CHINA

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

KEY DATA

NO APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:

State not party to the APMBC

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Unknown

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (m^2)	Release in 2024 (m^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	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed*	Not Known	Not known

* China reported destroying 94 mines in 2025 and 563 mines in 2024, but it is not known how many were AP mines.

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATOR IN 2025:

- Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

China does not disclose comprehensive data on its anti-personnel (AP) mine contamination, nor on its survey and clearance, but it is known to maintain AP mines around military infrastructure and some of its borders. China reported destroying 94 landmines in 2025, a sharp reduction on the 563 destroyed in 2024. It is not known whether the landmines cleared were AP or anti-vehicle (AV) mines or a mixture, nor has it been reported where the clearance took place.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **China should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority.**
- **China should clear all remaining AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, consonant with its obligations under international human rights law.**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- No functioning mine action programme

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- Not known

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The precise extent of mined area in China is not known. While very significant demining has occurred since the 1990s, China has acknowledged maintaining minefields for defence purposes.[1]

In the 1990s, the United States reported that China had emplaced mines along its borders with India, Myanmar, North Korea, Russia, and Vietnam.[2] China's military estimated that around two million mines of a wide variety of types were emplaced on the Vietnam border alone.[3] China has reported on mine contamination and clearance along its border with Vietnam, and to some extent with Myanmar, but less information appears to be available about contamination and mine release on its borders with India, North Korea, and Russia.

More recently, in 2023 and 2024, according to the South Korean authorities and media sources, North Korea used AP mines on its side of the border with China.[4] In August 2024, a media report stated that the Chinese authorities had warned that landmines potentially buried on the North Korean side of the Yalu River along the border may have been displaced into China. This is reported to have occurred, in particular, into Changbai county, Jilin province, following heavy rains at the end of July 2024.[5] No reports of the risk of, or actual displacement of landmines from North Korea into China have been identified since 2024. In August 2023, a Chinese media article claimed that India had emplaced mines in an area China claims as its own, to the north-west of Panglong lake on the Tibetan plateau. Landmines reportedly killed two Indian labourers.[6] For more information on casualties, please see the country profile on China on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[7]

China conducted four demining campaigns along its border with Vietnam between 1992 and 2018 – in Yunnan province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The first was in 1992–94, the second in 1997–99, the third in 2001–08, and the fourth in 2015–18. The Chinese military claimed that the second clearance operation was the largest in military history.[8] That said, the two campaigns in 1992–94 and 1997–99 did not deal with minefields in disputed areas of the border, where 500,000 mines covered an estimated 40km^2. After technical survey of those mined areas, therefore, in 2005, China initiated a third clearance campaign in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Yunnan province. China stated that in 2009 it completed clearance of 5.15km^2 at the border.[9]

In 2009, China said that its completion of demining along the Yunnan section of its border with Vietnam represented "the completion of mine clearance of mine-affected areas within China's territory."[10] This was clarified by a statement in 2011, though, when a Foreign Ministry official reported that China maintains a small number of minefields "for national defence".[11] Two months later, at the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC, China said that large-scale demining had "on the whole eliminated the scourge of landmines in our territories".[12] At the Third Review Conference of the APMBC in 2014, China said it had "basically eradicated landmines on its own territory".[13]

In early November 2015, however, China initiated further demining along the border with Vietnam.[14] In its Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 transparency report submitted in March 2017, China reported that between November 2015 and February 2017, the Chinese army cleared 18.4km^2 of minefields on the Yunnan border.[15] Media accounts indicated that mine clearance resumed in November 2017 in both the Yunnan border area and in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.[16] A total of 23km^2 was reported cleared between November 2015 and May 2018 with another 15km^2 expected to be cleared by the end of 2018.[17] According to a media source, Yunnan province contained 113 minefields and accounted for more than 95% of the total mined areas on the China-Vietnam border and mines were often laid in very hard-to-access mountainous areas.[18] In Guangxi, where the border was reported to be cleared in October 2018, a total of 2,300 explosive items were reported found and destroyed across 1.5km^2.[19]

At the Fourth Review Conference of the APMBC in 2019, China said that in the previous three years it had cleared approximately 58km^2 of mined area on its borders with Vietnam and Myanmar and "enclosed" 25km^2 of minefields (permanently perimeter-marking, fencing, and closing down mined areas).[20] China was reported to have begun demining

1 Landmine Monitor, "China", Last updated 21 November 2025, https://tinyurl.com/42x2paff.
2 Landmine Monitor, "China – Impact", Last updated 1 April 2025, https://tinyurl.com/5n6u7uww.
3 Ibid.
4 *Landmine Monitor Report 2024*, pp. 8 and 21.
5 "Chinese authorities warn of possible North Korean landmine displacement due to floods, notify residents 'Do not go to the riverbank'", *Rimjin-Gang,* 13 August 2024, https://bit.ly/3ST8ZnU.
6 Landmine Monitor, "India", Last updated 27 March 2026, https://tinyurl.com/mryezh2e.
7 https://the-monitor.org.
8 Landmine Monitor, "China – Impact", Last updated 1 April 2025.
9 Ibid.
10 Statement of China, Second APMBC Review Conference, Cartagena, 4 December 2009.
11 Email from Lai Haiyang, Attaché, Department of Arms Control & Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 7 September 2011.
12 Statement of China, APMBC Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Phnom Penh, 29 November 2011.
13 Statement of China, Third APMBC Review Conference, Maputo, 26 June 2014.
14 P. Scally, "Huge land mine clearance underway in Wenshan, Honghe", Blog post, Gokunming, 5 November 2015, https://bit.ly/2OWbdVe.
15 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2016), Form B. Unofficial translation.
16 "Land mine removal resumes on border", *China Daily,* 29 November 2017, https://bit.ly/2ZXUwtr; and "China's Guangxi completes de-mining mission along Sino-Vietnam border", *China Daily,* 26 November 2018, https://bit.ly/33xCdNT.
17 Landmine Monitor, "China – Impact", Last updated 1 April 2025.
18 "Soldier loses both hands and eyes from a blast while clearing mines along Vietnam border", *The Global Times*, 6 December 2018.
19 "China's Guangxi completes de-mining mission along Sino-Vietnam border", *China Daily,* 26 November 2018.
20 Statement of China, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.

its border with Myanmar at the end of 2018 with a team of more than 300 deminers.[21] Almost three years later, in 2021, an online media source reported that the Chinese authorities had begun clearance along the border between Yunnan province and Myanmar, near Yunnan's Nansan township and the Menadue township. No further details were available.[22]

In 2014, China informed *Landmine Monitor* that no new AP mines had been used in the country for the past decade, claiming that AP mines no longer played a prominent role in China's defence doctrine.[23] For more information on use, please see the country profile on China on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[24]

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

There is no formal mine action programme in China. Any mine clearance is conducted by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) as a military activity.

Limited information is available on training provided by the PLA. China reported setting up 14 specialist training classes at the Army Engineering University in 2025, where 386 individuals were trained on the disposal of explosive remnants of war (ERW) during the year.[25] In October 2025, China sent a delegation to Cyprus to participate in the Basic Training Course on Mine Protection for the Safety of Civilians and Peacekeeping Personnel, organised by the United Nations.[26]

At a regional level, China has continued its collaboration on mine action. In 2025, as in 2024, this included various technical cooperation and assistance activities, including sending technical experts to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), as well as providing funding and technical support to Cambodia. China has also continued to support demining in other countries (Cambodia, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, and Somalia).[27] China has also been active globally. In November 2025, a Chinese media source reported that since 1998 China has provided training sessions, mine clearance equipment, on-site clearance assistance, victim support, and humanitarian supplies to more than 40 African, Asian, and Latin American countries, and has held "almost 30 international humanitarian mine clearance training sessions".[28]

In addition, China was represented at the 15th meeting of the "Experts' Group on Humanitarian Mine Action of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus", in October 2025, where it delivered a keynote speech on "Prospects for the Development of Mine-Clearance Equipment", and at the 16th meeting of the Experts' Group in Lao PDR in December 2025, where it delivered a speech on "Leveraging Women's Strengths, Empowering Explosive Remnants Clearance through Science and Technology, and Building a Safe Homeland."[29]

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

It is not known whether China takes into consideration gender and diversity during planning and tasking of demining.[30]

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

It is not known how, if at all, the environment is taken into consideration during planning and tasking of demining in China in order to minimise potential harm from clearance.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

China continues to develop new mechanical assets for mine clearance, including the new tracked Multifunctional Unmanned Mine Clearing Vehicle, which it unveiled at UMEX 2026 in January 2026. The system is said to underscore Beijing's growing focus on autonomous ground vehicles to reduce personnel risk in high-threat environments. It integrates an advanced multi-tool front assembly capable of hosting up to five different mine-clearing mechanisms.[31]

21 J. Li, "Minesweeping operations along China-Myanmar border kick off", *China Military Online*, 28 December 2019, https://bit.ly/3f7P3qy.
22 "China Begins Landmine Removal Operation Along Border With Myanmar", *Radio Free Asia,* 13 September 2021, https://bit.ly/3D3IhQB.
23 Landmine Monitor, "China", Last updated 21 November 2025.
24 https://the-monitor.org.
25 CCW Protocol V Article 10 Report (covering 2025) Form F.
26 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2025), Form E. Unofficial translation.
27 Ibid.
28 "China's Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation in the New Era", *China Daily*, 28 November 2025, https://tinyurl.com/z5vee5kc, p.5.
29 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2025), Form E. Unofficial translation.
30 Ibid.
31 "China Reveals New Tracked Unmanned Mine Clearing Vehicle at UMEX 2026", *Global Defense News*, 20 January 2026, https://tinyurl.com/34pdvfun.

China has previously reported conducting technical research related to mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance and destruction, and research on unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) survey technology for mines and ERW and on a multi-parameter real-time monitoring and effect evaluation system for mine detection training.[32] In 2019, China reported conducting research on the application of virtual reality (VR) technology in humanitarian mine clearance training,[33] and said it was achieving breakthroughs in research and development, including in unmanned mine detection and laser demining (the use of directed energy weapons to destroy landmines).[34]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

In its CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 reports covering 2024 and 2023, China did not report any AP mine clearance. China did, however, report in its CCW Protocol V Article 10 report (covering 2025) that "Chinese public security organs and military departments worked closely together to jointly deal with 4,680 artillery shells, 78 aerial bombs, 1,858 hand grenades, 94 landmines, 6 chemical shells, and 2,897 other explosive remnants of war".[35] The destruction of 94 landmines (type of mine not specified) is a significant reduction on the 563 landmines reported cleared in 2024, when China reported that the "Chinese public security agencies and military departments closely cooperated to dispose of 3,623 artillery shells, 76 bombs, 1,966 grenades, 563 landmines, 9 chemical shells, and 3,348 other explosive remnants of war".[36]

In 2011, China said that its policy towards the APMBC and other humanitarian issues was regularly reviewed by its National Committee of International Humanitarian Law, an interministerial body chaired by the vice premier that meets every two years.[37] Since then, China has stated at meetings of States Parties to the APMBC in 2017 and 2020 that it agrees with "the vision and goals" of the Convention, especially its humanitarian underpinnings; and that it appreciates "the convention's humanitarian spirit, and recognizes its purpose and objective, and acknowledges and attaches importance to its role."[38] At the United Nations Security Council in 2021 it stated that "China subscribes to the purposes of the Ottawa Convention and supports the ultimate goal of a comprehensive landmine ban".[39] China maintains, however, that it cannot consider acceding to the treaty due to its ongoing national defence needs.[40] There is, therefore, no target date for the completion of mine clearance in China.

32 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2021), Forms B and C.
33 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2019), Form B.
34 Statement of China, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.
35 CCW Protocol V Article 10 report (covering 2025) Form A.
36 CCW Protocol V Article 10 report (covering 2024) Form A.
37 Landmine Monitor, "China", Last updated 21 November 2025.
38 Ibid.
39 Statement of China, Security Council Open Debate on Mine Action, 8 April 2021.
40 Landmine Monitor, "China", Last updated 21 November 2025.