

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 FEBRUARY 2025
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)
MINE CONTAMINATION:
LIGHT

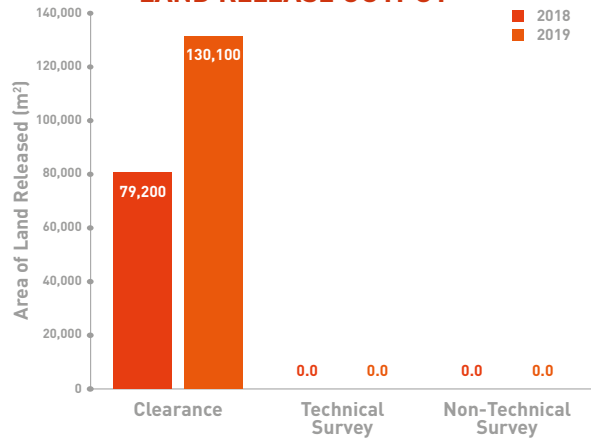
AP MINE
CLEARANCE
IN 2019

130,100 m²

AP MINES
DESTROYED
IN 2019

0

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per Oslo Political Plan commitment): **MEDIUM**

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Oman is making continued progress in conducting “re-clearance” of certain suspected mined areas and plans to complete release of these areas ahead of its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline in February 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Oman should establish a mine action centre to oversee its national programme as soon as possible.
- Oman should ensure the release of all mined areas as soon as possible but not later than its Article 5 deadline in 2025.
- Oman should ensure it conducts land release operations according to international standards, applying non-technical and technical survey to confirm contamination prior to clearance, whenever possible.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2019)	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	7	7	Oman does not have any confirmed mined areas, but does have suspected contamination resulting from mined use during the 1960s and 1970s. Oman reported that it has cleared most of the suspected mined areas in accordance with available resources, but that it is now "re-clearing" certain areas to make sure they are free from anti-personnel mine contamination.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	7	7	The Army is the only institution involved in mine action. In 2018, Oman informed States Parties to the APMBBC that it was considering setting up a mine action centre, but no subsequent updates have been provided with respect to this.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	2	2	Oman's statements on mine action make no reference to the issue of gender.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	6	5	Oman submits annual Article 7 transparency reports detailing its progress in re-clearance efforts.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	6	6	In its Article 7 transparency report submitted in 2019, Oman included a work plan to release all remaining suspected mined areas before its 2025 Article 5 deadline.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	3	3	In 2019, as in previous years, Oman conducted clearance/re-clearance of mined areas, during which no anti-personnel mines were discovered. It is not known if Oman conducts evidence-based non-technical survey or technical survey prior to clearance, to better target its efforts.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	6	5	Oman cleared/re-cleared 130,100m ² of suspected mined area in 2020; a slight increase on the previous year. As at the end of 2019, Oman had completed 38% of the total area identified for re-clearance and was on track to complete re-clearance by its February 2025 Article 5 deadline.
Average Score	5.3	5.0	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- No national mine action authority or mine action centre

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Royal Army of Oman

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Oman is suspected to be contaminated by mines, though the precise location and extent of any residual threat is not known. In its initial Article 7 report, submitted in 2015, Oman declared that there were no areas in the Sultanate confirmed to be mined, but reported “many” suspected mined areas in the south, particularly in the Dhofar region.¹ In a statement to the APMBC Intersessional Meetings in Geneva in June 2018, and in its Article 7 reports submitted in 2019 and 2020, Oman repeated there were no confirmed mined areas and no record of any mine casualties for more than 20 years, but referenced the previously mentioned suspected mines areas requiring “re-search”/re-clearance.²

According to its 2015 report, during the mid 1960s to mid 1970s, the presence of rebel movements in Dhofar led to “vast” areas being affected by anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines. There was small-scale use of mines by militants without maps or records of where contamination was laid. Friendly forces reportedly cleared their own contaminated area directly after the end of actions in 1976 and the Armed Sultan’s Engineering Unit Forces initiated clearance of the areas suspected to have been mined by the militants.³

However, Oman has reported that it is impossible to be sure that the areas have been fully cleared, and therefore re-clearance of certain areas is required to ensure no anti-personnel mines remain.⁴ This is for three reasons: the size of the region (about 99,000km²); the lack of maps or marking; and the terrain (which includes mountains and valleys), with many mined areas located on steep slopes. In addition, the rain over the years may have scattered the mines.⁵

In 2001, it had been reported that the Royal Army of Oman had mapped seven zones of suspected mined areas based on historical records of battlefield areas, unit positions, and mine incident reports.⁶

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Oman has not had a functioning mine action programme. Clearance is being performed by its army engineers.⁷

Oman stated in June 2018 that it began implementing a national programme in 2017 and was planning to set up a national mine action centre and would then appeal for supply of equipment but it did not specify when this would occur.⁸

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Details are not available on the extent to which gender is considered and reflected in Oman’s national mine action efforts.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

After becoming a State Party to the APMBC in 2015, Oman has submitted annual Article 7 reports covering progress in the previous calendar year.

PLANNING AND TASKING

In its Article 7 report submitted in August 2019, Oman provided a work plan for the release of all remaining suspected mined area before its Article 5 deadline in 2025.⁹ In 2020, Oman reported that it had completed 38% of total planned re-clearance and expected to complete clearance by its February 2025 deadline.¹⁰

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Standards applied by the army are not known. Oman reported that mined areas were earlier cleared “in accordance with the resources available”.¹¹

In 2019, as in the previous two years, no anti-personnel mines were discovered during re-clearance. Oman said the absence of anti-personnel mines “confirms the areas are cleared”.¹² It is not known to what, if any, extent Oman has explored the possibility of conducting evidenced-based survey to confirm anti-personnel mine contamination, prior to conducting full clearance.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Oman’s army engineers are responsible for mine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) clearance.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2019

Between February and December 2019, Oman cleared 11 suspected mined areas totalling 130,100m² in the Magseel region, during which no anti-personnel mines were discovered. During clearance operations in July 2019, however, a number of unexploded 81mm mortar shells were found and destroyed.¹³ Oman also reported that it had “re-inspected” suspected mined areas in Dhafar and verified that these areas are free from anti-personnel land mines.¹⁴

Clearance output in 2019 was a significant increase compared to the 79,200m² of mined area cleared between July and December 2018.¹⁵

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Oman is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 February 2025.

In its Article 7 report submitted in 2018, Oman presented a plan to complete clearance of remaining suspected mined areas by its Article 5 deadline.¹⁶ As at the start of 2020, Oman reported that it had completed 38% of the total planned re-clearance and expected to complete clearance by its February 2025 deadline.¹⁷

Oman has cited the challenges it faces in locating and clearing mines in large and remote areas of desert.¹⁸

PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

It is not known whether or not the Oman has made provision for a sustainable long-term national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas discovered following completion (i.e. residual contamination).

1 Initial Article 7 Report, 2015, pp. 4–5.

2 Oman statement to the APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 7–8 June 2018; and Article 7 Reports (covering 2018 and 2019, respectively).

3 Initial Article 7 Report, submitted in 2015.

4 Article 7 Reports submitted in 2015, in 2019 (covering 2018), and 2020 (covering 2019).

5 Initial Article 7 Report, submitted in 2015, pp. 4–5.

6 “Humanitarian Demining”, *Journal of Mine Action*, 2001, p. 49.

7 Article 7 Report (covering 2018).

8 Statement of Oman to the Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 7–8 June 2018.

9 Article 7 Report (covering 2018).

10 Article 7 Report (covering 2019).

11 Article 7 Report (covering 2018).

12 Article 7 Report (covering 2019).

13 Ibid.; and Preliminary observations of the Committee on Article 5 implementation, Intersessional Meetings, 30 June–2 July 2020.

14 Preliminary observations of the Committee on Article 5 implementation, Intersessional Meetings, 30 June–2 July 2020.

15 Article 7 Report (covering 2018).

16 Ibid.

17 Article 7 Report (covering 2019).

18 Statement of Oman, 17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 29 November 2018.