ANGOLA

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2022

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: HEAVY

MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE

40KM²

AP MINE CLEARANCE IN 2021

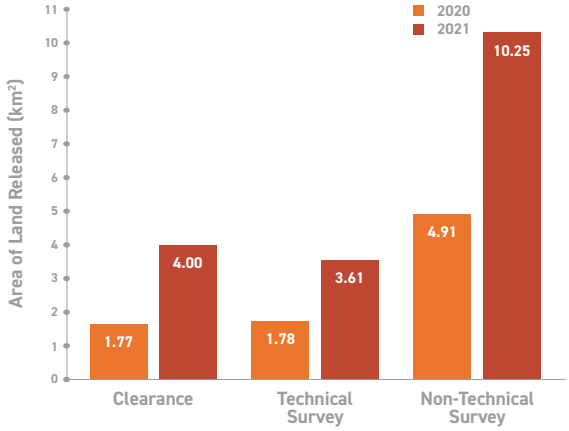
4KM²

AP MINES DESTROYED IN 2021

3,698

(INCLUDING 51 DESTROYED DURING SPOT TASKS)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT[1]



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Angola made considerable progress in its mine action programme and accelerated its anti-personnel mine survey and clearance operations during 2021. Angola exceeded the land release target set out in its Article 5 work plan and more than doubled its clearance output in 2021 compared to the previous year. Nearly 77% of the anti-personnel contamination released in 2021 was through survey as Angola continues to apply a combination of different methods since the completion of its national non-technical survey in 2019. Angola's mine action infrastructure improved as the National Intersectoral Commission on Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH) completed its transition into the National Mine Action Agency (ANAM).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Angola should continue to impress upon all operators the importance of applying proper land release principles to reduce clearance of uncontaminated areas.**
- **Angola should replace its draft resource mobilisation strategy and increase its international advocacy to attract new and former donors.**
- **Angola should finalise its national strategy on the management of residual contamination.**
- **Angola should formally approve its National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025.**
- **Angola should include measurable gender and diversity targets in its Article 5 Implementation Work Plan.**
- **Angola should continue developing and applying its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS).**

1 There is a discrepancy between land release data reported by operators and data reported in Angola's Article 7 transparency report. According to the latter, Angola released a total of 8.7km² of anti-personnel mined area in 2021, of which 1.25km² was cancelled through non-technical survey; 1.56km² was reduced through technical survey; and 5.9km² was cleared. The total number of anti-personnel mines destroyed during 2021 as reported by Angola is 3,104. ANAM attributed the discrepancy in the reported figures to potential data entry errors or to mistaken operator reports, and said it will continue working with operators to reconcile land release figures.

- **Angola should accelerate the integration of mine action data from the Executive Commission for Demining (CED) into the ANAM national database.**
- **The Government of Angola should continue to mobilise financial resources to improve ANAM's quality management (QM) capacity to allow it to function effectively across provinces.**
- **Angola should facilitate the granting of visas for international mine action staff and ensure that no taxes are imposed on equipment imported by international operators to carry out mine action operations.**
- **Angola should declare as completed each province where land release of all mined areas has been achieved.**

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2021)	Score (2020)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	8	8	Angola has completed its nationwide re-survey of anti-personnel mine contamination and there is a high ratio of confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs).
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	7	6	CNIDAH completed the transition of its legal status from a commission to a national agency, becoming ANAM. With this transition, it is expected that this will resolve longstanding issues in coordination and information sharing between CNIDAH and the CED. It is estimated that Angola has a funding shortfall of $200 million through to the end of 2025. A resource mobilisation strategy was drafted in 2018, but was never finalised. ANAM intends to work on a new resource mobilisation strategy to replace the draft.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	6	6	Gender and diversity are included as a cross-cutting issue in Angola's new National Mine Action Strategy but there are no outcomes or targets related to gender or diversity in the updated work plan.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	7	8	Improvements continued to be made to the national database in 2021 to maintain data quality. It was planned that CED tasks would be integrated into the database as of 2021, but the data continues to be excluded as their land release methods are not International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) compliant. Angola has submitted timely Article 7 reports in recent years. In 2021, however, there was a big discrepancy in land release data between Angola's official figures and operators data, and Angola did not classify its hazardous areas into suspected and confirmed as per the IMAS best practices.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	7	Angola has adopted an Article 5 implementation Work Plan 2022–2025, but its new National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 has yet to be formally approved by the government. A new tasking, prioritisation, and planning system has been implemented in Angola with a review conducted in 2021. A workshop was planned for 2022 to discuss the prioritisation criteria and produce a master plan and an annual task list until 2025 for all operators.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	7	6	Ten chapters of NMAS were completed and fully adopted in 2021. Three others were drafted and are awaiting approval. Quality management continues to be a challenge for ANAM due to a lack of financial resources. In 2021, operators reported some improvements compared to the previous year. Quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) activities took place across seven provinces.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	9	8	Land release output more than doubled in 2021 compared to the previous year due to increased survey and clearance outputs. Angola exceeded its land release target for 2021 by 2.77km^2. CNIDAH estimated in early 2021 that completion of clearance could take ten years, far exceeding its current Article 5 deadline of end 2025, although this time could be substantially reduced with sound and strict land release principles. During 2021, Angola held sensitisation workshops in five provinces nearing completion, or already completed, to advance understanding on residual risk and prepare provincial authorities for potential declarations of completion.
Average Score	**7.5**	**7.1**	**Overall Programme Performance: GOOD**

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Mine Action Agency (Agência Nacional de Acção Contra as Minas, ANAM), formally known as The National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (Comissão Nacional Intersectorial de Desminagem e Assistência Humanitária, CNIDAH)
- Executive Commission for Demining (Comissão Executiva de Desminagem, CED) – (dissolved in 2022)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- National Demining Institute (Instituto Nacional de Desminagem, INAD)
- Angolan Armed Forces
- Demining Brigades of the Security Unit of the President of the Republic
- Brigades of the Angolan Border Guard Police (under the CED – dissolved in 2022)
- The Association of Angolan Mine Professionals (Associação de Profissionais Angolanos de Acção Contra Minas, APACOMINAS) (NGO)
- The national demining centre (Centro nacional de Desminagem) – created in 2022

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- APOPO
- The HALO Trust
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

As at the end of 2021, according to ANAM, a total of 1,097 anti-personnel mined areas with an estimated size of 71.5km^2 remained to be addressed in 16 of Angola's 18 provinces (see Table 1). Cuando Cubango and Moxico are believed to be the most heavily contaminated. Clearance in Malange and Huambo provinces has been completed, but Angola has not yet declared these provinces to be free of all mined areas. Unlike previous years, Angola did not classify contaminated land in its reports into suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs).

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area by province (at end 2021)[2]

Province	Hazardous areas with anti-personnel mines	Area (m^2)
Bengo	56	3,234,614
Benguela	46	2,697,983
Bié	132	5,526,594
Cabinda	27	1,230,321
Cuando Cubango	247	17,302,084
Cuanza Norte	10	2,256,120
Cuanza Sul	112	8,652,618
Cunene	44	2,575,367
Huila	36	3,339,594
Luanda	9	1,121,211
Lunda Norte	59	554,636
Lunda Sul	70	8,431,178
Moxico	241	13,127,777
Namibe	3	155,100
Uige	1	206,350
Zaire	4	1,079,234
Totals	**1,097**	**71,490,781**

2 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form C.

This is a 12.9km^2 reduction in the overall amount of anti-personnel mined area from the 84.4km^2 reported at the end of 2020.[3] In addition, a total of 6.6km^2 of anti-personnel mined area was added to the database in 2021. Of this, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) identified and recorded four new CHAs covering an estimated 181,022m^2 in Cuanza Norte province and one new CHA of 30,929m^2 in Bengo province; Mines Advisory Group (MAG) identified 17 new areas totalling 552,419m^2; APOPO identified 10 new areas totalling 1,749,806m^2, and HALO found 52 new mined areas totalling 4,112,695m^2: 4 in Benguela province, 22 in Bié province, 23 in Cuando Cubango province, and 3 in Moxico province.[4]

As at the end of 2021, all known mined areas in Huambo had been released. Five provinces (Uige, Cuanza Norte, Malange, Namibe, and Zaire) are very close to completion. Malange province has been determined to contain only residual contamination, but the declaration of completion has been delayed due to challenges in interpretation of residual contamination by provincial leadership. This is hoped to be addressed in ANAM's anticipated residual contamination strategy (see section below, Planning for Management of Residual Contamination).[5]

In 2019, non-technical survey of all 18 provinces across the country was completed, ensuring that previously inflated mined areas have now largely been redefined or cancelled. ANAM, together with the international operators unanimously agree that Angola now has its most accurate baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination ever.[6] Yet, one operator believes that additional survey/resurvey is still needed to cancel some hazardous areas from the national database.[7] According to The HALO Trust, mine contamination in Angola is well documented, and new minefields are generally discovered on an ad-hoc basis often in close proximity to existing areas known to be contaminated with mines. That not all mined areas have yet been identified is understandable given the size and remoteness of some areas of the country.[8] NPA has emphasised the need to continue evidence-based survey in order to provide more accurate information on the type of contamination and to further increase the proportion of CHAs.[9]

In the updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, ANAM states that non-technical survey will remain an integral component of all operations and will be conducted in areas that may need additional verification during the work plan implementation period. In addition, ANAM acknowledges the gap in coordination and monitoring of CED operations at provincial level, and that areas cleared by the CED-coordinated entities may need further assessment and verification before they can be removed from the database.[10] It is also expected that, as people return to previously uninhabited areas, previously unrecorded mined areas will be added to the database and that new areas of contamination will be found as operators revisit more remote areas and address minefields where clearance has yet to begin.[11]

Overall, Angola's progress in land cancelled and reduced through the national re-survey has resulted in huge land release, with nearly 150km^2 released between 2017 and 2020 and the cancellation of more than 90% of SHAs recorded as a result of inflated estimates from the 2004–07 Landmine Impact Survey (LIS). It is, however, important to note that most of the land released has been due to cancellation through non-technical survey and with the completion of non-technical survey in all provinces and more well-defined minefields, there could be less cancellation from now on. This has been stipulated in ANAM's Article 5 implementation Work Plan of 2020–2025. In 2021, however, operators continued to release the majority of land through survey. Indeed, in 2021, nearly 14km^2, or 77% of the total anti-personnel mine contamination, was released other than through clearance, and 10.25km^2, or 60% of total land released, resulted from non-technical survey.[12]

Besides the national re-survey with standardised reporting formats compatible with the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), data clean-up efforts also led to deletion of hazardous areas from the national database. This further contributed to the reliability of the national contamination baseline. Angola's Mine Action Strategy emphasises that ANAM and operators will continue with systematic analysis of existing survey reports to ensure that the classification of hazardous areas into SHA and CHA has been done in accordance with the national mine action standards (NMAS). According to the Geneva International Centre of Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the accuracy of the data and information given in the strategy and the related work plan should be verified and updated. This includes the calculation of the extent of the remaining contamination, projected completion dates, and the costs involved to complete the job.[13]

3 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form C; and email from Robert Iga Afedra, Capacity Development Advisor, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), on behalf of CNIDAH, 22 March 2021.

4 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, Country Director, MAG, 22 March 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, Programme Manager, NPA, 10 March 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, Programme Manager, APOPO, 14 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, Programme Officer, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

5 ANAM Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, pp. 9–10.

6 Ibid., p. 4; and emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, on behalf of CNIDAH, 1 April 2020; Ralph Legg, Programme Manager, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 20 May 2020; and 22 March 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020 and 10 March 2022; Christelle Mestre, Programme Officer, GICHD, 4 May 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

7 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022.

8 Email from Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

9 Emails from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020 and 10 March 2022.

10 ANAM, updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, p. 5; and telephone interview with Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 22 February 2021.

11 Email from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020.

12 ANAM, Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, pp. 4 and 11.

13 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022; and National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, p. 19.

Angola's contamination is the result of more than 40 years of internal armed conflict that ended in 2002, during which a range of national and foreign armed movements and groups laid mines, often in a sporadic manner. Historically, the most affected provinces have been those with the fiercest and most prolonged fighting, such as Bié, Huambo, Cuando Cubango, and Moxico. In addition to its anti-personnel mine contamination, at the end of 2020 Angola had 1.02km^2 of anti-vehicle mine contamination.[14] As at May 2021, Angola had an estimated 3,702km of roads contaminated with mines, of which, 3,167km are CHAs and 535km are SHAs.[15]

Many minefields contain a mix of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines. Operators have also reported finding stacking of mines with anti-personnel mines being used as triggers for larger devices linked with detonating cord.[16] HALO found a total of 18 improvised mines in 2021: 17 in Bié and 1 in Moxico province. Of these, 6 were anti-personnel mines and 12 were anti-vehicle mines.[17]

Angola also has a significant problem of explosive remnants of war (ERW), especially unexploded ordnance (UXO).[18] In addition, evidence suggests that Angola contains a residual threat from cluster munition remnants (CMR) (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2022* report on Angola for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Angola's mine action programme is managed by the newly established ANAM. ANAM is a government agency formerly known as CNIDAH. CNIDAH received approval in April 2021 to change its legal status from a commission to a national agency.[19] This was endorsed by a presidential decree 171/21 on 7 July 2021. The aim of this transition was to define the legal framework of the regulatory body of mine action, and to improve the coordination between the bodies that intervene in the mine action sector. The purpose of ANAM is to regulate and supervise mine action work by public and private institutions, as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs). ANAM is subject to the oversight of the Head of State through the Minister of State and Chief of Staff,[20] and is mandated to ensure the implementation of the national strategic and normative mine action framework by all mine action actors in the country.[21]

In previous years, there were tensions between CNIDAH and the Executive Commission for Demining (Comissão Executiva de Desminagem, CED), the other national coordination body whose main role was to manage four national operators: the Demining Brigades of the Security Unit of the President of the Republic, the Angolan Armed Forces, the National Demining Institute (INAD), and the Brigades of the Angolan Border Guard Police. There were overlaps and ambiguities as to the exact division of labour and the related roles and responsibilities between the two entities with CED reporting to the Ministry of Social Action, Family, and Women's Promotion (MASFAMU).[22] This has made it difficult for Angola to detail accurately the extent of land released over the years as the CED operators were not accredited by CNIDAH, nor are their activities quality assured in line with IMAS.[23] ANAM reported in September 2022 that the CED, together with all the operators that have been working under it, had been dissolved.[24]

According to the GICHD, the transition to ANAM has strengthened Angola's oversight of mine action, which is now overseen and regulated solely by ANAM. The CED remains responsible for operational coordination of national public operators, which are predominantly involved in confirming that the land is safe for government infrastructure development projects.[25] According to MAG, the restructuring from CNIDAH to ANAM took longer than expected as the appointment of staff to leadership roles took over seven months. ANAM's leadership team was finally announced in February 2022.[26] The HALO Trust has observed improved efficiency since the transition from CNIDAH to ANAM.[27]

In 2021, two physical meetings were held between ANAM and operators, of which one was with current and potential donors. The aim of the meetings was to evaluate what has been done, to have an overview of the remaining contamination, share best practices, and agree on the way forward.[28] In addition, with the presence of operations and management staff, ANAM held a workshop with operators to present and discuss the updated NMAS in 2021.[29]

14 Comprising 934,525m^2 across 89 CHAs and 84,235m^2 across 21 SHAs. Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form C.

15 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, on behalf of CNIDAH, 28 May 2021.

16 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 27 April 2021 and 22 March 2022; and Rob Syfret, HALO Trust, 26 April 2021.

17 Email from Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

18 Questionnaire response by Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 22 May 2017; and email, 17 May 2016.

19 Telephone interview with Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 22 February 2021; and email, 28 April 2021.

20 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form A.

21 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022.

22 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, pp. 5–6.

23 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA (on behalf of CNIDAH), 14 July 2020.

24 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022.

25 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022.

26 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022.

27 Email from Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

28 Emails from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; and Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022.

29 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022.

The HALO Trust, NPA, MAG, and APOPO have all reported being consulted in key decision-making processes by the national authorities through participation at coordination meetings and other channels.[30] MAG added, though, that 2021 saw a slower than usual communication due to the COVID-19 impact on the availability of ANAM staff in the capital, Luanda, and the transition from CNIDAH to ANAM. In addition, appointment of staff leadership positions took longer than expected.[31] All operators participated actively in the elaboration of the National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 and Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025.[32]

NPA is supporting ANAM to develop its capacity to better manage the national mine action programme, including in key areas such as information and quality management.[33] The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)-funded consortium project, alongside HALO Trust and MAG, was discontinued in March 2021, but using funds from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA), the capacity development project kept going in 2021 and is expected to continue.[34] The focus of the first two years of the project has been to put management systems in place and the relevant documentation, while the next stage will focus on implementation.[35] Angola reported that notable achievements of the capacity development support project to date include: improved coordination of the mine action sector; establishment of the national mine action strategy; creation of the NMAS; establishment of a national tasking and prioritisation system; improved consistency in reporting and information sharing; and updating and reconciliation of the IMSMA database.[36] In addition, NPA was planning to conduct an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training to the Angolan military and police in 2022 as part of its capacity development project.[37]

During 2021, the GICHD delivered a workshop on "all reasonable effort (ARE)" approach in land release. It also initiated its first ARE country assessment with Angola, seeking to analyse the management of land release operations in conformance with IMAS requirements, and to provide key recommendations.[38]

Angola's mine action programme has faced critical challenges in securing financial resources in recent years. According to its latest projections and based on an estimate of a remaining mine contamination of 71km^2, Angola is still seeking approximately US$200 million to complete its mine clearance through to the end of 2025.[39] In 2021, according to NPA, the Government of Angola allocated approximately US$15.7 million to support activities of the mine action sector.[40] In 2019–21, the Government of Angola committed approximately US$55.6 million towards the demining sector, with a similar contribution expected for 2022–2025. The funding targets the activities of the three government agencies (ANAM, CED, and INAD), mainly covering administrative overheads and salaries. Part of the funding allocated for CED and INAD will be used for verification and clearance of approximately 4,384 kilometres of road infrastructure across the country.[41]

Additionally, the government has committed to fund The HALO Trust in a $60 million, five-year project to release more than 15km^2 across 153 minefields in Cuando Cubango province, with $20 million paid out in 2020, followed by a second tranche of $10 million in 2021.[42] The project is designed to release land in Angola's portion of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Region (KAZA), which spans parts of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, and which is home to the Okavango delta. This project will employ 840 Angolans and allow the government to develop the area for conservation and eco-tourism. This is an unprecedented commitment by the Angolan government to support demining.[43]

In 2018, a draft resource mobilisation strategy was developed but was never finalised. ANAM intends to work on a new resource mobilisation strategy instead of approving the drafted one, but it is not known when this is expected to occur.[44] According to Objective 5 of the National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, the resource mobilisation strategy should have been developed and approved before the end of 2020 with CNIDAH taking the lead in its development.[45] In 2018, Angola participated in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban

30 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

31 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022.

32 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 22 March 2021.

33 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J; and email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.

34 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, on behalf of CNIDAH, 28 May 2021; and Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

35 Interview with Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 22 February 2021.

36 ANAM, Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, p. 6.

37 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

38 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022.

39 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J.

40 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

41 ANAM, updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, p.8.

42 Ibid.; and email from Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

43 ANAM, updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, p. 8; and emails from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; and Rob Syfret, HALO Trust, 26 April 2021.

44 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020; and Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022.

45 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, pp. 29–31.

Convention (APMBC) Individualised Approach following which donor support was increased with funding from Belgium, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States along with private sector funding from, among others, British Petroleum (BP).[46] The Belgian and Japanese governments committed funding to APOPO's 2021 operations.[47]

Operators continue to report smooth collaboration with the Angolan authorities. Two longstanding challenges persisted in 2021: the long and cumbersome visa process, and the need for NGOs to secure tax-exempt status.[48] APOPO reported improvements on these two fronts as ANAM dedicated focal points and engaged with the Ministry of Interior and operators in an effort to address these challenges. As a result, APOPO managed to receive two dog handlers on a one-year visa, and benefited from some tax exemption to import equipment in 2021.[49] HALO's application for tax exemptions, however, was still being considered by the Angolan authorities as at June 2022.[50] NPA faced extended visa delays in 2021, and saw its mine detection dogs (MDD) handler training delayed for several months as a consequence.[51] It is hoped that Angola will continue its efforts to expedite and improve the visa processes for international mine action personnel.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

There are no policies related to environmental management that are specific to mine action in Angola.[52]

APOPO considers environmental protection as a cross-cutting issue, which is taken into consideration during planning and tasking. APOPO conducts an impact assessment prior to using machines for ground preparation in any area. Machine interventions are also communicated and agreed upon with the authorities based on the post-clearance use of the land.[53]

HALO initiated a mine action and conservation project in 2022, alongside its existing programme, that aims to understand and explore the linkages between humanitarian mine action and environmental protection in coordination with local conservation partners. Through this project, HALO seeks to identify partnership projects and systemic changes to practices that can mitigate identified negative environmental effects brought about by mine action work.[54]

HALO ensures that it meets Angolan environmental regulations and has launched several projects to reduce its' environmental impact, including the introduction of solar systems into field camps and the testing of clean cook stoves to reduce deforestation and pollution. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) and policies contain environmental guidance, rather than there being a stand-alone environmental policy.[55]

MAG has multiple environmental policies such as leaving trees standing as much as possible, combining mechanical assets with manual demining, and recycling and using hybrid systems in the base, office, staff house, and field camps. MAG also has solar panels and cooks on gas bottles as much as possible.[56]

NPA concluded its environmental modular SOPs and expects to implement them in the first quarter of 2022. NPA also planned to develop its environmental policy for the programme in 2022.[57]

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Gender and diversity are integrated into Angola's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–25 as a cross-cutting issue. The strategy recognises that mine action activities need to reflect the distinct needs of different ages, genders, and other diverse groups through targeted design with the collection, analysis and reporting of data disaggregated by sex and age a key precursor for this. Disaggregated data collection requirements have been integrated into all relevant standing operating procedures, forms, and other data collection tools.[58] However, while the Strategy pledges that Angola's mine action programme will ensure that gender and diversity are taken into consideration in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of all mine action projects, it does not say how this will be done.

46 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, on behalf of CNIDAH, 22 March 2021.

47 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J.

48 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

49 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022.

50 Email from Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

51 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

52 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

53 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022.

54 Email from Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

55 Email from Robert Syfret, Programme Manager, HALO Trust, 14 September 2022.

56 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022.

57 Email from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 10 March 2022.

58 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.

Angola's updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025 states that the demining sector will take gender and equality into account and that the national authority will continue to advocate to ensure fair employment for both men and women, and that data disaggregated by gender and age are collected and reported during land release processes.[59] However, there are no specific targets nor measurable outcomes in place.

International NGO operators stated that gender-, age-, and diversity-related concerns are taken into account during survey and clearance to ensure the different groups are reflected in demining operations.[60] Operators employ Angolan nationals from all ethnic groups who are able to communicate in local languages as well as Portuguese.[61]

APOPO strongly encourages women to apply for roles and include gender and diversity perspectives when planning and implementing its demining operations as one of its core values.[62] Gender and diversity considerations are taken into account during non-technical survey, impact assessments, identification of beneficiaries, and EORE activities. APOPO continued to promote the integration of female staff in its clearance teams in 2021 and managed to employ two additional female deminers. In 2021, 10% of APOPO's employees were women. Women also held 10% of operational positions. APOPO did not have women in managerial positions, though.[63]

The HALO Trust works to improve the representation of women throughout its workforce, including in senior leadership and decision-making positions. In addition to proactive recruitment of women, steps are being taken to encourage them to move up in the organisation. In 2021, several capacity building trainings were held: these are a prerequisite for promotion. For example, two female senior operations staff completed an EOD III training course and have been promoted as a result. Additional steps are being taken to improve inclusivity, including the adoption of policies and benefits packages to support women in the workforce, to remove barriers to mothers of young children, and to improve retention of staff after maternity leave. This includes the recently implemented childcare stipend for mothers of children up to age seven.[64]

HALO survey and community liaison teams continue to include both men and women. In 2021, 35% of HALO's national staff and 31% of its international staff were female. Women held 39% of operational positions and 21% of managerial positions.[65]

MAG keeps records of beneficiary data that are disaggregated by gender and age for each area cleared and conducts a post-clearance impact assessment to document the impact. All community members are consulted on an equal basis. In 2021, 32% of MAG´s employees were women. Women held 46% of operational positions and 1.5% of managerial positions.[66]

NPA organises gender sensitivity training for its staff and, whenever possible, gender equality is raised with the national and provincial authorities. NPA ensures that job opportunities are accessible to women and men equally, and do not contain requirements that unnecessarily discourage female applicants or preclude their employment.[67] NPA Angola appointed gender and diversity focal points within its programme and prepared an implementation plan for gender equality policy. All NPA data are disaggregated by gender. In 2021, 14% of NPA's employees were women. Women held 16% of operational and 20% of managerial positions.[68]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

ANAM manages a national IMSMA database which is now considered to be a reliable source of information as it has been fully reconciled with operators' data, and the previous data backlog and inflated contamination figures have been cleared.[69] In previous years, Angola's mine action programme suffered from significant problems with information management, in particular the poor quality of the national database. As noted above, since 2018 an NPA Capacity Development Adviser has been embedded in CNIDAH, now ANAM, and focused on establishing an up-to-date and accurate mine contamination database, with assistance from operators. As part of the improvements to information management, a monthly data-sharing mechanism between CNIDAH and operators has been in place since 2018 as part of the mine action and information management coordination meetings.[70] NPA continued to support the database maintenance in 2021. NPA's information management officers (IM) have visited the operator's main offices in the provinces and worked with the respective IM officers on data reconciliation. NPA intends to continue its support to the database maintenance and operator's data reconciliation throughout 2022.[71] Operators have reported that data

59 Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, pp. 11–12.

60 Emails from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 9 March 2020; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020; and Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 20 May 2020.

61 Emails from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 5 April 2021; Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 27 April 2021; and Rob Syfret, HALO Trust, 26 April 2021.

62 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 22 March 2021.

63 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022.

64 Email from Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

65 Ibid.

66 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022.

67 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 5 April 2021.

68 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

69 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, on behalf of CNIDAH, 22 March 2021; Statement by Angola on Article 5 implementation, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, November 2019.

70 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 3 June 2019; Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; and Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 20 May 2020.

71 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

collection forms are consistent and enable collection of the necessary data.[72]

Throughout 2021, database cleaning and updating took place to maintain data quality.[73] In 2021, ANAM introduced revised IMSMA completion forms and non-technical survey forms that included a standardised prioritisation of a task or CHA.[74]

According to the National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, CED started reporting its tasks to CNIDAH, as of 2020. However, CED's land release methods have been non-compliant with IMAS, making it difficult to reflect their productivity output into the IMSMA. In some instances, CED's clearance statistics were not reported to ANAM, creating information gaps.[75] This should no longer be an issue since the dissolving of CED and its operator bodies in 2022.

ANAM's information management system does not yet gather all mine action data across the country, but this issue has been discussed with the public operators and challenges to the verification and integration of historic data had yet to be mastered.[76] According to the GICHD, ANAM should also evaluate whether an upgrade to IMSMA Core is appropriate.[77]

Transparency and reporting of mine action activities in Angola has certainly improved in recent years with timely and accurate submission of its most recent Article 7 reports and Article 5 statements at APMBC meetings. Angola's most recent Article 7 report (covering 2021), however, did not classify its anti-personnel mined area into SHAs and CHAs as per the IMAS best practices, and contained big discrepancies in land release figures reported by Angola and these reported by operators.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Angola's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 was developed by CNIDAH, in 2019, with support from the GICHD. As at May 2022, the strategy had yet to be formally approved by the Government of Angola.[78]

There are five objectives within the strategy, three of which relate to completion of Angola's Article 5 obligations and which contain specific outcomes and targets:

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: LAND RELEASE

That appropriate land release activities result in the release of safe land and the facilitation of sustainable development. All hazardous areas are to be addressed by 31 December 2025 in line with the Article 5 extension request work plan. The programme's key strategic orientation for achieving its land release objective will focus on developing and fully implementing IMAS-compliant NMAS on land release, including by defining "all reasonable effort".

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

A national strategy on the management of residual contamination will be developed by the end of 2020 under the lead of CNIDAH and the CED with the participation of all relevant actors. A national capacity to manage residual contamination was to be trained within the first quarter of 2021.[79] As at May 2022, this had still to happen (see section, Planning for residual risk after completion, for further information).

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATION, AND COORDINATION

Effective coordination and information sharing are stated to be pre-conditions for achieving all strategic objectives. In addition to the twice-yearly coordination meetings with relevant stakeholders that began in 2019, ANAM will take the lead in developing a communications plan on the completion process by the middle of 2021, to facilitate effective information sharing.[80] This communication plan, however, has yet to be developed as at June 2022.

In June 2021, Angola released an updated work plan which includes an updated list of all areas confirmed or suspected to contain explosive ordnance, annual clearance projections and milestones, and revised funding projections. The updated land release targets, set out in Table 2, are based on an estimate of outstanding anti-personnel mine contamination as at June 2021. In 2021, the majority of land release was planned to take place in Bié, Cuando Cubango, Cuanza Norte, Cuanza Sul, Lunda Sul, and Moxico, with a land release target of 17.1km^2.[81]

72 Emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 22 March 2021; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 5 April 2021; Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 27 April 2021; and Rob Syfret, HALO Trust, 26 April 2021.

73 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA (on behalf of CNIDAH), 22 March 2021, Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

74 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022.

75 ANAM updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, pp. 5 and 7.

76 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022.

77 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022.

78 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022.

79 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, pp. 27–29.

80 Ibid., pp. 29–31.

81 ANAM, Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, p. 10.

Table 2: Annual targets for release of mined area in 2021–25[82]

Year	Targets (m²)
2021	17,075,262
2022	17,075,262
2023	15,672,399
2024	14,288,955
2025	7,826,779
Total	**71,938,657**

CNIDAH has acknowledged that its tasking, prioritisation, and planning procedures were inadequate, and that the effective implementation of the work plan depended heavily on these processes being strengthened.[83] In 2020, CNIDAH planned to re-establish its authority regarding the coordination of tasking in individual provinces, working closely with operators to ensure there is no duplication of effort in any areas of the country, and that all operators are clearly tasked.[84] Guidelines for a new tasking and prioritisation system were developed in 2020 and have been adopted in 2021.[85]

A key feature of the new prioritisation system is that provinces are assigned to operators giving them responsibility over that province.[86] This is to avoid crowding of operators in provinces, improve accountability, and monitoring of performance over time.

A workshop was planned in April 2022, but then postponed to the last quarter of 2022, to further discuss the prioritisation criteria among stakeholders and ANAM. The workshop also aimed to produce a tasking master plan, which provides a comprehensive list of all hazardous areas that have been registered in the national database, in addition to an annual task list, that provides an annual list of the tasks that will be cleared for each operator until 2025.[87]

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

There is no specific national mine action legislation in Angola.[88]

Ten chapters of NMAS were completed and fully adopted in 2021.[89] These chapters are expected to bring uniformity to approaches within the mine action sector. Clearance operators are expected to review their internal SOPs and align them with the national standards.[90] Three additional standards have been drafted–on animal detection systems, EOD, and residual contamination management–with the support of the GICHD.[91] These standards have been translated into Portuguese, and will be shared with the review board and eventually sent to ANAM for approval.[92] Angola's NMAS are considered adequate and cover the main topics related to land release.[93]

ANAM held a workshop to present and discuss the updated NMAS in 2021, where ANAM and operators jointly discussed and clarified some issues related to the NMAS, for example, recording and reporting operations results, application of the land release concept, and approach to residual risk.[94]

NPA conducted a second QM training course for four ANAM senior management staff in November 2021, reinforcing the QM country system. Two additional QM courses, using internal capacities in the country, were conducted for ANAM quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) officers per region.[95] NPA intends to provide training to ANAM's QM personnel on the use of drones as a non-technical survey tool.[96]

ANAM is responsible for undertaking external QA and QC of mine action activities, including QC of all completed tasks prior to handover of land to beneficiaries. With the limited government funding of ANAM, the presence of QA and QC monitoring personnel during field operations remains insufficient and largely dependent on the capacity development project being implemented by NPA. Angola hoped that the formation of ANAM will lead to improved funding of QM activities.[97]

82 Ibid.

83 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, p. 10.

84 Email from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020.

85 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 4 July 2021.

86 Interview with Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 22 February 2021.

87 Emails from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 10 March and 14 September 2022; and CNIDAH, Minefield Tasking, Planning, and Prioritisation Guideline, 2021.

88 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 3 June 2019.

89 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J.

90 ANAM, Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, p. 10.

91 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J; and emails from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022; and Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

92 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

93 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022.

94 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022.

95 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

96 ANAM, Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, pp. 6–7.

97 Ibid, p. 7.

Improvements in ANAM's QM capacity were indeed confirmed by operators in 2021, and a total of 6 QA and 41 QC activities were conducted by ANAM monitoring teams, targeting seven provinces: Benguela, Bié, Cuando Cubango, Cuanza Norte, Cuanza Sul, Moxico, and Uíge.[98] APOPO operations were visited regularly by ANAM teams to undertake QC, monitoring, and accreditation of the detection animals. No significant changes in terms of issuing completion certificates were observed though.[99]

ANAM conducted visits to HALO's minefields across its area of operations, including visits to the three accident sites for investigations (see section, Deminer safety, for further information).[100] MAG received ANAM's QA and QC liaison approximately on a weekly manner at the base and very regularly in the active minefields. All active and completed minefields were visited and approved.[101]

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Four international NGOs conducted demining for humanitarian purposes in Angola in 2021: APOPO, The HALO Trust, MAG, and NPA. INAD was the only active national operator in 2021.[102] As at September 2022, ANAM reported that the CED, and all operators working under it, have been decommissioned. A new national operator, the national demining centre, was created in 2022, and is expected to be operational in 2023.[103]

Table 3: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2021[104]

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers*	Animal detection capacity	Machines**	Comments
APOPO	1	18	9 handlers, 9 rats	2 (One machine from APOPO and one from INAD).	Increase by 12 deminers, 3 handlers, and 1 machine from 2020. Deminers also conduct survey.
HALO Trust	67	635	0	2	Increase from 33 teams and 296 deminers in January 2021.
NPA	4	30	10 handlers	5 (2 MMW-240 and 3 Casspir).	Decrease by 26 deminers from 2020. 10 deminers under MDD handler training in Oct-Dec 2021.
MAG	11	93	0	7	Increase by 16 deminers from 2020.
Totals	**83**	**776**	**19 handlers, 9 rats**	**16**	

* Excluding team leaders, medics, and drivers. ** Excluding vegetation cutters and sifters.

APOPO almost doubled its capacity from 26 staff in 2020 to 48 staff in 2021. APOPO deployed one team of two personnel for its non-technical survey. For technical survey and clearance, APOPO deployed one team of 18 deminers, one mine detection rats (MDR) team of seven handlers and nine rats, and one technical survey dog (TSD) team of two handlers and two dogs. The technical survey dogs were deployed for the first time in Angola. Funds permitting, APOPO expected to maintain the same structure in 2022.[105]

The HALO Trust increased its number of staff across all operational teams throughout 2021 as per the contract with the government of Angola. New staff were recruited and trained in Cuando Cubango province, increasing the capacity by 82% between December 2020 and December 2021. By the end of 2022, HALO expected an additional 300 staff to have been recruited and trained, principally under its contract with the Angolan government, as well as on the basis of a large private donor contract also focused on Cuando Cubango province. HALO deployed four five-person teams totalling 20 personnel for its non-technical survey operations in Angola in 2021.[106]

HALO conducted drone trials in 2021. These drones were fitted with thermal cameras and light detection and ranging (LiDAR) sensors. Thermal data was used to identify surface level anti-vehicle mines, and LiDAR data was used to identify man-made features such as trenches. Furthermore, the US Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate (NVESD) is working with HALO to reintroduce the Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System (HSTAMIDS) detectors in early 2022. HSTAMIDS detectors are designed to discriminate between "clutter" (small, simple pieces of metal) and metal surrounded by "mass" (the body of

98 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J.

99 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022.

100 Email from Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

101 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022.

102 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J.

103 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022.

104 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

105 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022.

106 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO Trust, 28 September 2022.

a mine). Their successful deployment will see clearance rates improve. HSTAMIDS training was completed in January and February 2022, and teams have been deployed to Cuando Cubango under supervision to test these new detectors in the field.[107]

MAG increased its number of teams as funding from the US Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA) was secured for 39 months. In 2021, MAG deployed two non-technical survey teams of 10 personnel and added two new mechanical assets: a PT300 and another CAT excavator to the program, each with their own follow-up team.[108]

NPA decreased its manual teams due to cuts in funding in 2021, but doubled its non-technical survey capacity to two teams of two, and added one more Casspir machine to support a potential geographical expansion to other provinces in north-west Angola. NPA also accredited and deployed MDD capacities in March 2022 following a handler training course in October–December 2021.[109]

In terms of innovation, further to the MDD capacities introduced by APOPO and NPA, and the drones trials initiated by HALO, NPA also introduced drones into its operations in 2021 as an additional tool to support non-technical survey and operational planning. NPA plans is to use the drones in 2022 for the internal quality management system. NPA also plans to test the information collection of the Vallon VMH-4 detectors including the global positioning system (GPS) that can track the daily productivity per deminer, among other data. Such data will be collected through daily operations reports, incorporated within the information management system, and further analysed to potentially improve operational results, programme efficiency, and safety.[110]

DEMINER SAFETY

The HALO Trust reported three incidents by R2M2 anti-personnel mines during clearance operations in 2021, resulting in three casualties with minor injuries. The accidents were initially investigated by programme staff, with the findings reviewed by HALO's global capability group which is not affiliated with the programme. ANAM staff visited all cases and conducted their own investigations in which HALO cooperated fully.[111]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2021

According to operator data, a total of nearly 18km^2 of mined area was released in 2021: 4km^2 through clearance, 3.6km^2 through technical survey, and 10.3km^2 through non-technical survey.[112] This data, however, does not corroborate with what was reported by Angola in its Article 7 report to the APMBC, according to which, only 8.7km^2 of land was released by international operators in 2021: 1.25km^2 cancelled through non-technical survey; 1.55km^2 reduced through technical survey; and 5.9km^2 cleared.[113] ANAM attributed the discrepancy in the reported figures to potential data entry errors or to mistaken operator reports, and said it will continue working with operators to reconcile land release figures.[114]

According to data reported by the CED operators outside the IMSMA system, a total area of 15.23km^2 along with huge lengths of roads, power lines, and pipelines was cleared in 2021, during which a total of 513 anti-personnel mines, 51 anti-vehicle mines, and 39,559 items of UXO have been destroyed.

SURVEY IN 2021

ANAM and international operators reported release of nearly 14km^2 through survey in 2021: cancelling 10.25km^2 through non-technical survey (see Table 4) and reducing 3.6km^2 through technical survey (see Table 5).[115] This represents more than double the 6.69km^2 released by survey in 2020.[116] In its Article 7 report covering 2021, however, Angola reported the release of only 2.8km^2 through survey in 2021, of which 1.25km^2 was cancelled through non-technical survey, and 1.55km^2 reduced through technical survey.[117]

107 Email from Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

108 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022.

109 Emails from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March and 14 September 2022.

110 Ibid.

111 Email from Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

112 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form F; and emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

113 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form F.

114 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022.

115 Ibid.; and emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

116 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F; and emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 22 March 2021; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 5 April 2021; Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 27 April 2021; and Rob Syfret, HALO Trust, 26 April 2021.

117 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form F.

Survey continues to account for the majority of land released in Angola. This, however, varied largely from one area to another and across the operators. Land released through survey accounted for 99% of the total released by each of APOPO and NPA, nearly 50% of land released by HALO, and 9% of land released by MAG. Furthermore, 86% of land cancellation in 2022 happened in two provinces only: Cuanza Sul (by APOPO) and Zaire (by NPA). Neither HALO nor MAG expects large cancellations in their area of operation in the years to come.[118] Considering the national survey that has been completed in 2019, ANAM and operators believe that the remaining contamination should be released through a combined application of technical survey and clearance, with the expectation that the ratio of land cleared to that released by survey will increase over time.[119]

Table 4: Cancellation through non-technical survey in 2021 (operator data)[120]

Province	Operator	Area cancelled (m²)
Cuanza Sul	APOPO	1,161,408
Bié	HALO Trust	28,999
Cuando Cubango	HALO Trust	841,114
Moxico	MAG	3,402
Bengo	NPA	50,570
Cuanza Norte	NPA	393,225
Uíge	NPA	113,800
Zaire	NPA	7,656,347
Total		**10,248,865**

Table 5: Reduction through technical survey in 2021 (operator data)[121]

Province	Operator	Area reduced (m²)
Cuanza Sul	APOPO	1,457,428
Benguela	HALO Trust	196,211
Bié	HALO Trust	156,564
Cuando Cubango	HALO Trust	836,753
Cuanza Sul	HALO Trust	9,734
Lunda Norte	INAD	4,000
Moxico	MAG	81,500
Lunda Sul	MAG	85,000
Kassai Ponto[122]	MAG	11,000
Cuanza Norte	NPA	691,582
Uige	NPA	79,497
Total		**3,609,269**

CLEARANCE IN 2021

ANAM and operators reported clearing a total of 4km² of mined areas in 2021, destroying in the process 3,647 anti-personnel mines (in addition to a further 51 anti-personnel mines destroyed during spot tasks), 726 anti-vehicle mines, and 2,221 items of UXO (see Table 6 for details).[123] This is more than double the 1.77km² of mined area cleared in 2020.[124] The increase in area cleared in 2022 is largely attributed to the better use of machines and other clearance assets, along with the benefit of additional funds secured and additional teams deployed in 2021.

The number of square metres cleared for every anti-personnel mine destroyed has nearly decreased fourfold: from 4,166m² per mine in 2020 to 1,081m² per mine in 2021. The increase in the number of anti-personnel mines recovered per square metre is largely due to the density of contamination in some of the areas that have been worked on and that have witnessed intense hostilities and greater mine-laying.[125]

118 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 6 September 2022; and Robert Syfret, HALO Trust, 14 September 2022.

119 Emails from Mário Nunes on behalf of ANAM, NPA, 14 September 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 6 September 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 14 September 2022; Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 6 September 2022; and Robert Syfret, HALO Trust, 14 September 2022.

120 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March and 14 September 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March and 6 September 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022. In its Article 7 report covering 2021, Angola reported the area cancelled in Cuanza Sul by APOPO to be 868,637m²; areas cancelled by HALO in Bié and Cuando Cubango provinces to be 0; areas cancelled by NPA in Cuanza Norte and Uige provinces to be 375,225m² and 0, respectively. Angola did not report on non-technical surveys in Bengo or Zaire provinces.

121 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form F; and emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022. In its Article 7 report covering 2021, Angola reports the area reduced by APOPO in Cuanza Sul to be 444,979m²; area reduced by HALO Trust in Benguela, Bié, Cuando Cubango, and Cuanza Sul provinces to be 43,710m², 182,475m², 0, and 0, respectively; area reduced by MAG in Moxico and Luanda Sul provinces to be 85,500m² and 79,000m² respectively; and area reduced by NPA in Uige and Cuanza Norte provinces reported as 26,135m² and 687,264m², respectively.

122 Kassai Ponto is the bridge over the river separating Luanda Sul and Moxico provinces, which is being cleared by MAG.

123 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form F; and emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

124 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F; and emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 22 March 2021; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 5 April 2021; Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 27 April 2021; and Rob Syfret, HALO Trust, 26 April 2021.

125 Emails from Mário Nunes on behalf of ANAM, NPA, 14 September 2022; and Robert Syfret, HALO Trust, 14 September 2022.

Table 6: Mine clearance in 2021 (operator data)[126]

Province	Operator	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Cuanza Sul	APOPO	25,625	56	0	152
Cuanza Sul	HALO Trust	7,135	5	0	2
Benguela	HALO Trust	482,049	213	0	92
Bié	HALO Trust	546,591	179	17	85
Cuando Cubango	HALO Trust	1,031,653	1,958	684	109
Moxico	HALO Trust	50,677	1	0	2
Moxico	MAG	1,134,498	208	25	460
Lunda Sul	MAG	594,856	265	0	150
Uige	NPA	71,347	3	0	231
Kwanza Norte	NPA	58,518	759	0	938
Spot tasks			51		
Totals		**4,002,949**	**3,698**	**726**	**2,221**

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle

A total of 51 anti-personnel mines (included in Table 6) were destroyed during spot tasks: 4 by APOPO, 8 by HALO, 3 by NPA, and 36 by MAG. A further 22 anti-personnel mines were destroyed by HALO's weapons and ammunition destruction teams. These mines were held by the police having been handed in by the public or otherwise recovered.[127]

Land release output has more than doubled in 2021 compared to 2020. Land cancellation accounted for almost 60% of the total land released in 2021. Clearance and technical survey output both significantly increased from 2020.

APOPO significantly upscaled its survey and clearance activities thanks to increased funding, deploying of additional deminers, as well as starting the application of technical survey dogs for the first time.[128]

HALO tripled the amount of land cleared and reduced in 2021 compared to 2020, and there was an 8% increase in the amount of area cancelled. The largest contributor to this increase is the realisation of the contract with the government of Angola, which saw procurement of equipment in late 2020 and the training and deployment of new teams throughout 2021. The HALO programme expanded from a total of 601 staff in January 2021 to 1,088 by December, with particular increases in the numbers of manual clearance and survey personnel.[129]

MAG doubled its clearance in 2021 compared to 2020 after WRA allowed MAG to invest in a PT300 machine and 2 CAT excavators. MAG has advocated with the national authorities the need to increase the use of bigger mechanical clearance and ground preparation assets with 100% manual follow up. In 2021, of the 1.8km² cleared by MAG, more than 1km² was ground prepared by the machines.[130]

NPA increased the amount of mined area cancelled, using the same evidence-based approach and capacities established in 2020, and expanding its area of operation to new provinces: Zaire and Bengo. NPA also increased its area cleared by more than 100% due to large number of anti-personnel mines found on the tasks, while the area reduced decreased slightly compared to the previous year.[131]

126 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form F; and emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022. In its Article 7 report covering 2021, Angola reported the area cleared by APOPO in Cuanza Sul to be 22,684m², and the number of mines destroyed to be 45; area cleared by HALO in Benguela to be 479,861m² and number of mines destroyed to be 220; in Bié province to be 578,395m², 160 mines destroyed; in Cuando Cubango 1,038,623m², 1886 mines destroyed, In Moxico 50,677m², 2 mines destroyed; area cleared by MAG in Moxico province to be 1,114,313m², 194 mines destroyed; and IN Luanda Sul 504,736m², 269 mines destroyed; area cleared by NPA in Uige province to be 71,226m², 2 mines destroyed; and in Cuanza Norte to be 50,650m², 320 mines destroyed.

127 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022; Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022; and Robert Syfret, HALO Trust, 14 September 2022.

128 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022.

129 Emails from Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022; and Robert Syfret, HALO Trust, 14 September 2022.

130 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022.

131 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

As at the end of 2021, all known mined areas in Huambo had been released. Five provinces (Uige, Cuanza Norte, Malange, Namibe, and Zaire) are very close to completion. Indeed, after years of clearance operations in Malange by both national and international operators, it was thought that all mined areas in the province had been cleared. However, CNIDAH received reports from the CED at the beginning of 2020 of newly discovered mined areas.[132] It has now been determined that this is likely residual contamination and that all known mined areas in Malange province registered in the national IMSMA database have indeed been released. The declaration of completion has been delayed due to challenges with the interpretation and understanding of residual contamination by provincial leadership. This will be addressed as part of ANAM's residual contamination strategy (see Planning for residual risk after completion).[133]

Completion of the remaining three minefields in Namibe province was pending at the time of writing as operators have yet to be deployed, but it is expected that clearance will be completed no later than December 2022. Completion of Zaire, Uige, and Cuanza Norte provinces was also expected by the end of 2022.[134]

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR ANGOLA: 1 JANUARY 2003

↓

ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JANUARY 2013

↓

FIRST EXTENDED DEADLINE (5-YEAR EXTENSION): 1 JANUARY 2018

↓

SECOND EXTENDED DEADLINE (8-YEAR EXTENSION): 31 DECEMBER 2025

ON TRACK TO MEET ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: NO
LIKELIHOOD OF COMPLETING CLEARANCE BY 2025 (OSLO ACTION PLAN COMMITMENT): LOW

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the eight-year extension granted by States Parties in 2017), Angola is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2025. It is unlikely to meet this deadline.

The year 2021 saw Angola exceed its Article 5 work plan land release target of 17.1km^2 by 2.77km^2. This is a great improvement from 2020 where Angola was 8.7km^2 under its land release target of 17.2km^2.[135] Based on contamination figures provided as at June 2021, Angola will need to release nearly 17.1km^2 of anti-personnel mined area in 2022, going down to nearly 15.7km^2 in 2023, 14.3km^2 in 2024, and 7.8km^2 in 2025 to meet its Article 5 deadline.[136] ANAM had anticipated in 2020 that after the completion of non-technical survey in all provinces and better definition of minefields sizes, there would be reduced cancellation on the remaining mined areas across the country.[137]

Considering the positive developments in Angola's mine action structures and the significant improvements in land release outputs in 2021, Angola needs to maintain the pace of its progress and continue to apply sound and rigorous land release techniques in order to meet its Article 5 deadline of 31 December 2025. However, with more than 50% of land released in 2021 resulting from cancellation, and if indeed most of the remaining contamination is expected to be dealt with through clearance and technical survey activities, Angola will likely need to request a further extension to its Article 5 deadline.

CNIDAH stated in early 2021 that it would take ten years for Angola to achieve completion of clearance of anti-personnel mines. However, if capacity is increased and operators implement efficient and effective land release methodologies then this timeline could be significantly reduced.[138] Angola has indeed accelerated its land release by investing additional resources and deploying sound land release methodology throughout 2021, and will need to maintain this pace if it has any chance of meeting its 2025 Article 5 deadline. While funding has increased in Angola in recent years, as at May 2022, Angola still had a funding shortfall of $200 million for the period through to the end of 2025.[139]

ANAM has reported that strict implementation of land release principles during clearance has improved operational efficiency of demining in Angola. Operational assets are

132 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020 and 28 May 2021.

133 ANAM Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, pp. 9–10.

134 Ibid.

135 CNIDAH, "Detailed work plan for the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention (2019–2025)", Annex 1; and emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022

136 ANAM, Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, p. 10.

137 Ibid., p. 5.

138 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, on behalf of CNIDAH, 22 March 2021.

139 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J.

being effectively used on clearance and technical survey with improved results. Effective implementation of non-technical survey has ensured considerable cancellations, which has saved time and financial resources.[140] In 2021, APOPO cleared three areas totalling 977,848m^2 with no mines found.[141] HALO worked on 30 areas, totalling 403,533m^2, which proved to contain no mines.[142] NPA released four areas totalling 262,930m^2 which contained no anti-personnel mines, although three areas were released through technical survey with minimum of clearance and only one area, a road, was completely cleared.[143] MAG did not clear any areas without mines in 2021.[144]

Table 7: Five-year summary of anti-personnel mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km^2)
2021	4.0
2020	1.8
2019	1.6
2018	1.0
2017	1.2
Total	**9.6**

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

In accordance with Strategic Objective 4 of the draft National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, CNIDAH and the CED, with the participation of all relevant actors, aimed to establish a national strategy on the management of residual contamination by the end of 2020. This was delayed due to movement restrictions imposed by COVID-19.[145] As at July 2021, Angola was the process of establishing a national strategy for the management of residual contamination with the support of NPA. Residual contamination is initially planned to be managed by INAD and subsequently handed over to the police under the Ministry of Interior. A national standard on residual contamination management has also been developed by the GICHD for the transition phase. This includes process maps that outline the responsibilities of the currently involved stakeholders.[146] Under its ongoing capacity development project, NPA planned to train the Angolan military and police on management of residual contamination of explosive ordnance.[147]

ANAM recognises the importance of establishing a residual contamination strategy because Angola lacks procedures for the declaration of completion within provinces and there is no common understanding of residual risk. CNIDAH prioritised the provinces of Huambo, where clearance has been completed, Malange, and Namibe, which are approaching completion, and in 2021, continued to hold sensitisation meetings with the provincial leadership in Cuanza Norte, Huambo, Malange, Namibe, and Uige provinces to prepare them for the potential declaration of their provinces clear of all known mined areas, and allay fears about job losses within the demining sector.[148] As at September 2022, however, none of these areas had been declared mine-free. According to ANAM, in Uíge province, only one road remains to be demined, which had not been possible due to the lack of access. ANAM expected that three of the four clearance tasks in Zaire province would be completed by the end of 2022, leaving only one remaining in 2023. Cuanza Norte province is considered the most complex due to the high density of contamination, but ANAM hoped that fulfilling Angola's Article 5 obligations is still possible following the planned deployment in 2023 of its newly created national operator, the national demining centre, and expected that this will significantly reinforce the demining capacity.[149]

140 ANAM, Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, p. 6.

141 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022.

142 Email from Daniel Richards, HALO Trust, 25 June 2022.

143 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

144 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022.

145 Telephone interview with Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 8 June 2021; and ANAM, Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, p. 8.

146 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022.

147 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

148 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J.

149 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022.