

KEY DATA

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2026

Just on track to meet deadline

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 57.3KM²

Heavy
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Release in 2023 (km ²)
Clearance	42.51	42.07
Technical Survey	4.20	5.61
Non-Technical Survey	5.02	10.86
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	1,533 (including 138 mines handed in for destruction)	969

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Various commercial companies
- Pioneer Company of the Engineering regiment
- CROMAC

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Croatia did not meet its land release targets in 2024, but believes it is still on track to meet its Article 5 clearance deadline of 1 March 2026. While this goal is achievable, it is ambitious, particularly given continued clearance of extensive areas where no anti-personnel (AP) mines are found. Croatia does not plan to expand its survey or clearance capacity in 2025 but will need to significantly increase clearance output to meet remaining targets. This includes the release of a substantial area of AP mined area in areas under military control, making well-targeted survey and clearance critically important.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Croatia should submit an Article 5 deadline extension request if there is any doubt that it will meet its deadline under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).
- The Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) should survey remaining suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and review the basis on which confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) are established. In particular, it should use survey to confirm evidence of mines before embarking on full clearance.
- CROMAC should fulfil the pledge in Croatia's 2018 extension request to explore the potential for mine detection dogs (MDDs) to enhance the efficiency of technical survey (TS). The 2015 demining law, which only allows MDDs to be used in clearance and not for survey, should be amended.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

CROATIA

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	7	7	Croatia considers its current national baseline of AP mined area to be reasonably accurate and evidence-based (although considerable mined area is being released without any mines being found). Croatia has AP mined area not only in civilian areas but also in areas under military control.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	8	8	There is strong national ownership of mine action, with good political will to implement Article 5. In 2024, Croatia contributed €45 million (68% of the total) to the overall mine action budget. National funding has been secured through to 2026.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	5	5	The proportion of women employed at CROMAC remains low and there was no change in 2024, or any significant initiatives introduced.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	7	7	Croatia does not have a dedicated environmental management policy or standard for mine action, but relevant national legislation applies, and environmental protection is identified as a key goal in the National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2026.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	8	8	Croatia provides regular, accurate, and consistent updates on its progress in Article 5 implementation at APMBC meetings and in its Article 7 reports. However, there were some discrepancies between the data in its Article 7 report and those reported to Mine Action Review.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	7	Croatia has a National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2026. In 2024, Croatia submitted an updated work plan to 2026 with annual targets for land release.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	5	5	There is a continued need to conduct survey prior to clearance, to avoid clearing CHAs where no contamination is found. In 2024, hazardous areas which did not contain AP mines accounted for 31% of all cleared areas, an increase from the—already high—rate of 28% in 2023, although UXO and anti-vehicle mines may still be found.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	7	7	Clearance output increased slightly in 2024, but Croatia still fell short of its overall land release target for the year, mainly due to clearing only 34.4km ² of the planned 41.1km ² in civilian areas. Croatia will need to significantly increase its survey and clearance outputs in 2025 to meet its Article 5 deadline.
Average Score	6.8	6.8	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Ministry of the Interior (Mol), in which CROMAC and the Government Office for Mine Action (GOMA) are integrated within the Civil Protection Directorate.

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- A total of 42 commercial demining companies are accredited for mine clearance
- Pioneer Company of the Engineering Regiment, Croatian Armed Forces

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2024, Croatia reported a total of more than 47km² of mined area remaining, excluding military areas. Of this, nearly 41km² is in CHAs and over 6km² in SHAs (see Table 1).¹ This represents an 49% decrease in estimated

contamination (excluding military areas) compared to 92km² of mined area at the end of 2023.² Croatia believes that hazardous areas, excluding military zones, contain 5,624 AP mines and 739 anti-vehicle (AV) mines.³

Table 1: AP mined area in civilian areas (at end 2024)⁴

County	Municipal areas with hazardous areas*	CHA (m ²)	SHAs	SHA (m ²)	Total mined area (m ²)
Lika-Senj	8	37,511,399	4	5,500,143	43,011,542
Split-Dalmacija	2	656,430	0	0	656,430
Sisak-Moslavina	6	2,832,065	3	701,176	3,533,241
Totals	16	40,999,894	7	6,201,319	47,201,213

*Not including mined areas under military control.

A further 10.1km² of confirmed mined area existed in areas under military control at end 2024 (down from 18.9km² at the end of 2023).⁵ This mined area, which is also contaminated with unexploded ordnance (UXO), is across military barracks, training sites, radar stations, and storage sites. More than 2.1km² of UXO contamination remaining in Karlovac county, the result of explosions at military ammunition storage sites in two locations.⁶

Three of Croatia's twenty-one counties are still mine-affected, one fewer than in 2023. At the end of 2024, 98.5% of mined areas were in forests; 1.4% was on agricultural land; and 0.1% was classified as unspecified "other area".⁷ Much of the remaining mined area is mountainous and has not been accessed for 20 years, so the terrain and conditions will make the demining challenging.⁸ According to Croatia's Civil Protection Directorate, the baseline of AP mine contamination has been established through inclusive consultations. Croatia

considers the baseline evidence-based and reasonably accurate.⁹ That mined areas continue to be cleared without AP mines found calls this into question.

Croatia's mine contamination is the result of four years of armed conflict associated with the break-up of the former Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. During the conflict, landmines were laid by all warring parties, including Croatian government forces as well as the Yugoslav People's Army and local Serb paramilitaries. Mines were laid along shifting front lines and around strategic infrastructure, such as railways, power stations, and pipelines, leading to mine contamination in 14 of Croatia's 21 counties. Large agricultural areas, sections of infrastructure, forested land, and riverbanks were rendered inaccessible due to the known or suspected presence of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).¹⁰

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Croatia is thus also affected, though to a much lesser extent, by ERW. On 1 August 2020, Croatia declared fulfilment Article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, having completed release of all known or suspected cluster munition-contaminated areas.¹¹

1 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form C.

2 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 21 May 2024; and Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.

3 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form C.

4 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025. This differs from the 49.3km² reported in Croatia's Article 7 report covering 2024 although this is likely due to summing errors in the Article 7 report.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 Interview with Nataša Mateković, CROMAC, Sisak, 18 May 2017.

9 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.

10 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.

11 Statement of Croatia on Clearance, CCM Second Review Conference, 25–27 November 2020.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

In August 2018, the Croatian government decided to integrate 54 agencies, including CROMAC and the Government Office for Mine Action (GOMA), into existing State administration bodies. This was formalised through legislation effective from the beginning of 2019.¹² As a result, CROMAC and GOMA ceased to exist as separate entities, with CROMAC becoming an "operational sector" within the Civil Protection Directorate under the Ministry of the Interior (MoI).¹³ The aim was to create a more efficient Civil Protection Directorate to handle all aspects of civil protection, including mine action.¹⁴ Before 2019, CROMAC (established in 1998) and GOMA (created in 2012) operated independently.¹⁵

A new law on mine action was adopted by the Croatian parliament in 2015.¹⁶ While the Law marked an improvement in certain respects—for instance, by permitting land release through TS—there were concerns it would impede efficient and effective mine action.¹⁷ For accreditation, the MoI provides three separate permits: for manual mine detection, for mechanical mine detection, and for operations using mine

and explosive detection dogs (MDDs/EDDs). This replaces the former unified accreditation licence.¹⁸ On 18 September 2024, Parliament passed an amendment to the mine action law, introducing new regulations on land release methods to enhance Open Burning and Open Detonation (OBOD) procedures and improve stockpile destruction clearance operations.¹⁹

The Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC is not responsible for survey and clearance of military areas, which comes under the remit of the Ministry of Defence (MoD). But to address the slow progress in release of mined areas under military control, CROMAC and the MoD met in 2024 to improve cooperation between them. This included plans for joint non-technical survey (NTS) and TS to identify CHAs and SHAs that fall within the MoD's responsibility.²⁰ The Civil Protection Directorate also reported that an in-country platform for dialogue, consisting of representatives from the MoI and the association of private companies involved in demining, meets on a regular basis.²¹

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

In its 2018 Article 5 deadline extension request, Croatia estimated that fulfilment of its APMBC obligations would cost a further €459 million.²² In its Revised Work Plan 2022–2026, Croatia estimated it would cost €219 million to clear the remaining mined area.²³ Half of the funding for land release through to 2025 was expected to come from the Croatian government with the remainder coming from the European Union (EU) and other sources.²⁴ In 2024, the overall annual mine action budget for survey and clearance in Croatia was €66.3 million. The State contribution was 68.3% of the total (approx. €45.3 million), an increase on the €38 million it provided in 2023. EU funding remained a

significant contribution in 2024 at 31.5% of the total, while the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme contributed 0.2%. The Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme ended in the summer of 2024 but the EU was expected to maintain its funding for 2025.²⁵

Croatia does not have a resource mobilisation strategy for Article 5 implementation and the Civil Protection Directorate has indicated that such a strategy is unnecessary, as the financial framework for completing clearance and survey operations is fully defined through to 2026.²⁶

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The Gender Equality Act,²⁷ which establishes national guidelines for gender equality, prohibits gender-based discrimination and requires equal opportunities for men and women, including in employment.²⁸ The Civil Protection Directorate does not compile or disclose data regarding

commercial demining companies, which are privately owned.²⁹ According to Croatia, the very low proportion of women working in the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC (see Table 2) is due to the fact that when CROMAC ceased to exist as an independent centre and was downsized when

12 Act on Amendments to the Act on Mine Action (OG No. 118/2018); and Act on Amendment to the Act on the Government (OG No. 116/2018).

13 Emails from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019 and 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form J; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), p. 1.

14 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form 4.1.

15 CROMAC, "National Mine Action Strategy of Croatia 2009–2019", Zagreb, June 2009, p. 2; interviews with Dijana Pleština, Director, GOMA, in Geneva, 23 May 2012 and 10 April 2014; and email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 4 July 2013.

16 OG No. 110/15; and Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A.

17 Interviews with Neven Karas, and Tomislav Ban, Assistant Director and Head of Sector for Operational Planning and Programming, CROMAC, Sisak, 18 May 2017.

18 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 24 August 2016.

19 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form A; and email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025.

20 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2022.

21 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 7 April 2023.

22 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 44.

23 Revised Work Plan 2022–2026, April 2022, p. 13.

24 Ibid.

25 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025.

26 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 21 May 2024.

27 Official Gazette 82/08 and 69/17.

28 Article 7 Report (Covering 2017), Form C; Statement of Croatia, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 7 June 2018; and email from Davor Laura, CROMAC, 6 April 2018.

29 Email from Ivana Odalj, Civil Protection Directorate, 16 August 2021.

it was integrated within the Civil Protection Directorate/MoI in 2019, many women (including those in managerial positions) were transferred or promoted into other sectors

and managerial positions in the MoI or in other State or local authority institutions.³⁰ There was no change in the proportion of women employed between 2023 to 2024.

Table 2: Gender composition of CROMAC in 2024³¹

Total staff	Women staff	Total staff in managerial or supervisory positions	Women in managerial or supervisory positions	Total operations staff	Women in operational positions
81	10 (12%)	8	0 (0%)	69	2 (3%)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Croatia has no plans to develop a stand-alone environmental management policy for mine action or specific national standards for environmental management as they feel this is already incorporated into current legislation. Several synchronised cross-ministry policies and laws already regulate environmental protection and sustainable waste management, and these also apply to mine action.³² In addition, the 2015 Mine Action Act (as amended) requires that mine action operations minimise their adverse impact on the environment. Environmental management and nature protection are designated key goals in the National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2026.³³

Croatia's annual mine action plans are coordinated through several ministries, including the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and local and regional administrations. Planning for mine action operations must identify and assess environmental issues and determine effective mitigation measures, which are then evaluated by county-level authorities. These plans are assessed for their impact, and prescribed protection measures must be strictly followed by the companies undertaking clearance.³⁴

For EU and international projects targeting Natura 2000 Ecological Network areas or national park areas

(particularly recent projects financed by the EU Cohesion Fund), the environmental considerations are more complex. Every clearance project is subject to a comprehensive environmental study, which details specific measures that must be performed before, during, and after clearance.³⁵ Three of these projects—"Naturavita", "Fearless Velebit", and "Karlovac Karst"—where clearance was completed in 2022, were subject to strict restrictions on when and how clearance could take place so as to minimise disruption to local species and habitats. As a high proportion of the remaining mined area land is in forests, Croatia is putting sustainable development and environmental stewardship at the forefront with a focus on preserving and restoring forest ecosystems.³⁶

Croatia considers climate-related and extreme weather risks when planning and prioritising survey and clearance tasks. There is a heightened risk of potentially uncontrollable forest fires and, in certain areas, floods. These risks are addressed in the "Disaster Risk Management Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030",³⁷ which was officially adopted by the Croatian Government and developed by the Civil Protection Directorate. This strategy is the first document to provide a comprehensive, unified, and proactive approach to disaster risk management. It directs activities and investments across all phases of risk management.³⁸

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

CROMAC established its own mine information system (MIS), which is said to be compliant with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and customised to meet CROMAC's needs. The MIS uses databases and a geographic information system (GIS) to deliver a fully integrated information management system.³⁹ Croatia was accepted into the eurozone in 2022, so all financial data were converted into euros.⁴⁰

Croatia submits timely and accurate annual Article 7 transparency reports and reports on its progress in Article 5 implementation at the APMBC intersessional meetings and meetings of States Parties. However, there were some discrepancies between the land release data reported by Croatia to Mine Action Review and the figures in its Article 7 report.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025.

³² Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2022; and European Committee of the Regions, "Croatia - Environment & the Fight against Climate Change", at: <https://bit.ly/4fdDzbZ>.

³³ Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 21 May 2024.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 7 April 2023.

³⁷ "Disaster Risk Management Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030", at: <https://shorturl.at/6t6HS>.

³⁸ Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 21 May 2024.

³⁹ CROMAC website, "CROMAC's Mine Information System", accessed 26 June 2018.

⁴⁰ Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 7 April 2023.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Croatia has a National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2026, an updated text of which was approved in February 2023.⁴¹ In 2018, Croatia's request to extend its Article 5 deadline by seven years to 1 March 2026 was granted by States Parties. In its extension request, Croatia said it had prioritised the remaining mined areas according to those which affect safety, pose barriers to socio-economic development, or impact the environment in other ways. Priorities at the operational level are elaborated in annual demining action plans.⁴²

A "Mine Action Revised Work Plan 2020–26" was adopted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior in 2019.⁴³ In accordance with the decision by States Parties on

Croatia's extension request, a newly updated workplan was submitted in 2022–26, setting out how Croatia proposed to release the 234km² of mined area remaining at the end of 2021.⁴⁴ And then in April 2024, Croatia submitted a newly updated work plan to 2026.

From 2019 to 2023, Croatia released almost 275.3km² compared to the 279.4km² planned in the extension request.⁴⁵ Croatia provided land release targets for 2024 to 2026 with a total of 108.4km² of mined area, including 18.9km² under the MoD's jurisdiction, to be released (see Table 3).⁴⁶ The planned land release output of 89.5km² excludes 2.6km² of UXO contamination in Karlovac.

Table 3: Planned land release of mined area (km²) (2024–26)⁴⁷

	Total	2024	2025	2026
Karlovac	11.8	11.8	0*	0
Lika-Senj	59.3	22.0	37.3	0
Sisak-Moslavina	10.4	9.3	1.1	0
Split-Dalmacija	8	8.0	0	0
Subtotals	89.5	51.1	38.4	0
Croatian Army (MoD area)	18.9	7.1	11.8	0
Totals	108.4	58.2	50.2	0

*Planned release of 2.6km² of UXO-contaminated area.

Based on approved funding, CROMAC drafts annual work plans, which are submitted to the responsible ministries and other concerned State bodies for comment and approval.⁴⁸ In 2024, CROMAC planned to release 41.1km² through clearance, 5.4km² through TS, and 5km² through NTS, totalling 51.5 km² (up slightly from the 51.1km² in the work plan), as well as 7.1km² in military areas.⁴⁹ It met its overall land release target for the year, but fell short of its clearance target. In 2025, Croatia planned to release 38.4km² of mined area in civilian areas and 11.8km² of military mined area totalling 50.2km².⁵⁰

The army was set to release mined area at military training grounds and barracks totalling 910,000m² in 2024. But since, due to its limited demining capacity, the MoD will not be able to clear the remaining mined areas under its responsibility by 2026 on its own, release of mined area at the "Eugen Kvaternik – Slunj" military training ground will be undertaken with the help of the Civil Protection Directorate and CROMAC. The necessary financial resources will be allocated from the State budget to conduct the demining plan for military locations in 2024.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

The 2015 law on mine action allowed use of TS to confirm the presence or absence of contamination.⁵¹ The law introduced a new procedure for "supplementary general survey" (a

form of NTS) and enabled "exclusion" (i.e. reduction) of SHAs through TS, which was not possible under the previous law.⁵² The law also eliminated the need for standard operating

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 8 and 11.

⁴³ Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 30 April 2021.

⁴⁴ Revised Work Plan 2022–2026, April 2022, p. 10.

⁴⁵ Ibid., p. 3.

⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 14.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.

⁴⁹ Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 21 May 2024.

⁵⁰ Ibid; and Revised Work Plan 2024–2026, April 2024, p. 14.

⁵¹ National Gazette No. 110/15; and CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A.

⁵² CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A; and emails from Mladenka Vahtarić, CROMAC, 13 and 18 May 2016.

procedures (SOPs), as all aspects of mine action were defined in detail.⁵³ National mine action standards are also encompassed within it.⁵⁴ The law was amended in 2023, with revisions made to regulations to enhance the effectiveness of land release.⁵⁵

In recent years, many CHAs have been cleared in which no AP mines were found, although the Civil Protection Directorate said many of these areas did contain AV mines or UXO. Other oversized CHAs were cleared with very few AP mines discovered. In 2024, hazardous areas that did not contain AP mines accounted for 31% of all cleared areas, an increase from 28% in 2023.⁵⁶ The high proportion of cleared land containing no AP mines in recent years calls into question the efficiency of the demining. It strongly suggests a need for better use of evidence-based survey to confirm contamination before time- and cost-intensive full clearance of mined areas recorded by CROMAC as "confirmed".

According to CROMAC, however, these figures should be understood in the wider context of Croatia's remaining contamination and the limitations of survey methods in

difficult terrain. Over the past five years, most remaining areas have been in mountainous or heavily forested environments, where conditions such as soil erosion, dense vegetation, incomplete records, and irregular emplacement patterns of mines mean that TS cannot provide the necessary level of safety assurance. As a result, more of these areas are cleared, where only isolated mines or small groups of mines may be found. While technologies such as UAVs, advanced sensors, and AI models are being explored, they have yet to prove efficient in Croatia's challenging terrain. This has contributed to the higher proportion of areas cleared without finding AP mines, although some of these areas still contain other types of ordnance, including UXO and AV mines.⁵⁷

Croatia organises an annual Mine Action Symposium, which discusses new detection and clearance technologies. The 2024 symposium brought together more than 220 participants from 35 countries to exchange experiences, explore solutions to technical and management challenges, and gain insights into the latest technologies in mine action, with a particular focus on efforts in Croatia and Ukraine.⁵⁸

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2024, 40 commercial companies were engaged in mine clearance operations in Croatia (see Table 4). But all survey is conducted by CROMAC, with two NTS personnel and twenty-four TS personnel deployed in 2024. Additionally, 19 deminers are assigned for quality control (QC). No significant changes to NTS, TS, or clearance capacity were planned for 2025.⁵⁹ The Pioneer Company of the Engineering Regiment is responsible for clearing all military facilities.⁶⁰

Table 4: Clearance capacity (in 2024)⁶¹

Clearance capacity	Numbers	Comments
Deminers	343	Down from 362 in 2023. In addition, there were 88 work site leaders.
Mine detection dogs	50	Up from 44 in 2023.
Machines	32	Down from 55 in 2023.

Croatia has calculated that with the clearance capacity currently available, manual deminers would be able to release a total of 30.4km² per year; "work site leaders" 8.2km² per year; MDDs 4.4km² per year; and machines 19.3km² per year, for an annual total of 62.3km² per year. That said, the figure given in the work plan is 43.04km² per year.⁶²

Table 5: Clearance output from current capacity⁶³

Clearance capacity	Number	Daily output (m ²)	Workdays	Totals (m ²)
Deminers	362	400	210	30,408,000
Work site leaders	98	400	210	8,232,000
MDDs	44	1,000	100	4,400,000
Machines	55	3,500	100	19,250,000
Totals	559	5,300	620	62,290,000

⁵³ Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 13 May 2016; and Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Form A.

⁵⁴ Emails from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 13 May 2016; and Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 7 April 2023.

⁵⁵ Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form A; and email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 21 May 2024.

⁵⁶ Emails from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025; and Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 21 May 2024.

⁵⁷ Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 September 2025.

⁵⁸ Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25; and email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 30 April 2021.

⁶¹ Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025.

⁶² Revised Work Plan 2024-2026, April 2024, p. 13.

⁶³ Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 7 April 2023.

Clearance is largely conducted manually, but machines and MDDs are also used. Demining machines are mainly used as a preparatory tool to support manual and MDD clearance due to the type of terrain making it unsuitable to use machines for clearance.⁶⁴ In accordance with the 2015 Act on Mine Action and its prescribed methodologies, MDDs are used only for clearance and not TS.⁶⁵ Croatia had previously reported

plans to develop methods and techniques for use of MDDs for TS, as a potentially more effective tool to address mined areas in mountainous terrain.⁶⁶ However, this would require amendment of the 2015 demining law. The Civil Protection Directorate reported to Mine Action Review in 2024 that, due to existing challenges and the dense forested areas, there were no plans to use MDDs for TS in Croatia.⁶⁷

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

Croatia released over 51.7km² of mined area in 2024, most by clearance, destroying in the process 1,533 AP mines (see Table 6). This is a drop on the 58.5km² of mined area released the year before.

Table 6: Summary of land release outputs in 2024

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Comments
Clearance	42.51	National authority data
Technical survey	4.20	National authority data, including release in areas under military control
Non-technical survey	5.02	National authority data
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	
AP mines destroyed	1,533	Includes 138 handed into to the police by members of the public

SURVEY IN 2024

CROMAC released a total of nearly 8.5km² of civilian areas through survey in 2024, a 48% decrease on the more than 16.5km² released through survey in 2023.⁶⁸ More than 5km² was cancelled through NTS and over 3.4km² was reduced through TS in 2024 (see Tables 7 and 8). In addition, 0.75km² of military area was reduced through TS in 2024, an increase from 2023 when no military areas were released through survey.⁶⁹

There was also 402,772m² of previously unrecorded AP mined area added to the database through NTS in 2024.⁷⁰ The majority of this area (0.35km²) was in the municipalities of Hrvace and Vrlika in Split-Dalmatia County, where areas were found to be contaminated following analysis of completed clearance operations in adjacent areas.⁷¹

Table 7: Release of mined area through NTS in 2024⁷²

County	Operator	Areas cancelled	Area cancelled (m ²)
Karlovac	CROMAC	6	1,694,869
Lika-Senj	CROMAC	4	2,171,710
Split-Dalmacija	CROMAC	1	45,852
Sisak-Moslavina	CROMAC	1	1,103,166
Totals		12	5,015,597

⁶⁴ Emails from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 12 and 23 September 2025.

⁶⁵ Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.

⁶⁶ 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 43, 44, and 45; and Additional information submitted 21 June 2018, p. 1.

⁶⁷ Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 21 May 2024.

⁶⁸ Emails from Civil; and Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 21 May 2024.

⁶⁹ Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form C.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 12 September 2025.

⁷² Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025.

Table 8: Release through TS of mined area (in civilian areas only) in 2024⁷³

County	Operator	Areas reduced	Area reduced (m ²)
Lika-Senj	CROMAC	6	3,000,278
Sisak-Moslavina	CROMAC	1	447,596
Totals		7	3,447,874

CLEARANCE IN 2024

In 2024, a total of more than 42.2km² of mined area was released through clearance (34.4km² by operators working under the direction of CROMAC and nearly 7.8km² of military areas cleared by commercial companies under the direction of CROMAC and in cooperation with the MoD). During land release, a total of 1,395 AP mines were destroyed during clearance (1,100 by the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC and 295 by the MoD).⁷⁴ This is a small increase from the

42.07km² of mined area released through clearance in 2023.⁷⁵ In addition, 0.29km² of area was cleared by the Pioneer Company of the Engineering Regiment and 138 AP mines were handed over by the public to the police as part of their 'Less arms, less tragedies' campaign where members of the public are encouraged to turn in any mines or other ordnance in their possession without legal penalty.⁷⁶

Table 9: Mine clearance in 2024 (including military clearance)⁷⁷

County	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Split-Dalmacija	Zeleni Kvadrat	980,869	0	0	0
Karlovac	Titan	1,117,848	12	0	0
Lika-Senj	Zeleni Kvadrat	630,513	0	0	0
Lika-Senj	Zeleni Kvadrat	691,831	16	0	9
Split-Dalmacija	Fas	636,878	34	0	2
Lika-Senj	Titan	681,336	0	1	0
Karlovac	Dok-Ing Razminiranje	1,115,449	130	0	0
Karlovac	Fas	583,461	3	0	0
Lika-Senj	Manang	1,089,469	1	0	0
Sisak-Moslavina	Manang	554,211	185	0	0
Karlovac	Fas	1,294,310	8	0	0
Karlovac	Istraživač	1,163,208	7	0	1
Lika-Senj	Istraživač	506,517	1	0	4
Lika-Senj	Rumital	944,033	23	3	4
Sisak-Moslavina	Istraživač	81,386	30	0	1
Lika-Senj	Cor	1,003,640	0	0	251
Karlovac	Dok-Ing Razminiranje	848,832	39	0	2
Lika-Senj	Piper	396,294	71	0	0
Karlovac	Zeleni Kvadrat	1,027,788	20	0	27
Sisak-Moslavina	Orkan	982,750	4	0	7
Karlovac	Orkan	632,404	20	0	4
Karlovac	Diz-Eko	1,022,842	46	0	40
Karlovac	Piton	999,962	32	1	126

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Emails from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May and 12 September 2025; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form C. In the Article 7 report the amount of clearance of civilian areas is recorded as 34.7km².

⁷⁵ Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 21 May 2024.

⁷⁶ Emails from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May and 12 September 2025; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form C.

⁷⁷ Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025.

Table 9 Continued

County	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Karlovac	Cor	528,429	11	0	1
Lika-Senj	Cor	200,165	0	0	0
Lika-Senj	Harpija	751,157	31	0	0
Lika-Senj	Rumital	376,289	4	0	20
Split-Dalmacija	Orkan	41,813	0	0	0
Karlovac	Istraživač	1,122,862	0	0	3
Karlovac	Piton	1,024,186	67	0	45
Karlovac	Diz-Eko	583,867	12	0	321
Karlovac	Istraživač	1,054,521	0	0	0
Sisak-Moslavina	Rumital	635,359	58	0	0
Sisak-Moslavina	Orkan	74,366	0	0	0
Karlovac	I.T.R.	1,031,833	104	17	94
Lika-Senj	Piper	1,056,952	0	0	0
Lika-Senj	Harpija	384,808	4	0	0
Karlovac	Istraživač	499,844	0	0	0
Lika-Senj	Piper	571,293	0	0	0
Sisak-Moslavina	Orkan	935,771	14	0	14
Karlovac	Rumital	137,094	0	0	0
Lika-Senj	Istraživač	224,944	0	0	0
Lika-Senj	Harpija	987,738	0	0	0
Karlovac	Istraživač	302,524	0	0	0
Sisak-Moslavina	Piper	119,665	0	0	0
Karlovac	Piper	119,573	0	0	0
Lika-Senj	Cor	483,681	8	0	0
Karlovac	Istraživač	411,247	0	0	0
Split-Dalmacija	Heksogen	844,780	21	0	0
Karlovac	Piper	42,985	0	0	22
Split-Dalmacija	Cor	980,355	5	0	0
Split-Dalmacija	Heksogen	426,877	0	0	1
Split-Dalmacija	Fas	775,173	4	0	0
Karlovac	Dok-Ing Razminiranje	1,134,764	12	0	0
Sisak-Moslavina	Piper	738,308	38	0	0
Sisak-Moslavina	Istraživač	742,900	303	0	2
Split-Dalmacija	Tornado Razminiranje	1,071,494	0	0	0
Split-Dalmacija	Cor	883,066	13	0	6
Split-Dalmacija	Fas	966,901	0	0	0
Sisak-Moslavina	Fossio	52,443	2	0	0
Sisak-Moslavina	Heksogen	462,869	0	0	0
Karlovac	Fas	451,132	2	0	0
Totals		42,219,859	1,395	22	1,007

The amount of area cleared in 2024 increased compared to the previous year, as did the proportion of mines cleared per square metre, which increased from one AP mine destroyed for every 52,000m² of cleared area (excluding the items of UXO and AV mines destroyed) to one AP mine per 30,000m². However, Croatia is still clearing large amounts of area

with no AP mines found, indicating very poor targeting of clearance and suggesting that Croatia could be releasing much greater area through survey. CROMAC reported that in 2024, 24 tasks totalling 13.19km² were cleared with no AP mines found (although one AV mine and 277 items of UXO) were found, an 11% increase from 2023.⁷⁸

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Croatia is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2026. It is just on track to meet this deadline.

Croatia's clearance output increased slightly from 2023 to 2024, but it fell short of its overall land release target of 58.6km², instead releasing 51.7km². In civilian areas, Croatia had planned to release 51.5km², of which 41.1km² would be through clearance, 5.4km² through TS, and 5km² through NTS. While Croatia met its target for NTS, it fell short on clearance (achieving only 34.4km²), as well as on TS. In military areas, Croatia exceeded its land release target of 7.1km², managing to release 8.84km² of which 8.09km² was through clearance and the remainder 0.75km² was through TS.

At the end of 2024, Croatia had 57.3km² of AP mined area remaining, including 10.1km² of military areas. As at September 2025, Croatia remained confident it is on track to meet its Article 5 mine clearance deadline.⁷⁹ While possible,

this is an ambitious goal and would require higher annual land release output than Croatia has achieved in recent years. This also does not include any previously unrecorded AP mine contamination that may be added to the baseline. In 2025, 0.4km² was added to the database.

Table 10: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2024	42.51
2023	42.07
2022	40.67
2021	34.48
2020	49.66
Total	209.39

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

CROMAC has reported that managing residual contamination will be the joint responsibility of several departments within the MoI.⁸⁰ Activities which must be conducted upon discovery of residual contamination are predefined in law by the Mine Action Act.⁸¹ Croatia plans to reduce its demining capacity once it has met the requirements of its Article 5 deadline,

while retaining core capabilities for addressing residual contamination and explosive ordnance disposal. It also aims to maintain capacity for knowledge transfer, international cooperation, database management, risk education, victim assistance coordination, and related functions.⁸²

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 12 September 2025.

⁸⁰ Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 7 April 2023.

⁸¹ Statement of Croatia on Clearance, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1, virtual meeting), 25–27 November 2020.

⁸² Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025.