

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

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)
MINE CONTAMINATION:

HEAVY, 30 KM²
(MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE)

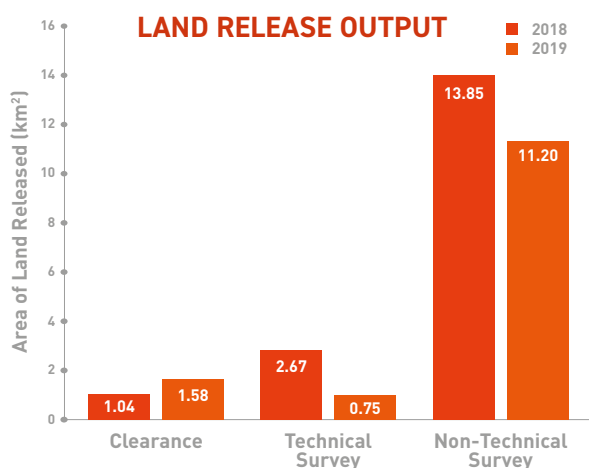
AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2019

1.58 KM²

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2019

2,012

(INCLUDING 69 DESTROYED
DURING SPOT TASKS)



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Angola completed non-technical survey of all 18 provinces in 2019 and now has its most accurate baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination to date. Clearance increased significantly in 2019 compared to the previous year. There was an overall decrease in land release output, but this is expected as productivity increasingly results from clearance and technical survey rather than large amounts of cancellation through non-technical survey. Angola launched its National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 and an accompanying Article 5 implementation work plan, both developed under the lead of the National Intersectoral Commission on Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH), with clear targets for land release and planned completion of clearance by 2025. Continued improvement was also made to information management, throughout 2019 the database was reconciled, updated, and quality assured. But while funding in 2019 increased after years of decline, Angola still does not have the requisite funding or capacity to meet its clearance goals.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Angola should ensure that there are no data discrepancies between the 2018 and 2019 anti-personnel mine contamination figures.
- Angola should accelerate the integration of mine action data from the Executive Commission for Demining (CED) into the CNIDAH national database.
- Angola should finalise its resource mobilisation strategy increasing its international advocacy to attract new and former donors.
- In light of its new National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, Angola should include measurable gender and diversity targets in its Article 5 implementation work plan.
- Angola should operationalise its new system of prioritisation, planning, and tasking of operations.
- The Government of Angola should mobilise financial resources for CNIDAH's quality management capacity to allow it to function effectively across provinces.
- Angola should ensure that no taxes are imposed on equipment imported by international operators to carry out mine action operations.

- Angola should complete the comprehensive review of its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS).
- Angola should establish a national strategy on the management of residual contamination.
- In accordance with Articles 1 and 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), Angola should ensure the destruction of anti-personnel mines in all mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, including mines in and around military installations.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2019)	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	8	8	Angola has now completed its nationwide re-survey of anti-personnel mine contamination and there is a high ratio of confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), from 11% of the total in 2018 to 96% in 2019. However, there is a discrepancy of 3.5km ² in total anti-personnel mine contamination between 2018 and 2019 that cannot be explained by the figures provided for land release, data clean-up, and additional contamination.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	6	4	Tensions between the government entities responsible for mine action (CNIDAH and the CED) have lessened significantly, but issues remain with coordination and information sharing between the two bodies. Coordination between CNIDAH and operators has improved with the re-establishment of mine action and donor coordination meetings (four were held in 2019). There is still a significant funding shortfall but, in 2019, the government of Angola demonstrated its commitment to mine action by pledging \$60 million of funding to an international operator over five years to clear land for conservation and eco-tourism.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	6	5	Gender and diversity are included as a cross-cutting issue in Angola's new National Mine Action Strategy but there are no outcomes or targets related to gender or diversity in the work plan.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	7	6	Significant improvements have been made to the CNIDAH's national database in 2019 through data reconciliation and quality assurance, staff training, and monthly data sharing meetings with operators. The database can now be considered a more reliable source of information following years of problems with information management in Angola. Some issues remain, though, as progress on integrating mine action data with the CED stalled in 2019.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	6	In 2019, Angola launched a new National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 and accompanying Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025. The strategy presents clear land release objectives and a frank discussion of the challenges. However, annual projections are unlikely to be met without a significant increase in funding and capacity. CNIDAH has acknowledged that its tasking, prioritisation, and planning procedures are inadequate and plans to introduce a new system for Angola.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	6	6	National mine action standards (NMAS) are in the process of being reviewed and an NMAS Review Board and Technical Working Group have been established. Quality management continues to be a challenge, with a lack of financial resources impacting on capacity at CNIDAH.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	8	7	Overall land release fell in 2019, as minefields are now more well defined and there was a decrease in survey output. Clearance rose significantly compared to 2018. Lack of funding continues to be the main challenge for Angola to meet its 2025 Article 5 deadline. Angola does not yet have plans in place to manage residual contamination but aims to establish a national strategy and build capacity.
Average Score	7.0	6.3	Overall Programme Performance: GOOD

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- CNIDAH (Comissão Nacional Intersectorial de Desminagem e Assistência Humanitária)
- Executive Commission for Demining (Comissão Executiva de Desminagem, CED)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- National Demining Institute (Instituto Nacional de Desminagem, INAD)
- Angolan Armed Forces,
- Military Office of the President

- Police Border Guard (under the CED)
- The Association of Mine Professionals (APACOMINAS) (NGO)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

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

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

As at the end of 2019, according to CNIDAH, a total of 1,054 anti-personnel mined areas with an estimated size of just over 88km² remained to be addressed in 18 provinces (see Table 1). This includes almost 85km² across 981 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and just over 3.2km² across 73 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs).¹

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area by province (at end 2019)²

Province	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total area (m ²)
Bengo	55	3,440,820	0	0	3,440,820
Benguela	48	2,537,111	0	0	2,537,111
Bié	105	5,514,496	0	0	5,514,496
Cabinda	27	1,230,321	0	0	1,230,321
Huambo	0	0	1	12,890	12,890
Huíla	17	3,339,594	0	0	3,339,594
Kuando Kubango	231	17,913,343	0	0	17,913,343
Kunene	33	2,575,367	0	0	2,575,367
Kwanza Norte	23	5,520,135	0	0	5,520,135
Kwanza Sul	125	9,819,486	2	413,999	10,233,485
Luanda	9	1,121,211	0	0	1,121,211
Lunda Norte	47	1,733,252	10	143,913	1,877,165
Lunda Sul	46	7,569,410	20	1,095,145	8,664,555
Malange ³	0	0	0	0	0
Moxico	177	11,135,049	39	1,211,994	12,347,043
Namibe	2	155,100	0	0	155,100
Uíge	18	1,365,290	1	360,000	1,725,290
Zaire	18	9,823,000	0	0	9,823,000
Totals	981	84,792,985	73	3,237,941	88,030,926

This is a 34km² reduction in the overall amount of anti-personnel mined area from the 122km² reported at the end of 2018. There has also been a shift in the amount of contamination reported as CHAs from 11% of total anti-personnel mine contamination in 2018 to 96% in 2019.⁴ During 2019, in addition to the 13.5km² of land released through survey and clearance, approximately 18km² was removed from the national database through data reconciliation and data correction processes. Most of these adjustments were attributed to errors during data entry of both SHA and CHA polygons.⁵ Approximately 1km² was added to the database as a consequence of survey in the Cabinda, Moxico, and Kwanza Norte provinces.⁶ However, this amounts to a 30.5km² difference in overall anti-personnel mine contamination (3.5km² shy of the total difference from the end of 2018).

In addition, as at November 2019, Angola had an estimated 3,749km of roads contaminated with mines, of which, 3,214km are CHAs and 535km are SHAs.⁷

In 2019, non-technical survey of all 18 provinces across the country was completed, ensuring that previously overinflated minefields have now been redefined or cancelled. CNIDAH, The HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) all agree that Angola now has its most accurate baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination ever.⁸ However, NPA emphasised the need to continue

evidence-based survey, in order to provide more accurate information on the type of contamination and to increase further the number of CHAs.⁹

In the national Mine Action Work Plan 2020–2025, CNIDAH states that non-technical survey will remain an integral component of all operations and will be conducted in areas that may need additional verification during the work plan implementation period. In addition, CNIDAH acknowledges the gap in coordination and monitoring of CED operations at provincial level and that areas cleared by the CED-coordinated entities may need further assessment and verification before they can be removed from the database. At CNIDAH's request, NPA has conducted additional non-technical survey on SHAs in Kwanza Norte, resulting in the cancellation of approximately 3km². Similar activities will be conducted in selected hazardous areas in 2020.¹⁰

It is also expected that, as people return to previously uninhabited areas, previously unrecorded mined areas will be added to the database and that new areas of contamination will be found as operators revisit more remote areas and address minefields where clearance has yet to begin. For example, in Cabinda Province, during 2019, HALO Trust survey teams were unable to access some of the minefields due to opposition from the military, meaning that they could not be re-surveyed.¹¹ In 2019, the HALO Trust discovered 19 previously unrecorded areas of anti-personnel mine

contamination: 16 in Cabinda province, 1 in Kwanza Sul, and 2 in Kuando Kubango, totalling 782,892m². Areas found in Cabinda province resulted mainly from the fact that a full re-survey of the province only took place in 2019.¹² NPA identified one new task, in Kwanza Norte province, of 171,544m²;¹³ APOPO discovered two mined areas with a total size of 363,400m²;¹⁴ while MAG discovered 16 new areas totalling 262,053m².¹⁵

Overall, Angola's progress in land cancelled and reduced through the re-survey has resulted in huge land release, with nearly 143km² released from 2017 to 2019 and the cancellation of more than 90% of SHAs recorded as a result of inflated estimates from the 2004–07 Landmine Impact Survey (LIS). It is, however, important to note that most of the land released has been due to cancellations through non-technical survey and with the completion of non-technical survey in all provinces and more well defined minefields, there will be far less cancellation from now on. Most of the remaining contamination is expected to be dealt with through clearance and technical survey.¹⁶

Angola's contamination is the result of more than 40 years of internal armed conflict that ended in 2002, during which a range of national and foreign armed movements and groups laid mines, often in a sporadic manner. Historically, the most affected provinces have been those with the fiercest and most prolonged fighting, such as Bié, Huambo, Kuando Kubango, and Moxico. In addition to its anti-personnel mine contamination, CNIDAH reported that at the end of 2019 Angola had more than 2.3km² of anti-vehicle mine contamination.¹⁷ Many minefields contain a mix of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines. MAG reported that during its operations it frequently discovers anti-personnel mines connected to anti-vehicle mines.¹⁸ In 2019, The HALO Trust found an improvised anti-vehicle mine in Kuando Kubango province and APOPO found and destroyed one anti-personnel mine that was connected to three 82mm mortar shells.¹⁹ The HALO Trust reported that they have found quite a few improvised devices in Angola, particularly in Kuando Kubango province. In the past they have found many linked items with detonating cord, as well as reinforced items, for example anti-personnel mines coupled with blocks of TNT.²⁰

CLUSTER MUNITION REMNANTS AND OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

Angola also has a significant problem of explosive remnants of war (ERW), especially unexploded ordnance (UXO), and what appears to be very limited, if any contamination from cluster munition remnants (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2020* report on Angola for further information).²¹

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Angola's national mine action programme is managed by two mine action structures. CNIDAH serves as the national mine action authority and reports to the Council of Ministers or, in effect, to the Presidency of the Republic. Surprisingly, the other coordination body, the CED, reports to the Ministry of Social Action, Family, and Women's Promotion (MASFAMU). The CED's main role is to coordinate and manage four national operators: The Demining Brigades of the Security Unit of the President of the Republic, the Angolan Armed Forces, the National Demining Institute (INAD), and the Brigades of the Angolan Border Guard Police. And while Presidential Decrees stipulate the mandates of both CNIDAH and the CED, there are clear overlaps and ambiguities as to the exact division of labour and their related roles and responsibilities.²²

Tensions between these entities lessened significantly in 2019 as CNIDAH, over the past three years, has focused on reorganising the mine action sector and the CED is now more aligned with their approach and more concentrated on getting the job done.²³ However, the CED-related activities do not currently fall under CNIDAH's coordination oversight and are not registered in the CNIDAH-managed national database. This has made it difficult for Angola to describe in detail and with any degree of accuracy the extent of land released over the years. The CED operators are not accredited by CNIDAH, nor are their activities quality assured in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).²⁴ This has resulted in limited oversight regarding where the CED-coordinated operations are conducted, what kind of activities are implemented, and what results are achieved.²⁵ As at April 2020, CNIDAH was in the process of changing its legal status from a commission to the National Demining Agency (ANAM), which, it is hoped, will strengthen coordination mechanisms and information sharing between the different national bodies.²⁶

CNIDAH has re-established mine action and donor coordination meetings with all partners, operators, and key donors every four months, with four taking place in 2019.²⁷ The HALO Trust, NPA, MAG and APOPO have all reported being consulted in key decision-making processes by the national authorities through participation at these meetings and other channels.²⁸ For example, it was reported that all operators participated actively in the elaboration of Angola's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 and Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025.²⁹

NPA is currently supporting CNIDAH to develop its capacity to better manage the national mine action programme, including in key areas such as information and quality management. This UK Department for International Development (DFID)-funded consortium project, alongside the HALO Trust and MAG, has been extended to run to March 2021.³⁰ In 2019, NPA in partnership with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) supported CNIDAH in developing Angola's new National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 and Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025. According to NPA, there has been visible involvement in programme ownership, with political buy-in from both the Angolan government and CNIDAH staff since the programme began.³¹ CNIDAH has reported that its internal Quality Management (QM), Information Management, and Planning, Prioritisation and Coordination structures have improved and strengthened.³² The GICHD provided strategic planning support to CNIDAH throughout 2019 through field visits and workshops and delivered an IMAS outreach workshop at the end of the year. The GICHD also completed a study on the impact of anti-vehicle mines in Angola in partnership with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and Kings College London (KCL).³³

International mine action operators continue to report lengthy bureaucratic obstacles in securing visas for expatriate personnel, compounded by a new tax law which added further tariffs to those already applied to the importation of equipment.³⁴ NPA, MAG, and The HALO Trust have met with various government officials, including the Institute for the Promotion and Coordination of Aid to Communities (IPROCAC), the government entity responsible for coordinating humanitarian activities, to raise these issues. NPA has reported that while some positive steps have been taken, such as tax exemptions for specific demining equipment and support from the new IPROCAC director in simplifying the visa process, the main challenges remain.³⁵

Angola's mine action programme has faced critical challenges in securing financial resources in recent years. While the mine action programme has benefitted from several loyal donors that have funded the programme for many years, many international operators were close to ceasing their operations following the sharp decrease in international funding in 2017. As of November 2019, five international donor countries (Japan, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States) were funding international mine action organisations in Angola. In addition, several private companies and foundations provide financial support to international operators.³⁶

In Angola's Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, based on an estimate of remaining contamination of 92.41km², clearance is budgeted to cost US\$286 million through to completion by 2025. The Angolan government has committed to clear all roads in the country through its budgetary allocations for the CED. This would leave 90.08km² of clearance and a budget projection of \$279 million. A total of \$66 million of funding had been committed to international operators from October 2019 onwards, with Japanese and the United Kingdom also expressing an interest in funding the sector further into the future. Based on these projections, this would leave a funding shortfall of \$213 million for the period through to the end of 2025.³⁷

The Angolan government allocated approximately \$15.7 million to support mine action in 2019 and similar support is expected annually until 2025.³⁸ These funds are split between CNIDAH, the CED, and INAD to cover salaries and administrative overheads and to support the clearance infrastructure across the country.³⁹ Additionally, in 2019, the government committed to fund The HALO Trust in a \$60 million, five-year project to release more than 15km² across 153 minefields in Kuando Kubango province. The project is designed to release land in Angola's portion of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Region (KAZA), which spans parts of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, and which is home to the Okavango Delta. It will employ 840 Angolans and allow the government to develop the area for conservation and eco-tourism. This is an unprecedented commitment by the Angolan government to support demining.⁴⁰

In 2019, a draft resource mobilisation strategy was developed and, as at April 2020, was still under review.⁴¹ According to the National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 Objective 5 the resource mobilisation strategy will be developed and approved before the end of 2020 with CNIDAH taking the lead in its development.⁴²

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Gender and diversity are integrated into Angola's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–25 as a cross-cutting issue. The strategy recognises that mine action activities need to reflect the distinct needs of different ages, genders, and other diverse groups through targeted design with the collection, analysis and reporting of data disaggregated by sex and age a key precursor for this. Disaggregated data collection requirements have been integrated into all relevant standing operating procedures, forms, and other data collection tools.⁴³ However, while the Strategy pledges that Angola's mine action programme will ensure that gender and diversity considerations are taken into consideration in the planning, implementation and monitoring phases of all mine action projects, it does not say how this will be done and there is no mention of gender or diversity in Angola's Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025.

International non-governmental organisation (NGO) operators stated that gender-, age-, and diversity-related concerns are taken into account during survey and clearance to ensure the different groups are reflected in demining operations. They further reported taking into consideration gender balance in the hiring of staff in mine action operations, ensuring that a mix of male and female staff were employed in operational roles in the field including in survey and community liaison teams, as well as in managerial positions.⁴⁴

For example, at The HALO Trust, pre- and post-clearance household surveys allow HALO to obtain the perspective of diverse groups within the local communities about the obstacles they face due to mine contamination, as well as determining the main areas of relevant impact for women, men, boys, and girls. The HALO Trust also reported that due to its “100 Women in Demining in Angola” project introduced in 2017, there has been a huge increase in the number of women in its workforce across a variety of positions, including deminers, medics, section commanders, drivers, logisticians, minefield supervisors, and administrators.⁴⁵ NPA organises gender sensitivity training for its staff and, whenever possible, gender equality is raised with the national and provincial authorities. NPA ensures that job opportunities are accessible to women and men and do not contain requirements that unnecessarily discourage female applicants or preclude their employment.⁴⁶ APOPO also strongly encourages women to apply for roles and

include gender and diversity perspectives when planning and implementing its demining operations as one of its core values.⁴⁷ When new survey and clearance teams are recruited MAG actively engages with women who make up about half of the newly trained recruits. As there are more men who come into the training with previous experience, they have an advantage when progressing to the final recruitment stage but the number of women within MAG’s workforce is increasing.⁴⁸

In 2019, 28% of operational roles at The HALO Trust were held by women; at NPA the figure was 21%; at MAG, 23% and they expect this to increase to 28% in 2020; and at APOPO, of the six deminers three (50%) were women. While in managerial positions at The HALO Trust 13% were women, the figure was 4.2% at NPA, and it was 2% at MAG, no percentage was given at APOPO, but they informed Mine Action Review that their Regional Manager is a woman.⁴⁹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Angola’s mine action programme has long suffered from significant problems with information management, in particular the poor quality of the CNIDAH national database. This is exacerbated by the lack of integration of mine action data held by the CED. CNIDAH reported in 2019 that progress in integrating data held by the CED was hampered by financial constraints that prevented the CED from being fully operational during the year.⁵⁰ According to the National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, all CED-coordinated tasks will be reported to CNIDAH, disaggregated by survey and clearance, as of 2020.⁵¹

As noted above, since 2018 an NPA Capacity Development Adviser has been embedded in the CNIDAH team focused on establishing an up-to-date and more accurate mine contamination database, with assistance from operators. As part of the improvements to information management a monthly data-sharing mechanism between CNIDAH and operators has been in place since 2018 as part of the mine action and information management coordination

meetings.⁵² Throughout 2019, the database was reconciled, updated, and quality assured; information management staff received further training; and an information sharing policy was established. In addition, with GICHD support, CNIDAH held workshops for operators in 2019 on Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and broader mine action information management, to ensure all operators were recording information and reporting activities in the same way.⁵³ CNIDAH reported that, as at November 2019, the national IMSMA database had been fully reconciled with operators’ data, and the previous data backlog and overinflated contamination figures have been cleared. As a consequence, CNIDAH now considers the national database to be a reliable source of information.⁵⁴

Transparency and reporting of mine action activities in Angola has certainly improved in recent years with timely and accurate submission of its most recent Article 7 reports and Article 5 statements at APMB meetings.⁵⁵

PLANNING AND TASKING

Angola’s National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 was developed by CNIDAH, in 2019, with support from the GICHD. Two strategy workshops were held during the year with the involvement of government ministers, the CED and its coordinated entities, the Association of Demining Professionals (APACOMINAS), disability and mine survivor networks, and civil society organisations, as well as international mine action operators.⁵⁶ The strategy is aligned with the Oslo Action Plan and will be externally reviewed in 2022 to take stock of achievements, assess the remaining challenges, and make necessary modifications to ensure the strategy remains relevant.⁵⁷

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

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: LAND RELEASE

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

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

A national strategy on the management of residual contamination will be developed by the end of 2020 under the lead of CNIDAH and the CED with the participation of all relevant actors. A national capacity to manage residual contamination will be trained within the first quarter of 2021.⁵⁸

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

Effective coordination and information sharing are stated to be pre-conditions for achieving all strategic objectives. In addition to the bi-annual coordination meetings with relevant stakeholders that began in 2019, CNIDAH will take the lead in developing a communications plan on the completion process by the middle of 2021, to facilitate effective information sharing.⁵⁹

The Article 5 implementation Work Plan 2020–2025 contains updated land release targets, and projected milestones for Malange, Huambo and Namibe provinces and on the standardisation of road contamination, establishment of comprehensive national mine action standards and a national residual contamination management plan.⁶⁰ In 2020, the majority of land release was planned to take place in Kuando Kubango, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul, Lunda Sul, Moxico, Uige, and Zaire, with a land release target of 17.2km².⁶¹ Survey and clearance operations were suspended in Angola in March and April 2020, following the declaration of a State

of Emergency, which was replaced by the State of Public Calamity, from 26 May 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19. At the end of April, CNIDAH authorised operators to resume demining activities at 50% capacity. Operators resumed working at full capacity from July 2020 following a national downgrading of the State of Emergency, but this was reduced to 75% capacity from 9 August.⁶² According to operators they anticipate that they will be able to make up the reduction in output in the coming months and, providing there are no major changes, should be able to meet land release targets for the year.⁶³

CNIDAH has acknowledged that its tasking, prioritisation, and planning procedures are inadequate, and that the effective implementation of the work plan depends heavily on these processes being strengthened.⁶⁴ In 2020, CNIDAH plans to re-establish its authority regarding the coordination of tasking in individual provinces, working closely with operators to ensure that there is no multiplication of effort in any areas of the country, and that all operators are clearly tasked.⁶⁵ As at April 2020, CNIDAH, in discussion with operators, was finalising the operationalisation of a new tasking and prioritisation system for Angola, the first of its kind in the country. Initially, a pilot system was due to be implemented in May 2020 and evaluated in September. However, this has been put on hold due to the COVID-19 outbreak and a discussion with operators on how to proceed is planned for September 2020.⁶⁶ The initial aim will be to align the tasking system across the sector and then incorporate a prioritisation system based on lessons learned.⁶⁷

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

There is no specific national mine action legislation in Angola.⁶⁸

While NMAS are in place in Angola, they are not up to date and are not IMAS-compliant. This has resulted in a lack of standardisation for activities, and consequently, operators have been relying on their own standing operating procedures.⁶⁹ With support of NPA's capacity development project, the standards are in the process of being reviewed and new NMAS will be developed by March 2021. Throughout 2019, CNIDAH led a process of updating, reviewing, and translating three IMAS-compliant standards on information management, quality management, and post-land-release documentation. An NMAS Review Board, chaired by CNIDAH and with representation from every operator, has been established to oversee all aspects of standards. A Technical Working Group has also been set up to advise the Review Board.⁷⁰

CNIDAH is responsible for undertaking external quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) of mine action activities, including QC of all completed tasks prior to handover of land to beneficiaries. However, CNIDAH lacks the financial resources to mobilise its quality management capacity across provinces, which has resulted in very limited QA and significant delays in QC on completed tasks. This has also impacted negatively on handover procedures, with significant delays at the provincial levels.⁷¹ CNIDAH has relied on operators to fund its transport and, sometimes, even provide accommodation and per diem. This allowed CNIDAH to produce completion reports and remove completed tasks from the IMSMA database.⁷² In 2019, NPA conducted quality management training for 10 CNIDAH officers and intended to run similar trainings in 2020.⁷³ According to APOPO, co-operation between CNIDAH and the operators has improved, which has facilitated the improvement of quality management processes.⁷⁴

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Four international NGOs conducted demining for humanitarian purposes in Angola in 2019: APOPO, The HALO Trust, MAG, and NPA. This was the same as in 2018.

The CED's four operators—the Armed Forces, the Military Office of the President, INAD, and the Police Border Guard — were not operational across Angola in 2019 due to a reduction in government funding but they did undertake some commercial demining. A number of national commercial companies have been accredited by CNIDAH but none was active in 2019. APACOMINAS, the only national operator was not operational in 2019.⁷⁵

Table 2: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2019⁷⁶

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers*	Animal detection capacity	Machines**	Comments
APOPO	1	6	6 handlers, 14 rats	0	Unchanged from 2018
HALO	28	238	0	1	Increase from 2018
MAG	4	37	0	3	Unchanged from 2018
NPA	2	20	0	1	Reduction from 2018
Totals	35	301	6/14	5	

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

Table 3: Operational survey capacities deployed in 2019⁷⁷

Operator	NTS teams	NTS personnel*	TS teams	TS personnel*	Comments**
APOPO	0	0	2	12	
HALO	2	5	N/A	N/A	TS personnel are also deminers
MAG	2	8	N/A	N/A	TS personnel are also deminers
NPA	1	2	0	0	NPA has no dedicated TS teams
Totals	5	15	2	12	

NTS = Non-technical survey TS = Technical survey

According to CNIDAH, there was a general increase in the number of operational personnel across most organisations in 2019, which can be attributed an increase in funding for the year. There has been a significant increase in funding into the mine action sector in 2020 and it is expected that this will translate into further increased capacity for most operators. It was expected that the HALO Trust, NPA, and MAG will double their survey and clearance capacity during the 2020 operations cycle and that APACOMINAS will become operational throughout the year.⁷⁸

In 2019, NPA introduced Vallon detectors, which increased productivity and operational safety. NPA also improved the quality and efficiency of reporting from its internal information management systems by introducing "Survey123" software, which is closely aligned to the national IMSMA database. The HALO Trust has introduced tablets and Fulcrum software to its non-technical survey teams, which helps standardisation and reduces human error in data collection and entry.⁷⁹

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2019

A total of 13.5km² of mined area was released in 2019, including more than 1.5km² through clearance, less than 0.8km² through technical survey, and just under 11.2km² through non-technical survey.⁸⁰ Clearance was up by more than 50% compared to 2018.

SURVEY IN 2019

CNIDAH reported that international operators released a total of 11.95km² through survey in 2019: cancelling 11.20km² through non-technical survey (see Table 4) and reducing 0.75km² through technical survey (see Table 5).⁸¹ This represents a 28% decrease on the 16.52km² of mined area released by survey in 2018.⁸²

This is a significant decrease from 2017, when international operators reported cancelling more than 138km² of SHA through non-technical survey and reducing a further 2.4km² through technical survey.⁸³ This was due to the fact that the nationwide re-survey, which accounted for huge cancellation, was largely concluded by the end of 2018.⁸⁴

Table 4: Cancellation through non-technical survey in 2019⁸⁵

Province	Operator	Area cancelled (m ²)
Uige	NPA	4,845
Kwanza Norte	NPA	3,581,810
Moxico	MAG	29,051
Cabinda	HALO	7,583,867
Total		11,199,573

Table 5: Reduction through technical survey in 2019⁸⁶

Province	Operator	Area reduced (m ²)
Uige	NPA	417,625
Moxico	MAG	90,152
Uige	APOPO	246,839
Total		754,616

CLEARANCE IN 2019

According to CNIDAH, international NGO operators cleared a total of 1.56km² of mined area in 2019, destroying in the process 1,943 anti-personnel mines, 96 anti-vehicle mines, and 807 ERW (see Table 6 for details).⁸⁷ This is a 51% increase from the 1.04km² of mined area cleared in 2018.⁸⁸ However, the number of square metres cleared for every anti-personnel mine found has also increased from 633m² per mine in 2018 to 811m² per mine in 2019.

Table 6: Mine clearance in 2019⁸⁹

Province	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Benguela	HALO Trust	243,211	474	1	147
Bié	HALO Trust	1,572	1	0	6
Huambo	HALO Trust	657	2	0	0
Kuando Kubango	HALO Trust	527,550	675	29	78
Kwanza Sul	HALO Trust	78,957	590	0	120
Moxico	MAG	619,984	199	66	66
Uíge	NPA	100,723	1	0	46
Uíge	APOPO	3,251	1	0	349
Totals		1,575,905	1,943	96	812

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle

In addition, CNIDAH reported that 69 anti-personnel mines were destroyed during spot tasks: 34 by MAG and 35 by the HALO Trust.⁹⁰

There was an overall reduction in land release productivity in 2019 compared to 2018. This was mainly because there was less non-technical survey in 2019 that resulted in large area cancellation. Also, clearance and technical survey are now being implemented mainly on CHAs, which means there is a reduction in the pace of clearance.⁹¹

There are four provinces, Malange, Huambo, Namibe and Luanda, which are very close to completion and which will be prioritised in 2020 and 2021. Following protracted years of clearance operations in Malange province by both national and international operators, it was thought that Malange had been cleared of all known minefields. However, CNIDAH received reports at the beginning of 2020 of newly discovered minefields. Preliminary investigations by CNIDAH, the CED and NPA indicated that some of the reports are credible and warrant further non-technical survey. However, as this was not within the plans for 2020, additional resources will need to be identified before non-technical survey can be implemented.⁹²

With only one minefield remaining in Huambo province, it remains close to being declared free of known minefields. Unfortunately, lack of access due to the single minefield being around an active military base has impeded its clearance despite Angola's obligations under Article 5 of the Convention. The HALO Trust and CNIDAH continue to engage the national and provincial military leadership to secure access to the minefield for clearance.⁹³

With only three minefields remaining in Namibe, CNIDAH is prioritising their clearance and is in discussion with the CED and Namibe provincial leadership to complete clearance before the end of 2020.⁹⁴ Clearance of the last nine minefields in Luanda province will be prioritised by the CED in 2020 with expected completion in 2021.⁹⁵

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



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

Angola was 4.5km² shy of its Article 5 work plan target for land release of 17.5km² in 2019.⁹⁶ Based on the figures provided by CNIDAH, at the end of 2019, 88km² of anti-personnel mined area remained. Its release would need to average 14.67km² of land release per year for the next six years to the end of 2025. With the completion of the nationwide re-survey, it is expected that there will be a drop in the amount of annual land release as productivity is expected to mainly result from clearance and technical survey rather than the large amounts of cancellation from non-technical survey.⁹⁷

Table 7: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2019	1.6
2018	1.0
2017	1.2
2016	4.1
2015	2.2
Total	10.1

With these considerations, and the current demining capacity in the country, Angola stated in its Article 5 implementation work plan that it will be ambitious for it to achieve its end of 2025 Article 5 deadline.⁹⁸ Operators and CNIDAH maintain that the main challenge for mine action in Angola is the lack of funding. While funding rose in 2019 and 2020, collectively in the past decade, the resources of the three largest operators, HALO Trust, MAG, and NPA, declined by nearly 90%.⁹⁹

As at November 2019, Angola estimated that alongside its own government's financial contributions, including the 2019 \$60 million commitment made to fund the HALO Trust over five years, a further \$213 million is needed to complete clearance by 2025 (or just under \$36 million per year).¹⁰⁰ This was adjusted to \$211 million in Angola's latest Article 7 report.¹⁰¹ In addition to the funding gap Angola has stated that it requires investment in more efficient mechanical assets to increase land release output, for operations to be conducted in line with IMAS-compliant NMAS and SOPs, and for land release to be fully implemented.¹⁰²

CNIDAH has reported that the completed re-survey has meant that demining resources are more likely to be deployed for clearance and technical survey on land that is actually contaminated and that CNIDAH will continue to impress upon all operators the importance of applying proper land release principles to reduce clearance of uncontaminated areas.¹⁰³ In 2019, however, NPA worked on seven tasks covering 100,000m² and only found one anti-personnel mine.¹⁰⁴ In light of this, NPA restructured their programme in 2019 following an assessment of their clearance operations and have re-established a dedicated non-technical survey capacity from 2020 onwards that focuses on evidence-based survey before clearance is undertaken. NPA also expects that the comprehensive database review and re-survey efforts over the past few years will increase the efficiency of land release and avoid clearance taking place in areas with no contamination.¹⁰⁵ The HALO Trust cleared six minefields which proved to contain no anti-personnel mines while APOPO cleared two minefields and found only one anti-personnel mine.¹⁰⁶

Angola has also stated that going forward it is also vital for authorities to declare provinces "completed" in a timely manner, that there is an improvement in collaboration between CED and CNIDAH, and that CNIDAH continues to be supported to build capacity.¹⁰⁷

PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

With the provinces of Huambo, Malange, and Namibe all approaching completion, and in accordance with the National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, CNIDAH and the CED, with the participation of all relevant actors, aim to establish a national strategy on the management of residual contamination by end of 2020. The strategy will clarify roles and responsibilities, information management processes and reporting systems and will be formally launched and disseminated at the national and provincial levels. There are also targets for Angola to have a trained national capacity that can efficiently address residual contamination by the first quarter of 2021.¹⁰⁸

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form C; and email from Robert Iga Afedra, Capacity Development Advisor, NPA, on behalf of CNIDAH, 1 April 2020.

2 Ibid.

3 At the beginning of 2020, CNIDAH received reports of newly discovered minefields in Malange which preliminary investigations indicate warrant further non-technical survey. However, resources will need to be identified before this can be implemented.

4 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 3 June 2019.

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

6 Ibid.

7 CNIDAH, Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, November 2019, p. 16.

8 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020; Ralph Legg, Programme Manager, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; Jeanette Dijkstra, Country Director, MAG, 20 May 2020; and Miroslav Pisarević, Country Director, NPA, 28 March 2020.

9 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020.

10 CNIDAH, Article 5 implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, November 2019, p. 6.

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

12 Ibid.

13 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020.

14 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, Programme Manager, APOPO, 9 March 2020.

15 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 20 May 2020.

16 CNIDAH, Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, November 2019, p. 4.

17 Comprising 2,314,177m² across 94 CHAs and 84,235m² across 21 SHAs.

18 Email from Llewelyn Jones, Director of Programmes, MAG, 7 September 2020.

19 Emails from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; and from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 9 March 2020.

- 20 Email from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 24 July 2020.
- 21 Questionnaire response by Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 22 May 2017; and email, 17 May 2016.
- 22 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, pp. 5–6.
- 23 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, (on behalf of CNIDAH), 14 July 2020.
- 24 Ibid.
- 25 Ibid., p. 10.
- 26 Wilton Park, "Landmine clearance in Angola: experiences, challenges and implications for national development and international reputation", Report on event organised in association with the British Embassy in Luanda and MAG, 4–7 November 2019, at: bit.ly/31U3VGo.
- 27 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020; and Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020.
- 28 Emails from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; and Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 9 March 2020; and Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020; and Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 20 May 2020.
- 29 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 9 March 2020.
- 30 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.
- 31 Ibid.
- 32 CNIDAH, Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, November 2019, p. 6.
- 33 Email from GICHD, 13 May 2020.
- 34 Email from Joaquim da Costa, Deputy Programme Manager, NPA, 6 May 2019.
- 35 Emails from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 20 May 2020; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020; and Joaquim da Costa, 27 July 2020.
- 36 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, p. 29.
- 37 CNIDAH, Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, November 2019, p. 7.
- 38 Ibid, p. 6.
- 39 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020; and Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020.
- 40 Email from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020.
- 41 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.
- 42 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, pp. 29–31.
- 43 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.
- 44 Emails from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 9 March 2020; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020; and Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 20 May 2020.
- 45 Email from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020.
- 46 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020.
- 47 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 9 March 2020.
- 48 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 20 May 2020.
- 49 Emails from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 9 March 2020; Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 20 May 2020; and Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020.
- 50 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 3 June 2019.
- 51 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, pp. 18–22.
- 52 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 3 June 2019; Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; and Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 20 May 2020.
- 53 Emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 9 March 2020; and GICHD, 13 May 2020.
- 54 Statement by Angola on Article 5 implementation, Fourth APMBBC Review Conference, Oslo, November 2019.
- 55 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form J.
- 56 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, p. 2.
- 57 Ibid, p. 32.
- 58 Ibid., pp. 27–29.
- 59 Ibid., pp. 29–31.
- 60 CNIDAH, Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, November 2019, p. 8.
- 61 Ibid., p. 11.
- 62 Email from Eva Veble, on behalf of Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 9 September 2020.
- 63 Emails from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 11 June 2020; and Ian Topping, Technical Operations Manager, MAG, 24 June 2020.
- 64 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, p. 10.
- 65 Email from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020.
- 66 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 14 July 2020.
- 67 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020; and Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020.
- 68 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 3 June 2019.
- 69 Ibid.
- 70 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.
- 71 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, pp. 11–12.
- 72 Emails from Ralph Legg, HALO, 21 May 2019; Shadreck Njamba, MAG, 22 May 2019; Joaquim da Costa, NPA, 6 May 2019; and Ashley Fitzpatrick, Programme Manager, APOPO Zimbabwe, 27 July 2019.
- 73 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020.
- 74 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 9 March 2020.
- 75 Skype interview with Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 26 May 2020.
- 76 Emails from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 9 March 2020; Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 20 May 2020; and Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 28 March 2020.
- 77 Ibid.
- 78 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020; and Skype interview with Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 26 May 2020.
- 79 Email from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020.
- 80 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.
- 81 Ibid.
- 82 Emails from Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 15 June 2018; Joaquim da Costa, NPA, 10 May 2018; and Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 24 April 2018.
- 83 Ibid.
- 84 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 3 June 2019.
- 85 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.
- 86 Ibid.
- 87 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.
- 88 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 3 June 2019.
- 89 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.
- 90 Ibid.; and email from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020.
- 91 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.
- 92 Ibid.
- 93 Ibid.
- 94 CNIDAH, Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, November 2019, p. 8.
- 95 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.
- 96 CNIDAH, "Detailed work plan for the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention (2019-2025)", Annex 1.
- 97 CNIDAH, Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, November 2019, p. 11.
- 98 Ibid.
- 99 Chris Loughran and Camille Wallen, "State of Play: The Landmine Free 2025 Commitment", MAG and HALO Trust, December 2017; and email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.
- 100 Wilton Park report "Landmine clearance in Angola: experiences, challenges and implications for national development and international reputation", From a Wilton Park event in association with British Embassy Luanda and MAG, 4–7 November 2019, at: bit.ly/31U3VGo.
- 101 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form J.
- 102 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, p. 17.
- 103 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form J.
- 104 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.
- 105 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 11 June 2020.
- 106 Emails from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; and Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 9 March 2020.
- 107 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, p. 17.
- 108 Ibid., pp. 27–29.