine diesel engines. The river crossing will now take just 15 minutes.

"MALANI" will be able to make 68 weekly trips and accommodate 20 cars or 4 semi-trailer trucks or 8 trucks; 200 passengers, with 50 seats, some of which have been reserved for persons with reduced mobility. It is also proposed to load light vehicles on deck with 2 air-conditioned lounges, roll-out ramps and specific floor markings.



*"MALANI", which means Maroni in the Amerindian language, will be able to make 68 weekly trips and accommodate 20 cars or 4 semi-trailer trucks or 8 trucks, 200 passengers, with 50 seats, some of which have been reserved for persons with reduced mobility.*



## Did you know?

At a total cost of 5 million €, this project was co-financed by Europe (3,500,000 € from ERDF-CTE), by Suriname via the EDF (625,000 €), by the French State (450,000 €), by the CNES (250,000 €) and by the Territorial Collectivity of French Guiana (175,000 €).

€ 5.000.000 €

EU 3.500.000 €

3 partners

01.06.2014  
31.12.2022

# Bio-Plateaux

Promoting cross-border coordination for water and biodiversity management

## Project overview

The Bio-Plateaux cooperation project is co-financed by the Interreg Amazonia cooperation programme (PCIA), the National Centre for Spatial Studies (CNES), the Guyanese Water Board (OEG) and the Directorate General of Guyanese Territories and the Sea (DGTM).

This initiative seeks to enhance water resources and biodiversity related to aquatic environments through the integration of a data system accessible to the technical public authority personnel, the scientific community, environmental experts, public, private and associated stakeholders, producers and consumers of data on the following subjects:

- observation of aquatic environments (environmental monitoring);
- the hydro-meteorological and hydraulic network;
- coastal zone management (erosion-sedimentation processes related to watercourses);
- pollution and associated pressures (contamination of water and aquatic environments; focus on waste and mercury);
- planning for water resources and biodiversity;
- the use of cross-cutting tools (remote sensing and satellite tools);
- monitoring of fishery resources and aquatic biodiversity.

The ultimate goal is to set up an integrated water resources management based on good quantitative and qualitative knowledge of those resources, the sharing, strengthening and dissemination of knowledge on water resources and aquatic biodiversity of the border basins of French Guiana, shared respectively with Suriname and the Brazilian Amapá. Water testing classes will also be set up for pilot actions on environmental education.

## Results achieved

The Bio-Plateaux project has so far made it possible to identify resource stakeholders, make an inventory of available information (field mission - interview - surveys), prepare and organize the International Conference on Water and Biodiversity in November 2019, promote a network of technical stakeholders through regular exchanges, as well as the design and start-up of the "Bio-Plateaux Web Platform".

*The final aim is to set up an integrated water resources management based on good quantitative and qualitative knowledge of these resources, leading to the sharing, strengthening and dissemination of knowledge.*

€ 1.231.640 €

EU 893.845 €

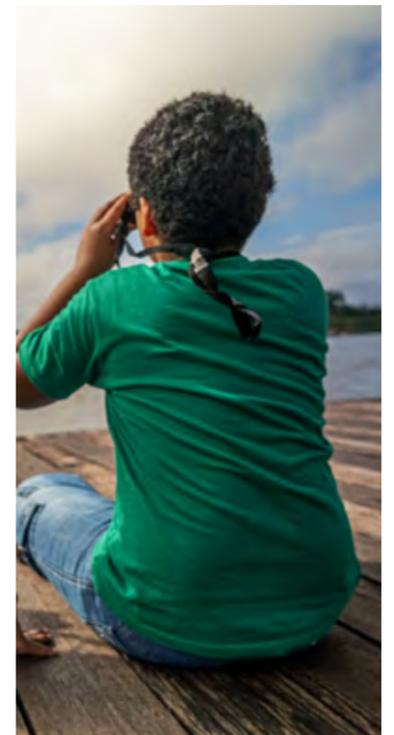
4 partners

01.07.2019  
30.04.2022



## The Bio-Plateaux partnership

The project is financed by the Interreg Amazonia Cooperation Programme (PCIA) under the coordination of the Territorial Collectivity of French Guiana (CTG), but also by the National Centre for Spatial Studies (CNES), the Guyanese Water Board (OEG) and the Directorate of Environment, Planning and Housing of French Guiana (DEAL).





# MALAKIT

Appraisal of a new strategy to fight against malaria affecting gold miners in French Guiana

## Project overview

The project aims to implement an innovative strategy jointly with Brazil and Suriname to “pool” antimalarial treatments for vulnerable populations, and by extension to protect the population of the Guiana Shield.

This strategy consists of providing free malaria self-diagnosis and self-treatment kits with proper training in targeted cross-border areas. The kits can be used by beneficiaries in the Guyanese forest, in particular by miners. Data is collected digitally via a mobile application.

## Results achieved

The project has reduced or in some cases eliminated persistent parasite pockets in isolated areas of French Guiana while continuing to reduce the number of malaria cases in the Guiana Shield. MALAKIT also made it possible to set up a network of cross-border operators in the field of healthcare and to implement an innovative strategy within the cooperation area. It has also contributed to the “International Toolkit of Mobilizable Strategies” for the control and elimination of malaria among isolated, mobile and illegal populations, often victims of a residual malaria that remains a challenge in many countries of the world.

## Key figures

- 4.766 kits distributed
- 3.733 participants in the Malakit study
- 223 regular kit users



*The project has reduced or in some cases eliminated persistent parasite pockets in isolated areas of French Guiana while sustaining the reduction in malaria cases in the Guiana Shield region.*

## Malakit explained through video



## About the mobile application

This contains information based on drawings and videos on malaria in general and on the Malakit project, such as where the kit is distributed. It also contains videos explaining how to perform a rapid diagnostic test and a step-by-step user guide in the case of malaria symptoms (including precautions for use). After starting treatment, the app issues notifications to remind the participant to take each dose of malaria treatment.

- € 1.499.025 €
- EU 703.525 €
- 4 partners
- 01.11.2017 - 30.06.2021





# ACAI' Actions

Co-construction of knowledge and consolidation of quality markets for Amazonian socio-biodiversity products

## Project overview

This project aims to enhance local resources and support the structuring and innovation of participants in the Açai sector (name given in Brazil, called wassaï in French Guiana and Apodo in Suriname). Açai is an Amazonian palm whose fruit is highly prized around the world for its health benefits. It combats the formation of free radicals, which are generated by tobacco smoking, exposure to sunlight, stress, pollution, or unbalanced diet. The latter can lead to cardiovascular diseases, cancer, degenerative diseases of the nervous system, and autoimmune diseases.

This project also aims to improve local knowledge on the subject and to train operators in the territory concerned. A process of co-construction of knowledge and exchanges between French Guiana, Brazil (Amapá and Pará) and Suriname was undertaken to promote transnational exchanges between economic, academic and institutional stakeholders, to set up vocational training in Maisons Familiales Rurales (rural vocational training centres) (MFR) and academic training, and also to foster research on the socio-historical importance of wassaï on the Guiana Shield.

## Results achieved

So far, ACAI' ACTIONS has made possible:

- the standardisation of methods for passing on local know-how;
- the improvement of knowledge regarding legal frameworks, practices of local populations, optimal conditions for cultivating and appreciating the value of wassaï;
- the organisation of trainings and the dissemination of agro-ecological practices;
- the development of differentiated markets and the certification of local know-how;
- and finally, the social inclusion of marginal populations.

Furthermore, a schedule has been drawn up for training and exchanges according to the needs of the project. A newsletter has also been created to provide information on the progress of work. Plus, partly covering the salary of a doctoral student on the subject "Gender dynamics and practices in a process of diversification of markets for biodiversity products" was granted until the end of the project.

*Developing agro-ecological practices and consolidating quality markets is a real economic opportunity for these territories in nutrition, pharmacology and cosmetics in particular.*

€ 1.007.219 €

EU 754.918 €

8 partners

01.01.2019  
30.12.2021



## Did you know?

This wild palm fruit, rich in vitamins (A, C, E) and iron, also contains lipids in the form of good fats, whose composition is similar to that of olive oil. It is recommended for people with anaemia. It is also a natural dye called anthocyanin.

The content in wassaï juice is 10 to 30 times higher than in red wine.



48

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# Indian Ocean





# Interreg Indian Ocean

**Total budget**  
74.302.828,00 €

**ERDF Contribution**  
63.157.387,00 €

**Projects approved**  
151 projects,  
36 partners

## Cooperation area

The "INTERREG V Indian Ocean" cooperation programme for the period 2014-2020 enables transnational cooperation between the outermost regions of Réunion and Mayotte with the following countries: Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Maldives, India, Australia, the French Southern and Antarctic Territories. This programme also includes a cross-border strand for cooperation between Réunion and its closest neighbours, grouped together within the Indian Ocean Commission (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles).

## Priority areas

- 1 Creating a research and innovation centre, with a particular focus on pooling research and development resources in the pharmacopoeia, biotechnology, energy and climate change sectors.
- 2 Strengthening trade, particularly in the agricultural and agri-food sectors, sustainable fisheries management and cooperation in the tourism sector.
- 3 Developing capacities for climate change adaptation and risk prevention and management, by strengthening regional civil protection measures; cooperation on epidemiological and infectious risks; and the prevention of risks associated with marine activities (marine and coastal pollution) and the very real shark risk in the region.
- 4 Promoting natural and cultural heritage through joint environmental and biodiversity conservation measures
- 5 Raising skill levels by developing high-quality training (initial, vocational and tertiary), and fostering staff mobility and exchanges.

1

Boosting international research and innovation potential in the Indian Ocean

**23.045.000 €**

2

Supporting the development of economic exchanges in the Indian Ocean area

**12.115.000 €**

3

Increasing collective capacities for climate change adaptation and risk prevention and management

**8.175.000 €**

4

Strengthening knowledge and the enhancement of natural and cultural heritage in the Indian Ocean region

**5.775.000 €**

5

Increasing competencies levels by supporting professional training and exchange actions (mobility)

**10.260.000 €**

# ECOSPIR

Eco - epidemiology of endemic leptospirosis in the Indian Ocean: Bacteria posing a risk to human populations

## Project overview

The aim of the project, overseen by the PI MIT Laboratory (Infectious Processes in Tropical Island Environments) of the University of Réunion Island, is to gain a better understanding of the transmission chains responsible for leptospirosis in the Indian Ocean. This disease has spread worldwide, although predominant in tropical regions, and is a fully-fledged healthcare issue that particularly affects Comoros and the Seychelles. The work undertaken within the scope of a previous project has indeed shown that bats can be the vector species of this disease, and that the largest outbreaks of leptospirosis are found on these two islands.

The Seychelles Ministry of Health, the National Centre for Documentation and Scientific Research (CNDRS) in Comoros, the University of Lyon 1 and the Pasteur Institute work together to determine the bacteria posing a risk to humans and locate leptospira strains most likely to emerge in the countries of the Indian Ocean region.

## Results achieved

This project has concluded that the *Mormopterus francoismoutoui* species of bat is a major transmitter of leptospirosis (40% infection rate, 6,000 bats analysed). The work conducted has led to:

- the setting-up of experimental infection models in animal environments (rats and hamsters) along with genomic approaches;
- the training of two doctors, currently stationed on Réunion Island and the Seychelles;
- the permanent recruitment of a technical expert and an assistant engineer, to handle field missions and molecular analyses;
- five publications in peer-reviewed international journals.

*“We live in a place rich in biodiversity where endemic plant and animal species can be found. We should acknowledge and inform people that our region similarly provides a habitat to bacteria and infectious diseases, including leptospirosis.”*

**Pablo Tortosa**, Main researcher,  
Public Conference held at the  
University of the Seychelles (2019)

€ 661.871,74 €

EU 553.050,59 €

4 partners

30.06.2016  
31.01.2021

## Did you know?

In metropolitan France, leptospirosis affects around 600 people every year, giving an annual incidence rate of 0.4 to 0.9/100,000 inhabitants. Its incidence is between 50 or 100 times higher in tropical regions, such as the French Overseas Territories or in many Latin American and South-East Asian countries. It is estimated that more than one million severe cases of leptospirosis are diagnosed in the world each year, with a mortality rate in excess of 10%. The seasonal nature of the disease is clearly visible, with a resurgence in summer and autumn due to the heat and increased rainfall.\*

\* Source: Pasteur Institute



# HATARI

The sources of seismic and volcanic hazards in the Comoro Islands

## Project overview

The HATARI project is led by the Globe of Paris Physics Institute and the Piton de la Fournaise Volcano Observatory on Réunion Island, in partnership with the Comoros National Centre for Documentation and Scientific Research. Its purpose is to study volcanic activity and seismic activity on all the islands forming the Comoros archipelago, through several studies into volcanic structures, monitoring of volcanic and tectonic activity, fluid chemistry, installation of new data-collection stations on Grande Comore, Anjouan and Mohéli...). These studies will allow us to monitor and characterise seismic activity and the link with volcanic activity in order to best manage the risks posed by these hazards. The project will particularly study the recent activity of the Mount Karthala volcano.

This project is part of a long-running line of cooperation in research and teaching on the seismic and volcanic hazards affecting the Réunion and the Comoro Islands.

## Results achieved

The HATARI project encompasses field studies, laboratory experiences, numeric modelling focusing on technical and scientific training for students, researchers and other stakeholders in Réunion and Comoros. An initial aspect of HATARI is to investigate the link between volcanic and seismic activity in the Comoros archipelago with a view to establishing a regional model of tectonic deformation and monitoring seismic activity.

The second aspect is a more specific study of volcanic activity in the Comoros archipelago (magmas, hydrothermal circulation on Karthala, recent eruptive activity...). The results of this work will be assessed in museums dedicated to the Piton de la Fournaise on Réunion Island and to the Karthala Volcano on the Comoros through exhibitions and conferences, and will be the basis of a large-scale campaign of publication on social media.

*“Volcanoes and seismicity have become a major issue linked to the effects of natural disasters and climate change. Through regional synergies we will manage to meet these challenges that affect all of us.”*

**Dr Toiwilou Mze Hamadi,**  
General Manager of CNDRS

€ 627.046,25 €

EU 532.989,31 €

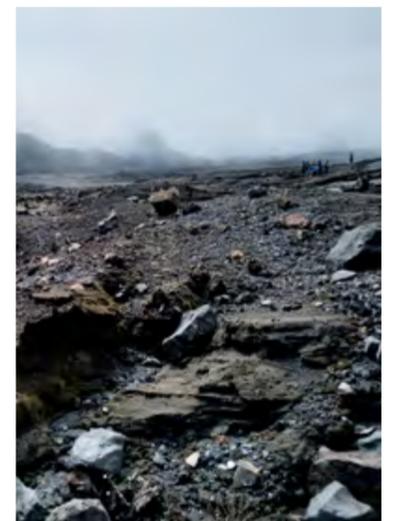
2 partners

27.05.2019  
31.08.2023



## Did you know?

Karthala is a highly active shield volcano, standing on the south of the island of Grande Comore (also known as Ngazidja Island). It erupted twice in 2005 and caused major problems due to heavy ash fall and the subsequent contamination of drinking water.



# IOS-net

Study into solar flux and optimisation of solar energy systems in IOC countries

## Project overview

The deployment of observation stations allows us to obtain the information necessary to study the local and regional variability of solar flux with a view to sustainable and decentralised management of photovoltaic energy production systems. As part of this goal, since 2010, the LE2P / EN-ERGY-lab Laboratory of the University of La Réunion Island has developed a network of ground stations to measure global and diffuse solar radiation on Réunion, Mauritius, Rodrigues and in South Africa (Durban).

This IOS-net Project has been sponsored by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the member states of which are France / Réunion, Mauritius, the Seychelles, Madagascar and the Comoros. The IOC has participated in this project within the framework of its ENERGIES programme financed by the EDF, which enabled the installation of measurement equipment. The object of this programme was to enable the IOC countries to embark upon their energy transition, become less dependent on fossil fuels and move towards renewable energy. IOS-net has also mobilised EDFR funds to finance research and training.

## Results achieved

The IOS-net Project has permitted:

- 2 ground solar radiation and meteorological measurement stations in each IOC country;
- the first regional database compiling solar radiation and meteorological measurements displayed in open data via a dedicated server;
- in each member country, a series of workshops intended for private and institutional decision-makers and investors, students and the general public. The project has been unveiled together with these tools; the energy issues of the countries in this region have been discussed and local populations have been made aware of the issues.

In tandem with the radiometric utilities network, the project has led to the creation of a regional network of technical and scientific partners based on an exchange of skills in the field of solar energy (assessments, forecasts) and climate change (application at local level, adaptation of residents and human activities).

*“The data will allow us to develop renewable energies by identifying the country’s solar resources. The impact will not be limited solely to the energy sector since the project could promote the emergence of related projects, such as socio-educational and sustainable agriculture projects.”*

**Abdallah Soilihi**, Directorate General for Energy, Mining and Water on the Comoro Islands (DGEME)

€ 527.770,86 €

EU 244.847,26 €

4 partners

21.12.2017  
30.06.2022

## Did you know?

7 stations have been installed on the sites managed by the national meteorological services of each country. These have been operationally ready since the end of 2019 and send data via the server, almost in real time, on available solar energy, temperature, humidity levels, atmospheric pressure, wind speed and direction, along with rainfall levels in the region. The data set is freely available on the site specifically designed for the project, or on the App SolarIO, also created for the project.

IOS-net explained through a video:



# PRISM

Réunion Programme for the Inclusive Schooling of Students in Mauritius

## Project overview

PRISM contributes to the inclusive schooling of disabled students in Mauritius, as part of the approach adopted by the Ministry of Education of that country.

Through the Réunion Island branch of the public institution France Education Internationale (FEI), the project prepares trainers from the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE), responsible for training programmes for primary and secondary teachers in Mauritius, for an inclusive approach for specific audiences in the field of education. This initiative also brings in disability experts through the use of adapted tools (command of the psycho-pedagogical approach, differentiated instruction), strengthening the skills of trainers and operators in the Indian Ocean region.

## Results achieved

Within the context of a training course for trainee teachers and MIE staff, 12 professional training sessions were held by the FEI from May 2018 with a view to promoting this inclusive educational approach in Mauritius. It allows the country to embark upon a coherent approach to the obligations relating to inclusive education and non-discrimination of children with disabilities as set out in the United Nations Charter.

The exchanges between the teacher trainers from Réunion and Mauritius also made it possible to create training modules for future teachers, design a general training module for students in French and use tools for assessing and diagnosing the difficulties encountered by students (Khomsi tests and Fijalkow and Liva writing tests, for example).

*“With this cooperation, everyone comes out on top. It is voluntary work in which individual needs are shared. We have things to learn from Mauritius and Mauritius has things to learn from Réunion.”*

**Daniel Gonthier**, Deputy Chair of the Réunion Department

€ 181.932,08 €

EU 105.462,73 €

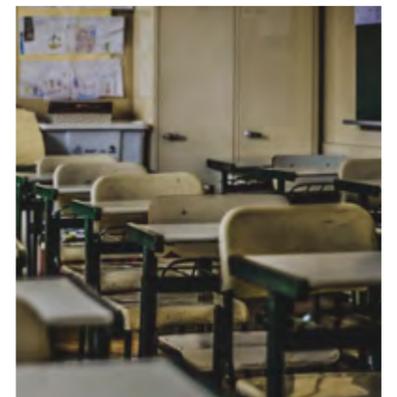
2 partners

01.07.2017  
30.06.2021



## Did you know?

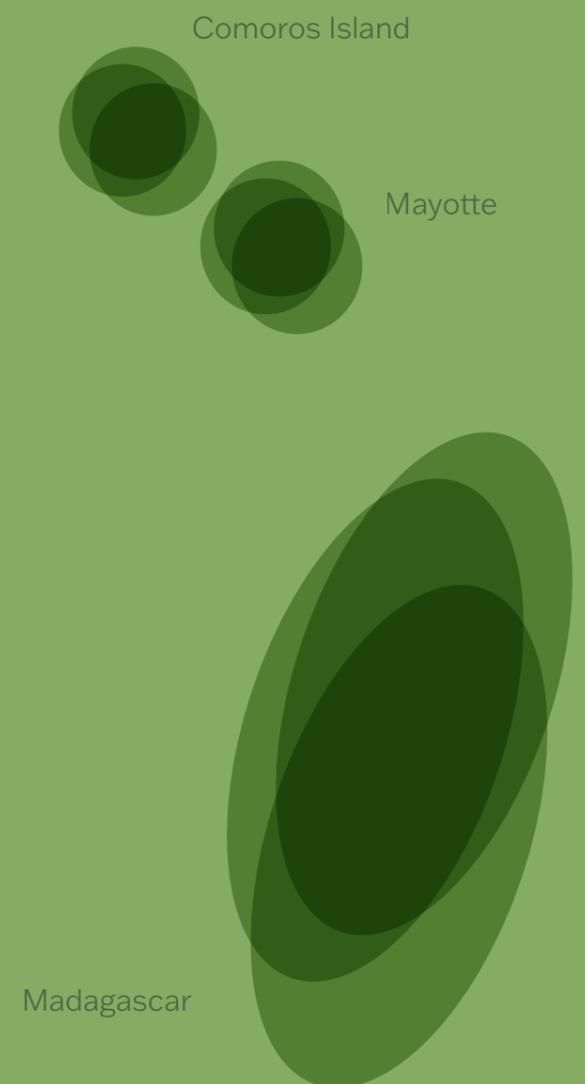
The Khomsi test is a reading and comprehension proficiency test that takes around 15 minutes. The test is for poor readers and is calibrated from age 7/8 to 13/14. The test consists of a word identification test and a reading comprehension test.



60

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# Mayotte Comoros Madagascar





# Interreg Mayotte Comoros Madagascar

## Cooperation area

The Interreg V Mayotte-Comoros-Madagascar cooperation programme for the period 2014-2020 focuses on cross-border cooperation between the outermost region of Mayotte and the neighbouring islands of Comoros and Madagascar.

## Priority areas

- 1 Increasing trade by supporting actions that reduce any obstacles to trade (physical, regulatory and policy) and that structure key sectors to boost the region's economy, which include agro-processing, aquaculture, information and communication technologies (ICT), tourism and maritime transport.
- 2 Improving emergency services and the population's state of health: This strategic priority aims to improve healthcare services in the three territories by facilitating the mobility of medical and paramedical staff, developing knowledge transfer and improving emergency services, especially sea rescue services. It also aims to prevent the spread of water-borne and vector-borne diseases by promoting the transfer of knowledge regarding water analysis, sanitation and waste management.
- 3 Promoting access to education through mobility by allowing mobility for high-school and university students and teachers in subjects relating to the economic needs of the region. It will operate in tandem with the European Erasmus + programme and promote mobility particularly between the University Training and Research Centre (CUFR) in Mayotte, the University of the Comoros and the Madagascan universities (Antananarivo, North Madagascar and Mahajanga).

**Total budget**  
16.323.213,00 €

**ERDF Contribution**  
11.651.527,00 €

**Projects approved**  
14 projects,  
32 partners

1

Increasing trade in the area of cooperation

**4.000.000 €**

2

Facilitating access to health for all populations in the cooperation area and contributing to public health

**4.842.467 €**

3

Structuring, developing the training services and organising mobility in the cooperation area

**1.528.883 €**

# Agricultural Training Network

Enhancing the supply of agricultural vocational training within the AAOI REAP and with its partners

## Project overview

As part of its regional cooperation programme, the Coconi agricultural school is leading a multi-annual project that brings together ten operators in agricultural vocational training, distributed among Mayotte (EPN Coconi), Madagascar, the Comoros and the Carmejjane CFPPA, most of which are members of the REAP AAOI (Network of Professional Agricultural Establishments of the Southern African Indian Ocean).

This project focuses on four strategic aspects: promotion of the project, and more broadly the AAOI REAP, which brings together nearly 90 partners in 7 countries; exchange of teaching methods and modules; cross-experimentation in the farms of each partner, focused on agro-ecology; and lastly, mobility of all partners in each country, such as trainees in initial and ongoing training, or teaching and administrative staff, to allow them to participate in internships, seminars and technical meetings, etc.

## Results achieved

With the international COVID health crisis, the project has been reappraised to continue its exchanges remotely. Groups have therefore been set up on social media to ensure spontaneous dialogues, exchanges of images or ideas, and video-conferences between partners. Furthermore, each member institution has adopted a theme chosen collectively to carry out the project actions, namely agro-ecological crop protection, preservation of water resources on farms, and on-site milk processing.

Among the achievements of the project, two pedagogical modules were developed in 2020-2021 for and by CAPE Agriculture classes in the Warm Regions, - a good method for these young people from somewhat difficult backgrounds to raise their awareness of regional cooperation, involve them in

their training, and introduce them to agroecological innovation. These modules of educational experiments focused on Oyas, an irrigation method using buried clay pots which the students made themselves, and on Bananas Circles, a concept derived from permaculture that enables high density production while recycling domestic water.

The experiment was repeated in 2021-2022 with the implementation of new projects on two other themes: the creation of a pond to develop the water resource and promote all ecosystems; and the implementation of diverse demonstrative anti-erosive production systems.

*“Our seminar on teaching methods and agro-ecology among teachers has provided us with not only technical results, but also in terms of mutual discoveries. Our trainees may have similar difficulties, but we have different o it is important to know how to share them in order to progress.”*

**Néné Lalanekenarisoa,**  
Manager and Trainer at CAFPA, Madagascar



## Did you know?

OYAS are earthenware pots made of porous baked clay which, once buried at the foot of the plant (market garden or tree) allow for slow spreading irrigation, thus meeting the needs of the plant while also making it possible to save time and water. This ancient technique was proposed for experimental purposes by CEFFEL, an agricultural training and promotion centre located in Antsirabe, Madagascar.



€ 562.285 €

EU 421.714 €

10 partners

01.07.2018  
31.12.2021



# GRC

Disaster risk management in Mayotte and the Union of Comoros

## Project overview

In Mayotte and the Comoros, the already precarious economic and social situation has been worsened by the threat of disasters linked to natural hazards, such as cyclones, floods, droughts, landslides and rising water levels... The humanitarian consequences of these climatic events are widespread and aggravated by the lack of human and material resources to respond.

Against this backdrop, the project implemented aims to improve disaster risk management in Mayotte and the Comoros by raising the awareness of the most vulnerable groups, developing mitigation actions on a community level and improving the readiness and capacity of risk managers to respond to these natural disasters and healthcare crises. In Mayotte, as well as in the Comoros, the project ensures coordination of the initiatives put into practice by the entire group of stakeholders involved while regularly monitoring and appraising the project's effectiveness.

## Results achieved

In general, the project has simultaneously managed to improve knowledge of natural risks on the territories involved and the operational capacity for response by those responsible for action during natural disasters.

The actions are conducted in schools linked to the project, raising children's awareness of natural risks and the consequences of climate change. Leaflets on natural risks have been produced, and information campaigns have been organised. With this, the most vulnerable population groups are now also better prepared. Furthermore, the preparedness and capacity for response to disasters of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent have been heightened, which contributes to improving regional/national risk management. Storage facilities equipped with emergency response materials have been pre-positioned: contingency plans have also been updated. In short, inter-agency coordination allows for proper monitoring and assessment of the project, and the sustainability of the actions undertaken.

*“Professional training has provided us with many skills, especially in storing materials and the use of logistics tools. This allows me to progress on a logistical level and make me feel more at ease in my role as Head of Logistics and Operational Resources at the French Red Cross first-aid centre.”*

**Omar Mohamed Ali Tabibou,**  
Humanitarian Logistics Trainer, July 2021

€ 2.107.524,02 €

EU 1.332.189,64 €

4 partners

01.07.2019  
30.06.2022



## Did you know?

The South-west Indian Ocean forms part of the regions highly exposed to natural hazards, whether geological (volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis) or climatic (cyclones and tropical storms, flooding, drought, forest fires). Over the last ten years, more than ten million people have been affected by natural disasters in this region.



# AFI

Au Fil des Îles – Regional School for the Fashion Industry

## Project overview

According to the National Statistics Institute (INSEE), the Mayotte region has suffered a high level of unemployment since 2017, which partly explains the lack of awareness of the regional employment market, particularly the fashion industry. In this regard, the project Au Fil des Îles – Regional School for the Fashion Industry has been implemented across the islands to respond to the needs of fashion and textiles professionals in regional industry, while creating opportunities for unemployed young people.

This project forms part of a development approach and provides access to jobs and mobility through regional-based training. A mission which benefits from facilitating regional cooperation via economic development, but which also makes Europe a partner of Africa through the Island of Mayotte.

## Results achieved

To counter this surge in unemployment, the Chamber of Trade and Handicrafts of the Mayotte embarked upon a project to create a school that brought together craft-based professions linked to the world of fashion, such as dressmaking, tailoring or cosmetics.

The Regional School of Fashion Professions (EMMR) came into being and opened its doors thanks to the commitment and investment of Europe to the Maore territory. This school brings together trainees in French professional training in the Mayotte region, together with foreign students from Comoros and Madagascar.

ERMM seeks to become one of the main training centres for fashion-based professions in the East-African region. To this end, relations with local businesses, beginning with Madagascar, the Comoro Islands and Kenya, are of the utmost importance. This will give students the chance to attain a real perspective of the market through an internship on the premises of the partners involved.

*“If your heart really wants it, you have to start early in the morning.”*

**Imad Abdallah Mamy,**  
Head of Communications, AFI Mayotte

€ 1.359.913,54 €

EU 1.024.830,84 €

3 partners

16.06.2019  
28.02.2022



## About EMMR

The school, whose main objective is developing and protecting local and regional talents in the East-African region, includes 40% of students from Malgaches and the Comoro Islands in its alumni group from Maore. The debut training action taking place through the AFI project welcomed its first students in October 2020 on sparkling new premises. Students will receive a vocational qualification diploma (CAP) in dressmaking.



# PAPAM

Economic upgrading of the Cosmetics, Pharmacopoeia and Spices Sub-Sectors in the South-West region of the Indian Ocean

## Project overview

This project consists in accompanying the structuring of players involved in the production, processing and upgrading of PAPAM (Aromatic Perfume and Medicinal Plants) and spices produced in countries in the Indian Ocean region in the cosmetics, pharmacopoeia and spices sub-sectors, with a view to making them more competitive on local, regional and international markets.

Its purpose is to pool knowledge, foster the emergence and backing of ground-breaking projects, contemplate sharing tools and resources to strengthen the capacity for innovation in businesses, create access to target markets (neighbouring and international), streamline trade approaches and create a professional training portfolio geared towards professionalising players in these sub-sectors.

In the medium and long-term, this project aims to open up business opportunities and develop trading exchanges between Mayotte businesses and regional and international businesses.

## Results achieved

The situational analysis of the sub-sector highlights the natural resources of interest (PAPAM, spices) and itemises the sector's enterprises and their needs. A study has made it possible to select more than 70 plants with strong market potential in the cosmetic, pharmaceutical and food sectors. The island of Mayotte has been mapped out with a view to locating the production sites of each plant and/or their natural ecosystems. All the information on hand from the analysis will be used to design an on-line database expected to be operational upon project completion.

Different business clusters have also been set up in Mayotte and the Comoro Islands to accompany and train economic players as a collective, e.g. the Mayotte Cosmetics Cluster, founded in June 2021.

The situational analysis and support to businesses have highlighted the missing pieces in the value chain in terms of the PAPAM sub-sectors, but also the forces in play on each island. The availability of adapted infrastructures, professional training for economic players, assistance in regulatory procedures and improvements in the production of raw materials are just some of the challenges facing all three islands.

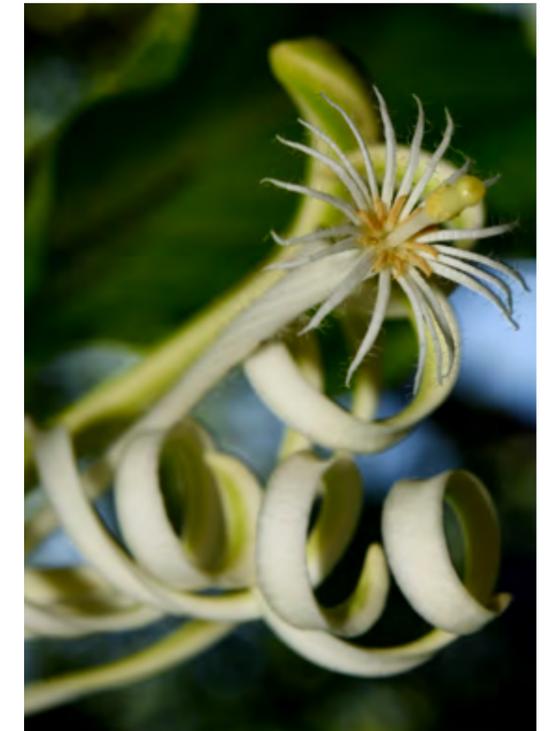
*“The clustering of our enterprises unveils itself through sharing with our competitors—to everyone’s mutual benefit—to enrich our know-how, and consequently, our economy. Joint collaboration in the Indian Ocean islands through the PAPAM project allows us to respond wisely to individual weaknesses and to pool our cosmetic strengths... It must be viewed as a change for very rapid growth.”*

**Kassim Fidaly**, Project Leader, Neosent enterprise, cutting-edge Ylang-Ylang distillery



## Good practices

Business clusters have been set up in Mayotte and on the Comoro Islands to support and train economic players as a collective. The Mayotte Cosmetics Cluster was created in June 2021 with the assistance of CCIM. The Mwézi Cluster on the Comoro Islands was also founded following an existing initiative for connecting this project with the structuring of the sub-sector. The CHESE Cluster in Madagascar, a project partner, has existed since 2015 and has more than twenty members.



€ 306.669,92 €

EU 204.456,84 €

1 partner

01.09.2020  
30.06.2022



**Interact Programme**

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