SENEGAL

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2027

Not on track to meet deadline
Four-year extension to 1 March 2031 requested (interim)

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 1.93KM^2

Light
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

(operator data)

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (m^2)	Release in 2024 (m^2)
Clearance	8,821	5,508
Technical Survey	6,063	114,825
Non-Technical Survey	0	0

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	34 (incl. one in spot task)	19

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Mine action in Senegal experienced contrasting developments in 2025 and the first half of 2026. In 2025, the Senegalese National Mine Action Centre (CNAMS) underwent an institutional crisis, with staff strikes over salary arrears, resignations, and precarious working conditions. The disruption affected national coordination, delaying accreditations and task allocation, and weakening engagement with local authorities, national institutions, and international partners. Nevertheless, operators sustained survey and clearance. Humanity & Inclusion (HI), the only operator conducting clearance, released 0.25km^2 through technical survey (TS) and clearance, more than double its 2024 output, although most of this was battle area clearance (BAC). Mines Advisory Group (MAG) continued non-technical survey (NTS), identifying new hazardous areas.

The situation improved in early 2026 following the appointment of a new CNAMS Director in February. He reactivated staff, restored institutional functions, renewed operators' expired organisational accreditations, and submitted Senegal's revised Article 5 deadline extension request, which was due to be considered at the Twenty-Third Meeting of the States Parties. Senegal had failed to submit its extension request on time in 2025, resulting in States Parties granting only a one-year interim extension until 1 March 2027. The Government also committed to increasing its annual funding allocation to CNAMS, signalling renewed political commitment to mine action.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Senegal should strengthen CNAMS' institutional capacity by re-establishing regular coordination with operators, addressing the backlog in information management, and ensuring timely accreditation and task allocation based on operator capacity and the priority needs of affected communities.**
- **Senegal should adopt a new national mine action strategy reflecting its latest Article 5 deadline extension request.**
- **Senegal should review and formally adopt its national mine action standards (NMAS), ensuring they are aligned with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).**

- **Senegal should distinguish between BAC and anti-personnel (AP) mine clearance in its reporting under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).**
- **Senegal should transparently report on suspected AP mine contamination around military bases along the borders with Guinea-Bissau and The Gambia to demonstrate compliance with Article 1 of the APMBC.**
- **Senegal should develop a national strategy for addressing residual contamination after completion and establish a sustainable civilian national residual response capacity.**

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	7	5	Senegal's Article 7 report covering 2025 incorporated MAG's 2025 survey results, providing a clearer picture of remaining contamination as at the end of the year. It estimated its remaining known AP mined area at 1.93km^2 across 40 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and 61 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs), seven of which had no estimated size. Further survey is also required in a number of border localities affected by the presence of armed groups where additional hazardous areas may be identified.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	2	4	CNAMS experienced major disruption in 2025, as staff strikes over salary arrears and weakened engagement with national and international partners delayed accreditations, task allocation, and Senegal's Article 5 deadline extension request. The appointment of a new Director in early 2026, together with a commitment to increased national funding, marked a positive shift. Resource mobilisation remains critical, however, as Senegal continues to depend heavily on international funding to fulfil its Article 5 obligations.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	5	5	Accredited operators employ a high proportion of women in operational roles, well beyond many mine action programmes worldwide. However, Senegal has yet to mainstream gender at the programme level, as reflected by the absence of gender considerations in its 2026 Article 5 deadline extension request and the lack of a mine action policy or national standard addressing gender and diversity.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	5	5	It remains unclear whether Senegal has a national mine action standard (NMAS) on environmental management. Its 2023 Environmental Law and 2025 implementing decree do not specifically address mine action but require environmental assessments and mitigation measures for activities likely to affect the environment. HI, the only operator conducting clearance in 2025, applies its own environmental standard operating procedures and consults water and forestry authorities when planning operations.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	3	5	CNAMS' upgrade of its Information Management System for Mine Action from IMSMA New Generation to IMSMA Core, together with database cleaning and the approval of new reporting forms, stalled in 2025 following staff resignations. The disruption also delayed the integration of survey results into the national database. Senegal submitted its fifth Article 5 deadline extension request in March 2026, in accordance with the decision at the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	4	5	Senegal submitted a new work plan as part of its 2026 extension request, aiming to complete clearance by March 2031. However, uncertainty over the full extent of the remaining contamination may affect implementation. Delays in accreditation and task allocation constrained operations in 2025. Stronger task management, based on available operational capacity, could help accelerate progress.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	4	5	Senegal developed NMAS in 2009 and revised them in 2013 and again in 2021, but the revised standards have never been formally approved. The 2026 extension request indicates that the NMAS will be reviewed and updated during the next extension period.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	4	4	In 2025, Senegal failed to submit its deadline extension request on time. During the year, HI released 14,884m^2 of AP mined area and 238,801m^2 of ERW-contaminated area. Senegal's statement on Djirak during the APMBC Intersessional Meetings in June 2026 marked a step towards greater transparency. Senegal still needs to clarify whether any AP mines remain around military installations, thereby avoiding further potential compliance concerns.
Average Score	**4.5**	**4.7**	**Overall Programme Performance: POOR**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Commission for the Implementation of the Ottawa Convention
- Senegalese National Mine Action Centre (CNAMS)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- APIT Humanitaire Développement (APIT) (ended survey in February 2025)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- APOPO (closed in April 2025)
- HAMAP Humanitaire (closed in February 2025)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Senegal has a reasonable, albeit incomplete, understanding of its AP mine contamination. As at the end of 2025, Senegal reported 40 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and 54 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) with a combined known area of 1,929,565m^2, in addition to seven SHAs whose size remained to be determined (see Table 2).[1] Senegal also acknowledged that additional hazardous areas may be identified through future NTS.[2]

The current baseline is largely based on information collected by accredited operators through NTS. However, further survey remains necessary as new hazardous areas continue to be identified following reports from local communities and mine accidents, while some suspected localities remain inaccessible due to their location in border areas or the presence of armed groups. Mediation and negotiations are required before survey can begin to create space and mitigate risks.[3] Operators also consider the contamination baseline to remain indicative, even in accessible areas. Mines were often laid irregularly and without documented patterns, while the passage of time, generational change, limited population presence, and dense vegetation have reduced the reliability of information obtained from affected communities.[4]

NTS conducted by MAG in 2025 significantly expanded the known contamination baseline. MAG identified 38 new confirmed and suspected hazardous areas covering 889,181m^2 in the departments of Goudomp, Oussouye, and Ziguinchor (see Table 1).[5] Institutional disruption within the CNAMS delayed the integration of these results into the national database. They were subsequently incorporated into Senegal's Article 7 report covering 2025, but were not reflected in its initial Article 5 deadline extension request.

The figures subsequently recorded by the CNAMS differ from MAG's survey results. Of the 40 localities surveyed by MAG, the CNAMS recorded 34 hazardous areas (11 CHAs covering 210,762m^2 and 23 SHAs covering 741,236m^2) for a total of 951,998m^2.[6] At the time of writing, it was unclear why the CNAMS recorded a larger total area, including whether boundaries or classifications had been revised when the survey results were integrated into the national database.

Table 1: Areas identified through NTS in 2025 (MAG data)[7]

Department	Municipality	CHA or SHA	Area surveyed (m²)
Goudomp	Niagha	7	111,453
Oussouye	Santhiaba Manjack	13	373,787
Ziguinchor	Niassia, Niaguis, Boutoupa Camaracounda	18	403,941
Totals		**38**	**889,181**

In its Article 7 report covering 2025, CNAMS also identified four areas requiring re-survey: three SHAs covering an estimated 1.6km^2 and one CHA covering 579,115m^2.[8] Together, these four areas requiring re-survey cover approximately 2.17km^2, which exceeds the 1.93km^2 of remaining known contamination reported at the end of 2025. It was unclear how these areas relate to the reported contamination baseline.

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 6–7.
2 Presentation by Senegal on Article 5, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 15–18 June 2026; and 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Annex 2, p. 41.
3 Presentation by Senegal on Article 5, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 15–18 June 2026.
4 Email from Marianne Chmitelin, Regional Armed Violence Reduction Specialist, HI, 16 June 2026.
5 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, Country Director, Senegal, MAG, 12 May and 6 August 2026.
6 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 5.
7 Emails from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 12 May and 6 August 2026.
8 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 5-6.

Over the years, HI has encountered a range of AP mine types in Casamance, including Belgian PRBM 35, Portuguese M969 and M411, Russian PMN and POMZ, and Chinese Type 59 mines, as well as Soviet TMN-46 and TM-57 anti-vehicle (AV) mines. Almost all mines were found on roads and tracks.[9] HI has also encountered a small number of improvised mines, including one device functioning as an AP mine that it believes dates from the 1990s or early 2000s.[10]

Table 2: AP mined area by region (at end 2025)[11]

Region	Department	CHAs	Area (m^2)	SHAs	Area (m^2)	Total area (m^2)	Total CHAs and SHAs	Comments
Sédhiou	Goudomp	5	106,584	5	78,984	185,568	10	
Ziguinchor	Bignona	23	615,307	20	222,670	837,977	45	Including 2 SHAs whose size remained to be determined
	Oussouye	5	51,510	10	470,673	522,183	16	Including 1 SHA whose size remained to be determined
	Ziguinchor	7	96,904	19	286,933	383,837	30	Including 4 SHAs whose size remained to be determined
Totals		**40**	**870,305**	**54**	**1,059,260**	**1,929,565**	**101**	**Including 7 SHAs whose size remained to be determined**

CONTAMINATION AT MILITARY BASES

Potential contamination surrounding former or current military outposts in border areas has been a longstanding concern, regularly raised during meetings of the APMBC. Senegal has been requested to clarify the extent of this contamination and the lack of information provided on one specific area has raised questions regarding Senegal's compliance with Article 1 of the Convention, which prohibits States Parties from maintaining mined areas for ongoing military purposes. In particular, the continued inclusion of Djirak in successive Article 5 deadline extension requests since 2015 prompted questions as to whether these mined areas retained any strategic value. Senegal had explained, in 2020, that Djirak lies on the border with Guinea-Bissau, where a Senegalese military post faces a base of a faction of the MFDC across the border, with mined areas of undetermined origin located in the buffer zone between the two positions.[12]

While Senegal's latest Article 5 deadline extension request does not explicitly address these concerns, it includes Djirak's nine CHAs, covering 77,240m^2, in the work plan for clearance between January and December 2027.[13] At the UN National Directors' Meeting (NDM) in April 2026 and the APMBC Intersessional Meetings in June 2026, the new CNAMS Director provided further clarification. He explained that humanitarian demining has been constrained by both security and logistical factors. The main access road remains under the influence of an active faction, preventing the safe deployment of demining teams. In addition, access to Djirak requires crossing a river, and no suitable arrangements currently exist to transport personnel, equipment, and other operational assets. Senegal nevertheless reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the return of communities to the municipality of Santhiaba Manjacque, where Djirak is located, and indicated that progress in the peace process could enable operations in the coming years.[14]

Information provided by operators supports this assessment. HI confirmed that it has conducted several joint reconnaissance missions with the CNAMS, most recently in March 2026. It noted that the alternative access route requires crossing the river between Boudiédiéte and Djirak, preventing deployment of its 10-tonne mechanical asset. This is particularly problematic because the mine types encountered are largely non-detectable and require mechanical processing; otherwise, full excavation would be necessary. HI also reported that CNAMS had tasked it in 2016 to undertake clearance in the area.[15]

MAG was subsequently tasked to survey Djirak, which it did in June 2025. MAG assessed the area as heavily contaminated by explosive ordnance, identifying ten hazardous areas (five CHAs and five SHAs), covering a total of 234,317m^2. Djirak was heavily affected by the conflict, experiencing aerial bombardments and

9 Emails from Emmanuel Sauvage, then Programme Director, HI, 24 April 2023 and 3 July 2024; Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23 March 2026, p. 10; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 15.

10 Email from Marianne Chmitelin, HI, 1 July 2025.

11 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 6–7; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23MSP Senegal Executive Summary, 13 October 2026, p. 3.

12 "Senegal's Clarifications in Response to Questions from the Committee on its Third Article 5 Extension Request," 22 September 2020, p. 3.

13 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23 March 2026, p. 30.

14 Interview with Salomon Diedhiou, Director, CNAMS, 23 April 2026, in Geneva; and Presentation by Senegal on Article 5, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 15–18 June 2026.

15 Interview with Abdourahmane Ba, Head of Operations, HI Senegal, and Clément Philit, Country Director, HI Senegal, 24 April 2026, in Geneva; and email from Marianne Chmitelin, HI, 16 June 2026.

mine-laying, with numerous mines subsequently found and mine-related accidents affecting both people and animals. MAG also identified a crater where previously discovered mines had reportedly been destroyed. The area is strategically located along the border with Guinea-Bissau and was previously frequented by MFDC fighters.[16]

MAG also confirmed reports of contamination near other military positions, including in Bantacountou (Djibanar commune, Goudomp department), and Boffa (Boutoupa Camaracunda commune, Ziguinchor department), based on information from local communities and, in some cases, the defence and security forces.[17]

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The National Commission for the Implementation of the Ottawa Convention, established in 2005, serves as Senegal's national mine action authority. Chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, it includes representatives of the Presidency, the Prime Minister's Office, and several government ministries. It is responsible for developing the national mine action strategy, promoting the socio-economic rehabilitation of mine-affected areas, and overseeing the work of the national mine action centre.[18] Senegal has acknowledged that the Commission's effectiveness has been affected by the frequent turnover of ministerial representatives and the absence of formal decision-making procedures, resulting in delays. The newly appointed CNAMS Director reported having initiated a process to redefine CNAMS's institutional positioning. He stressed the need for the Centre to have a stronger mandate to engage in dialogue in areas that remain under the influence of armed groups, in order to facilitate humanitarian access for mine action.[19]

Demining operations in Casamance are coordinated by CNAMS, which was established by decree in August 2006 under the authority of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. The Centre comprises a quality assurance and quality control service and three departments covering operations and information management, risk education (RE) and victim assistance (VA), and administration, finance, and logistics.[20] CNAMS is responsible for promoting the national mine action programme; mobilising resources; accrediting demining organisations; coordinating and supervising survey and clearance; designing and implementing a VA and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) programme; and the monitoring and evaluation of operations. Since commencing clearance operations in 2008, CNAMS has implemented Senegal's national humanitarian demining strategy amid recurring insecurity and periods of relative calm.[21]

The CNAMS experienced an internal crisis in 2025. From August onwards, many of its functions were effectively brought to a standstill. Staff went on strike over several months of unpaid salaries and called for an audit of the Centre's management.[22] Several key positions became vacant, operator accreditation processes were delayed, and information management activities stalled. These difficulties were reflected in Senegal's late submission of its Article 5 deadline extension request in November 2025, which resulted in States Parties granting only a one-year extension instead of the three years requested.[23]

The Government initiated corrective measures with the appointment of a new CNAMS Director in February 2026, a native of Casamance with extensive management and development experience. Since then, key personnel have returned to their posts, the Ziguinchor office has become fully operational again, and operator accreditations have resumed.[24]

The Government also committed to increase the annual funding allocation to the CNAMS from CFA 300 million to CFA 500 million in 2026 (equivalent to more than €750,000).[25] Following the presidential election, mine action received renewed attention through the "Plan Diomaye for Casamance", under which Senegal committed to completing humanitarian demining as a measure to support the return of displaced populations and local development.[26]

Despite the institutional difficulties within the CNAMS, operators continued to describe the operational environment as generally favourable. National authorities facilitated visas, residence permits, and other administrative requirements for international personnel. Agreements with humanitarian organisations and approved investment plans provide tax and customs exemptions for demining equipment, although MAG's 2023–24 investment plan took a full year to be approved, delaying access to these exemptions. Local administrative and security authorities also provided regular support to resolve operational challenges.[27]

Senegal does not have a formal national coordination platform for mine action stakeholders. However, the Governor of Casamance remains actively engaged, and the steering committee for the Plan Diomaye for Casamance meets approximately every six months, bringing together local authorities, national institutions, international organisations, and development partners. HI and MAG also maintain regular informal operational coordination, while the Swiss Embassy in Dakar periodically convenes meetings involving national authorities, national and international operators, United Nations agencies, and diplomatic representatives, the latest of which took place in July 2026.[28]

16 Email from Mor Mbaye, Information Management Supervisor, MAG, 6 August 2026.
17 Emails from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 12 May 2026; and Mor Mbaye, MAG, 6 August 2026.
18 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23 March 2026, p. 12.
19 Presentation by Senegal on Article 5, Intersessional Meetings, 15–18 June 2026.
20 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23 March 2026, pp. 35–36.
21 Ibid., p. 12.
22 "Le CNAMS recevra 164 millions de francs CFA pour payer les arriérés de ses travailleurs", *APS*, 30 November 2025, https://bit.ly/4wWcJXh.
23 Decision on the request submitted by Senegal for an extended deadline, APMBC Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties, 1–5 December 2025.
24 Interview with Salomon Diedhiou, CNAMS, in Geneva, 23 April 2026.
25 Presentation by Senegal on Article 5, Intersessional Meetings, 15–18 June 2026.
26 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23 March 2026, p. 7.
27 Emails from Marianne Chmitelin, HI, 16 June 2026; and Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 12 May and 6 August 2026.
28 Presentation by Senegal on Article 5, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 15–18 June 2026.

No institutional capacity development was provided to the CNAMS in 2025 due to the internal crisis. MAG, for example, suspended planned institutional support at the end of 2024 after several initiatives with the CNAMS failed to progress for many months.[29]

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

Senegal remains largely dependent on international donors and has repeatedly stated that insufficient funding is a major constraint on mine action progress. Senegal reported that, since 2020, the sector had received a total of US$9.3 million from international donors, including the European Union, France, India, Japan (the latter for a project running until 2027), the Netherlands, Norway, and the United States (US). The Government of Senegal provided an additional $3.3 million over the same period.[30]

In 2025, HI Senegal received funding from the European Union and the Netherlands, both of which came to an end. In 2026, its donor portfolio shifted with new funding from Luxembourg and the DIGGER Foundation for demining, while Belgium supported EORE.[31] MAG was funded by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs under a regional project covering several West African nations including Senegal, from August 2022 to December 2025. In 2025, it secured additional funding from the Norwegian Embassy in Senegal to start conducting manual clearance for the first time, as well as EORE integrated with livelihoods activities until August 2026. Funding under the global Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) grant will enable demining to continue until 2028; and EORE, implemented by Caritas Ziguinchor, until 2029.[32] In 2025, India through UNDP supported Senegal mine action programme.[33] For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Senegal on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[34]

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

CNAMS has stated there is no gender discrimination in Senegal's mine action programme and staff are recruited on the basis of competence.[35] CNAMS did not provide any information on its own employment of women in 2025 but women were relatively well represented among staff employed by the two international survey or clearance organisations (see Table 3). Senegal's Article 5 deadline extension request, however, does not mention gender. The Committee on Article 5 Implementation had requested information on this point in successive intersessional meetings.[36]

HI reported that its armed violence reduction teams employed eight women in operational roles, including four deminers, one nurse, one radio operator, and two conflict transformation staff. According to HI, the use of mixed-gender demining and community liaison teams has been key to facilitating community acceptance of operations and promoting gender integration.[37] MAG also employed three women in operational roles as community liaison officers and a supervisor.[38]

Table 3: Gender composition of operators in 2025

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
HI	51	23 (45%)	13	6 (46%)	28	11 (39%)
MAG*	14	5 (36%)	6	2 (33%)	7	2 (29%)
Totals	**65**	**28 (43%)**	**19**	**8 (42%)**	**35**	**13 (37%)**

* MAG's reported staffing included personnel assigned to both its Senegal mine action programme and its West Africa and Sahel regional coordination. In 2025, six personnel worked on the mine action programme in Senegal, including three women (two community liaison officers and one supervisor).

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Senegal adopted an Environmental Code in 2001, replacing the previous 1983 legislation. The Code was superseded by Law No. 2023-15 of 2 August 2023, which modernised the country's environmental framework. While the law does not specifically address mine action, it requires environmental assessments for projects likely to affect the environment.

29 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 12 May 2026.
30 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23 March 2026, p. 7 and Annex 5, pp. 47–48.
31 Email from Marianne Chmitelin, HI, 16 June 2026.
32 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 12 May and 6 August 2026.
33 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 18.
34 https://the-monitor.org.
35 Email from Ibrahima Seck, Head of Information Management, CNAMS, 21 May 2020.
36 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations", Intersessional Meetings, 21–23 June 2023 and 18–20 June 2024.
37 Email from Marianne Chmitelin, HI, 16 June 2026.
38 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 12 May 2026.

Its 2025 implementing decree also provides for measures to mitigate environmental impacts, manage hazardous waste, and rehabilitate affected sites.[39]

Senegal has not developed a specific NMAS on environmental management. While its Article 5 deadline extension request does not include a dedicated section on environmental considerations, it states that demining should comply with environmental legislation, including measures to protect places of worship and ecosystems, the use of low-carbon machinery, and implementation of protocols for the management of explosive waste to prevent soil and groundwater contamination.[40]

HI operates under an updated standard operating procedure (SOP) and conducts environmental assessments before survey and clearance. As most tasks are carried out in agricultural or protected areas, the burning of vegetation is prohibited. HI consults the Water and Forestry Department prior to deployment, does not cut shrubs with a diameter greater than 10cm, and requires authorisation from the Department before felling any trees.[41] MAG reported following the organisation's Global Strategic Framework 2024–28, which aims to reduce carbon emissions by 45% by 2030. It is also developing a specific environmental management policy.[42]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

CNAMS operates an IMSMA database that is being upgraded from the ageing New Generation version to IMSMA Core. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) conducted a workshop on data migration in December 2023, followed by several meetings with operators' information management officers in 2024. The new system is meant to allow operators to input, update, and download data independently and is expected to include an automated database clean-up during migration.[43]

Given the internal difficulties faced by CNAMS in 2025, particularly the resignation of its Head of Information Management, activation of IMSMA Core was delayed. During the year, operator data were not processed, integrated, or consolidated at national level. Operators nevertheless retained access to IMSMA Core to upload operational data directly, while continuing to submit monthly narrative reports together with all digital and hard-copy operational forms. The former Head of Information Management agreed to return in 2026, and as at the time of writing, technical support had resumed.[44]

In April 2024, MAG organised a two-day workshop in Ziguinchor with CNAMS and implementing partners to review and update the information management tools used for land release. The workshop resulted in the development of a land release process flowchart, the revision of cancellation criteria, and the review of 10 data collection forms.[45] However, CNAMS had still not formally approved the proposed changes by the end of 2025.[46]

Senegal's late submission of its Article 5 deadline extension request in November 2025 prevented the Committee on Article 5 Implementation from analysing the request and engaging in the required cooperative dialogue. States Parties therefore granted Senegal a one-year interim extension to 1 March 2027 and requested the submission of a detailed deadline extension request by 31 March 2026. Senegal submitted the revised request on 23 March 2026 and made a detailed presentation during the Intersessional Meetings in June 2026.[47] However, the data presented by Senegal on land released through NTS, TS, and clearance during the previous extension period could not be fully reconciled with Mine Action Review's monitoring.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Senegal's National Mine Action Strategy 2021–26 was revised in 2022 following consultation with mine action stakeholders. With the strategy due to expire, Senegal indicated that it would seek support from the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and the GICHD to develop a new national mine action strategy reflecting the objectives and priorities of its 2026 Article 5 deadline extension request.[48]

The executive summary of Senegal's Article 5 deadline extension request mentioned that during the period 2021–26, NTS covered 119 localities, identifying 75 hazardous areas totalling 1,281,987m^2 across 36 localities in the departments of Ziguinchor, Oussouye, Bignona, and Goudomp. Seventeen planned localities could not be surveyed, although four were subsequently surveyed in 2025. TS and clearance addressed 23 of the 37 targeted CHAs, covering 508,889m^2, primarily in the Nyassia and Niaguis districts of Ziguinchor.[49]

39 Art. 20, Law No. 2023-15 of 2 August 2023, https://bit.ly/4pGUoLJ; and Decree No. 2025-227 of 31 January 2025, https://bit.ly/4c0zJwa.
40 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23 March 2026, p. 15.
41 Emails from Marianne Chmitelin, HI, 1 July 2025 and 16 June 2026.
42 Emails from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 18 July 2025 and 12 May 2026.
43 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 18 July 2025.
44 Email from the GICHD, 30 September 2026.
45 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23 March 2026, pp. 13-14.
46 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 12 May 2026.
47 Presentation by Senegal on Article 5, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 15–18 June 2026, https://bit.ly/4hBwgb0.
48 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 13 and 27–28.
49 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23MSP Senegal Executive Summary, 13 October 2026, p. 2.

Senegal's 2026 Article 5 deadline extension request aimed to complete clearance of all known mined areas and includes a detailed work plan for releasing 1.93km^2 of known contamination by 2030 (see Table 4).[50] It estimated international funding requirements at US$12.2 million. In addition, Senegal provides national funding to CNAMS, whose annual budget increased to CFA 500 million (approximately €750,000) in 2025.[51]

Table 4: Land release targets (Article 7 report data)[52]

Year	Department	CHAs and SHAs	Area (m^2)
2026	Bignona, Goudomp, Ziguinchor	32	344,133
2027	Bignona, Oussouye, Ziguinchor	33	600,875
2028	Bignona	25	400,111
2029	Bignona	6	305,390
2030	Oussouye	5	279,056
Totals		**101**	**1,929,565**

Tasking has been a recurring challenge in Senegal and, together with insecurity, was among the factors that contributed to the withdrawal of some operators in the past. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) operated in Senegal from 2012 to 2014, while MECHEM was active from 2012 to 2016.[53]

Task dossiers are assigned by the CNAMS in accordance with its operational planning, with priority given to villages where displaced populations are returning, in line with the stabilisation and community return priorities set out under the Diomaye Plan for Casamance. However, there do not appear to be clearly defined and formalised prioritisation criteria governing the allocation of survey and clearance tasks. Once allocated, operators prioritise interventions through inclusive consultations with affected communities, local authorities, and other relevant stakeholders, reflecting the sensitive security environment in a region emerging from decades-long insurgency. This approach helps ensure that operations respond to community priorities and maximise the socio-economic impact of land release. In practice, accredited operators, particularly MAG and HI, have also sought to maintain close coordination in planning and implementing survey in order to avoid duplication of NTS and re-survey efforts across SHAs.[54]

Operators identified delays in the issuance of task dossiers by the CNAMS, which worsened in 2025, as well as delays in implementing actions agreed during coordination workshops, as key constraints affecting operational progress. They also reported prolonged discussions with the CNAMS over the continued need for NTS in Casamance, which further delayed the allocation of new tasks. Greater efforts are needed to improve task management and allocation, taking into account operators' operational capacity and the priority needs of affected communities.[55]

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

The 2026 Article 5 deadline extension request indicated that Senegal intends to seek support from the ISU and the GICHD to revise its NMAS during the deadline extension period.[56] Senegal's NMAS (Normes Sénégalaise d'action antimines, NOSAM) were developed in 2009 and partially revised in 2013.[57] The CNAMS initiated a further revision in December 2021, focusing on standards for NTS, TS, clearance, accreditation, RE, and marking.[58] A workshop was held in November 2022, with the support of MAG, to revise the NMAS. However, the revised standards have not been formally approved by the National Commission and therefore have not yet entered into force.[59] Operators consider the standards to be well adapted to the threat and the local context, but noted that they would benefit from being revised and updated, as they have not been reviewed for several years.[60]

Since 2011, demining operations in Senegal have relied on a combination of manual, mechanical, and mine detection dog (MDD) assets. Manual clearance by full excavation is slow and achieves limited productivity, while conventional detectors alone cannot detect the minimum-metal PRBM35 mine. As a result, effective and efficient clearance requires

50 Ibid., p. 5.
51 Ibid., p. 6.
52 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Action 18, pp. 9–13.
53 See Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report from 2016.
54 Emails from Marianne Chmitelin, HI, 16 June 2026; and Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 12 May 2026.
55 Emails from implementing partners, July 2024; July 2025 and May-June 2026.
56 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23 March 2026, pp. 27-28.
57 Email from Ibrahima Seck, CNAMS, 21 May 2020.
58 Emails from Ibrahima Seck, CNAMS, 23 May 2022; and Roxana Bobolicu, MAG, 29 September 2022.
59 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23 March 2026, p. 14.
60 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 12 May 2026.

a combination of methodologies. Mechanical clearance has provided a more productive and safer alternative to manual excavation and has played a key role in demining operations since 2011. It has enabled operators to increase productivity. However, the country's only DIGGER machine, deployed since 2011, is reaching the end of its service life, resulting in recurring breakdowns and operational delays.

To address these constraints, Senegal introduced technical survey dogs (TSDs), which have improved both productivity and operator safety. Their deployment is nevertheless subject to operational limitations, including acclimatisation, weather conditions, and difficult terrain. To strengthen national capacity, the CNAMS has secured Japanese funding to procure new mechanical assets and is also considering establishing a national MDD capacity.[61]

The Government of Japan delivered two Komatsu mechanical demining machines to Casamance in July 2025, together with Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) personnel to provide technical assistance.[62] The machine's size and weight require specialised tank transporters ("porte-char") for deployment, and discussions were underway at the highest level of government to acquire the necessary transport capacity and bring the machine into use.[63] Its size, manoeuvrability, fuel consumption, and environmental impact are factors that may affect its suitability for certain operational environments and its operating costs.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

HI has been a clearance operator in Senegal since 2008. In 2025, it remained the only international operator conducting mine and battle area clearance, operating from its main office and operational base in Ziguinchor. It increased its workforce to 51 personnel in 2025 up from 40 in 2024, although this included staff not involved in mine action. HI deployed one nine-strong multi-task team (one team leader, six deminers, and two community liaison officers) to conduct integrated community liaison, TS, and clearance. It also deployed one clearance team comprising six deminers and one mechanical plant operator for site preparation.

HI has operated a CNAMS-owned DIGGER machine in Senegal since 2011. As the machine is now ageing, it was due to be replaced in 2026 by a new D-250 machine provided through HI's partnership with the Digger Foundation. The new machine will remain the property of the Digger Foundation.[64] HI said it is willing to standardise the use of drones for information gathering during NTS and HI's demining work was funded by the EU and the Netherlands, both not renewed in 2026. HI managed to secure alternative funding from Luxembourg, the DIGGER Foundation, and Belgium (for EORE) but uncertainty around funding in 2026 meant HI faced the possibility of downsizing.[65]

Since 2023, APOPO has partnered with HI to support land release in Casamance through the deployment of technical survey dogs. An international team of experienced handlers and TS dogs conducted survey and clearance in coordination with the Senegalese authorities, with technical and operational support provided by APOPO's Global Dogs Programme. The partnership ended in April 2025 due to a lack of funding, and HI and APOPO are seeking funding to resume it.[66] HI reported that, under suitable conditions—areas with moderate vegetation that did not require prior brush cutting or ground preparation—the dogs achieved daily productivity of 1,000m^2 to 1,200m^2, considerably exceeding that of a 12-person manual clearance team supported by a mechanical excavator.[67]

MAG has implemented a weapons and ammunition management (WAM) programme in Senegal since 2020 and began providing technical support to the CNAMS in 2022, particularly on information management. In 2023, MAG obtained operational accreditation for NTS and EORE, enabling it to begin community liaison in October 2023 and conduct contamination baseline assessments. MAG was tasked to investigate 40 localities in 2025 through a five-person community liaison team and one information management staff member based in Casamance.

In December 2025, MAG relocated to new offices in Ziguinchor to accommodate the planned expansion of its Senegal programme. Supported by new funding from NORAD, the programme was expected to expand from six personnel in 2025 to approximately twenty-five in 2026 and include AP mine clearance. MAG also planned to work with local partner Caritas Ziguinchor to deliver EORE. MAG's Dakar office continued to serve as a base for regional management and technical staff supporting operations across West Africa and the Sahel.[68]

HAMAP Humanitaire implemented a project in Senegal from December 2023 to February 2025, funded by France, in partnership with local organisation APIT Humanitaire Développement. APIT received CNAMS accreditation for NTS and EORE in July 2024 and operated in four communes in Bignona department. HAMAP deployed two international staff—a programme coordinator and an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD)-qualified technical adviser—while APIT employed 17 national staff, including an NTS/RE manager and 10 NTS/RE personnel deployed in two teams. The project ended in February 2025 and was not extended due to a lack of funding.[69]

61 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23 March 2026, p. 14.

62 Japan Embassy in Senegal, monthly Newsletter, December 2025; and Japan Article 7 Report (covering 2025).

63 Presentation by Senegal on Article 5, Intersessional Meetings, 15–18 June 2026.

64 "Digger x HI Sénégal: un partenariat suisse pour un Sénégal sans mines d'ici 2031", HI, 6 May 2026, https://bit.ly/4fPCp29.

65 Email from Marianne Chmitelin, HI, 16 June 2026.

66 APOPO Annual Report 2024, p. 36; and APOPO Annual report 2025, p. 10.

67 Email from Emmanuel Sauvage, HI, 2 September 2024.

68 Emails from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 12 May and 6 August 2026.

69 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, Mine Action Unit Manager, HAMAP, and François Ropars, Head of Project, HAMAP, 15 September 2025 and 16 March 2026.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

Land released by HI, the sole operator conducting mine clearance in Senegal, more than doubled in 2025, increasing from 120,333m^2 in 2024 to 253,685m^2. However, this total largely comprised BAC in the area of Bindialoum, where HI reduced 218,552m^2 through TS and cleared 20,249m^2, destroying three explosive remnants of war (ERW). Mine Action Review excluded these outputs as they fell outside the scope of the APMBC.

Regarding AP mine contamination, HI released a total of 14,884m^2 in 2025, comprising 6,063m^2 reduced through TS in two areas and 8,821m^2 cleared in three others, resulting in the destruction of 33 AP mines (see Table 5). In addition, HI conducted one EOD spot task in Katouré, Nyassia commune, following the discovery by local residents of a Portuguese-made M969 AP mine on a frequently used track. The mine was destroyed in accordance with HI's SOPs.[70]

Senegal's official figures were consistent with those reported by HI, recording a total of 252,797m^2 released in 2025.[71] However, Senegal reported BAC outputs under the APMBC, despite BAC addressing ERW rather than AP mine contamination.

Table 5: Summary of land release outputs in 2025 (HI Data)

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (m^2)	Comments
Clearance	8,821	Three areas cleared (Badem, Boutoute, and Dialankine)
Technical survey	6,063	Two areas reduced (Badem-2, and St-Louis Mancagne)
Non-technical survey	0	
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2025**	
AP mines destroyed	34	33 during mine clearance and 1 in spot task

SURVEY IN 2025

As in the previous year, Senegal did not report any land cancelled through NTS, which was instead used to identify new hazardous areas. In 2025, the CNAMS assigned NTS tasks only to MAG, one fewer operator than in 2024 when HAMAP-APIT identified 0.9km^2 of hazardous areas.[72] MAG identified 38 SHAs and CHAs covering a total of 889,181m^2 (see Table 1 earlier). The figures subsequently reported by the CNAMS differ from MAG's survey results. CNAMS recorded 34 hazardous areas covering 951,998m^2.[73] At the time of writing, it was unclear why the CNAMS recorded a larger total area.

HI reduced just over 224,600m^2 through TS in 2025, a substantial increase from the 115,000m^2 reduced in 2024. However, this total included 218,552m^2 reduced as part of BAC in Bindialoum. Excluding BAC, HI reduced 6,063m^2 of AP mined area through TS in 2025 (see Table 6). TS in 2025 was partly done using TSD before demobilisation in March.[74] APOPO reported that TSD teams had searched a cumulative total of 114,078m^2 across 2023 to March 25, during which 11 AP mines and 1 ERW were located and destroyed.[75]

Table 6: Technical survey in 2025 (HI Data)

Department	Areas	Area	Area Reduced (m^2)
Ziguinchor	Badem-2	1	5,041
Ziguinchor	St-Louis Mancagne	1	1,022
Totals		**2**	**6,063**

CLEARANCE IN 2025

HI cleared 29,070m^2 in 2025, including 8,821m^2 of AP mined area (see Table 7), a 60% increase from the 5,508m^2 cleared in 2024. Clearance was conducted using both manual and mechanical methods. According to HI, the increase was due to fewer natural and operational constraints than those encountered during the 2024 tasks in Nyassia, where dense vegetation and difficult access had slowed clearance.[76]

70 Emails from Marianne Chmitelin, HI, 16 June 2026; and Abdourahmane Ba, HI, 23 July 2026.

71 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 8.

72 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, HAMAP, and Francois Ropars, HAMAP, 15 September 2025.

73 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 5.

74 Emails from Marianne Chmitelin, HI, 16 June 2026; and Clément Philit, HI, 1 September 2026.

75 APOPO, "Annual Report 2025", p. 10.

76 Emails from Marianne Chmitelin, HI, 16 June 2026; Abdourahmane Ba, HI, 23 July 2026; and Clément Philit, HI, 1 September 2026.

Table 7: Mine clearance in 2025 (HI data)

Department	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed
Ziguinchor	Badem	3,520	31	0
Ziguinchor	Boutoute	1,884	2	0
Ziguinchor	Dialankine	3,417	0	1
Totals		**8,821**	**33**	**1**

DEMINER SAFETY

During the previous deadline extension request period (2021–26), Senegal has sought to facilitate access to hazardous areas through dialogue with stakeholders involved in the Casamance peace process. However, restrictions imposed by the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) around some of its bases have continued to impede operations, exposing demining teams to robbery, extortion, kidnapping, and the confiscation of equipment. The slow pace and uncertainty of negotiations have also continued to constrain operational planning.[77]

In 2025, HI temporarily suspended clearance operations in Badem, Nyassia commune, after unidentified individuals were observed near its worksite. Operations resumed following a security assessment and coordination with the relevant authorities and community representatives.[78] MAG also reported that insecurity affected NTS in Djibidione commune. Survey in 11 localities was cancelled following clashes between the defence and security forces and armed groups. In addition, the localities of Bouniack, Bagame, and PNBC remained inaccessible, limiting access to hazardous areas and complicating the identification and mobilisation of key informants.[79]

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR SENEGAL: 1 MARCH 1999

↓

ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2009

↓

FIRST EXTENDED DEADLINE (7 YEARS): 1 MARCH 2016

↓

SECOND EXTENDED DEADLINE (5 YEARS): 1 MARCH 2021

↓

THIRD EXTENDED DEADLINE (5 YEARS): 1 MARCH 2026

↓

FOURTH EXTENDED DEADLINE (1 YEAR INTERIM): 1 MARCH 2027

↓

NOT ON TRACK TO MEET ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE (EXTENSION REQUESTED)

FIFTH EXTENDED DEADLINE REQUESTED (4 YEARS): 1 MARCH 2031

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the five-year extension granted by States Parties at the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2020), Senegal was required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2026. As Senegal was not on track to meet this deadline, it submitted its fourth Article 5 deadline extension request in November 2025, well after the 31 March deadline, preventing the Committee on Article 5 Implementation from analysing the request and engaging in the required cooperative dialogue. States Parties therefore granted Senegal a one-year interim extension until 1 March 2027 and requested that it submit a detailed deadline extension request by 31 March 2026. Senegal submitted the revised request on 23 March 2026, seeking a four-year extension until 1 March 2031.

Senegal faces a number of constraints—some self-inflicted—that have slowed progress in implementing Article 5 and continue to pose challenges to completion:

- **Access and security.** Senegal has achieved considerable progress in negotiating with different factions of the MFDC to end a four-decade-old conflict. The signing of a peace agreement in Bissau in February 2025 between the Government of Senegal and a major MFDC faction contributed to a more favourable security environment for demining, although some armed factions remain active in parts of Casamance.[80] Access to some contaminated areas remains restricted due to security sensitivities, slowing implementation and delaying the return of displaced communities. In some locations, demining remains contingent on prior mediation and dialogue with armed factions that continue to operate in the area, with

77 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23 March 2026, p. 5.

78 Email from Marianne Chmitelin, HI, 16 June 2026.

79 Email from Emilie Sauvanet, MAG, 12 May 2026.

80 "Accord de Paix entre Sénégal et MFDC Signé", *Africa Press*, 23 February 2025, https://bit.ly/4vRfo3J; and "Que sait-on de l'accord signé à Bissau entre le Sénégal et le MFDC?", *Africaguinee*, 24 February 2025, https://bit.ly/4hBvKtA.

negotiations required to mitigate security risks before clearance can begin. Stakeholders also emphasised that sustainable demobilisation is closely linked to the availability of development opportunities, which in turn depend on the release of contaminated land.

- **National ownership**. The institutional crisis affecting the CNAMS in 2025 weakened national coordination, delayed operational processes, and likely undermined donor confidence. Since then, the appointment of a new CNAMS Director, increased State funding, and renewed political commitment to mine action under the Diomaye Plan for Casamance have strengthened the institutional environment. These developments provide a stronger foundation for improving operational performance and mobilising additional resources over the coming years.
- **Funding and capacity**. Senegal's 2026 Article 5 deadline extension request estimated that completion would require approximately US$16 million.[81] Insufficient funding continues to constrain the deployment of operational capacity and remains one of the principal obstacles to timely completion. HI, the only clearance operator for the past years, has lost important funding streams in 2026 though MAG is initiating demining this year.
- **Extent of contamination:** Release of Senegal's known remaining contamination amounting to around 1.93km^2 should not present a problem if funding sustains or expands existing capacity, but timelines for completion remain vulnerable to identification of previously unrecorded hazardous areas as well as the potential loss of donor funding and/or capacity. Senegal has said that areas of its borders with Gambia and Guinea-Bissau are still experiencing armed clashes and are contaminated with mines and explosive devices and the areas are difficult for demining organisations to access.[82]

Table 8: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance (Mine Action Review estimate)

Year	Area cleared (m^2)
2025	8,821
2024	5,508
2023	25,465
2022	2,095
2021	0
Total	**41,889**

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

The Committee on Article 5 Implementation has repeatedly requested further information on Senegal's plans for addressing residual contamination after completion.[83] The extension request did not clarify whether a strategy will be developed to address residual contamination or which entity will be responsible. The former CNAMS Director had indicated that a specialised military engineering unit would respond to any residual contamination. More recent discussions, however, have highlighted the need for this capacity to be civilian rather than military.

81 Presentation by Senegal on Article 5, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 15–18 June 2026.

82 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 23 March 2026, p. 23.

83 See, e.g., "Clarifications du Sénégal aux questions du comité d'examen de la 3Eme demande d'extension", 22 September 2020; Preliminary Observations, Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18–20 June 2024.