



Mauritania solar energy for the environment

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Estimates for solar energy and wind energy production in Mauritania vary, but all recent studies agree that Mauritania has enormous potential for both solar and wind energy because of its unique geography. Driven by this momentum, the GIRM has signed a memorandum of understanding for the implementation of various green hydrogen production projects which Mauritania intends to develop in partnership with four distinct developers: CWP Global, Chariot-Total Eren, BP, and the Masdar-Conjuncta-Infinity Power Consortium. In April 2023, Mauritania hosted the first Africa Green Hydrogen Alliance's international finance accelerator forum to highlight the country's potential in green hydrogen and discuss financing models to attract new developers.

These initiatives underscore a significant push for renewable energy endeavors in Mauritania. Green hydrogen is an emerging market opportunity in the country, given the availability of about 700,000 square kilometers in the country for the installation of solar panels and/or wind turbines for power generation, according to the MPME.

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Integrating climate change into all public policies; improving the environmental information system, compliance, surface and groundwater monitoring and biodiversity; enforcing the law on environmental, waste and chemicals management; and stepping up efforts for the sustainable management of fisheries, energy and mining activities are the main priorities identified in Mauritania's Environmental Performance Review, presented today in Nouakchott.

The review provides recommendations to guide the Mauritanian Government's actions aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as national commitments in terms of sustainable development and environmental management.

Improvements in environmental governance

The country is gradually equipping itself with tools and mechanisms to support environmental management. Created in 2021, the Environmental Police has administrative and judicial police powers, which it enforces throughout the country for all offences relating to environmental regulations, including in protected areas, national parks and free zones. It thus provides important support to the Ministry of the Environment.

However, the unsystematic integration of climate change into sectoral policies remains a major challenge for the country. The Government has taken a series of measures to put in place the institutional structures needed to promote, coordinate and strengthen its efforts to adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects. These measures include the creation of working groups composed of sectoral focal points, representatives of civil society and the private sector, and networks of independent experts; the preparation of comprehensive national communications of greenhouse gas inventories; and the preparation of biennial reports, as requested by the UNFCCC. The Ministry in charge of the environment has set up a department dedicated to the climate and the green economy.

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