



وكالة ترقية الاستثمارات في موريتانيا
AGENCE DE PROMOTION DES INVESTISSEMENTS EN MAURITANIE

INVESTMENT GUIDE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES IN MAURITANIA



An aerial photograph of a vast, open-pit mine in a desert environment. The mine features multiple levels of terraced excavation, with winding roads and tracks crisscrossing the site. The terrain is rugged and rocky, with some areas showing reddish-brown soil. In the foreground, there are large, dark, rectangular structures, possibly part of the mining infrastructure. The background shows a flat, arid landscape extending to the horizon under a clear sky.

EXTRACTIVE



INDUSTRIES



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GENERAL DATA
ON MAURITANIA



The Islamic Republic of Mauritania (RIM) is in West Africa and covers an area of 1,303,700 km². It is a junction between sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa. It is characterized by its attractive beaches overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, over a length of 754 km, its vast desert areas are adorned with enchanting sand dunes and mountain ranges.

Mauritania, which has an estimated population of about 4,500,000, has significant economic resources consisting mainly of minerals, hydrocarbons, animal



resources and fish, in addition to large arable areas and a favorable climate to produce large quantities of renewable energy.

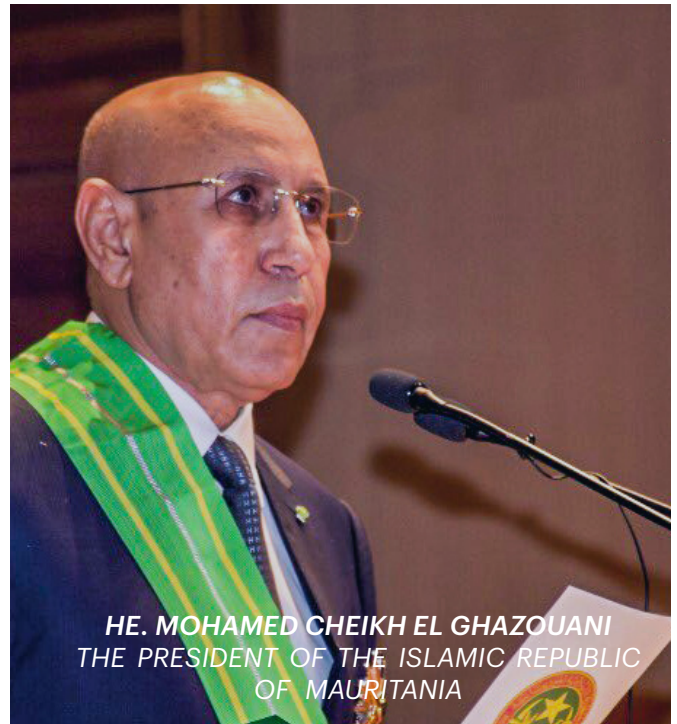
The growth rate reached 5.6% in 2019, before registering a contraction of 2.3% following the spread of the new coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19). But growth is expected to return in 2021 with a forecast of 3% and an increase over the next two years to exceed 6% by 2023.





It has also become an example in the sub-region following the successful organization of free and transparent presidential elections that have enshrined the peaceful alternation of power between two democratically elected presidents, based on what the constitutional rules dictate.

Mauritania stands out in the Sahel region for its political stability and security, which has led it to set an example in the fight against violent extremism, terrorism and trafficking of all kinds, through a security approach that combines ideological and political aspects, on the one hand, with security and military capacity building, on the other.





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INTRODUCTION

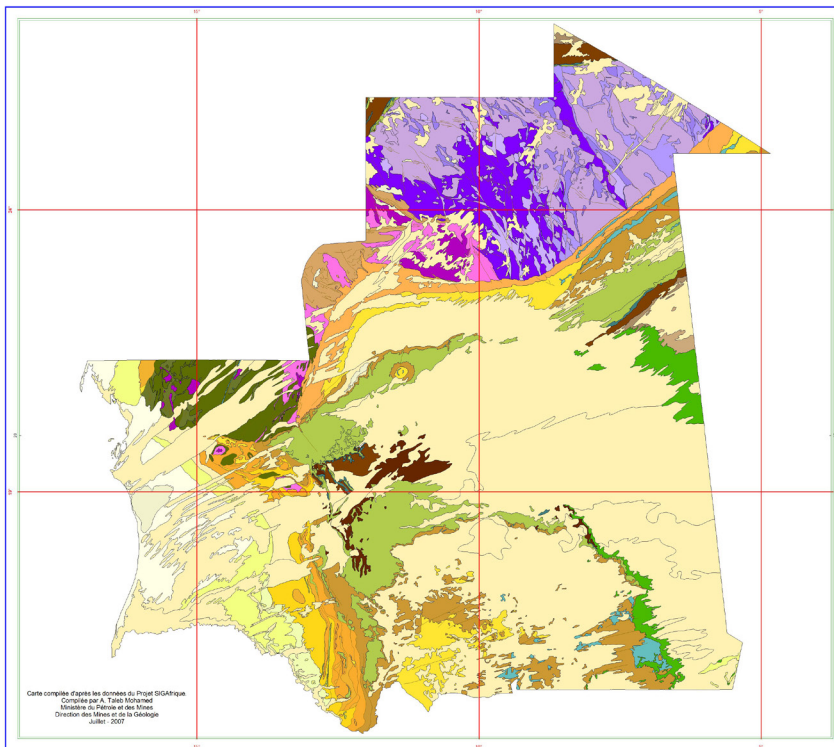


Mauritania has significant reserves of natural resources, hydrocarbons, and precious metals.

This important potential places it at the forefront of African countries in the field of development and diversification of extractive industries.

These activities have evolved over the past two decades with the launch of major gold, copper, oil, and gas projects. Similarly, the measures taken for the launch of other projects to exploit quartz, phosphate and uranium deposits are at an advanced stage.

GEOLOGICAL MAP OF MAURITANIA - JULY 2007



Mauritania's progress in the Doing Business ranking published annually by the World Bank has enabled the country to attract some of the largest investors in the extractive industries, like the leading Canadian operators **in gold** mining, Kinross Gold, First Quantum, Aya **Gold & Silver**, in addition to the five largest **energy** companies in the world the French Total, the British BP, the American Kosmos Energy, the British-Irish Shell and the American ExxonMobil.

Throughout **2020**, the contribution of extractive industries activities reached **24.2%** of GDP, the highest in Mauritania, thus promoting a growth of the sector of **35.5%** thanks to a remarkable increase in gold and iron prices during the last period.



In this guide, we will discuss in detail the potential that Mauritania has in the field of extractive industries, the reality, and prospects of this sector, as well as the legal framework and infrastructure that it has.





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MAURITANIA'S POTENTIAL IN THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES



THE MINES

Mauritania is distinguished by the existence of a geological potential rich in various minerals, such as the Dorsale Rgueibat, in the north of the country, which contains important reserves of gold, iron and uranium, the "Chaine des Mauritanides" located in the center-west also rich in gold, iron and copper, and the Taoudenni Basin, in the center-east, rich in iron ore, copper, gold, zinc and uranium. Geological and physical data have been used to update, for the time being, some 900 mining indices in these areas containing iron, gold, copper, phosphate, gypsum,

uranium, peat, salt, quartz, diamond, chromium, manganese, lead, platinum group elements, rare earths, and black earths...

Just as part of the estimated reserves of 1.5 billion tonnes of iron ore, more than 25 million ounces of gold, 28 million tonnes of copper, more than 140 million tonnes of phosphates, 11 million tonnes of quartz have been confirmed, 245 million tonnes of salt and more than 6 billion tonnes of gypsum.



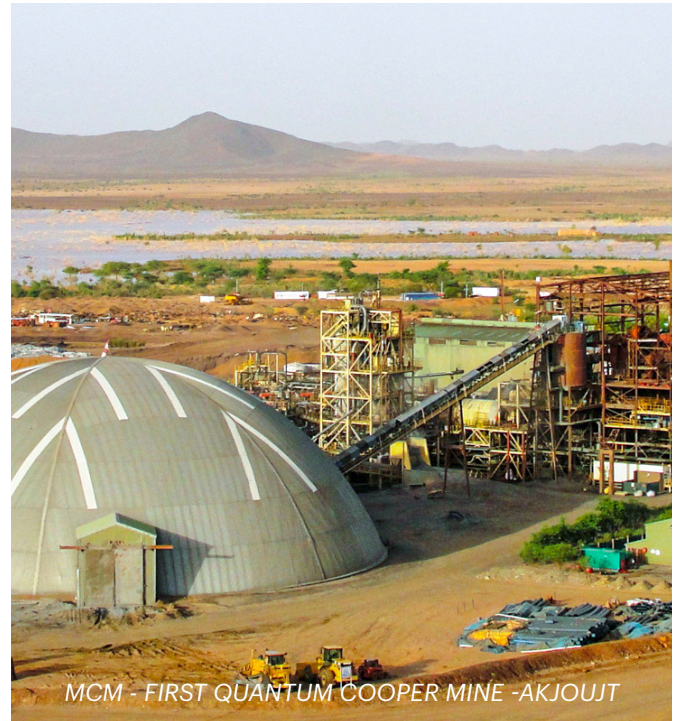
Mining is now one of the largest in the extractive industries in Mauritania, with more than 60 national and foreign companies holding dozens of mining or explorations permits in the country's various mining areas.

Among the most successful experiments in the field of mining in Mauritania is the "Société nationale industrielle et manière" (SNIM), which exploits iron deposits in Tiris Zemmour, With a production of 13 million tonnes/year, the company "Mines de Cuivre de Mauritanie" (MCM) in the wilaya of Inchiri which produces 29 million tons of copper per year and the company "Tasiast Mauritanie" which operates the gold mine of the eponymous area in the wilaya of Dakhlet-Nouadhibou, with an annual average production of 11.5 million tons.



KINROSS TASIAST - GOLD MINE - TIJIRIT

IMAGE SOURCE: KINROSS



MCM - FIRST QUANTUM COOPER MINE - AKJOUJT

IMAGE SOURCE: FIRST QUANTUM

Other international mining companies are preparing to launch major investment projects in Mauritania for the exploitation of new gold deposits in the wilaya of Nouadhibou, iron and uranium, in Tiris Zemmour, phosphate in the wilaya of Brakna and quartz in the wilaya of Nouadhibou.

HYDROCARBONS

A large offshore oil processing vessel, likely a FPSO (Floating Production Storage and Offloading) ship, is shown at sea. The vessel has a complex structure with multiple decks, a tall derrick on the left, and several large storage tanks. The hull is black with a red stripe along the waterline. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

IMAGE SOURCE : BP PROJECTS

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 over the past 20 years have led to the discovery of several oil and gas deposits, other major exploration activities are currently being carried out by international companies active in the field of hydrocarbons that have recently entered the Mauritanian market.

These discoveries have confirmed the existence of significant reserves of natural gas of the order of 65 trillion cubic feet of gas, including 15 at the “Grand Tortue Ahmeyim” (GTA) field, shared between Mauritania and Senegal, and 50 for the Biralla deposit, specific to Mauritania.

**RESERVES OF
NATURAL GAS
IN MAURITANIA**



65 TRILLION
CUBIC FEET



**“GRAND TORTUE
AHMEYIM” (GTA) FIELD**

15

TRILLION
CUBIC FEET



**“BIRALLA
DEPOSIT” FIELD**

50

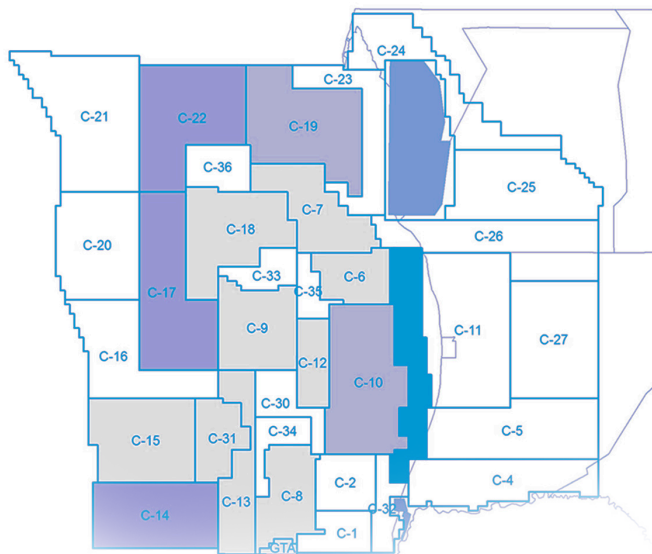
TRILLION
CUBIC FEET

To this are added other small oil and gas discoveries in various areas of this coastal basin, such as the Chinguitti oil field, 15-year operation by “Petronas” and the Banda gas field, for which the Mauritanian government recently announced its intention to reach an agreement with a partner for its operation. The enormous potential of the Mauritanian coastal basin has attracted giant oil companies to the world

over the past five years, such as the French Total, the British BP, the American Kosmos Energy, the Irish-British Shell, the American ExxonMobil and the British.

These companies are currently operating about half of the 33 blocks of the Mauritanian coastal basin furnished with oil and gas exploration equipment.

GAS FIELD MAP



“Grand Tortue Ahmeyim” (GTA) - project



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**LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES
IN MAURITANIA**

IMAGE SOURCE : NASA

The legal framework for the extractive industries in Mauritania has improved considerably in the last years, with the creation and updating of the Mining Code and the Oil and Gas Code on several occasions to bring it into line, each time, as global investments in the field evolve.

In this context, the Oil and Gas Act has been amended three times in ten years, the last being in 2015. The Mining Code was also revised several times during the same period; the last update was in 2013. This reflects the Mauritanian government's desire to improve, as far as possible, the business climate in an area as strategic as that of the extractive industries.



SNIM - IRON ORE MINE - TIRIS ZEMMOUR



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BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES IN MAURITANIA

Recently, Mauritania has worked on developing the infrastructure for reviving the extractive industries, such as constructing roads, building sea ports, raising the production capacity of electricity and providing it, through distribution networks, in areas of mineral exploration and places of processing.

Ports

Two seaports have been built over the past five years, the first in the Tanit area, close to the gold and copper mining sites in the wilayas of Inchiri and Dakhlet- Nouadhibou, and the second in the N'Diogo area, in the Trarza River Wialaya, with stone jets from the gas fields and near phosphate, rare earth and black earth deposits. In addition to these achievements, the extension of the ports of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou to enhance their capacities and allow them to accommodate large vessels around the world.



Roads and railways

Mauritania has a 704 km long railway linking the exploitation sites of the iron ore in the wilaya of Tiris Zemmour to the Nouadhibou mineralization



port from which the rail is exported to international markets. It also has a comprehensive road network linking the mining areas of Inchiri, Dakhlet- Nouadhibou and Trarza to seaports along the Atlantic coast to facilitate export operations. Added to this is the creation of an international airport recently built near Nouakchott, with a capacity of 2 million passengers per year, responding to international standings in this area.



Telecommunications

Mauritania has developed an integrated communications infrastructure that meets international standards. The country is connected to Europe and coastal African countries by an underwater fibre optic cable. Almost the entire territory has Internet coverage and telephone service.



Currently, the three telecommunications companies operating in Mauritania all provide fourth-generation Internet services at competitive prices.

Two new telecommunications companies have recently been granted operating licences and the launch of their services is expected soon, which should increase competitiveness and expand network connectivity services in Mauritania.

Electricity and distribution networks

Power generation capacity in Mauritania has reached high levels in the past years following the inauguration of 6 major power plants in Nouakchott, and the strengthening of the production capacity of all power plants in the wilayas.

The new strategy has focused on increasing electricity generation capacity by leveraging renewable energy sources. To date, this has resulted in the creation of three 70 MW solar power plants and a 30 MW wind farm, pending the completion of another 100 MW wind farm in Nouadhibou. Added to this is Mauritania's share of about 50 MW in the hydroelectric production of the Senegal River Development Organization (OMVS).



The exploitation of natural gas expected by 2023, will contribute to the doubling of Mauritania's electricity production. It was in this context that a 180 MW natural gas power station was created. In the field of distribution, Mauritania has launched a mega project for a high- voltage (HV) connection line for the transmission of electricity linking the capital Nouakchott to the wilayas of Dakhlet-Nouadhibou, Tiris Zemmour and Trarza which would allow the supplying the wilayas (region/ state) of the east of the country from the electricity produced by the OMVS.



These lines will allow the mining areas to be linked to the national electricity grid to provide low-cost HV energy and thus reduce production costs in the extractive industries in these areas.



USEFUL CONTACTS

Minister of Petroleum, Energy and Mines
www.petrole.gov.mr

National Industrial and Mining Company (SNIM)
www.snim.com

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Mauritania
www.snim.com

Mauritanian Hydrocarbons Company (SMH)
www.smhpm.mr

Mauritanian Office of Geological Research
www.anarpam.mr

Central Bank of Mauritania
www.bcm.mr



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MAURITANIA, MEREHBA BIK*

Contact us:
info-apim@apim.gov.mr

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