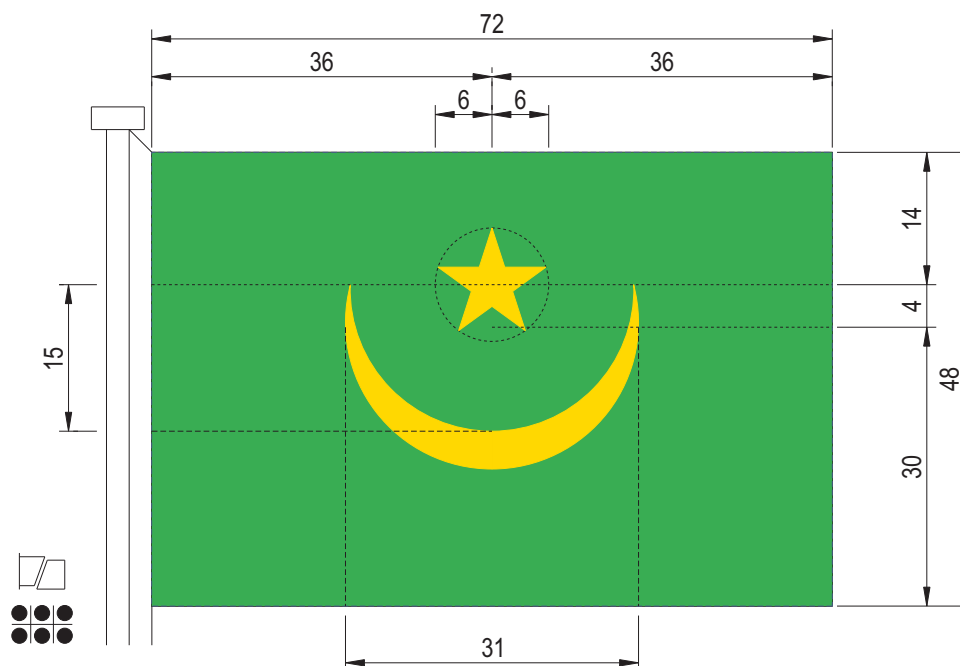
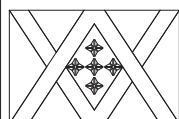




SOUTHERN AFRICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
FLAG SPECIFICATION SHEET

Mauritania

National flag 1959 - 2017



DATA		COLOUR RECOMMENDATIONS					
		Colour	Pantone	C	M	Y	K
Usage:	National Flag and ensign	Yellow	116c	75	0	90	0
Ratio:	2 : 3	Green	361c	0	15	95	0
Adopted:	01 Apr 1959						
Abolished:	15 Aug 2017						
Designer:	Moktar Ould Daddah(?)						

HISTORY AND SYMBOLISM

Mauritania was initially inhabited by Africans and Berbers and became a centre for the Berber Almoravid movement in the 11th century which sought to spread Islam in west Africa. It was later explored by the Portuguese in the 15th century, but by the 19th century the French had gained control. France organized the area into a territory in 1904 and in 1920 Mauritania became one of the colonies that constituted French West Africa. In 1946 it was named a French overseas territory.

Mauritania became an independent nation on 28 November 1960, and was admitted to the United Nations in 1961 despite the strenuous opposition of Morocco, which claimed the territory.

Mauritania's flag was adopted on 01 April 1959 and it emphasizes its African location, its majority Islamic faith and the name of the nation - *République Islamique de Mauritanie*. The colours of green and gold are two of the Pan-African colours which symbolise the country as an African nation. The star and crescent are well-known Islamic symbols.

Mauritania, along with Morocco, annexed the territory of Western Sahara (see SV - EH - 01.0 - 1) in 1976, with Mauritania taking the southern one-third at the request of former imperial power, Spain. After several military losses to the Polisario Front, the Sahrawi rebel national liberation movement aiming to end Moroccan presence in the Western Sahara, Mauritania retreated in 1979 and its claims were taken over by Morocco.

The flag was replaced in August 2017 when red stripes were added to the top and bottom (see SV - MR - 01.0 - 1).

Sources: Smith, *Flags and Arms across the World*, 1980, <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107771.html?pageno=2>