

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 FEBRUARY 2025 UNCLEAR WHETHER ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION:

LIGHT,
BUT PRECISE EXTENT UNCLEAR

AP MINE CLEARANCE IN 2018

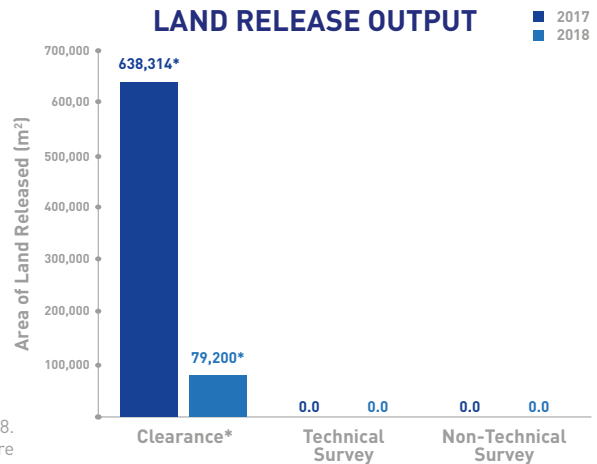
79,200m²*

AP MINES DESTROYED IN 2018

0m²

*Area cleared included in Oman's Article 7 report for 2018. Number of AP mines destroyed not reported and therefore assumed to be zero.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per Maputo +15 Political Declaration aspiration): **MEDIUM**

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2018, Oman informed states parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) that it was considering setting up a mine action centre. Oman is conducting "re-clearance" of certain suspected mined areas and plans to complete release of these areas ahead of its Article 5 deadline in 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Oman should proceed with setting up a mine action centre and programme to oversee and ensure release of all suspected mined areas as soon as possible and no later than its Article 5 deadline in 2025.
- Oman should ensure it conducts land release operations according to international standards and seek to apply non-technical and technical survey, to confirm contamination prior to clearance, whenever possible.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	7	Oman does not have any confirmed mined areas, but does have suspected mined areas resulting from contamination during the 1960s and 70s. 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 suspected mined areas to make sure they are free from anti-personnel mine contamination.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP & PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	7	The Army is the only institution involved in mine action.
GENDER (10% of overall score)	2	Oman's statements on mine action make no reference to the issue of gender.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & REPORTING (10% of overall score)	5	Oman has submitted an Article 7 transparency report for 2018, detailing clearance and its plans for land release.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	6	In its Article 7 transparency report for 2018, 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	It is unknown if Oman has any system in place for land release.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	5	Oman reported clearance of a small amount of mined area between July and December 2018. Oman did not include information on the number of anti-personnel mines discovered during clearance in 2018, which Mine Action Review has therefore assumed to be zero.
Average Score	5.0	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- No national mine action authority or mine action centre

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Royal Army of Oman

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- None

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 Dhofar Region.¹ In a statement to the APMBC Intersessional meeting in Geneva in June 2018, and in its Article 7 report for 2018, Oman repeated there were no confirmed mined areas and no record of any mine casualties in the last 20 years.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. Mines were planted randomly by militants in small quantities and there are no maps or registers detailing contamination. Friendly forces reportedly

cleared their own contaminated area directly after the end of actions in 1976 and the Armed Sultan's Engineering Unit Forces started clearance of the areas suspected to have been mined by the militants. However, Oman has reported that it is impossible to be sure that the areas have been fully cleared, and therefore re-clearance of certain suspected mined areas is required to ensure no anti-personnel mines remain.³ 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.⁴

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.⁵

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Oman has not had a functioning mine action programme. Clearance is being performed by its army engineers.⁶

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.⁷

GENDER

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 joining the APMBC in 2015, Oman submitted annual Article 7 reports.

PLANNING AND TASKING

In its most recent Article 7 report, submitted in August 2019, Oman provided a workplan for the release of all remaining suspected mined area before its Article 5 deadline in 2025.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Standards applied by the army are not known. According to its latest Article 7 transparency report, mined cleared have historically been cleared in accordance with the resources available.⁸

OPERATORS

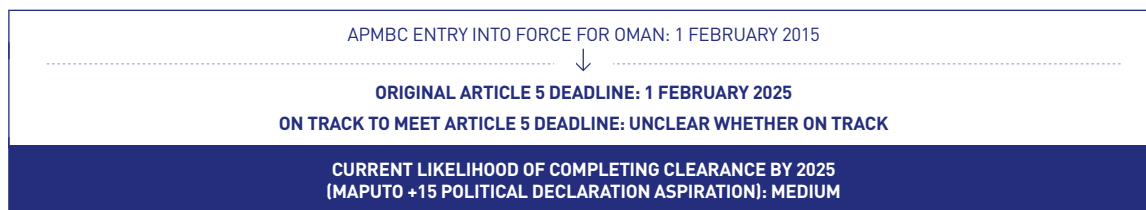
Oman's army engineers are responsible for mine/ERW clearance.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2018

Between July and December 2018, Oman cleared 79,200m² of suspected mined area. Oman did not report the number of anti-personnel mines discovered during clearance, which Mine Action Review has therefore assumed to be zero. This compares to clearance of 638,314m² between April 2017 and January 2018, during which no anti-personnel mines were discovered or destroyed.¹

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 most recent Article 7 report, Oman presented a plan to complete clearance of remaining suspected mined areas by its Article 5 deadline.¹⁰

Oman has cited the challenges it faces in locating and clearing mines in large and remote areas of desert. Conditions were further complicated in 2018 by severe weather, including Cyclone Mekunu in May 2018 and Tropical Storm Luban in October 2018, which caused flooding likely to have compounded the shifting of mines.¹¹

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 Report, (for 2018).

3 Article 7 Reports submitted in 2015 and 2019.

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

5 "Humanitarian Demining", Journal of Mine Action, 2001, p. 49.

6 Article 7 Report (for 2018).

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

8 Article 7 Report (for 2018).

9 Article 7 Report (for 2018).

10 Ibid.

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