ECUADOR

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2027

On track to meet deadline

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 9,964M²

Light
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (m²)	Release in 2024 (m²)
Clearance	0	4,190
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	5,814

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	0	367

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

- None

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

No demining took place in Ecuador in 2025 after national resources were redirected to public security and other emergencies, leading Ecuador to request a fifth—and hopefully final— Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline extension. Granted in December 2025, the extension sets a new deadline of 31 December 2027. Ecuador's 2026–27 work plan foresees clearance of the remaining 22 tasks covering 9,964m² as well as pending external quality control (QC) of mined area. With national funding secured for 2026, the Army Corps of Engineers (CEE) planned to clear half of the remaining contamination between August and October 2026 and conduct external QC in 13 areas, suggesting that Ecuador remains on track to meet its extended Article 5 deadline. However, questions remain regarding the outstanding external QC of 127 areas, some of which have been pending for several years. It remains unclear whether Ecuador intends to declare completion of its Article 5 obligations while over 280,000m² of previously cleared areas have yet to receive formal mine-free declarations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Ecuador should assume national ownership and funding of its quality management component and urgently address the backlog of 127 cleared areas awaiting external QC.**
- **Ecuador should clarify why areas in Loja and El Oro that underwent internal and external QC in 2018 have yet to be formally declared mine-free.**
- **Ecuador should fully implement its 2026–27 National Humanitarian Demining Plan and report progress on both clearance of the remaining 22 tasks and completion of outstanding QC.**
- **Ecuador should provide a detailed breakdown of the estimated US$2.3 million required for external QC, specifying the activities, associated costs, and respective national and international contributions.**
- **Ecuador should establish a clear framework for managing residual contamination after completion of its Article 5 obligations, ensuring sufficient national capacity, resources, institutional responsibilities, and information management arrangements to respond to any subsequently discovered contamination.**

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	7	7	Ecuador considers its current baseline of AP mine contamination to be complete. The remaining contamination comprises 22 tasks: 21 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) covering 2,955m^2 and one confirmed hazardous area (CHA) covering 7,009m^2.The baseline remained unchanged in 2025, as no survey was conducted to further refine the 21 remaining SHAs, which lack precise coordinates, and no demining took place.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	6	6	Ecuador has established national structures and a multi-year work-plan and budget for demining. However, no funding was made available for operations in 2025 as resources were redirected to other national priorities. Ecuador maintained bilateral coordination with Peru and secured national funding for 2026, but requires international support to complete outstanding QC.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	4	Ecuador has no specific gender and diversity policy for mine action, with limited evidence of mainstreaming across the programme. Although women have been trained as deminers, none was available for demining as of September 2025. Cultural and linguistic diversity is considered in risk education, with female military personnel leading a campaign in Zamora Chinchipe in 2026.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	5	5	Ecuador does not have a dedicated environmental policy for mine action, but environmental standards are integrated into national procedures. Its 2026–27 plan includes measures to prevent and mitigate environmental damage, and operational planning takes account of climatic and terrain conditions in affected areas.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	5	5	No information on improvements to the national database has been provided since 2023. Ecuador consistently submits its Article 7 reports, but inconsistencies persist across official documents on classification of hazardous areas and areas pending QC.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	6	6	Ecuador has a detailed 2026–27 work plan for clearance of all remaining contamination and outstanding external QC. However, no planned demining took place in 2025 after national funding was redirected, while completion of the substantial QC backlog remains dependent on international support and some mine-free declarations have been outstanding since 2018.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	6	6	Demining is conducted by a battalion of the Army Corps of Engineers (CEE). Ecuador has an established land release system based on International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), with national and binational procedures and trained military demining capacity. However, technical survey is not used to reduce hazardous areas, while long delays between external QC and formal mine-free declarations put into question the efficiency of the handover process. Since the OAS-AICMA mission in Ecuador ceased operations, no formal mine-free declarations have been issued, with Ecuador continuing to seek third-party involvement in the process.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	5	6	Ecuador conducted no land release in 2025 after national funding was redirected and was unable to meet its Article 5 deadline. With less than 10,000m^2 remaining, it secured a two-year extension to complete clearance and outstanding QC. The CEE planned to clear 4,982m^2 between August and October 2026 and conduct external QC in 13 areas, suggesting that Ecuador remains on track to meet its extended Article 5 deadline.
Average Score	**5.6**	**5.8**	**Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Centre for Humanitarian Demining (Centro Nacional de Desminado, CENDESMI)
- Humanitarian Demining Certification Unit (Unidad de Certificación de Desminado Humanitario, UCDH)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- 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 considers the current baseline of anti-personnel (AP) mine contamination along its border with Peru to be complete. Ecuador reported 9,964m² of AP mined area at the end of 2025, all in Zamora Chinchipe province in the Cordillera del Condor region, which is calculated to contain 1,713 AP mines. The estimated contamination remained unchanged from the end of 2024, as no survey or demining were conducted in 2025. It comprises 22 tasks across four sectors (see Table 1).[1]

One task, the confirmed hazardous area (CHA) known as "Puesto de Vigilancia (PV) Peringos-01" in Chinchipe canton, accounts for 7,009m² (representing 70% of remaining contamination) and is estimated to contain 1,280 AP mines. The remaining 21 tasks are suspected hazardous areas (SHAs), covering a combined 2,955m² in the Cóndor Mirador, Miazi, and Paquisha Alto sectors. These areas lack precise coordinates and are therefore classified as SHAs.[2] Most are small: thirteen cover less than 100m², while the two largest each cover 600m².[3]

Table 1: AP mined area (at end 2025)[4]

Province	Canton	Sector	Tasks	CHA (m²)	SHA (m²)	AP mines
Zamora Chinchipe	Chinchipe	Chito (PV Peringos-01)	1	7,009	0	1,280
	El Pangui	Tundayme (Cóndor Mirador)	18	0	2,793	400
	Paquisha	Miazi	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 SHAs or CHAs. Additional information provided by Ecuador in September 2025 clarified that 7,009m² are in a single CHA and 2,955m² are in SHAs (21 tasks).

All remaining contamination is located in the Amazon rainforest of Zamora Chinchipe province, characterised by dense vegetation, steep ravines, and cliffs at altitudes of up to 2,400 metres. Access is only possible by air, significantly increasing the cost and logistical complexity of operations. Year-round rainfall, high humidity, and temperatures ranging from 12°C to 35°C further constrain operations.[5]

Ecuador's remaining mine contamination stems from the 1995 border conflict with Peru, during which minefields were laid in the Cordillera del Condor, which was at the centre of the dispute between the two States. The 1998 Brasilia Peace Accords formally ended the conflict and continue to provide the framework for bilateral cooperation, including demining.[6] In June 2026, the Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and Peru reaffirmed the accords as the foundation for lasting peace, integration, and cooperation between the two nations.[7]

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

In 2025, Ecuador continued to face a severe security crisis linked to organised crime and escalating violence. The government, which had declared the existence of an internal armed conflict in January 2024, continued to characterise the situation as such in 2025 and prioritised national resources for public security.[8] The use of explosives increased significantly in 2025. ACLED recorded 85 explosive events in El Oro and 66 in Guayas, the two provinces most affected by this form of violence. Incidents involved both grenades and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), including devices using dynamite, C4, mining explosives, gas cylinders, and vehicle-borne IEDs. Most documented IEDs appear to have been deliberately initiated rather than victim-activated.[9]

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

CENDESMI, established in 1999, serves as Ecuador's 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 (CEE). CENDESMI, with three personnel, is responsible for defining national demining plans,

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C, pp. 7–8; and 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 1, p. 8.

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

3 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Annex 4, p. 66; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C, pp. 7–8.

4 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C, pp. 7–8; and 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 1, p. 8.

5 National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026–27, 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.

6 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 3; and National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026–27, p. 6.

7 Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, "Declaración Conjunta entre los Viceministros de Relaciones Exteriores del Ecuador y del Perú", 3 June 2026, https://bit.ly/3SmSCms.

8 Presidency of the Republic of Ecuador, Executive Decree No. 55, 15 July 2025, published in *Registro Oficial*, Second Supplement No. 82, 16 July 2025, https://bit.ly/4gxjE2S.

9 ACLED, Data Export Tool, "Filters: 01/01/2025-31/12/2025; Remote explosive/landmines/IED; Ecuador"; "De la dinamita a los drones", *Primicias*, 4 March 2026, https://bit.ly/4xM7IRI; "Coches bomba en Ecuador", *Primicias*, 21 October 2025, https://bit.ly/4gaCca2; and "Informe de caracterización del crimen organizado en Ecuador 2025", Observatorio Ecuatoriano de Crimen Organizado (OECO)/PADF, January 2026, https://bit.ly/4xU6eVl.

interinstitutional coordination, and binational meetings. It also oversees programme implementation and monitors compliance with national standards, regulations, directives, and procedures.[10]

The CEE is responsible for operational planning, external QC, mine risk education, and the management of mine action information through IMSMA. QC was assigned in 2018 to the Humanitarian Demining Certification Unit (Unidad de Certificación de Desminado Humanitario, UCDH), established through an interministerial agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence.[11]

Clearance is conducted by the CEE's Engineer Battalion No. 68 "Cotopaxi" (B.E. 68), the operational unit responsible for land release and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD).[12] The battalion is also responsible for identifying operational needs and managing public procurement processes in accordance with national legislation.

Ecuador and Peru have a long-standing framework for joint demining efforts along their shared border, supported by regular coordination between their NMAAs and demining commanders. Since 2002, cooperation has been formalised through 23 agreements between military commanders and 19 between the national authorities.[13] In March 2026, the NMAAs held their 26th meeting in Lima alongside the 30th meeting between Ecuador's CEE and Peru's Army's General Directorate for Humanitarian Demining (DIGEDEHUME), where the two nations reviewed progress and reaffirmed their commitment to fulfilling their APMBC obligations. They agreed to strengthen cooperation on risk education, gender, medical support, information management, and technical matters, and to request that their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs consider recognising the demining units at the next Presidential and Binational Cabinet Meeting.[14]

While CENDESMI did not attend APMBC meetings in 2025 or the intersessional meetings in 2026, the CEE participated in the Regional Stakeholder Dialogue on Sustainable Capacities to Address Residual Contamination and Strengthen Victim Assistance in the Americas, held in El Salvador on 5–7 May 2026, demonstrating positive engagement with the Convention.[15]

Between 2001 and 2014, Ecuador had an agreement with the Organization of American States (OAS)'s Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) Program. In 2022, Ecuador signed a new Cooperation and Technical Assistance Agreement with the OAS-AICMA Program to support its Article 5 implementation. The agreement envisaged technical assistance for capacity development, quality assurance (QA) training and accreditation, external monitoring, international resource mobilisation, and the provision of equipment and supplies.[16] In November 2023, the OAS supported Ecuador and Peru in appealing for international assistance to complete their remaining demining obligations during an event in Washington DC.[17] However, Ecuador reported in its 2025 extension request that, despite bilateral efforts and efforts through the OAS, it had received no external support for implementation of its 2022–25 National Humanitarian Demining Plan. The OAS continues to list Ecuador as having a collaboration agreement with AICMA, but no recent operational support to Ecuador has been provided.

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.[18] For the 2022–25 action plan, Ecuador allocated US$9.45 million,[19] of which US$7.3 million was budgeted through 2025.[20] However, no funding was made available for 2025, prompting the need for a fifth extension request.[21] The request spread the original US$9.45 million allocation over a longer period, extending through to 2027, explaining that funding for 2025 had been diverted to other national priorities.[22] Ecuador's Article 7 report covering 2025 indicated that funding had been secured for 2026, with approximately US$1.29 million allocated to demining.[23]

International support for demining has been essential in Ecuador since 1999. Technical, financial, and logistical assistance was received from several States, including Canada, Italy, Spain, and the United States. To complete planned QC activities and clearance by the end of 2027, Ecuador was seeking an additional US$2.3 million in international funding.[24] For more information on mine action funding, please see the country profile on Ecuador on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[25]

10 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 24–25.

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

12 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 24–25.

13 National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026–2027, p. 6.

14 Email from Col. Mario Espinoza Llanos, Deputy Technical Secretary, CONTRAMINAS, Peru, 1 July 2026.

15 At https://bit.ly/4gcRaMH.

16 Presentation by Ecuador on Article 5, APMBC Twentieth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 21-25 November 2022, https://bit.ly/4xSUdj2; and email from Tammy Hall, General Coordinator, OAS Mine Action Program, Department of Public Security, 13 August 2022.

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

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

19 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 28–29.

20 MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, p. 9.

21 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 27.

22 Ibid., p. 27, Table 6.

23 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Annex A, p. 25.

24 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 27, Table 7.

25 https://the-monitor.org.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Ecuador's 2025 extension request mentioned that the Engineer Battalion No. 68 included female deminers who are trained and equipped for demining. But Ecuador reported in September 2025 that no trained women were currently available for demining operations, as previously trained personnel had been reassigned under Army rotation rules.[26] Training of new female deminers depends on the assignment of women 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.[28]

Ecuador has provided limited information on how gender and diversity are mainstreamed across survey, clearance, and quality management. Gender and diversity considerations are more evident in mine risk education. Campaigns in affected Indigenous communities have used bilingual Spanish–Shuar messaging and trained community leaders to relay safety information.[29] In June 2026, female personnel from the Army Corps of Engineers led the eighth national mine risk education campaign in Chito and El Pangui, Zamora Chinchipe, working with local authorities, community leaders, teachers, students, and the wider community to promote safe behaviour and strengthen local participation.[30]

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Although Ecuador is not known to have a dedicated environmental policy for mine action, its Article 7 reporting states that operations follow environmental and safety standards contained in the Ecuadorian Demining Procedures Manual and the Binational Manual with Peru.[31] The 2026–27 demining plan also incorporates measures to prevent and mitigate environmental damage, including waste management, site delimitation and access control, community awareness, and environmental monitoring. The use of renewable natural resources during demining is subject to environmental assessment and licensing under national regulations.[32]

Environmental conditions remain a significant operational challenge. The remaining hazardous areas in Zamora Chinchipe are located in remote Amazon rainforest terrain, with dense vegetation, steep slopes, high humidity, and heavy rainfall limiting access and productivity.[33] Heavy rainfall may also cause mines to shift towards areas more frequently used by local communities, increasing risks to residents.[34] Ecuador reported that its 2026–27 planning accounts for climatic and terrain conditions when calculating working days and deminer productivity, drawing on operational experience in the province in 2024.[35]

Ecuador also highlighted the environmental benefits of clearance in biodiverse areas such as Zamora Chinchipe, where affected land includes biological corridors and buffer zones around natural reserves. It considers that clearance can support ecosystem recovery, sustainable land use and agriculture, and strengthen the resilience of rural communities.[36]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Ecuador uses an unspecified version of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). In 2022–23, the national database was being upgraded with geo-referenced tools to improve the quality of information.[37] No further information on improvements to IMSMA was provided in 2024, 2025, or in 2026 (as of August).

Ecuador has consistently submitted annual Article 7 reports and submitted an updated Article 5 work plan in June 2024, followed by a fifth, two-year extension request in 2025. However, inconsistencies remain across these documents, including on classification of remaining areas as SHAs or CHAs, and areas pending QC and declaration as mine-free. Its 2026 Article 7 report does not provide an updated account of outstanding QC and continues to report on implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) 2020–24, despite the adoption of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP) for 2025–29.

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

30 Presentation by Ecuador, Regional Stakeholder Dialogue, El Salvador, 5-7 May 2026; and "Mujeres militares lideran campaña de Educación sobre riesgos de minas", *Diario Crónica*, 17 June 2026, https://bit.ly/46elGjl.

31 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F, 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 2026–27, p. 7; and Updated Work Plan 2022–25, submitted 18 June 2024, p. 2.

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

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

36 Ibid., pp. 16–17.

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

PLANNING AND TASKING

PLANNING AND TASKING FOR DEMINING

Ecuador's 2022–25 work plan envisaged the release of 53 mined areas covering 40,056m^2 in Zamora Chinchipe. Following the resumption of demining in 2022 after a two-year COVID-19-related suspension, Ecuador caught up with its work plan in 2023 and met its 2024 target.[38] By the end of 2024, 39 areas covering 30,092m^2 had been released, representing 75% of the planned area.

No land release was conducted in 2025 after funding was redirected to other national priorities, including security, health, and natural disaster response, preventing Ecuador from meeting its 31 December 2025 Article 5 deadline.[39] Ecuador therefore submitted a fifth extension request, accompanied by a National Humanitarian Demining Plan for 2026–27. The plan provides for the release of the remaining 22 tasks covering 9,964m^2, with ten squads to be deployed each year over three operational cycles of 21 days.[40]

The 2026–27 plan retained the original US$9.45 million national allocation, spreading it over the longer extension period.[41] Just over US$2 million is budgeted for 2026–27, including to strengthen BE-68 operational capacity through equipment acquisition and provide logistical support for clearance.[42] Ecuador's Article 7 report covering 2025 confirmed that funding had been secured for 2026, with approximately US$1.29 million allocated to demining.[43] At the Regional Stakeholder Dialogue on Sustainable Capacities to Address Residual Contamination and Strengthen Victim Assistance in the Americas, held in El Salvador in May 2026, Ecuador presented plans to clear 4,982m^2–half of the remaining area–between August and October 2026.[44]

Table 2: National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026–27

Year	Province	Tasks	Area (m^2)	AP mines
2026–27	Zamora Chinchipe	22	9,964	1,713

PLANNING AND TASKING FOR OUTSTANDING QUALITY CONTROL

Ecuador's extension request also seeks to address a substantial backlog of external QC. As at the end of 2025, 127 cleared areas covering 280,031m^2 across Morona Santiago, Pastaza, and Zamora Chinchipe were awaiting external QC and had therefore not been formally handed over to communities (see Table 3).[45] This includes areas cleared before the OAS-AICMA Program ended in 2013, as well as areas cleared subsequently.[46]

Ecuador planned to deploy four QC squads in 2026 and eight in 2027, each operating over six 21-day cycles between June and December.[47] At the Regional Stakeholder Dialogue, in May 2026, CEE indicated that external QC would be conducted in 13 areas between August and October 2026.[48] The extension request identified a need for US$2.3 million in international support for external QC, up from the US$1.96 million estimated in the June 2024 Updated Work Plan.[49] Ecuador had expected the OAS-AICMA Program to resume external QC under a 2022 cooperation agreement, but this has not materialised. It is therefore seeking support either through OAS-AICMA or directly from partner States and organisations.[50]

Table 3: Cleared areas pending external QC (at end 2025)[51]

Province	Areas	Area (m^2)	Observations
Morona Santiago	91	219,471	External QC outstanding following the end of OAS-AICMA in 2013
Pastaza	1	1,000	External QC outstanding following the end of OAS-AICMA in 2013
Zamora Chinchipe	35	59,560	Includes areas cleared in 2018 and 2022–24
Totals	**127**	**280,031**	

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

39 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.

40 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 8, p. 31; and MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, pp. 7 and 9.

41 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 27, Table 6.

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

43 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Annex A, p. 25.

44 Presentation by Ecuador, Regional Stakeholder Dialogue, El Salvador, 5–7 May 2026, https://bit.ly/3SI6VCm.

45 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5 and 33 and Annex 5, pp. 70–73; and National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026–27, Table, pp. 10–11.

46 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

47 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).

48 Presentation by Ecuador, Regional Stakeholder Dialogue, El Salvador, 5-7 May 2026.

49 Updated Work Plan 2022–2025, submitted 18 June 2024, p. 15; and MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, p. 27, Table 7.

50 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 27, Table 7.

51 Ibid., pp. 5 and 33 and Annex 5, pp. 70–73; and National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026–27, Table, pp. 10–11.

Separately, cleared areas in El Oro and Loja remain awaiting formal mine-free declarations, despite having undergone internal and external QC by the UCDH in 2018 (see Table 4).[52] Although Ecuador's 2022 extension request envisaged completing this process that year, the 2025 request postponed completion until the end of 2027 without clearly explaining the continued delay.[53]

Table 4: Areas awaiting official mine-free declaration since 2018[54]

Province	Internal QC (m²)	External QC (m²)	Observations
El Oro	6,427	2,174	Internal and external QC conducted by the UCDH in 2018
Loja	7,963	8,051	Internal and external QC conducted by the UCDH in 2018

The need for such long-standing retrospective external QC and mine-free declarations remains unclear, particularly as Ecuador reports that QA procedures were in place and that no incidents have occurred in cleared areas over the past 25 years.[55] Ecuador has not indicated that the original clearance was conducted to inadequate standards.

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 developed with Peru in 2015. Both are based on the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and adapted to the national context.[56] Land release primarily relies on manual demining using the "one man, one lane" approach, while mine detection dogs (MDDs) are used exclusively for QC.[57] Mechanical clearance is no longer feasible in the remaining dense and mountainous terrain. Ecuador's DOK-ING MV-4 is also non-operational following damage sustained during operations and cannot currently be extracted for repair due to its weight, as no helicopter can support the load.[58]

Ecuador plans to use both non-technical survey (NTS) and technical survey (TS) to determine the location and extent of contamination, drawing on existing records and modern survey technology.[59] Ecuador defines SHAs through NTS, national assessments, or community reports, while CHAs are verified through TS. A defined hazardous area (DHA) refers to an area within a CHA delineated for full clearance.[60] In practice, however, Ecuador does not use TS to reduce hazardous areas. The only reported exception was in 2018, during binational demining with Peru.[61]

External QC and handover procedures are set out in Chapter VII of the Binational Manual.[62] Following demining and internal QC, an external monitoring team conducts a final inspection and reports to CENDESMI, after which the area is formally certified through a declaration signed by the relevant entities.[63] Responsibility for external QC has rested with the UCDH since 2018.[64] However, areas in El Oro and Loja that underwent QC under the UCDH in 2018 have still not received formal mine-free declarations, calling into question the efficiency of the certification and handover process.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Engineer Battalion No. 68 "Cotopaxi" (BE-68) is responsible for demining and EOD across Ecuador. Based in Quito, it had 103 trained deminers as at 2025, down from 140 in 2022.[65] Personnel receive regular training through the Military Engineering School and deploy to regional commands in affected border provinces as required. Demining teams are supported by medical and paramedical personnel, and their equipment is reported to comply with national procedures and IMAS.[66]

Ecuador and Peru have also conducted coordinated binational demining since 2015. These culminated in the completion of clearance of the "Tiwinza square kilometre" in October 2018, an important milestone in bilateral cooperation between the two countries.[67]

52 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.
53 Ibid., p. 8; and 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.
54 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.
55 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form J, p. 24.
56 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10.
57 Ibid.; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 12.
58 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 4; and MoD, Additional information on the 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 4 September 2025, pp. 11–12.
59 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 6 and 31.
60 Ibid., p. 10.
61 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form G, pp. 16-17.
62 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.
63 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 33–34.
64 Ibid., pp. 34–35.
65 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 24–25; and 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26.
66 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.
67 National Humanitarian Demining Plan 2026–2027, p. 6.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

Ecuador did not release any AP mined area or destroy any AP mines in 2025, as funding for demining was reallocated to other national priorities.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR ECUADOR: 1 OCTOBER 1999

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 OCTOBER 2009

↓

FIRST EXTENDED DEADLINE (8 YEARS): 1 OCTOBER 2017

↓

SECOND EXTENDED DEADLINE (3 MONTHS): 31 DECEMBER 2017

↓

THIRD EXTENDED DEADLINE (5 YEARS): 31 DECEMBER 2022

↓

FOURTH EXTENDED DEADLINE (3 YEARS): 31 DECEMBER 2025

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FIFTH EXTENDED DEADLINE (2 YEARS): 31 DECEMBER 2027

ON TRACK TO MEET EXTENDED DEADLINE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the two-year extension granted by States Parties in 2025), 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 2027.

At the Fifth Review Conference in Cambodia in 2024, Ecuador stated that it was on track to meet its then Article 5 deadline. However, the suspension of demining in 2025 led Ecuador to request a further two-year extension, with the national budget originally allocated for 2022–25 extended through 2026–27. Its 2026 Article 7 report indicates that national funding was secured for 2026. While CENDESMI did not attend APMBC meetings or the UN National Director's Meeting in 2025 and did not engage with Mine Action Review, the CEE's participation in the Regional Stakeholder Dialogue in El Salvador in May 2026 provides a positive indication of renewed engagement. At the Dialogue, Ecuador presented plans to clear 4,982m^2 between August and October 2026, as well as to conduct external QC in 13 areas.

With only 9,964m^2 of known AP mined area remaining and planned clearance of half of this area in 2026, Ecuador appears to be on track to meet its extended Article 5 deadline. It is hoped that Ecuador will be among the next States Parties to complete clearance, bringing Latin America closer to becoming a mine-free continent.

Table 5: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (m^2)
2025	0
2024	4,190
2023	10,389
2022	5,096
2021	0
Total	**19,675**

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Ecuador plans to retain national capacity to address residual contamination after fulfilling its Article 5 obligations. Personnel, equipment, and expertise from Engineer Battalion No. 68 would be transferred to army EOD teams to respond to any newly identified mined areas.[68]

In 2025, Ecuador further outlined plans to establish national rapid-response teams to assess and release newly discovered or reclassified hazardous areas, supported by continued technical training and a maintained and updated national mine information system. CENDESMI would retain its coordination role, while cooperation with Peru, the OAS, and other international partners would continue for information exchange, training, equipment, and accreditation. Ecuador also intends to maintain national funding, supplemented by international support, to sustain this residual capacity.[69]

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

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