



*This project  
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The NATO Science for Peace  
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**Desertification Observatory for Environmental and Socio-Economic Sustainability**  
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Since May 2011, investigators from Italy and Mauritania have cooperated in an effort to improve access to, and the use of remote sensing, GIS and modelling tools for climate trends and desertification assessment and monitoring for natural resources management in community, national and regional levels. The end result of the project will be the setting up of a Desertification Observatory for environmental management. The Observatory will achieve its goals by integrating remote sensing, meteorological modelling and GIS technologies, and will allow the end-user (the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) of Mauritania,) to dynamically assess long term drought risk and desertification risk and to implement appropriate interventions. To this end, the project will map current drought and desertification risks in Mauritania, and will set up the hardware, software and expertise needed for its dynamic update. Participatory activities carried out throughout Mauritania will foster awareness about desertification and encourage proper behaviour of local communities in cooperation with the local officers of the EPD.

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