

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JANUARY 2021
(ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE)

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE	For 2015	For 2014
Problem understood	8	7
Target date for completion of mine clearance	8	8
Targeted clearance	7	7
Efficient clearance	6	6
National funding of programme	3	3
Timely clearance	5	5
Land release system in place	6	6
National mine action standards	6	6
Reporting on progress	4	4
Improving performance	6	7
PERFORMANCE SCORE: AVERAGE	5.9	5.9

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s mine action programme continued to perform reasonably well in 2015–16 and the DRC is still on track to meet its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 clearance deadline by 2021. As of mid-2016, DRC appeared likely to complete clearance by 2018, missing the end-2016 deadline set out in its existing national mine action strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- DRC should finalise a detailed workplan to fulfil its Article 5 obligations as soon as possible and create a national mine action strategy for 2017–20.
- As soon as it is safe to do so, the DRC should conduct survey in Aru and Dungu territories.
- DRC should significantly improve the quality of the national mine action database to ensure that it is accurate, up to date, and owned by national authorities and is able to produce accurate reports.
- Greater efforts should be made to ensure reporting and recording of mine action data according to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) land-release terminology.
- A focus should be placed on capacity building of the national authorities and local mine action actors to be able to deal with any residual contamination following the exit of international operators.

CONTAMINATION

According to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), at the end of 2015, a total of 71 confirmed and suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) with a total size estimated at 1.3km² remained to be addressed, including 13 confirmed mined areas with a size of just under 0.2km², and a further 58 SHAs covering just over 1.1km².¹ Five of the DRC's former eleven provinces still contained confirmed or suspected mine contamination, as set out in Table 1.² The figures for contamination provided by UNMAS in Table 1 are not entirely consistent with data given previously to Mine Action Review, but are said to be accurate.

Table 1: Anti-personnel mine contamination by province as at end 2015³

Province	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)
Equateur (now South-Ubangi, North-Ubangi, Equateur)	8	46,845	26	552,591
Orientale (now Tshopo, Ituri, Bas-Uele)	3	28,746	17	306,561
Maniema	2	80,148	0	0
North-Kivu	0	0	8	8,442
Katanga (now Tanganyika)	0	0	7	197,600
Totals	13	155,739	58	1,065,194

1 In its "2016 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects" and on its website for DRC, UNMAS reported that 85 SHAs remained to be addressed at the end of 2015, or 55% of the total 155 SHAs identified following a 2013 National Landmine Contamination Survey (NLCS). This figure was echoed by the Congolese Mine Action Centre (Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines, CCLAM) at the APMBC 14th Meeting of States Parties in December 2015. According to UNMAS's Chief of Operations in DRC, this figure was an error. Email from Colin Williams, Chief of Operations, UNMAS DRC, 1 September 2016. See: UNMAS, "2016 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Democratic Republic of Congo", at: http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/print/country_portfolio6430-1530-82253.pdf; and Statement by Sudi Alimasi Kimputu, Coordinator, CCLAM, APMBC 14th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 1 December 2015.

2 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 1 September 2016. On 9 January 2015, the National Assembly of the DRC passed a law which enacted the proposed redistricting under the 2006 Constitution of the DRC's 11 provinces into 25 provinces, plus Kinshasa. The area where Mines Advisory Group (MAG) was operational in Katanga province was renamed as Tanganyika province after the redistricting began to be implemented in July 2015. C. Rigaud, "RDC: le découpage territorial a voté à l'Assemblée" ("DRC: territorial division passed at the Assembly"), *Afrikarabia*, 10 January 2015, at: <http://afrikarabia.com/wordpress/rdc-le-decoupage-territorial-vote-a-lassemblee/>; and email from Fabienne Chassagneux, Regional Director, West and Central Africa, MAG, 15 July 2016.

3 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 6 May 2016.

The DRC is affected by anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), a result of decades of conflict involving neighbouring states, militias, and rebel groups since gaining its independence in 1960.⁴

When DRC became a state party to the APMBC, it reported a total of 904 SHAs.⁵ This was later found to significantly overestimate the number and size of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, with early survey efforts uncoordinated and unsystematic, and carried out by inadequately trained staff.⁶

In April 2014, DRC was able to report that 130 SHAs affected by mines remained in eight provinces (then Equateur, Kasai Occidental, Kasai Oriental, Maniema, North Kivu, Katanga, Province Orientale, and South Kivu) covering an estimated 1.8km², on the basis of the results of a nine-month-long National Landmine Contamination Survey (NLCS) launched in March 2013.⁷ The Aru and Dungu territories in former Orientale Province, however, were not surveyed due to insecurity.⁸

In December 2015, the DRC stated that of those 130 SHAs, 45 had been cleared during the year, putting three of the DRC's then eight remaining contaminated provinces in a position to be declared cleared of mines, following quality management procedures.⁹ Clearance of former South Kivu province was completed following a Congolese Mine Action Centre (Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines, CCLAM) survey in early October 2015 that cancelled the last remaining SHA.¹⁰ UNMAS cautioned, however, that 12 SHAs were newly identified in 2014 and further hazards might be identified in the future, especially while conflict continued across the country.¹¹

In May 2015, UNMAS reported that a total of 2,540 mine and ERW victims were registered in its database, including 47 new victims in 2014 alone.¹² Released land is used for agriculture and settlement development, in addition to opening up access to markets, water, and firewood.¹³ In 2015, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) declared an important 33km-long trade road between Kabwela and Kakuyu villages in former-Katanga province mine free, allowing for local populations to resume transport of agricultural produce and other goods to the Kabelo market, boosting socio-economic opportunities in the area.¹⁴

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

CCLAM was established in 2012 with support from the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) and UNMAS.¹⁵ Since then, UNMAS has sought to build the capacity of CCLAM with a view to transferring all coordination activities to the Centre by the end of 2016.¹⁶ According to UNMAS, this task was completed in early 2016.¹⁷

Previously, UNMACC coordinated mine action operations through offices in the capital, Kinshasa, and in Goma, Kalemie, Kananga, Kisangani, and Mbandaka.¹⁸ UNMACC was part of the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) peacekeeping mission. UN Security Council Resolution 1925 mandated UNMACC to strengthen national mine action capacities and support reconstruction through road and infrastructure clearance.¹⁹

In 2013, demining activities were transferred to the UN Country Team and the Congolese authorities.²⁰ As a consequence, UNMAS operated two separate projects after splitting its activities between, on the one hand, support for the government of the DRC and its in-country team, and, on the other, activities in support of MONUSCO.²¹ As at March 2014, demining was no longer included in MONUSCO's mandate.²²

4 An escalation of conflict between rebel group M23 and Armed Forces of DRC (FARDC) with support of the UN Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO), from August to November 2013, prior to the disbanding of M23, also resulted in new contamination of large areas of land, including roads and access routes, with UXO. UNMAS, "2015 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Democratic Republic of the Congo", at: http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/print/country_portfolio4906-1070-78801.pdf.

5 Analysis of DRC's Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted by the President of the Third APMBC Review Conference on behalf of the States Parties mandated to analyse requests for extensions, 18 June 2014, p. 2.

6 Ibid., pp. 2 and 6.

7 Second Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 7 April 2014, p. 10; and UNMAS, "2015 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Democratic Republic of the Congo".

8 Ibid.

9 Statement by Sudi Alimasi Kimputu, Coordinator, CCLAM, APMBC 14th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 1 December 2015. The three provinces were Bandundu, Bas-Congo, and Kinshasa. Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 17 October 2016.

10 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 16 October 2015.

11 Ibid., 17 October 2016; and response to questionnaire, 19 May 2015.

12 UNMAS, "DRC, Support to UN Country Team and the government", updated May 2015.

13 Response to questionnaire from Michelle Healy, UNMACC, Kinshasa, 29 April 2013. In addition, MONUSCO uses released land for their field bases and airport terminals.

14 Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

15 Response to questionnaire by Michelle Healy, UNMACC, 29 April 2013.

16 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 29 May 2015; and UNMAS, "DRC, Support to UN Country Team and the Government".

17 UNMAS, "About UNMAS Support of One UN and the GODRC", updated May 2016, at: <http://www.mineaction.org/print/programmes/drc>.

18 UNMAS, "DRC, Overview", updated August 2013.

19 UN Security Council Resolution 1925, 28 May 2010.

20 UN Security Council Resolution 2098, 28 March 2013.

21 UNMAS, "DRC: Support to UN Country Team and the Government".

22 UN Security Council Resolution 2147, 28 March 2014; and UNMAS, "DRC Overview", updated April 2014.

Strategic Planning

The DRC's national mine action strategic plan for 2012–16 set the goal of clearing all areas contaminated with anti-personnel mines or submunitions by the end of 2016.²³

In granting DRC's second Article 5 deadline extension request, states parties to the APMBIC called on the DRC to present a detailed workplan by 30 April 2015 on implementation of its remaining clearance obligations throughout its extension period. In June 2015, the DRC informed states parties that due to funding difficulties it had failed to submit a workplan or finalise its projections. It pledged to provide more information at the next meeting of states parties in December 2015.²⁴ It did not, however, do so, and as at August 2016 had still to submit a workplan. In September 2016, UNMAS claimed that CCLAM intended to develop an updated plan by the end of the year.²⁵

Standards

As at October 2016, National Technical Standards and Guidelines for mine action had been drafted, but were still to be finalised.²⁶

Operators

Five international operators are accredited for mine action in the DRC: DanChurchAid (DCA), Handicap International (HI), MAG, commercial company Mechem, and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), along with a national demining organisation, AFRILAM.²⁷

UNMAS reported that a total of 80 deminers were deployed for manual demining in 2015, of which 35 worked for MECHEM; 29 for NPA; 7 for MAG; and 9 for DCA.²⁸

UNMAS contracted MECHEM to deploy three multi-task teams (MTTs) for clearance operations in South Kivu, Maniema, and Oriental provinces.²⁹ In 2015, MAG deployed between two and four 10-strong technical teams, depending on funding, and two community liaison teams.³⁰ In early 2015, NPA commenced operations in Katanga Province in eastern DRC with one MTT, one mine clearance team (MCT), and two technical survey teams. From 1 July 2015, two technical survey teams were added

to its operational capacity in Katanga province.³¹ HI did not carry out clearance in 2015 but developed a five-year partnership with AFRILAM, which conducted explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks in 2015.³²

Quality Management

UNMAS stated that quality assurance (QA)/quality control (QC) visits, both internal and external, were carried out once or twice every six months in 2015. Visits were made to Batiaboli, in Tshopo province (formerly Oriental province); Mukwanyama, in Maniema province; and Ndolo, in South-Kivu province.³³ Previously, in mid-2015, UNMAS stated that very few QA activities were being carried out in the field "due to both logistics and funding constraints".³⁴

NGO operators MAG, NPA, and HI expressed significant concern over the limitations of external CCLAM/UNMAS QA/QC visits, which were transferred to the sole responsibility of CCLAM at the start of 2016.³⁵ All operators confirmed that internal QA/QC processes were in place and activities carried out regularly in 2015.³⁶

Information Management

In 2016, despite the efforts of many years of capacity-building support from UNMAS, and from NPA in 2015, data from the national mine action database in response to Mine Action Review research queries showed very few, if any, signs of improvement, and continued to vary from operators' records, contain errors, and in some cases was only partial or even unusable.

CCLAM assumed responsibility from UNMAS for information management in January 2016. In 2015, NPA provided training for CCLAM information management operators and support to the Centre to set up an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database and computerise data formerly in possession by demining operators and UNMAS. As at October 2016, data entry into the CCLAM database had not yet been completed.³⁷ Previously, according to a review of the 2013 NLCS, information on the threat from mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) was often reported sporadically and inaccurately to UNMAS, by

23 DRC, "Plan Stratégique National de Lutte Antimines en République Démocratique du Congo, 2012–2016" ["National Mine Action Strategic Plan in DRC, 2012–2016"], Kinshasa, November 2011, p. 28, at: http://www.macc-drc.org/IMG/pdf/Plan_strategique_LAM_2012-2016.pdf.

24 Statement of DRC, APMBIC Intersessional Meetings (Committee on Article 5 Implementation), Geneva, 25 June 2015.

25 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 2 September 2016.

26 Responses to questionnaire by Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 18 May 2015; Julia Wittig, Programme Officer, MAG, 29 May 2015; and Johan Strydom, Project Manager DRC, Mechem, 13 May 2015.

27 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 14 April 2016.

28 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 17 October 2016.

29 Ibid., 2 September 2016.

30 Ibid., 3 June 2015.

31 Email from Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 12 April 2016.

32 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 14 April 2016.

33 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 6 May 2016.

34 Responses to questionnaire by Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 18 May 2015; Colin Williams, UNMAS, 19 May 2015; and Julia Wittig, MAG, 29 May 2015.

35 Emails from Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 12 April 2016; Julien Kempeneers, HI, 14 April 2016; and Fabienne Chassagneux, MAG, 15 July 2016. NPA stated that only one joint CCLAM/UNMAS visit for the purpose of the operational accreditation of its teams in the field occurred in 2015 and that no sampling was carried out. HI reported that, from mid-2015, operators were asked to ensure budget lines were available for CCLAM in order to ensure the funding of future QA/QC, and said that despite a QA/QC training for the quality team of CCLAM in Benin in February–March 2016, quality management remained a significant area of risk for mine action activities in 2016.

36 Emails from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016; Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 12 April 2016; and Julien Kempeneers, HI, 14 April 2016.

37 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 17 October 2016.

operators that frequently confused the type of explosive threat or submitted redundant reports, subsequently adding “thousands of duplicates and unreliable records” to the database UNMAS managed.³⁸

NPA has asserted that significant improvements in information management capacity were achieved in 2015. It was continuing to provide support for CCLAM’s information management staff, but stated further funding, training, and mentoring was necessary to continue to build adequate capacity.³⁹ While HI also noted positive developments (e.g. information management training), it expressed concern about the turnover of trained information management staff, the lack of management and even an adequate internet connection within CCLAM, and the failure of recent attempts to obtain useable information from the database.⁴⁰ MAG stated that as the national database was “still in its infancy” and now under national ownership, it was not yet possible to assess a change in quality.⁴¹

LAND RELEASE

UNMAS has reported to Mine Action Review that a total of just over 0.74km² of mined area was released in 2015, including 0.43km² by clearance and technical survey, and a further 0.31km² by non-technical survey.⁴² This is an increase from the total mined area in DRC released in 2014 of 0.59km², of which 0.23km² was by clearance and 0.36km² by survey.⁴³

Survey in 2015

In 2015, operators cancelled a total of almost 0.31km² by non-technical survey (NTS) and reduced an additional 0.12km² of anti-personnel mined area through technical survey, while confirming 0.17km² as mined.⁴⁴ This compares to results in 2014 of cancellation of 0.03km² of mined area through NTS, reduction of 0.33km² of confirmed mined area, and confirmation of 0.06km² as mined.⁴⁵

Table 2: Mined area survey in 2015⁴⁶

Operator	SHAs cancelled	Area cancelled (m ²)	SHAs confirmed as mined	Area confirmed (m ²)	Area reduced by TS (m ²)
MECHEM	19	173,088	6	25,185	2,431
NPA ⁴⁷	15	111,769	0	55,002	117,210
DCA	1	21,264	10	78,352	0
MAG ⁴⁸	0	0	2	10,649	0
Totals	35	306,121	18	169,188	119,641

38 P. Simon and K. Thoma, “The Democratic Republic of the Congo’s National Landmines Contamination Survey”, *Journal of ERW and Mine Action*, Issue 19.2, July 2015, at: <http://www.jmu.edu/cisr/journal/19.2/notes/simon.shtml>.

39 Email from Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 12 April 2016. According to NPA, some data was digitally recorded; data was collected in accordance with IMAS; and, as of mid-2015, CCLAM was able to prepare basic maps on the status of contamination and reports on survey and land release.

40 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 14 April 2016.

41 Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

42 Emails from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 6 May 2016 and 19 May 2015. An UNMAS online report incorrectly states that a total of 95,412m² of mined area was cleared, with the destruction of 17 anti-personnel mines, 3 anti-vehicle mines, and 16,447 items of UXO. UNMAS, “2016 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Democratic Republic of Congo”, at: <http://www.mineaction.org/resources/portfolios>; and email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 17 October 2016.

43 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 2 September 2016; and responses to questionnaire by Colin Williams, UNMAS, 19 May 2015; Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 18 May 2015; Julia Wittig, MAG, 29 May 2015; and Julien Kempeneers, HI, 3 June 2015.

44 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 2 September 2016.

45 Emails from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 6 May 2016 and 19 May 2015.

46 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 2 September 2016.

47 UNMAS reported that NPA confirmed 55,002m² by technical survey; however according to NPA, the 55,002m² was released through clearance during technical survey and it did not report it as area confirmation. It stated that the 117,210m² it reported as reducing through technical survey includes the 55,002m² UNMAS reports as area “confirmed” and then again as area “cleared”. Emails from Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 12 April 2016; and Colin Williams, UNMAS, 2 September 2016.

48 MAG did not report confirming any anti-personnel mine contamination through survey in 2015. Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

Clearance in 2015

A total of 0.31km² was released by clearance in 2015, with the destruction of 31 anti-personnel mines, 1 anti-vehicle mine, and 756 items of UXO.⁴⁹ Total mined area cleared in 2014 was 0.23km², with the destruction of 43 anti-personnel mines, 10 anti-vehicle mines, and more than 7,300 items of UXO.⁵⁰

NPA released 19 SHAs in DRC in 2015, leaving only one SHA to be completed in former Katanga province in 2016. Of the 19 completed SHAs, 14 were released through technical survey and clearance, and the remainder through NTS. NPA also reported completing a total of 26 spot tasks in former Katanga province in 2015.⁵¹ It noted the success of its increased use of small technical survey teams in 2015, with very few of the SHAs found to contain anti-personnel or anti-vehicle mines.⁵²

NPA stated that all four anti-personnel mines its teams encountered in 2015 were found individually and destroyed as spot tasks.⁵³ Likewise, MAG reported that all four anti-personnel mines it destroyed in 2015 were individually-laid nuisance mines.⁵⁴

Table 3: Mine Clearance in 2015⁵⁵

Operator	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
MECHEM	22	198,273	20	0	30
NPA ⁵⁶	26	55,002	4	1	657
DCA	4	50,430	3	0	69
MAG ⁵⁷	2	10,649	4	0	0
Totals	54	314,354	31	1	756

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle

Deminer Safety

No demining personnel were killed or injured as a result of mine action accidents or incidents in DRC in 2014.⁵⁸ Three Mechem employees were abducted in North Kivu province in April 2015 but were later released and returned to work.⁵⁹

49 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 2 September 2016.

50 Responses to questionnaire by Colin Williams, UNMAS, 19 May 2015; Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 18 May 2015; Julia Wittig, MAG, 29 May 2015; Johan Strydom, Mechem, 13 May 2015; and Julien Kempeneers, HI, 3 June 2015.

51 Email from Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 12 April 2016.

52 Ibid.

53 Ibid.

54 Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

55 Emails from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 2 September and 17 October 2016.

56 NPA reported that all anti-personnel mines were treated as spot tasks in 2015 and as such did not report any area cleared. UNMAS reported that NPA cleared a total of 55,002m² of mined area in 2015; however, NPA reported that this occurred as part of technical survey. UNMAS responded that "NPA cleared 25 mined areas with a total size of 55,002m². NPA were given 25 x Task Orders for TS/MF [technical survey/minefield] clearance of SHA and not Spot Tasks. Thus, NPA was processing LR [land release] methodology [Cancellation through NTS, Reduction through TS and Clearance, when necessary]". Emails from Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 12 April 2016; and Colin Williams, UNMAS, 26 May 2016.

57 MAG reported clearing one area with a size of 198,000m² and destroying five anti-personnel mines and thirteen items of UXO. Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

58 Responses to questionnaire by Julia Wittig, MAG, 29 May 2015; Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 18 May 2015; Johan Strydom, Mechem, 13 May 2015; and Colin Williams, UNMAS, 19 May 2015.

59 "Kidnapped trio in DR Congo are subcontractors to UN mission: UN", *AFP*, 23 April 2015, at: <http://news.yahoo.com/three-members-un-mission-kidnapped-eastern-dr-congo-201336937.html>; and "Three workers with UN Congo peacekeeping mission abducted", *Reuters*, 25 April 2015, at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/24/us-congo-kidnapping-idUSKBN0NF1H020150424>; and emails from Kobus Strydom, Mechem, 27 April 2016; and Colin Williams, UNMAS, 13 July 2016.

ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the six-year extension request 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 of mid-2016, the DRC appeared on course to meet its deadline by 2018, albeit after the end-2016 deadline set out in its national mine action strategy.⁶⁰

The purpose of its current (second) Article 5 deadline extension is 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”.⁶¹

DRC’s first Article 5 deadline request in 2011 largely blamed poor survey by demining operators for the failure to meet its deadline, though poor management and insufficient national ownership of the programme were also major factors.⁶² Initially intending to submit a request for an extension of its initial November 2012 deadline by four years, DRC instead requested a 26-month interim extension primarily to carry out the national survey to provide it with the information needed to submit another definitive extension request in 2014.⁶³

In April 2014, DRC submitted a second request to extend its Article 5 deadline starting in January 2015. The extension indicated that at least 30% of the total mined areas could be released through technical survey, indicating that some 1.3km² would need to be cleared.⁶⁴ The extension request estimated that on average 0.21km² would be cleared each year.⁶⁵

The extension request included annual projections of progress to be made during the extension period, though without providing a detailed workplan with a monthly breakdown of activities for each operator in each area in order to achieve these.⁶⁶ It also foresees expenditure of US\$20 million, of which some \$19.4 million will go to demining the 130 mined areas, while the remainder will be spent on survey and clearance in Aru and Dungu.⁶⁷ It announced that the Government of the DRC had committed to contribute FC579,831,000 (about \$600,000) a year to mine action activities, starting in January 2015.⁶⁸ Operators reported, however, that in 2015 only very limited support was provided by the government, including funding to cover the running costs of the CCLAM and operational collaboration with the army for logistical support.⁶⁹

Over five years in 2011–15, demining organisations cleared a total of nearly 1.37km² of mined area (see Table 4).

Table 4: Mine clearance in 2011–15

Year	Area cleared (m ²)
2015	314,562
2014	225,484
2013	110,961
2012	354,189
2011	364,066
Total	1,369,262

60 Emails from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 6 May 2016; Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 12 April 2016; Julien Kempeneers, HI, 14 April 2016; and Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

61 Analysis of DRC’s Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted by the President of the Third APMBC Review Conference on behalf of the States Parties mandated to analyse requests for extensions, 18 June 2014, p. 5.

62 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 March 2011, pp. 3 and 49.

63 Ibid; and Statements of DRC, APMBC Intersessional Meetings (Standing Committee on Mine Action), Geneva, 21 June 2011 and 27 May 2013.

64 Second APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 7 April 2014, p. 48.

65 Ibid., p. 49.

66 Ibid., p. 81.

67 Ibid., p. 12.

68 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 7 April 2014, p. 52.

69 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 14 April 2016.

As of mid-September 2016, the DRC had not submitted a detailed workplan on the implementation of its extension request targets nor its recent annual APMBC Article 7 transparency reports, due in April 2015 and 2016. This is a violation of its treaty obligations.

The DRC has reported that challenges for implementing its current extension request plan milestones include funding and logistics, security, geography, and climate, including dense vegetation and heavy rainy seasons.⁷⁰ In June 2015, the DRC reported to states parties that after six months of implementation of its second extension request, it had concerns over declining international funding and the consequences for its ability to achieve its extension targets.⁷¹

In May 2016, UNMAS claimed that the DRC was both on track to meet its national mine action strategic plan goal of completing clearance of mine and ERW contamination by the end of 2016, as well as to meet its Article 5 deadline by 2021.⁷² As at October 2016, UNMAS stated that a total of 57 SHAs remained in the database.⁷³ It has noted, though, that the ongoing security situation in the east of DRC remained a serious concern and could delay DRC's achievement of its clearance targets.⁷⁴

In contrast, operators MAG, HI, and NPA, which were optimistic in 2015 that DRC would meet its goal of completing clearance by the end of 2016, became increasingly less positive as 2016 progressed, though they remained confident that the DRC was well placed to meet its 2021 Article 5 deadline for the clearance of anti-personnel mine contamination on time, if not earlier. They attributed the DRC's inability to finish by the end of 2016 to a lack of access and the remote, difficult terrain of remaining areas, and additional concerns over sustained funding, upcoming elections, and deteriorating security in certain field locations.⁷⁵

In 2016, two of NPA's technical survey teams were expected to continue operations in Katanga to address one remaining SHA and any spot tasks until June 2016, when capacity would be redeployed to Ikela and Bolomba in former Equateur province to form six small technical survey teams. NPA forecasted a slight decrease in funding in 2016, resulting in the termination of the two teams in June and a reduction in capacity-building support for CCLAM.⁷⁶

MAG reported that its priorities in 2016 would be to locate and confirm all remaining suspected hazardous areas within North Ubangi and South Ubangi provinces, and in the former province of Equateur.⁷⁷ It did not expect a change in funding in 2016.⁷⁸

In 2016, HI commenced a two-year demining project, jointly implemented with AFRILAM, and funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is expected to lead to the deployment of an additional three MTTs for risk education, NTS, and technical survey, manual demining, and EOD.⁷⁹

Due to a slight reduction in funding, UNMAS-contracted teams would be reduced from three to two in 2016 and would focus on UXO spot tasks in areas where no operators were present.⁸⁰

In March 2016, the Government of Japan donated US\$2 million to UNMAS for mine action in the DRC. UNMAS reported that the contribution would allow UNMAS to deploy two MTTs in five selected provinces where no explosive clearance capacity currently exists.⁸¹ In May 2016, UNMAS reported that a total of US\$2.45 million had been secured for demining activities in 2016, with additional support from the Netherlands and Sweden, and in-kind support from Switzerland.⁸² UNMAS pledged to continue to engage with donors to secure additional funding.⁸³ Norway, the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom also provided support for mine action in the DRC in 2015.⁸⁴

70 Analysis of DRC's Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted by the President of the APMBC Third Review Conference on behalf of the States Parties mandated to analyse requests for extensions, 18 June 2014, pp. 5–6. The DRC had estimated that on the basis of operational and financial capacity for demining in 2009–13, mine clearance could be completed within four years; however, additional time would be needed to conduct survey and clearance in the Aru and Dungu territories, thereby totalling the six years requested.

71 Statement of DRC, APMBC Intersessional Meetings (Committee on Article 5 Implementation), Geneva, 25 June 2015.

72 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 6 May 2016.

73 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 17 October 2016.

74 Response to questionnaire by Colin Williams, UNMAS, 19 May 2015.

75 Emails from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016; Julien Kempeneers, HI, 14 April 2016; and Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 12 April 2016.

76 Email from Pehr Lodhammar, NPA, 12 April 2016.

77 Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

78 Ibid.

79 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 14 April 2016.

80 Email from Colin Williams, UNMAS, 2 September 2016.

81 UNMAS, "The People of Japan Contributes \$2 Million to support United Nations Mine Action Activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo", Press release, 18 March 2016.

82 UNMAS, "About UNMAS Support of One UN and the GODRC", updated May 2016.

83 UNMAS, "The People of Japan Contributes \$2 Million USD to support United Nations Mine Action Activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo", Press release, 18 March 2016, at: <http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/pr/Japan%20contributes%202M%20to%20UN%20mine%20action%202016.pdf>.

84 Statement by Sudi Alimasi Kimputu, CCLAM, APMBC Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 1 December 2015.