

**ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2026**  
**NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE**

## KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)  
 MINE CONTAMINATION:

**HEAVY, 30 KM<sup>2</sup>**  
 (MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE)

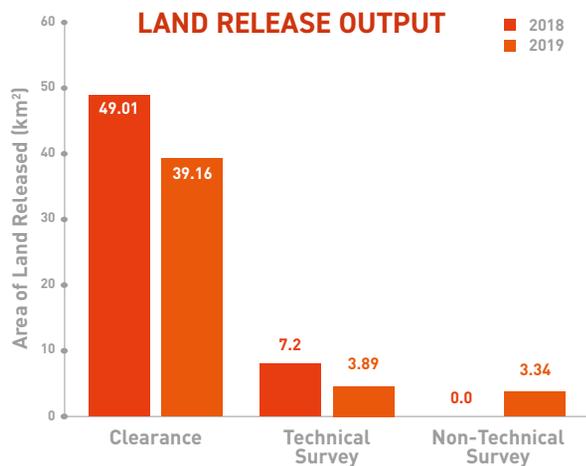
AP MINE  
 CLEARANCE IN 2019

**39.16 KM<sup>2</sup>**

AP MINES  
 DESTROYED IN 2019

**2,530**

(INCLUDING 103 DESTROYED  
 AS PART OF THE "LESS  
 ARMS, FEWER TRAGEDIES"  
 PROGRAMME)



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

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2019, Croatia cleared 39.16km<sup>2</sup> of mined area. While this was a 20% decrease on the 49km<sup>2</sup> cleared in 2018, Croatia achieved the clearance target in its annual plan for 2019 and exceeded the annual clearance target set in its 2018 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline extension request. However, annual mine clearance of military areas by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in 2019 fell well short the extension request target, as it did the year before, which is of continued concern.

Furthermore, survey output in 2019 was well below both the projected 2019 annual action plan forecast and the extension request target for the year. More worrying still is that rather than increase much needed non-technical and technical survey capacity, the number of survey personnel went down significantly in 2019, compared to the previous year. This was a result of the incorporation of the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) into the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Interior (Mol), effective from the start of 2019. Many survey personnel previously employed by CROMAC were not taken on by the Mol under the new structure, and were either made redundant or retired.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC should increase its survey capacity in order to meet the targets outlined in its 2018 Article 5 deadline extension request.
- In addition to survey of suspected hazardous areas (SHAs), Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC should also review the basis on which confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) are established. In particular, it should conduct survey to confirm evidence of mine contamination before embarking on full clearance.
- The MoD should ensure sufficient capacity is in place and should significantly increase clearance to release mined areas on military land, in line with Croatia's revised work plan 2020–26.
- Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC should fulfil the pledge in Croatia's 2018 extension request to explore the potential for mine detection dogs (MDDs) to enhance the efficiency of technical survey. The 2015 demining law, which only allows use of MDDs in clearance, should be amended if necessary.

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2019)	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	6	6	While Croatia considers its current baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination to be reasonably accurate, evidence-based and complete, a high proportion (nearly 30%) of remaining mined area is SHA, indicating the need for evidence-based survey prior to clearance.
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	8	8	There is strong national ownership of mine action in Croatia, with political will to implement Article 5. In January 2019, CROMAC and the Office for Mine Action (OMA) were integrated within the MoI.
<b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b> (10% of overall score)	4	5	Gender policies and implementation regarding mine action in Croatia are addressed under the national Gender Equality Act, which includes guidelines of gender equality and regulates against gender-based discrimination. However, the proportion of women employed in mine action, both at Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC and in the commercial demining companies, is extremely low.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	8	8	Croatia has an information management system that is compliant with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and which allows disaggregation of contamination by type and land release by method. Croatia provides regular updates on its progress in Article 5 implementation at APMB meetings.
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	7	7	Croatia has elaborated a new national mine action strategy 2020–26, which it expected to adopt by the end of 2020 to replace the previous strategy that expired in 2019. In addition, Croatia has elaborated a revised multi-year work plan 2020–26 and has annual operational work plans for mine survey and clearance, as well as annual targets in its Article 5 deadline extension request.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b> (20% of overall score)	5	6	The 2015 law on mine action encompasses national mine action standards. However, there is a continued need for robust evidence-based survey prior to any clearance, to avoid clearance of CHAs where no contamination was found. Unfortunately, though, rather than increasing survey capacity to meet this need, the survey capacity of the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC dropped significantly in 2019, in the context of the incorporation of CROMAC within the MoI.
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	7	8	While clearance output in 2019 met Croatia's annual work plan target and the Article 5 deadline extension request target for 2019, survey output fell well short of targets. Furthermore, with regards to mined area under military control, the MoD cleared less than 6% of the 2019 output foreseen in Croatia's 2018 extension request.
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE</b>

## DEMINING CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Ministry of Interior (MoI), in which CROMAC and OMA were integrated within the Civil Protection Directorate, effective as of January 2019.

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Forty-five demining companies are accredited for mine clearance, of which 18 conducted clearance in 2019.
- The Demining Battalion of the Engineering Regiment, Croatian Armed Forces

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

### OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Croatia is affected by mines and, to a much lesser extent, explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munition remnants (CMR), a legacy of four years of armed conflict associated with the break-up of the former Yugoslavia in the early 1990s (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants* report on Croatia for further information on cluster munition remnants).

At the end of 2019, Croatia reported a total of more than 309.7km<sup>2</sup> of mined area, excluding military areas. Of this more than 189.98km<sup>2</sup> was CHA, while mines were suspected to cover a further 119.72km<sup>2</sup> of SHA (see Table 1).<sup>1</sup> This represents a roughly 10% decrease in estimated contamination compared to the 220km<sup>2</sup> of CHA and 135km<sup>2</sup> of SHA, as at the end of the previous year.<sup>2</sup>

A further 31.4km<sup>2</sup> of confirmed mined area exists in areas under military control as at the end of 2019.<sup>3</sup> More than 90% of this mined area is across three military training sites, but a barracks and three storage sites are also believed to be contaminated.<sup>4</sup> The Demining Battalion of the Engineering Regiment is responsible for clearing all military facilities.<sup>5</sup>

A total of nearly 38.9km<sup>2</sup> was released through clearance (plus an additional 0.3km<sup>2</sup> cleared at military sites) and more than 7.2km<sup>2</sup> through survey in 2019.<sup>6</sup> In addition, survey in 2019 added 0.2km<sup>2</sup> of previously unrecorded mined areas to Croatia's information management database.<sup>7</sup>

**Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area by county (at end 2019)\*<sup>8</sup>**

County	CHA (m <sup>2</sup> )	SHA (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total mined area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Karlovac	13,629,641	30,695,574	44,325,215
Lika-Senj	80,206,093	29,187,113	109,393,206
Osijek-Baranja	17,988,472	14,460,885	32,449,357
Požega-Slavonia	9,132,358	5,484,776	14,617,134
Split-Dalmatia	15,974,276	3,348,229	19,322,505
Sisak-Moslavina	29,065,905	24,357,010	54,422,915
Šibenik-Knin	12,009,009	3,717,123	15,726,132
Zadar	11,977,660	8,466,893	20,444,553
<b>Totals</b>	<b>189,983,414</b>	<b>119,717,603</b>	<b>309,701,017</b>

\* A further 31.4km<sup>2</sup> of mined area exists in areas under military control.<sup>9</sup>

Eight of Croatia's twenty-one counties are still mine-affected. Sisak-Moslavina and Lika-Senj are the most heavily contaminated with anti-personnel mines, containing an estimated 12,479 and 11,129 mines, respectively, and accounting for 74% of the total number recorded as having been emplaced.<sup>10</sup>

At the end of 2019, 98.6% of mine contamination was on forested land, 1.1% was on agricultural land, and 0.3% was on other areas (e.g. water, marshland).<sup>11</sup> Of the total 309km<sup>2</sup> of estimated mined area (combined SHA and CHA), approximately 60% is defined as Nature 2000 protected area.<sup>12</sup> Much of the remaining mined area is in mountains and has not been accessed for 20 years, so the terrain and conditions will pose challenges to demining.<sup>13</sup>

According to Croatia's Civil Protection Directorate, the baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination has been established through inclusive consultation with women, girls, boys, and men, including, where relevant, with minority groups. Croatia considers its current baseline of contamination to be evidence-based and reasonably accurate, following the completion of a baseline survey.<sup>14</sup> However, the high ratio of SHAs to CHAs and the fact that mined areas continue to be cleared without contamination being encountered, calls this into question.

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

In August 2018, the Croatian government formally concluded that some 54 government agencies, including CROMAC and the Office for Mine Action (OMA), were to be integrated within existing state administration bodies. This was formally concluded through two pieces of legislation enacted in December 2018 and which entered into force on 1 January 2019.<sup>15</sup> As a consequence of these laws, CROMAC and OMA ceased to exist as separate government entities and CROMAC became an “operational sector” within the Civil Protection Directorate, under the Mol.<sup>16</sup> The main rationale for this was “the establishment of a more relevant and operationally wider national institution (Civil Protection Directorate) that could more efficiently and effectively tackle all of the aspects of civil protection in the Republic of Croatia, including mine action activities”.<sup>17</sup>

Prior to 2019, both CROMAC (established in 1998 as the umbrella organisation for mine action coordination),<sup>18</sup> and the OMA (created in 2012 as a government focal point for mine action),<sup>19</sup> had operated as independent entities.

A new law on mine action was adopted by the Croatian Parliament on 21 October 2015.<sup>20</sup> While the 2015 Law, which was initiated by the OMA with the text drafted by the Mol, marked an improvement in certain respects (for instance, by permitting land release through technical survey), there were concerns that the new law would impede efficient and effective mine action.<sup>21</sup>

Regarding accreditation, the Mol now provides three separate permits: approval for manual mine detection; approval for mechanical mine detection; and approval for operations by mine and explosive detection dogs (EDDs). This replaces the former unified accreditation licence.<sup>22</sup>

Since becoming a State Party to the APMB, more than €727 million has been invested in humanitarian demining in Croatia, of which the national budget has accounted for the majority (€417 million) for the Article 5 implementation.<sup>23</sup> Croatia estimates that the fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations will cost a further €459 million in total.<sup>24</sup> Funding for the remainder of demining under the extension request is expected to come from, respectively, the national budget (52.3%); European Union (EU)/European structural and investment (ESI) funds (21.8%); EU/cross-border cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) (15.3%); state budget of forest management positions (10.2%); and from private donations (0.4%).<sup>25</sup>

In 2019, implementation of the annual Mine Action Plan, which amounted to costs of almost HRK 400 million (approximately €53 million), was realised using funding from the State budget (60.8%), EU funds (38.9%), and donations (0.3%). The large financial contribution from the State budget demonstrates a high level of national ownership and commitment by Croatia towards completing mine clearance.<sup>26</sup>

Funds from the EU have steadily increased over the last few years. For 2020, Croatia reported that roughly half of the costs would be met from EU/ESI Funds (€28.47 million) with the other half coming from the general State budget (€22.97 million) and the State budget for forestry management (€5.41 million).<sup>27</sup>

Croatia does not have a resource mobilisation strategy in place for Article 5 implementation.<sup>28</sup> There is also no formalised in-country platform for dialogue, to bring stakeholders together on a regular basis. Instead, the obligations of key stakeholder and their mutual dialogue are said to be regulated by legal provisions, such as the Act on Mine Action, and through the National Mine Action Strategy.<sup>29</sup>

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

As an integral part of the Mol, the Civil Protection Directorate implements the Gender Equality Act (Official Gazette 82/08 and 69/17), which establishes national guidelines for gender equality, regulates against gender-based discrimination, and creates equal opportunities for men and women, including with regards to employment.<sup>30</sup>

According to the national authorities, women, men, boys and girls are all effectively consulted during survey and community liaison.<sup>31</sup> CROMAC survey data is not, however, disaggregated by sex and age.<sup>32</sup>

Within the Civil Protection Directorate of the Mol, CROMAC employs 91 people, of whom 12 (13.2%) are women. As at April 2020, no women were employed in managerial or supervisory level positions in CROMAC. Furthermore, CROMAC's 27 deminers and 2 auxiliary workers were all men.<sup>33</sup>

As at 30 March 2020, there were 45 accredited commercial demining companies, employing 443 deminers. Only six deminers (1.4%) were female and of the 131 work-site leaders/deminers, just one was a woman. Of the 78 auxiliary workers, 6 (7.7%) were female.<sup>34</sup>

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

For the purpose of information management, CROMAC established a mine information system (MIS), which is said to be compliant with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and customised to meet CROMAC's needs. The MIS uses databases and a geographic information system (GIS) to deliver a fully integrated information management system.<sup>35</sup> There are ongoing efforts to improve the quality of mine-related data, as a part of the regular activities of CROMAC's survey personnel.<sup>36</sup>

Croatia submits annual Article 7 transparency reports and reports on its progress in Article 5 implementation at the APMB intersessional meetings and meetings of States Parties.

## PLANNING AND TASKING

Croatia's national mine action strategy for 2009–19 was drafted by CROMAC with the agreement of concerned ministries, the OMA, the National Protection and Rescue Directorate, and local administration and self-administration bodies whose responsibility covers regions with hazardous areas.<sup>37</sup> The strategy, which was adopted by the Croatian Parliament, included among its main goals the completion of mine clearance by 2019, which was not achieved.<sup>38</sup>

The MoI has elaborated a new strategy, covering 2020–26 which it expected to be adopted by the Croatian Parliament by the end of 2020, assuming no unforeseen events.<sup>39</sup> In addition, a revised multi-year work plan for 2020–26 had also been elaborated, with projections of the number of areas and the amount of area to be addressed annually to achieve completion (see Table 6), and was expected to be adopted by the Croatian Parliament and presented at the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties in November 2020.<sup>40</sup>

In 2018, Croatia submitted and was granted a seven-year request to extend its APMBC Article 5 deadline from 1 March 2019 to 1 March 2026. In its 2018 Article 5 deadline extension request, Croatia stated it has prioritised the remaining mined areas according to those which affect safety; pose barriers to socio-economic development; and impact the environment in other ways. Priorities at the operative level are elaborated in annual demining action plans.<sup>41</sup>

Based on approved funding, the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC drafts annual work plans, which are submitted to the responsible ministries and other state bodies for comment and approval.<sup>42</sup> According to its 2019 annual mine action plan, the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC planned to release a total of 54.8km<sup>2</sup> in 2019: 39km<sup>2</sup> through clearance; 9.7km<sup>2</sup> through technical survey; and 6.1km<sup>2</sup> through non-technical survey.<sup>43</sup>

In its 2020 annual mine action plan, the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC planned to release a total of 65.1km<sup>2</sup> in 2020: 51.1km<sup>2</sup> through clearance, approximately 5km<sup>2</sup> through technical survey; and approximately 9km<sup>2</sup> through non-technical survey.<sup>44</sup> According to a revised work plan the total land release target for 2020 was subsequently increased to 70.1km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>45</sup> However, it is unclear the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic will affect implementation of the plan.

The Demining Battalion of the Engineering Regiment is responsible for clearance of all military facilities. The MoD submits its demining plan for military facilities to the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC annually.<sup>46</sup>

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## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

A new law on mine action was adopted by the Croatian Parliament on 21 October 2015, incorporating developments from the IMAS agreed upon at that time, and specifically those relating to the use of technical survey to confirm the presence or absence of contamination.<sup>47</sup> The 2015 law introduces a new procedure for “supplementary general survey” (a form of non-technical survey) and enables “exclusion” (i.e. reduction) of SHAs through technical survey, which was not possible under the previous law.<sup>48</sup> The 2015 law has eliminated the need for standing operating procedures (SOPs), as all aspects of mine action are now clearly defined.<sup>49</sup> National mine action standards are also encompassed within it.<sup>50</sup>

In recent years, a significant number of CHAs were cleared in which were found to have no contamination. Furthermore, other large, inflated CHAs were cleared with very few anti-personnel mines discovered. This calls into question the efficiency of the demining and strongly suggests the need for better use of pre-clearance evidence-based survey to confirm contamination before time- and cost-intensive full clearance is undertaken on mined areas recorded by the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC as “confirmed”.

### OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Non-technical survey and technical survey in Croatia are conducted by the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC. In 2019, it had one non-technical survey team with two personnel and two technical survey teams totalling twenty-two personnel.<sup>51</sup> This is a considerable decrease compared to 2018, when nine personnel were deployed for non-technical survey and approximately 40 deminers for technical survey (of whom 21 were previously employed by state-owned enterprise, MUNGOS which was dissolved in 2018, but from which the Croatian government decided to transfer MUNGOS employees to CROMAC to enhance quality control (QC) activities and increase survey capacity).<sup>52</sup>

But, as noted, rather than increasing capacity, survey capacity at the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC subsequently decreased in 2019.<sup>53</sup> This is the result of technical survey and non-technical survey personnel employed by CROMAC not being taken on by the MoI following CROMAC's integration within the Civil Protection Directorate at the start of 2019. Some of the survey personnel previously employed by CROMAC were retired or moved to other companies.<sup>54</sup> The Civil Protection Directorate did not expect any further changes to survey capacity in 2020.<sup>55</sup>

As a result of conditions for earlier World Bank funding, Croatia has an unusually commercialised mine action sector, with almost all civil clearance conducted by local companies competing for tenders. Much foreign donor funding is tendered by ITF Enhancing Human Security, while CROMAC manages tendering for the Croatian Government and European Union (EU) money in accordance with the Law on Public Procurement. The trust fund, “Croatia without Mines”, raises money from private sources.<sup>56</sup>

In 2019, 44 commercial companies were accredited to conduct mine and CMR clearance.<sup>57</sup> Of this, 18 companies were engaged in mine clearance operations in 2019 (see Table 2).<sup>58</sup> Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are barred from competing for commercial tenders as CROMAC views their subsidy by other funds as unfair.<sup>59</sup> The Demining Battalion of the Engineering Regiment is responsible for clearing all military facilities.<sup>60</sup>

Clearance operations in Croatia are conducted manually as well as with mechanical assets and with the support of MDDs. In accordance with the 2015 Act on Mine Action and its prescribed demining methodologies, MDDs are used only for clearance and not technical survey.<sup>61</sup>

**Table 2: Clearance capacity (at end 2019)<sup>62</sup>**

Clearance capacity	Number
Deminers	534
Site leaders	147
Auxiliary workers	107
Mine detection dogs	108
Demining machines	42

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2014 needs assessment observed that in the preceding years the number of demining companies in Croatia had grown, but capacity overall had decreased.<sup>63</sup> A representative of the Croatian Employers' Association (CEA) – Humanitarian Demining Association – reported that the 2015 Mine Action Law had resulted in an increase in the number of demining organisations in Croatia.<sup>64</sup> This rise is in part due to deminers leaving employment and starting new firms, with the 2015 Law requiring a minimum of only five deminers per company.<sup>65</sup> The current number of demining companies is disproportionate to the number of deminers, and according to a representative from CROMAC, it would be better to have half the number of companies, but with each one being properly managed.<sup>66</sup>

## DEMINER SAFETY

There was one demining accident in 2019, in which one person was injured by a PROM-1 mine during DOK-ing operations in Lika-Senj county in July. The accident was investigated by the Lika-Senj police department while the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC QC department produced a detailed mine incident report. While demining companies are aware of a demining incident, no formalised lessons were shared between clearance organisations in-country.<sup>75</sup>

In 2014, CROMAC reported it had started issuing larger value tenders, to allow companies to reduce the cost of their operations, saying that this had provided an incentive for companies to do better planning and to cooperate with each other.<sup>67</sup> A CROMAC representative claimed that although prices were lower, the larger tenders allowed continual work, resulted in fewer stoppages, and enabled companies to negotiate on better terms with hotels and services in their project areas.<sup>68</sup>

The 2014 UNDP needs assessment recommended that CROMAC consider longer-term contracting to maximise use of operational assets in Croatia for both technical survey and clearance.<sup>69</sup> However, operations are planned on a yearly basis, in accordance with the annual and three-year demining plans set by the Government.<sup>70</sup>

UNDP also noted that the current contracting of defined polygons is suitable for mine clearance but would not be conducive to effective technical survey, and called for a new procedure to be drafted once the law is changed.<sup>71</sup> The Humanitarian Demining Association said it would be preferable if, where possible, technical survey was already undertaken on project tasks prior to tendering them, so that commercial companies have as much information as possible to accurately plan for the tender.<sup>72</sup>

With the adoption of the new law, which enables use of technical survey, CROMAC planned to target demining on CHAs and to conduct technical survey on the remaining SHAs.<sup>73</sup> Croatia also reported previously that it planned to research and develop methods and techniques for the use of MDDs, especially for technical survey operations, as a potentially more effective tool to address mined areas in mountainous terrain.<sup>74</sup> However, this would require amendment to the 2015 demining law, which does not currently permit use of MDDs for technical survey.

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2019

More than 46km<sup>2</sup> of mined area was released in 2019, of which nearly 39km<sup>2</sup> was cleared by commercial demining companies, a further 0.3km<sup>2</sup> was cleared by the Croatian army on military sites, and over 7km<sup>2</sup> was released by CROMAC through survey (3.3km<sup>2</sup> reduced through technical survey and almost 3.9km<sup>2</sup> cancelled through non-technical survey).<sup>76</sup>

### SURVEY IN 2019

CROMAC released a total of 7.23km<sup>2</sup> through survey in 2019, of which nearly 3.34km<sup>2</sup> was cancelled through non-technical survey and almost 3.89km<sup>2</sup> was reduced through technical survey (see Tables 3 and 4).<sup>77</sup> Compared to 2018, this is a slight increase on the 2.3km<sup>2</sup> cancelled through non-technical survey and a decrease on the 4.9km<sup>2</sup> was reduced through technical survey.<sup>78</sup>

No data were available on survey by the MoD.

**Table 3: Cancellation through non-technical survey in 2019<sup>79</sup>**

County	Operator	Area cancelled (m <sup>2</sup> )
Lika-Senj	Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	198,522
Osijek-Baranja	Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	1,407,133
Šibenik-Knin	Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	493,666
Sisak-Moslavina	Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	1,236,673
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,335,994</b>

**Table 4: Reduction through technical survey in 2019<sup>80</sup>**

County	Operator	Area reduced (m <sup>2</sup> )
Lika-Senj	Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	691,412
Osijek-Baranja	Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	1,010,290
Požega-Slavonia	Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	438,642
Šibenik-Knin	Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	430,229
Sisak-Moslavina	Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	191,180
Zadar	Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	1,132,690
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,894,443</b>

In addition, survey in 2019 resulted in the addition of 0.2km<sup>2</sup> of previously unrecorded mined areas to Croatia's estimated mine contamination in its national information management database.<sup>81</sup>

### CLEARANCE IN 2019

In 2019, nearly 39.16km<sup>2</sup> of mined area was released through clearance (nearly 38.86km<sup>2</sup> by operators working under the direction of the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC (see Table 5) and a further 0.3km<sup>2</sup> by the Croatian army). During land release, a total of 2,530 anti-personnel mines were destroyed (2,415 by the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC; 12 by the MoD; and 103 by the Mol (as part of the “less arms, fewer tragedies” programme)); and 2,902 anti-vehicle mines (2,846 by the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC and 38 by the Mol (again as part of the “less arms, fewer tragedies” programme)).<sup>82</sup>

The 39km<sup>2</sup> of total mined area cleared in 2019 is a 20% decrease on 2018, when 49km<sup>2</sup> of mined area was released through clearance (48.8km<sup>2</sup> by operators working under the direction of CROMAC and a further 0.2km<sup>2</sup> by the Croatian army).<sup>83</sup>

Table 5: Mine clearance in 2019<sup>84</sup>

Operator	County	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Capsula Interna	Lika-Senj	1,067,442	8	0	4
Cor	Lika-Senj/Osijek-Baranja/Split-Dalmatia/Sisak-Moslavina/Zadar	2,711,617	558	361	54
Detektor	Lika-Senj	201,017	13	0	0
Dok-ing Razminiranje	Osijek-Baranja/Sisak-Moslavina/Zadar	6,653,371	91	54	796
Fas	Lika-Senj/Šibenik-Knin/Sisak-Moslavina	1,115,674	18	0	188
Harpija	Lika-Senj/Split-Dalmatia/Šibenik-Knin/Sisak-Moslavina/Zadar	1,986,362	55	0	8
Heksogen	Karlovac/Lika-Senj/Zadar	1,628,944	101	0	910
Istraživač	Lika-Senj/Osijek-Baranja	9,834,671	266	83	165
Kripton	Zadar	7,135	0	0	7
Maper	Lika-Senj/Zadar	863,139	15	0	1
Mina Plus	Sisak-Moslavina	548,059	32	0	84
Orkan	Lika-Senj	38,025	3	0	0
Piper	Lika-Senj/Požega-Slavonia/Split-Dalmatia/Sisak-Moslavina/Zadar	1,744,161	131	0	41
Piton	Karlovac	602,471	59	3	7
Rumital	Karlovac/Osijek-Baranja/Sisak-Moslavina/Zadar	6,451,226	937	2,363	56
Tetrazen	Lika-Senj/Sisak-Moslavina	409,544	20	0	41
Titan	Karlovac/Lika-Senj/Zadar	674,110	85	0	102
Zeleni kvadrat	Lika-Senj/Šibenik-Knin/Sisak-Moslavina/Zadar	2,322,700	23	0	542
<b>Totals</b>		<b>38,859,668</b>	<b>2,415</b>	<b>2,864</b>	<b>3,006</b>

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle

Clearance output equates to one anti-personnel mine destroyed for every 16,000 square metres of cleared area, indicating either very low density of contamination or poor targeting or clearance (or both). Even when anti-vehicle mines are added into the calculation, this still equates to one mine destroyed for every 7,000 square metres of cleared area.

In addition, the Demining Battalion of the Engineering Regiment of the Croatian army cleared 298,880m<sup>2</sup> of military facilities in 2019, during which 12 anti-personnel mines and 929 items of UXO were found and destroyed.<sup>85</sup> This is an increase on the 185,416m<sup>2</sup> of military facilities cleared in 2018.<sup>86</sup> As part of EOD spot tasks and the continued "less arms, fewer tragedies" programme, the Croatian Police (under the MoI), and in partnership with the UNDP, also collected 103 anti-personnel mines and 38 anti-vehicle mines, along with items of UXO and abandoned explosive ordnance, which were subsequently transported to Croatian military facilities and destroyed.<sup>87</sup>

## ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBBC (and in accordance with the second extension (for seven years) granted by States Parties in 2018), Croatia is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2026. Croatia is not currently on track to meet this deadline based on current land release output, with clearance of military facilities in particular falling way behind schedule.

Croatia's 2018 request for a further seven-year extension to its Article 5 deadline was submitted on "the basis that this is a realistic but not unambitious amount of time given the extent of the remaining problem and the human, material and financial resources available or expected, and the demining and survey capacities currently available."<sup>88</sup> All relevant stakeholders in the Croatian mine action system are reported to have been involved in the analysis conducted as part of extension request process, and the request has also been "verified by the Croatian Government, which adopted the text of the 2nd Request thus giving it much needed political weight."<sup>89</sup>

While Croatia has requested an extended deadline of 1 March 2026, it foresees that survey and clearance operations will be completed by the end of 2025, leaving only administrative/paperwork issues to be settled in the beginning of 2026.<sup>90</sup>

As at the time of its 2018 extension request, remaining mined area during the period of Croatia's second extension (1 March 2019 to 1 March 2026) covered 387.3km<sup>2</sup>. Implementing the extension request will require clearance of CHA (with minefield records), totalling 173.9 km<sup>2</sup> (including 32km<sup>2</sup> of mined area on MoD land); clearance of CHA (with no minefield records, but for which there is evidence of contamination), totalling 79.5km<sup>2</sup>; and survey and release of SHA totalling 133.9km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>91</sup> Survey will take place between 2019 and 2025, but any resulting clearance required, expected to be completed by the end of 2025.<sup>92</sup>

In 2019, Croatia prepared an updated work plan for release of the 341km<sup>2</sup> of mined area remaining as at the end of 2019 (309.7km<sup>2</sup> under the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC and 31.4km<sup>2</sup> under the MoD's jurisdiction). In its revised work plan, Croatia planned to release 70.1km<sup>2</sup> in 2020; 58.6km<sup>2</sup> in 2021; 61.1km<sup>2</sup> in 2022; 151.6km<sup>2</sup> in 2023; 63.1km<sup>2</sup> in 2024; and 18.8km<sup>2</sup> in 2025 (see Table 6).<sup>93</sup> The vision of the plan remains to achieve fulfilment of Article 5 by 1 March 2026, and it envisages accelerated release of military sites.<sup>94</sup>

**Table 6: Planned land release output in km<sup>2</sup> (2020-26)<sup>95</sup>**

Area	Totals	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Clearance	210.4	51.1	39.1	37.1	38.3	35.0	9.8	0
Technical Survey	48.0	5.0	7.6	8.9	11.1	10.4	5.0	0
Non-Technical Survey	51.3	9.0	6.2	9.2	14.3	12.6	0.0	0
<b>Sub Totals</b>	<b>309.7</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>63.7</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>0</b>
Croatian Army (MoD area)	31.4	5	5.4	6.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	0
<b>Sum totals</b>	<b>341.1</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>0</b>

Considering that most of the remaining mined area is in more challenging terrain, which will significantly reduce the potential to use demining machinery, the 341.1km<sup>2</sup> of land release forecast by the end of 2025 is very ambitious, at the least without increased capacity or improved efficiency.

Demining of military facilities/MoD area is conducted by the Demining Battalion of the Engineering Regiment, according to an MoD plan.<sup>96</sup> The 4km<sup>2</sup> to 6km<sup>2</sup> per year planned for in Croatia's revised work plan 2020-26, is substantially more than what the armed forces have cleared in recent years, and in 2018 and 2019, the MoD cleared less than 0.3km<sup>2</sup> per annum.

Based on existing capacity, Croatia claimed in April 2020 that it was still on track to meet its Article 5 mine clearance deadline of 1 March 2026.<sup>97</sup> However, Croatia did not reach its planned survey output in 2019, calling into serious question whether it has sufficient (and sufficiently capable) survey capacity to meet its annual targets.

The remaining areas to be released are mainly forested (98.6%), therefore there will be a significant reduction in the use of demining machinery, especially medium and heavy machines.<sup>98</sup> Croatia foresees that more use will be made of small, mobile machines that can be efficiently transported and used in affected areas, and that the resulting increase in manual demining will reduce productivity and increase the cost of clearance and technical survey. Use of mechanical assets is also further restricted in the Nature 2000 protected area.<sup>99</sup> A total of more than 198km<sup>2</sup> of mined area in Croatia has been cleared over the last five years (see Table 7).

However, while annual clearance output exceeds the annual targets in Croatia's 2009–19 mine action strategy<sup>100</sup> and in Croatia's 2018 Article 5 Extension Request, the amount of land released through survey each year has fallen well behind the yearly targets. Likewise, with respect to its 2019 Annual Mine Action Plan, CROMAC met the planned clearance target (39km<sup>2</sup>), but fell short of the technical survey and non-technical survey targets of 9.7km<sup>2</sup> and 6.1km<sup>2</sup>, respectively.<sup>101</sup>

In order to ensure Croatia meets its Article 5 obligation by 1 March 2026, the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC will need to significantly increase its capacity and implementation of survey operations to more accurately determine the size and location of contamination before starting clearance, and to cancel and reduce areas in which no evidence of contamination is found.

**Table 7: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance**

Year	Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> )
2019	39.16
2018	49.01
2017	30.38
2016	38.71
2015	40.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>198.20</b>

## PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

In 2019, the Civil Protection Directorate continued research cooperation and discussions with the Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), on the issue of national survey and clearance capacity to address explosive ordnance discovered after the release of contaminated areas or post completion (i.e. residual contamination). In August 2019, a joint study entitled "national capacities and residual contamination in Croatia" was published, documenting the progress made on this issue so far and highlighting the importance of a participatory and transparent long-term strategic planning progress.<sup>102</sup>

The integration of CROMAC within the MoI, which took effect from January 2019, is reported to be one of the first steps to deal with residual risk and liability, and it is believed that this will elevate the importance of the issue within the MoI.<sup>103</sup> The integration also means that the challenge of residual risk will be handled within the responsibilities of the MoI – Police Directorate EOD teams and the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC.<sup>104</sup>

1 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Head of Unit, Civil Protection Directorate, Ministry of Interior, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1. In its Revised work plan 2020–26, which was expected to be adopted and which Croatia planned to present at the 18th Meeting of States Parties in November 2020, the total CHA as at end of 2019 had increased to 210.4km<sup>2</sup> and the total of SHA had decreased to 99.3km<sup>2</sup>.

2 Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form C.

3 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.2.

4 Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form C; and email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.

5 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.

6 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.2.

10 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 33; and Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form C.

11 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1.

12 Ibid.

13 Interview with Nataša Mateković, CROMAC, Sisak, 18 May 2017.

14 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.

15 Act on Amendments to the Act on Mine Action (OG No. 118/2018) and Act on Amendment to the Act on the Government (OG No. 116/2018).

16 Emails from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019 and 8 April 2020; and Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form J and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), p. 1.

- 17 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1.
- 18 CROMAC, "National Mine Action Strategy of Croatia 2009–2019", Zagreb, June 2009, p. 2.
- 19 Interviews with Dijana Pleština, (then) Director, OMA, in Geneva, 23 May 2012 and 10 April 2014; and email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 4 July 2013.
- 20 OG No. 110/15; and CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A.
- 21 Interviews with Neven Karas, CROMAC; and Tomislav Ban, Assistant Director and Head of Sector for Operational Planning and Programming, CROMAC, Sisak, 18 May 2017.
- 22 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 24 August 2016.
- 23 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.
- 24 Ibid., p. 44.
- 25 Ibid., p. 45.
- 26 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1.
- 27 Statement of Croatia on clearance, APMBC Fourth Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.
- 28 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 29 Ibid.
- 30 Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form C; Statement of Croatia, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 7 June 2018; and email from Davor Laura, CROMAC, 6 April 2018.
- 31 Ibid.
- 32 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 17 April 2020.
- 33 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 34 Ibid.
- 35 CROMAC website, "CROMAC's Mine Information System", accessed 26 June 2018.
- 36 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.
- 37 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.
- 38 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Protocol V Article 10 Report (covering 2015), Form B.
- 39 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.6.
- 40 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.6; and Revised work plan 2020–26.
- 41 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 8 and 11.
- 42 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.
- 43 Ibid.; and email, 8 April 2020.
- 44 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 45 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.2.
- 46 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.
- 47 National Gazette No. 110/15; and CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A.
- 48 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A; and emails from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 13 and 18 May 2016.
- 49 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 13 May 2016; and CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Form A.
- 50 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 13 May 2016.
- 51 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 52 Emails from Dejan Rendulić, CROMAC, 11 September 2018; and Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.
- 53 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 54 Ibid.
- 55 Ibid.
- 56 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 13 May 2016.
- 57 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1.
- 58 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 59 Interview with Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, Sisak, 14 April 2014.
- 60 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.
- 61 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.
- 62 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1.
- 63 UNDP, "Mine Action Recovery Needs Assessment for Flooded Areas in Eastern Croatia", 2014, p. 16.
- 64 Interview with a representative of the CEA, Humanitarian Demining Association, Zagreb, 17 May 2017.
- 65 Interviews with Hrvoje Debač, OMA, 17 May 2017, Zagreb; and Tomislav Ban, CROMAC, Sisak, 18 May 2017.
- 66 Interview with Tomislav Ban, CROMAC, Sisak, 18 May 2017.
- 67 Interview with Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, in Zagreb, 16 March 2015.
- 68 Ibid.
- 69 UNDP, "Mine Action Recovery Needs Assessment for Flooded Areas in Eastern Croatia", 2014, p. 4.
- 70 Interview with Hrvoje Debač, OMA, 17 May 2017, Zagreb.
- 71 UNDP, "Mine Action Recovery Needs Assessment for Flooded Areas in Eastern Croatia", 2014, p. 4.
- 72 Interview with a representative of the CEA, Humanitarian Demining Association, Zagreb, 17 May 2017.
- 73 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 21 October 2016.
- 74 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 43, 44, and 45; and Additional information submitted 21 June 2018, p. 1.
- 75 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 76 Ibid.
- 77 Ibid.
- 78 Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form C.
- 79 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1.
- 80 Ibid.
- 81 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 82 Ibid; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1.
- 83 Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form C.
- 84 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1.
- 85 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1.
- 86 Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form C; and email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.
- 87 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 88 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.
- 89 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Additional information submitted 21 June 2018, p. 1.
- 90 Ibid.
- 91 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 39.
- 92 Ibid., pp. 41 and 42.
- 93 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1; and Revised work plan 2020–26.
- 94 Croatia, "Submission of information for the Convention's website", Intersessional Meetings, 30 June–2 July 2020.
- 95 Revised work plan 2020–26, p. 9.
- 96 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 43.
- 97 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 98 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 43.
- 99 Ibid., p. 45; and email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.
- 100 National Mine Action Strategy of the Republic of Croatia, 2008, p. 10.
- 101 Emails from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019 and 8 April 2020.
- 102 GICHD, "National capacities and residual contamination in Croatia", August 2019, at: [bit.ly/2EwKcTt](https://bit.ly/2EwKcTt).
- 103 Emails from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019 and 8 April 2020.
- 104 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.