

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JANUARY 2025
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)
MINE CONTAMINATION:

MEDIUM, 10 km²
(MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE)

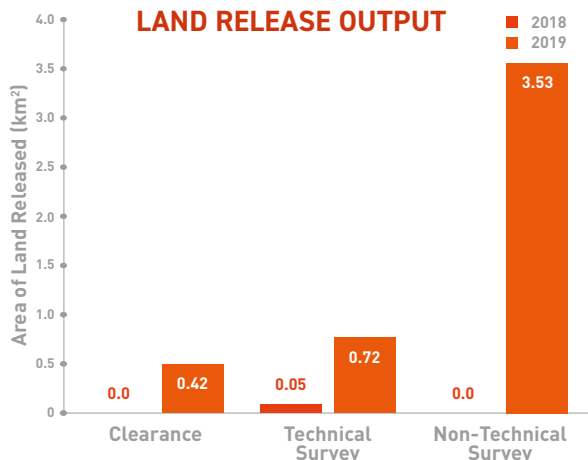
AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2019

0.42 km²

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2019

0

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Chad reported a sharp increase in land release in 2019, including mine clearance for the first time in three years, although operations did not result in destruction of any anti-personnel mines. Mines Advisory Group (MAG), after delays caused by insecurity, began operating in Borkou province. Chad also secured a five-year extension of its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline for completing clearance to the beginning of 2025. Chad made progress in consolidating data to improve its understanding of mine contamination, sharply reducing the estimate of its remaining challenge in the process.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- The National High Commission for Demining (HCND) should ensure operators focus clearance assets on areas with known mine contamination.
- Chad needs to develop a resource mobilisation strategy to secure and diversify funding and attract international technical and operational support.
- Chad should streamline bureaucratic procedures that currently delay operators seeking to conduct survey and clearance.
- Chad should consider establishing an in-country platform bringing together the authorities, donors, and key stakeholders to help strengthen national coordination.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2019)	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	5	4	Contamination estimates are based on outdated and incomplete data, underscoring the need for re-survey. Progress in cleaning up the national mine action database has provided greater clarity on contamination and areas where re-survey is required.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	4	4	Chad's national mine action authority coordinates the sector and carried out further restructuring in 2019 to increase efficiency. Government pays salaries of national staff in the mine action sector but operations remain dependent on international funding.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	3	Gender has not been a priority in a programme that has undergone significant downsizing and struggled to mobilise resources to implement survey or clearance. Women find employment, including in managerial- and supervisory-level positions, mainly in administrative roles, risk education, or victim assistance. Women are consulted during survey and community liaison activities.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	5	4	Upgrading of the HCND database by the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) has significantly improved understanding of contamination and data quality. The HCND has started to report disaggregated data on land release but sustained training and capacity building will be essential to preserve the gains.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	4	4	Chad provides annual Article 7 reports and submitted a revised Article 5 extension request in August 2019, which was granted at the Fourth Review Conference in November 2019, but its contamination data was rendered obsolete by improvements in the database. It set only general goals for survey and clearance that need to be enhanced by detailed annual work plans.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	6	6	Chad has national standards in place, which were updated by Humanity and Inclusion (HI) in 2017. These are said to comply with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). HCND planned further updates and amendments in 2020.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	3	2	Chad released more land through survey and clearance in 2019 than in the previous five years combined but in the process it did not report clearing a single anti-personnel mine.
Average Score	4.5	3.9	Overall Programme Performance: POOR

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National High Commission for Demining (HCND)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Armed Forces Combat Engineering Battalion
- HCND

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Humanity and Inclusion (HI)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

OTHER ACTORS

- Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)
- Secours Catholique et Développement (SECADEV) (Victim Assistance)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Chad estimated that its anti-personnel mine contamination covered some 42km² at the end of 2019 (see Table 1),¹ barely one-third of the nearly 118km² reported a year earlier or even the 137 mined areas covering 111km² identified in Chad's revised Article 5 extension request from August 2019.² Clean-up of the database eliminating duplicate entries accounted for close to 90% of the reduction in the estimated area and cut the number of provinces thought to be mine affected from nine in 2019 to three in 2020. The HCND, however, has also acknowledged that the data is incomplete and it is unable to provide a precise estimate of total mine contamination.³

One region, Tibesti, alone accounted for 95% of the estimated remaining mined area.⁴ On the border between the Borkou region and Libya, Chad has reported the presence of anti-vehicle mines protected by lines of anti-personnel mines. Access for survey and clearance has been blocked by scattered "nuisance" minefields. The HCND says further survey is also required in southern provinces bordering the Central African Republic to confirm that mined areas have been eliminated.⁵

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area (at end 2019)⁶

Province	Confirmed mined areas	Area affected (m ²)
Borkou	1	4,033
Ennedi	8	2,260,414
Tibesti	57	40,080,407
Totals	66	42,344,854

NEW CONTAMINATION

MAG reported identifying five new suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) in 2019 totalling 3,341,600m² in Borkou region, including one SHA which amounted to 3,400,000m² and four SHAs recorded at 400m² each.⁷ HI said non-technical survey in 2019 identified one hazardous area in Borkou covering 35,379m² and another in Ennedi West of 139,426m² but recorded them as battle areas.⁸

In 2018, Chad cited insecurity in Tibesti and the probability that mines had been newly laid there as among the reasons for its failure to meet its extended third Article 5 deadline.⁹ It also contends with rising insurgency from Boko Haram and other armed groups in western areas around Lake Chad, which harvest explosives from explosive remnants of war (ERW) for improvised explosive devices. The HCND has not quantified the level of use or the extent to which the devices found qualify as anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature.¹⁰

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Chad's mine action programme is coordinated by the National High Commission for Demining (Haut Commissariat National de Déminage, HCND) which comes under the Ministry of Economy and Development Planning.¹¹ The National Demining Centre (Centre National de Déminage, CND), which earlier conducted clearance operations, appears to have been dissolved. The headquarters is supported by four regional centres and two sub-centres.¹²

The HCND is responsible for preparing a national demining strategy and annual work plans and proposing a budget to support their implementation.¹³ Chad's latest Article 5 deadline extension request, submitted in April 2019 and revised in August 2019, which was granted at the Fourth APMBC Review Conference in November, observed that its mine action programme had lacked a strategic vision, operational planning and effective coordination, weakening its credibility nationally and internationally.¹⁴

The HCND embarked on a process of restructuring three years ago involving a major reduction in staff. In July 2017, nine years after the government first ordered the HCND to restructure, a government decree reduced the number of personnel by more than half from 744 to 329. At the time Chad submitted its revised Article 5 extension request in August 2019, the HCND reported having 320 staff, a number unchanged at the end of the year.¹⁵ A June 2019 decree provided for re-organisation, resulting in four main divisions covering: Operations and Logistics, Planning, Administrative and Financial Affairs and Human Resources.¹⁶ Operators say constant changes in coordination staff have hampered efficiency.¹⁷

Government funding for mine action is limited to payment of salaries for national staff. The HCND reported payment of up to approximately US\$1.5 million in 2019.¹⁸ However, the government's persistent non-payment of salaries has badly affected sector performance. A long-running strike by deminers that started in 2017 gave rise to threats by former deminers that have prevented operations in areas of Tibesti earmarked for survey and clearance.¹⁹ Operators also report lengthy delays obtaining the permits required to import equipment as well as in other bureaucratic procedures.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Gender is not discussed in Chad's latest Article 5 deadline extension request and recruitment of female staff is not a priority for the HCND, which has undergone drastic downsizing in the past two years and still faces demands for back pay from staff.

There were nine women among the 207 personnel working for the HCND in 2019; they were employed in a range of management, administrative and field roles. They included the HCND's assistant director, the administration and finance assistant director, the head of risk education, a personnel officer, and two secretaries.²⁰

The lack of women in HCND's operational staff limited options for international operators whose deminers are seconded from HCND. As a result, HI employed women in administrative roles including its country director, a human resources coordinator and assistant finance director.²¹ The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) is advising HI's programme in Chad on the mainstreaming of gender and diversity in their activities.²²

In 2019, MAG employed Chad's first female deminer as a team leader overseeing survey and clearance tasks, conducting on-site quality control and reporting data. She had been trained in Benin to EOD [Explosive Ordnance Disposal] Level 3. MAG also employed women in community liaison and administrative functions.²³

Operators reported that risk education targeted all members of the community and that the resulting data was disaggregated by gender.²⁴ MAG community liaison teams conduct focus group discussions with women, since they are better placed to provide information on contamination in some areas such as wadis where they collect water and firewood. Discussions led by a female community liaison officer identify women's priorities for mine action interventions.²⁵

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The HCND uses an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database but poor maintenance meant data available from it was unreliable because of lost reports and duplication. A clean-up of the database undertaken by the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) under the European Union (EU)-funded PRODECO project that started in 2017 has now resulted in cancellation of large numbers of duplicate entries and a sharply reduced estimate of contamination. To support the clean-up, the HCND conducted two field operations in 2019 and one in the first three months of 2020 in order to verify survey results.²⁶

FSD also supported data entry and correction and the production of maps of SHAs, and helped to compile tables for Chad's Article 5 deadline extension request. IMSMA forms were reviewed, updated, and approved at a workshop in 2019. With FSD support, the HCND also introduced standardised forms to be used by operators for weekly and monthly reporting.²⁷

PLANNING AND TASKING

Since September 2017, Chad's mine action programme has focused mainly on implementing the four-year (2017–21) EU-funded mine action project (PRODECO), which is being implemented by a consortium of three international operators and one national operator.²⁸ HI was due to focus on survey and clearance in the Borkou and Ennedi regions; MAG was to work in the Tibesti and Lake Chad regions; and FSD would provide training and support for information management, while Secours Catholique et Développement (SECADEV) would address victim assistance.²⁹ Those objectives subsequently changed due to insecurity in Tibesti that prevented MAG from gaining access and forcing it to redirect its demining teams to the Lake Chad area in the west of the country. The HCND acknowledged in its 2019 Article 5 deadline extension request that mine action in Chad had lacked a strategic vision, operational planning, and effective coordination, resulting in a loss of confidence locally and internationally.³⁰

Chad's extension request presents a "detailed" programme with targets for non-technical survey, technical survey, and clearance that avoid specifics for any category of activity.³¹

The HCND prioritises tasks according to requests from local authorities. It issues task orders to operators usually after receiving their input on technical and resource requirements of the task. Operators are also usually able to recce tasks with the HCND and local authorities prior to deploying staff.³² HI said it prioritised tasks according to local community development priorities.³³

Table 2: Planning for the Article 5 deadline extension period

Region	Activities	Areas to be addressed	Timeline
Borkou	NTS, TS, clearance	39	January 2020 – September 2021
Chagri	NTS, TS, clearance	1	January 2020 – September 2021
Ennedi	NTS, TS, clearance	7	July 2020 – December 2024
Moyen-Chari	NTS, TS, clearance	1	January 2020 – September 2021
Tibesti	NTS, TS, clearance	89	January 2020 – December 2024

NTS = non-technical survey TS = technical survey

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Chad's national mine action standards are believed to be consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). HI started a review of Chad's standards in 2016 and reported in September 2017 that 11 national mine action standards had been updated and issued, following HCND approval.³⁴ HCND said it planned to update national standards for land release, supervision of organisations, and quality assurance, but gave no details.³⁵

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The HCND is Chad's biggest operator employing a total staff of 320 people in 2019, of whom 113 were seconded to HI and MAG.³⁶ The HCND informed Mine Action Review that operational capacity at the end of 2019 amounted to four manual demining teams with 72 personnel, two non-technical survey teams with six personnel, and two teams operating two mechanical assets with a total of seven personnel. Other capacity included two EOD teams with 16 technicians.³⁷ Additional national EOD capacity is available from the Chad armed forces' combat engineering battalion, which received training on demining and IED clearance in May 2019 from two French army engineers.³⁸

The mine action component of the PRODECO programme funded by the EU and implemented by a consortium of three international demining organisations was the only operation active in Chad in 2019. HI, the PRODECO consortium lead agency, operated with a total staff of 76 people. These included 35 deminers in three multi-task teams and a survey team of five people who conducted survey and clearance of mined areas in the Kirdimi and Faya districts of Borkou province.³⁹ The HCND said it would remain in the province in the first half of 2020 and work in Ennedi throughout the year.⁴⁰ HI is understood to have used drones fitted with infrared cameras to conduct survey⁴¹ but provided no details.

MAG worked with three 12-strong teams of manual deminers, four community liaison staff, and 24 support staff focused on clearance and risk education in northern Chad's Borkou region, including road clearance to enable communications between towns in the north. MAG was supposed to have operated in Tibesti but was prevented from doing so by local conflicts. In consultation with the HCND and HI, it identified alternative areas and carried out an exploratory mission to Borkou in March 2019 before starting operations in June. In 2020, MAG expected to shift operations to Ennedi region.⁴²

As part of the PRODECO programme, 10 HCND deminers were sent to the Centre de Formation au Déminage Humanitaire (CPADD) in Benin for training. Of those, nine qualified for EOD Level 3, the first time Chadian deminers have qualified at this level. Two other HCND staff qualified as quality assurance officers.⁴³

FSD, working with four international and five national staff in 2019, focused on building capacity in the national authority with particular attention to information management, operations management, quality assurance, logistics, and administration. In 2019, FSD also supported production of maps, tables, and analysis for Chad's Article 5 deadline extension request.⁴⁴ The HCND's work plan for 2020 also called for FSD support for non-technical survey and technical survey in Salamat, Sila, and Wadi Fira.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2019

The HCND reported release of a total of 4.7km² in 2019, mostly through non-technical survey. The results marked a significant acceleration after two years in which Chad did not release any mined land but the operations in 2019 did not result in destruction of any anti-personnel mines.⁴⁵

SURVEY IN 2019

The HCND reported that HI and MAG together cancelled a total of 3.5km² through non-technical survey in 2019 (see Table 3)⁴⁶ although there discrepancies in reported results.⁴⁷ Around 80% of the released area was accounted for by non-technical survey conducted by MAG along a 167km road between Chicha and Kouba Olanga in the Borkou region. Interviews with local inhabitants along the road, together with reviewing old reports and the IMSMA database over a period of approximately three months, enabled MAG to conclude that rumours of mine contamination were groundless. MAG conducted technical survey on one specific area (see Table 4) that a former rebel commander had reported as mined but no mines were found, only 16 items of small arms ammunition.⁴⁸

Table 3: Cancellation through non-technical survey in 2019⁵⁰

Province	Operator	Area cancelled (m ²)
Borkou	MAG	3,340,000
	HI	133,471
Wadi Fira	HCND	504
Moyen Chari	HCND	49,239
Salamat	HCND	350
Chari Barguimi	HCND	4,591
Total		3,528,155

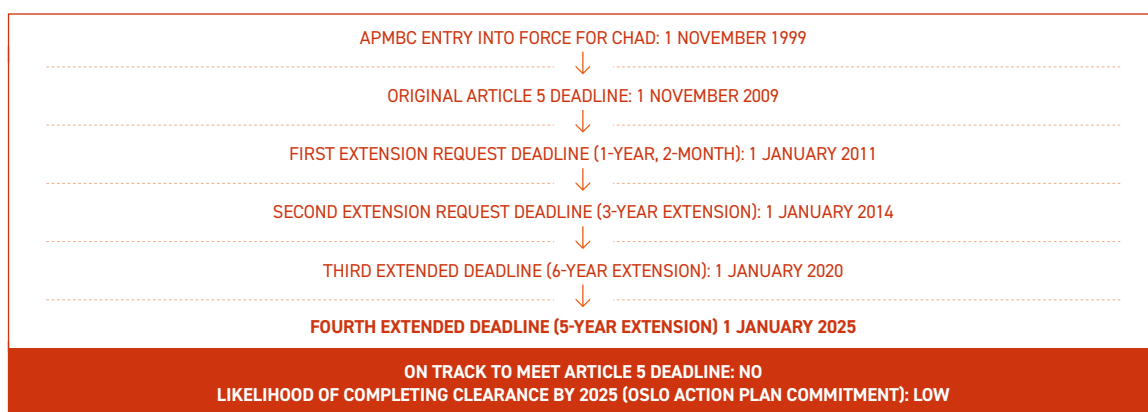
Table 4: Reduction through technical survey in 2019⁵¹

Province	Operator	Area reduced (m ²)
Borkou	HI	140,579
Borkou	MAG	580,801
Total		721,380

CLEARANCE IN 2019

The HCND reported that HI cleared 423,934m² of mined area in Borkou region in 2019, the first land release through clearance in three years. The HCND said 87 anti-vehicle mines and 1,559 items of ERW were destroyed, but no anti-personnel mines.⁴⁹

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC and in line with the fourth extension (for five years) of its clearance deadline, Chad is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 January 2025.

Chad's deadline extension request provided welcome evidence of continued engagement with the APMBC machinery but not clarity about prospects for achieving completion within the five years requested. In their decision on the application, States Parties described the request as "ambitious" but called for regular updates on progress, communicated in language consistent with IMAS, and noted that the request lacked a detailed annual work plan for survey and clean-up of the database.⁵²

Within months of submitting the request in August 2019, Chad's national authority had lowered its estimate of remaining anti-personnel mine contamination by almost two-thirds, the most significant step towards completion in years, but it resulted largely from database clean-up. The outlook for survey and clearance needed to fulfil Chad's obligations is less clear.

The land release reported in 2019 also represented a significant step forward but at the end of 2019, more than two years after the launch of the PRODECO programme, operators had yet to clear a single anti-personnel mine. Operations remain constrained by insecurity, which has blocked access to the Tibesti region, which accounts for close to 95% of known contamination and by lack of funding. Operations came to a halt in 2020 as a result of measures taken to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, presenting an additional financial challenge for operators needing to extend existing funding agreements or attract new sources of funds.⁵³

Under the plan set out in its extension request, the HCND has estimated the cost of completion at US\$34 million. Chad would provide a little over half a million dollars of this to pay salaries while the remainder is dependent on international donors.⁵⁴ The only international funding available to Chad at present is the €23 million provided by the EU for the PRODECO project, which expires in 2021. Sustained progress will depend on new commitments of international donor funding.

Table 5: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2019	*0
2018	0
2017	0
2016	**0.58
2015	0.26
Total	0.84

* A total of 423,934m² of anti-vehicle mined area was cleared in 2019.

** Combined clearance and technical survey.

- 1 Email from Soultani Moussa, Manager/Administrator, HCND, 28 April 2020.
- 2 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2019, p. 9.
- 3 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 22.
- 4 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 27 April 2020.
- 5 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 31.
- 6 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 27 April 2020.
- 7 Email from Daniel Davies, Programme Support Coordinator, MAG, 27 April 2020.
- 8 Email from Seydou Gaye, Armed Violence Reduction Specialist, HI, 3 June 2020.
- 9 Statement of Chad, 17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 27 November 2018.
- 10 "Impact de la menace terroriste (Etat Islamique en Afrique de l'Ouest ex Boko Haram) au Tchad", PowerPoint presentation by Gen. Mahamat Hisseini Salkato, Deputy Coordinator, HCND, undated but accessed on 3 June 2020 at: bit.ly/3cyoKc7.
- 11 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 9.
- 12 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 12. The four centres are Abeche (Ouadda), Bardai (Tibesti), Fada (West Ennedi), and Faya-Largeau (Borkou region); the two sub-centres are at Am-timan (Salamat) and Zouar (Tibesti).
- 13 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 10.
- 14 Ibid., p. 26.
- 15 Ibid., p. 11; and emails from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 May 2019 and 27 April 2020.
- 16 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 10.
- 17 Email from Seydou Gaye, HI, 3 June 2020.
- 18 Emails from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 May 2019 and 27 April 2020.
- 19 Email from Romain Coupe, MAG, 4 March 2019. "Tchad: grève des démineurs restés 10 mois sans salaire", ("Chad: deminers strike after 10 months without pay"), Agence de Presse Africaine, 10 May 2017, at: bit.ly/30Cz25g; and email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 26 September 2017.
- 20 Emails from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 May 2019 and 29 May 2020.
- 21 Email from Seydou Gaye, HI, 3 June 2020.
- 22 Email from Arianna Calza Bini, Head of GMAP division, GICHD, 7 September 2020.
- 23 Email from Daniel Davies, MAG, 21 May 2020.
- 24 Email from Romain Coupe, Country Director, MAG, 4 March 2019.

- 25 Email from Daniel Davies, MAG, 21 May 2020.
- 26 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 27 April 2020.
- 27 Email from Olivier Shu, Senior Technical Adviser, FSD, 27 March 2020.
- 28 HI "Country Profile Chad", September 2017, at: bit.ly/2Sri4nx.
- 29 Ibid.
- 30 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 30.
- 31 Ibid., p. 35.
- 32 Email from Daniel Davies, MAG, 27 April 2020.
- 33 Email from Seydou Gaye, HI, 3 June 2020.
- 34 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 5 September 2017.
- 35 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 27 April 2020.
- 36 Email from HCND, 29 May 2020.
- 37 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 27 April 2020.
- 38 Embassy of France, "Former au déminage et à la lutte contre les engins explosifs improvisés" ("Training in demining and in tackling improvised explosive devices"), Ndjamen, at: bit.ly/2Xwl7Op.
- 39 Email from Seydou Gaye, HI, 3 June 2020.
- 40 Ibid.
- 41 "Les drones peuvent désormais repérer les mines, annonce Handicap International", Pixabay, 8 November 2019.
- 42 Email from Daniel Davies, MAG, 27 April 2020.
- 43 Email from Seydou Gaye, HI, 3 June 2020.
- 44 Email from Olivier Shu, FSD, 27 March 2020.
- 45 Emails from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 27 April and 29 May 2020.
- 46 Ibid.
- 47 HI reported it cancelled 110,844m² through non-technical survey and reduced 169,515m² through technical survey in 2019. Email from Seydou Gaye, HI, 3 June 2020.
- 48 Emails from Daniel Davies, MAG, 27 April and 21 May 2020; and Llewelyn Jones, Director of Programmes, MAG, 7 September 2020.
- 49 Ibid.
- 50 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 27 April 2020.
- 51 Email from HCND, 29 May 2020.
- 52 Decision on Chad's Extension Request, Fourth APMB Review Conference, 29 November 2019.
- 53 Email from Seydou Gaye, HI, 3 June 2020.
- 54 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 36.