

CHILE



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

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

For 2015

For 2014

Problem understood	7	8
Target date for completion of mine clearance	7	7
Targeted clearance	7	7
Efficient clearance	7	7
National funding of programme	7	9
Timely clearance	6	7
Land release system in place	7	7
National mine action standards	8	7
Reporting on progress	7	6
Improving performance	6	7
PERFORMANCE SCORE: AVERAGE	6.9	7.2

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Allegations of fraud beset Chile's mine action programme at the end of 2015 though clearance output for the year decreased only slightly compared with 2014.¹

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

- Chile should clarify whether it will still meet its extended Article 5 deadline and what effect reported fraud has had, and will have, on the mine action programme.

CONTAMINATION

As at the end of 2015, Chile had 5.82km² of confirmed mined area and 3.35km² of suspected mined area across five regions (see Table 1).² Most confirmed contamination is in Arica and Parinacota. 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. 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: Anti-personnel mine contamination by province as at end 2015⁴

Province	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs with mines	Area (m ²)
Arica and Parinacota	22	4,772,084	1	145,297
Antofagasta	17	440,932	8	3,195,476
Magallanes and Antartica Chilena	15	550,130	0	0
Tarapacá	6	56,817	0	0
Valparaíso	0	0	1	14,000
Totals	60	5,819,963	10	3,354,773

The impact of residual contamination is reported to be minimal,⁵ though a new mine victim was recorded along the border with Peru in May 2016.⁶

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 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (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.⁷

1 "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*, 12 December 2015, at: <http://www.infodefensa.com/latam/2015/12/28/noticia-comision-nacional-desminado-chilena-enfrenta-investigacion-fraude-fisco-medio-millon.html>.

2 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form C.

3 APMBC Article 7 Report (for 2009), Form I.

4 APMBC Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form C. In Form F2.2, however, Chile indicates that a total of 73 areas remain to be released. In addition, in Annex 1 it lists all mined areas as confirmed.

5 APMBC Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form C.

6 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>.

7 "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, at: <http://www.infodefensa.com/latam/2015/12/28/noticia-comision-nacional-desminado-chilena-enfrenta-investigacion-fraude-fisco-medio-millon.html>

Operators

Demining is conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Navy Peace and Demining Division. Mechanical resources are being used to support manual demining.⁸

Standards and Quality Management

Chile developed a joint demining manual for its armed forces in 2014, which includes procedures for destruction of unexploded ordnance (UXO).⁹

LAND RELEASE

Chile cleared almost 1.9km² of mined area in 2015 (see Table 2), a decrease on output in 2014 of 2.1km². Operations in 2015 reportedly included the destruction of almost 32,000 mines, but this figure does not disaggregate between anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines. Moreover, this figure is not consistent with other information in Chile's two Article 7 reports for 2014 and 2015, which suggest that, in fact, 15,490 anti-personnel mines were destroyed during clearance operations in 2015 along with 8,373 anti-vehicle mines.¹⁰

Clearance in 2015

Clearance was conducted in two regions in 2015: Arica and Parinacota and Antofagasta.¹¹

Table 2: Mine clearance in 2015¹²

Region	Areas subject to clearance	Area cleared (m ²)	Mines destroyed
Arica and Parinacota	20	1,787,014	31,553
Antofagasta	3	104,399	391
Magallanes and Antartica Chilena	0	0	0
Tarapacá	0	0	0
Valparaíso	0	0	0
Totals	23	1,891,413	31,944

As at February 2016, Chile had ten cleared areas awaiting finalisation of quality control and handover.¹³

8 N. García, "Chile fecha el desminado total de fronteras en 2020" ["Chile will complete the demining of its borders in 2020"], *Infodefensa.com*, 15 July 2016, at: <http://www.infodefensa.com/latam/2016/07/15/noticia-chile-espera-terminar-desminado-fronteras.html>.

9 Manual No. MDO-90402. APMBC Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form F2.1.

10 See APMBC Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form G2; and (for 2014), Form G2.

11 APMBC Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form F2.

12 Ibid.

13 Ibid.

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.

Despite being more than 4km² behind the productivity forecast in its extension request (see Table 3), based on its clearance output in 2014 and 2015, Chile can still meet its extended deadline. It has amended its clearance projections to take account of progress to date, but the projections do not include suspected mined area. It is not known what effect allegations of serious fraud will have on the demining programme.

Table 3: Clearance in 2011–15 (km²)

Year	Area cleared	Extension request forecast
2015	1.89	0.93
2014	2.14	4.22
2013	0.71	1.41
2012	1.34	1.58
2011	0.84	3.10
Totals	6.92	11.24

In July 2016, the Minister of Defence announced that Chile had completed 72% of its mine clearance and that it was on course to complete clearance in 2020.¹⁴ Chile is hosting the Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties in Santiago in November–December 2016.

¹⁴ N. García, "Chile fecha el desminado total de fronteras en 2020" ["Chile will complete the demining of its borders in 2020"], *Infodefensa.com*, 15 July 2016.