

CHILE

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2020
(UNCLEAR WHETHER ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE)

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE	2017	2016
Problem understood	7	7
Target date for completion of mine clearance	7	7
Targeted clearance	7	7
Efficient clearance	7	7
National funding of programme	7	7
Timely clearance	5	7
Land-release system in place	7	7
National mine action standards	8	8
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Improving performance	6	8
PERFORMANCE SCORE: AVERAGE	6.9	7.2

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Chile cleared 0.86km² in 2017, well below its forecasted clearance of 3.24km². Chile also confirmed an additional 0.3km² as contaminated with mines in the Antofagasta region and as such has provided an updated workplan for 2018 to 2020, its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 clearance deadline. Chile has, however, reconfirmed that it will meet its Article 5 deadline and that it is currently on track to do so, provided that it can meet the clearance targets set out in its updated workplan. Chile will, though, need to significantly increase its clearance output in order to meet these targets.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

- Chile should accelerate clearance to ensure it meets its planning targets, taking into account the challenging climatic conditions which significantly hindered clearance in 2017.

CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2017, Chile had just over 5.1km² of mined area left to clear, down from 5.65km² at the end of the previous year. Confirmed and suspected mine contamination, which is spread across five regions (see Table 1), is believed to total 1,905 anti-personnel mines.¹ The majority of the confirmed contamination is in the Arica and Parinacota region.

The mines were all laid during the Pinochet regime in the 1970s on Chile's borders with Argentina in the south, and with Bolivia and Peru in the north. The mined areas, which typically contain both anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines, are generally difficult to access and mostly in unpopulated regions. Of the 28 mined areas identified in Table 1 only nine mined areas contain only anti-personnel mines.² The vast majority of the mines were laid in the northern region, with some minefields located as high as 5,000m above sea level.³

Table 1: Mined area by province (at end-2017)⁴

Region	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)
Arica and Parinacota	7	1,222,753	1	145,297
Antofagasta	5	228,854	2	3,129,888
Magallanes and Antártica Chilena	9	313,251	0	0
Tarapacá	3	49,199	0	0
Valparaíso	0	0	1	14,000
Totals	24	1,814,057	4	3,289,185

CHA = Confirmed hazardous area SHA = Suspected hazardous area

Clearance is prioritised according to proximity to populated areas, impact on land that has been designated a national park or is a historical site of touristic interest, and impact on land that obstructs development.⁵

The humanitarian impact of residual contamination is reported to be minimal,⁶ and no new mine victims have been reported since two men were injured and another killed in 2016.⁷ Clearance of mined areas north of the city of Arica has enabled the development of agricultural projects. The Tambo Quemado sector of Arica and Parinacota region, the Chungará Border Complex, an international crossing on the border with Bolivia, was built after two mined areas were cleared.⁸

Programme Management

The national mine action programme is managed by the National Demining Commission (Comisión Nacional de Desminado, CNAD), which is chaired by the Minister of Defence. Its main functions are to advise the President, mobilise resources, coordinate demining with state agencies, and develop plans for implementing the APMBC. At the end of 2015, it was announced that the Chilean authorities were investigating allegations of fraud at CNAD amounting to half a million dollars.⁹

Strategic Planning

The 'National Plan for Humanitarian Demining 2016–2020' was formulated in accordance with the request of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) that Chile provide updates relative to the timelines presented in its 2011 extension request.¹⁰ The main objective of the plan is to eliminate all existing anti-personnel mines on national territory by the March 2020 deadline.¹¹ In its Article 7 report for 2017, Chile submitted an updated annual clearance plan for 2018–20 taking into account contamination newly found in San Pedro de Atacama during 2017.¹²

Table 2: Updated clearance plan

Year	Planned clearance (m ²)
2018	1,388,304
2019	3,664,338
2020	50,600
Total	5,103,242

Annually, CNAD issues a National Directive on the Execution of Demining Activities from the Government of Chile, which contains a set of provisions and tasks that supports the planning of demining activities.¹³

Legislation and Standards

In May 2002, Supreme Decree No.79 created CNAD as an advisory body to the President of the Republic and interministerial coordinator to support the fulfilment of the APMBC.¹⁴

The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) have been incorporated into the processes for the development of demining operations.¹⁵ In addition, Chile developed a joint demining manual for its armed forces in 2014, which includes procedures for destruction of unexploded ordnance (UXO).¹⁶

Quality Management

Chile conducts both Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) as part of its quality management system. QA is used to continually evaluate demining operations in accordance with acceptance criteria established by CNAD. QC inspection verifies the quality of the clearance process to ensure all mines have been removed and to the required depth before certification is granted.¹⁷

Information Management

Since 2003, Chile has been using the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). During 2017, Chile upgraded to Version 6 of IMSMA after starting the MARS (Mine Action Reporting System) application that replaced IMSMA Mobile. This application has equipped Chile with high-quality geographic information to support decision-making around clearance.¹⁸

Operators

Demining is conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Navy Peace and Demining Division. Since 2008, mechanical assets have been used to support manual demining in Chile. During 2017, six machines were used in clearance operations (including two Minewolf MW370 and two Bozena 5+) in Arica and Parincota, Antofagasta, and Magallanes y Antártica Chilena. In 2017, a total of 207 deminers were deployed across seven teams.¹⁹

LAND RELEASE

Chile cleared 0.86km² of mined area in 2017 (see Table 3), a huge reduction in output from 3.5km² in 2016. This decrease is due to the change of location of the mined areas from an area of desert coast, which allowed for more efficient clearance, to the highlands of the Arica and Parincota region, which are difficult to access and are located at high altitude (more than 4,000m above sea level) and subject to extreme weather conditions.²⁰ Chile also confirmed 2.3km² as contaminated with mines through technical survey.

Survey in 2017

In October 2017, a technical survey was carried out in Seilao, Antofagasta, identifying suspected contamination of 2,279,112m², an increase from the previous estimate of 1,971,780m².²¹

Clearance in 2017

Clearance in 2017 was conducted over 17 areas in four of the five contaminated regions (Antofagasta, Arica and Parinacota, Magallanes y Antártica Chilena, and Tarapacá).

Table 3: Mine clearance in 2017²²

Region	Areas subject to clearance	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed
Antofagasta	7	243,876	2,055	414
Arica and Parinacota	3	409,457	2,905	992
Magallanes and Antártica Chilena	4	194,229	542	0
Tarapaca	3	7,618	226	0
Totals	17	855,180	5,728	1,406

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle

Deminer Safety

In March 2017, a deminer detonated an anti-personnel mine while carrying out technical survey of the Cerro Purichari minefield, resulting in serious injury to one of his legs.²³

In August 2017, a deminer detonated an anti-personnel mine while carrying out clearance in the “Pampa Blanca” sector of the General Lagos district, in the Arica and Parinacota Region, resulting in serious injuries to one of his legs.²⁴

Progress in 2018

Chile expected to reach 91.75% of total clearance in 2018. In the Antofagasta region, Chile will conduct further survey of the newly identified Seilao hazardous area in San Pedro de Atacama to more accurately determine the contaminated area. Chile will begin demining operations in Isla Deceit and/or Freycinet in the region of Magallanes and Chilean Antarctica.²⁵

ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the eight-year extension granted by states parties in 2011), Chile is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2020. It is unclear whether Chile will achieve the clearance output in its updated clearance plan.

Chile’s original Article 5 deadline was 1 March 2012 but in 2011 Chile submitted a request for, and was granted, an Article 5 deadline extension to 1 March 2020. Chile cited the extreme climate and challenging topographical conditions as barriers to it being able to complete clearance as planned.

Chile may still be able to meet its extended deadline. At the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties, Chile stated that as at December 2017 it had achieved “85.57%” of

total clearance and was planning to achieve “91.75%” by the end of 2018 (see Table 4).²⁶ However, this calculation is based on the number of mined areas rather than the size of the mined areas, and the total number of mined areas (194) is different from the figure given in its 2011 Article 5 deadline extension request (199) and its latest Article 7 Report (147/151).²⁷ Despite only clearing 0.86km² of its forecast 3.24km² in 2017 Chile has submitted an updated clearance plan for 2018–2020 that includes all the remaining contamination.²⁸ In previous years, Chile submitted clearance plans that contained estimates that were more than the amount of area that had been indicated by Chile as remaining to be addressed.²⁹ Chile reiterated its commitment to fulfil its Article 5 obligations by 2020 in its statement to the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties and in its statement at the 2018 Intersessional Meetings.³⁰

Table 4: Overall progress in release of mined areas (at 7 December 2017)³¹

Region	Number of mined areas		% of progress
	Total	Cleared	
Arica and Parinacota	89	81	91.01
Tarapacá	8	5	62.50
Antofagasta	66	59	89.39
Metropolitan	1	1	100
Valparaíso	2	1	50
Magellan	28	19	67.86
Totals	194	166	85.57

Chile is moving into the final phase of operations but, by its own admission, will face considerable challenges to implementation from the climate and topology. The mined areas in the Altiplano and the Austral Islands are difficult to access and are subject to heavy rains and snow which restricts the length of the demining season.³²

Demining operations are fully funded by the Government of Chile. In 2017, \$4,325,761 was allocated to the demining programme, which fell to \$4,249,207 in 2018. The amount allocated corresponds to the planned budget.³³

Table 5: Clearance in 2013–17

Year	Area cleared (km ²)	Extension request forecast (km ²)
2017	0.86	3.24
2016	3.52	1.68
2015	1.89	0.93
2014	2.14	4.22
2013	0.71	1.41
Totals	9.12	11.48

- 1 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, Executive Secretary, National Demining Commission (Comisión Nacional de Desminado, CNAD), 12 July 2018.
- 2 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018.
- 3 Article 7 Report (for 2009), Form I.
- 4 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form C; and email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018. There is a small disparity in Form F of the Article 7 report where, in Table 2.5, all outstanding mined areas are reported as confirmed hazardous areas.
- 5 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018.
- 6 Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form C.
- 7 Agence France-Presse, "Dominicano gravemente herido al pisar mina en frontera Chile-Perú", *24horas.cl*, 21 May 2016, at: <http://www.24horas.cl/nacional/dominicano-gravemente-herido-al-pisar-mina-en-frontera-chile-peru-2022784>.
"Land mine explodes on Chile border, injuring two Peruvians", *Peru Reports*, 7 September 2016, at: <https://perureports.com/2016/09/07/land-mine-explodes-chile-border-injuring-two-peruvians/>.
- 8 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018.
- 9 "Chile investiga un fraude de medio millón de dólares en el seno de la Comisión de Desminado" ["Chile investigates half a million dollar fraud at the Demining Commission"], *Infodefensa.com*, 28 December 2015.
- 10 Decisions on the request submitted by Chile for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, 11MSP, 2 December 2011.
- 11 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018.
- 12 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form F2.4.
- 13 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018.
- 14 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form A3.
- 15 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018.
- 16 Manual No. MDO-90402. Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form F2.1.
- 17 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 Ibid.
- 20 Ibid.
- 21 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form F.
- 22 Ibid; and email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018.
- 23 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form F.
- 24 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018.
- 25 Ibid.
- 26 Statement of Chile, 16th Meeting of States Parties, Vienna, 18–21 December 2017.
- 27 Ibid., and Article 7 Report (for 2017) Form F, and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, March 2011, p. 9.
- 28 Article 7 Report (for 2017) Form F.
- 29 Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5, 16th Meeting of States Parties, 18–21 December 2017.
- 30 Statements of Chile, 16th Meeting of States Parties, Vienna, 18–21 December 2017; and Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 5–8 June 2018.
- 31 Statement of Chile, 16th Meeting of States Parties, Vienna, 18–21 December 2017.
- 32 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018.
- 33 Ibid.