



THEMATIC WORKSHOP DURING THE 19TH EU-OCT FORUM, NEW CALEDONIA:

PERSPECTIVES FOR REGIONAL AND INTRA-REGIONAL COOPERATION

Overseas Countries & Territories of the European Union



European Commission,
DG INTPA B3;
19 November 2022



FRAMEWORK OF EU-OCT COOPERATION 2021-2027

- **Decision on the Overseas Association including Greenland (DOAG):** *policy dialogue, trade and financial cooperation*
- **Territorial Multi-annual Indicative Programmes for each of the 13 OCT:** *shared priorities - mutual interest*
- **Regional MIPS for the Caribbean and Pacific OCT, dedicated funds for intra-regional cooperation**
- **Implementation through Action Plans**
- **OCTs eligible to other EU programmes** (*e.g. INVEST-EU, LIFE, ERASMUS, NDICI thematic*)

Spending Targets	
Climate Change	25%
Biodiversity	7.5% (as of 2024), 10% (as of 2026)

DOAG Allocation for financial OCT cooperation	in Mio EUR
Greenland	225
Territorial	164
Regional	61
Intraregional	15
Support Measures	22
Non Allocated	13
TOTAL	500



PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES

14 MULTI-ANNUAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMMES BY END 2022; 1 TERRITORIAL MIP TO BE ADOPTED IN 2023; WORK ON INTRA-REGIONAL COOPERATION TO START

Green Deal

Renewable energy (Saba, St Maarten, New Caledonia)

Sustainable agriculture (St Eustatius)

Disaster Risk Management (St Barthélemy)

Water and Sanitation (Bonaire, Curacao, French Polynesia)

Green/ Blue Food Systems (Pacific Regional MIP)

Management of Natural Resources (Caribbean Regional MIP)

Biodiversity (TAAF)

Green Growth (Greenland)

Sustainable Jobs, Growth and Recovery

- **Sustainable Tourism (St Pierre et Miquelon)**

Technology, Innovation and Digital

- **E-government (Aruba)**

Human Development

- **Education (Greenland)**



POLICIES AND STRATEGIES SERVE AS COMPASS

➤ **Global Agenda:**

- *e.g. SDG, Paris Climate Agreement*

➤ **EU Priorities:**

- *e.g. Green Deal, Digital, Jobs and Growth, Human Development, Global Gateways*

➤ **Regional Strategies:**

- *e.g. IndoPacific Strategy, New Arctic Strategy, Post-Cotonou*

➤ **OCT- Partner Strategies and Priorities:**

- *e.g. Territorial Development Plans*



WHY REGIONAL AND INTRA-REGIONAL COOPERATION?

Regional approaches are part of the European “DNA”. Working together expands prospects.

Regional and intra-regional cooperation...

- is essential to **address global challenges** (e.g. ocean governance, pandemics, climate action);
- enhances **connectivity** and increases **opportunities** and choices;
- contributes to **economies of scale (e.g. utility plants)**, reducing transaction costs and augmenting **standards of living**;
- can **mutually inspire** to generate fresh ideas....

...these benefits outweigh the extra effort (e.g. decision making processes, synchronisation of rules and procedures). Regional cooperation is **embedded in the EU-OCT cooperation**.



REGIONAL EU- OCT COOPERATION 2021-2027: A QUICK UPDATE

➤ 2021-2022: 3 long-term plans for regional EU-OCT cooperation in place and gearing up for implementation

- ✓ *Caribbean MIP on Sustainable Management of Natural Capital (EUR 21 million)*
- ✓ *Pacific MIP on Green and Blue Economy (EUR 36 million)*
- ✓ *TAAF MIP on Biodiversity (EUR 4 million - specific case)*
- ✓ *Commonality: green transition/global challenges as priority*
- ✓ *Formulation of a new programme in the fourth quarter 2022 to be launched*

➤ 2023: Towards three regional AAPs in 2023

- ✓ *1st quarter 2023: Formulation mission*
- ✓ *Validation by SSC in April 2023*
- ✓ *CCT/QRM: 1st semester 2023*
- ✓ *OCT Committee: 2nd semester 2023*
- ✓ *Adoption of COM Implementing Decisions*
- ✓ *Financing Agreements*



ART. 84 DOAG: INTRA-REGIONAL COOPERATION

- **Novelty of the DOAG.** Up to EUR 15 million available.
- **Eligibility:** At least one OCT joins hands for an action with:
 - (i) at least one outermost region; or
 - (ii) at least one neighbouring (ACP) State; or
 - (iii) a regional body with OCTs, OR or ACP States as members. These **partners must proportionally allocate additional funds** to the joint action.



THE EU ENCOURAGES INTRA-REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH OCT, OR, ACP COUNTRIES

➤ Three EU cooperation instruments foresee intra-regional cooperation:

➤ **DOAG:** Decision of the Overseas Association including Greenland) for cooperation with the 13 **Overseas Countries and Territories**. Managed by DG INTPA. Flexible in terms of priorities. In addition to regional envelope.

➤ **NDICI-Global Europe:** (Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument) for EU external action with **third countries** including ACP states. Managed by DG INTPA/NEAR and EEAS/FPI

➤ **ERDF** (European Regional Development Fund) for economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU. **Interreg** is the ERDF instrument for cooperation across EU regions and countries, including **outermost regions**. Managed by DG REGIO

➤ **Requires that funds are pooled** for joint actions based on **principles of proportionality and reciprocity** (Art 84 DOAG; Art 10 INTERREG, Art 43 NDICI).

➤ Management modes

- **Direct Management (DOAG and NDICI):** by the EU Commission. EU rules apply.
- **Indirect Management (DOAG and NDICI):** through a pillar assessed partner country/agency. Partner rules apply.
- **Shared Management (INTEREG):** through EU Member State managing authority. EU MS rules apply.



IDEAS FIRST (1/5)

SOME INITIATIVES IN THE CARIBBEAN

#TEAMEUROPE

Green transition - EUROCLIMA Latin America and the Caribbean

Transformational potential:

- Contribute to the LAC region's Green Transition, through climate mitigation and adaptation efforts and through the protection and conservation of biological diversity
- Assist LAC countries' transition to a decarbonised, environmentally friendly, and inclusive economy
- Ensure a socially just and green recovery, in line with the EU Green Deal

The Team Europe Proposal:

1. In-country policy dialogue, support to ambitious policies and their implementation
2. Seeking synergies and enhancing intra-regional cooperation
3. Pillars of cooperation:
 - Environmental, ocean and climate change governance
 - Transition to renewable energies and energy efficiency
 - Environmental protection
 - Biodiversity and human development footprint: reliable monitoring, verification and reporting systems
 - Smart and sustainable cities

EU - Latin America and the Caribbean Digital Alliance

Transformational potential:

- Constitute a comprehensive political and cooperation framework for digital engagement with the region
- Build a positive agenda with the region and send a political message that the EU and LAC (1/3 of the UN members) are joining forces in support of global rules and standards
- Reduce the digital divide, building sustainable, equal, inclusive and cohesive digital societies

The Team Europe Proposal:

1. Regulatory and policy cooperation
2. Extension of connectivity infrastructures
3. Innovation and private sector cooperation
4. Digitally-enabled products and e-services (BELLA, Horizon 2020)



IDEAS FIRST (2/5)

SOME INITIATIVES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Thematic architecture of INTERREG Caraïbes 2021-2027

The INTERREG Caraïbes cooperation area



Priorities	Specific Objectives
Priority 1 - A smarter, more innovative and more competitive Caribbean	Research, development and innovation
	Development, competitiveness and the structuring of economic sectors
	Digital Connectivity
Priority 2 - A greener Caribbean, more resilient and low carbon	Renewable Energies
	Climate change and natural disasters
	Circular economy and reuse of waste
Priority 3 - A better connected Caribbean	Environment and biodiversity
	Sustainable transport and territorial interconnectivity
Priority 4 - A more social and more inclusive Caribbean	Initial education and access to employment for young people
	Access to healthcare
	Social inclusion and tackling poverty
Priority 5 - Strengthening crossborder cooperation between Saint-Martin / Sint-Maarten	
Priority 6 -Facilitate and maximise modalities of cooperation in the Caribbean	



IDEAS FIRST (3/5)

SINT MAARTEN-SAINT MARTIN

Interreg V-A - France (Saint Martin-Sint Maarten)

Interreg

Programme description

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

- Improving the level of infrastructure in the field of water and sanitation, as well as environmental protection, in particular through the construction of a cross-border waste treatment plant (total cost: EUR 6.6 million, including EUR 5.5 million from the ERDF). The programme also includes protection measures for biodiversity and ecosystems in the Simpson Bay lagoon.
- Preventing risks of flooding through better management and control of rainwater, especially in the Belle-Plaine border area where recurring floods regularly cause considerable damage (total cost: EUR 3.6 million, including a contribution of EUR 3 million from the ERDF).

In addition, EUR 1.8 million, including EUR 1.5 million from the ERDF, is set aside for technical assistance.

SIMPSON BAY LAGOON



WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLAN COLE BAY





IDEAS FIRST (4/5)

PACIFIC – KIWA

- Biodiversity protection and climate change adaptation **using Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)**
- **5 donors:** France, European Union, Canada, New Zealand, Australia
- Managed by the **Agence française de développement (AFD)** with the support of the Kiwa Secretariat
- Officially launched in 2020
- A total budget of **EUR 57M (to be formalized by addendum)** – out of which EUR 3M from French Ministry of Overseas Territories earmarked for New Caledonia and French Polynesia. Wallis and Futuna
- 19 eligible PICTs: 16 Pacific Islands Countries + 3 French territories
- Funds both local and **regional projects (selected upon Steering Committee opinions)**
- **PICTs are part of Steering Committee**



IDEAS FIRST (5/5)

PACIFIC – KIWA

Example of regional project with OCTs: PEBACC+

- Kiwa regional project implemented by **SPREP**
- Overall objective: Develop, scale-up and institutionalize ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change
- Geographical scope: Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, **New Caledonia and Wallis et Futuna**
- Budget: M€ 5,8 (M€4 from Kiwa and M€1,8 from FFEM - French Facility for Global Environment)
- Signature of the financing agreement between SPREP and AFD: 11 March 2022
- Implementation period: March 2022 – January 2026
- **PEBACC+ aims to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems, economies and populations of Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna to the impacts of climate change, through ecosystem-based adaptation approaches**



INTRA-REGIONAL COOPERATION: NEXT STEPS

- **Intra-regional envelop requires programming: MIP needed. However, decision can be combined with AAP. Goal: 2023 or 2024**
- **Establish MIP/AAP drafting team with interested OCTs (PAC, CAR, Other)**
 - **Secretariat to collect themes**
 - **Reflection on implementation modalities**
 - **Make suggestions for allocation mechanisms**



IDEAS FIRST 3/3

Floor is yours...

