

## KEY DATA

### ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2027

Not on track to meet deadline

### AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

1.1KM<sup>2</sup>

Light

(partial national estimate, but includes areas containing only UXO)

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (m <sup>2</sup> )	Release in 2023 (m <sup>2</sup> )
Clearance	0	0
Technical Survey	44,234	0
Non-Technical Survey	5 SHAs cancelled (no initial estimate of area)	0
<b>Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
AP Mines destroyed	2	1 (spot task)

### MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Humanitarian Aid (HUMAID)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- National Association for Local and Urban Development (NADEL)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

After a decade-long suspension, mine action operations resumed in 2023 and continued into 2024, focusing on survey and spot task destruction of explosive ordnance, including two anti-personnel (AP) mines. However, owing to a lack of sustained funding, and despite confirmation that two of the nine confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) contain AP mines, technical survey (TS) and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) ended in July 2024, followed by the suspension of non-technical survey (NTS) in December.

On 19 April 2024, Guinea-Bissau requested a new deadline of 31 December 2027 to meet its Article 5 clearance obligation under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). The three-year extension was granted at the Fifth Review Conference in November 2024. The accompanying work plan aimed to complete national NTS by end 2026, with TS and clearance to follow. The extension period is also intended to develop a sustainable national capacity for survey and clearance, along with a strategy to address residual threats post-completion.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Guinea-Bissau should pursue resource mobilisation efforts, both nationally and internationally, to maintain operational momentum and avoid setbacks in 2025.
- The government should allocate consistent annual funding to the National Mine Action Coordination Centre (CAAMI) to ensure institutional continuity and avoid operational disruption.
- Guinea-Bissau should continue with survey to gain a clearer understanding of the nature and extent of the contamination. Preliminary findings suggest that AP mined areas may be few in number and extent, while explosive remnants of war (ERW) are more widespread.

- Guinea-Bissau should urgently conduct TS in all new areas identified through NTS in 2024.
- Guinea-Bissau should develop a residual risk management strategy and ensure that national capacities are adequately resources to address these risks in a sustainable manner.
- Guinea-Bissau should ensure that Article 7 reports provide comprehensive data on AP mined areas cancelled by NTS, reduced by TS, and cleared, specifying the number of AP mines destroyed.

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	6	6	In 2024, NTS and TS activities resumed. By the end of the year, Guinea-Bissau had nine confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), including two reduced during the year, covering just over 1km <sup>2</sup> . Of the 43 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs), 5 were cancelled through NTS, while 13 were newly identified in the Oio and Cacheu regions in 2024, bringing the total to 51 SHAs: 13 areas covering 145,218m <sup>2</sup> and 38 whose size remains to be determined. Further survey is required to clarify the extent of AP mined area as opposed to areas with explosive remnants of war (ERW).
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	5	5	CAAMI's capacity to coordinate, plan, and prioritise mine action activities remains limited. With funding from Norway and the Netherlands and support from Mines Advisory Group (MAG), CAAMI was reactivated and led the resumption of mine action in 2023–24. However, with the end of this support and MAG's departure in January 2025, CAAMI faces potential suspension, especially as it remains outside the national budget.
<b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b> (10% of overall score)	5	5	The 2024 extension request emphasised gender and diversity inclusion throughout the mine action programme. NTS conducted during the year was conducted by a gender-balanced team. However, no women currently have EOD qualifications.
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION</b> (10% of overall score)	2	2	Guinea-Bissau has no specific standards or policies on environmental protection in mine action. These considerations are missing from official documents, including the 2024 extension request and the latest Article 7 report covering 2024.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	3	4	Due to limited internal capacity and technical resources, CAAMI is unable to deploy the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMMSA) or manage a comparable database system. In 2023 and 2024, data from MAG-supported operations was managed using Microsoft Excel.
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	7	7	Guinea-Bissau does not have a national strategy, but its fourth deadline extension request included a detailed 2025–27 work plan, though implementation is contingent on securing funding. In 2024, HUMAID's tasking for TS and spot tasks and NADEL's tasking for NTS were jointly defined with operators.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b> (10% of overall score)	7	7	In 2024, national mine action standards (developed with the support of MAG in 2023) were partly reviewed by operators. They were approved by the national mine action authority overseeing CAAMI in October.
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	6	6	In 2024, Guinea-Bissau submitted its fourth Article 5 deadline extension request, which was approved at the Fifth Review Conference. However, with financial and technical support ending in late 2024, no funding has been secured to implement the 2025–27 action plan. The absence of government support further threatens the mine action programme.
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE</b>

## AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Council for Humanitarian Demining (Concelho Nacional de Desminagem Humánitaria, CNDH)
- The National Mine Action Coordination Centre (Centro Nacional de Coordenação da Acção Anti-Minas, CAAMI)

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Humanitarian Aid (HUMAID)
- National Association for Local and Urban Development (NADEL) (NTS and risk education only)

**INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS**

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

**OTHER ACTORS**

- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The extent of mined area in Guinea-Bissau remains only partially known. While it is believed to be light, mapping of both historical and recent evidence indicates that it is dispersed across much of the national territory. A comprehensive nationwide NTS is needed to clearly determine the extent of the threat posed by AP mines as opposed to ERW, which are thought to be more widespread.<sup>1</sup>

As at the end of 2024, Guinea-Bissau recorded nine CHAs across five regions, covering a total of 1,049,611m<sup>2</sup> (see Table 1). This includes two CHAs where AP mines were found in the Quebo sector, Tombali region in the South, which were re-surveyed in 2024 by HUMAID and Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and their sizes slightly reduced. HUMAID identified the remaining seven CHAs, covering 925,045m<sup>2</sup>, in 2014 but they still require survey.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 1: Confirmed mined areas (at end 2024)<sup>3</sup>**

Province	Region	Sector	Community	CHAs	CHA areas (m <sup>2</sup> )	Year of latest survey
North	Cacheu	São Domingos	Djequemondo	1	15,000	2014
North	Gabú	Pithe	Buruntuma	1	116,700	2014
North	Oio	Bissorā	Encheia	1	600,000	2014
North	Oio	Farim	Bricama	1	90,000	2014
North	Oio	Farim	Cuntima	1	50,000	2014
North	Oio	Farim	Demba Dabo	1	51,000	2014
South	Quinara	Empada	Gubia	1	2,345	2014
South	Tombali	Quebo	Imbai-Baila	1	*50,757	2024
South	Tombali	Quebo	Medjo	1	*73,809	2024
<b>Totals</b>				<b>9</b>	<b>1,049,611</b>	

\*Imbai-Baila was reduced from 60,000m<sup>2</sup> and Medjo from 108,800m<sup>2</sup> following TS by HUMAID and MAG in 2024.

Guinea-Bissau also recorded 51 SHAs at the end of 2024, following the addition of 13 new SHAs in 2024 identified after NTS conducted by the National Association for Local and Urban Development (NADEL) in collaboration with MAG. These new SHAs are estimated to cover 145,218m<sup>2</sup> (see Table 2).<sup>4</sup> The remaining 43 SHAs were originally identified by HUMAID in 2014, with their size unknown. In 2024, five were cancelled following NTS, leaving 38 SHAs whose size remains to be determined.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 2: Suspected mined areas identified by NADEL and MAG in 2024<sup>6</sup>**

Province	Region	Sector	Community	SHAs	SHA areas (m <sup>2</sup> )
North	Cacheu	Sao Domingos	Badigue	1	3
North	Cacheu	Sao Domingos	Barraca Mandioca	1	15,084
North	Cacheu	Sao Domingos	Bunhaque	1	41,836
North	Cacheu	Sao Domingos	Jegue	1	5,604

1 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 13; and APMBC Individualised Approach, Intersessional Meetings, 18 June 2025, p. 2.

2 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 3.

3 Ibid., Tables 2 and 3, p. 3; and email from Nautan Mancabu, National Director, CAAMI, 6 September 2025.

4 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, Regional Program Manager, West Africa, MAG, 25 April 2025; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 4–5.

5 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 5–6.

6 Ibid; and email from François Fall, HMA Advisor for West Africa, MAG, 30 August 2025.

Table 2 Continued

Province	Region	Sector	Community	SHAs	SHA areas (m <sup>2</sup> )
North	Cacheu	Sao Domingos	Ondongol	1	19
North	Oio	Farim	Canjanco	1	155
North	Oio	Farim	Dutato	1	8,179
North	Oio	Farim	Faquina Mandinga	1	139
North	Oio	Farim	Faquina Mandinga	1	32
North	Oio	Farim	Jumbembem	1	44,729
North	Oio	Farim	Lenquebato	1	21,454
North	Oio	Farim	Lenquebato	1	7,969
North	Oio	Farim	Ponta Duarte	1	15
<b>Totals</b>				<b>13</b>	<b>145,218</b>

The Article 7 report covering 2024 (pp. 4–5) has duplications, with Bunhaque and Canjanco areas counted twice. The number of SHAs is likely lower as several (Badigue, Ponta Duarte, and Ondongol) may be spot tasks considering their small size.

Between 2006 and 2011, Guinea-Bissau undertook several nationwide initiatives to assess mines and ERW,<sup>7</sup> culminating in a declaration of Article 5 completion in 2012 after clearing 50 mined areas (6.52 km<sup>2</sup>) and destroying thousands of explosive devices.<sup>8</sup> However, subsequent incidents involving explosive ordnance—13 between 2012 and 2021, resulting in 73 deaths<sup>9</sup>—revealed that contamination persisted. In response, CAAMI tasked HUMAID to conduct a survey in 2014 that identified 1.09km<sup>2</sup> of contamination in CHAs and a further 43 SHAs in six regions.<sup>10</sup> This survey relied on community reports, lacked precise delimitation, and did not distinguish between types of threats. The presence of accidents in areas not previously marked as hazardous underscored the incompleteness of existing data and the urgent need for an evidence-based national survey.<sup>11</sup>

In June 2021, Guinea-Bissau officially informed States Parties at the Intersessional Meetings of the discovery of previously unknown mined areas.<sup>12</sup> Since then, the director of CAAMI appointed that year has worked closely with MAG, with three Article 5 deadline extension requests submitted and international funding sought to enable a national NTS. This survey finally began in 2024.

Mine contamination in Guinea-Bissau is a legacy of the independence war in 1963–74. More mines were laid during the 1998–99 civil war and then in the context of the Casamance conflict in neighbouring Senegal in 2006. Landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) were found primarily in the north and east, close to the borders with Senegal and Guinea (Conakry). According to Guinea-Bissau, a faction of the Movement of Democratic Forces in Casamance (MDFC) laid both factory-made and improvised AP mines in 2006 in the northern regions bordering Senegal.<sup>13</sup>

## OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

According to the national authorities, ERW are significantly more widespread than AP mines. However, the extent to which identified hazardous areas contain AP mines as opposed to other types of ordnance remains unclear.<sup>14</sup> Guinea-Bissau informed a meeting convened under the APMBC Individualised Approach in Geneva in June 2025 that a detonation of an ERW in March 2025 killed two children and injured a third.<sup>15</sup>

At the end of 2024, Guinea-Bissau recorded four battle areas totalling 402,304m<sup>2</sup>. This reflects a decrease in the reported

extent following battle area clearance (BAC) of 57,257m<sup>2</sup> at the Ilonde site in the Cacheu region (North province) between 2023 and 2024.<sup>16</sup> In 2024, 17 new alerts were reported as a result of NTS and awareness-raising efforts. The reporting mechanism established by CAAMI had already recorded 25 alerts between 2021 and 2023. The presence of explosive devices in these areas still needs to be confirmed through site visits. CAAMI lacks resources to maintain an operational explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team capable of responding to alerts.<sup>17</sup>

7 Article 7 Report (covering 2010–11), Form C.

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

9 Article 7 Report (covering 2022); Form H; 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 14.

10 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBC Individualised Approach, Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021; and 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 9–12.

11 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 11 and 30–31; and APMBC Individualised Approach, Intersessional Meetings, 22 June 2022, p. 5.

12 Statement of Guinea-Bissau on Article 5, Individualised Approach, Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021.

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

14 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 15; and 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10.

15 Individualised Approach, Intersessional Meetings, 18 June 2025; and email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 6 September 2025.

16 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 6 and 7.

17 Ibid., pp. 7 and 8.

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Guinea-Bissau has a national authority overseeing mine action—the National Council for Humanitarian Demining (CNDH)—and a national centre, CAAMI, which coordinates mine action at operational level. Both were established on 1 July 2002 following adherence of Guinea-Bissau to the APMBC, but remained mostly inactive between 2012 (after the declaration of completion of Article 5) and 2022, when international support was renewed.<sup>18</sup>

The role and functioning of the CNDH were originally defined in its founding decree issued in September 2001. It is responsible for setting the national mine action strategy and overseeing CAAMI. It comprises representatives from various ministries and is chaired by the Minister of Combatants for the Liberation of the Fatherland (Ministère des Combattants de la Liberté et de la Patrie).<sup>19</sup> Although mandated to meet quarterly, the CNDH convened only once in 2023, its first meeting since 2012.<sup>20</sup> In October 2024, a session was held, which was chaired by the Minister and co-chaired by the Deputy Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Guinea-Bissau. During this meeting, 13 national mine action standards were approved.<sup>21</sup>

The CAAMI had a staff of 16, of whom five were women, as at April 2024. It is organised in three departments: support, operations, and risk education. Its role involves planning, coordination of all mine action activities, resource mobilisation, and reporting. It is also in charge of quality control (QC) and land release to communities.<sup>22</sup> As in previous years, no specific funding was allocated by the government to CAAMI in 2024. CAAMI does not appear in the State's annual budget. However, several CAAMI staff members are government officials seconded from their respective ministries, which continue to cover their salaries. Additionally, CAAMI's offices are provided by the State free of charge.<sup>23</sup>

Between 2022 and 2024, thanks to financial support from Norway and the Netherlands, MAG has supported CAAMI's operations through monthly contributions to cover certain expenses. This support primarily covered costs related to internet connectivity, fuel supplies, and essential office consumables.<sup>24</sup> MAG elaborated a capacity-building plan for CAAMI in 2023 that included support for the establishment of a suitable information management system, the development of the national mine action standards (NMAS), and broader support to help reactivate operations through training, partnering with national operators, and supporting a national resource mobilisation strategy and reporting.<sup>25</sup> In 2024, a series of training sessions were organised on disarmament treaties (CCW, APMBC, and CCM) with a particular focus

on the structure, mechanisms, and obligations under the APMBC. The session also included awareness-raising on the NMAS. Additional training covered the structuring of a national humanitarian demining programme in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) 02.10. Support was also provided to the Director of CAAMI in drafting official reports, such as the 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request and Article 7 reports. Capacity-building efforts were undertaken to enhance CAAMI's international representation.<sup>26</sup>

Since the departure of MAG in January 2025, it has been unclear how CAAMI and national operators will continue to operate. An Individualised Approach was held on the margins of the APMBC Intersessional Meetings in Geneva in June 2025, during which the Minister pledged to allocate US\$100,000 to CAAMI to support the implementation of its 2025–27 action plan. By early September 2025, however, CAAMI had still not received confirmation of this commitment.<sup>27</sup> UNDP reported receiving a request from the Minister to support the development of a national mine action strategy, an action plan, and a resource mobilisation strategy. Meanwhile, The HALO Trust—active in the country for several years during which time it focused on weapons and ammunition management—reported providing regular training to defence and security forces.<sup>28</sup>

The operating environment for mine action is generally permissive in Guinea-Bissau. There are no obstacles to obtaining visas for international staff. The main challenge lies in securing customs-duty exemptions for equipment imported for humanitarian work. Despite sustained efforts and the support of CAAMI and its supervising ministry, exemption certificates have not been granted by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Finance. This appears to be linked to past instances of abuse, where entities misrepresented themselves as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in order to obtain tax exemptions. In response, authorities have adopted a more restrictive approach, suspending exemptions for all organisations, including duly registered NGOs. Consequently, operators are required to cover customs clearance costs to ensure the timely delivery of essential equipment.<sup>29</sup>

No formal mine action working group is in place, although CAAMI has organised ad hoc meetings with stakeholders to address specific topics, such as the development of the NMAS in 2023–24.<sup>30</sup>

18 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 14.

19 Ibid.

20 Ibid.

21 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 2.

22 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 14.

23 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 25 April 2025.

24 Ibid.

25 Email from François Fall, MAG, 7 May 2024.

26 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 25 April 2025.

27 Email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 6 September 2025.

28 Individualised Approach, Intersessional Meetings, 18 June 2025.

29 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 25 April 2025.

30 Ibid.

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Guinea-Bissau's 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request and work plan do not contain any measurable gender and diversity targets.<sup>31</sup> In its proposed action plan for 2025–27, however, the authorities claim to follow best practice by promoting gender and diversity inclusion in the programme.<sup>32</sup>

As at April 2024, five of the 16 CAAMI staff (31%) were women (see Table 3).<sup>33</sup> NADEL, which conducted community liaison, NTS, and risk education, had twelve staff in 2024 with a balanced gender composition among the NTS team.<sup>34</sup> Its risk education tools were updated to address gender and

diversity considerations as well as particular at-risk groups.<sup>35</sup> HUMAID's staff, however, was exclusively male, and no EOD expertise existed among women.<sup>36</sup>

CAAMI does not have a designated gender focal point. Gender-related initiatives in 2024 included MAG's West Africa programme, which introduced a breastfeeding support policy. This enabled a community liaison supervisor from Guinea-Bissau—previously unable to attend due to maternity leave—to participate in a 2024 training in Mauritania, accompanied by her baby and a caregiver.<sup>37</sup>

Table 3: Gender composition of CAAMI and operators in 2024<sup>38</sup>

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
CAAMI	16	5 (31%)	5	2 (40%)	3	0 (0%)
HUMAID	12	0 (0%)	3	0 (0%)	6	0 (0%)
MAG	7	2 (29%)	2	1 (50%)	4	1 (25%)
NADEL	12	4 (33%)	4	0 (0%)	8	4 (50%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>11 (23%)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3 (21%)</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5 (24%)</b>

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Guinea-Bissau currently lacks specific standards or policies addressing environmental protection in the context of mine action. Environmental considerations are also absent from official documents, including the most recent extension request submitted in 2024.<sup>39</sup> Environmental policy should include a description of how environmental considerations will be addressed during planning and tasking of survey and clearance in order to minimise potential harm from land release activities. In 2024, MAG did not have a policy or standing operating procedure (SOPs) on environmental management for Guinea-Bissau.<sup>40</sup>

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Between 2001 and 2012, CAAMI operated the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Version 5 with support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). Following the 2012 declaration of completion, however, the physical server was no longer in use.<sup>41</sup> In 2023, MAG attempted to restore CAAMI's digital archives from 2001–12 but was unsuccessful, leaving only the physical records.<sup>42</sup> Although the GICHD conducted an assessment in 2022, no decision has been taken regarding the potential re-deployment of IMSMA.<sup>43</sup>

Due to a lack of internal capacity and technical resources, MAG concluded that CAAMI is unable to deploy IMSMA or manage a similarly advanced database system. Data from MAG-supported operations in 2023 and 2024 were managed on Microsoft Excel databases. To strengthen data quality and information management, MAG deployed its OMIS system, which is designed specifically for data collection, archiving, dissemination, and quality assurance (QA). While some forms were still completed manually and later digitised, several key improvements were made in 2024. These included the standardised revision and translation of data collection

31 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 21–25.

32 Ibid., p. 17.

33 Ibid., p. 14.

34 Ibid., p. 22.

35 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 7.

36 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 25 April 2025.

37 Ibid.

38 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 14; online interview with Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 3 September 2025; and email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 6 September 2025.

39 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 18.

40 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 25 April 2025.

41 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10; and email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 28 March 2023.

42 Email from François Fall, MAG, 7 May 2024.

43 Ibid.

forms; CAAMI's active role in identifying priority data to be extracted in collaboration with field operators; and the establishment of a system for timely data extraction based on predefined schedules. Data collection forms covering risk education, NTS, TS, spot tasks, and BAC were developed jointly by MAG and CAAMI.<sup>44</sup>

Guinea-Bissau's 2024 extension request highlighted that a functional information management system is an essential component of its mine action strategy.<sup>45</sup> The first step set in the 2024–27 work plan was to define a suitable system. Should IMSMA be retained, CAAMI has said it will request

support from the GICHD. Guinea-Bissau expected that to develop a fully functional system would take an initial six months. CAAMI also planned to develop, at an early stage, a monitoring and evaluation plan for the information management system.<sup>46</sup> In its planned 2024–27 budget, CAAMI allocated US\$190,500 for the system's development.<sup>47</sup>

In recent years, government documents submitted under the APMB have generally been timely, detailed, and comparable over time. Between 2021 and 2024, MAG supported Guinea-Bissau's Article 5 deadline extension requests, annual transparency reports, and presentations in international fora.

## PLANNING AND TASKING

Guinea-Bissau does not have a national mine action strategy but its latest extension request, submitted to the Fifth Review Conference, included a work plan and budget for 2024–27 costed at US\$7,648,392.<sup>48</sup> The transparency report submitted in May 2025 provided the annual breakdown, including US\$1,716,117 spent in 2024.<sup>49</sup> The remaining US\$5,932,274 for 2025–27 was still unfunded as of June 2025, as confirmed during the Individualised Approach organised at the margins of the Intersessional Meetings that month. However, the Minister pledged to allocate US\$100,000 to CAAMI to support the implementation of its 2025–27 action plan.<sup>50</sup>

The operational priorities outlined in the request focused on completing the national NTS by the end of 2026, along with initial TS, marking, and spot tasks in the nine CHAs. Activities planned for 2026 and 2027 aimed to expand TS and clearance based on the results of the national survey.<sup>51</sup> The extension request also outlined a set of activities planned for 2024 and 2025, including: a) creation of an information management system; b) review and adoption of NMAS aligned with IMAS; c) expansion of national NTS capacity; d) preparation of technical activities (including marking and clearance); e) resumption of mine risk education; f) victim assistance; and g) resource mobilisation. In 2025–27, the request prioritised monitoring and evaluation, including QA and quality control (QC), capacity building for CAAMI and national operators; and the development of a residual risk management strategy.<sup>52</sup>

The previous 2022–24 work plan was only partially implemented. But with support from Norway and the Netherlands allied to MAG's efforts, CAAMI was reactivated after a 10-year hiatus to oversee the resumption of survey and EOD at the end of 2023. HUMAID was trained and accredited and began TS, BAC, and spot task EOD while NADEL conducted NTS and risk education.<sup>53</sup> A basic but sustainable Excel-based information management system was established, and the NMAS were developed and approved by the CNDH.

While Guinea-Bissau's 2024 extension request planned for the national NTS to be completed by the end of 2026 using a team of 60 staff, NADEL had only 10 staff involved in survey in 2024. The two-year period took into account the time for CAAMI to select and train additional national capacity, as well as the potential suspension of activities during the rainy season.<sup>54</sup>

The end of international financial support, MAG's departure in January 2025, and the lack of national funding for CAAMI risk jeopardising Guinea-Bissau's ability to implement its 2025–27 work plan. The authorities have indicated that, if resources remain insufficient, it may submit a new extension request by 2027.<sup>55</sup> During the Individualised Approach meeting in Geneva in June 2025, UNDP Guinea-Bissau reported receiving a request from the Minister to support the development of a national mine action strategy, an action plan, and a resource mobilisation strategy.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 25 April 2025.

<sup>45</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D, and 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 21.

<sup>46</sup> 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 21.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., p. 26.

<sup>49</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 10.

<sup>50</sup> APMB Individualised Approach, Intersessional Meetings, 18 June 2025, p. 4.

<sup>51</sup> 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 20.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid., pp. 21–25.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., p. 4.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid., p. 22.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid., p. 5.

<sup>56</sup> Statement of UNDP Guinea-Bissau, Individualised Approach, Intersessional Meetings, 18 June 2025.

# LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

## STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

CAAMI indicated that 13 NMAS were approved by the CNDH in October 2024.<sup>57</sup> The standards, which are said to be IMAS-compliant and tailored to the local context, were developed in 2023 by an EOD expert from MAG.<sup>58</sup> They include the glossary, land release, NTS, TS, accreditation, BAC, marking, incident and accident investigation, information management, risk education, and quality management, plus two annexes (skills for EOD and risk analysis).<sup>59</sup> In 2024, the mine action working group finalised the risk education standard.<sup>60</sup> In its 2024 extension request, Guinea-Bissau sought US\$76,667 to finalise the development of the NMAS.<sup>61</sup>

Although the NMAS were officially approved by the CNDH, they were only partially reviewed by operators in 2023–24, mainly MAG and The HALO Trust.<sup>62</sup> Strengthening CAAMI staff's understanding and taking ownership of these standards is essential to ensure their effective implementation in Guinea-Bissau. The lessons learned from the implementation of NTS, TS, and BAC should be used to evaluate—and, if necessary, update—the relevant standards.

## OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

CAAMI's activities were largely limited between 2012 and 2022 due to lack of funding.<sup>63</sup> As of April 2024, it had 16 staff.<sup>64</sup> Operationally, it includes three EOD-trained personnel—the Operations Director, along with one QA and one QC manager—who received refresher training from MAG in June 2023 and are qualified to conduct TS, BAC, and EOD spot tasks. However, CAAMI lacks technical capacity in information management, including key roles such as a database manager and Geographic Information System (GIS) expert.<sup>65</sup>

Between 2022 and 2024, MAG secured funding from Norway and the Netherlands to support CAAMI's implementation of its work plan. This included staff salaries, supporting organisational accreditation, drafting the NMAS, help recruiting key staff, establishing internet connectivity, and donating equipment. MAG operated through two national partners: clearance operator HUMAID, which began BAC in 2023 and TS and EOD in early 2024; and NADEL for community liaison, NTS, and risk education. Together, CAAMI and MAG organised several workshops in 2023 and 2024 on hazardous area classification, NTS, information management, community liaison, and gender and diversity.<sup>66</sup> MAG's team comprised one international and six national staff, including two women, one of whom was in charge of risk education/NTS.<sup>67</sup> MAG's office closed in January 2025 due to lack of funding opportunities.<sup>68</sup>

HUMAID, a national clearance operator active since the early 2000s, had 61 trained staff by 2011. It received regular EOD training and refresher courses until 2012. It used to be funded by the government and international donors (including UNOPS) and conducted the 2014 survey that identified AP mines and ERW.<sup>69</sup> In 2023, it regained operational accreditation, and received refresher training from MAG covering TS, EOD Levels I–III, and QA/QC. Nine staff passed the training, including six deminers, one medic, and two drivers, enabling HUMAID to resume clearance, TS, BAC, and EOD spot tasks.<sup>70</sup> The organisation is equipped with vehicles, GPS devices, detectors, personal protective equipment, and explosives for destruction, with MAG providing new equipment to replace some outdated items.<sup>71</sup> With the end of financial support to Guinea-Bissau, it is not clear if HUMAID would continue operating in 2025.

National operator the National Association for Local and Urban Development (NADEL) has worked in partnership with MAG since June 2023 to conduct community liaison, NTS, and risk education. Between August and November 2023, ten investigators were trained on community liaison, first aid (with the support of the national Red Cross society), and NTS. MAG received the task order for community liaison at the end of February 2024 and NADEL teams were equipped and deployed in March until the end of the year.<sup>72</sup>

57 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 2.

58 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 21; and Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

59 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 25 April 2025; and 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 21.

60 Email from François Fall, MAG, 30 August 2025.

61 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 21 and 26.

62 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 25 April 2025.

63 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

64 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 14 and 15.

65 Ibid, p. 21; and email from François Fall, MAG, 7 May 2024.

66 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 7 and 8.

67 Email from François Fall, MAG, 7 May 2024.

68 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 25 April 2025.

69 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 4 and 5.

70 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16; and email from François Fall, MAG, 7 May 2024.

71 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBC Individualised Approach, Intersessional Meeting, 22 June 2022; 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

72 Email from François Fall, MAG, 7 May 2024; 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 17 and 22; and presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBC Individualised Approach, Intersessional Meeting, 18 June 2025.

**Table 4: Operational survey and clearance capacities deployed in 2024<sup>73</sup>**

Operators	NTS teams	NTS personnel	TS and manual clearance teams	TS and manual clearance personnel	Comments
NADEL	2	8	0	0	Plus two Team leaders.
HUMAID	0	0	1	5	Plus team leader, medic, and 3 drivers.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	

Before Guinea-Bissau declared completion of its Article 5 obligations, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) supported the mine action programme from 2010 to 2012 at the request of UNDP and CAAMI. In partnership with local operator LUTCAM, NPA conducted a national survey of mine and UXO contamination in 2010-11. Although concerns about possible residual contamination remained, the programme was closed in 2012 due to a lack of evidence of additional AP mine-contaminated areas.<sup>74</sup>

The HALO Trust has operated in Guinea-Bissau since November 2017. It is implementing a Weapons and Ammunition Safety Programme in support to the armed forces.<sup>75</sup>

Humanity & Inclusion (HI), which is not currently operating in the country, conducted an assessment mission in late June 2024. The objective was to evaluate national capacities, identify training needs, define strategic priorities for strengthening victim assistance, and explore opportunities for technical support. HI aimed to leverage its regional expertise and partnership with CPADD (a demining training center based in Benin) by renewing a France-funded project focused on building the capacity of mine-affected States through training and technical assistance. As at July 2025, the project had, however, not received funding.<sup>76</sup>

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

In 2024, for the first time since 2012, Guinea-Bissau reported land release outputs, although mainly survey, BAC and spot tasks, not manual clearance.<sup>77</sup> Regarding AP mined areas, HUMAID reduced 44,234m<sup>2</sup> in two of the nine CHAs it identified in 2014 through TS.<sup>78</sup> NADEL cancelled five areas from the list of 43 SHAs identified in 2014, and identified 13 new SHAs.<sup>79</sup>

**Table 5: Summary of land release outputs in 2024**

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (m <sup>2</sup> )	Comments
Clearance	0	
Technical survey	44,234	Imbai-Baila was reduced by 9,243m <sup>2</sup> and Medjo by 34,991m <sup>2</sup> .
Non-technical survey	5 SHAs cancelled	No initial estimate.
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	
AP mines destroyed	2	Two PMN AP mines were found and destroyed by HUMAID and MAG in the Medjo area, Quebo sector, Tombali region, in South province.

### SURVEY IN 2024

HUMAID, the national clearance operator mentored by MAG, conducted TS in two of the nine CHAs, reducing Imbai-Baila by 9,243m<sup>2</sup> and Medjo by 34,991m<sup>2</sup> and destroying two AP mines in the Medjo area.<sup>80</sup> CAAMI said that the two confirmed areas also contain ERW.<sup>81</sup>

<sup>73</sup> Online interview with Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 3 September 2025.

<sup>74</sup> Email from Hans Risser, NPA, 10 August 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2010), pp. 5 and 6.

<sup>75</sup> Email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 2 August 2024.

<sup>76</sup> Email from Marianne Chmitelin, Regional Specialist in Armed Violence Reduction, HI, 17 March 2025; online interview with Emmanuel Sauvage, Interim Regional Director, HI, 8 May 2025.

<sup>77</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 5.

<sup>78</sup> The area was calculated by comparing the size of the two CHAs reported in Guinea-Bissau's Article 7 reports for 2023 and 2024, following confirmation from MAG that both areas were reduced by TS, and not cancelled by NTS as incorrectly stated in the Article 7 report for 2024.

<sup>79</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 5.

<sup>80</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 4; Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 3; and online interview with Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 3 September 2025.

<sup>81</sup> Email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 2 August 2024; and Response from Guinea-Bissau to questions from the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on its 2024 extension request, 2 August 2024, pp. 3 and 7.

NADEL, the national civil society organisation also trained by MAG, conducted community liaison, NTS as well as risk education activities in two regions of the North near the border with Senegal, Oio and Cacheu, where it identified 13 new SHAs, previously unrecorded, and covering 145,218m<sup>2</sup> (see Table 2 above).<sup>82</sup> Additionally, among the 43 SHAs initially identified in 2014, and whose size remains unknown, NADEL cancelled five areas by NTS in the same regions (see Table 6).<sup>83</sup>

**Table 6: Areas cancelled by NTS by NADEL and MAG in 2024<sup>84</sup>**

Province	Region	Sector	Locality	SHAs	Area
North	Cacheu	Sao Domingos	Djinhalcunda	1	Unknown
North	Cacheu	Sao Domingos	Nhambalam	1	Unknown
North	Oio	Farim	Sambuia	1	Unknown
North	Oio	Farim	Sara Mancama	1	Unknown
North	Oio	Mansaba	Gassanima	1	Unknown
<b>Total</b>				<b>5</b>	

### CLEARANCE IN 2024

No manual clearance of AP mined areas took place, only release through TS. In 2024, HUMAID conducted 15 spot tasks leading to the destruction of 227 explosive devices.<sup>85</sup> Guinea-Bissau also reported clearing one of its five battle areas between the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024: Ilonde site in the Cacheu region in the north, covering 57,257m<sup>2</sup>.<sup>86</sup>

### ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC and in accordance with the three-year extension granted by States Parties at the Fifth Review Conference in November 2024, Guinea-Bissau 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. As of June 2025, with no international funding secured and no government support for survey and clearance, the timeline projected in the extension was already facing considerable delays.

<sup>82</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 4 and 5; and email from François Fall, MAG, 30 August 2025.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid., pp. 5 and 6.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 4. The narrative states 14, but the table below lists 15 spot tasks.

<sup>86</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 6 and 7.

Guinea-Bissau became a State Party in November 2001. Its original Article 5 deadline of 1 November 2011 was first extended for two months, and, in December 2012, at the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC (12MSP), Guinea-Bissau declared it had fulfilled its Article 5 obligations, having cleared 50 mined areas covering a total of 6.52km<sup>2</sup>, and destroying in the process 3,973 AP mines, 207 AV mines, and 309,125 items of UXO.<sup>87</sup>

At the June 2021 Intersessional Meetings, however, it reported the discovery of 1.09km<sup>2</sup> of CHA and 43 SHAs of unknown size, containing both AP mines and ERW. However, it did not specify the proportion of AP mines versus other explosive ordnance.<sup>88</sup> Since then, Guinea-Bissau has submitted three Article 5 deadline extension requests, the most recent of which was granted at the November 2024 Meeting of States Parties. The 2024–27 work plan aimed to complete a national survey by the end of 2026 to define the exact perimeter of hazardous areas and establish an accurate, evidence-based baseline of contamination.

Between 2022 and 2024, with funding from Norway and the Netherlands channelled through MAG, Guinea-Bissau made

notable progress. National operators were reactivated, national mine action standards were approved, and survey and EOD operations resumed, although no clearance took place. Initial efforts started to bring some clarity to the extent and nature of contamination. However, international funding was insufficient to fully implement the planned activities and, in a continued absence of national financial support to sustain the CAAMI, the programme risks halting again for an indefinite period.

**Table 7: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance**

Year	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )
2024	0
2023	0
2022	0
2021	0
2020	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

## PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

In its 2012 declaration of Article 5 completion, Guinea-Bissau acknowledged that potential residual contamination remained, which would be addressed by CAAMI.<sup>89</sup> It also committed to reporting any newly discovered mined areas under Article 7 of the Convention, ensuring civilian protection, and prioritising the destruction of AP mines as a matter of urgent priority, while seeking assistance from States Parties as appropriate.<sup>90</sup> But the declaration of compliance negatively impacted the national capacities, as no funding was allocated to the programme for the following 10 years, even as Guinea-Bissau identified previously unknown mined areas following incidents. A survey was conducted by HUMAID in 2014, but the findings were not formally reported to States Parties until 2021.

In its latest extension request (2024), Guinea-Bissau committed to developing a national residual risk management strategy and strengthening national capacity to address such risks, with related activities scheduled to begin in 2025.<sup>91</sup> The

results of the national survey and subsequent clearance will be essential to establishing a sustainable demining capacity for post-completion contamination. HUMAID has the technical capacity to conduct NTS, TS, and EOD. However, it lacks the financial resources it needs to sustain its activities.<sup>92</sup>

Given the context, developing a strategy to address residual AP mine and ERW contamination—and ensuring that national capacity and resources are in place to manage these threats independently and sustainably—should be a priority.

<sup>87</sup> Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, pp. 2–4.

<sup>88</sup> Statement of Guinea-Bissau on Article 5, IM, 19 June 2023.

<sup>89</sup> Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, p. 5.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid., pp. 4–5.

<sup>91</sup> 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.

<sup>92</sup> Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 25 April 2025.