

Shipwrecks Removal Evaluation

European Union, Mauritania

EDESSA was retained by the European Union (EU) delegation in Nouakchott, Mauritania to undertake a thorough evaluation of the conditions and removal of 107 shipwrecks from the Bay of Nouadhibou located on the northern coast of Mauritania.

The Bay of Nouadhibou has historically been infested with numerous shipwrecks caused by the moving sand dunes, navigation errors or poor marking of the sunken wrecks. The bay is now famous around the world as being one of the most hazardous bays.

Based on the importance of this bay for deep sea fishing activities, the European Union has decided to fund the studies and removal of the critical ship wrecks in order to improve the navigation conditions in the bay and resolve the environmental pollution problem that has resulted from such wrecks.

Several studies have been conducted in the past. However, none was complete, comprehensive and addressed all environmental and economical aspects.

Through an international tendering procedure, the EU delegation in Nouakchott has selected a senior partner in EDESSA to come to Mauritania for an expert mission of four weeks during which the feasibility of the removal of the 107 wrecks was evaluated. The mission included the thorough review of the previous studies, the visit of the site and the evaluation of the wrecks. The result of the study included a series of classification of the wrecks in terms of removal method, danger for the navigation and environmental hazards.

The study also presented the various techniques that could be adopted for the removal of the wrecks along with the costs. The amount of scrap that would be generated from such wrecking activities was evaluated and the recycling potential was evaluated in order to quantify the potential revenues that could be generated from the sale of the collected scrap metals.

