

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025
 NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

**ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)
 MINE CONTAMINATION: MEDIUM**

NATIONAL AUTHORITY ESTIMATE

18.30 km²

AP MINE
 CLEARANCE IN 2022

2.13 km²

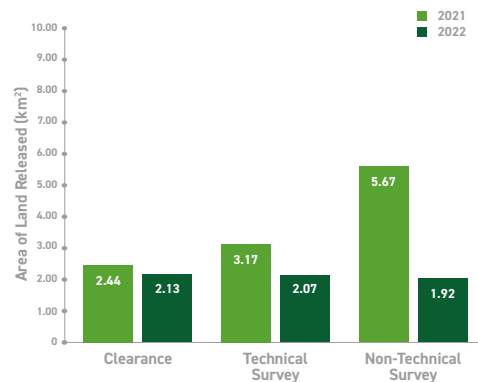
(NATIONAL AUTHORITY DATA)

AP MINES
 DESTROYED IN 2022

31,178

(INCLUDING 74 DESTROYED
 IN SPOT TASKS)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): LOW

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

All mined areas remaining in Zimbabwe are now confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs). The challenge for Zimbabwe in meeting its Article 5 deadline under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) remains securing the requisite funding from donors in a country with significant competing social and economic challenges. Zimbabwe launched its reviewed National Mine Action Completion Strategy 2018–2025 and a Communications and Resource Mobilisation Strategy in January 2023, seeking to address this challenge. In 2022, Zimbabwe made significant changes to procedures for “missed-mine drills” (executed where gaps in the pattern minefield are found), which have considerably increased efficiency.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- The Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) should continue to prioritise efforts to secure additional national and international funding to meet its 2025 clearance completion deadline.
- Zimbabwe should elaborate a gender and diversity policy and an implementation plan for the mine action programme.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2022)	Score (2021)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	8	8	Zimbabwe has a good understanding of remaining mine contamination with only CHAs remaining. In 2021, ZIMAC estimated that only about 11km ² of land was actually contaminated with anti-personnel (AP) mines and that other mined area in the national database (more than 20km ²) could be released through survey. That said, the amount of previously unknown contamination added to the database doubled in 2022 compared to 2021, as a result of survey.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	8	8	The mine action programme is managed effectively by ZIMAC, with good consultation and collaboration with partners. There is a high degree of national ownership with the government continuing to provide US\$500,000 annually to the mine action programme despite increasing financial hardship in the country. ZIMAC's Communication and Resource Mobilisation Strategy was launched in January 2023, following delays since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An updated National Strategy for 2018–2025 was launched at the same time.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	6	6	ZIMAC does not have a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan and did not develop a policy by the end of 2022 as was its stated intention. However, the importance of gender is acknowledged in the National Mine Action Strategy and integrated into annual work plans. Survey and community liaison teams are reportedly inclusive and gender-balanced both in their make-up and during community consultations. Operators report varying proportions of women employed. The Zimbabwean Armed Forces' National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU) has no women in operational roles.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	8	8	ZIMAC continued to improve its information management in 2022. Zimbabwe submits detailed Article 7 reports annually. Regular cross-checking of data with operators continues. Data collection forms are consistent and enable efficient collection of necessary data.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	8	8	Zimbabwe's National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–25 was reviewed in late 2022 with the support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). It was re-launched in January 2023 following delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, Zimbabwe fell only slightly short of its annual land release target for the year set out in its multiyear work plan, due to some capacity challenges. In its latest Article 7 report ZIMAC presented revised annual land release targets to 2025 and identified the resources, time, and funding needed to complete clearance.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	8	8	Zimbabwe maintained approximately the same overall capacity across operators in 2022 compared to 2021, with an increased number of mechanical assets. These, alongside use of mine detection dogs (MDDs), has increased efficiency in recent years. Through the trialling and accreditation of a new detector, significant improvement was made in the efficiency of missed-mine drills, when gaps in the mine pattern are found. Operators continue to destroy tens of thousands of AP mines annually, with the national programme clearing the greatest number of mines cleared per square kilometre.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	9	9	Zimbabwe released 6.12km ² of mined area in 2022, mostly from clearance, closely followed by technical survey, with the lowest proportion from non-technical survey. Zimbabwe's clearance output, at 2.13km ² , was marginally less than in 2021, due to capacity challenges. Zimbabwe will need to secure additional funding and increase capacity without delay, if it is to meet its land release targets and meet its Article 5 deadline of end 2025. This would be a considerable achievement for one of the world's most heavily mined countries in a particularly challenging political and economic context. However, based on current capacity Zimbabwe is not on track to meet its Article 5 deadline and will need to request a further extension.
Average Score	8.0	8.0	Overall Programme Performance: VERY GOOD

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe (NMAAZ)
- Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Zimbabwean Armed Forces' National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- APOPO
- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Five of Zimbabwe's ten provinces are contaminated with anti-personnel (AP) mines. As at the end of 2022, Zimbabwe reported a total of just over 18.3km² of confirmed mined area remaining (see Table 1). This is a decrease from the 23.5km² reported at the end of 2021. Six of the remaining minefields stretch along the borders with Mozambique, covering four provinces, while one is inland in Matabeleland North province.¹

According to the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC), the baseline of contamination is complete following the completion of significant re-survey in 2016.² The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) believes that Zimbabwe's understanding of remaining contamination is up to date and accurate.³ Similarly, in 2021, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation noted Zimbabwe's "high degree of clarity" on its remaining contamination.⁴

All contaminated areas remaining in Zimbabwe are confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), albeit which are, in general, very widely drawn. That said, ZIMAC believes that the true mined area is less than half of that in its official estimate. Indeed, as ZIMAC told Mine Action Review in August 2021, of the total confirmed mined area, only some 11km² is thought to be actually contaminated, with considerable area between mine lines that can be released through survey.⁵ A total of 113 CHAs remained at the end of 2022.⁶

Table 1: AP mined area (at end 2022)⁷

Province	CHAs	Area (m ²)
Mashonaland Central	28	3,316,781
Mashonaland East	45	9,288,889
Matabeleland North	7	904,487
Masvingo	18	1,566,052
Manicaland	15	3,226,519
Totals	113	18,302,728

Zimbabwe's mine contamination, the overwhelming majority of which is of AP mines, originates from the laying of minefields in the late 1970s during a decolonisation war. At the time of its independence in 1980, Zimbabwe was left with seven major mined areas along its borders with Mozambique and Zambia, and one inland minefield laid by the Rhodesian Army.⁸ Initially, AP mines were laid in very dense belts (on average 2,500 mines per kilometre of frontage) to form a so-called "cordon sanitaire", with up to 5,500 mines per kilometre in some places.⁹ Over time, this cordon sanitaire was breached or subject to erosion. In response, in many sections, a second belt of "ploughshare" directional fragmentation mines protected by AP mines was laid behind the cordon sanitaire. Few areas contain anti-vehicle (AV) mines and it is thought that the number of such mines remaining is low.¹⁰

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe (NAMA AZ) is a policy and regulatory body on all issues relating to mine action in Zimbabwe. ZIMAC was established in 2000 within the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as the focal point and coordination centre of all mine action in the country. ZIMAC is mandated to report to NAMA AZ.¹¹ In August 2019, ZIMAC's office relocated outside of a military cantonment allowing access to civilian operators.¹²

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), pp. 2-3.

2 Email from (then) Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020.

3 Email from Åsa Massleberg, Programme Manager and Senior Advisor, GICHD, 16 May 2023.

4 Preliminary Observations, Committee on Article 5 Implementation, APBMC Intersessional Meetings, 19-21 June 2023, Geneva, p. 1.

5 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 19 August 2021.

6 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, Operations Officer, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

7 Ibid.; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), pp. 6-7.

8 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary, p. 1; and email from (then) Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 10 October 2017.

9 "To Walk the Earth in Safety, Documenting the United States' Commitment to Conventional Weapons Destruction, Fiscal Year 2022, October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022", p. 10.

10 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 19 August 2021.

11 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

12 Email from (then) Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020.

There is no national legislation specific to mine action in Zimbabwe. However, in its Article 7 Report covering 2020, Zimbabwe set out clear national implementation measures including; the aforementioned relocation of ZIMAC to a location outside of the military cantonment, to allow access by all mine action stakeholders; allocation of government resources to the Zimbabwean Armed Forces' National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU); efforts to include mine action in national development priorities; and linking of mine action to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).¹³

While there is no national forum for convening relevant stakeholders on a regular basis to discuss challenges, progress, and support for Article 5 implementation, some stakeholders have commented that the existing structure and routines of coordination meetings suffice.¹⁴ ZIMAC holds quarterly coordination meetings with all stakeholders and operators also report being closely involved in decision-making processes by the national authority.¹⁵ Communication between ZIMAC and NAMAAS, operators, and other Zimbabwean government ministries is reported to be good with regular bilateral meetings.¹⁶ To date, donors have not attended quarterly coordination meetings, but ZIMAC is seeking to improve coordination with donors,¹⁷ with the launch of the updated Communications and Resource Mobilisation Strategy in January 2023 cited as a positive step towards this.¹⁸

A National Stakeholder Dialogue workshop took place in Harare in January 2023, supported by the APMBC Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and attended by government ministries, demining operators, donors, and other stakeholders. It has not, so far, resulted in any additional commitment of funding beyond that secured prior to the meeting.¹⁹ The possibility of establishing a National Mine Action Platform (NMAP) in Zimbabwe continues to be discussed but had not been agreed as at June 2023, although ZIMAC states that "progress is being made".²⁰

Operators report an enabling environment for mine action in Zimbabwe as well as co-operative and productive working relationships between operators and ZIMAC.²¹ Demining equipment can be important without significant

complications²² and administrative support in liaising with government departments from ZIMAC is generally good.²³ However, operators also identify areas for practical improvement. Some have noted that, while ZIMAC does its best to assist and provides long-term memorandums of understanding (MoUs), the approval processes for international visas for staff and visitors can be very slow.²⁴

Security Clearance is the responsibility of the NAMAAS, which seeks authority through the defence and national security departments. ZIMAC's role is to follow up on this process with NAMAAS on behalf of the operators. Steps have been taken to speed up the process. ZIMAC has requested that all operators submit a visitor's schedule to them at the beginning of the year, with all required documentation. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) notes that ZIMAC is supporting operators with such operational and programme challenges.²⁵ However, while acknowledging some improvement in 2022, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) notes that, as 2023 is an election year in Zimbabwe, this could exacerbate delays with security clearance. At times, such delays have presented challenges to effective mine action, such as making it impractical for international instructors to conduct field training.²⁶ On another administrative matter, The HALO Trust (HALO) notes that the *de facto* process for securing import fee waivers remains unclear.²⁷

The Government of Zimbabwe continues to fund mine action in line with previous commitments. According to ZIMAC's Article 7 Report covering 2022, a total of \$39.55 million, or \$13.2 million per year during 2023–25, is required by the mine action programme to meet its extended Article 5 deadline by 2025.²⁸ In 2022, the government provided US\$250,000 to cover the cost of the national mine action centre and US\$1,000,000 for survey and/or clearance of AP mined area,²⁹ an increase on the funding it provided in 2021, when the government provided US\$100,000 to cover the cost of the national mine action centre and US\$400,000 for survey and/or clearance of AP mined area.³⁰

Securing additional funding will be critical to ensuring that Zimbabwe can reach completion by 2025. In January 2023, Zimbabwe was finally able to go ahead with the launch of its updated Communications and Resource Mobilisation

13 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), pp. 1–2.

14 Emails from Mikael Bold, Programme Manager, APOPO, Zimbabwe; and Åsa Masteberg, GICHD, 16 May 2023.

15 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023; and Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023; Nicholas Torbet, Programme Manager, Zimbabwe, HALO, 19 April 2023; Peter Avenell, Country Director, Zimbabwe, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), 24 March 2023; and Gemma Welsh, Programme Manager, Zimbabwe, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), 19 April 2023.

16 Email from Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

17 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022 and interview with Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, in Geneva, 24 June 2022.

18 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

19 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023.

20 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

21 Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023; Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023; Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023; and Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

22 Email from Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

23 Email from Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

24 Emails from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 17 April 2020; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 20 May 2020.

25 Email from Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

26 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023.

27 Email from Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

28 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, Zimbabwe's Revised Mine Action Work Plan for 2022–2025, p. A-22.

29 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

30 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), p. 12.

Strategy,³¹ previously delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.³² In October 2022, the GICHD facilitated a strategy stakeholder workshop, attended by ZIMAC, Ministry of Public Service, Labour & Social Welfare (MoPLSW), NMCU and operators, to review and update the Communications and Resource Mobilisation strategy, initially drafted to cover 2019–25, and identify the funding gaps and required resources to meet the end-2025 Article 5 deadline.³³

The GICHD also supported the mid-term review of Zimbabwe's National Mine Action Strategy through a stakeholder workshop in November 2021,³⁴ with the updated strategy launched alongside the Communications and Resource Mobilisation Strategy.³⁵ The strategy sets out clear objectives, baselines, indicators, and targets for four strategic mine action goals around survey and clearance, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), victim assistance and advocacy and communication.³⁶

In 2022, ZIMAC continued to receive capacity development support, including strategic planning support, from the

GICHD.³⁷ The GICHD also provided some support on information management and International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in 2022.³⁸ HALO conducted a three week operations management training workshop, attended by operations managers from ZIMAC and the NMCU.³⁹ Technical Working group meetings, which focus on technical challenges, were launched on a quarterly basis in late 2021. Participants are operations management personnel.⁴⁰

One challenge for Zimbabwe's mine action programme is to plan for the effective demobilisation of the several hundred local operational staff working in the mine action sector once Zimbabwe reaches completion.⁴¹ NGO operators have begun to seek solutions. APOPO,⁴² for example, plans to provide training to all staff towards late 2025 in areas such as English language skills, computer literacy, and syntropic farming (an innovative approach to regenerative agriculture).⁴³ All stakeholders will need to address these challenges in a country facing high unemployment and economic instability as Zimbabwe's clearance programme nears completion.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

All mine action activities in Zimbabwe are conducted in line with the Zimbabwe Environmental Agency (EMA) regulations and requirements.⁴⁴ Zimbabwe also has a national mine action standard (NMAS) on environmental management and a policy on environmental management.⁴⁵ NMAS 10.07 covers "Safety and Occupational Health and Protection of the Environment". This standard provides operational guidance on air, water, and soil pollution; reduction and disposal of waste, especially toxic and hazardous waste; obstruction of watercourses; burning of vegetation; environmental considerations at worksites and temporary accommodation facilities, as well as at fuel, oil and lubricant areas and maintenance areas. It also covers reduction of energy consumption and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and environmental considerations related to use of land and risk to heritage.⁴⁶

Awareness of Zimbabwe's NMAS on environmental management varies among operators.⁴⁷ In terms of good

practice, ZIMAC outlines how the use of highly destructive mechanical clearance methods is not permitted in areas with very large trees. Manual clearance only is used in such areas, with back-filling of soil undertaken soon after clearance.⁴⁸

All operators take measures to reduce the environmental impact of demining operations, but vary in the degree to which they have environmental policies and management systems in place. APOPO has an environmental policy and an environmental action plan for 2021–25. APOPO's environmental management procedures are outlined in their standard operating procedure (SOP) on Safety And Occupational Health. This was approved by ZIMAC in 2021 and will be updated during 2023, in line with Zimbabwe's review of relevant NMAS chapters against updates in the IMAS.⁴⁹ During planning and tasking for survey and clearance, APOPO adheres to the following practices to minimise potential environmental harm:

31 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), p. 17 and Annex A, pp. A-21.

32 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020; and (as Major) 27 April 2021 and 2 June 2022; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Annex A, Zimbabwe's Revised Mine Action Work Plan for 2022–2025, p. A-19.

33 Email from Åsa Massleberg, GICHD, 16 May 2023.

34 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, p. A1; and email from Åsa Massleberg, GICHD, 17 August 2023.

35 Ibid., Annex A, pp. A20–A21.

36 Zimbabwe, National Mine Action Completion Strategy 2018–2025, Reviewed Version, pp. 18–27.

37 Emails from Åsa Massleberg, GICHD, 8 July 2022 and 16 May 2023.

38 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

39 Email from Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

40 Email from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 30 May 2022.

41 MAG presentation, "Demobilisation Discussion Points", National Stakeholder Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining: For a Mine-Free Zimbabwe by 2025, Harare, 26 January 2023.

42 APOPO stands for Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling, which translates into English as 'Anti-Personnel Mines Demining Product Development'. APOPO is a Belgian non-governmental organisation (NGO).

43 Email from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023.

44 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

45 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022.

46 Zimbabwe National Mine Action Standards 10.07, First edition (February 2013), Safety and Occupational Health. Protection of the Environment.

47 Emails from Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023; Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023; Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023; and Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

48 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

49 Email from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023.

- All excavation holes and detonation craters are refilled after external quality control (QC).
- Measures are in place to prevent wildfires during demolitions.
- Unnecessary cutting down of trees is avoided.
- Rubbish pits and latrines are dug to prevent environmental contamination.
- Processed soil is returned to the affected site (e.g., after soil removal in missed-mine drills).
- Temporary latrine holes are dug at every control point and filled in once the control point is no longer in use.
- Gas is used instead of firewood or charcoal at camps.⁵⁰

APOPO is also engaged in establishing “food forests” through syntropic agroforestry, including through a pilot project in Zimbabwe, with the aims of increasing food yield per acre, regenerating soil, restoring eco-systems, minimising the need for irrigation, and maximizing climate resilience for crops.⁵¹ In April 2023, APOPO began recording all known carbon footprint data in order to establish a baseline. It also plans to focus on the environment and climate change during 2023, to increase its organisational contribution to the UN SDGs.⁵²

HALO has global policies and SOPs on environmental management. The selection of manual versus mechanical teams to conduct clearance is the primary environmental consideration during planning and tasking, weighing the impact of the more environmentally intrusive mechanical clearance against the operational benefits or need. HALO also aims to situate field camps in areas that will not impact the local environment, and place camps as close to minefields as possible to minimise travel times, and thus vehicle emissions. Waste generation and disposal at camps are

closely monitored and HALO field camps have been run on solar power since 2016. In 2022, HALO began trials of electric vegetation trimmers, with the eventual aim of fully replacing the existing petrol fleet.⁵³

MAG does not have an environmental management system in place.⁵⁴ However, MAG operations follow IMAS (07.13) and take into account the need for vegetation and ground preparation, measures to avoid soil erosion and pollution, and management of deminer worksites to ensure proper disposal of waste.⁵⁵ In 2022, MAG also continued use of solar power for all field activities, including charging of batteries for detectors.⁵⁶

NPA has an environmental management system in place, including an environmental policy and environmental SOP, which it updated in 2021. These updates to regulations were intended to “prevent or mitigate all significant harmful effects of demining camps and operations to an acceptable level”, for example prohibiting the major servicing of vehicles and bulk storage of liquids at work sites. Detailed instructions on the disposal of waste fuel and lubricants are also incorporated into NPA’s environmental regulations. To protect vegetation, NPA cuts shrubby vegetation at ground level to allow the swinging of detectors, but only cuts trees if they present an obstruction to the use of the detector to confirm a hazard in the safe lane.⁵⁷ As at April 2023, NPA was in the process of rolling out an environmental management and assessment tool. Furthermore, in line with Zimbabwe’s National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, NPA is committed to recognising and promoting linkages between the SDGs and mine action and facilitating the development of safe land in rural communities in a way that supports the fulfilment of the SDGs.⁵⁸

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

ZIMAC had pledged to seek assistance from international stakeholders to formulate a gender and diversity policy by the end of 2022,⁵⁹ although, as at June 2023, Zimbabwe did not have one in place. However, in its latest Article 7 report covering 2022, as per its previous Article 7 report, Zimbabwe stresses that it is bound by national policy, which upholds gender equality

⁵⁰ Emails from John Sorbo, APOPO, 20 June and 16 August 2022; and Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023.

⁵¹ APOPO presentation, National Stakeholder Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining: For a Mine-Free Zimbabwe by 2025, Harare, 24 January 2023.

⁵² Email from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023.

⁵³ Emails from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 30 May and 14 August 2022; and Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

⁵⁴ Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023.

⁵⁵ Email from Roxana Bobolicu, MAG, 29 September 2022.

⁵⁶ Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023.

⁵⁷ Emails from Gemma Walsh, NPA, 2 June and 8 July 2022 and 19 April 2023.

⁵⁸ Email from Gemma Walsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

⁵⁹ Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022.

of opportunity and seeks to support women to take on roles which have been male-dominated. Zimbabwe asserts that no barriers exist to gender-balanced participation in mine action.⁶⁰

Table 2: Gender composition of mine action operators in 2022⁶¹

Organisation	Total staff	Total women employed	Total staff in managerial or supervisory positions	Total women in managerial or supervisory positions	Total staff in operational positions	Total women in operational positions
ZIMAC	13	3	4	0	4	1
APOPO	90	29	23	7	73	23
HALO	379	105	69	13	290	76
MAG	65	24	11	4	54	20
NPA	114	31	7	2	99	24

Zimbabwe's National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 does refer to the importance of addressing gender and diversity considerations and existing guidelines that stakeholders should use as a reference, including the UN's Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes.⁶² Zimbabwe has also included gender considerations in the NMAS: NMAS 07 ("Management of Demining Operations") requires that "special efforts should be made to ensure gender balance and diversity of background for Community Liaison Officers".⁶³ The GICHD confirms that gender and diversity are integrated into Zimbabwe's national mine action strategy and annual work plans and are highlighted in a specific section that includes references to Zimbabwe's constitution and an explicit commitment from the government to take into consideration relevant gender and diversity issues.⁶⁴

With regard to equal access to employment specifically, ZIMAC highlights that it is a small entity and therefore has limited opportunity to fill positions with female candidates.⁶⁵ That said, in 2022, 23% of its employees were women, compared to only 15% in 2021. As per the previous year, no women were employed in managerial or supervisory positions. However, one woman was employed in an operational position, where none had been in 2021.⁶⁶ ZIMAC has also found community liaison to be effective in encouraging more women to join mine action, with all operators now employing considerable numbers of female deminers, team leaders, and supervisors.⁶⁷ This represents progress since 2020, when ZIMAC stated that the number of women employed in mine action fell short of "required" levels

and noted that Zimbabwean women were somewhat reluctant to work in mine action.⁶⁸

No women are employed in operational roles in the NMCU because staff are recruited from the corps of military engineers, where very few women are working. NMCU deminers are drawn exclusively from soldiers and are therefore all male.⁶⁹

ZIMAC reports that international operators working in Zimbabwe are encouraged to prioritise recruitment also of people from communities living adjacent to the mine-affected areas. In 2022, for example, APOPO prioritised recruitment of local youths from Ward 15 of the Chiredzi South District, close to the Gonarezhou national park and border with Mozambique, where APOPO is undertaking clearance. Hiring local youths reduced cases of poaching and illegal immigration in search of employment and has been received very positively by community leaders.⁷⁰

ZIMAC confirms that all community groups are routinely consulted in the NMCU's survey and community liaison activities, with efforts undertaken to ensure that all age and gender groups are consulted. Survey and community liaison teams are gender-balanced and diverse, with personnel recruited locally from affected areas to incorporate ethnic and minority groups who speak the language of the community. Demining and community liaison teams also include some women as leaders. Community liaison teams meet children of all age groups during visits to schools.⁷¹ All mine action data are disaggregated by sex and age.⁷²

60 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, p. A-1 and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Annex A, p. A-1.

61 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023; Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023; Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023; Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023; and Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

62 Email from Tom Dibb, HALO, 22 February 2018; and Zimbabwe National Mine Action Strategy, 2018–2025, Reviewed Version, p. 15.

63 Email from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 20 July 2019.

64 Emails from Åsa Massleberg, GICHD, 8 July 2022 and 16 May 2023.

65 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

66 Emails from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 27 April 2021 and 2 June 2022; and interview in Geneva, 24 June 2022; and email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

67 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022.

68 Emails from (then) Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019 and 6 April 2020.

69 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, 23 August 2022.

70 Email from John Sorbo, APOPO, 16 August 2022.

71 Emails from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019 and 6 April 2020, and (as Major) 2 June 2022.

72 Article 7 Report, Annex A, p. A-1; and email from Åsa Massleberg, GICHD, 8 July 2022.

ZIMAC reports that gender is taken into account during the planning and prioritisation of minefields for clearance, such as consideration of the risks taken usually by women and girls to cross minefields to fetch water and that of men and boys who often herd cattle or plough near mined areas.⁷³ However, given the nature of the minefields, which are essentially one long and continuous line, operational access constraints often dictate clearance priorities as much as other factors.⁷⁴ At the same time, according to HALO, post-clearance surveys reflect the gendered impact of clearance. Women and children are often the major beneficiaries of clearance, as they are responsible for more than 80% of water collection, with clearance providing safer and more direct access to water sources.⁷⁵ ZIMAC also highlights the particular vulnerability of women and girls and stresses that this is taken into account in the planning and prioritisation of tasks.⁷⁶

All international operators in Zimbabwe have gender policies in place for their programme staff⁷⁷ and demonstrate continued commitment to measures that encourage and support employment of women in mine action as well as the integration of gender and diversity concerns and the needs of affected communities into their operations.

HALO has an up-to-date gender and diversity policy and implementation plan and continues to disaggregate relevant mine action data by sex and age. During 2022 and 2023, HALO has recruited teachers to teach all field staff the English Language, availing both male and female staff of the opportunity to advance their education. HALO also made available a stipend to support female staff to obtain or upgrade their drivers licences.⁷⁸ These efforts build on those made in 2021 and early 2022 to maintain the availability of allowances for female staff to help cover the costs of childcare; continue the provision of a female nurse, who rotates through HALO's operations camps; and to hire both a female Safeguarding and Staff Wellness officer and female Community Liaison Manager.⁷⁹

In 2022, 28% of HALO's employees in Zimbabwe were women, an increase on the 24% of 2021. 19% of managerial/supervisory positions were occupied by women as well as 26% of operational positions; both slight increases on 2021 figures, which were 14% and 24% respectively.⁸⁰

NPA confirms that their recruitment process is guided by its gender equality policy, as well as its Code of Conduct and safeguarding policies, which aim to provide a secure

environment for both female and male staff and beneficiaries. NPA has a global target of a minimum of 25% female mine action staff, with representation in operational and management roles. Updates were made to NPA's gender and diversity policy and implementation plan in 2022 and NPA plans to conduct a Gender and Diversity Baseline Analysis and Assessment in Zimbabwe (to be updated on an annual basis), which will form the basis for annual gender implementation plans. NPA also plans to train all NPA programme staff in use of Rapid Gender Assessment tools.⁸¹

In 2022, 27% of all staff in NPA in Zimbabwe were women, representing an increase on 24% in 2021. Women filled 29% of managerial/supervisory positions, a decrease on the 40% of 2021. 24% of operational positions were filled by women, again a decrease on the 31% of 2021.⁸² NPA states that it works to ensure its survey and community liaison teams are inclusive and gender balanced, and to facilitate access and participation by all groups. Such efforts include gender-sensitive contextual analysis in each context relevant to the programme.⁸³

MAG has a global gender and diversity policy and implementation plan, which it adheres to in its Zimbabwe operations. MAG also disaggregates relevant mine action data by sex and age.⁸⁴ The organisation reports equal access to employment for qualified women and men in its survey and clearance teams in Zimbabwe, including for managerial level/supervisory positions.

37% of MAG's staff were women in 2022, with 36% of managerial/supervisory positions occupied by women and 37% of operational positions; all increases on the previously year, when one quarter of MAG's staff were women with 22% of managerial/supervisory positions occupied by women and 30% of operational positions.⁸⁵ In 2022, MAG continued its policy of offering breastfeeding mothers an additional three months of arrangements to facilitate breastfeeding after the first three months of maternity leave. It also delivered targeted training for 11 female deminers, launching an all-female team in January 2023, inclusive of team leader, deminers, medics and drivers.⁸⁶

To ensure the needs of women and children in communities affected by mined areas are taken into account in prioritisation and planning of tasks, targeted interviews and focus group discussions take place to confirm particular challenges for women and girls. However, tasks are tackled in a linear fashion given the linear nature of Zimbabwe's

73 Emails from (then) Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019 and 6 April 2020.

74 Emails from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 20 July 2019; and Adam Komorowski, Regional Director West Africa and Latin America, MAG, 1 August 2019.

75 Email from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 20 July 2019.

76 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

77 Emails from (then) Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 31 July 2019 and 6 April 2020; Samuel Fricker, HALO, 20 July 2019; Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019; and Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 15 July 2019.

78 Email from Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

79 Emails from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 30 May 2022 and Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

80 Ibid.

81 Email from Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

82 Emails from Gemma Welsh, NPA, 2 June and 8 July 2022 and 19 April 2023.

83 Email from Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

84 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023.

85 Emails from Peter Avenell, MAG, 17 May 2022 and 24 March 2023.

86 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023.

minefields and given that MAG's area of operations are broadly similar to each other in their context, with all communities coming from the Shona tribe.⁸⁷

APOPO has a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan and, in 2022, a female Human Resources Co-ordinator came into post to follow up on implementation. The organisation reports offering equal access to employment for qualified women and men in survey and clearance teams, including for managerial level/supervisory positions.⁸⁸ In 2022, 32% of APOPO's personnel were women, with 30% of managerial/supervisory positions and 32% of operational positions occupied by women.⁸⁹ This represents a decrease in female representation compared to 2021, their first year of operating in Zimbabwe, when 31% of APOPO's employees were women, with 50% of managerial/supervisory positions

and 34% of operational positions occupied by women.⁹⁰ That said, APOPO asserts that is dedicated to ensuring that gender equality and considerations are reflected in all aspects of its work, including its partnerships and beneficiaries, as well as in assessing priority areas and populations. APOPO's Global Gender Action Plan (2020–25) is in place to ensure implementation of its gender policy.⁹¹

APOPO measures relative impacts during formal impact assessment; the organisation's SOPs include a section on gender-balance in survey and community liaison teams. Survey and community liaison are conducted by a team that originates from the communities along the minefield concerned. From time to time, beneficiary interviews are conducted to better understand how beneficiaries feel about ongoing clearance.⁹²

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

ZIMAC operates an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) New Generation (NG) database with all data disaggregated by type of munition and method of land release.⁹³ Zimbabwe confirms its information database is accurate, up to date, and sustainable.⁹⁴ The GICHD, which offers support to ZIMAC on information management when needed, concurs that information is generally accurate and that the programme can easily extract up-to-date data as required.⁹⁵ ZIMAC holds regular meetings with operators to cross-reference data, which according to operators has improved the accuracy and reliability of the database.⁹⁶ Polygon data are also reviewed when it is deemed prudent to do so, for example, whenever a resurvey takes place.⁹⁷

ZIMAC's latest Article 7 report covering 2022 is comprehensive and of generally good quality.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Zimbabwe's latest Article 7 Report includes a detailed annual work plan for 2023.⁹⁸ The mid-term review of Zimbabwe's national mine action strategy in November 2021⁹⁹ led to a launch of the updated strategy alongside the Communications and Resource Mobilisation Strategy at the National Stakeholder Dialogue in Harare in January 2023.¹⁰⁰

Zimbabwe's Article 7 Report covering 2022 included updated annual targets for the remainder of the extension period. These are 6.4km² to be addressed in 2023; 7.3km² to be addressed in 2024; and the remaining 4.6km² to be addressed in 2025, for a total of 18.3km² (see Table 3).¹⁰¹ These targets are slightly higher than those set out for in the Article 7 report covering 2021, which totalled 17.1km² over the same period.¹⁰² This is due the fact that, while Zimbabwe fell only slightly short of its target of addressing 6.3km² in 2022,¹⁰³ a further 0.9km² of previously unknown contamination was added to the database in 2022.¹⁰⁴ ZIMAC points out that Zimbabwe has been able to surpass its total land release target, having released 49.2km² as at the end of 2022 compared to the 41.1km² originally projected.¹⁰⁵

87 Ibid.

88 Emails from John Sorbo, APOPO, 20 June and 16 August 2022.

89 Email from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023.

90 Emails from John Sorbo, APOPO, 20 June and 16 August 2022.

91 Email from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023.

92 Emails from John Sorbo, APOPO, 20 June and 16 August 2022.

93 Email from (then) Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 12 June 2018.

94 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), p. 3.

95 Emails from Åsa Massleberg, GICHD, 8 July 2022 and 16 May 2023.

96 Emails from Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 25 March 2020; Samuel Fricker, HALO, 17 April 2020; Peter Avenell, MAG, 20 May 2020 and 24 March 2023; Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023; Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023; Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023; and Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

97 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022; and interview, in Geneva, 24 June 2022.

98 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, pp. A1–A24.

99 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, p. A1; and email from Åsa Massleberg, GICHD, 17 August 2023.

100 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, pp. A20–A21.

101 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, p. A-23.

102 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Appendix A, Table A1, p. A-21.

103 Ibid.

104 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), p. 2.

105 Ibid., Annex A, p. A-2.

Table 3: Annual land release targets 2023–25 (m²)¹⁰⁶

Minefield	2023	2024	2025	Totals	Comments
Musengezi to Mazowe, Mashonaland Central (HALO)	1,400,000	1,300,000	616,781	3,316,781	Capacity will be transferred to Mashonaland East upon completion.
Mazowe to Nyahuku, Mashonaland East (HALO)	800,000	1,000,000	389,843	2,189,843	Capacity will be transferred here from Mashonaland Central.
Mazowe to Rwenya River (MAG)	335,000	1,773,337	1,773,337	3,881,674	Capacity will be transferred here once allocated areas complete or if operators are on track to complete ahead of schedule.
Nyamapanda to Mazowe Ploughshare (NPA)	629,000	1,498,053	1,090,319	3,217,372	
Crooks Corner to Sango Border (Reinforced Ploughshare) (NMCU)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Completed.
Crooks Corner to Sango Border (Cordon Sanitaire) (NMCU)	350,000	200,000	84,900	634,900	
Crooks Corner to Sango Border (Cordon Sanitaire) (APOPO)	320,000	320,000	291,152	931,152	
Rusitu to Muzite Mission (NPA)	2,401,766	824,753	N/A	3,226,519	
Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill (NPA)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Completed. All capacity has been transferred to Chipinge District & will later be transferred to Mashonaland East.
Lusulu (NMCU)	150,000	400,500	353,987	904,487	NMCU will transfer capacity here once other tasks completed.
Totals	6,385,766	7,316,643	4,600,319	18,302,728	

Historically, clearance was prioritised by ZIMAC according to impact, with contaminated areas closest to highly populated areas to be addressed first.¹⁰⁷ However, as the majority of Zimbabwe's minefields are situated along the border with Mozambique, operations tend to proceed in a linear fashion to allow for optimal use of resources. HALO's operations, for example, proceed linearly west to east or east to west allowing concentrated logistical support and command and control, rather than opening tasks all over the frontage of the border.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁶ Ibid., Annex A, pp. A-5–A-20 and A-23.

¹⁰⁷ Email from (then) Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020.

¹⁰⁸ Emails from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 17 April 2020; and Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

As Zimbabwe's expected completion date of the end of 2025 approaches, it has taken steps to adjust plans and redistribute areas of operation going forward, so that operators who complete assigned tasks or gain additional capacity may deploy capacity elsewhere (see Table 3). ZIMAC has, for example, re-allocated some of MAG's tasks to NPA, which was due to start operations in Mudzi District, Mashonaland East in June 2023.¹⁰⁹ HALO has also been allocated part of MAG's minefield in Mashonaland East.¹¹⁰ MAG adds that the remaining areas that MAG cannot reach, due to limited capacity, will be regularly discussed at coordination meetings and most likely re-allocated in the coming months and years depending on the capacity of other operators.¹¹¹

Operators report that clearance and survey task dossiers are issued in a timely and effective manner¹¹² HALO also notes the good level of support provided by ZIMAC's monitoring and QC teams.¹¹³

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Zimbabwe conducts a review of its NMAS every three years in line with updates to the IMAS.¹¹⁴ SOPs are also reviewed regularly and as needed to address new challenges, ensure the employment of best practice and update in line with IMAS and Zimbabwe's NMAS.¹¹⁵ Operators confirm that the NMAS are suitably adapted to the local threat and enable efficient, evidence-based survey and clearance.¹¹⁶

ZIMAC reviewed the NMAS and updated some chapters in 2022.¹¹⁷ ZIMAC and operators confirm that they were consulted during this review, in particular with HALO providing input on the Standard for mechanical demining and NPA providing input on the Standard for animal detection systems (ADS).¹¹⁸

In April 2023, ZIMAC issued a range of NMAS chapters for final input from operators ahead of publication, with the target date for completion of the full review of the NMAS set at September 2023.¹¹⁹

An ongoing challenge for Zimbabwe's programme has been the search for technical solutions to decrease the time spent on missed-mine drills, when gaps in the mine pattern are found.¹²⁰ Operators called for the drills to be reviewed to establish a more efficient method of conducting them as they have proved time consuming and seemingly ineffective as

mines are found only very rarely.¹²¹ In 2021, operators were given autonomy to explore their own innovations, which included the use of mine detection dogs (MDDs) by NPA and use of the Minelab GPZ 7000 detector by HALO and APOPO.¹²² This detector was accredited in November 2022 for use in detection of high-metal AP mines (of the types VS50 and M969), the mine types most commonly found in Zimbabwe.¹²³ Accreditation for use with the AP mine type (R2M2), was granted in April 2023. Operators note that use of the GPZ 7000 detector has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of clearance, with the need for fewer missing-mine excavations.¹²⁴ ZIMAC asserts that the introduction of the GPZ 7000 has been instrumental in keeping Zimbabwe's land release programme on track, stating that; "without the assets and approval of the GPZ 7000 detector ... full excavation using detectors would have taken away the 2025 landmine free Zimbabwe's hope."¹²⁵

With regard to use of dogs in missed mine drills, a key consideration has been to establish the maximum depth at which dogs can detect, given that mines are being found at depths of up to 40cm. As such, in June 2022, ZIMAC stated that dogs would likely need to be used in combination with surface excavation, to ensure sufficiently deep exploration.¹²⁶ NPA submitted a draft NMAS on mine detection dogs to

109 Email from Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

110 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), p. 7.

111 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023.

112 Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023; Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023; and Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

113 Email from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 30 May 2022.

114 Email from (then) Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020.

115 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

116 Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023; and Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

117 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), p. 3; and email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

118 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023; Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023; Gemma Welsh, NPA, 2 June 2022 and 19 April 2023; and Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

119 Email from Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

120 Emails from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 20 July 2019; and Adam Komorowski, MAG, 1 August 2019.

121 Emails from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 5 August 2021; Peter Avenell, MAG, 20 May 2020; and John Sorbo, APOPO, 16 August 2022, and online interview, 11 August 2022. APOPO, for example, notes that in June 2022, 74 operational hours were spent on missed-mine drills.

122 Emails from Peter Avenell, MAG, 17 May 2022; Samuel Fricker, HALO, 30 May 2022; Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022; Gemma Walsh, NPA, 2 June 2022; and Mikael Bold, APOPO, 8 August 2023.

123 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023; and Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

124 Emails from Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023; and Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023.

125 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, p. A-2.

126 Interview with Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, in Geneva, 24 June 2022.

ZIMAC in May 2022,¹²⁷ which was issued to operators for final input in April 2023.¹²⁸ NPA's MDD teams have to date been required to focus on targeted technical survey (TTS), hence trial use of dogs in missed-mine drills has not been possible. However, ZIMAC and NPA continue to collaborate on this issue and the first trials were due to take place during 2023.¹²⁹

ZIMAC conducts quality assurance (QA) and operators have previously confirmed that the ZIMAC QA/QC process was

rigorous, with well trained and experienced staff. HALO noted that the combination of a separate sampling team and a highly accessible monitoring team worked especially well, with the former providing thorough external oversight and the latter helping teams to work through any problems.¹³⁰ In 2023, ZIMAC noted that, in addition to having a QA Officer attached to each operator, a stand-alone, external QC team samples completed tasks in line with Zimbabwe's inspection procedures as per the NMAS.¹³¹

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The Zimbabwean Armed Forces' NMCU and, since 2013, HALO and NPA, all conduct land release in Zimbabwe. MAG became operational in December 2017, and APOPO signed their MoU in 2016, but were not operational until December 2020 when they began training their first demining teams.¹³² APOPO began survey and clearance operations in 2021¹³³ and has been tasked to survey and clear a 7km² area on a 37km-long stretch of minefield along the border with Mozambique, in a conservation area just outside Gonarezhou national park, known as the Sengwe Wildlife Corridor.¹³⁴ The aim is to create a safe passage for both local communities and tourists, as well as reduce the human-wildlife conflict, caused by wildlife overpopulation, where the presence of landmines has prevented normal animal migration.¹³⁵

Table 4: Operational NTS and TS capacities deployed in 2022¹³⁶

Operator	NTS teams	Total NTS personnel	Dogs and handlers	Comments
APOPO	1	1	0	A risk education officer supports NTS together with operational management staff. APOPO deploys combined TS and clearance personnel (see Table 5).
HALO	1	3	0	HALO deploys combined TS and clearance personnel. (See Table 5). NTS managed by 1 Community Outreach team of 3 personnel.
MAG	2	5	0	MAG deploys combined TS and clearance personnel. (See Table 5).
NPA	2	5	3 handlers 3 dogs	2 teams of 5 includes 1 NTS team of 2 personnel. and 1 mine detection dog (MDD) team deployed for TS. Overall a slight decrease on 2021, when NPA deployed 1 NTS team of 2 personnel and 1 MDD team of 4 dogs and 2 handlers. NPA also deploys combined TS and clearance personnel (see Table 5).
NMCU	1	3		Deployed for NTS.
Totals	7	17	3	

127 Email from Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

128 Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023; and Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

129 Emails from Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023; and Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

130 Email from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 20 July 2019.

131 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

132 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 15; and email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 19 August 2021.

133 Emails from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022; and John Sorbo, APOPO, 20 June 2022.

134 Emails from Ashley Fitzpatrick, APOPO Zimbabwe, 27 July 2019 and 9 August 2020.

135 "Switzerland Boosts APOPO Zimbabwe Demining Project", 13 December 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3PbEuFA>.

136 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023; Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023; Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023; and Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May and 8 August 2023.

Table 5: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2022¹³⁷

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers*	Machines**	Comments
HALO	30	233	7	Includes 2 mechanical demining teams of 10 personnel in total. Slight decrease on 30 teams of 249 deminers deployed in 2021. Increase compared to 3 machines deployed in 2021. Machines include 2 excavators, 2 micro-excavators, 1 orbit screener, 1 MMD sizer and 1 tractor. Deminers includes medic-deminers who operate as deminers, and mechanical operator deminers.
NPA	5	52	0	Slight increase on 5 teams of 50 deminers deployed in 2021. Also undertake technical survey. Four manual deminers are attached to mechanical demining team.***
APOPO	5	50	0	Increase on 4 teams of 34 deminers deployed in 2021. Also undertake technical survey.
MAG	3	27	0	Slight decrease on 3 teams of 30 deminers deployed in 2021. Up to 6 additional deminers for short periods in 2022. Also undertake TS.
NMCU	16	134	1	Slight decrease on 15 teams of 150 personnel in 2021.****
Totals	59	496	8	

*Excluding team leaders, medics, and drivers. **Excluding vegetation cutters and sifters. ***NPA mechanical team authorised to conduct clearance only of metalized areas where a detector cannot be employed, as well as for technical survey.¹³⁸ **** NMCU mechanical demining team deployed for ground preparation only in 2022.¹³⁹

Overall, Zimbabwe maintained approximately the same technical survey (TS) and clearance capacity in 2022 as it did in 2021, with the combined capacity of humanitarian operators and the NMCU totalling 59 teams of 496 deminers in 2022 (see Table 5), compared to 58 teams of 500 deminers in 2021.¹⁴⁰ Zimbabwe's programme saw an increase in mechanical assets deployed, with eight machines in 2022 (see Table 5), compared to four machines in 2021.¹⁴¹ ZIMAC projected that operators were generally expected to maintain their capacity for the 2023 demining year.¹⁴²

APOPO does not have dedicated non-technical survey (NTS) capacity, though an EORE Officer supports survey. APOPO introduced an additional combined clearance and technical survey team (see Tables 4 and 5). APOPO expected to have to reduce its clearance capacity from five teams of ten deminers each to four teams of eight deminers each in mid 2023, due to a gap in funding.¹⁴³

HALO saw only a slight decrease in NTS capacity in 2022 compared to 2021 (see Table 4). Clearance personnel decreased by 10% in 2022 due to funding reduction. However, HALO expected this to increase by 10% in 2023 due to increased funding.¹⁴⁴ ZIMAC notes that HALO requires increased funding to increase its current capacity and meet its end of 2025 land release target in Mashonaland Central, as well as the additional area re-allocated to HALO from MAG in Mashonaland East. ZIMAC foresees that, funds permitting, an additional mechanical team as well as increased manual capacity, will be key to achieving the target.¹⁴⁵

MAG maintained the same NTS capacity in 2022 as it did in 2021 and saw only a minor reduction in the number of combined technical survey and clearance personnel in 2022, compared to the previous year (see Tables 4 and 5). However, MAG was able to add a few extra deminers during the latter part of 2022. From January 2023, MAG introduced an additional, all-female team of nine deminers. MAG cautions,

137 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023; Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023; Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023; Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023; and Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023.

138 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 12 August 2022.

139 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, pp. A9-A10.

140 Emails from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022; Peter Avenell, MAG, 17 May 2022; Gemma Walsh, NPA, 2 June 2022; and John Sorbo, APOPO, 20 June 2022.

141 Emails from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022; and Samuel Fricker, HALO, 30 May 2022.

142 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

143 Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May and 8 August 2023.

144 Email from Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

145 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, p. A-7.

however, that while one of its mine action teams is funded for the next two years minimum, other funding is short-term and unconfirmed, even to the end of 2023,¹⁴⁶ so this may have capacity implications.¹⁴⁷

NPA saw only a slight decrease in NTS capacity and a slight increase in combined technical survey and clearance in 2022 compared to 2021 (see Tables 4 and 5). As per 2021, NPA used its mine detection dogs (MDDs) to conduct technical survey in 2022.¹⁴⁸ Zimbabwe notes that MDDs have been instrumental in quickening technical survey and enabling fast deployment of manual deminers to mine lanes.¹⁴⁹ NPA adds that the introduction of MDDs and TTS, for which NPA has deployed MDDs, increased productivity by 25%.¹⁵⁰

NPA's operations are funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has guaranteed funding to 2025.¹⁵¹ NPA expects no major changes to capacity in 2023, unless additional funding is secured to increase capacity.¹⁵² If efforts to secure such additional funding are successful, this would allow additional capacity to be deployed to tackle remaining challenges, including the areas in Mashonaland East that have been re-allocated from MAG to NPA.¹⁵³

Zimbabwe's NMCU saw a slight decrease in capacity from 150 to 134 deminers between 2021 and 2022, including one mechanical team deployed for ground preparation only (see Table 5). ZIMAC envisages using some of the NMCU's capacity to support any areas assigned to operators that lag behind target as the 2025 completion date approaches. ZIMAC notes

that government funding for NMCU is guaranteed at the current level until clearance is complete.¹⁵⁴ However, in both 2021 and 2022, ZIMAC said that additional funding is required to replace old detectors, which are no longer functioning at their best, negatively impacting 2022 output.¹⁵⁵ Resources allowing, Zimbabwe hopes to form a second NMCU unit to expedite clearance and, as at January 2023, was in the process of purchasing replacement mine detectors.¹⁵⁶

Zimbabwe first introduced mechanical assets in 2016. These have been useful in tackling deeply buried mines on hard ground as well as in areas with highly mineralised soils.¹⁵⁷ In February 2022, HALO began trialling use of a micro excavator, with the goal of increasing the safety of manual mine clearance by reducing the number of manual excavations of R2M2-type AP mines. The micro excavator works in conjunction with manual deminers to complete excavations that would otherwise be done entirely by hand. Following the trial, the machine and relevant SOP were approved by HALO's Global Capability team and by ZIMAC in November 2022. During the same year, the Micro Excavator completed 1,578 excavations and excavated a total of 1,151 mines, including 1,082 R2M2-type mines. The trial demonstrated that the micro excavator is capable of reducing the number of manual excavations by 80% and can complete an excavation in under one minute. This innovation increases the safety of manual clearance and also has the potential to increase efficiency.¹⁵⁸

DEMINER SAFETY

ZIMAC reported six accidents involving deminers in 2022, all involving excavation of R2M2 AP mines (see Table 6).¹⁵⁹ One APOPO deminer suffered a fractured arm and trauma to the eyes from dust projected by a blast, though PPE protected the deminer from more serious injury. APOPO's internal investigation points to the fact that the mine was tilted, and potentially disturbed by the deminer during the excavation.¹⁶⁰ HALO reported three accidents to ZIMAC. However, while they met HALO's definition of an 'accident', i.e. an unplanned explosion or damage to property, none of the accidents resulted in injuries.¹⁶¹ One MAG deminer suffered a minor injury. The accident was investigated by MAG as per its regulations. Findings were shared with ZIMAC and donors and a summary shared with operators in-country.¹⁶²

146 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 17 May 2022.

147 Ibid.; and presentation, "MAG Zimbabwe Operational Status", National Stakeholder Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining: For a Mine-Free Zimbabwe by 2025, Harare, 26 January 2023.

148 Emails from Gemma Walsh, NPA, 2 June 2022 and 19 April 2023.

149 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, p. A-2.

150 Email from Gemma Walsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

151 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Annex A, p. A-12.

152 Email from Gemma Walsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

153 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, p. A-12.

154 Ibid., Annex A, p. A-16.

155 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Annex A, p. A-14 and; Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, p. A-16.

156 Col. M. B. Ncube, Director, ZIMAC, "Overview of the Strategic Plan and the Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Progress Implementation", National Stakeholder Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining: For a Mine-Free Zimbabwe by 2025, Harare, 24 January 2023.

157 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Annex A, p. A-2.

158 Email from Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

159 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

160 Email from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023.

161 Emails from Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April and 21 June 2023.

162 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023.

Table 6: Demining accidents in Zimbabwe in 2022¹⁶³

Operator	No. of accidents	Activity	Type of APM	Number of deminers injured
HALO	3	Clearance	R2M2	0
APOPO	1	Clearance	R2M2	1
NMCU	1	Clearance	R2M2	1
MAG	1	Clearance	R2M2	1

ZIMAC states that, following accidents in 2022, all investigations were made according to the national standards and lessons learned were shared and discussed during quarterly co-ordination and operations meetings.¹⁶⁴

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

A total of 6.12km² of mined area was released in 2022,¹⁶⁵ falling only slightly short of Zimbabwe’s target of addressing 6.3km² in 2022.¹⁶⁶ Of the 6.12km², just over 2.13km² was cleared, almost 2.07km² was reduced through technical survey, and almost 1.92km² was cancelled through non-technical survey. A total of 31,186 AP mines and one AV mine were found and destroyed, including 82 during EOD spot tasks.¹⁶⁷ A total of 0.91km² of previously unknown contamination was added to the database in 2022 as a result of survey.¹⁶⁸

Previously, in 2021, all operators except NPA reported some level of disruption to operations that affected land release output, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁶⁹ No such disruptions or impact on output were experienced in 2022.¹⁷⁰

SURVEY IN 2022

In 2021, a total of 3.99km² was released through survey, of which almost 1.92km² was cancelled through NTS (see Table 7), and almost 2.07km² was reduced through TS (see Table 8).¹⁷¹ There was a significant decrease in NTS output compared to the 5.67km² cancelled in 2021, the latter being mainly due to APOPO’s resurvey during its first year of operations. There was also a decrease in the amount land released through TS, down from 3.17km² the previous year.¹⁷²

The 1.92km² released through NTS by NMCU represents an increase on the 0.5km² released by NTS in 2021, also by NMCU.¹⁷³

Of the 2.07km² reduced through TS, 0.89km² was released by HALO and 1.17km² was released by NPA (see Table 8). NPA saw a significant decrease in the amount of area reduced in 2022 compared to the 2.03km² reduced in 2021. This was due to a decrease in the number of teams.¹⁷⁴ HALO also saw a decrease in the amount of land reduced through TS, compared to the 1.04km² of 2021.¹⁷⁵ This was expected as, in 2021, HALO noted that it was nearing completion of all ploughshare tasks and would soon be primarily focused on clearing the remaining cordon sanitaire minefields.¹⁷⁶ Cordon sanitaire minefields are tasks that normally require full clearance with no reduction possible as the polygons are usually very accurate and there is strong evidence of contamination within fence-lines and roads. HALO was therefore not expecting reduction levels to remain as high as they had previously been.¹⁷⁷

163 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023; Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023; Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April and 21 June 2023; and Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023.

164 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

165 Ibid.

166 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Appendix A, Table A1, P. A-21.

167 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

168 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), p. 2.

169 Emails from Peter Avenell, MAG, 17 May and 4 July 2022; John Sorbo, APOPO, 20 June 2022; Samuel Fricker, HALO, 30 May 2022; and Gemma Walsh, NPA, 2 June 2022.

170 Emails from Gemma Walsh, NPA, 19 April 2023; Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023, Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023; Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023; and Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

171 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), pp. 6–7.

172 Emails from (then) Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022.

173 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), pp. 4–5.

174 Emails from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022; and Gemma Walsh, NPA, 19 April and 21 June 2023; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), pp. 4–5.

175 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), pp. 4–5.

176 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022.

177 Emails from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 13 April 2021 and 30 May 2022.

MAG reports that it released 121,298m² through TS in 2022, though this was not reported to Mine Action Review by ZIMAC. MAG states that this discrepancy is due to the fact that there are sometimes information processing delays in the time taken for ZIMAC to update the IMSMA database.¹⁷⁸ For consistency, Mine Action Review has included only data provided by ZIMAC in Tables 7 and 8.

Table 7: Release of mined area through NTS in 2022^{179*}

Area	Operator	Area cancelled (m ²)
Masvingo (Mwenezi to Sango Border Post, ploughshare)	NMCU	1,917,880
Total		1,917,880

* An additional area of 1,018,603m² in Masvingo was cancelled through NTS by APOPO, but was not entered into the national database as at the end of 2022, so has not been included in the total area cancelled for that year.¹⁸⁰

Table 8: Release of mined area through TS in 2022¹⁸¹

Area	Operator	Area reduced (m ²)
Mashonaland Central-Musengezi to Mazowe (Mt Darwin and Rushinga districts)	HALO	892,681
Manicaland (Sheba to Leacon Hill Stretch)	NPA	783,469
Manicaland (Rusitu to Muzite Stretch)	NPA	388,998
Total		2,065,148

CLEARANCE IN 2022

In 2022, a total of 2.13km² of mined area was released through clearance with 31,178 AP mines and 1 AV mine found and destroyed (see Table 9).¹⁸² This is a slight decrease on the 2.44km² of mined area released through clearance in 2021, though a higher number of AP mines destroyed compared to the 26,457 destroyed in 2021.¹⁸³ A total of 74 AP mines were recovered and destroyed during explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks in 2022.¹⁸⁴

ZIMAC notes that a decrease in clearance was to be expected as operators are now increasingly clearing more deeply buried mines from the cordon sanitaire minefields.¹⁸⁵ MAG saw a slight decrease in the amount of land released in 2022 compared to 2021. This was due to their clearance operations being focused on reinforced ploughshare MF 197 mines, with contaminated areas characterised by a high density of mines and converging minefield rows, allowing for less reduction. MAG also cleared an area where, unusually, mines were found very close to the road, instead of five to ten metres away as is normally the case.¹⁸⁶ NPA too saw a decrease in the amount of area cleared in 2022 compared to the 403,381m² cleared in 2021.¹⁸⁷ As with survey output, NPA attributes this to a decrease in the number of teams.¹⁸⁸ APOPO saw a slight reduction in the amount of land cleared, with 235,195m² in 2022, compared to the 387,117m² cleared in 2021.¹⁸⁹ HALO increased the amount of land cleared, releasing 1.2km² through clearance,¹⁹⁰ compared to 0.98km² in 2021.¹⁹¹

178 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March and 22 June 2023.

179 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April and 13 July 2023; and Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May and 9 July 2023.

180 Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May and 9 July 2023.

181 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April and 13 July 2023; Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April and 21 June 2023; Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April and 21 June 2023; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023.

182 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023; Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April and 23 June 2023; Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023; Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March and 21 June 2023; and Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May 2023; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), pp. 6–7.

183 Emails from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June and 12 August 2022; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), pp. 4–5.

184 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023; Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023; Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March and 21 June 2023; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), pp. 6–7.

185 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

186 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March, 2023.

187 Email from Gemma Welsh, NPA, 2 June 2022.

188 Email from Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

189 Emails from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June and 12 August 2022; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), pp. 4–5.

190 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

191 Email from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 30 May 2022.

Table 9: Mine clearance in 2022¹⁹²

Area	Operator	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed during TS and clearance	AP mines destroyed in spot tasks	AV mines destroyed during TS and clearance	UXO destroyed
Mashonaland Central-Musengezi to Mazowe (Mt Darwin and Rushinga districts)	HALO	6	1,126,753	27,275	68	0	4
Mashonaland East (Mazowe to Rwenya)	MAG	2	155,571	864	2	0	7
Manicaland (Sheba to Leacon Hill Stretch)	NPA	3	220,169	288	0	0	0
Manicaland (Rusitu to Muzite Stretch)	NPA	2	286,249	368	0	0	0
Mwenezi to Sango Border Post (Cordon Sanitaire)	NMCU	0	30,735	302	4	0	0
Sango border to Mwenezi river (Cordon Sanitaire)	APOPO	1	235,195	2,001	0	1	1
Lusulu	NMCU	0	1,050	1	0	0	0
Mashonaland East (Mazowe to Nyahuku)	HALO	0	76,779	5	0	0	0
Totals		14	2,132,501	31,104	74	1	12

In 2022, HALO cleared nine areas measuring 465,438m² which proved to contain no mines.¹⁹³

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMB (and in accordance with the eight-year extension granted in 2017), Zimbabwe is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2025. At the beginning of the extension period, land release activities were being undertaken in only four out of the seven major mined areas in the country. By 2021, all seven areas were being worked on.¹⁹⁴

Based on current capacity, Zimbabwe is not on track to meet its deadline but it could still do so provided current levels of funding increased and clearance capacity was rapidly upscaled. In its latest Article 7 Report, covering 2022, Zimbabwe notes that the main risks that could impede progress towards completion by the end of 2025 are potentially insufficient funding; the heavy rains and risk of flooding experienced in Zimbabwe from November to March

¹⁹² Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April and 13 July 2023; Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April and 23 June 2023; Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023; Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March and 21 June 2023; and Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May and 9 July 2023; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), pp. 6-7.

¹⁹³ Email from Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

¹⁹⁴ Article 5 Update to the APBMC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20-22 June 2022, p. 1.

each year; and potential changes in the political or economic climate, given that national capacity is entirely dependent on government funding. Zimbabwe does note, however, that the ailing economy is showing some signs of improvement and that the government has continued to prioritise humanitarian demining in spite of economic challenges in recent years.¹⁹⁵

It is commendable that, despite the range of ongoing challenges outlined here, Zimbabwe has been able to surpass the land release target to date that was set out in its original national strategy for 2018–2025, having released a total of 49.2km² as at the end of 2022, compared to the 41.1km² originally projected.¹⁹⁶ As was the case in 2021, the amount of area reduced through technical survey going forward is likely to continue to fall as the remaining polygons are narrow.¹⁹⁷

Table 10: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2022	2.13
2021	2.44
2020	2.41
2019	2.76
2018	2.11
Total	11.85

Some redistribution of Areas of Operation has begun among operators to help keep the sector on track for national completion. In early 2022, ZIMAC worked with MAG, NPA, and HALO to redistribute some areas in Mudzi district from MAG to HALO and NPA, due to capacity constraints in MAG.¹⁹⁸ HALO commenced work on some of its re-assigned tasks in June 2022¹⁹⁹ and NPA is projected to do so once tasks in Manicaland province are complete.²⁰⁰ NMCU's completion in 2022 of the reinforced ploughshare mined area that stretched from Mwenezi to the Sango Border Post, also meant that all NMCU clearance capacity could be transferred to cordon sanitaire mine tasks, reallocated from APOPO.²⁰¹ NPA expects to complete the Rusitu to Muzite Mission minefield stretch based on its current capacity by mid-2024,²⁰² which would allow for re-allocation of teams to other areas.

There are many strengths of Zimbabwe's mine action programme. However, a lack of sufficient resources may seriously impede progress going forward. It is evident that a strong updated national strategy and additional resources are key to keep Zimbabwe's ambitious but, so far, robust, mine action programme on track. The launch of both the updated National Mine Action Strategy and the Communications and Resource Mobilisation Strategy at the National Stakeholder Dialogue in January 2023 demonstrates Zimbabwe's commitment to remain on track and try and secure the necessary resources. Notable milestones on the path to national completion in 2022 were the completion of the Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill stretch of minefield, in Mutare District; cleared by NPA,²⁰³ as well as the completion of the reinforced ploughshare area that stretched from Mwenezi to the Sango Border Post, cleared by NMCU.²⁰⁴

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

On the matter of contamination that might be found after completion of major clearance operations, ZIMAC has national capacity to deal with this and plans in place, as the NMCU will remain operational after international demining operators have left Zimbabwe.²⁰⁵ ZIMAC asserts that Zimbabwe's military forces began mine clearance long before international operators boosted efforts and, if well-equipped, the same army engineers are fully capable of dealing with residual contamination.²⁰⁶ It will fall to ZIMAC, the NMCU, and the army engineers, who are stationed in all provinces, to deal with any new explosive devices discovered.²⁰⁷ It is planned that, as the army will have responsibility for clearing any residual contamination, the NMCU will develop a strategy on the management of residual contamination as Zimbabwe's completion date approaches.²⁰⁸

195 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, pp. A-21 to A-22.

196 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, p. A-2.

197 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, p. A-3.

198 Email from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 30 May 2022; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Annex A, p. A-7.

199 Email from Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023.

200 Email from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 14 August 2022.

201 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, p. A-15.

202 Ibid., Annex A, p. A-13.

203 Ibid., Annex A, p. A-11.

204 Ibid., Annex A, pp. A-11; and pp. A14-A15.

205 Ibid., p. 5; and email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023.

206 Email from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 23 August 2022.

207 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020.

208 Emails from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022; and Åsa Massleberg, GICHD, 8 July 2022.