

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025

Not on track to meet deadline:
Two-year extension to 31 December 2027 requested

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 9,964M²

Light
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

| Release of AP mined area | Release in 2024 (m ²) | Release in 2023 (m ²) |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Clearance | 4,190 | 10,389 |
| Technical Survey | 0 | 0 |
| Non-Technical Survey | 5,814 | 1,587 |
| Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks | 2024 | 2023 |
| AP Mines destroyed | 367 | 8 |

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATOR IN 2024:

- Engineer Battalion No. 68 (B.E.-68) "Cotopaxi"

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Ecuador released just over 10,000m² in 2024—equating to about half of the remaining contamination—through non-technical survey (NTS) and clearance, destroying 367 anti-personnel (AP) mines. Although Ecuador reported at the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in November 2024 that it was on track to complete its Article 5 obligations by the end of its 31 December 2025 deadline, it informed States Parties at the intersessional meetings in June 2025 that it would need to request a new two-year extension to 31 December 2027. The request, submitted on 7 July 2025, cites unforeseen financial constraints and a series of overlapping national emergencies (a declared internal armed conflict, natural disasters, and public health crises) that disrupted resource allocation and halted all demining operations in 2025, making it impossible to meet its deadline.

The request is accompanied by a National Humanitarian Demining Plan for 2026–2027, which allocates national funds to complete clearance of the remaining 22 tasks by the end of 2026. AP mined area covers 9,964m² and is stated to contain 1,713 AP mines, all located in Zamora Chinchipe province along the border with Peru. The two-year extension period is also intended to enable Ecuador to conduct quality control (QC) of previously demined areas, some of which were cleared more than 15 years ago. These are a total of 127 areas covering 280,031m² across the provinces of Morona Santiago, Pastaza, and Zamora Chinchipe. To conduct this work, Ecuador is seeking international funding of US\$2.3 million.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Ecuador should intensify efforts to secure the international support to complete pending external QC in Morona Santiago, Pastaza, and Zamora Chinchipe, and provide a detailed breakdown of the estimated US\$2.3 million budget for these activities to enhance transparency.
- Ecuador should clarify its quality management (QM) methodology and clearly explain the difference between the process of handing over released land from the demining battalion to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and QC by the Humanitarian Demining Certification Unit (Unidad Certificadora de Desminado Humanitario, UCDH).

- Ecuador should clarify the reasons delaying the official mine-free declaration in Loja and El Oro, given that the UCDH's clearance and internal and external QC were completed in 2018.
- Ecuador should use the remaining period to develop a residual risk management strategy and ensure that sufficient national capacity—human, financial, and material—is sustained to address any contamination found after completion as well as to finalise any outstanding QM issues.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

| Criterion | Score (2024) | Score (2023) | Performance Commentary |
|--|--------------|--------------|---|
| UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score) | 7 | 6 | Ecuador's estimate of remaining contamination covered under 10,000m ² at the end of 2024, with one of the 22 tasks alone covering 7,009m ² . In 2025, its Article 7 report and deadline extension request identified for the first time the three cantons where 21 remaining tasks are located. |
| NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score) | 6 | 6 | Ecuador funds its demining programme through a multi-year budget, with US\$9.45 million allocated for 2022–25. This funding was extended through 2027. The programme is managed by CENDESMI while a battalion of the Army Corps of Engineers conducts demining. Ecuador is working with Peru to address the remaining contamination at their shared border but is seeking international support to complete external QC. |
| GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score) | 4 | 3 | Ecuador does not have a gender and diversity policy or plan for mine action. While there are female deminers within the Army Battalion of Engineers, no details were provided on their proportion or roles in 2024. Diversity considerations, such as recognising cultural and linguistic differences are, however, considered in Ecuador's mine risk education efforts. In August 2024, Ecuador implemented its seventh mine risk education campaign since 2006, which was implemented in the province of Zamora Chinchipe. |
| ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score) | 5 | 5 | Ecuador has reiterated in its 2025 Article 7 report that it complies with environmental and security norms as per the Ecuadorian Manual of Procedures for Demining as well as the Binational Manual. However, its extension request makes no reference to environmental protection in mine action. |
| INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score) | 5 | 5 | Ecuador uses IMSMA as its national mine action database. In June 2024, it published an updated work plan for 2022–25 and then confirmed at the Fifth Review Conference in November 2024 that it was on track to meet its Article 5 deadline. In July 2025, however, it submitted a two-year extension request. The information provided in the June 2024 work plan is not entirely consistent with that in the 2025 extension request, particularly regarding the budget, methodologies, and the total surface area still pending QC. |
| PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score) | 6 | 6 | The June 2024 work plan noted slight operational delays in 2022 that were made up for in 2023. In 2024, targets were met. In July 2025, Ecuador's new extension request was accompanied by a national demining plan for 2026–27, which identified 22 tasks covering the remaining 9,964m ² to be cleared by the end of 2026. It also identified 127 areas across three provinces—totalling 280,031 m ² —that are still pending external QC. |
| LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score) | 6 | 6 | Ecuador's land release follows two operational manuals—one national and the other binational with Peru—based on the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) but tailored to local conditions. Clearance is done manually while mine detection dogs continued to be used for QC in 2024. Since the programme began, Ecuador has reported cancellations through NTS but no reduction through technical survey, except in 2018. |
| LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score) | 6 | 5 | Ecuador met its land release targets for 2024 and had less than 10,000m ² of AP mined area remaining in 2025. Although it had reported at the Fifth Review Conference being on track to meet its Article 5 deadline of 31 December 2025, Ecuador ultimately submitted a request for a new two-year extension. The extension is intended to allow for the completion of demining, QC activities covering 280,000m ² across three provinces, and the issuance of official mine-free declarations in two others. |
| Average Score | 5.8 | 5.3 | Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE |

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Centre for Humanitarian Demining (CENDESMI)
- Humanitarian Demining Certification Unit (UCDH)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Engineer Battalion No. 68 Cotopaxi (B.E.-68) of the Army Corps of Engineers (Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ecuador, CEE)

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 2024, 9,964m² of AP mined area remained in Zamora Chinchipe province of the Cordillera del Condor region, thought to contain a total of 1,713 mines.¹ The contamination consists of 22 tasks spread across four sectors (see Table 1). This includes a single confirmed hazardous area (CHA) known as "Puesto de Vigilancia (PV) Peringos-01", located in the southern part of the Chinchipe province, which alone covers 7,009m² and contains 1,280 AP mines.

Regarding the other hazardous areas, Ecuador's 2025 Article 7 report and extension request identified for the first time the specific three sectors they are located: Condor Mirador, Miazzi, and Paquisha Alto – areas that had been previously reported as "undefined" hazardous areas.² Despite the sectors now being identified, these areas do not have precise coordinates and are therefore classified as suspected hazardous areas (SHAs).³ They consist of 22 tasks which are relatively small: 13 cover areas smaller than 100m², each containing an average of 14 AP mines. The smallest task covers just 9m² and contains 3 AP mines, while the two largest each span 600m² and are thought to contain 40 and 43 AP mines.⁴

Table 1: AP mined area (at end 2024)⁵

| Province | Canton | Sector | Tasks | CHA (m ²) | SHA (m ²) | AP mines |
|------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Zamora Chinchipe | Chinchipe | Chito (PV Peringos-01) | 1 | 7,009 | 0 | 1,280 |
| | El Pangui | Tundayme (Condor Mirador) | 18 | 0 | 2,793 | 400 |
| | Paquisha | Miazzi | 1 | 0 | 135 | 15 |
| | Paquisha | Paquisha Alto | 2 | 0 | 27 | 18 |
| Totals | | | 22 | 7,009 | 2,955 | 1,713 |

Note: The 2025 extension request contains inconsistencies regarding the classification of hazardous areas as either suspected hazardous area (SHA) or confirmed hazardous area (CHA). Additional information shared on 4 September 2025 clarified that 7,009m² are CHAs and 2,955m² are SHAs, indicating that only one task falls within a CHA while the remaining 21 are in SHAs, despite the document referring to 2 CHAs and 20 SHAs.

All the mined areas are in the Amazon rainforest of Zamora Chinchipe province, which is characterised by dense vegetation, steep ravines, and cliffs at altitudes reaching up to 2,400 metres above sea level. Access is only possible by

air, significantly increasing costs and logistical complexities. Adverse weather conditions, with temperatures ranging from 12°C to 35°C, constant humidity, and year-round rainfall also challenge operations.⁶

1 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 1, p. 8.

2 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 7-8; and "Updated Work Plan 2022-2025", submitted 18 June 2024 (Plan de Acción para la Etapa Final del Proceso de Desminado Humanitario del Ecuador, 2022-2025), pp. 8-9.

3 Ecuadorian Ministry of Defence (MoD), Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, p. 6.

4 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Annex 4, p. 66; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 7-8.

5 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 8, p. 31; Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 7-8 and MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, Table 2, p. 6.

6 "National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026-2027", 12 June 2025 (Plan Nacional de Desminado Humanitario 2026-2027), p. 7. The Plan is annexed to the 2025 deadline Extension Request, pp. 40-63.

Mine contamination in Ecuador results from its 1995 border conflict with Peru. The most heavily mined section of the border is the Cordillera del Condor region that was at the

centre of the dispute between the two nations. After the signing of the Brasilia Peace Agreements in 1998, Ecuador began the process of demining the border areas.⁷

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The National Centre for Humanitarian Demining (Centro Nacional de Desminado, CENDESMI), established in 1999, serves as the NMAA. It is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, and includes representatives of the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Army Corps of Engineers (Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ecuador, CEE). CENDESMI, with three personnel, is responsible for defining Ecuador's national demining plans and overseeing the implementation and monitoring of the humanitarian demining process.⁸

Clearance operations are conducted by the CEE's Engineer Battalion No. 68 "Cotopaxi" (B.E. 68). It is the operational unit tasked with conducting land release operations and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) in Ecuador.⁹ The Certification Unit (UCDH) is the national entity in charge of conducting QC after clearance by the Cotopaxi Battalion, just before released land is formally declared mine-free. It was created in 2018 through interministerial agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence and sits at CENDESMI.¹⁰

Ecuador and Peru have jointly conducted demining effort along their shared border, supported by ongoing coordination between their NMAs and demining commanders. Since 2002, the process has been guided by formal agreements—23

between military commanders and 19 between national authorities—establishing a strong foundation for effective binational cooperation.¹¹ In October 2024, Peru and Ecuador held the 25th Meeting of National Mine Action Authorities in Quito, which brought together CENDESMI and the Peruvian Mine Action Centre (CONTRAMINAS). During the meeting, the authorities reviewed the progress of demining in their respective nations and developed joint strategies for international cooperation.¹²

In 2023–24, Peru and Ecuador received international support in the form of advisory visits from the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), as well as equipment donations and training from Italy via the Italo-Latin American Institute (IILA).¹³

In a joint statement at the Fifth Review Conference in November 2024, Ecuador and Peru highlighted their mutual trust and cooperation, which has enabled significant progress in demining, especially along their shared border. Regular annual meetings between their national mine action authorities and high-level political support have been "essential", the statement said, in coordinating technical efforts and advancing the implementation of the Convention.¹⁴

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

Ecuador has demonstrated strong national ownership of its demining programme by committing multi-year budget to survey and clearance. Between 2014 and 2021, it allocated US\$21 million, although no funds were provided in 2020 and 2021 as resources were redirected to the COVID-19 pandemic response.¹⁵ For the 2022–25 action plan, Ecuador allocated US\$9.45 million,¹⁶ of which US\$7.3 million was budgeted through 2025.¹⁷ However, no funding was made available for 2025, prompting the need for a fourth, and hopefully final, extension request.¹⁸ This request spread the original US\$9.45 million allocation over a longer period, extending through to 2027, explaining that 2025 funds had been diverted to other national priorities.¹⁹ To complete QC activities and complete

clearance by the end of 2027, Ecuador is seeking an additional US\$2.3 million in international funding.²⁰

International support for demining has been essential in Ecuador since 1999. Technical, financial, and logistical assistance was received from several States, including Canada, Spain, and the United States. Between 2001 and 2014, Ecuador had an agreement with the Organization of American States (OAS)'s Comprehensive Action Program against Anti-Personnel Mines (AICMA).²¹ In 2022, Ecuador signed a new agreement with the OAS to support Article 5 implementation.²² The agreement was meant to receive technical assistance for capacity building; training and

7 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 3; and "National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026–2027", p. 6.

8 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 24–25.

9 Ibid.

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

11 "National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026–2027", p. 6.

12 Joint Statement of Peru and Ecuador on Cooperation and Assistance, Fifth Review Conference, 25–29 November 2024.

13 Ibid.

14 Ibid.

15 Presentation of Ecuador on Article 5, APMBC Fifth Review Conference, Siem Reap, 25–29 November 2024.

16 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 28–29.

17 MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, p. 14.

18 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 27.

19 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 27, Table 6.

20 Ibid., p. 27, Table 7.

21 "Humanitarian demining Process in Ecuador", MoFA and Human Mobility, 13 November 2023. Document shared during the Hybrid Dialogue "Building Peace: A Future Free from Anti-Personnel Mines in Ecuador and Peru" organised by the AICMA Programme of the OAS in Washington DC.

22 Ecuador to Move Forward on Demining Task", OAS, 15 March 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3GX5H04>.

accreditation in QA; external monitoring; international fundraising; and the provision of equipment and supplies.²³ In November 2023, with OAS support, Ecuador appealed to donor countries and organisations for assistance during an event in Washington DC entitled: "In support of the completion of demining efforts: Reaching the goal of a

mine-free Ecuador and Peru".²⁴ In its 2025 extension request, however, Ecuador noted that despite bilateral efforts, both directly and through the OAS, no external support was received for the implementation of the 2022–2025 National Humanitarian Demining Plan.²⁵

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Ecuador's 2025 extension request mentioned that the Engineer Battalion No. 68—composed of 103 deminers and ten civil servants—includes female deminers who are trained and equipped for demining. However, additional information in September 2025 clarified that no women are currently available in the engineering corps promotions, and those previously trained have been reassigned under personnel rotation rules.²⁶ The training of new women specialists depends on the assignment of female personnel by the Army's Directorate of Human Resources.²⁷ Ecuador reported that, in 2014, the Army incorporated two women as Latin America's first demining specialists, assigning them to operations along the southern border (provinces of El Oro, Loja, Pastaza, Zamora Chinchipe, and Morona Santiago).²⁸

In granting Ecuador's last extension request in 2022, the Twentieth Meeting of States Parties reminded of the significance of providing details on how it will mainstream

gender and diversity within the mine action programme.²⁹ Ecuador did not explain how gender considerations are integrated across all stages of operations—from survey and clearance to QM. Diversity is, however, considered in Ecuador's mine risk education efforts. Campaigns began in 2005, initially focusing on Shuar Indigenous leaders in El Oro and Loja. Recognizing the cultural and linguistic differences in Morona Santiago, Ecuador adapted its approach in Tiwinza by implementing bilingual campaigns in Spanish and Shuar, reaching 15 affected Shuar communities. Trained community leaders then served as local educators, spreading the message "Explosive Mines Kill." Binational campaigns with Peru began in 2006 and have been conducted regularly along the shared border. In August 2024, Ecuador implemented a seventh risk education campaign, in the areas of Tundayme parish and El Pangui canton in Zamora Chinchipe.³⁰

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Although Ecuador is not known to have specific environmental policies for its mine action programme, it reaffirmed in its latest Article 7 report that operations follow environmental and safety standards outlined in the Ecuadorian Demining Procedures Manual and the Binational Manual with Peru (though without specifying the environmental standards applied).³¹ According to additional information provided by Ecuador in its 2025 extension request, the 2026–27 demining plan incorporates technical procedures and national decrees to prevent and mitigate environmental damage. Measures include waste management points located away from demining sites, strict site delimitation with signage and access control, and communication with communities on risks. Environmental monitoring is conducted under national regulations, while Decree 1195 (2017) grants exceptional authorisation for the use of renewable resources in demining, subject to an Environmental Alternatives Assessment (DAA) and licensing.³²

Environmental conditions were listed as potential risk to the implementation of the successive work plans. The remaining hazardous areas in Zamora Chinchipe are in remote Amazon rainforest terrain, accessible only by air. Dense vegetation, steep elevations, and adverse weather conditions—including constant humidity and heavy rainfall—pose significant logistical and operational challenges. As a result, Ecuador had indicated that only about 45% of planned operations can be completed on time.³³ However, Ecuador confirmed that the new 2026–27 planning takes into account climatic and terrain conditions in determining the number of working days and deminer performance, building on the experience of operations in 2024 in the same province.³⁴ Ecuador also stated that the combination of heavy rainfall and the physical characteristics of the devices can also cause mines to shift into areas with greater movement of people, posing a serious risk to the safety of residents.³⁵

23 Email from Tammy Hall, General Coordinator, OAS Mine Action Program, Department of Public Security, 13 August 2022; and "OAS.

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

25 Introductory letter dated 9 June 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations in Geneva regarding the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.

26 MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, p. 17.

27 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 25–26.

28 MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, p. 17.

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

30 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 22–24.

31 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 12–13.

32 MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, pp. 15–16.

33 "National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026–2027", p. 7; and "Updated Work Plan 2022–2025", submitted 18 June 2024, p. 2.

34 MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, p. 11.

35 Updated Work Plan 2022–2025", submitted 18 June 2024, p. 9.

Demining in high-biodiversity areas such as Zamora Chinchipe directly supports ecosystem restoration, as many affected zones are part of critical biological corridors and natural reserve buffers. Clearance enables flora and fauna to recover, facilitates sustainable agriculture, and reduces

poverty in rural communities. By rehabilitating degraded areas and promoting sustainable land use, demining also enhances climate resilience and strengthens Ecuador's long-term environmental sustainability.³⁶

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Ecuador uses an unspecified version of 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; no information was provided for 2024.³⁷

Ecuador has consistently submitted its Article 7 reports, including the most recent one in May 2025, covering calendar year 2024. It also submitted an "Updated Work Plan" (Plan de Acción para la Etapa Final del Proceso de Desminado Humanitario del Ecuador, 2022–2025) for Article 5 implementation in June 2024 and participated in the APMBC Fifth Review Conference in Cambodia in November 2024.

There, Ecuador reaffirmed its commitment to meeting the 31 December 2025 deadline and delivered joint statements with Peru highlighting continued bilateral cooperation. At the Intersessional Meetings in June 2025, however, Ecuador announced that it would be submitting a late two-year extension request, as demining operations had been suspended that year due to the reallocation of funds to other national priorities. The information provided in the Updated Work Plan (June 2024) is not always consistent with that in the 2025 extension request, particularly with regard to budget, methodologies, and the extent of surface areas still pending QC and a mine-free declaration.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Ecuador initially outlined its mine clearance plan for 2022–25 in its 2022 Article 5 deadline extension request. Its June 2024 Updated Work Plan noted that demining operations had resumed in 2022 following a two-year suspension caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and national budget reallocation. Although operations experienced slight delays and 2022

outputs fell short of targets, Ecuador had caught up in 2023.³⁸ Ecuador's Article 7 report for 2024 confirmed that annual targets were again met during the year, with 11 areas covering 10,004m² released through NTS and clearance.³⁹ Table 2 below shows the initial plan compared to the actual achievements as at July 2025.

Table 2: Initial plan for land release in Zamora Chinchipe against achievements (2022–25)⁴⁰

| Year | Mined areas projected for release | Mined areas released | Area projected for release (m ²) | Area released (m ²) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 2022 | 17 | 10 | 10,056 | 8,103 |
| 2023 | 9 | 18 | 10,000 | 11,985 |
| 2024 | 8 | 11 | 10,004 | 10,004 |
| 2025 | 19 | 0 | 9,996 | 0 |
| Totals | 53 | 39 | 40,056 | 30,092 |

In June 2025, Ecuador informed States Parties at the APMBC Intersessional Meetings that demining funding for 2025 had been redirected to other national priorities (security, health, and natural disaster), citing force majeure and making it impossible for clearance to be completed by the 31 December 2025 treaty deadline.⁴¹ As a result, Ecuador submitted a new

extension request in July 2025, accompanied by a National Humanitarian Demining Plan for 2026–2027, which listed 22 tasks covering the remaining 9,964m² to be addressed by the end of 2026 (see Table 3).⁴² Notably, for the first time in 2025, Ecuador provided the specific sectors for 21 areas previously been listed as "undefined" (see Table 1 above).

³⁶ MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, pp. 16–17.

³⁷ Emails from CENDESMI, 4 August and 6 and 7 September 2023; and Engineers Battalion No. 68 Cotopaxi, 11 March 2022.

³⁸ "Updated Work Plan 2022–2025", submitted 18 June 2024, pp. 7–8.

³⁹ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 17.

⁴⁰ 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 31, Table 7; 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9, Tables 3 and 4; "Updated Work Plan 2022–2025", submitted 18 June 2024, p. 7; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 17.

⁴¹ Introductory letter dated 9 June 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations in Geneva regarding the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.

⁴² 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 8, p. 31.

While the initial version of the 2025 extension request planned for completion of all demining by the end of 2026, additional information shared in early September 2025

indicated that teams would be deployed in both 2026 and 2027, with ten squadrons each year over three operational cycles of 21 days.⁴³

Table 3: National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026–27⁴⁴

| Year | Province | Tasks | Area (m ²) | AP mines |
|------|------------------|-------|------------------------|----------|
| 2026 | Zamora Chinchipe | 22 | 9,964 | 1,713 |

Ecuador's extension request also aims to complete long-standing external QC for areas cleared between 2000 and 2013, where the process was never fully completed following the end of the OAS-AICMA programme in the country.⁴⁵ External QC is also pending for areas cleared after 2013. As at end 2024, 127 areas across three provinces—covering a total of 280,031m²—awaited external QC and, as a result, have not yet been formally handed over to communities (see Table 4).

For QC, Ecuador intends to deploy four squadrons in 2026 and eight in 2027 over six operational cycles of 21 days each (plus seven days of rest). This is equivalent to six months of operations per year from June to December—a total of 12 squadrons and 12 operational cycles across the two years.⁴⁶

Table 4: Cleared areas pending external QC (at end 2024)⁴⁷

| Province | Areas | Area (m ²) | Observations |
|------------------|------------|------------------------|--|
| Morona Santiago | 91 | 219,471 | External QC pending with OAS-AICMA ending in 2013 |
| Pastaza | 1 | 1,000 | External QC pending with OAS-AICMA ending in 2013 |
| Zamora Chinchipe | 35 | 59,560 | A total of 11,911m ² was cleared in 2018, ⁴⁸ and a further 30,092m ² in 2022–24. ⁴⁹ It is not known when the remaining area was cleared. |
| Totals | 127 | 280,031 | |

In addition, cleared areas in the provinces of El Oro and Loja are still awaiting official mine-free declarations (see Table 5). These areas underwent both internal and external QC by the UCDH for land released in 2018.⁵⁰ For reasons unknown, the national process to formally declare these areas mine-free was, however, never completed. While Ecuador's 2022 extension request anticipated completing this process in the second half of that year,⁵¹ the 2025 extension request has postponed the timeline to the end of 2027, but without offering a clear justification for the continued delay or specifying the obstacles preventing completion.⁵²

Table 5: Areas awaiting official mine-free declaration⁵³

| Province | Internal QC (m ²) | External QC (m ²) | Observations |
|----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| El Oro | 6,427 | 2,174 | Internal and external QC conducted by the UCDH in 2018. |
| Loja | 7,963 | 8,051 | |

43 MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, pp. 7 and 9.

44 Ibid.

45 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

46 MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, pp. 8 and 10 (the table on page 8 has wrong totals).

47 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5 and 33 and Annex 5, pp. 70–73; and "National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026–2027", Table, pp. 10–11.

48 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.

49 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 3, p. 9.

50 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

51 Ibid., p. 8.

52 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

53 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.

It remains unclear why such retrospective external QC or mine-free declaration are still pending, given that a quality assurance (QA) process was in place and no incidents have occurred in the past 24 years.⁵⁴ Ecuador has not provided evidence to indicate that clearance was not conducted to sufficiently high standards. Although Ecuador was asked to clarify its position, it had not responded on this issue as at early September 2025.

The Ecuadorian government had allocated a budget of US\$9,449,520 for the third extension period (2022–25) to support demining. This funding covered personnel costs and specialised demining materials and equipment.⁵⁵ Ecuador's 2025 extension request simply extended the original national budget (US\$9.45 million) across a longer timeframe, through to 2027, explaining that funding for demining in 2025 was reallocated to other national priorities.⁵⁶ The remaining budget for 2026–27 is estimated at just over US\$2 million and will be

allocated to enhancing the operational capacity of BE-68 for demining and EOD operations through equipment acquisition, as well as ensuring logistical support for clearance.⁵⁷

This budget, which is fully funded by the Ecuadorian government, does not include costs related to pending external QC, for which Ecuador is seeking US\$2.3 million in international financial support.⁵⁸ This is an increase from the US\$1.96 million estimated for pending QC activities in the Updated Work Plan submitted in June 2024.⁵⁹ For several years, Ecuador has relied on the support it expected under its agreement with the OAS, with the intention that the AICMA-EC Mission would conduct external QC of cleared areas, as was the case from 2000 to 2013.⁶⁰ However, this has not materialised. In its 2025 extension request, Ecuador expressed a continued hope for future support, either through the OAS-AICMA or through direct cooperation with partner countries and organisations.⁶¹

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Demining is conducted in accordance with Ecuador's Humanitarian Demining Procedures Manual and the Binational Humanitarian Demining Procedures Manual jointly developed with Peru in 2015. Both manuals are said to be based on the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), but adapted to the Ecuadorian context.⁶² National procedures are detailed over 12 pages in Ecuador's 2025 extension request.⁶³ They involve a combination of techniques, including manual demining using "one man, one lane"; mechanical demining (a DOK-ING MV-4), and mine detection dogs for QC.⁶⁴ However, due to the current terrain conditions, which are characterised by dense vegetation, mountainous landscapes, steep cliffs, and hard-to-reach ravines, Ecuador had said it is no longer feasible to use mechanical assets to improve clearance efficiency.⁶⁵ In the additional information on its 2025 extension request, Ecuador clarified that the MV4 robot is currently non-operational, having sustained damage during operations, and that its weight (5,560kg) has prevented extraction for maintenance, as no helicopter can support the load. Ecuador also confirmed that MDDs are employed exclusively for QC.⁶⁶

To accurately determine the location and extent of hazardous areas along the border, Ecuador planned to conduct both

NTS and technical survey (TS). These efforts were to rely on existing national records of known mine-contaminated areas. Modern equipment and technology were expected to be used for survey of the suspected areas prior to the start of clearance operations.⁶⁷ Ecuador clarified that suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) are identified through NTS, national assessments, or community reports, while CHAs have been verified through TS. The term defined hazardous area (DHA) is used for a zone within a CHA that has been clearly delineated for full clearance.⁶⁸ Since the start of its demining programme, Ecuador has reported reduction by TS only once – in 2018. In all other years, it has reported cancellation through NTS and full clearance.⁶⁹

In its successive extension requests and Work Plans, Ecuador has consistently referred to the same provision (Chapter VII) of the Binational Humanitarian Demining Procedures Manual, jointly developed with Peru in 2015, which outlines QC procedures.⁷⁰ According to this manual, the handover process is conducted as follows: once demining and internal QC are completed, an External Monitoring Team (accompanied by a representative from B.E.-68 "COTOPAXI") conducts a final inspection of the cleared or released area. Based on

⁵⁴ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 23.

⁵⁵ "Updated Work Plan 2022–2025", submitted 18 June 2024, p. 11, Table 10.

⁵⁶ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 27, Table 6.

⁵⁷ MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, p. 13.

⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 27, Table 7.

⁵⁹ "Updated Work Plan 2022–2025", submitted 18 June 2024, p. 15.

⁶⁰ 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6; and Cooperation and Technical Assistance Agreement between Ecuador and the General Secretariat of the AOS in relation to the Integral Mine Action Program in Ecuador, 15 March 2022, Annex 1, p. 8.

⁶¹ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 27, Table 7.

⁶² Ibid., p. 10.

⁶³ Ibid., pp. 10–22.

⁶⁴ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 12.

⁶⁵ 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.

⁶⁶ MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, pp. 11–12.

⁶⁷ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 6 and 31.

⁶⁸ Ibid., p. 10.

⁶⁹ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 17.

⁷⁰ 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 34–36; "Updated Work Plan 2022–2025", submitted 18 June 2024, pp. 16–19; 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 33–35.

this inspection, the team prepares a final status report on the area, which is submitted to CENDESMI, with a copy sent to COTOPAXI. During the handover process, both entities formally certify the area as cleared by signing a declaration.⁷¹ Since 2018, responsibility for QC following the handover process has rested with the UCDH.⁷² Nonetheless, the areas subjected to QC under the authority of the UCDH have yet to

receive mine-free declaration status (see Table 5), thereby calling into question the effectiveness of the current process.

While Ecuador's extension requests mention the use of dogs in demining, Ecuador did not specify whether MDDs are employed to expedite the QA process.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

As noted, Engineer Battalion No. 68 "Cotopaxi" is responsible for demining and EOD across Ecuador.⁷³ The Battalion has 103 trained deminers (down from 140 in 2022) who receive regular training through the Military Engineering School.⁷⁴ Based in Quito, the unit is deployed to regional commands in border provinces as operations are conducted. The demining personnel are supported by medical and paramedical teams and their equipment is said to comply with both national and international mine action standards.⁷⁵

In 2015, Ecuador and Peru began working toward the establishment of a Binational Demining Unit. Over the next four years, the Unit conducted coordinated operations that led to the clearance of AP mines from the "Twinza square kilometre" in October 2018. This milestone was praised as both a step forward in mine clearance and a symbol of the mutual trust and commitment between the two nations.⁷⁶

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

In 2024, Ecuador released a total of 10,004m² of mined areas through 11 tasks: 5,814m² cancelled through NTS and 4,190m² cleared, destroying in the process 367 AP mines.⁷⁷

Table 6: Summary of land release outputs in 2024

| Release of AP mined area | Release in 2024 (m ²) |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Clearance | 4,190 |
| Technical survey | 0 |
| Non-technical survey | 5,814 |
| Destruction of AP mines in clearance, survey, and spot tasks | 2024 |
| AP mines destroyed | 367 |

SURVEY IN 2024

During 2024, 5,814m² was cancelled through NTS – an increase on the 1,587m² cancelled in 2023. No mined area has been reported to have been reduced through TS since 2018.⁷⁸

CLEARANCE IN 2024

In 2024, 4,190m² of mined area was cleared with the destruction of 367 AP mines. Although this is less than the 10,398m² cleared in 2023, it remains in line with Ecuador's work plan.

⁷¹ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 33–34.

⁷² Ibid., pp. 34–35.

⁷³ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 24–25.

⁷⁴ Ibid., p. 24; and 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26.

⁷⁵ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.

⁷⁶ "National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026–2027", p. 6.

⁷⁷ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 17.

⁷⁸ 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. Although Ecuador reaffirmed its commitment to this deadline in both its 2024 Updated Work Plan and at the Fifth Review Conference, it informed States Parties in June 2025 it would not meet the deadline. As a result, Ecuador has submitted a new extension request for an additional two years until 31 December 2027. The request, its fifth, was due to be considered at the Twenty-Second Meeting of State Parties in December 2025.

At the Fifth Review Conference, Ecuador reported that since the start of its demining programme, it had cleared 98% of its AP mined area, totalling 580,152.56m², and destroyed 12,347 AP mines.⁷⁹ At the end of 2024, Ecuador still had 9,964m² of AP mined areas to be addressed with an estimated 1,713 AP mines to be destroyed in the Zamora Chinchipe province along the border with Peru.⁸⁰ In 2025, Ecuador cited internal armed conflict, natural disasters, and health crises as force

majeure circumstances that prevented it from meeting its Article 5 obligations. In the initial version of its extension request, Ecuador aimed to complete clearance by the end of 2026 using national funds (unspent resources from 2025), and is seeking US\$2.3 million in international support to complete QC and issue mine-free declarations by the end of 2027.

Table 7: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

| Year | Area cleared (m ²) |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 2024 | 4,190 |
| 2023 | 10,389 |
| 2022 | 5,096 |
| 2021* | 0 |
| 2020* | 0 |
| Total | 19,675 |

*Operations halted in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

In its 2022 extension request, Ecuador stated that it would rely on current capacity to address areas of residual contamination after fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations. Thus, all personnel, material, and equipment used for demining by Engineer Battalion 68 would be transferred to army EOD teams retaining the competencies and capacities to address any newly identified mined areas.⁸¹

In the additional information submitted on its 2025 extension request, Ecuador confirmed measures to ensure institutional and operational continuity. These include regular meetings of

CENDESMI, supported by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Defense, and Health; the establishment of a national rapid response teams to identify and release newly discovered or reclassified hazardous areas; and ongoing training for technical staff in advanced detection, safe neutralisation, and environmental rehabilitation. Ecuador also committed to maintaining and updating its national mine information system (IMSMA or equivalent), with qualified staff, upgraded monitoring tools, and sustainable financing to ensure reliable data management.

⁷⁹ Presentation of Ecuador on Article 5, APMBC Fifth Review Conference, Siem Reap, 25–29 November 2024.

⁸⁰ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 7–8.

⁸¹ 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26.

Ecuador said it will continue strengthening ties with the OAS and other international organisations for equipment, training, and accreditation, building on agreements such as the 2022 OAS-CENDESMI accord. It also plans to maintain binational cooperation with Peru in mine action, focusing on information exchange and joint training. In parallel, Ecuador plans to implement post-demining monitoring mechanisms, including semi-annual internal reports and annual Article 7 updates, to track progress in national capacity, area coverage, and IMSMA performance.

To guarantee long-term sustainability, Ecuador intends to allocate national budget resources to demining, complemented by mixed financing models involving international donors and bilateral or regional cooperation. Taken together, these elements – rapid response teams, international cooperation, robust information management, institutional strengthening, and continuous monitoring – will form “the foundation of a sustainable national mine action capacity in Ecuador”.⁸²

⁸² MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, pp. 12-13.