CROATIA

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2026

Article 5 obligations fulfilled and deadline met

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

No AP mine contamination
(Only possible residual contamination)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km²)	Release in 2024 (km²)
Clearance	50.29	42.51
Technical Survey	7.94	4.20
Non-Technical Survey	1.85	5.02

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	1,945	1,533 (including 138 mines handed in for destruction)

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

- Demining Battalion of the Croatian Armed Forces
- 41 commercial companies

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Croatia completed its anti-personnel (AP) mine clearance at the end of 2025, meeting its second extended deadline under Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) of 1 March 2026. Croatia's reported land release of 60.1km² increased by 16% on 2024 and was nearly 10km² above its annual target. Its clearance output in 2025 was exceptionally high compared to the average rate globally recorded. Two demining incidents occurred resulting in the death of one deminer and injury of another. From 2026, Croatia is transitioning its mine action programme to a post-completion structure and defining processes to address residual contamination and welfare provisions for former deminers.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	8	7	Croatia announced in March 2026 that it had completed release of all known mined areas under its jurisdiction and control, including the mined areas on military sites. The land released in 2025 could not be reconciled with the contamination baseline at the end of 2024 and the newly discovered contamination in the intervening period.
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 2025, Croatia contributed €32.7 million of the €89.9 million provided for survey and clearance. Strong national coordination enabled the joining of efforts between the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and Ministry of Defence (MoD) allowing for effective demining.

Assessment of national programme performance continued

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	Performance Commentary
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	5	5	The proportion of women employed at the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) remained low in 2025, with one woman occupying a managerial position and one in an operational position.
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's post-completion framework contains provisions to maintain and secure the mine action database and preserve historical records. Croatia provides regular and accurate updates on its progress in Article 5 implementation at APMBC meetings and makes much of its mine action data publicly available. However, there were 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 and an updated work plan to 2026 with annual targets for land release. Croatia's protocols for addressing residual contamination post-completion are largely defined and are expected to be finalised by 2027.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	5	5	Croatia continued to clear large areas without finding AP mines. In 2025, hazardous areas which did not contain AP mines accounted for 26% of the total cleared, although anti-vehicle (AV) mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) were found. There was one AP mine found for every 25,855m^2 cleared, indicating the need for better survey and targeting. Croatia's clearance output in 2025 was exceptionally high, but Croatia reported that some of this output was carried over from 2024 due to timing of issuance of completion certificates. In addition, Croatia's manual clearance was supported by mechanical preparation and mine detection dogs (MDDs).
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	9	7	CROMAC reported just over 60km^2 in 2025, a 16% increase on 2024 and nearly 10km^2 above the annual target. Croatia completed all known AP mine clearance and fulfilled its Article 5 obligations by its extended deadline of 1 March 2026. Its formal voluntary declaration of completion was expected to be made at the Twenty-Third Meeting of States Parties.
Average Score	**7.4**	**6.8**	**Overall Programme Performance: GOOD**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Ministry of the Interior (MoI), in which CROMAC is integrated within the Civil Protection Directorate

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Forty-one commercial demining companies are accredited for mine clearance
- Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of Croatia

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Croatia reported that no known AP mined area remained at the end of 2025.[1] The area reportedly released in 2025 exceeded the end-2024 contamination baseline together with the newly discovered contamination by 2.5km^2.[2] At the end of 2024, Croatia had reported 57.3km^2 of AP mine contamination, of which 10.1km^2 was in areas under military control.[3]

1 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Head of Department, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.

2 Croatia reported releasing 60.08km^2 during 2025, exceeding the recorded contamination by 2.48km^2.

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

A total of 0.3km^2 of previously unknown AP mine contamination was discovered during 2025 but was released before the close of the year.[4] While field operations were completed in 2025, the final land release certificates were issued in February 2026, removing all known AP mines, together with UXO, from the Croatian territory.[5]

Croatia's mine contamination was 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).[6] The most frequently reported mine types were PMR-2A AP mines, PMA-1 AP mines, and TMRP-6 AV mines.[7]

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Croatia is also affected, though to a much lesser extent, by ERW. On 1 August 2020, Croatia declared fulfilment of Article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, having completed release of all known or suspected cluster munition-contaminated areas.[8]

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

In 2018, the Croatian government decided to integrate 54 agencies, including the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) and the Government Office for Mine Action (GOMA), into existing State administration bodies. This was formalised by legislation effective from 2019.[9] As a result, CROMAC and GOMA ceased to exist as separate entities, with CROMAC becoming one of 11 operational sectors within the Civil Protection Directorate under the MoI.[10] The aim was to create a more efficient Civil Protection Directorate to handle all aspects of civil protection, including mine action.[11]

A new law on mine action was adopted by the Croatian parliament in 2015.[12] While the Law marked an improvement in certain respects—for instance, by permitting land release through technical survey (TS)—there were concerns it would impede efficient and effective mine action.[13] 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 replaced the former unified accreditation licence.[14]

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 procedures.[15]

The Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC is not responsible for survey and clearance of military areas, which comes under the remit of the 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 hazardous areas that fall within the MoD's responsibility.[16] 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.[17] CROMAC met with mine action stakeholders several times in 2025, mostly to discuss the rights of and future opportunities for deminers.[18]

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 €459 million.[19] In its Revised Work Plan 2022–2026, Croatia estimated it would cost €219 million to clear the remaining mined area.[20] Half of the funding for land release through to 2025 was expected to come from the Croatian government with the remainder from the European Union (EU) and other sources.[21] In 2025, the overall annual mine action budget for survey and clearance in Croatia was €89.9 million. Of this, the European Union provided € 57.2 million (approx. 64%) and the remaining €32.7 million

4 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.
5 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C.
6 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.
7 Report on Implementation of the Mine Action Plan and Expenditure in 2025 (in Croatian), 26 February 2026, https://bit.ly/4w1TieK, p. 6.
8 Statement of Croatia on Clearance, CCM Second Review Conference, 25–27 November 2020.
9 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).
10 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.
11 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form 4.1.
12 OG No. 110/15; and Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A.
13 Interviews with Neven Karas, and Tomislav Ban, Assistant Director and Head of Sector for Operational Planning and Programming, CROMAC, Sisak, 18 May 2017.
14 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 24 August 2016.
15 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form A; and email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025.
16 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2022.
17 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 7 April 2023.
18 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.
19 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 44.
20 Revised Work Plan 2022–2026, April 2022, p. 13.
21 Ibid.

was contributed from the State budget.[22] The 2026 mine action plan provides €21.63 million for mine action. A further €150,000 was allocated under the MoD implementation of the plan.[23] For more information on funding see the country profile on Croatia on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[24]

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The Gender Equality Act,[25] which establishes national guidelines for gender equality, prohibits gender-based discrimination and requires equal opportunities for men and women.[26] Croatia's gender and diversity framework is aligned with the EU standards, but inconsistent implementation and practical impact remain uneven, including among private mine action operators.[27] The Civil Protection Directorate does not compile or disclose data regarding commercial demining companies, which are privately owned.[28]

According to Croatia, the very low proportion of women working in the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC (see Table 1) is due to the fact that when CROMAC ceased to exist as an independent centre and was downsized when 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.[29] The proportion of women working in operational positions in CROMAC increased by one percentage point in 2025. One woman occupied a managerial position, and another worked in operations.[30]

Table 1: Gender composition of CROMAC in 2025[31]

Total staff	Women staff	Total staff in managerial or supervisory positions	Women in managerial or supervisory positions	Total operational staff	Women in operational positions
75	8 (11%)	7	1 (14%)	53	1 (2%)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Croatia does not have a stand-alone environmental management policy for mine action or specific national standards for environmental management as it considered these to already be incorporated into its legislation. Several policies and laws already regulate environmental protection and sustainable waste management.[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 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",[34] 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.[35]

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.[36] Croatia was accepted into the eurozone in 2022, so all financial data were converted into euros.[37]

22 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.
23 Mine Action Plan 2026 (in Croatian), pp. 7–8 and 11.
24 https://the-monitor.org.
25 Official Gazette 82/08 and 69/17.
26 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.
27 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.
28 Email from Ivana Odalj, Civil Protection Directorate, 16 August 2021.
29 Ibid.
30 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.
31 Ibid.
32 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2022.
33 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 21 May 2024.
34 "Disaster Risk Management Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030".
35 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 21 May 2024.
36 CROMAC website, "CROMAC's Mine Information System", accessed 26 June 2018.
37 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 7 April 2023.

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. The Civil Protection Directorate also makes progress reports and action plans available to the public. Similar to 2024, there were some discrepancies between the land release data reported by Croatia to Mine Action Review and the figures in its Article 7 report.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Croatia has a National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2026, an updated text of which was approved in February 2023.[38] 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.[39]

A "Mine Action Revised Work Plan 2020–26" was adopted in 2019.[40] In accordance with the decision by States Parties on Croatia's extension request, a newly updated work plan was submitted in 2022–26, setting out how Croatia proposed to release the 234km^2 of mined area remaining at the end of 2021.[41] In April 2024, Croatia submitted a newly updated work plan to 2026. The 2026 mine action plan provides €21.63 million, mainly for completion-related tasks, reporting, risk education, international cooperation, and residual-risk management. A further €150,000 was allocated under the MoD implementation of the plan.[42]

From 2019 to 2023, Croatia released almost 275.3km^2 compared to the 279.4km^2 planned in the extension request.[43] Croatia provided land release targets for 2024 to 2026 with a total of 108.4km^2 of mined area, including 18.9km^2 under the MoD's jurisdiction, to be released (see Table 2).[44] Croatia exceeded its land release target of 2025 by nearly 10km^2.

Table 2: Planned land release of mined area (km^2) (2024–26)[45]

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

* Planned release of 2.6km^2 of battle area.

The army was set to release mined area at military training grounds and barracks totalling 910,000m^2 in 2024. Due to limited demining capacity of the MoD, release of mined area at the "Eugen Kvaternik – Slunj" military training ground was undertaken through the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC, which tendered the clearance tasks to private companies.[46]

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.[47] The Law introduced a new procedure for "supplementary general survey" (a form of NTS) and enabled "exclusion" (i.e. reduction) of suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) through TS, which was not possible under the previous law.[48] The Law also eliminated the need for standard operating procedures (SOPs), as all aspects of mine action were defined in detail.[49] National mine action

38 Ibid.
39 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 8 and 11.
40 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 30 April 2021.
41 Revised Work Plan 2022–2026, April 2022, p. 10.
42 Mine Action Plan 2026 (in Croatian), pp. 7–8 and 11.
43 Revised Work Plan 2022–2026, April 2022, p. 3.
44 Ibid., p. 14.
45 Ibid.
46 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.
47 National Gazette No. 110/15; and CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A.
48 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A; and emails from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 13 and 18 May 2016.
49 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 13 May 2016; and Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Form A.

standards were also encompassed within it.[50] The Law was amended in 2023, with revisions made to enhance the effectiveness of land release.[51]

In recent years, many confirmed hazardous areas (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 2025, 13km^2 across 24 hazardous areas were cleared with no AP mines found, although clearance included the destruction of 122 AV mines and 3,068 items of UXO. Mined areas without AP mines accounted for 26% of the total area cleared, down from the 31% in 2024.[52] The high proportion of cleared land containing no AP mines in recent years calls into question the efficiency of the demining.

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 were found.[53]

Croatia's 2025 clearance output far exceeded the rate of manual clearance reported globally. Considering the capacity of 347 deminers deployed in 2025, the reported 50.3km^2 annual output equates to nearly 520m^2 cleared by deminer per working day, far above the 22.5m^2 most frequently recorded by the GICHD. The GICHD cautions, however, that this global mode was calculated from a sample of mine action operators, and is not a full representation of global data,[54] so the 22.5 figure should be considered as an indicative measure only.

Croatia attributed its clearance rate to a range of factors including: carrying over some of the achieved clearance from the previous year due to the time needed for issuance of clearance certificates; the combination of manual clearance with MDDs and surface preparation to different depths (depending on the terrain), which greatly enhances productivity; and the political will and increase in State funding which supported capacity. Croatia's rulebook permits a maximum daily output of 400–1,200m^2 per deminer, depending on the extent and depth to which prior mechanical preparation is carried out, and on whether the minefield has been previously inspected by MDDs. While Site Managers determine the combination of methods to be applied at a given location, Croatia estimated that approximately 40% of its cleared land in 2025 was processed through manual clearance alone or following mechanical vegetation removal.[55] A total of 2.3km^2 was sampled for quality assurance during clearance in 2025, and 140 final quality control visits were carried out on completed demined areas covering 0.5km^2.[56] In addition, the mine action inspection service conducted 151 inspections: 110 at demining worksites and 41 at the offices of commercial service providers, following which, the inspection service issued 11 misdemeanour orders, imposed one administrative measure, and revoked four authorisations to conduct demining.[57]

Croatia organises an annual Mine Action Symposium, which discusses new detection and clearance technologies. In 2025 and 2026, the 21st and 22nd symposia were held, bringing together more than 200 participants from 32 countries. The 2026 Symposium focused particularly on progress of mine action in Ukraine, new approaches to training and capacity building, institutional and market-based management models, and the application of artificial intelligence, robotics, and multisensory approach to mine detection.[58]

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2025, 41 commercial companies were engaged in mine clearance operations in Croatia, with the combined capacity of 347 deminers (see Table 3). Survey is conducted by CROMAC, with three NTS personnel and twenty-four TS personnel deployed in 2025. Additionally, 92 deminers were assigned as work site leaders and 46 personnel as auxiliary workers. There were no significant changes to survey or clearance capacities in 2025, but capacities were being downsized in 2026.[59] Military land release was conducted by both the MoD demining battalion and a contracted commercial company.[60]

Table 3: Clearance capacity (in 2025)[61]

Clearance capacity	Nos.	Comments
Deminers	347	Up from 343 in 2024. In addition, there were 92 work site leaders and 46 auxiliary workers.
Mine detection dogs	64	Up from 50 in 2024.
Machines	24	Down from 32 in 2024.

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

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

52 Emails from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 29 May 2025 and 26 March 2026.

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

54 GICHD, "Operational Efficiency in Mine Action", March 2023, https://shorturl.at/qKUt4, p. 18.

55 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 14 August 2026.

56 Croatian Parliament, Committee of Internal Policy and National Security, 25 March 2026, https://bit.ly/4w82oa7.

57 Report on Implementation of the Mine Action Plan and Expenditure in 2025 (in Croatian), 26 February 2026, p. 9.

58 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.

59 Ibid.

60 Report on Implementation of the Mine Action Plan and Expenditure in 2025 (in Croatian), 26 February 2026, p. 14; and email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.

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

Clearance was largely conducted manually, but machines and MDDs were also used. 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.[62] In accordance with the 2015 Act on Mine Action and its prescribed methodologies, MDDs were used only for clearance and not TS.[63]

DEMINER SAFETY

Two demining accidents occurred in 2025, one resulting in minor injury and the other in a fatality. On 26 May, a PROM-1 AP mine detonated during mechanical clearance in Lika-Senj County, causing minor injury to the machine operator. On 26 June, an explosive device detonated during manual mine detection in Karlovac County, which resulted in the death of a deminer. The two incidents were investigated by the MoI and Police Directorate in line with the relevant laws.[64]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

Croatia released 60.1km^2 of mined area in 2025, mostly by clearance, destroying in the process 1,945 AP mines (see Table 4).[65] This is a 16% increase on the 51.7km^2 of mined area released the year before. There were discrepancies in the figures reported to Mine Action Review and those of Croatia's Article 7 report covering 2025. These are indicated in the footnote of Table 4. The differences are believed to originate from the time lapse between completion of clearance at the end of 2025 and the official administrative release of some of the tasks, which was done by March 2026.

Table 4: Summary of land release outputs in 2025[66]

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km^2)
Clearance	50.3
Technical survey	7.9
Non-technical survey	1.9
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2025**
AP mines destroyed	1,945

SURVEY IN 2025

CROMAC released a total of 9.8km^2 of AP mined areas through survey in 2025, a slight increase on the 9.2km^2 released through survey in 2024.[67] Of the total released by survey, 1.9km^2 was cancelled through NTS and 7.9km^2 reduced through TS, including 5.7km^2 reduced in military areas (see Tables 5 and 6). In its Article 7 report, Croatia reported having released 4.1km^2 through survey in 2025, without disaggregating further.[68]

A total of 0.3km^2 of previously unrecorded AP mined area was added to the database through NTS in 2025, but was subsequently released through clearance during the course of the year.[69]

Table 5: Release of mined area through NTS in 2025[70]

County	Operator	Areas cancelled	Area cancelled (m^2)
Lika-Senj	CROMAC	3	1,703,051
Sisak-Moslavina	CROMAC	2	149,887
Totals		**5**	**1,852,938**

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

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

64 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.

65 Ibid.

66 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026. Data presented in Table 4 was reported by the Civil Protection Directorate to Mine Action Review. In its Article 7 report (covering 2025), Croatia reported releasing 47.7km^2 of AP mine contaminated land. Of this, 4.1km^2 was released through survey and 43.6km^2 was cleared. A total of 1,871 AP mines, 208 AV mines, and 39,353 items of UXO were destroyed.

67 Emails from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 12 September 2025 and 26 March 2026.

68 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C.

69 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.

70 Ibid.

Table 6: Release through TS of mined area in 2025[71]

County	Operator	Areas reduced	Area reduced (m²)
Karlovac	CROMAC	1	402
Lika-Senj	CROMAC	7	1,676,020
Sisak-Moslavina	CROMAC	2	543,109
Šibenik-Knin	CROMAC	1	10,933
Karlovac*	MoD battalion	1	5,711,408
Totals		**12**	**7,941,872**

* Area under the jurisdiction of the MoD.

CLEARANCE IN 2025

In 2025, a total of 50.3km² of mined area was cleared – 45.5km² in civilian areas and 4.8km² in military areas.[72] This is an 18% increase on the 42.5km² of mined area cleared in 2024.[73] During clearance, a total of 1,945 AP mines, 208 AV mines, and 39,353 items of UXO were destroyed. There are discrepancies between the data reported to Mine Action Review and in Croatia's Article 7 report covering 2025. These are explained in the footnote to Table 7. The figures provided to Mine Action Review reflect areas actually released during the year, whereas the Article 7 report reports only on land for which a completion certificate had been issued.[74]

Table 7: Mine clearance in 2025[75]

County	Operator	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Karlovac	Commercial operator	2	2,142,386	2	0	35,472
Lika-Senj	Commercial operator	63	39,881,610	836	208	449
Split-Dalmacija	Commercial operator	3	656,420	4	0	6
Sisak-Moslavina	Commercial operator	9	2,852,160	963	0	2,647
Karlovac*	Commercial operator	4	4,220,357	66	0	162
Karlovac*	MoD battalion	2	535,135	74	0	617
Totals		**83**	**50,288,068**	**1,945**	**208**	**39,353**

* Area under the jurisdiction of the MoD.

The increase in land release in 2025 was attributed to the increased State funding to clear areas under the MoD responsibility, the sharing of NTS and TS capacity between CROMAC and MoD, and the inclusion of military areas in clearance tenders.[76] Yet, the proportion of mines cleared per square metre, remained very low: one AP mine found for each 25,855m² cleared, indicating very poor targeting of clearance and suggesting that Croatia could have released much greater area through survey. As mentioned, CROMAC reported that 13km² was cleared in 2025 with no AP mines found, although 122 AV mines and 3,068 items of UXO were destroyed.

71 Ibid.

72 Ibid.

73 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.

74 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.

75 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026. In its Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Croatia reported clearing 43.6km² of AP mined area and destroying a total of 1,871 AP mines, 208 AV mines, and 39,353 items of UXO.

76 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR CROATIA: 1 MARCH 1999

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2009

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FIRST EXTENDED DEADLINE (10-YEAR EXTENSION): 1 MARCH 2019

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SECOND EXTENDED DEADLINE (7-YEAR EXTENSION): 1 MARCH 2026

FULFILLED ARTICLE 5 OBLIGATIONS AT THE END OF 2025

Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Croatia was required to destroy all AP mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2026. Croatia completed clearance of all its known mined areas, including those under the jurisdiction of the MoD, by the end of 2025.[77] The last land release certificates were issued by February 2026.[78] Croatia was planning to issue a formal Declaration of Completion at the Twenty-Third Meeting of States Parties in November–December 2026.[79] Croatia had secured two extensions to its Article 5 deadline – a ten-year extension to March 2019, and a seven-year extension to March 2026.

Croatia significantly increased its clearance output to exceed its annual target and address new contamination identified in the same year. Strong national coordination enabled the MoI and MoD to combine their efforts and resources.

Table 8: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km²)
2025	50.29
2024	42.51
2023	42.07
2022	40.67
2021	34.48
Total	**210.02**

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Croatia's mine action system is undergoing a normative and operational transformation to a post-completion capacity, which is scheduled for completion in 2027. This transformation is based on three pillars: residual risk management, international cooperation, and victim assistance. Under the new system, CROMAC will retain its capacities within the MoI – Civil Protection Directorate, but with a transformed role.[80]

Croatia's post-completion key responsibilities will include:

- Residual contamination management; including responding to newly discovered explosive hazards, targeted survey and clearance operations, and community safety;
- Information and archives management: including database maintenance and updating, safeguarding historical data, and ensuring data security;
- Mine victim assistance, risk education, international cooperation, advocacy for the Convention, and supporting for mine action in other countries.[81]

Croatia has defined a protocol for responding to newly discovered mined areas after completion. It provides for marking the hazardous area and restricting civilian access; coordinating demining capacity with the police explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) unit; reporting the contamination under Article 7; analysing historical data, maps, and contamination records; and undertaking an EOD call-out or a full survey and clearance operation, as required.[82]

While Croatia's deminers worked for private companies, and are therefore not State employees, the Croatian government is reviewing the transition and welfare of deminers to grant them special rights, including enhanced pension service, retirement regardless of age after 25 years of service and eight years in demining, mandatory insurance protection, and recognition of dangerous and responsible work.[83] In July 2026, the government said amendments to the Mine Action Act were under way to align the basis for disability compensation for deminers with that applicable to war veterans.[84]

77 Republic of Croatia Ministry of Interior and APMBC press release, "Croatia Completes Mine Clearance Obligation Under Landmark Landmine Treaty", 9 March 2026.

78 Email from Dejan Rendulić, Civil Protection Directorate, 26 March 2026.

79 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C.

80 "Strengthening Sustainable Capacities for Safer Communities", APMBC Intersessional Meetings 15-18 June 2026, slide 2.

81 Ibid., slide 7.

82 Ibid., slide 9.

83 Ibid., slides 5 and 6.

84 Republic of Croatia, "Same basis for disability compensation for deminers and veterans" (in Croatian), 10 July 2026.