

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MAY 2023
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

**ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)
 MINE CONTAMINATION: LIGHT**

GOVERNMENT ESTIMATE

31,953M²

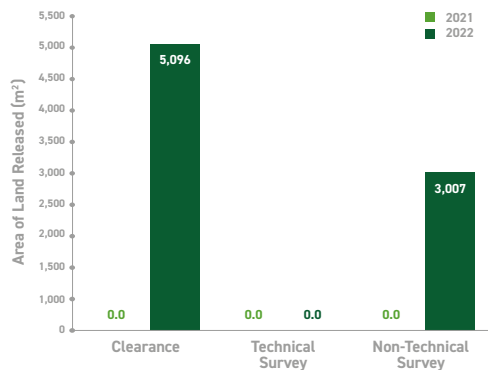
AP MINE
 CLEARANCE IN 2022

5,096M²

AP MINES
 DESTROYED IN 2022

43

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2022, Ecuador requested and was granted a fourth extension to its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline through to the end of 2025. This latest extension request, granted for an additional three years, was based on Ecuador 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. For the first time since, 2019 when it cleared 2,899m², and after two years of inactivity due to the COVID-19 Pandemic; Ecuador announced that it had cleared 5,096m² of mined area in 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Ecuador should prioritise necessary non-technical survey (NTS) to accurately determine its baseline of anti-personnel (AP) 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 Action Standards (NMAS) in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), in addition to standard operating procedures (SOPs) for demining through to completion.
- Ecuador should develop a strategy for managing any residual contamination discovered after Article 5 completion.
- Ecuador should elaborate a gender and diversity policy and mine action data should be systematically disaggregated by sex and age.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

| Criterion | Score (2022) | Score (2021) | Performance Commentary |
|--|--------------|--------------|--|
| UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score) | 5 | 5 | Ecuador's estimate of AP mine contamination was mostly unchanged in 2022. Ecuador now has only suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) that require NTS and accordingly the size of contamination may be far smaller than reported. In its 2022 Article 5 deadline extension request, Ecuador pledged to conduct NTS and technical survey (TS) of all hazardous areas in order to cancel, confirm, or reduce SHA as per IMAS. A specific plan for this work has annual targets through to 2025. |
| NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score) | 6 | 6 | There is clarity of roles and responsibilities at a national level and Ecuador has the necessary demining infrastructure in place. National funding was provided to the mine action programme in 2022. Ecuador has estimated 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 some of the already cleared areas. The Organization of American States (OAS) Integrated AP Mine (AICMA) Program will provide technical assistance and cooperation, as well as implement external QC. Ecuador needs to develop national standards and SOPs in line with IMAS and update land release methodologies |
| GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score) | 3 | 3 | Ecuador does not have a gender and diversity policy or plan for Mine Action. There are female deminers within the Army Battalion of Engineers "Cotopaxi", but no further details were provided on the proportion of women in 2022 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) | 4 | 5 | Ecuador uses the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and geo-referenced tools are being incorporated into the general database. Ecuador submitted its latest Article 5 deadline extension request in March 2022, providing details of its planned survey and clearance to 2025. In August 2022, Ecuador submitted a revised request with additional information requested by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Ecuador had not submitted its Article 7 report covering 2022, as of September 2023. |
| PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score) | 6 | 6 | Ecuador restarted demining in August 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 some of the areas released since 2000 but has not yet given details on the time and resources required. |
| LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score) | 5 | 6 | Ecuador claims to conduct survey and clearance according to the IMAS. It does not have national standards and SOPs but only operational manuals (one binational with Peru and one national). To date, all clearance has been conducted manually with mechanical demining support. The remaining clearance will also be manual due to the terrain in the Cordillera del Condor. |
| LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score) | 3 | 1 | Ecuador cleared AP mined area in 2022 but is not on track to meet its Article 5 deadline and was granted an extension of its Article 5 deadline to 2025, its fourth such request since 2016. It should be able to complete clearance by the new deadline, but this will still require increased land release output and greater political will. |
| Average Score | 4.5 | 4.4 | Overall Programme Performance: POOR |

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Centre for Humanitarian Demining (CENDESMI)
- General Command for Demining and EOD (CGDEOD)
- Humanitarian Demining Certification Unit (UCDH)

Army Corps of Engineers (CEE)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- CEE Battalion No. 68 Cotopaxi
- Joint Ecuador-Peru Binational Humanitarian Demining Unit (Not operational since end of 2018)

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 2022, 31,953m² of AP mined area remained in Zamora Chinchipe province containing an estimated 2,866 mines. The estimated area is found in 47 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) across four cantons in Zamora Chinchipe province (see Table 1).¹ CENDESMI considers that the new baseline is accurate, since the data on contamination were assembled through technical data sheets ("fichas técnicas") and different reports (Hazardous Area Reports) and all contain geo-referenced sketches revised by the same technical engineering personnel who laid the different minefields. Moreover, the communities in the affected municipalities are said to have been consulted, including women and children from diverse ethnic groups.² But In its revised 2022 Article 5 deadline extension request, Ecuador had said that of all the hazardous areas in Zamora Chinchipe province, 26 SHAs measuring 7,521m² had no geospatial coordinates and thus would require further survey for localisation.³

Table 1: AP mined area by canton (at end 2022)⁴

| Province | Canton | CHAs | Area (m ²) | SHAs | Area (m ²) |
|------------------|-------------------|----------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Zamora Chinchipe | Chinchipe (Chito) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7,009 |
| | Yanzatza | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6,565 |
| | Nangaritzza | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1,490 |
| | El Pangui | 0 | 0 | 34 | 16,889 |
| Totals | | 0 | 0 | 47 | 31,953 |

The amount of land released during 2022 is consistent with the baseline provided in the 2022 extension request. Ecuador plans to conduct NTS and technical survey (TS) on all remaining hazardous areas with cancellation and reduction of areas expected.⁵ No previously unknown mined areas were reported during 2022.⁶

With respect to one hazardous area (PV2_07), located on the Ecuadorian side of the border with Peru, the Army Engineers (Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejercito, CEE) and the Peruvian Army's Directorate General for Humanitarian Demining (DIGEDEM) were planning to meet virtually during September 2022 in order to exchange information that would allow to find the exact location of this area.⁷ At the time of writing, no further information on the outcome of this meeting had been reported.

Mine contamination in Ecuador 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 between the two countries.

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.⁸

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 executive decree in 1999.⁹ It is an interministerial body chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and comprising the Ministry of National Defence through the General Command for Demining and EOD (CGDEOD), the Ministry of Public Health, and the CEE.¹⁰

1 Emails from CENDESMI, 4 August, and 6 and 7 September 2023. The information provided to Mine Action Review mistakenly referred to 53 SHAs owing to a mathematical error.

2 Email from CENDESMI, 4 August 2023.

3 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, pp. 30–31.

4 Emails from 4 August, and 6 and 7 September 2023; 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 31; and Article 7 report (covering 2021), Form C.

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

6 Email from CENDESMI, 4 August 2023.

7 Binational Act No. 27 between the Director General of the CEE and DIGEDEM, 26 July 2022: "Acta de Entendimiento No. 27, para la Realización de Desminado Humanitario en la Frontera Terrestre Común Ecuador - Perú", Third Agreement, 26 July 2022, §2.3.b, p. 12.

8 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, pp. 37–38.

9 Executive Decree No. 1297, 22 September 1999.

10 Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 17 August 2022, pp. 26–27.

CENDESMI is responsible for overseeing compliance with the APMBBC, while the CEE is responsible for coordinating the planning of demining and COTOPAXI is tasked with conducting land release operations and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD).¹¹

Engineer Battalion No. 68 "Cotopaxi" is the national operator responsible for demining along with its mission to conduct EOD throughout Ecuador.¹²

The Humanitarian Demining Certification Unit (UCDH) was created in 2018 through interministerial agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence. It sits at CENDESMI and has as mission to conduct quality control (QC) of cleared areas by the Cotopaxi Battalion, before the released land is declared mine-free.¹³

The national mine action authorities of Ecuador and Peru have made six agreements related to humanitarian demining, risk education, exchange of information about hazardous areas to be released, approval of an air medevac protocol, and an analysis of the basis on which Peru may enter Ecuadorian territory to conduct clearance.¹⁴

Ecuador currently funds all its demining operations. It previously reported allocating almost US\$21 million for demining personnel, materials, and equipment for 2014–22.¹⁵ This should have amounted to around \$2 million per year from 2019 to 2022.¹⁶ 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 almost US\$9.5 million for demining from June 2022 to December 2025, all of which has been allocated from the national budget.¹⁷ In 2022, according to the Ministry of Defence, the allocated funds achieved an almost 95% implementation rate.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹

In March 2022, a Cooperation and Technical Assistance Agreement was signed by Ecuador and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) through its Integrated AP Mine (AICMA) Programme.²⁰ The Agreement foresees that the AICMA-EC Mission will support Ecuador to fulfil the obligations of the APMBBC, and in particular Article 5. The OAS will provide technical assistance for capacity building; training and accreditation in quality assurance (QA); external monitoring; international fundraising; and the provision of equipment and supplies.²¹ For the external QC monitoring component, the Interamerican Defense Board (Junta Interamericana de Defensa (JID)) will support the AICMA-EC Mission to create 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 IMAS.²²

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Ecuador is not believed to have any specific environmental policies in place for its mine action programme. Nonetheless, CENDESMI has reported to Mine Action Review that Ecuador has detailed national environmental legislation. The environment is taken into account during demining, for example using prefabricated wooden sticks or in the management of waste in the demining camps through recycling methods and the evacuation of non-organic waste.²³

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

According to CENDESMI, gender equality is promoted among the Ecuadorian Armed Forces and in the different units and there are women EOD-qualified officers.²⁴

11 2017 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 39 and 40.

12 Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 17 August 2022, p. 27.

13 Interministerial Accord No. 000001 (Acuerdo Interministerial 000001), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility – Ministry of Defence, 11 July 2018, at: <https://bit.ly/47GDdjW>.

14 Accountability Report 2022, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, 19 May 2023, pp. 5–6.

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

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

17 Revista Ejército Ecuador No. 205, 2023, pp. 75; and Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 17 August 2022, p. 28.

18 Ministry of Defence, Institutional Management Report 2022, 2023, pp. 30; Ministry of Defence, Annual Allocated Plan 2022, 17 March 2022, p. 15.

19 Email from Engineers Battalion No. 68 Cotopaxi, 11 March 2022.

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

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

22 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.

23 Email from CENDESMI, 4 August 2023.

24 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 March 2022, p. 25.

Since 2014 and until 2020, Ecuador has employed three women deminers, equating to 3% of the total trained.²⁵ Ecuador has said it will continue to include and train female personnel “according to their availability”.²⁶ In its August 2022 revised deadline extension request, Ecuador indicated that training of new women deminers depends on the assignment by the General Directorate of Human Resources of the Ecuadorian Army to the battalion but it has provided no further information on plans to mainstream gender and diversity within the mine action programme.²⁷ Information on the gender distribution of personnel in 2022 was provided for Cotopaxi (see Table 2 below).

Table 2: Gender distribution at Battalion No. 68 Cotopaxi in 2022²⁸

| Battalion No. 68 “Cotopaxi” | Total staff | Total number of women employed | Total staff in managerial or supervisory positions | Total women in managerial or supervisory positions | Total staff in operational positions | Total women in operational positions |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 163 | 3 | 20 | 0 | 140 | 3 |

As such, the 20MSP, in granting the extension request reminded Ecuador of the significance of providing detailed information on how it will mainstream gender and diversity within the Mine Action Programme.²⁹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Ecuador continues to use the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). During 2022 and 2023, the general database was being upgraded with geo-referenced tools to improve the quality of information.³⁰

Ecuador has submitted its Article 7 report consistently 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. As at September 2023, Ecuador had not yet submitted its Article 7 Report covering 2022.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Ecuador presented a plan for mine clearance for 2022 to 2025 in its 2022 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 in Zamora Chinchipe province by the end of the year, which did not happen as planned. Operations started only in August 2022. A further 10,000m² is planned to be released annually in 2023–25 (see Table 3 overleaf).³¹

Table 3: Planned land release in Zamora Chinchipe in 2022–25³²

| 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 |

The Twentieth Meeting of States Parties, in granting Ecuador's request for an Article 5 deadline extension until 2025, has requested that Ecuador submit an updated, detailed work plan by 30 April 2024, based on the progress made until that date. The work plan should include an updated list of all contaminated CHAs and SHAs remaining to be released, annual projections of the areas and which areas will be addressed during the remaining period covered by the request, and a revised budget.³³

As noted above, one particular hazardous area (PV-2_07) requires a specific approach by Ecuador. The area in Yanzatza canton, which covers an estimated 6,215m² and contains 240 PRB M35 mines, needs help in identifying the precise location from Peru.³⁴ It is not known if this issue has been resolved.

25 2017 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 39 and 41; and email from Engineers Battalion No. 68 Cotopaxi, 25 March 2020.

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

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

28 Emails from CENDESMI, 4 August, and 6 and 7 September 2023.

29 Decision on the Article 5 deadline extension request by Ecuador, 20MSP, 21–25 November 2022, p. 4.

30 Emails from CENDESMI, 4 August, and 6 and 7 September 2023; and from Engineers Battalion No. 68 Cotopaxi, 11 March 2022.

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

32 Ibid.

33 Decision on the request submitted by Ecuador for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, 20MSP, 21–25 November 2022, p. 1.

34 Binational Act No. 27 between the Director General of the CEE and the DIGEDEHUME, 26 July 2022 “Acta de Entendimiento No. 27, para la Realización de Desminado Humanitario en la Frontera Terrestre Común Ecuador - Perú”, Third Agreement, 26 July 2022, §2.3.b, p. 12.

In addition, Ecuador has stated that it is necessary to carry out QC of some of the areas released since 2000, but not yet handed over to communities. These areas had no QC due to the departure of the OAS from Ecuador in 2013 before the process had been finalised. There were discrepancies in the figures provided by Ecuador in the extension request, which alternatively stated the area concerned to amount to 551,742m²,³⁵ 262,711m²,³⁶ or 220,525m²,³⁷ 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 Morona Santiago province, 8 areas covering 41,186m² in Zamora Chinchipe, and one area covering 1,000m² in Pastaza, where QC is still needed.³⁸ In October 2023, CENDESMI clarified to Mine Action Review that 103 mined areas cleared between 2000 and 2013, covering 262,710m², are still awaiting QC.³⁹ CENDESMI also clarified that the 551,742m² corresponds to the total land cleared since 2000 by Ecuador. Along the border with Peru, there were 53 areas covering 40,056m² which were pending demining between 2022–25.⁴⁰

Ecuador did not include this in its work plan to 2025 and it should therefore clarify exactly what this QC process will involve in terms of additional time and resources, as well as the budget and resource mobilisation strategy. Ecuador expects, with the support of the AICMA - EC Programme, to raise funds internationally to finalise the quality management (QM) process.⁴¹

Furthermore, cleared areas in the provinces of Loja and El Oro still need to be officially declared mine free by the Humanitarian Demining Certification Unit (UCDH). 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 2022.⁴² So far, no information has been provided on the stage of development of the procedure.

The situation as at 2022 of QC for mined areas cleared between 2000 and 2013 is set out in Table 4. More recent information has not been provided.⁴³

Table 4: Released land requiring QC

| Province | Land release process Status | Observations |
|------------------|--|--|
| Loja | In handover process | Cotopaxi has concluded demining and the file has been delivered to CENDESMI for handover of released land. |
| El Oro | In handover process | Cotopaxi has concluded demining and the file has been delivered to CENDESMI for handover of released land. |
| Morona Santiago | QC of cleared areas remains to be conducted | Cleared areas requiring QC total 220,525m ² . |
| Province | Land release process Status | Observations |
| Pastaza | QC remains to be conducted in one cleared area | One cleared area still requires QC covering 1,000m ² . |
| Zamora Chinchipe | QC of cleared areas remains to be conducted | Total cleared land requiring QC amounts to 41,186m ² . |

Ecuador prioritises contaminated areas for clearance according to their proximity to the local population and the impact on socio-economic development.⁴⁴ CENDESMI has informed Mine Action Review that the sectors still contaminated by AP mines are very distant from human settlements. Nevertheless, whenever there has been a need, the demining teams have supported logistically the communities and even transported people in and out of the sectors.⁴⁵

35 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 4.

36 Ibid., p. 5.

37 Ibid., p. 4.

38 Ibid., pp. 4 and 8.

39 Ibid., p. 7.; and telephone interview CENDESMI 5 October 2023; and emails from CENDESMI 5 and 6 October 2023.

40 Telephone interview with CENDESMI, 5 October 2023; and emails from CENDESMI 5 and 6 October 2023.

41 Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 17 August 2022, p. 5.

42 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 March 2022, p. 6; and Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 17 August 2022, p. 8.

43 Emails from CENDESMI, 4 August, 7 September, and 5 and 6 October 2023.

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

45 Email from CENDESMI, 4 August 2023.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

The process of humanitarian demining in Ecuador is carried out in accordance with the Binational Manual for Humanitarian Demining developed under the cooperation programme with Peru. But the 2015 Manual had not been updated as at August 2023.⁴⁶ The Manual is said to be based on the IMAS but adapted to the Ecuadorian context.⁴⁷

Ecuador has not adopted national mine action standards (NMAS) for land release, NTS, TS, clearance, and EOD, nor has it developed standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the work beyond the Binational Manual.⁴⁸ Nonetheless, CENDESMI has informed that all documentation for demining is revised annually, as well as deminers' knowledge, with two refresher trainings delivered to deminers, supervisors, and QM personnel.⁴⁹

Ecuador stated in its 2022 Article 5 deadline extension request that it plans to conduct NTS on all hazardous areas with cancellation of areas listed in the planned activities. Once this has been completed, TS will be conducted as and where necessary to further reduce areas prior to clearance.⁵⁰ Ecuador also plans for QC of these areas as land is released, which will be conducted by the AICMA-EC Mission of the OAS.⁵¹

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Ecuador did not provide a detailed plan for pending QC in its extension request. The APMBBC Committee on Article 5 Implementation highlighted the importance of Ecuador providing such a plan as soon as possible including annual milestones, methodology to be employed, and budget for the carrying out of QC operations. The Committee further noted the importance of Ecuador ensuring that the most efficient and effective methods are employed for QC in line with IMAS.⁵²

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Cotopaxi restarted survey and clearance activities in August 2022. A Binational Humanitarian Demining Unit with Peru operated between 2015 and 2018. During the four years it was operational it cleared a common area located in the Tiwinza square kilometre.⁵³

Table 5: Cotopaxi survey capacities in 2022

| Operator | NTS teams | NTS personnel | TS teams | TS personnel |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| CRD "ZAMORA" | 10 | 54 | 10 | 30 |
| Totals | 10 | 54 | 10 | 30 |

Ecuador uses multitask teams, trained and qualified to conduct NTS, TS, and manual clearance in accordance with IMAS.⁵⁴

Table 6: Cotopaxi clearance capacities deployed in 2022

| Operator | Manual teams | Total deminers |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| CRD "Zamora" | 10 | 84 |
| Totals | 10 | 84 |

Ecuador started using drones in 2022 for NTS and was using geo-referenced information tools for TS.⁵⁵

DEMINER SAFETY

No accidents in 2022 involving AP mines were reported.⁵⁶

46 Ibid.

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

48 Demining Action Plan 2019–2022, p. 17; 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), p. 17; and 2022 Revised Article 5 Extension Request, 17 August 2022, pp. 11–24.

49 Email from CENDESMI, 4 August 2023.

50 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 March 2022, p. 29; and 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (revised), 17 August 2022, p. 8.

51 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.

52 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Analysis of Ecuador's Article 5 deadline extension request of 2022, p. 4.

53 Binational Act between the Director General of DIGEDEHUME and the CEE, 26 July 2022, §2.1, p. 10.

54 Emails from CENDESMI, 6 and 7 September 2023.

55 Email from CENDESMI, 4 August 2023.

56 Ibid.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

After two years of inactivity of demining operations, in February 2022 the vice ministers of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and Peru met in Lima and reactivated the binational dialogues with a view to strengthening cooperation. As part of the meeting the topic of demining and binational cooperation in the border between the two countries was addressed, paving the way for more dialogue and cooperation between the Ecuador and Peru on demining.⁵⁷

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

During 2022, in Zamora Chinchipe province, Ecuador cancelled 3,007m² of land through NTS and cleared 5,096m² of mined area.

SURVEY IN 2022

During 2022, only NTS was conducted in Ecuador as per Table 7 below.

Table 7: Release of mined area through NTS in 2022⁵⁸

| Province | Canton | Sector | Area cancelled (m ²) |
|------------------|--------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Zamora Chinchipe | Pangui | Condor Mirador | 3,007 |
| Total | | | 3,007 |

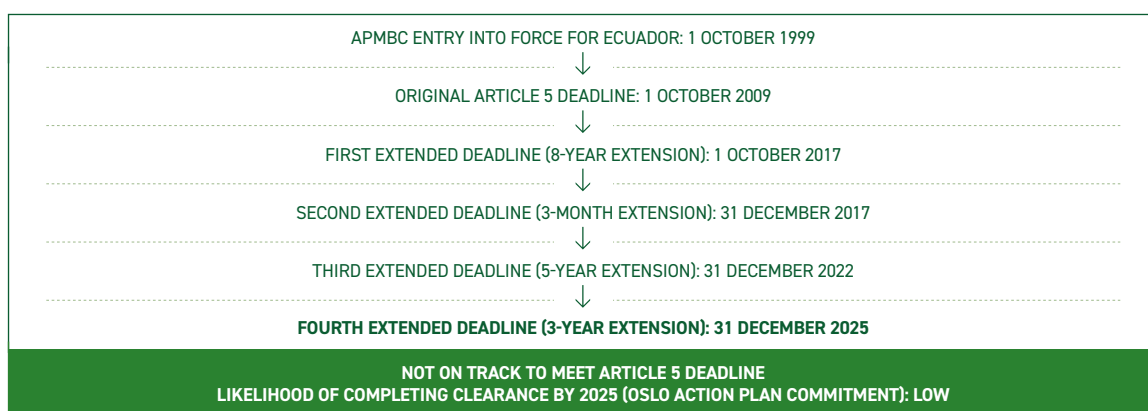
CLEARANCE IN 2022

During 2022, 5,096m² of mined area was cleared with the destruction of 43 AP mines.⁵⁹

Table 8: Mine clearance in 2022

| Province | Canton | Sector | Area cleared (m ²) | AP mines destroyed |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Zamora Chinchipe | El Pangui | Condor Mirador | 2,684 | 14 |
| Zamora Chinchipe | Chinapintza | Chinapintza | 2,186 | 17 |
| Zamora Chinchipe | Chinapintza | Shaime (Heroes del Condor) | 226 | 12 |
| Totals | | | 5,096 | 43 |

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



⁵⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, "Ecuador y Perú reactivan el dialogo binacional y fortalecen la cooperación" 11 February 2022.

⁵⁸ Email from CENDESMI, 4 August 2023.

⁵⁹ CEE Management Report 2022, pp. 25–26.

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the three-year extension granted by States Parties in 2022), Ecuador is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2025.

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. COVID-19 was given as a reason for subsequent failure to meet its subsequent extended deadline.

Table 9: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

| Year | Area cleared (m ²) |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 2022 | 5,096 |
| 2021 | 0 |
| 2020 | 0 |
| 2019 | 2,899 |
| 2018 | 14,068 |
| Total | 22,063 |

In 2022, Ecuador released 5,096m² through clearance and 3,007m² via NTS. For 2021 and 2020 there was no survey and clearance outputs, with the mine action programme grounding to a halt due to lack of funding. In 2019, area cleared dropped significantly in comparison to 2018.

Ecuador had 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. As it stands, the target for 2022 was not achieved, and although funds have been assigned through the pluriannual national budget and has sufficient operational capacity in place, it should be able to easily complete mine clearance by the new deadline. However, given the slow pace and poor productivity levels of the clearance operations to date, this is by no means certain.

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.⁶⁰ Thus, once Ecuador has fulfilled its obligations to clear AP mines under Article 5 of the APMBC, all the personnel, material, and equipment used for demining will become part of the EOD teams with the competencies and capacities to address any new mined areas that might appear.⁶¹

60 Email from Engineers Battalion No. 68 Cotopaxi, 25 March 2020.

61 Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 17 August 2022, p. 26.