

Developing Practical Cooperation through Science

Mauritania has been actively engaged within the framework of the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme since 2007.

The NATO SPS Programme enables close collaboration on issues of common interest to enhance the security of NATO and partner nations by facilitating international efforts to meet emerging security challenges, supporting NATO-led operations and missions, and advancing early warning and forecasting for the prevention of disasters and crises.

The current SPS Key Priorities include:

- *Counter-Terrorism;*
- *Energy Security;*
- *Cyber Defence;*
- *Defence against CBRN Agents;*
- *Environmental Security;*
- *Security-related Advanced Technology;*
- *Border and Port Security;*
- *Human and Social Aspects of Security.*

Additionally, the SPS Programme helps to promote *regional security* through scientific cooperation among partners. The Programme also helps to *prepare* interested eligible nations for NATO membership. SPS activities often have a high *public diplomacy* value.

MAURITANIA

Mauritania is an active partner in the framework of the SPS Programme. Leading areas for cooperation have included **Security-related Advanced Technology, Environmental Security and Disaster Forecast and Prevention of Natural Catastrophes**. Below are some examples of 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, SPS initiated the set-up of a National Operational Coordination Centre in Nouakchott 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 was designed to support the establishment of a national civil emergency planning framework. In 2014, Allies approved the second phase of the project, which aimed at completing the Mauritanian Crisis Management System for more effective responses to the various risks and threats the country faces. The extension of the project enhanced territorial coverage by connecting the capital with three regions, and reaching out to partially isolated areas at risk of falling 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, particularly in isolated areas, through increased coordination between the various national civil protection and emergency response actors.

The crisis management centre established through this SPS flagship project is seen as an example for the wider Sahel region. *This project was led by Mauritania and France, with support from Canada.* [ref. G4451].



CIVIL PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE IN MAURITANIA/PROTECTION CIVILE ET MEDECINE D'URGENCE SANITAIRE EN MAURITANIE (PROMEDEUS)

This ongoing Multi-Year Project (MYP) intends to complement the Mauritanian crisis management system for a more effective response to the various risks and threats that the people, material goods, and environment of Mauritania face. The project aims to support the Mauritanian Government's overall efforts to give civil protection services a major role in crisis management. The project team will draw on the full capabilities of the Mauritanian Centre for Crisis Monitoring, Alerts and Management (COVACC), and of the Mauritanian Centre for Public Health Emergency Operations. The objective is to enhance the operational capabilities of the civil protection service by creating civil protection units in two regions: Brakna (Aleg) and Assaba (Kiffa). The project will implement a system of pre-hospital patient dispatching using telemedicine tools, and produce synergy with the COVACC. By improving these capabilities, this project will help to better coordinate and pool the operational assets of Mauritania's civil protection and health system at the local and regional level, and later across the entire country. *This project is led by experts from Mauritania, Romania, and France.* [ref. G5732].



DESERTIFICATION OBSERVATORY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

This MYP 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 enhance knowledge and monitoring of the territory, and to manage and implement adaptation and mitigation strategies. *This project was led by experts from Mauritania and Italy.* [ref. G3611].

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

Initiated in 2007 and completed in 2012, this MYP aimed to develop research platforms to initiate a comprehensive program to integrate sources of renewable energies – notably wind energy – into the grid infrastructures of the Saharan/Sahel region. *This project was led by experts from Mauritania, Morocco, Germany, France, Türkiye and the United States.* [ref. G2620].



The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme