

19th EU-OCT Forum
Noumea, New Caledonia
THEMATIC WORKSHOPS - 19 November 2022

FORUM ROUNDTABLE:

UPDATE ON ONGOING REGIONAL/THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

BACKGROUND

Regional and thematic cooperation programmes are an important pillar of the EU-OCT cooperation, complementing the bilateral EU cooperation with the individual OCT partners. Such multi-OCT actions allow to address more comprehensively joint challenges, they are a tool for peer-learning and they provide economies of scale. As these actions pertain to the 11th EDF the 12 UK territories remain also direct beneficiaries of the regional programmes.

Currently, four actions continue to be under implementation:

In the Pacific, the Regional Programme ‘**PROTEGE**’ (Projet régional océanien des territoires pour la gestion durable des écosystèmes, EUR 36 million), supports sustainable and resilient development in the region by protecting biodiversity and renewable natural resources. It will run until October 2024 and builds on earlier regional cooperation.

In the Caribbean, the ‘**RESEMBID**’ Programme (Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Biodiversity Regional, EUR 42.67 million) was topped up with EUR 2.67 million for the Caribbean OCTs from the B-envelope as COVID-19 support, increasing the initial allocation of EUR 40 million. RESEMBID aims at strengthening environmentally sustainable economic development by focusing on resilience, sustainable energy and marine biodiversity.

The Indian Ocean Regional Programme “**RECI**” (Projet de Restauration des Ecosystèmes Insulaires de l’Océan Indien, EUR 4 million) aims to restore island ecosystems in the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (FSAL or TAAF) for the benefit of regional biodiversity.

The 11th EDF all-OCTs thematic programme (EUR 17.8 million), better known as the GO – **Green Overseas programme**, aims at contributing to the sustainable, resilient & inclusive development of the OCTs, focusing on their energy transition and climate change resilience. Implementation has started in 2021.

Objectives of the Roundtable

The roundtable will be a platform to share, across the various OCT sub-regions, information about the state of play of three of these programmes: Protege. Resembid and GO. This will allow to (i) highlight results, (ii) discuss challenges and opportunities for these programmes (iii) inform the continued implementation of these actions and (iv) also aims to provide some useful lessons learnt for future EU-OCT regional and intra-regional cooperation under the new Decision on the Overseas Association.

Discussions will focus on:

1. *Results*: sharing concrete examples: success stories, challenges, contribution to regional approaches.
2. *Ways for improvements*: How to boost results and user-friendliness further and amplify inspirational potential of regional cooperation amongst OCTs and other stakeholder?

Expected Outcomes

The roundtable is expected to produce the following results:

- Inform the ongoing implementation of these three actions;
- Provide some lesson-learnt for the regional and intra-regional cooperation 2021-2027.

Format

The Commission and Sint Maarten will co-chair and co-moderate the session.

While the thematic workshop mainly aims to stimulate a reflection at the technical/working level of the participating delegations to subsequently feed into the political dialogue on the 22 November, all delegates (OCT, Member States and where explicitly mentioned third parties such as EFIs) are invited to participate.

The co-chairs will introduce the topic (5 min). The roundtable will provide through presentations of the implementing teams (15 min each) an overview of the state of play, main results achieved and lessons learnt –in view of future regional/intra-regional cooperation- of the three programmes Protege (SPC) followed by a short feedback (10 min each) of one Pacific OCT (former RAO?), Resembid (EF) followed by a short feedback of one Caribbean OCT (Sint Maarten and Green Overseas (EF) followed by a short feedback from an OCT from a third region on Green Overseas (Saint Pierre et Miquelon).

Individual presentation plus feedback will have 25 minutes each. This will be followed by first rounds to for “urgent” questions and to also collect further questions before moving on to the next presentation. (10 min)

At the end of the three presentations, there will be an opportunity for discussion (20 min).

The co-chairs will draw the main conclusions at the end of the discussion (10 min), which will be presented at the Forum on 22 November.