DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2028

Not on track to meet deadline

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 307,024M²

Light
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

(operator data)

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (m²)	Release in 2024 (m²)
Clearance	16,446	52,033
Technical Survey	5,358	1,547
Non-Technical Survey	0	10,161

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	7	29

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

As conflict escalated in the east of the country, worsening insecurity and the occupation of territory by the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) forces resulted in new contamination by explosive remnants of war (ERW) and disrupted mine action operations. In early 2025, The Development Initiative (TDI), in partnership with national operator SYLAM, completed anti-personnel (AP) mine clearance tasks in Aru territory, Ituri province. Insecurity and a sharp reduction in international funding prevented AP mine survey and clearance during the rest of the year. In December 2025, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) was granted a three-year Article 5 deadline extension at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties, in order to address 31 AP mined areas, conduct outstanding survey in Dungu (Haut Uele province), and strengthen national explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and improvised explosive device disposal (IEDD) capacities by 31 December 2028.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **DR Congo should complete a comprehensive baseline of AP mined area.**
- **DR Congo should develop a resource mobilisation plan to attract funding and expertise, and ensure assistance that enables operators to sustain survey and clearance.**
- **DR Congo should strengthen mine action coordination at national and provincial levels through more regular engagement with operators.**
- **DR Congo should strengthen information management and reporting to enable monitoring of progress towards fulfilment of Article 5 obligations.**
- **DR Congo should remove reclassified ERW-contaminated areas from its work plan, budget, and reporting under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).**

- **DR Congo should systematically collect data on incidents involving victim-operated IEDs classified as AP mines under the APMBC and strengthen capacity to address the growing threat.**

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	6	6	In its 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request, DR Congo reported 31 remaining hazardous areas covering 307,017m², plus Dungu territory in Haut Uele, which has yet to be surveyed. The contamination baseline remains incomplete and conflates ERW contamination with mined areas. In November 2025, DanChurchAid (DCA) identified a previously unrecorded AP mined area in South Kivu, potentially increasing the known contamination baseline by nearly half.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	6	6	The Congolese Mine Action Center (CCLAM) continued its decentralisation in 2025, doubling its workforce to 501 staff across 14 provincial offices. While the government covers CCLAM's costs, operations remain fully reliant on international funding. The suspension of United States (US) funding to DCA, the end of Korean funding to UNMAS, coupled with the loss of access to North and South Kivu following the M23 takeover, severely constrained the programme.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	6	6	DR Congo does not have a dedicated mine action gender policy or action plan. However, women reportedly represented 42% of CCLAM staff in 2025, with nine in operational roles and twenty-four in management. At the end of 2025, women represented 7% of operational personnel across mine action operators, including at EOD Levels 2 and 3.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	5	4	There is a national law framing development projects, including mine action, and environmental considerations are also addressed in a chapter of the national mine action standards (NMAS), last endorsed in February 2026. Operators have specific standard operating procedures on environmental protection.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	4	4	In 2025, CCLAM pursued the two-year migration process to IMSMA Core, including the digitalisation of data collection forms. Deployment of the database was planned for 2026. DR Congo submitted its Article 5 deadline extension request, together with additional information in July 2025, but the data remain difficult to reconcile and is inconsistent with Article 7 reports.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	5	5	The 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request included a work plan with annual clearance targets, aiming to address 31 remaining AP mined areas covering 307,024m², and conduct survey and clearance in Dungu, by December 2028. However, the work plan and budget included two ERW-contaminated areas and fully relied on international funding.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	6	5	DR Congo has 24 National Congolese Mine Action Standards. The latest revision process concluded in 24-26 February 2026 following a national workshop held in Kinshasa, which reviewed both the 2023–32 national work plan and standards.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	4	5	Land release outputs were lower than in 2024, and the discovery of new mined area offset these gains, limiting overall progress. DR Congo was granted a fifth Article 5 deadline extension request to complete by 31 December 2028. The current insecurity and financial situation leave little hope for significant progress during the remaining two years.
Average Score	**5.2**	**5.2**	**Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

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

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Congolese armed forces (Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo, FARDC)
- Congolese National Police (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 (contract ended in May 2025)
- The Development Initiative (TDI) (contract ended in early 2025)

OTHER ACTORS

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

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

DR Congo has limited AP mine contamination. As at 1 April 2026, it reported 0.3km^2 across 31 hazardous areas in eight provinces and 11 territories, comprising 26 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) covering 0.05km^2 and five suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) covering 0.25km^2 (see Table 1). Dungu, in Haut Uele province, remained the only territory still to be surveyed. In additional information shared in July 2025, DR Congo reclassified two former SHAs in North Ubangi as areas suspected to contain only ERW; Mine Action Review has therefore excluded them from the AP mine contamination baseline below.[1]

Table 1: AP mined area by province (at 1 April 2026)[2]

Province	SHAs	Area (m^2)	CHAs	Area (m^2)
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
Totals	**5**	**248,298**	**26**	**58,726**

However, the reported contamination baseline remains uncertain, as further survey is still required, some inconsistencies persist in official reporting, and DRC continues to identify previously unrecorded AP mined areas.

Initial baseline contamination data stemmed from a national survey conducted in 2013, which identified 130 hazardous areas covering an estimated 1.8km^2.[3] Subsequent re-surveys significantly reduced this estimate after confirming that many areas contained unexploded ordnance (UXO) rather than mines.[4] Successive Article 5 deadline extension requests acknowledged that the initial survey had been based on misconceptions, lacked coordination, and was conducted by inadequately trained personnel, resulting in significant overestimation of both the number and size of areas suspected to contain AP mines and other ERW.[5] In 2026, key location data to delineate minefields, including turning points, benchmarks, and detailed landmark information, were held exclusively by the Congolese Mine Action Centre (CCLAM), seemingly limiting the accuracy and completeness of the national baseline.

In 2024, survey helped clarify the extent of contamination in certain areas. TDI, in partnership with the national operator SYLAM, carried out the long-delayed survey in Aru territory, Ituri province, one of two territories not covered by the 2013 national survey. The survey identified 13 new CHAs, according to operators. Nine were cleared in 2024 –25, while the remaining four, totalling 40,787m^2, were added to the national database. At the same time, CCLAM supervised a re-survey of previously recorded hazardous areas in Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu, cancelling at least 6,235m^2 of recorded contamination.[6]

In November 2025, DanChurchAid (DCA) identified a previously unrecorded AP mined area covering 144,712m^2 in Minova, Kalehe territory, South Kivu. Assessed as legacy contamination, the hazardous area was identified following the discovery of a visible POMZ AP mine and is understood to relate to a former Burundian military position allied with the Congolese armed forces (FARDC). DCA transmitted the relevant reports and task dossiers to CCLAM for inclusion in the national mine action database,[7] although the area was

1 APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 1 April 2025 to 1 April 2026), pp. 5–7; and Additional information submitted to its 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request ("Additional Information"), CCLAM, 31 July 2025, pp. 8–9.

2 Article 7 Report (covering 1 April 2025 to 1 April 2026), pp. 5 –7; 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 1.6 in Annex, pp. 33–34; and "Additional Information", 31 July 2025, pp. 8–9.

3 "Plan Stratégique National de Lutte contre les Mines Antipersonnel et les REG en RDC 2023–2032" ("National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32"), CCLAM, January 2022, pp. 21 and 32–34.

4 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 9–10.

5 Ibid., pp. 10–11.

6 The 2025 extension request only provides the area sizes before and after the survey (19,710.8m^2 and 13,475.8m^2, respectively), indicating cancellation of 6,235m^2. These figures, however, cannot be reconciled with the list of CHAs provided in July 2025. CCLAM did not provide a list of areas cancelled by non-technical survey (NTS).

7 Email from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, Technical Field Lead and Acting Operations Manager, DCA, 3 April 2026.

not included in the latest Article 7 report. This follows a similar finding in 2021, when DCA identified four previously unrecorded AP mined areas in Kabalo territory, Tanganyika province, increasing the then contamination baseline from 117,031m^2 to 399,969m^2.[8]

AP mine contamination in DR Congo is the legacy of successive armed conflicts involving neighbouring States, non-State armed groups (NSAGs), and militias since the country's independence in 1960. AP mines were reportedly used during the secessionist conflicts in Katanga (1960–63) and Kasai (1960–62). Between 1975 and 1977, both Angola and Zaire mined sections of their shared border to prevent incursions by armed groups opposed to their respective regimes. Further contamination resulted from the First Congo War (1996–97), and the Second Congo War (1998–2003), which involved numerous neighbouring States and NSAGs, many of which used AP mines.[9]

NEW CONTAMINATION

In recent years, DR Congo has faced increasing use of IEDs, including some victim-activated devices (also known as improvised mines) that are considered AP mines under the APMBC. In 2025, IED use was reported particularly in Beni and Lubero territories of North Kivu and in Ituri, with many incidents attributed to the Allied Democratic Force (ADF).[10] Although the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) monitored and responded to IED incidents, its dedicated IEDD team was discontinued in May 2025, by which time 29 incidents had already been recorded. This compares with 22 for the whole of 2023 and 60 in 2024.[11] Operators reported that IEDs had become a daily operational threat, while national capacity to address them remained limited.[12]

In 2025, ACLED recorded 32 explosive ordnance (EO) incidents involving landmines and IEDs, resulting in at least 40 civilian fatalities and at least 46 injuries. Most incidents occurred in Ituri and North Kivu and involved children who were killed or injured after handling abandoned explosive devices or by inadvertently triggering mines and IEDs while farming, herding livestock, or collecting scrap metal. Between January and June 2026, ACLED had already recorded six further EO incidents resulting in at least seven civilian fatalities, including six children.[13] For more information on casualties, please see the country profile on DR Congo on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[14]

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

DR Congo is heavily contaminated by ERW across areas affected by decades of armed conflict, although no systematic national survey has yet been conducted. The National Mine Action Strategy 2023–32 identifies UXO, abandoned ammunition, cluster munition remnants (CMR), and IEDs as the country's main contamination challenge.[15] As noted above, DR Congo reclassified two hazardous areas in North Ubangi—Kotakoli airport (11,028m^2) and Champs de Tir (17,222m^2)—as ERW contamination rather than mined areas.[16]

The conflict has further increased ERW contamination in the east. Following the takeover of Goma and Bukavu by M23 in early 2025, numerous reports indicated the presence of UXO in residential neighbourhoods and public infrastructure of both cities. However, M23 limited mine action to marking and verification in areas under its control.[17]

DR Congo also has a small amount of CMR contamination. As at end 2025, it reported 121,458m^2 of CMR across two CHAs, with the area in Equateur province accounting for most of the remaining contamination.[18] See Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Cluster Munition Remnants 2026* 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 (law 11/007 of 9 July 2011) on the implementation of the APMBC, namely the *Commission Nationale de Lutte Antimines* (CNLAM) and the *Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines* (CCLAM). 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

8 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.

9 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10.

10 "Trois morts dues aux engins explosifs sur l'axe Eringeti-Kainama en deux semaine", *Radio Okapi*, 21 February 2025, https://bit.ly/3SMaAyK; National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32", CCLAM, January 2022, p. 21; and "Plan de Travail Pluriannuel de Lutte contre les Mines Antipersonnel et les REG en RDC 2023–2032" ("National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32"), CCLAM, Updated March 2026, p. 23.

11 Email from Nana Kadidia Cissé, Programme Management Senior Officer, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

12 Email from Yannick Malamba, Chief of Operations, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026.

13 Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), "Filters: 01/01/2025-30/06/2026, Remote explosive/landmine/IED, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the", accessed 30 June 2026, www.acleddata.com.

14 https://the-monitor.org.

15 "National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32", CCLAM, January 2022, p. 21; "National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32", CCLAM, Updated March 2026, p. 23.

16 "Additional Information", 31 July 2025, p. 9. Champs de Tir means "firing range" in English.

17 UN Protection Cluster, "Analyse de Protection", 11 April 2025, https://bit.ly/3J4GYYn, pp. 10–11; "Report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO", UN doc. S/2025/176, 20 March 2025, https://bit.ly/3T3Xhtw, pp. 7–8; UN doc. S/2025/779, 1 December 2025, https://bit.ly/4y8DdGx, pp. 6–7; and ICRC, "DR Congo: ERW yet again threaten lives", 26 May 2025 https://bit.ly/454Aq3h.

18 Draft CCM voluntary Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025), Form F.

of five civil society organisations involved in mine action.[19] A decree formally setting out the role and responsibilities of CNLAM has yet to be adopted by the Ministry of Interior.[20]

Established in 2012, CCLAM is the technical coordinating body for all mine action activities in the country. As the operational arm of the national authority, it oversees the implementation and management of the national mine action programme. CCLAM is responsible for coordinating operations and operators, regulating the sector through accreditation and tasking, planning activities, including setting priorities, and quality control and assurance for land release.[21]

Since 2024, under the National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–2032, CCLAM has been engaged in a decentralisation process aimed at expanding its provincial presence and increasing its workforce. In 2025, the number of personnel doubled compared with 2024, rising from 250 to 501 staff members. By the end of 2025, CCLAM had established 14 provincial offices, up from 11 in 2024, to coordinate mine action at the local level. The decentralisation process is expected to continue until all provincial offices are operational, and CCLAM reported that training and capacity-building activities for staff were being prepared.[22]

The operating costs of the CCLAM and the coordination of the national programme are funded by the Congolese government. The Article 5 deadline extension request, granted in 2025, referred to an allocation of US$600,000.[23] It remains unclear, however, whether this amount is intended to cover the extension period (2026–28) or whether it represents an annual contribution, as suggested in earlier information provided to Mine Action Review.

UNMAS continued to support the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) in 2025 through EOD in North Kivu and Ituri and training of national security forces in Kinshasa. UNMAS delivered specialised trainings in counter-IED, EOD, and basic investigation related to IEDs, though in practice only the Congolese National Police (PNC) benefited, as FARDC personnel were deployed in combat operations.[24] In December 2025, MONUSCO's mandate was renewed for another year, with UNMAS expected to continue supporting Congolese security forces in EOD, counter-IED, and weapons and ammunition management (WAM) as part of security sector reform.[25]

DR Congo has not established a formal national mine action platform. However, CCLAM, together with the Mine Action Area of Responsibility under the Protection Cluster, convenes national and provincial coordination meetings with operators. However, meetings were irregular in 2025, which limited consistent coordination and operational collaboration among stakeholders. Coordination efforts were hindered by the absence of a dedicated focal point within CCLAM and uneven participation at provincial level. In eastern DR Congo, sustained collaboration among stakeholders was further constrained by the M23's control of areas surrounding the provincial capitals of North and South Kivu – Goma and Bukavu.[26]

In August 2025, CCLAM and UNMAS presented mine action achievements during the closing ceremony of the three-year Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)-funded humanitarian mine action project, which brought together national authorities, MONUSCO leadership, United Nations agencies, diplomats, and mine action operators.[27]

The mine action operating environment remained moderately conducive in 2025. Conflict in eastern DR Congo further constrained mine action, restricting access and clearance to government-controlled areas. Slow and unpredictable approvals of Memorandum of Understanding, together with cumbersome customs procedures despite humanitarian exemptions for demining equipment, continued to slow operations. Visa processing remained generally manageable, although occasional delays were experienced.[28]

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

While the government covers CCLAM's costs, no national funding is allocated to survey or clearance, leaving DR Congo entirely dependent on international support to fund demining operations.[29] Mine action capacity declined significantly in 2025 following international funding cuts, including the US (Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the US Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, PM/WRA) termination of support for DCA and the completion of the KOICA-funded project implemented by UNMAS and its partners. At the same time, the UN liquidity crisis and resulting budget reductions across peacekeeping missions further affected MONUSCO and, by extension, UNMAS operations.[30]

UNMAS retained AFRILAM throughout the year (through a contract with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)). It also contracted TDI-SYLAM until March and G4S

19 "National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32", CCLAM, January 2022, p. 54.

20 "National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32", CCLAM, Updated March 2026, p. 44.

21 "National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32", CCLAM, January 2022, p. 54.

22 Interview with Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, National Coordinator, CCLAM, in Geneva, 23 April 2026; and emails from Laure Ngoie, Head of Information Management, CCLAM, 6 May 2025 and 22 April 2026.

23 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 20; and "Additional Information", 31 July 2025, p. 23.

24 Email from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026; and interview with Jean-Denis Nsoki Larsen, Chief of Mine Action Programme, UNMAS DRC, Geneva, 23 April 2026.

25 Resolution of the UN Security Council 2808 (2025), 19 December 2025, https://bit.ly/4d1RnAW, p. 11.

26 Emails from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026; Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026; and Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

27 Email from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026; and "Over 400 explosive remnants and 9,000 munitions destroyed. UNMAS, KOICA and CCLAM conclude major demining project", UN Peacekeeping, 28 August 2025, https://bit.ly/4aDMXi7.

28 Emails from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026; and Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

29 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.

30 "Report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO", UN doc. S/2025/779, 1 December 2025, https://bit.ly/4wwATYo; and Security Council Report, December 2025 Monthly Forecast, DRC, Key issues and Options, https://bit.ly/4nkJPMR.

for IEDD until May. AFRILAM also received support from the Swiss foundation *Monde sans Mines*, while DCA secured new funding from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) for EOD spot tasks in North and South Kivu and from the Humanitarian Fund for non-technical survey (NTS).[31]

For more information on funding, please see the country profile on DR Congo on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[32]

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

CCLAM has had a gender focal point since 2016 to promote women's participation in mine action and support gender-sensitive policies.[33] Following the doubling of its workforce in 2025, women represented 42% of CCLAM's 501 staff. Of these, 24 held supervisory or managerial positions, while nine worked in operational roles.[34]

Despite this relatively high proportion of women within the national authority, operators reported that the pool of qualified women in mine action personnel remains limited. Women represented 26% of UNMAS staff, 20% of DCA's Humanitarian Mine Action team, and 14% of AFRILAM's workforce.[35] AFRILAM employed four women in operational roles (three EOD Level 2 and one EOD Level 3) and aims to secure additional funding to expand specialised training opportunities, including EOD Level 3 and 3+, IEDD, and physical security and stockpile management (PSSM). DCA reported one woman in a managerial position and five in operations.[36] In its 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request, DR Congo reported that women deminers had been trained by all implementing partners and highlighted increased women's participation in risk education, NTS, and victim assistance, including within national organisations.[37] In early 2025, UNMAS, through UNOPS, drafted an internal Gender Equality and Social Inclusion plan, which was pending finalisation at the time of writing.[38]

The 2023–32 national mine action strategy briefly acknowledges the importance of gender and diversity considerations and includes commitments to integrate gender-sensitive approaches across mine action activities. It recognises the different impacts of mines and ERW on girls and boys, and calls for women to be included in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The strategy references international frameworks on women's rights, children's rights, and the protection of refugees and displaced persons. However, limited information is available on how they are translated into practice, monitored, or measured through concrete indicators and operational outcomes.[39]

Table 2: Gender composition of CCLAM, operators, and UNMAS (at end 2025)

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Operational staff	Women operational staff
CCLAM	501	210 (42%)	78	24 (31%)	180	9 (5%)
AFRILAM	37	5 (14%)	8	4 (50%)	32	4 (13%)
DCA	50	10 (20%)	8	1 (13%)	36	5 (14%)
UNMAS	23	6 (26%)	5	1 (20%)	12	1 (8%)
Totals	**611**	**231 (38%)**	**99**	**30 (30%)**	**260**	**19 (7%)**

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

DR Congo has a legal framework for environmental protection through a 2011 law on the Fundamental Principles Relating to Environmental Protection. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is the competent authority, and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments are required for development projects.[40] Mine action operators reported aligning their activities with this framework. AFRILAM, for example, stated that it implements environmental mitigation measures in accordance with national law.[41]

31 Emails from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM; 28 April 2026, Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026; Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026; Kevin Umali, Regional Operations Manager, TDI, 13 June 2025; and Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

32 https://the-monitor.org.

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

34 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.

35 Emails from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026; Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026; and Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

36 Email from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026.

37 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

38 Email from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

39 "National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32", CCLAM, January 2022, pp. 28 and 29.

40 Law No. 11/009 of 9 July 2011 on the Fundamental Principles Relating to Environmental Protection, https://bit.ly/4eVxdrS.

41 Email from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026.

The Congolese Mine Action Standards, last endorsed in March 2026, include a chapter on "Occupational Health and Safety and Environmental Management" (NNCLAM 13.02), which sets out measures to minimise the environmental impact of mine action. The standard requires operators to restore released land to its intended use where possible while avoiding unnecessary disturbance to surrounding areas. It also establishes environmental requirements for clearance sites, temporary camps, and EOD, including measures to prevent soil and water pollution, control erosion, manage waste and hazardous substances, protect cultural and historical sites. Operators are also required to prevent contamination from hazardous materials, including white phosphorus,[42] and rehabilitate demolition sites following operations, including through the removal of explosive debris and the backfilling of craters created during destruction activities.[43]

Despite this framework, official reports do not explicitly describe how environmental considerations are taken into account in the planning or tasking of survey or clearance. CCLAM does not have a designated focal point for environmental issues in mine action.[44]

Operators reported having their own environmental management procedures. UNMAS, operating under both MONUSCO and UNOPS, applies the environmental management frameworks of both organisations and requires all implementing partners to establish environmental procedures. Environmental requirements are also integrated into procurement, with suppliers expected to meet defined environmental standards.[45] AFRILAM has adopted an environmental management standard operating procedure (SOP-14), including environmental assessments to inform planning and operations, as well as a waste management policy.[46] DCA and TDI also reported having environmental policies and conducting environmental assessments to support survey and clearance.[47]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

CCLAM took over responsibility for information management from UNMAS in 2016, but despite capacity building over many years, still lacks the capacity and resources to manage the national Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database. The National Mine Action Strategy 2023–32 identified the need to build staff capacity, improve data collection, update the database on a more regular basis, and improve data disaggregation.[48]

DR Congo's national information management system continued to rely on IMSMA New Generation (IMSMA NG) in early 2025. Hosted locally on a single laptop and dependent on manual data entry by one user, the database was not backed up on a server, making the system unreliable and representing a long-standing risk for the programme. For operators, all information requests had to be submitted to CCLAM by email, resulting in delays and limiting timely information sharing.[49]

To address these weaknesses, CCLAM, with support from UNMAS and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), launched a two-year transition from IMSMA NG to IMSMA Core in late 2024.[50] In 2025, UNMAS provided IMSMA Core training to four CCLAM staff members through Q&A guidance and advisory sessions, with the aim of strengthening CCLAM's capacity to operate independently.[51] Additionally, two staff continued following the online IMSMA Continue training with support from the GICHD. During the year, key data collection forms were also standardised and digitalised using Survey123 Connect, including forms related to risk education, NTS, hazardous areas, accidents and victims, and final reporting.[52]

Progress nonetheless remained constrained by limited internal capacity within CCLAM, including a lack of dedicated information management staff, limited oversight, and a rotation-based staffing system affecting continuity. During a 2026 mission to South Kivu, CCLAM personnel began using the digital system, marking a positive step towards operational adoption.

The GICHD was expected to provide the IMSMA Core database software in 2026 to complete the migration process, while UNMAS is expected to continue supporting digitalisation efforts and long-term information management capacity.[53] According to the Head of Information Management at CCLAM, the planned implementation of IMSMA Core is expected to improve data quality through standardised digital data collection by operators, while enhancing national data management through real-time maps and dashboards to support decision-making.[54]

DR Congo's reporting under the APMBC has long been inconsistent, with baseline contamination data and land release outputs often difficult to reconcile. Discrepancies persisted between the 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request and Article 7 reports, while revised data submitted in July 2025 introduced further inconsistencies. On a more

42 Normes Nationales Congolaises de Lutte Antimines (NNCLAM 13.02), March 2026, p. 227.
43 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.
44 Emails from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025 and 22 April 2026.
45 Email from Nana Kadidia Cisse, UNMAS DRC, 22 April 2026.
46 Email from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026.
47 Emails from Jacob Payton, Head of Mine Action Operations EOD 3, DCA, 24 April 2025; and Kevin Umali, TDI, 13 June 2025.
48 "National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32", CCLAM, January 2022, p. 50.
49 Interview with Jean-Denis Nsoki Larsen, UNMAS DRC, Geneva, 23 April 2026.
50 Email from Jérémy Repond, Programme Officer, GICHD, 9 May 2025.
51 Emails from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026; and Ephyse Cotting, Information Management Officer, UNMAS DRC, 26 May 2026.
52 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.
53 Email from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.
54 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.

positive note, survey and database-cleaning efforts in 2024–25 led to the reclassification of two areas previously recorded as mined as ERW-contaminated, and the 2026 Article 7 report presented a consistent baseline for remaining contamination. However, its land release figures could not be fully reconciled with operator-reported data. To ensure consistency across reporting years, Mine Action Review continued to use the calendar year and operator-reported survey and clearance outputs.

PLANNING AND TASKING

In 2022, DR Congo developed a 10-year National Mine Action Strategy, operationalised through a National Work Plan for 2023–32, which was signed by the Vice Prime Minister in March 2024. The Strategy ("Plan Stratégique National de Lutte Contre les Mines Antipersonnel et les Restes Explosifs de Guerre en République Démocratique du Congo 2023–2032") set out general objectives for the decade, including completing AP mine clearance by 2025 and CMR clearance by 2032. It also aimed to complete survey of cluster munition and other ERW contamination "rapidly" and establish a decentralised EOD capacity to address residual contamination.[55] The strategy projected a budget of US$91 million, including US$50 million was for clearance,[56] well beyond realistic funding prospects.

CCLAM updated the National Work Plan 2023–32 ("Plan de Travail Pluriannuel 2023-2032") and presented it during a workshop held in Kinshasa from 24–26 February 2026, under the auspices of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior, Security, Decentralisation and Customary Affairs. The workshop brought together representatives of relevant ministries, ambassadors, mine action organisations, the armed forces and police, civil society organisations, and victims' associations.[57] The updated work plan aligned with the Article 5 deadline extension request, granted at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties in December 2025, extending the target date for addressing AP mined area by the end of 2028.[58]

In its 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request, DR Congo committed to clearing the remaining 31 AP mine hazardous areas covering 307,024m^2; completing survey and clearance in Dungu, Haut-Uele province; and strengthening the Government Humanitarian Demining Service's EOD and IEDD capacities.[59] The three-year plan was budgeted at US$6.3 million, including US$4.86 million for clearance, US$0.57 million for survey in Dungu, and US$0.9 million for risk education. The budget excluded an additional US$600,000 allocated to CCLAM from national funding.[60]

In its annual projections, DR Congo planned to address 334,737m^2 over the 2026–28 period, including the two ERW-contaminated areas. This included 145,293m^2 of mine and ERW contamination to be addressed in 2026 across eight provinces (88,016m^2 in Kasai Central, 22,000m^2 in Ituri, and 22,000m^2 in North Ubangi). For 2027, DR Congo planned to address 123,433m^2, covering Ituri, Kasai Central, and North Ubangi. For 2028, it planned to address a further 66,011m^2 in Ituri and Kasai Central.[61]

To implement the plan, DR Congo envisaged deploying six multi-task teams (two per province), each comprising nine personnel. Daily productivity was estimated at 20m^2 per deminer, rising to 80m^2 in the grassland terrain of Kasai and Kasai Central.[62] However, it remained unclear whether these were additional to those already operated by national and international organisations or referred to the same operational capacity. The work plan was not based on an assessment of available capacity, although it identified the five organisations expected to conduct operations:[63]

- AFRILAM in Tshuapa and North Ubangi;
- DCA and SYOPADI in Kasai, Kasai Central, Maniema and South Kivu,
- SYLAM and TDI in Ituri and North Kivu.

CCLAM reported prioritising hazardous areas using four criteria: security, accessibility, socio-economic impact, and casualty evacuation (CASEVAC). Security assessments considered the presence of armed groups and levels of insecurity as of January 2025. Accessibility took into account road conditions, vegetation, communications, and seasonal constraints. Socio-economic impact assessed the expected benefits of releasing land for livelihoods and development, while CASEVAC considered the accessibility and capacity of nearby medical facilities.[64]

In recent years, operators have faced persistent planning and tasking challenges, reporting incomplete or unreliable information from CCLAM that often required additional survey before operations could begin, as well as a lack of access to the national database. In 2025, however, CCLAM managed the approval of task dossiers and operational documentation relatively effectively, with regular reporting supporting timely information exchange, while task dossiers prepared by UNMAS were considered timely and reliable and were formally endorsed by CCLAM before implementation. Nevertheless, broader institutional processes, including the approval of agreements and coordination mechanisms, remained subject to delays due to capacity constraints.[65]

55 "National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32", CCLAM, January 2022, p. 11.
56 Ibid., p. 12.
57 "National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32", CCLAM, Updated March 2026, p. 6.
58 Ibid., pp. 6 and 12.
59 "Additional Information", 31 July 2025, pp. 8–9.
60 Ibid., pp. 22–23.
61 Ibid., pp. 13–17.
62 Ibid., pp. 11–12.
63 Ibid., p. 18.
64 Ibid., p. 11.
65 Emails from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM; 28 April 2026, Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026; Kevin Umali, Regional Operation Manager, TDI, 13 June 2025; and Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

DR Congo has 24 National Congolese Mine Action Standards (Normes Congolaises de Lutte Antimines, NCLAM) developed with support from the GICHD. They are said to be regularly updated to reflect changes in operational requirements and international mine action standards (IMAS). The latest revision process concluded in 24-26 February 2026 following the above-mentioned national workshop, which reviewed both the 2023–32 National Work Plan and the NCLAM.[66]

The NCLAM are consolidated into a single document of approximately 470 pages covering the main components of mine action, including quality management, accreditation, survey and clearance, battle area clearance (BAC), EOD, risk education, medical support, information management, environmental management, and IEDD.

The review process, initiated in late 2024, continued throughout 2025 through a series of technical meetings. Revisions included updating risk education messaging on the threat posed by IEDs; strengthening casualty management, registration, and rehabilitation protocols to align with ethical and humanitarian standards; streamlining NTS and technical survey (TS) procedures to accelerate the safe release of land; and revising operational prioritisation criteria to better protect civilian populations and facilitate the return of internally displaced persons.[67]

In December 2025, CCLAM Director Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga was elected to represent National Mine Action Authorities (NMAAs) on the IMAS Steering Group for a two-year term. This was the first time DR Congo had been represented on the IMAS Steering Group.[68]

According to operators, the national mine action standards (NMAS) are generally aligned with the local threat and context. They provide clear and practical guidance for evidence-based survey and land release, and no specific provisions (e.g. clearance depths, fadeout distances, technical survey application, or demolition requirements) have created significant operational constraints.[69]

A persistent challenge in the past years has been the misclassification of hazardous areas, with clearance teams deployed to battle areas requiring BAC but tasked by CCLAM as AP mine clearance. This reduced operational efficiency, as mine clearance and BAC require different methodologies and assets. The 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request reflected the same issue, including ERW-contaminated areas in both the work plan and budget and applying identical productivity rates for AP mine clearance and BAC.[70]

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

UNMAS, active in DR Congo since 2002, continued to provide EOD and IEDD support to MONUSCO and technical assistance to the national mine action programme in 2025. Its capacity, however, continued to decline, falling from 42 personnel in 2023 to 23 by the end of 2025. As of March 2026, 19 employed and three in-kind staff remained, with further reductions possible due to funding constraints.[71]

In 2025, TDI-SYLAM were the only operators tasked with AP mine clearance, operating in Aru, Ituri province. TDI had resumed operations in 2023 under a UNMAS contract to mentor SYLAM and build its capacity to manage explosive hazard independently. TDI-SYLAM began manual clearance in Lirunga area in December 2023 and, by early 2025, had cleared nine mined areas with three multi-task teams (MTTs). The project ended in early 2025 following the termination of KOICA funding to UNMAS.[72]

Operational capacity declined sharply during 2025 following funding cuts and the deteriorating security situation. The cancellation of US funding halted DCA's planned demining operations in Tanganyika, Kasai, and South Kivu, while the MONUSCO financial crisis ended G4S's IEDD support in May.

As a result, AFRILAM and DCA were the only operators that remained active during the year, although neither conducted AP mine clearance.

AFRILAM operated with 37 national staff, including four MTT: three contracted by UNMAS to support MONUSCO in Beni, Bunia and Goma; and one funded by the Swiss Foundation *Monde Sans Mines*, operating in Djugu and Irumu territories. Operations included BAC, EOD spot tasks, bulk demolitions, contamination surveys and risk education.[73] CCLAM deployed four staff during the year to conduct quality assurance of AFRILAM's operations in Beni and Bunia, and quality control of land released by TDI-SYLAM in Aru.[74]

DCA, following the cancellation of its US-funded programme, substantially reduced its capacity from three 16-person MTTs in 2024 to two six-strong MTTs and one community liaison team covering North and South Kivu. With support from DANIDA and Humanitarian Fund, DCA focused on EOD spot tasks responding to ERW resulting from the January 2025 conflict, alongside NTS and community liaison. DCA planned to expand capacity in 2026, subject to securing the funding.[75]

66 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.

67 Emails from Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025; and Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 May 2026.

68 Minutes IMAS Steering Group, Annual Regular Meeting, 17 December 2025, https://bit.ly/4vcLHJS.

69 Email from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026.

70 "Additional Information", 31 July 2025, pp. 15–16.

71 Emails from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026; and Ephyse Cotting, UNMAS DRC, 26 May 2026.

72 Emails from Howard Barnes, Project Manager, TDI, 15 June 2024; and Kevin Umali, TDI, 13 June 2025.

73 Email from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026.

74 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.

75 Email from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026; and "Reducing explosive ordnance risks in Goma and Bukavu", DCA, https://bit.ly/3Sv0rX0.

Table 3: Mine action capacity under contract to UNMAS 2025[76]

Capacity	Location	Coverage areas	No. of personnel	Status
AFRILAM Management	Goma	Management, support	4	Active
AFRILAM Multi-task Team 1	Bunia	Ituri and North Kivu	8	Active
AFRILAM Multi-task Team 2	Goma	North Kivu (M23 control areas)	8	Active since July 2025
AFRILAM Multi-task Team 3	Beni	North Kivu and Ituri	8	Active since August 2025
G4S IEDD team	Beni	North Kivu	5	Terminated in May 2025
SYLAM Management Trainees	Goma	Management, support	3	Terminated in March 2025
TDI Management	Goma	Management, QA	6	Terminated in March 2025
TDI-SYLAM Multi-task Team 4	Rotational basis	North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri	11	Terminated in March 2025
TDI-SYLAM Multi-task Team 5	Rotational basis	North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri	11	Terminated in March 2025
TDI-SYLAM Multi-task Team 6	Rotational basis	North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri	11	Terminated in March 2025

Table 4: Additional mine action capacity in 2025 (outside UNMAS contractual framework)[77]

Capacity	Location	Coverage areas	No. of personnel
AFRILAM Management	Bunia	Management and support	2
AFRILAM Multi-task Team 4	Irumu, Djugu and Mambasa	Ituri	8
DCA Management	Goma	Management and support	3
DCA Multi-task Team 1	Goma and Masisi	North Kivu	6
DCA Multi-task Team 2	Goma and Nyiragongo	North Kivu	6
DCA Community Liaison Team 1	Kalehe, Nyiragongo	North and South Kivu	3

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

Beginning of 2025, operators released a total of 21,804m^2 of mined area through TS and manual clearance, and destroyed seven AP mines (See Table 5). This was down from the 63,741m^2 addressed in 2024. TDI-SYLAM completed operations in Aru in early 2025 and, due to a lack of funding, did not address the remaining identified hazardous areas. AFRILAM and DCA did not conduct any AP mine clearance during the year.

This year again, Mine Action Review used operators data directly, mainly from TDI, because CCLAM Article 7 reports did not present outputs on a calendar-year basis and its data could not be reconciled with figures provided by operators.

Table 5: Summary of land release outputs in 2025 (operator data)[78]

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (m^2)	Comments
Clearance	16,446	Clearance by TDI-SYLAM in Ituri province (Aru territory)
Technical survey	5,358	Reduced by TDI-SYLAM in Ituri province (Aru territory)
Non-technical survey	0	
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2025**	
AP mines destroyed	7	Destroyed by TDI-SYLAM in Ituri province (Aru territory)

76 Emails from Julian Bustamante, Programme Management Officer Specialist, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2025, and Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

77 Emails from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM; 28 April 2026, Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026.

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

In 2025, AFRILAM completed 377 EOD spot tasks, destroying 4,981 items of ERW, including mortars, rockets, grenades, and projectiles.[79] According to UNMAS, AFRILAM also reduced 49,872m^2 through TS conducted at MONUSCO camps, destroying 8,755 ERW and small arm ammunitions (SAA) in Beni, 5,454 ERW and SAA in Nyiragongo and 2 ERW in Oicha.[80] TDI completed seven EOD spot tasks in Ituri, with 98 items of UXO destroyed, and cleared Adi Airfield in Aru (15,870m^2) with no ordnance found.[81]

SURVEY IN 2025

TDI–SYLAM reduced 5,358m^2 through TS at Midigo-1 in Aru territory, Ituri province (see Table 6).

Survey output declined compared with 2024, when CCLAM supervised a re-survey of hazardous areas in Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu. DR Congo's 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request reported that survey reduced the total hazardous area from 19,710.8m^2 to 13,475.8m^2, implying cancellation of 6,235m^2. However, these figures could not be reconciled with the list of remaining CHAs submitted in July 2025.[82] In addition, TDI-SYLAM also cancelled 10,161m^2 through NTS in Lirunga Zone 6 in 2024. For DCA, Mine Action Review recorded BAC in the Mpoyi area, where 1,547m^2 was reduced prior to clearance.[83]

Table 6: Release of mined areas through TS in 2025 (operators data)

Province	Territory	Name	Operator	Area reduced (m^2)
Ituri	Aru	Midigo-1	TDI-SYLAM	5,358

CLEARANCE IN 2025

In 2025, TDI-SYLAM cleared 16,446m^2 across three mined areas through manual clearance, destroying seven AP mines and two item of UXO (see Table 7). This marked a decrease from the 52,033m^2 of clearance in 2024.

Table 7: AP mine clearance in 2025 (operator data)[84]

Province	Territory	Name	Operator	Area (m^2)	AP mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Ituri	Aru	Lirunga 6	TDI-SYLAM	6,943	2	2
Ituri	Aru	Dulawate 2	TDI-SYLAM	3,493	3	0
Ituri	Aru	Midigo 1	TDI-SYLAM	6,010	2	0
Totals				**16,446**	**7**	**2**

DEMINER SAFETY

No accidents were reported during demining or EOD in 2025. However, persistent insecurity in the east severely constrained mine action. Following the takeover of Goma in January 2025, and subsequently Bukavu, operations in areas outside government control were suspended for several months. While risk education and marking resumed in May, EOD, IED spot tasks, and clearance remained heavily restricted by M23.[85] UNMAS capacity-building activities planned for the FARDC were redirected to the Congolese National Police due to frontline deployments, while planned WAM infrastructure activities in Goma were cancelled.[86] DCA reported the temporary abduction of four staff members by armed groups.[87] In March 2026, an international UNICEF staff member was killed in a drone strike on a building housing humanitarian workers in Goma.[88]

79 Email from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026.

80 Email from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

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

82 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 15; and "Additional Information", 31 July 2025, pp. 3–7.

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

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

85 Emails from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026; Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026; Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026; and Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

86 Email from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

87 Emails from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April and 26 May 2026.

88 "Statement by UNICEF on the killing of a staff member in the DR Congo", UNICEF, 11 March 2026, https://bit.ly/4u6Q5dS.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR DR CONGO: 1 NOVEMBER 2002

↓

ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 NOVEMBER 2012

↓

FIRST EXTENDED DEADLINE (2-YEAR, 2-MONTH EXTENSION): 1 JANUARY 2015

↓

SECOND EXTENDED DEADLINE (6-YEAR EXTENSION): 1 JANUARY 2021

↓

THIRD EXTENDED DEADLINE (18 MONTHS): 1 JULY 2022

↓

FOURTH EXTENDED DEADLINE (42 MONTHS): 31 DECEMBER 2025

↓

FIFTH DEADLINE EXTENSION (3 YEARS): 31 DECEMBER 2028

NOT ON TRACK TO MEET ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the three-year deadline extension granted by States Parties in December 2025), 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 2028. It is unlikely to meet this latest deadline.

Since the expiry of its initial 10-year Article 5 deadline on 1 November 2012, DR Congo has been granted five deadline extensions. During the latest extension period 2022–25, progress was hindered by insufficient funding and reduced operational capacity; the discovery of new suspected hazardous areas, both during clearance in known areas and following completion of survey in Aru; and the reprioritisation of interventions in response to other humanitarian and security emergencies, following change of national context. Based on operators' data, DR Congo has cleared 145,440m^2 through manual clearance in the last five years (see Table 8).

For the current extension period (2026–28), DR Congo highlighted the availability of sufficient financial resources and access constraints resulting from the country's vast territory and poor road infrastructure as the main implementation risks. In addition, the deteriorating security situation in eastern DR Congo, which reached a new peak in early 2025 with the M23 takeover of the Lake Kivu shore and large parts of North and South Kivu, continues to prevent national and international accredited organisations from freely conducting survey, clearance, and EOD. The sharp decline in international funding, notably the cessation of support from South Korea through UNMAS and from the United States to DCA, further reduced operational capacity in 2025 and may continue to slow progress, with few alternative sources of funding identified to date.

Baseline contamination data remain incomplete, as Dungu territory has never been surveyed and some previously recorded areas require resurvey. In December 2025, DCA identified a new AP mine hazardous area in South Kivu, potentially adding more than 144,000m^2 of contamination, although this had not yet been reflected in the 2026 Article 7 report.

Table 8: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance (Mine Action Review estimate)

Year	Area cleared (m^2)
2025	16,446
2024	52,033
2023	5,184
2022	28,628
2021	43,149
Total	**145,440**

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.[89] The 2025 deadline extension request also emphasised the need to strengthen EOD capabilities of the FARDC and Police deminers, who are seconded by the Military Engineering Corps. The plan foresees the training and retraining of five to six teams in EOD and IEDD teams, with the acquisition of technical equipment.[90]

89 "National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32", CCLAM, Updated March 2026, p. 7.

90 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 8–9.