



# Mauritania Logistics Capacity Expansion Program

The African Development Bank (AfDB), in partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and Société Nationale Industrielle et Minière (SNIM), is undertaking a major logistics infrastructure upgrade in Mauritania. The program will double the transport capacity of SNIM's 704 km iron ore railway from 20 to 40 million tonnes per annum by 2030. The corridor is vital for iron ore exports and the mobility of people and goods, linking the mining city of Zouérate to the Port of Nouadhibou. Through the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP), the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is supporting climate risk integration and resilience-building across infrastructure, operations, and surrounding communities.

## Adaptation Need

Mauritania is increasingly affected by intensifying heat, extended droughts, shifting precipitation patterns, and coastal flooding. Climate risks threaten SNIM’s railway, port, and mining operations, particularly from heat-induced rail buckling, sand encroachment, and sea-level rise at the Nouadhibou port. Approximately 6,800 workers face rising occupational health risks due to extreme heat (>40°C). Temperature increases are projected between +1.5°C to +3.0°C by 2031–2060, especially in inland and southern regions with more than 60 hot days predicted per year (RCP 8.5). Surrounding communities—reliant on SNIM for water, energy, and transport—are vulnerable to service disruptions and climate-induced shocks, where future challenges may include human displacement.

## GCA’s Added Value

Consequently, GCA aims to climate-proof the expanding mining infrastructure and worker communities to maintain connectivity within Mauritania, unlock the economic potential of natural resources, and ensure the distribution of key resources, such as water, energy, and food, which are increasingly vulnerable to climate change. Technical assistance to SNIM includes conducting climate risk assessments for the railway, port, and mine infrastructure, quantifying both direct and indirect impacts. It also involves appraising adaptation options—covering engineering, nature-based, and institutional measures—through cost-benefit analysis. To safeguard workers, GCA is developing occupational health and safety guidelines (OHS) focused on heat-related risks and maintaining operational continuity. Additionally, GCA is mapping socioeconomic vulnerabilities in SNIM cities (Zouérate and Nouadhibou) to identify at-risk populations and social assets (schools, clinics, housing), and delivering targeted stakeholder engagement and masterclasses on climate-resilient public-private partnerships (PPPs) and OHS standards.

Total Investment Value Influenced

**\$467.00M**

Beneficiaries

**N/A**

IFI Implementation period

**2024 - 2028**

Program

**Infrastructure and NbS**

Partners

African Development Bank

Status

In progress

Countries



SDG contribution



## PROJECT GOALS

### Mainstreaming Adaptation and Resilience

The project implements climate resilience measures across infrastructure and vulnerable communities. Engineering adaptations include heat-resistant tracks, improved drainage, and flood defenses to protect the port. Nature-based solutions, such as sand dune stabilization and vegetation buffers along the railway, help reduce erosion and encroachment. To safeguard worker health and safety, the project applies occupational health and safety protocols, including heat stress management, hydration stations, protective equipment, and early warning systems. It also develops strategies to maintain community access to essential SNIM-supported services such as energy, water, and transport during climate-related disruptions.

### Expected Outcomes

Upgraded climate resilient 704 km railway infrastructure with a doubled logistics capacity (20 MTPA to 40 MTPA).

Healthy and productive workforce and communities.  
150 direct skilled jobs in O&M of the railway and rolling stock  
Around 3000 indirect jobs created in mining and processing.  
Sustained delivery of water, electricity, and transport to vulnerable communities.  
Reduced displacement of inland communities.

## TIMELINE

# GCA Support Status

Technical Assistance Preparation

GCA Support Implementation

November, 2024

GCA Support Completion

Monitoring

# Project Investment Value

Total Investment Value  
**\$467.00M**

IFI INVESTMENT VALUE

**\$150.00M**

OTHER INVESTMENT  
VALUE

**\$317.00M**

## IFI partners



African  
Development Bank

## CONTACTS

GENERAL MEDIA INQUIRIES

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

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