SOUTHERN AFRICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
F L A G   S P E C I F I C A T I O N   S H E E T
Mauritania
National flag
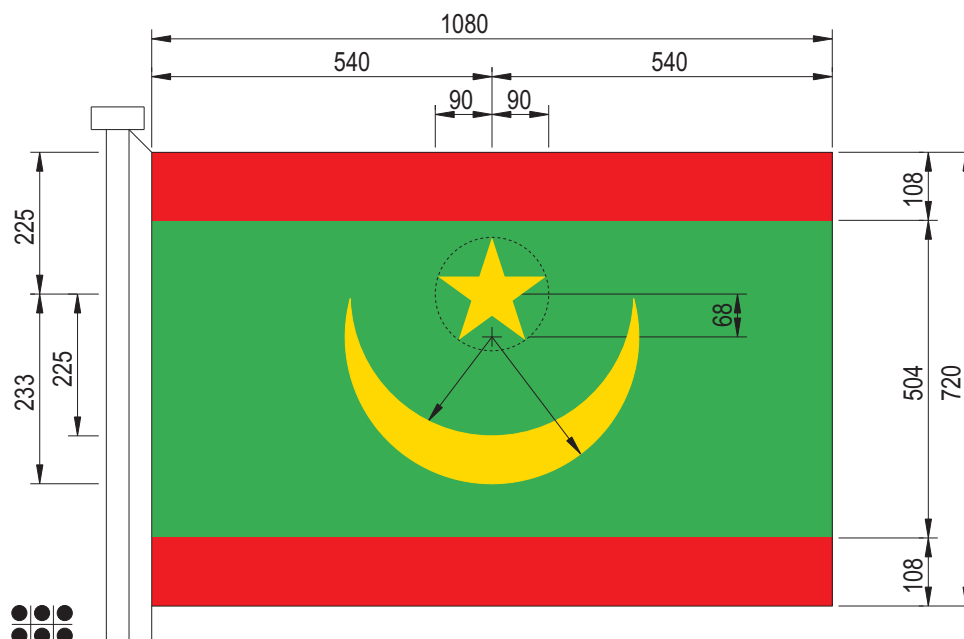
DATA		COLOUR RECOMMENDATIONS					
		Colour	Pantone	C	M	Y	K
Usage:	National Flag and ensign	Yellow	116c	75	0	90	0
Ratio:	2 : 3	Green	361c	0	15	95	0
Adopted:	15 Aug 2017	Red	186c	0	90	75	0
Abolished:	In use						
Designer:	-						

HISTORY AND SYMBOLISM

On 15 August 2017 the Islamic Republic of Mauritania replaced the flag which had been in use since 01 April 1959 (see SV – MR – 01.1 – 1). This decision followed a referendum instigated by President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, and held on 05 August 2017, to amend the national flag, abolish the senate, and introduce other constitutional amendments. The referendum was supported by 54% of eligible voters.

The changes to the flag, in the form of the addition of two red stripes, each occupying 15% of the banner's field - one on the top and one on the bottom of the flag — symbolizes the blood of patriots in the country's struggle against their French colonizers. The symbolic gesture, made 57 years after the country gained independence from France, permanently commemorates "the efforts and sacrifices that the people of Mauritania will keep consenting to and the price of their blood to defend their territory" explained *Union pour la République*, the country's ruling party, which proposed the design update in March 2017.

Green, gold and red form part of the Pan-African colours. Green is also used to symbolise Islam, and the gold for the sands of the Sahara Desert.

Sources: *Wikipedia, Quartz Africa, Vexilla-Mundi*