ALGERIA

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 APRIL 2017

(Deadline expired)
Algeria declared fulfilment of Article 5 on 10 February 2017. The need for a new Article 5 deadline was unclear as at August 2026.

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: UNKNOWN

(Algeria reported that only residual contamination remained at the end of 2025, but the status and extent of contamination along its south-western border with Morocco remains unclear).

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km²)	Release in 2024 (km²)
Clearance	0.6	0.3
Technical Survey	0	Not reported
Non-Technical Survey	0	Not reported

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	1,688 (including 749 AP mines destroyed during spot tasks)	600

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATOR IN 2025:

- Algerian Army engineering units

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2025, Algerian Army engineering units cleared 0.6km² across three mined areas along Algeria's south-western border with Morocco, destroying 939 anti-personnel (AP) mines and 169 anti-vehicle (AV) mines. Algeria also reported destroying a further 749 AP mines during spot explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) tasks in the eastern and western provinces of the country.

Since declaring fulfilment of its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 obligations in February 2017, Algeria has cleared more than 31km² and destroyed more than 33,900 AP mines. Algeria considers this as work to address residual contamination. Mine Action Review does not agree with that assessment. Given the very significant extent of contamination, this was not residual in nature (see Tables 1 and 2). Moreover, two of the areas cleared in 2025—Foum Alguim and Tafagount—had previously been reported as completed in 2022 and 2021, respectively. Algeria also reported that Khang Ben Zerhmine, one of the two areas previously identified as remaining, was completed in 2025, although no clearance output was provided. Under the approach agreed by States Parties in 2012, if a State Party discovers a mined area after the expiry of its Article 5 deadline and is unable to complete clearance before the next Meeting of States Parties, it should submit a request for an extended Article 5 deadline.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Algeria should clarify the extent of any remaining AP mine contamination along its south-western border with Morocco, including the number, location, size, and status of any remaining mined areas.**

- **If AP mined areas remain and cannot be cleared before the next Meeting of States Parties, Algeria should submit a request for a new Article 5 deadline, in accordance with the approach agreed by States Parties in 2012.**
- **Algeria should provide comprehensive information in its Article 7 reporting on the extent of remaining AP mined areas and on annual land release outputs.**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- The Interministerial Committee on the Implementation of the APMBC

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Algerian People's National Army (ANP) engineering units

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- None

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The extent of remaining AP mine contamination in Algeria is unknown. Algeria declared completion of its Article 5 obligations on 10 February 2017 and has since considered mines subsequently discovered to constitute residual contamination. It has continued to destroy such mines and report on this contamination in its annual Article 7 reports.

Since 2014, Algeria has identified significant AP (and AV) mine contamination along its south-western border with Morocco, mainly north of Tindouf. The threat came into focus in October 2014, when an AV mine detonated at Foum Tangarfa, 425 metres from the border, leading to the discovery of a previously unknown minefield. Subsequent search operations identified a total of 26 minefields, all discovered by 2020 (see Table 1).[1] Algeria has since undertaken clearance and survey in the area (*"fouille et recherche"*),[2] but has not requested a new Article 5 deadline.

The minefields reportedly date from 1978,[3] during a period of heightened tensions between Algeria and Morocco linked to the Western Sahara conflict. Their location suggests that they may have formed part of defensive measures to protect access to Tindouf province. However, the circumstances in which they were laid remain unclear, including whether they formed part of a single defensive line or constituted separate areas of contamination.

Table 1: Mined areas discovered in 2014–2020 along the south-western border with Morocco[4]

Province	Area	No. of mined areas	Clearance periods stated in Article 7 reports	Status reported to Mine Action Review in 2025–26
Béchar	Meksem El Dahma	1	2016–19	
Tindouf	El Bettina	4	2016–22	
Tindouf	El M'Hareth	2	2017–21	
Tindouf	Foum Tengarfa	4	2014–19	
Tindouf	Foum Alguim**	2	2016–22	Completed in 2025
Tindouf	Hassi Boukhchiba	3	2020–23	
Tindouf	Hassi Lehouira	4	2018	
Tindouf	Khang Ben Zerhmine*	N/R	2019 to date	Reported completed in 2025; no clearance output provided
Tindouf	Oued Essmira*	N/R	2016 to date	Completed in 2025
Tindouf	Oum Lâachar	4	2016–21	
Tindouf	Si Brahim Ben Rezzoug	1	2017	
Tindouf	Tafagount**	1	2018–21	Completed in 2025
Total		**26**		

* The Article 7 report covering 2021 added Khang Ben Zerhmine and Oued Essmira areas. ** The Article 7 report covering 2024 had recorded clearance at Foum Alguim as ending in 2022 and at Tafagount in 2021. N/R = Not reported.

1 Article 7 Reports (covering 2020), pp. 36 and 37; and covering 2024, Table 4, p. 10.
2 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 5.
3 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C.
4 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), pp. 36 and 37; (covering 2021), p. 15; and covering 2024, Table 4, p. 10.

Since the discovery of the Hassi Boukhchiba minefield in 2020, no further mined areas have been identified. Algeria informed Mine Action Review that clearance of the two remaining AP mined areas, Khang Ben Zerhmine and Oued Essmira, was completed in 2025. However, clearance outputs were provided only for Oued Essmira and not for Khang Ben Zerhmine. Instead, Algeria reported conducting clearance in Foum Alguim and Tafagount,[5] two areas that had previously been reported as completed.[6]

Between 2014 and 2024, Algeria destroyed 27,479 AP mines and 5,646 AV mines in these south-western border areas. The AP mines were of Belgian (M-35), German (SCHU-42), Italian (VS-50), Portuguese (M966), and US (M2A3) manufacture and were reportedly distinct from colonial-era contamination.[7] In 2025, Algeria reported destroying a further 939 AP mines during clearance of Oued Essmira, Foum Alguim, and Tafagount, bringing the total number of AP mines destroyed in these border areas since 2014 to 28,418 (see Table 2).

Algeria also continues to encounter isolated AP mines dating from the colonial period, reportedly displaced by natural phenomena from areas outside the former Morice and Challe defensive lines. Between December 2016 and the end of 2024, 4,790 such mines were discovered and destroyed.[8] Separately, in 2025, Algeria reported destroying 749 AP mines during 140 spot EOD tasks in the eastern and western provinces of the country.[9]

More than 10 million mines are estimated to have been laid by France during the National Liberation War (1954–62), primarily along the Morice and Challe defensive lines along the Tunisian border in the east and the Moroccan border in the west, as well as around military positions and combat routes.[10] Between 1963 and 1988, Algeria cleared some 500km^2 and destroyed more than 7.8 million AP mines.[11] Following ratification of the APMBC in 2002, Algeria launched another major demining programme in 2004, clearing 124km^2 and destroying 850,000 mines before reporting the completion of clearance of all known AP mine contamination in December 2016.[12]

Table 2: AP mines destroyed along Algeria's south-western border with Morocco[13]

Year	AP mines destroyed
2014	306
2015	0
2016	6,905
2017	794
2018	1,922
2019	5,568
2020	8,740
2021	1,177
2022	1,010
2023	591
2024	466
2025	939
Total	**28,418**

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Algeria is massively contaminated by explosive remnants of war (ERW) left from the colonial era.[14] It found and destroyed 49 items of explosive ordnance in 2025, bringing the total discovered since December 2016 to 32,747.[15]

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Interministerial Committee for the Implementation of the APMBC, set up by presidential decree in May 2003, is the national focal point for all mine action. Chaired by the Ministry of National Defence, the committee was formally inaugurated by the head of the government on 5 September 2004. It brings together representatives from key government bodies directly involved in mine-related issues, including the Ministries of National Defence, Health, and Veterans (Moudjahidine), as well as those responsible for the Interior, Foreign Affairs, Communication, and National Solidarity.[16] The Committee meets regularly to exchange information related to the APMBC.[17]

5 Email from Serine Zidouri, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN in Geneva, 7 August 2026.
6 The Article 7 report covering 2024 recorded clearance at Foum Alguim as having ended in 2022 and at Tafagount in 2021.
7 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), pp. 19 and 21; Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 8–10; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C.
8 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 7.
9 Email from Serine Zidouri, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN in Geneva, 7 August 2026.
10 2011 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5 and 8.
11 Algeria Declaration of Fulfilment of APMBC Article 5, 10 February 2017, p. 2.
12 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 11.
13 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Table 2, p. 8; and email from Serine Zidouri, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN in Geneva, 7 August 2026.
14 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 5.
15 Ibid., p. 7; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F.
16 2011 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 14.
17 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 21.

Since its independence, Algeria has made its mine action programme a national priority. It has taken full responsibility for mine clearance and victim assistance. Algeria has not received any financial or other forms of assistance in carrying out its demining programme, which has been fully funded by the State's own resources. The State also funds social and economic support for victims through annual budget allocations distributed among the relevant ministries.[18]

As part of its commitment to international cooperation and technical assistance, Algeria conducted training in 2023 for several African and Middle Eastern nations involved in mine action, including Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Palestine, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, and Tunisia. Algerian experts also participated in regional meetings and exercises to share experience and best practices in demining.[19] More recently, Algeria reported providing training in demining to Tunisia. The training took place at the Engineering Application School in the fifth Military Region from 29 March to 12 May 2026.[20]

Algeria has held various positions within the APMBC committees over the years. It joined the Committee on Article 5 Implementation at the end of the Fifth Review Conference in November 2024, for a two-year term. In September 2024, Algeria delivered a joint statement at the Human Rights Council on behalf of a group of States Parties to the APMBC – all members of the Convention's Coordination Committee. The statement advocated for the universalisation of the APMBC and underscored the negative impact of AP mines on the enjoyment of fundamental human rights. In 2025, Algeria, on behalf of the same group, presented a draft resolution on the human rights implications of AP mines, which was adopted without a vote by the Human Rights Council on 4 April 2025.[21]

On 30–31 May 2023, Algeria hosted an African international seminar on AP mine action in Algiers under the theme "For a Safe and Mine-Free Africa: Algeria's Pioneering Experience". Held with the participation of the APMBC Implementation Support Unit (ISU), the event marked the 60th anniversary of Algeria's independence. It brought together more than 50 representatives from African and Arab States Parties, along with key mine action stakeholders, international organisations, civil society actors, and mine victims and survivors.[22]

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Algeria reported its commitment to addressing the diverse needs and perspectives of its population without discrimination based on gender or age. In 2024, women represented two thirds of the Interministerial Committee responsible for implementing the APMBC, while almost one third of civil society associations active in this field were led by women. Women have also regularly participated in Algeria's delegations to APMBC meetings since 2020, including as heads of delegation.[23] The Article 7 report covering 2025 reaffirmed that gender considerations are addressed through women's representation within the national authority and their active participation in relevant events.[24] However, no women participated in demining in 2025.[25]

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Environmental considerations are not systematically addressed in Algeria's official mine action reporting. Algeria's national demining programme, concluded in 2016, and its 2011 deadline extension request and subsequent Article 7 reports make little reference to national environmental legislation or mine action policies and standards on environmental protection. However, Algeria has reported reforestation on released land under the initiative "one mine destroyed = one tree planted".[26]

Environmental and climatic conditions have affected demining operations. Contamination has occurred in difficult terrain, including mountainous areas and internationally protected wetlands, with soil conditions ranging from sand to rock. Mines have sometimes been found embedded in rock or displaced from their original positions, requiring minefield boundaries to be extended as a precaution. Harsh weather conditions have also slowed clearance.[27]

Mine clearance has also generated environmental and developmental benefits. Operations have taken place in ecologically important areas, including El Kala National Park and the oases of Moghrar and Tiout, contributing to habitat restoration and the protection of local wildlife such as the Barbary deer and the Houbara bustard. Clearance has also facilitated infrastructure development, including railway construction in south-western Algeria.[28]

18 Ibid., p. 20.

19 Ibid., p. 21.

20 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form J; and email from Serine Zidouri, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN in Geneva, 7 August 2026.

21 Statement of Algeria on Universalization, APMBC Fifth Review Conference, Siem Reap, 25–29 November 2024; and Resolution on "The impact of AP mines on the full enjoyment of all human rights", adopted by the Human Rights Council on 4 April 2025, http://bit.ly/4gdcfoy.

22 Ibid.; and Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 21.

23 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 20.

24 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form H.

25 Email from Serine Zidouri, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN in Geneva, 7 August 2026.

26 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 27.

27 2011 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 18.

28 Ibid., p. 21.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The Interministerial Committee maintains a database that is regularly updated by its member ministries, each contributing information within their respective areas of expertise.[29] However, it does not appear to be an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database.

Algeria regularly participates in APMBC Meetings of States Parties, Intersessional Meetings, and UN National Mine Action Directors Meetings (UN-NDM). It has consistently submitted its annual Article 7 transparency reports, including the report covering 2025. However, the 2025 report used a simplified format and provided significantly less detail than in previous years.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Algeria informed Mine Action Review that clearance of the two remaining AP mined areas, Khang Ben Zerhmine and Oued Essmira, was completed in 2025. However, 2025 clearance outputs were provided only for Oued Essmira and not for Khang Ben Zerhmine. Instead, Algeria reported conducting clearance in Foum Alguim and Tafagount in 2025,[30] two areas previously reported as completed.[31]

It therefore remains unclear whether any mined areas remain to be addressed along Algeria's south-western border with Morocco. Algeria considers these activities to address residual contamination and does not report the extent of remaining contamination or provide a work plan with annual clearance projections. The basis on which clearance and reconnaissance activities along the south-western border are planned and tasked is therefore unknown.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Operations were reported to be conducted in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), but official reporting makes no reference to national mine action standards (NMAS), except in relation to victim assistance.[32] In its 2011 Article 5 deadline extension request, Algeria stated that its clearance personnel, while experienced in conventional military demining, would progressively align operations with United Nations standards.[33]

Algeria has relied exclusively on manual demining, considering it more reliable despite its slower pace and lower productivity. This approach reflected the reported limitations of mechanical clearance, including mines remaining in previously cleared areas, as well as difficult operating conditions in mountainous areas, wetlands, and terrain ranging from sand to rock.[34]

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The Algerian People's National Army (ANP) engineering units conduct all demining in Algeria manually. In 2025, Algeria reported deploying three demining detachments comprising a total of 50 personnel to clear contamination along its south-western border with Morocco.[35]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

In 2025, Algeria cleared 601,780m^2 across three contaminated areas in northern Tindouf province, destroying 939 AP mines and 169 AV mines. Algeria also reported destroying 749 AP mines during 140 EOD spot tasks in the eastern and western provinces of the country.[36] Overall, 1,688 AP mines were destroyed in 2025, up from 600 in 2024 and 1,168 in 2023.[37]

However, Algeria's Article 7 report covering 2025 recorded 276 AP mines destroyed along the former Challe and Morice Lines and 282 along the south-western border with Morocco, giving a total of 558 AP mines.[38] This discrepancy had not been clarified as at mid-October 2026.

29 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 15.
30 Email from Serine Zidouri, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN in Geneva, 7 August 2026.
31 The Article 7 report covering 2024 recorded clearance at Foum Alguim as having ended in 2022 and at Tafagount in 2021.
32 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 18.
33 2011 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10.
34 Ibid., p. 18.
35 Email from Serine Zidouri, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN in Geneva, 7 August 2026.
36 Ibid.
37 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 11; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 7 and 8.
38 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 7.

Table 3: Summary of land release outputs in 2025

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (m^2)	Comments
Clearance	601,780	Three AP and AV mined areas along Algeria's south-western border with Morocco.
Technical survey	0	
Non-technical survey	0	
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2025**	
AP mines destroyed	1,688	939 AP mines found along the south-west border with Morocco and 749 AP mines during spot tasks in the east and west of the country.

CLEARANCE IN 2025

In 2025, ANP engineering units cleared 601,780m^2 across three contaminated areas along Algeria's south-western border with Morocco, destroying 939 AP mines and 169 AV mines (see Table 4). This is double the output reported for 2024, when Algeria reported clearing 0.3km^2 (30.16 hectares).[39]

Table 4: Mine clearance in 2025 in Algeria[40]

Province	Area	Operator	Area cleared (m^2)	AP mines destroyed during clearance	AV mines destroyed during clearance
Tindouf	Foum Alguim	ANP	533,550	503	100
Tindouf	Tafagount	ANP	10,330	154	28
Tindouf	Oued Essmira	ANP	57,900	282	41
Totals			**601,780**	**939**	**169**

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR ALGERIA: 1 APRIL 2002

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 APRIL 2012

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FIRST EXTENDED DEADLINE (5-YEAR EXTENSION): 1 APRIL 2017

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DECLARATION OF COMPLETION: 10 FEBRUARY 2017

NEW ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE MAY BE NEEDED

Under Article 5 of the APMBC and in accordance with the five-year extension granted by States Parties at the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Algeria was required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 April 2017. Algeria completed its national demining programme in December 2016, several months ahead of its extended Article 5 deadline, and submitted a Declaration of Fulfilment of Article 5 on 10 February 2017.[41]

Since declaring completion, Algeria has continued to address AP mine contamination, which it considers residual, and has diligently reported on its identification, location, and clearance through its Article 7 reports. Notwithstanding the vast extent of AP mine contamination Algeria addressed prior to declaring completion of its Article 5 obligations in 2017, the scale and sustained nature of clearance across 26 minefields identified between 2014 and 2020 along its south-western border with Morocco go considerably beyond what would be residual contamination, and Algeria should have requested a new Article 5 deadline.

39 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 12.

40 Email from Serine Zidouri, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN in Geneva, 7 August 2026.

41 Algeria Declaration of Fulfilment of Article 5, 10 February 2017.

Between 1 December 2016, when Algeria reported completing its national clearance programme, and the end of 2025, Algeria reported clearing more than 31km^2 of mined areas and destroying 33,957 AP mines.[42] This included thousands of isolated mines from the colonial era, as well as 28,418 AP mines destroyed since 2014 in minefields along the south-western border with Morocco, mainly in Tindouf province.[43]

Algeria informed Mine Action Review that work at its two remaining mined areas was completed in 2025. However, clearance outputs were provided only for Oued Essmira and not for Khang Ben Zerhmine. Instead, Algeria reported conducting clearance in Foum Alguim and Tafagount,[44] two areas previously reported as completed.[45] It is therefore unclear whether any mined areas remain to be addressed along Algeria's south-western border with Morocco.

Under the approach agreed by States Parties in 2012, if a State Party discovers, after its Article 5 deadline has expired, a mined area under its jurisdiction or control that is known or suspected to contain AP mines, it must immediately inform all States Parties and destroy the mines as soon as possible. If it is unable to complete clearance before the next Meeting of States Parties or Review Conference, whichever occurs first, it should submit a request for an extended deadline.[46] If Algeria continues to identify or clear mined areas along its south-western border with Morocco and cannot complete clearance before the next Meeting of States Parties, it should request a new Article 5 deadline.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Algeria has developed and implemented action plans to ensure a sustainable national capacity is in place for addressing areas suspected of containing AP mines, in accordance with its obligations under the APMBC. The national capacity responsible for managing residual contamination consists of specialised army units, as well as territorial security services. These entities are equipped to respond promptly to any suspected presence of mines.[47]

42 The cumulative area cleared was 30.45km^2 as at the end of 2024, plus 0.60km^2 in 2025, totalling 31.05km^2. The cumulative number of AP mines destroyed was 32,269 as at the end of 2024, plus 939 during clearance and 749 during spot EOD tasks in 2025, bringing the total to 33,957 AP mines destroyed since completion.

43 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 7 and 8; and email from Serine Zidouri, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN in Geneva, 7 August 2026.

44 Email from Serine Zidouri, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN in Geneva, 7 August 2026.

45 The Article 7 report covering 2024 recorded clearance at Foum Alguim as having ended in 2022 and at Tafagount in 2021.

46 "Proposed rational response to States Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed", Twelfth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012; and Final Report of the APMBC Twelfth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 21 January 2013, p. 10.

47 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 6.