

Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

Saint-Martin / Sint Maarten

European Regional Development Fund

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY 2020

European territorial cooperation program
Saint-Martin | Sint Maarten
2014-2020

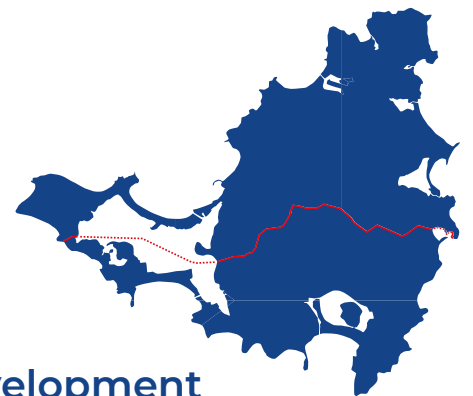




THE CREATION OF THE INTERREG PROGRAM SAINT-MARTIN / SINT MAARTEN 2014/2020

Within th frameworks of :

- ▶ The Europe 2020 Strategy,
- ▶ the 2014/2020 Operational Programs,
- ▶ and support of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the «european territorial cooperation» objective,



on december 15th 2015, the European Commission adopted the first Saint-Martin / Sint Maarten cross-border cooperation program.



THE CREATION OF THE INTERREG PROGRAM SAINT-MARTIN / SINT MAARTEN 2014/2020

A TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT

- ▶ The French State (represented by the Préfecture of Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin)
- ▶ The Collectivité of Saint-Martin
- ▶ The Government of Sint Maarten



The Préfecture of Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin is the managing authority for this program.

This allows for a cooperation between the french side which holds the status of outermost region (OR) and the dutch side which holds the status of overseas countries and territories (OCT).

Those two entities share the same island and are marked by :

- ▶ The free movement of people
- ▶ The high density of exchanges
- ▶ Different practices and regulations



THE 4 SHARED CHALLENGES OF THE INTERREG SAINT-MARTIN / SINT MAARTEN 2014/2020 PROGRAM

4 shared challenges have been identified :

- 1** Ensure the populations have access to basic/ essential infrastructures
- 2** Preserve the island's environment
- 3** Consolidate the island's tourist economy within a competitive caribbean context
- 4** Put preventative measures and management systems in place to better manage major risks





THE 4 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERREG SAINT-MARTIN / SINT MAARTEN 2014/2020 PROGRAM

In response to the challenges, 4 strategic priorities have been drafted into the 2014-2020 program:

- 1** Improve the water and sanitation infrastructures
- 2** Strengthen the protection of the Simpson Bay lagoon through a cross-border management
- 3** Improve the regulation and management of ravine waters
- 4** Ensure the optimal implementation of the program and projects



FINANCIAL MODELLING INTERREG SAINT-MARTIN / SINT MAARTEN 2020

1 767 110 € - Cole Bay Waste Water Treatment Plan



18 044 500 € - Simpson Bay Lagoon



1 600 322 € - Belle Plaine Project





PROGRESS OF THE INTERREG SAINT-MARTIN / SINT MAARTEN 2020 PROGRAMME

The year 2020 was primarily marked by the COVID 19 health crisis, which had a major impact on the efforts made in 2019 by the partners in carrying out the projects included in this INTERREG programme.

Indeed, the state of health emergency, the lockdown, the slowdown in the functioning of the administrations, the exceptional closure (the first since the Concordia treaty agreement in 1648) of the borders between Sint Maarten and Saint-Martin, the halt in construction work, the reduction in air traffic, are all factors that have slowed down the proper execution of the programme.

However, some significant progress has been made for the year 2020.



PRIORITY 1

Improving water and sanitation infrastructures

The supply of drinking water and the treatment of wastewater a major issue for both sides of the island.

The construction of a wastewater treatment plant in Cole Bay, on the Dutch side, serving the population on both sides of the border estimated at 14,875 inhabitants, should allow for economies of scale, compared to the construction of two separate plants.



Status of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) project

In 2020, after discussions between the partners and considering the short time left to complete the project before the closure of the program (December 31st, 2023), it was decided to realize :

- ▶ Environmental and feasibility studies of the WWTP
- ▶ Management and governance studies for the future facility.

This preliminary studies phase will start in 2021.





PRIORITY 2

Environmental protection

The Simpson Bay lagoon, an 8 km² border area between the two parts of the island, represents a real stake for tourism and environmental protection.

The programme plans for environmental management of the lagoon while preserving the economic interests linked to this body of water.

4 intervention axes are programmed on the Simpson Bay Lagoon:

- ▶ Removal, dismantling and decontamination of wrecks
- ▶ Environmental studies
- ▶ Socio-economic studies
- ▶ Drawing up and implementing a management plan





Status of the Simpson Bay lagoon protection and valorisation project

In 2020, little progress is to be noted on these operations.

The health crisis and delays in the issuing of public procurement contracts for the works on the French side of the lagoon explain this situation.

On the Dutch side, the wreck removal contract was launched by the government of Sint Maarten in 2020 and the work is scheduled to start in the first half of 2021.

On the French side, the wreck removal work is expected to start in the second half of 2021.

The environmental and socio-economic studies and the implementation of the management plan should be completed before 2023.





PRIORITY 3

Flooding risk prevention

The trans-border catchment area of Belle Plaine presents a major risk to flooding for the French part.

The phenomenon has been amplified by the economic development and poorly controlled urbanization with regard to hydraulic management.

These recurrent floods have already caused significant damage and affect both public facilities and private property in the area.

This situation is an obstacle to development. The program has therefore been mobilized to support 4 types of operations:

- ▶ Creation of retention basins on the French Quarter ravine and the development of protective dikes
- ▶ Creation and resizing of rainwater collection and evacuation networks
- ▶ Enlargement and development of the ravine Paradis in urbanized areas
- ▶ Implementation of a concerted management policy between the French and Dutch territories in terms of land use planning





Status of the Belle Plaine bank protection works

The bank protection works at the RN7 bridge and Cross De Range began in October 2019.

In 2020, despite the COVID 19 crisis which caused delays on the worksites, the operations were able to continue and are nearing completion.

The environmental regulatory studies related to the operation are scheduled for the second quarter of 2021.



PRIORITY 4

Establishment of a joint secretariat

The Joint Secretariat of the Saint Martin/Sint Maarten programme assists the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee of the programme in the fulfilment of their tasks by ensuring the operational management of the programme in their respective fields of intervention.

Its missions are:

- ▶ to provide the secretariat and prepare the work of the Monitoring Committee
- ▶ to lead the programming and communication of the programme: reception, instruction, verification, establishment of payment requests and archiving, in connection with the lead partners
- ▶ information and monitoring of the programme indicators
- ▶ ensuring the articulation of the POCTE Saint Martin/Sint Maarten with other programmes (national or European): Development Contract, EDF, ERDF, and INTERREG