

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



CLEARING THE MINES 2020

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JANUARY 2021
EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 1 JULY 2022

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)
MINE CONTAMINATION:

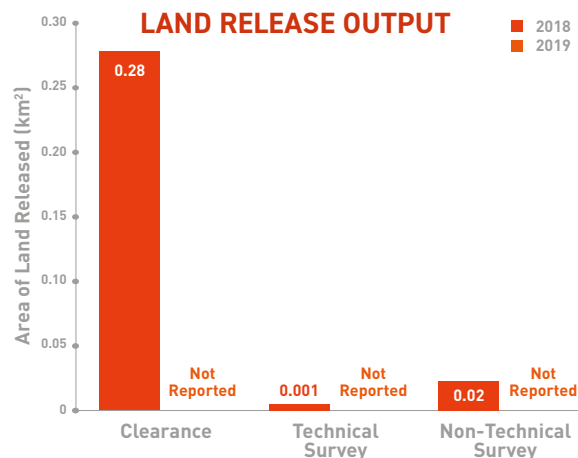
LIGHT, 0.1 km²
(MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE)

AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2019

NOT REPORTED

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2019

NOT REPORTED



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) informed the Fourth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in November 2019 that it had "no intention" of requesting an extension to its Article 5 deadline. Ten months later, however, the DRC requested an extension of 18 months to complete clearance of anti-personnel mines in mined areas, for consideration at the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties in November 2020. Survey in 2019 and early 2020 cancelled many suspected hazards that proved to have no mines, leading to a much reduced and more realistic estimate of remaining mine contamination.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- The DRC should add details to its 2020 Article 5 deadline extension request, including a timeline for survey of remaining suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and the operational capacity currently available for survey and clearance.
- The Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines (CCLAM) should provide a detailed report on the scope and outcomes of survey and clearance in 2019.
- The DRC should submit prompt, comprehensive Article 7 transparency reports.
- The DRC should detail its plans for sustainable national capacity to tackle previously unidentified hazards.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2019)	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	6	5	The DRC's estimates of contamination have for years looked inflated by explosive remnants of war (ERW) hazards misreported as mine contamination or included in the database without evidence, but survey conducted by DanChurchAid (DCA) and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) in 2019 and early 2020 sharply reduced the estimate.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	6	6	The Congolese Mine Action Centre coordinates mine action with financial support from the government but it relies on UNMAS and other international organisations for technical support and on international donors to fund operations.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	6	6	CCLAM recognised the significance of gender in mine action by including a section on it in the 2018–19 national mine action strategy. All activities, especially risk education and victim assistance, are required to take account of the needs of different age groups and genders, and women should participate in all essential stages of mine action planning.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	3	4	The DRC has been inconsistent in submitting Article 7 reports, providing only three in the last eight years. As of 1 August 2020, it had provided no account of mine action results in 2019. In 2019, CCLAM continued to receive support from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and NPA for information management but operators say the quality of data from the database is poor and they are still being deployed for survey and clearance to tasks that have no mine contamination.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	4	5	As late as November 2019, the DRC said it would meet its Article 5 deadline of 1 January 2021 but in September 2020 it submitted a request for an 18-month extension, leaving scant time for the APMBC to consider its request ahead of the Eighteenth meeting of States Parties in November. The request lacked detail on available survey and clearance capacity and resources needed for a clear understanding of the DRC's prospects of completing its Article 5 obligations within the extension requested.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	5	5	CCLAM has 24 chapters of National Technical Standards and Guidelines which it reportedly revised in 2018, making amendments to standards dealing with demining techniques and deminer safety. CCLAM still required support from UNMAS for quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC).
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	5	4	CCLAM did not report details of land release but significant amounts of resurvey and cancellation in 2019 sharply reduced the estimate of remaining contamination to a level that appears to put completion well within reach.
Average Score	5.1	4.9	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

DEMINEING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines (CCLAM)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- National NGOs conduct non-technical survey and mine risk education

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
(ceased DRC operations in the first quarter of 2020)
- The Development Initiative (TDI)

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The DRC is affected by anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), a result of armed conflict involving neighbouring states, militias, and armed opposition groups, which have increased since the late 1990s. DRC's estimates of mine contamination have fluctuated in recent years as a result of weak coordination between key mine action stakeholders and persistent information management challenges but fresh survey and data analysis in 2019 and 2020 have sharply reduced the extent of anti-personnel mine contamination estimated to remain.

DRC informed the APMBC Intersessional Meetings in July 2020 that it has 33 mined areas affecting a total of 128,842m² in nine provinces: Ituri, Kasai, Maniema, North Kivu, North Ubangi, South Kivu, Tanganyika, Tshopo, and Tshuapa. Hazardous areas ranged in size from one of 50m² in Beni province's Bulese village to one of 19,200m² in Tshopo province's Batiapoli area, but averaged 3,904m². The DRC statement and subsequent Article 5 deadline extension request added that further survey of possible mine hazards was still needed in the Dungu area of Haut-Uele province and the Aru area of Ituri province.¹ Earlier surveys have found suspected mined areas already in use or other ERW misreported as anti-personnel mines, and on the basis of that experience operators believe it is likely that some of the remaining hazards will be cancelled.²

Resurvey leading to cancellation has already contributed to a sharp fall in DRC's estimate of outstanding contamination in the past year. The DRC reported in November 2019 it had 49 hazardous areas in 11 provinces covering 469,338m² affecting 11 provinces.³ Half a year earlier, at the end of April 2019, DRC's Article 7 Report estimated that it had 53 remaining mined areas with a total size of 741,559m² in 12 provinces.⁴ In the national strategy for 2018–19 issued in November 2017, the DRC had identified 48 dangerous areas affecting 978,563m².⁵

The shrinking assessment of anti-personnel mine contamination underscores that DRC contends with a much larger threat from ERW left by years of conflict, including a small amount of cluster munition remnant contamination (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2020* report). Successive conflicts have also left the country with significant quantities of abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO).

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area (at July 2020)⁶

Province	Area (m ²)
Ituri	5,750
Kasai	700
Maniema	16,563
North Kivu	12,760
South Kivu	851
North Ubangi	35,767
Tanganyika	6,943
Tshopo	48,188
Tshuapa	1,320
Total	128,842

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The mine action sector is overseen by the Commission Nationale de Lutte Antimines (CNLAM), a multi-sectoral body which is supposed to meet twice a year and is composed of deputies from both parliamentary chambers, officials from four ministries and representatives of five civil society organisations linked to mine action.⁷

Management of the sector is under the Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines (CCLAM), which was established in 2012 with support from the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).⁸ It is responsible for setting strategy, accrediting operators, information management, budgeting, and resource mobilisation. Law 11/007 of 9 July 2011 underpins the national mine action programme.⁹ CCLAM took over from UNMAS as the national focal point for demining in early 2016 overseeing accreditation, issuing task orders, conducting quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) and managing the national database but lack of capacity remained a concern for operators.¹⁰ The government has provided funding for CCLAM's operating expenses, amounting to US\$530,000 in 2018, but has not provided funding for operations.¹¹

UNMACC, established in 2002 by UNMAS, previously coordinated mine action through offices in the capital, Kinshasa, and in Goma, Kalemie, Kananga, Kisangani, and Mbandaka. UNMACC was part of the UN Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO). In 2014, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2147 (2014), humanitarian mine action was removed from MONUSCO's mandate.¹² UNMAS, working in 2019 with 18 international and 18 national staff, has continued to support CCLAM in planning, aiding the development of CCLAM's 2018–19 mine action strategy and capacity building CCLAM's information management department.¹³

Strategic goals set out in DRC's 2020 Article 5 deadline extension request included the protection of civilians, facilitating the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, clearing arable land to support a revival of cultivation and economic activity and to provide secure humanitarian access to communities for UN agencies and non-government organisations.¹⁴ CCLAM's priorities for the national programme in 2019 were improving the national database, conducting a new national contamination survey, organising a workshop to develop an annual work plan, and capacity building of operational staff.¹⁵ Key challenges, it said, included a lack of funding, the withdrawal of mine action operators from the country, the availability of good training of CCLAM staff to ensure coordination and quality management, a lack of adequate training for surveyors, and the absence of state budget to cover salaries of CCLAM staff.¹⁶

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The DRC's national mine action strategy for 2018–19 stipulated that all mine action activities, particularly those related to risk education and victim assistance, must reflect the different needs of individuals according to age and gender, in a non-discriminatory manner. It also stated that the principles of non-discrimination against women as set out in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) are to be respected, ensuring that women are involved in all essential stages of mine action (planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation), and that activities take into account the special needs of women and girls.¹⁷

CCLAM reported that approximately 30% of operational staff in survey and clearance teams were female in 2019, but only around 7% of managerial or supervisory positions were held by women, reportedly due in part to barriers presented by local customs about the employment roles appropriate for women. CCLAM reported that mine action survey teams are gender balanced and that efforts are undertaken to ensure that all community groups, including women and children, are consulted. It also noted, however, the need to continue raising awareness on gender equality in certain communities as local customs can discriminate against women undertaking certain categories of work.¹⁸

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

CCLAM took over responsibility for information management from UNMAS in 2016 but has lacked the capacity and resources to manage data and operate effectively the national Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database. The 2018–19 national strategy acknowledged a need to build staff capacity, improve data collection, update the database on a regular basis, and provide data disaggregated by age and gender.¹⁹ Continuing issues in 2019 included gaps in data, lack of maintenance, reporting on land release that did not comply with international terminology, misreporting items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) as mines which resulted in new areas of contamination being incorrectly added to the database as mined areas, and a lack of verification of incoming reports.²⁰

UNMAS continued its long-running support to the database in 2019, assisting monthly updates of data to improve operational coordination, collaborating on developing an information management work plan, and providing a range of hardware, including computers, printers, GPS and other equipment.²¹ Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) has also provided refresher training for CCLAM staff in use of IMSMA and the geographic information system.²²

DRC's reporting to the APMBC has been inconsistent. It informed the Oslo Review Conference it would start implementing a new work plan in the first quarter of 2020 and so did not intend to request an extension to its Article 5 deadline.²³ CCLAM did not disclose a new work plan in the first quarter and it informed the July 2020 Intersessional Meetings that it would request an Article 5 deadline extension of 18 months until 1 July 2022.²⁴ DRC subsequently submitted its deadline extension request in September 2020. The DRC has submitted three Article 7 reports in the past eight years and as at 1 October 2020, had not provided a report covering 2019.

PLANNING AND TASKING

The National Mine Action Strategy 2018–19, prepared with support from UNMAS and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), focused on fulfilling the DRC's APMBC Article 5 obligations by 2020, one year ahead of its extended 2021 deadline.²⁵ The strategy identified three strategic pillars: effective and efficient management of the explosive threat; ensuring the national programme had the capacity to manage residual contamination in a sustainable manner; and that the legal framework of the mine action programme was strengthened through the adoption of national laws and other implementing measures and adherence to relevant treaties.²⁶ Despite requests from the Committee on Article 5 implementation, the DRC did not produce work plans with clear milestones for addressing remaining contamination.²⁷

In announcing in July 2020 that it would apply for an extension of 18 months to its Article 5 deadline, CCLAM said capacity available from DanChurchAid (DCA), The Development Initiative (TDI), the national non-government organisation Afrilam²⁸ and the Armed Forces was sufficient to complete clearance of mined areas but it faced challenges including insecurity, lack of access, and disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁹

The Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in September 2020 sets out a monthly clearance schedule which provides for clearance of a total of 112,927m² in 2021 and 15,915m² in the first five months of 2022³⁰ but gives no details of a timeline for the survey or clearance of remaining areas of suspected contamination in Dungu, Haut-Uele province, and Aru, Ituri province. It projects the total cost of completion at around US\$3.9 million, of which US\$3,316,474 is intended to come from international sources and US\$564,221 is due to come from the government to cover costs of coordination and administration. International funding includes US\$1,868,205 for clearance, US\$568,270 for survey in Aru and Dungu, and US\$880,000 for risk education.³¹

Tasking continues to be challenged by the remote location of many mined areas and database weaknesses, including misidentification of ERW as mine contamination and the addition of hazards to the database without robust evidence of the presence of mines. Instead of prioritising tasks, NPA adopted a province-by-province approach as a more efficient way to deal with the logistical challenges and costs of tackling tasks separated by big distances.³²

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

The DRC has 24 national standards developed with support from the GICHD³³ and the national strategy for 2018–19 called for revision of the standards and awareness raising of their content through training.³⁴ CCLAM reported in June 2019 it had revised the National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) during 2018, amending mainly the standards relating to demining techniques and safety of deminers in the workplace.³⁵

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The number of operators active in the DRC has fallen in the past two years to the point where DCA, NPA, and TDI were the only international organisations active in survey and clearance in 2019. Of those, NPA closed its operations in the first quarter of 2020.

Until 2018, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) had operated in North and South Ubangi provinces with two multi-task teams and two community liaison teams. When it halted its demining operations in August 2018, it was agreed among operators that NPA would continue survey and clearance in the north and north-west of the country, while DCA would continue to operate in central-eastern areas.³⁶ NPA operated with three teams conducting non-technical survey and manual mine clearance as well as explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks in 2019.³⁷ NPA continued survey in early 2020, but operations ended in February 2020 and the programme officially closed at the end of March 2020.³⁸

TDI continued operating in 2019 under contract to UNMAS, working with two teams and a total of 24 deminers. It carried out surveys in Ituri and Tanganyika provinces. It also conducted spot EOD and risk education in support of the UN peacekeeping operation, MONUSCO, working in the territories of Aru (Ituri province), Kalemie (Tanganyika province), and Shabunda town (South Kivu province).³⁹

UNMAS contracted three national NGOs—Afrique pour la Lutte Antimines (AFRILAM), Bureau des Actions de Développement et des Urgences (BADU), and Groupe Africain de Déminage, Développement et Environnement (GADDE) to conduct non-technical survey and explosive ordnance risk education in Ituri (Irumu, Djugu, Aru), and South Kivu (Kabare, Shabunda), Tanganyika (Katemie, Moba).⁴⁰

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2019

As at 1 October 2020, DRC had not released comprehensive data on land release in 2019.

CCLAM informed the Intersessional Meetings in July 2020 that operators had cleared 119 dangerous areas covering 1,692,601m² by December 2019 but did not clarify over what period of time this had occurred.⁴¹

SURVEY IN 2019

Operators are believed to have conducted extensive survey in 2019 but CCLAM did not provide details of the work or its results.

NPA re-surveyed a series of tasks in South Ubangi province between May and the end of July 2019 resulting in cancellation of 326,752m².⁴² Further re-survey conducted by NPA between November and mid-December 2019 led to removal of many tasks from the database and to cancellation of another approximately 150,000m².⁴³ CCLAM said NPA and DCA had reassessed 12 tasks between December 2019 and February 2020, resulting in cancellation of three tasks, but gave no further details.⁴⁴

UNMAS reported that three national NGOs AFRILAM, BADU, and GADDE conducted non-technical survey at 49 locations and TDI surveyed 42 tasks, which together resulted in cancelling 57,750m² and reduction of 9,361m².⁴⁵

CLEARANCE IN 2019

CCLAM reported clearance of a total of 422,461m² of mined area between January 2018 and the end of March 2019, of which 146,761m² was cleared in the first quarter of 2019. A total of 13 mines were destroyed in the 15-month period (11 PMA2 anti-personnel mines and 2 anti-vehicle mines), along with a total of 7,295 items of ERW. Results for the rest of 2019 were not immediately available.⁴⁶

TDI, working under contract to UNMAS, cleared three tasks affecting a total of 6,073m², two of them in Ituri province and one a 306m² task in Tanganyika. The operations resulted in destruction of one anti-personnel mine in Tanganyika, and one anti-vehicle mine and three items of UXO in Ituri.⁴⁷

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR THE DRC: 1 NOVEMBER 2002
ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 NOVEMBER 2012
FIRST EXTENSION REQUEST DEADLINE (3-YEAR EXTENSION): 1 JANUARY 2015
SECOND EXTENSION REQUEST DEADLINE (6-YEARS): 1 JANUARY 2021
ON TRACK TO MEET ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: NO (EXTENSION REQUESTED) LIKELIHOOD OF COMPLETING CLEARANCE BY 2025 (OSLO ACTION PLAN COMMITMENT): HIGH

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the six-year extension granted by States Parties in June 2014), the DRC is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 January 2021.

As recently as November 2019, the DRC said it intended to complete clearance by the start of 2021 and would not seek an extension,⁴⁸ but in July 2020 the DRC informed the Intersessionals meeting it would require an extension and in September 2020 it submitted its third extension request seeking an additional 18 months pushing back its deadline to 1 July 2022.⁴⁹

The DRC's first Article 5 deadline extension request in 2011 blamed poor survey by demining operators in particular for the failure to meet its deadline, though poor management and insufficient national ownership of the programme were also major factors.⁵⁰ The DRC's second extension starting in January 2015 called for six years in which to "(a) conduct technical surveys and clear the 130 identified mined areas; and (b) conduct non-technical and technical surveys as well as clear and/or release areas in the territories of Aru and Dungu in the Orientale province".⁵¹ The extension request estimated that on average 0.21km² would be cleared each year.⁵² Operators have largely met that clearance target (see Table 2) but poor survey, bad data, and weak coordination between key stakeholders are among the major factors holding back completion.

Table 2: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2019	N/R
2018	0.28
2017	0.23
2016	0.21
2015	0.31
Total	1.03

N/R = Not reported

There appear to be few reasons why the DRC will fail to meet its 1 January 2021 deadline. Progress cancelling suspected hazards in the past two years has narrowed the remaining area of contamination to a size that could have been addressed by its deadline. Moreover, operators believed a significant part of the 128,842m² still identified as contaminated can be released through non-technical survey and without requiring full clearance.⁵³

However, the extension request submitted in September 2020 leaves out details needed to clarify how the DRC plans to achieve completion within the requested extension. It does not present a timeline for survey of remaining SHAs or details of the recent annual clearance results. CCLAM's brief statement to the 2020 Intersessionals affirmed that the capacity of operators now working in DRC will suffice to meet the new July 2022 target.⁵⁴ The extension request says "five or six" army and police teams will support clearance⁵⁵ but it gives no details of what national or international operating capacity is available. A table linking areas of contamination to clearance by particular operators shows CCLAM had planned for clearance of North Ubangi province, representing more than a quarter of the remaining contamination, would be conducted by NPA, which ceased work in DRC in 2020.⁵⁶

The request does not indicate if donors have committed or pledged funding towards the estimated US\$3.9 million cost of completion. It says resource mobilisation will focus on efforts to try to raise the level of government funding for mine action, organising quarterly meetings with donors in collaboration with UNMAS and presentations at side-events to international meetings.⁵⁷

The DRC extension request attributes the need for an extension mainly to a decline in funding, a reduction in the number of demining operators, the lack of minefield maps, persistent conflicts, recurring epidemics, and the COVID-19 pandemic. It also draws attention to persistent insecurity and conflict.⁵⁸ The DRC statement to the 2020 Intersessionals meeting also identified the obstacles that could hold back progress: hazardous areas in North Ubangi, Tanganyika and Tshuapa are remote and difficult to access; access to Ituri and North Kivu provinces is limited by violent insecurity; and survey is still required of parts of Aru area in Ituri province and Dungu in Haut-Uelele province.⁵⁹ Such issues serve to underscore the need for the DRC to ensure sustainable national capacity for tackling residual mine hazards identified after completion.

PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

Despite the obvious need, as of July 2020, no formal planning had been undertaken for how to deal with mines found after fulfilment of DRC's Article 5 obligations. The national strategy for 2018–19 acknowledged the need to develop capacity for responding to residual mine and ERW contamination. It called for improved coordination between government and non-governmental organisation (NGO) mine action organisations; the creation of a joint army-police EOD rapid response team accredited by CCLAM; and the opening of a dedicated telephone number to report any discoveries of contamination.

- 1 Statement of DRC, Intersessional Meetings, 2 July 2020; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 10.
- 2 Email from Jean-Denis Larsen, Programme Manager, NPA, 7 July 2020.
- 3 Statement of DRC, Fourth APMBBC Review Conference, Oslo, 26 November 2019.
- 4 Article 7 Report (covering 2018), pp. 2–6.
- 5 CCLAM, "Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Antimines 2018–2019", November 2017, p. 8.
- 6 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 36, Table 19, pp.35–36.
- 7 Ibid., p. 11. The government ministries represented in CNLAM include defence, health, interior, and humanitarian affairs.
- 8 CCLAM, "Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Antimines 2018–2019", November 2017, p. 11; and Response to Cluster Munition Monitor questionnaire by Michelle Healy, UNMACC, 29 April 2013.
- 9 Email from Maître Sudi Alimasi Kimputu, Director, CCLAM, 3 June 2019.
- 10 Emails from Jean-Denis Larsen, NPA, 5 March 2018; Bill Marsden, MAG, 11 May 2018; and Guillaume Zerr, Humanity and Inclusion, 24 May 2018.
- 11 Email from Maître Sudi Alimasi Kimputu, CCLAM, 3 June 2019.
- 12 UN Security Council Resolution 2147, 28 March 2014.
- 13 Email from Aurelie Fabry, Programme Officer, UNMAS, 13 April 2020.
- 14 Article 5 Extension Request, August 2020, p. 36.
- 15 Email from Maître Sudi Alimasi Kimputu, CCLAM, 3 June 2019.
- 16 Email from Maître Sudi Alimasi Kimputu, CCLAM, 10 July 2019.
- 17 CCLAM, "Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Antimines 2018–2019", November 2017, pp. 15–16.
- 18 Email from Maître Sudi Alimasi Kimputu, CCLAM, 3 June 2019.
- 19 CCLAM, "Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Antimines 2018–2019", November 2017, p. 14.
- 20 Skype interview with Jean-Denis Larsen, NPA, 24 April 2019; and email, 24 May 2019.
- 21 Email from Aurelie Fabry, UNMAS, 13 April 2020.
- 22 Email from Jean-Denis Larsen, NPA, 24 May 2019.
- 23 Statement of DRC, Fourth APMBBC Review Conference, Oslo, 26 November 2019.
- 24 Statement of DRC, Intersessional Meetings, 2 July 2020.
- 25 CCLAM, "Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Antimines en République Démocratique du Congo 2018–2019", November 2017, p. 4.
- 26 Ibid., p. 5.
- 27 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations on the Implementation of Article 5 by the Democratic Republic of Congo", Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 May 2019.
- 28 Afrique pour la Lutte Antimines/Africa for Anti-Mine Action (Afrilam), based in Kisangani, conducted clearance in partnership with Humanity and Inclusion (HI) between January 2016 and December 2017 but is not known to have engaged in clearance since HI ceased demining in DRC in 2017.
- 29 Statement of DRC, Intersessional Meetings, 2 July 2020.
- 30 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, Table 32, p. 117.
- 31 Ibid., p. 47.
- 32 Skype interviews with Jean-Denis Larsen, NPA, 24 April 2019 and 16 May 2020; and email, 24 May 2019.
- 33 Statement of DRC, Intersessional Meetings, 2 July 2020.
- 34 CCLAM, "Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Antimines en République Démocratique du Congo 2018–2019", November 2017, p. 34.
- 35 Skype interview with Jean-Denis Larsen, NPA, 24 April 2019; and email, 24 May 2019.
- 36 Email from Bill Marsden, MAG, 20 May 2019. MAG reported that its arms management and destruction operations continued in the DRC.
- 37 Skype interview with Jean-Denis Larsen, NPA, 24 April 2019; and email, 24 May 2019.
- 38 Skype interview with Jean-Denis Larsen, NPA, 16 April 2020.
- 39 Emails from Aurelie Fabry, UNMAS 20 June 2019 and 13 April 2020.
- 40 Email from Sasha Bhatnagar, Associate Programme Officer, UNMAS, 14 August 2020.
- 41 Statement of DRC, Intersessional Meetings, 2 July 2020.
- 42 Email from Jean-Denis Larsen, NPA, 7 July 2020.
- 43 Skype interview with Jean-Denis Larsen, NPA, 24 April 2019.
- 44 Statement of DRC, Intersessional Meetings, 2 July 2020.
- 45 Email from Sasha Bhatnagar, UNMAS, 14 August 2020.
- 46 Article 7 Report (covering 2018), pp. 6–7 and 18.
- 47 Email from Aurelie Fabry, UNMAS, 13 April 2020.
- 48 DRC statement to the Oslo Review Conference, 26 November 2019.
- 49 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 10.
- 50 2011 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 3 and 49.
- 51 2014 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 48; analysis of DRC's Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted by the President of the Third Review Conference on behalf of the States Parties mandated to analyse requests for extensions, 18 June 2014, p. 5.
- 52 2014 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 49. The extension request included annual projections of progress to be made during the extension period, though without providing a detailed work plan for each operator in each area in order to achieve them. It also foresaw expenditure of US\$20 million, of which some \$19.4 million would go to demining the 130 mined areas, while the remainder would be spent on survey and clearance in Aru and Dungu. It announced that the Government of the DRC had committed to contribute FC580 million (about \$600,000) a year to mine action activities, starting in January 2015. However, no such funding was provided by the government.
- 53 Skype interview with Jean-Denis Larsen, NPA, 16 April 2020; and email, 7 July 2020.
- 54 Statement of DRC, Intersessional Meetings, 2 July 2020.
- 55 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 13.
- 56 Ibid., Table 25, p. 108.
- 57 Ibid., p. 46.
- 58 Ibid., p. 10.
- 59 Statement of DRC, Intersessional Meetings, 2 July 2020.