

## **ZIMBABWE UPDATE AT THE JUNE 2018 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Distinguished Delegates, let me take this opportunity to give you an update on Zimbabwe's mine action programme. The Government of Zimbabwe remains committed to a mine/ERW free Zimbabwe where women, girls, boys and men safely engage in sustainable livelihood activities. The efforts include provision of funding for mine action and creating an enabling environment for more donor funding to Zimbabwe's partnering organisations' operations. Since the last update at the 16MSP, there were no recorded incidents of people injured by mines/ERWs. However some livestock has been lost. Having witnessed extensive capacity building in 2016, the mine action stakeholders were very positive of completing the task earlier than planned.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS**

2. Of the eight (08) minefield stretches inherited at independence, three were completed. The five remaining have been divided into seven (07) areas and subsequently seven (07) tasks as shown on the map below.

3. During the 16MSP the country was granted an eight-year extension period which expires in 2025. At the 16MSP, Zimbabwe reported a remaining contamination of **61,9km<sup>2</sup> (61,916,027m<sup>2</sup>)** as at 30 November 2017. Since then, a total of **1,6km<sup>2</sup> (1,589,930m<sup>2</sup>)** have been released and a total of **5364 AP** mines recovered and destroyed. This leaves an uncleared area of **60.3km<sup>2</sup> (60,326,097m<sup>2</sup>)** as at 30 April 2018 as shown on the 2018 progress by tasks table below:

4. **\*2018 Clearance Progress by Task**

Task Name and Organisation	Task ID	Remaining Area 31 Dec 2017	Remaining Area 30 Apr 2018	Targeted Release for 2018	Targeted Area to Remain 31 Dec 2018	% completion of 2018 target	Remarks
Musengezi to Mazowe River Bridge- HALO Trust	2A	11,784,543	11,362,946	1'118'104	10,666,439	37,5	
Mazowe River to Rwenya Bridge- MAG	2B	11,802,059	11,782,223	801'961	11,000,098	2.47	
Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill- NPA	3	5,895,954	5,220,656	1'213'652	4,682,302	55.6	
Rusitu to Muzite- NPA	4	8,550,808	8,204,846	996'889	7,553,919	35	
Mwenezi to Sango Border Ploughshare	6A	16,508,588	16,503,388	2'100'000	14,408,088	0.25	
Mwenezi to Sango Border Corsan	6B	7,196,038	7,196,038	900'000	6,296038	0	
Lisulu- NMC	7	56 000	56 000	30 000	0	0	The remaining may be higher after the pending detailed survey
<b>Total</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>61,793,990</b>	<b>60,326,097</b>	<b>7'160'645</b>	<b>54,633,3</b>		

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From the figures above, considering massive reduction expected later this year, the 2018 targets are achievable and Zimbabwe is still on course to meet its Article 5 deadline.

5. The other notable activities during the period under review include the launch of the National Strategic Plan, which took place on the 9th of March 2018, MRE, mobilisation of resources for clearance and victim assistance. There has been a lot of progress on Zimbabwe's demining programme where the National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU) and the demining partners namely HALO Trust and NPA have done extremely well in their respective areas of clearance. MAG as the new boys in the game are also doing well albeit limited capacity although signs of increased capacity look bright.

6. The Mukumbura cleared area which was reported at the 16MSP as handed over in November 2017 is already under productive use with a lot of agricultural activities and resettlement of people on the once mined land. Also, domestic animals are now safely grazing in the former minefield.

7. The National Mine Action Strategic Plan. The National Mine Action Strategic Plan document was formally launched on 09 March 2018 by the Honourable Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe who is also the Minister of Defence and War Veteran Affairs. This clearly demonstrated national ownership of the programme by Government and commitment to the fulfilment of the Article 5 obligation. We are grateful of the GICHD, which assisted in the drafting of the Strategic Plan and also attended the launch in Harare. Again, in May 2018, Anne Li from GICHD spent a week in Harare assisting ZIMAC and the demining partners on best practices in Information Management System. We highly appreciate this support.

8. **Additional Capacity**. You may recall that during the 16MSP, I highlighted that Mines Advisory Group had just started clearance work. The organisation is now firm on the ground and to date, they have cleared **19,875 m<sup>2</sup>** of contaminated land, destroying **45 AP** mines. The organisation started with a single team of ten (10) deminers. Presently they have recruited an additional team that is under training,

which effectively means it has doubled its initial capacity. The additional team will be operational by July 2018. The other organisation, APOPO is still pursuing avenues to secure enough funding for them to start operations. The NMCU has added two teams to deal with the small Lusulu minefield and HALO Trust is working on bringing additional mechanical demining equipment. On the other hand, NPA reduced its teams due to the reduction in funding, however, their MDDs have seen them increasing their pace.

## SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS

9. There is high pressure by communities to put released land to productive use. The pace at which cleared land is put to use exhibits how desperate communities are to use the land which lie idle due to presence of mines. Productive activities such as resettlement, crop farming and free movement to see relatives across mined areas is now possible in cleared areas.

10. **Mine Risk Education.** Extensive MRE has positively contributed to the reduction on mines and ERW victims. A lot of initiatives continue to be employed in an effort to eradicate risk taking behaviour from all those living in contaminated areas. I am, however, happy to highlight that there has been positive behavioural change by communities living adjacent to the minefields. ZIMAC makes use of National and Regional exhibitions as well as community social gatherings to disseminate information while our demining partners carryout community liaisons in their areas of operations. The Zimbabwe National Army's NMCU and ZIMAC held the 2018 edition of the annual MRE Music Gala in May 2018. The Music Gala brought together more than 5000 adults and children to receive the messages on best practice in their communities situated close to mined areas. The NPA MRE officer also came on board with their MRE material.

11. **Victim Assistance.** There is no discrimination between Mine Victims and other people living with disabilities. Mine Victims are treated like all other people living with disabilities under the Department of Social Welfare in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. The Government recently allocated \$5 000 000 to this Ministry specifically for people living with disabilities. This again demonstrates

Government commitment to improving the livelihood of people living with disabilities inclusive mine victims. Meanwhile efforts to maintain an up to date database for landmine/ERW victims are being made by ensuring that identified victims are recorded. We are grateful to our demining partners who are assisting in identifying mine victims in their areas of operations. Known victims are sometimes assisted with artificial limbs courtesy of HALO Trust who have since assisted over 60 victims with prosthetic limbs.

## NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

12. While Zimbabwe remains optimistic of achieving her target, the country's main threat to the achievement of its ultimate goal is insufficient funding. **We call upon any well wishers to come on board to support Zimbabwe achieve her vision of being mine free by 2025.** Such initiatives like the one arranged by the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance on the side lines of the 16MSP can go a long way in ensuring Zimbabwe achieves its goals. Zimbabwe has received much assistance from GICHD and Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in making the Zimbabwean problem known by international stakeholders. Care of victims remains a major concern to the Zimbabwe programme. Given the economic challenges the country has been going through, support to the Mine/Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) survivors, remains insufficient.. A comprehensive victim survey remains on the cards. **Again we call upon well wishers to come on board to assist on the national survey and assistance to mine victims in line with the dictates of the Anti Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (APMBT).**

## THE OUTLOOK PERIOD

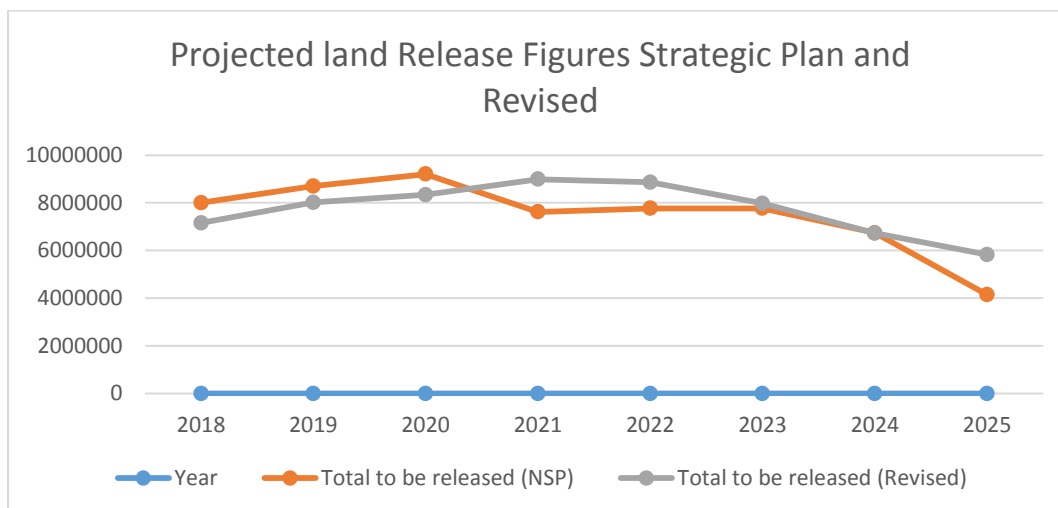
13. While there has been remarkable progress on reclaiming once mined land, minefields still hold vast acres of productive land idle. Zimbabwe submitted its 2018 Article 7 report together with the revised work plan for the current extension period. These targets can only be met if the projected funding is secured. **This therefore calls for assistance from the international community and the donor world for the country's vision to materialise.**

14. **Revised Yearly Land Release Targets.** The annual target output figures in the extension request and National Strategy had to be revised after going through 2017 and assessing the progress to date vis a vis the expected challenges in future. The adjustment was also as a result of the changes to some surveyed polygons especially in the Rushinga area. There was also an unexpected discovery of an extension of the Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner Minefield, which took much of NMCU's 2017 capacity. These revised figures were also noted in the Article 7 report submitted in April 2018. These changes are, however not expected to affect the deadline of 2025.

**\* (Not to be read) Revised annual land release figures for period 2018 to 2025 Table**

Minefield	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
Musengezi to Mazowe (HALO)	1'118'104	1'523'777	1'523'777	1'523'777	1'523'777	1'523'777	1'523'777	1'523'777	11'784'543
Mazowe to Rwenya River (MAG)	801'961	1'200'059	1'400'000	1'600'000	1'700'000	1'750'000	1'650'000	1'700'000	11'802'059
Crooks Corner to Sango Border(Reinforced Ploushare) (NMC)	2'100'000	2'100'000	2'100'000	2'100'000	2'100'000	2'100'000	2'100'000	1'808'588	16'508'588
Crooks Corner to Sango Border (Cordon Sanitaire) (APOPO)	900'000	950'000	900'000	950'000	900'000	1'000'000	800'050	795'988	7'196'038
Rusitu to Muzite Mission (NPA)	996'889	1'000'000	1'200'000	1'500'000	1'600'000	1'600'000	653'919		8'550'808
Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill (NPA)	1'213'652	1'213'652	1'213'652	1'213'652	1'041'346				5,895,954
Lusulu (NMC)	30'000	26'000							56'000
<b>Total</b>	7'160'606	8'013'488	8'337'429	8'987'429	8'865'123	7'973'777	6'727'746	5'828'353	61'793'990

The graph below shows a little deviation from the land release figures projected in the National Strategy.



15. For the 2025 vision to be achieved, a total of USD130.34 million is required as shown on the projected budget below:

### Revised funding requirement

Organisation	Year									Total (USD)
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	
(a)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(p)	
International Donor Support (\$USD million dollars)										
NPA	4.23	3.3	3.46	3.63	3.81	4	4.2	4.41	31.04	
HALO	5.89	5.25	5.69	5.8	6.03	6.21	6.4	6.59	47.86	
APOPO	2	2	2	3.4	3.5	3.4	2.4	2	20.7	
MAG	1.6	1	1.5	1.5	3	3	3	3	17.6	
Sub-Total	13.72	11.55	12.65	14.33	16.34	16.61	16	16	117.2	
Zimbabwe Government Finance (\$USD million dollars)										
NMCU	0.7	1.5	1	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	13.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.42</b>	<b>13.05</b>	<b>13.65</b>	<b>15.33</b>	<b>17.84</b>	<b>18.61</b>	<b>18.50</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>130.4</b>	

### CONCLUSION

16. Zimbabwe remains optimistic to achieving its ambition of a mine free country by 2025. The achievements during the 4<sup>th</sup> extension period provided a launching

platform for a more oiled programme in this 5<sup>th</sup> and hopefully the final extension period.

17. Zimbabwe now has the National Strategic Plan extending up to 2025 when Zimbabwe is envisaged to be free of mines. The successful implementation of the National Strategy hinges on adequate funding. The Government of Zimbabwe will continue channelling some funds towards demining from the fiscus albeit the economic situation. **The support by the donor world through the international operators partnering Zimbabwe is highly appreciated. It is our wish that such support is increased and sustained up to 2025.**

**TOGETHER WE SHALL MAKE ZIMBABWE AND THE WORLD AT LARGE FREE OF MINES.**

**I THANK YOU**





 **UPDATE ON ZIMBABWE MINE ACTION PROGRAMME** 


**BY**  
**Col MB Ncube**  
**Director ZIMAC**

*Goal: 'A mine/ERW-free Zimbabwe where women, girls, boys and men safely engage in sustainable livelihood activities and where mine/ERW victims are fully integrated into society'*


1

 **INTRODUCTION** 


*Goal: 'A mine/ERW-free Zimbabwe where women, girls, boys and men safely engage in sustainable livelihood activities and where mine/ERW victims are fully integrated into society'*



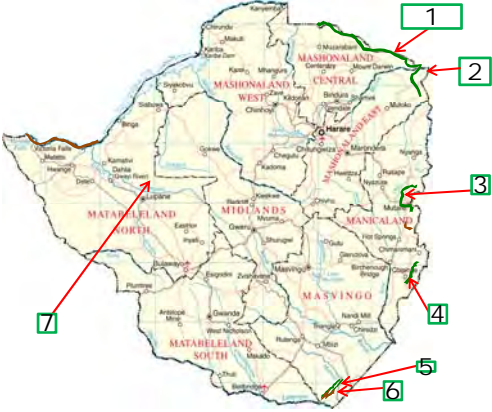
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## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS




➤ The five remaining mined stretches have been divided into seven (07) areas and subsequently seven (07) tasks.



3



## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS





➤ Zimbabwe sits on an eight-year extension period running up to 2025

➤ As at 30 November 2017, **61.9km<sup>2</sup> (61,916,027m<sup>2</sup>)** was the remaining area to be cleared.  
 Since then, **1.6km<sup>2</sup> (1,589,930m<sup>2</sup>)** have been cleared recovering **5364 AP** mines


➤ **60.3km<sup>2</sup> (60,326,097m<sup>2</sup>)** was remaining as at 30 April 2018.

4


 <b>Achievements and Progress</b> 							
<b>2018 Clearance Progress by Task</b>							
Task Name and Organisation	Task ID	Remaining Area 31 Dec 2017	Remaining Area 30 Apr 2018	Targeted Release for 2018	Targeted Area to Remain 31 Dec 2018	% completion of 2018 target	Remarks
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<b>Total</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>61,793,990</b>	<b>60,326,097</b>	<b>7'160'645</b>	<b>54,633,345</b>	<b>0.22</b>	

\* Most of these figures are actual clearance. Reduction figures will be included on completion of segments later during

 <b>Achievements and Progress</b> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Overall, the 2018 targets are achievable and Zimbabwe is still on course to meet its Article 5 deadline.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Mukumbura cleared area which was reported at the 16MSP as handed over is already under productive use with a lot of agricultural activities and resettlement of people on the once mined land.</li> </ul>	

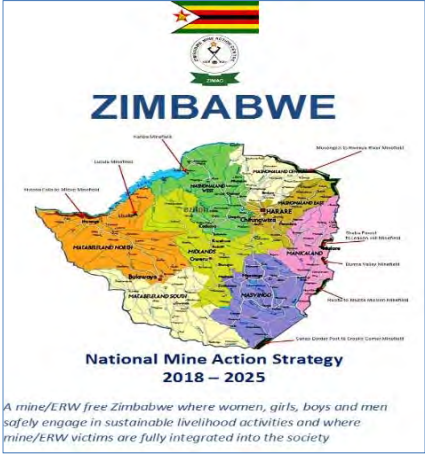


## National Strategic Plan





- The document was officially launched on 09 March 2018 by the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe who is also the Minister of Defence and War Veteran Affairs.



7




## Additional Capacity



- MAG has cleared a total of 19,875m<sup>2</sup> with a single team of deminers.
- MAG has recruited an additional team .
- APOPO are still pursuing avenues to secure enough funding to start operations.

8

 **SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS** 

- Communities are desperate to use their land which is lying idle due to landmine contamination

9

 **Mine Risk Education** 

- No new victims were recorded in the year 2017 to 2018.
- ZIMAC and NMCU held their annual Mine Risk Education Gala on May 2018.



10





## Victim Assistance




➤ The government is committed to improving the livelihoods of people living with disabilities landmine victims inclusive.


➤ Known victims are recorded in the IMSMA database and sometimes assisted.




11




## Needs and Challenges




- Insufficient funding for demining activities remains the major challenge
- Care of victims is a major concern to the Zimbabwe Mine action programme. Support for them remains insufficient
- Funding for a comprehensive victim survey is yet to be secured.
- **We call upon any well wishers to come on board to support Zimbabwe achieve her vision of being mine free by 2025.**



12




## OUTLOOK PERIOD




➤ Zimbabwe submitted its 2018 Article 7 Report together with the revised work plan for the current extension period .

➤ These targets can only be met if sustainable funding is secured. **This therefore calls for assistance from the international community and the donor world for the country's vision to materialise..**

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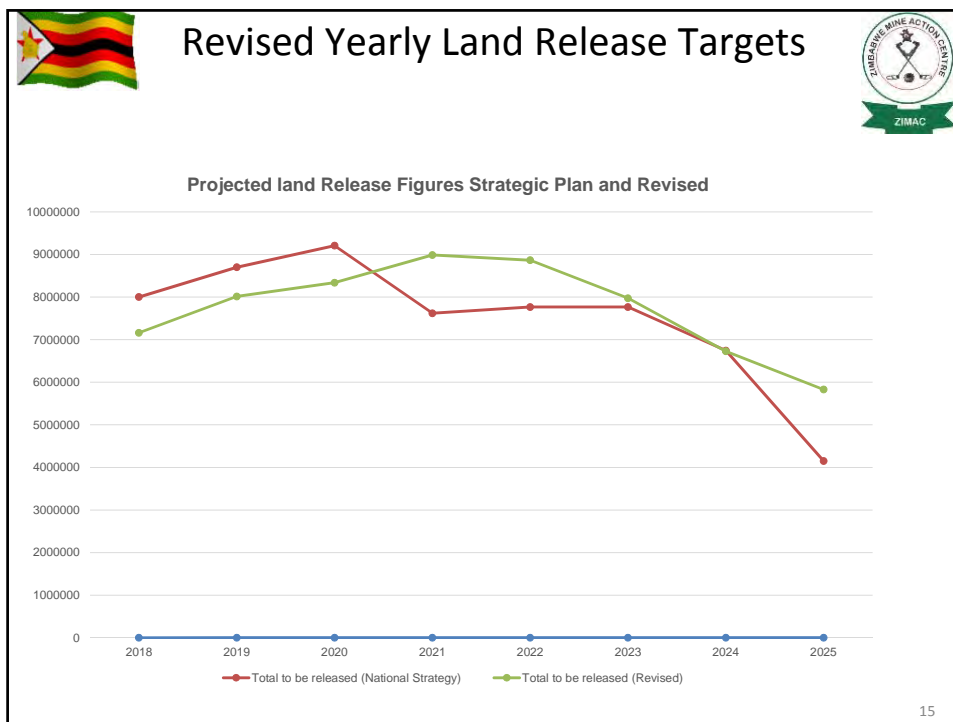


## Revised Yearly Land Release Targets



- The changes are not affecting the 2025 deadline

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15

**Revised Yearly funding requirement**

Organisation	Year									Total (USD)
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	
(a)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(p)	
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16





## CONCLUSION



The support by the donor world through the international operators partnering Zimbabwe is highly appreciated. It is our wish that such support is increased and sustained up to 2025.



**TOGETHER WE SHALL MAKE ZIMBABWE AND THE WORLD AT  
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