

Financial scandal at the 'Agence de la grande muraille verte': shock revelations by the organisation Transparence Inclusive

[Dossier de la Grande Muraille Verte pour l'année 2021](#)



Mauriweb - The 'Agence de la Grande muraille verte' (Great Green Wall Agency), a government body reporting to the Mauritanian Ministry of the Environment, is responsible for implementing Mauritania's ambitious Great Green Wall project, a regional environmental project aimed at combating desertification, a scourge that is rampant in our country. The agency operates with an annual budget allocated by the Mauritanian government of around 800 million old ouguiyas, in addition to some rare and limited external funding. However, during the course of 2021, the Great Green Wall Agency failed resoundingly to deliver its annual programmes.

Worse still, it was embroiled in a financial scandal in which a large part of its budget was embezzled by a group of influential individuals, who managed to grab almost 90% of its annual investment budget, i.e. around 470 million old ouguiyas. This manoeuvre was carried out by means of fictitious contracts, of which only a small part was actually carried out, and the rest was carried out in a mediocre manner.

The failure of the Green Wall Agency and its plunge into debt

Phase 1: Plundering the Annual Budget

The Agency's director at the time, Mohamed El-Houssein Mohamed Lagraa, quickly concluded numerous contracts that far exceeded his budget, with the aim of serving his personal interests. He joined forces with a group of traders inexperienced in carrying out works, who mainly owned fictitious companies, most of which had similar tax identification numbers, and 80% of which were linked to the politician Abdallahi Ould Medellah, mayor of the commune of Boumdeid. The NGO Transparence Inclusive was able to identify these individuals and their companies by tracing the telephone numbers on the bills. It emerged that Abdallahi Ould Medellah owned two of these companies, 'Techyid' and 'AMOMA', which shared the same tax identification number, 00310268. These embezzlement operations were carried out by systematically inflating invoices while avoiding their actual execution. This manipulation was carried out using what are known administratively as "small contracts" or "exempt contracts" (those that escape the control of the National Public Procurement Commission).

What's more, these contracts were pre-arranged between three or two merchants who would divide up the projects planned for a given area after the invitation to tender had been issued. They set their amounts so as to allow themselves equivalent profit margins, so that one of them would slightly increase its offer in the first contract, while the other would do the same in the following contract. A concrete example is the distribution of the four contracts scheduled for 24 August 2021 between SOMF and Bab Al-Khair, whose amounts are almost identical. By the end of the year, using the same method, the group of traders had captured around 90% of the investment budget, or 445 million old ouguiyas (see the table showing the names of the companies and the amounts already paid in the attached documents).

Note : it should be noted that Transparence Inclusive identified the company owners using their telephone numbers and found that 80% of them had common links. The organisation also obtained copies of all their invoices, which were used to hijack the budget of the Great Green Wall Agency.

Phase 2: The massive indebtedness of the Green Wall Agency

In addition to wasting the agency's budget, it was plunged into a colossal debt of over 2 billion old ouguiyas. This debt was contracted mainly by Abdallahi Ould Medellah himself, for a sum of around 350 million old ouguiyas, thanks to 24 separate contracts. These contracts were concluded in order to circumvent public procurement legislation in favour of his two companies, Techyid and AMOMA (see attachment 6). Transparence Inclusive

carried out investigations into the work carried out by these companies in Sangrafa and found that the value of the work carried out by Sangrafa alone exceeded 150 million old ouguiyas. The organisation also conducted a number of recorded interviews with workers who had been personally hired by Abdallahi Ould Medellah to carry out the contracts at Sangrafa. Evidence gathered on the ground revealed the poor quality of the fencing work, which was among the most expensive on behalf of the state (see attachments 7A and 7B), as well as the lack of sand fixation in most of the enclosures (see attachments 8A and 8B).

Following comparisons, Transparence Inclusive noted that prices had been almost doubled. For example, the company Construction, affiliated to Abdallahi Ould Medellah, increased the cost of fencing 50 hectares from 6 million ouguiyas in previous transactions with the agency (see invoice no. 0044/2020), to 14.6 million ouguiyas for just 10 hectares in 22 one-off contracts.

République Islamique de Mauritanie
Ministère de L'Environnement et du Développement Durable
Agence Nationale de la Grande Muraille Verte
Commission Interne des Achat /ANGMV
C/ANGMV

Procès - Verbal Définitif CIA/ANGMV N° 32

L'an deux mille vingt un et le lundi 23/08/2021 à 10 heure s'est réunie, au siège de l'ANGMV -a Nouakchott la Commission Interne des Achats de l'Agence Nationale de la Grande Muraille Verte, et ce à l'effet d'examiner l'ordre du jour suivant
Etude du projet de Décision en date du 20/08/2021 consacré au traitement de 4 dossiers relatif a :

- Lot n° 1- travaux de clôtures de 15 ha Boutalhaya
- Lots n° 2- travaux de clôtures de 20 ha Boumdeide
- Lot n° 3- travaux de clôtures de 15 ha legoissi
- Lot n° 4- travaux de clôtures de 20 ha Dahara

Après constat du projet de décision la commission a décide attribuer les lots au Fournisseur suivant :

1-Lot 1 Ets SOMV -SARL	1 630 226	MRU
2-Lot 2 Ets Babe El KHAIRE	1 833 026	MRU
3-Lot 3 Ets SOMV -SARL	1 617 784	MRU
4 -Lot 4 Ets Babe El KHAIRE	1 853 042	MRU

Nouakchott le 24/08/2021

الوثيقة 1

- Ethmane Cherif	Membre	
- Abdemahmane Salem Mahmoud	Membre	
- Ba Yaya Kolta	Membre	
- Mouna Mint Mohamed Ahmed	Membre	
- Bonko aidibé	Membre	

Le Président
Dialla Oumar Abdoul

20250	27/05/2021	RÈGLEMENT FACTURE CLÔTURE DUN SITE A SANGRAFA	2 040 672	SARAFI CONSTRUCTION ET BTP - SARL	00442021	78 - 43 - 21 - Réalisation et équipement des forages	Valeur CF
7044	14/05/2021	CLÔTURE ET MISES EN DEFENS DE 50HA AU BAVINA COMMUNE DE CHESAN (BAH EL ENHAR)	1 250 000	MAJOUR ENHAR DES TRAVAUX IMPORT EXPORT - SARL	0077880	78 - 43 - 20 - TruffLP 5,3 A 4 semes agricoles	Valeur CF
20255	27/10/2021	RÈGLEMENT FACTURE CLÔTURE DE 20 HA A SANG RAFA	2 021 880	SANAFARIS - SARL	0044081	78 - 43 - 22 - Réalisation et équipement des forages	Valeur CF
16908	15/09/2021	TRAVAUX DE CLÔTURES DE 15 HA AU SITE DE LEGOISSI	1 617 784	SOMV - SARL	0008013	78 - 43 - 22 - Réalisation et équipement des forages	Valeur CF
16922	15/09/2021	TRAVAUX DE CLÔTURES DE 15 HA AU SITE DE BOUTALHAYA	1 630 226	SOMV - SARL	0008013	78 - 43 - 22 - Réalisation et équipement des forages	Valeur CF
			3 248 020				
20699	28/10/2021	RÈGLEMENT FACTURE CLÔTURE DE 20 HA A SANGRAFA	2 030 000	TAMANE - SARL	0025052	78 - 43 - 22 - Réalisation et équipement des forages	Valeur CF
18788	16/10/2021	RÈGLEMENT FACTURE CLÔTURES ET MISES EN DEFENS DU SITE DE YOUNHAS DE 15 HA	1 334 480	TRALON POUR LES TRAVAUX PUBLICS	0051206	78 - 43 - 18 - Restauration des terres agricoles/pâturables dégradées	Valeur CF
19027	20/10/2021	Règlement factures clôture et mise en défens de 20 ha au site de Agichoungat	1 776 900	TRALON POUR LES TRAVAUX PUBLICS	0051100K	78 - 43 - 18 - Restauration des terres agricoles/pâturables dégradées	Valeur CF
			1 776 900	TRALON POUR LES TRAVAUX PUBLICS			
			4 888 280				
00618	17/12/2021	RÈGLEMENT FACTURE FIXATIONS DES DUNES DE 25 HA A NBEIGA	2 001 000	SALAMA IMPORT EXPORT ET SERVICES	00668737	78 - 43 - 22 - Réalisation et équipements des forages	Valeur CF
TOTAL GENERAL:			44 596 628				

الوثيقة 5 الصفحة 2

