

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2022
THREE-YEAR EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: LIGHT

GOVERNMENT ESTIMATE

40,056M²

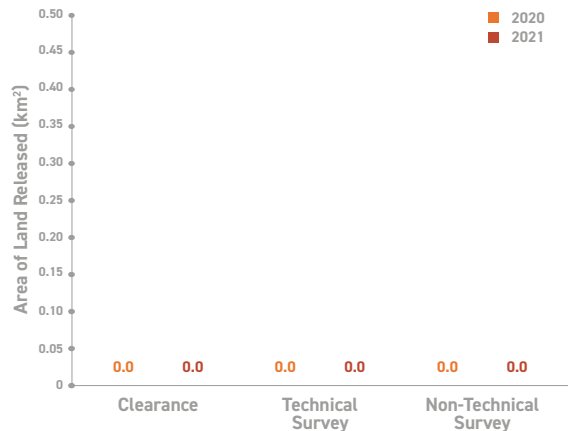
AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2021

0M²

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2021

0

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Ecuador had no land release output in 2020 or 2021 due to a reallocation of resources following the COVID-19 pandemic. It submitted an Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline extension request in March 2022 for an additional three years, claiming to have the resources and funding in place to complete clearance. Despite having become a State Party to the APMBC in 1999, Ecuador still does not have an accurate baseline of contamination and has made extremely slow overall progress in Article 5 implementation, raising compliance concerns with Article 5.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Ecuador should prioritise necessary non-technical survey to accurately determine its baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination and thereby inform its completion planning.
- Ecuador should further clarify why retrospective quality control is required, how much released area this relates to, what quality control will involve, and what the planned time scale is for conducting the quality control.
- Ecuador should develop National Mine Actions Standards (NMAS) in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), in addition to, Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the whole of the Humanitarian Demining intervention until completion and for residual contamination management.
- Ecuador should ensure it deploys its limited resources in the most efficient manner and clarify how its demining teams will use mine detection dogs (MDDs).
- Ecuador should elaborate a gender and diversity policy and mine action data should be systematically disaggregated by sex and age.
- Ecuador should develop a strategy for managing any residual contamination discovered after Article 5 completion.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2021)	Score (2020)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	5	5	Ecuador's estimate of anti-personnel mine contamination is mostly unchanged from 2020 to 2021. Ecuador still has suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) that require non-technical survey and accordingly the size of contamination may be far smaller than reported. Ecuador has stated in its 2022 Article 5 deadline extension request and in the additional information it provided in August 2022 that it plans to conduct non-technical survey and technical survey of all hazardous areas in order to cancel or reduce as per international mine action standards (IMAS). A specific plan for this work has been included with yearly targets up to 2025.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	6	5	There is clarity of roles and responsibilities at a national level and Ecuador has necessary demining infrastructure in place. No national funding was provided to the mine action programme in 2020 or 2021 as resources were diverted towards COVID-19 response efforts. Ecuador has estimated that it requires almost US\$9.5 million to complete clearance by the end of 2025, all of which has now been allocated from the national budget. This budget does not include funds for quality control (QC) of the already cleared areas. The AICMA Program – OAS, through its AICMA-EC Mission, will provide technical assistance and cooperation, as well as implement the external QC. Ecuador needs to develop national standards and standard operating procedures (SOPs) in line with IMAS and updated land release methodologies.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	3	3	Ecuador does not have a gender and diversity policy or plan. There are female deminers within the Army Battalion of Engineers "COTOPAXI", but no further details were provided on the proportion of women or on their position. Women, children, and ethnic minorities are said to be informed about planned demining operations.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	5	5	Ecuador uses the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database and during 2021 data was verified and updated. Ecuador submitted its Article 5 deadline extension request in March 2022, providing some detail of its plan for survey and clearance to 2025. In August 2022, Ecuador submitted a revised extension request which included additional information requested by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Ecuador submitted its Article 7 report covering 2021 in May 2022.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	6	6	Ecuador planned to restart demining activities in June 2022. Its revised annual land release targets in its latest extension request amount to around 10,000m ² per year to 2025. In addition, Ecuador plans to carry out QC of all areas released since 2000 but it has yet to provide details on the time and resources required.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	6	6	Ecuador claims to conduct survey and clearance according to the IMAS. It does not have national standards and SOPs, but operation manuals (one binational with Peru and one national). To date, all clearance has been conducted manually and supported by mechanical demining (a DOK-ING MV-4). The remaining clearance will be through manual demining, due to the terrain in the Cordillera del Condor, although mine detection dogs may also be applied in some manner.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	1	1	Ecuador did not release any anti-personnel mined area in 2020 or in 2021. It is not on track to meet its Article 5 deadline and submitted an Article 5 deadline extension request to 2025, its fourth request since 2016. It should be able to complete clearance by the new deadline, but this requires increased land release output and political will.
Average Score	4.4	4.3	Overall Programme Performance: POOR

DEMINEING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Centre for Humanitarian Demining (CENDESMI)
- Army Corps of Engineers (CEE)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- CEE Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI"
- General Command for Demining and EOD (CGDEOD)
- Joint Ecuador-Peru Binational Humanitarian Demining Unit (Not operational in 2019)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- Mine Action Integral Program Ecuador– Organisation of American States (AICMA EC Mission – OAS)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Ecuador reported that, as at end 2021, 40,056m² of anti-personnel mine contamination remained in the Zamora Chinchipe province containing an estimated 2,941 mines. The estimated 40,056m² is found in 28 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and 25 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) across four cantons in Zamora Chinchipe province (see Table 1).¹ There are some differences from the estimate provided as at end of 2020 with the number of CHAs increasing by one and SHAs decreasing by one as well as the location of the SHAs being reclassified from being in the district of El Pangui to now being "undefined". In its revised Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in August 2022 and containing additional information, Ecuador said of the 53 hazardous areas in Zamora Chinchipe province, 26 SHAs measuring 7,521m² are said to have no coordinates and thus require further survey for localization.²

Ecuador has stated that it plans to conduct non-technical survey and technical survey on all remaining hazardous areas with cancellation and reduction of areas expected.³ A detailed plan for survey of the SHAs was made in August 2022, with eight due to be surveyed in 2023 and the remainder in 2024.⁴

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area by canton (at end 2021)⁵

Province	Canton	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total CHA/SHA	Total area (m ²)
Zamora Chinchipe	Chinchipe (Chito)	1	7,009	0	0	1	7,009
	Yanzatza	4	6,565	0	0	4	6,565
	Nangaritzza	14	4,577	0	0	14	4,577
	El Pangui	9	14,384	0	0	9	14,384
	Not defined	0	0	25	7,521	25	7,521
Totals		28	32,535	25	7,521	53	40,056

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.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The national mine action programme is managed by the National Centre for Humanitarian Demining (CENDESMI). The Ecuadorian government created CENDESMI by an Executive Decree in 1999.⁶ It is an interministerial body chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and comprising the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Army Corps of Engineers (CEE) through the Engineers Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI" and the General Command for Demining and EOD (CGDEOD).⁷ CENDESMI is responsible for overseeing compliance with the APMBC, while the CEE is responsible for coordinating the planning of demining and COTOPAXI is tasked with conducting land release operations.⁸

Ecuador currently funds all its demining operations. It previously reported allocating almost US\$21 million for

demining personnel, materials, and equipment for 2014–22.⁹ This should have amounted to around \$2 million per year from 2019 to 2022.¹⁰ However, only \$821,953 was provided to the demining programme in 2019 and no national funding was allocated to the demining programme in 2020 or in 2021 due to the reallocation of the demining budget to the public health response following the COVID-19 outbreak.

Ecuador estimated in its latest Article 5 deadline extension request that it would require \$9,449,520 for demining operations from June 2022 to December 2025, all of which has been allocated from the national budget.¹¹ In February and March 2022, the Office of Security Cooperation and the United States (US) Southern Command donated demining equipment and supported the training and retraining of demining personnel and paramedics.¹²

1 Email from Lt.-Col. Juan Carlos Almeida, Engineers Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI", 11 March 2022; and 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5 and 27.

2 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, pp. 30–31.

3 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 28 and 29; 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, pp. 7, 30–34.

4 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 6.

5 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 31; and Article 7 report (covering 2021), Form C.

6 Executive Decree No. 1297, issued on 22 September 1999.

7 2017 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Annex I.

8 Ibid., pp. 39 and 40.

9 Ecuador Demining Action Plan 2019–2022, p. 20.

10 Ibid.; and Statement of Ecuador, Committee on Article 5 implementation, Geneva, 22 May 2019; and Statement of Ecuador, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.

11 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 28.

12 Email from Lt.-Col. Juan Carlos Almeida, Engineers Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI", 11 March 2022.

In February 2021, the OAS, Ecuador and Peru, supported by the European Union (EU), organised a two-day virtual event with Ecuador and Peru both presenting the ongoing challenges they face in order to complete clearance by their respective deadlines.¹³

In March 2022, a Cooperation and Technical Assistance Agreement was signed by Ecuador and the General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States (OAS) through the AICMA Program.¹⁴ The Agreement foresees that the AICMA-EC Mission will support Ecuador to fulfill the obligations of the APMBC, and in particular Article 5. The activities will centre on the provision of technical assistance for capacity building; training and accreditation in quality assurance (QA); external monitoring; fundraising at international level; and provision of equipment and supplies.¹⁵

For the external Monitoring Component, the Interamerican Defense Board (Junta Interamericana de Defensa (JID) will support AICMA-EC Mission of the OAS to coordinate the creation of teams of monitors and provide technical advisors. They will be responsible for developing a quality management system and ensure the certification of land released according to international mine action standards (IMAS).¹⁶

There is no specific in-country national platform for dialogue in Ecuador, but there are regular meetings to discuss progress, challenges, and support for the implementation of Article 5 with relevant personnel.¹⁷

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Ecuador is not believed to have any specific environmental policies in place for its mine action programme.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, which chairs CENDESMI, has a gender and diversity policy but no similar policy exists that is specific to CENDESMI.¹⁸

Ecuador has stated that it considers all populations affected by mines, without discrimination, in the planning and execution of demining operations.¹⁹ Women, children, and ethnic minorities are targeted during risk education campaigns (though none were implemented during 2020 or 2021), which are conducted in Spanish as well as in native languages. Risk education teams are said to include indigenous people. During risk education activities, affected communities are also "informed" of planned demining operations, the prioritisation of operations, and the different land release activities being conducted.²⁰ Fourteen communities and five ethnic groups live in the eastern border sector near the contaminated areas.²¹

Mine action data are not disaggregated by sex or age.²²

Ecuador has trained women in demining and in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database.²³ Since 2014, Ecuador has employed three female

deminers, 3% of the total trained, however none is currently engaged in survey, clearance, managerial, or administrative positions.²⁴ Ecuador has said it will continue to include and train female personnel "according to their availability" ("de acuerdo a la disponibilidad de dicho personal").²⁵

Ecuador's March 2022 Article 5 deadline extension request makes limited reference to gender and diversity. Ecuador has stated that there are female deminers within the Army Battalion of Engineers "COTOPAXI".²⁶ In its August 2022 revised deadline extension request Ecuador indicated that the training of new female deminers depends on the assignment of women by the General Directorate of Human Resources of the Ecuadorian Army to COTOPAXI. However, it has provided no further information on the total number and proportion of women or on what steps it plans to mainstream gender and diversity within its mine action programme.²⁷ The additional information on Ecuador's extension request submitted in 2022 mentions the negative impact on indigenous communities and their livelihoods, with hunting and food gathering spaces reduced and communication lost between families on both sides of the Ecuador-Peru border.²⁸

13 Regional Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining, (virtual meeting), 10-11 February 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/2SvmcYd>.

14 "Programa de Acción Integral contra Minas Antipersonal de la OEA (AICMA - OEA)", at: <https://bit.ly/3RDT3TD>.

15 Email from Tammy Hall, General Coordinator, OAS Mine Action Program, Department of Public Security, 13 August 2022.

16 Cooperation and Technical Assistance Agreement between the Republic of Ecuador and the General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States in relation to the Integral Mine Action Program in Ecuador, 15 March 2022, Annex 1, p. 8.

17 Email from Lt.-Col. Juan Carlos Almeida, Engineers Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI", 11 March 2022.

18 Email from Lt.-Col. Hugo F. Avilés León, Engineers Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI", 25 March 2020.

19 Ecuador Demining Action Plan 2019-2022, p. 23.

20 Email from Lt.-Col. Hugo F. Avilés León, Engineers Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI", 25 March 2020.

21 Presentation by Commander of Ecuador's 68 "Cotopaxi" Engineers Battalion Staff Lieutenant Colonel Marcelo Torres Garzón for the Regional Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining, (virtual meeting), 11 February 2021.

22 Email from Lt.-Col. Hugo F. Avilés León, Engineers Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI", 25 March 2020.

23 Ecuador Demining Action Plan 2019-2022, p. 17.

24 2017 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 39 and 41; and email from Lt. Col Hugo F. Avilés León, Engineers Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI", 25 March 2020.

25 Ecuador Demining Action Plan 2019-2022, p. 20.

26 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 March 2022, p. 25.

27 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 27.

28 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, pp. 37-38.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Ecuador uses the IMSMA database.²⁹ During 2021, the database was verified and updated to improve the quality of information.³⁰

Ecuador has submitted its Article 7 report every year since 2000 with the exception of 2003 but they are often late and there have been issues with data accuracy in the past. In May 2022, Ecuador submitted its Article 7 report covering 2021 although the information provided is mostly unchanged since 2019.

In March 2022, Ecuador submitted its Article 5 deadline extension request to December 2025 which was relatively comprehensive and includes a work plan. More detailed information was provided in a revised deadline extension request submitted in August 2022, stating that only manual demining will be conducted³¹ from June to December each year until 2025 and that cantons and sectors with hazardous areas have been prioritised for intervention, leaving those in areas furthest away from population centres for release at the end.³² However, the use of mine detection dogs (MDDs) is mentioned later in the extension request as one of the techniques to be used as well as mechanical demining.³³

PLANNING AND TASKING

Ecuador presented a plan for mine clearance for 2022 to 2025 in its latest Article 5 deadline extension request. Ecuador planned to restart demining in June 2022 to release 10,056m² across 17 CHAs in Nangaritza and El Pangui by the end of the year, with about 10,000m² released each subsequent year to the end of 2025 (see Table 2).³⁴

Table 2: Planned land release in Zamora Chinchipe in 2022-25³⁵

Year	Mined areas	Area (m ²)
2022	17	10,056
2023	9	10,000
2024	8	10,004
2025	19	9,996
Totals	53	40,056

In addition, Ecuador has stated that it is necessary to carry out quality control of all the areas released since 2000, but not yet handed over to communities. These areas had no quality control due to the departure of the OAS from Ecuador in 2013, while the process of quality control had not been finalised by the OAS. There were discrepancies in the figures provided by Ecuador in the extension request, which alternatively stated the area concerned to amount to 551,742m²,³⁶ 262,711m²,³⁷ or

220,525m²,³⁸ in the provinces of Morona Santiago, Pastaza, and Zamora Chinchipe. In the additional information Ecuador provided on its extension request in August 2022, it clarified that full clearance has been conducted in 94 mined areas covering 220,524m² in the Morona Santiago Province, 8 areas covering 41,186m² in Zamora Chinchipe province and one area covering 1,000m² in Pastaza province, but yet require quality control.³⁹ In addition, there remain 103 mined areas covering 262,710m² where clearance has to be finalised and quality control conducted.⁴⁰

Ecuador also notes that demining operations were carried out in these areas more than 12 years ago and so it is expected that the vegetation and terrain that is typical to the Amazon rainforest in these areas will make this demining process difficult and considerably increase the time and resources that are needed.⁴¹ However, Ecuador has not included this in its work plan to 2025 and it should therefore clarify exactly what this quality control process will involve in terms of additional time and resources. The OAS considers it possible to conduct QA which otherwise would require full clearance.⁴² No resources have been allocated for the QA as at writing, nor was a plan included in the additional information provided by Ecuador to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in August 2022. Nonetheless, Ecuador expects, with the support of the AICMA - EC Programme, to raise funds with the international community to finalise the quality management (QM) process.⁴³

29 2017 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25; and email from Lt.-Col. Hugo F. Avilés León, Engineers Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI", 25 March 2020.

30 Email from Lt.-Col. Juan Carlos Almeida, Engineers Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI", 11 March 2022.

31 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 4.

32 Ibid., p. 30.

33 Ibid., pp. 8 and 11.

34 Ibid., p.31.

35 Ibid., p. 31.

36 Ibid., p. 4.

37 Ibid., p. 5.

38 Ibid., p. 4.

39 Ibid., pp. 4 and 8.

40 Ibid., p. 7.

41 Ibid.

42 Telephone interview Tammy Hall, OAS Mine Action Program, Department of Public Security, 13 August 2022.

43 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 5.

Furthermore, cleared areas in the provinces of Loja and El Oro still need to be officially declared mine free by the Land Certification Unit. Ecuador has said it is working on the procedure needed for this purpose and expected the procedure to be finalised in the second half of 2022.⁴⁴

Ecuador prioritises contaminated areas for clearance according to their proximity of the local population and the impact on socio-economic development.⁴⁵

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

The process of humanitarian demining in Ecuador is carried out in accordance with the Binational Manual for Humanitarian Demining (Manual Binacional de Desminado Humanitario), developed under the Binational Cooperation Programme with Peru, as well as the Manual of Humanitarian Demining Procedures of Ecuador. These are said to be based on the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), but adapted to the Ecuadorian context.⁴⁶ Ecuador has not adopted national mine action standards (NMAS) for land release, non-technical survey, technical survey, clearance requirements, and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), nor has it developed standard operating procedures for the work beyond the Binational Manual.⁴⁷

Ecuador stated in its 2022 Article 5 deadline extension request that it plans to conduct non-technical survey on all 'hazardous areas' with cancellation of areas listed in the planned activities. Once non-technical survey has been completed, Ecuador plans to conduct technical survey as and where necessary to further reduce areas before conducting clearance.⁴⁸ Ecuador also plans for QC of these areas as contaminated land is released, which will be conducted by the AICMA-EC Mission of the OAS.⁴⁹

Ecuador stated in its 2017 extension request that non-technical survey and technical survey would be carried out to determine the location, size, and other characteristics of the mined areas before operations begin using records of mined areas.⁵⁰ None was in fact conducted.

Ecuador reported that the Manual of Humanitarian Demining Procedures of Ecuador considers environmental management issues during humanitarian demining although it has not provided further details.⁵¹

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Demining is conducted by Battalion No. 68 COTOPAXI although no personnel were deployed for survey or clearance during 2020 or 2021.⁵² As stated in its 2022 extension request, clearance will be conducted using manual demining techniques following the "one man per lane" methodology as set out in the Ecuador-Peru Binational Manual of Humanitarian Demining Procedures and will be supported by MDDs.⁵³ However, this contradicts the same document which states that, due to the altitude and type of terrain, vegetation, and weather conditions prevalent in the Cordillera del Condor, it will only use manual demining techniques.⁵⁴ Ecuador previously reported that MDDs are used only for QC following clearance and it is unclear exactly how they are planning to use MDDs.⁵⁵

The joint Ecuador-Peru Binational Humanitarian Demining Unit is deployed to areas that were at the centre of the conflict between the two nations but did not carry out any demining operations in 2019. In November 2019 in their "Tumbes Declaration" the presidents of Ecuador and Peru agreed to continue their binational cooperation and committed to assign the necessary resources to continue demining operations in both territories, but no further details were provided.⁵⁶

CENDESMI is responsible for observing and monitoring compliance of the demining, including QC and certification of clearance operations.⁵⁷ No quality control operations took place during 2021.⁵⁸

44 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 March 2022, p. 6; and 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 8

45 Demining Action Plan 2019–2022, p. 17; and 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 30.

46 Ibid., p. 5.

47 Ibid., p. 17; and 2022 Article 5 Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, pp. 11–24.

48 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 March 2022, p. 29; and 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 8.

49 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 March 2022, p. 6; and Cooperation and Technical Assistance Agreement between the Republic of Ecuador and the General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States in relation to the Integral Mine Action Program in Ecuador, 15 March 2022, Annex 1, p. 8.

50 2017 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 15.

51 Email from Lt.-Col. Juan Carlos Almeida, Engineers Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI", 11 March 2022.

52 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 March 2022, p. 24; and 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 3.

53 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 30.

54 Ibid., p. 4.

55 Ecuador Demining Action Plan 2019–2022, p. 18.

56 Statement of Peru, Fourth APMBR Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.

57 2017 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 39.

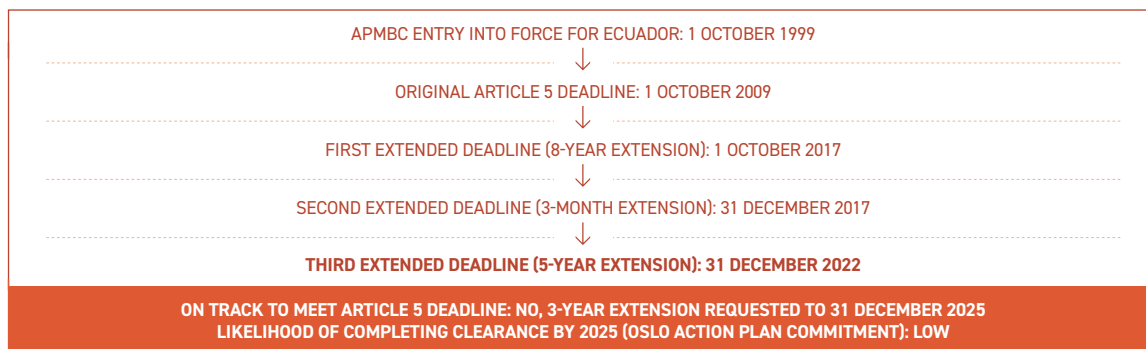
58 Email from Lt.-Col. Juan Carlos Almeida, Engineers Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI", 11 March 2022.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2021

No survey or clearance took place in 2020 or in 2021 due to lack of allocated funding.⁵⁹

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the five-year extension granted by States Parties in 2017, 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 31 December 2022. It will again fail to meet this deadline and is seeking a new deadline of the end of 2025.

Ecuador has now submitted four Article 5 deadline extension requests. Ecuador explained that the failure to meet its 1 October 2017 deadline was due to a serious earthquake on 16 April 2016, which required the diversion of the armed forces away from demining, as well as to the physical characteristics of the land and climate conditions in the areas requiring clearance.⁶⁰ In its Article 7 report covering 2016, Ecuador suddenly and without explanation determined that it would need a further five years to fulfil its Article 5 obligations. It submitted a further extension request in March 2017, for five additional years, and was granted the extension to 31 December 2022. Most recently, in March 2022, Ecuador submitted its fourth Article 5 deadline extension request seeking a new deadline of 31 December 2025.

There was no survey and clearance output in 2020 or 2021, with the mine action programme grounding to a halt due to

lack of funding. Ecuador has now set itself a land release target of approximately 10,000m² per year in order to complete clearance of remaining contamination in 53 hazardous areas in the Zamora Chinchipe province by its requested Article 5 deadline. Ecuador has reported in its latest Article 5 deadline extension request that it has secured the requisite funds and has sufficient operational capacity in place, and it should be able to easily complete mine clearance by the new deadline. However, as one of the slowest and least productive of the clearance operations this is by no means certain.

Table 5: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (m ²)
2021	0
2020	0
2019	2,899
2018	14,068
2017	15,476
Total	32,443

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Ecuador does not have a strategy in place for managing residual risk post completion but has stated that it will use its current capacity to address areas of residual contamination.⁶¹

The extension request makes no reference of what Ecuador has in place or plans for a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas discovered following completion.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Letter from Efraim Baus Palacios, Director of Neighbourhood Relations and Sovereignty for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and President of the National Humanitarian Demining Center of Ecuador, to Amb. Patricia O'Brian, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations in Geneva, and Chair of the Article 5 Committee, Note No. 14839-DRVS/CENDESMI, Quito, 26 November 2016.

⁶¹ Email from Lt.-Col. Hugo F. Avilés León, Engineers Battalion No. 68 "COTOPAXI", 25 March 2020.