

**Islamic Republic of Mauritania**

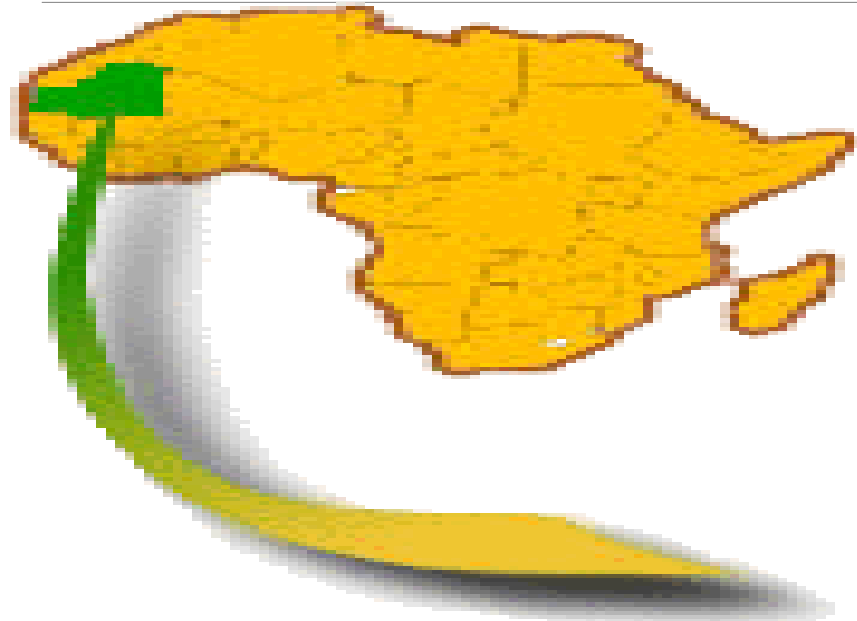
**Honor – Fraternity - Justice**

**Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development**

**Business Environment**

**and Investments Opportunities in Mauritania**

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# Presentation Outline

1. General introduction about Mauritania
2. Business Climate in Mauritania;
3. Investments Opportunities ;
4. Investments Code.



GDP / CAPITA (2011): U.S. \$ 1,206 / H

INFLATION: 5.2% IN 2012

REAL GDP GROWTH IN 2012 IS ESTIMATED AT 6.2%  
AND IN APRIL 2013 IS ESTIMATED AT 6.9%.  
THE OFFICIAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES (A \$  
BILLION)

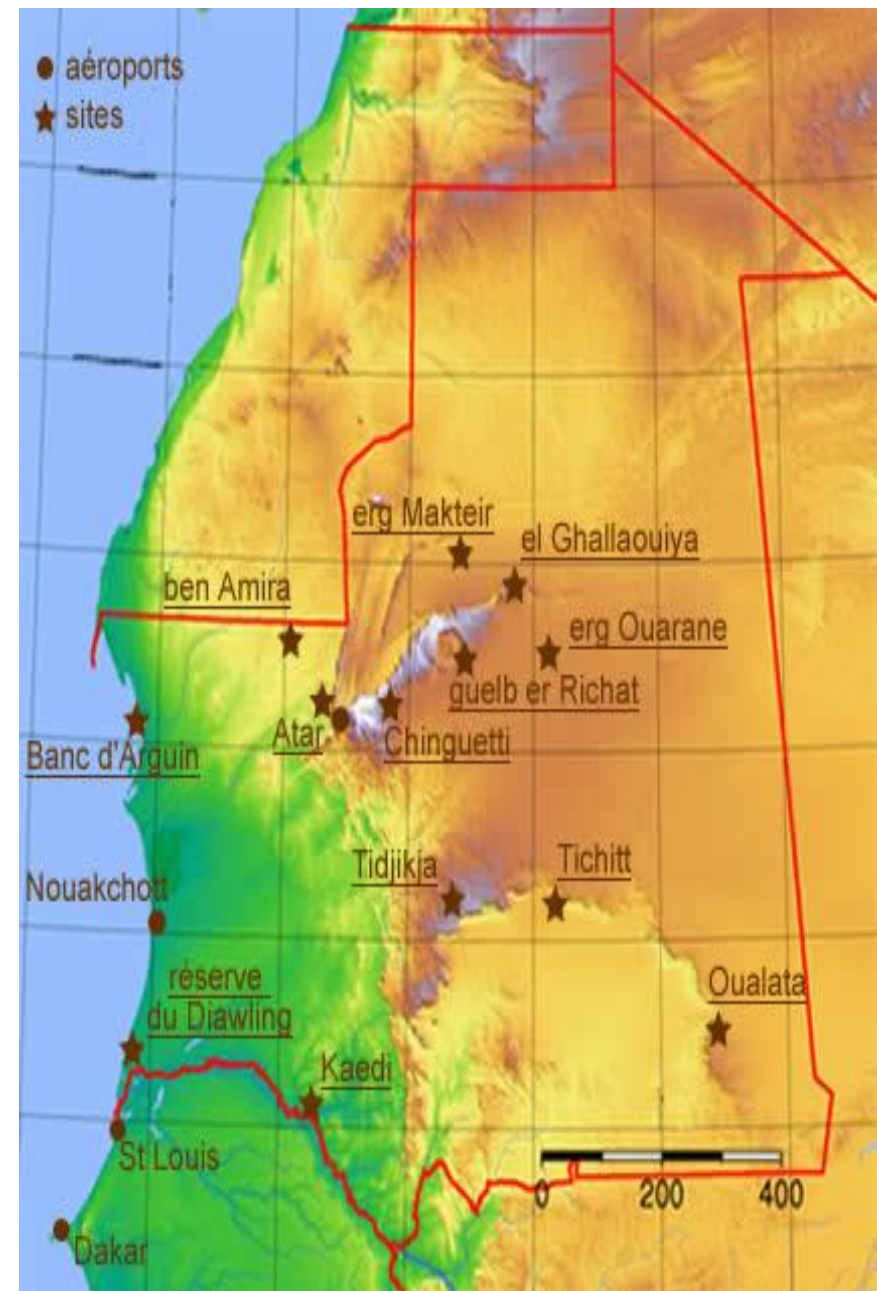
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: ARABIC

THE NATIONAL LANGUAGES: ARABIC, PULAAR,  
SONINKE AND WOLOF

WORKING LANGUAGES: ARABIC AND FRENCH

PRODUCTS EXPORTS: IRON ORE, GYPSUM, SALT AND  
FISHERIES

AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK (PRACTICED BY THE  
MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION)  
FISHING (SIGNIFICANT EXPORT REVENUES)



## **Background**

MAURITANIA is located at the crossroads of North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. It has a long coastal front facing the Atlantic Ocean on the west coast.

Mauritania is one of the largest countries with an area of 1,030,700 km<sup>2</sup>. It is bordered by Western Sahara, Morocco and Algeria to the north, Mali to the east and south, Senegal in the south-east and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

Nouakchott is the capital of Mauritania. its name comes from the Berber meaning "Place of the Winds". It has a temperate climate and is the largest urban center in Mauritania with an estimated population of about one million inhabitants.



## 2. Business Environment in Mauritania

### 2.1 Legal Framework

- In 2012, creation in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development, one direction concerning the promotion of private sector which also include one direction of stop shop that centralize all paper work, in order to ensure the accordance with the Investments Code.
- In process of creating one comittee to ensure the communication between the state and private sector.
- The creation of a free zone in Nouadhibou;
- A focus group in charge of "" Doing Business"" for a better classification for the country.
- Implementing a project to improve the business Environment.
- Promulgation of the law 052 of 31th July, 2012 regarding the Investments Code



## 2.2 Legal Framework

- Reorganisation in the judicial system
- Professional training to judges.
- A new revised system of methods of payments and remuneration.
- Revision of some critical professions ;
- The reorganization of commerce register .
- Establishment of an International Center for mediation and arbitration at the Chamber of Commerce of Industry and Agriculture



## Environnement of Affairs(suite)

- Reinforcement of institutions of private sector. The creation of a Deposit and Development Fund to provide liquidity in the medium and long term, to local projects
- Reform of the Code of public procurement during the year 2012
- Creation of a direction in charge of fair competition linked with a foreign competition.



## 2.3 Private Sector Reform

- Regulations in laws of micro-finance institutions.
- Regulations in laws concerning credit establishment;
- Improvement in Financial Transparency ;
- Reinforcement in the banking supervision;
- A well functioned market exchange;
- modernization of payements methods;
- war against money lundering and terrorism funds;
- a new revised monetary policy;
- the opening of banking sector to the foreign competition





### 3 . Policies to support the Private Investments

- National Strategy to promote technical and Professional training ;
- National Strategy to develop new technologies;
- Development programs in the infrastructure sector.
- A war against corruption and financial crimes. ;
- A national strategy to promote the private sector through the collaboration with the private sector actors with two major aims:
  - - to create a positive environment that gives priority for the development of the private sector;
  - -to improve and to maintain growth of the private sector, especially the SME's,



**In brief: The Business Environment in Mauritania is in a contineous improvment.**

- A political regime freely elected;
- A policy to encourage and Promote the private sector;
- A judicial system that favorize economic development and particularly the private sector
- Important Investments in the infrastructure,
- Abundant natural Resources
- Significant number of opportunities available,



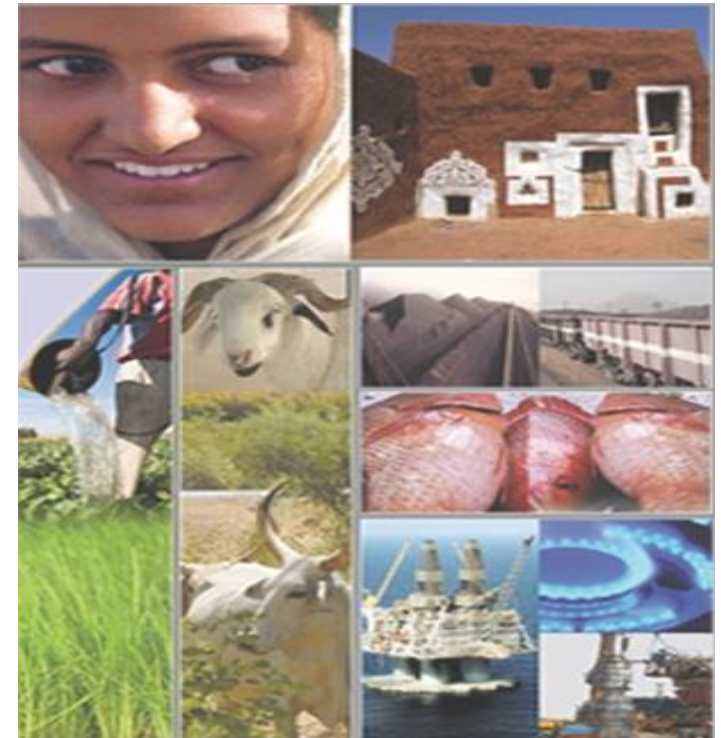
# Investment Opportunities



# The Pillars of the Mauritanian Economy

Mauritania contains a various investment opportunities in multiple domains, some major elements are the following

- **Breeding**
- **Agriculture**
- **Fishery**
- **Tourism**
- **Energy**
- **Mining**



## Breeding

Breeding is an important aspect of the mauritanian economy with;

- 1,3 millions camels
- 1,7 millions of cattles;
- and 16 millions of small ruminants .
- An excess of red meat with an annual exportation estimated at 75,000 tons per year
- The Domestic production of leather and skins in exportation is estimated at 1.6 million.
- potentiel production laitière import



## Agriculture

The agriculture capacity is evaluated at 500,000ha spreaded into the following:

- 136 500 ha irrigable;
- 250 000 hectares of rain-fed agriculture
- 250 000 hectares of rain-fed agriculture
- 49 215 ha flood recession cultivation
- 6 000 ha for cultivation of oasis
- Policy of diversification : previous experiences showed success in trade in Wheat, while a new company of sugar was created in Mauritania(SSM).



## Fishery

This sector is one of the main element of the nation economy due to the following reasons:

- An exceptional natural environment ( Geographical, physical);
- More than 720km of front sea;
- An exclusive economic zone of 234 000Km;
- The zone is free of pollution;
- The exploitable potential is more than 1 500 000t/annually
- More than 600 species listed in the captures and twenties considered exploitable stocks;
- Important resources not yet been exploited;



# Tourism

Mauritania contains a potential touristic attraction with a very diversified culture.

- An exceptional environment that promotes eco-tourism and cultural tourism.
- ✓ An exceptional natural protected setting: National park of Arguin-National Park of Diawling/Bay of Nouadhibou
- ✓ A rich and a diverse culture where some historical sites are listed as human heritage by UNESCO
- ✓ Traveling trips in the desert;
- Hospitality is a key aspect of the culture;
- The climate is favorable for tourism.





# Energy

- Augmentation of production capacities (urban and rural zone)
- Exploitation of renewable energy,
- Natural resources energetic available,
- Important reserve of natural gas;
- Wind power;
- Solar field;

A coastal basin that contains important petroleum : Chinguitti, Banda, Tiof, Tevet, Aabeidna



## Mining

•The mining sector is the critical and the most influential factor in the economy: the mining sector represents 25% of GDP (2011) and more than half of the revenues coming from the exportation of the country.

The National Industry of Mine (SNIM) produce around 11 MT of Iron per year while expecting this production to increase to 18MT in 2014 and 25 MT in 2018;

Some well-known firms such as Xstrata invested in the mining sector 700 indicators , a significant number of exportation licenses where delivred; around 300 licenses.



## The Promulgation of the law 052 of july 30th,2012 to attract new Investments

- This code aims to stimulate domestic and foreign investments in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and to guarantee their security, to seek growth and to encourage the private sector to be more efficient and effective.



## **Application:**

- The application of this law concerns all sectors, except Banking, Insurance, Mining, Hydrocarbons, Activities of purchase and resale without further processing
- No distinction between local and foreign investors
- Guarantees the availability of foreign exchange, transfer of capitals and earnings, ...

## **Regimes :**

- SME Regime
- Special Economic Zones ( free zone, development pole)
- Establishment Agreement



## **Facilities of administrative procedures**

- A declarative system of Investments.
- legal Procedures are done at the same place.
- All formalities are due and completed in 10 business Days.



**Thank you for your Attention**

**Fadel Elaoune  
Deputy Director  
Directorate General for the promotion of Private Sector**

