

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JANUARY 2012  
EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

### KEY DATA

#### ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION:

(NATIONAL ESTIMATE, BUT LIKELY TO INCLUDE  
AREAS ONLY CONTAINING ERW)

**1.09** km<sup>2</sup>

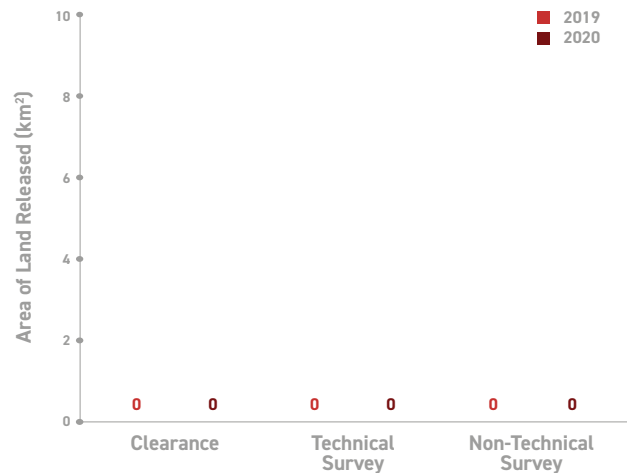
AP MINE  
CLEARANCE IN 2020

**0** km<sup>2</sup>

AP MINES  
DESTROYED IN 2020

**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 an interim Article 5 deadline extension request, seeking a new deadline of end-December 2022. According to its Request, Guinea-Bissau will use the interim period to better understand the contamination, following which it will be in a better position to submit a follow-up extension request by March 2022.<sup>1</sup>

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Guinea-Bissau should mobilise funds and operational support to commence survey of all suspected hazardous areas to confirm or deny the presence of anti-personnel mines and more accurately determine the location and extent of contamination.
- Guinea-Bissau should ensure that it 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 multi-year national mine action strategy and work plan.
- Guinea-Bissau should elaborate a gender and diversity policy for mine action and an associated implementation plan.
- Guinea-Bissau should establish a sustainable national capacity to address residual risks posed by anti-personnel mines that might be discovered following the fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations.

# DEMINING CAPACITY

## MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- The National Mine Action Coordination Centre – (Centro Nacional de Coordenação da Acção Anti-Minas, CAAMI)

## NATIONAL OPERATORS

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

## INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- The HALO Trust

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## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

After having declared fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations on 5 December 2012 at the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties (12MSP) to the APMBC,<sup>2</sup> Guinea-Bissau reported the discovery of new contamination of anti-personnel mines and ERW under its jurisdiction and control at the intersessional meetings in June 2021. According to its statement, a survey by Humanitarian Aid (HUMAID), a national non-governmental organisation (NGO) operator, revealed a little over 1.09km<sup>2</sup> of hazardous area across nine confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and 43 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) whose size had not yet been determined. The SHAs were identified based on reports by the local population and are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and ERW.<sup>3</sup>

The date and methodology of the survey were not made clear and the data provided were not disaggregated according to the type of contamination. It is also unclear to what extent—and indeed whether—the CHAs contain anti-personnel mines as opposed to other types of explosive ordnance.

In June 2021, Guinea-Bissau submitted an interim Article 5 deadline extension request through to 31 December 2022 to be considered at the 19MSP in November 2021. According to the request, the interim period will 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.<sup>4</sup> Following this work, Guinea-Bissau will be in a position to submit a follow-up extension request by 31 March 2022 for consideration at the 20MSP.<sup>5</sup>

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 unexploded ordnance (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.<sup>6</sup> 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 the National Mine Action Coordination Centre (Centro Nacional de Coordenação da Acção Anti-Minas, CAAMI).<sup>7</sup>

In its initial APMBC 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”.<sup>8</sup> 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 2.24km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>9</sup>

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 1.35km<sup>2</sup>. In addition to these areas, there was a requirement to survey additional 29 areas and 16 communities who had not been visited but where contamination was reported by communities and NGOs. In September 2010, Guinea-Bissau submitted a two-month Article 5 deadline Extension Request of its original November 2011 Article 5 deadline. In December 2012, Guinea-Bissau declared that it had fulfilled its Article 5 obligations under the APMBC and had cleared 50 mined areas measuring a total of 6.52km<sup>2</sup> of anti-personnel mine contamination, destroying in the process 3,973 anti-personnel mines, 207 anti-tank mines, and 309,125 items of UXO.<sup>10</sup> 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”.<sup>11</sup>

Since its declaration of completion in 2012, Guinea-Bissau has registered more than 40 casualties from mines and UXO, most of whom were children and women. The continued casualties led CAAMI to task the local NGO, HUMAID, to conduct additional survey, the results of which are indicated above. It is unclear when exactly this survey was conducted or what methodology was used, but as at August 2021, HUMAID was no longer active in Guinea-Bissau.<sup>12</sup> The last reported incident involving explosive ordnance 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.<sup>13</sup>

In its statement to the Fourth Review Conference of the APMBC in November 2019, Guinea-Bissau reported that, as at the end of 2019, 0.56km<sup>2</sup> of ERW contamination remained to be cleared along with almost 1km<sup>2</sup> still needing to be surveyed in its northern, southern, and eastern regions.<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup>

Table 1: Confirmed mined areas (at June 2021)<sup>16</sup>

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

CHA = Confirmed hazardous area

## 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).<sup>17</sup> CAAMI has been inactive since 2012.<sup>18</sup> As at June 2021, CAAMI's activities, including survey, clearance, victim assistance, and data management, were put on hold due to the lack of financial means. CAAMI, however, reports that it maintains a good human resources capacity.<sup>19</sup>

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).<sup>20</sup>

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

It is not known if CAAMI has policies in place relating to gender and diversity in its mine action programme. Neither gender nor diversity were referenced in Guinea-Bissau's latest Article 7 report (covering 2010) or in its Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in June 2021.

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

According to Guinea-Bissau, its national information management database for mine action has been "paralysed" since 2014 due to the lack of financial resources.<sup>21</sup> Guinea-Bissau has not submitted an APMBC Article 7 report since 2011. In its Article 5 deadline extension request, submitted in June 2021, Guinea-Bissau said that it will submit a follow-up extension request by March 2022 in keeping with its obligations to the APMBC.<sup>22</sup>

## PLANNING AND TASKING

CAAMI does not have a mine action strategy or implementation plan in place as Guinea-Bissau's mine action programme is currently inactive. In its interim Article 5 deadline extension request, Guinea-Bissau said it will use the extension period to further assess and understand the contamination and subsequently develop a "meaningful, forward-looking plan".<sup>23</sup>

## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

According to Guinea-Bissau's declaration of completion in 2012, all clearance work had been conducted in accordance with IMAS. Technical and non-technical survey were only applied in 2010; prior to this, land was released solely through clearance.<sup>24</sup>

### OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

As at August 2021, all CAAMI's activities were on hold due to the lack of financial means.<sup>25</sup> HALO Trust, the only mine action operator currently present, 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 in the north-east region of Gabú.<sup>26</sup>

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) was present in Guinea-Bissau until 2012 conducting survey and clearance.<sup>27</sup> NPA also conducted a national survey of mine and UXO contamination, working in partnership with the national NGO, Lutamos Todos Contra As Minas (LUTCAM).<sup>28</sup> During the first quarter of 2012, NPA conducted mainly explosive ordnance disposal (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.<sup>29</sup>

The assessment survey of the new discovered anti-personnel mine and ERW contamination was carried out by the national NGO, HUMAID.<sup>30</sup> The date of the survey is, however, unclear. Both national operators, LUTCAM and HUMAID are currently inactive.<sup>31</sup>

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.<sup>32</sup> Several organisations conducted clearance in conjunction with the national operators HUMAID and LUTCAM, including, Humanity and Inclusion (HI), Landmine Action,<sup>33</sup> NPA,<sup>34</sup> and a British NGO: Clear Ground Demining.<sup>35</sup>

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2020

No mined area was reported to have been released in Guinea-Bissau in 2020. HALO Trust destroyed five anti-personnel mines from Guinea-Bissau military stockpile.<sup>36</sup>

### SURVEY IN 2020

There were no reports of any survey of mined areas in Guinea-Bissau in 2020.

### CLEARANCE IN 2020

HALO Trust destroyed five PRB M409 anti-personnel mines from a military ammunition storage area and reports that other stockpiled mines were at locations around Guinea-Bissau as of February 2021.<sup>37</sup> Guinea-Bissau's deadline for stockpile destruction expired on 1 November 2005.

### ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



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 12MSP in December 2012, but in June 2021, reported at the APMBC Intersessional Meetings the discovery of 1.09km<sup>2</sup> 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, to be considered at the 19MSP in November 2021, and said it will 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 2022 for consideration at the 20MSP.<sup>38</sup>

## PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

In its declaration of completion of Article 5 obligations under the APMBC, Guinea-Bissau stated that "battle area clearance tasks remain, as well as an expected residual contamination, which will be addressed by the CAAMI".<sup>39</sup> 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.<sup>40</sup>

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| <p>1 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 22 June 2021, paras. 10–11.</p> <p>2 Guinea-Bissau declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of the APMBC at the 12th Meeting of States Parties (12MSP), Geneva, 3–7 December 2012.</p> <p>3 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021, slide 9; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 22 June 2021, pp. 9–12.</p> <p>4 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 22 June 2021, para. 11.</p> <p>5 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021, slides 10 and 11.</p> <p>6 Guinea-Bissau declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of the APMBC at the 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, p. 2.</p> <p>7 Article 7 Report (covering 2010), Form C.</p> <p>8 Article 7 Report (covering November 2001 to April 2002), Form C.</p> <p>9 Guinea-Bissau declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of the APMBC at the 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, pp. 2–4.</p> <p>10 Ibid.</p> <p>11 Ibid., p. 5.</p> <p>12 Email from James Scott, HALO Trust, 9 August 2021.</p> <p>13 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021, slide 8.</p> <p>14 Statement of Guinea-Bissau to the Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 25–29 November 2019.</p> <p>15 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2019).</p> <p>16 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021, slide 9; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 22 June 2021, pp. 9–12; the total is reported as 1,093,840m<sup>2</sup> in the documents.</p> <p>17 APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2010), Form A.</p> <p>18 Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, Guinea-Bissau profile, last updated 21 April 2021.</p> | <p>19 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021, slide 12.</p> <p>20 Article 7 Report (covering 2010), Form A.</p> <p>21 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021, slide 12.</p> <p>22 Guinea-Bissau Article 5 Extension Request, 22 June 2021, para. 11.</p> <p>23 Ibid.</p> <p>24 Guinea-Bissau declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of the APMBC at the 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, p. 4.</p> <p>25 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021, slide 12.</p> <p>26 Email from James Scott, HALO Trust, 9 August 2021.</p> <p>27 Email from Hans Risser, NPA, 10 August 2021.</p> <p>28 Guinea-Bissau declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of the APMBC at the 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, pp. 3–4.</p> <p>29 Email from Hans Risser, NPA, 10 August 2021.</p> <p>30 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau to the APMBC Intersessional Meetings, online, 22–24 June 2021, slide 9.</p> <p>31 Email from James Scott, HALO Trust, 9 August 2021.</p> <p>32 Guinea-Bissau declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of the APMBC at the 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, p. 4.</p> <p>33 Email from James Scott, HALO Trust, 9 August 2021.</p> <p>34 Email from Hans Risser, NPA, 10 August 2021.</p> <p>35 Article 7 Report (covering November 2001 to April 2002), Form C.</p> <p>36 Email from James Scott, HALO Trust, 9 August 2021.</p> <p>37 Ibid.</p> <p>38 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 22 June 2021, paras. 10–11.</p> <p>39 Guinea-Bissau declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of the APMBC at the 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, p. 5.</p> <p>40 Ibid., pp. 4–5.</p> |
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