

# SUMMARY FOR THE ATTENTION *of citizens*

Annual Implementation Report  
as of 31/12/2020

## PRESENTATION

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

The Interreg programme covers 2 strands:

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

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

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

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

### 11 COUNTRIES

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

### 5 PRIORITIES

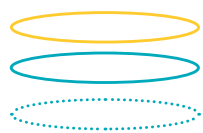
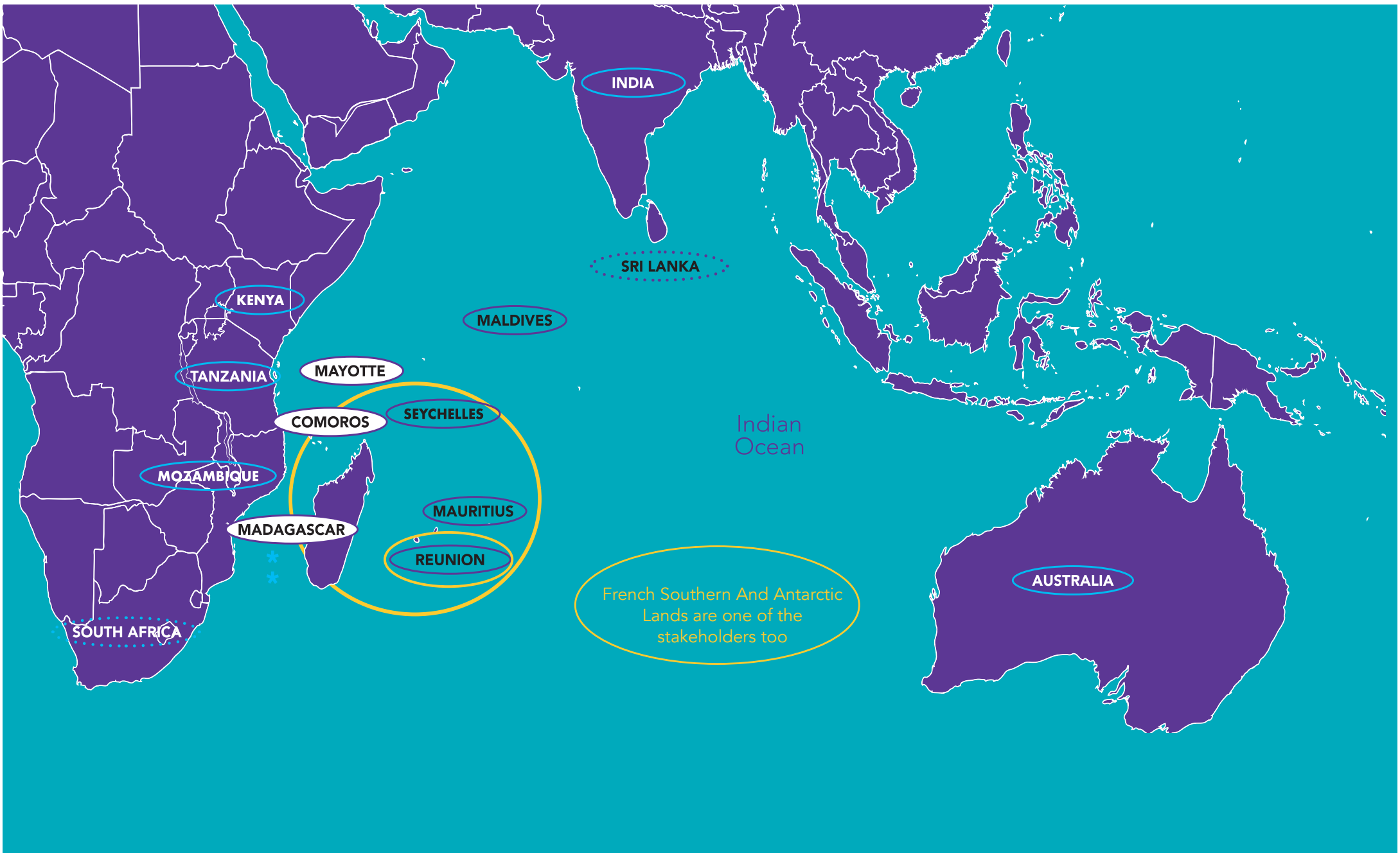
- Developing international research and innovation potential in the Indian Ocean
- Supporting the development of economic exchanges in the Indian Ocean
- Reinforcing collective capacities for adapting to climate change, as well as prevention and management of risks
- Reinforcing knowledge and promoting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

### €74,3M

TOTAL BUDGET

→ € 63,2M FEDER

→ €11,1M national funding

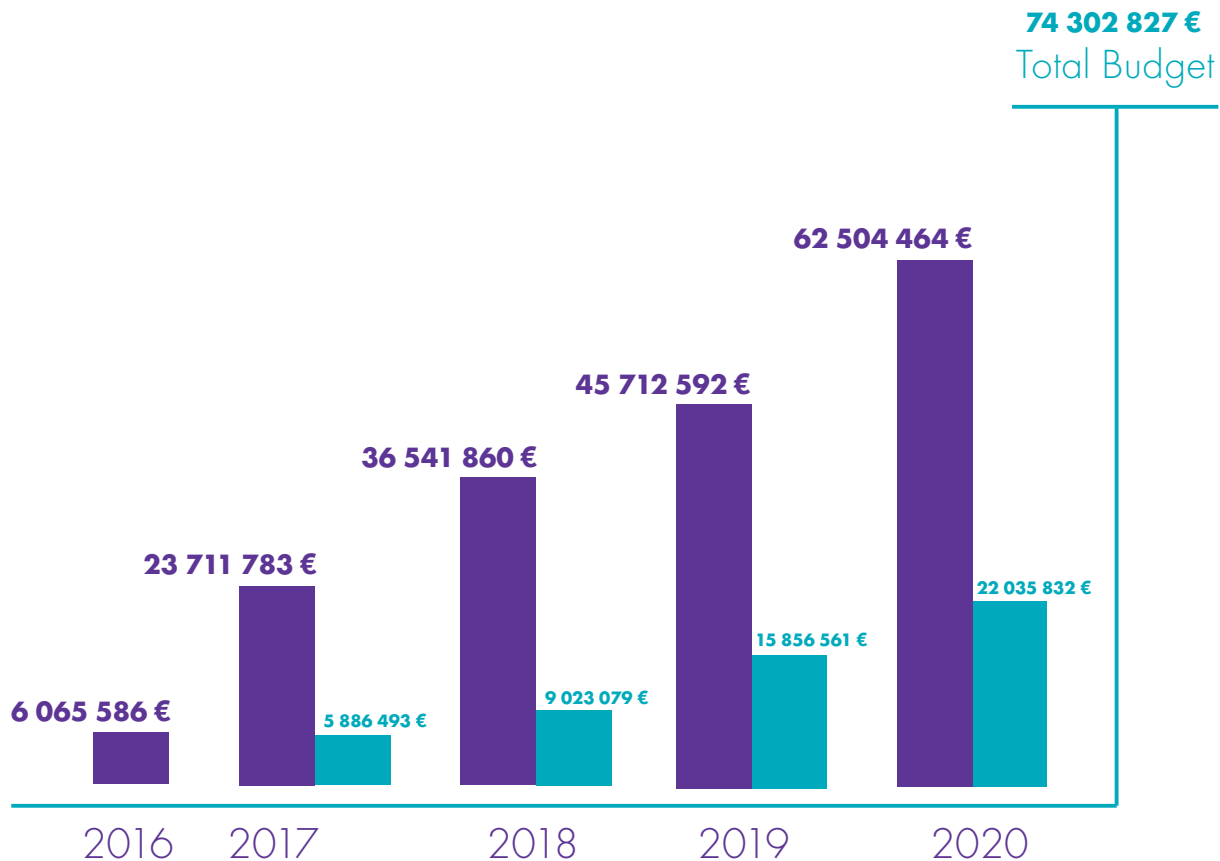


Area affected by cross-border cooperation

Countries affected by transnational cooperation

Countries affected by transnational cooperation that did not sign the agreements to this day

# A STILL POSITIVE DYNAMIC, NOT YET IMPACTED BY THE HEALTH CRISIS



## TOTAL CUMULATIVE AMOUNT OF SELECTED PROJECTS

- TOTAL FUNDING ENGAGED
- TOTAL AMOUNT FUNDED AND CERTIFIED

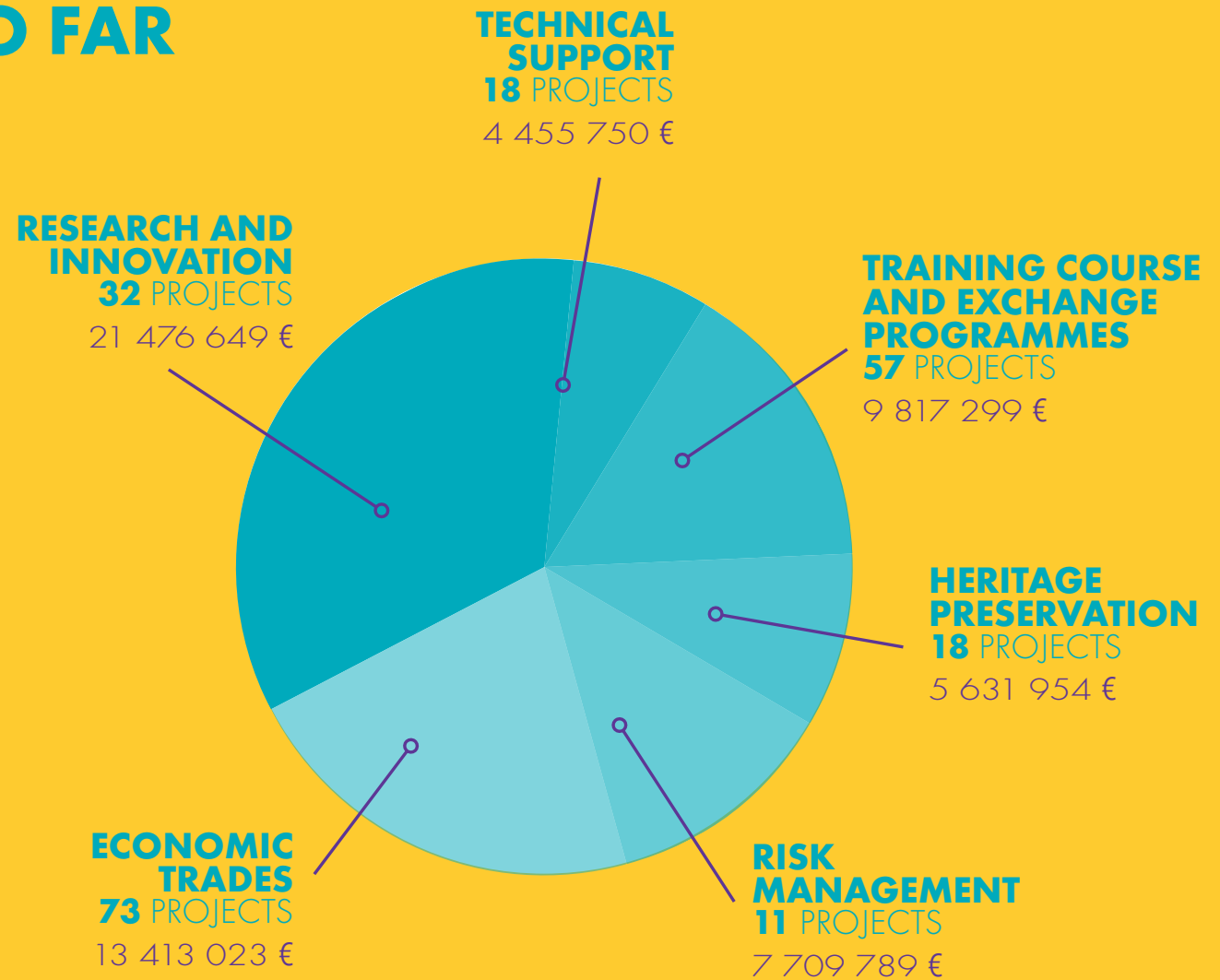
Since the INTERREG programme started in July 2016, 209 projects have been supported, of which 46 in 2020 (slightly more than in 2019).

Programmed projects represent a total eligible cost of €62.5M (i.e. 84.1% of the financial package). The funding provided by Europe is €52.7M. Programming has therefore increased steadily since the start of the scheme.

Eligible expenditure incurred and certified also increased, reaching €22.03 million, i.e. 29.7% of the financial package.

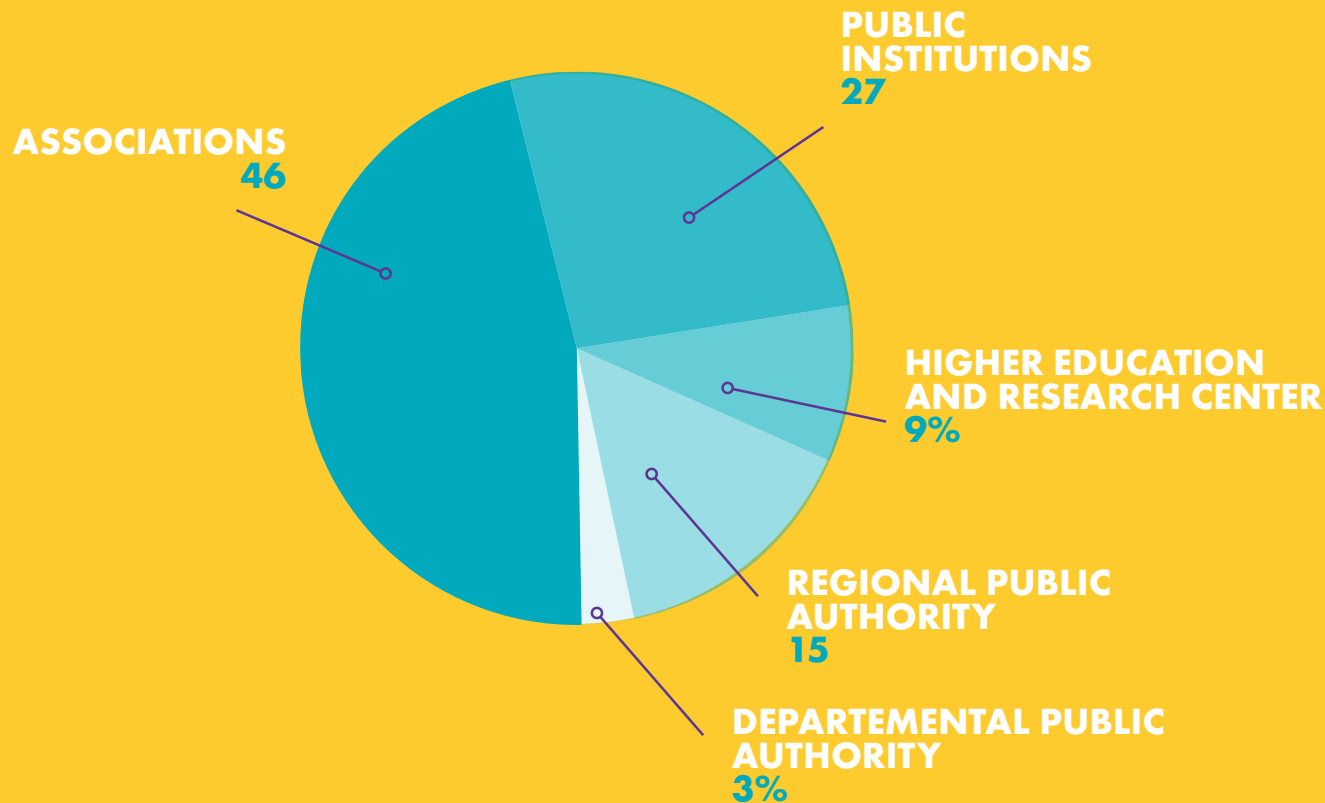
In 2020, programming and certification levels were still little affected by the health crisis: most of the projects programmed were submitted before or at the beginning of the crisis and were therefore not impacted by its effects; the amounts certified correspond mainly to expenditure incurred before the health crisis. However, most projects programmed in 2020 could not be implemented as planned (cancellation of trips, postponement of events, etc.) and will have to be modified and extended in 2021. The impact on programming and certification levels will therefore be more marked in 2021.

# 209 PROJECTS SUPPORTED SO FAR



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

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



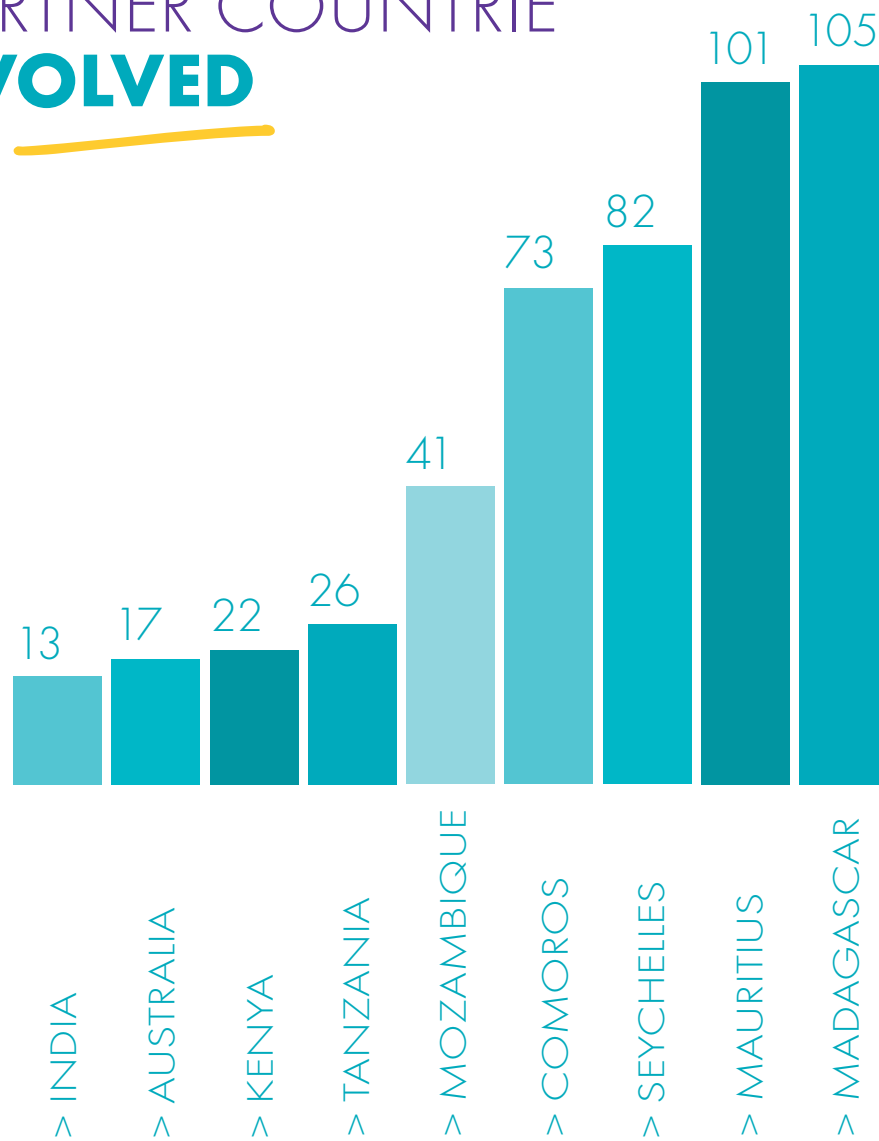
NUMBER OF PROJECTS IN TERMS  
OF PROJECT CARRIERS

The INTERREG Indian Ocean programme is primarily aimed at French stakeholders from Reunion Island and/or Mayotte, who are signatories of the funding agreements with the Reunion Island Regional Council. Although most projects are led by Reunion stakeholders, 37 projects involve actors from Mayotte and 4 of those are led by Mayotte operators.

The list of the Indian Ocean INTERREG programme beneficiaries can be found on the following page :

<https://www.regionreunion.com/sites/interreg/article/interreg-autres-informations>

## 9 PARTNER COUNTRIES INVOLVED



**NUMBER OF PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN WITH PARTNER COUNTRIES**

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

# A FEW EXAMPLE OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 2020

## RESEARCH: OMDIABRUN



This project is led by the Reunion Island CHU (University Hospital), in partnership with the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute of Melbourne. It is aimed at developing a methodology for early detection of subjects at risk of developing type-2 diabetes, the prevalence of which is high in Reunion's population. The Baker Institute in Melbourne has identified a specific lipid signature for pre-diabetes and diabetes in their population. The OMDIABRUN project is based on the transfer of this Australian expertise. It will consist in testing plasma lipids in a population at major risk of type-2 diabetes so as to identify a lipid signature, which will then be tested in the general population. This work will be the subject of an international seminar on the prevention of type-2 diabetes.

## ECONOMY : COOPERATION OF THE GRAND PORT MARITIME DE LA RÉUNION WITH MOZAMBIQUE



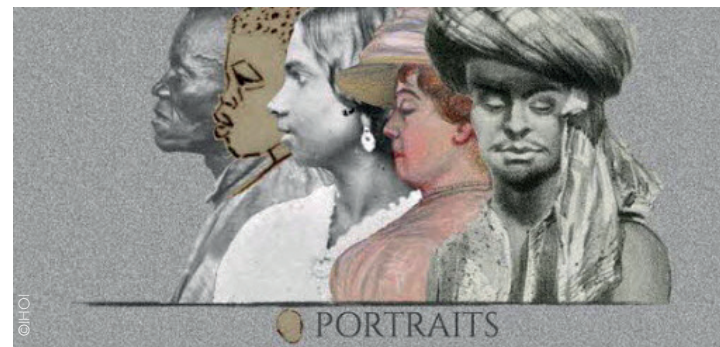
This project consists in promoting the sharing of experience and the transfer of skills between the Grand Port Maritime de La Réunion and the authority of the port of Cabo Delgado, located in the north of Mozambique, in the fields of digital technologies (Smart Port) and sustainable development (Green Port). This technical partnership will be supported by the France-Mozambique Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The latter will also be involved in the second part of this project, centred on the training of Mozambican personnel in the fields of port handling, underwater works, maritime transit, maintenance of port equipment and ship repair.

## PRESERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY : COMBAVA



The GLOBICE association is implementing this project to improve knowledge of humpback whales and strengthen the skills of those involved in their observation and monitoring in Madagascar, Mayotte, Kenya and Mozambique. This project bears on the movements of humpback whales between breeding sites in the Indian Ocean using photo identification and passive acoustics. It promotes cooperation between the players involved in the preservation of this species and of cetaceans in general, within the framework of the IndoCet network.

## PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE : APPROPRIATION OF THE ICONOGRAPHIC HERITAGE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN BY THE POPULATIONS



As a continuation of the Indian Ocean iconographic heritage networking project, financed by INTERREG from 2017 to 2020, the Iconothèque historique de l'océan Indien [Indian Ocean Historical Image Bank] (IHOI) proposes to strengthen the ownership of such heritage by different audiences: secondary school students, artists, and scientists. Educational projects will be organised between schoolchildren from Reunion and Mozambique, as well as a photography contest with the support of the Indian Ocean Commission, artist residencies and a virtual exhibition and, lastly, a multidisciplinary scientific symposium on the iconographic heritage of the Indian Ocean. The partners in this project are universities, museums and archives in Madagascar, Mauritius, Mayotte, Tanzania, Mozambique, the Seychelles and Comoros.



# A FEW INDICATORS

9

**COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS** SUPPORTED IN 2020

4

**NEW RESEARCHERS**

WORKING ON THESE PROJECTS  
SINCE 2016

157

**COMPANIES** THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ACTIONS ON  
THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL (PROSPECTING ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL  
FAIRS/ SEMINARS ETC.) / YEAR (ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR 2018,  
2019 AND 2020)

54

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

12

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

1480

**PARTICIPANTS IN JOINT EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

144

**INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY VOLUNTEERS**

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020

## Health crisis

The health crisis had no significant impact on 2020 programming and certification rates but it deeply affected the implementation of projects, due to lockdown periods and travel restrictions between Reunion and the Indian Ocean countries, which persist in 2021.

To cope with this, the Regional Council took exceptional management measures: extension of projects for which payment of the balance was planned during lockdown, dematerialisation of applications, etc.

The steering committees continued in 2020, with sessions organised by written procedure. The end-of-year monitoring committee was also conducted by written procedure.

The projects were adapted to this particular context: thus, the regional offices in Madagascar, the Seychelles, Mauritius and the Comoros were mobilised for health emergencies (repatriations, contribution to emergency operations, support for partnerships with the University Hospital, etc.).

Many events, meetings and trips had to be cancelled or postponed (Indian Ocean Music Market, Indian Ocean media meetings, trips by high school students to Australia and Mozambique, the University's student mobility programme, researchers' missions, etc.).

Some of them have been transformed into virtual events (webinars of the Export Club organised between May and November 2020 in Mauritius, Madagascar, the Seychelles, East Africa, air and sea transport, revival of exports...), with changes in budgets and project deadlines.

## Preparation of the INTERREG VI programme

At the same time, the Reunion Island Regional Council has been working on the preparation of the INTERREG 2021-2027 programme, with several consultation sessions involving local stakeholders and partner countries. A second version of the INTERREG VI programme was submitted to the members of the programme's monitoring committee from 23 November to 15 December 2020. The following countries and territories have already agreed to the content of this future programme: Mayotte, TAAF, Madagascar, the Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius, Kenya, Maldives and the IOC. In conjunction with French and European diplomacy, discussions are continuing to obtain agreements from remaining countries.