

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:
1 FEBRUARY 2025

Article 5 obligations fulfilled and deadline met

NO AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Only possible residual contamination

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (m ²)	Release in 2023 (m ²)
Clearance	85,600	106,400
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	8,800
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	0	0

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATOR IN 2024:

- Executive mine clearance unit

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Oman completed its anti-personnel (AP) mine clearance at the end of 2024, meeting its 1 February 2025 deadline under Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). Oman made an official statement of fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations at the Intersessional Meetings in June 2025.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	9	7	Oman made a statement on 18 June 2025 at the APMBC Intersessional Meetings that it had completed clearance of all known mined areas, although a residual threat may remain.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	8	8	Oman's mine action programme is fully nationally owned and is under the purview of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	5	3	Oman's armed forces had a phased plan to involve women in demining support roles while prioritising health and safety, citing the demanding conditions of contaminated areas. The Ministry of Defence said in 2024 that the strategy balances women's right to participate with the duty "to protect personnel", and planned to expand operational roles once women were fully trained and qualified.

Assessment of National Programme Performance Continued

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	6	5	Oman's mine action operations adhere to its environmental protection law (Royal Decree 114/2001). The Law mandates environmental assessments and assigns responsibility to the MoD to regulate the disposal of munitions, including mines.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	7	7	Oman has an integrated mine action database. The system allows real-time data updates, management, and analysis, and includes data on mine contamination and emergency response systems.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	7	In its Article 7 report covering 2023, Oman planned to clear all suspected mined areas by July 2024. In fact, it took until the end of 2024 for clearance to be completed.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	6	5	Oman has national mine action standards that it says conform to the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Oman said that it applies non-technical survey and technical survey methodologies in land release and clearance is only performed when necessary.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	9	8	In 2024, Oman cleared 85,600m ² without finding any AP mines. In June 2025, Oman declared that it had met its Article 5 deadline.
Average Score	7.5	6.5	Overall Programme Performance: GOOD

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Ministry of Defence (MoD)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Royal Army of Oman (RAO)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- None

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Oman declared at the June 2025 Intersessional Meetings that it had addressed all known AP mined area by its Article 5 deadline and was now free of all known AP mines.¹ The remaining AP mined area of 85,600m² had been across eight suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) in the regions of Tawi Atir and Wadi Thent in Dhofar governorate, the most southern of the nation's 11 governorates.²

Contamination from AP mines, anti-vehicle (AV) mines, and unexploded ordnance (UXO) dates back to the 1964–75 conflict in Dhofar region between the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf (PFLOG) and the Royal Army of Oman (RAO).³ Oman's initial Article 7 report, submitted in 2015, declared no confirmed mined areas but reported "many" suspected mined areas in the south, particularly in Dhofar.⁴ This position was reiterated at the Intersessional Meetings

in June 2018 and in subsequent Article 7 reports, with Oman noting that no mine casualties had been recorded for more than 20 years, but referencing that a number of mined areas required "re-search" or "re-clearance" in order to confirm they were free of AP mines.⁵

Immediately following the end of military operations in 1976, State armed forces had cleared a minefield they had laid and the and the armed forces' engineering unit started clearing areas suspected to have been mined by the militants.⁶ Oman acknowledged, however, that clearance of all AP mined area could not be guaranteed due to the vast, mountainous terrain, the lack of mapping, and environmental factors, such as rainfall, displacing mines.⁷ As at the end of 2020, Oman reported a total of 0.5km² across seven SHAs, with re-clearance planned between 2021 and 2024.⁸

1 Statement of the Sultanate of Oman, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 18 June 2025.

2 Article 7 Report (covering 2023) as sent by email to Mine Action Review by the Oman Ministry of Defence (MoD), 17 September 2024, Annex A.

3 "Humanitarian Demining", *Journal of Mine Action*, 2001, p. 49. See also: Arabian Gulf Digital Archives, "Military Operations in Dhofar State in Oman", 1 January 1973, pp. 92–100, at: <https://bit.ly/47yRwh9>.

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

5 Statement of Oman, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 7–8 June 2018; and Article 7 Reports (covering 2018 and 2019, and 2023).

6 Initial Article 7 Report, submitted in 2015.

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

8 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 14.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Oman's mine action programme is fully nationally owned.⁹ Before 2021, clearance was performed by the Executive Operational Unit of the army engineers.¹⁰ In 2021–22, Oman's armed forces underwent a restructuring process and the national mine action programme was put under the purview of the Ministry of Defence.¹¹ Oman has reiterated that the Ministry had the qualified expertise and resources to conduct and oversee national demining.¹²

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Oman reports that its national programmes, including that of mine action, follow clear guidelines that consider the needs of diverse groups, including those of different genders.¹³ Women have been permitted to serve in the Oman Army for a decade.¹⁴ Women participated in several areas of mine action, including first-line medical support to demining teams; operational planning, coordination, and management; field support and logistics; risk education and community outreach; and training and capacity development.

In 2024, however, Oman reported that its armed forces had developed a plan that would enable Omani women to support demining operations in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), with due consideration for women's health and safety. Oman's gender plan is multi-phased and ensures increased women's participation in support roles such as in planning, administration, training, medical care, and public awareness. The plan was based on reports that mines are often found in rugged terrain and high-risk environments. The army was said to be endeavouring to incorporate women into operational roles more and more in the future, but only after ensuring they are adequately trained and qualified and their safety is assured.¹⁵

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Oman has a national environmental plan that applies to mine clearance operations and ensures environmental protection and safety. The plan is underpinned by an environmental protection law,¹⁶ which mandates environmental assessments and assigns responsibility to the Ministry of Defence to regulate the disposal of munitions and explosives, including mines. Any mines discovered near water springs are removed and dismantled, either manually or mechanically, and disposed of in designated areas away from these natural, protected reserves in accordance with Oman's environmental standards. Detonations at these sites are strictly prohibited due to environmental and geological considerations, in alignment with Ministry of Defence standards and national environmental regulations.¹⁷

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Before 2021, Oman did not have a national information management database, but the Executive Operational Unit generated monthly operational reports. Maps of the cleared areas were then produced and retained both digitally and on paper.¹⁸

Following the restructuring of its armed forces in 2021–22, Oman introduced an integrated mine action database. The system allows real-time data updates, management, and analysis, and eliminates the reliance on the previously used paper-based monthly reports. The integrated database included elements on landmine data, contamination zones, and clearance methods; geo-mapped locations of contamination and analysis of terrain; and emergency response systems: teams' details, capabilities, and plans.

Oman's most recent Article 7 report (covering 2024) provided land release data by location and method of release.

9 Email from Oman MoD, 23 June 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2023), sent by email from MoD, p. 2.

10 Article 7 Report (covering 2018).

11 Email from MoD, 10 October 2024.

12 Ibid.

13 Ibid.

14 "Women officers set to join army in Oman", *Khaleej Times*, 21 December 2011, at: <http://bit.ly/3dYcDaH>.

15 Email from MoD, 10 October 2024.

16 Royal Decree No. 114/2001.

17 Email from MoD, 10 October 2024.

18 Emails from Oman MoD, 23 June 2021 and 3 April 2022.

PLANNING AND TASKING

In its Article 7 report covering 2023, Oman provided a work plan that foresaw release of all remaining mined area by July 2024.¹⁹ In fact, Oman completed clearance by the end of the year.²⁰

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Oman has national mine action standards (NMAS) that, it says, are compliant with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Non-technical survey (NTS) and technical survey (TS) are systematically applied in land release, and clearance is only performed where necessary.²¹ Oman said in its latest Article 7 report that its NMAS are “largely compliant with the IMAS, with focus on the humanitarian aspects”.²²

Since 2020, no AP mines were discovered during re-clearance.²³ Oman said the absence of AP mines “confirms the areas had previously been cleared”.²⁴

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2023, Oman's executive mine clearance unit comprised 85 personnel of various ranks and specialities.²⁵

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

From January to September 2024, Oman army engineers re-cleared 32,800m² in Tawi Atir region across 3 SHAs, and then from September to December 2024, 52,800m² were cleared in South Wadi Thant region across 4 SHAs. No AP mines were found during clearance.²⁶

In 2023, Omani army engineers re-cleared 106,400m² across 32 SHAs in Ain Gharnut and Sarfit & Wadi Siek (Dalkut State) areas of Dhofar governorate. No AP mines were found during the clearance.²⁷ Oman also cancelled 8,800m² through NTS across four AP mined areas in Sarfit and Wadi Siek in Dalkut state, in Dhofar governorate.²⁸

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Oman was required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 February 2025. Oman completed clearance at the end of 2024 and then at the June 2025 APMBC intersessional meetings made a statement that it had successfully met its Article 5 deadline and was in full compliance with the provisions of the Convention.²⁹

¹⁹ Article 7 Report (covering 2023), sent by email from MoD, Annex D.

²⁰ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Annex A.

²¹ Email from MoD, 10 October 2024.

²² Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Annex D.

²³ Oman did not report on whether it found AP mines in 2021.

²⁴ Article 7 Report (covering 2019).

²⁵ Email from Oman MoD, 10 October 2024.

²⁶ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Annex A and B.

²⁷ Article 7 Report (covering 2023), sent by MoD, 17 September 2024, Annex C.

²⁸ Ibid., Annex B.

²⁹ Statement of the Sultanate of Oman, Intersessional Meetings, 18 June 2025.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Oman's mine action programme is fully nationally owned and the Executive Operational Unit has the capacity to address any previously unknown mined areas discovered following completion.³⁰ In its statement at the June 2025 intersessional meetings, Oman recognised that "natural and geographical conditions may sometimes affect the ability to fully detect all mines, [but that] the Sultanate of Oman remains fully prepared and ready, through its specialised teams, to deal with any future discoveries, in close coordination with concerned regional and international parties".³¹

30 Email from Oman MoD, 23 June 2021.

31 Statement of the Sultanate of Oman, Intersessional Meetings, 18 June 2025.