

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

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: HEAVY

MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE

30 km²

AP MINE CLEARANCE IN 2023

6.69 km²

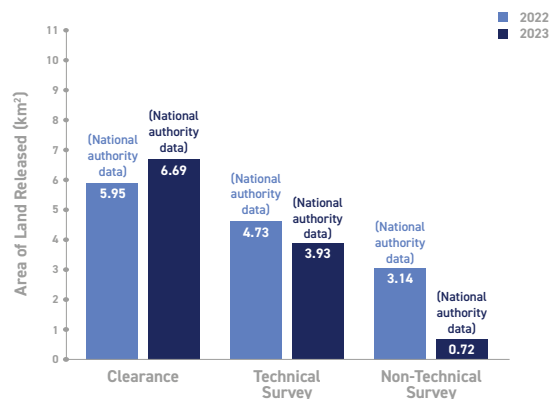
(MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE BASED ON NATIONAL DATA)

AP MINES DESTROYED IN 2023

4,996

(INCLUDING 425 DESTROYED DURING SPOT TASKS)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **NONE**

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Angola did not meet its land release targets for 2023 and while there was a small increase in the amount of clearance, the amount of area released through survey has continued to fall. Moreover, operators reported clearing over 1.4km² of anti-personnel (AP) mined area in 2023 without finding any landmines. Clearance was completed in Zaire province in 2023 with Namibe and Benguela following in 2024 but along with Huambo are awaiting completion of the formal declaration process. Three new national mine action standards (NMAS) were launched during the year. Angola will not meet its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline and expects to submit a further extension request in 2025.

FIVE-YEAR OVERVIEW

Over the past five years, Angola's mine action programme has several major achievements, including the completion of non-technical survey (NTS) across all 18 provinces (in 2019), the launch of the National Mine Action Strategy for 2020–25 (and an associated work plan), and a restructuring of national programme management institutions. Despite these advances and sustained progress in land release, challenges to fulfilling Article 5 persist, notably continued discovery of mined areas, clearance of significant area which does not contain AP mines, and shortfalls in funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Angola should ensure all demining operators rigorously apply land release principles to reduce clearance of uncontaminated areas and improve efficiency.
- Angola should further consolidate its mine action structures by integrating all survey and clearance data, including those from the National Demining Centre (CND), into the national Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database.

- Angola should update and launch its draft resource mobilisation strategy and intensify international advocacy efforts to attract new and former donors. The funding model in Cuando Cubango could be extended to cover other provinces.
- Angola should finalise its national mine action strategy and the NMAS for management of residual contamination.
- Angola should establish and implement a process to formally declare provinces as mine-free once all known contaminated areas have been cleared.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2023)	Score (2022)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	8	8	Angola has completed its nationwide re-survey of AP mine contamination and has a high ratio of confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) compared to suspected hazardous areas (SHAs). The discovery of new contamination is likely to continue over the coming years as operators gain access into remote areas. A total of almost 6.1km ² of AP mined area was added to the database in 2023. Clearance was completed in Zaire in 2023, and Namibe and Benguela in 2024, but along with Huambo these provinces are awaiting completion of the declaration process.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	8	8	The national mine action programme is managed by the National Mine Action Agency (ANAM). There is strong national ownership with Angola allocating national funding to support ANAM and the CND. In 2023, Norwegian People's Aid received a grant for an 18-month capacity development project for ANAM focusing on quality management, information management, and residual contamination. In November 2023, operators collaborated with ANAM to develop mine action sector priorities for the National Development Plan (2023–27).
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	6	6	Gender and diversity are included as a cross-cutting issue in Angola's national mine action strategy but no outcomes or targets are related to gender or diversity in the updated work plan. Of ANAM's 2023 workforce, 36% were women, including in 48% of operational positions and 33% of managerial positions. This is unchanged from 2022.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION* (10% of overall score)	5	Not Scored	Angola does not have an environmental management policy or standard on environmental management. ANAM has enforced some measures to mitigate the environmental impact of mine action including prohibition of vegetation burning, tree cutting, and control over the use of fuel and lubricants for demining machines. Angola also contributes funding to HALO's mine action and conservation project in Cuando Cubango and the wider Angolan Okavango.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	8	8	ANAM requested support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) to transition its database to IMSMA Core, with a first national workshop held in December 2023. ANAM has also made an effort to improve the reporting format. Angola has submitted timely and largely accurate Article 7 reports in recent years although discrepancies with operator data continue.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	6	7	Angola's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 has still to be formally approved by the Government. Its accompanying work plan includes annual targets for land release which Angola did not meet in 2023. Angola has a tasking and prioritisation system in place which most operators say is functioning effectively.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM** (10% of overall score)	7	7	In 2023, new NMAS on animal detection systems and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) were launched while three other standards (on risk education, victim assistance, and monitoring of clearance) were updated.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	7	8	Despite a slight increase in clearance output in 2023, overall land release output declined compared to 2022 due to a 41% reduction in release through survey. Operators cleared more than 1.4km ² of AP mined area without finding any mines. Angola did not meet its land release targets for the year and plans to submit a further Article 5 deadline extension request in 2025 (its third).
Average Score	7.0	7.5	Overall Programme Performance: GOOD

* New criterion introduced in 2024 to assess performance.

** The weighting of this criterion was previously 20% of overall performance score, but is now given a 10% weighting.

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Mine Action Agency (Agência Nacional de Acção Contra as Minas, ANAM)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- The Association of Angolan Mine Professionals (Associação de Profissionais Angolanos de Acção Contra Minas, APACOMINAS) (NGO)
- The National Demining Centre (Centro Nacional de Desminagem, CND)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

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

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2023, a total of 1,016 AP mined areas covering an estimated 67km² remained in 16 of Angola's 18 provinces (see Table 1).¹ Cuando Cubango and Moxico are believed to be the most heavily contaminated provinces. The total estimate of contamination is only a 1km² reduction from the 68km² across 1,070 AP mined areas at the end of 2022, despite almost 6km² of clearance and a further 4.5km² of release through survey.² Although a total of almost 6.1km² of AP mined area was added to the database in 2023, the contamination reported as remaining cannot be reconciled with the available data.

Table 1: AP mined area by province (at end 2023)³

Province	CHA	Area (m ²)	SHA	Area (m ²)	Total HA	Area of HA (m ²)
Quando Cubango	245	20,869,933	1	0	246	20,869,933
Moxico	191	10,386,250	39	1,130,062	230	11,516,312
Bié	140	5,857,481	0	0	140	5,857,481
Cuanza Sul	89	6,619,424	0	89	89	6,619,513
Lunda Norte	48	1,718,708	10	143,913	58	1,862,621
Huíla	41	3,418,902	0	0	41	3,418,902
Bengo	41	3,006,227	0	0	41	3,006,227
Lunda Sul	40	6,506,282	20	1,000,496	60	7,506,778
Cunene	35	2,505,156	9	0	44	2,505,156
Cabinda	26	1,179,321	0	0	26	1,179,321
Cuanza Norte	9	573,938	0	0	9	573,938
Luanda	9	1,121,211	0	0	9	1,121,211
Malanje	9	173,395	0	0	9	173,395
Namibe	5	550,041	1	0	6	550,041
Uíge	5	272,651	0	0	5	272,651
Benguela	3	398,798	0	0	3	398,798
Huambo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zaire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	936	65,157,718	80	2,274,560	1,016	67,432,278

CHA = confirmed hazardous area SHA = suspected hazardous area HA= hazardous area

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.

2 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form C.

3 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.

In 2023, a total of 6,075,330m² of previously unrecorded AP mined area was discovered and added to the national database. Of this, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) discovered 12 mined areas in Moxico covering 434,140m², and three areas in Lunda Sul covering 19,856m²; Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) found 173,395m² in Malanje province; and The HALO Trust (HALO) identified 32 areas in the provinces of Bié, Benguela, Cuando Cubango, Huila, and Namibe amounting to 5,447,939m².⁴

All known mined areas have been released in Benguela, Huambo, Namibe, and Zaire. In Huambo, where clearance was completed already in 2021, the formal declaration process was only expected to occur by the end of 2024.⁵ In Zaire, where clearance was completed in 2023, NPA said no date has yet been set for this.⁶ HALO received approval from the National Mine Action Agency (ANAM) in July 2023 to begin work on the three remaining mined areas in Namibe, with clearance starting in August 2023, and clearance of the last known minefields in Benguela also began in 2023.⁷ HALO reported that clearance of these areas was completed in July 2024 and as of writing were awaiting sign off from ANAM.⁸ Two other provinces (Cuanza Norte and Uige) are very close to completion.⁹

NPA experienced delays in completing two tasks in Cuanza Norte in 2023 due to high metal contamination, which impacted the overall timeline. However, NPA expected all recorded tasks in the province to be finished by December 2024. Delays in Cuanza Norte have also affected the start and completion of tasks in Uige, pushing the new completion date for Uige tasks back to May 2025. Despite these operational challenges, NPA is confident that Uige and Cuanza Norte will be cleared by the end of 2025, aligning with its programme strategy.¹⁰

In 2019, NTS across all 18 provinces of Angola was completed, redefining or cancelling previously inflated mined areas, and establishing the most accurate baseline of AP mined area to date.¹¹ But APOPO believes further survey/resurvey is needed to remove some hazardous areas from the database. HALO notes that new minefields are generally found near existing mined areas and that not all have yet been identified. This is understandable given the size of the country and remoteness of some areas.¹² MAG advocates for evidence-based surveys to confirm mined areas as truly contaminated.¹³ While NPA expects continued discovery of mined areas given past

experience, it believes a new countrywide assessment would not be an efficient use of resources.¹⁴

ANAM agrees that a new national survey is unnecessary. Instead, it is focusing on limiting residual contamination to a minimum and conducting post-demining socio-economic impact assessments when conditions allow.¹⁵ Due to engagement from multiple armed groups during Angola's long years of conflict, many mined areas remain unknown to communities and were missed in baseline surveys. Consequently, the Government mandates systematic technical survey (TS) and clearance in areas designated for investment projects in order to ensure safety.¹⁶

The updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025 includes NTS as a key component of all operations and survey will be conducted in areas that require additional verification. ANAM acknowledged gaps in coordination and monitoring of the operations of the—now dissolved—Executive Commission for Demining (CED) at the provincial level, indicating that areas cleared by CED-coordinated entities may need further assessment and verification before they are removed from the database.¹⁷ It is also expected that previously unrecorded mined areas will be added to the database as people return to previously uninhabited areas and operators revisit remote areas.¹⁸

Data clean-up has led to deletion of hazardous areas, which further contribute to the reliability of the national contamination baseline. Angola's mine action strategy emphasises ongoing systematic analysis of survey reports to ensure hazardous areas are classified into confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) as per the NMAS. According to the Geneva International Centre of Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the accuracy of the data in the strategy and work plan needs to be continuously verified and updated.¹⁹

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, Cuando Cubango, Huambo, and Moxico. In addition to AP mines, as at the end of 2020 Angola had 1.02km² of anti-vehicle (AV) mined area.²⁰ Many minefields contain a mix of AP and AV mines. MAG found some earlier evidence of AP mines being laid and reinforced

4 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, Country Director, NPA, 2 May 2024; Catherine Harris, Programme Officer, MAG, 3 May; and Sarah Coomb, Donor Relations Manager, HALO, 8 May 2024.

5 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

6 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024.

7 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

8 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 6 September 2024.

9 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

10 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024.

11 ANAM Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, p. 4.

12 Email from Daniel Richards, HALO, 25 June 2022.

13 Email from Nelson Verissimo, MAG, 6 June 2023.

14 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 30 March 2023.

15 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 10 May 2023.

16 Ibid.

17 ANAM, updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, p. 5; and telephone interview with Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 22 February 2021.

18 Email from Ralph Legg, HALO, 30 March 2020.

19 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022; and National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, p. 19.

20 Comprising 934,525m² across 89 CHAs and 84,235m² across 21 SHAs. Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form C.

with other explosive ordnance to maximise damage.²¹ HALO also confirmed the presence of improvised AP mines using mortars or grenades. These were found recently in Benguela province, and HALO estimates that more will be encountered

in Benguela, Bié, and Cuando Cubango. HALO destroyed five AP mines of an improvised nature in 2023 in Cuando Cubango province, in the Nancova and Menongue municipalities.²²

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Angola also has a significant problem of explosive remnants of war (ERW), especially unexploded ordnance (UXO). In addition, evidence suggests that Angola contains a residual threat from cluster munition remnants (CMR), but no known or suspected cluster munition-contaminated areas that would involve an Article 4 obligation under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2024* report on Angola for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The mine action programme is managed by ANAM. Its mandate is to regulate and supervise mine action work by public and private institutions as well as NGOs. ANAM is a government agency and is subject to the oversight of the president through the Minister of State and the Chief of Staff.²³ A resource mobilisation strategy was drafted in 2018, but at the time of writing had still not been finalised.²⁴

ANAM was formerly known as the National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH).²⁵ In previous years, there were tensions between CNIDAH and the CED, the other national coordination body whose main role was to 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. The CED was dissolved in 2022,²⁶ and a National Demining Centre (Centro Nacional de Desminagem, CND) was created by presidential decree. The CND is the only public mine action operator in Angola. Its mandate is to clear areas in support of socio-economic development projects, and to contribute to the fulfilment of Angola's obligations under Article 5 of the APMBC.²⁷

Operators continue to report smooth collaboration with the Angolan authorities. Two longstanding challenges for operators, though, have been visas and tax exemptions, although these have eased since ANAM took over these responsibilities. APOPO reported improved legal processes for tax exemptions, with all their requests approved.²⁸ NPA received assistance from ANAM with tax exemption

applications in 2024, enabling importation of vehicles and equipment tax-free and giving NPA confidence in future exemptions.²⁹ HALO reported continuing difficulties in securing temporary-stay visas (VPTs) for international staff.³⁰ Since 2021, MAG's international staff have been permitted to enter Angola on a tourist/business visa and apply for a VPT in-country, although the VPT process remains prolonged due to required document translations and legalisations that must be prepared in the country of origin before travelling to Angola. In October 2023, Angola introduced a visa waiver for European Union (EU), G7, and G20 nations as well as a number of other countries, allowing short-term, 30-day visas on arrival for up to 90 days a year.³¹

In August 2023, NPA received a US\$1.3 million grant from the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the United States (US) Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA) for an 18-month capacity development project for ANAM. The project's key objectives include enhancing ANAM's quality management (QM) by updating standards and standard operating procedures (SOPs) while providing training and mentoring for monitoring officers. It also aims to strengthen information management (IM) practices by supporting implementation of IMSMA Core. The project will further assist ANAM in revising Angola's national residual contamination management strategy, with a strong emphasis on promoting gender mainstreaming in all QM and IM activities. Workshops will be conducted around the country to promote timely mine-free declarations and address residual risk.³²

21 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 30 March 2023.

22 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

23 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form A.

24 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020; and Mário Nunes, Capacity Development Advisor to ANAM (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022 and 10 May 2023.

25 Telephone interview with Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 22 February 2021; and email, 28 April 2021.

26 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022.

27 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F; and emails from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022 and 10 May 2023.

28 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, Programme Manager, APOPO, 29 April 2024.

29 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024.

30 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

31 Emails from Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May and 25 June 2024; and Sarah Coomb, HALO, 6 September 2024.

32 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024.

ANAM leads quarterly mine action coordination meetings attended by the national authorities and clearance operators, as well as, on occasion, donors.³³ In November 2023, operators collaborated with ANAM to develop mine action sector priorities for the National Development Plan (2023–27), which were submitted to the Ministry of Planning. In April 2024, ANAM confirmed to MAG that these priorities have been included, potentially paving the way for additional finance for the sector, such as through EU funding. At the time of writing, MAG was waiting for a copy of the document referencing these priorities.³⁴

Despite financial constraints, the Government of Angola has continued to fund ANAM and the CND. This mostly covered overhead costs, but also met some of ANAM's

operational costs, particularly the monitoring and quality control (QC) teams. In addition, the Government continued to financially support HALO in clearing protected areas along the Okavango Delta in Cuando Cubango province.³⁵ As to international funding, mine action in Angola continued to receive donations from the United States, the United Kingdom (UK), Norway, Belgium, Sweden, and Japan, as well as from private entities. These donations benefited the projects of HALO, MAG, NPA, and APOPO, as well as the national NGO Association of Angolan Experts of Action against Landmines (APACOMINAS).³⁶ As at February 2023, Angola believed it still needed a massive US\$238 million to complete mine clearance.³⁷

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. Disaggregated data collection requirements have been integrated into all relevant SOPs, forms, and

other data collection tools.³⁸ Although Angola has no gender and diversity implementation plan, the Angolan mine action sector has made significant strides with regards to gender balance. This is demonstrated in the increased participation of women in mine action at all hierarchical levels. In 2023, 36% of ANAM's employees were female, with women holding 48% of operational positions and 33% of managerial positions.³⁹ This is unchanged from 2022.⁴⁰

Table 2: Gender composition of operators in 2023⁴¹

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women in managerial or supervisory positions	Total operational staff	Women in operational positions
APOPO	43	6 (14%)	6	0 (0%)	38	5 (13%)
HALO	1,545	684 (44%)	109	23 (21%)	1,010	596 (59%)
MAG	182	56 (31%)	30	5 (17%)	110	50 (45%)
NPA	51	8 (16%)	8	0 (0%)	32	6 (19%)
Totals	1,821	754 (41%)	153	28 (18%)	1,190	657 (55%)

All operators saw an increase in the proportion of women employed from 2022 to 2023, with HALO and MAG achieving the largest proportional gains. HALO, in particular, should be commended for its strong commitment to improving gender parity. HALO has been working towards achieving gender balance in its programme over the past five years,

starting with its "100 Women in Demining" project launched in 2017. This initiative, which began with all-female demining teams in Benguela, has expanded nationwide. By prioritising women during recruitment and selection for promotional training, HALO increased the proportion of women within its Angola workforce from 3.6% in 2017 to 44% by the end

33 Emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024; Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024; Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May 2024; and Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024.

34 Emails from Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May and 25 June 2024.

35 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form J.

36 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form J; and email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 10 May 2023.

37 "Angola Needs U.S.\$ 238.5 Million to Complete Clearing Landmines", *All Africa*, 2 February 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/434Ey0J>.

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

39 Email from Narciso Paulo Simão Tiacafe, Head, Demining Operations Accreditation and Certification Department, ANAM, 26 June 2024.

40 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J; and email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), 10 May 2023.

41 Emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024; Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024; Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May; and Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

of 2023, with a growing share in management positions. This has fostered gender balance, benefiting both HALO's workforce and the communities they serve, with women in these communities expressing greater comfort in receiving risk education and when reporting the presence of explosive ordnance to female deminers.⁴²

HALO is developing other initiatives to empower women in the workforce and provide them with better healthcare provisions. Women who work for HALO receive a childcare stipend to support their return to work after maternity leave and improving retention in the workforce by supporting childcare burdens which commonly fall upon women in Angola.⁴³ HALO also continues to implement language and literacy courses in field camps. In 2024, HALO finalised a Gender Strategy and appointed an in-country Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning coordinator, with a focus on collecting Sex- and Age-Disaggregated Data and facilitating gender-sensitive training. Starting in 2024, HALO was planning to distribute reusable menstrual health kits and deliver menstrual and sexual health training to all women as standard.⁴⁴

MAG is committed to mainstreaming gender and diversity in its recruitment process, actively encouraging applications from women and people with disabilities. The programme aims to increase the involvement of women in all mine action functions, not just as deminers. MAG strives to ensure that its mine action activities are inclusive and benefit the entire

community.⁴⁵ MAG maintains records of beneficiary data disaggregated by gender and age for each cleared area and conducts post-clearance impact assessments to document the effects. All community members are consulted to ensure comprehensive and fair participation.⁴⁶

NPA organises gender sensitivity training for its staff and says that, whenever possible, gender equality is raised with the national and provincial authorities. NPA ensures that job opportunities are accessible to women and men equally, and do not contain requirements that unnecessarily discourage female applicants or preclude their employment.⁴⁷ NPA appointed gender and diversity focal points within its programme and prepared an implementation plan for its gender equality policy.⁴⁸ In 2023, NPA developed a new programme strategy that includes a gender mainstreaming indicator: "By 2025, NPA Angola shall strive to ensure that 25% of its employees are female." Additionally, through its capacity development project at ANAM, NPA has supported the development of ANAM's first-ever gender equality and diversity policy, which was under review by ANAM management and expected to be approved in 2024.⁴⁹

APOPO encourages women to apply for roles and integrates gender and diversity perspectives into the planning and implementation of its demining operations as a core value.⁵⁰ The organisation embraces diversity of age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, physical abilities, and ethnicity. In February 2024, APOPO hired two new female deminers.⁵¹

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

No formal policies related to environmental management are specific to mine action in Angola. There is no NMAS on environmental management in mine action, though ANAM has been developing standards on occupational health, safety, and the environment. ANAM has also enforced some measures to mitigate mine action's environmental impact, including by banning vegetation burning and tree cutting and restricting the use of fuel and lubricants for demining machines.⁵²

APOPO has an environmental policy and action plans which it has been implementing in Angola. APOPO considers environmental protection as a cross-cutting issue during planning and tasking. Environmental assessments are conducted as standard as part of the operational planning process and prior to using machines for ground preparation in any area. Machine interventions are also communicated

and agreed upon with the authorities based on the post-clearance use of the land.⁵³ APOPO has been stepping up its environmental efforts globally with a view to develop applications for scent detection animals and to implement programmes to protect wildlife species and facilitate environmental restoration, and to expand the HeroTREE⁵⁴ programme and contribute to carbon sequestration, clean water and air, increased biodiversity, and food security. APOPO established partnerships with two agriculture associations in Cuanza Sul, which will develop projects for post-clearance use of the land. These include the implementation of organic agriculture and further promotion of syntropic farming and planting of trees.⁵⁵ Additionally, in 2023 and 2024, education and awareness programmes were conducted for APOPO staff with efforts made to reduce the

42 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

43 Email from Susanna Smale, Head of Region – Southern Africa, HALO, 29 August 2023.

44 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

45 Email from Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May 2024.

46 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022.

47 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 5 April 2021.

48 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

49 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024.

50 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 22 March 2021.

51 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024.

52 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 10 May 2023.

53 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022.

54 The HeroTREE Programme, which APOPO implements in partnership with Agriculture Tanzania (SAT), promotes sustainable agricultural techniques and climate-smart farming practices to contribute to food security, poverty reduction, and socio-economic development. APOPO, "Annual Report 2022", p. 83.

55 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 30 March 2023.

use of power generators in the field. APOPO reported that climate and weather are always taken into consideration when planning operations.⁵⁶

HALO has had a global environmental policy since 2022, and in 2024 it was initiating two environmental impact assessments which will determine both the immediate environmental footprint of its bases and operations, formulate recommendations on how to reduce carbon emissions, and assess the longer term impacts of landmines and conflict as a whole. Based on these recommendations, HALO Angola's Environment team is planning to draft a programme-wide Environment Management Plan by the end of 2024. In 2024, HALO Angola recruited an Environment Project Coordinator and aimed to produce country-specific SOPs for environmental management for its operations by the end of the year.⁵⁷

HALO initiated a mine action and conservation project in 2022, that runs in parallel with its existing mine action programme, that aims to understand and explore the linkages between mine action and environmental protection in coordination with national and international conservation partners.⁵⁸ The geographical focus is on the biodiverse province of Cuando Cubango and the wider Angolan Okavango with clearance contributing to environmental conservation, the protection of wildlife, enhancing ecotourism and diversifying the economy. During NTS and household surveys HALO includes questions on land use, agriculture, natural resources, and environmental limitations, which inform clearance plans and task prioritisation.⁵⁹

HALO has launched several projects to reduce its environmental impact, including the introduction of solar systems into field camps and the testing of clean cook stoves to reduce deforestation and pollution.⁶⁰ Each demining unit produces a yearly work plan factoring in seasonal access. Further consideration is given during NTS and initial assessment of a task, as to the effect of potential flooding. HALO is also conducting a larger risk assessment analysis on extreme weather events, aiming to develop mitigation strategies by the end of 2024 to support operations and ensure the safety of staff and beneficiaries.⁶¹

HALO has also secured projects to support its partners in the south-east, including an initiative with the US Forest Service to establish a national forest baseline which began in 2023. They are also working with the Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation to deliver storage containers to national parks, where park rangers will use them to store confiscated animal products and weapons. Additionally, HALO has facilitated safe access for partners like The Nature Conservancy to peatlands in Cuando Cubango for core sampling for a baseline assessment.⁶²

MAG has no stand-alone environmental policy but plans to develop a Global Environmental Framework to be implemented across its programmes. MAG does not conduct environmental assessments to support survey and clearance tasks, but funding permitting, plans to conduct a spend-based carbon baseline assessment of operations and assess the carbon sequestration potential of land released through mine action using remote sensing analysis.⁶³

Despite no new measures being introduced in 2023 or 2024, MAG continues to implement several environmental actions. These include using a hybrid system of generators and solar panels in staff houses, offices, and some camps. MAG increases the use of solar panels with every new grant, aiming for full integration into daily power consumption. MAG deploys teams in close proximity to share campsites and resources, minimising waste. Teams are supplied with water reservoirs to reduce vehicle trips for water collection and every effort is made to recycle and reuse building materials when setting up new camps. All trees are left in place during operations to minimise environmental impact.⁶⁴

NPA Angola does not have a country-specific environmental policy, but follows environmental guidelines from head office.⁶⁵ NPA conducts environmental assessments to support the planning and delivery of survey and clearance. Since 2023, NPA has been using an environmental monitor to help reduce carbon dioxide and greenhouse-gas emissions. Measures include proper planning to minimise machinery use and environmentally friendly practices. For instance, vehicle trips are planned to maximise efficiency and reduce environmental harm.⁶⁶

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

ANAM manages a national IMSMA database which is now considered reliable.⁶⁷ It has been fully reconciled with operator data, and the previous data backlog and inflated

contamination figures have been cleared.⁶⁸ APOPO has worked with ANAM to eliminate discrepancies in the national database.⁶⁹ ANAM and MAG collaborate closely to address

56 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024.

57 Emails from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May and 6 September 2024.

58 Emails from Daniel Richards, HALO, 25 June 2022; and Sarah Coomb, HALO, 6 September 2024.

59 Emails from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May and 6 September 2024.

60 Email from Robert Syfret, HALO, 14 September 2022.

61 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

62 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 6 September 2024.

63 Email from Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May 2024.

64 Ibid.

65 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 30 March 2023.

66 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024.

67 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; and Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

68 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA (on behalf of CNIDAH), 22 March 2021; and Statement of Angola on Article 5 implementation, Fourth APMBRC Review Conference, Oslo, November 2019.

69 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024.

any data discrepancies between the national database and MAG's database. This ongoing effort includes regular (typically quarterly) visits by the ANAM IM team to MAG's operational base.⁷⁰

ANAM requested IMSMA Core from the GICHD as a means to increase programme efficiency.⁷¹ In December 2023, ANAM organised a workshop for operators with support from the GICHD to introduce IMSMA Core and discuss information management principles during project implementation.⁷² Meanwhile, MAG reports that ANAM has improved the reporting format, updating forms so they are better suited to collecting information on the ground.⁷³

In previous years, Angola's mine action programme suffered from significant problems with information management, particularly the poor quality of the CNIDAH national database. Since 2018, an NPA Capacity Development Adviser has been embedded in CNIDAH/ANAM and focused on establishing

an up-to-date and more accurate mine contamination database, with assistance from operators.⁷⁴ As part of the improvements to information management, a monthly data-sharing mechanism between CNIDAH/ANAM and operators has been in place since 2018.⁷⁵

That said, ANAM's IM system does not yet gather all mine action data across the country, but this issue has been discussed with State operators.⁷⁶ In 2024, the CND expected to play an increasingly active role in clearing mined areas recorded in the national database while continuing to conduct ad-hoc clearance in support of development projects. During these operations, any newly identified mined areas will be recorded in the national database.⁷⁷

Angola submitted a timely and detailed Article 7 report covering 2023. There was a small error with the totalling of the AP mine contamination, but overall the reporting was accurate.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Angola's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 was developed by CNIDAH in 2019, but had still to be formally adopted by the government at the time of writing, five years later.⁷⁸ There are five objectives within the proposed strategy, three of which relate to completion of Angola's Article 5 obligations and which contain specific outcomes and targets. None has yet been achieved.

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 NMAS 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 was to be trained within the first quarter of 2021.⁷⁹ (As at July 2024, the strategy for management of residual contamination had been drafted but not yet finalised.) The draft strategy designates the CND, in partnership with the national police, as the entities responsible for managing residual contamination. (For further information see the section below, Planning for residual risk after completion.)⁸⁰

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 twice-yearly coordination meetings with relevant stakeholders that began in 2019, ANAM was to take the lead in developing a communications plan on the completion process by the middle of 2021, to facilitate effective information sharing.⁸¹ As at July 2024, while the communication plan was still pending, ANAM actively engaged with operators and donors, and invites the media to cover related events. ANAM plans to hold awareness events in provinces where clearance is complete and will seek provincial government declarations for the completion of demining in Huambo, followed by Cuanza Norte, Malanje, Uige, and Zaire.⁸²

70 Email from Catherine Harris, MAG, 25 June 2024.

71 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), 10 May 2023.

72 Emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024; Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024; and Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May 2024.

73 Email from Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May 2024.

74 Email from Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J.

75 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 3 June 2019; Ralph Legg, HALO, 30 March 2020; and Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 20 May 2020.

76 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022.

77 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form F.

78 Emails from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022; and Narciso Paulo Simão Tiacafe, ANAM, 26 June 2024.

79 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, pp. 27–29.

80 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 10 May 2023.

81 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, pp. 29–31.

82 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 10 May 2023.

In June 2021, Angola released an updated work plan detailing all confirmed or suspected hazardous areas, annual clearance targets, milestones, and revised funding projections. The updated land release targets, shown in Table 3, are based on the estimated remaining AP mined areas as of June 2021.⁸³ The work plan is aligned with the National Development Plan 2023–2027 and the National Strategic Mine Action Plan 2020–2025 and is focused on clearing areas listed in the national database and sites where development projects are underway, funded by both the Angolan government and national and international donors. In 2023, ANAM reported that 101 demining tasks were completed across 13 provinces.⁸⁴

Table 3: Annual targets for release of mined area in 2021–25⁸⁵

Year	Targets (m ²)
2021	17,075,262
2022	17,075,262
2023	15,672,399
2024	14,288,955
2025	7,826,779
Total	71,938,657

Guidelines for a new tasking and prioritisation system were adopted in 2021.⁸⁶ A key feature of the new system is that provinces are assigned to operators, giving them responsibility over that province.⁸⁷ ANAM says priority is given to the most contaminated areas and those close to the communities. The criterion is to prioritise the tasks in the provinces close to completion, so that resources can then be focused on the other provinces and geared towards completion.⁸⁸ MAG, NPA, and APOPO all reported that the prioritisation system is functioning effectively.⁸⁹ HALO said it applies its own prioritisation and tasking system and is not aware of ANAM's system.⁹⁰

In July 2023, NPA published a new country strategy for 2023–25. The strategy planned release of all identified mined areas in the provinces of Bengo, Cuanza Norte, Uíge, and Zaire by Angola's Article 5 deadline of December 2025.⁹¹

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Ten chapters of NMAS were completed and fully adopted in 2021.⁹² Angola's NMAS are adequate and cover the main topics related to land release.⁹³ Three additional standards on animal detection systems, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), and residual contamination management were drafted with GICHD support.⁹⁴ The NMAS on animal detection systems and EOD were launched in 2023, but the standard on residual contamination management had still to be approved.⁹⁵ NMAS on risk education, victim assistance, and monitoring of clearance were all updated in 2023 with their approval and dissemination scheduled for the first half of 2024.⁹⁶ ANAM is also developing additional NMAS on occupational health, safety, and the environment, in addition to others covering personal protective equipment (PPE), minefield marking, medical support for mine clearance, and accident investigation.⁹⁷

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Four international NGOs conducted demining in Angola in 2023: APOPO, HALO, MAG, and NPA. Of the national operators, APACOMINAS was active in 2023. Since the dissolving of the CED and the organisations that work under its supervision, the CND has become the only public operator conducting demining activities in Angola.⁹⁸

83 ANAM, Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, p. 10.

84 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form J.

85 ANAM, Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, p. 10.

86 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 4 July 2021.

87 Interview with Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 22 February 2021.

88 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 10 May 2023.

89 Emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024; Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024; and Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May.

90 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

91 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 August 2023.

92 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J.

93 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022.

94 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J; and emails from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022; and Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

95 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024; and Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024.

96 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form J.

97 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 10 May 2023.

98 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form J.

Table 4: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2023⁹⁹

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers	Animal detection capacity	Machines	Comments
APOPO	2	20	5 handlers and 12 rats	1	Clearance teams also conduct TS.
APACOMINAS	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	
CND	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	
HALO	95	869	0	4	Clearance teams also conduct TS.
MAG	5	70	0	6	5 manual clearance teams of 10 deminers and six mechanical clearance teams totalling 20 deminers.
NPA	2	19	1 team (4 dogs, 4 handlers)	2	Clearance teams also conduct TS.
Totals	104	978	4 dogs, 12 rats, and 9 handlers	13	

N/R = Not reported

APOPO deployed one NTS team of three personnel and one mine detection rat (MDR) team of five handlers and 12 rats for TS. There were no changes in capacity from 2022 to 2023 and no changes in capacity were expected in 2024.¹⁰⁰

In 2023, HALO deployed nine NTS teams totalling 27 personnel. There was no significant change in HALO's overall demining capacity from 2022 to 2023 due to consistency of funding. Towards the end of the year, however, the number of NTS teams increased due to new hires as well as training efforts aiming to enhance survey capacities across the country. The number of demining teams might decrease in 2024 as some donor contracts are set to expire. HALO's ability to maintain current team levels will depend on continued funding, though the number of survey teams is expected to remain stable.¹⁰¹

HALO increased the use of the Minelab GPZ 7000 detector in 2023 to locate minimum-metal mines, particularly the South African No. 8 AV mine. Previously, no effective solutions existed to detect this mine type at the required national clearance depth. With more than 40 detectors, HALO successfully cleared extensive mixed AP/AV minefields in Cuito Cuanavale, including thousands of R2M2 AP "keeper" mines laid next to the No. 8 mines.¹⁰²

The continued use of the Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System (HSTAMIDS) dual-sensor detectors has significantly improved efficiency with its ground-penetrating radar able

to distinguish between mines and metallic debris, reducing the need for manual excavations. Innovations in survey techniques have also enhanced identification of hazardous areas. HALO has expanded the use of large drones equipped with sensors such as Lidar, thermal, and multispectral imagery, alongside smaller drones, to support both NTS and TS. Additionally, historical research and detailed evidence recording have proven effective as alternative survey methods.¹⁰³

Alongside its clearance teams, MAG deployed one NTS team with seven personnel. MAG reduced its overall NTS and manual clearance capacity from 2022 to 2023 due to the end of two donor grants in 2023.¹⁰⁴

NPA deployed one NTS person in 2023. There was a significant decrease in overall capacity (approximately 35%) in 2023, primarily due to the completion of the Belgium-funded land release project that began in 2022. However, NPA secured a grant from the Belgian government for a new land release project in Bengo province which began in February 2024 and will continue until January 2025, which means their demining capacity has increased to five teams totalling fifty-seven deminers.¹⁰⁵ Since 2021, NPA has used drones to enhance NTS for visualising hazardous areas and terrain and identifying evidence of contamination. They have also been used in pre-implementation visits to new tasks, aiding planning and prioritisation before the team is deployed.¹⁰⁶

99 Emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April and 22 August 2024; Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024; Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May; and Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

100 Emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April and 22 August 2024.

101 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

102 Ibid.

103 Ibid.

104 Email from Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May 2024.

105 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May and 23 August 2024.

106 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 30 March 2023.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2023

ANAM reported that a total of 10.6km² of AP mined area was released in 2023, of which 0.72km² was cancelled through NTS, 3.93km² was reduced through TS, and 5.95km² was cleared, with 4,445 AP mines found and destroyed. A further 425 AP mines were destroyed in spot tasks.

In addition, a total of 23km² of area not recorded in the IMSMA database but cleared at the request of the Angolan government in support of new infrastructure projects and found to be contaminated with AP mines, AV mines, and UXO

was released through clearance by the CND. Mine Action Review considers that 0.73km² of this clearance constitutes AP mine clearance (see Table 9). All 126 AP mines destroyed are included in the national total.

According to Mine Action Review's analysis of ANAM data, the consolidated national total for AP mine clearance for 2023 is almost 6.69km² with the destruction of 4,996 AP mines (see Table 13).

SURVEY IN 2023

ANAM reported that a total of 4.65km² was released through survey in 2023, of which 0.72km² was cancelled through NTS (see Table 5) and 3.93km² was reduced through TS (see Table 7).¹⁰⁷ This is a drop on the 4.73km² of mined area released through survey in 2022.¹⁰⁸ There are some differences in the NTS and TS data reported by operators and ANAM. Operators reported that a total of 3.88km² was released through survey, of which 0.98km² was cancelled through NTS (see Table 6) and 2.90km² was reduced through TS (see Table 8).¹⁰⁹

Considering the national survey that was completed in 2019, ANAM and operators believe that the remaining contamination should be released through a combined application of TS and clearance, with the expectation that the ratio of land cleared to that released through survey will increase over time.¹¹⁰

Table 5: Release of mined area through NTS in 2023 (national authority data)¹¹¹

Province	Operator	Area cancelled (m ²)
Benguela	HALO	6,969
Huila	HALO	20,742
Cuando Cubango	HALO	585,848
Lunda Sul	MAG	20,639
Moxico	MAG	16,308
Zaire	NPA	69,538
Total		720,044

Table 6: Release of mined area through NTS in 2023 (operator data)¹¹²

Province	Operator	Areas cancelled	Area cancelled (m ²)
Cuanza Sul	APOPO	1	56,000
Benguela	HALO	1	6,969
Huila	HALO	1	20,742
Cuando Cubango	HALO	6	785,442
Lunda Sul	MAG	1	20,639
Moxico	MAG	1	16,308
Zaire	NPA	1	69,538
Totals		12	975,638

107 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form F.

108 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F; and emails from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 10 May 2023; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 30 March 2023; Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 30 March 2023; Nelson Verissimo, MAG, 6 June 2023; and Chris Pym, HALO, 14 June 2023.

109 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024; Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May; Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024; and Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024.

110 Emails from Mário Nunes on behalf of ANAM, NPA, 14 September 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 6 September 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 14 September 2022; Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 6 September 2022; and Robert Syfret, HALO, 14 September 2022.

111 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form F.

112 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024; Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May; Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024 and Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024.

Table 7: Release of mined area through TS in 2023 (national authority data)¹¹³

Province	Operator	Area reduced (m ²)
Benguela	HALO	299,801
Bié	HALO	43,296
Cuando Cubango	HALO	885,173
Cuanza Norte	NPA	267,361
Cuanza Sul	APOPO	1,288,888
Lunda Sul	MAG	123,881
Moxico	MAG	772,481
Zaire	NPA	249,763
Total		3,930,644

Table 8: Release of mined area through TS in 2023 (operator data)¹¹⁴

Province	Operator	Areas reduced	Area reduced (m ²)
Benguela	HALO	11	299,801
Bié	HALO	2	35,498
Cuando Cubango	HALO	8	885,173
Cuanza Norte	NPA	3	243,209
Cuanza Sul	APOPO	9	831,282
Lunda Sul	MAG	3	38,775
Moxico	MAG	9	314,063
Zaire	NPA	1	249,763
Totals		46	2,897,564

CLEARANCE IN 2023

According to Mine Action Review's analysis, a total of almost 6.69km² of AP mined area was cleared in 2023 (see Table 13). ANAM reported that 5.95km² of mined area was cleared in 2023 (see Table 9), with 4,445 AP mines found and destroyed.¹¹⁵ This is a small increase in area on the 5.88km² cleared in 2022, with 3,342 AP mines destroyed.¹¹⁶ However, discrepancies exist between the data reported by operators (see Table 10) and that provided by ANAM, particularly in the reported number of AP mines found and destroyed. The largest difference was in Cuando Cubango province

where ANAM reported 3,649 AP mines destroyed in 2023 while HALO reported only 381. As of writing, ANAM have not provided an explanation for this discrepancy.

In addition, of the area outside the IMSMA database cleared by the CND (see Table 11), a total of 0.73km² of AP mine clearance is included in Mine Action Review's national figure for Angola for 2023 (see Table 12). This is an increase compared to 0.07km² cleared by the CND in 2022.

Table 9: Mine clearance in 2023 (national authority data)¹¹⁷

Province	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Benguela	HALO	448,066	254	0	1
Bié	HALO	348,046	127	1	66
Cabinda	APACOMINAS	215,996	0	0	69
Cuando Cubango	HALO	2,047,642	3,649	1,800	119
Namibe	HALO	123,489	0	0	0
Cuanza Norte	NPA	25,976	114	0	88
Cuanza Sul	APOPO	865,421	70	1	127
Lunda Sul	MAG	587,167	120	0	19
Moxico	MAG	1,291,653	111	5	1,073
Totals		5,953,456	4,445	1,807	1,562

113 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form F.

114 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024; Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May; Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024 and Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024.

115 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form F.

116 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F; and emails from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 10 May 2023; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 30 March 2023; Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 30 March 2023; Nelson Verissimo, MAG, 6 June 2023; and Chris Pym, HALO, 14 June 2023.

117 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form F.

Table 10: Mine clearance in 2023 (operator data)¹¹⁸

Province	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed
Benguela	HALO	448,066	254	0
Bié	HALO	348,046	127	1
Cuando Cubango	HALO	1,672,522	381	462
Namibe	HALO	123,489	0	0
Cuanza Norte	NPA	25,986	114	0
Cuanza Sul	APOPO	34,139	66	1
Lunda Sul	MAG	718,342	126	0
Moxico	MAG	1,740,940	105	5
Totals		5,111,530	1,173	469

In 2023, APOPO cleared three tasks covering 177,372m² with no mines found. APOPO saw a decrease in area cancelled due to NTS being conducted in only one locality – compared to five localities in 2022.¹¹⁹

In 2023, HALO cleared 30 areas covering 517,575m² which proved to contain no mines. Compared to 2022, there was a slight decrease in the total mined area released by HALO. This reduction was due to several factors, including deteriorating weather conditions that worsened road access, prolonged travel times to remote minefields, and challenging terrain with high contamination levels, which reduced demining efficiency.¹²⁰

In 2023, MAG cleared seven mined areas totalling 490,259m² that contained no AP mines. However, one of these mined areas contained AV mines and six contained UXO or small arms ammunition (SAA). Compared to 2022, there was a slight increase in overall land release.¹²¹

In 2023, NPA did not report clearing any areas with no mines found. NPA experienced a slight decrease in the amount of land released compared to 2022. This decline was mainly due to the reduction in manual demining teams, which dropped from five to two because of financial constraints, as well as the discontinuation of the programme’s mine detection dog (MDD) assets in August 2023.¹²²

In addition, a total of 425 AP mines were destroyed during spot tasks: 381 by MAG, 21 by NPA, 19 by HALO, and 4 by APOPO.¹²³

The CND, along with APACOMINAS and various commercial demining companies, is contracted to conduct clearance that supports socio-economic development projects. These efforts have focused on areas not recorded in the IMSMA database, as detailed in Table 11 below, and totalled 23.02km².¹²⁴ Mine Action Review has assessed the data and deemed 0.73km² to be AP mine clearance (see Table 11) – an area that is included in the overall clearance total.

Due to the involvement of multiple factions in the armed conflict and the unconventional mining practices used, many mined areas remain unknown to local communities and were not identified in the initial surveys that established the contamination baseline in Angola. In response to this, and in light of ongoing sporadic accidents, the Angolan government has mandated that TS and clearance must be conducted in all areas designated for public and private investment projects. These projects include critical infrastructure such as roads, hydroelectric dams, photovoltaic power stations, airports, power transmission lines, industrial centres, agricultural mega-projects, and land reserves.¹²⁵

Table 11: Release of mined area outside IMSMA through clearance in 2023¹²⁶

Province	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Bengo	CND	1,041,428	12	3	277
Benguela	CND	435	2	1	38
Bie	CND	1,170,068	18	0	34
Cabinda	CND	1,471,600	0	101	0
Cuanza Norte	CND	15,835	14	0	120

118 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024; Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May; Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024; and Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024.

119 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024.

120 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

121 Email from Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May 2024.

122 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024.

123 Emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024; Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024; Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May; and Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

124 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form F.

125 Ibid.

126 Ibid.

Table 11 Continued

Province	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Cuanza Sul	CND	86	1	0	39
Cuando Cubango	CND	434,664	40	55	302
Cunene	CND	34,850	1	47	106
Huambo	CND	5,152,019	8	176	2,112
Huila	CND	4,501,484	2	0	454
Luanda	CND	246,421	5	3	777
Lunda Norte	CND	12	0	0	10
Lunda Sul	CND	561	0	0	51
Malanje	CND	5,870,627	12	9	235
Moxico	CND	2,842,922	10	0	2,064
Namibe	CND	237,800	0	0	563
Uige	CND	2,902	0	0	372
Zaire	CND	293	1	0	37
Totals		23,024,007	126	395	7,591

Table 12: AP mine clearance in 2023 outside recorded mined areas included in the national total¹²⁷

Province	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)
Benguela	CND	435
Cuanza Norte	CND	15,835
Cuanza Sul	CND	86
Quando Cubango	CND	434,664
Cunene	CND	34,850
Luanda	CND	246,421
Zaire	CND	293
Total		732,584

Table 13: Consolidated AP mine clearance in 2023 (Mine Action Review figures)

Type of clearance	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed
Clearance of mined areas in IMSMA	5,953,456	4,445
Clearance outside mined areas in IMSMA*	732,584	126
Spot EOD	0	425
Totals	6,686,040	4,996

* Mine Action Review assessment

Table 13 provides the consolidated national AP mine clearance figure for Angola for 2023.

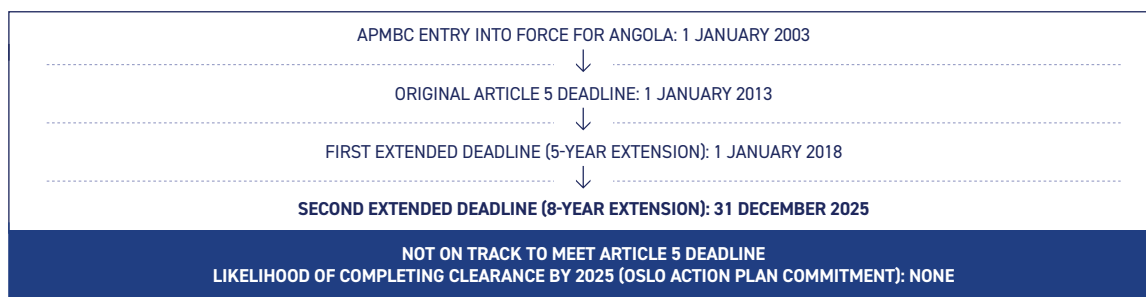
DEMINER SAFETY

In 2023, HALO reported two demining accidents in Cuando Cubango province, resulting in one casualty with minor injuries and another with serious injuries. These incidents were initially investigated by programme staff and reviewed by HALO's independent Global Capability Group. ANAM also conducted their own investigations with HALO's full cooperation. Lessons learned were shared with ANAM.¹²⁸

127 Ibid.

128 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



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

Angola did not meet its land release target of 15.67km² for 2023, instead releasing a total of 10.6km². While the amount of clearance increased slightly from 2022 to 2023, since 2021, Angola has seen a dramatic decline in the amount of area released through survey, from 14km² to 4.65km² in 2023. ANAM had predicted in 2020 that after the completion of NTS in all provinces and better definition of mined areas, cancellation on the remaining mined areas would drop.¹²⁹ ANAM also claimed that strict implementation of land release principles during clearance has improved operational efficiency of demining in Angola.¹³⁰ But operator reports of clearance over 1.4km² of AP mined area in 2023 without finding mines suggest that pre-clearance survey and better targeting of clearance are still needed.

To meet its Article 5 deadline, Angola would need to release 33.7km² per year in 2024 and 2025, which is a significantly larger area than it has managed in recent years. Consequently, ANAM has reported that it has begun preparing an Article 5 deadline extension request to be submitted early in 2025.¹³¹ Additional challenges to Article 5 implementation include the areas that are being tasked to the CND by the government in support of infrastructure projects which are outside of the IMSMA database. Although the number of AP mines found and destroyed in these areas remains relatively low, their existence highlights gaps in the

current estimate of contamination. Angola had also planned for the CND to focus on mined areas registered in the IMSMA database in 2023, in order to enhance demining capacity, but this did not occur.¹³² Furthermore, a significant amount of mined area is being added to the database every year (6.1km² in 2023 and 4.4km² in 2022), as operators discover areas of contamination that were previously unknown to communities and were missed in baseline surveys. The lack of an official declaration process also means that while there are two provinces where all known mined areas have been released, these areas cannot be officially recognised as completed.

Despite ongoing donor support, Angola reported in February 2023 that it still requires over US\$238 million to complete mine clearance. Operators indicate that insufficient funding is hindering the maintenance and expansion of operational capacity necessary to achieve Article 5 compliance, and further investment is urgently needed.¹³³

Table 14: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2023	6.7
2022	5.9
2021	4.0
2020	1.8
2019	1.6
Total	20.0

¹²⁹ ANAM, Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, June 2021, p. 5.

¹³⁰ Ibid., p. 6.

¹³¹ Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form J.

¹³² Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022.

¹³³ Emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024; and Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

In accordance with Strategic Objective 4 of the draft National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025, CNIDAH and the CED, with the participation of all relevant actors, aimed to establish a national strategy on the management of residual contamination by the end of 2020.¹³⁴ As at May 2024, the strategy had yet to be finalised. NPA, as part of its capacity development project, will assist ANAM in revising and adopting the strategy.¹³⁵

A national standard on residual contamination management has also been developed by the GICHD for the transition phase. This includes process maps that outline the responsibilities of the currently involved stakeholders.¹³⁶ The finalisation of the standard depends on the finalisation of the residual contamination management strategy.¹³⁷ Angola currently lacks procedures to declare completion within provinces as well as a common definition of residual risk. As part of NPA's capacity development project, workshops will be conducted nationwide to promote timely mine-free declarations and address residual risk.¹³⁸

134 Telephone interview with Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 8 June 2021; and ANAM, Updated Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025, p. 8.

135 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024.

136 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022.

137 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 10 May 2023.

138 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024.