

**FINAL STATEMENT OF CONCLUSIONS
MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE
INTERREG VI INDIAN OCEAN
PROGRAMME**

**WRITTEN PROCEEDINGS
January 2023**

**CCI 2021TC16FFOR004
France**

Interreg
Océan Indien



Cofinancé par
l'UNION EUROPÉENNE





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UNION EUROPEENNE

Interreg Monitoring Committee

Written proceedings – January 2023



Following the INTERREG Monitoring Committee of the 6th of Decembre 2022, and the adoption by the European Commission of the INTERREG program for the period 2021-2027, on the 13th of December 2022, the Monitoring Committee was consulted by written procedure from 21 December 2022 to 06 January 2023 on the following points:

- Formal adoption of the composition of the Monitoring Committee and its rules of procedure,
- Draft framework agreement presented as an annex to the rules of procedure.

1. Summary of formal notices

3 formal notices have been received during the written procedure of the Interreg Monitoring Committee.

- **Notice from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius**

By letter of 10th January 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mauritius approved the points submitted for approval of the Monitoring Committee.

- **Notice from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Seychelles**

By letter of 27th December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles approved the points submitted to the Monitoring Committee.

- **Notice from of DG REGIO of the European Commission**

By e-mail of 06 January 2023, the General Direction for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission takes notice of the points submitted to the Monitoring Committee.

2. Response of the Managing Authority

The Managing Authority thanks the Members for their contribution and takes note of the remarks raised.

Concerning the point underlined by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mauritius, relating to *"the position of the Republic of Mauritius with regard to the status of the countries and territories covered by the programme"*, the Managing Authority specifies that this subject could be the subject of later exchanges between the parties concerned.



3. Decision of the INTERREG Monitoring Committee

The Interreg Monitoring Committee approves:

- the composition of the Monitoring Committee for the programming period 2021-2027 and its rules of procedure;
- the draft framework agreement annexed to the rules of procedure.



INTERREG MONITORING COMMITTEE 2021-2027

ANNEXE 1 : Rules of procedure of the Monitoring Committee 2021-2027 and its annexes

**(Composition of the Committee, and draft of
framework agreement for the programme)**

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE INTERREG VI - D INDIAN OCEAN PROGRAMME

The management of European programmes for the period 2021-2027 has clearly been marked by major changes brought about by community regulations. In fact, for the period 2021-2027, Interreg's 'European territorial cooperation' objective includes a 'D' component dedicated to cooperation between the outermost regions (ORs) and third-party countries, partner countries or neighbouring OCTs, or with organisations managing regional integration and cooperation. This framework is conducive to regional integration and the harmonious and sustainable co-development of the ORs of Reunion, Mayotte and their neighbours.

The Interreg VI - D Indian Ocean CCI programme 2021TC16FFOR004 was adopted **on 13 December 2022** by the European Commission (**decision n° C(2022) 9625**).

Under the terms of the implementing act (EU) 2022/75 of 17th January 2022, the geographical area of the Interreg VI - D Indian Ocean programme is made up of two French outermost regions - Reunion (Managing Authority) and Mayotte - and 13 third countries: Madagascar, the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (OCT), Mauritius, Comoros, the Seychelles, the Maldives, Australia, Mozambique, India, Kenya, Tanzania, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

The geographical area of the Interreg VI - D Indian Ocean programme adopted **on 13 December 2022 (decision n° C(2022) 9625)**, consists of the French outermost regions - Reunion (Managing Authority) and Mayotte - and 11 third party countries: Madagascar, the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (OCT), Mauritius, Comoros, the Seychelles, the Maldives, Australia, Mozambique, India, Kenya and Tanzania.

In the event that agreements, as defined in article 16.5 of EU regulation (EU) 2021/1059 are made with South Africa and Sri Lanka, an amendment to the programme will be made to include them as full participating countries in the programme.

Considering:

- EU regulation n°2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24th June 2021 laying down common provisions for the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and the financial rules applicable to these Funds and to the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy;
- EU regulation n°2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24th June 2021 laying down specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation objective of the European Regional Development Fund and the external financing measures;
- delegated EU regulation n°2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24th June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund;
- decree n°2021-1884 of 29th December 2021 on the management of European cohesion policy and fisheries and maritime affairs programmes for the period 2021-2027;
- EU Commission Implementing Decision n°2022/74 of 17th January 2022 listing the Interreg programmes and indicating the total amount of support from the European Regional Development Fund and each of the Union's external funding measures for each programme, as well as the list of amounts transferred between component as part of the 'European Territorial Cooperation' objectives for the 2021-2027 period;
- EU Commission Implementing Decision n°2022/75 of 17th January 2022 establishing the list of Interreg programme regions to be funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the Union's external financing measures, broken down by components and by Interreg programme under the 'European Territorial Cooperation' objective;
- the general code governing local authorities, in particular art L.1511-1-2 and L4221-5;
- law n°2014-58 of 27th January 2014 on the modernisation of regional and local public action and the representation of *Métropoles*;
- article 6 of Law n°2017-1339 of 15th September 2017 related to trust in politics;
- deliberations n°DCP2019_1082 of the Regional Council of 10th December 2019 and n°DCP2022_004 of 25th February 2022 relating to the managing authorities of European funds for the programmes of the period 2021-2027 and the acknowledgement of receipt of the Prefect dated 6th May 2022;
- the Interreg VI - D Indian Ocean programme CCI 2021TC16FFOR004, adopted **on 13 December 2022 (decision n° C(2022) 9625)**, by the European Commission;
- the forthcoming adoption of the Interreg VI - D Indian Ocean CCI 2021TC16FFOR004 program and the provisional approval of the composition of the 21-27 Committee and its rules of procedure on December 8th, 2022, the establishment date of the 21-27 Monitoring Committee will be decided by written procedure after notification of the European Commission's approval of the program.

ARTICLE 1 - ESTABLISHMENT

According to Article 28 of EU regulation 2021/1059:

Reunion, Mayotte, Madagascar, the French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Mauritius, Comoros, the Seychelles, the Maldives, Australia, Mozambique, India, Kenya and Tanzania, in agreement with the Managing Authority of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean cooperation programme, represented by the President of the Regional Council, hereby set up a Monitoring Committee for the Interreg VI - D Indian Ocean 2021-2027 programme, known as the 'IMC 21-27', and approve the following rules of procedure, which will be published on the website <http://www.reunioneurope.org/>.

ARTICLE 2 - COMPOSITION

In accordance with Articles 8 of EU regulations n°2021/1060 and 29 of EU regulation n°2021/1059, the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg 2021-2027 programme (IMC 21-27) is made up of:

- Full members (with voting rights) as indicated in the annex to these rules. The list of members may be updated as necessary.
- Members in an advisory capacity participating in the Monitoring Committee (without voting rights) and who are also listed in the annex to these rules.

In addition, depending on the agenda, experts and qualified individuals may be invited to participate in the IMC 21-27.

The list of members of the Interreg Monitoring Committee is published on the website <http://www.reunioneurope.org/>.

ARTICLE 3 - CHAIRPERSON, WORKINGS, DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The Monitoring Committee of the Interreg 21-27 programme (IMC 21-27) is chaired by the President of the Regional Council of Reunion (or her representative), as Managing Authority.

The agenda of the Interreg Programme Monitoring Committee is set by the Managing Authority.

The Managing Authority convenes all meetings, directs discussions, grants participants the right to speak and announces all decisions.

The Monitoring Committee of the Interreg 21-27 programme meets at least once a year and more often if necessary, at the initiative of the Managing Authority.

The Monitoring Committee of the Interreg 21-27 programme will primarily meet face-to-face, remotely (by videoconference) or in a hybrid format (face-to-face and remote).

All costs relating to participation in the Monitoring Committee are to be covered by participating members. However, for foreign delegations and in order to facilitate the participation of Interreg Indian Ocean 2021-2027 programme third party countries in the Monitoring Committee meetings in Reunion, the basic principle is that all accommodation costs for each Minister of Foreign Affairs or their officially

designated replacement will be covered, as well as for the officially identified contact person (Article 54 of Eu regulation 2021/1059) known as the 'Interreg 21-27 Focal Person'.¹

Each third country partner of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme will be asked to designate a person as a contact point.

The chairperson will record the decisions taken by the full members at each plenary session of the IMC 21-27 following the rule of consensus, after having taken the opinion of all IMC 21-27 members (with voting rights).

In the absence of consensus, the chairperson shall record the decisions taken at the plenary session of the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee, after having taken the opinion of all the members of the ISC 21-27 (with voting rights), according to a two-thirds majority.

The Interreg Monitoring Committee may also take place in the form of a written procedure, taking into account urgent matters to be assessed by the Managing Authority depending on agenda items.

All members will be informed of comments made during this written consultation.

The members of the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg 21-27 programme will receive an email including a letter of invitation from the Managing Authority three weeks before the meeting, and at the very latest, will have the working documents and the agenda available two weeks before the meeting via a download link on the website <http://www.reunioneurope.org/>.

Draft conclusions of the Interreg 21-27 Programme Monitoring Committee shall be circulated to members by written procedure within a maximum of one month after each meeting.

If no comments are received within 15 days of the circulation date, the draft statement of conclusions will be deemed to have been approved. The statement of conclusions will be published by the Managing Authority on its website as well as on the website <http://www.reunioneurope.org/> for the general public.

The Interreg Programme Monitoring Committee may also be consulted by written procedure for exceptional cases that have been deemed urgent by the Managing Authority. In such cases, feedback from members is required within two weeks from the date of the consultation. After this period and without any response, the opinion will be deemed favourable. Members will be informed of the results of the consultation via a report.

ARTICLE 4 - REMIT

According to Article 30 of EU regulation n°2021/1059;

The Monitoring Committee of the Interreg 21-27 programme will examine:

- (a) the progress made in implementing the programme and in achieving the intermediate and target values of the Interreg programme;
- (b) the problems affecting the performance of the Interreg programme and any measures taken to remedy them;

¹ Accommodation costs will be covered from the day before each Interreg 21-27 IMC until the day after the plenary session closes.

- (c) the progress made in carrying out assessments and assessment overviews, including the follow-up to any observations made;
- d) the implementation of measures concerning communication and visibility;
- e) the progress in implementing strategically important Interreg projects;
- (f) the progress made in strengthening the administrative capacity of public institutions and beneficiaries, where appropriate.

The Monitoring Committee of the Interreg 21-27 programme will approve:

- (a) the method and criteria for project selection, including any changes made;
- (b) the assessment plan and any amendments thereto;
- (c) any proposed amendments to the programme submitted by the Managing Authority, including any transfers, compliant with Article 19(5);
- (d) the final performance report.

In accordance with Article 22 of EU regulation 2021/1059, the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg 21-27 programme includes a steering committee entitled 'Copil Interreg OI' which acts under its responsibility concerning all project selections. This steering committee is chaired by the representative of the Regional Council of Reunion, the Managing Authority. The first Interreg IO Copil will adopt its own rules of procedure, specifying in particular its own organizational and operational procedures. This information document will be sent to the Monitoring Committee.

Members of the Indian Ocean Interreg Steering Committee, known as the 'Copil Interreg OI', are as follows, in application of the partnership principle set out in Article 8-3 of EU regulation 2021/1060:

- a representative of the Regional Council of Reunion,
- a representative of the Departmental Council of Reunion,
- a representative of the Prefecture of Reunion,
- the President of the Regional Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESER) of Reunion or his/her representative,
- the President of the Council for Culture, Education and the Environment (CCEE) of Reunion or his/her representative.
- a representative of the Departmental Council of Mayotte,
- a representative of the Prefecture of Mayotte,
- a representative of the CESER of Mayotte.
- a representative of the CCEE of Mayotte

The joint secretariat will organise each Copil Interreg 21-27 in a hybrid format (face-to-face and remotely) to facilitate Mayotte's participation, technical conditions permitting.

The main roles of the Copil Interreg 21-27 are:

- selecting projects submitted for co-financing under the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme, subject to validation by the Managing Authority;
- collecting co-financing intentions related to national counterbalances.

The Copil Interreg 21-27 will be aware of all applications a priori, or in some specific cases a posteriori in the form of a list of applications (applications not yet presented to the Committee, complete with cover letter).

A report shall be drawn up showing, where appropriate, areas of discussion. The committee's conclusions will then be inputted into SYNERGIE. The Monitoring Committee will be kept informed of this.

All selected projects will also be presented to the Interreg 21-27 Monitoring Committee.

Online information concerning the selected projects (with their main characteristics) will be posted to the website <http://www.reunioneurope.org> and on the website <http://www.regionreunion.com>.

ARTICLE 5 - COOPERATION WITH THE INTERREG MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL PROGRAMME

Within three months of approving the Interreg Mozambique Channel programme, this programme's Monitoring Committee, in agreement with the Interreg OI 21-27 Monitoring Committee, will set up a technical committee responsible for ensuring coordination between these two programmes.

This will bring together a minimum of the managing authorities of the Interreg IO and Mozambique Channel programmes and their joint secretariat. They will meet by videoconference every two months (or more often if necessary) and meetings will include enhanced information sharing on projects funded by these programmes.

ARTICLE 6 - NDICI-FEDER COORDINATION:

The France/Reunion mission officer made available to the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) by the Managing Authority (MA), may, in consultation with and after agreement of the Secretary General, promote and monitor the NDICI/INTERREG projects, and to be an intermediary of the MA by ensuring, in situ, the interface with the delegation of the EU in Mauritius

The France / Reunion project officer made available to the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) by the Managing Authority, will have the task of promoting and monitoring the NDICI / FEDER Interreg projects. As a relay for the Managing Authority of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme, she will also act as an intermediary with the EU delegation in Mauritius.

In the event that, at a later stage, a financial agreement (Article 59 of EU regulation 2021/1059) defining the conditions for the financing and implementation of the Interreg programme for the 21-27 period (including ERDF and NDICI funding) is concluded between the Commission and a third country or regional organisation participating in the Interreg Indian Ocean 21-27 programme, the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg 21-27 programme will set up an ad hoc steering committee (compliant with Article 22 of EU regulation n°2021/1059) entitled 'Copil NDICI / Interreg'. The composition, frequency of meetings and tasks of this committee will be defined in concertation by the Managing Authority, the Commission, the third party country or relevant regional organisation.

ARTICLE 7 - INTERREG INDIAN OCEAN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION 21-27

The Interreg framework agreements between the Managing Authority and the volunteer third party countries, included in the governance scheme of the Interreg V Indian Ocean programme (2014-2020), have made it possible to strengthen the involvement of third party countries in the implementation of this programme.

The standard Interreg Indian Ocean 21-27 framework agreement is attached to these rules of procedure.

ARTICLE 8 - REGIONAL ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Regional Assessment is the body for the operational implementation of the assessment mentioned in Article 35 of EU regulation 2021/1059.

Its secretariat is provided by the Joint Secretariat.

In order to ensure the coherence of public policies in Reunion, it is proposed that the Regional Multi-fund Assessment Committee should also have authority within the Interreg VI programme.

This Committee is co-chaired by the State (represented by the Secretary General for Regional Affairs), the Regional Council (represented by the Director General of Services), the Departmental Council of Reunion (represented by the Director General of Services) and also involves the CESER, the CCEE, and the regional directorate of INSEE (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies), as well as representatives of urban authorities. For all Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme assessments, representatives of the Mayotte Departmental Council, the CESER and the CCEE of Mayotte will also be invited to this committee.

ARTICLE 9 - SECRETARIAT

In accordance with Article 46.2 of EU regulation 2021/1059 and Article 4 of Delegated Regulation n°240/2014 on the EU Code of Conduct for partnerships within the ESIF framework, the Managing Authority shall establish a joint secretariat to provide assistance in carrying out its tasks, acting under its authority.

Information missions to potential beneficiaries concerning funding opportunities under Interreg programmes and assistance to beneficiaries and partners in the implementation of operations will be organised by the Managing Authority.

The joint secretariat is most notably responsible for assisting the Managing Authority in the organisation and preparation of documents relating to the meetings of the Interreg Monitoring Committee, Steering Committee and Regional Assessment Committee.

The joint secretariat is provided by AGILE, which benefits from modalities implemented during the 2014-2020 period. These modalities have permitted the involvement of third party member states such as the IOC and India since 2016.

Each contact person, known as an 'Interreg 21-27 focal person', will act as relays between the joint secretariat and third party states participating in the programme. Technical meetings may be organised on the fringes of the Interreg 21-27 IMCs and information-sharing tools set up.²

If the 'Interreg 21-27 Focal Person' should change, the third party state must inform the Managing Authority as soon as possible.

At the request of the Managing Authority or the Secretary General, the France/Reunion mission officer made available to the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) by the Managing Authority (MA) may take part in technical meetings organised in conjunction with the Interreg 21-27 ISCs.

The Departmental Council of Mayotte will also be requested to appoint a technical contact to represent them at the joint secretariat.

² In order to support the active participation of all third party states, translations into English will be provided for technical meetings when necessary, as the staff of the Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority in charge of relations with third party states speak fluent English.

ARTICLE 10 - OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE MONITORING AND STEERING COMMITTEES

In order to avoid conflicts of interest, all members of the Interreg 21-27 programme Monitoring Committee and its steering committee are bound by the same obligations as public officials regarding confidentiality and impartiality with regard to the decisions taken. In particular, if a point under discussion may result in a formal decision or opinion, the member(s) concerned by a potential conflict of interest must inform the chair and not take part in the debate.

Each member of the Monitoring Committee and the steering committee is required to act and take decisions for the efficient implementation of the programme and the general interest.

ARTICLE 11 - AMENDMENTS AND VALIDITY

The provisions of these Rules of Procedure are intended for the period of validity of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean 21-27 programme. Any modification may be proposed by the Managing Authority or by one of the members, following the chairperson's approval, and shall be submitted to the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg 21-27 programme for validation.

ARTICLE 12 - ENFORCEMENT

The Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg 21-27 programme shall be responsible for the implementation of these Rules of Procedure.

ANNEXES:

- 1 - Composition of the Interreg Monitoring Committee 21-27;
- 2 - Framework Agreement Model for the Interreg Indian Ocean 21-27.

ANNEXE 1 of the rules of procedure - Composition of the Interreg Monitoring Committee 21-27

List of full members of the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme

The Monitoring Committee of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme will be composed of the following full members, with voting rights, in accordance with Articles 8 of EU regulation n°2021/1060 and 29 of EU regulation n°2021/1059:

Regarding regional, local and urban authorities

- The Prefect of Reunion
- The Prefect of Mayotte
- The President of the Regional Council of Reunion
- The President of the Departmental Council of Reunion
- The President of the Departmental Council of Mayotte
- The president of the association of mayors of Reunion Island
- The President of the CINOR (*Communauté intercommunale du nord de La Réunion*)
- The President of the TCO (*Territoire de la Côte Ouest*)
- The President of the CIREST (*Communauté Intercommunale Réunion Est*)
- The President of the CIVIS (*Communauté intercommunale des villes solidaires du sud*)
- The President of the CaSuD (*Communauté d'agglomération du sud*)

Regarding the economic and social partners and civil society representatives:

- The President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Reunion (CCIR)
- The President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Mayotte (CCIM)
- The President of the Chamber of Trades and Crafts of Reunion
- The President of the Chamber of Agriculture of Reunion
- The President of the CRPMEM (Regional Committee for Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture of Reunion Island)
- The President of the Regional Innovation Committee of Reunion
- The President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Reunion
- The President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Mayotte
- The President of the Council for Culture, Education and the Environment of Reunion
- The President of the Council for Culture, Education and the Environment of Mayotte
- The Delegate for Women's Rights and Equality of Reunion

Regarding third party countries: *representatives of third party countries with only one vote (per delegation)*

- Compliant with Article 54 of EU regulation n° 2021/1059

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of third party countries may participate in the Monitoring Committee. Each third party country may designate their own contact point known as 'Interreg 21-27 Focal Person'.

Regarding regional organisations:

- The IOC Secretary General
- The Secretary General of SADC
- The Secretary General of the IORA

Those who may also participate in the work of the Monitoring Committee include:

- Members of the European Parliament and members of parliament from Reunion and Mayotte;
- Representatives of the European Commission and EU delegations in third party countries covered by EU Implementing Decision 2022/75;
- The Ambassador in charge of regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean zone;
- Representatives of the Ministries concerned: General Directorate for Overseas France (DGOM), National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT);
- Representatives of the services of the State, the Regional Council and the Departmental Councils of Reunion and Mayotte.
- The AFD (French Development Agency).

ANNEXE 2 of the rules of procedure - Draft Interreg VI OI Framework Agreement



ADD FLAG OF
PARTNER
COUNTRY



DRAFT INTERREG FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

INTERREG VI -D INDIAN OCEAN PROGRAMME

2021-2027

BETWEEN

The Regional Council of Reunion, Managing Authority of the INTERREG VI OI

programme 2021-2027

AND

Programme

Preamble:

The objective of greater regional integration of our outermost regions (ORs) is a strong guideline of European institutions, as shown by the decisions and initiatives of the European Commission, particularly in the context of the 21-27 programming period, one marked by major changes brought about by Community regulations.

In fact, for the period 2021-2027, Interreg's 'European territorial cooperation' objective includes a 'D' component dedicated to cooperation between the outermost regions (ORs) and third party countries, partner countries or neighbouring OCTs, or with organisations managing regional integration and cooperation. This framework is conducive to regional integration and the harmonious and sustainable co-development of the ORs of Reunion, Mayotte and their neighbours.

The Interreg VI - D Indian Ocean **CCI 2021TC16FFOR004** programme was adopted by the European Commission on **13 December 2022 (decision n° C(2022) 9625)**.

The geographical area of the adopted Interreg VI - D Indian Ocean programme consists of the French outermost regions - Reunion (Managing Authority) and Mayotte - and 11 third party countries: Madagascar, the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (OCT), Mauritius, Comoros, the Seychelles, the Maldives, Australia, Mozambique, India, Kenya and Tanzania.

Chapter 4.2 of the Interreg VI - D Indian Ocean programme **CCI 2021TC16FFOR004**, entitled 'Implementation, monitoring and evaluation procedures for the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme', states that the framework agreements between the Managing Authority and the volunteer third party countries, which were also part of the governance scheme for the 14-20 programme, have made it possible to strengthen the involvement of third party countries in implementing the programme.

As part of the Interreg 21-27 programme, capacity strengthening and the presentation of a standard model of Interreg framework agreements to the programme's monitoring committee are both planned.

It is stated that the framework agreements will include the following information:

- the composition and tasks of local monitoring committees, the coordination mechanisms mobilised and the tasks of each Interreg contact point or focal person;
- the commitments and obligations of the third party country in the event that ERDF-funded expenditure is incurred in said third party country, as well as the arrangements for auditing and controlling such expenditure in order to ensure compliance with the MA's obligations to the CICC (Interministerial Commission for Coordination of Controls).

Draft Interreg VI Framework Agreement

A shared co-development strategy to encourage the emergence and implementation of joint cooperation projects.

As an operational tool for European territorial cooperation, this framework agreement aims to promote the integration of Reunion Island into its surrounding region and, together with volunteer third party countries, to target common points of convergence with a view to achieving coordinated, clear and efficient action by the INTERREG VI Indian Ocean programme.

With this in mind, at the INTERREG VI Monitoring Committee meeting of **xxx**, the Regional Council of Reunion, 'Managing Authority' of the INTERREG VI programme, proposed to 'insert name of partner country', a third party country, that an INTERREG VI IO framework agreement be put in place.

By the letter dated **XXX**, 'insert name of partner country' of the INTERREG VI IO programme expressed its interest in taking an active part in the implementation of the INTERREG VI Indian Ocean programme.

By mutual agreement, 'insert name of partner country' and the Regional Council of Reunion wish to give a new impetus to their bilateral relations and strengthen their cooperation links through this INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Framework Agreement, the operational implementation of the INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Operational Programme 2021-2027.

With this in mind, both parties are pleased to seal their cooperation and agree on the following:

Article 1 - Purpose

The Regional Council of Reunion, as the managing authority for the INTERREG VI Indian Ocean programme, is legally and financially responsible for the proper implementation of this programme.

This framework agreement seeks to define the subjects of common interest eligible for the various actions contained in the INTERREG VI IO programme only for those third party states that have expressed such a desire in the relevant domain.

In compliance with the regulatory provisions and the governance scheme of the INTERREG VI IO programme, through the framework agreement, 'insert name of partner country' and the Regional Council of Reunion have made cooperation a key element of their co-development strategy.

Article 2 - Scope of the framework agreement

This framework agreement between the third party country and the managing authority is the tool for implementing this programme, setting out the legal framework and scope of the relationship between the two parties.

The framework agreement, which aims to achieve maximum efficiency, sets out priorities of common interest and defines procedures that will be implemented in order to promote the emergence and implementation of projects of common interest.

Article 3 - Scope of the framework agreement

The scope of this framework agreement is that of the INTERREG VI Indian Ocean cooperation programme.

As part of the consultation process between the MA and the third party country and on the basis of needs expressed by both public and private operators, the strategic orientations, priority areas of cooperation and the fields of common interest that will contribute to meeting the objectives of the Interreg V Indian Ocean programme have been set.

Thus, the national consultation process highlighted priority sectors for cooperation between ‘insert name of partner country’ and the Regional Council of Reunion. The various elements decided upon for ‘insert name of partner country’, the framework within which European funds are mobilised, are as follows:

Priorities	EU strategic objectives	Specific objectives	Common priorities and interests

Both parties also agree that the signature of this agreement is coherent and complementary with other programmes:

- The national MIP of ‘insert name of country’.
- The sub-Saharan regional MIP.

Article 4 - Partnership consultation, coordination and support

When one of the Regional Council of Reunion’s decentralised cooperation offices is established in the third party country, it shall ensure day-to-day institutional relations, facilitate and structure discussions between the third party country and the Regional Council of Reunion.

Agents sent from the Regional Council are governed by Law n° 8453 of 26th January 1984 related to statutory provisions related to the territorial civil service, and their offices provide a technical partnership role ensuring the everyday exchanges between the two parties.

Technical support from the Regional Council of Reunion via its decentralised offices will facilitate access to information on INTERREG VI Indian Ocean programme funding and will boost advice given to public and private project leaders.

In conjunction with the third party country’s contact or ‘Interreg focal person’, the Regional Council of Reunion’s decentralised cooperation will ensure the coordination and technical monitoring of how the INTERREG VI Indian Ocean programme is broken down.

A VSI (Volunteer of International Solidarity), co-financed by the Interreg programme and the Regional Council of Reunion, may be hosted by the office and made available to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the relevant third party country in order to provide technical and operational support for the implementation of Interreg projects. This VSI will have an even more important role in the third country partner where the Regional Council of Reunion does not have a decentralised office.

A monitoring committee for this framework agreement will be set up and will include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the EU delegation, the decentralised cooperation office, the French diplomatic post in the

partner country, and the private and public operators who are beneficiaries of the Interreg VI OI programme.

The Regional Council of Reunion, the managing authority, will strengthen its support by providing expertise (short-term missions, studies, etc.) selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the public procurement code and European regulations.

Together with the decentralised cooperation offices (which ensure technical preparation support), the third party country undertakes to identify and promote the emergence of NDICI / ERDF projects in order to facilitate their implementation and the mobilisation of the NDICI tool within the framework of its own Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP). The organisation to be put in place as well as the modalities (frequency of working meetings - lists of participants) will be agreed upon signature of this Framework Agreement.

All parties undertake to communicate to each other all information on project proposals received from stakeholders.

Article 5 - Duration of the framework agreement

This agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature by the Parties for the duration of the INTERREG VI Indian Ocean programme.

Any modification of this agreement shall be the subject of an amendment signed by both parties.

Article 6 - Commitment of the signatories

The signatories of this agreement undertake to respect the following commitments:

- to correctly communicate, facilitate and monitor the framework agreement;
- to facilitate the emergence and implementation of joint projects funded by the INTERREG IO programme, and encourage their completion, particularly concerning the mobilisation of funds from the EU (NDICI) and other donors;
- to respect the rules on equal access to European funds and the principle of transparency;
- in the event that ERDF and NDICI funded expenditure is incurred in the third state, the commitments and obligations of the third state (as well as the modalities of expenditure audits and controls in order to ensure compliance with the MA's CICC obligations) are defined within the Financing Agreements signed between the EU and the third party state.

Signed in, on, in two original copies.

For the Regional Council of Reunion

For

Managing Authority

Third party country