THAILAND

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2026

Not on track to meet deadline
Five-year extension to 31 December 2031 requested

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 14KM^2

Medium
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km^2)	Release in 2024 (km^2)
Clearance	0.10	0.31
Technical Survey	3.87	4.77
Non-Technical Survey	0.36	0.14

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	8,035 (incl. 46 in spot tasks)	17,600 (incl. 56 in spot tasks)

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

- Thailand Mine Action Centre (TMAC)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Border fighting erupted between Thailand and Cambodia in July and December 2025 halting humanitarian demining and causing additional explosive ordnance contamination. Thailand accused Cambodia of planting anti-personnel (AP) mines on its territory injuring 13 soldiers between July 2025 and February 2026. Thailand submitted letters alleging a violation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) by Cambodia to the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, the UN Security Council, and the President-designate of the APMBC's Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties. Thailand requested a five-year extension of its Article 5 deadline until the end of 2031.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Thailand and Cambodia should expedite full implementation of the 27 December 2025 ceasefire accord and accelerate negotiations through the General Border Committee and the Joint Coordinating Task Force.**
- **Thailand should prioritise mine clearance in its political, diplomatic, and military engagement with Cambodia in discussions to resolve the conflict on their border.**
- **Thailand and Cambodia should take advantage of the Joint Coordinating Task Force to precisely define the border area where demining cannot proceed pending agreed demarcation and expedite clearance of the rest.**
- **Thailand should accelerate and provide details of plans for managing residual contamination.**

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	7	8	Border hostilities with Cambodia in 2025 reportedly resulted in new AP mine contamination necessitating new survey to determine the extent and location of mined areas, but persistent border tensions held up progress.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	8	8	Thailand has consistently demonstrated strong national ownership of mine action, which is largely funded from the budget of the armed forces. The Thailand Mine Action Centre (TMAC)'s military personnel conduct survey and clearance, supported by, and in good collaboration with, NGOs on technical survey (TS) and non-technical survey (NTS).
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	6	6	TMAC has no policy on gender. Its humanitarian mine action units, which the armed forces classify as combat units, do not employ women, but female staff make up about 30% of its headquarters personnel and management were considering employing women to conduct survey.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	6	6	Thailand has had a national standard on environmental management in place since 2010, which is in need of revision and updating. In the meantime, TMAC says it works closely with NPA and its global "Green Field Tool" approach to environmental management.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	7	8	TMAC used the Arc geographic information system (GIS) to manage data which allows demining units to submit information online, enabling TMAC to verify data and make corrections. Thailand submits detailed Article 7 reports every year and has regularly updated States Parties to the APMBC on its progress. As at mid-October 2026, Thailand had yet to submit its Article 7 report covering calendar year 2025.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	8	Thailand sets out detailed work plans in its Article 5 deadline extension requests but targets were overtaken by the outbreak of border conflict with Cambodia halting humanitarian mine action operations in the second half of 2025.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	8	8	TMAC has made strides in reducing mined areas through efficient use of NTS and has focused on TS and clearance to achieve completion. TMAC has been slow in revising its outdated national mine action standards but planned to complete the process in 2026.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	5	6	Land release fell in 2025 after border conflict with Cambodia halted Thailand's demining operations after July 2025 and blocked progress towards completion by the end of 2026, necessitating an extension of its Article 5 deadline.
Average Score	**6.6**	**7.2**	**Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Committee for Humanitarian Mine Action (NMAC)
- Thailand Mine Action Centre (TMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Humanitarian Mine Action Units (HMAU 1–4) and HMAU TMAC
- Thai Civilian Deminer Association (TDA)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Thailand's estimate of AP mine contamination continued the steady decline of recent years dropping to 12.9km^2 at the end of 2025 (see Table 1), 24% less than the 17km^2 recorded a year earlier.[1] The precise extent is unclear, however. All Thailand's known mined areas are in seven provinces bordering Cambodia where a long-running border demarcation dispute has prevented survey to confirm the size of all mined areas. In 2026 Thailand raised its estimate of contamination to 14.2km^2.[2]

Survey added 174,043m^2 of previously unidentified contamination in 2025[3] but the cross-border conflict that broke out between Thailand and Cambodia in July and December 2025 has added uncertainty about the extent of contamination. Thailand accused Cambodia of laying PMN 2 mines in Thai territory, which were responsible for a series of incidents in five districts between July 2025 and February 2026 that injured 13 Thai soldiers.[4] Thailand said "operational assessments" had identified newly emplaced AP mines, modified AV mines, and improvised explosive devices necessitating further survey of border districts.[5] For more information on use, please see the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[6]

Thailand reported that in early 2026 it had identified 1,318,360m^2 of additional mined area raising the total estimate to 14,207,070m^2. The Thailand Mine Action Centre (TMAC) noted the contamination added in 2026 was identified five kilometres from the Cambodian border in Sa Kaeo province, one of the six Cambodian border provinces, as a result of initial assessments, and that systematic survey would be needed in 2027 to confirm these hazardous areas and possible contamination in other provinces.[7] TMAC reported it had recovered a total of 657 PMN 2 mines from five border provinces.[8]

Table 1: AP mined area by province (at end 2025)[9]

Region	Province	CHAs	Area (m^2)	SHAs	Area (m^2)	Total area (m^2)
North-east	Ubon Ratchathani	4	672,679	0	0	672,679
	Si Sa Ket	24	2,407,905	2	1,793,853	4,201,758
	Surin	14	1,697,713	1	177,790	1,875,703
	Buri Ram	6	622,301	0	0	622,301
East	Sa Kaeo	0	0	5	3,696,021	3,696,021
	Trat	8	1,820,248	0	0	1,820,248
Totals		**56**	**7,220,846**	**8**	**5,667,664**	**12,888,710**

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Thailand has a relatively small problem of explosive remnants of war (ERW). This has been largely addressed in the course of releasing mined areas but Cambodian cross-border artillery barrages in 2025 are thought to have added ERW. In addition, some spillover of ordnance from fighting inside Myanmar may also have occurred.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Mine action is nominally overseen by the National Committee for Humanitarian Mine Action (NMAC) created in 2000 under the chairmanship of the prime minister. The engagement of national leadership in the Committee was seen as important in facilitating policy direction and progress on issues affecting national security, notably regarding cooperation with neighbouring States on clearing border areas.[10] NMAC is tasked with developing policy guidance and mobilising resources from all sectors to support mine action to be able to complete clearance in the allotted timeframe.[11] The committee has not been convened since 2017.[12]

1 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, June 2026, p. 4.

2 Ibid.

3 Email from Colonel Santhichai Chompoochan, Deputy Chief, Policy and Plans Section, TMAC, 16 August 2026. This included 31,136m^2 in Sa Kaeo, 1,697m^2 in Surin, 46,575m^2 in Si Sa Ket, and 94,635m^2 in Ubon Ratchathani.

4 "Thailand accuses Cambodia of using landmines, vows full action", *The Nation*, 14 August 2025; "Statement on the protest to Cambodia concerning the 9th landmine incident", Thailand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 26 December 2025; TMAC PowerPoint presentation, received at TMAC headquarters, Bangkok, 5 June 2026.

5 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 33.

6 https://the-monitor.org.

7 Interview with General Ragpiracht Yamkaesorn, Director General, TMAC, in Geneva, 15 June 2026.

8 TMAC PowerPoint presentation, received at TMAC headquarters, Bangkok, 5 June 2026. It said affected provinces were Surin (367 PMN 2 mines), Si Sa Ket (230), Ubon Ratchathani (40), Trat (16), and Sa Kaeo (4).

9 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 31–32.

10 Interview with Lt.-Gen. Prasopchai Kongburan, Director General, TMAC, in Geneva, 8 June 2017.

11 Five-Year Humanitarian Mine Action Plan, 1 November 2018–31 October 2023, p. 49.

12 Email from Flt. Lt. Chotiboon Anukulvanich, TMAC, 18 August 2021.

TMAC was established in 1999 under the Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters to coordinate, monitor, and conduct mine/ERW survey and clearance, risk education, and victim assistance coordination throughout Thailand.[13] TMAC's roles and responsibilities within the sector are clear and coherent but as a military organisation its funding sources are limited and it has faced other institutional constraints. These include in particular the regular rotation of personnel at all levels, undermining management continuity and accumulation of in-house expertise.[14] TMAC's current director, General Ragpiracht Yamkaesorn, took office in 2025 as the 16th director in TMAC's 27-year existence. He was due to be replaced in October 2026.

TMAC has also faced some challenges with the command structure of the Humanitarian Mine Action Units (HMAUs). With the exception of one of the HMAUs ("HMAU-TMAC"), personnel come from the Division-Level Force of the Royal Thai Army and the Royal Thai Navy, which means they must report both to TMAC and to their respective divisional command.[15] TMAC has worked to inform the HMAUs, high-ranking generals, and the Chief of Defence Forces about the importance of mine action.[16]

TMAC has also received support, training and equipment from the United States (US) Marine Corps Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC) under the US Department of Defense's Humanitarian Demining Research & Development Program (HD R&D). Support in 2025 included the opening of a training hub and the delivery of a GCS-200 demining machine by HD R&D.[17] MARFORPAC training in 2025 included Advanced Mine Detection, Clearance, and Disposal EOD Levels 1 and 2, EOD Level 3 and site assessment training.[18]

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

Thailand's mine action programme, including TMAC personnel, equipment, HMAU operations, meetings, workshops, and training, is largely funded by the government through the Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters.[19] In 2025, the government reportedly allocated a total of US$7.2 million, slightly less than the previous year. This was due to rise to US$7.8 million in 2026.[20]

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) received funding in 2025 from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and the US HD R&D (until October 2025). In 2026, NORAD funding fell by half and GFFO funding was due to end in August.[21]

For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Thailand on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[22]

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

TMAC's HMAUs are considered combat units by the Thai Armed Forces, which do not admit female combatants.[23] However, Thailand's Article 5 deadline extension request states it is "committed to promoting gender inclusive practices in mine clearance and promoting female participation" and affirmed that "female personnel are increasingly involved in mine clearance operations, disaster relief, community outreach in EORE as well as quality management and performance evaluation."[24]

TMAC reported that women make up 22 of its 52 headquarters staff (43%) and 12 of the 22 managerial staff (53%). It also deployed six women to field offices in 2025, including two women who were assigned to operational units as surveyors. TMAC's Director General said he wanted to promote employment of women in mine action and would request authorisation to recruit additional female personnel. TMAC was considering forming five two-person female survey teams to undertake NTS planned under Thailand's Article 5 extension request.[25]

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Thailand has had a national mine action standard (NMAS) on environmental management in place since 2010 which is in need of revision and updating. The standard sets requirements for protecting the environment against the adverse impact of demining, stipulating that clearance operations must leave land in a condition suitable for its intended use and any non-contaminated areas affected by operations are left in a condition similar to their pre-operational state. It does not address the need to

13 2017 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 1.
14 Interview with Col. Terdsak Trirattanagool, Assistant Director General, TMAC, Bangkok, 15 May 2017.
15 Email from Flt. Lt. Chotiboon Anukulvanich, TMAC, 15 August 2019.
16 Interviews with Shushira Chonhenchob, NPA; and Lt.-Gen. Sittipol Nimnuan, TMAC, in Bangkok, 9 April 2019.
17 "Thailand Mine Action Center opens new center of excellence on humanitarian demining missions with US support", US Mission Thailand, 28 May 2025.
18 Email from Colonel Santhichai Chompoochan, TMAC, 16 August 2026.
19 Email from Flt. Lt. Chotiboon Anukulvanich, TMAC, 27 February 2020.
20 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26.
21 Email from Cherry Helgesen, Programme Officer, NPA, 5 May 2026.
22 https://the-monitor.org.
23 Email from Flt. Lt. Chotiboon Anukulvanich (on behalf of the Director General), TMAC, 1 July 2021.
24 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 38.
25 Interview with General Ragpiracht Yamkaesorn, Director General, TMAC, in Bangkok, 5 June 2026.

include climate action policy in mine action or provide for environmental assessments.[26] TMAC said its demining units carefully assessed environmental impacts in planning operations, following the recommendations of forestry officials and worked closely with NPA's teams when conducting environmental assessments of tasks.[27]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

TMAC's data centre uses ArcGIS Online as part of a support package provided by the Department of Survey of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to collect and disseminate data and to map hazardous areas.[28] HMAUs submit information to TMAC via the online system every 15 days, which allows for verification of progress and rectification of errors.[29]

Thailand typically submits timely and comprehensive annual APMBC Article 7 transparency reports. However, as at mid-October 2026, Thailand had yet to submit its Article 7 report covering calendar year 2025.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Thailand's Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in June 2026 provided for completing clearance of the 12.9km^2 of known and suspected AP mine contamination by 2030 without indicating what it expected to cancel, reduce, or clear. The plan left 2031, the final year of the extension, to "evaluate" operations (see Table 2). It also stated "mine clearance operations are expected to continue beyond 2031."[30]

The plan calls for survey to be completed in the first two years of the extension period. This would include resurvey of all 21 districts in seven provinces bordering Cambodia with a view to defining the extent of new contamination resulting from the last year's border conflict. But it also provides for resurvey of all areas previously assessed as mine-affected located on borders with Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Malaysia. A map of areas due to be resurveyed also included the southern province of Nakhon Si Thammarat without specifying the reason for its inclusion.[31]

The extension request proposed release of 3.7km^2 in 2026[32] but that target subsequently changed and TMAC provided a modified target of clearing 3.2km^2 in 2026 (see Table 2).[33] However, no demining occurred in the first eight months of 2026 and it was unclear if border discussions with Cambodia would enable any clearance in the rest of the year.

Table 2: TMAC planned clearance 2026[34]

Province	Area (m^2)
Buri Ram	355,026
Surin	779,724
Si Sa Ket	456,424
Ubol Ratchathani	436,778
Sa Kaeo	675,699
Trat	488,494
Total	**3,192,145**

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

TMAC embarked on a review of Thailand's NMAS in 2020 but in 2024 said it did not regard the issue as a priority.[35] In 2025, TMAC said discussions on the issue in committee had made progress but not reached a conclusion.[36] TMAC said in 2026 it expected to complete the process by the end of the year.[37]

TMAC drafted its first NMAS with NPA's support in 2010, formally adopting the 32 chapters in June 2012, the year Thailand initiated a land release process.[38] TMAC made modest revisions to the NMAS in 2015 and 2018 to support Thailand's shift towards using the full toolbox of land release

26 TMAC, National Mine Action Standards, Chapter 27, 21 December 2010.
27 Emails from General Saksit Sangchanintara, TMAC, 5 August 2025; and Colonel Jack Chompoochan, TMAC, 16 August 2026.
28 Email from Shushira Chonhenchob, NPA (on behalf of Lt.-Gen. Sittipol Nimnuan, TMAC), 8 April 2019.
29 Emails from Shushira Chonhenchob, NPA (on behalf of Lt.-Gen. Sittipol Nimnuan, TMAC), 8 April 2019; and Flt. Lt. Chotiboon Anukulvanich (on behalf of the Director General), TMAC, 27 February 2020.
30 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, June 2026, p. 37.
31 Ibid., pp. 27–28, 36, 45.
32 Ibid., p. 37.
33 Email from Colonel Santhichai Chompoochan, TMAC, 16 August 2026.
34 Ibid.
35 Interview with Gen. Nattawut Sabyeroop, TMAC, in Bangkok, 29 May 2024.
36 Email from General Saksit Sangchanintara, TMAC, 5 August 2025.
37 Email from Colonel Santhichai Chompoochan, TMAC, 16 August 2026.
38 Thai National Mine Action Standards, 1 April 2015.

methodologies rather than solely relying on TS and full clearance.[39] The main change in 2018 was the release of a new standard on the "Cancellation of SHAs by Evidence Based Survey", which made it easier to cancel previously inflated, largely uncontaminated SHAs.[40]

In 2020, TMAC, with the assistance of Golden West, began revising both the NMAS and associated standard operating procedures (SOPs) in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). TMAC's director general wanted to replace 32 NMAS chapters with more concise standards in 12 chapters and to transfer operational requirements to national SOPs.[41]

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

All clearance in Thailand is conducted by the military due to national regulations on who can handle explosives and operate demining equipment. TMAC, with a total staff of 372 in 2025, operated with five HMAUs staffed by personnel from the Royal Thai Army and Royal Thai Navy (see Table 3). TMAC reported financial constraints resulted in cutting 10 positions in HMAUs 2 and 3 in 2025. It also employed two remote-controlled Bearcat vegetation cutters along with a GCS-200 demining machine, also remote controlled, supplied by the US HD R&D.[42]

NPA has supported TMAC conducting survey in cooperation with the HMAUs. In the first nine months of 2025 NPA employed one NTS team with three personnel and two TS teams with 15 personnel but did not record any field operation results. The outbreak of border conflict with Cambodia in July 2025 led to a suspension of humanitarian demining and in the last quarter of 2025 NPA retained only a core team pending decisions about the future of its engagement in Thailand. NPA brought a Technical Field Manager from its global dog training centre and two mine detection dogs from Cambodia to build the capacity of TMAC's MDD programme and provide training for HMAU dog handlers and Military Dog Centre personnel but after issuing initial permission for the programme in March 2025 Thai dog centre authorities did not authorise its continuation and NPA's dogs returned to Cambodia in November 2025.[43]

Table 3: TMAC operational capacity 2025[44]

	HMAU 1		HMAU 2		HMAU 3		HMAU 4		HMAU TMAC	
	Teams	Personnel	Teams	Personnel	Teams	Personnel	Teams	Personnel	Teams	Personnel
NTS	1	2	2	14	1	5				
TS	2	11	2	18	1	6	2	18	3	24
Clearance			3	21	4	36				
EOD	1	4	1	4	1	5			1	3
MDD	1	2	2	5	1	6	1	2	3	6
Mechanical	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	12
Totals	**5**	**19**	**10**	**62**	**8**	**58**	**3**	**20**	**10**	**45**

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

Table 4: Summary of land release outputs in 2025

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km²)	Comments
Clearance	0.10	
Technical survey	3.87	
Non-technical survey	0.36	
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2025**	
AP mines destroyed	8,035	Includes 46 destroyed in spot tasks.

39 Email from Shushira Chonhenchob, NPA (on behalf of Lt.-Gen. Sittipol Nimnuan, TMAC), 8 April 2019.

40 Emails from Aksel Steen-Nilsen, NPA, 28 March 2019; and Flt. Lt. Chotiboon Anukulvanich (on behalf of the Director General), TMAC, 15 August 2019.

41 Emails from John Kelsch, Golden West, 17 August and 15 September 2022 and 13 July 2024.

42 Email from Colonel Santhichai Chompoochan, TMAC, 16 August 2026.

43 Emails from Cherry Helgesen, NPA, 5 and 7 May 2026.

44 Email from Colonel Santhichai Chompoochan, TMAC, 16 August 2026.

The outbreak of border hostilities with Cambodia in July 2025 led to the suspension of humanitarian demining and the loss of more than five months operations. Thailand still released a total of 4.4km^2 through survey and clearance, 17% less than the previous year, but clearance fell by two thirds and the 8,035 mines destroyed in 2025 were fewer than half the number destroyed in 2024.

SURVEY IN 2025

TMAC more than doubled the area cancelled through NTS in 2025 to 356,278m^2, all of it conducted in Surin province (see Table 5).[45] Most of the land released through survey was reduced through TS (see Table 5) but this was down by nearly one-fifth on the previous year.

Table 5: Area released through survey in 2025[46]

Operator	Province	Cancelled through NTS (m^2)	Reduced through TS (m^2)
TMAC	Ubon Ratchathani	0	5,989
	Si Sa Ket	0	178,363
	Surin	356,278	1,308,511
	Sa Kaeo	0	1,244,548
	Trat	0	1,131,573
Totals		**356,278**	**3,868,984**

CLEARANCE IN 2025

Thailand's clearance fell by two-thirds to 0.1km^2 in 2025 (see Table 6) when operations were halted after the outbreak of conflict with Cambodia in July. Close to half the area cleared and more than half the mines destroyed by TMAC in 2025 were in Surin province. In addition to area clearance, 46 AP mines were destroyed in spot tasks.[47]

Table 6: Mine clearance in 2025[48]

Province	District	Area cleared (m^2)	AP mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Si Sa ket	Kanthalarak	1,949	7	0
	Khun Han	9,350	1,943	30
Surin	Kap Choeng	18,853	902	5
	Sang Kha	28,028	3,662	14
Sa Kaeo	Ta Phraya	4,200	111	0
	Khok Sung	16,940	46	2
Trat	Khlong Yai	3,529	106	0
	Muang Trat	15,696	965	3
Ubon Ratchathani	Nam Yuen	3,088	247	0
Totals		**101,633**	**7,989**	**54**

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR THAILAND: 1 MAY 1999

↓

ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MAY 2009

↓

FIRST EXTENDED DEADLINE (9 YEARS AND 6 MONTHS): 1 NOVEMBER 2018

↓

SECOND EXTENDED DEADLINE (5 YEARS): 31 OCTOBER 2023

↓

THIRD EXTENDED DEADLINE (3 YEARS AND 2 MONTHS): 31 DECEMBER 2026

↓

FOURTH EXTENDED DEADLINE (REQUESTED) (5 YEARS): 31 DECEMBER 2031

NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

45 Ibid.
46 Ibid.
47 Ibid.
48 Ibid.

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the third extension granted by States Parties in 2022), Thailand was required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2026. In June 2026, Thailand requested an extension of five years until 31 December 2031 to achieve completion.

Thailand is committed to fulfilling its Article 5 obligations but the outbreak of border conflict with Cambodia and the subsequent impasse in discussions of the border issue have set back its plans for completion. All Thailand's known AP mine contamination is located in six provinces on its border with Cambodia. Even before border fighting started, Thailand reported that Cambodian troops had frequently intervened to stop demining operations, including on eight occasions in the first half of 2025.[49] Two rounds of border fighting in July and December 2025 suspended humanitarian demining operations.

A ceasefire agreement on 27 December 2025 ended border fighting and committed Cambodia and Thailand to work together "to make timely progress on demining efforts along the border".[50] However, implementation has stalled. Thailand accused Cambodia of laying mines that caused injuries to 13 Thai soldiers between July 2025 and February 2026 and submitted a request to the UN Secretary-General for clarification of Cambodia's compliance with the APMBC.[51] Cambodia rejected the accusation and accused Thailand of encroaching on its territory.[52] Thai forces continued to hold land previously occupied by Cambodians in Banteay Meanchey and Pursat provinces.[53]

The two countries conducted intermittent discussions on border issues in 2025–26 in meetings of the Joint Boundary Commission (JBC),[54] the General Border Committee (GBC),[55] Regional Border Committees (RBCs),[56] and a Joint Coordinating Task Force (JCTF) that was set up in September 2025 to "determine and agree on priority areas and to coordinate the planning and implementation of humanitarian demining."[57] Its subsequent discussions on possible locations for humanitarian demining did not result in an agreement.[58]

At the APMBC Intersessional Meetings in June 2026, Thailand reaffirmed its commitment "to ensure that clearance operations can proceed without interruptions and prevent further contamination."[59] But in July 2026 Thailand criticised Cambodia's referral of their maritime border dispute to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and said "there is no opportunity to talk about land boundaries."[60] Cambodian prime minister Hun Manet called for a resumption of boundary demarcation negotiations.[61] As of August 2026, there was no sign of progress towards a resolution of border disputes.

Thailand's Article 5 deadline extension request set out a five-year action plan which it says "is based on the assumption that operations can proceed under normal conditions and without major disruptions affecting mine clearance activities." The political, diplomatic, and security environment in 2026, however, did not permit a resumption of normal demining operations and highlighted a number of challenges to implementation of the plans set out in the request.

- Uncertainty continues over the extent and location of mine contamination. Thailand said Cambodia had laid "a large number" of mines on Thai territory in 2025[62] and reported new finds of AP mines in 2026.[63] The extension request raised Thailand's end-2025 mine contamination estimate of 12.9km^2 to 14.2km^2 but the additional 1.3km^2 consisted of SHAs identified by a preliminary operational assessment in only one of the border provinces (Sa Kaeo). Additional survey is required to confirm these SHAs and identify any additional mined areas in other border provinces.
- The request provides no indication of how much, if any, of Thailand's remaining contamination is located in areas that are routinely accessible and how much is in what Thailand's previous (third) extension request identified as Areas for Demarcation.
- The request provides for a two-year Update National Survey[64] without clarity on why it is needed or how it would be conducted. The request stated it will focus on Thailand's borders with neighbouring States, noting the possibility of a spillover of ordnance from conflict in Myanmar but with no suggestion this included AP mines. The update would require a new "assessment" to confirm the safety of areas where TMAC previously conducted land release and which were later found to have residual mine contamination, but gave no indication of where or when contamination was identified. The request said TMAC's conduct of the Update National Survey would be supported by longstanding partners including NPA, but NPA's availability in 2027 was undecided.

49 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 27.

50 Cambodia and Thailand sign joint statement agreeing to immediate ceasefire", Public Relations Department, Government of Thailand, 27 December 2025.

51 "Thailand presents evidence on Cambodia's landmine use to UN Secretary General, reaffirms commitment to peaceful resolution", Permanent Mission of Thailand to the UN, 28 August 2025; see also "Thailand Accuses Cambodia of New Landmine Violations, Demands International Inquiry", *The Nation*, 5 December 2025.

52 Statement of Cambodia to the 22nd Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 4 December 2025; Cambodia Ministry of Foreign Affairs press release, 17 March 2026.

53 "Despite ceasefire, families in Pursat, Cambodia under shadow of Thai occupation", *The Star*, 10 July 2026; Khuon Narin, "A Year Later, Cambodia-Thailand Border Conflict's Toll Lingers", *CamboJA News*, 24 July 2026.

54 The JBC last met in October 2025. A meeting scheduled for January 2026 was postponed at Thailand's request.

55 The GBC met for the first time on 10 September 2025. It met again on 27 December 2025 to conclude the ceasefire agreement.

56 Cambodian and Thai military officials held Regional Border Committee meetings in January and July 2026.

57 Joint Press Statement of the Special Meeting of the GBC, Koh Kong, Cambodia, 10 September 2025.

58 "Cambodia-Thailand Joint Coordinating Task Force Identifies a Pilot Border Area for Humanitarian Demining", Ministry of Information, Phnom Penh, 31 October 2025; Statement of Thailand, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2026. Thailand said it had proposed 13 locations for humanitarian demining that Cambodia did not accept. Cambodia's Information Ministry reported in October 2025 that the JCTF had identified a site for a pilot humanitarian demining project located on the border between Cambodia's Banteay Meanchey province and Thailand's Sa Kaeo province. Thailand said it accepted the site but was subsequently informed that Cambodian authorities did not authorise national operator the Cambodia Mine Action Centre to proceed.

59 Statement of Thailand, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 18 June 2026.

60 "Land border talks have stalled: [Thai] FM", *Bangkok Post*, 21 July 2026.

61 R. Hong, "Hun Manet repeats call for Thailand to resume border demarcation talks", *Phnom Penh Post*, 24 July 2026.

62 Statement on the Protest to Cambodia Concerning the 9th Landmine Incident, Thailand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 26 December 2025.

63 See. e.g., "Reports of 6 newly laid mines near Cambodia", *Bangkok Post*, 15 February 2026.

64 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 35.

Table 7: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (m²)
2025	101,633
2024	310,023
2023	548,082
2022	330,866
2021	525,847
Total	**1,816,451**

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Thailand has worked on plans for residual contamination management with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), which submitted a working paper for TMAC's consideration in June 2025. TMAC has also conducted a pilot project in Petchabun province and said it planned to expand this model to other provinces,[65] but did not provide any details on how the project was conducted, which stakeholders participated, the division of institutional responsibilities for implementation or the lessons learned from the pilot project.

65 Ibid., p. 26.