

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025
JUST ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: LIGHT

GOVERNMENT ESTIMATE

19,968_{M²}

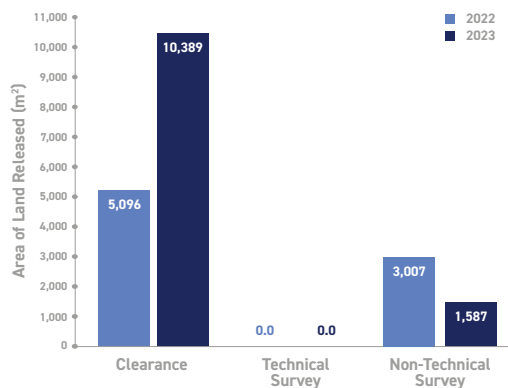
AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2023

10,389_{M²}

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2023

8

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Ecuador doubled the amount of cleared land from the 5,096^{m²} achieved during 2022 to 10,389^{m²} in 2023. A mechanical asset was introduced in support of clearance in 2022 along with the use of mine detection dogs (MDDs) for quality control (QC). In June 2024, Ecuador submitted Article 7 transparency reports covering 2022 and 2023, but to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) rather than the United Nations. At the time of writing, this had not been uploaded to the UN Article 7 database. In November 2023, the Organization of American States, through the Comprehensive Action Against Anti-Personnel Mines Program (OAS – AICMA) organized an event in Washington DC entitled, "In support of the completion of demining efforts: Reaching the goal of a mine-free Ecuador and Peru". Ecuador said it needed additional international support if it were to for complete in 2025: US\$740,685 for equipment and an astonishing US\$1.96 million for QC.

FIVE-YEAR OVERVIEW

Since the Fourth Review Conference in 2019, Ecuador requested and was granted a fourth extension to its APMBC Article 5 deadline through to the end of 2025. In 2022, Ecuador and the General Secretariat of the OAS signed a Cooperation and Technical Assistance Agreement through its Integrated AP Mine (AICMA) Programme. After two years of inactivity due to the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 and 2021); Ecuador announced that, in 2023, it had cleared 10,398^{m²} and in 2022 it had cleared 5,096^{m²} of SHA.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Ecuador should maintain the level of non-technical survey (NTS) and clearance necessary to release all anti-personnel (AP) mined area by the end of 2025.
- Ecuador should clarify why retrospective QC is required, how much released area this relates to, what it will involve, and what the planned time scale is for conducting the requisite QC.

- Ecuador should elaborate a gender and diversity policy and mine action data should be systematically disaggregated by sex and age.
- Ecuador should elaborate an environmental policy.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2023)	Score (2022)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	6	5	Ecuador's estimate of AP mine contamination was reduced based on clearance in 2022 and 2023 to less than 20,000m ² . Ecuador has suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) that require NTS and technical survey and accordingly the size of contamination may be smaller than reported.
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. Ecuador estimates it needs almost US\$9.5 million to complete new clearance by the end of 2025, all of which has now been allocated from the national budget. But this amount does not include the funds needed for QC of some of the cleared areas, which according to Ecuador is estimated at US\$1.96 million. The OAS Integrated AP Mine (AICMA) Program will provide technical assistance and cooperation and implement external QC.
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 2023 or on their position. Women, children, and ethnic minorities are said to be informed about planned demining operations.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION* (10% of overall score)	5	Not Scored	CENDESMI has reported to Mine Action Review that Ecuador has detailed national environmental legislation. The environment is said to be taken into account during demining, for example using prefabricated wooden sticks or in the management of waste in the demining camps through recycling and the evacuation of non-organic waste. Meteorological conditions for clearance are difficult with temperatures ranging between 12°C and 35°C, with permanent humidity and rainfall almost the entire year.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	5	4	Ecuador uses the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). Ecuador submitted its latest Article 5 deadline extension request in March 2022, providing details of its planned survey and clearance to 2025. Ecuador submitted its Article 7 reports covering 2022 and 2023 only in June 2024.
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 required, the budget for the QC is estimated at US\$1.96 million.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM** (10% of overall score)	6	5	Ecuador claims to conduct survey and clearance according to the international mine action standards (IMAS). However, during 2023 it did not apply TS. It does not have national standards and standard operating procedures (SOPs) but only operational manuals (one binational with Peru and one national). To date, all clearance has been conducted manually with mechanical demining support. For 2023, it reported using MDDs for QC.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	5	3	Ecuador cleared a significantly increased amount of AP mined area in 2023 and is just on track to meet its Article 5 deadline of the end of 2025. It will need to ensure QC of cleared area if it is to meet the deadline.
Average Score	5.3	4.5	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

* New criterion introduced in 2024 to assess performance.

** The weighting of this criterion was previously 20% of overall performance score, but is now given a 10% weighting.

DEMINEING 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

- Comprehensive Mine Action Program Ecuador – Organization of American States (AICMA EC Mission – OAS)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Ecuador reported that, as at end 2023, 19,968m² of AP mined area remained in Zamora Chinchipe province containing an estimated 2,492 mines.¹ The estimated area is found in 32 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) across three cantons in Zamora Chinchipe province. In 26 of the 32 SHAs, which together cover 7,521m² the location is unknown (see Table 1).²

The National Centre for Humanitarian Demining (CENDESMI) considers that the new baseline is accurate, since data on contamination contain geo-referenced sketches revised by the same engineers who laid the minefields in question. The communities in the affected municipalities are said to have been also consulted, including women and children from diverse ethnic groups.³ But in its revised 2022 Article 5 deadline extension request, Ecuador had said that several hazardous areas in Zamora Chinchipe province did not have geospatial coordinates and would therefore require further survey to identify their location.⁴

Table 1: AP mined area by canton (at end 2023)⁵

Province	Canton	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)
Zamora Chinchipe	Chinchipe (Chito)	0	0	1	7,009
	Yanzatza	0	0	3	5,298
	El Pangui	0	0	2	140
	Undefined	0	0	26	7,521
Totals		0	0	32	19,968

The amount of land released during 2023 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.⁶ No previously unknown mined areas were reported during 2023.⁷

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 (DIGEDEHUME) were planning to meet virtually during September 2022 in order to exchange information that would allow to find the exact location of this area.⁸ At the time of writing, no further information on the outcome of this meeting had been reported.

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C; and 'Updated Action Plan for the final stage of humanitarian demining in Ecuador (2022-2025)', pp. 8-9.

2 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.

3 Email from CENDESMI, 4 August 2023.

4 Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 30-31.

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

6 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 28 and 29; and Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 7 and 30-34.

7 Email from CENDESMI, 4 August 2023.

8 Binational Act No. 27 between the Director General of the CEE and 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.

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.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The national mine action programme is managed by CENDESMI, an entity established by executive decree in 1999.⁹ CENDESMI 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 Army Corps of Engineers (CEE).¹⁰

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 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 a mission to conduct 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 US\$2 million per year from 2019 to 2022.¹⁶ However, only US\$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 OAS through its AICMA Programme.²⁰ The Agreement foresees that the AICMA-EC Mission will support Ecuador to fulfil the obligations of the APMBC, 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 the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).²²

In November 2023, the AICMA Programme of the OAS hosted a Hybrid Dialogue "Building Peace: A Future Free from Anti-Personnel Mines in Ecuador and Peru". During the meeting, Ecuador presented the challenges and requirements for finalising the clearance as per its Article 5 deadline of 31 December 2025. It stated that it required US\$1.96 million to complete QC of areas previously demined, but without specifying a timeline. It also presented estimated costs of equipment and material that are not funded as amounting to US\$740,685.²³ During the event, the OAS presented a proposal to donors totaling US\$328,500 to support Ecuador in its demining efforts including funding for protective equipment, advisory support, logistics, community liaison, and mine risk education initiatives.²⁴

9 Executive Decree No. 1297, 22 September 1999.

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

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

12 Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 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 Statements of Ecuador, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 22 May 2019; and Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.

17 *Revista Ejército Ecuador* No. 205, 2023, pp. 75; and Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 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 Hybrid Dialogue "Building Peace: A Future Free from Anti-Personnel Mines in Ecuador and Peru", OAS, Washington DC, 16 November 2023.

24 Email from Steven Griner, Director, Department of Public Security (DPS), OAS, 4 October 2024.

In March 2024, Ecuador participated in a side event “Transcending the Frontiers of Conflict: Challenges and Solutions around Demining Border Areas” during the National Directors Meeting (NDMUN27) in Geneva. There, the experience of jointly demining a border after a conflict had ended was presented as a successful experience in terms of confidence and peacebuilding.²⁵

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.²⁶

Since 2014 and until 2020, Ecuador has employed three women deminers, equating to 3% of the total trained.²⁷ Ecuador has said it will continue to include and train female personnel “according to their availability”.²⁸ 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.²⁹ 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 2022³⁰

Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women in managerial or supervisory positions	Total operational staff	Women in operational positions
163	3 (2%)	20	0 (0%)	140	3 (2%)

As such, the Twentieth Meeting of States Parties, in granting the last extension request, reminded Ecuador of the significance of providing detailed information on how it will mainstream gender and diversity within the Mine Action Programme.³¹

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 said to be 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.³² Ecuador has reiterated in its latest Article 7 report that it complies with environmental and security norms as per the Ecuadorian Manual of Procedures for Demining.³³

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.³⁴

25 “Summary Report”, 27th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM27), Protecting lives. Building Peace, Geneva, 29 April 2024, at: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7mate7>.

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

27 2017 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 39 and 41; and email from Engineers Battalion No. 68 Cotopaxi, 25 March 2020.

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

29 Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 27.

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

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

32 Email from CENDESMI, 4 August 2023.

33 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form F.

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

Ecuador has submitted its Article 7 reports 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. Ecuador submitted its Article 7 report covering 2022 and 2023 in June 2024. As at the time of writing, the report had been published on the ISU website, but had yet to be published on the UN Article 7 database website.

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. Operations started only in August 2022. A further 10,000m² is planned to be released annually in 2023–25 (see Table 3 below).³⁵

Table 3: Planned land release in Zamora Chinchipe in 2022–25³⁶

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, requested that Ecuador submit an updated, detailed work plan by 30 April 2024, based on progress made by then. 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.³⁷ At the time of writing, Ecuador had not submitted an updated work plan, but it told the Intersessional Meetings in June 2024 of the challenges it faced in conducting demining in the Cordillera del Condor and highlighted the need for international cooperation and technical assistance in order to comply with its Article 5 deadline of December 2025.³⁸

Along the border with Peru, 53 areas covering 40,056m² were requiring demining between 2022 and 2025.³⁹ As of the end

of 2023, there were 32 areas covering 19,968m² which remain to be released in 2024 and 2025.⁴⁰ One particular hazardous area (named as PV-2_07) in Yanzatza canton, which covers an estimated 6,215m² and contains 240 PRB M35 mines, needs help from Peru to identify its precise location.⁴¹ At the time of writing, it was not known if this issue has been resolved.

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 551,742m²,⁴² 262,711m²,⁴³ or 220,525m²,⁴⁴ 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 1 area covering 1,000m² in Pastaza, where QC is still needed.⁴⁵ In October 2023, CENDESMI clarified to Mine Action Review that 103 mined areas cleared between 2000 and 2013 and covering 262,710m² were still awaiting QC.⁴⁶ CENDESMI also clarified that the 551,742m² corresponds to the total land cleared since 2000 by Ecuador.

The mine action budget and resource mobilisation strategy were presented in Washington DC in November 2023.⁴⁷ Ecuador expects, with the support of the AICMA – EC Programme, to raise funds internationally to finalise the quality management (QM) process.⁴⁸ 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 2022.⁴⁹ So far, no information has been provided on the stage of development of the procedure.

35 Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 31.

36 Ibid.

37 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.

38 Statement of Ecuador, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18–20 June 2024.

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

40 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.

41 Binational Act No. 27 between the Director General of the CEE and the DIGEDEMUME, 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.

42 Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.

43 Ibid., p. 5.

44 Ibid., p. 4.

45 Ibid., pp. 4 and 8.

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

47 Hybrid Dialogue "Building Peace: A Future Free from Anti-Personnel Mines in Ecuador and Peru", OAS, Washington DC, 16 November 2023.

48 Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.

49 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6; and Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

The situation as at 2024 of QC for mined areas cleared between 2000 and 2013 is set out in Table 4. More recent information has not been provided in the Article 7 reports for 2022 and 2023.⁵⁰

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 .
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 areas for clearance according to their proximity to the local population and the impact on socio-economic development.⁵¹ CENDESMI informed Mine Action Review in August 2023 that the sectors still contaminated by AP mines are far 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.⁵²

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 2023.⁵³ The Manual is said to be based on the IMAS but adapted to the Ecuadorian context.⁵⁴

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.⁵⁵ Nonetheless, CENDESMI has stated that all documentation needed for the

demining operations is revised annually, as well as deminers' knowledge, with two refresher trainings delivered to deminers, supervisors, and QM personnel.⁵⁶

Ecuador announced in its 2022 Article 5 deadline extension request 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.⁵⁷ Ecuador also plans for QC of these areas as land is released, which will be conducted by the AICMA-EC Mission of the OAS.⁵⁸

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Ecuador did not provide a detailed plan for pending QC in its extension request. The APMBC 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.⁵⁹

50 Emails from CENDESMI, 4 August, 7 September, and 5 and 6 October 2023.
51 Demining Action Plan 2019–2022, p. 17; and Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 30.
52 Email from CENDESMI, 4 August 2023.
53 Ibid.
54 Demining Action Plan 2019–2022, p. 17; and Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.
55 Demining Action Plan 2019–2022, p. 17; and Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 11–24.
56 Email from CENDESMI, 4 August 2023.
57 Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.
58 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 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.
59 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Analysis of Ecuador’s Article 5 deadline extension request of 2022, p. 4.

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.⁶⁰

Table 5: Cotopaxi survey planned capacities in 2023

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.⁶¹

According to the website of the Engineers Corps, during 2023 in the Canton Gualaquiza 8 deminers were deployed, followed by 36 deminers in Paquisha Canton and 26 deminers to the Pangui Canton.⁶²

Table 6: Cotopaxi clearance capacities planned to be deployed in 2023

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

Ecuador started using an MV-4 robotic mine clearance machine in 2022 for TS.⁶³ This use continued in 2023.⁶⁴

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2023

Ecuador doubled its mine clearance output in 2023 compared to the previous year. Thus, during 2023, Ecuador cancelled 1,587m² of mined area through NTS and cleared 10,398m². This is double the amount of clearance achieved in 2022 (5,096m²). The destruction of only eight mines indicates a continuing problem with survey.

SURVEY IN 2023

During 2023, 1,587m² was cancelled through NTS,⁶⁵ a decrease on the 3,007m² cancelled in 2022. No mined area was reported to have been reduced through TS in either 2023 or 2022.

CLEARANCE IN 2023

During 2023, 10,398m² of mined area was cleared with the destruction of eight AP mines.⁶⁶

⁶⁰ Binational Act between the Director General of DIGEDEM and the CEE, 26 July 2022, §2.1, p. 10.

⁶¹ Emails from CENDESMI, 6 and 7 September 2023.

⁶² F. Espin, "Ejército Ecuatoriano ejecuta operaciones militares de Desminado Humanitario", CEE, 8 August 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/40u1jwY>.

⁶³ Email from CENDESMI, 4 August 2023; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F.

⁶⁴ Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form F.

⁶⁵ Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



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. It is just on track to meet the deadline.

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.⁶⁷

Ecuador had set itself a land release target of approximately 10,000m² per year in order to complete clearance of remaining contamination, which as of December 2023 stood at 32 hazardous areas in the Zamora Chinchipe province,

by its requested Article 5 deadline. As it stands, the target for 2023 was achieved, funds have been assigned through the pluriannual national budget, and Ecuador has sufficient operational capacity in place. It should therefore be able to complete mine clearance by the new deadline. However, given the need for QM of cleared areas and the previously slow pace of clearance, this is by no means certain.

Table 9: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (m ²)
2023	10,398
2022	5,096
2021	0
2020	0
2019	2,899
Total	18,393

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Ecuador has said it will use its current capacity to address areas of residual contamination after fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations. Thus, all the personnel, material, and equipment used for demining will become part of army EOD teams with the competencies and capacities to address any new mined areas that might appear.⁶⁸

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

68 Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26.