

### KEY DATA

#### NO APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:

State not party to the APMBC

#### AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Unknown

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (m <sup>2</sup> )	Release in 2023 (m <sup>2</sup> )
Clearance	Unknown	Unknown
Technical Survey	Unknown	Unknown
Non-Technical Survey	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
AP Mines destroyed	Unknown	Unknown

#### MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Not known

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Uzbekistan should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority.
- Uzbekistan should clear anti-personnel (AP) mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, consonant with its obligations under international human rights law.
- Uzbekistan should detail the extent of its mine contamination and clearance operations.

### AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

#### MANAGEMENT\*

- Uzbekistan has no functioning mine action programme.

#### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

#### NATIONAL OPERATORS\*

- Army Engineers

#### OTHER ACTORS

- None

\*This is based on information from earlier years. It is not known if the information remains accurate.

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Uzbek forces have laid mines along Uzbekistan's international borders at various times, including on its border with Afghanistan in 1998, with Kyrgyzstan in 1999, and with Tajikistan in 2000.<sup>1</sup> Added to this, the borders between Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, drawn in Soviet times, have been problematic since independence of these countries from the Soviet Union in 1991.<sup>2</sup> In turn, this has, at times, impeded progress to survey and clear mined areas.

While Tajikistan and Uzbekistan settled most of their 1,283km-long border dispute following the collapse of the Soviet Union, certain areas were not delineated and therefore the exact location of mined areas is not known.<sup>3</sup> In 2010, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), Ban Ki-moon, criticised as "unacceptable" Uzbekistan's emplacing of mines along parts of its border that had not been delineated.<sup>4</sup> Over a decade later, in 2021, Tajikistan reported that parts of its border with Uzbekistan, not yet demarcated, still needed to be surveyed for contamination.<sup>5</sup>

Soviet troops also laid mines on the Uzbek-Afghan border. Uzbekistan had reportedly cleared 95% of the minefields along the Tajik border by the end of 2007 in demining operations conducted by its army engineers in cooperation with Tajik border troops.<sup>6</sup> The clearance, however, has not been verified by independent organisations, and, as at 2018, civilian casualties were still being reported on the Uzbek-Tajik border.<sup>7</sup>

In 2005, media reports cited Kyrgyz officials in Batken province (on the Kyrgyz side of the border with Uzbekistan) as saying that Kyrgyz border guards had checked previously mined areas of the border around the settlements of Ak-Turpak, Chonkara, and Otukchu, which had been cleared by Uzbek deminers, and confirmed that they were free of contamination.<sup>8</sup> Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have signed a

series of agreements to demarcate their borders over the last decade – in 2017, with an agreement to demarcate some 85% of the countries' nearly 1,300km-long border,<sup>9</sup> then in 2021, when a land swap agreement led to disputes,<sup>10</sup> and in 2022, with a further agreement covering disputed sections of the border, particularly around the Andijan<sup>11</sup> reservoir.<sup>12</sup>

In April 2024, it was reported that the border dispute between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan had been fully resolved through another land swap agreement. This saw Barak, a 208-hectare portion of Kyrgyz territory entirely surrounded by Uzbekistan, absorbed by Uzbekistan, with Kyrgyzstan receiving an equivalent parcel of Uzbekistan's Andijan province in exchange. In November 2024, a new village was opened in Kyrgyzstan's southern Osh region, for Kyrgyz citizens resettled from the Barak exclave.<sup>13</sup>

In 2018, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan agreed to set up a joint commission to investigate mined areas along the Uzbek-Tajik border.<sup>14</sup> According to online media, during the first State visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Tajikistan in March 2018, the leaders of the two States agreed that their common border would be cleared of landmines by the end of 2019.<sup>15</sup> Online media sources reported that by October 2018 demining along the border had started,<sup>16</sup> and that the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) and the Tajik Ministry of Defence (MoD) "got acquainted" with mine maps before starting clearance. The size of the mined areas was not publicly shared, but unofficial reports indicated it was 9.5km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>17</sup> Mine clearance was said to have been carried out exclusively by Uzbekistan and assistance from Tajikistan was refused, as the clearance was occurring exclusively on Uzbek territory.<sup>18</sup> Clearance along its border with Tajikistan by Uzbekistan was reportedly completed by January 2020,<sup>19</sup> following which the Uzbek and Tajik authorities progressed from delimiting their border to demarcating it.<sup>20</sup>

1 "Uzbekistan", Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, last update 24 October 2011, at: <https://bit.ly/3GYFEG5>.

2 "Central Asian Presidents Meet, Seeking to Defuse Decades of Tensions in the Ferghana Valley", Foreign Policy Research Institute, 16 April 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4m0CK2R>.

3 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, Director, Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC), 25 April 2018.

4 "Ban calls Uzbekistan land mines 'unacceptable'", *The Hindu*, 6 April 2010, at: <http://bit.ly/2Z3WYgN>.

5 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, Director, TNMAC, 22 April and 12 August 2021; Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

6 Email from Jonmammad Rajabov, Director, Tajikistan Mine Action Centre (TMAC), 16 February 2009; Tajikistan Article 7 Report, "General situation", 3 February 2008, p. 3; and "Uzbekistan started demining on Tajik border", *Spy.kz*, 23 October 2007.

7 "Demining the Tajik-Uzbek Border: What have we learned from the Tajik experience?", *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction*, November 2018, at: <https://bit.ly/3q7liwx>.

8 "Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan: Landmine threat along Uzbek border removed", *IRIN*, 31 October 2005, available at: <https://bit.ly/3sezaey>.

9 "Tug-Of-War: Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan Look To Finally Settle Decades-Old Border Dispute", *Radio Free Europe*, 14 December 2017, at: <http://bit.ly/2yXsrXt>.

10 "Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan sign deal to end border disputes", *Euroasianet*, 26 March 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3vD5QKA>; "No Issues Remain? Not So Fast. Kyrgyz-Uzbek Border Disputes Don't Appear To Be Decided", *Radio Free Europe*, 2 April 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3zrFrEK>; and "Kyrgyzstan reports deaths after Uzbek border troops open fire", *Aljazeera*, 6 May 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3zuh4pT>.

11 Andijan is also referred to as Andijon in Uzbek. "Andijan", *Central Asia Guide*, accessed 6 August 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/4dy2VJn>.

12 The Andijan reservoir is also known as the Kempir-Abad reservoir. "Resolution of Uzbek border disputes heralds increasingly united Central Asia", *Central Asia News*, 12 January 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3r0lp4z>.

13 "Farewell Barak: Uzbekistan Absorbs Kyrgyz Exclave As Part Of Historic Border Deal", *Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty*, 23 April 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3LTIVFm>; and "Kyrgyzstan Opens New Village for People Resettled from Barak Exclave", *The Times of Central Asia*, 14 November 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/45zhs6n>.

14 Tajikistan's 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

15 "Uzbekistan reportedly completes demining work on Tajik border", *The Diplomat*, 10 January 2020; and "Uzbekistan completes demining of its border with Tajikistan", *Asia Plus*, 3 January 2020 at: <https://bit.ly/3Bpu0Pd>.

16 "Putting an end to 20 years of death along the Tajik-Uzbek Border", *RFERL*, 13 October 2018; and "Report: Tajik-Uzbek Border Cleared of Mines", *RFERL*, 6 January 2020.

17 "Demining of Tajik-Uzbek border began", *Regnum*, 9 October 2018, at: <https://bit.ly/3vx2WXP>; "Tajikistan and Uzbekistan start demining their common border", *Sputnik Tajikistan*, 9 October 2018, at: <https://bit.ly/3gAJm8l>; and "Dushanbe and Tashkent begin demining Tajik-Uzbek border", *Radio Ozodi*, 8 October 2018, at: <https://bit.ly/3xAPzHv>.

18 "Uzbekistan reportedly completes demining work on Tajik border", *The Diplomat*, 10 January 2020.

19 "Uzbekistan reportedly completes demining work on Tajik border", *The Diplomat*, 10 January 2020; "Uzbekistan, Tajikistan to finalise border demarcation", *Azernews*, 7 January 2020; and "Uzbekistan completes demining of border with Tajikistan, say officials", *Central Asia News*, 4 February 2020.

20 "Uzbekistan reportedly completes demining work on Tajik border", *The Diplomat*, 10 January 2020; and "Uzbekistan, Tajikistan to finalise border demarcation", *Azernews*, 7 January 2020.

Tajikistan has yet to provide a public update in these matters. Following the establishment of the joint commission to investigate mined areas along the Uzbek-Tajik border, Tajikistan reiterated, in its updated work plan submitted to the APBMC Meeting of States Parties in November 2023, that it will "continue to provide updates on the development of cooperation with regard to land release along the Tajik-Uzbek border in Article 7 reports and to the Meetings of the States Parties".<sup>21</sup> In June 2024, the APBMC Committee on Article 5 Implementation noted that it would welcome further updates from Tajikistan on this matter.<sup>22</sup>

Since the first state visit of the president of Uzbekistan to Tajikistan in March 2018, during which an initial agreement was signed on demarcation of the separate regions of their common border,<sup>23</sup> the two nations have continued to work to resolve the border issue. Online sources from 2021 indicated that a "joint Tajik-Uzbek commission for delimitation and demarcation of the mutual border" was active and that working groups met several times in 2021.<sup>24</sup> Delineation

talks and meetings of the Demarcation Commission working groups continued throughout 2023<sup>25</sup> and 2024, with a protocol signed in May 2024.<sup>26</sup> On 31 March 2025, the presidents of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan gathered to discuss cooperation, an unprecedented event following decades of strained relations.<sup>27</sup> A trilateral agreement, dubbed the Khujand Declaration, was signed, demarcating the tri-state border and establishing a formal declaration of friendship.<sup>28</sup> It is not yet clear if this move towards cooperation will increase the opportunity to demine any mine-affected border areas remaining.

Uzbekistan has not reported plans to clear mines laid on its 150km border with Afghanistan.

It is not known whether contamination data is disaggregated by weapon type in Uzbekistan's national database, or if contamination is classified into suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs).

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

There is no functioning mine action programme in Uzbekistan.

In March 2021, Russia and Uzbekistan were reportedly considering bilateral cooperation in mine action clearance and training of Uzbek military personnel at the Russian Mine Action Centre.<sup>29</sup> The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), of which Uzbekistan is a member, reported in June 2022 that a joint unit of humanitarian demining would be created in the CIS.<sup>30</sup> No timeline for this was given. Mine Action Review has not been able to source any further updates on these matters.

### FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

It is not known whether the Government of Uzbekistan contributes national resources to support demining in the country.

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The extent to which gender and diversity are mainstreamed into mine action in Uzbekistan is not known.

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

It is not known how, if at all, the environment is taken into consideration during planning and tasking of survey and clearance of mines in Uzbekistan in order to minimise potential harm from clearance.

21 Tajikistan Mine Action Programme General Land Release Operational Plan for October 2023 to December 2025, p. 14.

22 "Preliminary Observations on the Implementation of Article 5 by Tajikistan", Intersessional Meetings, 18–20 June 2024, p. 3.

23 "Uzbekistan reportedly completes demining work on Tajik border", *The Diplomat*, 10 January 2020; and "Uzbekistan completes demining of its border with Tajikistan", *Asia Plus*, 3 January 2020 at: <https://bit.ly/3Bpu0Pd>.

24 Tajik-Uzbek border delimitation and demarcation commission meets in Uzbekistan", *Asia Plus*, 30 November 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3zDDNzJ>; and "Uzbekistan and Tajikistan discuss demarcation of state border", *KUN.UZ*, 22 May 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3ISbky7>.

25 "Demining Mountains: Tajikistan's Struggle Against Landmine Contamination", *NCT CBNW*, 7 February 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/4d5WdKY>.

26 "Tajikistan and Uzbekistan discussed border demarcation – a protocol signed", *Central Asian Light*, 6 May 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3LKBbpc>; and "Uzbek-Tajik demarcation commission held a meeting in Dushanbe", *KUN.UZ*, 4 May 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3LMkSbx>.

27 "Central Asian Presidents Meet, Seeking to Defuse Decades of Tensions in the Ferghana Valley", Foreign Policy Research Institute, 16 April 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4m0CK2R>.

28 "Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan sign deal on junction point of state borders", *AA*, 31 March 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4leX5jA>; and "Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan's Leaders Signed a Historical Agreement in Khujand", *SpecialEurasia*, 31 March 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4fw0v07>.

29 "Uzbekistan, Russia looking at joint training of bomb disposal specialists", *Tass* (Russian News Agency), 30 March 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3gDKjfn>; and "Military delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan visits the International Mine Action Centre of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation", Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, 30 March 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3WPGCtg>.

30 "Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said that a joint unit of humanitarian demining will be created in the CIS", Commonwealth of Independent States, 27 June 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3b1ulgN>.

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Mine Action Review has been unable to source any information on any efforts in Uzbekistan to implement or maintain a national mine action database.

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## PLANNING AND TASKING

It is not known whether Uzbekistan has a national mine action strategy in place. Nor is it known if Uzbekistan has annual work plans for the survey and clearance of AP mines or criteria for the prioritisation of clearance tasks.

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## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

It is not known whether Uzbekistan has national mine action standards in place.

### OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

International NGO Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD) stated in its 2024 annual report that it plans to adopt a regional approach in Central Asia, expanding its existing demining operations in Tajikistan into Uzbekistan (and Kyrgyzstan), although no time frame for this to occur was given.<sup>31</sup>

Mine Action Review has been unable to source any recent information on Uzbekistan's national operational capacity for AP mine survey and clearance. However, personnel from Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries continue to attend training in explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) at the Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre run of the Ministry of Defence of Tajikistan, most recently in September 2024.<sup>32</sup>

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## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

There are no detailed reports of survey or clearance output in 2024. As noted, according to online media sources in January 2020, mine clearance on the Uzbek side of the border with Tajikistan was completed.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> "FSD Activity report 2024", accessed 31 July 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4mffNbR>, p. 21.

<sup>32</sup> "The first-ever Tajik-led explosive ordnance disposal course kicks off at OSCE-supported Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre", Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), 16 September 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/454bPgo>; and "OSCE supports regional explosive ordnance disposal course for specialists from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Serbia", OSCE, 27 October 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3WQQdQA>.

<sup>33</sup> "Uzbekistan reportedly completes demining work on Tajik border", *The Diplomat*, 10 January 2020.