

KEY DATA

NO APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:

State not party to the APMBC

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Unknown, thought to be medium

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Release in 2023 (km ²)
Clearance	0	0
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	6 (during spot tasks)	6 (during spot tasks)

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- None

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The Korea-Vietnam Peace Village Project started the second phase of its mine action programme in May 2024 with Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNNMAC) teams working in three central provinces under the US\$25 million initiative. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) conducted an assessment to prepare for the upgrade of VNNMAC's national database from Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) New Generation to IMSMA Core.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Vietnam should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as soon as possible.
- Vietnam should publish a detailed assessment of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel (AP) mines.
- Vietnam should report annually on survey, clearance, or explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) interventions targeting AP mines.

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- Ministry of Defence
- Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNNMAC)
- Provincial mine action centres and authorities (e.g. the Quang Tri Mine Action Centre (QTMAC) and Quang Binh Database and Coordination Unit (DBC))

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- VNNMAC

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Golden West Humanitarian Foundation (Golden West)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The full extent of mined area in Vietnam is unknown. The 2018 Landmine Impact Survey reported areas with AP mines in 26 of 63 cities and provinces but gave no further details.¹ According to VNNMAC, the total area still contaminated with bombs, mines, and explosive ordnance in Vietnam was 56,000km², which accounts for approximately 17% of Vietnam's land surface. Contamination is mainly concentrated in central provinces including Quang Tri, Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Nghe An, and Quang Ngai.² Mined area, however, makes up only a small proportion of the total explosive ordnance contamination, with cluster munition remnants (CMR) and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) the vast majority of items.

Most mines were left by conflicts in the 1970s with neighbouring Cambodia and China, and affect areas close to its borders with those nations.³ Clearance had been reported by Vietnam along its northern border with China in the 1990s and since 2004, but mined areas further inland are believed to persist.⁴ It was reported in 2013 by Vietnam's Military Engineering Command that clearance had been completed in areas bordering Cambodia.⁵ Many ports and river deltas were extensively mined during the armed conflict with the United States and were not completely cleared when it ended. A number of sea mines have been found on the coast. Some mines have also been found around former US military installations.⁶

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

VNNMAC was established in 2014 by Prime Ministerial decree to strengthen the direction of mine action and provide a focal point for mine action operations.⁷ A Decree on the Management and Implementation of Mine Action Activities (Decree No. 18), which entered into effect in 2019 confirmed the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as the lead authority for the national mine action programme, in coordination with other relevant ministries and sectors.⁸ VNNMAC is mandated, under the direction of the Prime Minister and management of the MoD, to "monitor, coordinate, and implement mine action tasks".⁹ The MoD's Circular 195, which came into effect in 2020,¹⁰ provides detailed guidance on the implementation of the Decree.

Decree 18 is currently the highest-level legal document governing mine action activities in Vietnam and applicable to all domestic and foreign organisations operating in mine action in the country.¹¹ It established the legal basis for revising and updating national regulations the QCVNs (National Technical Regulations), which are mandatory for all operators, and National Mine Action Standards (TCVNs), as well as for regulating information management. In February 2022, the Prime Minister ordered the preparation of an Ordinance for mine action in Vietnam, to be issued by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly. The ordinance, which is reportedly in preparation, will effectively replace Decree 18.¹²

1 VNNMAC, "Report on Explosive Remnants of War Contamination in Vietnam, Based on the Explosive Remnants of War Contamination Survey and Mapping -Phase 1", provided by Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNNMAC) 19 April 2018, p. 38.

2 Decree on Implementation and Management of Mine Action, No. 18/2019/ND-CP, 1 February 2019.

3 Decree on the Management and Implementation of Mine Action Activities, Hanoi, April 2018.

4 Emails from Jan Erik Støa, Country Director, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), 6 April 2020; and from Tim Horner, Senior Technical Advisor, on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNNMAC, 6 April 2021.

5 Email from Sarah Goring, Country Director, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), 5 April 2023.

6 Ibid.

7 Prime Ministerial Decree No. 738 of 2013 on management and implementation of mine action, Hanoi.

8 Decree on Implementation and Management of Mine Action, No. 18/2019/ND-CP.

9 Decree on the Management and Implementation of Mine Action Activities, April 2018.

10 Emails from Jan Erik Støa, NPA, 6 April 2020; and Tim Horner on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNNMAC, 6 April 2021.

11 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April 2023.

12 Ibid.

VNMAC is nationally funded but the National Mine Action Programme (Programme 504) is funded by both the State and international donors.¹³ According to VNMAC, government support for mine action has included the following:

- establishing coordinating agencies and associations to support all levels of mine action;
- completing a legal framework, mechanism, and policies for demining;¹⁴
- facilitating capacity development of demining organisations in management, administration, survey, and clearance;
- setting up a national quality management (QM) system for survey and clearance in accordance with international standards; and
- developing an information management system.¹⁵

Vietnam's regional mine action centres coordinate operations at the regional level with support from operators. Quang Binh province's database and coordination unit (DBCUC) tasks operators applying a prioritisation system introduced in 2022 and holds regular coordination meetings with operators.¹⁶ Quang Tri Mine Action Centre (QTMAC), which is technically supported by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) through a US-funded capacity development project, and with additional support from Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN), is implementing a five-year action plan covering 2021–25. Under the plan, the QTMAC sets task priorities and conducts quality assurance (QA) for operators in the province.¹⁷

VNMAC participates in a Mine Action Working Group (MAWG), previously co-chaired by MAG and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which provides a platform for discussion and joint planning. It met four times in 2024, discussing sector concerns, including the planned mine action ordinance. The chairmanship rotates every two

years, and in December 2023, PTVN replaced MAG. MAWG sub-task forces also met in 2024, including those dealing with risk education, the environment, victim assistance, and gender, diversity, and inclusion (GDI).¹⁸ In 2024, Vietnam's MoD agreed with the United States to re-establish a Mine Action Partnership Group as a platform for engaging with stakeholders, including donors, operators, and the UN.¹⁹

VNMAC is collaborating with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and UNDP in the Korea-Vietnam Peace Village Project, which combines mine action with a programme for sustainable rural development in central Vietnam. The US\$29 million first phase in 2018–22 involved ERW survey and clearance in Binh Dinh and Quang Binh provinces. The \$25 million second phase, which started in May 2024 and was due to run until 2026, focuses on survey and clearance of explosive ordnance in Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai, and Thua Thien Hue provinces, working on priorities set by provincial authorities with an emphasis on maximising post-clearance land use.²⁰

Vietnam also receives capacity development support from MAG, NPA, PTVN, the GICHD, and the Golden West Humanitarian Foundation (Golden West), as well as UNDP.²¹ As mentioned, NPA supports capacity development of the Quang Binh and Quang Tri provincial authorities, funded by the United States, and in 2024, NPA also provided capacity development support to Hue Database Unit with funding from Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA).²² MAG concluded a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with VNMAC in October 2024, providing for cooperation, including technical training, in 10 key areas, including non-technical survey (NTS) and technical survey (TS), explosive ordnance clearance, and data management.²³ NPA supported VNMAC with a Senior Technical Adviser and information management adviser as well as EOD training and legal and professional advice in preparation of the new mine action ordinance.²⁴

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The Constitution of Vietnam prohibits gender discrimination, and it is State policy to guarantee equal gender rights and opportunities. In mine action, women participate more in victim assistance and risk education, however, while national survey/clearance and information management are still male-dominated and managed by the Vietnam Army.²⁵ A MAWG sub-task force on gender was established in 2022 and

renamed the GDI task force in December 2023 to emphasise the focus on inclusivity.²⁶ In 2024, VNMAC put forward a female candidate for EOD training for the first time.

The number of women employed by demining NGOs increased by about 10% in 2024 compared to the previous year in line with the increase in total staff (see Table 1). The percentage of women employed by NPA in managerial

13 Email from Tim Horner, on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021.

14 The MoD cooperates with other ministries to develop Circulars guiding QCVNs, TCVNs, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) on QM, survey, and clearance, and related issues.

15 Email from Tim Horner, on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021.

16 Emails from Helene Kuperman, MAG, 10 April and 23 June 2020, and 31 March 2021; Jan Erik Støa, NPA, 24 June 2020; and Pham Hoàng Hà, Country Director, PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN), 11 May 2021.

17 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025; NPA Vietnam management, 5 May and 17 July 2025; and Pham Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023.

18 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025; and Pham Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025.

19 Emails from Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025.

20 Email from Goosoon Kwon, Chief Technical Adviser for Mine Action, UNDP, 21 May 2025.

21 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024; Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024; and Pham Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 27 May 2024.

22 Emails from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May and 17 July 2025.

23 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025.

24 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

25 Email from the GICHD, 5 May 2023.

26 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April and 19 May 2023 and 17 May 2024.

or field positions dipped from the previous year, but it began integrating gender and diversity training into staff training and undertook a number of projects, including implementing

a German-funded gender and diversity project that included GDI and leadership training for women in Quang Binh, Hue, and Quang.²⁷

Table 1: Gender composition of NGO operators in 2024²⁸

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
MAG	755	228 (30%)	80	15 (19%)	706	207 (29%)
NPA	395	127 (32%)	14	8 (57%)	318	91 (29%)
PTVN	314	79 (25%)	16	6 (38%)	270	60 (22%)
Totals	1,464	434 (30%)	110	29 (26%)	1,294	358 (28%)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

VNMAC engaged actively in the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Review Board discussions on a revised IMAS on the environment and reportedly plans to issue a TCVN on the issue, though this had not occurred as at the end of 2024.²⁹ Demining operators applied their own standards. MAG hired a Vietnamese environmental consultant, Keep Vietnam Clean, to assess the impact of its operations and waste management practices.³⁰ NPA applied the global organisation's Green Field and Green Office tools, and provided training to field staff and operational management.³¹

PTVN applied a General Code of Conduct on environmental management for its staff, partners, and the communities it supported along with measures to minimise and manage waste by office and field staff, promoting use of environmentally-friendly materials and integrating environmental protection messaging in its risk education sessions. It also plants trees to strengthen communities' resilience to the environmental impacts of mine action and climate change, including the dangers of soil erosion and landslides.³²

Table 2: Environmental policies and action³³

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments conducted to support survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level
MAG	Yes	Yes	Yes
NPA	Yes	Yes	Yes
PTVN	Yes	Yes	Yes

Mine action in Vietnam contends with a number of environmental challenges in its diverse habitats ranging from tropical forest to coastal wetlands. PTVN reported losing more working days in 2024 to heavy rain and flooding which also displaces items of explosive ordnance, making their detection and removal more challenging. Additionally, erosion and sediment transport caused by intense rainfall can

bury or expose explosive ordnance, necessitating frequent re-surveying and clearance of affected areas. Severe flooding following intense rainfall in Thua Thien Hue province in October 2023 prevented NPA deploying survey teams for several weeks and landslides necessitated relocating its clearance team from A Luoi, the province's most heavily contaminated district.³⁴

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

VNMAC has made improving information management a top priority.³⁵ VNMAC completed consolidation of five IMSMA databases into a central national database using IMSMA New Generation at the end of 2022, and was preparing in 2024 to upgrade the database from IMSMA NG to Core. The GICHD conducted an assessment in March 2024 to prepare for the

²⁷ Email from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

²⁸ Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025; NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025; and Pham Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025.

²⁹ Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024.

³⁰ Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024.

³¹ Email from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

³² Email from Pham Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025.

³³ Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 July 2025.

³⁴ Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024.

³⁵ Interview with Mr Hop, VNMAC, in Geneva, 22 June 2023.

transition with VNMAC planning with a view to completing the process by the end of 2025.³⁶ Quang Binh, Quang Tri, and Thua Thien Hue provinces continue to operate their own mine action databases, which collect and analyse data from operators and task operators. The operators report activities to these databases that in turn report to VNMAC's central Information Management Unit.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Programme 504, approved by the Prime Minister in April 2010, set out a National Mine Action Plan for 2010–25. It provides a broad policy framework for responding to explosive ordnance and covers mines, CMR, and other ERW. It aimed to “mobilise domestic and international resources in making efforts to minimise and finally create impact-free environment for social economic development.” The programme called for clearance of 8,000km² of ERW between 2016 and 2025,³⁷ and planned to complete an impact survey to map contamination nationwide, develop national standards, and establish a database management centre.³⁸

Vietnam prepared a five-year plan for the 2021–25 final phase of the National Mine Action plan, without input from NGOs or other members of the MAWG. The plan was eventually adopted in June 2023 for the last two years through to 2025.³⁹ It calls for improved organisational structures, enhanced legislation and national standards, international cooperation for funding and resources, research and development, the establishment a national mine data system, promotion of awareness of ERW risk, and victim assistance.⁴⁰

VNMAC has been preparing a 10-year plan covering 2026–35 and a draft was reportedly under review by the MoD and other government agencies, but it has not consulted demining organisations or shared information on priorities. It is also understood to be developing a new national mine action programme for 2026–45, with a vision for mine action through to 2065.⁴¹

Vietnam does not have a national prioritisation system for CMR clearance.⁴² Quang Binh Database and Coordination Unit (DBCUC) has operated a reporting and tasking system in the province since 2021, and applies a province-wide prioritisation system.⁴³ The DCBU also submitted a Quang Binh Provincial Mine Action Programme 2024–2035 to the Provincial People's Committee for official approval in the first quarter of 2024, setting specific objectives and timelines to minimise the impact of CMR and ERW and with the longer term ambition of becoming impact-free by 2045.⁴⁴ The QTMAC tasks operators and sets annual work plans approved by provincial authorities in consultation with operators.⁴⁵ Thua Thien Hue provincial authorities similarly task NGO operators in accordance with the provincial socio-economic development plan.⁴⁶

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Vietnam has two types of national standards: QCVNs, which are mandatory for all operators, and TCVNs, which are only guidelines for organisations that do not receive Vietnamese funding.⁴⁷

Vietnam has drafted 15 TCVNs, which have been the subject of a lengthy review, and which had not been released by the start of 2025. The review is now reportedly complete and the TCVNs were being translated with a view to their release before the end of 2025.⁴⁸ The TCVNs are: (1)

General regulations, (2) Appraisal and certification of MA organisations' capacity, (3) Monitoring & Evaluation, (4) Contamination inspection, (5) Survey, (6) Safety assurance, (7) Survey and clearance, (8) Disposal of landmines/bombs, (9) Medical insurance, (10) Inspection over incidents, (11) Collecting, processing, and providing mine action information, (12) Quality management, (13) Risk management, (14) Risk education, and (15) Victim assistance. A further TCVN on environmental protection in mine action is also expected to be developed.⁴⁹

36 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

37 Prime Minister, "Decision on Approval of the National Mine Action Plan Period 2010–2025", Hanoi, 21 April 2010.

38 STA Capacity Development Project (NPA), "Vietnamese legal framework in mine action", January 2023.

39 Emails from Tim Horner on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021; Valentina Stivanetto, MAG, 29 April and 20 June 2022; and Kimberley McCosker, NPA, 22 June 2022.

40 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024.

41 Emails from mine action stakeholders, April 2025.

42 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April 2023; and Do Quy Linh, NPA, 16 June 2023.

43 Emails from Kimberley McCosker, NPA, 21 April 2022; and Pham Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023.

44 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024.

45 Emails from Jan Erik Støa, NPA, 6 April 2020; Simon Rea, MAG, 24 April 2019; Helene Kuperman, MAG, 31 March 2021; and Pham Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023.

46 Email from Jan Erik Støa, NPA, 6 April 2020.

47 Email from Resad Junuzagic, NPA, 6 May 2019.

48 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

49 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April 2023; Do Quy Linh, NPA, 16 June 2023; and Pham Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023.

QCVNs were promulgated by the MoD in a Circular (No. 59) in 2022 after extensive review over the course of several years by four working groups. The process was co-chaired by VNMAC, and included consultation with operators and

international organisations, including the GICHD.⁵⁰ The QCVNs include general provisions, technical regulations, regulations on safety and on management, and the responsibilities of organisations and individuals.⁵¹

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Most clearance in Vietnam is conducted by the Army Engineering Corps and 43 military-owned commercial companies. Vietnamese officials have previously reported that it had 250 mine clearance and battle area clearance (BAC) teams nationally,⁵² but the current strength and deployment of military-related demining is unknown. International operators mainly work in the central provinces of Quang Binh, Quang Tri, and Thua Thien Hue provinces, and most recently also in the Central Highlands province of Kon Tum.

Internationally-funded operators deployed 114 teams and 1,474 at the end of 2024.⁵³ NGO operators are not currently operating in the areas close to Vietnam's borders where many of the mined areas are located. Survey and clearance by the international operators currently address contamination from CMR and other ERW, not AP mines. For further details on survey and clearance capacity of humanitarian operators, see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2025* report on Vietnam.

Table 3: International NGO clearance capacity (at end 2024)⁵⁴

Operator	Area	Teams	Personnel
MAG	Quang Binh, Quang Tri	44	484
NPA	Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue	18	194
PTVN	Quang Binh, Quang Tri	18	184
KPVP	Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai, Thua Thien Hue	34	612
Totals		114	1,474

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

Table 4: Summary of land release outputs in 2024

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Comments
Clearance	0	
Technical survey	0	
Non-technical survey	0	
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	Comments
AP mines destroyed	6	Any destruction of mines by the army and army-related companies is unknown

International NGOs conduct survey and clearance focused on a wide array of explosive ordnance, including cluster munition remnants, air-dropped bombs, and artillery shells but they rarely encounter AP mines. NPA destroyed three AP mines in EOD operations in Hue City.⁵⁵ PTVN's EOD operations in Quang Binh and Quang Tri destroyed a further three AP mines.⁵⁶

50 Emails from Kimberley McCosker, NPA, 8 April 2021 and 21 April 2022; Valentina Stivanello, MAG, 29 April 2022; GICHD, 24 April 2022; and Tim Horner on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021.

51 STA Capacity Development Project (NPA), "Vietnamese legal framework in mine action", January 2023.

52 Interview with Sr. Col. Nguyen Thanh Ban, Engineering Command, Hanoi, 18 June 2013.

53 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025; NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025; Pham Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025 and Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 21 May 2025.

54 Ibid.

55 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

56 Email from Pham Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025.