

FORMER SOVIET MILITARY TRAINING AREA WITTSTOCK

REPORT ON THE CLEARANCE OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS FOR AN EXTENSION REQUEST PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 4 OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS OF THE
„ANALYSIS GROUP”

„IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS“
„CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS”

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Answers to the Questions of the „Analysis Group”, „Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions“, „Convention on Cluster Munitions” dated 30 January 2019

1. In accordance with Article 4.3 and Dubrovnik Action Plan Action 3.1, Germany is encouraged to provide more information on how operations are compliant with IMAS. This would be beneficial a experience sharing with other States Parties.

Cluster munitions clearance, including all preliminary and follow-up work, is conducted in accordance with German federal legislation and legislation of the federal state of Brandenburg, occupational safety standards of the German Statutory Accident Insurance Association (Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung, DGUV) and the construction technical guidelines on unexploded ordnance clearance of the federal government (Baufachlichen Richtlinien Kampfmittelräumung des Bundes). This federal and state legislation is binding and takes precedent over the application of international health and safety or technical standards is not foreseen in the field of unexploded ordnance clearance in Germany.

2. Section 3.4: Information on the clearance depth being used in operations at Wittstock All anomalies that are detected as potential cluster munition remnants or larger objects are recovered regardless of their depth. The smallest target of interest for clearance has been defined as a half sphere of the ShOAB-0,5 submunition (further elaborated in p chapter 8.3 of the report on the clearance of cluster munitions at the former Wittstock military training area accompanying the article 4 extension request). Larger objects detected (bombs, artillery shells, scrap metal) are recovered as well in order to ensure no cluster munition remnants are masked by such larger objects. Effectively, cluster munitions clearance in Wittstock has no restricted clearance depth.

3. Though Technical Survey is not in use, it was observed that its use would significantly increase the survey rate. Germany could also consider TS application to one area as a pilot to compare with current rates of operation.

Cluster munitions clearance started in an area where the occurrence of cluster munition remnants was known from earlier finds. Starting in this area, the clearance was conducted outwards in parcels (with a size of 50 x 50 m), please also refer to chapter 8.3 of the report on the clearance of cluster munitions at the former Wittstock military training area accompanying the article 4 extension request. Until today, cluster munition remnants were found – with few exceptions – in every single parcel cleared. Applying a technical survey was therefore not necessary to date.

If during future clearance areas were encountered without cluster munition remnants, the clearance method shall be changed to technical survey.

4. More information should be provided on how decisions are made regarding which areas to clear and when.

The areas to be cleared in 2019 were subjected to prescribed burning in 2018. The areas to be cleared in 2019 could be defined accordingly.

As described in chapter 10.4 of the report on the clearance of cluster munitions at the former Wittstock military training area accompanying the article 4 extension request, a detailed planning of areas to be cleared beyond annual planning is not possible because of the requirement to subject these areas to prescribed burning. Prescribed burning is only possible under certain weather conditions on single days every year. On such a day, the areas that can actually be subjected to prescribed burning are determined by the responsible personnel of the federal forestry agency based on wind direction, wind speed and moisture. The conditions cannot be predicted, therefore planning beyond the year 2019 is currently not possible.

5. Section 10.1: Clarification is sought on how the indicated clearance rates were determined. Did it take into account the temporary decrease in staff levels anticipated when new contracts are negotiated?

The indicated clearance rates per person are average values taking into account all staff working on site (including EOD technicians, surveyors) that were achieved during clearance so far. The clearance rates are subject to significant variations that depend on various factors such as the intensity of the contamination with metal objects, summer heat and frozen ground in winter. It is expected that the current average clearance rate can be maintained in the future.

A decrease of the clearance rates in case of new clearance contractors is not expected. Contracts will be concluded early, so that new contractors have at least six months for the preparations and training of the clearance personnel.

6. Section 10.2: Need to include more elements of risk assessment undertaken. What structures are in place for project risk management? What are the uncertainties and other potential risks to the project being conducted as envisioned? (e.g. weather, staff availability, occupational hazards such as accidents, increased costs, financial shortfalls, etc.)

Potential project risks have been described in detail in chapters 10.3 to 10.6 of the report on the clearance of cluster munitions at the former Wittstock military training area accompanying the article 4 extension request,

Project risk management is the responsibility of the project coordination committee that meets weekly with its core members and monthly with an extended group (see answer to question No. 10 for details on the project structure). During these meetings, the status of clearance and clearance progress as well as the quality of clearance, costs and milestones are assessed in relation to project planning. Weekly reports are disseminated to document clearance and project progress.

7. More information should be provided on the cost estimates in the tables on pages 39 – 40. (including an explanation of the EUR 2m budget increase from increase in 2021 onwards).

Cost estimates are based on the costs accrued so far. They can therefore be assessed as realistic.

The cost increase from 2021 is due to the planned new tender for commercial unexploded ordnance clearance in the project. The current contracts guarantees constant prices and thus price stability independent of general price increases. As a result of the new tender, new (higher) prices are expected. The higher price estimations are based on available information on recent price adjustments for area clearance in Germany and general expectations on the development of the inflation rate.

8. Section 10.7: Information can now be provided on actual clearance completed in 2018. Also more detail can be provided in the indicated work plan particularly for the 2019 and 2020 work plans:

The total area cleared as of 31 December 2018 is 122 ha, of which 75 ha were cleared in 2018. In total the following cluster munitions remnants were found:

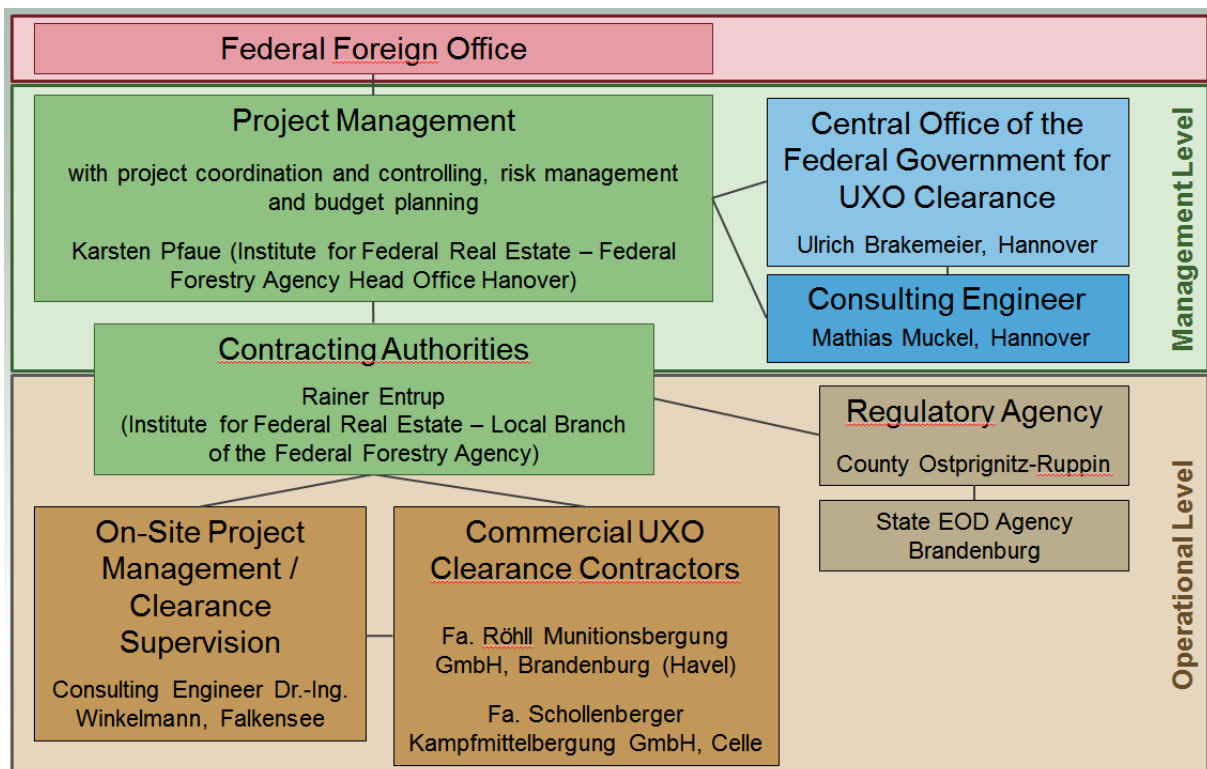
	Finds in 2017	Finds in 2018	Total Finds
AO-1 SCh	33	23	56
AO-1 M	0	2	2
AO-2,5 RTM	0	2	2
AO-10 SCh	1	1	2
ShOAB-0,5	324	1.354	1.678
PTAB-1 M	0	1	1
PTAB-2,5M	87	101	188
PTAB-2,5 TG	0	4	4
PTAB-10-5	2	11	13
ZAB 1-E	0	1	1
ZAB 2,5M	61	41	102
ZAB 2,5	0	1	1
Total	508	1.542	2.050

9. How assured is the funding of the project? More information should be included on the potential impact on the project in the case of insufficient funding.

Funding of the project is comprehensively secured. All costs for the clearance of cluster munition remnants, including all preliminarily and follow-up work, are paid for by the owner of the site, the Institute for Federal Real Estate (Bundesanstalt für Immobilienaufgaben – BImA). This also covers unforeseen cost increases. The Institute for Federal Real Estate is an institution incapable of insolvency that is 100% owned by the federal government.

10. It would be beneficial if more information was provided on the project structure, in particular on the management of the project, to gain a better understanding on how decisions are made and how risks are being managed.

The organization of the project is laid out in the following organization chart.



The owner of the site is the Institute for Federal Real Estate (BImA). BImA is an institution incorporated under public law owned 100% by the federal government.

The Wittstock site is administrated by the Federal Forestry Agency as a subdivision of BImA.

The project management lead lies with the head office of the Federal Forestry agency in Hanover. It includes project coordination and controlling, risk management and budget planning. Reporting to the Federal Foreign office and the management of BImA are also the responsibility of the project management.

The head office of the Federal forestry agency is supported by the Central Office of the Federal Government for UXO Clearance at the Lower Saxony State Office for Construction and Real Estate (NLBL) and Consulting Engineer Mathias Muckel. Both are based in Hanover and therefore nearby the head office of the Federal Forestry Agency.

Contraction authorities for commercial UXO clearance contractors and on-site project management and clearance supervision is the local branch of the Federal Forestry Agency, Bundesforstbetrieb Westbrandenburg based in Potsdam near Berlin.

Consulting Engineer Dr.-Ing. Winkelmann was contracted for on-site project management and clearance supervision.

UXO clearance is conducted by the commercial UXO clearance contractors Röhl Munitionsbergung GmbH (Brandenburg (Havel)) and Schollenberger Kampfmittelbergung GmbH (Celle).

Responsible for public security under the police law of the federal state of Brandenburg is the Regulatory Agency of the County of Ostprignitz-Ruppin based in Neuruppin near Berlin.

Disposal of cluster munition remnants and other ordnance is the sovereign task of the state EOD agency, Kampfmittelbeseitigungsdienst des Landes Brandenburg (KMBD).

