

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025
JUST ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)
MINE CONTAMINATION: MEDIUM

(NATIONAL ESTIMATE)

11 KM²

AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2020

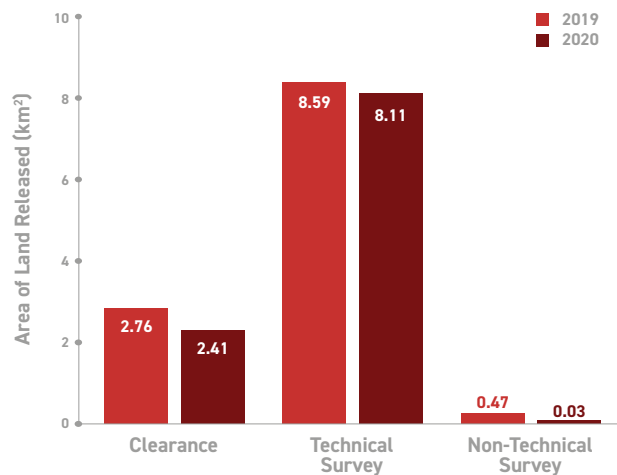
2.41 KM²

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2020

26,911

(INCLUDING 90 DESTROYED
DURING EOD SPOT TASKS)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Zimbabwe managed to exceed its land release targets for 2020 despite the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, although overall land release output declined from its high in 2019. All contaminated areas remaining in Zimbabwe are now confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs). There is strong national ownership and the mine action programme is effectively coordinated by the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC). The challenge for Zimbabwe in meeting its Article 5 deadline remains securing the requisite funding from donors in a country with significant competing social and economic challenges.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- ZIMAC should increase efforts to secure additional national and international funding to meet its 2025 clearance completion deadline. Greater links between mine action and development, along with enhanced cooperation among government ministries, would assist this endeavour.
- Increased resources should be allocated to ZIMAC to enable it to effectively manage a fast-growing national mine action programme.
- Zimbabwe should elaborate a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan for mine action.
- Zimbabwe should review its procedure for “missed-mine drills”, which are executed where gaps in the pattern minefield are found, to establish a more efficient method of clearance.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2020)	Score (2019)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	8	8	Zimbabwe has a good understanding of remaining mine contamination with only CHAs remaining. ZIMAC estimates that only about 11km ² of land is actually contaminated with anti-personnel mines and that the rest of the area in the national mine action database (more than 20km ²) can be released by survey.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	8	8	The mine action programme is managed effectively by ZIMAC, with good consultation and collaboration with operators. There is a high degree of national ownership with the government continuing to provide US\$500,000 annually to the mine action programme despite increasing financial hardship in the country. ZIMAC's Communication and Resource Mobilisation Strategy was due to be officially launched in 2020 although this was delayed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	6	6	ZIMAC does not have a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan but the importance of gender is acknowledged in the National Mine Action Strategy. Survey and community liaison teams are reportedly inclusive and gender-balanced both in their make-up and during community consultations. Operators report varying proportions of women employed. The Zimbabwean Armed Forces' National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU) has no women in operational roles.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	8	8	ZIMAC, with the support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), continued to make improvements to information management in 2020. ZIMAC met with operators to verify data quality and the GICHD to troubleshoot issues with the database. ZIMAC has improved its information management capabilities in the past few years and submits Article 7 reports annually.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	8	8	Zimbabwe has a National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–25. Zimbabwe exceeded the land release targets set out in its multiyear work plan published in 2019. In its latest Article 7 report ZIMAC presented revised annual land release targets to 2025 and identified the resources, time, and funding needed to complete clearance.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	8	8	There was a small increase in capacity across all operators in 2020, and APOPO became operational for the first time with training initiated in November 2020. Greater use of mechanical assets and mine detection dogs (MDDs) has increased efficiency in recent years. However, an ongoing challenge for operators is the extraneous time spent on "missed mine drills", when gaps in the mine pattern are found. Despite this, operators continue to clear tens of thousands of anti-personnel mines annually achieving one of the world's highest number of mines cleared per square kilometre.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	9	9	Zimbabwe released 10.55km ² of mined area in 2020, exceeding its land release target for the year despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic response. The majority of this was due to reduction through technical survey with Zimbabwe's clearance output falling from 2019. The challenge will be for Zimbabwe to maintain land release output as land released by survey is expected to decrease. Zimbabwe will need to secure additional funding and increase capacity in order to meet its land release targets but if it can do so should be able to meet its Article 5 deadline of end 2025. This will be a considerable achievement for one of the world's most heavily mined countries in a particularly challenging political and economic context.
Average Score	8.0	8.0	Overall Programme Performance: GOOD

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe (NMAAZ)
- Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Zimbabwean Armed Forces' National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU)

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 2020, Zimbabwe reported a total of just over 34.1km² of confirmed mined area remaining (see Table 1).¹ This is a decrease from the just under 42.7km² reported at the end of 2019.² Six of the remaining minefields stretch along the borders with Mozambique covering four provinces while one is inland in Matabeleland North province.³ According to ZIMAC, the baseline of contamination is complete following the completion of significant re-survey in 2016. The baseline was established through inclusive consultation including with women and children.⁴ All contaminated areas remaining in Zimbabwe are CHAs, albeit which are, in general, widely drawn. According to operators, Zimbabwe has a good understanding of the problem, with some re-survey of tasks before clearance expected.⁵ In fact, as ZIMAC explained to Mine Action Review in August 2021, of the total confirmed mined area, only a little over one third (some 11km²) is thought to be actually contaminated, with considerable area between mine lines that can be released through survey.⁶

In 2020, a total of 1,969,113m² of previously unrecorded legacy contamination was added to the database. These were not new polygons per se but the expansion of existing CHAs as a result of pre-clearance re-survey.⁷ Of this, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) reported that it conducted pre-clearance re-survey of the Rusitu to Muzite minefield which led to changes in the size of the CHA and an addition of 72,492m², while Mines Advisory Group (MAG) added 34,507m².⁸ The HALO Trust stated that several areas of contamination were newly reported during 2020. This included what

was previously believed to be a 'gap' in the ploughshare in Rushinga district where locals have been farming but it has since emerged that an anti-personnel mine threat remains in the final third of the area. It is, though, believed that considerable reduction of this hazardous area may be possible. The HALO Trust also reported that it is nearing completion of all known minefields in Mount Darwin district, but a number of final requests for survey have been made by the local community and information provided about a few areas of possible contamination. The total area of previously unrecorded contamination added to the database by HALO Trust was 829,086m².⁹

Zimbabwe's mine contamination, the overwhelming majority of which is of anti-personnel mines, originates from the laying of minefields in the late 1970s during a decolonisation war. At the time of its independence in 1980, Zimbabwe was left with seven major mined areas along its borders with Mozambique and Zambia, and one inland minefield laid by the Rhodesian Army.¹⁰ Initially, anti-personnel mines were laid in very dense belts (on average 2,500 mines per kilometre of frontage) to form a so-called "cordon sanitaire", with up to 5,500 mines per kilometre in some places. Over time, this cordon sanitaire was breached or subject to erosion. In response, in many sections, a second belt of "ploughshare" directional fragmentation mines protected by anti-personnel mines was laid behind the cordon sanitaire.¹¹ Few areas contain anti-vehicle mines and it is thought that the number of such mines remaining is low.¹²

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area (at end 2020)¹³

Location	CHAs	Area (m ²)
Musengezi To Mazowe	78	6,576,690
Mazowe To Rwenya	52	9,751,263
Mwenezi To Sango Border Post (Corsan)	1	7,196,038
Mwenezi To Sango Border Post Reinforced Ploughshare	1	2,437,629
Lusulu	7	905,537
Risutu to Muzite	22	4,611,555
Sheba to Leacon Hill	10	2,637,513
Totals	171	34,116,225

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe (NAMA AZ) is a policy and regulatory body on all issues relating to mine action in Zimbabwe. ZIMAC was established in 2000 within the Ministry of Defence as the focal point and coordination centre of all mine action in the country. ZIMAC is mandated to report to NAMA AZ.¹⁴ In August 2019, ZIMAC's office relocated outside of a military cantonment allowing access to civilian operators.¹⁵

ZIMAC holds quarterly coordination meetings with all stakeholders; operators report being closely involved in the decision-making process. Communication between ZIMAC and NAMA AZ, operators, and other Zimbabwean government ministries was reported as being good with regular bilateral

meetings and visits from the director of ZIMAC.¹⁶ Operators reported that approval processes for international visas for staff and visitors is very slow, normally requiring a minimum of three months, but ZIMAC has provided long-term memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and does its best to assist.¹⁷

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) has been providing information management support to ZIMAC with an advisor working with the ZIMAC information management team and operators on the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and data handling improvements. In 2020, the GICHD continued to provide remote, on-demand support to ZIMAC on information

management. A mid-term review of Zimbabwe's national strategy, supported by the GICHD, had been planned for 2020 but was postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19.¹⁸

According to ZIMAC's revised mine action work plan for 2020–2025, a total of \$65.6 million is required by the mine action programme to meet its extended Article 5 deadline by 2025.¹⁹ In 2020, the Government of Zimbabwe provided US\$500,000 towards the operational and administrative costs of both the National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU) and ZIMAC. The salaries and allowances and transport expenses of staff were covered by the army.²⁰ ZIMAC informed Mine Action Review that the economic downturn in 2018 was likely to limit the government's potential to increase any funding for mine action, though it expected existing funding levels to be maintained.²¹ According to ZIMAC, the Government of Zimbabwe has committed US\$500,000 to the NMCU and for the operational costs of ZIMAC every year since 2010.²²

With assistance from the GICHD and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), ZIMAC developed a

Communication and Resource Mobilisation Strategy in 2018, which was finalised in the first half of 2019 and due to be officially launched in May 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic this was delayed until 2021 although the exact date was dependent on how the pandemic developed.²³ ZIMAC informed Mine Action Review that top priorities for which it hoped to procure additional resources included funding for a planned national mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) victim survey, website hosting, the relocation of the office outside of the military cantonment, replacement detectors and more deminers at the NMCU, and additional funding for the international demining operators to expand their operations.²⁴

Zimbabwe participated in the individualised approach during 2017 and 2018 and reported that it ensured that current donors understood more about Zimbabwe's progress to encourage them to continue funding the programme. Since then, a new donor has come forward: the Swiss government.²⁵

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

ZIMAC does not have a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan although in its latest Article 7 report it stated it was working to elaborate a policy for the mine action programme.²⁶ Zimbabwe's National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 refers to the importance of addressing gender and diversity considerations.²⁷ While there is not a specific standard on gender mainstreaming in the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS), reference to gender is contained within the standards, such as NMAS 07 ("Management of Demining Operations"), which requires that "special efforts should be made to ensure gender balance and diversity of background for Community Liaison Officers".²⁸

ZIMAC confirmed that all community groups are routinely consulted in survey and community liaison activities, with efforts undertaken to ensure that all age and gender groups are consulted. Survey and community liaison teams are gender-balanced and diverse, with personnel recruited locally from affected areas to incorporate ethnic and minority groups. Operators also make use of schoolteachers and children to further their outreach. All mine action data is disaggregated by sex and age.²⁹

ZIMAC reported that gender is taken into account during the planning and prioritisation of minefields for clearance, such as consideration of the risks taken usually by women and girls to cross minefields to fetch water and that of men and boys who often herd cattle or plough near mined areas.³⁰ However, given the nature of the minefields, which are essentially one long and continuous line, operational access constraints often dictate clearance priorities as much as other factors.³¹ At the same time, according to The HALO Trust, post-clearance surveys reflect the gendered impact of clearance. Women and children are often the major beneficiaries of clearance, as they are responsible for more than 80% of water collection, with clearance providing safer and more direct access to water sources.³²

ZIMAC reported that international operators working in Zimbabwe are encouraged to prioritise recruitment from communities living adjacent to the mine affected areas. In 2020, APOPO recruited from the minority Shangani ethnic group who live in mine-affected communities.³³

According to ZIMAC, women are specifically encouraged to apply for operational positions in job advertisements, and in 2020 30% of managerial and administrative roles were held by women.³⁴ Yet ZIMAC stated that this fell short of "required" levels and noted that Zimbabwean women were somewhat reluctant to work in mine action. More effort is to be placed on raising awareness among women and ensuring equal opportunities to employment, regardless of gender. No women are employed in operational roles in the NMCU because staff are recruited from the corps of military engineers, where very few women are working.³⁵

International operators confirmed that each organisation had gender policies in place for their programme staff, with a focus on achieving equal access to employment, gender-balanced survey and clearance teams, gender-focused community liaison outreach, disaggregated data collection, and a gender focus to be employed during pre- and post-clearance assessments.³⁶ All operational organisations reported increasing efforts to encourage women to apply for operational, as well as managerial positions, and noted positive trends in the increasing number of women employed in programmes as a result.³⁷ MAG reported that in 2020 breastfeeding mothers were given an additional three months of leave after the first three months of maternity leave decided on a case by case basis.³⁸ The HALO Trust reported that in 2020 they had managed to provide new mothers with a small allowance to cover the costs of childcare in an attempt to help alleviate some of the financial pressures. HALO Trust also hired a female nurse to ensure confidential medical services can be offered to female staff as previously all nurses on programme were male. Key senior management staff have also taken online Gender and Diversity courses.³⁹

In 2020, approximately 30% of MAG's operational staff were women as are 20% of staff at managerial level.⁴⁰ In NPA, 31% of operational staff and 27% of supervisory/managerial staff are female.⁴¹ In The HALO Trust, 26% of operational staff and 15% of supervisory/managerial staff are women.⁴²

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

ZIMAC operates an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) NG database. ZIMAC noted that workshops, trainings, and international expert support for information management had produced significant results and remained important to ensure the ZIMAC database is up to date and accurate.⁴³ In 2020, a virtual meeting was held with operators' information managers to check data quality. A virtual meeting was held with the GICHD information management advisor in November 2020 to trouble shoot the IMSMA NG system. The plan for 2021 was to have a seminar once the COVID-19 situation eases.⁴⁴

ZIMAC holds monthly meetings with operators to cross-reference data, which according to operators has improved the accuracy and reliability of the database.⁴⁵ The HALO Trust have suggested the creation of a live shared database that could be accessed by all operators. This would enable more accurate country-wide mapping, it believes.⁴⁶ Operators reported that data collection forms are consistent and enable collection of the necessary data.⁴⁷

Over the past few years, ZIMAC's information management capabilities have increased significantly, with clear evidence of improvement in the quality and accuracy of its reporting, including in its most recent Article 5 deadline extension request, which established an accurate picture of remaining contamination and set, for the first time, a date for the completion of mine clearance. ZIMAC's National Mine Action Strategy and its revised Article 5 work plan demonstrated reporting of a consistently high quality, something that was once a weak point in the national mine action programme. ZIMAC's latest Article 7 report covering 2020 is comprehensive and of generally good quality. However, there were some discrepancies in the land release figures reported by operators and by ZIMAC for 2020 (see section, below, on land release outputs and Article 5 compliance).

PLANNING AND TASKING

In 2018, Zimbabwe launched its first ever national mine action strategy, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025. The Strategy was developed by ZIMAC with support from the GICHD and input from government ministries, the NMCU, and international mine action organisations.⁴⁸ The strategic plan complements Zimbabwe's Article 5 deadline extension request to 2025, which was approved by States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in December 2017. Operators have lauded the Strategy for its detail and its realistic outlook on delivery, which it is hoped will encourage donor funding.⁴⁹

In April 2019, Zimbabwe published an updated work plan to support compliance with its Article 5 deadline of 31 December 2025. The work plan was based on revised estimates of remaining contamination and, accounting for progress during 2018, updated annual targets for the remainder of the extension period. These included 8.2km² to be addressed in 2019; 8.3km² to be addressed in 2020; 8.1km² to be addressed in 2021; 8.3km² to be addressed in 2022; 8.3km² to be addressed in 2023; 6.9km² to be addressed in 2024; and the remaining 4.6km² to be addressed in 2025.⁵⁰

Zimbabwe exceeded its land release target for 2020 with 10.55km² released in total. The Zimbabwean government

introduced a mandatory lockdown in April 2020 due to COVID-19 which meant that operators stood down for that month, then in May operators were able to deploy at 90% capacity, and in June they were back to full capacity.⁵¹ Despite this, operators were still able to exceed their land release targets for the year. In its latest Article 7 report ZIMAC has provided revised annual land release targets for the 2021–25 with 9.34km² planned to be released in 2021 (see Table 2).⁵² Going forward, once an operator has completed clearance of their assigned area their capacity will be redeployed to other minefields.⁵³

Clearance is prioritised according to impact, with contaminated areas closest to highly populated areas prioritised first.⁵⁴ NPA reported that it uses an impact assessment to prioritise areas for release once they have been allocated by ZIMAC.⁵⁵ The HALO Trust also prioritises minefields which are closest to impacted populations and which have had a high number of accidents. For reasons of efficiency, however, operations tend to proceed linearly west to east or east to west (allowing concentrated logistical support and command and control), rather than opening tasks all over the frontage of the border.⁵⁶

Table 2: Annual land release targets 2021–25 (m²)⁵⁷

Minefield	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Totals
Musengezi to Mazowe (HALO)	1,700,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,300,000	576,690	6,576,690
Mazowe to Rwenya River (MAG)	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,335,653	2,900,000	3,115,610	9,751,263
Crooks Corner to Sango Border (Reinforced Ploughshare) (NMC)	2,437,629					2,437,629
Crooks Corner to Sango Border (Cordon Sanitaire) (APOPO)	1,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	1,196,038		7,196,038
Rusitu to Muzite Mission (NPA)	1,400,000	1,611,555	1,600,000			4,611,555
Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill (NPA)	1,300,000	1,337,513				2,637,513
Lusulu (NMCU)	305,537	250,000	300,000	50,000		905,537
Totals	9,343,166	7,899,068	7,735,653	5,446,038	3,626,300	34,116,225

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

There is no national legislation specific to mine action in Zimbabwe. ZIMAC reported that Zimbabwe conducts a review of its national mine action standards (NMAS) every three years in line with updates to international mine action standards (IMAS).⁵⁸ ZIMAC plans to review the NMAS in 2021 with input from operators to keep them in line with new developments in the IMAS.⁵⁹

An ongoing challenge for operators and ZIMAC alike continued to be the search for technical solutions to decrease the time spent on missed-mine drills ("MMDs"), when gaps in the mine pattern are found.⁶⁰ According to operators, MMDs should be reviewed to establish a more efficient method of conducting them as they are time consuming and seemingly ineffective as mines are only found very rarely.⁶¹ Operators reported that no progress was made in resolving this issue in 2020 as opportunities for field visits and coordination meetings were severely limited due to COVID-19.⁶² In 2021, NPA reported that they had initiated discussion about the possible use of mine detection dogs (MDDs) for MMDs.⁶³

ZIMAC conducts regular quality assurance (QA), and an independent quality control (QC) team was dispatched to conduct QC by sampling a minimum of 10% of completed tasks.⁶⁴ Operators confirmed that the ZIMAC QA/QC process was rigorous, with well trained and experienced staff. The HALO Trust noted that the combination of a separate sampling team and a highly accessible monitoring team worked especially well, with the former providing thorough external oversight and the latter helping teams to work through any problems.⁶⁵ Although the handover process can be time-consuming, delaying the return of land to communities, this is a logistical challenge and not a problem with the NMAS.⁶⁶

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The Zimbabwean Armed Forces' NMCU and, since 2013, The HALO Trust and NPA, all conduct land release in Zimbabwe. MAG became operational in December 2017, and APOPO, signed their MoU in 2017, but were not accredited or operational until December 2020 when they began training their first demining teams.⁶⁷

Table 3: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2020⁶⁸

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers*	Dogs and handlers	Machines**	Comments
HALO Trust	32	270	0	2	14% increase from 2019
NPA	8	79	2 dogs/2 handlers	0	MDDs are conducting technical survey only
MAG	3	27-35	0	0	Additional 7 deminers added in January–March and October–December
NMCU	15	150	0	1	Unchanged from 2018
Totals	58	526–534	2 dogs/2 handlers	3	

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

There was a 6% increase overall in manual capacity across all operators from 505 in 2019 to 534 in 2020. This was the result of an increase in donor funding. In 2021, uncertainties in funding from the United Kingdom (FCDO) and the United States (DoS) lead to a reduction in capacity of three teams from NPA and two team from HALO.⁶⁹ However, APOPO, which managed to secure funding for 2021, has recruited 40 deminers.⁷⁰

APOPO reported it is tasked to survey and clear a 7km² area on a 37km-long stretch of minefield along the border with Mozambique. The minefield is in Chiredzi district, Masvingo province, in south-eastern Zimbabwe, in a conservation area just outside Gonarezhou national park in an area known as the Sengwe Wildlife Corridor.⁷¹ APOPO managed to secure funding in late 2020 to begin its operations in this minefield. In November and December, APOPO conducted its initial training and began deployment with clearance starting in January 2021.⁷²

In 2020, NPA used its two MDDs to conduct technical survey.⁷³ The NCMU has one mechanical asset and the HALO Trust has two machines, which are mainly used on tasks where mines are found at deeper levels, or in patches where soil mineralisation makes use of detectors difficult. In 2020, the HALO Trust trialled a new mechanical asset: a mobile sizer/crushing unit, which processes minefield spoil without the need for subsequent physical inspection. It hopes this will increase the efficiency of mechanical operations but full trials of the machine were limited due to COVID-19.⁷⁴ MAG does not currently use any mechanical assets or MDDs in its operations but, in 2020, was exploring the possibility of procuring a mechanical asset to support the programme.⁷⁵

DEMINER SAFETY

ZIMAC reported that four HALO Trust deminers were injured during 2020.⁷⁶ The HALO Trust stated that each accident involved excavation of R2M2 anti-personnel mines and all the deminers sustained injuries only to their hand. Investigations were conducted of all the incidents by senior operations management from within the HALO Trust with oversight and participation

from ZIMAC. Full reports were prepared for ZIMAC, while a summary of the lessons learned was shared with the other operators through a report and briefing at a coordination meeting.⁷⁷ ZIMAC established a board of inquiry after each accident which included a representative from the mine action centre with retraining taking place with the affected operator. Lessons learnt were then shared with other operators during National Mine Action Stakeholders Coordinating Meetings.⁷⁸

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2020

A total of 10.55km² of mined area was released in 2020, of which more than 2.41km² was cleared, more than 8.1km² was reduced through technical survey, and almost 0.03km² was cancelled through non-technical survey. A total of 26,911 anti-personnel mines were found and destroyed. In addition, 1.97km² of previously unrecorded legacy contamination was added to the database in 2020.

SURVEY IN 2020

In 2020, a total of 8.11km² was released by survey, of which 0.03km² was cancelled through non-technical survey (see Table 4) and more than 8.1km² was reduced through technical survey (see Table 5).⁷⁹ There was a 94% decrease in non-technical survey output from 0.47km² cancelled in 2019 and a 6% decrease in the amount of technical survey, from 8.59km² the previous year.⁸⁰

NPA reported that the significant decrease in area cancelled through non-technical survey in 2020 was due to there being fewer cultivated areas within CHAs to cancel.⁸¹ The HALO Trust notes that the reduction was expected in 2020 as the planned number of ploughshare tasks in 2020 was less than in 2019. Going forward the HALO Trust has completed all known ploughshare minefields in Mount Darwin, and while they still have a considerable number of cordon-sanitaire minefields remaining, they are getting closer to completing all known ploughshare tasks. Cordon-sanitaire minefields are tasks that normally require full clearance with no reduction possible as the polygons are usually very accurate and there is strong evidence of contamination within fence-lines and roads etc. The HALO Trust is therefore not expecting reduction levels to remain as high as they have been.⁸²

Table 4: Cancellation through non-technical survey in 2020⁸³

Area	Operator	Area cancelled (m ²)
Musengezi to Mazowe	HALO Trust	14,743
Mazowe to Rwenya	MAG	13,309
Risutu to Muzite	NPA	895
Total		28,947

Table 5: Reduction through technical survey in 2020⁸⁴

Area	Operator	Area reduced (m ²)
Musengezi to Mazowe	HALO Trust	454,451
Mazowe to Rwenya	MAG	220,531
Mwenezi to Sango Border Post	NMCU	5,532,643
Risutu to Muzite	NPA	1,059,641
Sheba to Leacon Hill	NPA	838,669
Total		8,105,935

CLEARANCE IN 2020

In 2020, a total of 2.41km² of mined area was released through clearance with 26,911 anti-personnel mines were found and destroyed.⁸⁵ This is a 13% decrease from the 2.76km² cleared in 2019 and a 31% decrease in the number of anti-personnel mines found.⁸⁶ In 2020, on average 90m² was cleared for each mine found, while in 2019 it was 70m². The reduction in clearance output can be directly attributed to the reduced deployment of operational teams due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁷

Table 6: Mine clearance in 2020⁸⁸

Area	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	Anti-personnel mines destroyed
Musengezi to Mazowe	HALO Trust	1,155,768	24,740
Mazowe to Rwenya	MAG	184,164	125
Mwenezi to Sango Border Post	NMCU	132,472	1,243
Risutu to Muzite	NPA	546,001	355
Sheba to Leacon Hill	NPA	392,267	448
Totals		2,410,672	26,911

In 2020, 90 mines were destroyed during spot tasks by the HALO Trust, which are included in the figures reported in Table 6 above.⁸⁹

Operators reported that no areas were cleared in 2020 without anti-personnel mines being found and destroyed.⁹⁰

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

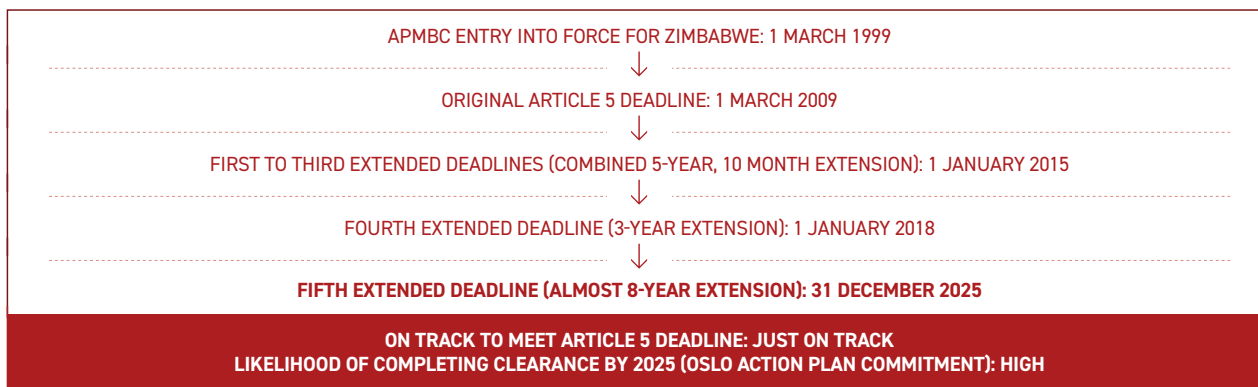


Table 7: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2020	2.41
2019	2.76
2018	2.11
2017	1.66
2016	1.67
Total	10.61

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the eight-year extension granted in 2017), Zimbabwe 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 just on track to meet this deadline, although progress in Article 5 implementation may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and political and economic instability internally and will require sustained international funding through to completion.

Zimbabwe exceeded its land release targets for 2020 despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 and the overall 11% decline in land release output from the previous year. ZIMAC remains optimistic that it can meet its Article 5 deadline and predicts there will be an increase in land release during 2021 as APOPO begin its clearance operations. However, the amount of area reduced through technical survey is likely to fall as the remaining polygons are narrow which means that operators will need to significantly increase their clearance output.⁷¹

The COVID-19 pandemic caused operations to be suspended in April 2020 due to government lockdown restrictions. It

then took about three months for operators to return to full clearance capacity.⁷² The first two months of 2021 also impacted demining operations as the Zimbabwe was fighting the second wave of the pandemic.⁷³ Demining activities are suspended or slowed from November to March every year due to high rainfall and sporadic flooding in the summer months. As most of the contaminated areas are in low-lying areas which are prone to storms and flooding this may impact land release output going forward.⁷⁴

If Zimbabwe is to meet its Article 5 deadline, ZIMAC believes that overall demining capacity will need to be increased. In its latest Article 7 report ZIMAC estimated that it will require a total of over \$60 million to reach its target at a rate of about \$11 million per year. While the government will continue to fund ZIMAC and the NMCU, the majority of funding is expected to come from the international community.⁷⁵

The HALO Trust emphasised that the more teams that can be put on the ground now will save additional costs and expenditure on equipment needed in the future. In 2020, The HALO Trust managed to obtain some demining equipment from Mozambique which it had been holding for four and a half years after Mozambique had declared completion of its Article 5 obligations. Once the equipment has been restored to full working order, productivity should increase. By August 2021, the HALO Trust had imported all the equipment that has been released by Mozambique.⁷⁶

There are many positive aspects of Zimbabwe's mine action programme, such as having a strong, nationally-owned mine action centre led by experienced and dedicated staff members; a realistic estimate of the remaining problem and national mine action strategy; and a collaborative working environment in which operators can quickly ramp up capacity and output, putting additional funds immediately to use towards an achievable goal.

PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

On the matter of potential "residual" contamination that might be found after completion of major clearance operations, ZIMAC informed Mine Action Review that plans are in place. It will fall to ZIMAC, the NMCU, and the army engineers, who are stationed in all provinces, to deal with any new explosive devices discovered.⁷⁷ It is planned that the NMCU will develop a strategy on the management of residual contamination by 2022.⁷⁸

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- 1 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, Operations Officer, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021.
- 2 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, Director, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020.
- 3 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 2.
- 4 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020.
- 5 Emails from Chimwemwe Tembo, Programme Manager, NPA, 25 March 2020; Sam Fricker, Programme Manager, HALO Trust, 17 April 2020; and Peter Avenell, Country Director, MAG, 20 May 2020.
- 6 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 19 August 2021.
- 7 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 2.
- 8 Emails from Peter Avenell, MAG, 15 April 2021; and Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2021.
- 9 Email from Sam Fricker, Programme Manager, HALO Trust, 13 April 2021.
- 10 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary, p. 1; and email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 10 October 2017.
- 11 HALO Trust, "Zimbabwe, History of Minelaying", accessed 10 February 2014; 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary; and Analysis of Zimbabwe's 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted by the President of the 13th Meeting of States Parties on behalf of the States Parties mandated to analyse requests for extensions, 18 June 2014, p. 3.
- 12 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 19 August 2021.
- 13 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, Operations Officer, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 5.
- 14 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.
- 15 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020.
- 16 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020; Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 25 March 2020; Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 17 April 2020; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 20 May 2020.
- 17 Emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 17 April 2020; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 20 May 2020.
- 18 Email from GICHD, 30 April 2021.
- 19 Article 7 Report (for 2019), Annex A.
- 20 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021.
- 21 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 22 Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form D.
- 23 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020; and (now as Major), 27 April 2021.
- 24 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 25 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021.
- 26 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 16.
- 27 Email from Tom Dobb, HALO Trust, 22 February 2018.
- 28 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.
- 29 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019 and 6 April 2020.
- 30 Ibid.
- 31 Emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019; and Adam Komorowski, Regional Director West Africa and Latin America, MAG, 1 August 2019.
- 32 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.
- 33 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021.
- 34 Ibid.
- 35 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019 and 6 April 2020.
- 36 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019 and 6 April 2020; Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019; Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019; and Chimwemwe Tembo, Programme Manager, NPA, 15 July 2019.
- 37 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019; Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019; Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019; and Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 15 July 2019.
- 38 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 15 April 2021.
- 39 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 13 April 2021.
- 40 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 15 April 2021.
- 41 Email from Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2021.
- 42 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 13 April 2021.
- 43 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 12 June 2018.
- 44 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021.
- 45 Emails from Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 25 March 2020; Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 17 April 2020; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 20 May 2020.
- 46 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 17 April 2020.
- 47 Emails from Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 25 March 2020; Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 17 April 2020; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 20 May 2020.
- 48 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 12 June 2018.
- 49 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.

- 50 Article 7 Report (covering 2018), p. 36.
- 51 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 28 July 2020.
- 52 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 37.
- 53 Ibid., p. 36.
- 54 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020.
- 55 Email from Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 25 March 2020.
- 56 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 17 April 2020.
- 57 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), pp. 36-37; and email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 20 September 2021. There were some minor corrections to the figures which were provided by ZIMAC.
- 58 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020.
- 59 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 35.
- 60 Emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019; and Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019.
- 61 Emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 5 August 2021; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 20 May 2020.
- 62 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 13 April 2021.
- 63 Email from Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2021.
- 64 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019 and 12 June 2018.
- 65 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.
- 66 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 17 April 2020.
- 67 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 15; and email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 19 August 2021.
- 68 Emails from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021; Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 13 April 2021; Peter Avenell, MAG, 15 April 2021; and Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2021.
- 69 Emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 13 April 2021; Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2021; and Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 19 August 2021.
- 70 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021.
- 71 Emails from Ashley Fitzpatrick, APOPO Zimbabwe, 27 July 2019 and 9 August 2020.
- 72 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 31.
- 73 Email from Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2021.
- 74 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020; and Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 17 April 2020 and 13 April 2021.
- 75 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 July 2020.
- 76 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021. ZIMAC also reported that one MAG deminer was injured but MAG have no record of this.
- 77 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 13 April 2021.
- 78 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021.
- 79 Ibid.; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 5.
- 80 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020.
- 81 Email from Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2021.
- 82 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 13 April 2021.
- 83 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 5. The HALO Trust reported cancelling 145,242m² Musengezi to Mazowe
- 84 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 5. NPA reported reducing 1,317,810m² in Risutu to Muzite, and 926,540m² in Sheba to Leacon Hill.
- 85 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 5.
- 86 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020; Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form D
- 87 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 13 April 2021; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 15 April 2021.
- 88 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 5. The HALO Trust reported finding 24,660 anti-personnel mines in Musengezi to Mazowe; NPA reported clearing 287,832m² and finding 402 anti-personnel mines in Risutu to Muzite and clearing 304,396m² in Sheba to Leacon Hill.
- 89 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021.
- 90 Emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 13 April 2021; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 15 April 2021; and Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2021.
- 91 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 19
- 92 Emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 13 April 2021; and Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2021.
- 93 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 35.
- 94 Ibid.
- 95 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 36.
- 96 Emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 24 July 2020 and 5 August 2021.
- 97 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020.
- 98 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 19 August 2021.