

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



CLEARING THE MINES 2023

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)
MINE CONTAMINATION: LIGHT

0.4KM²

AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2022

28,628M²

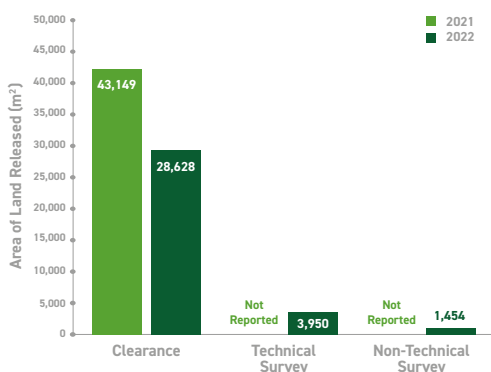
(PARTIAL REPORT BASED ON
OPERATOR DATA)

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2022

4

(OPERATOR DATA)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **LOW**

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) submitted an Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 7 report in May 2022 declaring that survey in 2021 had identified previously unrecorded mined areas covering a total 421,557m², thereby tripling its estimate of contamination. The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) signed an agreement with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in November 2022 for a two-year project to support mine action in DR Congo.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- DR Congo should update its latest Article 5 deadline extension request, including a new work plan and new timelines that take account of the increased estimate of contamination.
- DR Congo should conduct survey to verify the exact area of mine contamination.
- The Congolese Mine Action Centre (CCLAM) should specify what arrangements it is making for the long-delayed survey of Aru and Dungu territories.
- DR Congo should detail its plans for sustainable capacity to tackle previously unidentified hazards.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2022)	Score (2021)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	5	5	DR Congo's anti-personnel (AP) mined area appears to be small but estimates of its extent have fluctuated sharply in recent years and more than tripled on the basis of finding previously unidentified hazardous areas in 2021–22. DR Congo still needs to survey Aru and Dungu districts, adding further uncertainty about the extent of its mine threat.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	6	6	CCLAM coordinates mine action with financial support from the government but it depends on the United Nations and international donors, including the United States, to fund operations and also receives technical support from UNMAS and other international organisations.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	6	6	DR Congo's Article 5 deadline extension request pledges to encourage operators to employ up to 30% women in operations teams and at least half of the risk education teams. CCLAM recognised the significance of gender in mine action by including a section on it in the 2018–19 national mine action strategy. All activities, especially risk education and victim assistance, are required to take account of the needs of different age groups and genders, and women should participate in all essential stages of mine action planning.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	4	4	DR Congo submitted an Article 7 report in May 2022 but it covered a 27-month period from 1 January 2019 to 31 March 2022, underscoring the lack of consistency in CCLAM's reporting. As at September 2023, DR Congo had yet to submit an Article 7 report for the whole of 2022 as required by the APMBC. The quality of data in CCLAM's information management database is poor and operators say they are still being deployed for survey and clearance to tasks that contain no mines.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	4	4	The July 2021 Article 5 extension request included a calendar for operations with monthly targets for clearance and cost projections but these were overturned by release of new data tripling the estimate of contamination. Moreover, implementation is dependent on international donor funding. The request allowed a year for survey and clearance in Aru and Dungu but did not indicate when survey is expected to start.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	5	5	CCLAM has 24 chapters of National Technical Standards and Guidelines which it reportedly revised in 2018, making amendments to standards dealing with demining techniques and deminer safety. CCLAM still required support from UNMAS for quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC).
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	3	3	The DR Congo has not reported details of land released in 2020 or 2021. DanChurchAid (DCA), which appears to be the only organisation conducting AP mine clearance, reported clearing 28,628m ² in 2022, a significant drop from the 43,139m ² it reported clearing in 2021.
Average Score	4.6	4.6	Overall Programme Performance: POOR

DEMINEING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines (CCLAM)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Afrique pour la Lutte Antimines (AFRILAM)
- National NGOs conduct non-technical survey and mine risk education

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- G4S
- TDI

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

DR Congo is believed to have very limited anti-personnel (AP) mined area of less than 0.5km² but the precise extent is obscured by fluctuating and inconsistent official accounts and incomplete survey.

A new assessment of its contamination provided in an Article 7 transparency report in May 2022 said DR Congo had 37 hazardous areas affecting 399,969m² (see Table 1),¹ more than triple the estimate of contamination it had submitted eight months earlier in its 2021 request for an extension of its APMBC Article 5 deadline.² The new estimate included five mined areas identified by the national non-governmental organisation (NGO) AFRILAM working under contract to UNMAS.³ In June 2022, DR Congo presented another estimate to the APMBC Intersessional Meetings, reporting that it had 36 hazardous areas covering 397,569m².⁴

DR Congo informed the June 2022 Intersessional Meetings that several accidents had occurred between October and December 2021 in Kasai province in areas that were not previously suspected as hazardous. It said

subsequent surveys had identified 328,726m² of additional contamination in Kasai and further surveys in Tanganyika province conducted during April 2022 had found 27,000m² of previously unreported mined area.⁵ It said the new discoveries raised total contamination to 40 areas affecting 421,557m² although clearance of four areas in Tshopo province had removed 26,747m².⁶ The figures cited were not consistent with the data presented in either the Article 5 deadline extension request⁷ or the Article 7 report, which raised the estimate of contamination in Kasai from 700m² to 302,426m² while in Tanganyika province it rose from 6,943m² to 36,343m².

The latest assessments also do not include any contamination in Aru district of Ituri province and Dungu in Haut-Uele province which it still plans to survey following up a preliminary assessment in 2013. The areas were not previously surveyed due to insecurity but since 2019 DR Congo has indicated that lack of financing was the factor holding back survey.⁸

Table 1: AP mined area (at end-March 2022)⁹

Province	Mined areas	Area (m ²)
Ituri	4	6,100
Kasai	7	302,426
Maniema	2	4,752
North Kivu	9	12,760
South Kivu	2	851
North Ubangi	4	35,417
Tanganyika	8	36,343
Tshuapa	1	1,320
Totals	37	399,969

Survey in 2022 identified eight additional mined areas covering 304,511m² in Kasai Central province but also led to reduction of 295,299m² in three provinces, suggesting a net increase in total contamination of 9,212m².¹⁰

DR Congo has AP and anti-vehicle (AV) mine contamination left by decades of conflict with neighbouring states, rebel groups, and militias since independence in 1960. At the end

of 2016, UNMAS reported DR Congo still had 54 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) covering a total of 851,228m²,¹¹ but subsequent re-survey found that a number of areas were contaminated by the more prevalent problem of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and contributed to a sharp fall in the estimate of contamination.

1 Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2019 to 31 March 2022), Form C.

2 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 9 July 2021, p. 22. The request estimated AP mine contamination at 117,031m².

3 Email from Jean-Denis Larsen, Chief of Mine Action Programme, UNMAS, 31 May 2022.

4 Statement of DR Congo, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20 June 2022.

5 The newly identified contamination included three hazardous areas (HAs) in Tanganyika/Kabalo totalling 27,000m², four HAs in Kasai Central/Demba (2) and Dimbelenge (2) totalling 283,686m², and two HAs in Kasai/Dekese totalling 18,040m².

6 Statement of DR Congo, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20 June 2022.

7 The extension request recorded six hazardous areas in Tshopo province totalling 48,188m². DR Congo's 2022 Intersessional statement referred to clearance of four HAs clearing 26,747m² but gave no indication of what action, if any, accounts for the contamination previously reported in Tshopo province.

8 Statement of DR Congo, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, 25–29 November 2019.

9 Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2019 to 31 March 2022), Form C.

10 Email from Erly Munoz, Programme Officer, UNMAS, 16 August 2023.

11 Email from Steven Harrop, Chief of Operations, UNMAS, 20 September 2017.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The mine action sector is overseen by the National Mine Action Committee (la Commission Nationale de Lutte Antimines, CNLAM), a multisectoral body which is supposed to meet twice a year and is composed of deputies from both parliamentary chambers, officials from four ministries, and representatives of five civil society organisations linked to mine action.¹²

Management of the sector is under the Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines (CCLAM), established in 2012 with support from the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) and UNMAS. It is responsible for setting strategy, accrediting operators, information management, budgeting, and resource mobilisation. Law 11/007 of 9 July 2011 underpins the national mine action programme.¹³ CCLAM took over from UNMAS as the national focal point for demining in early 2016 overseeing accreditation, issuing task orders, conducting quality assurance (QA)/quality control (QC) and managing the national database but lack of capacity remained a concern for operators.¹⁴

The government has provided funding for CCLAM's operating expenses but has not funded operations. In 2018, that support amounted to US\$530,000¹⁵ but the Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in 2021 indicated this would fall to US\$272,271 and CCLAM indicated it would argue for government support for operations.¹⁶

CCLAM organised four online coordination meetings with all the mine action stakeholders in 2022 where actors were able to share information on their activities and the challenges faced while undertaking the operations, such as the security conditions.¹⁷

UNMAS started working in DR Congo in 2002, when it established UNMACC as part of the UN Stabilisation Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO), coordinating mine action through offices in the capital, Kinshasa, and five other cities. In 2014, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2147 (2014), humanitarian mine action was removed from

MONUSCO's mandate although it has continued financial support and in 2020 and 2021 UNMAS was funded exclusively by MONUSCO.¹⁸

UNMAS supported mine action in DR Congo in 2022 operating with 19 staff (10 national and 9 international), but in 2023 UNMAS added seven staff for a project funded by the Korean International Cooperation Agency for a total of 26 staff (12 national and 14 international, including 6 provided as in-kind assistance by Switzerland). UNMAS has offices in Kinshasa, Beni, and Goma, as well as three staff in the supply office in Entebbe in Uganda which supports UNMAS in DR Congo in procurement, logistics, human resources, finance, and contracting.¹⁹

UNMAS contracted an international operator, G4S, for improvised explosive device disposal (IEDD) as well as explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training. It awarded national operator AFRILAM a three-year contract to conduct EOD, which runs until June 2024. UNMAS signed an agreement with the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) on 22 November 2022 for capacity building support to mine action with an implementation period running from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2024. The project encompasses training of national Congolese operators on clearance and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) as well as on-the-job support for CCLAM. In 2023, UNMAS conducted training sessions for three national NGOs, focusing on EORE and non-technical-survey (NTS). In addition, UNMAS has selected an international contractor, TDI, to build the capabilities of national operators in clearance activities.²⁰

UNMAS provided technical advice to support national authorities preparing the Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in September 2021 and participating in a meeting convened by the APMB Implementation Support Unit in November 2020 on what was needed for DR Congo to fulfil its Article 5 obligations.²¹

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS

DR Congo does not yet have national standards or policies covering the protection of the environment during mine action operations. A national standard on environmental management has reportedly been prepared as part of a review of national standards by CCLAM but it has not been officially released.²²

12 CCLAM, "Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Antimines 2018–2019", November 2017, p. 11. The government ministries represented in CNLAM include defence, health, interior, and humanitarian affairs.

13 Email from Maître Sudi Alimasi Kimputu, Director, CCLAM, 3 June 2019.

14 Emails from Jean-Denis Larsen, NPA, 5 March 2018; Bill Marsden, MAG, 11 May 2018; and Guillaume Zerr, Humanity & Inclusion (HI), 24 May 2018.

15 Email from Maître Sudi Alimasi Kimputu, CCLAM, 3 June 2019.

16 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 6 July 2021, p. 11.

17 Email from Erly Munoz, UNMAS, 16 August 2023.

18 UN Security Council Resolution 2147, 28 March 2014; and email from Aurelie Fabry, Programme Officer, UNMAS, 28 April 2021.

19 Emails from Erly Munoz, UNMAS, 16 and 17 August 2023.

20 Email from Erly Munoz, UNMAS, 25 August 2023.

21 Email from Aurelie Fabry, UNMAS, 28 April 2021.

22 Email from Erly Munoz, UNMAS, 25 August 2023.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The national mine action strategy for 2018–19 stipulated that all mine action activities, particularly those related to risk education and victim assistance, must reflect the different needs of individuals according to age and gender, in a non-discriminatory manner. It also stated that the principles of non-discrimination against women as set out in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) are to be respected, ensuring that women are involved in all essential stages of mine action (planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation), and that activities take into account the special needs of women and girls.²³

CCLAM reported in 2019 that approximately 30% of operational staff in survey and clearance teams were female and only around 7% of managerial or supervisory positions were held by women, but that local customs about the employment roles appropriate for women were an obstacle to hiring female staff.²⁴ DR Congo's 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request said CCLAM would work closely with

operators to integrate women deminers into mine action so that women make up 30% of the staff in operations teams and at least half the members of risk education teams. It said risk education task orders would focus on increasing the participation of women in outreach sessions.²⁵

CCLAM had previously reported that mine action survey teams were already gender balanced and that efforts were undertaken to ensure that all community groups, including women and children, are consulted. It also noted, however, the need to continue raising awareness on gender equality in certain communities as local customs can discriminate against women undertaking certain categories of work.²⁶

DCA reported it has a policy of equal access to employment for men and women and mine action data are disaggregated by gender and age. DCA's 32 demining programme personnel included two women both of whom were employed in field roles.²⁷ UNMAS reported women made up 42% of 22 staff in its DR Congo programme and that seven of 29 AFRILAM staff were also female.²⁸

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

CCLAM took over responsibility for information management from UNMAS in 2016 but has lacked the capacity and resources to manage and maintain the national Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database. As a result, mine action stakeholders reported that in 2022 data suffers from gaps and the database is not considered up to date or reliable.²⁹ As at September 2023, DR Congo had yet to submit an Article 7 report for the whole of 2022.

The 2018–19 national strategy acknowledged a need to build staff capacity, improve data collection, update the database on a regular basis, and provide data disaggregated by age and gender.³⁰ Persistent issues have included gaps in data, lack of maintenance, reporting on land release that did not comply with international terminology, misreporting items of UXO as mines, and a lack of verification of incoming reports.³¹

Until 2020, CCLAM information management received support from UNMAS, which assisted monthly updates of data to improve operational coordination, collaborated on developing an information management work plan, and provided a range of computer and digital hardware.³² Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) also previously provided refresher training for CCLAM staff in use of IMSMA and the associated Geographic Information System (GIS).³³ In 2020, CCLAM did not request IM support from UNMAS and a request for support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) was not met due to the Centre's lack of capacity and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴

UNMAS maintains an internal mine action database, which is said to be updated regularly.³⁵ From August 2023, all operators submit data directly to the UNMAS database using ARC123 software.³⁶

23 "Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Antimines 2018–2019", November 2017, pp. 15–16.

24 Email from Maître Sudi Alimasi Kimputu, CCLAM, 3 June 2019.

25 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 30–31.

26 Email from Maître Sudi Alimasi Kimputu, CCLAM, 3 June 2019.

27 Email from Miroslav Skoumal, Country Director, DCA, 23 April 2023.

28 Email from Francois A: Lewis, EOD Project Officer/OPS/QA Officer, UNMAS, 17 August 2023.

29 Emails from Erly Munoz, UNMAS, 16 August 2023.

30 "Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Antimines 2018–2019", November 2017, p. 14.

31 Skype interview with Jean-Denis Larsen, Programme Manager, NPA, 24 April 2019; and email, 24 May 2019.

32 Email from Aurelie Fabry, UNMAS, 13 April 2020.

33 Email from Jean-Denis Larsen, NPA, 24 May 2019.

34 Emails from Aurelie Fabry, UNMAS, 28 April and 7 June 2021.

35 Email from Jean-Denis Larsen, UNMAS, 31 May 2022.

36 Email from Erly Munoz, UNMAS, 16 August 2023.

PLANNING AND TASKING

An Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in July 2021 included a work plan with monthly clearance targets which would provide for tackling a total of 4,370m² in 2022, 59,644m² in 2023, 37,868m² in 2024, and 19,482m² in 2025.³⁷ This made for a total of more than 120,000m², which exceeded the 117,030m² that the request has identified as remaining contamination. The request allowed a year for the survey of Aru and Dungu districts and said it plans to conduct non-technical and technical survey at the same time so as to facilitate manual clearance of areas identified as hazardous. The request allowed a year for these operations but did not state when it expected to implement them.

In January 2022, DR Congo completed a "National Strategic Plan for the Fight Against Anti-Personnel Mines and Explosive Remnants of War", including cluster munitions, for 2023 to 2032. The plan sets out general objectives for the coming decade, including completing mine clearance by 2025 and cluster munition remnants (CMR) by 2032. The strategy aims to ensure all mined areas are cleared, that survey of CMR and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) is completed rapidly, and that a decentralised EOD capacity is established to tackle residual contamination.³⁸ The 76-page strategy sets out a detailed budget for the 10 years of the plan³⁹ but provides no details or timeline for survey or clearance of hazardous areas.

The new strategy follows on from the National Mine Action Strategy 2018–19, prepared with support from UNMAS and the GICHD, which focused on seeking to fulfil DR Congo's Article 5 mine clearance obligations by 2020, one year ahead of its extended 2021 deadline.⁴⁰ The strategy also set out the objective of completing procedures for ratifying the Convention on Cluster Munitions by the end of 2018.⁴¹ CCLAM has not reported any action to seek to implement this plan. The strategy identified three strategic pillars: effective and efficient management of the explosive threat; ensuring the national programme had the capacity to manage residual contamination in a sustainable manner; and that the legal framework of the mine action programme was strengthened through the adoption of national laws and other implementing measures and adherence to relevant treaties.⁴² None of these goals was met.

Tasking continues to be challenged by the remote location of many hazardous areas and database weaknesses, including misidentification of ERW as mines and the addition of hazards to the database without robust evidence of the presence of explosive ordnance.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

DR Congo has 24 national standards developed with support from the GICHD⁴³ and the national strategy for 2018–19 called for revision of the standards and awareness raising of their content through training.⁴⁴ CCLAM reported in June 2019 it had revised the National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) during 2018, amending mainly the standards relating to demining techniques and safety of deminers.⁴⁵

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

International engagement with DR Congo's mine action programme has decreased following the closure of programmes by NPA in 2019 and TDI in February 2020. Since 2021, DCA has been the only international humanitarian organisation active in DR Congo. In 2022, it had a total staff of 85, of whom 33 (1 international and 32 national staff) worked full time on its humanitarian demining programme funded by the US State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA). DCA capacity included one manual clearance team of ten, a four-person EOD team, and a two-person

survey team. The programme worked from a country office in Goma, a support office in Kabalo, and a field camp in Kasinge for operations in Tanganyika province. DCA expected to add nine staff to the demining programme in 2023, including a multitask team of seven (including the team leader and deputy), an operations manager, and a national medical staff member, as well as three drivers. The extra capacity was intended to address some big SHAs in Kasai Central province and added by CCLAM to the national database in 2022.⁴⁶

37 2021 Article 5 Extension Request, Table 14, p. 65.

38 "Plan Stratégique National de Lutte Contre les Mines Antipersonnel et les Restes Explosifs de Guerre en République Démocratique du Congo 2023–2032", January 2022, p. 11.

39 Ibid., January 2022, p. 63.

40 "Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Antimines 2018–2019", November 2017, p. 4.

41 "Plan Stratégique National de Lutte Contre les Mines Antipersonnel et les Restes Explosifs de Guerre en République Démocratique du Congo 2023–2032", January 2022, p. 23.

42 "Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Antimines 2018–2019", November 2017, p. 5.

43 Statement of DR Congo, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 2 July 2020.

44 "Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Antimines 2018–2019", November 2017, p. 34.

45 Skype interview with Jean-Denis Larsen, NPA, 24 April 2019; and email, 24 May 2019.

46 Email from Miroslav Skoumal, DCA, 23 April 2023.

UNMAS contracted a three-person IED disposal team from G4S with two international staff in Beni in North Kivu province. UNMAS also contracted five multitask teams of national NGO AFRILAM in 2022, which comprised 44 operations personnel and 6 management and support staff (see Table 2). Three of these teams were engaged largely in a range of tasks supporting MONUSCO in North and South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces, while the other two were assigned to supporting DR Congo's mine action programme in Kasai and Kasai Central.⁴⁷

Table 2: Mine action capacity under contract to UNMAS 2022⁴⁸

Capacity	Location	Coverage areas	No. of personnel
AFRILAM Management	Goma	Management and support	6
AFRILAM Multitask Team 1	Goma	North Kivu province	8
AFRILAM Multitask Team 2	Bukavu	South Kivu province	8
AFRILAM Multitask Team 3	Beni	North Kivu and Ituri provinces	8
AFRILAM Multitask Team 4	Tshikapa	Kasai province	10
AFRILAM Multitask Team 5	Kanaga	Kasai Central province	10
G4S IEDD team	Beni	North Kivu province	3

DEMINEER SAFETY

No accidents were reported in the course of demining or EOD operations in 2022. Insecurity, however, posed a persistent challenge and UNMAS reported numerous EOD tasks had to be postponed or replanned due to the activities of armed groups such as M23 and ADF in North Kivu province and Mambasa in Ituri province. UNMAS also reported a surge in IED incidents starting in the second half of 2021, recording a total of 51 in 2021 and 57 in 2022 compared with a total of 16 in the three years from 2018 to 2020.⁴⁹

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

DCA appears to have conducted the only AP mine clearance in DR Congo in 2022, releasing a total of 34,032m² through survey and clearance in two provinces, Tshopo and Tanganyika resulting in destruction of four AP mines and ninety items of UXO (see Table 3). This marked a drop from 43,139m² released by DCA in 2022 and 13 AP mines destroyed in 2021.⁵⁰

Table 3: Land release by DCA in 2022⁵¹

Province/region	Area cancelled (m ²)	Area reduced (m ²)	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Tanganyika/ Kabalo	0	3,950	26,254	4	76
Tanganyika/ Kalemie	800	0	0	0	0
Tshopo/Kisangani	654	0	2,374	0	14
Totals	1,454	3,950	28,628	4	90

AFRILAM, mandated by UNMAS to conduct protection of civilians threat mitigation, was mainly active clearing IEDs, undertaking 172 tasks in 2022 which resulted in releasing 295,299m² through technical survey and destroying 178 items of UXO. G4S conducted six tasks, disposing of 30 IEDs and 6 other UXO items.⁵²

⁴⁷ Emails from Jean-Denis Larsen, UNMAS, 31 May 2022 and Eryl Munoz, UNMAS, 16 August 2023.

⁴⁸ Email from Eryl Munoz, UNMAS, 16 August 2023.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Email from Miroslav Skoumal, DCA, 23 April 2023.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Email from Eryl Munoz, UNMAS, 16 August 2023.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the 42-month extension granted by States Parties in November 2021), DR Congo is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2025. It is unlikely to meet this deadline based on progress to date.

The lack of clear or consistent data released by CCLAM prevents a clear determination of DR Congo's operating results or progress towards its Article 5 targets. In November 2019, the DR Congo said it had 49 hazardous areas totalling 469,338m² but it would not need to extend its January 2021 Article 5 deadline.⁵³ In August 2020, after reviewing data, it said there were 128,842m² to release and it asked for its third extension of 18 months to complete the job.⁵⁴ Less than a year later, having released a little over 13,000m², and reporting it still had 33 hazardous areas covering around 117,000m², DR Congo submitted its fourth extension request asking for 42 more months to complete clearance.⁵⁵ That request was overtaken 10 months later by new data that more than tripled the DR Congo's estimate of contamination, reporting 37 hazardous areas affecting 399,969m² and undermining the proposed land release work plan and financial projections.⁵⁶

The decision by the Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties in 2021 that accepted DR Congo's latest extension request asked DR Congo to submit a detailed updated work plan by April 2023 with annual projections of which areas remained to be addressed and by which organisations.⁵⁷ CCLAM had not produced an updated work plan as of September 2023 and had not submitted an Article 7 report covering the full year 2022.

Table 4: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (m ²)
2022	28,628
2021	43,149
2020	10,562
2019 ⁵⁸	146,761
2018	275,700
Total	504,800

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

DR Congo does not have plans in place to address residual contamination once its Article 5 obligations have been fulfilled but is reportedly developing with partners a work plan to address this issue. The plan will detail the necessary training in coordination and demining and the equipment needed for the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC), the Congolese National Police (PNC) and civilian staff in CCLAM.⁵⁹

⁵³ Statement of DR Congo, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 26 November 2019.

⁵⁴ Statement of DR Congo, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 2 July 2020.

⁵⁵ Article 5 deadline Extension Request, July 2021, p. 8.

⁵⁶ Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2019 to 31 March 2022), Form C.

⁵⁷ Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties, Decision on the DR Congo request for an extension of its Article deadline, 6 November 2021.

⁵⁸ Article 7 Report (covering 2018), p. 7. Although ostensibly a report for 2018, it included results for the first three months of 2019.

⁵⁹ Email from Erly Munoz, UNMAS, 25 August 2023.