

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025 ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION:

MEDIUM, **13KM²**
(NATIONAL ESTIMATE)

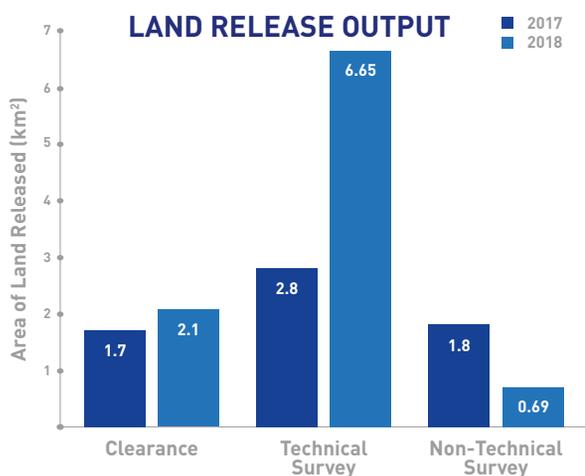
AP MINE CLEARANCE IN 2018

2.1KM²

AP MINES DESTROYED IN 2018

22,139

(including 126 destroyed during spot tasks)



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Zimbabwe remained on track to meet its end-2025 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 mine clearance deadline, exceeding its annual target for land release in 2018. The primary challenges facing Zimbabwe's mine action programme are chiefly financial. Major survey operations have been completed, and remaining mine contamination, while extensive, is well quantified and defined. The national mine action programme is well managed and coordinated by the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC), with clear strategic direction, annual targets, and transparent budget forecasts in its National Mine Action Strategy and revised Article 5 workplan, which were officially launched in March 2018 and in April 2019, respectively. The main challenge is to ensure sufficient financial support to enable Zimbabwe to expand mine action capacity and achieve completion by its end-2025 deadline.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Zimbabwe should meet the revised annual mine clearance targets published in April 2019 and continue implementing its National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–25.
- Zimbabwe should expand its use of integrated demining methodologies first introduced in 2017, including mechanical assets and mine detection dogs (MDDs), and officially incorporate their use into the national mine action standards.
- Increased resources should be allocated to ZIMAC to enable it to effectively manage a fast-growing national mine action programme.
- The Government of Zimbabwe should help ZIMAC to procure additional resources to enable its relocation to outside restricted-access military facilities.
- ZIMAC should increase efforts to secure additional national and international funding in order to meet its 2025 clearance completion deadline. Greater linkages between mine action and national development, along with enhanced cooperation among government ministries, would assist this endeavour.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

| Criterion | Score (2018) | Performance Commentary |
|--|--------------|---|
| UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score) | 8 | Zimbabwe has a good understanding of remaining mine contamination. Nationwide non-technical survey was completed in 2016 leaving only confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) remain to be addressed. Considerable further release through survey is expected. |
| NATIONAL OWNERSHIP & PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score) | 8 | Zimbabwe's mine action programme is entirely nationally owned, with a consistent amount of government support. The sum of US\$500,000 has been provided by the government annually for the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) and the National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU) since 2010, while the army contributes to the demining unit and staff salaries. The mine action programme is well managed by ZIMAC, with a high degree of consultation and collaboration with operators. |
| GENDER (10% of overall score) | 6 | The importance of gender is acknowledged in the National Mine Action Strategy. The National Mine Action Standards do not contain a specific standard on gender mainstreaming, though they do refer to the importance of gender, for example in the deployment of mixed community liaison teams. ZIMAC is considering developing an internal gender and diversity policy. |
| INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & REPORTING (10% of overall score) | 8 | Improvements in information management continued to be evident in 2018, with ZIMAC fully transitioning to the use of Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), with assistance from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). ZIMAC's National Mine Action Strategy, subsequent revised Article 5 workplan, and Article 7 report for 2018 all continued to demonstrate consistently accurate and detailed reporting, which was once a weak point for the national mine action programme. |
| PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score) | 8 | Zimbabwe's first ever National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–25 was officially launched by the government in March 2018 following two years of support from the GICHD. The Strategy, and a subsequent revised workplan published in 2019, accompany Zimbabwe's Article 5 extension through to 2025, and present a realistic estimate of remaining contamination and annual milestones for land release, identifying the resources, time, and funding needed to complete clearance. |
| LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score) | 8 | Zimbabwe made significant strides to increase efficiency of land release, with better use of mechanical assets and mine detection dogs (MDD) in 2018. Further efforts were made to refine clearance methodology for ploughshare mine belts. With ongoing improvements in land release and increasing capacity, and the nature of Zimbabwe's densely laid minefields, operators continue to clear tens of thousands of anti-personnel mines annually with among the world's highest number of mines per square metre. |
| LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score) | 8 | A total of nearly 9.4km ² of land was released in 2018, notably surpassing Zimbabwe's 2018 target for land release under its National Mine Action Strategy and revised Article 5 extension workplan, and a sizeable increase on land release in 2017. With limited additional funding and capacity, Zimbabwe can meet its Article 5 deadline of end 2025, which will be a considerable achievement for one of the world's most heavily mined countries in a particularly challenging political and economic context. |
| Average Score | 7.8 | Overall Programme Performance: GOOD |

DEMINEING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe (NAMAAZ)
- Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Zimbabwean Armed Forces' National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- APOPO (not operational as at August 2019)
- The HALO Trust
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2018, Zimbabwe reported a total of just over 52.6km² of confirmed mined area remaining (see Table 1).¹ This is a decrease from the nearly 62km² reported as at the end of 2017.² According to the operators, this is a “very well defined” understanding of the problem.³ In fact, as ZIMAC explained to Mine Action Review in October 2019, of the total confirmed mined area, only about one quarter (some 13km²) is thought to be actually contaminated with considerable area between mine lines that can be released through survey.⁴

Zimbabwe’s mine contamination, the overwhelming majority of which is of anti-personnel mines, originates from the laying of minefields in the late 1970s during a conflict of decolonisation. At the time of its independence in 1980, Zimbabwe was left with seven major mined areas along its borders with Mozambique and Zambia, and one inland minefield laid by the Rhodesian Army.⁵ Initially, anti-personnel

mines were laid in very dense belts (on average 2,500 mines per kilometre of frontage) to form a “cordon sanitaire”, with up to 5,500 mines per kilometre in some places. Over time, this cordon sanitaire was breached or subject to erosion. In response, in many sections, a second belt of “ploughshare” directional fragmentation mines protected by anti-personnel mines was laid “inland” of the cordon sanitaire.⁶ Anti-vehicle mines were used extensively by armed groups but most were detonated by vehicles or have since been cleared.⁷

All areas remaining to be addressed are CHAs and no suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) remain in Zimbabwe following the completion of significant re-survey in 2016.⁸ While this remained the case in 2018, according to ZIMAC, a total of close to 295,700m² was added to the total estimate of contamination due to expansion of existing CHAs during pre-clearance re-surveys.⁹

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area (at end 2018)¹⁰

| Location | Area of CHA (m ²) |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Manicaland (Rusitu to Muzite Mission and Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill) | 11,912,371 |
| Mashonaland East (Mazowe to Rwenya) | 11,391,037 |
| Mashonaland Central (Musengezi to Mazowe) | 9,750,767 |
| Matabeleland North (Lusulu) | 56,000 |
| Masvingo (Crooks Corner to Sango Border Post) | 19,527,360 |
| Total | 52,637,535 |

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe (NAMA AZ) is a policy and regulatory body on all issues relating to mine action in Zimbabwe. ZIMAC was established in 2000 within the Ministry of Defence as the focal point and coordination centre of all mine action in the country. ZIMAC is mandated to report to NAMA AZ.¹¹

As at August 2019, ZIMAC’s office remained located inside of a military cantonment, which limited civilian access. Zimbabwe has pledged to relocate the ZIMAC office many times, once the Ministry of Defence has secured the necessary funds.¹²

According to ZIMAC’s most recent 2019 projections, a total of close to US\$130 million is required to meet its extended Article 5 deadline by 2025, with, on average, close to US\$16.2 million per year.¹³ ZIMAC confirmed that in 2018, the Government of Zimbabwe provided US\$500,000 towards the operational and administrative costs of both the National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU) and ZIMAC. The salaries and allowances and transport expenses of staff were covered by the army. ZIMAC informed Mine Action Review that the economic downturn in 2018 was likely to limit the government’s potential to increase any funding for mine action; though it expected existing funding levels to be maintained.¹⁴ According to ZIMAC, the Government of

Zimbabwe has committed US\$500,000 to the NMCU and for the operational costs of ZIMAC every year since 2010.¹⁵

As part of its focus for 2019, ZIMAC reported comprehensive resource mobilisation efforts will include building parliamentary awareness of the national mine action programme and encouraging greater engagement from relevant government ministries with a role to play in mine action, including the Ministry of Health and Child Care and the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare.¹⁶

With assistance from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), ZIMAC developed a Communication and Resource Mobilisation Strategy in 2018, which was finalised in the first half of 2019. As at August 2019, the Strategy had received government approval and was awaiting an official launch. ZIMAC informed Mine Action Review that top priorities for which it hoped to procure additional resources included funding for a planned national mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) victim survey, website hosting, relocating the office outside of the military cantonment, equipping the NMCU better, and additional funding for the international demining operators to expand.¹⁷

GENDER

Zimbabwe's National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 includes reference to the importance of addressing gender and diversity considerations.¹⁸ While there is not a specific standard on gender mainstreaming in the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS), reference to gender is contained within the standards, such as NMAS 07 (Management of Demining Operations) which requires that “special efforts should be made to ensure gender balance and diversity of background for Community Liaison Officers”.¹⁹

In July 2019, ZIMAC informed Mine Action Review that while at present, ZIMAC did not have a separate internal gender and diversity policy in place, the issue had been discussed and efforts will be made to develop one. ZIMAC confirmed that all community groups are routinely consulted in survey and community liaison activities, with efforts undertaken to ensure that all age and gender groups are consulted. Survey and community liaison teams are gender-balanced and also make use of school teachers and children to further their outreach. All mine action data is also collected on a disaggregated basis by sex and age.²⁰

ZIMAC reported that gender is taken into account during the planning and prioritisation of minefields for clearance, such as consideration of the risks taken usually by women and girls to cross minefields to fetch water and that of men and boys who often heard cattle or plough near to mined areas.²¹ However, given the nature of the minefields, which are essentially one long and continuous line, operational access constraints often dictate clearance priorities as much as other factors.²² At the same time, according to The HALO Trust, post-clearance

surveys reflect the gendered impact of clearance, such as women and children who often are reportedly the major beneficiaries of clearance, as they are responsible for more than 80% of water collection, with clearance providing safer and more direct access to water sources.²³

According to ZIMAC, women are specifically encouraged to apply for operational positions in job advertisements, and 30% of operational roles in the national mine action programme were held by women in 2018, while 35% of managerial roles were held by women. Yet ZIMAC stated that this fell short of “required” levels, and noted that Zimbabwean women were somewhat reluctant to work in mine action. More effort is to be placed on raising awareness among women and ensuring equal opportunities to employment, regardless of gender. The NMCU, however, had the lowest level of female employment, with less than 5% women members. This was due to the fact that the NMCU staff are recruited from the corps of military engineers, where very few women are engaged.²⁴

International operators confirmed that each organisation had gender policies in place for their programme staff, with a focus on achieving equal access to employment, gender-balanced survey and clearance teams, gender-focused community liaison outreach, disaggregated data collection, and a gender focus to be employed during pre- and post-clearance assessments.²⁵ All operational organisations reported increasing efforts to encourage women to apply for operational, as well as managerial positions, and positive trends in the increasing number of women employed in programmes as a result.²⁶

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Over the past few years, ZIMAC's information management capabilities have increased significantly, with clear evidence of improvement in the quality and accuracy of its reporting, including in its most recent Article 5 deadline extension request, which established an accurate picture of remaining contamination and set, for the first time, a date for the completion of mine clearance. ZIMAC's National Mine Action Strategy, subsequent revised Article 5 workplan, and most recent Article 7 report all continued to demonstrate consistently good quality reporting, something which was once a weak point for the national mine action programme.

In 2018, ZIMAC fully transitioned to the use of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database. A GICHD information management advisor convened a workshop in the start of 2018 to ensure that the IMSMA database was accurate and that ZIMAC personnel were able

to retrieve all the information it contained. ZIMAC noted that workshops, trainings, and international expert support for information management had produced significant results and remained important to ensure the ZIMAC database is up to date and accurate.²⁷

Operators likewise confirmed that using IMSMA in 2018 had improved the quality of data management.²⁸ Quarterly meetings with ZIMAC and all operators also enhanced coordination and communication.²⁹ The HALO Trust highlighted that monthly meetings with ZIMAC were also held to cross-reference data, which it said was extremely positive.³⁰ ZIMAC informed Mine Action Review that work was ongoing in 2019 to import data on mine and ERW victims led by the ZIMAC IMSMA focal point.³¹

PLANNING AND TASKING

Zimbabwe's first ever national mine action strategy, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, developed by ZIMAC with support from the GICHD and input from government ministries, the NMCU, and international mine action organisations, was officially launched on 9 March 2018 by the Vice President and Minister of Defence and War Veterans Affairs in a public event.³² The strategic plan complements Zimbabwe's Article 5 deadline extension request, approved in December 2017, for a period of eight years, until the end of 2025. Operators have lauded the Strategy for its comprehensiveness and its realistic outlook on delivery, which it is hoped will encourage donor funding in its clarity on the resources and efforts needed to make the 2025 deadline a feasible achievement.³³

In April 2019, Zimbabwe published an updated workplan to support compliance with its Article 5 deadline of 31 December 2025. The workplan was based on revised

estimates of remaining contamination and, accounting for progress during 2018, updated annual targets for the remainder of the extension period. These included 8.2km² to be addressed in 2019; 8.3km² to be addressed in 2020; 8.1km² to be addressed in 2021; 8.3km² to be addressed in 2022; 8.3km² to be addressed in 2023; 6.9km² to be addressed in 2024; and the remaining 4.6km² to be addressed in 2025.³⁴

Two strategy workshops and one information management workshop were convened by ZIMAC, supported and facilitated by the GICHD, with all operators invited to participate. On the matter of potential "residual" contamination that might be found after completion of major clearance operations, ZIMAC informed Mine Action Review that plans are in place. It will fall to ZIMAC, the NMCU, and the army engineers, who are stationed in all provinces, to deal with any new explosive devices discovered.³⁵

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

There is no national legislation specific to mine action in Zimbabwe.

In July 2019, ZIMAC informed Mine Action Review that following the successful pilot projects to introduce the use of MDDs and mechanical assets by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and The HALO Trust, revisions to the national mine action standards in these areas were underway, in consultation with operators, and would be completed during the year.³⁶ Expanded use of mechanical and MDD methodologies with other operators was also being explored.³⁷

During 2018, operators and ZIMAC continued to work together on refining clearance techniques on ploughshare mine belts in order to focus narrowly on individual mine rows and maximise area reduction between the rows. An ongoing challenge for operators and ZIMAC continued to be the search for technical solutions to decrease the time spent on "missing mine drills" when gaps in the mine pattern are found.³⁸

The HALO Trust reported that its dual-sensor Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System (HSTAMIDS) detectors were adding significant value in efficiency, with up to 16,000 rapid excavations being conducted per month, saving the equivalent of three additional mine clearance teams per month.³⁹

Regarding quality management, ZIMAC quality assurance (QA) monitors were present on site at operations on a daily basis during 2018.⁴⁰ An independent quality control (QC) team was regularly sent to conduct QC by sampling a minimum of 10% of completed tasks.⁴¹ Operators confirmed that the ZIMAC QA/QC process was rigorous, with well trained and experienced staff. The HALO Trust noted that the combination of a separate sampling team and a highly accessible monitoring team worked especially well, with the former providing thorough external oversight and the latter helping teams to work through any problems.⁴²

OPERATORS

The Zimbabwean Armed Forces' NMCU and, since 2013, The HALO Trust and NPA, all conduct land release in Zimbabwe. Mines Advisory Group (MAG) became operational in December 2017, and APOPO, while accredited in 2017, was yet to commence operations as at August 2019.⁴³

According to ZIMAC, the total deminers deployed by the NMCU rose by 12 in 2018, from 135 in 2017 to 147 in 2018, with additional deminers employed to start re-survey of the Lusulu minefield to verify the size of contamination prior to clearance.⁴⁴

NPA reported that as a result of lost funding at the end of 2017, the number of manual clearance teams deployed was reduced from seven to three; however, capacity was later increased to five manual clearance teams from September 2018 when additional funding was secured.⁴⁵

In 2018, The HALO Trust deployed 25 manual demining teams and 2 mechanical teams to conduct combined clearance and technical survey. In addition, one community outreach team was also deployed to conduct risk education and community liaison. A total of 375 people were employed as part of HALO's operations during the year.⁴⁶

At the start of 2018, MAG deployed one manual clearance team, which increased to three teams during the year with additional funding, for a total of 35 deminers and requisite field and support staff.⁴⁷

Despite its accreditation to start mine action operations in 2017, as at August 2019, APOPO still had not managed to secure the funding required to start operations. APOPO reported it is tasked to survey and clear a 7km² area along the course of a 37km-long stretch of minefield along the border with Mozambique. The minefield begins in Chiredzi district, Masvingo province, in south-eastern Zimbabwe, in a conservation area just outside Gonarezhou national park in an area known as the Sengwe Wildlife Corridor. In July 2019, APOPO informed Mine Action Review that its priorities were to secure funding for one or more manual teams to be deployed by late 2019.⁴⁸

OPERATIONAL TOOLS

While the majority of clearance in Zimbabwe continued to be manual in 2018, mechanical assets and MDDs were being actively integrated into the national mine action programme. As at end 2018, however, the use of MDDs was limited to technical survey and clearance of soil with a high metallic content and the use of mechanical assets limited to clearance of areas with deeply buried mines and also areas with a high metallic content.⁴⁹

MAG did not deploy any mechanical assets or MDDs in 2018, but reported that discussions with ZIMAC were ongoing in 2019 to explore their potential use in future operations.⁵⁰

DEMINEING SAFETY

The HALO Trust reported that a demining accident occurred during clearance of a dense R2M2 minefield after a deminer excavated a signal in an unauthorised manner, initiating an R2M2 mine, resulting in the loss of two fingers. The incident was investigated by a team comprising HALO Trust personnel, ZIMAC, and an external consultant and findings were shared with ZIMAC for wider distribution in the mine action sector.⁵¹

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2018

A total of nearly 9.4km² of land was released in 2018, with close to 8.7km² of mined area released through clearance and technical survey and just under 0.7km² cancelled through non-technical survey.⁵² Notably, this surpassed Zimbabwe's 2018 target for land release of 7.16km² under its National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 and mine action workplan.⁵³

SURVEY IN 2018

Just over 7.3km² of land was released through survey in 2018: nearly 0.7km² was cancelled through non-technical survey while close to 6.6km² was reduced through technical survey.⁵⁴ In 2017, nearly 4.6km² of land was released through survey (just under 1.8km² cancelled and 2.8km² reduced).⁵⁵

Since the cancellation of huge amounts of land during survey in 2014–16, no new significant survey has been undertaken or required. According to ZIMAC, the few areas of cancellation in 2018 were the result of pre-clearance re-survey of a number of polygons carried out to confirm previous data of surveyed areas or where stretches of polygons were found not to contain mines.⁵⁶

Positively, area reduced through technical survey more than doubled in 2018, due to an increase in area reduced by the NMCU as they moved further down the Mwenezi to Sango Border Post minefield and the perimeter fencing of the area and corresponding polygon widened but the three mine rows maintained the same width, enabling greater area reduction between the mine rows and perimeter fencing.⁵⁷ The comprehensive use of MDDs by NPA in technical survey also proved effective, resulting in larger outputs of land reduced.⁵⁸ ZIMAC reported that the NMCU likewise had high reduction output through technical survey due to distinct mine lines within a well-marked minefield in its areas of operations.⁵⁹

Table 2: Cancellation of mined area through non-technical survey in 2018⁶⁰

| Area | Operator | Area cancelled (m ²) |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Rushinga | HALO Trust | 125,533 |
| Gozi | MAG | 16,932 |
| Muzite to Rusitu | NPA | 354,985 |
| Leacon Hill to Sheba Forest | NPA | 196,073 |
| Total | | 693,523 |

Table 3: Reduction of mined area through technical survey in 2018⁶¹

| Area | Operator | Area reduced (m ²) |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Musengezi to Mazowe | HALO Trust | 947,617 |
| Mazowe to Rwenya | MAG | 274,828 |
| Mwenezi to Sango Border Post | NMCU | 3,984,435 |
| Rusitu to Muzite | NPA | 672,756 |
| Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill | NPA | 766,621 |
| Total | | 6,646,257 |

CLEARANCE IN 2018

Clearance of anti-personnel mined area increased in 2018 to 2.1km² up from 1.7km² cleared in 2017. The number of anti-personnel mines destroyed fell, however, from nearly 30,500 in 2017 to just over 22,000 in 2018. This was primarily caused by a sharp decrease in the number of anti-personnel mines destroyed by NPA during the year, which fell from nearly 13,500 in 2017 to just over 600 in 2018. According to NPA, this significant decrease was due to the fact that the

sectors of minefield it was working on in 2018 contained only one mine row, while in 2017 its teams were deployed to parts of the minefield that contained six mine rows at a time.⁶²

In addition, a total of 126 anti-personnel mines were destroyed during explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks in 2018: 95 anti-personnel mines destroyed by The HALO Trust, 25 anti-personnel mines destroyed by NPA, and 6 mines destroyed by MAG.⁶³

Table 4: Mine clearance in 2018⁶⁴

| Area | Operator | Area cleared (m ²) | AP mines destroyed |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Musengezi to Mazowe | HALO Trust | 1,245,435 | 19,137 |
| Mazowe to Rwenya | MAG | 130,208 | 211 |
| Mwenezi | NMCU | 192,831 | 2,060 |
| Rusitu | NPA | 311,351 | 8 |
| Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill | NPA | 232,605 | 597 |
| Totals | | 2,112,430 | 22,013 |

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Table 5: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance (2014–18)

| Year | Area cleared (km ²) |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 2018 | 2.11 |
| 2017 | 1.66 |
| 2016 | 1.67 |
| 2015 | 0.71 |
| 2014 | 0.49 |
| Total | 6.64 |

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the eight-year extension granted in 2017), Zimbabwe is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2025. It is broadly on track to meet this deadline.

ZIMAC confirmed in July 2019 that the 31 December 2025 deadline is achievable, provided that some additional funding is secured. The revised targets for land release in 2019 were on track to be met, with some organisations surpassing their targets. This, it is hoped, will offset the fact that APOPO has yet to start operations or fulfil any of its land release targets. ZIMAC was optimistic that, with the approval and official launch of the Communications and Resource Mobilisation Strategy in 2019, the additional funding required to meet the 2025 deadline will be secured.⁶⁵

All international mine action operators were in agreement that based on existing capacity alone, it will be challenging for Zimbabwe to meet its 2025 target, but optimistically also concurred that, with relatively small additions in funding and capacity, it is still possible.⁶⁶ This is hard to sustain if the current estimate of mined area is robust. With less than seven years to go and some 50km² to release, this would require massive increases in clearance productivity.

The HALO Trust emphasised that the more teams that can be put on the ground now will save additional costs and expenditure on equipment needed in the future. It also reiterated that if Mozambique could be persuaded to release the demining equipment it was holding, three and a half years after declaring itself mine free, the equipment could be transferred across the border and would be a great help to demining efforts in Zimbabwe.⁶⁷

MAG echoed these concerns about funding, emphasising that the challenges presented by the internal economic situation and external funding perceptions were considerable. The chronic failings of the national economy have led to continuing shortages of basic goods, lengthy fuel queues, inconsistent supplies, and inflation levels at nearly 200%. These economic limitations, combined with changes in currency regulations and the rising cost of fuel, is putting a strain on already finite funding sources for all operators, it said.⁶⁸

A further concern as noted above, the revised workplan and budget also include projections for APOPO as an implementing partner, and, as at August 2019, as they were yet to be operational, other operators will either need to increase their land release output or Zimbabwe risks falling short of its targets.

At the same time, there are many, clearly positive aspects of Zimbabwe's mine action programme, such as having a strong, nationally-owned mine action centre led by experienced and dedicated staff members; a realistic estimate of the remaining problem and national mine action strategy; and a collaborative working environment in which operators can quickly ramp up capacity and output, putting additional funds immediately to use towards an achievable goal.

- 1 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, Operations Coordinator, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 2 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 12 June 2018.
- 3 Email from Sam Fricker, Programme Manager, HALO Zimbabwe, 18 September 2019.
- 4 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 4 October 2019.
- 5 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary, p. 1; and email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 10 October 2017.
- 6 HALO Trust, "Zimbabwe, History of Minelaying", accessed 10 February 2014; 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary; and Analysis of Zimbabwe's 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted by the President of the 13th Meeting of States Parties on behalf of the States Parties mandated to analyse requests for extensions, 18 June 2014, p. 3.
- 7 HALO Trust, "Zimbabwe, History of Minelaying", undated but accessed 10 February 2014.
- 8 Article 7 report (for 2017), Form D.
- 9 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 10 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019; and Article 7 Report (for 2018), p. 13. According to ZIMAC, for the purpose of monitoring progress as well as handing over completed areas, these five CHAs were further divided into smaller areas, which by end 2018 included 171 (ongoing and open) areas recorded in the IMSMA database. As noted by the Article 5 Committee, there is a "minor discrepancy in Zimbabwe's report in which Form D, page 2, indicates Zimbabwe having addressed 6,218,692 square metres in 2017, and 9,452,120 square metres in 2018 for a total of 15,670,812 square metres compared to a reported accumulative area addressed of 13,493,754 square metres as indicated in the Zimbabwe's workplan (page 13)".
- 11 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.
- 12 2017 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received 9 August 2017, p. 39.
- 13 Article 7 Report (for 2018), pp. 4–5.
- 14 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 15 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form D.
- 16 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019; and Article 7 Report (for 2018), p. 8.
- 17 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 18 Email from Tom Dibb, HALO Trust, 22 February 2018.
- 19 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.
- 20 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 21 Ibid.
- 22 Emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019; and Adam Komorowski, Regional Director West Africa & Latin America, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), 1 August 2019.
- 23 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.
- 24 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 25 Ibid.; and emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019; Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019; and Chimwemwe Tembo, Programme Manager, NPA, 15 July 2019.
- 26 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019; Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019; Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019; and Chimwemwe Tembo, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), 15 July 2019.
- 27 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 12 June 2018.
- 28 Emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019; and Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 15 July 2019.
- 29 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019; and Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.
- 30 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.
- 31 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 32 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 12 June 2018.
- 33 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.
- 34 Article 7 Report (for 2018), p. 36.
- 35 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 36 Ibid.
- 37 Email from Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019.
- 38 Emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019; and Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019.
- 39 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.
- 40 Ibid.; and emails from Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019; and Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 15 July 2019.
- 41 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019 and 12 June 2018.
- 42 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.
- 43 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019 and 4 September 2018.
- 44 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019; and Article 7 Report (for 2018), p. 37.
- 45 Email from Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 15 July 2019.
- 46 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.
- 47 Email from Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019.
- 48 Email from Ashley Fitzpatrick, Program Manager, APOPO Zimbabwe, 27 July 2019.
- 49 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 12 June 2018; and Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 21 August 2019.
- 50 Email from Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019.
- 51 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.
- 52 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 53 Statement of Zimbabwe, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 8 June 2018; and Article 7 Report (for 2017), Annex A: Revised Workplan for 2018–25.
- 54 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 55 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 12 June 2018; Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 13 February and 27 August 2018; Tom Dibb, HALO Trust, 22 February 2018; and Adam Komorowski, MAG, 13 April 2018.
- 56 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019 and 12 June 2018.
- 57 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019; Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019; and Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019.
- 58 Email from Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 15 July 2019.
- 59 Article 7 Report (for 2018), p. 37.
- 60 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019. The HALO Trust reported that the 125,533m² was cancelled as a result of a data review exercise, in which a number of overlapping polygons left over from old survey data were cancelled. Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 21 August 2019.
- 61 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 62 Email from Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 15 July 2019.
- 63 Ibid.; and emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019; Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019; and Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 15 July 2019.
- 64 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019. Slightly different figures for the number of anti-personnel mines destroyed were provided by MAG and NPA. NPA reported a total of 697 mines destroyed in the Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill minefield. Email from Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 15 July 2019.
- 65 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019.
- 66 Emails from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019; Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019; Ashley Fitzpatrick, APOPO, 27 July 2019; and Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 15 July 2019.
- 67 Email from Sam Fricker, HALO Trust, 20 July 2019.
- 68 Email from Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019.