

# BRIDGES

**Research Program  
Fisheries and biodiversity  
in the Western Indian Ocean  
2023-2033**



# A rich, complex but vulnerable region at the core of an ambitious research program

The south-west Indian Ocean boasts a wide variety of environments that are home to **exceptional biodiversity**. In this region, **small-scale fishing** is key to many communities' wellbeing, guaranteeing nutrition security, employment and economic growth.

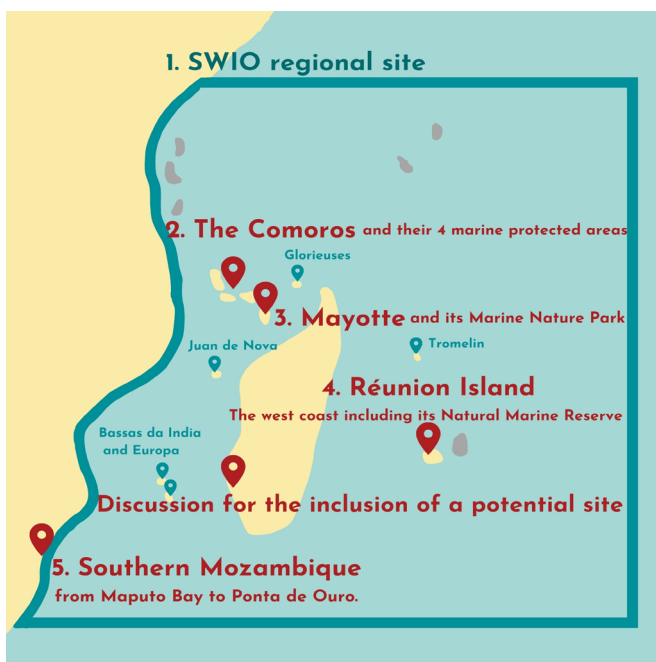
However, it is one of the **world's most exposed and vulnerable areas to global pressures** such as climate change and the intensification of human activities to satisfy growing global demand for fish resources. **Marine and coastal ecosystems, and the human societies that depend on them, are thus heavily impacted.**

The BRIDGES Research Program aims to identify solutions that guarantee **biodiversity conservation and equitable, sustainable fisheries**, at the local scale of **several study sites** and at the regional scale of the south-west Indian Ocean (SWIO).

## IN SHORT

BRIDGES proposes to work with researchers, decision-makers and other stakeholders to initiate transformations towards greater social and environmental justice.

With an innovative, global and integrative approach, the program seeks to evaluate and promote modes of governance and area-based management tools (e.g., marine protected areas) capable of responding to these issues.



BRIDGES was among the 13 winners of wave 2 of the 'Exploratory Priority Research Programs and Equipment (PEPR)' call launched as part of the France 2030 investment plan.

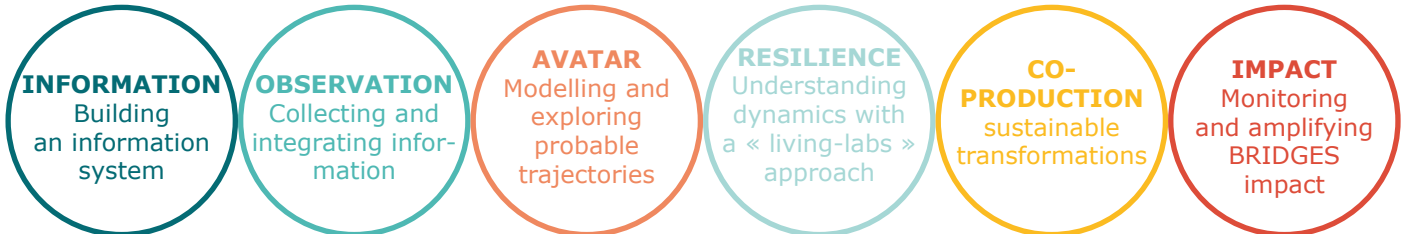




# The program's actions

BRIDGES Research Program is structured around:

## 6 targeted, linked and interconnected scientific projects



And 2 structuring components, enabling:

- **BRIDGES-GOVERNANCE**: Managing the program and supporting its partners and capacity sharing in the region from 2025 onwards
- **BRIDGES-TRANSVERSE**: Provide cross-functional support for the program as a whole.

The program's ambitions will be supported and fuelled by **cross-disciplinary scientific activities and a major communication/promotion component.**

- Scientific workshops
- Participatory science collaborative platform
- Partnered research projects – study sites
- Observation campaigns and data acquisition
- Equipments
- International conferences
- Science-society actions
- Knowledge cafés with decision-makers
- Knowledge dissemination and promotion

**BRIDGES supports and funds the capacity sharing and research training of a future generation** of researchers and decision-makers in the south-west Indian Ocean with 4 components:

- Setting up an Indian Ocean regional Master's degree constructed in collaboration with the University of Réunion and the University of Mayotte
- Reinforcing the Master's degree in "Environmental resource management and sustainable development" at the University of the Comoros
- Organization of annual interdisciplinary multi-stakeholder summer schools and field schools
- Calls for thesis clusters for young researchers



# FIND OUT MORE



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