

## ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JULY 2022 NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

### KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION:

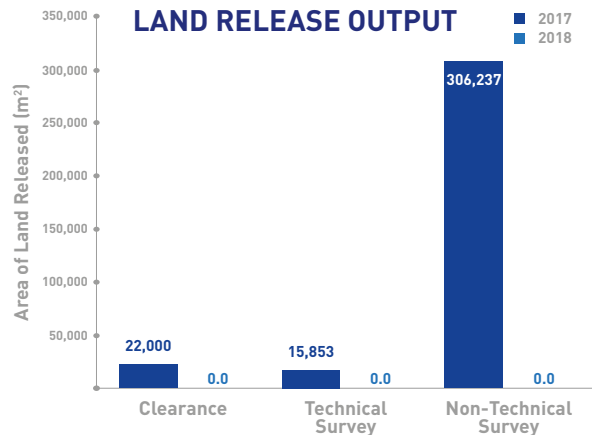
LIGHT, **1.7 KM<sup>2</sup>**

AP MINE CLEARANCE IN 2018

**0 M<sup>2</sup>**

AP MINES DESTROYED IN 2018

**0**



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per Maputo +15 Political Declaration aspiration): **LOW**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

No survey and clearance took place in Cyprus in 2018 following a breakdown of settlement talks in July 2017 and a subsequent reduction of the UN demining budget. No anti-personnel mines are believed to remain in minefields on territory under the control of the Republic of Cyprus. Cyprus does not exercise effective control over remaining anti-personnel mine contaminated areas and, as at July 2019, settlement negotiations between the two parties remained in a hiatus. The United Nations (UN) Security Council, most recently in Resolution 2453 in January 2019, called on "both sides to allow access to

deminers and to facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in Cyprus within the buffer zone", and urged "both sides to extend demining operations outside the buffer zone".

In a positive development, a series of confidence-building measures agreed upon in February 2019 by the President of Cyprus, Nicos Anastasiades, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mustafa Akinci, included the survey and clearance of 18 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs), nine on each side of the buffer zone. It is expected that this work will be completed by February 2020.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- The Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot authorities in northern Cyprus should comply with the UN Security Council's renewed call for access to all remaining mined areas within and outside the buffer zone.

## DEMINING CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT

- No national mine action authority or mine action centre

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None (Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and DOK-ING were last active in 2017)

### OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations (UN)-supported mine action in Cyprus is coordinated by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) on behalf of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

As no survey or clearance was conducted in 2018, the estimate from the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) data for contamination in Cyprus has not changed since 2017. As at December 2018, 29 SHAs and 18 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) remained across Cyprus covering just over 1.7km<sup>2</sup>. Contamination in these areas is either mixed (anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines), of unknown nature, or from anti-vehicle mines only (see Table 1).<sup>2</sup>

Cyprus is contaminated by anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines. The island has been divided geographically and politically since 1974 by what was once a heavily mined, 180km-long buffer zone, following Turkish Forces' operations in the north of the island. Minefields were laid by both the Greek Cypriot National Guard and the Turkish Armed Forces. The exact extent of the remaining mine contamination across the island is not known, and permission for UNFICYP to access areas outside within and outside the buffer zone remains limited.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 1: Mined area (at December 2018)<sup>4</sup>**

Location	CHAs	Contamination	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	SHAs	Contamination	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total SHA/CHA	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
South of the buffer zone (territory controlled by Cyprus)	13	AV mines	418,543	15	AV mines	299,898	28	718,441
Buffer Zone	4	AV mines (3 areas) Unknown (1 area)	703,581	0	N/A	N/A	4	703,581
North of the buffer zone (territory controlled by Turkish Cypriot authorities)	1	Mixed	170,493	14	Unknown	130,784	15	301,277
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>1,292,617</b>	<b>29</b>		<b>430,682</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1,723,299</b>

### TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Cyprus has reported that no anti-personnel mines remain in the minefields laid by the National Guard that are in territory under its effective control.<sup>5</sup> In total, between becoming a state party on 1 July 2003 and its original Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline of 1 July 2013, Cyprus released all 20 mined areas under its effective control.<sup>6</sup>

### BUFFER ZONE

UNFICYP reported that, as at December 2018, three of the mined areas in the buffer zone were contaminated with anti-vehicle mines and the type of contamination in the fourth mined area was unknown.<sup>7</sup> In July 2018, the UN Secretary-General's report on the UN operation in Cyprus stated that "the two sides have not begun clearance of the four known remaining minefields in the buffer zone, of which three belong to the National Guard and one to the Turkish forces. While the Turkish Cypriot side has indicated that it would accept the clearance of all four areas as a package, the Greek Cypriot side maintains the position that its three minefields are required to counter a perceived threat."<sup>8</sup> The Government of Cyprus considers the three minefields contaminated with anti-vehicle mines to be under its control and not within the buffer zone.<sup>9</sup>

### TURKISH CYPRIOT-CONTROLLED TERRITORY IN NORTHERN CYPRUS

The extent of mine contamination in areas controlled by Turkish Forces is not known. However, Cyprus claimed in its latest Article 7 transparency report (for 2018) that at least 20 minefields laid and maintained in the occupied areas by Turkish Forces are yet to be cleared of anti-personnel mines, of which one is situated within the buffer zone.<sup>10</sup> According to the UN, some military mine clearance appears to have been conducted over most locations that are still recorded as minefields.<sup>11</sup>

In addition, there is a minefield just north of the buffer zone in Mammari, where heavy rains led to mines being washed into the buffer zone in 2014 and 2015. UNFICYP has raised the issue of clearance of this minefield with the Turkish forces and has offered assistance in this regard.<sup>12</sup> In 2017, a small area of the Mammari minefield was cleared by a Croatian commercial operator contracted by the Turkish Armed Forces.<sup>13</sup>

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

UN-supported mine action operations in Cyprus are coordinated by UNMAS on behalf of UNFICYP.<sup>14</sup> In July 2016, UNMAS became an integral component of UNFICYP, providing its expertise in mine action planning and coordination, quality assurance (QA) oversight, and management of mine action information.<sup>15</sup> UNMAS also provides assistance to the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) to ensure safe access to areas it conducts activities and to UNFICYP for explosive ordnance disposal call-out tasks.<sup>16</sup>

UN-facilitated settlement talks between the two sides in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, in July 2017, came to an abrupt halt after 10 days, and, as at July 2019, the negotiations remain in hiatus. Since the breakdown of these talks a budget reduction resulted in the demobilisation of the UN demining capacity on 20 November 2017. UNFICYP retains a technical capacity and non-technical survey contingency to conduct new activities when access is permitted.<sup>17</sup> For the 2018–19 fiscal year, UNMAS was funded by the UN Nations peacekeeping assessed budget for UNFICYP. The budget covers technical capacity for planning and coordination; awareness training for UNFICYP personnel; advocacy activities; and data management of mine action information.<sup>18</sup>

---

## GENDER

UNMAS is guided by the UN Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes and maintains gender parity in its staffing positions within the team deployed in Cyprus. Within UNFICYP, a dedicated Gender Advisor provides guidance on mainstreaming gender in the Mission's policies and activities. It is not known whether gender and diversity feature in the mine action policies or strategies in territory controlled by Cyprus or in Turkish Cypriot-controlled territory in northern Cyprus.<sup>19</sup>

---

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

UNFICYP uses the IMSMA database. In 2017, a review and reconciliation of all electronic and hard-copy minefield database documentation revealed that a number of SHAs had already been cleared and/or cancelled. However, due to capacity limitations between 2011 and 2016, the information had not been removed from the database. The review resulted in the removal of seven SHAs (totalling more than 950,000m<sup>2</sup>) from the database.<sup>20</sup>

Cyprus submits annual Article 7 reports and has done since acceding to the APMB in July 2003. Cyprus has submitted three Article 5 deadline extension requests: in 2012, 2015, and 2018. Cyprus submitted the reports and extension requests in a timely manner but the information provided is limited due to it not having effective control over the remaining anti-personnel mined areas.

---

## PLANNING AND TASKING

As at July 2019, it is not known if Cyprus or Turkish Cypriot-controlled northern Cyprus has a strategic plan for survey and clearance of mined areas.

In February 2019, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) President Mustafa Akıncı and President of Cyprus, Nicos Anastasiades, announced their commitment to follow through with various confidence-building measures including the survey and cancellation and/or reduction of 18 SHAs, nine on each side of the island, with a view to working towards a mine-free Cyprus.<sup>21</sup> With support from UNFICYP and UNMAS work began in May 2019 with an expected completion date of February 2020.<sup>22</sup> No mine or other ERW contamination

is expected to be found in these SHAs but to ensure due diligence they will be subject to non-technical survey and, where necessary, technical survey. The non-technical survey will be conducted by UNMAS staff, and a representative from UNFICYP and from either the Turkish Cypriot Security Force (TCSF) or the Greek Cypriot National Guard (NG). It is expected that technical survey will only be necessary in the southern SHAs and will be conducted by the NG with site visits by the UNMAS Chief of Operations.<sup>23</sup>

## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

All UN-supported mine action operations in Cyprus are said to be conducted in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).<sup>24</sup> In 2016, to guide UN operations, UNMAS updated the national technical standards and guidelines that are used in UNFICYP to reflect current best practice and to ensure the highest standards are applied for UNFICYP clearance operations.<sup>25</sup>

### OPERATORS

No operators were active in 2018. In previous years, survey and clearance in the buffer zone has been carried out by Mines Advisory Group (MAG) on behalf of UNMAS and UNFICYP.<sup>26</sup> In 2017, the Turkish Armed Forces contracted DOK-ING to conduct clearance, and MAG, to conduct quality assurance of demining in the Mammari minefield.<sup>27</sup> No further clearance was conducted in 2018, nor was any planned for 2019 as the TCSF has not agreed to any further survey or clearance on this minefield.<sup>28</sup>

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2018

No survey or clearance took place in Cyprus in 2018.

### ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



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

Year	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )
2018	0
2017	22,000
2016	6,772
2015	18,538
2014	7,032
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,342</b>

Cyprus has reported clearing all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it accepted were under its control within ten years of becoming a state party, namely by 1 July 2013. In 2012, Cyprus submitted the first of its three Article 5 deadline extension requests, the reason for which has remained the same throughout, namely that Cyprus does not have effective control over remaining contaminated areas.<sup>29</sup> According to the website of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus in Geneva, "Once Turkey ceases the military occupation of Cyprus and returns control of the occupied areas under proper conditions to the authorities of the Republic, they [the Republic of Cyprus] will be able to assume full responsibility and compliance with the provisions of Article 5 for the entire sovereign territory of the Republic of Cyprus."<sup>30</sup>

Turkey's original Article 5 clearance deadline was 1 March 2014. In 2013, states parties granted Turkey an eight-year extension until 1 March 2022, for clearance of mines in Turkey, but Turkey did not request additional time for clearance of the areas it controls in northern Cyprus.<sup>31</sup> The last settlement talks between the two sides were held in June and July 2017 in Switzerland but broke down after ten days.<sup>32</sup> As at July 2019, the settlement talks had not resumed, although in February 2019 a number of confidence-building measures were agreed between the two sides, one of which was the clearance of 18 SHAs which is due to be completed by February 2020.<sup>33</sup>

The UN Security Council, most recently in January 2019, has called on both sides to facilitate clearance of all remaining mined areas on the island.<sup>34</sup> The Council noted with regret "that the sides are withholding access to the remaining minefields in the buffer zone, and that demining in Cyprus must continue". The Council also noted "the continued danger posed by mines in Cyprus", referring to "proposals and discussions as well as positive initiatives on demining", and urging "rapid agreement on facilitating the recommencement of demining operations and clearance of the remaining minefields".<sup>35</sup> The Council called on "both sides to allow access to deminers and to facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in Cyprus within the buffer zone", and urged "both sides to extend demining operations outside the buffer zone".<sup>36</sup>

- 
- 1 UN Security Council Resolution 2453 (2019), para. 17.
- 2 Emails from Julie Myers, Programme Officer, UNMAS (based on information provided by Stefan De Coninck, Chief of Operations, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UN Joint Operations Centre Manager, UNFICYP), 10 September 2018; and Mark Connelly, Chief of Operations, UNMAS, 17 July 2019.
- 3 Email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Stefan De Coninck, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 26 September 2017.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Article 7 Report (for 2018), Form C.
- 6 APMBC Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Observations on implementation of Article 5 by Cyprus", 23 June 2015; and Article 7 Report (for 2013), Form G.
- 7 Emails from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Stefan De Coninck, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 10 September 2018; and Mark Connelly, UNMAS, 17 July 2019.
- 8 Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2018/676, 6 July 2018, para. 44.
- 9 Interview with Demitris Samuel, Deputy Permanent Representative, Cyprus Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva, Geneva, 19 May 2016.
- 10 Article 7 Report (for 2018), Form C.
- 11 Email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Joseph Huber, UNMAS, and Maj. Mike Holgate, Mine Action Officer, UNFICYP), 6 October 2016.
- 12 Ibid.; and email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Joseph Huber, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 24 July 2017.
- 13 Email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Stefan De Coninck, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 10 September 2018.
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 UNMAS, "Cyprus" webpage, accessed 27 July 2017, at: [bit.ly/2GtXje](http://bit.ly/2GtXje).
- 16 Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2018/25, 9 January 2018, para. 12.
- 17 Reports of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2018/25, 9 January 2018, para. 14; and UN doc. S/2019/562, 10 July 2019, para. 3; and email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Stefan De Coninck, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 10 September 2018.
- 18 UNFICYP, "Mine Action", accessed 25 June 2019, at: [bit.ly/32T14wT](http://bit.ly/32T14wT).
- 19 Email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Stefan De Coninck, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 10 September 2018.
- 20 Ibid.
- 21 Security Council Press Statement on Cyprus, 27 February 2019, SC/13722, at: [bit.ly/2JKyYus](http://bit.ly/2JKyYus).
- 22 Email from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, 17 July 2019; and Report of the Secretary-General on the UN operation in Cyprus, UN doc. S/2019/562, 10 July 2019, para. 4.
- 23 Email from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, 26 July 2019.
- 24 Email from Julie Myers, UNMAS (based on information provided by Joseph Huber, UNMAS, and Maj. Rich Pearce, UNFICYP), 24 July 2017.
- 25 Ibid.
- 26 Ibid.
- 27 Ibid.
- 28 Email from Mark Connelly, UNMAS, 26 July 2019.
- 29 2012 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.
- 30 Permanent Mission of Cyprus in Geneva, "Disarmament and Non-proliferation" webpage, accessed 22 July 2019, at: [bit.ly/2SAhPGP](http://bit.ly/2SAhPGP).
- 31 Turkey's Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 29 March 2013. On the issue of Turkish jurisdiction, see, e.g., European Court of Human Rights, *Güzelyurtlu and others v. Cyprus and Turkey*, Judgment (Grand Chamber), 29 January 2019.
- 32 "Cyprus reunification talks collapse amid angry scenes", *The Guardian*, 7 July 2017, at: [bit.ly/2Z6GR2K](http://bit.ly/2Z6GR2K).
- 33 Security Council Press Statement on Cyprus, 27 February 2019, SC/13722, at: [bit.ly/2JKyYus](http://bit.ly/2JKyYus).
- 34 UN Security Council Resolutions 2026 (2011), 2197 (2015), 2234 (2015), 2263 (2016), 2300 (2016), 2338 (2017), 2430 (2018), and 2453 (2019).
- 35 UN Security Council Resolution 2453 (2019), fourteenth preambular para.
- 36 Ibid, para. 17.