

KEY DATA

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MAY 2013

New extended interim deadline needed during which to assess the extent, if any, of Article 5 obligations

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Light, extent unknown

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Release in 2023 (km ²)
Clearance	Not reported	Not reported
Technical Survey	Not reported	Not reported
Non-Technical Survey	Not reported	Not reported
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	1 (spot task)	Not reported

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA) explosive ordnance disposal teams
- The Development Initiative (TDI)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2025, and for the first time in 20 years, the Central African Republic (CAR) submitted an Article 7 report under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), covering 2004–2024. The report highlights a growing explosive ordnance (EO) threat since 2020. In 2024 alone, 73 EO incidents were recorded, with 81% involving explosive remnants of war (ERW). During the year, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA) and the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) implementing partners conducted 44 explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks, destroying 66 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and one improvised device that met the definition of an anti-personnel (AP) mine.

CAR made institutional progress in 2024 by finalising a national roadmap in September and drafting a decree in December establishing a National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), which received presidential approval on 4 September 2025. Internationally, CAR increased its engagement by attending key forums in 2025, including the 28th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisors (NDM-UN28), where it hosted a side event, and, for the first time, the APMBC intersessional meetings in Geneva where the National Focal Point called for international support to launch a nationwide non-technical survey (NTS) and operationalise the future NMAA.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- CAR should operationalise the newly established NMAA and mine action centre by providing them with the resources necessary to fulfil their functions as stipulated in the presidential decree.
- CAR should seek an interim Article 5 deadline to conduct a national survey to determine and confirm the extent of AP mine contamination.
- CAR should strengthen efforts to mobilise international funding by sharing a detailed budget and resource mobilisation strategy to conduct the national baseline survey.

- CAR should pursue efforts to establish a national monitoring and information management capacity to support systematic collection of data and reporting, disaggregating AP mines, including those of an improvised nature, from other explosive devices. An improvised anti-vehicle (AV) mine sensitive enough to be detonated by a person should be recorded as an improvised AP mine.

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- The National Mine Action Authority ("Autorité Nationale de Lutte Anti-Mines", ANLAM) formally established on 4 September 2025, along with a Mine Action Center ("Centre de Lutte Anti-mines", CLAM).

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Central African Armed Forces (FACA)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- The Development Initiative (TDI) (UNMAS implementing partner)
- United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) EOD teams

OTHER ACTORS

- DanChurchAid (DCA) (provisional accreditation)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI) (risk education and capacity building)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The precise extent of AP mine contamination in CAR is not known, but is believed to be small in scale and extent. In 2025, CAR submitted its first Article 7 transparency report in two decades, covering the period from 2004 to 2024. The report stated that the country was not contaminated by AP mines at the time of its ratification of the APMBC. However, since 2020, with the resurgence of internal armed conflicts, the extent of EO contamination has been increasing.¹

The report identified several areas where explosive devices have been discovered. In Bambari, MINUSCA teams neutralised two AP mines in 2022. The regions of Équateur, Yade and Kaga have also been impacted, with 70 incidents involving EO, primarily AV mines or similar victim-activated devices, including 46 recorded explosions. In 2022 and 2023, MINUSCA and UNMAS teams neutralised two PRB-M3 AV mines in Équateur. CAR reported that AV mines are being placed on roads "sporadically and on an ad-hoc basis". However, the full extent of contamination is not known in the absence of NTS and technical survey (TS).² Other regions, including Fertit and Haut Oubangui, have also experienced EO-related incidents.³

CAR has said that the full extent of EO contamination cannot be determined until a nationwide survey is conducted. At present, there is no coherent or comprehensive analysis of the contamination. The only existing database is maintained by UNMAS, relying on incident reports provided by the multinational force, the Central African Armed Forces (FACA), and humanitarian organisations. CAR stated that the survey

will be the first step in establishing a reliable database for planning clearance.⁴

In 2024, UNMAS recorded 73 incidents involving explosive devices – a slight decrease from the 78 incidents recorded in 2023. Of the 73 incidents, 59 were caused by ERW, 7 incidents involved AV mines and similar victim-operated devices; 4 were related to improvised explosive devices (IEDs) including 2 airborne; 2 involved caches, and one involved a booby-trapped device that met the definition of an AP mine under the APMBC.⁵

These incidents resulted in 41 casualties (28 injured and 13 killed), of which 58% were civilians, including 10 children. Despite the continued threat, this represents a significant halving of casualties compared to 2023 and marks the lowest number since the emergence of the threat in 2020. UNMAS cautioned, however, that due to under-reporting—particularly in areas where MINUSCA is not present—the casualty figures may not reflect the full scope of the problem.⁶

Between June 2020 and June 2025, UNMAS has recorded more than 285 EO-related incidents, resulting in 270 victims, including 188 civilians (70%). In 2025, 38 incidents have already been reported as at June, causing 15 civilian casualties. The most affected regions are the west of the country (22 incidents) and the capital Bangui (7 incidents). Most incidents involve ERW although AV mines in the western regions also pose a significant threat.⁷

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2002–24), Form C, p. 5.

2 Ibid., Form C, pp. 5–6.

3 Ibid., Form C, p. 9.

4 Ibid., Form C, p. 7.

5 Email from Sophie Van Royen, Chief of Mine Action Programmes, and Alioune Menane, Capacity Building Advisor, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

6 Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

7 MINUSCA, "Des avancées significatives réalisées dans la lutte antimines avec le soutien de la MINUSCA", 11 June 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4m58x27>.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

CAR is predominantly contaminated with ERW, a legacy of the many armed conflicts that have shaped its recent history. These explosive devices pose a threat to the civilian population, particularly in rural and peripheral areas where the fighting has been most intense and armed groups remain active.⁸ As in 2023, ERW remained the most common explosive threat in 2024, with 59 incidents involving abandoned explosive ordnance or UXO reported. These incidents have primarily affected civilians, with children reportedly accounting for 60% of all ERW casualties.⁹

The threat of IEDs emerged in CAR in 2022. In 2024, four IED-related incidents were reported in the western and central parts of the country (Yade, Équateur, and Fertit regions). These incidents are said to have caused a total of twelve casualties, including three civilians (two men and one boy) killed and one civilian (a man) injured. The government currently lacks the capacity to accurately identify the perpetrators behind these devices.¹⁰

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

In March 2023, a National Focal Point for mine action was appointed within the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Later that year, during the ninth session of the Strategic Committee on DDRR-RSS-RN,¹¹ the President of CAR announced the decision to establish a national authority to coordinate the government's response to mines and explosive devices.¹² This decision was formalised through a decree signed on 4 September 2025, officially launching the NMAA.¹³

In 2024, the National Focal Point (a senior officer of the FACA) coordinated mine action efforts with international stakeholders. His responsibilities included leading the establishment of the NMAA, monitoring compliance with international obligations (the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and the APMBC), and overseeing national priorities in clearance, risk education, and victim assistance.¹⁴ To support efforts to create an NMAA, the Minister of Defence appointed a Ministerial Advisor for Security Reform Sector (SSR) in September 2024.¹⁵

In April, the government allocated a building for the future NMAA. In June 2024, a three-day national self-assessment workshop was held by Humanity & Inclusion (HI), with support from UNMAS and MINUSCA. Using a methodology inspired by UNIDIR's counter-IED self-assessment tool, the workshop brought together representatives from the armed forces, military engineers, police, gendarmerie, the Primature (Office of the Prime Minister), key ministries, UN agencies, NGOs, and a private contractor.¹⁶ The workshop resulted in key recommendations, including the establishment of the NMAA, the elaboration of a national strategy and work plan, and the development of national mine action standards (NMAS).¹⁷

These recommendations were used to develop a national roadmap, which was validated in September 2024 and handed to the MoD and SSR Advisor for action.¹⁸ An organisational chart for the future NMAA has been proposed with four departments: operations, risk education and victim assistance, information management, and support (administration, finance, and logistics). The structure will be expanded to include three regional centres (West, Centre, and East). The Operations Department will be responsible for accreditations and quality control, while the Information Management department will oversee data management. The NMAA will be placed under the Presidency.¹⁹

In December, a draft presidential decree establishing the NMAA—defining its structure, mandate, and functions—was finalised by the MoD, with UNMAS's support. The decree was signed by the President on 4 September 2025, formally launching the institution.²⁰ A draft national implementation law for the APMBC has also been submitted to the government.²¹

CAR is being supported by MINUSCA and its mine action service, UNMAS, which is providing technical expertise, capacity-building for both national authorities and the MINUSCA Forces, and logistical support. UNMAS assisted drafting the legal instruments, structuring the future NMAA, defining the National Roadmap for mine action, and submitting the Article 7 report. UNMAS has contracted a dedicated Capacity Development Advisor in December 2024 to support the establishment of the NMAA.²²

In 2025, CAR participated to the 28th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisors (NDM-UN28), where it hosted a side event, supported by UNMAS to present

⁸ Article 7 Report (covering 2002–24), Form C, p. 6.

⁹ Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025; and "UNMAS Explosive Ordnance Threat, Non-Technical Overview", 2023.

¹⁰ Article 7 Report (covering 2002–24), Form C, p. 7.

¹¹ DDRR-RSS-RN stands for Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, and Repatriation (DDRR), Security Sector Reform (RSS), National Reconciliation (RN).

¹² Article 7 Report (covering 2002–24), Form A, p. 4.

¹³ Decree No. 25-327 establishing, organising and governing the functioning of ANLAM in the Central African Republic, 4 September 2025; and email from Lt.-Col. Edgar Ghazaka, National Focal Point, MoD, 9 September 2025.

¹⁴ Article 7 Report (covering 2002–24), p. 12.

¹⁵ Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Online interview with Seydou Gaye, Mine Action Specialist, HI, 7 June 2024.

¹⁸ Article 7 Report (covering 2002–24), p. 12.

¹⁹ Presentation of CAR, Side Event, NDM-UN28, 11 April 2025.

²⁰ Emails from Lt.-Col. Edgar Ghazaka, MoD; and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 9 September 2025.

²¹ Article 7 Report (covering 2002–24), p. 12; MINUSCA, "Des avancées significatives réalisées dans la lutte antimines avec le soutien de la MINUSCA", 11 June 2025.

²² Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

progress, plans, and challenges.²³ On 28 April 2025, CAR submitted an Article 7 report under the APMBC, and, for the first time, was represented at the Intersessional Meetings in Geneva in June. During the meeting, the Focal Point appealed to States Parties, donors, and UN agencies to support the rapid launch of a nationwide survey and assist in operationalising the NMAA while strengthening local capacities.²⁴

As co-chairs of the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AOR) within the Protection Cluster, UNMAS and the National Focal Point held six coordination meetings in

2024 with mine action stakeholders to strengthen national capacities, integrate mine action into protection efforts, share information and challenges, and provide technical briefings to humanitarian actors. These meetings included participation from a wide range of stakeholders, including UN agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF, and WHO), international NGOs (Norwegian Refugee Council, Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD), HI, DanChurchAid, DCA), national NGOs (Femmes en Danger, IRAD, AHD, HDS, AFJDD, ICRE Africa, FED, ARND), along with representatives from the National Association of the Deaf.²⁵

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

CAR, lacking a functioning mine action programme, has not yet taken up gender in the context of mine action. However, the National Focal Point informed Mine Action Review that the programmes implemented by operators consider gender and diversity issues.²⁶ The Article 7 report outlined risk education campaigns conducted by UNMAS and HI, particularly in areas with a high number of incidents reported. These campaigns targeted communities with a specific focus on children and women, aiming to encourage the reporting of suspicious objects and promote safe behaviours. CAR also provided data on number of recipients, disaggregated by gender and age.²⁷

UNMAS maintained its commitment to gender mainstreaming, resulting in a gender-balanced team composition over the years (see Table 1). On 4 April 2024, UNMAS organised a roundtable with women's associations in a locality heavily affected by recent conflicts, providing a platform for dialogue and inclusion. Additionally, UNMAS published "best practice" stories showcasing the role of female peacekeepers, including their participation in search and detect teams.²⁸

Table 1: Gender composition of operators and UNMAS in 2024

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
TDI	47	6 (13%)	3	1 (33%)	44	5 (11%)
UNMAS	46	23 (50%)	4	1 (25%)	15	7 (47%)
Totals	93	29 (31%)	7	2 (29%)	59	12 (20%)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

CAR does not have an environmental policy specifically applicable to the MoD.²⁹ UNMAS, as a MINUSCA section, aligns with and applies MINUSCA's environmental management policies and frameworks. The national technical standards and guidelines for CAR, developed by UNMAS in 2017, include a chapter on occupational health and environmental management. UNMAS informed Mine Action Review that the NTSG will be reviewed and updated by the future NMAA, to ensure alignment with the revised International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) 07.13.³⁰

²³ Side Event: "A global call to strengthen mine action efforts in the CAR", 11 April 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3GXv027>.

²⁴ Statement of CAR on Article 5, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 17-20 June 2025.

²⁵ Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

²⁶ Email from Lt.-Col. Edgar Ghazaka, MoD, 2 September 2024.

²⁷ Article 7 Report (covering 2002-24), Form I, p. 11.

²⁸ Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

²⁹ Email from Lt.-Col. Edgar Ghazaka, MoD, 22 April 2025.

³⁰ Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

In the absence of a functioning national mine action authority in 2024, UNMAS continued to maintain an information management database since June 2020 with support from two national staff, collecting and sharing information on EO incidents. It includes data on incidents reported by the multinational force, FACA, and humanitarian organisations. UNMAS attempts to disaggregate incidents by type of contamination based on the information available; however, post-blast investigations cannot always be conducted considering the security situation, consequent challenges to movement of personnel, and limited technical expertise.³¹

Improving the quality of information remains an ongoing effort, involving regular coordination with UN agency security officers, the International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO), and the MINUSCA Joint Operations Centre (JOC). In 2024, efforts to improve victim data included developing a new data collection form and collaborating with the MINUSCA Child Protection Unit to ensure better data alignment.³²

The organisational chart of the future NMAA includes an IM department that will be responsible for data management.³³ CAR plans to transition to the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core, but this will be a long-term process requiring sustained support and guidance.³⁴

PLANNING AND TASKING

At the NDM-UN28 in Geneva in April 2025, CAR stated that, once the NMAA is officially established, the next steps will include developing a national counter-EO strategy and an accompanying work plan.³⁵ In the meantime, a National Road Map approved in September 2024 outlined milestones for the establishment of the NMAA, including definition of its mandate, structure, and roles; formal approval in national legislation; and appointment of key personnel. The authority's first tasks will include developing and implementing a national mine action strategy and action plan.³⁶

In the absence of a national mine action authority, UNMAS has been responsible for managing accreditation and tasking

processes (responsibilities that will now be transferred to the NMAA). In 2024, HI was accredited for a risk education project in the north-west³⁷ where it worked to build the capacities of two national organisations in Bocaranga. However, due to funding cuts in 2025, HI ceased its operations in CAR.³⁸ DCA received provisional accreditation in March 2024 for NTS, risk education, and victim assistance but did not implement any activities due to a lack of funding. In August 2025, DCA launched a risk education and national NGO capacity-building project in the north-west, taking over from HI, following a reallocation of the UN reserve humanitarian funds.³⁹

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

The National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) for CAR were developed by UNMAS in 2017 and include an extensive list of chapters covering, among others, accreditation; quality assurance; NTS, TS, manual and mechanical clearance; battle area clearance (BAC); EOD; occupational health and safety; environmental management; transport, use, and storage of explosives; and information management. The standards are, though, in need of review

and update, a process that is planned to be carried out by, or in coordination with, the future NMAA once established.⁴⁰ UNMAS will provide technical assistance for the drafting of the NTSGs taking into account the specific context in CAR as well as the internal systems and procedures required for effective programme management.⁴¹

31 Interview with Sophie Van Royen, UNMAS, in Geneva, 1 May 2024.

32 Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

33 Presentation of CAR, Side Event, NDM-UN28, 11 April 2025.

34 Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

35 Presentation of CAR, Side Event, NDM-UN28, 11 April 2025.

36 CAR, Roadmap for the Establishment of a NMAA, September 2024, p. 7.

37 Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

38 Intervention of Arturo Bureo, Global Technical Director, HI, at the NDM-UN28, Geneva, 11 April 2025.

39 Emails from Jerome Berson, Country Director, DCA, 4 April 2025; and Alioune Menane, 4 August 2025.

40 Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

41 CAR, Roadmap for the Establishment of a NMAA, September 2024, p. 8.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Operations are primarily conducted by EOD teams from MINUSCA and UNMAS implementing partners.

MINUSCA was established in 2014. Its mandate includes assisting the authorities in preventing, mitigating, and combating the threat posed by explosive devices. This encompasses the removal and destruction of mines and other explosive devices, as well as strengthening the capacity of FACA, in coordination with UNMAS.⁴² MINUSCA has dedicated teams for EOD response and spot tasks: it maintains one Force EOD reserve platoon in Bangui and five EOD teams, each embedded within a multirole engineering company, located in Bangassou, Bangui, Bouar, Bria, and Kaga-Bandoro.⁴³ Some infantry battalions also have EOD teams integrated into their units, although their exact capabilities or operational use is not publicly available. In December 2024, MINUSCA inaugurated the first post-blast investigation laboratory in the Central African Republic. The following month, MINUSCA conducted the country's first post-blast investigation training for 25 members of the national defence and security forces.⁴⁴ UNMAS also trained 173 peacekeepers in post-blast investigation.⁴⁵

UNMAS employed 46 people in CAR in 2024. Personnel were initially based in four offices: Bangui, Bouar, Paoua, and Bambari, although the Bambari office closed in June 2025. UNMAS is entirely funded through the MINUSCA Assessed Budget. In 2024, UNMAS continued to contract two multi-task teams (MTTs) from an international company, TDI. The teams carry out EOD spot tasks and post-blast investigations, and provide training to MINUSCA and national forces, primarily in Bangui. Additionally, UNMAS deployed two mobile risk

education teams rotating locations approximately every two months, one "surge" search-and-detect training team operating in the western region (Bouar, Berbérati, and Bossangoa) delivering training to peacekeepers, and one surge search and weapons and ammunition management (WAM) training team delivering training to national forces in Bangui and in the regions.⁴⁶

Since February 2023, UNMAS has been providing training to officers of the FACA. By the end of 2024, 33 officers had completed EOD Level 3 training. Among them, 12 were further trained through a four-week Training-of-Trainers (ToT) course delivered by UNMAS, enabling them to conduct basic Explosive Ordnance Threat Mitigation (EOTM) training within their own units. This approach supports the development of national capacity for independent explosive ordnance disposal and management.⁴⁷ UNMAS has also conducted a training in incident management to national security forces as well as post-blast investigation training.⁴⁸

Between 2022 and 2024, HI implemented a risk education programme in the north-western prefecture of Ouham-Pendé. In June 2024, it also helped organise the self-assessment workshop aimed at defining the national mine action framework and priorities.⁴⁹ As noted above, however, due to funding cuts in May 2025, HI ceased its operations in CAR.⁵⁰ DCA planned to start a mine action project in Nana-Mambere (West) involving NTS, risk education, and victim assistance but the project did not materialise due to lack of funding.⁵¹ In August 2025, DCA took over from HI, and began a risk education and national NGO capacity-building project in the north-west of the country.⁵²

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

There is currently no area clearance in CAR, only EOD spot tasks. This is largely due to the absence of identified minefields and the unknown extent of contamination. In 2024, a total of 44 spot tasks resulted in the destruction of 66 items of UXO and one AP mine.⁵³

MINUSCA EOD Forces conducted 23 of these spot tasks, removing 31 items of UXO, with the highest numbers reported in Nana-Mambéré (6 items of UXO), Ouaka (6 items

of UXO) and Ouham-Fafa (6 items of UXO) prefectures. TDI, contracted by UNMAS, carried out 21 spot tasks for MINUSCA, destroying 35 items of UXO and an AP mine. Of these, 18 tasks took place in Bangui, resulting in the destruction of 25 items of UXO. One task was conducted in Nana-Mambéré, where an item of UXO was destroyed; and two in Ombella-Mpoko, where nine items of UXO and one booby-trapped hand grenade, which met the definition of an AP mine under the APMBC, were destroyed.⁵⁴

⁴² MINUSCA webpage at: <https://bit.ly/4dbmJ5v>.

⁴³ Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

⁴⁴ UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General, 14 February 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/47c62Xs>, p. 8 (point 36).

⁴⁵ Email from Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 4 August 2025.

⁴⁶ Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

⁴⁷ UNMAS, "MINUSCA, through UNMAS, Strengthens National Capacities in Explosive Ordnance Threat Mitigation and Mine Action in CAR", 11 September 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3UnhQhV>.

⁴⁸ Presentation of CAR, Side Event, NDM-UN28, 11 April 2025; and email from Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 4 August 2025.

⁴⁹ Online interview with Seydou Gaye, HI, 7 June 2024.

⁵⁰ Intervention of Arturo Bureo, HI, NDM-UN28, Geneva, 11 April 2025; and email from Marianne Chmitelin, Regional Armed Violence Reduction Specialist, HI, 31 July 2025.

⁵¹ Email from Jerome Berson, DCA, 4 April 2025.

⁵² Email from Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 4 August 2025.

⁵³ Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

According to UNMAS, 98 incidents involving EO were safely cleared between 2020 and 2024. In 2024, 21% of EO incidents resulted in explosions, down from 44% in 2023. MINUSCA safely removed 60% of EO, an increase from 46% in 2023.

Over 10% were reportedly removed by other actors, while the remaining cases involved EO for which removal could not be confirmed.⁵⁵

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR CAR: 1 MAY 2003



ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MAY 2013

INTERIM EXTENDED ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE SHOULD BE REQUESTED

Under Article 5 of the APMBC, CAR was required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, and no later than 1 May 2013. In its first Article 7 report, submitted in November 2004, CAR stated that there were no mined areas on its territory.

In 2025, for the first time in two decades, CAR submitted an Article 7 report, outlining a persistent and evolving EO threat that began in June 2020. Since then, a total of 285 incidents have been reported, causing 270 casualties, 70% of whom were civilians.⁵⁶ In 2024, 80% of incidents involved ERW, causing 41 casualties, including 10 children and 6 peacekeepers. There is a growing concern over continued, though limited, use of improvised AV mines. Recorded incidents and devices likely represent only a small fraction of the actual contamination.⁵⁷ With support from UNMAS, CAR has identified the regions most affected by

EO incidents, including a few isolated cases involving AP mines. Nevertheless, in the absence of systematic post-blast investigations and a national survey, the country remains unable to determine the full extent of contamination or locations of suspected or confirmed mined areas.

CAR is seeking international support to conduct a national survey to better assess the extent and nature of EO contamination.⁵⁸ Mine Action Review recommends that it submits an interim Article 5 extension request—of no more than two years—to allow sufficient time to determine and confirm the extent of AP mine contamination. In the meantime, CAR should continue fulfilling its reporting obligations, including by providing updated information on the location of any suspected or confirmed mined areas and on the status of programmes for the destruction of all AP mines within those areas.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

While CAR does not yet have plans for managing residual contamination, strengthening the capacity of security forces will help build a national capacity to address the threat. UNMAS is supporting this process by promoting sustainable capacity development and reinforcing national ownership of mine action activities. The establishment of the NMAA is expected to be “a transformative step for CAR’s mine action sector”, enhancing coordination. The NMAA will oversee and guide EO mitigation efforts, contributing to more structured and effective implementation.⁵⁹

⁵⁵ Presentation of CAR, Side Event, NDM-UN28, 11 April 2025.

⁵⁶ MINUSCA, “Des avancées significatives réalisées dans la lutte antimines avec le soutien de la MINUSCA”, 11 June 2025.

⁵⁷ Article 7 Report (covering 2002–24), p. 13; and email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

⁵⁸ Statement of CAR on Article 5, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 17–20 June 2025.

⁵⁹ UNMAS, “MINUSCA, through UNMAS, Strengthens National Capacities in Explosive Ordnance Threat Mitigation and Mine Action in CAR”, 11 September 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3UvCnAV>.