UZBEKISTAN

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

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 2025 (km²)	Release in 2024 (km²)
Clearance	Unknown	Unknown
Technical Survey	Unknown	Unknown
Non-Technical Survey	Unknown	Unknown

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	Unknown	Unknown

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

- 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 any clearance operations.**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY*

- Uzbekistan has no functioning mine action programme.

NATIONAL OPERATORS*

- Army Engineers

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- Not known

* 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.[1] 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.[2] In turn, this has, at times, impeded progress to survey and clear mined areas.

Tajikistan and Uzbekistan agreed in 2018 to set up a joint commission to investigate mined areas along the border[3] but final delineation and demarcation of the border has yet to conclude. In 2013, Tajikistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) stated that issues related to delineation had been settled but the process of demarcation was ongoing.[4] Meetings of the working groups of the Joint Tajik-Uzbek Demarcation Commission have taken place regularly, with a protocol signed in 2024.[5] A trilateral protocol, regarding the border junction point between Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, was also ratified in November 2025.[6]

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.[7] 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.[8]

While bilateral cooperation on border delineation and demarcation with Tajikistan has continued, online media sources reported that by October 2018 demining along the border had started.[9] The size of the mined areas was not publicly shared, but unofficial reports indicated it was 9.5km^2.[10] Mine clearance was said to have been carried out exclusively by Uzbekistan and assistance from Tajikistan was reported to be refused, as the clearance was occurring exclusively on Uzbek territory.[11] Clearance along its border with Tajikistan by Uzbekistan was reportedly completed by January 2020, following which the Uzbek and Tajik authorities progressed from delimiting their border to demarcating it.[12] No further demining by Uzbekistan in Uzbek-Tajik border areas has been reported since. In 2024, Tajikistan conducted an assessment to determine the level of threat of mined areas on the Tajik-Uzbek border, which concluded that mined areas are on the Uzbek side. However, Tajikistan cautions that final assessment will be conducted only after the final delimitation and demarcation of the border.[13]

Regarding contamination in Uzbek-Kyrgyz border areas, 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.[14] 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,[15] then in 2021, when a land swap agreement led to disputes,[16] and in 2022, with a further agreement covering disputed sections of the border, particularly around the Andijan[17] reservoir.[18] In 2024, it was reported that the border dispute between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan had been fully resolved through another land swap agreement.[19] Finally, in March 2025, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan signed a trilateral treaty in Khujand establishing the junction point of their respective State borders.[20] It is not yet clear if this move towards cooperation will increase the opportunity to release any mined border areas remaining.

1 "Uzbekistan", Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, last update 24 October 2011.

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

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

4 "Tajikistan and Uzbekistan state boundary", MFA of the Republic of Tajikistan, 1 March 2023, https://tinyurl.com/4vpzt537. The 1,332km border comprises 105km of river areas and 1,227.9km of land.

5 "Meeting of working groups on the demarcation of the Tajik-Uzbek State border" MFA of the Republic of Tajikistan, 27 November 2024, https://tinyurl.com/tbs8y9v2.

6 "Exchange of Instruments of Ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty on the Border Junction Point", MFA of the Republic of Tajikistan, 16 November 2025, https://tinyurl.com/snsptfcb.

7 Email from Jonmahmad 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.

8 "Demining the Tajik-Uzbek Border: What have we learned from the Tajik experience?", *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction*, November 2018, https://bit.ly/3q7lixw.

9 "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.

10 "Demining of Tajik-Uzbek border began", *Regnum*, 9 October 2018, https://bit.ly/3vx2WXP; "Tajikistan and Uzbekistan start demining their common border", *Sputnik Tajikistan*, 9 October 2018, https://bit.ly/3gAJm8I; and "Dushanbe and Tashkent begin demining Tajik-Uzbek border", *Radio Ozodi*, 8 October 2018, https://bit.ly/3xAPzHv.

11 "Uzbekistan completes demining of its border with Tajikistan", *Asia Plus*, 3 January 2020, https://bit.ly/3Bpu0Pd.

12 "Uzbekistan reportedly completes demining work on Tajik border", *The Diplomat*, 10 January 2020, https://tinyurl.com/3cjz3u4d; "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.

13 Tajikistan's 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 10, 21, 25, 31, 37, and 79.

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

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

16 "Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan sign deal to end border disputes", *Euroasianet*, 26 March 2021, 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, https://bit.ly/3zrFrEK; and "Kyrgyzstan reports deaths after Uzbek border troops open fire", *Aljazeera*, 6 May 2022, https://bit.ly/3zuh4pT.

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

18 The Andijan reservoir is also known the Kempir-Abad reservoir. "Resolution of Uzbek border disputes heralds increasingly united Central Asia", *Central Asia News,* 12 January 2023.

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

20 "Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan sign deal on junction point of state borders", *AA*, 31 March 2025, at https://bit.ly/3Ug64tu; and "Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan's Leaders Signed a Historical Agreement in Khujand", *SpecialEurasia*, 31 March 2025, https://tinyurl.com/3t8zf48h.

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 munition 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 2021, Russia and Uzbekistan were reportedly considering bilateral cooperation in mine action and training of Uzbek military personnel at the Russian Mine Action Centre.[21] The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), of which Uzbekistan is a member, reported in 2022 that a joint unit of humanitarian demining would be created in the CIS.[22] In 2024, engineering units from CIS Member States conducted joint training in Belarus, although Uzbekistan is not mentioned specifically.[23]

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.

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.

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.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

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

21 "Uzbekistan, Russia looking at joint training of bomb disposal specialists", *Tass* (Russian News Agency), 30 March 2021, 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.

22 "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, https://bit.ly/3b1ulgn.

23 "CIS military sappers to work out joint humanitarian demining in Belarus", Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, 17 June 2024, https://tinyurl.com/4b3ub6rs.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

International NGO Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD) has stated that it plans to adopt a regional approach in Central Asia, expanding its existing demining operations in Tajikistan into neighbouring States,[24] though as at the time of writing in August 2026 it had expanded capacity building activities into Kyrgyzstan only.[25]

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 by the Ministry of Defence of Tajikistan, most recently in February 2026.[26]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

There are no detailed reports of survey or clearance being conducted in 2025 or earlier years. As noted, according to online media sources in January 2020, mine clearance on the Uzbek side of the border with Tajikistan was completed,[27] but this has not been confirmed.

24 "FSD Activity report 2024", https://tinyurl.com/2j9vn2m5, p. 21.

25 FSD is undertaking EOD training and capacity building activities with Kyrgyz Border Guard Forces. "FSD Activity report 2025", https://tinyurl.com/jp468wvn, pp. 20–21; and email from Yoshiyuki Shiomi, Country Director for Tajikistan/ Programme Manager for Central Asia, FSD, 5 May 2026.

26 "Tajikistan leads regional security efforts as Central Asian specialists complete advanced Explosive Ordnance Disposal training", Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), 6 February 2026, https://bit.ly/4bZGteS.

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