

# ECUADOR



**ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 OCTOBER 2017**  
 (JUST ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE)

<b>PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE</b>	For 2015	For 2014
Problem understood	5	5
Target date for completion of mine clearance	6	5
Targeted clearance	7	7
Efficient clearance	4	3
National funding of programme	8	8
Timely clearance	3	3
Land release system in place	6	6
National mine action standards	7	7
Reporting on progress	7	6
Improving performance	6	7
<b>PERFORMANCE SCORE: AVERAGE</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>

## PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Ecuador increased clearance productivity in 2015 compared to the previous year although its ability to meet its extended Article 5 deadline for clearance of October 2017 has been in some doubt. While its reporting on contamination and clearance has progressed, there is still room for further improvement.

### RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

- Ecuador should accelerate its demining operations to ensure that it completes clearance by its extended Article 5 deadline.

## CONTAMINATION

Ecuador's contamination results from its 1995 border conflict with Peru. The most heavily mined section of the border is the Condor mountain range (Cordillera del Condor) which was at the centre of the dispute. It is also contaminated to a smaller extent with anti-vehicle mines. As of end 2015, some 130,000m<sup>2</sup> of contamination remained to be released from seven confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) believed to contain a total of 4,687 mines.<sup>1</sup>

Two of twenty-four provinces in Ecuador are still affected by mined areas, as set out in Table 1. The provinces are located in the south of the country along the border with Peru.

**Table 1: Mine contamination by province as at end 2015<sup>2</sup>**

Province	CHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Morona Santiago	1	36,900
Zamora Chinchipe	6	93,232
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>130,132</b>

In its 2008 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline extension request, Ecuador listed farming, mining production, and tourism as the main productive activities affected by mine contamination.

## PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The national mine action programme is managed by the National Centre for Humanitarian Demining (CENDESMI), an interministerial body chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Until October 2013, the Organization of American States (OAS) provided technical oversight and quality assurance (QA) of clearance.<sup>3</sup>

1 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form C.

2 APMBC Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form C. Ecuador reports exactly the same contamination in Zamora Chinchipe as both suspected and confirmed.

3 Email from Carl Case, General Coordinator, Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines and Assistance for Control of Arms and Munitions, OAS, Washington, 19 March 2014.

## Standards

Under the Binational Cooperation Programme (Programa Binacional de Cooperación) established in 2000, in April 2013 Ecuador and Peru adopted a Binational Manual for Humanitarian Demining (Manual Binacional de Desminado Humanitario) to unify the demining procedures of both states in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

## Operators

Demining operations are conducted by the Army's General Demining Command (CGD). The CGD is deploying 16 manual demining teams and two mechanical demining teams (using an MV-4 remotely controlled flail), as well as one mine detection dog (MDD) team.<sup>4</sup>

In December 2013, the joint Ecuador-Peru Binational Humanitarian Demining Unit of 30 deminers conducted its first exercise in Morona Santiago. In October 2015, the Unit began operations in a mined area estimated to extend over 43,500m<sup>2</sup> within the Tiwinza square kilometre (an area at the centre of the conflict between the two nations).<sup>5</sup>

## LAND RELEASE

Ecuador cleared more than 66,000m<sup>2</sup> of mined area in 2015 across three provinces (see Table 3), a significant increase on output in 2014 of almost 40,000m<sup>2</sup>. Operations in 2015 included the destruction of 773 anti-personnel mines and 2 items of UXO.

### Survey in 2015

A total of 16,177m<sup>2</sup> of SHA was cancelled in 2015 as set out in Table 2. The number of areas cancelled has not been reported.

**Table 2: Release by survey in 2015<sup>6</sup>**

Province	SHA cancelled (m <sup>2</sup> )
Morona Santiago	4,177
Pastaza	0
Zamora Chinchipe	12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,177</b>

### Clearance in 2015

A total of 17 mined areas were released in 2015 with the destruction of 773 anti-personnel mines (see Table 3).

**Table 3: Mine clearance in 2015<sup>7</sup>**

Region	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	AP mines destroyed
Morona Santiago	4	14,898	N/R
Pastaza	11	11,960	N/R
Zamora Chinchipe	2	39,556	N/R
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>66,414</b>	<b>773</b>

AP = Anti-personnel

In December 2015, five Ecuadorian deminers were injured during operations along the border with Peru.<sup>8</sup>

4 Statement of Ecuador, APMBC Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 1 December 2015.

5 Ibid.

6 APMBC Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form F.

7 Ibid.

8 Agence France-Presse, "Ecuador: Cinco militares heridos por mina en frontera con Perú" ("Ecuador: Five soldiers injured by mine on the border with Peru"), *El Comercio*, 9 December 2015, at: <http://elcomercio.pe/mundo/latinoamerica/ecuador-cinco-militares-heridos-mina-frontera-peru-noticia-1862480>.

## ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the eight-year extension granted by states parties in 2008), Ecuador is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 October 2017. Ecuador is still capable of meeting its extended Article 5 deadline but will need to continue to accelerate its clearance productivity.

In granting Ecuador's 2008 extension request, the Ninth Meeting of States Parties had noted that based on planned increases in funding and demining capacity, Ecuador "may find itself in a situation wherein it could proceed with implementation faster than that suggested by the amount of time requested."<sup>9</sup> This has proved not to be the case.

In its presentation to the Article 5 Committee in May 2016, Ecuador, one of the co-chairs of the committee, announced that of the remaining 0.13km<sup>2</sup> of contamination, 0.08km<sup>2</sup> would be cleared in 2016 and the remaining 0.05km<sup>2</sup> in 2017 prior to October.<sup>10</sup> If this is to be achieved, productivity will have to improve on previous years. Only 0.2km<sup>2</sup> was cleared in the five years to end 2015, as Table 4 illustrates.

**Table 4: Clearance in 2011–15**

Year	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )
2015	66,414
2014	39,660
2013	12,331
2012	21,911
2011	60,110
<b>Total</b>	<b>200,426</b>

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<sup>9</sup> APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Decision, 28 November 2008.

<sup>10</sup> Statement of Ecuador, Intersessional Meetings (Article 5 Committee), Geneva, 19 May 2016.