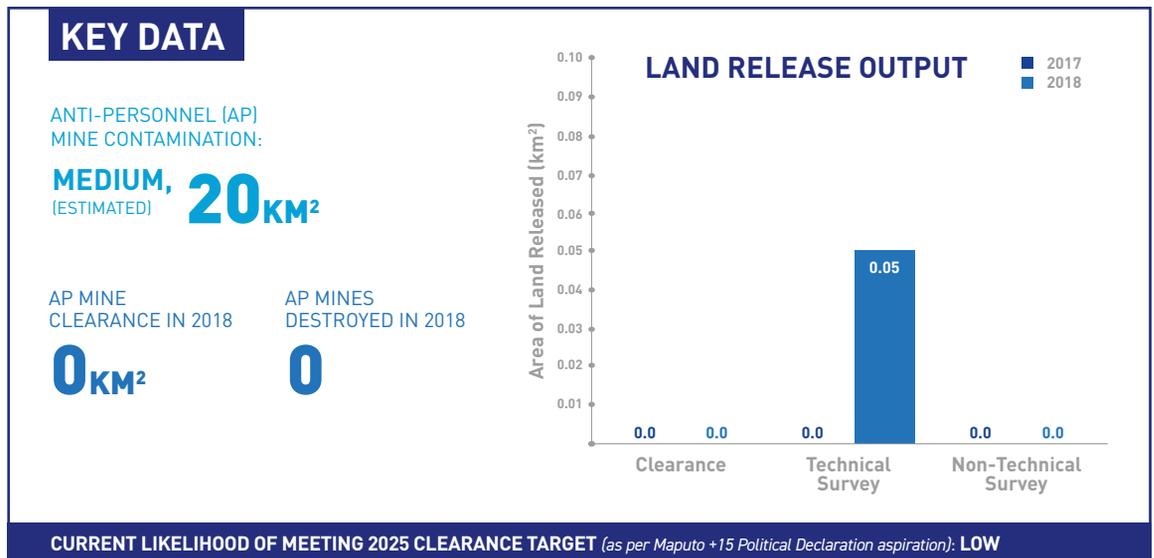


ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JANUARY 2020
 FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 1 JANUARY 2025



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

For a second consecutive year, Chad did not release any mined area as a result of survey or clearance. Humanity & Inclusion (HI) started demining operations under the European Union (EU)-funded PRODECO project in the Borno region. Strikes by unpaid deminers halted operations and delayed Mine Advisory Group (MAG)'s implementation of the PRODECO project in the most contaminated northern area of Tibesti, forcing it to redeploy teams to the Lac region. Chad has submitted a fourth request to extend its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline, this time for a further five years.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- The National High Commission for Demining (HCND) needs urgently to facilitate survey and clearance to demonstrate donor support for operators is delivering results.
- Chad needs urgently to elaborate a resource mobilisation strategy to secure and diversify funding and attract international technical and operational support.
- Chad should take the necessary measures to strengthen the effectiveness of its national mine action centre (the HCND). It should ensure that demining personnel and resources are fully mobilised and deployed on areas which are confirmed to contain anti-personnel mines.
- The authorities should streamline bureaucratic procedures to facilitate operators' ability to conduct survey and clearance.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	4	Contamination estimates are based on outdated and incomplete data underscoring the need for resurvey. This did not occur in 2018 but work on the database made some progress consolidating gaps in data, clarifying which areas need resurvey.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP & PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	4	Chad's national mine action authority coordinates the sector but lack of funds and deminer discontent over failure to pay salaries crippled progress in the last two years.
GENDER (10% of overall score)	3	Gender is not yet a priority in a programme that has undergone significant downsizing and struggled to mobilise resources to implement survey or clearance. Women find employment mainly in administrative roles, risk education, or victim assistance.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & REPORTING (10% of overall score)	4	Under the EU-funded PRODECO programme the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) is upgrading the National High Commission for Demining (HCND)'s information management capacity. A key question is whether the improvements in data and data management will be sustained.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	4	In March 2019, Chad submitted a request for an extension to its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Article 5 deadline but implementation depends on availability of funding.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	6	Chad has national standards, which were updated by HI in 2017, that comply with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	2	The national mine action authority reported no land was released through survey or clearance in 2018 for the second successive year.
Average Score	3.9	Overall Programme Performance: VERY POOR

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- National High Commission for Demining (HCND)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- HCND

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Humanity and Inclusion (HI)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

OTHER ACTORS

- Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Chad reported that anti-personnel mines covered more than 117km² across 188 areas at the end of 2018 (see Table 1). Of the 10 affected regions, Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti in the north alone accounted for 97% of contamination.¹ Although no land was released through survey or clearance in 2018, this represented a 3% drop over the previous year's estimate of 122km².²

The decrease was achieved through a clean-up of data by the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD).³ However, many survey reports were missing and the HCND also identified suspected mined areas that need to be re-surveyed. The HCND's own operational plan acknowledged that lack of information about mine contamination means the estimate will need continuous revision and updating to take account of the results of further survey.⁴ Survey in 2015–16 continued to locate previously unrecorded mined areas, including a minefield in the Tanoi region of Tibesti said to be around 50km long and another mined area in the south between Sarh and Kyabé.⁵

Mine contamination in Chad's resource-rich northern regions resulted from Libyan support for rebels dating back to the early 1970s and sporadic clashes between the two countries that continued until 1987. The HCND reports the presence of 16 types of anti-personnel mine and 17 types of anti-vehicle mine. The north also has most of the country's unexploded ordnance, reportedly affecting some 5.8km².⁶

Chad contends with a number of security challenges, including rebel group activity in the north and Boko Haram's expanding insurgency in the Lake Chad region. Chad cited insecurity in Tibesti and the probability that mines had been newly laid there as among the reasons for its failure to meet its extended Article 5 deadline.⁷ The Multinational Joint Task Force reported casualties in clashes with Boko Haram fighters in 2018 from mines, including mines of an improvised nature.⁸

Table 1 : Anti-personnel mined area by region (at end 2018)⁹

Province	Confirmed mined areas	Area affected (m ²)
Borkou	51	25,354,623
Chari-baguirmi	1	241
Ennedi	13	16,524,754
Moyen-chari	12	3,139,713
Salamat	6	593
Sila	5	6,005
Tibesti	94	72,729,915
Wadifira	1	662
Lac	5	872
Totals	188	117,757,378

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Chad's mine action programme is coordinated by the National High Commission for Demining (Haut Commissariat National de Déminage, HCND) which comes under the Ministry of Economy and Development Planning.¹⁰ The National Demining Centre (Centre National de Déminage, CND), which earlier conducted clearance operations, appears to have been dissolved. In July 2017, nine years after the government first ordered the HCND to restructure, a new government decree reduced the number of personnel by more than half from 744 to 329. At the end of 2018, it had 324 staff.¹¹

The HCND is responsible for preparing a national demining strategy and annual workplans and proposing a budget to support their implementation.¹² Chad's latest Article 5 deadline extension request, submitted in April 2019,¹³ observed that its mine action programme lacked a strategic vision, operational planning and effective coordination, weakening its credibility nationally and internationally.¹⁴

The European Union is the principal source of international funding for mine action in Chad. A two-year EU-funded project (Projet d'appui au secteur du déminage au Tchad, PADEMIN) involving capacity development for the HCND and survey and clearance of mines and explosive

remnants of war (ERW) in the Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti (BET) region ended in 2016.¹⁵ In September 2017, the EU agreed to support a new four-year mine action project, PRODECO, from 2017 to 2021 at a projected cost of €23 million providing for survey and clearance by international operators HI and MAG in the BET region. It also provided for further training and capacity building for the HCND by FSD, including in information management.¹⁶

Government funding for mine action is limited to payment of salaries for national staff.¹⁷ However, the government's persistent non-payment of salaries has badly affected sector performance. A long-running strike by deminers starting halted survey and clearance in 2017. Threats by former deminers over government non-payment of salaries also prevented survey and clearance from proceeding in the Tibesti region in 2018 and forced MAG to redeploy staff to the Lac region.¹⁸ Further delays in payment were reportedly occurring in 2019. Operators also report lengthy delays obtaining the permits required to import equipment as well as in other bureaucratic procedures.

GENDER

Gender is not discussed in Chad's latest Article 5 deadline extension request or the July 2018 operational plan accompanying it. Gender balance and recruitment of female staff is not a priority for the HCND, which has undergone drastic downsizing in the past two years and still faces demands for back pay from staff.

Chad employs women in a variety of mine action roles. A woman underwent EOD [explosive ordnance disposal] Level 3 training for the first time in 2018, but HCND female staff are reported to be mostly in managerial, technical, and support jobs.¹⁹ Operators reported that risk education targeted all members of the community and disaggregated resulting data by gender.²⁰

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The HCND uses the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database but many records of past survey have been lost. As part of the PRODECO project, the database was being updated in 2018 by the HCND's information management team, under the supervision of an FSD expert.²¹

Chad submits Article 7 reports annually and in April 2019 submitted a request for a fourth extension to its Article 5 clearance deadline, providing updated estimates of contamination and attaching a July 2018 operational plan.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Chad published an Action Plan 2020–24 in July 2018, which set out contamination estimates, strategy, and priorities that provided a basis for the Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in April 2019. Objectives appeared aspirational rather than realistic. The operational plan provided for survey and clearance in 86 of Tibesti's 89 identified hazardous areas, but Chad's extension request observes that in Tibesti, the most heavily contaminated region, it was realistic to target survey and clearance in only 20% of the 89 hazardous areas.²²

Since September 2017, the main focus of Chad's mine action programme has been on implementing the EU-funded four-year mine action project (PRODECO) conducted by a consortium of four international operators.²³ HI was due to

focus on survey and clearance in the Borkou and Ennedi regions, MAG was to work in the Tibesti and Lake Chad regions, and FSD would provide training and support for information management while Secours Catholique et Développement (SECADEV) would address victim assistance.²⁴

PRODECO's initial targets included conducting non-technical survey in 30 zones in the Lake Chad and Tibesti regions, release of 2.7km² of mined land in BET region, to release 200,000m² of mined land along roads in Tibesti, and, in the Lake Chad and Tibesti regions, to either release 50,000m² of land contaminated with ERW or conduct 100 spot tasks.²⁵ FSD is to provide technical support, training, and capacity building to the HCND, including support for the use of the IMSMA database.²⁶

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Chad's national mine action standards are believed to be consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). HI started a review of Chad's standards in 2016 and reported in September 2017 that 11 national mine action standards had been updated and issued, following HCND approval.²⁷

OPERATORS

The HCND had a total staff of 324 at the end of 2018. HI did not provide details of its capacity. MAG employed 47 deminers, survey, and mechanical personnel in its total staff of 97 but conducted no survey or clearance operations in 2018 because of insecurity in its designated operating area.²⁸ FSD did not conduct operations but provided support to information management, training in administration, logistics and procurement, and offered technical advice on QA/QC.²⁹

OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Mine clearance is largely manual. However, HI, working with Mobility Robotics and the HCND, started testing drones for inspection and mapping of hazardous areas. Tests were continuing in 2019 on various categories of drones and sensors, over different sites, at different altitudes. In the process the tests were developing standing operating procedures (SoPs) for drone use and compiling a database of ground signs for analysis of drone-generated imagery.³⁰

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2018

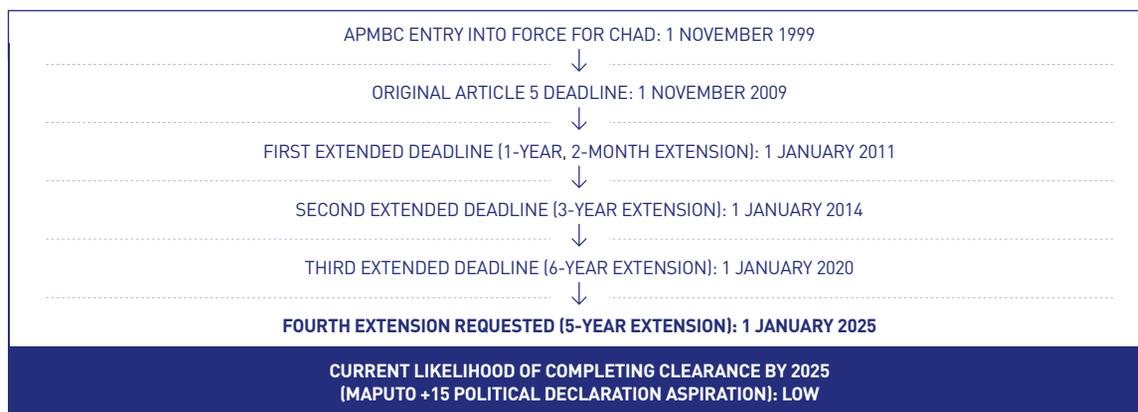
The HCND reported that no land was released as a result of survey or clearance in 2018.³¹

After long delays importing equipment, MAG set up two bases in Tibesti but was unable to start operations because of insecurity. MAG later deployed survey teams to the Lac region and reported conducting non-technical survey in 25 areas without identifying any new hazardous areas. It also conducted technical survey, which reduced 49,000m² of mined area.³²

Under the EU's PRODECO project, MAG had planned to deploy demining teams to the Tibesti region in June 2018 but it was prevented from operating there by security problems.³³

HI did not provide results of its activities in 2018. Chad reported HI started demining in the Borkou region in November 2018.³⁴

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Chad has made little progress since the Third Review Conference in Maputo in 2014 and prospects remain uncertain. Mine action in Chad has been largely crippled by lack of funding, political inertia, and cumbersome bureaucracy. A variety of mainly local threats to security also obstruct progress. The EU-funded PRODECO project is the main focus of mine action sector activities, but between its launch in September 2017 and the end of 2018 it did not result in any significant release of land.

Table 2: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance (2014–18)

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2018	0.0
2017	0.0
2016	0.5
2015	0.3
2014	N/R
Total	0.8

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- 1 Email from Soultani Moussa, Manager/Administrator, HCND, 14 May 2019.
- 2 It is also less than contamination estimates in Chad's 2020-24 Action Plan and its 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, which reported 137 mined areas covering almost 112km².
- 3 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 2; interview with Matt Wilson, Head of Operations, FSD, Geneva, 6 June 2019.
- 4 HCND, "Plan d'action prévisionnel 2020-2024 de mise en œuvre de la composante déminage et dépollution de la Stratégie de l'action contre les mines de Tchad", July 2018, p. 24.
- 5 Statement of Chad, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) 17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 27 November 2018.
- 6 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, Annex 3, p. 26.
- 7 Statement of Chad, 17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 27 November 2018.
- 8 Abdulkareem Haruna, "Nigeria: Boko Haram – Military winning the Lake Chad war despite losses – General Irabor", Premium Times, 29 April 2018, at: bit.ly/2Z1LPOg.
- 9 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 May 2019.
- 10 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 9.
- 11 Emails from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 19 June and 3 July 2018 and 14 May 2019.
- 12 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 10.
- 13 Available at: bit.ly/201axNA.
- 14 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 26.
- 15 Email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017.
- 16 HI "Country Profile Chad", September 2017, at: bit.ly/2LWNxhP.
- 17 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 May 2019.
- 18 Email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 4 March 2019. "Tchad: grève des démineurs restés 10 mois sans salaire". ("Chad: deminers strike after 10 months without pay"), Agence de Presse Africaine, 10 May 2017, at: bit.ly/30Cz25g; and email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 26 September 2017.
- 19 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 May 2019.
- 20 Email from Romain Coupez, Country Director, MAG, 4 March 2019.
- 21 Interview with Matthew Wilson, FSD, in Geneva, 6 June 2019.
- 22 HCND, "Plan d'action prévisionnel 2020-2024 de mise en œuvre de la composante déminage et dépollution de la Stratégie de l'action contre les mines de Tchad", July 2018, p. 23; 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 29.
- 23 HI "Country Profile Chad", September 2017, at: bit.ly/2Sri4nx.
- 24 Ibid.
- 25 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 September 2018.
- 26 Ibid.
- 27 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 5 September 2017.
- 28 Email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 4 March 2019.
- 29 Interview with Matthew Wilson, FSD, in Geneva, 6 June 2019; and email, 29 August 2019.
- 30 J. Fardoulis, X. Depreytere, E. Sauvage, and P. Gallen, "Drones in the Desert: Augmenting HMA and Socio-Economic Activities in Chad", Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction, Issue 23.1 (April 2019).
- 31 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 May 2019.
- 32 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 25; email from Romain Coupez, Country Director, MAG, 4 March 2019; and telephone interview with Nina Seecharan, MAG, 9 July 2019.
- 33 Emails from Romain Coupez, MAG, 13 September 2018 and 4 March 2019.
- 34 Statement of Chad, 17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 27 November 2018.