

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2023
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION:

LIGHT, AROUND 1KM²

(GOVERNMENT ESTIMATE, EXCLUDING PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN CONTAMINATED AREA DISCOVERED)

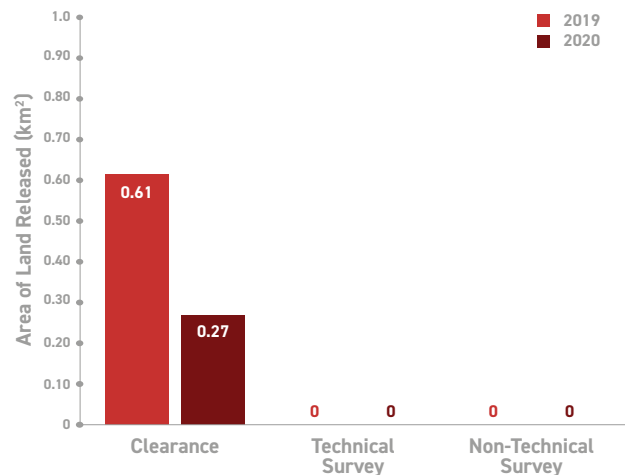
AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2020

0.27 KM²

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2020

0

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2020, Serbia continued its progress in Article 5 implementation, and cleared a total of 0.27km² of mined area, less than half the clearance output in 2019. While one anti-vehicle mine and many items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) were destroyed during the clearance task in 2020, no anti-personnel mine was discovered. The Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) has yet to survey and add to its database the newly discovered and previously unrecorded mine contamination, discovered in late 2019.

In a positive development, in March 2020, SMAC and the Serbian Ministry of Defence, signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of demining and UXO/explosive remnants of war (ERW) removal. The initial focus will reportedly be on the training of personnel in explosive remnants of war demolition rather than clearance of mined areas. In addition, SMAC organised an EOD Level 1 training course in 2020, the first of its kind to take place in Serbia.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Serbia should consider using its armed forces for mine clearance or inviting demining non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help meet its treaty obligations by fulfilling its Article 5 obligations by 2023.
- SMAC should conduct non-technical and technical survey, rather than full clearance, in instances where survey represents the most efficient means to release part or all of areas suspected or confirmed to contain anti-personnel mines.
- Serbia should conduct as a matter of priority the planned survey of the contamination discovered in 2019 in order to determine the size of the mined area.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2020)	Score (2019)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	5	5	Serbia has a relatively good understanding of its baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination, although it records all mined areas as suspected hazardous areas (SHAs), not confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs). New, previously unrecorded mined area, identified as a result of fires in 2019, had yet to be surveyed or added to Serbia's database as at April 2021, as had an area of mixed mine and UXO contamination.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	7	7	Serbia has strong national ownership of its mine action programme, which is nationally funded. Planned national funding of €350,000 for survey and clearance operations in 2020 was reduced to €260,000 due to the COVID-19 crisis and efforts by the Serbian government to tackle it. The funds were matched with donor funds through the ITF. In a positive development, in March 2020, SMAC and the Serbian Armed Forces General Staff of the Ministry of Defence, signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of demining and UXO/ERW removal.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	4	SMAC does not have a gender policy in place and does not disaggregate relevant mine action data by sex and age. However, it does ensure women and children, as well as ethnic or minority groups, are consulted during survey and community liaison activities and that there is equal access to employment for qualified women and men in survey and clearance.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	7	7	Serbia submits accurate and comprehensive annual Article 7 reports on Article 5 progress, which are consistent between reporting periods, and provides regular updates on progress at APMBBC meetings. SMAC plans to install the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), with the support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	7	SMAC has a plan in place for completion of Article 5 implementation with planned annual land release output through to its treaty deadline, subject to the availability of sufficient funding. Serbia also produces revised annual work plans based on actual progress. In addition to mine clearance, Serbia is simultaneously addressing contamination from cluster munition remnants and other ERW that hinder socio-economic development.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	5	6	While SMAC continues to express a preference for full clearance of SHAs and only conducted clearance tasks in 2020 and 2019, it does remain willing to conduct technical survey where it deems it appropriate.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	6	7	Serbia cleared less than half the amount of mined area in 2020 that it did the previous year. Serbia has set a 2023 target date for completion of Article 5, but meeting the deadline is largely contingent on securing sufficient funding.
Average Score	5.7	6.1	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

DEMINEING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Sector for Emergency Management, under the Ministry of Interior (acts as the national mine action authority)
- Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- NGOs:
 - In Demining, Pale, BiH

OTHER ACTORS

- None

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

As at 1 April 2021, five areas in Bujanovac municipality, covering nearly 0.86km², were suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (see Table 1).¹ This is a reduction from the nearly 1.13km² of mined area as at end of 2019,² which is due to clearance of mined area in 2020.

However, the baseline of mine contamination in Table 1 excludes a previously unreported hazardous area totalling 298,700m², which contains a mix of mines and other types of unexploded ordnance, which was planned for clearance in 2021. Furthermore, it also excludes the previously unrecorded anti-personnel mine contamination that was revealed as a result of fires in Bujanovac municipality in 2019, the size of which is not yet known.³

On 2–3 October 2019, in response to a request from local authorities, SMAC visited the villages of Đorđevac, Končulj, Lučane, Ravno Bučje, and Veliki Trnovac where fires had recently occurred and members of the local community had reported hearing explosions in several places, indicating the presence of mines. Representatives of SMAC and Emergency Management Staff of the municipality of Bujanovac visited the sites and interviewed local residents, local authority representatives, and firefighters, as well as police and the military. Mine incident questionnaires were completed in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and suspected mined areas were marked with signs in both Serbian and Albanian, as the population in this area is multi-ethnic.⁴ The newly discovered contamination is not included in Table 1 above. Subject to securing the necessary funding, SMAC planned to conduct survey in 2021 to determine the size of the newly discovered contamination.⁵ The size of the area is expected to be relatively small based on rough estimates,⁶ and includes several “micro-locations” contaminated with groups of unrecorded mines.⁷

Bujanovac is the only municipality in Serbia still affected by mines. According to SMAC, the contamination is from mines of an unknown origin and type which have not been replaced to follow a pattern, and for which no minefield records exist.⁸ According to the national authorities, previous surveys found insufficient evidence for mined areas to be classified as confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), so they remain as suspected hazardous areas (SHAs).⁹ However, the

fact that contamination is suspected makes it all the more important that SMAC conducts technical survey to confirm the presence of anti-personnel mines, before conducting full clearance. According to SMAC, the baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination has been established through inclusive consultation with women, girls, boys, and men, including, where relevant, from minority groups.¹⁰ SMAC does not possess data on explosive ordnance contamination of military areas in Serbia.¹¹

Historically, mine contamination in Serbia can be divided into two phases. The first exists as a legacy of the armed conflicts associated with the break-up of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. The second concerned use of mines in 2000–01 in the municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo by a non-State armed group, the Liberation Army of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medvedja (OVPBM). The contamination remaining in Serbia is a result of this later phase.¹² Contamination also exists within Kosovo (see Mine Action Review’s Clearing the Mines report on Kosovo for further information). SMAC requests that it be noted that all references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).¹³

Serbia is also contaminated with cluster munition remnants (CMR) and other explosive remnants of war (ERW), which are either the result of the 1999 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) bombing campaign, remain from previous conflicts, or are the result of explosions or fire at military depots¹⁴ (see Mine Action Review’s Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants report on Serbia for further information).

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area by village (at 1 April 2021)¹⁵

Municipality	Village	SHAs	Area (m ²)
Bujanovac	Ravno Bučje	1	390,300
	Končulj	3	437,730
	Dobrosin	1	28,000
Totals		5	856,030

SHA = Suspected Hazardous Area

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

According to a Government Decree on Protection against Unexploded Ordnance, the Sector for Emergency Management, under the Ministry of Interior, acts as the national mine action authority (NMAA).¹⁶ The NMAA is responsible for developing standard operating procedures (SOPs); accrediting demining operators; and supervising the work of SMAC.¹⁷

SMAC was established on 7 March 2002, with a 2004 law making it responsible for coordinating demining; collecting and managing mine action information (including casualty data); and surveying SHAs. It also has a mandate to plan demining projects, conduct quality control (QC) and monitor operations, ensure implementation of international standards, and conduct risk education.¹⁸ As from 1 January 2014, according to a Government Decree on Protection against Unexploded Ordnance, the Sector for Emergency

Management, under the Ministry of Interior, is responsible for accrediting demining operators. Previously, SMAC was responsible for doing so.¹⁹

A new director of SMAC was appointed by the Serbian government in July 2019.²⁰ There are seven other people employed at SMAC: two assistant directors and five other SMAC employees.²¹

SMAC is fully funded by Serbia, including salaries and running costs, as well as for survey activities, development of project tasks for demining and clearance of contaminated areas, follow-up on implementation of project tasks, and quality assurance (QA) and QC of demining. In 2021, Serbia reported that around €300,000 per annum is allocated from the national state budget for the work of SMAC,²² an increase on the €270,000 provided in 2020.²³ In addition, the unexploded ordnance (UXO) disposal work of the Sector

for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Interior is also State funded.²⁴ Furthermore, in 2019, Serbia also contributed national funding towards the establishment of an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training centre,²⁵ which is now operational.

Since 2015, Serbia has also been allocating national funds for survey and clearance, with roughly €100,000 allocated per year.²⁶ In 2018, the Serbian Government allocated double the amount of national funds previously dedicated to demining operations to €200,000 (which were matched with US and Korean funding and tendered through ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF)). At the request of the national authorities, national funding was increased to €350,000 for 2019 demining operations.²⁷ The same amount had been allocated by the Serbian government for demining operations in 2020, but was subsequently reduced by 20% to €260,000 due to the COVID-19 crisis and efforts by the Serbian government to tackle it.²⁸ National funding for survey and clearance remained at €260,000 for 2021.²⁹ The funds will be matched with donor funds through the ITF.³⁰

In June 2018, during the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) intersessional meetings, Serbia and the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance convened an "Individualised Approach Platform" meeting, to hold a frank discussion with relevant stakeholders on the current status of Serbia's national programme, the needs and challenges in completing its Article 5 obligations.³¹ SMAC reports having a resource mobilisation strategy for Article 5 implementation.³²

In March 2020, SMAC and the Serbian Armed Forces General Staff of the Ministry of Defence, signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of demining and UXO/ERW removal. The Agreement is reported to envisage, among others, the joint participation in training of personnel to conduct

of demining and UXO/ERW demolition operations, training certification, joint participation in survey, collection of data on UXO/ERW suspected and contaminated areas, as well as implementation of UXO/ERW removal projects, with monitoring and implementation of the IMAS and regulations in the field of demining. The initial focus will reportedly be on the training of personnel in UXO/ERW demolition operations,³³ and not in clearance of mined areas.³⁴

In late 2019, the Serbian government approved funds for the establishment of a training centre within SMAC. Together with experts from the Ministry of Interior, SMAC will provide different training modules, including on ERW recognition, international mine action standards, medical aspects, and risk education.³⁵

SMAC organised an EOD Level 1 training course from 21 September to 10 October 2020, which was supported by the French Embassy in Belgrade and conducted by a French demining company, "EOD-EX", in accordance with IMAS. The course, said to be the first of its kind to take place in Serbia, was attended by a member of the Sector for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior, as well as representatives of demining companies from Serbia and the Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina.³⁶ The training was aimed at strengthening human resources in the field of humanitarian demining in Serbia and also to standardise the level of national competencies in accordance with IMAS.³⁷ Prior to the opening of the new training centre, SMAC had been recognising certificates from organisations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia that had been accredited respectively by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) and the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) to conduct training courses in mine action and humanitarian demining.³⁸

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

SMAC does not have a gender policy in place and does not disaggregate relevant mine action data by sex and age. However, it does ensure women and children are consulted during survey and community liaison activities,³⁹ and SMAC cooperates closely with the local authorities and other relevant stakeholders in this regard. SMAC also ensures ethnic or minority groups are consulted, which is important, as remaining mined areas are located in the municipality of Bujanovac, which is an area with a multi-ethnic population. SMAC reports that it cooperates with Bujanovac municipality officials, including the mayor and deputy mayor, who are from different ethnic groups, and other employees in charge of community liaison activities.⁴⁰

With regards to the new mined area identified as a result of fires in 2019, SMAC planned to conduct a survey which will include representatives of Serbian and Albanian personnel.⁴¹

Serbia reports there is equal access to employment for qualified women and men in survey and clearance operations.⁴²

At SMAC, 50% of employees are women, with 25% of managerial/supervisory level positions held by women along with 25% of operations positions.⁴³

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

SMAC uses its own information management system. Following on from initial discussions several years ago, in early 2020, SMAC informally discussed the possibility of the installation of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).⁴⁴ Subsequently, Serbia has been added to the GICHD's list of countries to be supported and an initial online meeting between the GICHD and SMAC took place in March 2021. The next step will be for GICHD to conduct an assessment mission to Serbia.⁴⁵

PLANNING AND TASKING

In its 2018 Article 5 deadline extension request, Serbia included a costed plan for the completion of demining, with clear milestones, for 2018–23.⁴⁶ Serbia has since updated the plan in its annual Article 7 reports. In its latest report for calendar year 2020, Serbia announced a plan to release 294,230m² in 2021; 390,300m² in 2022; and 171,500m² in 2023. However, this excludes the new mined area identified as a result of fires in 2019, the size of which have not yet been determined, but which Serbia planned to survey in 2021 subject to funding.⁴⁷ The updated work plan also excludes a hazardous area, 298,700m² in size, which contains predominantly UXO contamination, but may also contain mines and which was scheduled to be cleared in 2021.⁴⁸

Serbia intends to use non-technical survey, technical survey, manual clearance, mechanical demining (where applicable), and mine detection dogs (MDDs, where applicable), to complete clearance before its 2023 Article 5 deadline.⁴⁹ Progress is, however, contingent on funding and Serbia has stated that if it cannot secure international support for demining, its work plan will be directly affected.⁵⁰

The Government of Serbia adopts SMAC's annual work plans.⁵¹ SMAC's 2021 work plan includes one mine clearance project totalling 294,230m², one mixed mine and UXO project totalling 298,700m², and one technical survey project totalling 390,300m². In addition, subject to funding, SMAC planned to conduct survey of the previously unrecorded anti-personnel mine contamination revealed as a result of fires in 2019.⁵²

Serbia prioritises the demining of areas which directly affect the local population, such as those close to settlements where local people have abandoned their houses and stopped cultivating land due to fear of landmines.⁵³ SMAC also noted that donors themselves sometimes also influence the choice of the areas which will be demined first, depending on availability and amount of their funds.⁵⁴

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

According to SMAC, survey and clearance operations in Serbia are conducted in accordance with IMAS.⁵⁵

National mine action standards (NMAS) were said to be in the final phase of development as at September 2015.⁵⁶ In April 2017, SMAC reported that, along with the relevant national authorities, it was in the process of establishing a commission to develop national standards and SOPs to define methods and techniques for demining in Serbia.⁵⁷ However, this process has subsequently been hindered due to lack of capacity.⁵⁸

As at April 2021, Serbia planned to adopt a new decree on protection against ERW. The decree, developed by SMAC and the Ministry of Interior, addresses the need to develop national standards; introduces the concept of land release (not defined in the former decree); aims to improve the accreditation, monitoring, and evaluation process; and prohibits the practice of independent ammunition technicians being hired by infrastructure companies (which will instead be done through tasking and coordination from SMAC).⁵⁹ As at July 2021, the Decree was close to being finalised.⁶⁰

Under new directorship in late 2015, SMAC reassessed its land release methodology to prioritise full clearance over technical survey of hazardous areas.⁶¹ This does not correspond to international best practice and is an inefficient use of scarce clearance assets. In February 2016, the then new director of SMAC reported to Mine Action Review that while SMAC supports the use of high quality non-technical survey to identify suspected mined areas, it will fully clear these areas, rather than using technical survey to identify the boundaries of contamination more accurately.⁶²

As at March 2021, SMAC's position on its preferred land release methodology remained the same under the current Director, but there was a continued willingness to conduct technical survey in a form "adjusted to the context of Serbia", in response to the stated preference of international donors for technical survey above clearance, where appropriate.⁶³

As previously mentioned, in a positive development, a new decree developed by SMAC and the Ministry of Interior and due to be adopted in 2021, introduces the concept of land release, which was not defined in the former decree.⁶⁴

SMAC's reluctance to apply technical survey to delineate confirmed mined area is due to its lack of confidence that such survey can effectively identify groups of unrecorded mines, not planted in specific patterns.⁶⁵ According to SMAC, incidents involving people or animals have occurred in most of these suspected areas or else mines have been accidentally detected.⁶⁶ While only clearance and not release by survey occurred in 2019 and 2020, the reduction of mined area through technical survey in 2017 and 2018, however, does demonstrate SMAC's greater willingness to adopt more efficient land release practices. Furthermore, a technical survey project was planned for 2021.

SMAC has reported that the results of the initial survey data are analysed and then further non-technical survey is conducted to assess conditions in the field, and to gather statements by the local population, hunters, foresters, representatives of Civil Protection, and the police, among others. Data on mine incidents is another significant indicator.⁶⁷ Also, in the context of Serbia, there is reportedly limited potential to obtain additional information on the location of mined areas from those who laid the mines during the conflict.⁶⁸

Technical survey is employed "to additionally collect information by technical methods on a suspected area and in case when the data collected by a non-technical survey are not sufficient for suspected areas to be declared hazardous or safe".⁶⁹ Clearance is reported to be conducted in accordance with the IMAS and to a depth of 20cm.⁷⁰

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

SMAC does not itself carry out clearance or employ deminers but does conduct survey of areas suspected to contain mines, CMR, or other ERW. Clearance is conducted by commercial companies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which are selected through public tender procedures executed by the ITF, supported by international funding.⁷¹

The Ministry of Interior issues accreditation to mine action operators that is valid for one year. In 2020, 24 companies/ organisations were accredited for demining,⁷² but only one NGO conducted clearance of mined areas (see Table 2).

Table 2: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2020⁷³

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers*	Dogs and handlers	Machines**
In Demining (Pale, BiH)	3	30	2 dogs and 1 handler	0
Totals	3	30	2 dogs and 1 handler	

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

Table 2 represents a reduction in clearance capacity compared to the previous year and reflects the fact there were fewer mine clearance tasks in 2020. No survey personnel were deployed in Serbia in 2020⁷⁴ or 2019.

The Serbian Armed Forces maintain a capability to survey, detect, clear, and destroy landmines. This capability includes many types of detection equipment, mechanical clearance assets, disposal expertise, and specialist search and clearance teams.⁷⁵ An EOD department within the Sector for Emergency Management, in the Ministry of Interior, responds to call-outs for individual items of ERW, and is also responsible for demolition of items found by SMAC survey teams.⁷⁶

Technical survey and clearance in Serbia are primarily conducted manually. MDDs were used in technical survey and clearance operations in 2018 to release land,⁷⁷ but according to the authorities most of the mines are in mountainous areas with challenging terrain and thick vegetation and are not appropriate for the use of MDDs or machinery.⁷⁸ The fact that these areas have not been accessed since the end of the conflict (2001), owing to the suspected presence of mines, means that the land is unmanaged, making it even less accessible.⁷⁹

SMAC uses data obtained by unmanned aerial vehicles to develop and monitor clearance and technical survey projects.⁸⁰

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2020

A total of 0.27km² of mined area was released through clearance in 2020, during which one anti-vehicle mine and many items of UXO were destroyed, but no anti-personnel mines. No mined area was reduced through technical survey or cancelled through non-technical survey in 2020.⁸¹

SURVEY IN 2020

No mined area was reduced through technical survey or cancelled through non-technical survey in 2020 or in 2019.⁸²

CLEARANCE IN 2020

In 2020, a total of 269,280m² of mined area was cleared, destroying 1 anti-vehicle mine along with 1,586 items of UXO, but no anti-personnel mines. The project, funded by the US, via ITF, was conducted by an NGO from Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina (IN Demining).⁸³ This is a decrease in clearance output compared to 2019, when 606,210m² of mined area was cleared, destroying 22 anti-personnel mines along with 15 items of UXO.⁸⁴

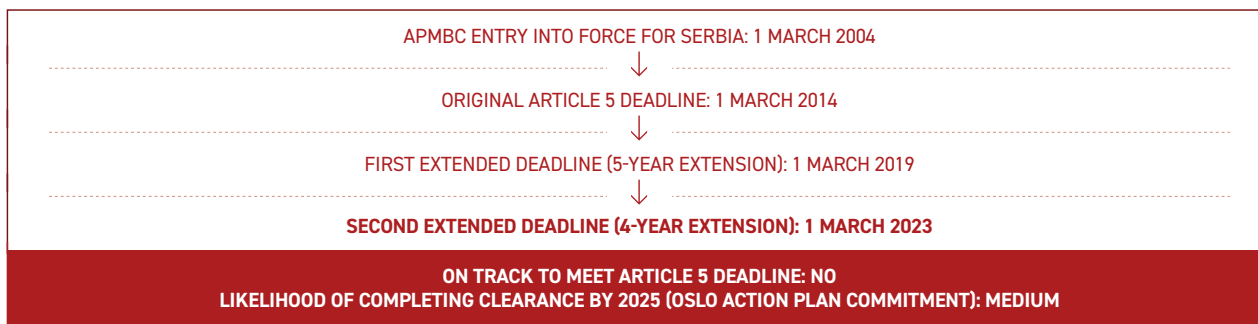
Table 3: Mine clearance in 2020⁸⁵

Municipality	Village	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Bujanovac	Končulj	IN Demining	269,280	0	1	1,586
Totals			269,280	0	1	1,586

SMAC did not have available data on the number of mines destroyed by the EOD department within the Sector for Emergency Management during spot tasks in 2020.⁸⁶

SMAC said that the decrease in the amount of mined area cleared in 2020, compared to 2019, was due to the unpredictability of COVID-19 situation, a smaller number of available donors, and a reduction in the available national demining budget in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and government measures in the fight against the consequences of the crisis.⁸⁷

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the second extension (for four years) granted by States Parties in 2018), Serbia 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 March 2023. Serbia is not on track to meet this deadline, but could still do so if it can secure and sustain required funding. However, the discovery of previously unrecorded anti-personnel mine contamination, revealed as a result of fires in 2019, adds to Serbia's existing Article 5 commitment. Furthermore, an additional previously unreported hazardous area containing both mines and other explosive ordnance, included in Serbia's Article 7 report submitted in 2021, further adds to the baseline of mined area, although this task was scheduled for clearance in the course of 2021.⁸⁸

Serbia has stated that it remains fully committed to the fulfilment of its remaining obligations and aims to fulfil them within the Article 5 deadline. SMAC identified discovery of previously unknown mine contamination in October 2019 as a potential obstacle to meeting its clearance deadline, along with lack of adequate financial resources and the unpredictability of securing financial resources, and adverse climatic conditions which prevent access to areas of contamination during certain periods of the year.⁸⁹

Serbia reported that the remaining mine contamination is of unrecorded mined areas/groups of mines, with mines having been emplaced with no particular pattern, which has complicated survey and clearance.⁹⁰ SMAC also simultaneously addresses areas contaminated with CMR and other unexploded ordnance, which have a socio-economic impact.⁹¹ Several ERW clearance projects developed by SMAC were implemented in 2020, including projects to help ensure safe execution of gas, water, sewage supply line construction, and other projects.⁹²

Furthermore, Serbia's claim to continued jurisdiction over Kosovo entails legal responsibility for remaining mined areas under Article 5 of the APMBC.⁹³ However, Serbia did not include such areas in either its first or second extension request estimates of remaining contamination or plans for the extension periods.

In the last five years Serbia has cleared a total of 1.17km² of mined area (see Table 4).

PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

SMAC envisages that it will most likely need both national and international capacity to deal with any residual contamination, discovered following completion.¹⁰¹ Serbia is already dealing with residual ERW contamination and investing significant funds for ERW clearance.¹⁰² SMAC has reported that it has been cooperating with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defence to plan for sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas post fulfilment of its APMBC Article 5 clearance obligations.¹⁰³

Serbia has fallen well behind the clearance plan it set out in its 2013 Article 5 deadline, and also fell behind on land release output in its subsequently adjusted work plans in 2015, 2016, and 2017, largely due to lack of funding.⁹⁴

In a positive development, on top of existing US funding, Serbia also secured funding from a new donor, the Republic of Korea, in 2018, and has further secured funding from another new donor, Japan, in 2019.⁹⁵ This enabled Serbia to meet the updated clearance target for 2019, envisaged in its Article 7 report submitted in 2018.⁹⁶ In 2020, Serbia fell just short of meeting its updated clearance target to release 298,700m² of mined area, as had been envisaged in its Article 7 report submitted the previous year.⁹⁷

In its 2018 Article 5 extension request, Serbia estimated that it required €2.5 million to complete release of all remaining mined areas, of which €900,000 was planned to come from national budget and around €1.6 million from the ITF and other sources of international funding.⁹⁸

SMAC has pledged to continue to raise awareness of its need for further funding and will seek funding from state authorities, public enterprises, and local authorities.⁹⁹ As at March 2021, confirmed international donors for the year were the United States and the Republic of Korea, through the ITF.¹⁰⁰

Table 4: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2020	0.27
2019	0.61
2018	0.29
2017	*0
2016	0
Total	1.17

*0.28km² was reduced through technical survey, during which three anti-personnel mines were destroyed.

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- 1 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Section D; and email from Slađana Košutić, Senior Advisor for Planning, International Cooperation and European Integrations, SMAC, 26 March 2021.
 - 2 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 23 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.
 - 3 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Section D; and email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March 2021.
 - 4 Statements of Serbia on Clearance, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019 and APMBC 18th Meeting of States Parties (virtual meeting), 16–20 November 2020; and Article 7 Reports (covering 2019 and 2020).
 - 5 Statements of Serbia on Clearance, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019 and APMBC 18th Meeting of States Parties (virtual meeting), 16–20 November 2020; Article 7 Reports (covering 2019 and 2020); and email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March 2021.
 - 6 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 18 June 2020.
 - 7 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 11 May 2021.
 - 8 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7; Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Forms D and E; and email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 23 April 2020.
 - 9 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form D.
 - 10 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 23 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form D.
 - 11 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 11 May 2021.
 - 12 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5; and Article 7 Report (covering 2014), Form C.
 - 13 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 11 May 2021.
 - 14 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.
 - 15 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Section D; and email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March 2021.
 - 16 Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 70/13.
 - 17 Emails from Darvin Lisica, Regional Programme Manager, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), 6 May and 12 June 2016.
 - 18 Law of Alterations and Supplementations of the Law of Ministries, Official Gazette, 84/04, August 2004; interview with Petar Mihajlović and Slađana Košutić, SMAC, Belgrade, 26 April 2010; and 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 17.
 - 19 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 17.
 - 20 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 23 April 2020.
 - 21 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March 2021.
 - 22 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Section D.
 - 23 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4; and email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March 2021.
 - 24 SMAC, "Mine situation", accessed 8 May 2019, at: <http://bit.ly/1Nom1V7>.
 - 25 Interview with Bojan Glamočlija, Director, SMAC, in Geneva, 14 February 2020.
 - 26 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 6 April 2017; interview with Jovica Simonović, SMAC, Belgrade, 16 May 2017; and 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.
 - 27 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4; and Statement on Clearance, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.
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