

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



## CLEARING THE MINES 2025

### KEY DATA

#### ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025

Not on track to meet deadline  
Three-year extension to 31 December 2028 requested

#### AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 307,024m<sup>2</sup>

Light  
(National authority estimate)

#### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS (Operator Data)

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (m <sup>2</sup> )	Release in 2023 (m <sup>2</sup> )
Clearance	52,033	5,184
Technical Survey	1,547	4,938
Non-Technical Survey	10,161	7,530

  

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	29	0

#### MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Congolese Mine Action Center (CCLAM)
- Synergie pour la Lutte Antimines (SYLAM)
- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- The Development Initiative (TDI)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2024, national operator SYLAM, which is mentored by The Development Initiative (TDI), completed the long-delayed survey in Aru (a territory in Ituri province), identifying new AP mined areas, including nine that were cleared during the year. The remaining four confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) were added to the national database. Meanwhile, the Congolese Mine Action Centre (CCLAM) re-surveyed areas in Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu to update contamination data from the 2013 national survey. The survey reportedly cancelled 6,235m<sup>2</sup>, although the CCLAM has not been able to share the list and respective size of the areas cancelled. DanChurchAid (DCA) received five task orders that turned out to be battle area clearance (BAC); and as such, their outputs are not included in the land release totals of this report, except for one area, Mpoyi, where it found and destroyed one anti-personnel (AP) mine.

Ongoing armed conflict, which intensified in 2024 and early 2025, disrupted mine action efforts and increased explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination. The Alliance Fleuve Congo/Mouvement du 23 mars (AFC/M23) armed group's capture of Goma and Bukavu led to the temporary suspension of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and other operators' activities, limiting them to non-technical survey (NTS), marking of unexploded ordnance (UXO), and risk education. Simultaneously, a sharp drop in funding—due to the end of South Korean (KOICA) support and the suspension of United States (US) funding—threatened to bring all mine action operations to a halt in 2025.

In this context, DR Congo submitted a three-year Article 5 deadline extension request in order to address 31 remaining hazardous areas, carry out survey in Dungu (a territory in Haut Uele province), and strengthen national explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and improvised explosive device disposal (IEDD) capacities. The request, which seeks a new deadline of 31 December 2028, was due to be considered at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties in December 2025.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- DR Congo should complete the national survey and strengthen efforts to accurately identify and classify all contaminated areas.
- DR Congo should align its work plan with available capacity and develop a detailed resource mobilisation plan to meet its 31 December 2028 deadline.
- When survey is conducted, DR Congo should report on areas cancelled through NTS and reduced through technical survey (TS), submitting the list of areas in its official documents submitted in accordance with the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).
- DR Congo should ensure the accuracy and consistency of its mine action information management system and its consequent reporting under APMBC, regularly updating its database and disaggregating reported contamination. As it stands, information included in 2025 extension request and draft Article 7 report covering 2024 do not align.
- DR Congo should continue improving the designation of hazardous areas in its national database by type of ordnance, clearly distinguishing battle area and mined area.

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	6	6	Survey by TDI-SYLAM in Aru territory added over 40,787m <sup>2</sup> of AP mined area to the database, while CCLAM cancelled 6,235m <sup>2</sup> in Ituri and North Kivu. DR Congo's 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request reported that 26 confirmed hazardous areas (covering a total of 58,725m <sup>2</sup> ) and 5 suspected hazardous areas (over 248,292m <sup>2</sup> ) remained across eight provinces (11 territories), in addition to Dungu territory in Haut Uele, which has yet to be surveyed. However, the national database remains unreliable due to weak NTS, errors, and frequent confusion between battle area and mined area. Operators believe the baseline is still incomplete.
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	6	7	In 2024, CCLAM began decentralising and expanded to 250 staff. The government maintained its US\$600,000 annual contribution to the Centre, but operations remained fully reliant on international support. With US and KOICA funding withdrawn, and access to North and South Kivu capitals lost due to AFC/M23 control, the programme risked stalling in 2025.
<b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b> (10% of overall score)	6	6	CCLAM made limited reference to gender in its 2025 extension request and does not have a gender policy or action plan specific to mine action. However, women reportedly represented 49% of its staff in 2024, including nine in operational roles and 20 in management positions.
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION</b> (10% of overall score)	4	3	DR Congo does not have a dedicated environmental protection policy for mine action, but environmental considerations are addressed in a chapter of the national mine action standards, which were last reviewed in 2022. All operators have specific standard operating procedures on environmental protection.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	4	5	While DR Congo is making efforts to track and document mine action operations, official records often lack consistency. Reporting under the APMBC is often late, and in 2025, discrepancies persisted between the extension request and Article 7 transparency reporting.
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	5	4	The 2025 extension request and additional information included a work plan with annual clearance targets, aiming to address 31 remaining AP mined areas, covering 307,024m <sup>2</sup> , and to conduct survey and clearance in Dungu, located in the remote province of Haut-Uele, by December 2028. However, the plan and budget included two ERW-contaminated areas and are entirely dependent on receiving international funding for the work.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b> (10% of overall score)	5	6	In 2024, CCLAM tasked DCA with clearing five mined areas that were later identified as battle areas, despite joint efforts with CCLAM to prioritise mine clearance. Operators reported that current standard operating procedures are fit for purpose, and CCLAM plans to review the NMAS during the upcoming extension period.

## Assessment of National Programme Performance Continued

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	5	4	Land release outputs were significantly higher than in 2023, but the discovery of new mined area offset these gains, limiting overall progress. In 2025, DR Congo submitted a fifth Article 5 deadline extension request, seeking an additional three years. However, the current security and financial situation leaves little hope for significant progress during the coming three years.
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE</b>

## AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Commission Nationale de Lutte Antimines (CNLAM)
- Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines (CCLAM)

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC)
- Police Nationale Congolaise (PNC)
- Afrique pour la Lutte Antimines (AFRILAM)
- Synergie pour la Lutte Antimines (SYLAM)
- National NGOs conduct NTS and/or risk education (ACOLAM, ADIC, BADU, SYOPADI)

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- G4S
- The Development Initiative (TDI)

### OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

DR Congo is believed to have very limited AP mined area. As at the end of 2024, national authorities estimated it covered 0.3km<sup>2</sup>, although the exact figure remains unclear due to incomplete surveys and inconsistent official reports.

The last national survey was in 2013. It identified 130 hazardous areas covering an estimated 1,8km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>1</sup> However, subsequent re-surveys found that a number of areas were contaminated by the (more prevalent) problem of UXO, leading to a marked fall in the estimate of mined area.<sup>2</sup> In its 2025 deadline extension request, DR Congo acknowledged that, following its ratification of the APMBC and for the next decade, many contamination estimates—based on impact surveys by national and international operators—relied on flawed methodologies and assumptions. This led to inflated figures for both the number of suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and the extent of contamination by AP and anti-vehicle (AV) mines.<sup>3</sup>

By 2021, with 33 hazardous areas covering around 117,031m<sup>2</sup> remaining, DR Congo submitted a fourth Article 5 deadline extension request, asking for 42 additional months to complete clearance and extending the deadline to the end of 2025.<sup>4</sup> This request was soon overtaken by new data that tripled the baseline,<sup>5</sup> with survey by DCA adding 4 new areas and increasing the number of mined areas to 37 covering a total of 399,969m<sup>2</sup>.<sup>6</sup> In 2022 and 2023, no new hazardous areas were reported and eight areas were released (six in Tanganyika and two in Kasai).<sup>7</sup>

In 2024, surveys in various parts of the country helped a better assessment of the extent of mine contamination. National operator SYLAM, in partnership with TDI, carried out the long-delayed survey in Aru territory in Ituri province – one of two territories not included in the 2013 national survey. The 2024 survey identified new areas contaminated with AP mines, including nine that were cleared during the year.<sup>8</sup> The remaining four areas (marked with an asterisk in Table 1) added 40,787m<sup>2</sup> of confirmed hazardous area (CHA) to the national database.<sup>9</sup>

1 "Plan Stratégique National de Lutte contre les Mines Antipersonnel et les REG en RDC 2023–2032", CCLAM, March 2024 ("National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2023–32"), pp. 21 and 32–34.

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

3 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 10 June, pp. 9–10.

4 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 8 and Table 1, p. 42.

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

6 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 10 June, p. 9.

7 Article 7 Report (covering 1 April to 31 December 2022), p. 3; and Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 3.

8 Email from Laure Ngoie, Head of Information Management Department, and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, Coordinator, CCLAM, 6 May 2025.

9 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 10 June 2025, p. 13.

In addition, CCLAM conducted a re-survey of areas previously recorded in the national database across the three eastern provinces—Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu—with the aim of updating the mapping of AP mined area established by the 2013 national survey. It was implemented by selected NGO personnel, trained by CCLAM in community liaison and NTS, with the aim of mitigating language barriers. The survey covered 15 hazardous areas (four in Ituri, nine in North Kivu, and two in South Kivu), totalling 19,711m<sup>2</sup>. Following the NTS, CCLAM confirmed 16 hazardous areas—one more than initially recorded—but covering a revised total of 13,475.8m<sup>2</sup>: three in Ituri (10,058m<sup>2</sup>), 11 in North Kivu (2,567m<sup>2</sup>), and two in South Kivu (850.8m<sup>2</sup>); meaning that 6,235m<sup>2</sup> were cancelled.<sup>10</sup> However, when comparing the findings with the list of remaining CHAs provided in July 2025, inconsistencies appear, and the cancelled area is likely larger. CCLAM has yet to provide a table presenting the areas cancelled through NTS in 2024.

In its 2025 extension request, DR Congo reported 31 remaining hazardous areas as at end 2024, covering 307,024m<sup>2</sup> (see Tables 1 and 2), planned to be addressed over the next three years. It also undertook to complete outstanding survey and clearance in Dungu in Haut-Uele province.<sup>11</sup> CCLAM reported that, of the 31 remaining mined areas, 5 are classified as SHAs and the other 26 as CHAs.<sup>12</sup> Some of these areas may in fact require BAC rather than mine clearance. A persistent challenge in 2023 and 2024 was the misclassification of mined areas, with clearance teams deployed to locations that actually called for BAC.<sup>13</sup> In the additional information provided by DR Congo as part of its extension request, CCLAM reclassified two former SHAs as areas suspected to contain only ERW.<sup>14</sup>

Beyond these 31 areas, additional suspected contamination exists. CCLAM received five AP mine “alerts” from local communities during road rehabilitation work in Ubundu territory (in Tshopo province),<sup>15</sup> while UNMAS reported a minefield in Itendey village, along with UXO and AXO, to be addressed through EOD spot tasks.<sup>16</sup>

**Table 1: AP mined area (at end 2024) excluding Dungu, Haut Uele province (yet to be surveyed)<sup>17</sup>**

Province	Territory	Village / Name	SHAs	CHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Ituri	Aru	Agorobo **	0	1	315
Ituri	Aru	Kendio/Kengezi *	0	1	17,776
Ituri	Aru	Midigo 2 *	0	1	5,969
Ituri	Aru	Midigo 3 *	0	1	5,912
Ituri	Aru	Lisoka *	0	1	11,130
Ituri	Djugu	Awupe 2	0	1	5,000
Ituri	Djugu	NLCS/DA-003_Usi (Itendey)	0	1	435
Kasai	Dekese	Ipoka 2	1	0	1,088
Kasai Central	Demba	Kabinda Mukole	1	0	218,128
Kasai Central	Demba	Kabuluanda Musasa	1	0	21,915
Maniema	Lubutu	Puits de gisement-droite	0	1	2,793
Maniema	Lubutu	Lieux exploitation diamants	0	1	1,959
Nord Kivu	Béni	Bulése 01 **	0	1	94
Nord Kivu	Béni	Bulése 02 **	0	1	770
Nord Kivu	Béni	Bulése 03 **	0	1	87
Nord Kivu	Béni	Bulése 04 **	0	1	67
Nord Kivu	Béni	Bulése 05 **	0	1	883
Nord Kivu	Béni	Bulése 06 **	0	1	30

10 Ibid; and additional information submitted to its 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, CCLAM, 31 July 2025, pp. 3–7.

11 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 10 June 2025, p. 6.

12 Email from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025.

13 Emails from Jacob Payton, Operations Manager and Head of Mine Action Operations EOD 3, DCA, 8 August 2024 and 2 April 2025.

14 Additional information submitted to its 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, CCLAM, 31 July 2025, p. 9.

15 Email from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025.

16 Email from Julian Bustamante, Programme Management Officer Specialist, UNMAS DRC, 4 June 2025.

17 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 10 June 2025, Table 1.6 in Annex, pp. 33–34.

**Table 1 Continued**

Province	Territory	Village / Name	SHAs	CHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Nord Kivu	Béni	Bulese 07 **	0	1	204
Nord Kivu	Béni	Irangyo 1	0	1	86
Nord Kivu	Béni	Irangyo 2	0	1	235
Nord Kivu	Béni	Irangyo 3	0	1	64
Nord Kivu	Béni	Kitembo	0	1	47
Nord Kivu	Béni	Mulenzo	0	1	1,466
Nord Kivu	Béni	Tsavitumbi	0	1	700
Nord Ubangi	Yakoma	Kotakoli - Polongo	1	0	3,150
Nord Ubangi	Yakoma	Kotakoli - Ido	1	0	4,017
Sud Kivu	Fizi	Sentier Mwanzalulu vers champs Maonde	0	1	132
Sud Kivu	Shabunda	Shabunda	0	1	719
Sud Kivu	Kalehe	Katare	0	1	533
Tshuapa	Ikela	Ene	0	1	1,320
<b>Totals</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>307,024</b>

\*Areas added to the database in 2024 following survey by TDI-SYLAM in Aru territory. \*\*Remaining areas after cancellation by NTS in 2024 by CCLAM in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu.

Note: DR Congo provided conflicting information on the size of three areas in the additional information submitted on 31 July 2025: Agorobo (350m<sup>2</sup> instead of 315m<sup>2</sup>), Awupe 2 (4,708m<sup>2</sup> instead of 5,000m<sup>2</sup>) and NLCS/DA-003\_Usi (5,000m<sup>2</sup> instead of 435m<sup>2</sup>). In the same document, the CCLAM also listed two new areas, Bulese 10 (770m<sup>2</sup>) and Bulese 11 (94m<sup>2</sup>), identified following re-survey in Beni, which are not included in the remaining surface to be addressed during the new extension request period. Mine Action Review did not receive consistent clarification, it has retained the data from the initial version.

**Table 2: AP mined area by province (at end 2024)<sup>18</sup>**

Province	SHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	CHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Ituri	0	0	7	46,537
Kasai	1	1,088	0	0
Kasai Central	2	240,043	0	0
Maniema	0	0	2	4,752
North Kivu	0	0	13	4,733
North Ubangi	2	7,167	0	0
South Kivu	0	0	3	1,384
Tshuapa	0	0	1	1,320
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>248,298</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>58,726</b>

18 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 10 June 2025, Table 1.6 in Annex, pp. 33–34; and additional information submitted to its 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, CCLAM, 31 July 2025.

CCLAM reported different figures for remaining contamination in its Draft Article 7 report for 2024, which cited 41 hazardous areas covering 460,820m<sup>2</sup> as at end 2024. However, this list includes areas marked as “closed” in the same report, such as Midigo 1, Dulawate 2, Dibamba, and Mpoyi. For consistency, Mine Action Review used data from the Article 5 deadline extension request and additional information provided in July 2025.

AP mine contamination in DR Congo is the legacy of decades of conflict with neighbouring States, non-State armed groups (NSAGs), and militias since the nation’s independence in 1960. Due to the history of the mine action programme, multiple past and present armed conflicts, the size of the country, and the poor state of the road infrastructure, CCLAM has acknowledged that “the coordination, monitoring, and reporting of mine action activities have not always been optimal”.<sup>19</sup>

## OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

DR Congo is contaminated by ERW in all areas that have experienced armed conflicts since the country’s independence, making the problem widespread. To date, no systematic national survey has been conducted. The National Mine Action Strategy 2023–32 indicates that, while AP mined area is relatively limited, the country faces a significant level of ERW contamination due to the presence of UXO, abandoned munitions, cluster munition remnants (CMR), and improvised explosive devices (IEDs).<sup>20</sup> In the additional information submitted in connection with its 2025 extension request, DR Congo reclassified two areas of North Ubangi as suspected of contamination with ERW not mines: Kotakoli airport (11,028m<sup>2</sup>) and Champs de Tir (17,222m<sup>2</sup>).<sup>21</sup>

For the period from January to February 2025, ACLED recorded 70 deaths from explosive devices: 37 in South Kivu and 33 in North Kivu. Following the takeover of Goma and Bukavu by M23, numerous alerts reported the presence of UXO in several neighbourhoods of both cities, as well as in schools. The return of populations to their areas of origin poses another major challenge. In many cases, these areas have been the scene of violent clashes between warring parties. Initial assessments conducted by the UN Protection

Cluster in the return zones confirm the presence of IEDs, which are found both in fields and inside homes.<sup>22</sup>

DR Congo has been facing an increase in the use of IEDs by NSAGs since 2021. The national strategic plan indicated that IED contamination has been confirmed in the eastern provinces, primarily Ituri and North Kivu, but also extending into Tanganyika. This has caused both military and civilian casualties, including of women and children.<sup>23</sup> UNMAS reported a surge in IED incidents in the second half of 2021.<sup>24</sup> The Islamist Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) uses IEDs widely, some of which are AP mines under the APMBC.<sup>25</sup> Initially targeting DRC soldiers and police, attacks have increasingly been aimed at civilians.<sup>26</sup> In 2024, UNMAS recorded 60 incidents involving IEDs, 50 in North Kivu and 10 in Ituri, a sharp rise from 22 incidents recorded in 2023.<sup>27</sup>

DR Congo has a small amount of CMR contamination but the precise extent is not known. The latest available data from end of 2021 recorded six CHAs containing CMR in four provinces, affecting a total of 161,523m<sup>2</sup>.<sup>28</sup> See Mine Action Review’s *Clearing the Cluster Munition Remnants 2025* report on DR Congo for further information.

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The national structures for DR Congo’s national mine action programme were established by a 2011 law implementing the APMBC, namely the Commission Nationale de Lutte Antimines (CNLAM) and the Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines (CCLAM).<sup>29</sup> CNLAM is the national authority overseeing CCLAM. It is a multi-sectoral body composed of deputies from both parliamentary chambers, officials from four ministries, and representatives of five civil society organisations involved in mine action.<sup>30</sup> A decree formally setting out the role and responsibilities of CNLAM has yet to be adopted.<sup>31</sup>

Established in 2012, CCLAM is the technical coordinating body for all mine action activities in the country. It works in close collaboration with UNMAS.<sup>32</sup> CCLAM is responsible for strategy development, accreditation and tasking of operators, information management, quality control (QC), budgeting, and resource mobilisation. By the end of 2024, the size of CCLAM’s workforce had grown significantly to 250 employees, up from 168 the previous year. This increase is due to the decentralisation process initiated in 2024, under the National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32, which led to

19 “National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2023–32”, CCLAM, March 2024, p. 21.

20 Ibid.; and “National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32”, p. 17.

21 Additional information submitted to its 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, CCLAM, 31 July 2025, p. 9. Champs de Tir means “firing range” in English.

22 UN Protection Cluster, “Analyse de Protection”, 11 April 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3J4GYyn>, pp. 10–11; and “Report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO”, UN doc. S/2025/176, 20 March 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/457c3IE>, pp. 7–8; and ICRC, “DR Congo: ERW yet again threaten lives”, at: <https://bit.ly/454Aq3h>.

23 “National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2023–32”, CCLAM, March 2024, p. 21; and “National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32”, CCLAM, March 2024, p. 17.

24 Emails from Ery Munoz, Programme Officer, UNMAS, 16 August 2023; and UNMAS DRC team, 30 April 2024.

25 “National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32”, CCLAM, March 2024, pp. 17 and 18. See also “Alarming IED proliferation in eastern DR Congo”, 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3LF9uy6>; and “Report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO”, UN doc. S/2024/251, 21 March 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/46ivSxw>, p. 4.

26 Email from UNMAS DRC team, 30 April 2024.

27 Email from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025.

28 Voluntary CCM Article 7 Report (covering the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2021), Form F.

29 “National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32”, CCLAM, March 2024, p. 5.

30 Ibid., p. 6.

31 Ibid., p. 28.

32 Ibid., p. 6.

the opening of 11 provincial offices to coordinate mine action efforts and manage QC activities at local level.<sup>33</sup>

In 2024, several operators were involved in capacity building to the national mine action sector. UNMAS focused on strengthening CCLAM's information management capabilities and it also provided training to 288 personnel (including 9 women) from the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and the Congolese National Police (PNC) on key mine action topics. These included Explosive Hazard Awareness Training (EHAT), Post-Blast Investigation (PBI) related to IEDs, Search and Detect (S&D), and the Explosive Threat Assessment Course (ETAC).<sup>34</sup>

The mine action operating environment in DR Congo is of a "mixed" quality, with certain enabling conditions in place, but also persistent bureaucratic and logistical obstacles. While visas for international personnel are generally obtainable, the process is often slow and inconsistent, frequently requiring multiple follow-ups that can delay timely deployment. The approval of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with

government entities is similarly time-consuming and lacks predictability. Although cooperation at the national level is generally strong, the decentralised administrative structure of the country often results in delays at the provincial level. Furthermore, while exemptions exist for the importation of humanitarian mine action equipment, customs clearance is frequently hindered by unclear or inconsistently applied tax regulations. This can lead to requests for additional documentation or unofficial fees, causing further disruption to operational planning and logistics.<sup>35</sup>

The Mine Action Working Group, co-chaired by CCLAM and UNMAS under the Protection Cluster, aims to facilitate regular coordination among stakeholders. In April 2024, CCLAM nominated a new focal point to resume its coordination role.<sup>36</sup> While the frequency and consistency of meetings varied, operators reported improve coordination with national authorities in 2024, particularly through regular engagement with CCLAM. However, coordination at provincial level remains uneven in effectiveness and participation.<sup>37</sup>

## FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

The government provided an annual contribution of US\$600,000 in 2023 and 2024 to CCLAM to cover salaries, running costs, and QC activities. However, no national funding is allocated to survey or clearance, leaving DR Congo entirely dependent on international support to address explosive ordnance contamination.<sup>38</sup>

International funding for AP mine survey and clearance in DR Congo came from multiple sources in 2024. UNMAS is funded through MINUSCA's assessed budget, through which

it funded AFRILAM and G4S. UNMAS received additional support from KOICA under a contract running from 2022 to 2025. KOICA funding, which was used to contract the TDI-SYLAM partnership, ended in March 2025, while the contract with G4S ended in May 2025. In addition, AFRILAM receives supplementary funding from Monde sans Mines, a Swiss foundation, while DCA has been supported by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the US Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA).<sup>39</sup>

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

CCLAM recognised the significance of gender in the 2023–32 national mine action strategy and successive Article 5 deadline extension requests. All activities, especially risk education and victim assistance, are required to consider the needs of different age groups and genders.<sup>40</sup> DR Congo's 2025 extension request highlighted that women are currently 48% of CCLAM staff. DR Congo reports placing particular emphasis on encouraging operators to increase the inclusion of women within their workforce. Progress has already been made, with female deminers trained across all implementing partners, and greater female participation observed in risk education, NTS, and victim assistance activities, including within national organisations.<sup>41</sup>

CCLAM has had a gender focal point since 2016, which aims to increase the participation of women in mine action and implement gender-sensitive policies. CCLAM has reported an increased proportion of women in its ranks – from 27% in 2023 to 49% in 2024 (see Table 3).<sup>42</sup> The nine women in operational roles are QA/QC inspectors and heads of department.<sup>43</sup> AFRILAM had six women on its teams: one EOD Level 3 deminer, three EOD Level 2 deminers, one doctor, and one finance and logistics assistant.<sup>44</sup>

33 Interview with Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, in Geneva, 8 April 2025; and email, 6 May 2025.

34 Email from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025; and UNMAS, Training Bulletin: July 2024–June 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4l1k8y5>.

35 Email from Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025; and Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025.

36 Email from UNMAS DRC, 30 April 2024.

37 Emails from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025; and Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025.

38 Email from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025.

39 Emails from Germain Apanane Bawala, AFRILAM, 28 May 2025; Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025; Kevin Umali, Regional Operation Manager, TDI, 13 June 2025; and Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 4 June 2025.

40 "National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2023–32", pp. 28 and 29.

41 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 10 June, p. 16.

42 Email from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025.

43 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 18 September 2025.

44 Email from Germain Apanane Bawala, Project Manager, AFRILAM, 28 May 2025.

Table 3: Gender composition of CCLAM, operators, and UNMAS (at end 2024)<sup>45</sup>

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Operational staff	Women operational staff
CCLAM	250	124 (50%)	57	20 (35%)	40	9 (23%)
AFRILAM	38	6 (16%)	2	0 (0%)	32	4 (13%)
DCA	51	6 (12%)	9	0 (0%)	24	0 (0%)
TDI-SYLAM	45	8 (18%)	9	2 (22%)	14	2 (14%)
UNMAS	31	10 (32%)	6	2 (33%)	25	8 (32%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>154 (37%)</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>24 (29%)</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>23 (17%)</b>

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

DR Congo lacks national policies specifically addressing environmental considerations during mine action operations. While the Congolese Mine Action Standards issued by CCLAM in 2022 include a chapter titled: "Occupational Health and Safety and Environment Management", this only outlines basic measures to minimise the environmental harm of demining.<sup>46</sup>

Official reports do not explicitly reference environmental considerations in planning or tasking survey or clearance. The 2025 extension request did not address the environmental implications of mine action activities, nor does it mention any environmental policy—whether in legislation or national mine action standards. The additional information provided in July 2025 indicated that DR Congo will revise its 2023–32 work plan to include a review of the NMAS to add a chapter on environmental protection. This chapter will cover aspects such as site selection and worksite management (e.g., latrine construction and waste management), as well as measures to be applied during destruction operations.<sup>47</sup> CCLAM also does not have a designated focal point for environmental issues in mine action.<sup>48</sup>

CCLAM informed Mine Action Review that it initiated a process in 2024 to revise its national mine action standards (NMAS) and intends to align with the new International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.13 on environmental management in mine action.<sup>49</sup>

UNMAS, operating both as a MONUSCO section and a project of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), complies with and applies the environmental management policies and frameworks of both MONUSCO and UNOPS. All UNMAS implementing partners are required to establish environmental procedures as a mandatory measure.<sup>50</sup>

AFRILAM says it has developed a standard operating procedure (SOP-14) on environmental management, which includes the conduct of environmental assessments to support planning and operations.<sup>51</sup> DCA (not an UNMAS implementing partner) and TDI also reported having an environmental policy and conducting environmental assessments to support survey and demining.<sup>52</sup>

Table 4: Environmental policies and action of CCLAM and operators in 2024<sup>53</sup>

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments to support planning and delivery of survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level
CCLAM	No	NA	No
AFRILAM	Yes	Yes	Yes
DCA	Yes	Yes	No
TDI-SYLAM	Yes	Yes	Unclear
UNMAS	Yes	Yes	Yes

45 Emails from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025; Germain Apanane Bawala, AFRILAM, 28 May 2025; Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025; Kevin Umali, TDI, 13 June 2025; and Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 4 June 2025.

46 Emails from UNMAS DRC, 30 April 2024; and Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025.

47 Additional information submitted to its 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, CCLAM, 31 July 2025, p. 23.

48 Email from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025.

49 Email from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025.

50 Email from Nana Kadidia Cisse, Senior Programme Management Officer, UNMAS, 8 August 2025.

51 Email from Germain Apanane Bawala, AFRILAM, 28 May 2025.

52 Emails from Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025; and Kevin Umali, TDI, 13 June 2025.

53 Emails from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025; Germain Apanane Bawala, AFRILAM, 28 May 2025; Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025; Kevin Umali, TDI, 13 June 2025; and Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 4 June 2025.

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

CCLAM took over responsibility for information management from UNMAS in 2016, but despite capacity building by UNMAS over many years still lacks capacity, equipment, and funding to manage the national Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database effectively. The National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32 identifies the need to build staff capacity, improve data collection, update the database on a regular basis, and provide data disaggregated by age and gender.<sup>54</sup>

In 2024, demining operators reported that the list of hazardous areas in the database was not up to date. It did not include the latest information from operators and still listed areas that had already been cleared. The designation of hazardous areas also needed improvement, as teams were operating in locations that clearly concerned battle areas but were still designated as minefields.<sup>55</sup>

As at early 2025, DR Congo's national information management system still relied on IMSMA New Generation, which is stored locally on a single laptop and limited to manual data entry by one user. This makes it outdated, inaccurate, and unsustainable. In March 2025, CCLAM received IMSMA Core from the Geneva International Centre of Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), with implementation support from UNMAS expected throughout 2025 and additional assistance from the GICHD in 2026. Full roll-out is projected to take about two years. Preparatory efforts began in late 2024, with UNMAS

leading weekly training sessions and a November workshop focused on IMSMA Core and digitalisation of CCLAM's data collection forms.<sup>56</sup> CCLAM and AFRILAM participated in a three-day workshop organised by the GICHD on information management in October 2025 in Senegal.<sup>57</sup>

There has been some progress in the level of detail provided in DR Congo's reporting in recent years. In 2024, the country submitted two Article 7 reports: one covering April to December 2022 and the second for 2023. While the draft report covering 2024 was shared with Mine Action Review, it had not yet been published on the UN database as at mid-September 2025. Despite these efforts, data consistency remains a significant issue. Official reports often present conflicting or difficult-to-reconcile figures. For instance, the 2025 extension request included survey and clearance data for 2022–25 that did not align with the information in the Article 7 reports. The additional information provided in July substantially revised the data from the initial version submitted in June, both regarding the cleared areas from the previous period, and the contaminated areas remaining by the beginning of the next extension period, and introduced new inconsistent information. On a more positive note, survey efforts and the attempt to clean and update the database led to the declassification of two areas now recorded as ERW contaminated and not mined.

## PLANNING AND TASKING

DR Congo's 2021 extension request was quickly outdated as a result of new contamination data. In 2024, mine action was framed by a 10-year strategic plan (2023–32), which aims to clear all AP mines by 2025 and CMR by 2032, while building decentralised EOD capacity.<sup>58</sup> The strategy includes a detailed budget, though its US\$91.3 million estimate appears wildly unrealistic.<sup>59</sup> DR Congo says the multi-year work plan 2023–32 is under revision and it promises to incorporate the relevant elements of the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP).<sup>60</sup>

In its 2025 three-year extension request—scheduled for consideration at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties in December 2025—DR Congo sets out to: clear the remaining 31 hazardous areas covering 307,024m<sup>2</sup>; complete survey and

clearance in Dungu in Haut-Uele province; and strengthen national capacities within the Government Humanitarian Demining Service in EOD and IEDD.<sup>61</sup> The request spans three years, through to the end of 2028, and includes a budget US\$4.86 million for demining the 31 hazardous areas (plus 2 ERW-contaminated areas), US\$0.57 million for survey in Dungu, and US\$0.9 million for risk education. The overall budget is presented as US\$6,329,830. This figure does not include US\$600,000 allocated annually to CCLAM from national funding.<sup>62</sup>

The additional information provided with the extension request included annual clearance targets (see Table 5), although the total exceeds the remaining surface areas as DR Congo included two ERW-contaminated areas in the work plan.

54 "National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32", pp. 21, 22, and 29.

55 Email from Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025.

56 Email from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025.

57 Emails from Germain Apanane Bawata, AFRILAM, 28 May 2025; and Jérémy Repond, Programme Officer, GICHD, 9 May 2025.

58 "National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2023–32", CCLAM, March 2024, p. 11.

59 Ibid., p. 12.

60 Additional information submitted to its 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, CCLAM, 31 July 2025, p. 22.

61 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 10 June 2025, pp. 5 and 17; and Additional information submitted to its 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, CCLAM, 31 July 2025, pp. 8–9.

62 Additional information submitted to its 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, CCLAM, 31 July 2025, pp. 22–23.

Table 5: Planned mine and ERW clearance by year in 2026–28<sup>63</sup>

Year	Months	Province	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
2026	January to November	Ituri	22,000
	January	Kasai	1,088
	January to November	Kasai Central	88,015.73
	January to March	Maniema	4,752
	January to March	North Kivu	4,733
	January to November	North Ubangi	*22,000
	January	South Kivu	1,383.8
	January	Tshuapa	1,320
<b>Total for 2026</b>			<b>145,292.53</b>
2027	January to November	Ituri	22,000
	January to November	Kasai Central	88,015.73
	January to July	North Ubangi	*13,416.9
<b>Total for 2027</b>			<b>123,432.63</b>
2028	January	Ituri	2,000
	January to August	Kasai Central	64,011.44
<b>Total for 2028</b>			<b>66,011.44</b>
<b>Totals</b>			<b>334,736.60</b>

\*These areas include ERW-contaminated areas.

DR Congo has planned for deployment of six multi-task teams (two per province), each comprising nine members (five deminers, supervisor, team leader, medic, and a driver), to address the remaining areas. Daily productivity per deminer is estimated at 20m<sup>2</sup>, except in Kasai and Kasai Central, where the contaminated areas are grasslands and productivity is estimated at 80m<sup>2</sup> per day.<sup>64</sup>

It is not clear whether these six teams are in addition to the multi-task teams of AFRILAM, DCA, and TDI-SYLAM, or whether they are in fact the same teams. In any case, the plan was not developed on the basis of an assessment of available operational capacity, although it listed the five organisations that will be tasked (TDI, SYLAM, DCA, SYOPADI and AFRILAM).<sup>65</sup> In early 2025, most clearance operations were suspended due to the AFC/M23 armed group's takeover of Goma and Bukavu, and the end of KOICA funding to UNMAS, which had been supporting the TDI-SYLAM partnering. G4S services ended in May 2025 due the financial crisis affecting MONUSCO. This left only AFRILAM and DCA operational—although DCA funding from the US Department of State (PM/WRA) was also suspended in early 2025. Resources for 2026 are by no means secured.

Despite UNMAS having a Memorandum of Understanding with CCLAM that included capacity support for preparing the extension request, the document was submitted without consultation or coordination with UNMAS.<sup>66</sup>

CCLAM categorised hazardous areas according to four criteria. Security was assessed based on the situation as of January 2025, taking into account the presence of armed groups and the number of kidnappings and violent incidents. Accessibility was measured according to communication routes, vegetation, road conditions, and seasonal factors affecting access to the mined areas. The value of clearance was determined by its socio-economic impact, including the potential to enable development activities such as livestock, farming, construction, and hunting or fishing. Finally, casualty evacuation (Casevac) was evaluated in terms of the assistance available to victims of clearance operations, considering accessibility, capacity, and the medical infrastructure of the nearest health facility.<sup>67</sup>

Operators are facing planning challenges due to limited access to CCLAM task orders and data. Information provided is often unreliable, requiring new surveys to obtain credible information. Operators do not have access to the CCLAM database.<sup>68</sup> CCLAM's misclassification of hazardous areas—designating battle areas as minefields—further hampers operations and may reflect gaps in training and technical knowledge.<sup>69</sup> Task dossiers issued by UNMAS are delivered in a timely and efficient manner.<sup>70</sup> Each task order from UNMAS is formally endorsed by CCLAM to ensure alignment with national priorities and operational standards.<sup>71</sup>

63 Ibid., pp. 13–17.

64 Ibid., pp. 11–12.

65 Ibid., p. 18.

66 Email from Nana Kadidia Cisse, UNMAS, 8 August 2025.

67 Additional information submitted to its 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, CCLAM, 31 July 2025, p. 11.

68 Emails from Germain Apanane Bawala, AFRILAM, 14 May 2024; and Miroslav Skoumal, Country Director, DCA, 23 April 2023.

69 Email from Jacob Payton, DCA, 8 August 2024.

70 Emails from Kevin Umali, TDI, 13 June 2025; and Germain Apanane Bawala, AFRILAM, 28 May 2025.

71 Email from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025.

# LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

## STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

DR Congo has 25 national standards (Normes Nationales Congolaises de la Lutte Antimines), developed with support from the GICHD, which were adopted by all stakeholders during a national workshop held in Kinshasa from 24 to 28 January 2022.<sup>72</sup> Updates were reportedly made in early 2024 to the NMAS and associated SOPs on survey and clearance of AP mines. The key changes focused on refining task prioritisation criteria based on contamination impact and community feedback. The updates were made in consultation with national and international clearance operators through a series of technical working group meetings facilitated by CCLAM.<sup>73</sup> The accreditation commission was reviewing the updates made end of 2025 for official approval.<sup>74</sup>

According to operators, the NMAS are generally aligned with the local threat and context. However, they also identified areas of improvement to avoid limiting the effectiveness of evidence-based survey and clearance.

For example, some clearance depth requirements and fade-out distances may be excessive given the actual threat level, leading to unnecessary resource expenditure. Additionally, there are certain restrictions on the use of TS and demolitions that limit flexibility in adapting operations to site-specific conditions. A review and potential revision of the NMAS could enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness in land release efforts.<sup>75</sup>

A persistent challenge in 2024 was the mis-designation of hazardous areas, with clearance teams often deployed to locations that are clearly battle areas, but which were designated as minefield tasks by CCLAM. This has impacted the efficiency of operations.<sup>76</sup> The 2025 extension request was no exception, as it included ERW-contaminated areas in both the budget and planning, applying the same daily output capacity for AP mine clearance and BAC.<sup>77</sup>

## OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

UNMAS, which began operating in DR Congo in 2002, is headquartered in Goma, North Kivu, with additional offices in Kinshasa, Beni (North Kivu), Bukavu (South Kivu), and Bunia (Ituri). In 2024, it employed 31 staff: 11 international, 16 national, and 4 in-kind contributions. Staffing is down from the total of 42 in 2023. UNMAS is mandated to provide EOD and IED disposal in support of MONUSCO, funded through the UN assessed budget, and additional support from KOICA in 2022 to March 2025.<sup>78</sup>

UNMAS contracted national operator AFRILAM for EOD spot tasks, G4S for IEDD, and TDI to train and mentor SYLAM in conducting NTS, TS, manual mine clearance, spot tasks, and demolitions (see Table 6).<sup>79</sup> UNMAS also contracted other national organisations to conduct NTS and provide risk education. The end of KOICA funding in 2025 led to the suspension of many of these contracts.<sup>80</sup> Only AFRILAM, funded through the MONUSCO assessed budget, continued to be contracted through 2025, with two multi-task teams (MTTs) in North Kivu (Goma and Beni) and a third deployed to Ituri (Bunia) in August.<sup>81</sup>

TDI resumed its mine action programme in 2023 through a UNMAS contract focused on building the capacity of SYLAM. Under a teaming agreement, TDI deployed staff to mentor three SYLAM MTTs and key personnel, including a project manager, operations manager, and logistics manager. The goal was to accredit SYLAM for explosive hazard capabilities so that it could take over and manage the mentored teams.<sup>82</sup> TDI-SYLAM launched manual mine clearance on 15 December 2023 in the Lirunga area of Aru and continued operations throughout 2024 and early 2025, clearing nine mined areas. The contract concluded in 2025 and any continued activities will depend on new funding.<sup>83</sup>

G4S has been contracted by UNMAS since 2022 for IEDD and EOD training. In 2024, as in the previous year, UNMAS contracted a four-person IED disposal team (three for operations and one for training), along with one national staff for logistics support, all based in Beni, North Kivu province.<sup>84</sup> The G4S contract ended in May 2025 due to lack of funding.<sup>85</sup>

72 "National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32", p. 18; and Additional information submitted to its 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, CCLAM, 31 July 2025, p. 21.

73 Email from Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025.

74 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 18 September 2025.

75 Emails from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025; and Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025.

76 Emails from Jacob Payton, DCA, 8 August 2024 and 2 April 2025.

77 Additional information submitted to its 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, CCLAM, 31 July 2025, pp. 15–16.

78 Email from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025.

79 Emails from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025; and Kevin Umali, TDI, 13 June 2025.

80 Interview with Jean-Denis Nsoki Larsen, Chief of Mine Action Programme, UNMAS, in Geneva, 11 April 2025.

81 Email from Nana Kadidia Cisse, UNMAS, 8 August 2025.

82 Emails from Howard Barnes, Project Manager, TDI, 15 June 2024; and UNMAS DRC team, 13 June 2024.

83 Email from Kevin Umali, TDI, 13 June 2025.

84 Email from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025.

85 Email from Nana Kadidia Cisse, UNMAS, 8 August 2025.

**Table 6: Mine action capacity under contract to UNMAS 2024<sup>86</sup>**

Capacity	Location	Coverage areas	No. of personnel
AFRILAM Management	Goma	Management and support	4
AFRILAM Multitask Team 1	Goma	North Kivu	8
AFRILAM Multitask Team 2	Bukavu	South Kivu	8
AFRILAM Multitask Team 3	Beni	North Kivu and Ituri	8
G4S IEDD team	Beni	North Kivu	5
SYLAM Management Trainees	Goma	Management and support	3
TDI Management	Goma	Management, and Quality Assurance	6
TDI-SYLAM Multitask Team 4	Rotational basis	North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri	11
TDI-SYLAM Multitask Team 5	Rotational basis	North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri	11
TDI-SYLAM Multitask Team 6	Rotational basis	North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri	11

National operator AFRILAM, an UNMAS implementing partner, also undertook activities outside the UNMAS contractual framework. DCA, which is not an UNMAS implementing partner (see Table 7), also conducted mine action operations. However, neither operators addressed AP mined areas in 2024.

AFRILAM employed 38 staff in 2024, up from 37 in 2023, with four MTTs comprising 32 personnel. Three of these MTTs are contracted by UNMAS and based in Beni, Bukavu, and Goma, engaged in a series of tasks in support of MONUSCO operations. This included BAC, bulk demolitions, and spot tasks. The fourth MTT, based in Kalemie and funded by

Monde Sans Mines, operated in two territories. In Kalemie, the team focused on BAC in Kyomba, while in Moba, it conducted NTS, TS, and spot task EOD.<sup>87</sup>

DCA's mine action programme, funded by the US PM/WRA and managed from Goma, employed 51 personnel in 2024. These comprised three international staff (operations manager, technical field manager, and medical coordinator) along with three clearance teams each with 16 members: a national supervisor, a team leader, eight deminers, and six support staff (a medic, a logistics officer, a finance officer, and three drivers). In 2025, DCA reduced its workforce after losing the PM/WRA funding.<sup>88</sup>

**Table 7: Additional mine action capacity (outside UNMAS contractual framework)<sup>89</sup>**

Capacity	Location	Coverage areas	No. of personnel
AFRILAM Management	Kalemie	Management and support	2
AFRILAM Multitask Team 4	Kalemie and Moba	Tanganyika	8
DCA Management	Goma	Management and support	3
DCA Multitask Team 1	Kalemie and Moba	Tanganyika	16
DCA Multitask Team 2	Dimbelenge	Kasai-Central	16
DCA Multitask Team 3	Fizi	South Kivu	16

<sup>86</sup> Email from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025.

<sup>87</sup> Emails from Germain Apanane Bawala, AFRILAM, 28 May 2025; and Yannick Malamba, Chief of Operations, AFRILAM, 13 June 2025.

<sup>88</sup> Email from Jacob Payton, DCA, 13 June 2025.

<sup>89</sup> Emails from Germain Apanane Bawala, AFRILAM, 28 May 2025; and Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025.

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

According to operators, DR Congo released a total of 63,741m<sup>2</sup> of mined area in 2024 through cancellation by NTS, reduction by TS, and manual clearance, and destroyed 29 AP mines (see Table 8). This marks a significant increase compared to the 17,652m<sup>2</sup> released in 2023, especially since the total is likely underestimated, as CCLAM cancelled certain areas during the re-survey of hazardous areas in Ituri, South Kivu and North Kivu in 2024, but has not yet provided details on the number and size of each area cancelled. Indeed, the additional information submitted with the 2025 extension request included eight tables on pre/post survey data, but none provided details of the cancelled areas.<sup>90</sup>

For this year's report, Mine Action Review used data provided directly by TDI and DCA data directly, as CCLAM and UNMAS reported different figures. TDI shared with Mine Action Review data disaggregated by year (for 2024 and 2025), whereas CCLAM and UNMAS has combined the outputs. Mine Action Review will account for TDI's 2025 operations in next year's report. With regard to DCA data, Mine Action Review only recorded a single area—Mpoyi, in Dimbelenge territory, Kasai-Central province—since DCA found and destroyed one AP mine there.

**Table 8: Summary of land release outputs in 2024 (TDI and DCA data)**

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (m <sup>2</sup> )	Comments
<b>Clearance</b>	52,033	Clearance of 47,430m <sup>2</sup> by TDI-SYLAM in Ituri province (Aru territory) and North Kivu. Clearance of 4,603m <sup>2</sup> by DCA in Kasai-Central (Dimbelenge territory).
<b>TS</b>	1,547	Reduced by DCA in Dimbelenge territory.
<b>NTS</b>	10,161	Cancelled by TDI-SYLAM in Aru.
<b>Destruction of AP mines in clearance, survey, and spot tasks</b>		
	<b>2024</b>	
<b>AP mines destroyed</b>	29	28 AP mines (Belgium PRB-409) by TDI-SYLAM and one (PMA 2) by DCA.

Land release outputs do not align with the totals reported by DR Congo in its draft Article 7 report covering 2024 or its 2025 extension request, which included survey and clearance outputs attributed to DCA in Kasai Central and Tanganyika. However, DCA confirmed to Mine Action Review that, despite coordinated efforts with CCLAM to prioritise minefield clearance, the assigned tasks in 2024 were in fact BAC.

Specifically, DCA was given five manual mine clearance tasks, through which it reduced 5,991m<sup>2</sup> through TS in two areas and cleared 18,880m<sup>2</sup> in four areas, while one area (Kasenga) remained inaccessible and is still pending at the time of writing. In addition, DCA was assigned one BAC task in the Kyomba area of Kalemie territory, Tanganyika province, where it cleared 25,588m<sup>2</sup> and destroyed four PM1 submunitions (see Table 9).<sup>91</sup>

**Table 9: Mined and battle area release by DCA in 2024<sup>92</sup>**

Province	Territory	Name	Task order	Area reduced (m <sup>2</sup> )	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	AP mines	UXO	Comments
Kasai-Central	Dimbelenge	Dibamba	MMC	0	7,920	0	0	Not considered mine clearance by Mine Action Review (MAR)
Kasai-Central	Dimbelenge	Mpoyi	MMC	1,547	4,603	1	1	Considered mine clearance by MAR
South Kivu	Fizi	Lulimba	MMC	0	1,051	0	0	Not considered mine clearance by MAR
Tanganyika	Kalemie	Kasenga	MMC	0	0	0	0	Not accessible in 2024
Tanganyika	Kalemie	Kyomba	BAC	0	25,588	0	4	PM1 submunitions. Not considered mine clearance by MAR
Tanganyika	Moba	Lukunde	MMC	4,444	5,306	0	3	Not considered mine clearance by MAR
<b>Totals</b>				<b>5,991</b>	<b>44,468</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	

MMC = Manual mine clearance

<sup>90</sup> Additional information submitted to its 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, CCLAM, 31 July 2025, pp. 3-7.

<sup>91</sup> Email from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, Technical Field Manager, DCA, 21 August 2025.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

AFRILAM conducted 10,383m<sup>2</sup> of BAC in 2024, destroying 13 submunitions (including 3 during spot tasks), along with 19 ERW. AFRILAM also completed 272 spot and bulk demolition tasks in the course of which it destroyed 44,039 items of UXO.<sup>93</sup>

In 2024, TDI also conducted BAC, addressing 319,716m<sup>2</sup> and resulting in the destruction of 536 items of UXO and one AV mine. It completed a total of 135 task orders (manual mine clearance, BAC, and EOD spot tasks).<sup>94</sup> G4S received 20 task orders, which led to the destruction of 16 IEDs and 25 items of UXO.<sup>95</sup>

### SURVEY IN 2024

As noted above, contradictory information has been provided by DR Congo in its official documents. TDI cancelled 10,161m<sup>2</sup> through NTS in Lirunga zone 6. With regard to DCA, Mine Action Review only records the operations carried out in the Mpoyi area, where 1,547m<sup>2</sup> were reduced prior to clearance (see Table 10).<sup>96</sup>

Survey outputs for 2024 are higher, as CCLAM supervised re-survey of the hazardous areas in Ituri, North Kivu and

South Kivu recorded in its database. The 2025 extension request only provides the area sizes before and after the survey (19,710.8m<sup>2</sup> and 13,475.8m<sup>2</sup>, respectively), indicating a cancellation of 6,235m<sup>2</sup>. These figures, however, cannot be reconciled with the list of remaining CHAs provided in July 2025. Mine Action Review is therefore not able to list the respective areas cancelled by NTS by the CCLAM in Table 10.

**Table 10: Release of mined areas through NTS and TS in 2024 (TDI and DCA data)**

Province	Territory	Name	Operator	Area cancelled (m <sup>2</sup> )	Area reduced (m <sup>2</sup> )
Ituri	Aru	Lirunga 6	TDI-SYLAM	10,161	0
Kasai-Central	Dimbelenge	Mpoyi	DCA	0	1,547
<b>Totals</b>				<b>10,161</b>	<b>1,547</b>

### CLEARANCE IN 2024

In 2024, DR Congo reported manual clearance in Aru territory, Ituri province. This marked the first time since the 2013 national survey that clearance operators accessed the area. The operations were carried out by SYLAM under the mentorship of TDI. The survey identified 15 minefields (despite the draft Article 7 report incorrectly stating 19), of which nine were cleared in 2024. Conflicting data were provided on the size of the extent of land cleared. UNMAS recorded 67,865m<sup>2</sup> but the data included TDI's operations in early 2025.<sup>97</sup> CCLAM presented 76,181m<sup>2</sup> in its draft Article

7 and 2025 extension request but the data included survey outputs. Revised figures in the additional information were conflicting. Table 11 shows clearance outputs of TDI-SYLAM until the end of 2024 in Ituri and North Kivu. To the total of 47,430m<sup>2</sup> is added 4,603m<sup>2</sup> of manual mine clearance by DCA at Mpoyi, Dimbelenge territory in Kasai-Central province.

TDI outputs for early 2025 (16,446m<sup>2</sup> cleared in three areas with seven AP mines destroyed) will be included in next years' report.

**Table 11: AP mine clearance in 2024 (operator data)<sup>98</sup>**

Province	Territory	Name	Operator	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	No. AP mines
Ituri	Aru	Lirunga 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	TDI-SYLAM	24,368	14
Ituri	Aru	Lirunga 6	TDI-SYLAM	4,138	0
Ituri	Aru	Dulawate 1	TDI-SYLAM	3,200	4
Ituri	Aru	Midigo 1	TDI-SYLAM	6,572	10
Ituri	Aru	Gaki (spot task)	TDI-SYLAM	440	0
North Kivu	Beni	Banyangala (spot task)	TDI-SYLAM	100	0
North Kivu	Beni	Vukara 1 & 2	TDI-SYLAM	8,612	0
<b>Totals TDI-SYLAM</b>				<b>47,430</b>	<b>28</b>
Kasai-Central	Dimbelenge	Mpoyi	DCA	4,603	1
<b>Totals</b>				<b>52,033</b>	<b>29</b>

93 Emails from Germain Apanane Bawala and Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 May and 13 June 2025; and Nana Kadidia Cisse, UNMAS, 8 August 2025.

94 Email from Kevin Umali, TDI, 14 August 2025.

95 Email from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025.

96 Email from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 21 August 2025.

97 Emails from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025; and Nana Kadidia Cisse, UNMAS, 8 and 19 August 2025.

98 Email from Kevin Umali, TDI, 14 August 2025.

## DEMINER SAFETY

No accidents were reported during demining or EOD operations in 2024. However, persistent insecurity in the eastern provinces, posed significant operational challenges. As the AFC/M23 armed group expanded its territorial control throughout the year, organisations such as DCA reported severe disruptions to their activities, especially in North Ubangi and Ituri, where insecurity restricted access. These conditions hindered the implementation of NTS and clearance operations, delayed team deployments, and required continuous adjustments to ensure staff safety while maintaining programme goals. DCA also reported an incident of illegal detention of staff for five days, as well as confiscation of two computers and mobile phones.<sup>99</sup>

In early 2025, following the AFC/M23 takeover of Goma and Bukavu, mine action activities were temporarily suspended, with many staff evacuated from Goma. Operators were later prevented from conducting UXO/ERW destruction, removal of hazardous items, TS, and clearance. The only permitted activities were NTS, marking of UXO/ERW, and risk education. Efforts were underway to secure authorisation to resume full operations, but approval had not yet been granted at the time of writing.<sup>100</sup>

## 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 will not meet this deadline and on 10 June 2025, it submitted a new extension request seeking an additional three years until 31 December 2028. The request, its fifth, was due to be considered at the Twenty-Second Meeting of State Parties in December 2025.

At the Intersessional Meetings of States Parties in June 2025, DR Congo outlined several constraints that had prevented it from fulfilling its Article 5 obligations within the current deadline.<sup>101</sup> These included a deteriorating humanitarian and security situation, which reached a new peak in early 2025, with AFC/M23 forces taking control of Lake Kivu shore and large parts of North and South Kivu. Since the last extension request, new suspected hazardous areas have been recorded, notably in 2024 following the deployment of TDI-SYLAM to Aru (Ituri Province). DR Congo also stressed the lack of financial support, highlighting that cuts in US funding to DCA led to the suspension of planned operations in Kasai Central, North Kivu, and South Kivu. In addition,

KOICA's funding to UNMAS ended in early 2025, casting doubt on the likelihood of significant achievements during the year. The lack of clear or consistent data from CCLAM has prevented a clear determination of DR Congo's operating results or progress towards its Article 5 targets.

**Table 12: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance (Mine Action Review estimate)**

Year	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )
2024	52,033
2023	5,184
2022	28,628
2021	43,149
2020	10,562
<b>Total</b>	<b>139,556</b>

<sup>99</sup> Email from Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025.

<sup>100</sup> Emails from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS, 2 April 2025; Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025; and Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025. See also "Report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO", UN doc. S/2025/176, 20 March 2025, pp. 7–8; and Protection Cluster, "Analyse de Protection", 11 April 2025, p. 11.

<sup>101</sup> Statement of DR Congo on Article 5, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 17–20 June 2025.

## PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

The National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32 aims to strengthen national ownership by setting up a Government Humanitarian Demining Service ("Service Gouvernemental de Déminage Humanitaire", SGDH) to address residual contamination. Teams will consist mainly of personnel from the DR Congo armed forces, the police, and civilians qualified in EOD.<sup>102</sup> The 2025 deadline extension request also emphasised the need to strengthen EOD capabilities of FARDC and PNC deminers, who are seconded by the Military Engineering Corps.<sup>103</sup> The plan foresees the training and retraining of five to six teams in EOD and IEDD teams, with the acquisition of technical equipment.<sup>104</sup>

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102 "National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32", CCLAM, March 2024, p. 7.

103 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 10 June 2025, pp. 5–6.

104 *Ibid.*, p. 7.