

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 AUGUST 2024
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION:

NATIONAL ESTIMATE

14.41 km²

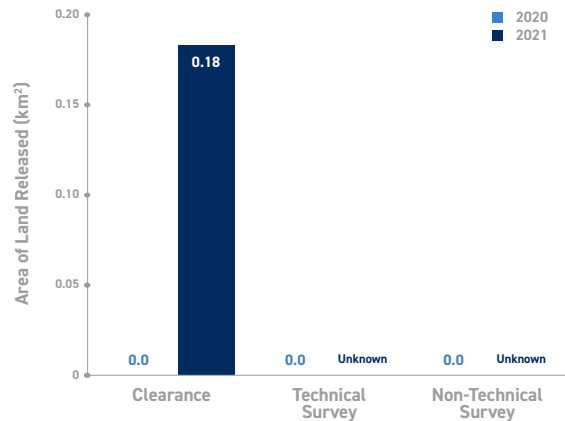
SUBMUNITION
CLEARANCE IN 2021

0.18 km²

SUBMUNITIONS
DESTROYED IN 2021

7

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Having previously declared fulfilment of its Article 4 obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in September 2014 at the Fifth Meeting of States Parties, Mauritania reported in its CCM Article 7 transparency report covering 2019 that it had discovered previously unknown cluster munition-contaminated areas under its jurisdiction or control. In February 2021, at the request of Mauritania, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) conducted an assessment of the newly discovered cluster munition-contaminated areas, as well as of the mined areas that Mauritania newly reported in 2019. The assessment identified a total of more than 14km² of cluster munition remnants (CMR) contamination across nine suspected hazardous areas (SHAs), although further survey is likely to reduce this figure.¹ NPA believes that CMR clearance could be completed in approximately one year.²

In June 2021, Mauritania submitted an Article 4 deadline extension request of two years, through to 1 August 2024,

which was granted at the Second CCM Review Conference in October 2021. Mauritania had yet to secure funding and operational support to initiate large-scale clearance of the contamination. Mauritania identifies the contaminated areas as confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), but adds that more survey is needed to better determine their final size.³ In July 2022, MAG said that it had potentially secured Norwegian government funding to provide capacity development support to the national authority (the Programme National de Déminage Humanitaire pour le Développement, PNDHD), including with respect to information management and revision of national mine action standards. It will also be funded to conduct a contamination baseline assessment, non-technical survey, and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE). The planned project will benefit the whole of Mauritania's mine action programme, but MAG planned to prioritise CCM Article 4 compliance first.

¹ NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, pp. 2–8.

² Ibid., p. 12.

³ Response of Mauritania to the Article 4 CCM Analysis Group in relation to its deadline extension request, 28 July 2021, p. 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Mauritania should conduct technical survey to establish a more accurate baseline of CMR contamination and better determine the size of the identified CHAs.
- Mauritania should report on its CMR contamination accurately, consistently, and in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), including through submission of timely Article 7 reports.
- Mauritania should continue its efforts to mobilise the necessary funds and operational support to enable survey and clearance of CMR contamination.
- Mauritania should ensure its national mine action standards (NMAS) are updated and are in accordance with the IMAS.
- Mauritania should elaborate a gender and diversity policy for mine action and an associated implementation plan.
- Mauritania should ensure that it establishes a sustainable national capacity to address any residual CMR contamination discovered following fulfilment of Article 4.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2021)	Score (2020)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	7	7	In 2021, NPA, in collaboration with the National Humanitarian Demining Programme for Development (Programme National de Déminage Humanitaire pour le Développement, PNDHD), conducted the first baseline survey assessment to determine the extent of CMR contamination since Mauritania's discovery of new contaminated areas in 2019. The PNDHD, albeit with limited resources, continued to survey and identify new hazardous areas throughout 2021. Further technical survey is required to accurately determine the size and extent of the actual contamination.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	5	The PNDHD is the national entity responsible for coordination of mine action in Mauritania. Mauritania contributes resources to support its mine action programme but the PNDHD needs greater operational, financial, and technical capacities to fulfil that role.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	3	3	Mauritania does not appear to have a gender and diversity policy for mine action, and neither issue is referenced in Mauritania's Article 4 deadline Extension Request submitted in June 2021 nor in its latest Article 7 report to the CCM (covering 2021). Mauritania did, however, state in response to the questions of the CCM Article 4 Analysis Group that it intends to deploy diverse and gender-balanced teams to the extent possible, and that it includes consultation of women, girls, and boys in the planning of its mine action programme.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	4	4	Mauritania uses Version 6 of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) software. Mauritania's reporting does not classify cluster munition-contaminated areas into SHAs and CHAs in a manner consistent with IMAS and international best practice. Mauritania's reporting to the Convention is often late, lacks accuracy and consistency, and data it provides often vary across the reports.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	3	3	Mauritania's last mine action strategic plan and work plan expired in 2020. Part of the international cooperation and assistance sought by Mauritania is to support its efforts to draft a new mine action strategy. Mauritania estimates that CMR clearance can be concluded within approximately one year of starting operations and requested an extension for a total of two years to account for the time required to mobilise resources, deploy teams to the field, and finalise reporting.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	6	6	Mauritania's NMAS were published in 2007, and were said to be in accordance with the IMAS at that time. The NMAS include standards on non-technical survey, technical survey, mine clearance, and quality control (QC). The PNDHD reportedly reviewed and adapted the NMAS to the "new ways of working". What is meant by this is unclear.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	6	5	In October 2021, Mauritania was granted a two-year extension to its Article 4 deadline to complete clearance. The PNDHD continued to survey and clear contamination within its limited resources, and has appealed for further support from the international community.
Average Score	5.3	5.1	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- National Humanitarian Demining Programme for Development (Programme National de Déminage Humanitaire pour le Développement, PNDHD)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Army Engineer Corps

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) (programme closed in 2015; however, a new assessment of contamination was conducted in 2021)

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

Having previously declared fulfilment of its Article 4 obligations in September 2014 at the Fifth Meeting of States Parties,⁴ Mauritania reported newly discovered cluster-munition-contaminated areas in its CCM Article 7 report covering 2019.⁵ These areas are reported to be located in the "Tigert 2" region of Tiris Zemmour in the north of Mauritania, which borders Western Sahara.⁶

In 2020, Mauritania requested NPA's support to survey the newly discovered contamination to better determine its scale. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the assessment, which took one month to complete, could only take place in February 2021.⁷ Based on direct evidence, NPA confirmed the presence of 14.02km² of CMR contamination across nine SHAs in Tiris Zemmour region.⁸ However, NPA reported that the contamination lies in very remote and sparsely populated areas, and future residual contamination post completion is likely.⁹ Following the NPA assessment, ongoing surveys by the PNDHD continued to discover previously unknown contamination in the same region, as described below. The contamination was the result of use of MK118 and BLU-63 cluster munitions.¹⁰

In June 2021, Mauritania requested a two-year extension, through to 1 August 2024, of its Article 4 deadline, which was granted by Part Two of the Second CCM Review Conference in October 2021. In its Article 7 report covering 2021, Mauritania reported the presence of 14.41km² of CMR contamination across ten hazardous areas. Mauritania did not clearly spell out the type of hazardous areas in its Article 7 report, but in its answers to the CCM Article 4 Analysis Group in July 2021, it identified the areas as CHAs due to the presence of direct evidence of contamination in all of them. Mauritania added that

further survey was required to define the exact perimeter of the CHAs.¹¹ Having continued to survey since then, by March 2022, there was 0.56km² of newly discovered CMR-contaminated area across two CHAs in Bir Moghrein in Tiris Zemmour, bringing the total figure of contamination to 14.59km² across 11 CHAs.¹² The PNDHD did not elaborate further on the newly discovered CHAs.

Mauritania reported that all identified cluster munition-contaminated areas lie clearly within both its jurisdiction and control,¹³ bringing the duty to clear unequivocally within Mauritania's international legal obligations under the CCM. In the case of the most northerly hazardous areas located close to the border, it is possible that CMR contamination extends into the territory of Western Sahara. Such contamination extending beyond the border, if it is found to exist, is outside of Mauritania's jurisdiction and control and therefore any clearance would need to be agreed upon with the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic.

Prior to reporting discovery of new CMR contamination in 2019, Mauritania had submitted its declaration of compliance with Article 4 in 2014, having completed CMR clearance the previous year.¹⁴ Contamination resulted from use of MK118, BLU-63, and M42 cluster munitions during the 1975–78 conflict over Western Sahara. Contamination was located in the northern border areas, around the village of Bir Moghrein in the region of Tiris Zemmour.¹⁵

Mauritania reported that it previously cleared a total of more than 1.96km² of cluster munition-contaminated area in 2014, with the destruction of 1,246 submunitions.¹⁶ Clearance covered the same ten locations listed in Table 1.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Mauritania has also reported discovering anti-personnel mine contamination in 2019.¹⁷ Please see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Mauritania for more information.

4 Declaration of Compliance with Art. 4(1)(a) of the CCM, submitted by Mauritania, 3 September 2014.

5 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.

6 Ibid.

7 NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, p. 2.

8 Ibid., p. 8.

9 Ibid., pp. 2–3.

10 Ibid., p. 8.

11 Response of Mauritania to the CCM Article 4 Analysis Group, 28 July 2021, p. 1.

12 Email from Lt-Colonel Moustapha ould Cheikhna, PNDHD, 15 March 2022.

13 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, 30 June 2021, p. 2, and email from Lt-Colonel Moustapha ould Cheikhna, PNDHD, 15 March 2022.

14 Declaration of Compliance with Art. 4(1)(a) of the CCM, submitted by Mauritania, 3 September 2014.

15 Ibid.

16 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.

17 Third Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020.

Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area by location (at end 2021)¹⁸

Region	Location ID	Submunition Type	CHA ¹⁹	Area (m ²)
Tiris Zemmour	Boudheir	BLU-63	1	20,556
Tiris Zemmour	Boudheir 1	BLU-63	1	38,667
Tiris Zemmour	Boudheir 2	BLU-63	1	243,147
Tiris Zemmour	Dalet Tigert	MK118	1	345,703
Tiris Zemmour	Gneive	BLU-63	1	4,683,196
Tiris Zemmour	Gneive 1	BLU-63	1	392,998
Tiris Zemmour	Lemreir	BLU-63	1	2,587,276
Tiris Zemmour	Motlani	BLU-63	1	120,365
Tiris Zemmour	Oudeyat Lekhyame	MK118	1	5,326,856
Tiris Zemmour	Tigert	MK118	1	651,830
Totals			10	14,410,594

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The PNDHD, which was created in 2000, coordinates mine action operations in Mauritania.²⁰ Since 2007, the programme has been the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior and Decentralisation, with oversight from an interministerial steering committee.²¹ The PNDHD has its headquarters in the capital, Nouakchott, with a regional mine action centre (RMAC) located at Nouadhibou. As at April 2021, PNDHD had one operational manager and six staff responsible for quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA).²² The Mauritanian government allocated a budget of €91,000 to the PNDHD in 2020.²³

Mauritania estimates in its extension request that it requires a total two-year budget of US\$1.8 million to address the newly reported CMR, of which US\$1.55 million needs to be mobilised from external sources and US\$250,000 will be covered from Mauritania's national budget. The external funding sought includes an initial investment of US\$400,000 to procure vehicles, detectors, personal protective equipment (PPE), and "field equipment", along with US\$1.15 million of running costs.²⁴

In March 2022, two participants from the PNDHD participated in the Arab Regional Cooperation Programme (ARCP) IMSMA Core workshop organised by the Geneva International Centre of Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).²⁵

According to its Article 4 deadline extension request, the Government of Mauritania will provide staff members from its "Corps of Engineers" and support the deployment of the teams to the remote areas by providing fuel and water trucks. The PNDHD will make available its office space and facilitate the operation through liaison with national and local government and military officials.²⁶ Mauritania states in the Request that it "does not have a lot of resources, but does have the political will and the desire to contribute financially and in-kind towards the cost of the program".²⁷ Mauritania allocated a budget of €91,000 to its mine action programme in 2021.²⁸

In July 2022, MAG said that it had secured Norwegian government funding for Mauritania, subject to contract signature. Under the planned project MAG will conduct capacity and needs assessments and create a capacity development plan with the national authority, review IMSMA (quality control of existing/historical data and update/upgrade of the database for future data inputs), provide equipment and training for information management, support the review of national mine action standards, and conduct a contamination baseline assessment, non-technical survey, and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE). The planned project will benefit the whole mine action programme, but MAG planned to prioritise CCM Article 4 compliance first.²⁹

18 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, 30 June 2021, p. 5; and Mauritania CCM Article 7 report (covering 2021), Form F.

19 Mauritania's Extension Request did not clearly specify the type of hazardous areas. While NPA's assessment report (p. 8), defined them as SHAs, in its response to the questions of the CCM Analysis Group, Mauritania declared the areas to be CHAs due to direct evidence of CMR.

20 Decree No. 1960/MDAT/MDN establishing the PNDHD, 14 August 2007; and Third APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, p. 2.

21 Decree No. 001358/MDAT establishing the Steering Committee of the PNDHD, 3 September 2007; and Third APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, p. 2.

22 Mauritania Assessment Report, NPA, 12 April 2021, p. 10.

23 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form I.

24 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, 30 June 2021, pp. 7-8.

25 Email from Lubna Allam, Programme Officer, GICHD, 10 June 2022.

26 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, 30 June 2021, p. 8; and email from Lt-Colonel Moustaphaould Cheikhna, PNDHD, 15 March 2022.

27 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, 30 June 2021, p. 7.

28 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form F.

29 Email from Roxana Bobolicu, International Policy Manager, MAG, 19 July 2022.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

It is believed that the PNDHD does not have policies in relation to gender and diversity in its mine action programme, and gender and diversity are not referenced in either Mauritania's latest Article 7 report (covering 2021) or its Article 4 deadline Extension Request submitted in June 2021. Mauritania stated in its responses to the CCM Analysis Group that it considered gender and diversity to be important cross-cutting issues for its mine action programme, and that it intends to ensure that all groups are consulted when designing and implementing activities. It also stated that it will seek to achieve gender-balanced and diverse survey and BAC teams "to the extent this might be possible", while acknowledging "some limitations to achieving gender balance from the staff that would be seconded by the Corps of Engineers".³⁰

Mauritania stated that it involves civil society organisations and "target groups" in the areas of mine risk education (MRE) and ensures women's participation in both administration and operational levels. According to its statement, two women were employed in financial management and in victim assistance.³¹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The national mine action database is held at the PNDHD. As at December 2017, Mauritania had strengthened its information management capacity by providing additional training to an information management specialist and migrating to Version 6 of IMSMA software.³² Mauritania did not disaggregate cluster munition-contaminated areas into CHAs and SHAs, in line with best practice and IMAS in its Article 7 report covering 2021 or its Article 4 deadline extension request submitted in June 2021. Mauritania often provides inconsistent and inaccurate contamination and clearance figures in its reports. It submitted its latest CCM Article 7 report (covering 2021) with a delay of nearly three months.

In 2021–22, the PNDHD created an interactive platform that provides updated contamination data, including the locations of identified mined and cluster munition-contaminated areas, surface area, photos documenting the found items, in addition to a record of all technical, non-technical surveys, clearance, and victims data.³³

PLANNING AND TASKING

Mauritania's CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request envisages one year to technically survey and clear the CMR: six months to mobilise resources, including funding, staffing, equipment, and team deployment; and another six months to address any additional contamination that might be found during clearance. The latter six months will also be used to finalise reporting on the CMR clearance prior to submitting the final completion report.³⁴ Mauritania presented an action plan for its proposed extension period.³⁵ The plan, however, lacks detail.

According to its Article 7 report under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), submitted in 2020, part of the international cooperation and assistance sought by Mauritania is to support its efforts to draft a new mine action strategy, to replace the existing strategy which was expiring in 2020.³⁶ In its 2021 Article 5 mine clearance deadline Extension Request under the APMBC, Mauritania said it will prioritise survey and clearance of the newly reported contaminated areas based on humanitarian impact and taking into account gender and diverse needs of the mine-affected communities.³⁷ Mauritania makes no reference to prioritisation of CMR tasks in its 2021 CCM Article 4 extension request.

30 Response of Mauritania to the CCM Analysis Group, 28 July 2021, p. 3.

31 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request under the APMBC, additional information received 16 September 2020, response 5.

32 APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form D.

33 Statement of Mauritania, APMBC Intersessional meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

34 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, 30 June 2021, pp. 5–6.

35 *Ibid.*, p. 11.

36 APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2019), pp. 13–14.

37 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request under the APMBC, received June 2021, p. 12.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Survey and clearance operations are conducted in accordance with the Mauritanian NMAS (Les normes Mauritaniennes de l'action antimines, NMAM), which are said to reflect the IMAS. The NMAS, which include standards on non-technical survey, technical survey, mine clearance, and QC, were adopted in 2007. They were revised with the help of the GICHD in partnership with operators, especially NPA in 2010, and were translated into Arabic in 2011.³⁸

Mauritania recognises that an update to its NMAS is due and committed to "carry out an analysis of its NMAS to ensure that they are up to date and fit for purpose to address the remaining challenge".³⁹ In 2021, the PNDHD reported having revised and adapted the NMAS to the "new ways of working".⁴⁰ What is meant by this is unclear. As noted above, subject to signing of a funding contract with the Norwegian government, MAG intends to support Mauritania review its NMAS as part of its capacity development plan.⁴¹

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In accordance with a 2006 decree, all clearance activities were conducted by the Army Engineering Corps operating under the PNDHD.

Mines Advisory Group (MAG) has been working in Mauritania since November 2017, supporting the safe storage of state-held arms and ammunition depots, and providing training to local security and defence force personnel on the same topic.⁴² As previously mentioned, MAG reported in July 2022 that it had potentially secured Norwegian funding for capacity development support to PNDHD and to conduct a contamination baseline assessment, non-technical survey, and EORE.⁴³

In 2011, NPA signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Mauritania to provide support for both mine clearance and battle area clearance (BAC) in the country. NPA subsequently worked in Mauritania both as an operator and in a capacity-building role as a technical advisor for PNDHD until the end of 2015.⁴⁴ In 2021, NPA conducted a one-month assessment mission of the CMR and mined areas discovered or reported since Mauritania's respective declarations of APMBC Article 5 completion in November 2018 and CCM Article 4 declaration of compliance in September 2014.⁴⁵

Mauritania requires a clearance capacity of four teams each of ten deminers for about one year to technically survey and clear the cluster munition-contaminated areas. Each team is expected to clear 15,000m² per day. The estimated clearance time is based on the area, the expected level of CMR contamination, and NPA's past experience working in similar areas.⁴⁶ Mauritania intends to address the CMR contamination using BAC methodology, and said that its Army Engineering Corps will second the BAC searchers to the PNDHD.⁴⁷

At the end of 2021, the PNDHD had four demining teams, five cars, and one ambulance, all of which were equipped with demining equipment. The total number of personnel was not reported.⁴⁸

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2021

In 2021, Mauritania reported the release of 0.18km² of CMR-contaminated land through clearance. A total of seven submunitions were destroyed in the process.⁴⁹

SURVEY IN 2021

Mauritania conducted both technical and non-technical surveys in 2021, but these did not result in any land release in 2021, although additional CMR-contaminated area was identified, as noted above.⁵⁰

38 Email from Alioune O. Mohamed El Hacen, PNDHD, 17 April 2011; and Third APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, pp. 5 and 8.

39 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request under the APMBC, received June 2021, p. 9; and Mauritania's answers to the CCM Analysis Group, 29 July 2021, p. 2.

40 Email from Lt-Colonel Moustaphaould Cheikhna, PNDHD, 15 March 2022.

41 Email from Roxana Bobolicu, International Policy Manager, MAG, 19 July 2022.

42 MAG website, accessed on 28 May 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3NFVEKD>.

43 Email from Roxana Bobolicu, MAG, 19 July 2022.

44 Emails from Aliouneould Menane, PNDHD, 1 September 2016; and Melissa Andersson, Country Director, NPA, 12 September 2016 and 13 March 2017.

45 Interview with Hans Risser, Head Office Management Team, and Melissa Andersson, NPA, 19 April 2021.

46 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, 30 June 2021, p. 6; and NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, p. 12.

47 Mauritania's response to the CCM Article 4 Analysis Group, 29 July 2021, p. 2.

48 Email from Lt-Colonel Moustaphaould Cheikhna, PNDHD, 15 March 2022.

49 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form F; and email from Lt-Colonel Moustaphaould Cheikhna, PNDHD, 15 March 2022.

50 Email from Lt-Colonel Moustaphaould Cheikhna, PNDHD, 15 March 2022.

CLEARANCE IN 2021

The PNDHD cleared 0.18km² of cluster munition-contaminated area in the province of Tiris Zemmour in 2021 (see Table 2). A total of seven submunitions were destroyed in the process.⁵¹ Prior to 2021, there had been no clearance since the original declaration of completion of Article 4 in 2014.

Table 2: CMR clearance in 2021⁵²

Province	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)
Tiris Zemmour	PNDHD	177,574
Total		177,574

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 4 of the CCM (and on the basis of the extension granted by States Parties in 2021), Mauritania is required to destroy all CMR in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than its extended deadline of 1 August 2024.

Mauritania's 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request plans for one year to technically survey and clear the cluster munitions and one year to mobilise resources and finalise reporting.⁵³ It plans to form a country coalition involving the government of Mauritania, a willing donor government, and a willing international operator to assist its clearance operation.⁵⁴ In this regard, Mauritania intends to engage with States Parties who have previously provided donations to its demining programme, including Germany, Japan, and Norway.⁵⁵

Mauritania participated in an individualised approach initiative meeting with the support of the Committee on

the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance (ISU) of the APMBBC on 17 June 2021. Mauritania also presented its request for extension that included both the newly discovered mined and CMR contaminated areas to the APMBBC intersessional meetings on 22–24 June 2021, and called for support in the CCM Intersessional Meetings in May 2022.

In a statement to the APMBBC intersessional meetings in June 2022, Mauritania stated that it had conducted all the necessary "diagnosis", identified its contamination, and availed its resources and expertise. Mauritania appealed to the States Parties to provide funding that is "shared in a logical manner", to enable Mauritania to fulfil its obligations.⁵⁶

As previously mentioned, in July 2022 MAG reported that it had secured funding from Norway for capacity development support to the PNDHD and to conduct a contamination baseline assessment, non-technical survey, and EORE.⁵⁷

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

As noted above, as the newly discovered CMR contamination is located in very remote and sparsely populated areas, it is likely that Mauritania will discover additional contamination in the course of the one-year clearance period and beyond. According to Mauritania's 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, "Future residual risk will be dealt with by the Corps of Engineers and the PNDHD will continue to build the capacity of this national body in order to be able to address any further contamination that may surface after completion of these currently identified cluster munition tasks. Mauritania will continue to strengthen and maintain a capacity in-country that is equipped to deal with residual risk".⁵⁸

Since the closure of NPA's programme in 2015, some additional contaminated areas were identified, surveyed, and cleared in Mauritania by PNDHD with UNDP support in 2017.⁵⁹ The area and type of contamination addressed, however, are unclear. Previously, PNDHD had reported that one of the main aims of Mauritania's work plan for 2017–20 was to establish a strategy for residual contamination.⁶⁰ The PNDHD subsequently confirmed its commitment to building national capacity to address any residual contamination.⁶¹

51 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form F; and email from Lt-Colonel Moustaphaould Cheikhna, PNDHD, 15 March 2022.

52 Ibid.

53 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, 30 June 2021, pp. 5–6.

54 Ibid., p. 7.

55 Response of Mauritania to the CCM Article 4 Analysis Group, 29 July 2021, p. 2.

56 Statement of Mauritania, APMBBC Intersessional meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

57 Email from Roxana Bobolicu, MAG, 19 July 2022.

58 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, 30 June 2021, p. 8.

59 NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, p. 4.

60 Email from Aliouneould Menane, PNDHD, 23 July 2018.

61 Email from Lt-Colonel Moustaphaould Cheikhna, PNDHD, 15 March 2022.