

STATEMENT OF CONCLUSIONS OF MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE INTERREG V INDIAN OCEAN PROGRAMME

1st December 2017

CCI 2014TC16RFTN009



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*Annex : Support for presentation of the plenary session of
the Interreg Monitoring Committee*

1. Decisions of the Interreg Monitoring Committee of 1st December 2017

1.1 Progress made by the Interreg OP

The committee noted the progress made by the programme.

1.2 Modification of selection criteria.

The committee approved the modifications of the selection criteria for action files 1.5, 2.4 and 10.1.

1.3 Points of information

The committee noted the updated schedule for implementation of the assessment plan.

The committee noted the actions carried out in the field of communication.

Regarding the efforts in the field of communication, the representatives from Mauritius requested for an analysis to be initiated to encourage communication actions in the partner countries of the programme.

The monitoring committee approved this proposal.

2. Synthesis of communications

Main introductory and cross-disciplinary points raised

M. Didier ROBERT, President of the Regional Council of Reunion, opened the plenary session by emphasising the importance of cooperation actions in a geographic space like the Indian Ocean. He welcomed the fact that the 2007-2013 programme ended with a rate of implementation of 98% and the dynamics applied to the 2014-2020 programme, with a programming rate of over 30% at the end of 2017. Finally, he reminded those present of the challenge of coordinating different sources of funding, notably EDF and ERDF funds, in order to contribute to the coherency of European policies.

M. Daniel GONTHIER, Deputy President of the Departmental Council of Reunion, gave credit to the support given by the Interreg program for training activities such the one organised by the *Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques*, aimed at applying an inclusive teaching methodology for Mauritian pupils. These projects also make it possible to promote the French language through the training in French of future teachers. He also mentioned the Indian Ocean image bank project, presented during the visit, which had been selected through an appeal for projects and which offers a concrete example of the link between partners of the programme around a shared topic, such as the preservation of cultural heritage.

Mr Jacques BELLE, General Director of protocol, legal and consular affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Seychelles, noted that as regards Cooperation, the year 2018 will be of particular importance for his country, with the Seychelles entrusted with the Presidency of the IOC in March, as well as the signature of the Interreg framework agreement with the Regional Council of Reunion. In this respect, he reminded those present that cooperation is one of the principal axes of the strategy of the Seychelles and pointed out that, following the invitation made by the President of the Regional Council of Reunion, Mr FAURE, President of the Republic of the Seychelles, is to visit Reunion in 2018.

Mme Shakuntala JUGMOHUN, Head of Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mauritius, welcomed the signature of the Interreg framework agreement in October 2016, signed with the Regional Council of Reunion, representing the achievement of a fruitful process of intense exchanges between Reunion and Mauritius. It will also give a new impetus to cooperation between the two islands and more generally relations between France and Mauritius, which have a long history and are characterised by mutual respect. Finally, Mrs JUGMOHUN proposed carrying out an analysis of the process of communication around the Interreg program by the partner countries.

M. Mahamoud SOILIH, Ambassador of the Union of the Comoros, gave credit to the fruitful exchanges observed during the Interreg monitoring committee. He reminded those present that the axes of the programme fully correspond to the objective of co-development sought by the partners. Finally, Mr SOILIH welcomed the signature of the framework agreement, which will give a new dynamic to relations between France and the Comoros.

Mr Sidi MOHAMED, Deputy President in charge of European affairs and regional cooperation of the Departmental Council of Mayotte, first of all reminded those present that the European ambition of creating a peaceful and prosperous space is perfectly applicable to the challenges of the Indian Ocean zone.

Mr MOHAMED also welcomed the positive progress made by the programme, both as regards the number of operations programmed, and through the quality of the projects. The recent programming of the first file presented by a beneficiary of Mayotte is a very positive sign and an encouragement to carry on making efforts in the field of communication.

M. Pierre Emmanuel LECLERC, geographic reporter of the Regional Directorate for the European Commission, speaking about the progress made in the programme, noted that the delay is due to the late approval of the programme, that is has been completely compensated for and that a dynamic process has now been engaged, with the perspective of achieving a programming rate of over 30% for the end of 2017.

Mr LECLERC indicated that discussions are currently on-going concerning the period following 2020. The difficult context due to Brexit and the budgetary constraints consequences might lead to caution concerning the amounts available for the future of politics of cohesion. However, the European union reasserted its commitment to a strategy for the European Outermost Regions at the conference held in Cayenne during which a communication for a strengthened partnership with the European Union was approved and the need to adapt the politics to the specificities of the European Outermost Regions was underlined.

Mr Amaury DE SAINT-QUENTIN, Prefect of Reunion, welcomed the organisation of the committee, associating the partners of the programme, as well as the involvement of Mayotte. The Prefect emphasised the fact that, during the conference on the European Outermost Regions, the President of the Republic insisted on the importance of regional cooperation. The European policies of the Interreg programme are part of the national strategy applied by the French state in the fields of security, economic development, as well as protection of the environment.

Mr Henry RABARY-NJAKA, Minister of foreign affairs of Madagascar, reminded those present that cooperation between partners in the Indian Ocean is essential, since they share the same history and have strong links as regards their settlement. In addition, the partners are all situated around the same ocean, which creates a priority challenge for development. Mr RABARY-NJAKA emphasised the importance of maritime security, which must be placed at the heart of strategic priorities. Mr RABARY-NJAKA also brought up another important challenge for the partners of the programme, that of food security and the necessary development of the agricultural potential and resources through research and development in agronomy, set out in the different axes of the programme.



**INTERREG MONITORING
COMMITTEE**

ANNEX 1 :

Support for presentation

Plenary session

INTERREG Monitoring committee

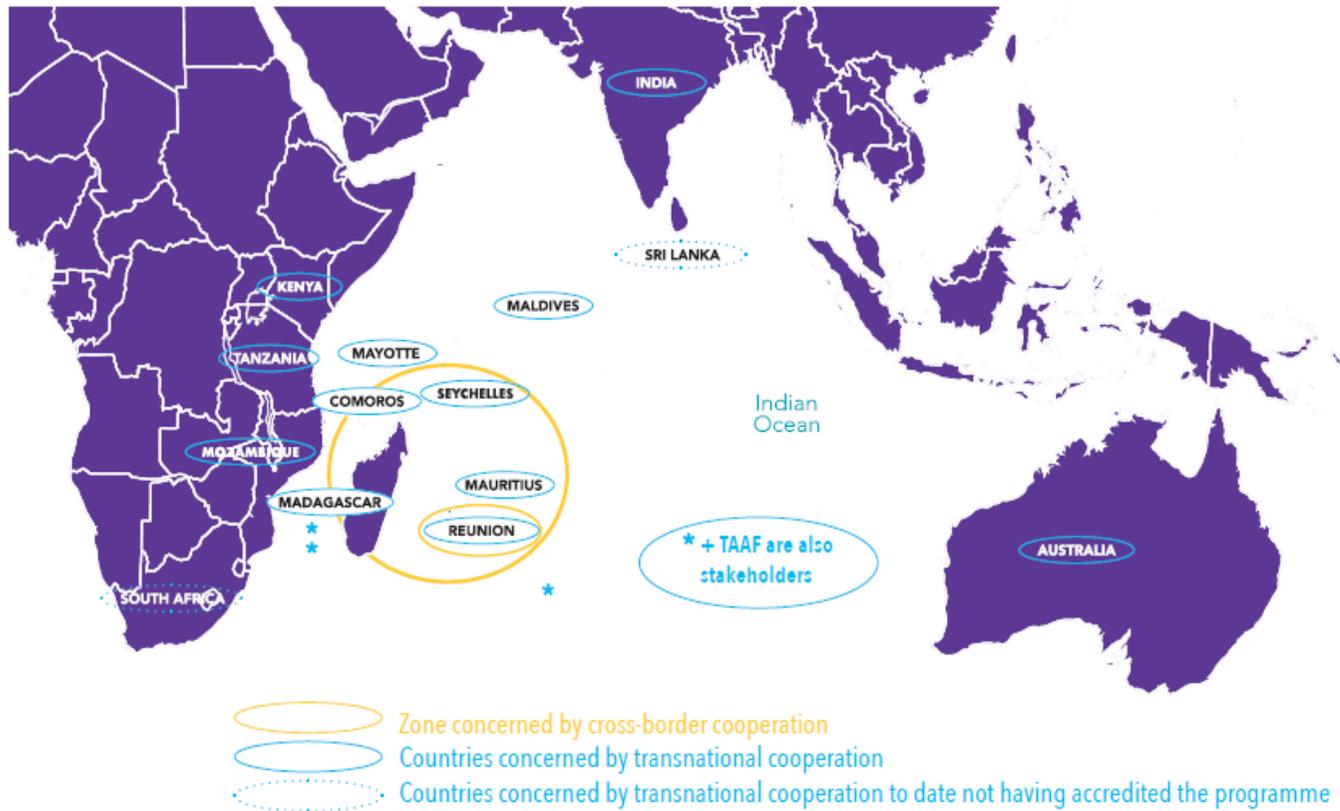


Agenda

- Progress made by the programme
- Modification of selection criteria
- Information points

1- Progress made by the programme

Presentation of the programme



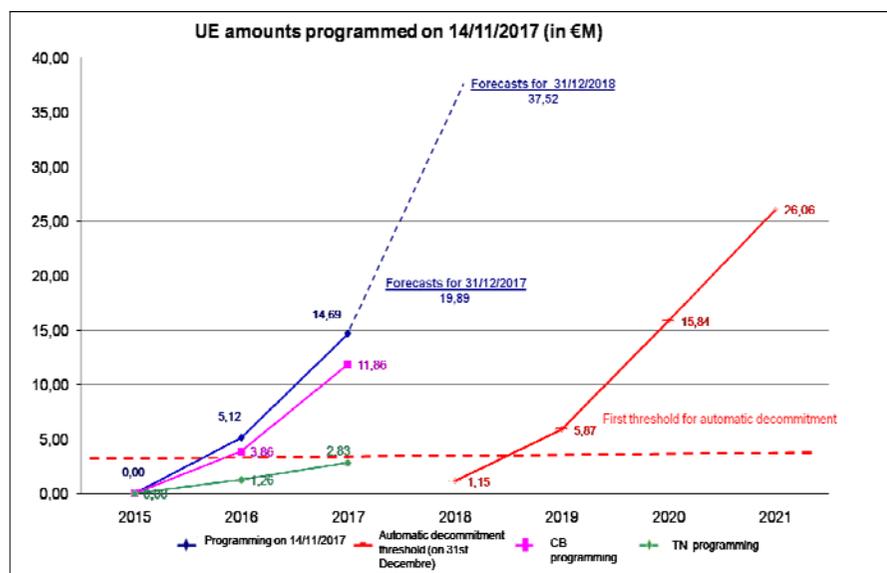
A few figures

- A crossborder strand and a transnational strand
- 13 partners involved to date
- €63.1M of ERDF funds

Overview of progress

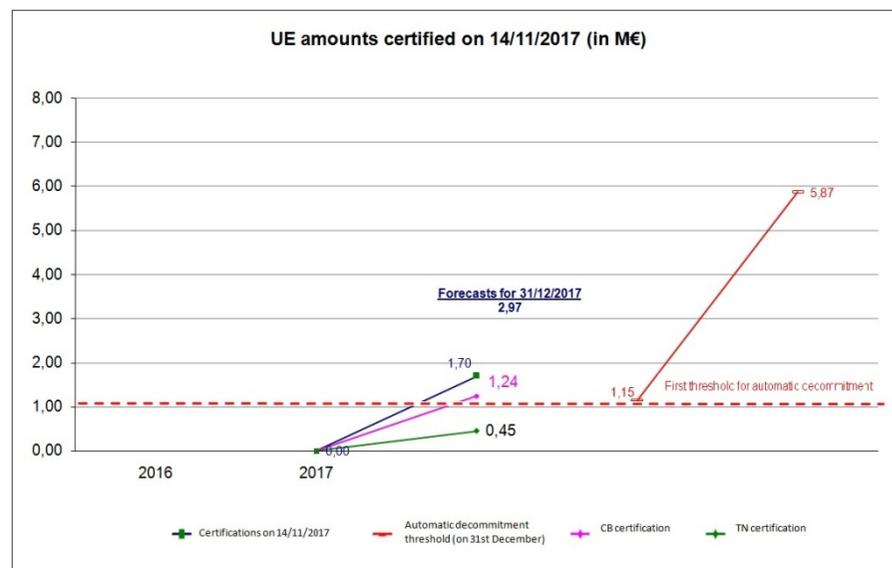
Programming

- On 14/11/2017 : 61 projects for a total cost of €17 849 472 and €14 688 334 of ERDF funds (or 23.3% of the programme)
- Forecast for end 2017 : €19.89 M of ERDF funds (or 31.5%)



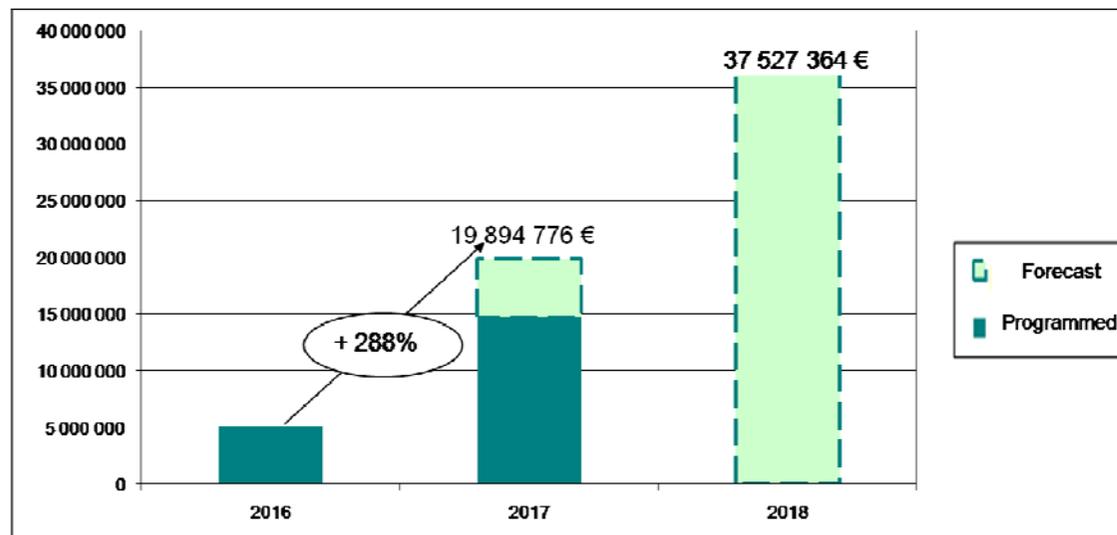
Certification :

- Certified amount on 14/11/2017 (€1.7 M ERDF) and anticipated amount for 31/12/2017 (€2.97 M) significantly higher than the initial threshold of automatic decommitment, to be applied only as from 2018 (€1.15 M)



Programming perspectives 2017-2018

- At the end of 2017 and after just 18 months of programming, it is planned to achieve a level of ERDF programming, all strands included, of €19.9 M:
- ✓ On 14/11/2017, the amount of €14.7 M has already been programmed
- ✓ Forecasts for the end of the year indicate that the threshold of 31.50% will be crossed by the end of the year.
 - ✓ The positive perspectives should be confirmed for 2018, since the expected level of programming will make it possible to achieve €3.6 M of ERDF funds programmed.



Framework agreements signed



Framework agreement signed on 11th October 2016



Framework agreement signed on 30th November
2016



Framework agreement signed on 14th August 2017



Memorandum of understanding signed on 20th October 2017
signature of agreement planned for 1st quarter 2018

Coordination with EDF and AFD

EDF ERDF Coordination committee of 1st December 2017 :

EDF ERDF projects supported in 2017 :

- Humpback whales in the southern Indian Ocean
- New programme for fisheries surveillance
- International solidarity volunteers in IOC posts

Perspectives for 2018 :

- Coordination with the 10th EDF : common projects in the fields of energy (IOS net), land biodiversity (Epibio), data (G2OI)
- Identification of EDF-ERDF coordination upstream of drafting of 11th EDF projects

New framework agreement Regional Council of Reunion-AFD (French Devel. Agency) signed 5th October 2017

Objectives

- Encouraging exchange of information
- Encouraging skills and expertise in Reunion
- Identifying possibilities of co-funding for projects

Projects launched :

- Project CACAOS : Automatic channels for mapping of land use
- Project for integrated and sustainable planning of coastal zone of Morondava

Elements resulting from the technical meeting

Observations	Précisions apportées par l'autorité de gestion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee emphasises the progress made in programming and certification for the two strands of the Interreg programme which has already made it possible to achieve a level beyond the the first automatic decommitment threshold for 2018. • It is noted that the level of programming is lower for axis 10, dedicated to training within the transnational strand. • The representatives of Mayotte emphasise the specific role of Mayotte within the transnational strand, as well as its pilot committee.. ➤ The committee noted the progress of the agreement process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The managing authority recognises the high level of mobilisation of the partner countries, notably through framework agreements, making it possible to achieve this result after just 18 months of programming. ➤ The managing authority indicates that the rate referred to for axis 10 in the documents is that for the end of September and that the programming for the end of December will be higher. ➤ The proposal made by the managing authority to hold at least one pilot committee in Mayotte is accepted. ➤ The managing authority indicates that the process of framework agreements with volunteering countries for the transnational strand is continuing.

- You are requested to note the progress of the Interreg OP.

2- Modification of selection criteria

Modification of selection criteria

- Modifications of the action files for the programme, focusing on concrete elements (harmonisation of travelling expenses, support schemes, etc.) were validated in September 2017 by the Interreg pilot committee and the permanent Committee of the Regional Council.

- Following this work of revising the action files, modifications of selection criteria are proposed to the monitoring committee through:
 - action files 1.5 et 2.4 → opening to projects that aim to enhance data and results of research for applications in public services (territorial development, sustainable development etc.)
 - action file la 10.1 → opening out to sports structures

Elements resulting form the technical meeting

Observations	Information communicated by the managing authority
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The representatives from Mayotte indicate concrete modifications to be carried out concerning the selection criteria for certain action files of the transnational strand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The modifications proposed did not figure on the agenda, so could not be discussed. They will be the object of preliminary discussions by the pilot committee, followed by a possible written procedure by the monitoring committee.

- You are requested to validate modification of selection criteria of the Interreg OP.

3- Points of information

Progress of the assessment plan

- The assessment plan of the Interreg V programme was approved by the monitoring committee on 27th April 2016. This document planned the first assessments to be carried out according to the following schedule:
 - ✓ Assessment half way through application of the programme : last quarter 2016,
 - ✓ Assessment half way through by topic: 3rd quarter 2017.

- However, considering the late approval of the programme and its actual start in July 2016, it is proposed to modify the schedule of the first two assessments as follows :

Studies and reports	2017	2018			
	T4	T1	T2	T3	T4
Assessment half way through application of the Interreg programme					
Assessment half way by topic					

Progress of the communication plan

EVENTS

- Launching of Interreg programme (27 April 2016)
 - Signature of Interreg framework agreements:
 - Reunion-Mauritius (11 Oct 2016)
 - Reunion-Comoros (30 Nov 2016)
 - Reunion-Madagascar (14 Aug 2017)

CREATIONS

- Journal of Regional Council Reunion (cooperation and Europe) : 4 issues
- Creation of logo and specific Interreg V IO programme signature
- Handbook for Interreg project leaders
- Information bulletins for partner countries

INFORMATION

- Website: www.regionreunion.com
- Press : publication of call for projects (19 in Réunion, 1 month in Mayotte)
- Branches : information disseminated in Comoros, Mauritius and Madagascar



Elements resulting from the technical meeting

Observations	Information communicated by the managing authority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Commission has noted the ongoing work on the indicators and the updating of the assessment plan • The partner countries emphasise the importance of improved communication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The managing authority confirms that exchanges with the European Commission will continue before a possible modification of the indicators. ➤ The managing authority confirms the fact that greater efforts will be made in respect of dissemination of information, notably through the branches.

➤ Thank you for your attention