

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JANUARY 2025

FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 1 JANUARY 2030

KEY DATA

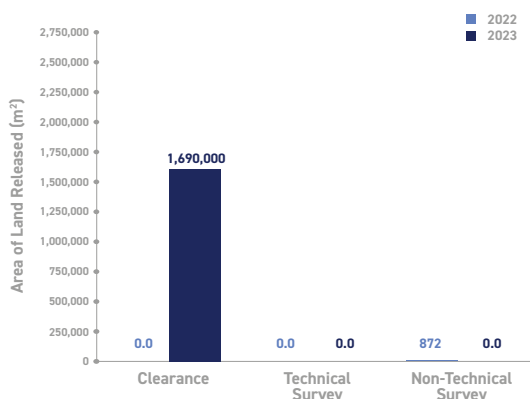
ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)
MINE CONTAMINATION: MEDIUM

NATIONAL AUTHORITY ESTIMATE

77.6km²AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 20231.69km²AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2023

5

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The National High Commission for Demining (Haut Commissariat National au Déminage, HCND) reported initiating mine clearance in 2023 using national funding. In the process, Chad cleared a total of 1.69km² of hazardous area resulting in the destruction of five anti-personnel (AP) mines. In Tibesti, the team experienced a security incident at Hadjar-Magdoud minefield in the Kori-Bogodi area and operations were suspended. At the end of 2023, 119 mined areas remained in Chad, covering a total area of approximately 77.6km², along with two mined areas recently discovered at Nohi and Mounou, in Ennedi East province, which still require technical survey (TS). Given the scale of the remaining challenge, in 2024, Chad submitted a new request to extend its deadline under Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), which will be considered at the Fifth Review Conference in November 2024.

FIVE-YEAR OVERVIEW

Lack of consistent data prevents a precise determination of what Chad was able to release during the €23 million European Union-funded PRODECO project implemented between 2017 and 2022. Chad's annual Article 7 reports presented a total of 3.34km² of AP mine clearance in the last five years. However, Chad reported a higher surface of 5.25km² of land released by clearance in its 2022–24 work plan and its 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request, a figure Mine Action Review could not reconcile with available data.

Following the conclusion of the PRODECO project, survey and clearance by international operators did not take place for almost two years until the end of 2023 when Mines

Advisory Group (MAG) and the HCND began implementing a one-year project supported by France. It involves battle area clearance (BAC), spot-task explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), and explosive ordnance risk education, in four western provinces, and focuses on explosive remnants of war (ERW) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), but will not address conventional AP mined areas. The Chadian government funded some clearance of explosive ordnance in 2022 and 2023, believed to be the first national funding of operations for some years. However, the tasks mainly involved BAC in the conflict-affected provinces of Kanem North, Borkou, and Ennedi East and West provinces after clashes between armed groups and the armed forces in 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Chad should reinforce its resource mobilisation efforts to raise the necessary international funds and receive technical and operational support to enable it to fulfil its APMBC Article 5 obligations.
- Chad should urgently clear the Ouadi Doum minefield that is thought to provide material for the production of IEDs by non-State armed groups (NSAGs) in the Sahel region.
- Chad should report on its contamination and land release by disaggregating areas of AP mine or mixed mine contamination from those areas solely containing other types of explosive ordnance contamination not covered by the APMBC, such as ERW.
- Chad should increase the accuracy of its mine action information management system and its consequent reporting under the APMBC.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2023)	Score (2022)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	5	5	At the end of the PRODECO-funded clearance, Chad assessed its AP mine contamination at around 77km ² . At the end of 2023, the estimate was 77.6km ² . No new areas were registered in 2023, but two new minefields were discovered in Ennedi East province and require TS to determine their size. More than half of the AP mined area is in Chad's northern province of Tibesti where insecurity has prevented survey for years, and where clearance operations were suspended in August 2023.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	4	The HCND coordinates the mine action sector in Chad, and, since 2017 has downsized drastically to better align with its actual operations and financial capacity. Government funding has long been limited to paying staff salaries and some administrative costs. In both 2022 and 2023, however, the government did fund clearance operations, including of two minefields. The State's contribution between 2020 and 2024 was estimated at US\$6.7 million, including over US\$890,000 for operations. In its 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request, Chad said it will continue to contribute financially to the programme by paying salaries and operating costs and funding limited clearance, but needs international support to clear all its AP mine contamination.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	3	3	Chad's 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request and Article 7 report covering 2023 did not address gender and diversity. Eight women are employed at the HCND, though this is mainly in office-support functions, risk education, and victim assistance. One woman is an EOD level 3 team leader.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION* (10% of overall score)	2	Not Scored	Chad said that, for now, it does not have a policy or standard on environmental management in mine action. Chad did not make reference to the protection of the environment in its 2024 Article 5 extension request.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	5	5	A clean-up of Chad's database by the Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD) in 2020 and 2021 and verification of survey results led to cancellation of many duplicate entries. Since the end of the PRODECO project, the database has not been updated or maintained and Chad estimated it is now only 85% reliable. The national authority has very limited information management capacity. Chad has submitted an Article 7 report in most years, including in 2024 (covering 2023). Chad also submitted its latest Article 5 deadline extension request in May 2024. Nonetheless, Chad's reporting under the APMBC has often been late and lacks accuracy.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	4	4	Chad prepared a new five-year provisional work plan within its latest Article 5 deadline extension request that set out goals and approximate timelines, with a particular emphasis on clearing mines in Tibesti province. Its ability to implement the work depends on attracting new international donor support, which it yet to do.

Criterion	Score (2023)	Score (2022)	Performance Commentary
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM** (10% of overall score)	5	6	Chad introduced national mine action standards (NMAS) in 2016, first reviewed and updated with the support of Humanity & Inclusion. FSD conducted a three-year project to review the standards in 2021, in the course of which it revised 17 NMAS. In its 2024 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 4 deadline extension request, Chad said it has 22 national mine action standards that comply with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Chad's 2024 Article 5 extension request indicated that the NMAS are regularly updated, but there was no review in 2023.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	5	3	Unable to achieve all the set objectives, Chad submitted a fifth extension request that will be considered at the Fifth Review Conference to the APMBC in November 2024, with a deadline of 1 January 2030. Mine clearance resumed in 2023.
Average Score	4.4	4.4	Overall Programme Performance: POOR

* 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 High Commission for Demining (HCND)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- HCND

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

OTHER ACTORS

- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Explosive ordnance contamination in Chad dates back to the conflict with Libya in 1987–88 that affected the former Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti (BET) region—now split into four provinces—and which covers more than one quarter of the country's surface area.¹ Chad carried out a national "impact study" in 1999, which was considered a useful initial assessment but it failed to determine the exact location and extent of the contamination and did not cover Tibesti.² Between 2010 and 2012, Chad completed a national survey, but which did not cover the northern parts of Tibesti and the province of Moyen-Chari. Ten years later, at the end of the PRODECO project in April 2022, the total AP mined area was still estimated at 77.6km² in 120 hazardous areas.³

Although there are problems with the consistency of the data, contamination for the end of 2023 was estimated to cover 77.6km², slightly reduced compared to the end of 2022, when Chad estimated its AP mined area at 77.7km².⁴ The number of confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) was reduced from 72 to 71 because of the closure of Bao CHA in Ennedi East, while the number of suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) remained unchanged.⁵ In 2023, Chad reported the discovery of two new minefields, Nohi and Mounou, in Ennedi East province, which require TS to determine the area contaminated.⁶ Chad also reported clearing 1.69km² in Tibesti and Ennedi West minefields, destroying five AP and several anti-vehicle (AV) mines, as well as ERW, but without adjusting the size of the remaining contamination.⁷

1 2024 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.
2 Ibid., p. 11; and 2024 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.
3 Presentation of Chad, Individualised Approach side event, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20 June 2022.
4 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), §4, compared with the 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 34.
5 Email from Soultani Moussa, Director of Operations and Logistics, HCND, 15 August 2024. The Article 7 report covering 2023 indicated that Bao was a battle area covering 3,924m² that did not include AP mines.
6 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 4; and Statement of Chad, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.
7 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), §5.

Table 1: AP mined area (at end 2023)

Province	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total area (m ²)
Borkou	9	13,491,891	8	*2,266,963	15,758,854
Ennedi East and West	**11	*18,220,266	2	*361,798	18,582,064
Tibesti	51	*24,224,623	38	19,049,801	43,274,424
Totals	71	***55,936,780	48	***21,678,562	77,615,342

* The information provided in Chad's 2024 extension request did not align with Article 7 reports, notably the surface of SHA in Borkou, the surface of SHA and CHA in Ennedi provinces, and the surface of CHA in Tibesti.

** The number of CHAs in Ennedi provinces at the end of 2023 varies in Chad's reporting under the APMBC. The HCND indicated to Mine Action Review that it was actually 11.

*** Chad reported in its Article 7 reports covering 2022 and 2023 CHAs totalling 56,016,433m² and SHAs totalling 21,678,562m² but the sum of contamination recorded in each of the provinces, and the sum of surface areas recorded as SHAs and CHAs, both exceed the recorded totals (errors in the sums). The Article 7 report covering 2023 also omitted Tibesti from its summary table of contamination.

More than half of Chad's mined area is in its northern province of Tibesti. Maps accompanying Chad's April 2019 and May 2024 Article 5 deadline extensions show most mines in Tibesti as being around Aouzou; Bardaï; south-west of Goubonne; and in Wour and Yebidou, but no survey has been conducted in the province for more than a decade, in part due to insecurity.⁸ Mined areas in Borkou are reported to be mainly around Faya-Largeau and Yarda and, in Ennedi West, close to Fada. Chad reported that Ennedi West's Wadi Doum minefield alone covers 16.4km².⁹ In a statement to the intersessional meetings in June 2024, HCND's coordinator told States Parties that, for several years now, people enter the Wadi Doum minefield to recover and traffic AP and AV

mines, including outside of Chad in the Sahel region, in order to manufacture IEDs.¹⁰

Chad stated in February 2024 at a regional conference in Ghana that it is also confronted with an increasing threat from IEDs used by NSAGs in its own territory. Most of the incidents involve devices that are remotely activated and which are therefore not covered by the APMBC.¹¹ In March 2024, an explosive device killed seven Chadian soldiers during a patrol in the west of the country, near Lake Chad province.¹² Another similar incident involving an explosive device reportedly took place in May 2024 injuring three soldiers.¹³

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Chad is significantly contaminated by ERW throughout its northern provinces of Borkou, Ennedi West and East, and Tibesti, as well as in the east, notably along the border with Sudan.¹⁴ Chad had 178km² of battle area registered at the end of 2023, but a single CHA in Kanem province comprises 177km² of this.¹⁵ Clashes between armed groups and the army in 2021 which resulted in the death of President Idriss Déby left thousands of items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) that the national clearance capacity started to clear in 2022 and 2023.¹⁶ Chad's work plan submitted in its 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request indicates that three areas are

prioritised for non-technical survey (NTS) – one in Kanem North, another in Ouaddaï, and the third in Salamat province.¹⁷

The northern province of Tibesti is the last area suspected to be contaminated by cluster munition remnants (CMR). In 2024, Chad was requesting a second interim deadline extension to its Article 4 clearance obligation under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). The new deadline of 1 October 2026 is intended to allow NTS to take place in Tibesti and any requisite clearance to be planned. (See Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Cluster Munition Remnants 2024* report on Chad for further information.)

8 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Annex 5 and map on p. 51.

9 Presentation of Chad, Individualised Approach side event, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20 June 2022.

10 Statement of Chad, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.

11 Presentation by Chad, Regional Conference on Improvised AP Mines, Ghana, 13–15 February 2024, p. 7.

12 Africanews and Associated Press, "Tchad : au moins 7 soldats tués par un engin explosif", *Africanews*, 26 March 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/4aQ8Vvz>.

13 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.

14 Statement of Chad, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.

15 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 15 August 2024.

16 Presentation by Chad on Article 4, CCM Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 11–14 September 2023, p. 10.

17 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 36 and 37.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Chad's mine action programme is coordinated by the HCND, which was set up by government decree in 1998 with a mandate to implement a humanitarian programme tackling mines and explosive ordnance. The Commission, which is under the Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation, is responsible for preparing the national demining strategy, annual work plans (and corresponding budgets), and implementing the mine action programme.¹⁸

Since 2007, the HCND reports to a Steering Committee that supervises and monitors the Commission. In addition to a head office in N'djamena, the HCND has six provincial offices: in Bardaï (Tibesti province), Faya-Largeau (Borkou province), Fada (Ennedi West province), Abéché (Ouaddaï province), Bol (Lake province), and Amdjarass (Ennedi East); and two provincial sub-offices: in Zouar (Tibesti province) and Amtiman (Salamat province). Since 2019, the HCND has been reorganised into four main departments: operations and logistics; planning, monitoring, and victim assistance; administrative and financial affairs; and training and human resources.¹⁹

Mine action in Chad has been consistently hampered by lack of funding. Government financial support has long been limited to the payment of staff salaries and some administrative costs. In 2017, following an audit commissioned by the Government and conducted by the Ministry of Control and Moralisation, a decree ordered a restructuring of the Commission while reducing the number of personnel by more than half from 744 to 329. When the HCND underwent drastic downsizing, non-payment of salaries for the reduced workforce led to a long-term strike by some deminers from 2018 and prevented planned survey and clearance in Tibesti from taking place.²⁰ By the time Chad

submitted its revised Article 5 deadline extension request in 2019, the HCND reported having 320 staff.²¹ At the end of 2022, the HCND said it was employing a total of 113 people. Chad's 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request indicated an increase of personnel to 404, explaining that further reform was ongoing.²² This number also included three multi-task teams with 51 personnel.²³

Chad stated that its national contribution to the mine action programme from 2020 to 2024 has been more than US\$6.7 million.²⁴ This contribution was essentially allocated to the payment of HCND staff salaries and the running costs of the HCND, but also included US\$890,000 for operations.²⁵ The government supported some explosive ordnance clearance—mainly of ERW—left after the clashes between armed groups and the armed forces in 2021.²⁶ In 2023, the Chadian government's financial contribution is said to have amounted to US\$1.84 million.²⁷

In its 2024 Article 5 extension request, Chad said it will continue to contribute financially to the programme for the payment of salaries, operating costs, and limited clearance operations, but that it needs international technical and operational support to address its AP mine contamination, which it estimated at more than US\$52 million.²⁸ At the 27th UN National Directors Meeting in Geneva on 29 April to 1 May 2024, Chad said it had made renewed contact with a number of donors, including Japan, Norway, and the United States.²⁹ France also made a statement at the Intersessional Meetings in June 2024 in support of Chad's resource mobilisation efforts and deplored that it is currently the only donor. It highlighted the importance of setting up coalitions of States to help forgotten countries in their mine action programmes.³⁰

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Chad's national plans make no reference to gender and inclusion. Chad's 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request and Article 7 report covering 2023 fail to address gender. Chad's 2024 Article 4 deadline extension request under the CCM highlighted that socio-cultural norms are very strong in Tibesti province. Therefore, the HCND will strive to recruit local women to support the surveyors in the field during interviews while conducting NTS.³¹

Eight women are employed in a number of roles at the HCND, though mainly in office support functions, risk education, and victim assistance. They are a deputy director of administration and finance, a training officer, a materials officer, a head of the victim assistance department, a personnel officer, and two executive secretaries. One woman is a demining team leader qualified to EOD Level 3.³²

18 Ibid., pp. 11 and 12.

19 Ibid., p. 12.

20 Email from Romain Coupe, Country Director, MAG, 4 March 2019; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 9.

21 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11; and emails from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 May 2019 and 27 April 2020.

22 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 13; and email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 15 August 2024.

23 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.

24 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 31 and 38.

25 Ibid., p. 31, amount calculated by adding together the totals for 'Operations'.

26 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), §5; Article 7 Report (covering 2023), §5; and Statement of Chad, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.

27 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024; and 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 31.

28 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 38.

29 CCM 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.

30 Statement of France, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.

31 2024 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.

32 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Chad said it does not have, for now, a policy or standard on environmental management in mine action.³³ It also did not make reference to the environment in its 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request. MAG, the only international clearance operator in 2023, does not have a policy or standing operating procedures (SOPs) on environmental management for Chad.³⁴

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The HCND has an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database, which, under the PRODECO project, operated with the support of the Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD). Poor maintenance and shortages of trained information technology staff meant data had become unreliable because of lost reports and duplication. FSD carried out a substantial clean-up between 2017 and 2021 that resulted in cancellation of large numbers of duplicate entries,³⁵ including eight hazardous areas deleted in 2021 alone.³⁶ With the closure of the PRODECO project in 2022, HCND's information management system has been managed by an IMSMA unit chief and database operator.

FSD concluded that maintaining and developing HCND's information management system posed a major challenge in view of the small number of qualified staff and the risks of staff leaving for better-paid jobs.³⁷ Indeed, the database has not been updated or maintained since the end of the

PRODECO project.³⁸ Chad estimated that the reliability of its database is now "around 85%" and insisted on the importance of ensuring sustainable management of its IMSMA throughout the extension period.³⁹ MAG is not focusing on information management and does not have ready access to the database.⁴⁰ In 2023, three HCND staff received training in Senegal with the support of Humanity & Inclusion (HI) – two on IMSMA and the third on quality assurance and control (QA and QC).⁴¹

Chad's reporting under the APMBC is hit and miss, as the information provided is not always comparable over time and can be inconsistent (see Table 2). In addition, Chad did not distinguish battle area clearance from minefield clearance – it reported BAC and the destruction of ERW in its APMBC Article 5 outputs. Lastly, Chad provided tables without totals or where the totals did not correspond to the narrative text with some information changing from one page to the next.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Chad's Article 5 deadline extension request in 2019 had set general goals for survey and clearance, and a three-year work plan for 2022–24 set out detailed annual targets for tackling a total of 33 out of 72 CHAs and all 48 SHAs. The plan projected total costs at €15.6 million, of which €3.4 million would be provided by the government.⁴² However, a lack of donor enthusiasm has meant Chad has not secured the international funding it needs.⁴³

In 2024, Chad prepared a new five-year provisional work plan within its Article 5 deadline extension request, which set out some general goals and approximate timelines (see Table 2). There is a particular emphasis on Tibesti province, which

despite inaccessibility for reasons of insecurity remains the priority province as it contains the greatest extent of AP mined area.⁴⁴ Chad indicated, however, that clearance of the 54 CHAs will depend on the security situation.⁴⁵ The work plan failed to set out an annual operational projection although a number of priorities were identified: in Ennedi West, teams would install permanent marking of the Wadi Doum minefield and clear all other mined areas (Gouro, Nohi, and Mounou); in Tibesti, operations would focus on the Zouarké area, which contains important communications routes for the towns of Aouzou and Bardaï, the main population centres in the extreme north, as well as the mined areas at Tanoua and Aouzou.⁴⁶

33 Ibid.

34 Email from François Fall, HMA Advisor for West Africa, MAG, 5 June 2024.

35 Email from Moussa Souttani, HCND, 27 April 2020.

36 Ibid.; and email from Eugenio Balsini, Programme Manager, FSD, 28 April 2022.

37 Email from Eugenio Balsini, FSD, 28 April 2022.

38 Email from Souttani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.

39 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 19 and 35.

40 Email from Caroline Bruvier, Chad Project Manager, MAG, 30 April 2024.

41 Ibid.

42 Presentation of Chad, Individualised Approach side event, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20 June 2022.

43 Email from Souttani Moussa, HCND, 30 May 2023.

44 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 35 and 53.

45 Ibid., p. 37. Chad reported 54 but there are actually 51 CHAs in Tibesti.

46 Presentation of Chad, Individualised Approach side-event, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20 June 2022, p. 3; and 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 34 and 35.

Chad has indicated that a specific resource mobilisation strategy would be established in order to fully survey Tibesti province,⁴⁷ as no survey has been conducted in the province for more than a decade. Chad recognises that it also

needs to carry out additional TS in areas where there are inconsistencies or a lack of information, in both the north and then the south of the country.⁴⁸

Table 2: Planning for the Article 5 extension period 2025–29⁴⁹

Region	Activities	Areas to be addressed	Remaining area (m²)	Timeline*
Borkou	NTS, TS, clearance	17	15,758,854	February 2025–March 2029
Ennedi East and West	NTS, TS, clearance	13	18,582,064	April 2025–August 2029
Tibesti	NTS, TS, clearance	89	43,274,424	March 2025–November 2029

* Timelines vary in Chad extension request with different information provided on pages 36, 52, and 53. Mine Action Review used the revised timeline provided in August 2024, which differs from the one in the work plan.

Chad's 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request plans for a total budget of approximately US\$63 million for its mine action programme, including all explosive ordnance contamination (not only AP mines), except for cluster munition remnants, which are managed separately. The budget identified the need for US\$11 million for HCND salaries and running costs that would be covered by national funding; over US\$50 million for operations and capacity building; US\$1.55 million for risk education and victim assistance; and US\$0.3 million for material and equipment. Chad said it requires over US\$52 million from international donors.⁵⁰

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Chad introduced national mine action standards (NMA) in April 2016. HI reported conducting a review in 2016–17 updating in the process 11 standards⁵¹ while FSD conducted a three-year revision of Chad's national standards,⁵² which it completed in 2021 and in the course of which it revised 17 standards.⁵³ In its 2024 CCM Article 4 deadline extension request, Chad said it has 22 national mine action standards that comply with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Chad's 2024 Article 5 extension request indicates that the NMA are updated annually based on field experience and if new equipment justify revising SOPs.⁵⁴ However, Chad indicated to Mine Action Review that it did not revise its national standards in 2023 and no plans were announced to update the NMA in 2024.⁵⁵

Land release methods involve NTS, TS, marking, clearance, QA/QC, land release, and information management (database, mapping, and reporting).⁵⁶ Clearance in Chad can be done either manually (by excavation or using detectors or a magnetic probe) or mechanically. Chad has two clearance machines: an ARMTRAC and a GCS 200.⁵⁷ During the PRODECO project, the HCND staff benefited from technical assistance and different trainings took place between 2017 and 2021 including on survey; EOD Levels 1, 2, and 3; quality assurance and control; drone piloting for survey; and IMSMA.⁵⁸ Chad planned to reassess its training needs and further develop its capacity during the extension period.⁵⁹

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

At the end of 2022, the HCND reported having 113 operational staff, including four manual demining teams with a total

of 73 deminers. It also had two NTS teams with a total of twelve personnel; two EOD teams with sixteen staff; and two

⁴⁷ 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 35.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ The remaining area is as per 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 34.

⁵⁰ 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 38.

⁵¹ Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 5 September 2017.

⁵² Email from Gérard Kerrien, MAG, 4 April 2022.

⁵³ Email from Eugenio Balsini, FSD, 28 April 2022.

⁵⁴ 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 22.

⁵⁵ Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.

⁵⁶ 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 22.

⁵⁷ Ibid., pp. 23 and 24.

⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 15.

⁵⁹ Ibid., p. 35.

mechanical teams and six support staff.⁶⁰ In 2024, it reported employing 404 staff,⁶¹ including three multi-task teams, comprising a total of 51 personnel, who carried out EOD spot tasks, BAC, and mine clearance.⁶²

The EU's PRODECO project, which cost more €23 million,⁶³ started in 2017 and concluded in April 2022, after a no-cost extension was granted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁴ It funded operations by a consortium of four organisations in which FSD provided technical support; HI and MAG conducted survey and clearance; and Secours Catholique et Développement (SECADEV) supported victim assistance. HI and FSD concluded mine action operations in Chad with the end of the PRODECO project.⁶⁵ The conclusion of that project without agreement on a successor or alternative source of

donor funding appeared to leave Chad with minimal active survey and clearance capacity.

MAG has been implementing a weapons and ammunition management programme since 2014. It also started, with the HCND, a one-year €0.5 million project in October 2023 funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The tasks include BAC and risk education in Massaguet, Hadjer-Lamis province; spot tasks and risk education in Kanem, Bahr-el-Gazal, and Hadjer-Lamis provinces; and risk education in Lac province. MAG had 30 national and international staff in Chad at the end of 2023. The HCND is seconding six deminers, a team leader, and support staff to MAG for BAC in Massaguet, as well as three deminers and support staff for mobile EOD and spot tasks.⁶⁶

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2023

The HCND reported initiating clearance of two mined areas in 2023, with clearance covering 1.69km² and destroying five AP mines.⁶⁷ Chad's mine action programme continues to be limited by a lack of funding or international donor interest since the end of the PRODECO project.

SURVEY IN 2023

Chad has not reported any survey in 2023.⁶⁸ However, it reported the discovery of two new mined areas, Nohi and Mounou, in Ennedi East province, which require TS.⁶⁹ The circumstances of the discovery are not known.

CLEARANCE IN 2023

The HCND initiated minefield clearance, using national funding, at Hadjar-Magdoud site in the Kori-Bogodi area of Tibesti. The team cleared 1.69km² destroying two AP mines, two AV mines, and 205 ERW,⁷⁰ before experiencing a major security incident in August 2023.⁷¹ The clearance was not completed and no operation has been able to resume in Tibesti since. The HCND also reported clearance of a very small area (less than 20m²) in Wadi-Ewou, near Fada, in Ennedi West province, where it destroyed three AP mines, one AV mine, and 205 ERW.⁷²

Chad's Article 7 reports covering 2022 and 2023 both include tasks that appear to have involved BAC, during which no AP mines were destroyed.⁷³

DEMINER SAFETY

In August 2023, eleven HCND staff were abducted when conducting clearance at Hadjar-Magdoud site, in the Kori-Bogodi area of Tibesti province. They were released after nine months in captivity at the end of April 2024.⁷⁴

60 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 30 May 2023.

61 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 13.

62 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024; and Article 7 Report (covering 2023), §4.

63 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 30; and EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, "PRODECO: déminage humanitaire, une approche", 31 January 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3tHBOYS>.

64 Emails from Gérard Kerrien, Country Director, MAG, 4 April 2022; and Eugenio Balsini, FSD, 28 April 2022.

65 Email from Matt Wilson, Head of Operations, FSD, 22 May 2024; and online interview with Seydou Gaye, HI, 22 April 2024.

66 Emails from Caroline Bruvier, MAG, 30 April and 5 June 2024.

67 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), §4.

68 Ibid.

69 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 4; and Statement of Chad, Interessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.

70 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), §4.

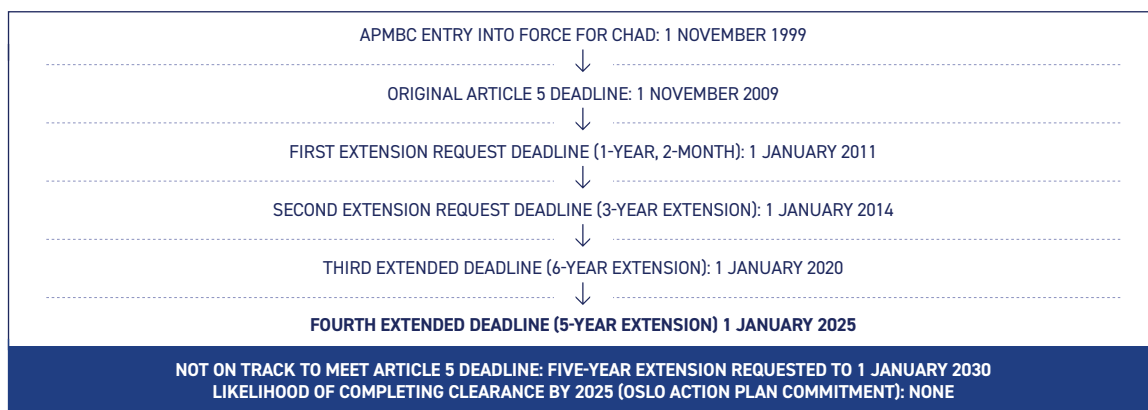
71 Interview with Gen. Brahim Djibrine Brahim and Soultani Moussa, HCND, in Geneva, 30 April 2024; and emails from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 and 17 June 2024.

72 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), §4; and email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 15 August 2024.

73 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), §5; and Article 7 Report (covering 2023), §5.

74 Interview with Gen. Brahim Djibrine and Soultani Moussa, HCND, in Geneva, 30 April 2024; and emails from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 and 17 June 2024.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC and in line with the fourth extension (for five years) of its clearance deadline, Chad is required to destroy all AP mines under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 January 2025. Chad will not meet this deadline and has requested a further five-year extension to 1 January 2030, which will be considered at the Fifth Review conference in November 2024.

The prospects of Chad achieving its Article 5 deadline in the near to medium term are remote. The HCND's coordinator told the APMBC Intersessional Meetings in Geneva in June 2024 that the various financial appeals made by Chad have not produced the expected results.⁷⁵ Chad has not received any international donor funds since the closure of the PRODECO project in 2022, until French funding was provided to MAG and the HCND to carry out a number of BAC and risk education projects in western provinces in 2024.⁷⁶

Lack of data prevents a precise determination of what Chad was able to release during the €23 million PRODECO project. A total of 3.34km² of AP mined area has been addressed in the last five years according to official data (see Table 3). In

its 2022–24 Work Plan and 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request, however, Chad indicated that the figure was 5.25km² at the end of the PRODECO, a claim that Mine Action Review could not reconcile with available data. In the process, operators destroyed 54 AP mines as well as several AV mines, cluster munition remnants, and other items of UXO.

Table 3: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2023	1.69
2022	*0
2021	1.45
2020	0.20
2019	**0
Total	3.34

* Chad Article 7 report covering 2022 indicated BAC with no AP mines destroyed.

** A total of 423,934m² of AV mine- and ERW-contaminated areas were cleared by HI in 2019 in Borkou region without finding AP mines.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Chad states that it has set up a multi-task unit ("Unité d'Intervention Polyvalente") to deal with residual contamination.⁷⁷

⁷⁵ Statement of Chad, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.

⁷⁶ Email from Caroline Bruvier, MAG, 30 April 2024.

⁷⁷ Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024; and 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 36.