ZIMBABWE

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2030

On track to meet deadline

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 9.4KM^2

Medium
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km^2)	Release in 2024 (km^2)
Clearance	1.60	1.95
Technical Survey	1.17	2.44
Non-Technical Survey	0.07	0

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	25,674 (incl. 29 destroyed in spot tasks)	31,672 (incl. 45 destroyed in spot tasks; operator data)

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

- Zimbabwean Armed Forces' National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU)
- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2025, Zimbabwe was granted a five-year extension to its Article 5 deadline under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), with a new deadline set for 31 December 2030. Land release decreased in 2025 to 2.84km^2, down from 4.39km^2 the previous year. The Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) and operators attribute this primarily to capacity reductions throughout the year, necessary due to donor funding cuts. The programme was significantly impacted by the reduction of United States (US) funding in early 2025, which led The HALO Trust (HALO) to further reduce capacity and APOPO to withdraw from the country altogether in March 2025. All mined areas remaining in Zimbabwe are now confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs). Its main challenge remains securing the funding needed to complete clearance.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Zimbabwe should ensure the current extension period is its last and fulfil Article 5 as soon as possible.**
- **Zimbabwe should continue to prioritise efforts to secure additional national and international funding for mine action, as this presents its most significant impediment to fulfilment of Article 5.**
- **Zimbabwe should elaborate a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan for the programme.**
- **ZIMAC should revise the relevant national mine action standard (NMAS) to facilitate the timely formal handover of cleared land to local communities, without requiring completion of clearance across an entire district.**

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	8	8	Zimbabwe has a good understanding of remaining mine contamination, all of which is in CHAs. It believes most of the remaining 9.4km^2 of mined area will need to be released by clearance.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	9	8	The mine action programme is managed effectively by the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC), with good stakeholder collaboration. There is a high degree of national ownership, with the government continuing to provide US$500,000 annually, and an additional US$2 million provided in 2025, to re-equip the Zimbabwean Armed Forces' National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU).
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	7	7	ZIMAC does not have a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan although the importance of gender is acknowledged in the 2018–25 national mine action strategy and integrated into annual work plans. The NMCU has no women in operational roles but international survey and community liaison teams are reportedly inclusive and gender-mixed.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	7	7	ZIMAC has a national standard and policy on environmental management, and planned to update the NMAS to meet the latest IMAS 07.13 by December 2026. All demining operators seek to reduce the environmental impact of their operations, but vary in the degree to which they undertake environmental assessments.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	8	8	Zimbabwe's transition from IMSMA New Generation to IMSMA Core was in its final stages as at August 2026. Zimbabwe submits detailed Article 7 reports annually. Regular cross-checking of data with operators continues. Zimbabwe's 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request was comprehensive.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	8	8	In its 2025 extension request, ZIMAC presented a detailed plan, identifying the resources, time, and funding needed to complete clearance. In its most recent Article 7 report (covering 2025), Zimbabwe further revised its annual land release targets to 2030.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	9	9	Zimbabwe began 2025 with the same demining capacity as in 2024, but this decreased through the year. The termination of US funding forced APOPO to withdraw from the country in March 2025, and forced HALO to reduce capacity significantly. Zimbabwe has made good use of mechanical assets, mine detection dogs, and a new detector to increase land release efficiency in recent years. Operators continue to destroy tens of thousands of anti-personnel mines annually.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	8	8	Zimbabwe released 2.84km^2 of mined area in 2025, the majority through technical survey, but overall release was down significantly from 4.39km^2 in 2024. ZIMAC and operators attribute the drop to reduced funding and capacity. With Zimbabwe's request for a five-year extension now granted, it will still need to secure additional funding.
Average Score	**8.0**	**7.9**	**Overall Programme Performance: VERY GOOD**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

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

NATIONAL OPERATORS

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

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- APOPO (programme closed in March 2025)
- 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

As at the end of 2025, Zimbabwe reported a total of just under 9.4km^2 of confirmed mined area[1] (see Table 1), down from 11.99km^2 a year earlier.[2] Four of Zimbabwe's ten provinces are contaminated with anti-personnel (AP) mines. With the exception of one minefield, located inland in Matabeleland North province, all remaining mined areas are along the border with Mozambique.[3]

According to ZIMAC, the baseline of contamination is complete following the completion of significant re-survey in 2016.[4] As was the case in 2024, no new areas of contamination were recorded in 2025. However, 180,868m^2 was added to the national database as a result of over-clearance and subsequent adjustment to an original CHA.[5] While all contaminated areas remaining in Zimbabwe are CHAs, in general they are widely drawn. Indeed, some 16.94km^2 has been released through survey between 2021 and the end of 2025, compared to 10.03km^2 through clearance.[6]

Table 1: AP mined area (at end 2025)[7]

Province	CHAs	Sectors*	Area (m^2)
Masvingo	1	3	618,663
Mashonaland East	1	22	6,672,325
Matabeleland North	1	7	731,274
Mashonaland Central	1	14	1,375,846
Totals	**4**	**46**	**9,398,108**

* In Zimbabwe, as CHAs are generally relatively large and can take up to several years to complete, each CHA is split into "sectors" to enable more regular release of land.

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] No AV mines were destroyed during clearance or explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks in 2025.[11] In January 2025, however, an accident occurred in a previously cleared area that was most likely the result of an AV mine,[12] when a vehicle struck a landmine on the edge of a road in the Sebungwe area.[13]

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe (NAMAAZ) 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 reports to NAMAAZ.[14] The Zimbabwe Anti-Personnel Mines (Prohibition) Act domesticates the APMBC and provides the framework for the elaboration of mine action policies and strategies by NAMAAZ.[15]

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.
2 Email from Capt. Godwish, Quality Management Officer, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024).
3 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form A.
4 Email from Capt. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 6 April 2020.
5 Over-clearance refers to a situation where areas cleared exceed the initial polygon. In 2024, by comparison, ZIMAC added 223,374m^2 to the national database for the same reason. Emails from Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025; (then) Capt. Mandaba, Operations Officer, ZIMAC, 22 September 2025; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026 and 11 June 2026.
6 Article 7 reports (covering 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, respectively), Form D.
7 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.
8 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary, p. 1; and email from 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 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.
12 Email from Miroslav Pisarevic, Programme Manager, NPA, 11 April 2025.
13 "Three Killed, Three Injured In Landmine Blast In Binga", *Pindula*, 9 January 2025, https://bit.ly/404Ft2b.
14 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.
15 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form A.

In recent years, ZIMAC has repeatedly reported that it has been waiting for feedback on its proposal to include mine action in the national development goals.[16] In the additional information it provided in its 2025 extension request in August 2025, Zimbabwe stated that its "revised strategic plan" (for mine action) would be integrated into the 2026–30 national development plan, in order to align mine action with broader national development priorities.[17] In fact, Zimbabwe's National Development Strategy (NDS) for 2026–30 makes no mention of mine action.[18] This may prove an impediment to bringing new donors together in Zimbabwe, to develop projects that integrate AP mine clearance into broader development initiatives (such as the UNDP-led Project Reclaim, launched in 2025, discussed below). MAG, for example, recommends that ZIMAC should work with the MoD and other ministries to host coordination meetings on sequenced development programming for mine-affected areas, to try and encourage new donors to support mine action as part of such sequenced projects.[19]

Although mine action has not been integrated into the NDS, inter-ministerial and wider stakeholder coordination on mine action remains strong. A national stakeholder dialogue (NSD) meeting, bringing together the national authorities, clearance operators, and relevant ministries, has been convened annually since 2023, to discuss progress, challenges and support for Article 5 implementation. The NSD met in February 2025.[20] No date has yet been shared for an NSD in 2026. Communication between ZIMAC and NAMAAZ, operators, and other Zimbabwean government ministries is reported to be good, with regular bilateral meetings.[21]

Operators report an enabling environment for mine action in Zimbabwe,[22] including good administrative support from ZIMAC in liaising with government departments.[23] They do also note that security clearance, a prerequisite for obtaining work permits for international staff, is often a lengthy process.[24] Security clearance is the responsibility of NAMAAZ, which seeks authority through the defence and national security departments. ZIMAC's role is to follow up on this process with NAMAAZ on behalf of the operators, which it has continued to do.[25] The introduction of a new process in 2024 brought some improvement,[26] but some delays in visitor approval and issuance of work permits continue.[27]

ZIMAC continued to receive capacity development support in 2025. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) conducted training for the national authorities on the training and management of mine detection dogs (MDDs) and EOD Level 2.[28] The National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU) trains new deminers annually, mainly to replace personnel who have worked in demining for two years or more.[29] Mines Advisory Group (MAG) did not directly support ZIMAC but hosted two visits from NMCU officers to see MAG's standards of operations and management and exchange learning.[30] NPA began covering monthly internet costs for ZIMAC in early 2026.[31] Zimbabwe stated in June 2026 that it requires additional support for "modern demining equipment, information management, quality management and residual risk management capacities".[32]

ZIMAC and all operators have been taking steps to prepare demining staff for eventual demobilisation upon completion, providing a range of training initiatives in technical, leadership, entrepreneurial and vocational skills,[33] though demobilisation is now further away than anticipated. ZIMAC also continues with efforts in regional cooperation and hosted visits from the mine action authorities of Angola, Ethiopia, and Guinea Bissau in 2025.[34]

Zimbabwe stated in 2024 that it did not expect to meet its existing Article 5 deadline of the end of 2025, citing "natural disasters", reduction of operational capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic, and withdrawal of funding during the pandemic as the main causes.[35] It reiterated in 2025 that the withdrawal of APOPO from Zimbabwe in March 2025 and a 50% capacity drop for HALO compared to March 2024, made completion "extremely unattainable by any time before 2030".[36] On 1 April 2025, Zimbabwe submitted its sixth request for an extension to its Article 5 deadline, seeking a further five years to the end of 2030.[37] The request was granted at the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties (22MSP) and a new deadline set for 31 December 2030.[38]

16 Article 7 Reports (covering 2023, 2024 and 2025), Form D.

17 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Zimbabwe, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on APMBC website on 6 August 2025, https://bit.ly/45FKlge, p. 11.

18 "National development Strategy 2, January 2026 – December 2030", Government of Zimbabwe, 27 November 2025, https://bit.ly/49LuLmf.

19 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 2 July 2026.

20 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; and "Zimbabwe Hosts Dialogue To Eradicate Landmines Menace", *Pan African Visions*, 21 February 2025: https://bit.ly/4uKohfR.

21 Email from Gemma Welsh, Programme Manager, NPA, 19 April 2023; and Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 June 2024.

22 Emails from Mikael Bold, Programme Manager, Zimbabwe, APOPO, 12 May 2023; Nokutenda Masiyanise, Head of Donor Management and Partnerships, HALO, 21 June 2024; Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 March 2023; and Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

23 Email from Nokutenda Masiyanise, HALO, 21 June 2024.

24 Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 10 June 2024; Nokutenda Masiyanise, HALO, 21 June 2024; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 June 2024; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 May 2024.

25 Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 10 June 2024; and Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 June 2024.

26 Emails from Robert Burny, APOPO, 30 April 2025; Peter Avenell, MAG, 11 April 2025; and Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 April 2025.

27 Emails from Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026; and Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026.

28 Email from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026.

29 Email from Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025.

30 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026.

31 Email from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026.

32 Statement of Zimbabwe on Article 5, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 15-18 June 2026.

33 'Zimbabwe's Preparations for Capacity to Address Residual Contamination and Demobilisation of Demining Personnel', Lt. Col. S. Moyo, Co-ordinator, ZIMAC, February 2025, p. 9; and emails from Peter Avenell, MAG, 11 April 2025; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 April 2025; Oliver Gerard-Pearse, Programme Manager, Zimbabwe, HALO, 1 July 2025; and Robert Burny, APOPO, 30 April 2025.

34 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

35 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Annex A, p. A-1.

36 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form A.

37 2025 Article 5 deadline extension Request, cover page and p. 6.

38 APMBC, "Zimbabwe", accessed 27 May 2025, https://bit.ly/4nQezG5.

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

The Government of Zimbabwe continues to fully fund survey and clearance by the NMCU, with the annual, national financial contribution to this being US$500,000 in recent years.[39] In 2025, the Government contributed an additional US$2 million to re-equip the unit.[40] Zimbabwe has pledged that national funding will remain at its current level until completion, and could even increase if the economy strengthens.[41] In addition to the national funding of the NMCU, the MoD, within which ZIMAC sits, "continues to cover deployment and personnel expenses through standard army channels."[42]

In June 2026, Zimbabwe stated that it requires an estimated US$36.7 million to achieve completion by 2030, with only US$2.5 million "currently guaranteed", leaving a shortfall of US$34.2 million to be secured through donor support and "innovative financing partnerships".[43] The US$2.5 million already secured (US$0.5 million annually, between 2026 and 2030) is to be funded by the government, to meet the costs of the NMCU.[44] However, it does not include any future equipment costs for the NMCU, as these are to be budgeted for as and when "necessary".[45] As previously noted, Zimbabwe re-equipped the NMCU in 2025.[46]

Zimbabwe's updated resource mobilisation strategy was under development as at April 2026.[47] Zimbabwe highlights that both the annual International Mine Action Day and annual NSD events, provide opportunities to meet with representatives of donor embassies and advocate for donor funding.[48] As at July 2026, the MoD and HALO also planned to co-host a fundraising event for mine action, targeting the private sector, though no date had been set.[49] During the extension period, Zimbabwe "proposes to conduct individualised approaches on each and every international meeting that will be held".[50]

In August 2025, the Government of Japan and United Nations Development project (UNDP) announced the US$3.4 million "Project RECLAIM" initiative in Zimbabwe, a three-year, development-linked, mine action project,[51] with MAG and HALO implementing the demining element. HALO describes this project as "a useful blueprint…for other countries with the same priorities to support Zimbabwe achieve a mine impact free status".[52] ZIMAC adds that the Government of Zimbabwe fully supports linking mine action with community resilience projects.[53]

The US funding freeze and subsequent review of grants in early 2025 impacted Zimbabwe significantly, with both APOPO and HALO having funding suspended and then terminated within the first quarter of the year, forcing APOPO to close its operations in Zimbabwe in March 2025, and cutting approximately 30% of HALO's total funding for the year.[54] A summary of 2025–26 funding of international operators is provided in Table 2. For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Zimbabwe on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[55]

Table 2: Funding for survey and clearance by international operators in Zimbabwe (2025–26)[56]

Donor	2025	2026
Embassy of Japan (EOJ)	HALO (reduced)	None*
German Federal Foreign office (GFFO)	NPA	NPA (until July 2026)
Gould Foundation	HALO	None
Ireland (Irish Aid)	HALO	HALO
Norway, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)	MAG	None
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)	NPA	NPA

39 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; and Article 7 Reports (covering 2023, 2024 and 2025), Form I.

40 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Annex A, pp. A-1 and A-15; and emails from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; and Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025.

41 Preliminary Observations, Committee on Article 5 Implementation, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 18-20 June 2024, Geneva, p. 2.

42 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Annex A, p. A-13.

43 Statement of Zimbabwe on Article 5, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 15-18 June 2026.

44 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Annex A, p. A-19.

45 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Zimbabwe, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on APMBC website on 6 August 2025, p. 8.

46 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Annex A, pp. A-1 and A-15; and emails from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; and Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025.

47 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

48 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Annex A, p. A-15.

49 Emails from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; and Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 10 July 2026.

50 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Zimbabwe, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on APMBC website on 6 August 2025, p. 10.

51 "Press Release: Japan and UNDP Partner with Zimbabwe to Clear Landmines and Empower Border Communities with US$3.4 Million Project", the People of Japan and UNDP, 14 August 2025, https://tinyurl.com/yc6jpfsy.

52 Emails from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 June and 10 July 2026.

53 Statement of Zimbabwe on Article 5, APMBC 22MSP, Geneva, 1–5 December 2025.

54 Emails from Robert Burny, APOPO, 30 April 2025; and Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 1 July 2025.

55 https://the-monitor.org.

56 Emails from Robert Burny, APOPO, 30 April 2025; Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 1 July 2025 and 2 June 2026; Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026; and Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025.

Table 2 continued

Donor	2025	2026
Oak Foundation	HALO	HALO
UK, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)	MAG, HALO (extended)	MAG (reduced), HALO (second extension)
UNDP*	None	MAG, HALO
US Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA)	None (APOPO and HALO funding suspended Jan/Feb and terminated Feb/March)	None
World Without Mines (WWM)	HALO (reduced)	HALO
Private donor (unspecified)	None	HALO

* Although Embassy of Japan funding to HALO concluded in 2025, Japan is funding mine action in Zimbabwe in 2026 through UNDP.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

ZIMAC had pledged to seek assistance from international stakeholders to formulate a gender and diversity policy by the end of 2022.[57] In its latest Article 7 report (covering 2025), however, Zimbabwe noted once again that its gender and diversity policy "has not yet been finalised". As per its previous Article 7 reports in recent years, Zimbabwe stresses that it is bound by national policy, which seeks to ensure equal opportunities and to "encourage women to take on roles traditionally held by men". Zimbabwe asserts that no barriers exist to gender-balanced participation in mine action.[58]

Zimbabwe's National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 did 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.[59] An updated national mine action strategy was expected to be finalised by January 2027.[60] Zimbabwe has also included gender considerations in its National Mine Action Standard (NMAS) 07 ("Management of Demining Operations"). The Standard calls for "special efforts" to be made "to ensure gender balance and diversity of background for Community Liaison Officers".[61] In its 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request, Zimbabwe reiterated that its activities during the extension period will reflect the "distinct needs of different age and sex groups", including in the collection of impact assessment data, "ensuring that men, women, boys and girls are included in the process".[62]

ZIMAC introduced one woman into its small cohort of managerial or supervisory staff in 2025, but saw a decrease from three women to no women occupying operational positions. This was in the context of a significant overall reduction in operational staff. Data on the number of women deployed in the NMCU in 2025, as previously, was not available to ZIMAC.[63] NMCU deminers are drawn exclusively from soldiers and therefore tend to be male,[64] though female participation in Zimbabwe's military is reported to be increasing.[65] While ZIMAC can recommend the deployment of women within NMCU, the decision on which personnel to deploy lies with the Army.[66]

Table 3: Gender composition of operators and ZIMAC in 2025[67]

Organisation	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
ZIMAC	43	5 (12%)	6	1 (17%)	10	0 (0%)
NMCU	N/K	N/K	N/K	N/K	155	N/K
APOPO	69	21 (30%)	9	3 (33%)	60	18 (30%)

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

58 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Annex A, p. A-2; Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Annex A, p. 23; Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Annex A, pp. A-1 – A-2; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, p. A-1.

59 Zimbabwe National Mine Action Strategy, 2018–2025, p. 12.

60 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 6 August 2026.

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

62 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 49.

63 Emails from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; and Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025.

64 Emails from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, 23 August 2022; and Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 3 June 2024.

65 "Female representation on the rise: 54 women to graduate from Zimbabwe Military Academy", *Chronicle*, 16 May 2025; https://bit.ly/4o28RRr.

66 Email from (then) Capt. Mandaba, ZIMAC, 22 September 2025.

67 Emails from Robert Burny, APOPO, 22 May 2026; Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 June 2026; Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026; Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

Table 3 continued

Organisation	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
HALO	241	58 (24%)	47	9 (19%)	159	38 (24%)
MAG	55	25 (45%)	8	3 (38%)	48	22 (46%)
NPA	115	47 (41%)	20	9 (45%)	70	27 (39%)
Totals	**523**	**156 (30%)**	**90**	**25 (28%)**	**502**	**105 (21%)**

N/K = Not known.

The proportion of women employed across mine action operators in Zimbabwe remained relatively stable between 2024 and 2025, but with a 10% decline in the proportion of operational roles occupied by women. This was in the context of a 34% reduction in total staff capacity (and a 17% reduction in operational staff capacity) across all operators and ZIMAC combined.[68] Among international operators, HALO saw an 18% reduction in women employed in managerial or supervisory positions, in the context of a significant overall reduction in staff, from 455 personnel in 2024 to 241 in 2025, but aims to increase its proportion of female staff to 50%.[69] NPA Zimbabwe also has a target of a minimum of 50% female mine action staff,[70] and is moving closer to this, reaching 41% by the end of 2025, compared to 32% a year earlier.[71] MAG has one all-female mine action team (MAT), which continued to operate in 2025.[72]

All international operators 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.

NPA and HALO have country-specific gender policies and implementation plans for the Zimbabwe programme, and MAG continues to apply its global policy in Zimbabwe.[73] NPA piloted female-friendly deminer visors and safety aprons in Zimbabwe in 2025, which were well-received by the users.[74] MAG and HALO continued to provide post-maternity accommodation in the field for new mothers.[75] HALO continued its professional development grant scheme for female staff.[76] It also continued its long-standing initiatives to provide material and financial support to pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers among its staff, as well as providing childcare allowances, and a female nurse, rotating through field camps.[77] In 2025, HALO began providing female-targeted health screening in field camps, intended to support referral to other health services.[78]

International operators note that, while they deploy gender-mixed teams and both Shona and English-speaking staff, to help facilitate access and participation by all groups in community liaison and survey activities, they now all operate in areas that are mostly culturally homogenous, comprised largely of communities from the Shona ethnic group.[79]

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

All mine action activities in Zimbabwe are conducted in line with the Zimbabwe Environmental Agency (EMA) regulations and requirements.[80] Zimbabwe has a national standard on environmental management (ZNMAS 10.07) and a policy on environmental management.[81] ZNMAS 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; and
- environmental considerations at worksites and temporary accommodation facilities, as well as at fuel, oil, and lubricant storage and maintenance areas.

68 These figures do not account for the NMCU, for which gender-disaggregated data is not available. Emails from Robert Burny, APOPO, 30 April 2025 and 22 May 2026; Peter Avenell, MAG, 11 April 2025 and 21 April 2026; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 April 2025 and 28 April 2026; Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 1 July 2025 and 2 June 2026; Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

69 Emails from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 June and 10 July 2026; and 1 July 2025.

70 This is higher than NPA's global target, which was given as of a minimum of 25% female mine action staff in 2023. Emails from Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023; and Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 June 2024.

71 NPA also saw a significant (25%) increase in 2025 in the proportion of managerial or supervisory staff who are women, though this was due to recategorization of operational versus managerial and supervisory roles. Emails from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April and 9 June 2026.

72 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026.

73 Emails from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 June 2026; Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026; and Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026.

74 Email from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026.

75 Emails from Peter Avenell, MAG, 11 April 2025 and 21 April 2026; and Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 10 July 2026.

76 Email from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 June 2026.

77 Emails from Samuel Fricker, HALO, 30 May 2022; Nicholas Torbet, Programme Manager, Zimbabwe, HALO, 19 April 2023; and Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 June 2026.

78 Email from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 June 2026.

79 Emails from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 1 and 10 July 2025; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 May 2024.

80 Email from Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025.

81 Emails from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022; and Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 28 August 2024.

It also covers reduction of energy consumption and carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions and environmental considerations related to use of land and risk to heritage.[82]

ZIMAC planned to update Zimbabwe's NMAS 10.07 so that it would meet the revised International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.13 by December 2026.[83] Zimbabwe also states it is developing partnerships with organisations working on conservation and climate resilience, especially in areas where mine clearance supports environmental rehabilitation and safe land use.[84] ZIMAC's quality management (QM) department acts as the organisation's environmental focal point.[85]

In terms of good practice, the use of highly destructive mechanical clearance methods is not permitted in areas with large trees.[86] Operators report to use mechanical assets selectively, with MAG, for example, reserving use of its mini-excavator for area contaminated with sensitive R2M2 mines.[87] Additionally, use of mechanical assets is limited to five hours per day, which helps reduce emissions.[88] ZIMAC also states that, where mechanical demining takes place, there is a plan for afforestation.[89]

Table 4: Environmental policies and action[90]

Operator	Environmental policy in place for country programme	Environmental assessments conducted to support planning and delivery of survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level
APOPO (closed country programme March 2025)	Yes	Yes	No[91]
HALO	Yes	No	Yes
MAG	Yes	No	No
NPA	Yes	Yes	Yes
NMCU	Yes (ZIMAC policy)	Yes	Yes (in ZIMAC)

All operators in Zimbabwe are taking measures to reduce the environmental impact of demining operations. NPA rolled out its environmental impact assessment tool – the Green Field Tool (GFT) – fully in its Zimbabwe programme in 2025, as planned. In December 2025, in coordination with ZIMAC, NPA hosted a multi-stakeholder, Africa region workshop on the GFT. As a result, some updates were made to the tool, which is designed to allow adaptation to local and regional operational contexts. At the workshop ZIMAC also called for continued and improved regional collaboration on climate and environmental issues in mine action.[92] HALO plans to begin environmental assessments in Zimbabwe by the end of 2026 and has developed a country-specific environmental management standard operating procedure (SOP), and internal tools in preparation for this.[93]

Operators also continued efforts to reduce their CO_2 emissions. All operators make use of solar power, now the primary power source for all HALO field camps, and NPA field camps and head office.[94] MAG continued to collect data and identify opportunities for further emissions reduction under its global Carbon Accounting Project. For example, MAG aims to replace the use of charcoal and open fires for camp cooking with solar and gas cookers,[95] something already implemented by NPA.[96] HALO modernised its fleet with more fuel-efficient vehicles in 2025 and early 2026, as well as tightening fuel-use monitoring.[97] NPA also adopted updated water management systems, after training by Zimbabwe's Environmental Management Agency.[98]

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

83 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

84 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Annex A, pp. A-15 and A-16.

85 Emails from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; and Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025. Afforestation refers to the process of planting trees in an area which was not historically forested. Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Zimbabwe, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on APMBC website on 6 August 2025, p. 11.

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

87 Emails from Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026; Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 1 July 2025; and Gemma Walsh, NPA, 19 April 2023.

88 Email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 3 June 2024.

89 Emails from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; and Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025. Afforestation refers to the process of planting trees in an area which was not historically forested. Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Zimbabwe, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on APMBC website on 6 August 2025, p. 11.

90 Emails from Robert Burny, APOPO, 30 April 2025; Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 1 July 2025 and 2 June 2026; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 April 2025 and 28 April 2026; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026.

91 APOPO did not have an environmental focal point in Zimbabwe, but responsibility for this was assigned to the Country Director and Head of Support Services. Email from Robert Burny, APOPO, 30 April 2025.

92 Emails from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April and 9 June 2026.

93 Email from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 June and 10 July 2026.

94 Emails from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April and 9 June 2026; Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026; Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 June and 10 July 2026; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

95 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026.

96 Email from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026.

97 Email from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 June 2026.

98 Emails from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April and 9 June 2026.

Operators are taking steps to adapt to increasingly extreme weather. MAG routinely forecasts the number of operational days it expects to be impacted by extreme heat or heavy rain.[99] During the planning and prioritising of clearance tasks, HALO takes into account the effect extreme weather on surrounding communities, particularly the changing distances and routes people travel to collect water. Areas that see increased movement and access are prioritised for clearance.[100]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

As at August 2026, Zimbabwe was finalising the transition of its national mine action database from the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) New Generation to IMSMA Core, with only final system installation and testing remaining. Zimbabwe was receiving assistance from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). Zimbabwe also planned to draft information management (IM) SOPs as part of this transition to IMSMA Core. During the transition period, Zimbabwe will continue using IMSMA NG, with back-up data shared with a GICHD IM Advisor on a quarterly basis.[101] All data in the national database is disaggregated by type of munition and method of land release.[102] ZIMAC and operators confirm the national information database is accurate and up to date[103] and continue to hold quarterly meetings to reconcile data.[104] Operators confirm that data collection forms are consistent and enable efficient collection of necessary data.[105]

As in previous years, ZIMAC's latest Article 7 report (covering 2025) was detailed and of good quality. The Committee on Article 5 Implementation noted that the information provided in Zimbabwe's 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, and subsequently in response to the Committee's questions, is "comprehensive, complete and clear" and that "the plan presented by Zimbabwe is workable, lends itself well to be monitored, and states clearly which factors could affect the pace of implementation".[106] At the 22MSP, States Parties requested that Zimbabwe submit an updated detailed work plan, covering the remainder of the extension period, by 30 April 2028.[107]

PLANNING AND TASKING

Zimbabwe's National Mine Action Strategy for the period 2018–2025 set 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.[108] Zimbabwe's goal, under the pillar of survey and clearance, set in this 2018–25 strategy, was that "areas are effectively addressed using appropriate land release methods, supporting safe and sustainable livelihoods". Of the four objectives set under this goal,[109] Zimbabwe did not successfully meet the first one of reaching completion by the end of 2025, though it had reduced contamination from an estimated 61.79km^2 as at the end of 2018[110] to 9.4km^2 by the end of 2025,[111] clearing 95% of the 181km^2 of contamination at the date of Zimbabwe becoming a State Party in 1999 – a considerable achievement.[112] Zimbabwe also did not meet its second objective related to survey and clearance, to hand over all completed tasks to local authorities within one month of completion. (See the section on Standards and Land Release Efficiency for further discussion on this issue).

Significant progress has been made, however, on Zimbabwe's third objective to conduct post-clearance assessment surveys between 12 and 24 months after handover to local authorities, to better understand land use and development impact. ZIMAC reports that these are systematically undertaken and now form an integral part of Zimbabwe's QM system, with a shift from "simply declaring land mine-free, to ensuring that released land is safe, being used productively, and delivering tangible socio-economic benefits to affected communities". ZIMAC aims to further strengthen post-clearance monitoring, by collecting more robust

99 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026.

100 Email from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 1 July 2025.

101 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 6 August 2026.

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

103 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form A; and emails from Nokutenda Masiyanise, HALO, 21 June 2024; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 May 2024.

104 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

105 Emails from Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 May 2024; and Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 June 2024.

106 "Analysis of the request submitted by Zimbabwe for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation", 9 October 2025, p. 6.

107 "Decisions on the request submitted by Zimbabwe for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention (draft)", 4 December 2025, pp. 1–2.

108 Zimbabwe, National Mine Action Completion Strategy 2018-2025, Reviewed Version, pp. 17–25. While Mine Action Review has included a discussion of progress against Zimbabwe's 2018–25 objectives set under the pillars of survey and clearance, and advocacy and communication, it has not discussed progress against Zimbabwe's goals and objectives related to risk education or victim assistance, which fall outside the scope of our focus.

109 Zimbabwe, National Mine Action Completion Strategy 2018-2025, Reviewed Version, p. 17.

110 Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form D.

111 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

112 Zimbabwe confirmed its initial contamination as 181km² in its 2018-2025 strategy and explained that it was "mistakenly reported as 511km² in Zimbabwe's initial A5 extension requests". National Mine Action Completion Strategy 2018-2025, Reviewed Version, p. 5.

socio-economic impact data, and integrating post-clearance assessment into broader national development planning.[113] The fourth and final objective under the strategic pillar of survey and clearance was to conduct quarterly technical working group meetings, organised by ZIMAC to facilitate improved coordination and information sharing.[114]

At 22MSP, Zimbabwe pledged that an updated National Mine Action Strategy, covering Zimbabwe's current extension period of 2026 to 2030, would be developed once Zimbabwe was granted its (then) proposed extension.[115] As at August 2026, ZIMAC reported that the strategy would be finalised by January 2027, to allow sufficient time for the required stakeholder review and scrutiny.[116]

Zimbabwe provided a detailed work plan for 2024–25[117] and has provided one for 2026–30.[118] Zimbabwe says it will update this five-year work plan annually,[119] and has since provided revised annual land release targets for 2026–2030, as shown in Table 5. These revised targets increase the amount of land Zimbabwe expects to release during the first two years of its extension period (2026 and 2027) by 2.42km^2, but decrease the amount it expects to release between 2028 and 2030 by 1.16km^2.[120] In 2023, Zimbabwe fell behind its annual land release target for the first time since 2018.[121] This trend continued in 2024 and 2025, though Zimbabwe has closed the gap between projected and actual land release.[122]

Table 5: Revised Annual Land Release Targets, 2026–30 (m^2)[123]

Minefield	Operator	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Musengezi to Mazowe River	HALO	1,174,439	201,407	0	0	0
Mazowe River to Nyahuku	HALO	0	805,339	900,000	602,018	459,495
Nyahuku to Nyamapanda	NPA	1,437,014	1,197,598	0	0	0
Nyamapanda to Rwenya River	MAG	346,355	277,000	277,000	277,000	93,506
Mwenzi River to Sango Border	NMCU	250,000	200,000	168,663	0	0
Lusulu	NMCU	137,911	149,000	170,000	170,000	104,363
Totals		**3,345,719**	**2,830,344**	**1,515,663**	**1,049,018**	**657,364**

In its 2025 extension request, Zimbabwe provided a detailed and costed work plan for the proposed extension period of 2026–30. The plan includes the clear land release targets already outlined; operators assigned to specific minefield sectors; and details of the operational capacity and equipment currently available.[124] In additional information provided in August 2025, Zimbabwe also gave further detail on a number of planning issues, including, for each operator, how much of the remaining mined area it expects to cancel through non-technical survey (NTS) (very minimal), reduce through TS, and release through clearance.[125] As previously mentioned, in granting the extension request, and noting that Zimbabwe's demining plan is contingent on international resources, and the capacity of implementing partners, the States Parties requested that Zimbabwe submit an updated detailed work plan, by 30 April 2028, for the remaining period covered by the extension, including a revised detailed budget.[126]

Historically, clearance was prioritised by ZIMAC according to impact, focusing first on contaminated areas closest to highly populated areas; with high accident rates; and causing restricted access to agricultural land, water sources, or essential services.[127] However, as most of the minefields are along the border with Mozambique, operations tend to proceed in a linear fashion to allow for optimal use of resources and facilitate concentrated logistical support and command and control, rather than opening tasks all over the frontage of the border.[128] HALO also notes that it continues to prioritise those areas contaminated with R2M2 AP mines, as these cause the most accidents to animals and people in affected communities.[129]

113 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 6 August 2026. The fourth and final objective under the strategic pillar of survey and clearance was to "conduct quarterly technical working group meetings, organised by ZIMAC, to facilitate improved coordination and information sharing". Zimbabwe, National Mine Action Completion Strategy 2018-2025, Reviewed Version, p. 17. Mine Action Review has not assessed progress against this objective systematically, but operators and ZIMAC have consistently reported to Mine Action Review that regular technical working group, information management working group, and other technical coordination meetings (for example to develop or review NMAS or SOPs), have taken place in recent years.

114 Zimbabwe, National Mine Action Completion Strategy 2018-2025, Reviewed Version, p. 17.

115 Statement of Zimbabwe on Article 5, APMBC 22MSP, Geneva, 1–5 December 2025.

116 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 6 August 2026.

117 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Annex A, p. A-1.

118 The work plan is provided as Annex A in Zimbabwe's Article 7 Report (covering 2024).

119 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Annex A, pp. 22–23; and 2025 Article 5 deadline extension Request, p. 6.

120 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form A and Annex A, pp. 38–39; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D; and Annex A, p. A-18.

121 In 2023, Zimbabwe released 2.31km^2 instead of the 6.39km^2 projected. Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Annex A, pp. A-2 and A-23.

122 In 2024, Zimbabwe released 4.39km^2 instead of 5.71km^2, a shortfall of 1.32km^2. In 2025, Zimbabwe's target was 3.87km^2 and it released 2.77km^2, a shortfall of 1.1km^2. Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form A; and Form A and Annex A, pp. 38–39. Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 6.

123 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Annex A, p. A-18.

124 2025 Article 5 deadline extension Request, Annex B, pp. 44–52.

125 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Zimbabwe, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on APMBC website on 6 August 2025, pp. 4-5.

126 "Decisions on the request submitted by Zimbabwe for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention (draft)", 4 December 2025, p. 1.

127 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form A.

128 Emails from Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 19 April 2023; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 May 2024.

129 Email from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 1 July 2025.

Operators report that clearance and survey task dossiers have been issued in a timely and effective manner, with all remaining tasks now allocated among them[130] In recent years, however, Zimbabwe has redistributed some areas of operation so that operators who complete assigned tasks or gain additional capacity may deploy their resources elsewhere.[131] Following the abrupt withdrawal of US-funding and subsequent closure of operations by APOPO in March 2025, ZIMAC reallocated APOPO's remaining hazardous area to the NMCU.[132]

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

ZIMAC reviewed the NMAS during 2025, in consultation with operators, but no changes were made.[133] This is in keeping with ZIMAC's policy to review the NMAS every three years and in line with updates to the IMAS.[134] ZIMAC last updated some NMAS chapters in 2022.[135] SOPs are also reviewed regularly and as needed to address new challenges, ensure the employment of best practice, and update them in line with IMAS and Zimbabwe's NMAS.[136]

Operators have, though, made some suggestions for improvement. While HALO, for example, believes that the NMAS are suitably adapted to the local threat and enable efficient, evidence-based survey and clearance, it does point out that no criteria are set for cancellation or reclamation of land, an omission it believes should be rectified to help aid the decision-making process for operators.[137] HALO does caution, however, that the issue must be carefully considered before being introduced into the NMAS and states that this issue did not present a hindrance to effective operations during 2025.[138] NPA adds that Zimbabwe lacks definitions of direct and indirect evidence of explosive ordnance (EO), which it believes should be rectified, in accordance with IMAS.[139] APOPO has also suggested that the NMAS on QM systems; accident investigations; IM; and environmental management would benefit from some revision.[140]

There is an emerging and important concern around the NMAS for the handover of land to local communities. Currently, any task that has been completed is not handed over to communities until the entire district is completed, such that communities are waiting years before they have formal authorisation to access and use cleared areas. There is an informal understanding that people may start using cleared land in advance of the formal handover, but the lack of formality means that district councils and development actors are sometimes not given permission to begin activities.[141] NPA recommends that the official handover of cleared land in Manicaland Province, for example, should take place, as it has been delayed for a considerable period.[142]

Land release methodologies in Zimbabwe are selected based on the type of minefield being worked on. Cordon sanitaire minefields require full clearance through manual and mechanical methods, while ploughshare minefields require use of technical survey (TS), full clearance, and targeted clearance, hence the use of MDDs by NPA in Zimbabwe, to expedite TS and facilitate prompt deployment of deminers to mine lanes.[143] Approval for use of MDDs for clearance, however, remains under review following the completion of trials. ZIMAC has stated that "MDD clearance accreditation will only be addressed once ZIMAC has its own MDD capacity to conduct quality control on such tasks." As at July 2026, NPA continued to engage with ZIMAC on this matter.[144]

Zimbabwe also continues to explore the use of MDDs in missed-mine drills (required when gaps in the mine pattern are found). This was first trialled in 2023, but not approved by ZIMAC, with the primary concern being to demonstrate sufficiently that dogs could detect deeply buried mines.[145] In 2025, however, NPA established a new MDD training area with deeply-buried targets, intended to demonstrate MDD detection capability down to 40cm. If accreditation of MDDs for clearance is secured, NPA plans to revisit accreditation of MDDs for missed-mine drills.[146] In the meantime, use of the highly sensitive Minelab GPZ 7000 detector since 2024 has significantly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of clearance generally, as well as proving efficient for searching for deeply buried mines, thereby reducing the need for

130 Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 10 June 2024; Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 May 2024; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 June 2024; and Nokutenda Masiyanise, HALO, 21 June 2024.

131 Emails from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 June 2024; and Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023; Article 7 Report (covering 2025 and 2022), Form D.

132 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D; and Annex A, p. A-14; and email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026.

133 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Annex A, p. A-16.

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

135 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), p. 3; and email from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 7 June 2024.

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

137 Emails from Nokutenda Masiyanise, HALO, 21 June 2024; and Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 19 August 2024. The term "reclamation criteria" refers to a situation where the land has been reclaimed through activities such as construction or cultivation. If the relevant criteria are met, the area may be considered for cancellation.

138 Emails from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 1 July 2025 and 2 June 2026.

139 Emails from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 April 2025 and 28 April 2026.

140 Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO, 9 August 2024; and Robert Burny, APOPO, 30 April 2025.

141 Email from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 June 2026.

142 Emails from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April and 6 July 2026.

143 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Annex I, p. A-3.

144 ZIMAC quotation provided by NPA. Email from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026.

145 Emails from Gemma Welsh, NPA, 19 April 2023; Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023; and Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 3 June 2024.

146 Email from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 16 July 2025.

time-consuming missing-mine excavations in Zimbabwe.[147] HALO also increased the use of hand-held standoff mine detection system (HSTAMIDS) detectors in 2024 and 2025, which help distinguish clutter and pieces of metal from mines and have proved efficient for use in the high-metal content minefields.[148]

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.[149] HALO, MAG, and the NMCU undertake some mechanical clearance (see Table 7), but mini-excavators are also used (by HALO and MAG) in conjunction with manual demining, to complete excavations that would otherwise be done entirely by hand. This increases both deminer safety and overall efficiency[150] and has been especially helpful in excavation of sensitive R2M2 mines.[151] NPA and HALO are exploring the use of drones to support demining operations. HALO plans to conduct a full survey of Zimbabwe's remaining minefields using drone technology in 2026, to help refine completion planning.[152] As planned, Zimbabwe equipped its NMCU with new detectors in 2025.[153]

NPA worked on two minefields in 2025 that were initially thought by ZIMAC to be false (phoney) minefields. This was confirmed with minimal land release efforts. The area concerned was 176,730m^2.[154]

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Land release in Zimbabwe is conducted by the Zimbabwean Armed Forces' NMCU and, as of March 2025, three international operators: HALO, MAG, and NPA. As previously noted, APOPO was forced to close its mine action programme in Zimbabwe that month due to the termination of its US funding.[155] All operators in Zimbabwe deploy combined TS and clearance teams (see Table 7).

Table 6: Operational NTS capacities deployed in 2025[156]

Operator	NTS teams	Total NTS personnel	Comments
HALO	0	0	No specific NTS teams. NTS managed by community outreach team (3 personnel).
NPA	1	2	Community liaison staff conduct NTS and explosive ordnance risk education. Senior Community Liaison Officer also sometimes deployed in the field.
NMCU	1	5	
Totals	**2**	**7**	

Table 7: Operational TS and clearance capacities deployed in 2025[157]

Operator	Manual teams	Mechanical teams	Total deminers	Dog teams	Machines	Comments
HALO	21 (peak)	1[158]	153 (peak)	0	10 (2 x excavators for mechanical clearance, 8 x mini-excavators)	Decreased from 21 manual clearance teams, in January 2025 to 12 teams by December 2025. Mini excavators provide support to manual operations
NPA	8 (peak)	0	84 (peak)	6 (6 dogs, 6 handlers)	0	MDDs deployed for TS only. 8 manual mine clearance teams January–July 2025. Reduced to 6 teams (60 deminers) August–December 2025.
APOPO	6	0	36	0	0	Ceased operations in March 2025.

147 HALO explains that, for example, for a single 1m^2 area, manual excavation in favourable soil conditions takes approximately two shifts (60 minutes of work). By contrast, using a GPZ 7000 detector, the same 1m^2 can be completed in two minutes. Email from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 1 July 2025.

148 Emails from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 1 and 15 July 2025.

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

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

151 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 11 April 2025.

152 Emails from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 June 2026.

153 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

154 Email from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026.

155 Email from Robert Burny, APOPO, 30 April 2025.

156 Emails from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 June 2026; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

157 Emails from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 3 June 2026; Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

158 Emails from Robert Burny, APOPO, 30 April 2025; Peter Avenell, MAG, 11 April 2025; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 April 2025; Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 1 July 2025; and Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025.

Table 7 continued

Operator	Manual teams	Mechanical teams	Total deminers	Dog teams	Machines	Comments
MAG	3	0	38 (peak)	0	1 (mini-excavator)	Mini excavator provides support to manual operations.
NMCU	15	1	150	0	1 (bulldozer)	Total deminers includes four mechanical deminers.
Totals	**53**	**2**	**461**	**6**	**12**	

Zimbabwe began 2025 with 461 deminers across all operators – the same number as it had at peak capacity in 2024 (see Table 7). However, all international operators remaining in the country after APOPO's departure in March 2025 (MAG, NPA, and HALO) were forced to reduce capacity during the year due to funding losses, with some reducing further still in the first half of 2026. NPA saw a 25% decrease in the number of deminers in August 2025, and had reduced from six to four MDD teams by April 2026.[159] HALO, which had 26 manual teams at the end of 2024, started 2025 with 21 manual clearance teams, dropping to 12 by December 2025. In May 2026, HALO reduced again to eight teams, due to a 70% reduction in UK FCDO funding. HALO expected to maintain eight manual teams until the end of 2026.[160] This capacity reduction across the sector in 2025 and 2026 follows an overall decline in recent years, with the highest capacity in recent years standing at 500 deminers in 2021.[161]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

Table 8: Summary of land release outputs in 2025 (national authority data)

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km²)
Clearance	1.60
Technical survey	1.17
Non-technical survey	0.07
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2025**
AP mines destroyed	25,674 (including 29 destroyed in spot tasks, according to operator data)

A total of 2.84km² of mined area was released in 2025, of which 1.6km² was cleared, 1.17km² was reduced through TS, and 0.07km² was cancelled through NTS. A total of 25,674 AP mines were found and destroyed according to national authority data, including 29 destroyed during EOD spot tasks.[162] A total of 180,868m² was added to the national database as a result of adjustment of original CHAs by ZIMAC.[163]

SURVEY IN 2025

According to national authority data, Zimbabwe released 1.24km² through survey in 2025. Of this, 7,404m² was cancelled by HALO, due to an incorrect polygon boundary[164] (see Table 9), and 1.17km² was reduced through TS. Of this reduced area, 119,323m² was reduced by MAG and 952,343m² was reduced by NPA. The remaining 99,342m² was reduced by HALO in 2024, but recorded by ZIMAC in 2025 (see Table 10).[165] ZIMAC explains that, in Zimbabwe, reduction is officially recorded only upon completion of a sector (with all release by clearance or TS initially recorded as clearance),[166] and that, whereas international operators may record land released by TS as reduction, ZIMAC considers that any area where a detector has been used must, ultimately, be recorded as clearance.[167] This can give rise to operators recording

159 Email from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026.

160 Emails from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 1 July 2025 and 2 June 2026.

161 Zimbabwe had 496 deminers in 2022 and 455 deminers in 2023. Emails from Maj. Cainos Tamanikwa, ZIMAC, 2 June 2022; Peter Avenell, MAG, 17 May 2022, 24 March 2023; and 24 May 2024; Gemma Walsh, NPA, 2 June 2022 and 19 April 2023; John Sorbo, APOPO, 20 June 2022; Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 13 April 2023 and 3 June 2024; Mikael Bold, APOPO, 12 May and 8 August 2023, and 10 June 2024; Nokutenda Masiyanise, HALO, 21 June 2024; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 11 June 2024, and Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 19 August 2024; and Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Annex 1, pp. A-6 – A-9; and A-10 – A-11.

162 Zimbabwe's Article 7 Report (covering 2025) states that 25,447 AP mines in total were destroyed in 2025. However, following queries from Mine Action Review based on operator data, ZIMAC confirmed the total of 25,674 given here to be correct. Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D; and emails from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April and 11 June 2026; Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 3 and 5 June 2026; Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April and 4 June 2026; Robert Burny, APOPO, 22 May and 3 June 2026; and Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April and 9 June 2026.

163 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D; and email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 11 June 2026.

164 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D; and email from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 3 June 2026.

165 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D; and emails from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April and 11 June 2026; and Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 5 June 2026.

166 Email from Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025.

167 Emails from (then) Capt. Mandaba, ZIMAC, 22 September 2025; and Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 1 September 2025.

higher annual reduction figures (and lower annual clearance figures) than ZIMAC. This was the case in 2025, with NPA reporting reduction of 1.38km^2, and MAG reporting reduction of 173,920m^2, in both cases higher than the 0.95km^2 reported by ZIMAC for NPA, and 119,323m^2 reported by ZIMAC for MAG. Mine Action Review cross-checked reduction data submitted by operators and ZIMAC, who confirmed this explanation for the differences in reduction data recorded.[168]

Zimbabwe saw a decrease in areas reduced from 2.44km^2 in 2024,[169] to 1.71km^2 in 2025, which ZIMAC attributes mainly to a greater focus on cordon sanitaire minefields in 2025, where reduction is not possible.[170] Cancellation, at 0.07km^2 in 2025,[171] was higher than in 2024, when no areas were cancelled.[172] No new areas of contamination were recorded in 2025 but, as previously noted, a total of 180,868m^2 was added to the national database, due to adjustment of an original CHA by ZIMAC.[173] In 2024, by comparison, ZIMAC added 223,374m^2 to the national database, again due to an adjustment to an original CHA following over clearance.[174]

Table 9: Release of mined area through NTS in 2025 (national authority data)[175]

Area	Operator	Area cancelled (m²)
Mashonaland East (Mazowe to Nyahuku)	HALO	7,404
Total		**7,404**

Table 10: Release of mined area through TS in 2025 (national authority data)[176]

Area	Operator	Area reduced (m²)
Mashonaland East (Mazoe to Rwenya)	MAG	119,323
Mashonaland East (Mazowe to Nyahuku)	HALO	99,342
Mashonaland East (Nyahuku to Nyamapanda)	NPA	952,343
Total		**1,171,008**

CLEARANCE IN 2025

Zimbabwe reports that a total of 1.6km^2 was released through clearance in 2025, with 25,645 AP mines destroyed during TS and clearance, as well as 16 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) (see Table 11). According to operator data (confirmed by ZIMAC), an additional 29 AP mines were destroyed during EOD spot tasks (see Table 12), bringing the total number of AP mines destroyed in 2025 to 25,674.[177] NPA reported a clearance figure of 280,579m^2 to Mine Action Review, lower than the 750,045m^2 reported by ZIMAC. Both NPA and ZIMAC agree that this discrepancy is because, as previously noted, ZIMAC initially records all land released by either TS or clearance as clearance.[178]

At 1.6km^2, clearance in 2025 was slightly lower than in 2024, when Zimbabwe released 1.95km^2 through clearance.[179] Overall land release, at 2.84km^2 in 2025, decreased significantly from 4.39km^2 in 2024,[180] which ZIMAC attributes, not only to the decrease in land reduced, as previously mentioned, but funding losses and subsequent decreased capacity across international operators, including total cessation of APOPO's operations.[181] MAG attributes its 40% reduction in land released in 2025 to both reduced capacity and its focus on reinforced ploughshare minefields, which are slower to clear.[182]

All areas cleared in Zimbabwe in 2025 proved to contain AP mines.[183]

168 Emails from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April and 9 June 2026; Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026 and 4 June 2026; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April and 11 June 2026.

169 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form A; and email from Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025.

170 Emails from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026.

171 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D; and email from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 3 June 2026.

172 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form A; and email from Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025.

173 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D; and email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 11 June 2026.

174 Over clearance refers to the situation where the area that has been cleared exceeds the initial polygon. Emails from Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025; and (then) Capt. Mandaba, ZIMAC, 22 September 2025.

175 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D; and emails from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; and Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 3 June 2026.

176 HALO also reduced an area of 280,237m^2 in Mashonaland Central. This reduction was confirmed in 2026, though work was completed in 2025. As such, this reduction will be reported in national authority data in Zimbabwe's next Article 7 Report (covering 2026). Emails from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 3 and 5 June 2026; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

177 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D; and emails from Robert Burny, APOPO, 22 May and 3 June 2026; Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

178 Emails from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April and 9 June 2026; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April and 11 June 2026.

179 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form A; and email from Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025.

180 Ibid.

181 Emails from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026; and Robert Burny, APOPO, 22 May 2026.

182 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026.

183 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 11 June 2026.

Table 11: AP mine clearance in 2025 (national authority data)[184]

Area	Operator	Sectors* cleared	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	UXO destroyed[185]
Mashonaland Central (Musengezi to Mazowe)	HALO[186]	6	433,815	20,222	0
Mashonaland East (Mazowe to Rwenya)	MAG	6	142,322[187]	2,272	16
Mashonaland East (Nyahuku to Nyamapanda)	NPA		750,045	313	0
Masvingo (Mwenezi to Sango Border Post) (Cordon Sanitaire)	APOPO	2	9,931	93	0
Masvingo (Mwenezi to Sango Border Post) (Cordon Sanitaire)	NMCU		201,645	2,682	0
Matabeleland North (Lusulu)	NMCU	0	66,089	63	0
Totals		**14**	**1,603,847**	**25,645**	**16**

* In Zimbabwe, as CHAs are generally relatively large and can take up to several years to complete, each CHA is split into "sectors" to enable more regular release of land.

Table 12: AP mines destroyed in EOD spot tasks in 2025 (operator data)[188]

Operator	Area	AP mines destroyed
APOPO[189]	Masvingo (Mwenezi to Sango Border Post)	2
NPA	Mashonaland East (Mudzi District)	1
HALO	Mashonaland East (Mudzi District)	1
HALO	Mashonaland Central (Centenary)	1
HALO	Mashonaland Central (Mount Darwin)	15
HALO	Mashonaland Central (Rushinga)	9
Total		**29**

DEMINER SAFETY

Four accidents involving MAG and NMCU deminers took place in Zimbabwe in 2025[190] (see Table 13) – the same number as in 2024, and 2023. All accidents since 2023 have involved excavation of R2M2 AP mines.[191] HALO now undertakes all excavations of R2M2 mines mechanically, and has had no accidents since 2024.[192] However, MAG explains that, while mechanical excavation of these sensitive mines is preferable, it is not always possible in its areas of operation, due to bedrock and gulley areas, including in streams where the mines have moved downstream. As such, some R2M2 mines can only be manually excavated with caution.[193]

184 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D; and emails from Robert Burny, APOPO, 22 May and 3 June 2026; Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

185 Zimbabwe states in its Article 7 Report (covering 2025) that 79 items of UXO were destroyed in 2025. Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D. However, following data consolidation, ZIMAC advised Mine Action Review to disregard the figure of 79 and apply the figure of 16, as per operator data. Emails from Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April and 4 June 2026; Robert Burny, APOPO, 22 May and 3 June 2026; Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026; and Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 2 and 3 June 2026.

186 HALO reported to Mine Action Review that it cleared the higher figure of 471,367m², during which 20,117 AP mines were destroyed. HALO suggests this variance from national authority data is because ZIMAC's figures were submitted prior to final data consolidation. HALO agreed that Mine Action Review should use the data provided in the Article 7 Report, with this explanatory note. Email from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 3 June 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

187 MAG reported a figure of 142,325m² to Mine Action Review on 21 April 2026 and reconfirmed this as correct, on 4 June 2026. As the figure differs only in the final digit, ZIMAC believes the discrepancy is due to a typographical error, either on MAG or ZIMAC's part. Emails from Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April and 4 June 2026; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April and 11 June 2026.

188 Operator data has been used to compete Table 12 as Zimbabwe did not disaggregate AP mines destroyed during clearance from AP mines destroyed during EOD spot tasks in its Article 7 Report (covering 2025). However, ZIMAC confirmed the data is correct. Emails from Miroslav Pisarevic, NPA, 28 April 2026; Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 3 June 2026; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 11 June 2026.

189 ZIMAC states that, in addition to the 93 AP mines destroyed during clearance, APOPO destroyed an additional two during community call outs. Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 11 June 2026.

190 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form H.

191 Emails from Capt. Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 3 June 2024; Mikael Bold, APOPO, 10 June 2024; Nokutenda Masiyanise, HALO, 21 June 2024; Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 19 August 2024 and 1 July 2025; and Peter Avenell, MAG, 24 May 2024 and 11 April 2025.

192 Email from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 10 July 2026.

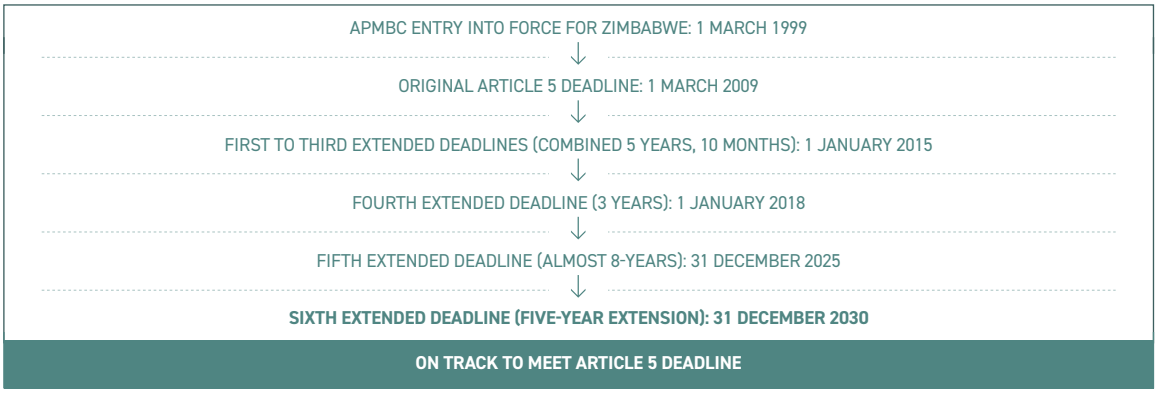
193 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 30 June 2026.

Table 13: Demining accidents in Zimbabwe in 2025[194]

Operator	Accidents	Activity	Type of AP mine	Deminers injured
MAG	3	Clearance	R2M2	3
NMCU	1	Clearance	R2M2	1
Totals	**4**			**4**

Concerning the accidents in 2025, MAG conducted full internal investigations, supported by HQ, and shared reports with ZIMAC and operators.[195] ZIMAC confirms that all incidents and accidents are investigated in accordance with Zimbabwe's NMAS and guided by the IMAS, with findings and learning always shared across operators.[196] As at August 2026, accident investigation findings from 2025 were yet to be shared across all operators. In response to Mine Action Review's query about this, ZIMAC explained that it had taken note of this and would stress that all operators must be copied in when incident or accident investigation findings are distributed. Additionally, operators had been reminded to ensure that incident and accident findings submitted to ZIMAC are also copied to other operators.[197]

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the five-year extension granted in 2025), 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 2030.[198]

Completion by the end of 2030 would be a considerable achievement for one of the world's most heavily mined countries, and in a challenging donor funding environment. But although currently on track to meet this deadline, Zimbabwe faces several potential challenges to Article 5 implementation. These include donor fatigue and equipment shortages, according to ZIMAC.[199] In its latest Article 7 report (covering 2025) Zimbabwe also explains that, as in previous years, the main risks that could impede progress towards completion are potentially insufficient funding; the heavy rains and risk of flooding experienced in Zimbabwe from November to March each year; and potential changes in the political or economic climate, given that national capacity is dependent on government funding. Zimbabwe does note, however, that the government has continued to prioritise demining in spite of economic challenges in recent years and that the political climate is expected to remain "supportive of the initiative until the nation's landmines are removed".[200] HALO adds that Zimbabwe was expected to experience a Super El Niño in 2026, which will likely result in high temperatures and severe drought across operational areas, potentially significantly impacting implementation.[201]

There are many consistent strengths in Zimbabwe's mine action programme, including effective national ownership and programme management; a reliable and improving information management system; robust planning; and recent gains in land release efficiency through effective trial and deployment of new technologies. Thanks to these efforts, Zimbabwe has, to date, released 97% of all contaminated areas.[202] However, following significant, recent funding losses, it now requires "predictable, multi-year funding to sustain mine clearance operations."[203] This will be the deciding factor that determines whether Zimbabwe can optimise its strong mine action programme and meet its new Article 5 deadline of 2030. It is imperative that donors stand with Zimbabwe to ensure that this extension period is its last.

194 Emails from Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form I.

195 Email from Peter Avenell, MAG, 21 April 2026.

196 Emails from Capt. Godwish, ZIMAC, 11 April 2025; and Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

197 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 6 August 2026.

198 APMBC, "Zimbabwe", accessed 27 May 2025, https://bit.ly/4nQezG5.

199 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

200 Article 7 Reports (covering 2025), Annex A, pp. A-16 to A-17; covering 2024, Annex A, p. 38; and covering 2023, Annex A, pp. A-17 to A-18.

201 Email from Oliver Gerard-Pearse, HALO, 10 July 2026; and "Zimbabwe ready for 'Super El Nino' threat to 2026/27 season", Chronicle, 4 June 2026, https://tinyurl.com/56uwvee4.

202 Email from Major Patson Mandaba, ZIMAC, 27 April 2026.

203 Statement of Zimbabwe on Article 5, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 15–18 June 2026.

Table 14: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km²)
2025	1.60
2024	1.95
2023	1.91
2022	2.13
2021	2.44
Total	**10.03**

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

On the matter of contamination that might be found after completion of major clearance operations, the Government of Zimbabwe will wholly fund, maintain, and equip the NMCU and military engineering units to be deployed for residual risk mitigation and management, with military engineering unit EOD teams stationed in each province.[204] Zimbabwe explains that any individual who identifies a suspected hazardous item will report it to the "nearest police camp". The police will, in turn, notify the army.[205]

204 "Zimbabwe's Preparations for Capacity to Address Residual Contamination and Demobilisation of Demining Personnel", Lt.-Col. S. Moyo, Coordinator, ZIMAC, February 2025, pp. 5–6; and 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request, p. 39.

205 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Zimbabwe, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on ISU- website on 6 August 2025, p. 8.

NON-SIGNATORIES