

**ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2026**  
NOT ON TRACK AND IN VIOLATION OF THE CONVENTION

## KEY DATA

**ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)  
MINE CONTAMINATION:  
LIGHT, UNCLEAR**

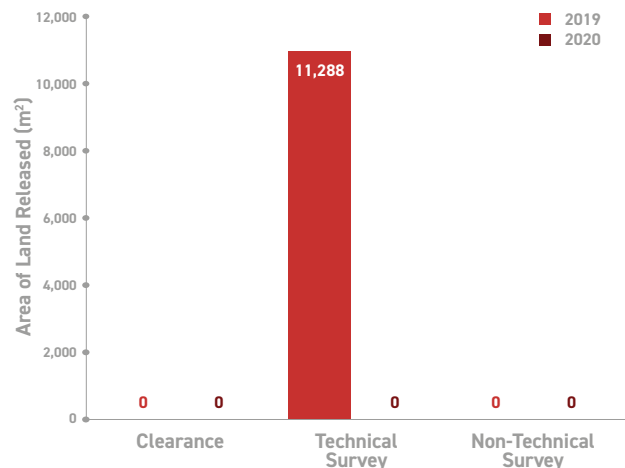
AP MINE  
CLEARANCE IN 2020

**0**M<sup>2</sup>

AP MINES  
DESTROYED IN 2020

**0**

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



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

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2020, Senegal sought and received a five-year extension to its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline until March 2026. It requested international donors to provide US\$8.85 million towards projected costs of \$12.19 million. Non-technical survey resumed in Bignona province in February 2020, but was suspended the following month because of measures to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. United States (US) funding, the only international donor supporting Senegal in 2020, expired at the end of the year.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- In order to ensure its compliance with the Convention, Senegal must immediately clear the anti-personnel mines emplaced between its military cantonment in the village of Djirak and the non-State armed group with which it is engaged in armed hostilities.
- Senegal should complete non-technical survey as soon as possible to establish a comprehensive baseline estimate of its remaining mine contamination.
- The Senegalese National Mine Action Centre (CNAMS) should update the Article 5 extension request work plan to reflect delays caused by measures to control the spread of COVID-19 and a broader lack of funding.
- The Government of Senegal should demonstrate commitment to its APMBC obligations by making national funding and resources available for demining operations.
- Senegal should provide details of the arrangements and capacity available for tackling residual contamination identified after completion.

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2020)	Score (2019)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	4	4	Senegal remains unclear about the extent of its mine contamination 21 years after adhering to the APMBBC. It reports 37 confirmed hazardous areas affecting close to 0.5km <sup>2</sup> and nine suspected hazardous areas of unknown size, but also estimates that total contamination affects nearly 1.6km <sup>2</sup> . Survey came to standstill in 2020 with Senegal having made minimal progress assessing the extent of contamination in the past five years.
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	3	3	Senegal relies on donor funding to cover the costs of mine clearance and its apparent failure to demine mined areas around military installations calls into question its compliance with the APMBBC and even the prohibition on use of landmines.
<b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b> (10% of overall score)	5	5	CNAMS reports employing women in senior positions and appointing staff on the basis of qualifications and without regard for gender. Humanity and Inclusion (HI), the only international operator, employs women in its field operations as well as administrative posts.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	4	4	CNAMS maintains an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database but has cited shortages of funds as an obstacle to upgrading it. The quality of data in IMSMA is unknown. Senegal has submitted Article 7 transparency reports annually.
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	4	4	Senegal submitted an Article 5 deadline extension request including a work plan with timelines for survey and clearance but it assumed the availability of operating capacity that is not present in Senegal and faced major challenges, including insecurity and a lack of international financial support calling into question the feasibility of its targets.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b> (20% of overall score)	4	4	CNAMS introduced national mine action standards in 2009 but has not revised or updated them since 2013.
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	3	3	Senegal did not report any land release through survey in 2020 and did not conduct any demining. Senegal requested and received a five-year extension to its Article 5 deadline but implementation is dependent on mobilising significant new sources of international donor funding to replace the shrinking support received in recent years.
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>Overall Programme Performance: VERY POOR</b>

## DEMINING CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Commission for the Implementation of the Ottawa Convention
- Senegalese National Mine Action Centre (CNAMS)

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Humanity and Inclusion (HI)

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Senegal does not have a precise estimate of its mine contamination more than 20 years after becoming a State Party to the APMBC. It reports the presence of mines in four of the country's forty-five departments, all of them in the Casamance region, an area of low-level insurgency since the 1980s.

Senegal has reported 37 confirmed hazardous areas covering 491,086m<sup>2</sup> for more than a year, with more than 60% in Goudomp province (see Table 1).<sup>1</sup> Senegal's Article 5 extension request submitted in June 2020 also reported 37 confirmed hazardous areas covering 491,086m<sup>2</sup> but estimated the total area of confirmed and suspected mine contamination at 1,593,487m<sup>2</sup>, indicating it had also identified 1,102,401m<sup>2</sup> of suspected contamination.<sup>2</sup> From past experience, it believed the areas were contaminated mainly with anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines.<sup>3</sup> The basis for this estimate is unclear. Some officials have estimated contamination at up to 1.7km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>4</sup> Senegal's latest Article 7 transparency report, submitted in May 2021, reported nine areas of suspected mine contamination that had not been accurately assessed due to insecurity and whose size was not known. It added that 118 locations remain to be assessed: 101 in Bignona, 4 in Oussoye, and 13 in Ziguinchor.<sup>5</sup>

Mine contamination in Senegal is the result of more than 40 years of fighting between the armed forces and a non-state armed group, the MFDC (Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de Casamance). Sporadic fighting with some

factions of the MFDC has continued despite a ceasefire in place since 2004. Eight soldiers were reportedly injured when their vehicle detonated a mine in the Ziguinchor region in June 2020. Two soldiers were reportedly killed and two more injured later that month in the same region as they escorted civilians back to villages that had been abandoned in the conflict.<sup>6</sup> Senegal says the contamination hinders the socio-economic recovery of a region where thousands of people have been displaced, and access to pastures, forests, water sources, and government services have been limited.<sup>7</sup>

According to Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), there is overwhelming evidence that the laying of landmines by rebel forces was sporadic, while the Senegalese Armed Forces placed hundreds, if not thousands, of mines around military outposts in Casamance.<sup>8</sup> Lack of reporting on demining military bases has raised concerns about Senegal's compliance with the APMBC. Senegal claimed previously that it already demined the mined areas around its military bases.<sup>9</sup> In 2020, however, it informed the APMBC Committee on Article 5 Implementation that mines remained between a Senegalese army cantonment at the village of Djirak on the border with Guinea-Bissau, and the headquarters of a faction of the MFDC. Senegal stated that the identity of the user of the mines "remained to be determined". It did not identify when the mines were laid.<sup>10</sup> Taking operational advantage of existing mined areas, even when laid by another party, constitutes prohibited use of anti-personnel mines.<sup>11</sup>

**Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area (at end 2020)<sup>12</sup>**

Province	CHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	SHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Bignona	10	111,575	8	
Goudomp	16	299,871	1	
Oussoye	9	77,240	0	
Ziguinchor	2	2,400	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>491,086</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1,102,401</b>

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The National Commission for the Implementation of the Ottawa Convention, created in 2005, serves as the national mine action authority for Senegal charged with developing a mine action strategy, promoting economic rehabilitation of mine-affected areas, and overseeing the work of a national mine action centre. The commission, which is chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, includes representatives of the President of Senegal and government ministries. Senegal has said the commission's effectiveness had suffered from high turnover of ministerial representatives, resulting in delays in decision-making and even from a lack of rules on decision-making.<sup>13</sup>

Demining operations in Casamance are coordinated by CNAMS, which was set up by decree in 2006. Regional mine action coordination committees have been established in Kolda, Sédhiou, and Ziguinchor departments. CNAMS is responsible for promoting the national mine action programme, mobilising resources, coordinating survey and conducting demining, designing and implementing a victim assistance programme, accrediting demining organisations, and monitoring and evaluating activities.<sup>14</sup>

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

CNAMS asserts there is no gender discrimination in Senegal's mine action programme and staff are recruited on the basis of competence. CNAMS said its staff of 17 included six women of whom two were heads of division and two were heads of offices. It reported that HI employed four women among its field teams, including three explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technicians qualified at EOD Levels 1, 2, and 3 respectively, as well as one paramedic.<sup>15</sup>

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## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

CNAMS operates an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database, which was reportedly upgraded in 2015,<sup>16</sup> but reporting has proved erratic. CNAMS said measures to improve the database were not possible in 2019 due to funding shortages while improvements planned for 2020 had been suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>17</sup>

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## PLANNING AND TASKING

Senegal included a work plan in the Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in June 2020, which called for non-technical survey of all 118 identified SHAs by the end of 2021. It proposed survey of 40 SHAs in 2020 and the remaining 78 in 2021. The work plan did not foresee any clearance in 2020 but aimed to complete clearance of 37 CHAs by the end of 2023, tackling 12 CHAs covering 113,975m<sup>2</sup> in 2021, 16 CHAs affecting 299,871m<sup>2</sup> in 2022, and the remaining 9 CHAs covering 77,240m<sup>2</sup> in 2023. In 2024, Senegal planned to survey nine SHAs and in 2024–25 to clear CHAs identified from the 2020–21 non-technical survey of 118 areas.<sup>18</sup>

Senegal was unable to conduct the planned amount of survey in 2020, due to a combination of factors, including the pandemic, lack resources and insecurity, and it indicated in 2021 that it planned to update its strategy.<sup>19</sup> No clearance was conducted either.

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## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

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Senegal's national mine action standards were developed in 2009 and revised in 2013 but have not been updated since.<sup>20</sup> According to CNAMS, the 2013 revision included standards for accreditation, technical investigation, the minimum depth for mine clearance, and the use of machines and mine detection dogs in demining.<sup>21</sup>

The APMBC Article 5 committee noted the importance of Senegal ensuring as soon as possible that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of this aspect of the Convention.<sup>22</sup>

### OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

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CNAMS has a total of fourteen operations staff, including one six-strong manual clearance team, a non-technical survey team of five, and one mechanical team with three people.<sup>23</sup>

HI was the only international demining operator in Senegal from 2014. It suspended operations in October 2017 because of lack of funding.<sup>24</sup> With new funding from the United States, operations resumed in 2019 when HI had a total staff of 20: 5 deminers, 3 mechanical operators, and 12 support staff. In 2020, HI hired only 10 staff who were deployed to Ziguinchor province but funding expired at the end of the year. At the start of 2021, HI did not have any mine action teams operating but it reported plans for an 18-month project to complete non-technical survey of villages north of Bignona and the Bafata road in Goudom.<sup>25</sup>

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## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

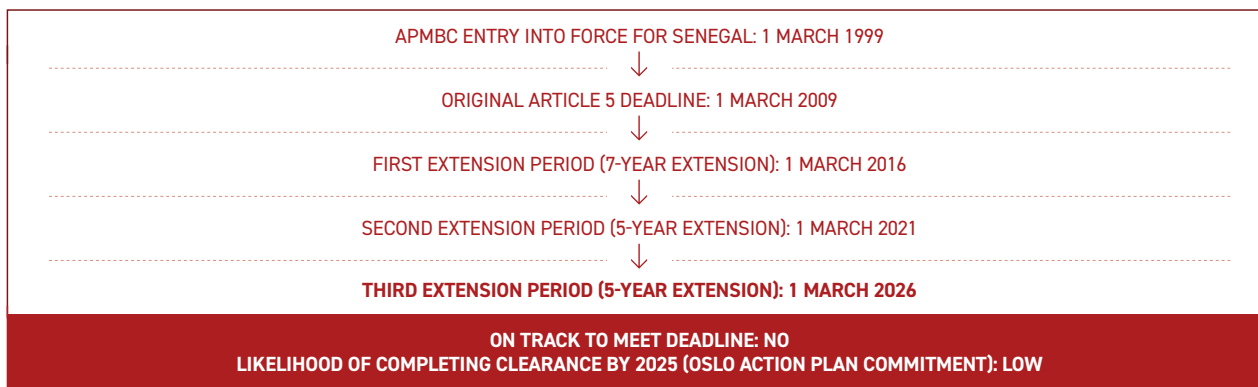
### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2020

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Senegal reported it was able to start non-technical survey in Bignona region in February 2020 after 10 months of negotiation with MFDC to secure access but operations were suspended in March because of the COVID-19 pandemic and no land was released through survey in 2020.<sup>26</sup>

Senegal reported it did not conduct any demining activities in 2020.<sup>27</sup>

## ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the five-year extension granted by States Parties in 2020), Senegal is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2026.

Senegal's mine contamination is small in extent and clearance should be easily completed within its third Article 5 extension yet the challenges it faces still leave uncertainty over its prospects for doing so. First and foremost, the full extent of Senegal's mine problem is still not known, with nine SHAs whose size has yet to be determined and 118 locations still to be investigated, more than double the number of confirmed and suspected hazardous areas.

The work plan set out in the Article 5 extension request assumed the support of two international operators, but only one is operating in the country and no agreement has been reached for deployment of a second. The plan called for non-technical survey in 2020 of 40 of the 118 locations that need to be investigated for the presence of mines, operations which did not take place because of COVID-19 control measures. The work plan calls for clearance of 113,975m<sup>2</sup> in 2021 but no mined areas have been cleared in Senegal in the past three years, raising significant questions as to whether Senegal will be able to keep to the work plan timelines.

A key factor in the meagre progress of Senegal's mine action programme is the low level of international donor support,

which Senegal hopes will make up \$8 million of the projected \$12 million cost. Senegal appealed in June 2020 for \$1.6 million for a period of 25 months to conduct clearance of 299,871m<sup>2</sup> and conduct non-technical survey of 118 locations in the Sédhiou and Ziguinchor regions, providing a test of Senegal's resource mobilisation efforts and donor interest.<sup>28</sup>

Insecurity remains a major potential stumbling block. All Senegal's confirmed and suspected hazardous areas are located in the Casamance region. Operations in 2019 were suspended after a MFDC faction briefly detained a demining team. Senegal said 10 months of negotiations preceded the resumption of non-technical survey in Bignona in early 2020 and has described security conditions as "very precarious."

Table 2: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )
2020	0
2019	0
2018	0
2017*	65,400
2016	147,650
<b>Total</b>	<b>213,050</b>

\* Includes technical survey

## PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

Senegal responded to questions from the Committee on Article 5 Implementation about plans for addressing contamination identified after completion by stating any residual mine threats would be dealt with by Senegal's military engineers. It did not provide details of military engineers' capacity.<sup>29</sup>

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- 1 Email from Ibrahima Seck, Head of Operations and Information Management, CNAMS, 21 May 2020; Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 4.
- 2 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 15 June 2020, p. 53.
- 3 Analyse de la demande soumise par Le Sénégal en vue de la prolongation du délai fixée à l'article 5 de la Convention pour la destruction complète des mines antipersonnel, APMBC 18th Meeting of States Parties, 16–20 November 2020.
- 4 Email from Catherine Gillet, Programme Director for Afrique Cap Ouest, HI, 10 May 2021.
- 5 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form D.
- 6 "Mine blast wounds multiple soldiers in Bignona department (Ziguinchor region) on June 13", *Garda World*, 13 June 2020; "Mine blast kills 2 soldiers, injures 2", *Garda World*, 16 June 2020.
- 7 CNAMS request for funding, undated but June 2020.
- 8 CNAMS, "Updated Workplan for Senegal's Article 5 Extension 2016–21", April 2017; and CNAMS, "Updated Workplan for Senegal's Article 5 Extension 2016–2021", 13 October 2017, p. 21.
- 9 Email from Ibrahima Seck, CNAMS, 18 August 2017.
- 10 "Clarifications du Senegal aux questions du comite d'examen de la 3Eme demande d'extension", 22 September 2020, Reply to Question 4.
- 11 See, e.g., ICBL, "Treaty in Detail", at: <https://bit.ly/3ns6oTd>.
- 12 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form D. The total figure for suspected contamination is extrapolated from reported total contamination.
- 13 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 15 June 2020, pp. 9, 75.
- 14 Presentation by CNAMS, "National Stakeholder Dialogue: Towards a Mine-Free Senegal" workshop, Dakar, 29–30 October 2018.
- 15 Email from Ibrahima Seck, CNAMS, 21 May 2020.
- 16 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 1 September 2016.
- 17 Email from Ibrahima Seck, CNAMS, 21 May 2020.
- 18 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 15 June 2020, pp. 93–98.
- 19 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form A.
- 20 Email from Ibrahima Seck, CNAMS, 21 May 2020.
- 21 Presentation by CNAMS, "National Stakeholder Dialogue: Towards a Mine-Free Senegal" workshop, Dakar, 29–30 October 2018.
- 22 APMBC Article 5 Committee, "Draft decisions on the request submitted by Senegal for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines", 20 November 2020.
- 23 Email from Ibrahima Seck, CNAMS, 21 May 2020.
- 24 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 26 September 2016.
- 25 Emails from Catherine Gillet, HI, 10 May 2021; and Seydou Gaye, Armed Violence Reduction Specialist, HI, 3 June 2020.
- 26 Statement of Senegal, APMBC 18th Meeting of States Parties, 16–20 November 2020; email from Catherine Gillet, HI, 10 May 2021.
- 27 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form D.
- 28 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Request for Financing.
- 29 "Clarifications du Senegal aux questions du comite d'examen de la 3Eme demande d'extension", 22 September 2020.