TÜRKIYE

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2030

Not on track to meet deadline

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Heavy
(Mine Action Review estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km²)	Release in 2024 (km²)
Clearance	0.36	0.68
Technical Survey	0.30	0.04
Non-Technical Survey	5.12	5.03

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	1,808	179

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

- Turkish Land Forces Military Demining Units (ÖMAT)
- Gendarmerie Forces Military Demining Units (JÖMAT)
- The Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) Survey Branch

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2025, Türkiye was granted a five-year extension to its Article 5 deadline under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), with a new deadline set for 31 December 2030. In July 2025, Türkiye stated that the outlook for land release in Mardin province, along the border with Syria—severely impeded due to insecurity—had improved, following recent developments in Syria. Non-technical survey (NTS) in Mardin was planned to start in 2026. The amount of land released in Türkiye increased nominally in 2025, compared to 2024, though clearance remained low and even dropped. However, the number of anti-personnel (AP) mines destroyed increased, from 179 in 2024, to 1,808 in 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Alongside extensive NTS and expectations of substantial cancellation of hazardous areas, Türkiye should continue to increase capacity, as planned, and accelerate clearance, which remains low.**
- **Türkiye should accelerate its plans to address contamination in non-border areas, a significant proportion of which is excluded from Türkiye's 2026–30 work plan.**
- **Türkiye's obligations under the APMBC require it to implement and report on mine clearance in territory it controls in northern Cyprus. Türkiye likely also has an obligation under Article 5 of the APMBC to clear AP mines in Syria, since mined areas are thought to remain under its control in the north of the country. This is because Article 5 of the Convention obligates every State Party to survey and clear all areas under its jurisdiction "or control".**[1]
- **Türkiye should elaborate a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan for the programme.**

1 Türkiye requested that Mine Action Review note its objection to this paragraph and include its statements that: "Syria is a sovereign country, not under the control of Türkiye and, as Türkiye has no obligation to clear AP mines on another country's territory, responsibility for releasing mined areas does not sit with Türkiye", and that "the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a sovereign country recognized by the Republic of Türkiye and not under Türkiye's control, and that responsibility for mined areas does not sit with Türkiye". Emails from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 24 August and 11 September 2026.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	8	8	Türkiye now has a detailed understanding of the extent of its mine contamination, following completion of an extensive NTS project in 2023. But some mined areas have still to be surveyed.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	6	6	The Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC), under the purview of the Ministry of National Defence (MoND) is responsible for mine action. The Government of Türkiye consistently funds survey and clearance by its military demining units and TURMAC survey personnel. Expansion of military demining units, mechanical assets, and mine detection dogs (MDDs) was planned for 2026. Türkiye continues to seek donor funding for major clearance projects along its eastern and southern borders.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	4	Türkiye provided some information on gender and diversity in its 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request. It says it considers gender in all aspects of mine action but has yet to provide a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan. A quarter of TURMAC staff in 2025 were women, but only two were in military demining units.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	5	4	Türkiye has a national mine action standard (NMAS) on environmental management, which it updated in line with the IMAS in 2025, and which establishes its measures to minimise environmental harm during survey and clearance.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	8	8	Türkiye submits detailed and timely Article 7 reports and submitted a detailed Article 5 deadline extension request in March 2025, with additional information in July. In early 2026, Türkiye said it will not transition from an older to the latest version of IMSMA for its national database, as it does not meet TURMAC's confidentiality requirements.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	7	In its 2025 extension request, Türkiye provided a detailed work plan for survey and clearance for its proposed extension period of 2026–30. Türkiye's planned land release targets for its extension period fall short of the 214.1km^2 remaining as at the end of 2025.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	8	8	In 2025, Türkiye published standard operating procedures (SOPs) on accreditation and technical survey (TS), paving the way for TS to use mechanical assets and MDDs, which TURMAC says will accelerate land release.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	4	4	Türkiye's slow pace of land release increased nominally in 2025 compared to the year before, with most release again achieved through cancellation. The low clearance in 2025 was down on 2024, and indeed has declined annually since 2022. Türkiye has been granted a further five-year extension to the end of 2030, during which it plans to complete clearance, subject to securing international donor funding. However, this is extremely improbable unless clearance is accelerated dramatically.
Average Score	**6.2**	**6.1**	**Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Ministry of National Defence (MoND)
- Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Turkish Armed Forces including: Land Forces Military Demining Units (ÖMAT), Gendarmerie Forces Military Demining Units (JÖMAT) and Military Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (IED)/Mine teams.

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None in 2024–25

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Türkiye reported 3,649 mined areas on its territory at the end of 2025: 2,051 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and 1,598 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs). Together, they covered 214km^2 (see Table 1).[2] This is a 5.8km^2 decrease on the total a year earlier when contamination was in 2,000 CHAs and 1,656 SHAs, covering 219.9km^2.[3] Türkiye has a detailed understanding of remaining contamination following completion of its major NTS project in November 2023 (as planned), which Türkiye declares has resulted in identification of the "precise perimeter of all mined areas in Türkiye."[4] More than 40% of Türkiye's mined area is along its 911km-long border with Syria. Türkiye also has contamination along its borders with Iraq (accounting for 22% of contaminated area), and Iran (16% of contaminated area), as well as in unspecified non-border areas (19% of contaminated area).[5] No new areas of previously unrecorded AP mine contamination were added to Türkiye's national database in 2025.[6]

Table 1: Mined area by region (at end 2025)[7]

Region	CHAs	Area (m²)	AP mines*	SHAs	Area (m²)	AP mines*	Total area (m²)
Syrian border	1,167	59,543,474	354,089	266	31,161,725	48,482	90,705,199
Iraqi border	406	19,714,671	63,622	417	27,652,069	12,417	47,366,740
Iranian border	222	7,547,123	31,794	340	26,999,892	12,049	34,547,015
Non-border areas	256	7,450,188	24,980	575	34,058,895	20,202	41,509,083
Totals	**2,051**	**94,255,456**	**474,485**	**1,598**	**119,872,581**	**93,150**	**214,128,037**

* In its Article 7 report for 2025, Türkiye also reports the presence of 129,250 anti-vehicle (AV) mines in CHAs along the Syrian border and 32,184 AV mines in SHAs along the Syrian border; and 20 AV mines in CHAs along the Iraqi border.

In its 2025 extension request, Türkiye explains in detail how it came to identify a large amount of suspected contamination as a result of its NTS project. This includes the following – reclassification of several CHAs and SHAs; identification of new SHAs in areas previously inaccessible due to security concerns; and identification of new SHAs through access to additional indirect evidence and "non-standard" records.[8] Türkiye's work plan for its proposed extension period includes plans for NTS in 2026–29 of 211 mined areas still to be surveyed in the provinces of Mardin (bordering Syria) and Bingöl (a non-border province) (see Table 4).[9]

Türkiye reports that mines were first laid along the Syrian border in the 1950s to prevent smuggling and later in the south-east for security.[10] According to Türkiye's 2021 Extension Request, AP mines were laid along the borders "and certain areas outside borders from 1955 until 1998", in order to reinforce security of the borders during the Cold War. After the 1990s, AP mines were emplaced to "reinforce military bases in the fight against separatist terror organization".[11] This refers to the 1984–99 armed conflict with the PKK[12] in the south-east of the country. This occurred mostly in the provinces of Ardahan, Batman, Bingöl, Bitlis, Diyarbakir, Hakkari, Mardin, Şırnak, Siirt, and Tunceli.[13] According to Türkiye, these mines, which were marked and fenced, have been progressively cleared since 1998.[14] The mines on Türkiye's other borders were mostly laid in 1955–59 and on some sections of the border with Armenia, Iran, and Iraq in 1992–95.[15] Türkiye says its western borders with Bulgaria and Greece as well as the border with Georgia are all mine-free.[16] Clearance along the border with Armenia was completed in 2022.[17]

In its Article 5 deadline extension request of 2021, Türkiye reported that, prior to the establishment of the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) in 2015, demining conducted solely by military units only cleared areas with a 90–95% reliability rate and without quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC).[18] For this reason, the minefields in question are included in the TURMAC database as hazardous areas. In addition, NTS of these minefields was conducted within the NTS Project as a part of the Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP).[19]

2 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.
3 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.
4 Statement of Türkiye on Clearance, Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties to the APMBC (21MSP), 20–24 November 2023, Geneva, p. 2.
5 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.
6 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.
7 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.
8 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 10 and 12.
9 Ibid., p. 37.
10 Ministry of National Defence (MoND) Mine Action Centre, Strategic Plan 2020–2025, undated but 2020, p. 1.
11 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 3.
12 Designated a terrorist organization by Türkiye (among other States). Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 24 August 2026.
13 Email from the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC), 24 June 2020.
14 Email from TURMAC, 11 July 2019.
15 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form D; 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. A-1 and A-5.
16 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.
17 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.
18 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.
19 Information provided by TURMAC, 4 September 2024.

None of the AP mines destroyed by Türkiye during 2025 was of an improvised nature.[20] Türkiye states there are "no known areas" containing improvised AP mines.[21]

NORTHERN CYPRUS

Türkiye's original Article 5 clearance deadline was 1 March 2014. Türkiye has not requested additional time for clearance of the areas it controls in northern Cyprus[22] and none of its three extension requests, including the one submitted in 2025, made reference to northern Cyprus[23] (see the *Clearing the Mines 2026* report on Cyprus for further information).
In June 2026, in response to Mine Action Review's question about Türkiye's plans to meet its Article 5 obligations in areas under its control in northern Cyprus, Türkiye reaffirmed its previous statement that: "the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a sovereign country recognized by the Republic of Türkiye and not under Türkiye's control, and that responsibility for mined areas does not sit with Türkiye."[24] This is not an accurate interpretation and application of Türkiye's obligations under Articles 1 and 5 of the APMBC, which has no territorial limitations. Article 5 obligates a State Party to destroy or ensure the destruction of all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction "or control". Consonant with international law, Article 5 applies to any mined areas containing AP mines in territory over which a State Party exercises effective control outside its sovereign jurisdiction for a period of several months or more.

NORTHERN SYRIA

While the political and security situation in Syria continued to be fluid, as at August 2026, Türkiye likely still has an obligation under Article 5 of the APMBC to clear AP mines in Syria, since mined areas are thought to remain in areas under its control in the north of the country. Consonant with international law, Article 5 applies to any mined areas containing AP mines in territory over which a State Party exercises effective control outside its sovereign jurisdiction for a period of several months or more. This said, in August 2026, Syria's official State news agency reported that "Syria is currently working to rebuild its military and civilian institutions and develop its capabilities, and therefore, it benefits from cooperation and training programmes with a number of countries", including Türkiye.[25] As noted above, Türkiye has stated that Syria is a sovereign country, not under the control of Türkiye, and claimed that as "Türkiye has no obligation to clear AP mines on another country's territory, responsibility for releasing mined areas does not sit with Türkiye."[26]

TURMAC hosted a delegation from the Syrian Mine Action Centre and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) Syria Programme Coordinator for a visit in February 2026, to introduce the duties and responsibilities of TURMAC, along with humanitarian mine action equipment, systems and activities.[27] In June 2026, Türkiye reported to Mine Action Review that: "on the Syrian border, which gained stability after the fall of regime in December 2024, humanitarian mine activities continue uninterrupted. We are sharing training, experience, and knowledge in the field of humanitarian mine clearing activities in cooperation with the Syrian government as two sovereign states." Türkiye added that such cooperation continues to increase "based on respect for sovereignty and good neighbourliness between two countries".[28] It was not stated if any survey or clearance of mined areas by Türkiye had taken place on the Syrian side of the border.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

In addition to landmines, Türkiye has limited contamination from unexploded ordnance (UXO) on its territory. It was also reported, in 2025 and 2026, that Türkiye's Naval Forces had detected and neutralised naval mines, adrift in Turkish territorial waters in the Black Sea, due to the Russia-Ukraine war.[29]

20 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

21 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) website on 30 July 2025, https://bit.ly/3V9tdKQ, p. 1.

22 See the reference to Türkiye's jurisdiction in northern Cyprus under the European Convention on Human Rights in European Court of Human Rights, *Güzelyurtlu and others* v. *Cyprus and Turkey*, Judgment (Grand Chamber), 29 January 2019, para. 193.

23 2013; 2021; and 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Requests.

24 Emails from TURMAC, 17 August 2023; and Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024; 9 October 2025; and 19 June 2026.

25 Syria's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, as quoted in "Al-Shaibani to Axios: There is no intention to establish a Turkish base and no military build-up at Abu al-Duhur airport", *Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA),* 20 August 2026, https://tinyurl.com/9hezve72.

26 Emails from TURMAC, 17 August 2023; and Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024; 9 October 2025; and 19 June 2026.

27 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form I.

28 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

29 "Türkiye clears 50 million square meters of mines in border security push", *Türkiye Today*, 24 May 2025, https://tinyurl.com/yhjkb2xs; and "Trilateral Littoral Response to the Drifting Mine Threat in the Black Sea: The MCM Black Sea Task Group", *Defence Turkey*, 7 July 2026, https://tinyurl.com/ys2969zx.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Türkiye adopted Law No. 6586 establishing a national mine action centre under the Ministry of National Defence (MoND) in 2015. The law gave the centre, TURMAC, responsibility for clearance to humanitarian standards of mines and UXO.[30] TURMAC's Director reports to the Minister and Deputy Minister of the MoND.[31] TURMAC's activities are regulated by two presidential decrees.[32] TURMAC is responsible for elaborating policies for clearance; planning and steering related activities and monitoring their implementation; and coordinating and cooperating with domestic and foreign institutions.[33] Türkiye noted in its 2025 extension request that TURMAC "is still in the process of strengthening its internal capacity to ensure full functioning."[34]

Türkiye regards clearance of mined areas as an "indispensable part of the modern integrated border management (IBM) of Türkiye" as well as a humanitarian matter. As such, mine action has been included in the strategic planning of other governmental and non-governmental institutions and partners nationally.[35] Türkiye states that meetings are held twice a year with relevant ministries to plan mine action activities. In addition, mine clearance in Türkiye is directly aligned with 12th National Development Plan, which attributes importance to improving the technical and physical infrastructure of border security.[36]

In 2025, Türkiye continued to build the capacity of TURMAC and its military demining units. TURMAC personnel received training in humanitarian demining and NTS; and personnel from military demining units received training in mine detection dog (MDD) accreditation. Further training in these areas and others, including the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), and quality management (QM), and accreditation, was planned for 2026.[37]

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

Mine action in Türkiye is mostly financed by the State and both TURMAC and the Turkish Armed Forces demining units are financed entirely by the government.[38] The Government of Türkiye provided TRY138.3 million (approx. US$3 million) in 2025 to cover the cost of TURMAC, and TRY1.242 billion (approx. US$27 million) for survey and clearance of mined areas, including capacity development of military demining units.[39] The funds committed in 2025 are a substantial increase on 2024, when Türkiye allocated TRY397 million (approx. US$8.4 million) from the national budget for all areas of mine action, including survey and clearance.[40]

Türkiye's 2025 extension request contains a detailed budget for implementation during its extension period of 2026–30, including details of resources committed by the State.[41] Türkiye has pledged TRY4.13billion (approx. US $88.1 million) for "mine clearance activities" between 2026 and 2030, the majority of which is allocated to TURMAC and military demining units.[42]

Türkiye initiated an Individualised Approach event in the margins of the Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties (21MSP) in November 2023[43] and continues to engage potential donors. In July 2025, Türkiye submitted a €20 million request to the EU's Post-FRiT[44] fund for clearance of mined areas in the provinces of Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, and Kilis, along its southern borders with Syria,[45] under the planned Phase I of the Southern Borders Mine Clearance Project (SBMCP). Türkiye also continues to seek donor funds to implement Phase IV of the previously mentioned EBMCP. Türkiye is disappointed at the lack of international assistance to its programme, despite it ranking among "the top 10 countries in the world" in terms of extent of AP mined area.[46] For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Türkiye on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[47]

30 Article 7 Report (covering 2014), "Workplan for mine clearance activities", Annex 1; and CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report, Form A, 2015.

31 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

32 Presidential Decree dated 18 April 2019; and Presidential Decree No. 32, amending the Presidential Decree on General Staff and Procedure. MoND, "Turkish Mine Action Center", accessed 7 March 2023, https://bit.ly/44hgNDN.

33 Article 7 Report (covering 2014), "Workplan for mine clearance activities", Annex 1; and Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report, Form A, 2015.

34 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 3.

35 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

36 Information provided by TURMAC, 4 September 2024; 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 30; and Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 5.

37 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

38 Email from TURMAC, 21 June 2017.

39 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D. The amount of TRY1.242 billion (approx. US$27 million) is an increase on the TRY491.5 million (approx. USD$10.5 million) stated on p. 28 on Türkiye's 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request. Türkiye explains that, due to additional budget expenditures after the submission of the extension request in March 2025, there was an increase in the 2025 budget. Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 10 July 2026.

40 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

41 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 3.

42 Of this TRY4.13 billion (approx. US $88.1 million) committed by Türkiye for the period 2026-2030, TRY14.35 million (approximately US$306,000) is allocated to explosive risk ordnance education (EORE). The remainder is allocated to TURMAC and military demining units. 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 40.

43 CCW Amended Protocol II Report (covering 2023), Form B.

44 The Post-FRIT fund is the financial mechanism established by the EU in 2021 after the end of the FRIT (Facility for Refugees in Turkey).

45 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 5.

46 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 31.

47 https://the-monitor.org.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Türkiye did not address gender and diversity in its 2021–25 strategy, but has provided further information subsequently. Türkiye claims that gender and diversity are taken into consideration in all aspects of mine action and that gender-sensitive recruitment procedures help provide equal employment opportunities to women and men from diverse groups.[48] Under the EBMCP, Gender Awareness Training was provided to TURMAC personnel in 2023.[49] This is the most recent such training reported to have taken place.[50] Türkiye asserts that it has integrated the gender perspective into the proposed SBMCP Phase I and EBMCP Phase IV projects, under which "TURMAC's plan is to empower local and refugee women and translate them from victims to powerful individuals".[51]

Female staff levels have remained fairly consistent in TURMAC in recent years and stood at 24% as at the end of 2025.[52] The proportion of management and supervisory roles occupied by women in TURMAC appears to have increased however, with nine women in such roles in 2025 (see Table 2), compared to "a head of department and two branch chiefs", two years earlier in 2023.[53] In 2025, Türkiye reported that female personnel carry out a range of roles including "technical, expert and trainer, in all activities carried out by TURMAC" and that "in terms of staff and task diversity, efforts are ongoing to increase the number of female personnel in the coming periods.[54] Concerning the military demining units, there were no women in the units of the Land Forces in 2025, and only two women (less than 1% overall) in the Gendarmerie units (see Table 2).[55] Comparable data for previous years are not available.

Türkiye's 2025 extension request provides relatively detailed information on how gender and diversity is integrated into risk education,[56] but Türkiye has yet to provide a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan covering all areas of mine action, including mine survey and clearance. In the extension request, when outlining progress in female employment under Phase III of the EBMCP, Türkiye notes that, although they are encouraged to apply, "women in Türkiye generally do not prefer the profession of mine clearance".[57] If such efforts are not already underway, it would be beneficial to investigate why this is the case and identify barriers to employment. These findings, alongside other relevant wider data, should inform a comprehensive and strategic approach to gender and diversity in all aspects of mine action as Türkiye embarks on its 2026–2030 extension period.

Table 2: Gender composition of TURMAC and national demining units in 2025[58]

Organisation	Total staff	Total women staff	Managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Operational staff	Women operational staff
TURMAC	54	13 (24%)	31	9 (29%)	23*	4 (17%)
Land Forces demining units	325	0 (0%)	25	0 (0%)	300	0 (0%)
Gendarmerie demining units	249	2 (<1%)	35	2 (6%)	214	0 (0%)
Totals	**628**	**15 (2%)**	**91**	**11 (12%)**	**537**	**4 (<1%)**

* Includes operational staff of TURMAC's survey; quality management; risk education; and operational planning departments.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Türkiye has a national mine action standard (NMAS) on environmental management (MMFS 07.13), which it updated in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in August 2025. Türkiye asserts that the updated standard provides comprehensive provisions to mitigate the negative environmental impact of mine action, for example, the protection of vegetation where feasible, and the rehabilitation of cleared land for productive civilian use.[59]

48 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form I; and email from TURMAC, 18 April 2023.

49 Information provided by TURMAC, 4 September 2024.

50 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

51 Ibid.; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form I.

52 By comparison, 22% of TURMAC's staff were female in 2023, and 25% in 2024, according to Türkiye's Article 7 Reports (covering 2023 and 2024), Form I. However, Türkiye stated in July 2025 that, in 2024, a slightly lower proportion (22%) of TURMAC staff were female. "Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, pp. 5–6. 2025 data provided in an email to Mine Action Review from the Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

53 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form I; and email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024. Mine Action Review has requested information from TURMAC annually since 2023, on the total number of male and female staff and the proportions of supervisory or managerial and operational positions occupied by women in TURMAC, and in Türkiye's military demining units but, until June 2026, this information was not provided. Hence directly comparable data for years prior to 2025 are not available.

54 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, pp. 5-6.

55 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

56 See, for example, "Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Activities and Efforts Undertaken to Ensure the Effective Exclusion of Civilians from Mined Areas", 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 18-23.

57 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10.

58 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

59 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

TURMAC explains that environmental assessment activities are conducted during planning and implementation of technical survey (TS) and clearance, in accordance with MMFS 07.13, and any necessary protective measures are implemented.[60] Türkiye also reports that it deploys "environmentally sensitive ammunition destruction and recycling capabilities" (including for AP mines) at its MoND munitions disposal facility (MAAT).[61]

Türkiye's 2025 extension request contains information on the positive impact of mine clearance on the environment—for example, through the removal of polluting explosive compounds contained in mines from soil[62]—but provides only limited information on how, in practice, Türkiye intends to mitigate environmental harm during survey and clearance. In additional information provided in July 2025, Türkiye did state that Phase IV of the EBMCP and other clearance activities will "take measures to rehabilitate cleared lands" and that some of the released land will be used for renewable energy.[63] TURMAC will regularly monitor the implementation of MMFS 07.13 and provide updates on environmental protection measures to all stakeholders. This includes information on the rehabilitation of cleared lands and the promotion of safe use of released areas for agriculture, livestock, or renewable energy production.[64]

Türkiye reported that unprecedented heavy rains and weather conditions had impeded survey and clearance in areas along its southern border with Syria during the first half of 2026.[65] This raises the possibility that climate change may disrupt Türkiye's typical operational pattern of assigning demining units to these southern areas during the winter months, when the combination of harsh weather and altitude prevents demining along Türkiye's eastern borders.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

TURMAC uses the previous version of the IMSMA system (IMSMA New Generation (NG)) for its national mine action database. Following consultations between TURMAC and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Türkiye elected in 2025 not to transition to the newer IMSMA Core system, explaining that it does not meet TURMAC's confidentiality requirements.[66] Türkiye provides a detailed account of its information management system and practices in its 2025 extension request.[67] It also notes that, following eventual completion of mine clearance, both printed and digital data "will continue to be stored in accordance with national legislation".[68] Currently, survey and clearance data reported by Türkiye are accurate and disaggregated by type of contamination—i.e. AP mines from AV mines and UXO—as well as by method of land release. Field reports are collected on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis and transferred to the IMSMA system.[69]

Türkiye has submitted Article 7 transparency reports annually on time, which provide a detailed review of plans and activities. In March 2025, Türkiye submitted a timely and thorough extension request, including a detailed work plan, to be considered at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties (22MSP) in December 2025. It also submitted additional information on the request, as the Committee on Article 5 Implementation had asked, in July 2025.[70] In granting Türkiye's request at the 22MSP, States Parties requested that Türkiye provide annually, by 30 April, its TS plan for the current year. States Parties also requested that Türkiye provide an updated work plan by 30 April 2028, for the remainder of the extension period.[71]

PLANNING AND TASKING

In 2020, TURMAC issued a strategic mine action plan through to the end of 2025 setting out a vision of Türkiye completing mine clearance by 2025, as well as strengthening national capacity and ensuring its sustainability. While mine clearance was not completed as anticipated, Türkiye did significantly expand national demining capacity through consistent commitment of national resources (see the section on Operators and Operational Tools below). Türkiye has a

60 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

61 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

62 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 10 and 30.

63 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 4.

64 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

65 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

66 Specifically Türkiye explained that: "as the information and documents related to minefields are subject to confidentiality principles of National Defence Ministry, the system is required to operate on a local network, and the offline usage capability of IMSMA Core does not meet TURMAC's current confidentiality requirements". Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

67 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 24–26.

68 Ibid., p. 26.

69 Article 7 Reports (covering 2024 and 2025), Form D.

70 Both the 2025 extension request submitted in March 2025, and additional information provided in July 2025 are available on the ISU website, https://bit.ly/4mTiM9Z.

71 In requesting that Türkiye provide TS plans annually, States Parties noted that Türkiye indicated in its request that "in order to make subsequent decisions regarding the newly identified SHAs and to confirm the mine hazard with certainty, annual technical survey plans for SHAs have been prepared". "Decisions on the request submitted by Türkiye for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention", 4 December 2025, p. 1.

Mine Action Plan (Strategy) covering 2026–28, which was developed with the participation of relevant stakeholders and widely disseminated.[72] Türkiye's 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request includes a detailed plan for 2026–30.[73]

Demining teams are typically assigned to the eastern borders in warmer months (June-November), where conditions and altitude (up to 3,000m) preclude demining taking place in the winter. During the winter months, TURMAC assigns teams to the southern border areas, with their milder climate and flatter terrain.[74]

In 2025, Türkiye planned for its 50 military demining teams to address 1.2km^2 in the provinces of Hakkari, Hatay, Iğdır, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, Şırnak, Tunceli, and Van. It also envisaged that NTS would be conducted by TURMAC Survey Branch over approximately 5km^2.[75] This NTS goal was achieved (see Table 8). However, TS and clearance combined in 2025 led to the release of a little under 0.96km^2 in total, less than the stated goal of 1.2km^2. It is not stated in which provinces clearance and TS took place, but most was along the Syrian border (where the provinces of Hakkari, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, and Şırnak are located), while the remainder took place in areas along the border with Iran (Van and Iğdır), and in non-border areas (Tunceli). See Tables 8 and 10 for details of TS and clearance achieved in 2025, respectively.

In its 2025 extension request, Türkiye set out four key areas of work during its extension period of 2026–30, namely:

Phase IV of the EPBMP, which includes clearance of 4km^2 by military demining units across various provinces including border and non-border areas; TS and NTS across 3km^2 in various provinces; and "non-technical research activities" across 25km^2 in Bingöl and Mardin provinces (see Table 4).[76] Türkiye also sets out detailed plans for survey and clearance during 2026–30, including its "Military Demining Unit's Mine Clearance Tasks Plan"[77] for clearance of 49 areas covering 3.84km^2 in total.[78] This detailed plan includes the priority criterion assigned to each task; the district; province; and location in relation to Türkiye's international borders (or non-border areas); the size of the areas to cleared; (m^2); the objective of the operation (for example, systematic clearance, or clearance to support agriculture, or tourism); and the estimated date of completion.[79] Each task represents a designated CHA.[80]

In its Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Türkiye provided updated annual survey and clearance targets for the initial three years of its extension period (2026–28), revised from those provided in its 2025 extension request. Türkiye has increased the total amount of land it plans to clear during this three-year period from just under 2.17km^2 to 3.85km^2, and increased the amount of land it plans to reduce through technical survey, from 1.98km^2 to 2.57km^2 (see Table 3). Türkiye's NTS target for the period remains unchanged (see Table 4).[81] A detailed annual land release plan for 2026 is provided in an annex to Türkiye's latest Article 7 report.[82]

Table 3: Revised annual survey and clearance targets for 2026–28[83]

Year	Planned clearance (m^2)	Planned reduction (m^2)	Planned NTS (m^2)
2026	1,500,000	920,000	8,572,147
2027	1,250,000	800,000	7,697,438
2028	1,100,000	850,000	8,747,090
Totals	**3,850,000**	**2,570,000**	**25,016,675**

As mentioned, within the 2026–30 work plan is NTS of 211 mined areas in Mardin province bordering Syria, and Bingöl, a non-border province, which was not completed under the NTS project that ended in 2023. The annual NTS plan for these "suspicious areas and areas to be requested [for survey]" is shown in Table 4.[84] Türkiye explains that, when any suspected mine or UXO contamination is reported to TURMAC by any authority, NTS activity not included in the annual plan is carried out in response.[85]

72 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 24 August 2026.

73 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 30-41.

74 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

75 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

76 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

77 Ibid., pp. 32–33.

78 Ibid., p. 34.

79 Ibid., pp. 32–33.

80 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

81 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Annex, "2026 Mine Action Plan", p. 38; and 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 34 and 37. On p. 33 of the annex to the Article 7 report, Türkiye says it plans to undertake NTS over a lower figure of 5km^2 during 2026, even though the higher figure of 8,572,147m^2 is given several times elsewhere. Mine Action Review queried this and Türkiye clarified that the figure of 8,572,147m^2 is correct and that, of this, it expects to cancel 5km^2. Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 24 August 2026.

82 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

83 Ibid., Annex: 2026 Mine Action Plan, p. 38.

84 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 37.

85 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

Table 4: Non-technical survey plan for Mardin and Bingöl provinces (2026–30)[86]

Province	No. of areas	Area to be surveyed (m²)	Target completion date
Mardin	49	8,572,147	December 2026
Mardin	44	7,697,438	December 2027
Mardin	*50	8,747,090	December 2028
Bingöl	*68	174,300	December 2029
"NTS for suspicious areas and areas to be requested"	N/R	N/R	December 2030
Totals	**211**	**25,190,975**	

* Non-border areas. N/R = Not reported.

In requesting an extension for five years to the end of December 2030, Türkiye stated that: "During this period, Türkiye plans to continue mine clearance activities unabated and to complete its work in this area."[87] Türkiye adds that it is building capacity, including establishing new, nationally funded, "search and clearance military companies".[88] Türkiye says that "if a donor is found in this period, and following the completion of the establishment of new elements, new areas identified with TS and NTS are planned to be cleared.[89] However, it remains unclear how completion will be achieved, with specific plans for clearance in the request shown only for the 3.84km² previously mentioned.

In response to a request from Mine Action Review for clarification on how Türkiye plans to complete clearance within the proposed extension period, Türkiye explained that: TURMAC is continuing its efforts to increase capacity, including expansion of military demining capacity during 2026–27. In addition, "studies for the use of civilian capacity" were ongoing, the results of which Türkiye will include in clearance plans. With increased capacity, Türkiye expects clearance to accelerate, "and the goal of a mine-free Türkiye is anticipated to be reached in a shorter period".[90]

Based on Türkiye's 2025 extension request, it is very difficult to see how Türkiye could meet its obligations by the end of 2030 and it seems likely that a further extension will be needed. Indeed, in information provided to Mine Action Review in October 2025, Türkiye states that it "is taking steps to increase mine clearance efforts annually. The aim is to finalize the demining activity within the specified time frame. However, if the target is not met, a further extension will be requested".[91]

In 2025, Türkiye provided updated details of its prioritisation of mine clearance activities, adding a fifth level to the first four previously provided.[92] The (now five) levels are as follows:

1. Lands with minefields along the southern and eastern borders, which prevent the establishment of new border surveillance technology and infrastructure (e.g. watchtowers, patrol roads).
2. Interior lands with minefields, posing a danger to inhabitants.
3. Lands within the mined areas to be cleared that are included in projects by other ministries for public benefit (e.g. construction of irrigation channels and other infrastructure).
4. Disputed lands along the borders and interior that are owned privately.
5. Lands within mined areas to be cleared for the purpose of generating socio-economic benefit (e.g. agriculture, livestock, and mining).[93]

In response to Türkiye's extension request, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) raised a concern that casualties from mines continue to occur in provinces where no land release activities are planned.[94] Türkiye responded to a request from Mine Action Review for clarification on this matter, explaining that, in an area where a mine accident has occurred, first NTS and then TS is conducted. If a need for clearance is identified, based on these findings, the area is prioritised in annual plans.[95]

Türkiye's detailed workplan for 2026 was prepared based on typical weather conditions along the Syrian border areas, where operations are undertaken during the winter months, as mentioned. However, Türkiye reported in June 2026, that planned survey and clearance in the first half of the year had been impeded by unprecedented heavy rains and weather conditions, which, it says, may delay implementation.[96]

86 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 37.

87 Ibid., p. 4.

88 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 24 August 2026.

89 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 2.

90 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

91 Ibid.

92 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D; email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024; and 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 30.

93 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 30. In Türkiye's Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D, prioritisation Level 4 is described somewhat differently as "minefields laid on citizens and requested to be released".

94 "ICBL Comments on Türkiye's Article 5 deadline Extension Request", APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 17–20 June 2025.

95 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

96 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

THE EASTERN BORDERS MINE CLEARANCE PROJECT (EBMCP)

Having completed the first three phases of the EBMCP, Türkiye is now seeking to implement Phase IV, which is intended to take place in Van province and aims to clear 85 mined areas, covering approximately 4km^2.[97] TURMAC foresees land release in Phase IV will be comparable to that of previous phases as the mined areas to be addressed have records and the mines are laid in a pattern.[98] While many mined areas identified by NTS are likely to be reduced through TS, Phase IV will include full clearance of CHAs.[99]

Phase IV of the project also includes the provision of risk education in 20 locations, TS over 30 SHAs, and (unspecified) capacity-building for TURMAC and military demining units.[100] Türkiye claims that Phase IV "will have remarkable effects on acceleration of Türkiye's demining process and reduction of hazardous areas". Türkiye has estimated the cost of Phase IV at above €32.5 million.[101] Türkiye also states in its 2025 extension request that "if an international donor is found to finance the project, a national budget contribution will be requested in return for the budget provided for TURMAC within the framework of National Budget possibilities".[102] In additional information provided, Türkiye pledges that, "if sufficient funds are still not found, the areas specified in the project will be cleared by national military units and resources".[103]

During Phase I of the EBMCP (2016–17), 10 mined areas were cleared and 23,724 AP mines destroyed. During Phase II (2018–19), 39 mined areas were cleared and 23,277 AP mines destroyed.[104] Phase III, which was completed on time in 2023,[105] saw release of 94 mined areas.[106] TURMAC reported that, as result of Phase III, a total area of 3.62km^2 had been "addressed".[107] The NTS Project under Phase III resulted in 3,451 minefields being surveyed by commercial contractors.[108]

THE SOUTHERN BORDERS MINE CLEARANCE PROJECT (SBMCP)

As previously mentioned, as at June 2026, Türkiye was seeking international donor assistance to implement Phase I of its SBMCP. Plans for Phase I (subject to securing sufficient funds) include clearance of 85 mined areas, covering approximately 4.6km^2; TS on two SHAs totalling 17,500m^2; and capacity building of TURMAC and military demining units; as well as risk education and vocational training for local residents and Syrian refugees. Türkiye explains that the planned clearance would allow the installation of 250km of integrated border management systems, ensuring safe access to border areas.[109] The estimated cost of the project is €20 million.[110]

THE MARDIN PROJECT

The Mardin Project in Mardin province encompasses 45 minefields containing 27,614 mines across 1.7km^2 along the border with Syria.[111] Türkiye had planned that it would be managed by TURMAC and implemented by a private contractor,[112] and in 2020, the MoND pledged an additional TRY25 million for clearance in the province,[113] seeking to clear 27 areas covering nearly 1.06km^2 between 2021 and 2023.[114]

In 2023, however, Türkiye declared that the project could not be realized "due to the activities of the terrorist organizations and the instability on the border area."[115] The 2025 extension request again indicated that the Mardin Project could not be conducted due to the risk of "direct and indirect fire that could be carried out by terrorist organizations (PKK/PYD/YPG) from across the Syrian border".[116]

97 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 1. In Türkiye's latest Article 7 Report (covering 2025) it is reported that this 4km^2 extends across the lower number of 75 mined areas. Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

98 "Türkiye Mine Action Programme: Project for Completion, Wednesday, 22 November 2023", p. 3.

99 Ibid., p. 5.

100 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 31. In Türkiye's latest Article 7 Report (covering 2025) it is reported that TS will take place across the higher number of 41 mined areas. Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

101 Emails from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June and 24 August 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

102 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 31.

103 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 3.

104 "Türkiye Mine Action Programme: Project for Completion, Wednesday, 22 November 2023", p. 2; and information provided by TURMAC, 4 September 2024.

105 Presentation by TURMAC, 21MSP, Geneva, 20–24 November 2023.

106 "Türkiye Mine Action Programme: Project for Completion, Wednesday, 22 November 2023", p. 2.

107 This 3.62km^2 included mined areas in Ağrı, Ardahan, Iğdır and Kars provinces (and was a little less than the 4.24km^2 predicted). 49,336 mines were destroyed (significantly less than the 80,000 thought to be present). Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D; and email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024.

108 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

109 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

110 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 24 August 2026.

111 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D.

112 Presentation by TURMAC, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 22 June 2022.

113 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form A.

114 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

115 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D; and email from TURMAC, 18 April 2023.

116 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

In the additional information it provided in July 2025, though, Türkiye said that: "Following the latest developments in Syria, security risk in the region has begun to decrease" and that the NTS specified in the request was now planned.[117] In June 2026, TURMAC confirmed that NTS in Mardin had been included in TURMAC's 2026 NTS plan.[118] Following NTS, clearance in Mardin province is planned for 2029 and 2030, and Türkiye expects any mined areas identified as a result of NTS to be included in clearance plans.[119]

CLEARANCE OF NON-BORDER AREAS

Türkiye had planned to clear all 873 identified mined areas inside the country by 2021, involving release of 3.1km^2 and destruction of 34,410 mines. Little progress has been made in recent years, with clearance of only 0.3km^2 at a former military range in 2018,[120] followed by a further 0.49km^2 cleared between 2021 and 2025.[121] Türkiye estimated at the end of 2022 that only 2.5km^2 remained.[122] However, completion of NTS in 2023 meant this estimate for non-border areas increased significantly, and stood at 41.5km^2, as at the end of 2025, with SHAs covering 34.05km^2 and CHAs covering 7.45km^2 (see Table 1 above).[123] The mined areas are scattered and TURMAC has previously considered it practical for clearance to be conducted by the military even though their capacity to do so has been limited.[124]

In its work plan for 2026–30, Türkiye specifies that 8.7km^2 in non-border areas in Bingöl and Mardin provinces would be subject to NTS in 2026–29 (see Table 4);[125] 153,000m^2 in non-border areas would be subject to TS in 2028–29;[126] and 1.27km^2 in non-border areas would be cleared between 2026 and 2030.[127] This amounts to land release tolling 10.12km^2 – far short of the 41.5km^2 estimated to be remaining in non-border areas as at the end of 2025. Türkiye clarified to Mine Action Review in June 2026 that: "Since the extension request covers only the period until the end of 2030, the planned area has been determined accordingly. If additional funding cannot be secured, the rest of the contaminated area will be cleared in the following years."[128] TURMAC has explained that it gives higher priority to clearing border minefields and installing border management facilities such as watch towers and patrol roads[129] with the aim of providing "a more secure and technologically advanced humanitarian border management system."[130]

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

In its 2025 extension request, Türkiye explains that methods for release of suspected and confirmed hazardous areas in Türkiye are defined through its NMAS and standard operating procedures (SOPs), which comply with the IMAS.[131] Türkiye issued 44 NMAS (including on land release) in 2019[132] and has specific clearance standards for its Eastern border and Southern border.[133] In 2024, Türkiye updated NMAS relating to animal detection systems. In 2025, Türkiye published national SOPs on accreditation and TS, with the latter paving the way to conduct TS using mechanical assets and mine detection dogs (MDDs) – an approach that TURMAC says will accelerate land release. These SOPS were developed in coordination with humanitarian demining units.[134] Türkiye has pledged that the NMAS will be updated in line with IMAS during its extension period of 2026–30.[135]

Türkiye provides detailed information on its eight-stage process for NTS in its 2025 extension request.[136] It also extensively outlines its methods and standards relating to QC and QA, including internal and external QA/QC activities.[137]

117 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 2.

118 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

119 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 2.

120 Email from TURMAC, 21 June 2017; and Article 7 Report (for 2017, 2018, and 2019), Form A.

121 In non-border areas, Türkiye cleared: 9,584m^2 in 2021; 2,727m^2 in 2022; 58,040m^2 in 2023; 77,621m^2 in 2024; and 43,547m^2 in 2025. Annual Article 7 Reports (covering 2021-2025), Form D.

122 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

123 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

124 Email from TURMAC, 24 June 2020.

125 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 37.

126 Ibid.

127 Ibid., p. 34.

128 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

129 Email from TURMAC, 12 August 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D.

130 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D.

131 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 14.

132 Email from Hans Risser, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, 3 October 2016; and Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Form F; Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.

133 CCW Amended Protocol II Report (covering 2023), Form B.

134 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

135 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 15.

136 Ibid., p. 14.

137 Ibid., pp. 26–27.

It also describes its search protocol for lost mines, and explains that, if a mine is found in a previously cleared and completed area, TS is undertaken again and "the general condition of the land is determined and searched again with the verification methods".[138]

All areas cleared by Türkiye in 2025 proved to contain AP mines.[139] The number of AP mines destroyed, relative to the amount of land cleared varies from year to year, but has been notably low in the last two years, with 179 AP mines destroyed during clearance of 0.68km^2 in 2024; and 1,808 AP mines destroyed during clearance of 0.36km^2 in 2025. These figures compare, for example, to 33,443 AP mines destroyed during clearance of 0.92km^2 in 2023.[140] Türkiye explains that, between 2016 and 2023, mine clearance was conducted by not only the military, but also contracted civilian capacity, using EU funds. However, since 2024, only military capacity has been deployed. Türkiye stated the exceptionally low number of AP mines destroyed in 2024 was also due to material deterioration over time of mines that were laid in the 1950s.[141]

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Türkiye deploys its military demining units for TS and clearance, under the operational control of TURMAC. In 2025 Türkiye deployed 32 clearance teams affiliated with the Land Forces Command and 18 teams affiliated with the General Command of Gendarmerie, along with 10 demining machines; and 17 MDDs (see Table 6). This capacity for 2025 was unchanged from that of 2024.[142] However, Türkiye planned to expand capacity by the end of 2026, by adding a further four Land Forces teams and six Gendarmerie teams, raising the total number of military demining teams from 50 to 60. Türkiye also plans to add four demining machines, bringing the total to 14; and six MDDs, bringing the total to 23, again, by the end of 2026.[143] TURMAC's Survey Branch undertakes NTS operations, with two teams totalling six personnel deployed in 2025 (see Table 5). Türkiye reported that four additional NTS teams would become operational during 2026.[144]

To accelerate land release efforts, Türkiye's defence industries developed the Mechanical Mine Clearing Equipment (MEMATT), a light-medium, unmanned demining machine with a tiller attachment, particularly suitable for demining on the flat terrain along the Syrian border.[145] Türkiye has been increasing mechanical demining capacity, adding six MEMATT-II demining machines in 2022[146] and reaching eight by the end of 2025 (see Table 6). MDDs are deployed in Türkiye for TS, verification, sampling control activities, and to support clearance in areas where effective use of detectors is impacted by metal density and mineralised rocks. Türkiye implements a two-level verification process, encompassing extended search activities for lost mines, following manual clearance, and sample checks using MDDs. See Table 6 for MDD capacities deployed by Türkiye in 2025.[147]

Table 5: NTS capacities deployed in 2025[148]

Operator	NTS teams	Total NTS personnel
TURMAC Survey Branch	2	6
Totals	**2**	**6**

Table 6: Operational TS and clearance capacities deployed in 2025[149]

Operator	Manual clearance teams	Total manual deminers	Mechanical clearance teams	Total mechanical deminers	MDD teams*	Mechanical assets
Gendarmerie	18	162	2	4	11	2 x MEMATT-II
Land Forces	32	192	8	16	6	6 x MEMATT-II 2 x BOZENA
Totals	**50**	**354**	**10**	**20**	**17**	****10**

* MDD teams consist of one dog and one handler. ** 14 mechanical assets available, but 10 deployed in 2025.[150]

138 Ibid., p. 24.

139 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

140 By way of further comparison: 14,022 AP mines were destroyed during clearance of 0.41km^2 in 2021; and 58,058 AP mines were destroyed during clearance of 1.29km^2 2022. Article 7 Reports (covering 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025), Form D. Thus the low number of AP mines (179) destroyed in 2024 was uncharacteristically low.

141 Emails from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025 and 24 August 2026.

142 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

143 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 24 June 2026.

144 Emails from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 24 June and 24 August 2026.

145 MoND Mine Action Centre, Strategic Plan 2020–2025, undated but 2020, p. 7; Article 7 Reports (covering 2019 and 2020), Form A.

146 Email from TURMAC, 18 April 2022; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

147 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

148 Ibid.

149 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 24 June 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

150 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

While all survey and clearance in 2025 was undertaken by TURMAC and military demining units (see Tables 8, 9, and 10), Türkiye explains that "when funding is available from sources outside the official budget, civilian company capacity will be utilised", such as was the case under previous phases of the EBMCP.[151] As at July 2026, TURMAC listed six companies accredited for mine clearance in Türkiye as follows: SAFELAND; ESIS Construction; Demir Defence; Humanitarian Mine Action Association (iMFAD); AYOS; Damasec; and MAY Global. TURMAC also notes that "the institution in question will be subject to operational accreditation and field audit phases before starting its activities" in Türkiye. All organisations listed are corporate entities, apart from iMFAD, which is a Turkish NGO.[152]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

Table 7: Summary of land release outputs in 2025 (National authority data)[153]

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km²)
Clearance	0.36
Technical survey	0.30
Non-technical survey	5.12
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2025**
AP mines destroyed	1,808

Türkiye released 5.78km² of land in 2025, of which 5.12km² was cancelled through NTS, 0.30km² was released through TS, and 0.36km² was cleared. A total of 1,808 AP mines were destroyed during clearance, along with 40 AV mines and 5 items of UXO.[154] No new areas of contamination were added to the national database in 2025.[155]

Türkiye did not report on any land release in 2025 in areas under its control in northern Cyprus or any that are under its control in northern Syria.

SURVEY IN 2025

Türkiye released a total of 5.42km² through survey in 2025, of which almost 5.12km² was cancelled through NTS (almost all of which took place along the Syrian border), and a little over 0.3km² was reduced through TS (see Tables 8 and 9).[156] Land release through survey in 2025 represents a slight increase on 2024, when Türkiye released a total of 5.07km² through survey, of which almost 5.03km² was cancelled through NTS and a little over 0.35km² reduced through TS. Again, most of this release, just over 5km², was through NTS along the Syrian border,[157] as was also the case in 2023.[158]

Table 8: Release of mined area through NTS in 2025[159]

Operator	Region	Number of areas cancelled	Area cancelled (m²)
TURMAC	Syrian border	N/R*	5,045,677
TURMAC	Non-border areas		72,336
Totals		**N/R**	**5,118,013**

* Türkiye's Article 7 Report (covering 2025) states "TURMAC SB's [Survey Branch's] efforts led to cancellation of 5,118,013 m² of area in 65 different minefields".
N/R = Not reported.

151 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.
152 See https://www.imfad.org/.
153 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.
154 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.
155 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.
156 Ibid.
157 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.
158 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.
159 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

Table 9: Release of mined area through TS in 2025[160]

Operator*	Region	Number of areas reduced	Area reduced through TS (m²)
Military Humanitarian Demining Units	Syrian border	*6	290,078
Military Humanitarian Demining Units	Non-border areas		11,510
Totals		**6**	**301,588**

* Information on how many areas were reduced in each location was not provided.

CLEARANCE IN 2025

In 2025, Türkiye cleared 0.36km², destroying 1,808 AP mines, along with 40 AV mines, and 5 items of UXO (see Table 10).[161] This represents a slight decrease on 2024, when Türkiye reported clearance of 0.68km².

Table 10: Mine clearance in 2025[162]

Region	Operator	CHAs & SHAs at 1 Jan*	CHAs & SHAs at 1 Jan*	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Syrian border	Military Humanitarian Demining Units	1,434	1,433	242,722	779	40	0
Iraqi border		823	823	30,989	91	0	0
Iranian border		562	562	50,074	278	0	0
Non-border areas		837	831	32,037	660	0	5
Totals		**3,656**	**3,649**	**355,822**	**1,808**	**40**	**5**

* Information on areas disaggregated by SHAs and CHAs was not provided. The number of hazardous areas cleared is not provided.

DEMINER SAFETY

One deminer, of the Hakkari Çukurca humanitarian demining unit, was injured during clearance of AP mines in Türkiye in 2025. The accident involved an M14 AP mine.[163]

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR TÜRKIYE: 1 MARCH 2004

↓

ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2014

↓

FIRST EXTENDED DEADLINE (8 YEARS): 1 MARCH 2022

↓

SECOND EXTENDED DEADLINE (3 YEARS AND 9 MONTHS, INTERIM EXTENSION): 31 DECEMBER 2025

↓

THIRD EXTENDED DEADLINE (FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION): 31 DECEMBER 2030

NOT ON TRACK TO MEET ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the five-year extension granted in 2025), Türkiye is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2030.[164]

In its 2025 extension request, Türkiye provides detailed information on the circumstances that impeded implementation by the deadline. These include: topographical and access challenges, harsh weather, instability in some border locations and persistent insecurity in other areas (Mardin), delays in the importation of MDDs due to the

160 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

161 Ibid.

162 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 24 August 2026;and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

163 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 19 June 2026.

164 "Decisions on the request submitted by Türkiye for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention", 4 December 2025, p. 1.

COVID-19 pandemic, and the two earthquakes that affected southern Türkiye in February 2023 as a result of which military units were assigned to search and rescue activities. Also highlighted was the fact that a significant amount of EU funds were transferred to projects to mitigate the impact of the earthquakes, and that international funding for demining in Türkiye ended.[165]

In granting Türkiye's request for an extension of its Article 5 deadline to 2030, the 22MSP noted that Türkiye's plan is "workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation". However, it also noted that "the plan is ambitious and that the success of the plan is contingent upon the findings of survey efforts, funding, and challenges posed by the meteorological and geographical conditions of the remaining mined areas".[166] Furthermore, as already discussed, the implementation of Phase IV of the EBMCP, a key milestone on Türkiye's path to completion, remains uncertain, with a request for national budget towards Phase IV and the development of a work plan for it contingent on securing some international donor funding.[167] Similarly, Phase I of the proposed SBMCP remains contingent upon donor funding, also not yet secured as at July 2026. Given these uncertainties, it is a welcome development that Türkiye asserts that the security outlook for implementation of the Mardin Project in Mardin province bordering Syria has improved such that it finally expects to be able to undertake planned activities during the extension period.[168]

Finally, as already discussed, Türkiye's work plan for its extension period does not provide for release of all contaminated areas, and it remains unclear, based on the work plan included in the 2025 extension request and the additional information provided, whether Türkiye envisages submitting a further request to extend its Article 5 deadline beyond 2030.[169] As noted, Türkiye has acknowledged that it may request a further extension.[170]

Türkiye's steady expansion in operational capacity in recent years, and plans to further expand capacity during 2026, are to be welcomed. In its latest Article 7 report covering 2025, Türkiye notes that, since its first extension request, approximately 56.6km^2 of mined area has been addressed and almost 228,500 AP mines destroyed.[171] But whether Türkiye can complete clearance by the end of 2030 depends on the extent to which it can secure donor funding or commit significant additional national resources, accelerate clearance significantly, and undertake massive cancellation and reduction.

Table 11: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km^2)
2025	0.36
2024	0.68
2023	0.92
2022	1.29
2021	0.41
Total	**3.66**

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Türkiye states that, if previously unrecorded areas of contamination are discovered after the completion of large-scale clearance, "these areas will be addressed through existing national capacity, or through projects to be carried out if funds and resources are available".[172]

165 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 34.

166 "Decisions on the request submitted by Türkiye for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention", 4 December 2025, p. 1.

167 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 31; and Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, pp. 2–3.

168 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 2.

169 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

170 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

171 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

172 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 3.