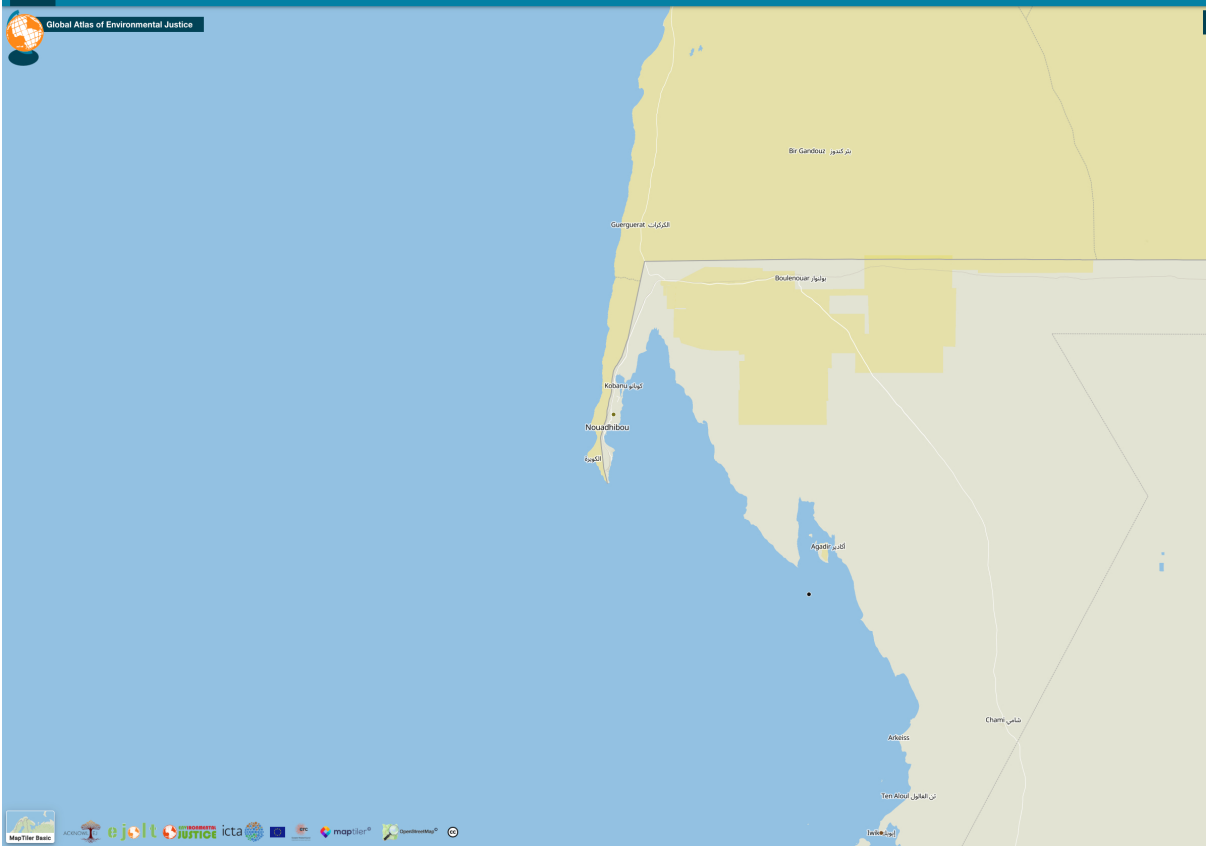




GO BACK

Dirty fishmeal production in Nouadhibou, Mauritania

IT TR **EN** ES FR CN AR

Stated by the Minister of Fishing as the price for development, the city of Nouadhibou is experiencing grave health consequences from its fishmeal production.

Description of the conflict case

The wind is always blowing in the city of Nouadhibou, which today is laced with toxic particles and the putrid smell of fish meal production. Nouadhibou sits on the edge of the Atlantic and has a population of nearly 120,000 people, many of which have become greatly disturbed by the growth of enterprises producing *farine de poisson* (eng. fishmeal) or locally known as *MOKA* in the c...

SEE MORE

Basic data

Conflict name

Dirty fishmeal production in Nouadhibou, Mauritania

Conflict country

Mauritania

State or province

Dakhlet Nouadhibou

Location of conflict

Nouadhibou

Accuracy of location

ALTO (level local)

Source of conflict

Type of conflict. 1st level

Waste Management

Type of conflict. 2st level

Aquaculture and fisheries

Other types

Ocean and resource grabbing

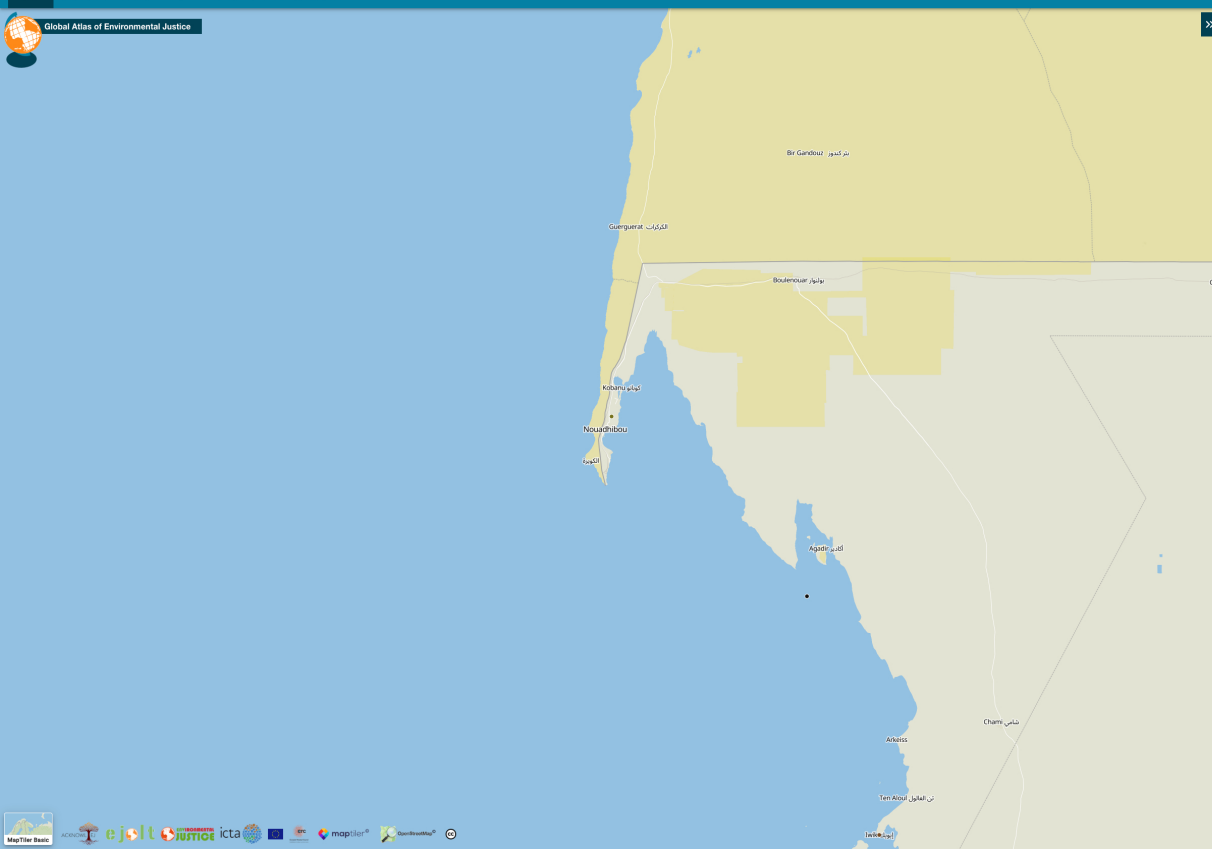
Specific commodities

Fish

Manufactured Products

Project details and actors

Technical information of the contested project



Project details and actors

Technical information of the contested project

Based on a report from 2012, Nouadhibou was producing approximately 64,000 tons of fishmeal per year, accounting for only five factories of fishmeal production [1][3]. Today, with nearly 23 factories in Nouadhibou, the tonnage is likely much higher. The majority of fishmeal is exported to Russia, with some going to Spain, Morocco, Sudan, Portugal, and other countries. The fishing industry represents about 55,000 jobs in Mauritania, with possibly 90% of these jobs stemming from artisanal fishing [5]. Yet, the number of artisanal fishers is decreasing, in light of the pressure of industrial fishing on the resource base. The exports of fish products are estimated at 49% of total exports, amounting to 927 millions of USD in 2017 [6].

Project area

Level of investment for the conflictive project

Type of population

Urban

Affected population

120,000

Start of the conflict

01/01/2017

End of the conflict

Company names or state enterprises

Rim Fish Meal from Mauritania

Assise Group SARL from Mauritania

Profitab Atlantic from United States of America

Alfa Service LTD from Mauritania

SOMASEC from Spain

OMASIRI SA from Unknown

Somahel S.A.R.L. from Unknown

MAH EL TURK Surl from Unknown

KANGHEDRON MAURITANIE SA from Unknown

FARO FARINE from Unknown

UNDEAFADOU from Unknown

Alphon from Unknown

SINO-RIM from Unknown

SAHEL PROTEINE from Unknown

AFRICA PROTEINE from Unknown

Mauritania FISHMEAL SARL from Unknown

CONTINENTAL SEA FOOD SA from Unknown

MANGA PECHE FARINE ET HUILE from Unknown

SF SFP Surl from Unknown

AFRICA PECHE from Unknown

OCEAN PROTEINE from Unknown

ATLANTIC PROTEINE from Unknown

COMAFECHE from Unknown

MOUNT AL BARAKA from Unknown

ATLANTIC PECHE from Unknown

BIOP Industries Sa from Unknown

HONGKONG INTERNATIONAL FISHERY DEVELOPMENT FARINE ET HUILE from Unknown

WINTERGARTEN MAURITANIA Surl from Unknown

COPRIMA PROTEINE Surl from Unknown

M.C.E.F Surl from Unknown

SOSEC SA from Unknown

SEPP SA from Unknown

Relevant government actors



Ministry of Fisheries

L'Organisation pour la Promotion de la famille et pour la Défense de l'Environnement,
Greenpeace

MEDIUM (street protests, visible mobilization)

Mobilization for reparations once impacts have been felt

- Local ejos
- Neighbours/citizens/communities
- Women
- Recreational users
- Local scientists/professionals

- Community-based participative research (popular epidemiology studies, etc.)
- Development of a network/collective action
- Lawsuits, court cases, judicial activism
- Official complaint letters and petitions
- Street protest/marches
- Occupation of buildings/public spaces

- Air pollution
- Biodiversity loss (wildlife, agro-diversity)
- Loss of landscape/aesthetic degradation
- Noise pollution
- Soil contamination
- Waste overflow
- Surface water pollution / Decreasing water (physico-chemical, biological) quality
- Groundwater pollution or depletion

- Large-scale disturbance of hydro and geological systems

- Accidents
- Deaths
- Other environmental related diseases
- Other Health impacts

- Mental problems including stress, depression and suicide
- Occupational disease and accidents

At least 187 women have had problems during their pregnancy on January 2017, which are considered to be linked with the contamination caused by fishmeal production factories. 167



At least 187 women have had problems during their pregnancy on January 2017, which are considered to be linked with the contamination caused by fishmeal production factories. [6]

Visible

Visible

- Lack of work security, labour absenteeism, firings, unemployment
- Loss of livelihood
- Specific impacts on women
- Other socio-economic impacts

Potential

- Increase in Corruption/Co-optation of different actors
- Displacement
- Land dispossession

Other Social Economical impacts

▼ Conflict outcome

Project Status

In operation:

Conflict outcome / response

- Environmental improvements, rehabilitation/restoration of area
- Institutional changes
- Negotiated alternative solution
- New legislation
- Application of existing regulations
- Project temporarily suspended

Other Outcomes

Proposal and development of alternatives

Local small-scale fisher people aim the protection of their fishing rights, and compensation from vessels of industrial fishing that violate their fishing rights in coastal zones. Meanwhile, they demand a strict control of fishmeal factories so that they comply with established regulations.

Do you consider this an environmental justice success? Was environmental justice served?

No estoy seguro.

Briefly explain

While the government responded to the protests from the people, it is not clear whether all fisheries production is still complying with the regulations and has, in fact cleaned up the operations.

Other comments

There are many sources in Arabic, which I am not able to read.

Source & materials

References to published books, academic articles, movies or published documentaries

[1] Karkoub 2017, La malédiction de l'industrie des farines de poisson à Nouadhibou. Dune Voies.

[Click to view](#)

[2] Standing 2017. Croissance De La Production De Farine De Poisson En Mauritanie: Implications Pour La Sécurité Alimentaire Régionale. CFFA-CAPE

[3] Ahmed Ould Cheikh. Usines de farine de poisson à Nouadhibou : Danger sur la ville. Le Calame

[4] Décret n°2012-072 du 12 Mars 2012. Ministère des Pêches et de l'Economie Maritime
[Click to view](#)

