

# MAURITANIA

## Ecosystem-based Adaptation 2017-2022

Supported by the GEF  
Least Developed Countries Fund



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Building 10 hectares of gabion walls and 98 hectares of stone contour lines for soil and water conservation in two watersheds, and establishing 15 solar water pumping systems



Combating climate impacts through the diversification of pastoral community livelihoods by providing training, technical support, and equipment to over 350 individuals



Restoring ecosystems across 1,490 hectares of watersheds, rangelands, sand dunes and protected forests to address climate change effects such as droughts, bushfires and sand dune encroachment



### PROJECT TITLE:

DEVELOPMENT OF AN IMPROVED AND INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE-RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS IN MAURITANIA

### EXECUTING ENTITY:



Ministry of Environment (MEDD),  
Mauritania

### KEY TARGETS:

**18,000+**

Individuals benefiting from access to ecosystem services and/or from new alternative livelihoods

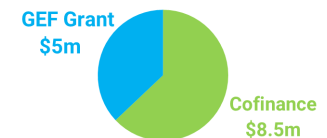
**260+**

Staff from government and NGOs with increased capacity for ecosystem-based adaptation

**1,490**

Hectares of valuable ecosystems restored

### FUNDING:



### PROJECT PARTNERS:

Ministry of Agriculture (MA); Ministry of Livestock (ME); Ministry of Water Resources & Sanitation (MHA); Regional administrations of the project target regions ("wilayas"), including Guidimaka, Assaba, Hodh El Gharbi, and Hodh El Chargui.

## INTRODUCTION

- Mauritania is situated in North-western Africa, and approximately three-quarters of its land area is desert or semi-desert.
- A project helped to build climate resilience of local communities in the forests and rangelands of the Sahelian Acacia Savanna ecoregion using a strategy known as '[ecosystem-based adaptation](#)' (EbA), which involves the protection and restoration of ecosystems.
- In addition, the project increased the institutional and technical capacity of government sectors for adaptation activities, while guiding rural communities to adopt climate-resilient livelihoods through the sustainable management of natural resources.
- This project was complemented by a [National Adaptation Plan](#) project, funded by the Green Climate Fund, focusing on strengthening Mauritania's technical and institutional capacities for adaptation planning.

## TECHNOLOGIES & METHODS

- **Ecosystem-based adaptation**, which involves the use of nature-based solutions to reduce the impacts of climate change on people, was central to the project's activities.
- Ecosystem-based adaptation activities took place on 1,490 hectares of watersheds, rangelands, sand dunes, acacia forests, and protected forests to address climate change effects such as droughts, bushfires, and sand dune encroachment. These activities included **ecosystem restoration**, sand dune stabilization, rangeland regeneration through set-aside, soil conservation, and agroforestry.
- The project organized **training workshops** to increase the capacity of decision-makers, technical staff, and NGOs to implement ecosystem-based adaptation approaches, and to integrate them in local development plans.
- Training, technical support, and equipment for adopting **climate-resilient livelihoods** (such

## CLIMATE IMPACTS

- The climate in Mauritania is characterised by high temperatures and irregular rainfall. Since 1960, the main climate-induced changes include reduced precipitation, increased drought periods, and increased desertification.
- Studies predict that climate change will negatively impact the agriculture, energy, water, and forestry sectors and increase the intensity and frequency of bushfires.
- The climate impacts and the limited capacity for adaptation are worsened by Mauritania's rapid population growth, resulting in increased unemployment, competition for natural resources, widespread poverty, and food insecurity. Forests, which are a source of livelihood for more than 80% of the population and protect local communities from extreme weather, are overexploited to provide energy (fuelwood) for communities.

## PROJECT LOCATION



The project is being implemented in the forest and rangeland ecosystems of 4 wilayas (i.e. regions), which are Guidamaka, Assaba, Hodh El Gharbi, and Hodh El Chargui.

## RESOURCES

- [Project documentary \(French\)](#)
- [Video: What is 'ecosystem-based adaptation'?](#)
- [Climate adaptation resources & multimedia](#)
- [GEF project webpage](#)

## CONTACTS

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