

GUINEA-BISSAU

MINE
ACTION
REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2024

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2024

THREE-YEAR DEADLINE REQUESTED TO 31 DECEMBER 2027

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: LIGHT

1.09 km²

(PARTIAL NATIONAL ESTIMATE, BUT LIKELY
INCLUDES AREAS WITH ONLY ERW)

AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2023

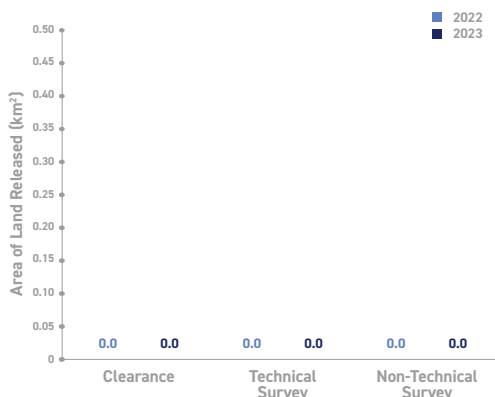
0 km²

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2023

1

(EOD SPOT TASK)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): NONE

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Since 2022, Guinea-Bissau has benefited from the support of Norway and the Netherlands through Mines Advisory Group (MAG). This funding has enabled the reactivation of the National Mine Action Coordination Centre (CAAMI) and the national clearance operator, Humanitarian Aid (HUMAID). In 2023, three operators received operational accreditation for demining: HUMAID, MAG, and The HALO Trust. Progress was made on developing national standards and workshops were held on hazardous area classification, information management, and gender and diversity. During the first quarter of 2024, survey, battle area clearance (BAC) and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks resumed after refresher training, including on non-technical survey (NTS), technical survey (TS), and EOD. The provisional results

of survey as at August 2024 indicated that two of the nine confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) were confirmed to contain AP mines. The seven others were still undergoing survey.¹

On 19 April 2024, Guinea-Bissau requested a new deadline for its Article 5 clearance obligation under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) of 31 December 2027. The request for a three-year extension was being considered at the Fifth Review Conference of the Convention in November 2024. The national work plan seeks to complete nationwide NTS by the end of 2026, create a functioning information management system, build a sustainable national capacity for survey and clearance, and elaborate a strategy to address residual threats.

FIVE-YEAR OVERVIEW

In June 2021, having declared it had fulfilled its Article 5 obligations nine years earlier, Guinea-Bissau reported to States Parties the discovery of 1.09 km² in nine CHAs and 43 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) of an unknown size containing anti-personnel (AP) mines and/or explosive remnants of war (ERW). Since then, Guinea-Bissau has made three requests to extend the deadline of its Article 5 obligations. The first was granted in November 2021, the second in November 2022, and most recently, a third was submitted in April 2024 and was due to be considered at the Fifth Review Conference in November. Since 2022, Guinea-Bissau has benefitted from the financial support of Norway and Netherlands, and the technical support of MAG. It started delivering in 2023 on the objectives it had set out, albeit with delayed timelines.

¹ 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Guinea-Bissau should maintain its resource mobilisation efforts, both nationally and internationally, to enable fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations with funding from Norway and the Netherlands due to end in 2024.
- In order to comply with the APMBC, Guinea-Bissau should conduct the nationwide NTS in order to confirm or deny the presence of AP mines and determine the location and extent of any contamination.
- During survey, Guinea-Bissau should ensure that areas of AP mine contamination or mixed contamination are clearly disaggregated from those areas solely containing anti-vehicle (AV) mines or other types of explosive ordnance (EO) contamination not covered by the Convention, such as explosive remnants of war (ERW).
- Guinea-Bissau should prioritise TS and clearance of mined areas in order that it may fulfil its Article 5 obligations as soon as possible.
- Guinea-Bissau should proceed to establish a reliable mine action information management system.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2023)	Score (2022)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	6	4	The latest national baseline estimate dates back to NTS by HUMAID in 2014. It identified 52 mined areas: nine CHAs covering 1.09km ² in five regions, and forty-three SHAs in six regions whose size was undetermined. A further 402,304m ² of battle area and three sites with spot tasks were also identified. Guinea-Bissau has been requesting extensions to its Article 5 deadline in order to carry out a nationwide survey to identify an accurate baseline of contamination. The 2024 extension request indicates that most explosive ordnance contamination is likely to be in the form of ERW. The NTS planned to be completed by end of 2026 is expected to identify only a small number of mined areas. Guinea-Bissau indicated that surveys started in early 2024 and two of the nine CHAs had been found to contain AP mines, with survey ongoing in the other seven CHAs.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	4	CAAMI's activities were limited between 2012 and 2022 due to lack of funding and there is no budget allocated by the State. Thanks to renewed funding secured since 2022, and with the technical support of MAG, Guinea-Bissau has started rebuilding its mine action capacities and assuming its national lead role for mine action. MAG has been providing financial, material, and technical support and it elaborated a capacity-building plan for CAAMI in August 2023. But with financial support from Norway and the Netherlands due to end in 2024, Guinea-Bissau will need to mobilise additional funding to implement its 2024–27 action plan. The lack of substantial government support raises doubts about national ownership and sustainability of mine action operations.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	5	4	The 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request states that the action plan promotes gender and diversity inclusivity at all stages of the mine action programme. It also requires operators to constitute their operational teams taking into consideration these issues. The extension request and work plan do not, however, contain specific policies nor measurable gender and diversity targets. A one-week workshop on gender and diversity in the mine action sector was held in May 2023.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION* (10% of overall score)	2	Not Scored	Guinea-Bissau does not have a policy on environmental management in mine action and does not make reference to any environmental implications in its 2024 Article 5 deadline extension request. MAG takes environmental considerations into account in its demining.

Criterion	Score (2023)	Score (2022)	Performance Commentary
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	4	3	Guinea-Bissau does not have a functioning information management system for mine action. In 2023, CAAMI did not set up the service as planned in its 2022 extension request, despite acquiring the requisite IT equipment. In 2001–12, CAAMI used the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) with the support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), but after declaring completion of clearance in 2012, the server was no longer in use. The GICHD carried out an assessment in 2022 following which MAG tried unsuccessfully to restore the 2001-12 digital archives in 2023. Today, only the physical records remain. No decision has been taken regarding the possible deployment of IMSMA. In the meantime, data are being stored on Excel-based databases. Guinea-Bissau expected that to develop a fully functional system could take six months and its work plan of 2024–27 has allocated US\$190,500 to it. Guinea-Bissau's requests for extensions under Article 5 and Article 7 transparency reports are timely, clear, and comparable over time.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	7	Guinea-Bissau started implementing some of its 2022–24 work plan in 2023, albeit with delayed timelines due to a lack of funding. In its 2024 deadline extension request, it presented a new three-year work plan costed at US\$7.6 million. The plan aims for a national survey and risk education in a first phase, and then further TS and clearance and definition of a strategy for the management of residual risk.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM** (10% of overall score)	7	4	MAG drafted 13 International Mine Action Standard (IMAS)-compliant standards tailored to the local context for CAAMI to review. CAAMI set up a working group in August 2023 to review the NTS standard, just after the workshop held on hazardous area classification. The 12 remaining NMAS were reportedly reviewed during the first half of 2024. The 13 NMAS were formally adopted during a meeting held in July 2024 by the national mine action authority, its first since February 2023. In its 2024 extension request, Guinea-Bissau is seeking funding to finalise NMAS development.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	6	5	Guinea-Bissau was granted a third interim extension request by the Twentieth Meeting of States Parties (20MSP) to the APMBC, with a deadline of 31 December 2024. As it did not achieve all the set objectives, Guinea-Bissau submitted a fourth extension request in April 2024. Survey, BAC, and EOD resumed in early 2024, with two CHAs confirmed to be contaminated with AP mines by HUMAID and MAG.
Average Score	5.4	4.4	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

* New criterion introduced in 2024 to assess performance.

** The weighting of this criterion was previously 20% of overall performance score, but is now given a 10% weighting.

DEMINEING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

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

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Humanitarian Aid (HUMAID)
- NADEL (NTS and risk education only)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- The HALO Trust (HALO)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Mine contamination in Guinea-Bissau is from the independence war in 1963–74, the 1998–99 civil war, and the four-decades-old Casamance conflict in neighbouring Senegal. Landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination was 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.²

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

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 (2004–09) developed by CAAMI.³ The first coordinated effort to assess mine and ERW contamination on a national level began in 2006. CAAMI conducted preliminary opinion collection (POC), with a landmine impact survey (LIS) conducted in 2007–08 by a British NGO, Landmine Action. The LIS covered 271 of the 278 areas addressed by the POC⁴ and identified 12 mined areas over nearly 2.24km².⁵ In 2010, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and CAAMI requested Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) to support land release efforts by conducting NTS and TS. NPA conducted a national survey of mine and UXO contamination in 2010–11, in partnership with local operator LUTCAM. Despite concerns of possible residual contamination, NPA closed the programme in 2012 due to lack of evidence of other AP mined areas.⁶

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 6.52km², and destroying in the process 3,973 AP mines, 207 AV mines, and 309,125 items of UXO.⁷ 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 CAAMI".⁸ Between 2012 and 2021, 13 incidents involving explosive devices were recorded in which 73 people died. Other incidents may have occurred without having been recorded.⁹

The continued casualties led CAAMI to task the local NGO, HUMAID, to conduct additional survey in 2014. It revealed explosive ordnance covering 1.09km² across nine CHAs in five regions and 43 SHAs of undetermined size in six regions.¹⁰ Another 402,304m² of contamination was identified across five battle areas as well as three sites of spot tasks.

Table 1: Confirmed mined areas (at end 2023)¹¹

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

* According to CAAMI, Imbai-Baila (55,662m²) and Medjo (72,350m²) were confirmed to contain AP mines during TS by HUMAID conducted in partnership with MAG in 2024. Survey of the seven remaining CHAs was ongoing in August 2024.¹²

Explosive ordnance in Guinea-Bissau is spread mostly across the north, south, and east of the country. 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.¹³ It did not delimit SHAs or disaggregate by type of hazard.¹⁴ Accidents caused by explosive ordnance have also been reported in sectors where no hazardous areas were identified, which indicates that the data are incomplete,

highlighting the need to conduct a comprehensive and evidence-based national survey.¹⁵

Since 2021, Guinea-Bissau has requested three deadline extension requests to its Article 5 obligation, the last of which was submitted in April 2024 and was due to be considered at the Meeting of States Parties in November. The accompanying 2024–27 work plan aims for a nationwide survey to be completed in two years¹⁶ to identify the precise perimeter

3 APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2010), Form C.

4 In its Article 7 report for 2010–11, Guinea-Bissau reported that "all but 31 communities" were covered. Article 7 Report (covering 2010–11), Form C, p. 5.

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

6 Email from Hans Risser, NPA, 10 August 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2010), Form C, pp. 5 and 6.

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

8 Ibid., pp. 2–4 and 5.

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

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

11 Article 7 Report (covering 2022); Form D. The total is reported as 1,093,840m² in the report. See similarly 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 13.

12 Email from Nautan Mancabu, National Director, 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.

13 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.

14 Ibid., pp. 9–11.

15 Ibid., pp. 11 and 30–31.

16 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 5.

of hazardous areas and establish evidence-based, accurate baseline of contamination. While the national NTS is yet to be completed, NTS and TS resumed in early 2024. Fieldwork by

HUMAID and MAG in 2023–24 suggests that contamination consists mainly of ERW, although two CHAs were confirmed to contain AP mines as at August 2024.¹⁷

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

As the survey conducted by HUMAID in 2014 used non-technical methods to identify the nine CHAs, and did not delimit the 43 SHAs, further NTS and TS are required to better understand the nature and extent of contamination.¹⁸ It is unclear to what extent the hazardous areas as a whole contain AP mines as opposed to other types of ordnance. According to Guinea-Bissau, however, ERW are far more widespread than AP mines.¹⁹ In its Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 7 report covering 2019, Guinea-Bissau stated that it had cleared all its cluster munition remnants contamination before becoming a State Party to the CCM.²⁰

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Following adherence to the APMBC, the Government of Guinea-Bissau officially established the National Council for Humanitarian Demining (CNDH) and the National Mine Action Coordination Centre (CAAMI) on 1 July 2001 to oversee demining.²¹

The CNDH, which was inactive from 2012 to 2022, was then reactivated, meeting again on 28 February 2023. As the national mine action authority, it is responsible for establishing the national strategy and overseeing the work of CAAMI. It comprises representatives from various ministries and is chaired by the Minister of Ex-Combatants (Ministère des Combattants de la Liberté et de la Patrie). It is supposed to meet quarterly. However, the political context of Guinea-Bissau in 2023, which has seen several successive ministerial changes, meant the CNDH did not meet according to schedule.²² In 2024, it held a meeting in July during which the 13 national mine action standards were approved.²³

CAAMI reports to the Ministry of Ex-Combatants. Its role includes planning and coordinating all mine action activities, mobilising resources and overseeing all mine action on behalf of the Government. It is responsible for releasing land back to communities through quality control (QC). As at April 2024, CAAMI had 16 employees: 5 women and 11 men in three departments (support, operations, and risk education).²⁴

CAAMI's operations were largely funded by UNDP until Guinea-Bissau declared compliance with its Article 5 obligations in 2012. Between 2012 and 2022, lack of funding prevented CAAMI from operating at scale. CAAMI said

that it managed to maintain only few activities, such as QC of HUMAID activities, and follow-up on incidents and the resultant victims.²⁵ Today, it lacks a proper information management system.²⁶ In 2022, CAAMI carried out an exhaustive inventory of its equipment. The HALO Trust and MAG, with the support of their donors, then provided CAAMI with equipment, including a vehicle, computers, telephones, a printer, a video-projector, and an internet connection.²⁷ This has facilitated CAAMI's capacity building efforts and its engagement with national and international partners. CAAMI has supported outreach to communities by setting up a hotline dedicated to receiving reports of the presence of mines and other explosive devices.²⁸ In August 2023, CAAMI set up a mine action working group to coordinate the activities of the various operators and to promote information sharing and learning.²⁹

But CAAMI is not systematically budgeted for by the State. Support from the government only covers rent, utilities, and some staff salaries, a number of whom are seconded from other ministries, such as finance, while some are not paid at all.³⁰ The government's annual contribution is estimated at approximately US\$40,000, but this does not cover all operating costs or any field operations.³¹ Guinea-Bissau's 2024 deadline extension request is based on the assumption that the government will, from 2024, substantially increase its contribution covering all staff salaries, new positions, equipment, and field deployment.³² Guinea-Bissau indicated that the government will strive to include the humanitarian demining plan and its budget in the national governance

17 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 13; and email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 2 August 2024.

18 IM22 Individualised Approach, 22 June 2022, p. 5.

19 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 15; and 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10.

20 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2019).

21 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 14.

22 Ibid.

23 Response from Guinea-Bissau to questions from the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on its 2024 extension request, 2 August 2024, p. 7.

24 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 14.

25 Ibid.; and 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

26 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 21.

27 Ibid., p. 15.

28 Statement of Guinea-Bissau to the APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

29 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

30 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 14; and 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

31 Email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 28 March 2023; 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7; and 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 15.

32 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 27.

plan as well as in the general State budget.³³ CAAMI also planned to seek financial support from the private sector in the first half of 2024 to increase the share of national funding dedicated to mine action.³⁴

MAG secured funding from Norway and the Netherlands for capacity development in 2022 and has been providing financial, material, and technical support to CAAMI since then.³⁵ MAG made a preliminary assessment of the information management (IM) system and coordinated with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), which supported CAAMI for IMSMA between 2001

and 2012. The GICHD visited Guinea-Bissau in October 2022.³⁶ In August 2023, MAG elaborated a capacity-building plan for CAAMI. The plan included support for the establishment of a suitable IM system and the development of the NMAS, and broader support to help reactivate mine action operations in the country through training, partnering with national operators, and supporting national resource mobilisation strategy and reporting.³⁷

The HALO Trust has continued its collaboration with CAAMI, providing the centre with equipment in 2023.³⁸

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Guinea-Bissau's 2024 extension request and work plan do not contain any measurable gender and diversity targets.³⁹ Guinea-Bissau's proposed action plan for 2024–27, however, indicates it follows best practices by promoting gender and diversity inclusion in the programme.⁴⁰ As at April 2024, five of the 16 CAAMI staff (31%) were women.⁴¹

CAAMI participated in a one-week workshop on gender and diversity analysis in the mine action sector organised by MAG in May 2023 in presence of 25 people from national institutions, defence and security forces, civil society organisations and victims.⁴²

Guinea-Bissau's 2022 extension request required operators to constitute their operational teams taking into consideration matters related to gender and diversity.⁴³ National operator NADEL, which will conduct community liaison, NTS, and risk education, hired 10 new staff in 2023 ensuring a balanced gender composition.⁴⁴ In September 2023, its risk education tools were updated taking into account gender and diversity considerations, as well as at-risk groups.⁴⁵

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Guinea-Bissau's 2024 extension request makes no reference to environmental considerations. It only stated that land release operations will seek to enable an environment favourable to socio-economic development (agriculture, pasture, and infrastructures), and will seek to promote the integration of mine action with other development and humanitarian plans as recommend in the Oslo Action Plan.⁴⁶ Environmental policy should include a description of how environmental considerations will be addressed during planning and tasking for survey and clearance in order to minimise potential harm from land release activities. MAG does not have a policy or standing operating procedure (SOPs) on environmental management for Guinea-Bissau.⁴⁷

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Guinea-Bissau considers that a functional IM system is an essential component of its mine action strategy.⁴⁸ Between

2001 and 2012, CAAMI used IMSMA Version 5 with the support of the GICHD, but since the declaration of completion in 2012,

33 Response from Guinea-Bissau to questions from the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on its 2024 extension request, 2 August 2024, p. 12.

34 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 27.

35 Email from François Fall, HMA Advisor for West Africa, MAG, 7 May 2024.

36 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

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

38 Emails from Yamireth D'Almeida, HALO, 28 March 2023; and Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 2 August 2024.

39 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 21–25.

40 Ibid., p. 17; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

41 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 14.

42 Ibid., p. 7; and Statement of Guinea-Bissau on Article 5, Intersessional Meetings, 19 June 2023.

43 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 16, 22, and 24.

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

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

46 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 18.

47 Email from François Fall, MAG, 5 June 2024.

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

the physical server has no longer been in use.⁴⁹ In 2023, MAG made an unsuccessful attempt to restore CAAMI's 2001–12 digital archives. Only the physical records remain today.⁵⁰ The GICHD carried out an assessment in October 2022, but to date, no decision has been taken regarding the possible deployment of IMSMA. Without in-house skills, CAAMI is not in a position to deploy IMSMA or any advanced database.⁵¹

In 2023, CAAMI failed to activate its information management capability as planned in the 2022 extension request, despite acquiring IT equipment. The scarcity of technical IM and geographic information system (GIS) skills have proved to be major obstacles. Additionally, a political decision taken in October 2023 to replace CAAMI's director, Mr Nautan Mancabu, only to recall him in February 2024, slowed down decision-making.⁵² In the meantime, data are being entered and stored into an Excel-based system.⁵³

In August 2023, a four-day workshop was held on information management, attended by six staff from CAAMI staff, five from MAG, three from HUMAID, one from The HALO Trust, and two from the Senegal National Mine Action Centre. The workshop developed seven forms, including for NTS, TS, and classification of hazardous areas.⁵⁴

The first step set in the 2024–27 work plan is to define a suitable IM system. Should IMSMA be retained, CAAMI will request support from the GICHD. Guinea-Bissau expected that to develop a fully functional IM system would take an initial six months. CAAMI also plans to develop, at an early stage, a monitoring and evaluation plan for the IM system.⁵⁵ In its planned 2024–27 budget, CAAMI allocated US\$190,500 for the development of an IM system.⁵⁶ Guinea-Bissau had one staff from CAAMI who attended the IMSMA NG training in Senegal that the GICHD supported in collaboration with Humanity & Inclusion (HI).⁵⁷

Guinea-Bissau's requests for deadline extensions under Article 5 and its transparency reports under Article 7 are generally timely and are clear, detailed, and comparable over time. The Committee on Article 5 implementation welcomed Guinea-Bissau's reporting on its remaining challenge in a manner consistent with the IMAS, with disaggregated information by SHA and CHA.⁵⁸ Since 2022, MAG has been supporting Guinea-Bissau's submissions under the APMBC.⁵⁹

PLANNING AND TASKING

In its 2022 extension request, Guinea-Bissau submitted a detailed action plan covering 2022–24 that was meant to tackle five key issues: the widespread EO 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 EO; the lack of a functional information management system; the lack of NMAS; and the exposure of population to the threat of explosive ordnance.⁶⁰

The financial and technical support received since 2022 enabled the initial phase of the action plan to be completed in 2023. It included accreditation of MAG, HALO, and HUMAID; training on TS, clearance, EOD techniques, and quality assurance (QA) and QC; and selection of the national operators: NADEL to conduct the NTS and risk education, and HUMAID for TS and clearance. The foundational work for the IM system has also started. Support also enabled a

resumption of clearance with BAC and spot tasks at the end of 2023 with surveys beginning in early 2024.⁶¹

In its 2024 extension request, Guinea-Bissau presents an updated and detailed work plan for 2024–27 costed at US\$7,648,392.⁶² Under the plan, 2024 and 2025 focus on developing the IM system, adoption of the NMAS by the CNDH, the nationwide NTS, and the initiation of TS, marking, and emergency spot clearance in the nine CHAs. The following two years (2026 and 2027) aim to extend TS and clearance based on the results of the national survey, undertake monitoring and evaluation, continue building the capacity of CAAMI and national operators, and define a residual risk management strategy.⁶³ Guinea-Bissau opens the possibility for a new extension request by 2027 in case resources available do not allow the activities in the action plan to be completed in time.⁶⁴

49 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10; and email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 28 March 2023.

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

51 Ibid.

52 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9; and email from François Fall, MAG, 7 May 2024.

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

54 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8; and email from François Fall, MAG, 7 May 2024.

55 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 21.

56 Ibid., p. 26.

57 Email from Jérémy Repond, Programme Officer, GICHD, 18 June 2024.

58 Committee on Article 5 implementation, "Preliminary observations", Intersessional Meetings 19–21 June 2023.

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

60 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 19.

61 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.

62 Ibid., p. 26.

63 Ibid., pp. 21–25.

64 Ibid., p. 5.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Guinea-Bissau's NMAS are currently being updated. In 2023, an EOD expert from MAG developed 13 IMAS-compliant standards tailored to the local context.⁶⁵ These are a glossary, land release, NTS, TS, accreditation, mine clearance, BAC, marking, EOD, incident and accident investigation, IM, risk education, and quality management. Two annexes have also been developed on EOD competencies and risk analysis.⁶⁶

The standards were identified as priorities and submitted to CAAMI in February and July 2023. CAAMI set up a working group in August 2023 to review the NTS standard, just after the workshop held on hazardous area classification.⁶⁷ CAAMI indicated that it revised the 12 other national standards in

2024. To ensure these standards are formally adopted, the NMAA must approve them. A meeting of the CNDH was held in July 2024, the first since February 2023, during which the 13 NMAS were adopted.⁶⁸ In its 2024 extension request, Guinea-Bissau sought US\$76,667 to finalise the development of NMAS.⁶⁹

Guinea-Bissau is a member of the GICHD Francophone Regional Cooperation Programme and attended its annual workshop in October 2023 at the "Centre de Perfectionnement aux Actions de Déminage et de Dépollution" (CPADD) in Benin. It covered three topics: improvised explosive devices (IEDs), risk education, and ammunition management.⁷⁰

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

CAAMI's activities have been largely restricted between 2012 and 2022 due to a lack of funding.⁷¹ Its human capacity at April 2024 was 16 staff members.⁷² CAAMI is overseen by a director, in post since 2021, who was replaced and then called back between October 2023 and January 2024 because of political changes.⁷³ At the operational level, CAAMI has three EOD-trained staff: the Operations Director, who supervises one QA and one QC manager. They received technical refresher training from MAG in June 2023 and are able to carry out TS, EOD spot tasks, and BAC. There is also a Risk Education Director, in post since before the completion of mine clearance in 2012, who also oversees community liaison and NTS. Qualified technical positions in information management, including a database manager and GIS expert, do not exist.⁷⁴ The other staff are dedicated to support functions.

MAG has supported CAAMI in identifying challenges and opportunities needed for resumption of mine action activities and helping its resource mobilisation strategy and international reporting. Since 2022, MAG secured funding from Norway and the Netherlands, and supported CAAMI's implementation of its work plan, including staff salaries, organisational accreditation, drafting of NMAS, recruitment of key staff, establishing connectivity and internet capacity, and donating equipment. MAG operates through two national operators that started BAC in 2023 and survey and clearance in early 2024: NADEL for community liaison, NTS, and risk education; and HUMAID for TS, BAC, and EOD. CAAMI

and MAG jointly organised several workshops in 2023, on hazardous area classification, NTS, IM, community liaison, and gender and diversity.⁷⁵ MAG team is composed of one international staff and six national staff including two women, one in charge of risk education/NTS.⁷⁶

HUMAID is a national clearance operator active since the early 2000s. In 2011, HUMAID had 61 employees, of whom only two were women. Staff had been trained at different EOD levels and functions, and it received two refresher courses a year between 2000 and 2012. HUMAID received funding from the government and a number of international donors and conducted some demining and spot task operations. Over the last ten years, capacity has been significantly reduced, but the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) funded some of its work. HUMAID is the national operator that carried out the assessment survey that discovered the AP mine and ERW contaminated areas in 2014.⁷⁷ In June 2023, HUMAID received its operational accreditation and in July, a refresher training was provided by MAG on TS, EOD Levels I, II, and III, and QA/QC. Nine HUMAID staff passed the refresher course: six deminers, one medical staff, and two drivers. These personnel are now able to carry out clearance operations, TS, BAC, and EOD spot tasks.⁷⁸ HUMAID has vehicles, GPS readers, detectors, personal protective equipment (PPE), and recovered explosives for destruction. MAG has provided some new equipment to replace the old.⁷⁹

65 Ibid., p. 21; and Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

66 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 21; and email from François Fall, MAG, 7 May 2024.

67 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 21.

68 Response from Guinea-Bissau to questions from the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on its 2024 extension request, 2 August 2024, p. 7.

69 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 21 and 26.

70 Email from Jérémy Repond, GICHD, 18 June 2024.

71 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

72 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 14 and 15.

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

74 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 21; and email from François Fall, MAG, 7 May 2024.

75 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 7 and 8.

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

77 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D, pp. 4 and 5.

78 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16; and email from François Fall, MAG, 7 May 2024.

79 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau to the APMBIC Intersessional Meetings, Individualised Approach meeting, 22 June 2022; 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

NADEL is a national NGO working 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.⁸⁰

The 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 and provided CAAMI with equipment, including a scanner device.⁸¹

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2023

No mined area was reported to have been released in Guinea-Bissau in 2023, although a single mine was found during EOD operations.⁸²

SURVEY IN 2023

There were no reports of any survey of mined areas in Guinea-Bissau in 2023.

NTS and TS resumed at the beginning of 2024, carried out by two national operators: NADEL and HUMAID, respectively. As a priority, survey is focusing on the nine CHAs covering 1,09km² identified by HUMAID in 2014.⁸³ According to CAAMI, two CHAs, Imbai-Baila (55,662m²) and Medjo (72,350m²) were confirmed to contain AP mines during technical survey conducted by HUMAID in partnership with MAG. MAG said that on one of the sites, the mines are visible on the ground and that the two confirmed areas also contain ERW. The survey of the seven remaining CHAs was still ongoing as at August 2024.⁸⁴

While Guinea-Bissau's 2024 extension request plans for national NTS to be conducted by the end of 2026 by a team of 60 personnel, the capacity of NADEL as at April 2024 was only of 10 staff. The two-year period takes into account the time for CAAMI to select and train additional national capacity. The work plan also considers the potential suspension of activities during the rainy season. The NTS will allow listing communities with no, suspected, or confirmed hazardous areas.⁸⁵

CLEARANCE IN 2023

There was no clearance of mined areas in Guinea-Bissau in 2023.⁸⁶ However, HUMAID and MAG carried out five EOD spot tasks in 2023 in the regions of Bambadica, Biombo, and Bissau, during which one AP mine (a PP Mi SR 11 bounding mine) and nine items of UXO were cleared and then destroyed in 2024. Destruction requires the authorisation of the armed forces.⁸⁷ Guinea-Bissau also reported the resumption of BAC operations during the last quarter of 2023. The Illonde battlefield in Biombo region was cleared in the first quarter of 2024, with 55,210m² addressed and 477 items of UXO destroyed.⁸⁸

80 Email from François Fall, MAG, 7 May 2024; and 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 17 and 22.

81 Email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 2 August 2024.

82 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9; and emails from François Fall, MAG, 7 May and 26 July 2024.

83 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 4, 8 and 9.

84 Email from Nautan Mancabu, National Director, 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.

85 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 22.

86 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

87 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10; and email from François Fall, MAG, 7 May 2024.

88 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D, p. 5; and Statement of Guinea-Bissau, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18–20 June 2024.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC, 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 2024. Guinea-Bissau will not meet this deadline and therefore submitted a fourth extension request on 19 April 2024 for a further three years to 31 December 2027. The request was being considered at the Fifth Review Conference in November 2024.

Guinea-Bissau's original Article 5 deadline of 1 November 2011 was first 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 Intersessional Meetings the discovery of 1.09km² of CHA and 43 SHAs of an unknown size containing AP mines and ERW.⁸⁹ Guinea-Bissau did not specify what proportion of contamination was believed to contain AP mines as opposed to other types of explosive ordnance.

In June 2021, Guinea-Bissau submitted an interim extension request through to the end of 2022, which was granted at the 19MSP in November 2021. Guinea-Bissau said it would use the interim period to further investigate contamination

and mobilise the necessary resources in order to submit a follow-up extension request by 31 March 2022.⁹⁰ Due to the lack of resources, however, little progress had been achieved during the interim period, and Guinea-Bissau submitted a third interim Article 5 deadline extension request in June 2022 through to 31 December 2024, which was granted by the 20MSP.

Guinea-Bissau benefitted from an individualised approach at the intersessional meetings in June 2022. With the financial support of Norway and Netherlands, and the technical support of MAG, Guinea-Bissau started delivering in 2023 on the objectives it had set out, albeit with delayed timelines. The fourth interim extension request submitted in April 2024 featured an updated work plan that aims to complete the national NTS to better determine the nature and scale of the contamination; validate the NMAS; create a sustainable IM system; resume TS, spot tasks, and clearance; and lay out a strategy to address residual contamination after completion of Article 5 obligations. In the event available resources do not allow actions to be completed, a new extension request will be submitted in 2027.⁹¹

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

In its declaration of completion of Article 5 obligations in 2012, Guinea-Bissau said that "battle area clearance tasks remain, as well as an expected residual contamination, which will be addressed by CAAMI".⁹² 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 AP mines as a matter of urgent priority, making its need for assistance known to other States Parties as appropriate.⁹³

In its extension request submitted in April 2024, 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". It 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". Work on residual risk management will be carried out sequentially from 2025.⁹⁴

89 Statement of Guinea-Bissau on Article 5, Intersessional Meetings, 19 June 2023.

90 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, paras. 10–11.

91 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 3.

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

93 Ibid., pp. 4–5.

94 2024 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.