



# Mauritania: a welcoming land, a climate conducive to investment and business.

**Name: The Islamic Republic of Mauritania**

**Capital: Nouakchott**

**Currency: Ouguiya (MRU)**

**Time Zon: GMT**

**Population: 4.736 M**

**Area: 1,03 M km<sup>2</sup>**

**GDP: US\$ 7.5 Billion**

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Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania  
in Brussels  
June 2024

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## **Some indicative figures**

- Surface: +1.03 million Km<sup>2</sup>,
- Population: 4.736 million (2022),
- Political system: Pluralistic democracy,
- GDP: 1500 USD per capita
- Principal sectors in the economy (share in GDP, %):
- Agriculture, fisheries and livestock: 24 %
- Industry, Petroleum and Mining: 27%
- Trade and services: 49 %.

Mauritania has a strategic geographical position and has more than 700 Kilometres of coastline.

- Mauritania has ports in : Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and N'Diogo. The international main airports are in : Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, Zoueratte, Atar and Nema.

The population has grown by 3% p.a. in the last 10 years, reaching 4.736 million (2022) and 40% of the population is less than 15 years old.

## **Economic development strategy**

The Strategy of Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity “SCAPP” is based on three enablers:

- 1) The promotion of strong, sustainable and inclusive growth,
- 2) The development of human capital and access to basic social services,
- 3) The strengthening of governance in all its dimensions.

The energy sector is a key element in this development strategy, the Government objectives in this field are:

- To ensure access to affordable and reliable energy for all population within 2030,

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- To ensure energy security,
  - To develop national resources particularly renewables,
  - To make the energy sector a locomotive of economic and social development.

### **A business climate conducive to investment**

The business climate in Mauritania is favourable to investment thanks to:

- an incentive Investment Code,
- a General incentive Tax Code,
- the independence and impartiality of the judicial authority,
- the diversity of natural resources (fishing, iron, gold, copper, phosphate, agriculture, livestock, etc.).

The Investment Promotion Agency is a single window that provides investors with the information they need and facilitates administrative procedures in one place. The Agency for the Promotion of Investments in Mauritania (APIM) brings together the various departments of the State involved in the administrative procedures necessary for the creation of businesses and the launch of business. It is therefore responsible for the execution of all formalities relating to the registration of companies in the trade register, taxes and the National Social Security Fund.

Mauritania made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement. There is no restriction for a foreign entity to operate.



### Advantages in brief

- Single point of contact,
- Single form,
- Assistance, advice, and guidance for investors,
- Reduced cost of creation,
- Reduced number of procedures.



### **Mauritania: huge untapped wealth**

The main resources of Mauritania are agriculture, livestock and animal production, fisheries and extractive industries. The potential for arable land is significant but remains untapped.

The breeding of cattle, sheep, goats and camels is a lucrative sector and very present at the national level.

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## Key Strategic Sectors in the Mauritanian Economy

### 1- Extractive Industries

Mauritania has significant reserves of natural resources, especially hydrocarbons and precious metals. The progress made by Mauritania in the Doing Business ranking published annually by the World Bank has enabled the country to attract some of the largest investors in the field of extractive industries, such as the leading Canadian operators in the exploitation of gold Kinross Gold, First Quantum, Aya Gold & Silver, in addition to the five largest energy companies in the world: Total, BP, Kosmos Energy, Shell and Exxon Mobil. During 2020, the contribution of extractive industries activities

reached 24.2% of GDP, promoting a growth of the sector due to a remarkable rise in gold and iron during the last period.

The extractive industries are divided into two essential sectors:

**Mines**: Mining is today the most important component in the field of extractive industries in Mauritania, with more than 60 national and foreign companies, in particular:

- The National Industrial and Mining Company (SNIM), which exploits iron deposits in the northern region of Tiris Zemmour, with production of around 13 million tonnes per year.





- The company Mauritanian Copper Mines (MCM) in the region of Inchiri, which produces 29 million tons of copper per year.
- The company Tasiast Mauritania, which operates the gold mine in Tasiast in the northern region of Dakhlet- Nouadhibou, with an average annual production of 11,5 million tons.



**Hydrocarbons:** Mauritania has areas rich in oil and gas resources, particularly in the Taoudenni basin and the Mauritanian coastal basin. Seismic surveys in the coastal basin carried out over the past twenty years have led to the discovery of several oil and gas deposits. These discoveries confirmed the existence of significant gas deposits. Including Biralla deposit and "Great Ahmeyim Turtle". Mauritania shares the latter with Senegal.



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## 2-Fisheries

Mauritania has one of the richest coastlines in fishery resources in the world.

Sea fishing is one of the most productive sectors in Mauritania. It contributes to 25% to the country's total exports and creates more than 220.000 direct and indirect jobs.

To develop this sector, Mauritania encourages processing industries, enhances national products and finally, it involves

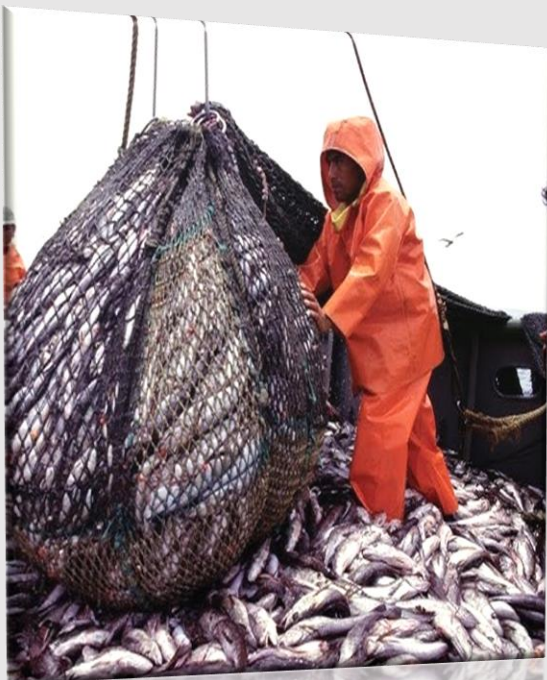
private sector actors, national and foreign investors.

Several operators are active in this sector in Mauritania: The European Union, Japan, China, Turkey and around ten national companies.

Mauritania's potential in the fisheries sector:

The Mauritanian coastline on the Atlantic Ocean (Special Economic Zone) extends over 234.000 km<sup>2</sup> with a continental shelf rich in fishery resources with an area of 39.000 km<sup>2</sup>.

These coasts are also distinguished by the existence of three marine reserves: Cap Blanc, Banc d'Arguin and Diawling Park. The estimate of the annual catching capacities of Mauritania amounts to 1.874.633 tons with more than 600 species, 200 of which are in high demand on the international market. The three most traded species are : cephalopods, crustaceans and pelagic fish.



### 3-Agriculture

The most concentrated irrigated agriculture in Mauritania is in the south bordering the Senegal River. The agricultural sector in Mauritania benefits from agreements and partnerships with the most important international funds and organizations

active in the field.

Mauritania's potential for cultivable land is around 513.000 ha distributed as follows:

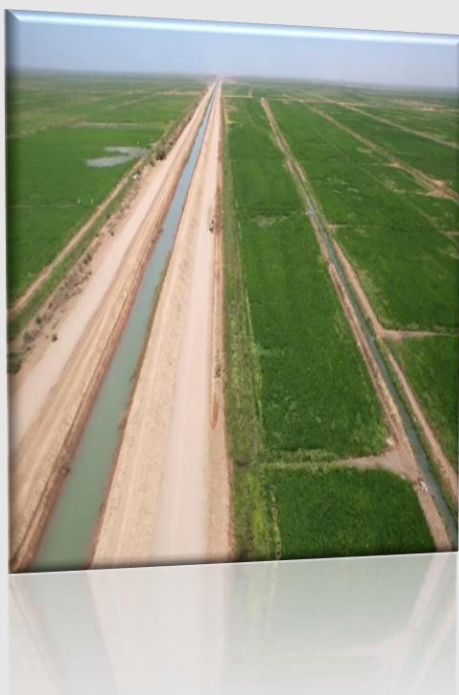
- 135.000 ha in the Senegal River valley,
- 12.000 ha in the maritime zone,
- 250.000 ha in rainfed crops,
- 100.000 ha, under recession crops and behind dams,
- 16.000 ha of crops under palm trees.

Millet, sorghum, rice, black-eyed peas, barley and dates are widely grown.

The valley zone and those of rainfed crops are more fertile for producing rice and cereals. Other areas in Mauritania have significant surface water resources making them suitable for good exploitation (Lake Rkiz, Lake Aleg, Lake Kankossa, Lake Maal, Tamourt N'aaj and la mare de Mahmouda, etc.).

The overall potential available in Mauritania is under exploited: 70.000 ha for irrigated agriculture and 180,000 ha for rain-fed agriculture.

Since agricultural production in Mauritania has yet to meet the strong demand from the sub-region's markets, investment opportunities are tangible and very attractive.





## 4-Animal Production

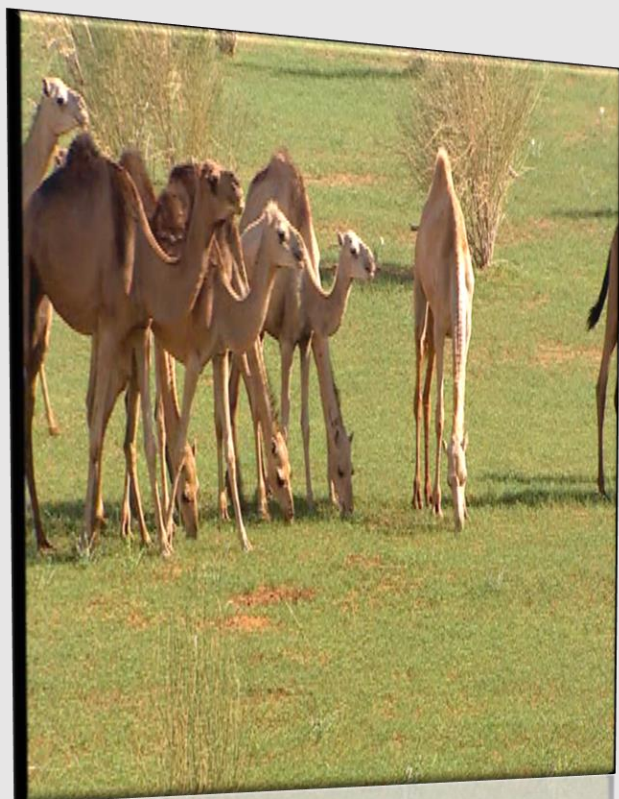
Mauritania has significant animal resources estimated at 30 million head in 2020, which means that the livestock sector is one of the main pillars of the country's economy. It provided nearly 10% of GDP in 2020 and employs 10% of the workforce. The annual production potential is estimated at 180,000 tons

of red meats and 213,000 tons of milk.

Thus, the country could easily ensure its self-sufficiency in animal products or even export more animals and its products (red meat, skins and leathers) to other countries and also has an indisputable dairy potential distributed in different regions.

The consumption of white meat in Mauritania is estimated at around 10,000 tons/year, or 3 to 4 kg/inhabitant/year, which remains much lower compared to neighboring countries. This consumption has experienced

remarkable growth in recent years mainly due to the increase in imports of frozen products. This trend of growing demand is expected to continue. Existing market opportunities, not only for the supply of Nouakchott but also of other agglomerations is generally due to the diversification of the diet of the entire population.

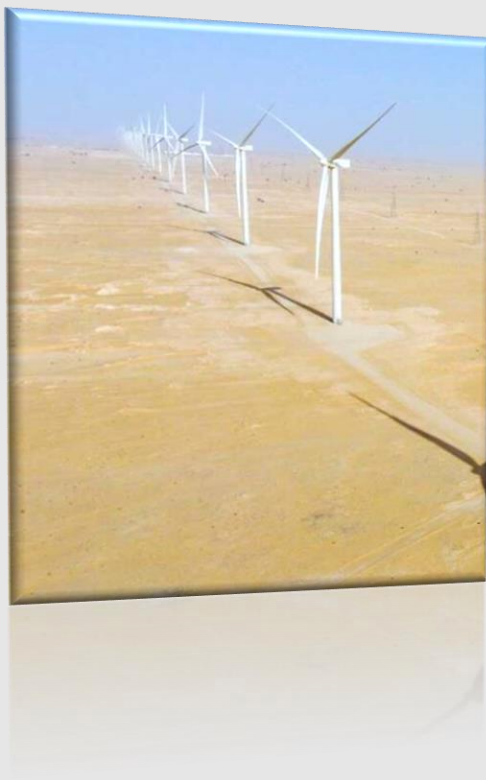


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## 5-Renewable Energies

Mauritania has great potential in various renewable energies - solar, wind turbines and hydroelectric.

**Solar energy**: The Mauritanian territory is characterized by a sunny climate during all periods of the year. The quantities estimated are valued between 2,000 and 2300 KWH per square meter annually, throughout the national territory with an area of about 1,303,700 km<sup>2</sup>.



**Wind energy**: Mauritania has a confirmed potential in wind energy due to its coastal climate characterized by strong and continuous winds blowing at about 9 meters per second throughout the year. The country has large surfaces, all along a coastline of more than 750 km on the Atlantic Ocean, which is conducive to the creation of gigantic wind farms. Experience in the field has proven the large-scale success of electricity production by creating a

30 MW wind station to satisfy the demand in Nouakchott, the capital city.

### **Objectives:**

- Reliable, secure and low-cost electricity,
- Universal access,

A strategic vision:

- Increase production capacity from local resources,
- Develop the transmission network and interconnection,
- Improve the share of EnR in the energy mix,
- Implement decentralized solutions.















## Electricity sector

In 2021, electrification rates were low with a significant disparity between urban and rural areas. The overall electrification rate is around 48% against 85% in urban areas while it did not exceed 10% in rural areas.

By 2030, under the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity (SCAPP) and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, Mauritania aims to reach more than 50% of the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix and to establish a program for universal access to electricity.

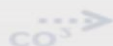
Mauritania's renewable energy resources and geographical location allow for the development of ambitious green hydrogen projects, and the authorities have already taken major legislative steps and administrative decisions to create an investment climate in this area.

### INFRASTRUCTURES TO BE BUILT OR REINFORCED

	Power transmission		Railway of Zouerate - Nouadhibou
	Industrial-port hubs		Solar PV plants
	Onshore wind plants		Desalination & electrolysis units
	Water transmission		H <sub>2</sub> & derivatives terminals (exports)
	Methanol units		Green steel units
	Ammonium nitrate units (ANFO*)		Ammonium nitrate routes
	SMR units		CO <sub>2</sub> storage routes



SMR units



CO<sub>2</sub> storage routes



Ammonium nitrate units (ANFO\*)



Ammonium nitrate routes



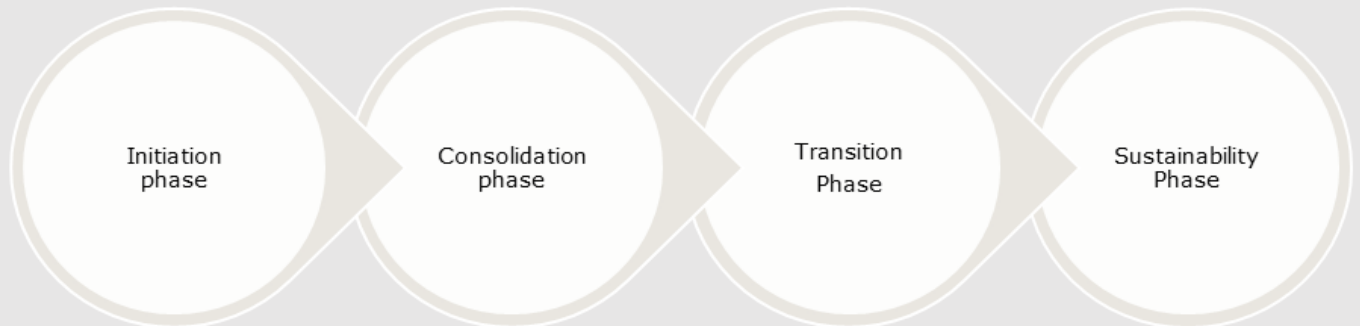
## Over 30 years Mauritania's Energy Ecosystem would transition: From Black and Grey, to Blue and Green

2022 - 2025

2025 - 2030

2030 - 2040

2040 and beyond...



### 6- Tourism

Mauritania is a junction space between the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa. It is known for the diversity and beauty of its landscapes. There are no boundaries between the desert and the ocean. The sandy beaches are pristine



and renew naturally. the sand dunes dissolve in the waves of the ocean night and day creating a symbiosis that amaze tourists. Mountainous landscapes, clear beaches, natural parks as well as valleys and oases that can be found in various parts of the Mauritanian desert, are great sources of attraction for tourists. The cultural diversity of the country, combining authentic Arab values and

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African traditions is also one of the strengths of tourism in Mauritania.

The mountain ranges of Assaba, Tagant and Adrar culminate at 400 and 500 meters respectively in the center and northern region of the country. The highest peak, Kédia d'Idjil, rises to 917 meters in the Tiris Zemour region.

With the exception of the alluvial plain of the Senegal River, the Chemama, 10 to 25 km wide, the rest of the country is largely made up of dune alignments. Mauritania enjoys a Sahelo-Saharan

climate, generally dry but mild in the coastal regions due to the proximity of the ocean.



Mauritania is famous for its historic UNESCO World Heritage cities: Chinguetti, Ouadane, Tichit and Walata. These cities are true cultural treasures. The manuscripts they contain, the mosques and the Mahdras (traditional universities) speak volumes about the diversity of Mauritania's cultural heritage. The desert, which covers more than half of the country, is perhaps Mauritania's greatest attraction. The sand dunes, like

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the Mauritanian nomads, are constantly Shifting. They compete with the mountains, offering a dual landscape of captivating charm.

Oases in various areas of northern and central Mauritania are also attractive places of tranquillity. Their microclimate is mild; their dates are delicious and thus constitute some of the adornments of this vast desert.

The beaches of the Atlantic Ocean, offer beautiful opportunities for seaside tourism and discovery in the three nature reserves: Cap Blanc, Banc d'Arguin, Diawling Park where thousands of birds from all over the world meet, at different times of the year these reserves constitute privileged space for both tourists and ornithologists.





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For more information, on investment opportunities in Mauritania, you can visit other websites via the following links:

• **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritians Abroad:**

<https://www.diplomatie.gov.mr/fr>

• **Investment Promotion Agency of Mauritania:**

<https://www.apim.gov.mr>

• **Ministry of Economic Affairs:**

<https://www.economie.gov.mr/fr>

• **Ministry of Petroleum, Energy and Minerals:**

<https://www.petrole.gov.mr/>

• **Ministry of Fishing and Maritime Economy:**

<https://www.peches.gov.mr/index.php?lang=fr>

• **Ministry of Commerce and Tourism:**

<https://www.commerce.gov.mr/fr/>

• **Ministry of Digital Transformation, Innovation and Modernization of Management:**

<https://mesrs.gov.mr/en>

• **Mauritanian Central Bank:**

<https://www.bcm.mr/>

• **Nouadhibou Free Zone:**

<https://www.ndbfreezone.mr/en/home/>

**Mauritanian Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture:** <https://www.commerce.gov.mr/fr/>