

MAURITANIA

MINE
ACTION
REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2021

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 JANUARY 2022
EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 31 DECEMBER 2026

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION:

NATIONAL ESTIMATE

11.03 km²

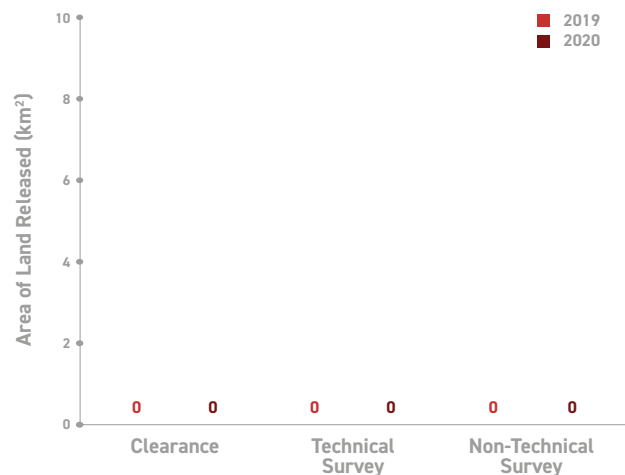
AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2020

0 km²

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2020

0

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **LOW**

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Having previously declared fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in November 2018, Mauritania submitted an interim extension request in June 2020, to extend its Article 5 deadline by one year (and one month) having discovered new mined areas in territory within its jurisdiction. During the interim request, Mauritania intended to conduct further survey to better define the contamination, develop a work plan to address it, and submit a final extension request by March 2021.¹ Along with the newly found mine contamination, Mauritania has also reported discovering new cluster munition remnants (CMR) contamination on its territory.

In February 2021, upon request from Mauritania, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) conducted an assessment of the newly

discovered mined areas, together with the newly reported CMR-contaminated areas. The assessment identified a total of 15.47km² of mine contamination across ten suspected hazardous areas (SHAs), with 10.90km² across eight SHAs that contain only anti-personnel mines.²

On 1 June 2021, Mauritania submitted a request to extend its Article 5 deadline by four years and eleven months, to 31 December 2026. Having continued surveying new contamination since NPA's assessment mission in February, Mauritania had, by the submission of its extension request, identified total mined area estimated at 16.18km² across 20 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs). Of this, 11.03km² across 16 CHAs appear to contain anti-personnel mines, including one whose area had yet to be confirmed.³

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Mauritania should proceed with all speed to mobilise funds and operational support, and commence survey and clearance of anti-personnel mine contamination that is within Mauritania's jurisdiction or control as soon as possible.
- For any areas under Mauritania's effective control but not under its jurisdiction, discussions need to be held and clearance coordinated with others concerned, in particular Morocco and the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic.
- Mauritania should continue survey to establish a more accurate baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination.

- Mauritania should ensure its national mine action standards (NMAS) are updated and are in accord with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
- Mauritania should establish a multi-year national strategy to replace the one that expired in 2020.
- Mauritania should elaborate a gender and diversity policy for mine action and an associated implementation plan.
- Mauritania should report more accurately and consistently on the extent of anti-personnel mine contamination, including using the classifications of SHA and CHA in a manner consistent with IMAS.
- Mauritania should establish a sustainable national capacity to address residual risks posed by anti-personnel mines that might be discovered following the fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2020)	Score (2019)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	7	Not scored	In February 2021, and with support of NPA, Mauritania conducted an assessment to determine the extent of anti-personnel mine contamination since Mauritania's discovery of new mined areas in 2018. Further technical survey is required to accurately determine the size and extent of the actual mine contamination.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	Not scored	The National Humanitarian Demining Programme for Development (Programme National de Déminage Humanitaire pour le Développement, 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 remains operationally, financially, and technically under capacitated.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	Not scored	It is not known if Mauritania has a gender policy for mine action, but it recently committed to taking gender principles into account during recruitment and to ensure that mine action teams are gender balanced.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	4	Not scored	Mauritania uses version 6 of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) software. Mauritania's Article 7 report submitted in July 2021 provides incomplete contamination data due to missing pages. It does not classify mined areas into SHAs and CHAs in a manner consistent with IMAS and international best practice.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	3	Not scored	Mauritania's mine action strategic plan and work plan both 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.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	6	Not scored	Mauritania's national mine action standards (NMAS) were published in 2007, and were said to be in accord with the IMAS at that time. The NMAS include standards on non-technical survey, technical survey, mine clearance, and quality control. The NMAS are supposed to be reviewed once every three years, but have not been revised since 2006.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	5	Not scored	Mauritania was granted a one-year, one-month interim extension at 18MSP, to extend its Article 5 deadline to 31 January 2022. In June 2021, Mauritania submitted a further extension for four years and eleven months to 31 December 2026. Mauritania will need to mobilise and sustain financial and operational international support to be able to meet its requested Article 5 extended deadline.
Average Score	5.2	Not scored	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- 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

- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) (programme closed in 2015)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

On 23 June 2020, after having declared fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations on 29 November 2018 at the 17th Meeting of States Parties (17MSP) to the APMBC, Mauritania reported the discovery of mined areas (or “Zones”, as Mauritania refers to them).⁴ On 26 June 2020, Mauritania requested a thirteen-month extension to its Article 5 deadline, during which the National Humanitarian Demining Programme for Development (Programme National de Déminage Humanitaire pour le Développement, PNDHD), in collaboration with NPA, planned to investigate the mined areas and “possibly discover other areas not currently known”.⁵ Since the declaration of completion in November 2018, a total of three mine incidents occurred,⁶ while others might have gone unreported.

In its Article 7 report covering 2019, Mauritania reported a total of more than 8km² of mined area (4.7km² of CHA and nearly 3.4km² of SHA).⁷ However, it was not clear how the size and location of the 32 “zones” had been determined, and estimates of the size of mined areas were only provided for the region of Tiris Zemmour (north) and not the other three provinces deemed affected.

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 2021.⁸ Based on direct evidence, NPA confirmed the presence of 15.47km² of landmine contamination across 10 SHAs in Nouadhibou (west) and Tiris Zemmour (north) states.

Of the total, 10.90km² across eight SHAs contained only anti-personnel mines.⁹

Mauritania continued surveying for new contamination after the NPA mission, and by the time of its submission of its extension request in June 2021, had identified a total mined area estimated at 16.18km² across 20 CHAs. Although Mauritania did not specify the type of contamination, the types of mines it reported indicate that six CHAs covering a total of 0.77km² contain anti-personnel mines, ten CHAs over 10.26km² contain a mix of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, and four CHAs of 5.15km² contain only anti-vehicle mines. Of these latter four, one had an area of unknown extent. In addition, as at June 2021, a PNDHD team was deployed in the area of Ouadane of Adrar state following a report from the local authorities that had indicated a mined area.¹⁰ Mauritania did not elaborate the methodology it used to identify the hazardous areas, but estimated that the size of areas requiring actual clearance will be reduced by an average 37% once further survey is conducted.¹¹ This means the areas are more akin to SHAs than CHAs.

In Nouadhibou, at least 11.53km² of the contamination was previously known but considered politically inaccessible until 2019, while at least a further 3.82km² has been newly discovered since 2018. In Tiris Zemmour, Mauritania had not been aware of the mined areas before their discovery in 2019.¹² It is not clear whether the minefields in Adrar were recently discovered or were already known to the authorities.

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area by state (as at June 2021)¹³

State	Location ID	CHA	CHA area (m ²)	Identified mines	Type of contamination ¹⁴	Comment ¹⁵
Adrar	Mayaateg	1	585,700	PT Mi-K	AV mines	Data not available
Adrar	Gunive	1	TBC	PT Mi-K	AV mines	Data not available
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Bouchon24	1	839,424	APID51, ACID51	AP and AV mines	Previously known
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Bouchon55	1	9,147,780	APID51, TM57	AP and AV mines	Previously Known
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Guergara	1	1,203,880	PT Mi-K	AV mines	Previously Known
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Lewej 2	1	329,829	APID51, VS50	AP mines	Identified since 2019
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Pk 126	1	132,585	APID51	AP mines	Identified since 2019
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Pk 173	1	3,362,364	Type 72	AV mines	Identified since 2019
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Rbeit l’echar1	1	62,819	PT Mi-K	AP mines	Previously Known
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Wettatlechyakh	1	126,578	APID51	AP mines	Data not available
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Zirezargue 1	1	28,794	VS50, TM57	AP and AV mines	Previously Known
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Zirezargue 2	1	16,257	VS50, TM57	AP and AV mines	Previously Known
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Zirezargue 3	1	23,638	VS50, TM57	AP and AV mines	Previously Known
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Zirezargue 4	1	14,696	VS50, TM57	AP and AV mines	Previously Known
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Zirezargue 5	1	75,375	VS50, TM57	AP and AV mines	Previously Known
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Zirezargue 6	1	25,565	VS50, TM57	AP and AV mines	Previously Known
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Zirezargue 7	1	26,654	VS50, TM57	AP and AV mines	Previously Known
Dakhlet Nouadhibou	Zirezargue 8	1	66,987	VS50, TM57	AP and AV mines	Previously Known
Tiris Zemmour	Boukhzame	1	63,796	VS50	AP mines	Identified since 2019
Tiris Zemmour	Guemgoum	1	50,769	APID51	AP mines	Identified since 2019
Totals		20	16,183,490			

AP = anti-personnel AV = anti-vehicle.

According to NPA, further survey work is required to determine the size and extent of the hazardous areas more accurately. It estimated that, once done, the areas requiring full clearance will be further reduced. However, since at least some of the contamination lies in very remote and sparsely populated areas, future residual risk post completion is likely.¹⁶

It is thought that the newly discovered landmine contamination lies either within Mauritania's jurisdiction and control, or outside of Mauritania's jurisdiction but within its effective control.¹⁷ Both the PNDHD and NPA were aware of the 11.53km² of contamination in Nouadhibou before Mauritania declared itself mine-free in 2018. The PNDHD maintains that, at the time of declaration, this area was considered to be beyond Mauritania's borders. As at April 2021, the PNDHD assured NPA that it can provide access and security guarantees for clearance of all previously known contamination in Nouadhibou.¹⁸ In its latest Article 5 deadline extension request, Mauritania states that: "Mauritania submitted a request in June 2020 to extend its Article 5 deadline by one year having recently found two additional minefields in the Northern areas of Mauritania, and then redefining which mined areas are considered to be under its jurisdiction or control in the Nouadhibou peninsula".¹⁹

All the newly identified contamination in Nouadhibou and Tiris Zemmour States is thought to be within Mauritania's jurisdiction and control.²⁰ For the Adrar minefields, however, it is not clear if the newly reported contamination lies within Mauritania's jurisdiction or control.

Mauritania previously declared completion of its Article 5 obligations in November 2018, at the APMBC Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties (17MSP).²¹ Prior to this, at the end of 2015, Mauritania had reported that it had released all known areas of anti-personnel mine contamination (which

had totalled 40 mined areas covering 67km²),²² but that other contaminated areas were thought to exist close to Western Sahara, which depending on the demarcation of the border, could be inside Mauritanian territory and thus within its jurisdiction.²³ In its 2015 request for a second extension to its Article 5 clearance deadline, Mauritania stated that it "suspects that the security system along the border with Western Sahara, which comprises fortifications and minefields, crosses Mauritanian territory, especially since there is no natural border between the two". It also said that border markers from the colonial period were unclear, non-existent and/or found at intervals of between 115 and 175 kilometres.²⁴ At the end of 2017, Mauritania reported no known or suspected areas containing anti-personnel mines following technical survey and clearance of an area with an estimated size of 1km², in Ain Bintilli district, Tiris Zemmour region.²⁵ The area had contained both anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines.²⁶

Mauritania's mine contamination was a legacy of the conflict over Western Sahara in 1976–78.²⁷ A 2006 Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) had found a total of 65 SHAs covering 76km² and affecting 60 communities. This proved to be a significant overestimate of the actual extent of the mine threat. In 2010, Morocco provided detailed maps of minefields laid during the Western Sahara conflict. The minefields had been partially cleared using military procedures prior to the entry into force of the APMBC.²⁸ In its 2020 extension request, Mauritania said that the large-scale use of mines in Mauritania was typically haphazard and without the use of plans or maps.²⁹

Mauritania has also reported discovering CMR contamination.³⁰ Please see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants* report on Mauritania for more information.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The PNDHD, which was created in 2000, coordinates mine action operations in Mauritania.³¹ Since 2007, the programme has been the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior and Decentralisation, with oversight from an interministerial steering committee.³² The PNDHD has its headquarters in the capital, Nouakchott, and a regional mine action centre (RMAC) in Nouadhibou.

Mauritania estimates in its latest extension request, submitted in June 2021, that it requires a total five-year budget of US\$9.65 million of international funding to address the newly reported mine contamination.³³ This is four times the amount Mauritania had initially intended to mobilise from international donors in its previous extension request, submitted in June 2020, which totalled US\$2.5 million.³⁴ Mauritania's contribution to the demining project will include human resources, office space, and the coordination of operations, including liaison with national and local governmental and military officials.³⁵ In its Article 7 report submitted in July 2021, Mauritania identified the following areas as in need of support: logistical (replacement of equipment, furniture and vehicles), "organisational" in terms of workspace; staffing and revision of national standards; technical support and training of personnel of PNDHD central and regional offices, operational support and support of personnel during survey, quality management, quality control, and awareness campaigns.³⁶

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

It is not known if the PNDHD has policies in place relating to gender and diversity in its mine action programme, and gender and diversity are not referenced in Mauritania's 2020 Article 5 deadline extension request or its Article 7 transparency report covering 2019.

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 are employed in the financial management and victim assistance.³⁷ PNDHD claims to follow a gender-sensitive approach and that it ensures MRE materials take into consideration the gender and diverse needs of affected communities.³⁸ Mauritania committed to taking gender principles into account during recruitment and to ensure that mine action teams are gender balanced.³⁹

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 the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) software.⁴⁰

As at 7 June 2021, Mauritania had yet to submit its Article 7 report under the APMBBC.

PLANNING AND TASKING

In March 2017, Mauritania reported that a new national mine action strategic plan for 2017–20 had been developed with primary aims and targets, including verification of Mauritania's borders and clearance of any newly identified contamination by 2020; continuing risk education and victim assistance; and maintenance of national mine clearance capacities.⁴¹ According to its latest Article 7 report, 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.⁴²

The main aims of Mauritania's work plan for 2017–20 were to complete clearance of the remaining contaminated areas, establish a strategy for residual contamination, and declare its compliance with Article 5 before 1 January 2021.⁴³ Mauritania declared compliance with Article 5 at the 17MSP in November 2018,⁴⁴ but then subsequently submitted an interim one-year (and one-month) Article 5 deadline extension request in June 2020, followed by a four-year-and-eleven-month extension request in June 2021, having newly discovered mined areas and redefined its understanding of areas under its jurisdiction or control.

Mauritania said it will prioritise survey and clearance of the newly reported mined areas based on humanitarian impact taking into account gender and diverse needs of the mine-affected communities.⁴⁵

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Mauritania has NMAS in place, including on non-technical survey, technical survey, mine clearance, and quality control (QC). The NMAS, which were adopted in 2007, were elaborated with the support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and in partnership with operators, most notably NPA.⁴⁶ The national standards were based on the IMAS in place when the NMAS were elaborated and on best practices from the Mauritania Programme at the time.⁴⁷ The NMAS are supposed to be reviewed once every three years,⁴⁸ but have not been revised since 2006.⁴⁹

Mauritania recognises that an update to its NMAS is overdue and committed to “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”.⁵⁰

In December 2019, Mauritania attended the Arab Regional Cooperation Programme 7th Annual Conference, which was organised by the GICHD in Jordan. In the conference, the PNDHD, along with other national authorities from the region, discussed and approved recently translated IMAS into Arabic and shared experiences of their own national standards.⁵¹

In its fourth Article 5 deadline extension request, Mauritania committed to deploy three non-technical/technical survey teams to accurately define the extent of contamination before starting clearance.⁵²

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In accordance with a 2006 decree, all clearance activities were conducted by the Army Engineer Corps operating under the PNDHD. In 2011, NPA signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Mauritania to provide support for mine 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 2015.⁵³ In 2021, the NPA conducted a one-month assessment mission to

determine the details of mined areas discovered since Mauritania's declaration of Article 5 completion in 2018. As at June 2021, the PNDHD had requested NPA to return to Mauritania and assist in the clearance of the remaining contamination but NPA had not yet decided whether to do so.⁵⁴

Mauritania requires a clearance capacity of eight teams, each of 10 deminers, sustained for about five years to technically survey and clear the mined areas. The teams are expected to work for 250 days a year, and each team is expected to clear 250m² a day.⁵⁵ Mauritania also said it will consider the use of mine detection dogs (MDDs) in Nouadhibou where there is a potential presence of conventionally undetectable or deeply buried mines.⁵⁶

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2020

There were no reports of land release of any mined areas in Mauritania in 2020.

SURVEY IN 2020

There were no reports of survey of any mined areas in Mauritania in 2020. The assessments conducted in 2021 have been reported above.

CLEARANCE IN 2020

There were no reports of survey of any mined areas in Mauritania in 2020.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Mauritania's original Article 5 deadline of 1 January 2011 was previously extended three times and currently ends on 31 January 2022. Mauritania had previously declared fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations at the 17MSP in November 2018, but in June 2020, submitted a third interim extension request to its Article 5 deadline, reporting that it had discovered new mined areas in the regions of Dakhlet Nouadhibou, Tiris Zemmour, and Adrar.⁵⁷ Mauritania said it needed a one-year interim period, through to 31 January 2022, to better understand the contamination, collect more information and be in a better position to submit its "final" request for extension. In June 2021, Mauritania submitted its fourth Article 5 extension request asking for almost five years more to address the hitherto mine contamination. Mauritania underlines the following as risks to its ability to meet the 2026 deadline: resource mobilisation, lack of national political will and international support, change of the security situation, and the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also works on the assumption that no or limited additional contamination will be discovered in the course of the five-year period.⁵⁸

The five-year period sought based on an operational capacity of eight demining teams, working for 250 days a year and each team clearing 250m² per day, meaning clearance of half a square kilometre a year. The period also estimates a final reduction of CHAs by an average 37%.⁵⁹ Further, the almost five-year estimated period includes all mined area, including the 5.15km² containing only anti-vehicle mines which does not fall under the APMBC. On the other hand, Mauritania's extension request does not consider the time needed to bring in and register an international operator, nor the time needed to setup the groundwork before commencing clearance, which can take up to one year.⁶⁰ As at June 2021, no international operator was present in Mauritania.

Mauritania is requesting US\$9.65 million of financial support, including an initial investment of US\$650,000 to purchase vehicles, detectors, personal protective equipment (PPE), and camping other field equipment. In addition, an annual budget of US\$1.8 million for five years is requested to cover the running costs.⁶¹ The government of Mauritania will contribute with staff, provide office space, and be responsible for the coordination of the clearance operation.⁶² Mauritania said that an initial period of six months in 2021 will be dedicated to completing resource mobilisation.⁶³

In order to secure resources, Mauritania intended to participate in an individualised approach initiative meeting on 17 June 2021, with the support of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance (ISU) and present its request for extension at the Intersessional meetings on 22–24 June 2021. Mauritania has also committed to keeping States Parties informed of developments at treaty meetings and through its Article 7 reporting,⁶⁴ and to “coordinate with the relevant authorities, to the extent possible, on areas that lie outside of Mauritanian jurisdiction but under its de-facto control”.⁶⁵

PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

In its Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted in June 2021, Mauritania reported that it will “continue to strengthen and maintain a capacity in-country that is equipped to deal with residual risk”, and that in the event of discovering new contamination after the newly proposed deadline, Mauritania will “as soon as possible take action to accurately identify the extent of the contaminated areas identified and destroy all mines found in accordance with international and national standards”.⁶⁶

In the same request, Mauritania made clear that it may discover additional contamination in the course of the five-year clearance period and beyond. According to its statement: “In an area as large as the deserts of Mauritania, with both vast areas and very limited population numbers, it has always been known that in the future additional previously unknown contamination could be identified. Even when the previously known and newly identified areas are cleared this time, it is still possible that new currently unknown areas of mine contamination may be identified in the future”.

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.⁶⁷ 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 2017.⁶⁸

- 1 Third Article 5 Deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, Request Analysis, p. 2.
- 2 Mauritania Assessment Report, NPA, 12 April 2021, p. 6; and email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 26 April 2021.
- 3 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 5.
- 4 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, pp. 1 and 3. On pages 2 and 3 of Mauritania's 2020 extension request it said the requested deadline is 31 January 2022 while on page 10 it said 1 January 2022. In November 2020, Mauritania was granted a thirteen-month extension through to 31 January 2022.
- 5 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, pp. 1 and 3.
- 6 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 8.
- 7 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, p. 3; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), p. 3.
- 8 NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, p. 2.
- 9 Ibid., p. 6; and email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 26 April 2021.
- 10 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 8.
- 11 Ibid., p. 10.
- 12 NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, p. 2.
- 13 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 5; NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, p. 6; email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 26 April 2021; and Mine Action Review data; Mauritania's Article 7 report (covering 2020) provides incomplete contamination data and is missing pages 4 and 5.
- 14 Mauritania's fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request did not specify the contamination type. This data is provided by Mine Action Review based on the mine types Mauritania reported.
- 15 Mauritania's fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request did not specify which areas were newly discovered since 2018 (as opposed to already known but considered out of Mauritania's control). This data is taken from NPA's assessment report.
- 16 NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, pp. 2-3.
- 17 In its Assessment Report, NPA included a disclaimer noting that as an impartial international non-governmental organisation (NGO), NPA is not in a position to define the borders of Mauritania or any other State or country. This is political question that must be resolved between Mauritania, Morocco, and the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic. See NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, p. 2.
- 18 NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, pp. 5-7.
- 19 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 4.
- 20 NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, pp. 6-7.
- 21 Statement of Mauritania, APMBC 18th Meeting of States Parties (18MSP), 29 November 2018; and Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, p. 2.
- 22 Analysis of Mauritania's Second Article 5 deadline Extension Request submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to the APMBC 14th Meeting of States Parties, 17 November 2015, p. 2.
- 23 Ibid.
- 24 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 2 April 2015, p. 4. In the original French: "nous suspectons que le dispositif de sécurité le long de la frontière avec le Sahara occidental, composé de fortification et champs de mines, interfère en territoire Mauritanien surtout qu'il n'existe aucune frontière naturelle".
- 25 Email from Aliouneould Menane, National Coordinator, PNDHD, 23 July 2018.
- 26 Article 7 Report (covering 2016), Form D; Statement of Mauritania, Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Geneva, 8 June 2017; and email from Aliouneould Menane, PNDHD, 29 March 2017.
- 27 Ibid., p. 2.
- 28 Revised Second Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 6 September 2010, p. 3; and email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 17 September 2015.
- 29 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, p. 2.
- 30 Ibid., Annex 1, p. 14.
- 31 Decree No. 1960/MDAT/MDN establishing the PNDHD, 14 August 2007; and Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, p. 2.
- 32 Decree No. 001358/MDAT establishing the Steering Committee of the PNDHD, 3 September 2007; and Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, p. 2.
- 33 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2021), pp. 11-12.
- 34 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, p. 10.
- 35 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 11-12.
- 36 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 12.
- 37 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, additional information, received 16 September 2020, response 5.
- 38 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 8.
- 39 Ibid., p. 12.
- 40 Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form D.
- 41 Email from Aliouneould Menane, PNDHD, 29 March 2017; and interview, in Geneva, 5 September 2017.
- 42 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), pp. 13-14.
- 43 Email from Aliouneould Menane, PNDHD, 23 July 2018.
- 44 Statement of Mauritania, 18th Meeting of States Parties, 29 November 2018; and Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, p. 2.
- 45 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 12.
- 46 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, pp. 5 and 8.
- 47 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 9.
- 48 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, pp. 5 and 8.
- 49 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Annex II.
- 50 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 9.
- 51 Email from Hayder AlShakeri, Programme Officer, GICHD, 23 July 2020.
- 52 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 13.
- 53 Emails from Aliouneould Menane, PNDHD, 1 September 2016; and Melissa Andersson, NPA, 12 September 2016 and 13 March 2017.
- 54 Interview with Hans Risser, Head Office Management Team; and Melissa Andersson, NPA, 19 April 2021.
- 55 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 10; NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, p. 11; and email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 26 April 2021.
- 56 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 13.
- 57 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2020, p. 2; Article 7 Report (covering 2019), p. 3; and online presentation by Mauritania, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 2 July 2020, available at: <http://bit.ly/3iBV1Dd>.
- 58 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 3.
- 59 Ibid., p. 10; NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, p. 11; and email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 26 April 2021.
- 60 Interview with Hans Risser, Head Office Management Team; and Melissa Andersson, NPA, 19 April 2021.
- 61 Fourth Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received June 2021, p. 11.
- 62 Ibid., p. 12.
- 63 Ibid., p. 9.
- 64 Ibid., p. 12.
- 65 Ibid., p. 13.
- 66 Ibid., p. 11.
- 67 Email from Aliouneould Menane, PNDHD, 23 July 2018.
- 68 NPA, Mauritania Assessment Report, 12 April 2021, p. 4.