

CHILE



CLEARING THE MINES 2021

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2020
CLEARANCE DECLARED COMPLETED

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION:

MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE

0 km²

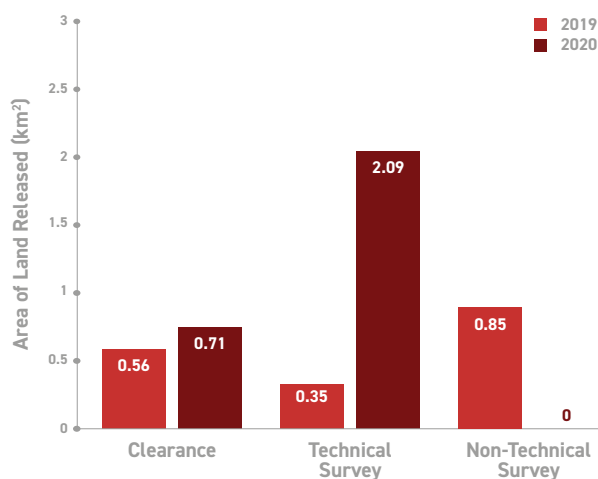
AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2020

0.71 km²

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2020

12,526

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **Clearance completed in 2020**

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Chile ended its formal mine clearance operations on 27 February 2020, meeting its 1 March 2020 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline. Chile made an official declaration of completion of its obligations under Article 5 at the APMBC 18th Meeting of States Parties in November 2020.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2020)	Score (2019)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	9	9	Chile has no known anti-personnel mine contamination remaining in the country since the end of February 2020.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	8	8	There is strong national ownership in Chile with effective leadership of the programme from the National Demining Commission (Comisión Nacional de Desminado, CNAD) and demining operations were fully funded by the Chilean government.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	6	6	In previous years Chile has taken steps to mainstream gender across the armed forces with women working at all levels of the mine action programme. However, in 2019 only 4% of staff employed by the demining units were female.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	8	8	Chile uses the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database. Chile submits timely Article 7 transparency reports and provides regular updates on progress in Article 5 implementation at the annual meetings of States Parties.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	8	7	Chile has had a National Plan for Humanitarian Demining 2016–2020; it submitted updated clearance plans in 2019. Chile far exceeded its target for 2020. Chile reported it has a plan in place for dealing with residual risk post-completion.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	7	7	Chile is guided by the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the Humanitarian Demining Manual of the Chilean Army. All survey and clearance are undertaken by the military with both machines and dogs used during operations.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	10	10	Chile released 2.8km ² in 2020 in meeting its Article 5 deadline. No mined area was cancelled by non-technical survey but Chile reduced a massive 2.09km ² by technical survey in 2020. Its clearance output also rose rapidly with Chile reporting clearance of 0.7km ² in just two months.
Average Score	8.2	8.1	Overall Programme Performance: VERY GOOD

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Demining Commission (Comisión Nacional de Desminado, CNAD)
- Executive Secretariat of the National Demining Commission (Secretaría Ejecutiva de la Comisión Nacional de Desminado, SECNAD)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Army Corps of Engineers (Arica, Calama, Punta Arenas), Navy Landmine Operations Squad (POMTA), Air Force (CEDDEX)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- None

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

On 13 November 2020, Chile made an official declaration of completion that it had addressed all known mined areas and was now free of known anti-personnel mine contamination.¹

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 contained both anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines, were generally difficult to access and mostly in unpopulated regions. The regions of both Antofagasta and Arica y Parinacota were contaminated with anti-vehicle as well as anti-personnel mines while the region of Tarapacá was contaminated only with anti-personnel mines.² The vast majority of the mines were laid in the north, with some minefields as high as 5,000m above sea level.³

Chile is also contaminated with cluster munition remnants (currently estimated to cover 65km², although actual contamination is likely to be considerably lower) and to a limited extent by other unexploded ordnance (UXO) (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2021* report on Chile for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The National Demining Commission (CNAD) acts as the national mine action authority while the Executive Secretariat of the National Demining Commission (SECNAD) acts as the national mine action centre. In 2002, Supreme Decree 79 created CNAD as an advisory body to the President and an interministerial coordinating body to support the fulfilment of Chile's obligations under the APMBC.⁴ Its main functions are to advise the President, mobilise resources, coordinate demining with state agencies, and develop plans for implementing the APMBC. CNAD members are high-level representatives from government ministries and the armed forces, with additional technical support provided by a committee government ministers and other officials. SECNAD, which is located in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (EMCO), is responsible for managing and coordinating the mine action programme.⁵

During 2020, demining operations were entirely funded by the Government of Chile.⁶

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

While there is no specific gender policy within CNAD, Chile's policy of integrating women into the armed forces has been in place since 2000. As at May 2019, 14% of total armed forces personnel were female. In 2016, restrictions on the type of military positions a woman could hold were lifted and legislation was adopted to modify the military grading system, allowing women to be promoted in the same way as men. Women have been working in demining in Chile since 2004 across all types of roles, including as deminers and in managerial/supervisory roles.

In 2007, a woman was appointed for the first time as Manual Demining Section Commander, in Arica. In May 2018, a woman was appointed as Demining Company Commander in Arica. Chile has made it easier for women to work in the sector by adapting demining equipment to better suit women's bodies, providing childcare, and eliminating the gender wage-gap.⁷ Chile reported that in 2019, of the 246 personnel carrying out roles within the demining units, only 10 (4%) were women. They included two demining section commanders and four women in support roles (one medic, two nurses, and one paramedic).⁸

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Since 2003, Chile has been using the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). During 2017, Chile upgraded to IMSMA New Generation 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 on clearance.⁹

Chile has submitted its Article 7 reports almost every year since its accession to the Convention in 2002 and makes regular Article 5 statements at meetings of States Parties, although the information presented has not always been accurate. In previous years, Chile submitted clearance plans that contained estimates that were more than the amount of area indicated as remaining.¹⁰ Chile submitted its Article 7 report for 2020 in April 2021.

PLANNING AND TASKING

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.¹¹ The main objective of the plan was to eliminate all existing anti-personnel mines on national territory by the March 2020 clearance deadline.¹²

In 2019, Chile provided an updated demining plan for 2019 and 2020 (see Table 1).¹³ Chile did not meet its targets for 2019 and released 15 mined areas totalling 1.76km², of which 0.56km² was cleared, 0.35km² was reduced through technical survey, and 0.85km² was cancelled through non-technical survey. Then in January and February 2020, Chile released a further 2.8km² of mined area, of which 2.09km² was reduced through technical survey and 0.71km² was cleared.¹⁴

Table 1: Updated demining plan (2019–20)¹⁵

Year	Mined areas	Planned release (m ²)
2019	18	4,374,448
2020	1	50,600
Totals	19	4,425,048

Annually, CNAD issued a National Directive on the Execution of Demining Activities from the Government of Chile, which contained a set of provisions and tasks to support the planning of demining.¹⁶ Clearance was prioritised according to proximity to populated areas, impact on land designated a national park or which was a historical site of interest to tourists, and impact on land that obstructs development.¹⁷

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Chile is guided by the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).¹⁸ In addition to the IMAS, Chile also follows the provisions and regulations as set out in the “Humanitarian Demining Manual of the Chilean Army”.¹⁹

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Mine clearance in Chile is conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Navy Landmine Operations Squad, and the Air Force.²⁰

In 2020, there were two non-technical survey teams deployed totalling six personnel and eight technical survey teams totalling fifty-five personnel.²¹

Table 2: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2020²²

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers*	Dogs and handlers	Machines**
Arica	6	69	0	3
Calama	2	45	0	3
Totals	8	114	0	6

* Excluding team leaders, medics, and drivers. ** Excluding vegetation cutters and sifters.

Since 2008, mechanical assets have been used to support manual demining in Chile. During 2019, machines were deployed to conduct clearance in the regions of Arica y Parinacota and Antofagasta.²³ Chile also used explosive detection dogs for the first time in 2018 to carry out quality control of an area that had been cleared using machines.²⁴

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2020

Chile released a total of 2.8km² from 1 January 2020 to 27 February 2020, of which 0.7km² was cleared and 2.1km² was reduced by technical survey. A total of 12,526 anti-personnel mines and 10,170 anti-vehicle mines.

SURVEY IN 2020

In 2020, Chile reduced a massive 2.09km² through technical survey in just two months (see Table 3), almost six times the amount reduced through technical survey throughout the whole of 2019. The contaminated area of Seilao in Antofagasta province was estimated to cover 2.28km² when technical survey was carried out in 2017 based on the information from manual and mechanical demining conducted in the area since 2010.²⁵ This area was then partially reduced through survey in 2019. No mined area was cancelled through non-technical survey in 2020.²⁶

Table 3: Reduction through technical survey in 2020²⁷

Province	Area reduced (m ²)
Arica y Parinacota	160,899
Tarapacá	24,278
Antofagasta	1,905,685
Total	2,090,862

CLEARANCE IN 2020

In 2020, over the course of only two months, Chile cleared 0.71km² across three regions, finding and destroying 12,526 anti-personnel mines and 10,170 anti-vehicle mines (see Table 4).²⁸ This is a 27% increase in the amount cleared over the whole of 2019 and a threefold increase in the number of anti-personnel mines found and destroyed. According to Chile, it managed to achieve this amount of clearance as the climatic conditions were optimal. In addition, the mechanical demining units were reorganised allowing them to work up to three shifts per day, thereby significantly increasing clearance output.²⁹

Table 4: Mine clearance in 2020³⁰

Region	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed
Arica y Parinacota	265,786	11,176	9,934
Tarapacá	7,600	212	0
Antofagasta	436,018	1,138	236
Totals	709,404	12,526	10,170

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the eight-year extension request granted by States Parties in 2012), Chile was 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. Chile completed clearance on 27 February 2020 and officially declared it had met its obligations under Article 5 in November of the same year by video message to the 18MSP.³¹ Chile reported that it had destroyed 179,815 mines and cleared close to 27km² since it became a State Party to the APMBC.³²

Table 5: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2020*	0.71
2019	0.56
2018	0.96
2017	0.86
2016	3.52
Total	6.61

* January and February 2020

PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

Chile has reported having a plan in place to deal with residual risk post-completion and has pledged to maintain a demining capacity within the Chilean military to address any residual contamination that may be discovered in the future.³³

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- 1 Statement of Chile, APMBC 18th Meeting of States Parties (virtual meeting), 16–20 November 2020.
 - 2 Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form C.
 - 3 Article 7 Report (covering 2009), Form I.
 - 4 Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A3.
 - 5 Presentation by National Demining Commission Executive Secretary Col. Juan José López Demuth for the Regional Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining (virtual meeting), 10 February 2021.
 - 6 Statement of Chile, APMBC 18th Meeting of States Parties (virtual meeting), 16–20 November 2020.
 - 7 Statement from Chile during the Thematic Discussion on Integrating Gender into Mine Action, Intersessional Meetings, 23 May 2019; and emails from Col. Juan José López Demuth, Executive Secretary, CNAD, 22 and 27 June 2019.
 - 8 Email from Carlos Rivera Buguéño, Senior Sub-Officer, CNAD, 6 August 2020.
 - 9 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018.
 - 10 Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5, 16th Meeting of States Parties, 18–21 December 2017.
 - 11 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.
 - 12 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018.
 - 13 Statement of Chile, Committee on Article 5 implementation, Geneva, 22 May 2019.
 - 14 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
 - 15 Statement of Chile, Committee on Article 5 implementation, Geneva, 22 May 2019.
 - 16 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
 - 17 Email from Col. Andres Caceres Cuadra, CNAD, 12 July 2018.
 - 18 Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form F.
 - 19 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
 - 20 Email from Carlos Rivera Buguéño, CNAD, 6 August 2020.
 - 21 Ibid.
 - 22 Ibid.
 - 23 Ibid.
 - 24 CNAD, "Desminado Canino", 27 December 2018, at: <http://bit.ly/2VCpHwb>.
 - 25 Email from Carlos Rivera Buguéño, CNAD, 6 August 2020.
 - 26 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
 - 27 Ibid.
 - 28 Ibid.
 - 29 Email from Carlos Rivera Buguéño, CNAD, 6 August 2020.
 - 30 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
 - 31 Statement of Minister of Defence of Chile to the 18MSP, November 2020, at: <https://bit.ly/3lut3gu>.
 - 32 Statement of Chile, APMBC 18th Meeting of States Parties (virtual meeting), 16–20 November 2020.
 - 33 Presentation by National Demining Commission Executive Secretary Col. Juan José López Demuth for the Regional Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining (virtual meeting), 10 February 2021.