

KEY DATA

CCM ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 AUGUST 2028

Not on track to meet deadline

CMR CONTAMINATION: 14.37km²

Medium
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2025 (m ²)	Release in 2024 (m ²)
Clearance	807,502	102,703
Technical Survey	0	1,022,774
Non-Technical Survey	0	0
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
Submunitions destroyed	52	29

MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATOR IN 2025

- National Humanitarian Demining Programme for Development (PNDHD)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

At the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in September 2025, Mauritania was granted a third Article 4 deadline extension, until August 2028, to address cluster munition remnants (CMR) in nine hazardous areas located in the northern Tiris Zemmour region, near Bir Moghreïn. The area is a remote desert region bordering Western Sahara that is regularly crossed by nomadic populations and gold miners. In 2025, the National Humanitarian Demining Programme for Development (PNDHD) released one area, Dhbeiyatt, by clearing 807,502m² and destroying 52 BLU-63 submunitions. Since resuming operations in 2021, the PNDHD has released around 2.5km² of CMR-contaminated area through technical survey and clearance, using only national funding. Without international financial support, however, clearance is likely to continue at its current pace, which will delay completion well beyond the extended deadline.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Mauritania should strengthen its resource mobilisation strategy to secure international funding and complete clearance by its third extended Article 4 deadline. Establishing a country coalition of CCM States Parties and donors could help support these resource mobilisation efforts.
- The PNDHD should elaborate a gender and diversity policy for its mine action programme as per the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
- Mauritania should officially approve its national standard on environmental protection.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	7	7	In 2025, no new cluster munition-contaminated areas were identified, and clearance slightly decreased the remaining contaminated area from 15.17km ² to 14.37km ² . All contaminated areas of Tiris Zemmour are classified as confirmed hazardous areas, including Dhbeiyatt-1, identified in 2023 and surveyed early 2026.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	6	6	The PNDHD remained the only entity conducting CMR clearance in Mauritania. National funding for the programme remained stable at the equivalent of US\$180,000, consistent with the previous year and in line with the budget outlined in Mauritania's 2025 deadline extension request. This modest allocation supported the functioning of the PNDHD and the clearance of both CMR in Tiris Zemmour and mines in Dakhlet Nouadhibou.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	4	Mauritania does not have a specific mine action policy on gender and diversity, and the few women involved in the sector work primarily in community liaison, risk education, and support functions.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	6	5	In 2025, Mauritania reviewed the draft national standard on environmental protection developed in 2024, which was awaiting formal approval at the time of writing.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	6	5	In 2025, the PNDHD, with support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Mines Advisory Group (MAG), started migrating data to the new version of the Information Management System for Mine Action, IMSMA Core.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	4	4	Mauritania does not have a dedicated CMR strategic plan, but it included annual projections for addressing CMR in its successive Article 4 deadline extension requests, including in 2025. In the absence of international support, the PNDHD relies solely on national funding and deploys its battle area clearance (BAC) teams to address only one hazardous area per year.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	7	7	Mauritania's 2025 extension request attached its standards on technical survey (TS) and BAC, both dated March 2022. Several standards, including on TS and both mine and battle area clearance, were under review in 2025 and shared with MAG. The national authority has approved the standards on clearance, marking, quality management, and accreditation of mine action organisations, while the remaining revised standards were still awaiting formal approval.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	7	6	In 2025, Mauritania cleared the Dhbeiyatt area, identified in 2023 and reduced through survey in 2024. The 0.8km ² cleared in 2025 was an increase on the 0.1km ² cleared in 2024. At the 13MSP, Mauritania was granted a third Article 4 deadline extension until 1 August 2028, but stated that without international support it may not complete CMR clearance within the next ten years.
Average Score	6.1	5.7	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

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

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- PNDHD battle area clearance teams
- Army Engineer Corps

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None for CMR clearance

OTHER ACTORS

- HAMAP-Humanitaire (office closed in January 2025)
- Mines Advisory Group (office closed in December 2025)
- Geneva International Centre of Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

The extent of CMR contamination in Mauritania was estimated at 14.37km² at the end of 2025, across nine confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) in the northern region of Tiris Zemmour near the border with Western Sahara (see Table 1 for details). This represents a reduction from the 15.17km² across 10 hazardous areas reported a year earlier. The PNDHD did not identify or record any new CMR-contaminated areas under its jurisdiction or control during 2025.¹

Mauritania prematurely declared fulfilment of its Article 4 obligations at the Fifth Meeting of States Parties in September 2014, before the subsequent discovery of significant additional contaminated areas. Mauritania's current baseline of CMR contamination comes from new discoveries and entries recorded by the PNDHD in 2019. These followed several accidents in 2018 and a redefinition by the Mauritanian government of the areas under its jurisdiction or control, particularly in relation to mine contamination in the Nouadhibou peninsula.²

The findings were later confirmed by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) during a one-month assessment conducted between 8 February and 6 March 2021 at the request of the PNDHD. The assessment aimed at producing a more accurate estimate of newly identified contamination. Based on direct evidence, NPA confirmed the presence of 14km² of CMR contamination across nine CHAs in Tiris Zemmour region.

NPA also noted that the contamination lies in very remote and sparsely populated desert areas, and that future residual contamination post completion was likely.³

In 2023, Mauritania reported the discovery of two additional cluster munition-contaminated areas, Dhbeiyatt and Dhbeiyatt-1, adding 2.28km² of suspected contamination.⁴ Dhbeiyatt was subsequently surveyed and cleared in 2024–25.⁵ Dhbeiyatt-1 was surveyed in early 2026, and classified as a CHA. The PNDHD identified BLU-63 submunitions in the area.⁶

The nine remaining hazardous areas are transit zones for nomadic populations and sites of livestock activity and artisanal gold mining. Since 2021, the national database has recorded seven casualties from CMR incidents, including two gold miners injured in separate incidents in April and December 2024.⁷ No incidents involving CMR were reported in 2025.⁸ *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* has recorded a total of 654 mine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) casualties in Mauritania since 1999, of which 12 were casualties in 2024.⁹

For more information on casualties, please see the country profile on Mauritania on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.¹⁰

Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area by location (at December 2025)¹¹

Region	Location ID	Submunition Type	CHAs	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	Dhbeiyatt 1*	BLU-63	1	693,670
Tiris Zemmour	Guneive	BLU-63	1	4,683,196
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 1	MK118	1	651,830
Totals			9	14,365,563

* This area was discovered in 2023 and surveyed by the PNDHD in early 2026. As a result, it has been classified as a CHA in Mauritania's Article 7 report covering 2025.

Mauritania's CMR contamination is in former battle zones in Bir Moghrein Department, Tiris Zemmour Region. It resulted from the use of MK118, BLU-63, and M42 cluster munitions during the 1975–78 conflict between Morocco, Mauritania, and the Polisario Front over Western Sahara.¹² Mauritania

has claimed that all recorded cluster munition-contaminated areas lie within its jurisdiction and control, bringing the duty to clear unequivocally within Mauritania's international legal obligations under the CCM.¹³

1 CCM Article 7 Reports (covering 2024 and 2025), Form F; and email from Col. Baham, National Coordinator, PNDHD, 17 April 2026.

2 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F; APMB Article 7 Report (covering 2019), pp. 4–8; and NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, p. 2.

3 NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, p. 8.

4 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form F.

5 Article 7 Reports (covering 2024, covering 2025), Form F.

6 Email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 12 June 2026.

7 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 20; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form H.

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

9 *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor*, "Mauritania", accessed 26 May 2026, <https://bit.ly/4w0kATi>.

10 <https://the-monitor.org>.

11 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F; and emails from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April and 12 June 2026.

12 Mauritania Declaration of Compliance with Article 4(1)(a) of the CCM, submitted on 3 September 2014; and Article 7 Report (covering 2013), Form F.

13 2023 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 2.

In its 2021 assessment report, NPA indicated that hazardous areas (which contain both mines and CMR) within and around Mauritania could be classified in four categories, based on whether they are located within or outside the State's jurisdiction and control. While the CMR-contaminated areas

around Bir Moghreïn are classified as hazardous areas within Mauritanian jurisdiction and control, it is possible that additional contamination extends into the territory of Western Sahara. Clearance of such contamination would need to be agreed upon with the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic.¹⁴

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

During the Western Sahara conflict, northern Mauritania was contaminated by mines laid in an unplanned manner and without any documented records of their emplacement. In 2018, Mauritania prematurely declared compliance with Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). However, in 2020, it reported newly discovered mined areas, as well as areas redefined as falling under its jurisdiction or control.¹⁵ Subsequent surveys have identified additional areas of mixed contamination, including anti-personnel (AP) and anti-vehicle (AV) mines, as well as explosive remnants of war (ERW).¹⁶ For more detailed information, see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* reports on Mauritania.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The PNDHD is responsible for coordinating mine action operations in Mauritania.¹⁷ Since 2007, the PNDHD has been under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior and Decentralisation, with oversight from an interministerial steering committee composed of representatives from key ministries (defence, foreign affairs, and finance), civil society organisations, and international observers (the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP).¹⁸ Following Mauritania's ratification of the CCM in 2012, the mandate of the PNDHD was expanded to include cluster munition contamination in addition to landmines.¹⁹

The PNDHD is headquartered in the capital, Nouakchott, with a regional mine action centre in Nouadhibou. The PNDHD is organised in five departments: operations (including information management and quality control); small arms and light weapons; risk education (RE) and victim assistance (VA); the secretariat; and administration and finance.²⁰ In 2025, the programme employed 26 personnel, including 10 women.²¹ Staff include seconded military personnel, civilian specialists in mine clearance and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), and former military demining experts. Operational activities are supported by the armed forces and carried out in close coordination with the Military Engineering Department.²² In 2025, the PNDHD oversaw eight demining teams, including four battle area clearance (BAC) teams deployed in Tiris Zemmour to address CMR.²³

Mauritania has for several years planned to establish a second regional centre in Zouerate, the capital of Tiris Zemmour, which is described as "essential" for CMR clearance in the area. The 2025 extension request included a budget for its establishment, estimated at €350,000 (of which 36% would be nationally funded), along with a list of the equipment required.²⁴ No progress was reported on the establishment of this centre in 2025 due to the lack of international support.²⁵

In 2025, the PNDHD received capacity-building support from Mines Advisory Group (MAG). Seven PNDHD staff members participated in project management training, while a further eight were trained on strategic planning and reporting. The latter focused on sectoral strategy development, international mine action requirements, and practical planning exercises. As part of the closure of its programme in Mauritania, MAG also donated a range of operational, communication, and office equipment to the PNDHD, including IT equipment, GPS devices, satellite communications equipment, and office furniture. In addition, MAG provided vehicle maintenance support for assets used in mine action operations.²⁶

14 NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, pp. 4 and 8.

15 Mauritania Declaration of Compliance with Article 5 of the APMBC, submitted on 29 November 2018 at the 17MSP; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 14 April 2026, p. 15.

16 APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2023), pp. 3 and 4; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 14 April 2026, p. 10.

17 Decree No. 1960/MDAT/MDN establishing the PNDHD, 14 August 2007.

18 Decree No. 001358/MDAT establishing the Steering Committee of the PNDHD, 3 September 2007; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 14 April 2026, p. 14.

19 Presentation of Mauritania, Regional Conference on Improvised AP Mines, Ghana, 13–15 February 2024.

20 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 9; and presentation of Mauritania, Regional Conference on Improvised AP Mines, Ghana, 13–15 February 2024.

21 Email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April 2026.

22 2023 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 3; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 14 April 2026, p. 19.

23 Email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April 2026; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 14 April 2026, p. 20.

24 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.

25 Email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April 2026.

26 Emails from Emilie Sauvanet, Regional Programme Manager, West Africa, MAG, 31 March and 9 June 2026.

FUNDING FOR CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

The PNDHD is funded by the Mauritanian government, which allocated approximately \$180,000 in 2025, consistent with the previous year and in line with the budget outlined in Mauritania's 2025 deadline extension request.²⁷ The government also provides in-kind support (infrastructure and vehicles).²⁸ This amount covers the PNDHD, as well as limited survey and clearance operations of both CMR in Tiris Zemmour and mines in Dakhlet Nouadhibou. The budget is not specifically earmarked for CMR-related activities, but represents the overall mine action budget, and it remains insufficient to sustain large-scale clearance. To meet its Article 4 obligations by August 2028, Mauritania has requested more than US\$2.4 million in international funding.²⁹

Since Mauritania relaunched CMR survey and clearance in 2021, all activities have been funded nationally.³⁰ The last international support to address CMR was provided through NPA, who operated between 2011 and 2013 in Tiris Zemmour. The lack of international assistance has hindered Mauritania's ability to fulfil its Article 4 obligations, and despite continued advocacy and fundraising efforts, the country struggles to secure sufficient funding to address its contamination.³¹ Regarding the channelling of international funding into the national programme, Mauritania clarified that it is "fully open to receiving funding through an international NGO, provided that it retains a leadership role and that national capacities are mobilised".³²

The international mine action operators present in Mauritania in recent years were active outside the Tiris Zemmour region. HAMAP-Humanitaire, funded by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Embassy in Dakar, completed its mine clearance and RE activities in Dakhlet Nouadhibou in January 2025,³³ while MAG, funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, completed survey of mined areas in the same region and closed its office at the end of 2025.³⁴ As of 2026, no international demining operators remains in Mauritania.

In its extension requests, Mauritania expressed its intention to establish a national coalition bringing together the PNDHD, mine action operators and organisations, and donor States willing to support the country's mine action efforts. However, despite commitments reiterated in Mauritania's 2025 extension request, including plans to organise a fundraising roundtable with potential donors,³⁵ the coalition had not materialised at the time of writing. HAMAP had offered to support the initiative and issued a statement during the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties calling for greater international support. France also expressed support during intersessional meetings and Meetings of States Parties for the resource mobilisation efforts of several affected States, especially Mauritania that it funded in 2023 and 2024.³⁶

For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Mauritania on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.³⁷

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Mauritania's 2023–26 mine action plan acknowledged that the country has yet to develop a dedicated gender and diversity policy. As at April 2026, no such policy had been adopted, and the 2025 extension request did not indicate plans to establish one. In the interim, the PNDHD said it adheres to the national policy promoting gender equality and encouraging women's participation in traditionally male-dominated roles.³⁸ Mauritania said in its extension requests that it consistently highlighted inclusivity, gender sensitivity, and diversity as priorities in the design and implementation of its programme.³⁹

By the end of 2025, women made up 39% of the PNDHD's 26 staff, with four women in managerial or supervisory positions, including the RE/VA department director (see Table 2).⁴⁰ The programme has a gender focal point responsible for promoting greater inclusion, particularly in management, RE, and VA activities. Although Mauritania's 2025 extension request included a budget line for a "gender advisor," this allocation in practice consists of a per diem for the existing focal point and not a dedicated advisory position.⁴¹

27 Email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April 2026; and Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 13.

28 Interview with Col. Baham, PNDHD, Geneva, 9 April 2025.

29 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 3.

30 Ibid., p. 1.

31 Email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April 2026.

32 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

33 Email from Julien Kempeneers, Head of Mine Action, HAMAP, 16 March 2026.

34 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 31 March 2026.

35 2023 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 13; and Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

36 Statement of France on Article 4, CCM Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 16–19 September 2025.

37 <https://the-monitor.org>.

38 Mauritania, "Plan d'Action Déminage 2023–2026", p. 6.

39 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 18.

40 Email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April 2026.

41 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, pp. 14 and 19; and email from Commander Sarr, then Head of Operations, PNDHD, 16 June 2025.

Table 2: Gender composition of the PNDHD (at end 2025)⁴²

	Staff	Women staff	Managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Operational staff	Women operational staff
PNDHD	26	10 (39%)	8	4 (50%)	18	6 (33%)

Women are primarily involved in risk education and support functions rather than technical or operational roles. The contamination baseline assessment conducted by MAG in 2024–25 involved two community liaison teams comprising five MAG personnel (two women and three men) and four male PNDHD staff.⁴³ During HAMAP’s mine clearance operations in 2023–24, all operational personnel seconded to the organisation were men, despite efforts to diversify survey and clearance teams. Only two women were employed in support roles in Nouadhibou – a nurse and a cook.⁴⁴

The PNDHD has acknowledged that achieving gender balance in survey and BAC teams is challenging, also due to the composition of seconded personnel from the Corps of Engineers. Operators have also highlighted broader barriers to gender inclusion in mine action programming, noting that prevailing stereotypes suggest that women are not able to cope with physical demands such as walking long distances or working in the heat. Addressing these challenges will require sustained efforts, targeted advocacy, and high-level awareness-raising.⁴⁵

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

In late 2024, Mauritania developed a draft national mine action standard focused on environmental protection, which was reviewed in 2025. The final version was waiting approval from the national mine action authority at the time of writing.⁴⁶

The draft standard, shared with Mine Action Review in 2025, aimed to ensure that clearance does not cause environmental degradation or compromise the intended post-clearance use of land. It references IMAS 07.13 and outlines mitigation measures to minimise environmental impact of EOD and other clearance operations, including requirements for the management of hazardous and toxic substances, protection of water sources, and waste management. The standard also requires operators to adapt their standard operating procedures (SOPs) accordingly.

The PNDHD is responsible for promoting and overseeing the standard among operators, but it does not have a dedicated environmental focal point. In the meantime, the Head of Operations is responsible for ensuring that environmental considerations are integrated into the process, including during the preparation phase (during training) and through on-site monitoring.⁴⁷

Environmental considerations were briefly mentioned in the 2025 extension request. Mauritania stated that, given the low population density, absence of permanent settlements, and desert conditions in the contaminated Tiris Zemmour region, it expects the environmental impact of clearance to be minimal.⁴⁸

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The PNDHD hosts and manages a national mine action database. From 2017 to 2021, it used an old version (New Generation) of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).⁴⁹ In 2022, the PNDHD created its own database.⁵⁰ Due to lack of resources to cover the hosting costs, this database was offline and not directly accessible to operators.⁵¹

In 2025, the PNDHD, with the support of the Geneva International Centre of Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and MAG, started migrating to IMSMA Core.⁵² MAG’s Information Management Supervisor for West Africa conducted capacity-building activities focused on the digitalisation of forms, migration to IMSMA Core, and data validation processes.⁵³ New forms were developed in accordance with the national mine action standards (NMAS).⁵⁴

⁴² Email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April 2026.

⁴³ Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 9 June 2026.

⁴⁴ Emails from Julien Kempeneers, HAMAP, 10 April and 5 August 2024.

⁴⁵ Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 13; 2023 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, pp. 15 and 16; and email from Julien Kempeneers, HAMAP, 15 April 2025.

⁴⁶ Emails from Commander Sarr, PNDHD, 16 June 2025; and Col. Baham, PNDHD, 12 June 2026.

⁴⁷ Emails from Commander Sarr, PNDHD, 23 April 2025 and 16 June 2025.

⁴⁸ Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 18.

⁴⁹ APMBC Article 7 Reports (covering 2017), Form D; (covering 2019), p. 3; and (covering 2020), p. 9.

⁵⁰ APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2022), p. 5.

⁵¹ Emails from Commander Sarr, PNDHD, 12 and 25 June 2024.

⁵² Emails from Commander Sarr, PNDHD, 23 April 2025; and Jérémy Repond, Programme Officer, GICHD, 27 May 2025.

⁵³ Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 31 March 2026.

⁵⁴ Email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April 2026.

Mauritania submits its CCM Article 7 transparency report every year. Its 2025 Article 4 deadline extension request was refined throughout the year through exchanges with the Article 4 Analysis Group, with versions submitted in December 2024 and March 2025. For the first time, Mauritania distinguished between areas reduced through technical survey (TS) and those cleared since 2021⁵⁵ – an important distinction not reflected in any of its previous Article 7 reports.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Mauritania does not currently have a strategic plan specifically addressing CMR. However, it provided a timeframe and action plan in its successive Article 4 deadline extension requests. In its 2025 request, Mauritania projected annual clearance targets of 1.5km² in 2025; 0.3km² in 2026; 7.3km² in 2027; and 6.1km² in 2028 (see Table 3), thereby extending beyond the official two-year extension period. In 2025, Mauritania did not achieve its target of addressing 1.5km² of contamination, managing to address 0.8km².⁵⁶ Achieving these annual targets is contingent on securing international financial support. Mauritania warned that, without international funding, clearance operations could extend over the next 10 years, with the PNDHD's BAC teams able to address only one hazardous area annually.⁵⁷

The budget outlined in Mauritania's 2025 deadline extension request was estimated at just under \$3 million. Mauritania committed to contribute \$0.54 million through the PNDHD—equivalent to \$180,000 annually over 2026–28—while the remaining \$2.42 million is expected to be secured through international fundraising.⁵⁸ The requested external support is intended to cover operational and programme costs, including \$1.4 million for clearance operations and field equipment, marking, RE, and vehicles; \$0.96 million for staffing; and \$0.59 million for support costs, running expenses, and overheads.⁵⁹ Mauritania also indicated that, should additional funding become available, survey and clearance operations could be significantly accelerated through the mobilisation of up to ten additional teams from the Army Engineering Corps.⁶⁰

Table 3: Planned clearance of CMR-contaminated areas in Tiris Zemmour (2025–28)⁶¹

Area	SHA	CHA	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total (m ²)	Days
Dhbeiyatt	0	1	807,502	0	0	0	807,502	70
Dhbeiyatt 1	1	0	693,670	0	0	0	693,670	52
Boudheir	0	1	0	20,556	0	0	20,556	12
Boudheir 1	0	1	0	38,667	0	0	38,667	23
Boudheir 2	0	1	0	243,147	0	0	243,147	39
Guneive	0	1	0	0	4,683,196	0	4,683,196	150
Lemreir	0	1	0	0	2,587,276	0	2,587,276	110
Motlani	0	1	0	0	0	120,365	120,365	30
Oudeyat Lekhyame	0	1	0	0	0	5,326,856	5,326,856	170
Tigert 1	0	1	0	0	0	651,830	651,830	45
Totals	1	9	1,501,172	302,370	7,270,472	6,099,051	15,173,065	701

The work plan outlined an initial period of three months dedicated to preparatory activities, followed by the deployment of four BAC teams, each composed of four deminers and a team leader, operating over a total of 701 days.⁶² However, the 701 days allocated remain clearly insufficient to address the total contamination assuming four BAC teams operating at the maximum rate of 600m² per deminer per day.⁶³ The PNDHD clarified that, while the exact duration of field operations is hard to predict due to a variety of factors, the current estimate is based on past experience,

and takes into account the army's ability to provide additional personnel as well as the potential reduction in the size of hazardous areas following TS.⁶⁴

In case additional contaminated areas are discovered during the extension period, Mauritania stated that it would add them to the national database and inform States Parties through its Article 7 transparency reports. Pending clearance, the PNDHD would also conduct non-technical survey (NTS), marking, and RE activities.⁶⁵

55 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, Table 6, pp. 6 and 7.

56 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F.

57 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

58 Ibid., pp. 3 and 13.

59 Ibid., pp. 13–14.

60 Ibid., Table 10, pp. 9 and 10.

61 Ibid., Tables 3 and 8, pp. 4 and 7.

62 Ibid., pp. 11 and 12.

63 Based on the remaining area of 15,173,065m² at the end of 2024 and a maximum daily clearance capacity of 9,600m² (600m² per deminer x 16 deminers), approximately 1,580 days would be required to complete clearance.

64 Email from Commander Sarr, PNDHD, 16 June 2025; and Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.

65 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Survey and clearance are conducted in accordance with the Mauritanian NMAS (known nationally as les Normes Mauritaniennes de l'Action Antimines, NOMAM) which are said to align with the IMAS, while being adapted to the local geographical and equipment-related conditions. The NOMAM were developed by the PNDHD with support from the GICHD and first approved by the government in 2007. Since, they are said to undergo regular updates, incorporating insights from the field.⁶⁶

The GICHD visited Mauritania in late 2022 and subsequently prepared drafts of the NMAS on clearance, marking, quality management, and accreditation.⁶⁷ As planned in its extension request,⁶⁸ the PNDHD updated the NOMAM in 2025. While the revised standards on clearance, marking, quality management, and the accreditation of mine

action organisations have been formally approved, at the time of writing, the remaining standards had not.⁶⁹ MAG provided technical input on the revision of the NTS and clearance standards, although it was unaware whether its recommendations had been adopted.⁷⁰

The 2025 extension request indicates that hazardous areas are *identified* through NTS, rather than *cancelled*.⁷¹ In the Tiris Zemmour region, conducting NTS and collecting reliable information is particularly challenging due to the harsh desert environment, sparse population, and the mobility of nomadic communities. The extension request outlines a land release process based on a sequence of TS followed by manual clearance for each CHA. Mauritania also annexed its national standards on TS and BAC, adopted in March 2022, to the 2025 extension request.⁷²

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Since Mauritania reported newly discovered contamination in 2019, the PNDHD's BAC teams have remained the only entity conducting CMR clearance. In 2025, four BAC teams were deployed to clear the Dhbeiyatt area (see Table 4). In its 2025 deadline extension request, Mauritania indicated that the same four teams would continue operations, while noting that additional personnel from the Corps of Engineers could be mobilised if further funding became available.⁷³

Table 4: Operational capacity deployed for CMR clearance in Tiris Zemmour 2025⁷⁴

Operators	TS and manual clearance teams	TS and manual clearance personnel	Comments
PNDHD BAC teams	4	21	16 deminers, 4 team leaders, and 1 Section Chief.
Management and support		7	Seven other personnel supported the demining teams: a site supervisor, an EOD expert, drivers, and nurses.

Between 2023 and 2025, two international mine action operators—HAMAP and MAG—were present in Mauritania. Both organisations operated exclusively in the mine-contaminated Dakhlet Nouadhibou region and were not involved in activities in Tiris Zemmour, where only CMR remain.

The last international operator to conduct CMR clearance in Tiris Zemmour was NPA, between 2011 and 2013. NPA returned briefly in February–March 2021, at Mauritania's request, to assess newly identified hazardous areas and support the establishment of a national contamination baseline. It has not maintained a presence in the country since.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

The PNDHD cleared 807,502m² at Dhbeiyatt area in 2025, destroying 52 submunitions (see Table 5 for details). This area was discovered in 2023 and reduced through TS in 2024.⁷⁵ As of the end of 2025, Mauritania estimated remaining CMR contamination at 14,365,563m² across nine hazardous areas, down from 15,173,065m² across ten hazardous areas at the end of 2024.⁷⁶

66 Ibid., pp. 8 and 12.
67 Emails from Jérémy Repond, GICHD, 28 May 2024 and 27 May 2025.
68 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.
69 Email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 12 June 2026.
70 Email from Francois Fall, HMA Advisor for West Africa, MAG, 12 May 2026.
71 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, Table 6, p. 6.
72 Ibid., p. 21.
73 Ibid., pp. 9 and 11.
74 Email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April 2026.
75 Article 7 Reports (covering 2023 and covering 2024), Form F.
76 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, Table 8, pp. 7 and 8.

Over the past five years, Mauritania released four areas (Dalet Tigert, Dhbeiyatt, Guneive 1, and Guneive 2) through TS and clearance, covering an estimated 2.5km². In the process, it destroyed 201 submunitions.⁷⁷ These operations were carried out exclusively with national funding.

Table 5: Summary of land release outputs in 2025⁷⁸

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2025 (m ²)	Comments
Clearance	807,502	Dhbeiyatt area (discovered in 2023 and reduced through TS in 2024)
Technical survey	0	
Non-technical survey	0	
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	Comments
Submunitions destroyed	52	BLU-63

During 2025, the PNDHD carried out 25 EOD spot tasks, resulting in the removal and destruction of 657 explosive ordnance items, including 13 rockets, 642 shells of various calibres, and 2 grenades, in the regions of Dakhlet Nouadhibou, Adrar, Tiris Zemmour, and other areas.⁷⁹

SURVEY IN 2025

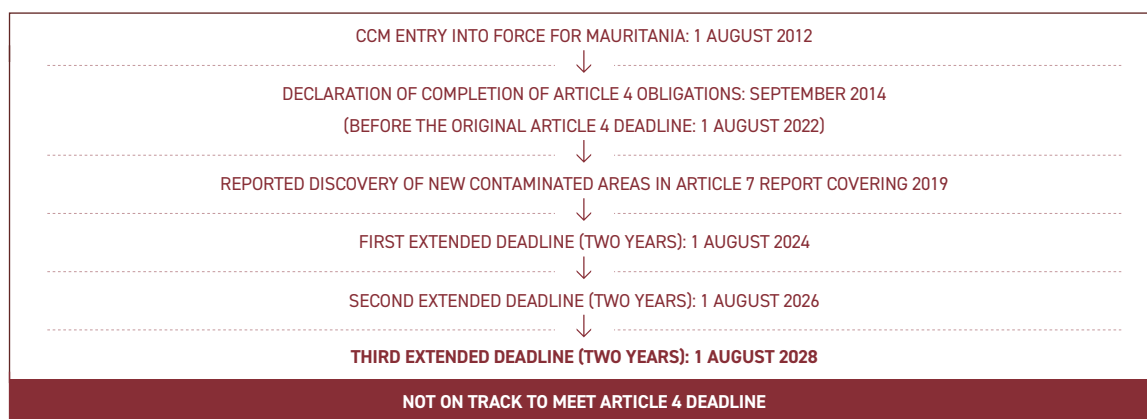
No survey was conducted in 2025.⁸⁰

In 2024, the PNDHD conducted TS in two CMR-contaminated areas: Dhbeiyatt, which had been identified in 2023, and Dalet Tigert. TS had led to the reduction of 779,774m² in Dhbeiyatt and 243,000m² in Dalet Tigert.⁸¹ The PNDHD had also carried out a marking campaign at Lemreir, El Motlani, Boudheir, Guneive, Tigert 1, Dhbeiyatt, Dhbeiyatt 1, Boudheir 1, and Oudeyat Lekhyame.⁸²

CLEARANCE IN 2025

Mauritania cleared 807,502m² of CMR contaminated area at Dhbeiyatt and destroyed 52 submunitions. This was nearly eight times greater than the amount of clearance recorded the previous year. In 2024, Mauritania had cleared 102,703m² of the Dalet Tigert area, destroying 29 MK-118 submunitions.⁸³ Both have been removed from the list of CMR-contaminated areas.

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



⁷⁷ Ibid., Tables 6 and 7, pp. 6-7; and email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April 2026.

⁷⁸ Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F; and email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April 2026.

⁷⁹ Email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April 2026.

⁸⁰ Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F; and email from Col. Baham, PNDHD, 17 April 2026.

⁸¹ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form F.

⁸² Email from Commander Sarr, PNDHD, 16 June 2025.

⁸³ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form F.

Under Article 4 of the CCM (and on the basis of the two-year extension granted by States Parties in 2025), Mauritania is required to destroy all CMR in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 August 2028. While Mauritania releases some CMR-contaminated area each year, it has indicated that, without international funding support, clearance will continue at its current pace and it may require up to 10 years to fulfil its Article 4 obligations.⁸⁴

Upon becoming a State Party to the CCM on 1 August 2012, Mauritania had 10.18km² of cluster munition-contaminated areas to address. In 2014, Mauritania declared fulfilment of its Article 4 obligations at the Fifth Meeting of States Parties, having completed CMR clearance the previous year with support from NPA.⁸⁵ At the time, it had addressed nine areas: 8,2km² reduced through TS and 1.96km² cleared, with the destruction of 1,246 submunitions.⁸⁶ Following the discovery of previously unknown CMR contamination in 2019, Mauritania resumed survey and clearance and submitted three two-year Article 4 deadline extension requests, first to August 2024, then to August 2026, and finally to August 2028. The country has been unable to meet its Article 4 obligations, primarily due to insufficient funding and limited international support.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Contamination in northern Mauritania is located across vast and remote desert areas with very low population density, making it difficult to identify contaminated areas due to the scarcity of informants. NPA warned that residual contamination is likely to remain even after the completion of large-scale clearance operations.⁸⁸

In its 2025 deadline extension request, Mauritania committed that, should previously unidentified cluster munition-contaminated areas be discovered after the proposed deadline, it would take prompt action to assess the extent of contamination and destroy all CMR. The Corps of Engineers will handle future residual risks, and the PNDHD will continue to enhance the capacity of this national entity to address any further contamination that may arise after completing the current CMR tasks. In addition, Mauritania pledged to fulfil its Article 7 reporting obligations under the CCM by reporting any newly identified contaminated areas and sharing relevant information with stakeholders and States Parties through formal and informal channels.⁸⁹

Over the past five years, the PNDHD released four contaminated areas covering an estimated 2.5km², including 1.35km² through manual clearance. This included the clearance of 81,274m² at Guneive 2 in 2021, 363,948m² at Guneive 1 in 2022, and 102,703m² at Dalet Tigert in 2024, and 807,502m² at Dhbeiyatt in 2025 (see Table 6).⁸⁷ In the process, 201 submunitions were destroyed: 7 at Guneive 2, 113 at Guneive 1, 29 at Dalet Tigert, and 52 at Dhbeiyatt.

Table 6: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

Year	Area cleared (m ²)
2025	807,502
2024	102,703
2023	0
2022	363,948
2021	81,274
Total	1,355,427

84 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, Table 9, p. 8.
85 Mauritania Declaration of Compliance with Article 4(1)(a) of the CCM, submitted on 3 September 2014.
86 Ibid.; and Article 7 Report (covering 2013), Form F.
87 Article 7 Reports (covering 2021, 2022, 2024, and 2025), Form F.
88 NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, pp. 3 and 9.
89 2023 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 15; and updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 19.