**Mauritania**

Mauritania is an active partner in the SPS Programme, and has several ongoing activities. At present, the leading areas for cooperation include Environmental Security and Disaster Forecast and Prevention of Natural Catastrophes. Below are some examples of ongoing and completed activities led by scientists and experts from Mauritania and NATO countries under the framework of the NATO SPS Programme.

**Cooperative Activities**

**SET-UP OF A NATIONAL OPERATIONAL COORDINATION CENTRE**

In 2012, the set-up of a National Operational Coordination Centre in Nouakchott was initiated in order to improve national responses to emergencies by developing regulatory standards and operational procedures; enhancing coordination between national, regional and local levels and strengthening capabilities for analysing risks and threats. More broadly, the Centre supports the establishment of a national civil emergency planning framework. In 2014, Allies approved the second phase of the project which aims at completing the Mauritanian Crisis Management System for a more effective response to the various risks and threats faced by the country. The extension of the project will finalize the territorial coverage by connecting the remaining six regions, reaching out to partially isolated areas liable to fall under the influence of terrorist or extremist organizations. The Centre was inaugurated in January 2015 and will reduce vulnerability to risks and threats associated with terrorist or illicit activity, in particular in isolated areas, through increased coordination between the various national civil protection and emergency response actors. In October 2017, civil emergency protection experts from Mauritania...

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received three final training sessions in France. This SPS flagship project has now been completed and the resulting crisis management centre is seen as an example for the wider Sahel region. [ref. G4451] This project was led by Mauritania and France and supported by Canada.

DESSERTIFICATION OBSERVATORY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

The multi-year project “Desertification Observatory for Environmental and Socio-Economic Sustainability” was launched in 2011. The project aimed to improve access to, and the use of, remote sensing, geographical information systems (GIS) and modelling technology for climate trends and desertification assessment and monitoring. A centralised observatory on climate trends and desertification was established to enable enhanced knowledge and monitoring of the territory to manage and implement adaptation and mitigation strategies. [ref. G3611] This project was led by experts from Mauritania and Italy.

SAHARA TRADE WINDS TO HYDROGEN: APPLIED RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS

Initiated in 2007 and completed in 2012, the multi-year project “Sahara Trade Winds to Hydrogen: Applied Research for Sustainable Energy Systems”. The project aimed to develop research platforms to initiate a comprehensive program aimed at integrating sources of renewable energies – notably wind energy – into the grid infrastructures of the Saharan-Sahel region. [ref. G2620]. This project was led by experts from Mauritania, Morocco, Germany, France, Turkey and the United States.

FUTURE SPS ACTIVITIES WITH MAURITANIA

The Science for Peace and Security Programme is open to all projects with Mauritania, in line with the political guidance from Allies in the form of the 2012 SPS Key Priorities and the 2013 Overarching Guidelines, and with Mauritania’s national priorities. In March 2018, the SPS Programme hosted a high-level meeting with experts from Mauritania, France and Romania to explore a potential future project in the area of civil emergency.

THE MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE

NATO’s Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) was initiated in 1994 by the North Atlantic Council (NAC). It currently involves seven non-NATO countries of the Mediterranean region: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia. The Mediterranean Dialogue reflects the Alliance’s view that security in Europe is closely linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean. It is an integral part of NATO’s adaptation to the post-Cold War security environment, as well as an important component of the Alliance’s policy of outreach and cooperation.

The Mediterranean Dialogue’s overall aim is to:

- Contribute to regional security and stability;
- Achieve better mutual understanding;
- Dispel any misconceptions about NATO among MD countries.