

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2022

TWO-YEAR INTERIM EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: MASSIVE

(PARTIAL NATIONAL ESTIMATE, BUT LIKELY TO INCLUDE AREAS ONLY CONTAINING EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR)

1.09 KM²

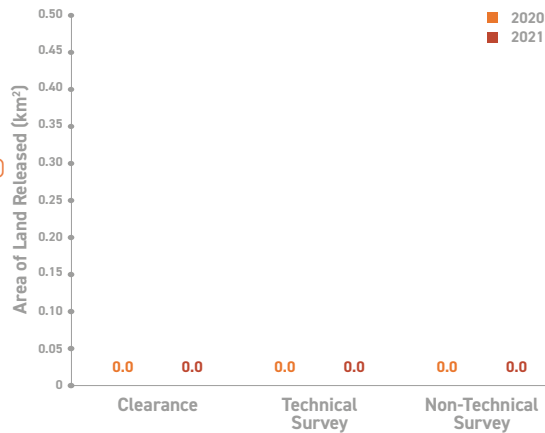
AP MINE CLEARANCE IN 2021

0 M²

AP MINES DESTROYED IN 2021

0

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Having previously declared fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in December 2012, Guinea-Bissau reported in June 2021 at the Intersessional Meetings of the APMBC the discovery of new anti-personnel mine and explosive-remnants of war (ERW) contamination. In the same month, Guinea-Bissau submitted a first interim Article 5 deadline extension request, through to 31 December 2022, which was granted in November 2021 by the 19th Meeting of States Parties (19MSP).

According to the Request, Guinea-Bissau would use the interim period to better understand the contamination, and submit a follow-up request by March 2022. Guinea-Bissau then reported to the APMBC Intersessional Meetings in June 2022 that the lack of resources and international support inhibited progress, and subsequently submitted a second interim Article 5 extension request seeking a new deadline of 31 December 2024, with the aim to submit a third and final extension request by 31 March 2024 for completion. Guinea-Bissau's second extension request, submitted in June 2022, featured a two-year work plan costed at almost US\$5.7 million, most of which will have to come from international assistance.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Guinea-Bissau should mobilise funds and operational support to survey of all hazardous areas, confirm or deny the presence of anti-personnel mines, and more accurately determine the location and extent of contamination.
- Guinea-Bissau should ensure that its national survey clearly disaggregates areas that contain anti-personnel mines from areas containing other explosive ordnance.
- Guinea-Bissau should adopt national mine action standards (NMAS) and ensure they are in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
- Guinea-Bissau should establish a reliable Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).
- Guinea-Bissau should establish a multi-year national mine action strategy.

- Guinea-Bissau should elaborate measurable gender and diversity targets for mine action.
- Guinea-Bissau should establish a sustainable national capacity to address a residual threat from anti-personnel mines following renewed fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2021)	Score (2020)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	4	Not scored	A survey conducted by the national operator (HUMAID) in 2014 revealed a little over 1.09km ² of hazardous area across 9 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and 43 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) whose size had not been determined. In addition to 402,304m ² of contamination across five battle areas. The survey, however, originally generated rough estimates as it was conducted using only non-technical methods and did not demarcate any of the SHAs. Moreover, Guinea-Bissau says that the majority of its contamination is resulting from unexploded ordnance (UXO), and did not specify how much of the contamination is of anti-personnel mines as opposed to other types of explosive ordnance.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	3	Not scored	Guinea-Bissau's National Mine Action Centre (CAAMI)'s activities have been limited since 2012 due to a lack of funding. CAAMI's workforce in 2021 consisted of 17 staff members, some of whom do not receive salaries. CAAMI continues to function at reduced capacity and restricts its activities to dialogue with stakeholders regarding mine action, in addition to quality control of sporadic spot tasks by HUMAID.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	Not scored	The most recent Article 5 deadline extension request states that the proposed action plan follows best practice by promoting gender and diversity inclusivity at all stages of the mine action programme. It also promises that CAAMI will build its own gender and diversity policy and require operators to constitute their operational teams taking into consideration gender and diversity issues. The extension request and work plan do not, however, contain measurable gender and diversity targets.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	3	Not scored	Guinea-Bissau does not have a functioning information management system for mine action, but CAAMI has sought technical support to retrieve data and restore its information management system. Guinea-Bissau's work plan of 2022-24 considers the creation of an information management system as a prerequisite to resuming mine action activities, and has allocated US\$367,000 for that purpose. Guinea-Bissau expected it would take six months to develop a fully functional system. In June 2022, Guinea-Bissau submitted a comprehensive Article 7 report with the support of Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and The HALO Trust.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	6	Not scored	In its extension request of June 2022, Guinea-Bissau submitted a two-year detailed work plan, costed at US\$5,688,000. The work plan aims to conduct a national technical and non-technical survey, and to submit a final extension request for completion of its Article 5 obligations by 31 March 2024.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	3	Not scored	Guinea-Bissau does not have national mine action standards (NMAS) in place, but in its latest Article 5 deadline extension request, it sought US\$112,000 for the development of national standards that are compliant with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	5	Not scored	Guinea-Bissau was granted an interim extension request with a deadline of 31 December 2022, but did not achieve progress during the interim period due to the lack of resources. Guinea-Bissau then submitted a second interim deadline extension request seeking a new deadline of 31 December 2024. Guinea-Bissau has yet to secure funding to be able to advance in its proposed work plan, and aims to submit a final extension request for completion by March 2024.
Average Score	4	Not scored	Overall Programme Performance: POOR

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Commission for Humanitarian Demining (Comissão Nacional de Desminagem Humanitária, CNDH)
- The National Mine Action Coordination Centre – (Centro Nacional de Coordenação da Acção Anti-Minas, CAAMI)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Humanitarian Aid (HUMAID)
- We All Fight Against Mines (Lutamos Todos Contra As Minas, LUTCAM)- (inactive)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- The HALO Trust
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

OTHER ACTORS

- The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Guinea-Bissau declared fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations on 5 December 2012 at the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the APMB, but reported the discovery of new contamination of anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) under its jurisdiction and control at the APMB Intersessional Meetings in June 2021.² Since 2012, a survey conducted by the national non-governmental organization (NGO) Humanitarian Aid (HUMAID) revealed a little over 1.09km² of hazardous area across nine confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and 43 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) whose size had not been determined.³ An additional 402,304m² of contamination was identified across five battle areas as well as three sites of spot tasks. The identified areas are suspected to be contaminated by different types of explosive ordnance, including anti-personnel mines, anti-vehicle mines, and ERW. The HUMAID survey was based on reports by the local populations and used only rough estimates of the extent of contamination and non-technical methods to determine its presence.⁴ It did not delimit the SHAs or disaggregate by type of hazard.

Contamination in Guinea-Bissau is spread mostly across the north, south, and east of the country.⁵ Accidents caused by explosive ordnance have also been reported in sectors where no hazardous areas were identified, which indicates that the contamination data is incomplete, and highlights the need to conduct a comprehensive and evidence-based national survey to confirm the extent and nature of contamination.⁶ It is unclear to what extent—and indeed whether—the hazardous areas contain anti-personnel mines as opposed to other types of explosive ordnance. But according to Guinea-Bissau, the contamination caused by unexploded ordnance (UXOs) is far more widespread than that caused by anti-personnel mines.⁷

In June 2021, Guinea-Bissau submitted an interim Article 5 deadline extension request through to 31 December 2022, which was granted by the 19MSP in November 2021. According to the request, the interim period would allow Guinea-Bissau the opportunity to mobilise national and international resources, investigate the suspected contamination, and better determine the nature and scale of the problem.⁸ Following this work, Guinea-Bissau would be in a position to submit a follow-up extension request by 31 March 2022 for consideration at the Twentieth Meeting of States Parties (20MSP).⁹

Given the lack of financial resources, however, Guinea-Bissau did not achieve the intended progress, but in June 2022, it submitted a second Article 5 extension request seeking a new interim deadline of 31 December 2024. During the period between the two extension requests (June 2021–June 2022), the National Mine Action Coordination Centre (Centro Nacional de Coordenação da Acção Anti-Minas, CAAMI) engaged in dialogue with national and international stakeholders, leading to the identification of five key elements: the widespread explosive ordnance contamination across Guinea-Bissau, which is only partially known and was never systematically assessed; the lack of capacity to demarcate, mark, and remove the threat posed by explosive ordnance, the lack of functional information management system to support mine action; the lack of national mine action standards (NMAS) to frame and improve the safety, quality, and efficiency of mine action; and the current exposure of population to the threat of explosive ordnance.¹⁰

1 Guinea-Bissau declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of the APMB at the 12th Meeting of States Parties (12MSP), Geneva, 3–7 December 2012.

2 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMB Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021, slide 9; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 22 June 2021, pp. 9–12.

3 Ibid.

4 Guinea-Bissau Article 5 deadline Extension Request to the APMB, dated April 2022 but submitted in June 2022, p. 9.

5 Ibid., pp. 9–11.

6 Ibid., pp. 11 and 30–31.

7 Ibid., p. 15.

8 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 22 June 2021, para. 11.

9 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMB Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021, slides 10 and 11.

10 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 3.

According to its latest request, submitted in June 2022, Guinea-Bissau will accomplish the following goals during the new two-year extension period: completion of a national non-technical survey, preparation of resources for spot tasks, technical surveys and clearance, development of a national information management system and national standards in line with international mine action standards (IMAS), resumption of EORE, carrying out emergency spot tasks, preparation of a strategy to address residual risk, and fundraising. The extension request featured a two-year (2022–24) work plan with a planned budget of US\$5,688,000. The work plan aims for Guinea-Bissau to develop and submit a final extension request by 31 March 2024, including a detailed plan for completion of its Article 5 obligations.¹¹

Table 1: Confirmed mined areas (at end of 2021)¹²

Province	Region	Sector	Community	CHA	CHA area (m ²)
North	Cacheu	São Domingos	Djequemondo	1	15,000
North	Gabú	Pitche	Buruntuma	1	116,700
North	Oio	Bissorã	Encheia	1	600,000
North	Oio	Farim	Bricama	1	90,000
North	Oio	Farim	Cuntima	1	50,000
North	Oio	Farim	Demba Dabo	1	51,000
South	Quebo	Empada	Gubia	1	2,345
South	Tombali	Quebo	Imbai-Baila	1	60,000
South	Tombali	Quebo	Medjo	1	108,800
Totals				9	1,093,845

CHA = Confirmed hazardous area

The landmine contamination in Guinea-Bissau dates back to its independence war 1963–74, the 1998–99 civil war, and the four-decade-old Casamance conflict. Landmine and UXO contamination is primarily located in the north and the east of the country around the national borders with Senegal and Guinea. According to Guinea-Bissau, a faction of the Movement of Democratic Forces in Casamance (MDFC) laid both factory-made and improvised anti-personnel mines in 2006 in the northern regions bordering Senegal.¹³ The capital, Bissau, was declared free of landmines in March 2006, following which clearance was extended throughout the country in accordance with a national five-year clearance plan (2004–2009) developed by CAAMI.¹⁴

In its initial APMB Article 7 transparency report submitted in 2002, Guinea-Bissau reported that “an impact survey was to be initially carried out in and around Bissau to assess the anti-personnel mines contamination and respond adequately”.¹⁵ The first coordinated effort to assess landmine and ERW contamination on a national level, however, only took place in 2006–08. During this period, CAAMI conducted a preliminary opinion collection (POC), followed by a landmine impact survey (LIS) conducted by a British NGO, Landmine Action. The LIS covered all but seven of the 278 areas

covered by the POC and identified 12 mined areas in addition to a total impact area of nearly 2.24km².¹⁶

By June 2010, nine mined areas remained to be addressed, in the sectors of São Domingos, Cacheu, Bigene, Oio, Quinara, and Tombali, covering a total of 1.35km². In addition to these areas, there was a requirement to survey additional 29 areas and 16 communities that had not been visited but where contamination was reported by community members or NGOs. In December 2012, Guinea-Bissau declared that it had fulfilled its Article 5 obligations having cleared 50 mined areas containing anti-personnel mines and covering a total of 6.52km², destroying in the process 3,973 anti-personnel mines, 207 anti-vehicle mines, and 309,125 items of UXO.¹⁷ In the same document, Guinea-Bissau stated that “battle area clearance tasks remain, as well as an expected residual contamination, which will be addressed by the CAAMI”.¹⁸

Since its declaration of completion in 2012, Guinea-Bissau has registered a total of 13 accidents, which have claimed 73 victims. It is likely that other accidents occurred without having been recorded in the absence of a formal reporting mechanism and an information management system.¹⁹ In its Article 7 report covering 2021 however, Guinea-Bissau

11 Ibid., pp. 19 and 26.

12 Article 7 report (covering 2021); Form D. The total is reported as 1,093,840m² in the report.

13 Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, p. 2.

14 Article 7 Report (covering 2010), Form C.

15 Article 7 Report (covering November 2001 to April 2002), Form C.

16 Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, pp. 2–4.

17 Ibid.

18 Ibid., p. 5.

19 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 7 and 12.

reports having recorded 1,500 incidents caused by explosive ordnance.²⁰ The continued casualties led CAAMI to task the local NGO, HUMAID, to conduct additional survey in 2014,²¹ the results of which are indicated above. The last reported incident involving EO occurred in January 2021 in Buruntuma, Gabú region, where two children were killed and another four injured as a result of the explosion of a hand grenade.²²

In its statement to the Fourth Review Conference of the APMBBC in November 2019, Guinea-Bissau reported that, as at the end of 2019, 0.56km² of ERW contamination remained to be cleared along with almost 1km² still needing to be surveyed in its northern, southern, and eastern regions.²³ In its Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 7 report covering 2019, Guinea-Bissau stated that it had cleared all its cluster munition contamination before entry into force of the CCM.²⁴

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

CAAMI was established in March 2001 in accordance with the decree of Council of Ministers (Decree 4/2001-17). In addition, the National Commission for Humanitarian Demining (Comissão Nacional de Desminagem Humánitaria, CNDH) was created to serve as a steering committee appointed by the Government. Under the aegis of State Secretary of Veteran Affairs and the CNDH, CAAMI functions as the policy setting and coordination body. It plans, coordinates, and supervises all mine action activities, and mobilises resources necessary for the implementation of the national humanitarian mine action programme (PAAMI).²⁵ CAAMI's activities have been limited since 2012 due to a lack of funding.²⁶ CAAMI, however, reports that it maintains a good human resources capacity.²⁷ As at April 2022, CAAMI had 17 staff members: 12 men and 5 women, but some of its staff members were not receiving salaries.²⁸

Since 2000 and until the declaration of Article 5 completion in 2012, CAAMI received technical and financial support from many organisations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).²⁹ In the course of 2021–22, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), HALO Trust, and Humanity and Inclusion (HI) also provided support, notably in the preparation of Guinea-Bissau's Article 5 deadline extension request.³⁰

Since 2012, the government of Guinea-Bissau has provided an annual contribution of approximately US\$40,000 to support the functioning of CAAMI by providing premises, running

costs, salaries of some staff members, and a few spot clearance tasks. No financial support has been provided for field operations. CAAMI has continued to undertake quality control activities on the punctual clearance and spot task operations by HUMAID and the cleaning of the accident and victim data without contributions from international donors or organisations. According to Guinea-Bissau's latest Article 5 deadline extension request, the lack of resources has affected CAAMI's capacity to carry out its mandate to conduct EORE, survey, and clearance. It also affected other key areas such as information management, representation, and fundraising. Over the last ten years, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) funded some tasks carried out by the national NGO HUMAID.³¹

In the second half of 2022, MAG secured funding from Norway for capacity development in Guinea-Bissau, including conducting a capacity and needs assessment, review of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and training in information management, a review of the NMAS, support for the development of an accreditation process, as well as some support for non-technical survey and EORE.³²

The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the APMBBC has supported Guinea-Bissau with its resource mobilisation, as well as in organising a national dialogue on victims and persons with disability in January 2022.³³

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

It is not known how, if at all, the environment is taken into consideration during planning and tasking of survey and clearance of mines in Guinea-Bissau in order to minimise potential harm from clearance.

20 Article 7 report to the APMBBC (covering 2021), Form H.

21 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

22 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBBC Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021, slide 8.

23 Statement of Guinea-Bissau, Fourth APMBBC Review Conference, Oslo, 25–29 November 2019.

24 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2019).

25 APMBBC Article 7 Report (covering 2010), Form A.

26 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

27 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBBC Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021, slide 12.

28 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 12–14.

29 Article 7 Report (covering 2010), Form A.

30 Presentation of CAAMI to the APMBBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

31 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

32 Email from Roxana Bobolicu, MAG, 29 September 2022.

33 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request pp. 8 and 23.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

CAAMI's most recent Article 5 deadline extension request states that the proposed action plan follows best practices by promoting gender and diversity inclusion at all stages of its programme. It also mentions that "EORE activities and tools will also be tailored taking into account gender and diversity aspects, as well as the at-risk groups", and that CAAMI will seek to build its own gender and diversity policy, and "will require operators to constitute their operational teams taking into consideration matters related to gender and diversity."³⁴ Guinea-Bissau's Extension Request and work plan, however, do not contain any measurable gender and diversity targets. In 2021, 29% of CAAMI's staff members were women.³⁵

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Guinea-Bissau considers that a functional information management system as a prerequisite to resuming its mine action activities.³⁶ In 2001–12, CAAMI used the IMSMA Version 5 with the support of GICHD, but since the declaration of completion in 2012, the physical server was no longer in use. During the first quarter of 2022, with the support of MAG, CAAMI sought qualified technicians to retrieve and back-up the data but could not find the needed qualification locally. According to Guinea-Bissau, owing to the sensitive nature of the national contamination, if the search of locally qualified technician does not yield, CAAMI will consider retrieval and filing of paper archives in the second quarter of 2022 in anticipation of further manual integration of historical data into the newly developed information management system.³⁷ As of writing, it is not known if this has indeed happened.

According to Guinea-Bissau's latest extension request, submitted in June 2022, the first step to establishing an information management system is to define the best option in terms of quality, efficiency, sustainability, and national ownership. CAAMI intends to develop a monitoring and evaluation plan for the information management system to respond to operational and strategic needs in terms of data and information.³⁸ Guinea-Bissau expected that the development of a fully functional system covering all components of the mine action programme could take an initial six months. Afterwards, additional components could be added and maintenance done.³⁹ In its planned 2022–24 budget, CAAMI has allocated US\$367,000 for the development of an information management system.⁴⁰

Since its declaration of completion in 2012, Guinea-Bissau submitted a comprehensive Article 7 report to the APMBC in 2022, albeit two months past the April 2022 deadline.

PLANNING AND TASKING

In its extension request of June 2022, Guinea-Bissau submitted a detailed two-year action plan that comprises 11 objectives over the course of 2022–24 as follows.

In 2022: development of an information management system; development of IMAS-compliant national standards; preparation for non-technical survey; preparation for technical survey, marking, and clearance; resumption of EORE; and mobilisation of financial resources.

In 2023–24: implementation of a national non-technical survey; emergency spot task clearance and marking; continuation of EORE; capacity building of CAAMI and national operators; and definition of residual risk management strategy.⁴¹

The action plan is costed at US\$5,688,000, but funds to set this plan in motion are yet to be secured. Guinea-Bissau noted the importance of funding as a prerequisite for the preparatory activities, as well as the "qualitative and efficient" roll-out of its action plan.⁴² The HALO Trust noted that operators have supported CAAMI with their planning and extension, but also noted that organisations' support remains limited in the absence of international funding.⁴³ In addition to supporting the elaboration of Guinea-Bissau's extension request, MAG also supported Guinea-Bissau's attendance at the APMBC intersessional meetings and the individualised approach meeting. As previously mentioned, MAG has secured funding from Norway for capacity development in Guinea-Bissau.⁴⁴

34 Ibid., pp. 16, 22, and 24.

35 Ibid., pp. 12–14.

36 Ibid., p. 9.

37 Ibid., p. 10.

38 Ibid., p. 20.

39 Ibid., p. 20.

40 Ibid., p. 26.

41 Ibid., p. 19.

42 Ibid., p. 26.

43 Statement of HALO Trust on Guinea-Bissau's presentation of its Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Intersessional meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

44 Email from Roxana Bobolicu, MAG, 29 September 2022.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Guinea-Bissau does not have NMAS, but considers the establishment of IMAS-compliant national standards as a prerequisite to the resumption of mine action activities, ensuring safety, quality, and efficiency.⁴⁵ Guinea-Bissau sought US\$112,000 for the development of NMAS.⁴⁶

The 2022–24 work plan foresees the establishment of a working group to follow the development and review of NMAS by a panel of national and international actors, for which, CAAMI will seek the support of an experienced international consultant. The first task is to define the priority standards to develop, followed by the planning, writing, review, and finalisation of the national standard(s), for subsequent adoption by operators.⁴⁷

According to Guinea-Bissau's declaration of completion in 2012, all clearance work had been conducted in accordance with IMAS. Technical and non-technical surveys were only applied in 2010; prior to this, land was released solely through clearance.⁴⁸

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

CAAMI's activities have been largely restricted since 2012 due to a lack of funding.⁴⁹ CAAMI's capacity as at April 2022 was 17 staff members.⁵⁰

HALO Trust has been operating in Guinea-Bissau since November 2017. It is implementing a Weapons and Ammunition Safety Programme in support of the armed forces of Guinea-Bissau. HALO constructed a secure storage facility for serviceable ammunition and has been working alongside the Guinea-Bissau armed forces to carry out the cutting, burning, and demolition of obsolete weapons and ammunition. HALO has also been providing training in ammunition storekeeping, store management, and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) in the north-east region of Gabú.⁵¹ At the request of CAAMI, The HALO Trust organised a visit in March 2022 to assess the state of contamination in some villages.⁵²

HUMAID is a national demining NGO that has been active since 2000. HUMAID receives reports of incidents and victims reported by communities and, when financially possible, makes field visits to verify the information. HUMAID has also conducted some demining and spot task operations with the support of UNOPS. HUMAID's capacity consists of more than 20 deminers formerly trained at different EOD levels and functions, that can be mobilised upon request. HUMAID has one vehicle, an ambulance, one global positioning system (GPS), 13 detectors, personal protective equipment, and destruction equipment. However, the equipment is old and

requires maintenance or replacement.⁵³ In 2014, HUMAID conducted the assessment survey of the newly discovered anti-personnel mine and ERW contamination.⁵⁴ The other national operator, Lutamos Todos Contra As Minas (LUTCAM), is no longer active in Guinea-Bissau, but CAAMI considers to either reactivate it or integrate former LUTCAM staff into HUMAID as means to increase national capacities.⁵⁵

HI has been working in Guinea-Bissau since 2000, but suspended its operations from 2008–14, due to the political unrest and security risks, then resumed working in 2015.⁵⁶ As present, HI is not directly engaged in mine action activities.

Since 2021, MAG has supported CAAMI in identifying challenges, opportunities, and resources needed for the resumption of mine action activities, as well as in a preliminary diagnostic in terms of information management. For this purpose, MAG has been coordinating with the GICHD, which has supported CAAMI in the use of IMSMA in 2001–12.⁵⁷

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) was present in Guinea-Bissau until 2012 conducting survey and clearance.⁵⁸ NPA also conducted a national survey of mine and UXO contamination, working in partnership with LUTCAM, which was active at the time.⁵⁹ During the first quarter of 2012, NPA conducted mainly EOD spot tasks and, despite concerns of possible residual contamination, it eventually closed the programme in 2012 due to the lack of evidence of additional anti-personnel mine contamination.⁶⁰

45 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D.

46 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26, and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D.

47 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 20; and Article 7 Report to the APMBC (covering 2021), Form D.

48 Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, p. 4.

49 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

50 *Ibid.*, pp. 12–14.

51 Email from James Scott, HALO Trust, 9 August 2021.

52 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

53 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 15.

54 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau to the APMBC Intersessional Meetings, online, 22–24 June 2021, slide 9; and 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

55 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

56 HI website, accessed on 7 August 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3vLIJ3k>.

57 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

58 Email from Hans Risser, NPA, 10 August 2021.

59 Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, pp. 3–4.

60 Email from Hans Risser, NPA, 10 August 2021.

Prior to Guinea-Bissau's declaration of fulfilment of Article 5 obligations in 2012, all mine clearance had been conducted manually with deminers equipped with metal detectors and excavation tools.⁶¹ Several organisations conducted clearance in conjunction with the national operators HUMAID and LUTCAM, including, HI,⁶² Landmine Action,⁶³ NPA,⁶⁴ and a British NGO: Clear Ground Demining.⁶⁵

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2021

No mined area was reported to have been released in Guinea-Bissau in 2021. HALO Trust destroyed five unused PRB M409 anti-personnel mines from a military ammunition storage in February 2021.⁶⁶

SURVEY IN 2021

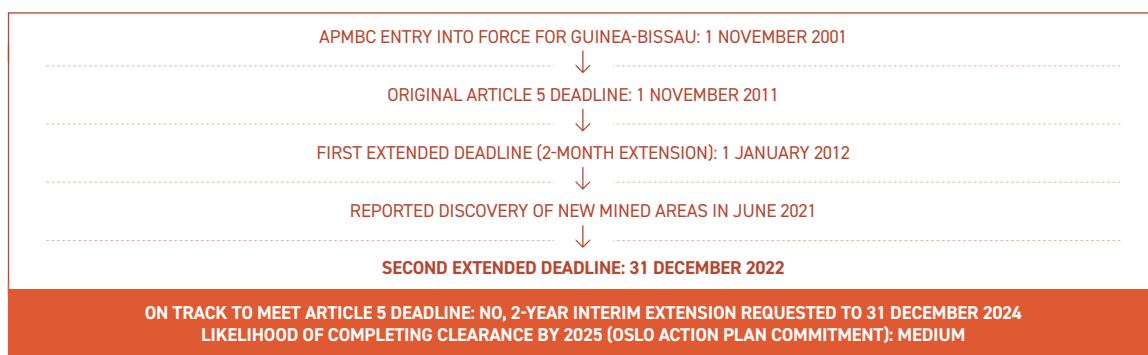
There were no reports of any survey of mined areas in Guinea-Bissau in 2021.

CLEARANCE IN 2021

There was no clearance of mined areas in Guinea-Bissau in 2021.

HALO Trust destroyed five PRB M409 anti-personnel mines from a military ammunition storage area and reports that other stockpiled mines were left at locations around Guinea-Bissau as of February 2021.⁶⁷ Guinea-Bissau's deadline for stockpile destruction expired on 1 November 2005.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Guinea-Bissau is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2022. Guinea-Bissau will not meet this deadline and has sought a further two-year interim extension.

Guinea-Bissau's original Article 5 deadline of 1 November 2011 was previously extended for two months. Guinea-Bissau had declared fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations at the 12th MSP in December 2012, but in June 2021, reported at the APMBC Intersessional Meetings the discovery of 1.09km² of CHA and 43 SHAs of an unknown size containing anti-personnel mine and ERW contamination. Guinea-Bissau did not specify what proportion of contamination was believed to contain anti-personnel mines, as opposed to other types of explosive ordnance.

In June 2021, Guinea-Bissau submitted an interim extension request through to 31 December 2022, which was granted at the 19MSP in November 2021. Guinea-Bissau said it would use the interim period to further investigate the contamination and mobilise the necessary resources in order to be in a better position to submit a follow-up extension request by 31 March

⁶¹ Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, p. 4.

⁶² 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

⁶³ Email from James Scott, HALO Trust, 9 August 2021.

⁶⁴ Email from Hans Risser, NPA, 10 August 2021.

⁶⁵ Article 7 Report (covering November 2001 to April 2002), Form C.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

2022.⁶⁸ Due to the lack of resources, however, little progress has been achieved during the interim period, and Guinea-Bissau submitted a second interim Article 5 deadline extension request in June 2022, through to 31 December 2024, for consideration at the 20MSP.

The latest interim extension request featured a detailed work plan that aims to complete a national non-technical survey to better understand the contamination, develop NMAS and information management system; resume EORE activities; prepare resources for spot tasks, technical survey, and the clearance; and lay out a strategy of management of residual risk, with a view of submitting a final extension request by 31 March 2024, with a detailed plan for completion of its Article 5 obligations.⁶⁹

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

In its declaration of completion of Article 5 obligations under the APMB in 2012, Guinea-Bissau stated that “battle area clearance tasks remain, as well as an expected residual contamination, which will be addressed by the CAAMI”.⁷⁰ Guinea-Bissau also stated that, in the event of discovery of new previously unknown mined areas, it would report in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 of the Convention, ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, and destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines as a matter of urgent priority, making its need of assistance known to other States Parties as appropriate.⁷¹

In its extension request submitted in June 2022, Guinea-Bissau stated that it “will work on defining a national strategy for the residual risk management and on strengthening national capacities for its conduct”. Guinea-Bissau also said that “the results of the national survey and subsequent clearance will be critical to further ensure the establishment of an appropriate sustainable demining capacity to address any contamination identified following completion”.⁷² In its presentation to the Intersessional Meetings in June 2022, Guinea-Bissau identified the reinforcement of national capacities and the national strategy for the residual risk management as two main challenges.⁷³

MAG endorsed the importance for Guinea-Bissau to establish sustainable national capacities to address mined areas discovered after completion, and to manage remaining contamination from other explosive ordnance. In June 2022, MAG also stated in the Intersessional Meetings that it was working with Guinea-Bissau and national implementing partners to ensure a more sustainable approach to completion.⁷⁴

68 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 22 June 2021, paras. 10–11.

69 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 19.

70 Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, p. 5.

71 *Ibid.*, pp. 4–5.

72 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.

73 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau to the APMB Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022, slide 12.

74 Statement of MAG to the APMB Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.