

**ZIMBABWE’S UPDATE TO THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF STATES PARTIES IN GENEVA 22-24  
MAY 2019**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Chair, your excellencies, distinguished delegates, let me take this opportunity to give you an update on Zimbabwe’s Article 5 Implementation.

Zimbabwe was granted an eight-year (2018-2025) during the 16MSP. At the time of the 16MSP, Zimbabwe’s remaining contamination was **66 139 289m<sup>2</sup>** as shown on the table below:

*Zimbabwe’s known and suspected mined areas and accomplishments as at the 16MSP.*

<u>Mined Area location</u>	<u>Number of Sectors/tasks known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as at Jan 2016</u>	<u>Total area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as at Jan 2016 (Square metres)</u>	<u>Amount of area cleared during the year 2016 (square metres)</u>	<u>Amount of area reduced during the year 2016 (square metres)</u>	<u>Amount of area cancelled during the year 2016 (square metres)</u>	<u>Total area addressed during the year 2016 (square metres)</u>	<u>Number of areas remaining to be addressed (ie. at the end of the year 2016)</u>	<u>Total area remaining to be addressed (ie. at the end of the year 2016)</u>
Musengezi to Rwenya	182	27 871 733	1 027 704	1 127 597	0	2 155 301	151	25 716 432
Sango Border Post to Crooks corner	02	26 281 122	131 995	1 675 391	0	1 807 386	02	24 473 736
Rusitu to Muzite Mission	35	8 702 023	0	0	0	0	35	8 702 023
Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill	25	8 070 782	511 616	376 068	0	887 684	23	7 183 098
Lusulu	01	56 000	0	0	0	0	01	56 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>70 981 660</b>	<b>1 671 315</b>	<b>3 179 056</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4 850 371</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>66 131 289</b>

## PROGRESS TO DATE

2. There has been a lot of progress on Zimbabwe's Article 5 Implementation. As at 31 December 2018 the remaining contamination was **52 637 535m<sup>2</sup>** as shown on the table.

<b>Minefield</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Musengezi to Mazowe (HALO)	1'523'777	1'371'165	1'371'165	1'371'165	1'371'165	1'371'165	1'371'165	<b>9'750'767</b>
Mazowe to Rwenya River (MAG)	1'200'059	1'400'000	1'600'000	1'700'000	1'750'000	1'740'000	2'000'978	<b>11'391'037</b>
<sup>4</sup> Crooks Corner to Sango Border(Reinforced Ploushare) (NMC)	2'700'000	2'500'000	2'100'000	2'100'000	2'100'000	831'322		<b>12'331'322</b>
Crooks Corner to Sango Border (Cordon Sanitaire) (APOPO)	750'000	900'000	950'000	950'000	950'000	1'500'050	1'195'988	<b>7'196'038</b>
Rusitu to Muzite Mission (NPA)	1'000'000	1'100'000	1'100'000	1'100'000	1'500'000	1'411'716		<b>7'211'716</b>
Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill (NPA)	1'003'652	1'013'652	1'013'652	1'041'346	628'353			<b>4,700,655</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8'233'488</b>	<b>8'284'817</b>	<b>8'134'817</b>	<b>8'262'511</b>	<b>8'299'518</b>	<b>6'854'253</b>	<b>4'568'131</b>	<b>52'637'535</b>

There was a vast increase on the rate of clearance during the 2018 demining calendar year with the NMCU and HALO Trust surpassing their set targets by 200%. While NPA and MAG did exceptionally well. If the 2018 pace is anything to go by, then the 2025 is very achievable.

### **CAPACITY BUILDING**

3. While there has been positives in capacity building in 2018 & 2019 by the NMCU and all the three operational international demining organisations namely HALO Trust, NPA and MAG, there is still more room for expansion by these organisations. We also expect APOPO to come on board.

- a. HALO Trust had 240 deminers in 2018 and increased by two teams in 2019 to bring up to 260 deminers. The mechanical assets became fully operational after approval by Government in 2018. They also intend to add an MMD Sizer to their mechanical assets in June 2019.
- b. NPA had 99 deminers in 2018 and added one team in April 2019 to bring to 109 deminers. Their MDDs became fully operational after approval by Government in 2018.
- c. MAG started operations in December 2017 with one team and increased to three teams in 2018 and further added a fourth team in 2019.
- d. NMCU had 150 deminers increased by three teams to 180 deminers by mid 2018. The added teams are assigned to the resurvey and subsequent demining of the only inland minefield Lusulu in Matebeleland North Province.
- d. APOPO. Yet to commence work.

The added capacity building by the international operators and indeed the commencement of work by APOPO would increase the pace making the 2025 dream come true for Zimbabwe.

### **LAND RELEASE**

ZIMAC had earmarked handing over swathes of land cleared by HALO trust and NPA. This was set to be in March and April. Unfortunately, disaster befell the country with Cyclone Idai which caused havoc on the Eastern part of the country. Hence all the country's efforts were directed towards the livelihood of the Cyclone survivors, resuscitation of infrastructure, search and rescue of the missing persons.

### **RELOCATION OF ZIMAC**

The relocation of ZIMAC has been outstanding for too long. In principle ZIMAC has been relocated after the Government approval in 2018. The Director is now responsible for Mine Action activities only.

## **RESOURCE MOBILISATION STRATEGY**

In December 2018, all mine action stakeholders in Zimbabwe with assistance from GICHD held a workshop in Harare to come up with a draft Resource Mobilisation Strategy. The draft copy is now at the finalisation stage. We hope to have the document approved and launched before the 4<sup>th</sup> Review Conference.

## **MRE**

The national and international operators conduct MRE and Community Liaison within their areas of operation. This has seen a remarkable behaviour change within communities living adjacent to minefields. While there has been behaviour change by communities, cattle continue to be hit by mines in some areas. The reason being, cattle are herded when there are crops in the fields. Once harvesting is over, there is no herding of cattle as such they stray into the minefields where there are good grazing land.

## **MONITORING THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN**

Zimbabwe is keeping track of the National Strategic Plan and making positive adjustments where possible. These adjustments will be reported yearly through the Article 7 reports. It is pleasing to note that even though there has been adjustments and organisations failing to start as had been planned, the main goal remains achievable and within reach.



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BY

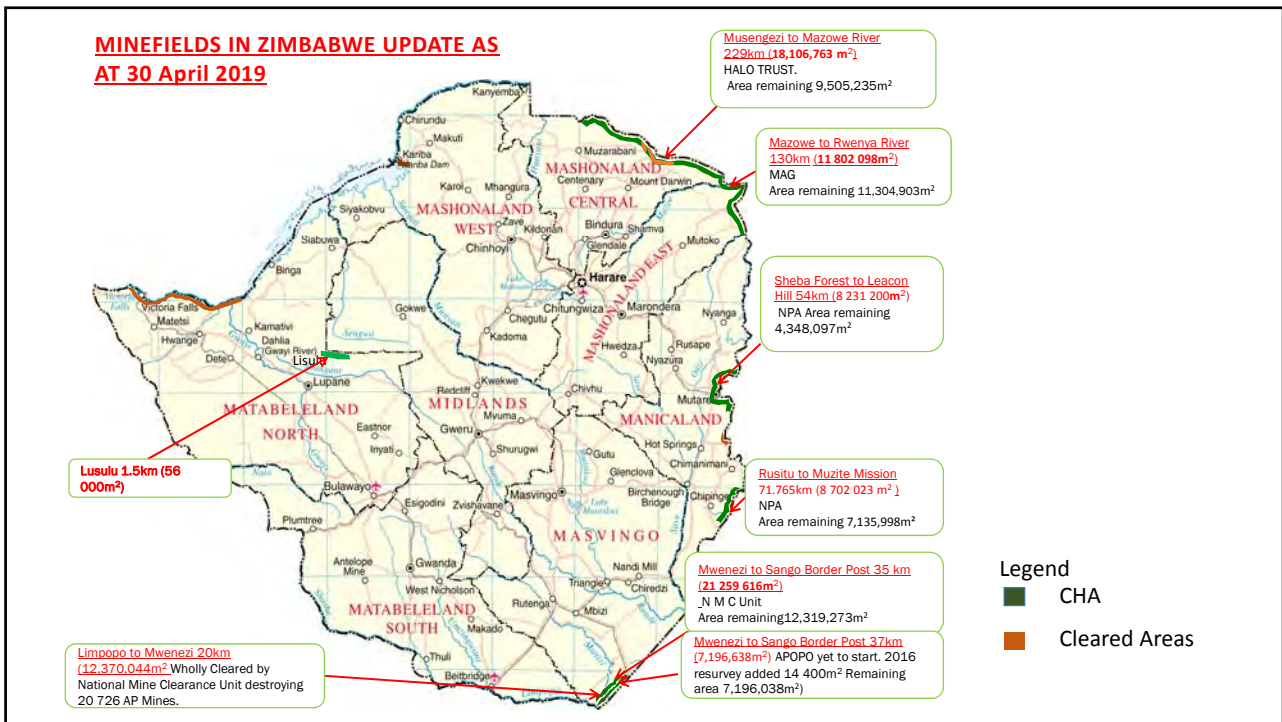
COL MB NCUBE

DIRECTOR ZIMBABWE MINE ACTION CENTRE

### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

- **Current deadline: 31 December 2025**

Contamination in total (at entry into force or at the time of submission of our State's last extension request.)	07 areas 66 131 289 m <sup>2</sup>
Progress made upto <b>17MSP</b> - Remaining contamination as at 31 December 2018 :	14 265 544 m <sup>2</sup> 52 637 535 m <sup>2</sup>
<b><u>Jan – April 2019 Progress is as follows:</u></b>	
a. Area Cancelled through Non-Technical Survey	5 869 m <sup>2</sup>
b. Area Reduced through Technical Survey	461 375 m <sup>2</sup>
c. Area Released through Clearance	602 759m <sup>2</sup>
d. Total Area Released	1 070 003 m <sup>2</sup>
e. AP Mines destroyed	7 198
f. UXO	01
<b>Additional area through Re-Surveys</b>	<b>298 012 m<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Remaining challenge as at 30 April 2019</b>	<b>51 865 544 m<sup>2</sup></b>



## Plan / Timeline

Our future plans and projections are well detailed on the Revised Work Plan for 2019-2025.

Year	Number of Areas	Amount of Area
2019	7	8 233 488 m <sup>2</sup>
2020	7	8 284 817 m <sup>2</sup>
2021	7	8 134 817 m <sup>2</sup>
2022	7	8 262 511 m <sup>2</sup>
2023	7	8 299 518 m <sup>2</sup>
2024	6	6 853 253 m <sup>2</sup>
2025	4	4 568 131 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>52 637 535 m<sup>2</sup></b>

## **CHALLENGES AND NEEDS**

### **Challenges**

#### **a. Funding**

So far we appreciate the donor funding to our international demining partners namely HALO Trust, NPA and MAG although there is still more room for increased funding to these organisations.

The current assured funding for these organisations combined goes up to 2021. We are hopeful that the current donors will continue funding up to 2025 and others will also come on board.

When we submitted our extension request, we were hopeful that APOPO will commence work by 2017 or 2018 but up to now they have not yet started due to financial challenges. We remain hopeful that they will secure funding in 2019 and commence work.

Government funding for the NMCU is limited due to the current economic challenges the country is facing. I am 100% sure that when the economy improves, the Government will increase funding to the NMCU operations. For now Government needs assistance.

#### **b. Climate Change and Weather Patterns**

In March 2019, Zimbabwe experienced the worst disaster never experienced before. The Cyclone Idai which ravaged the Eastern part of the country affected NPA operations on that part of the country. There was reduced activity on Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill minefield. On the other end, there was stoppage of work for some weeks on the Rusitu to Muzite Mission minefield where the Cyclone hit most.

The South Eastern part of the country where the NMCU is operating has erratic weather patterns. The weather changes anytime of the year but generally in winter, it gets very cold and during the rain season, the roads and ground become slippery and also characterised by very strong winds that blow away tents. Some slippery roads are also in the NPA operational area.

#### **c. Other Technical Challenges**

The minefields in Zimbabwe were laid between 1976-1979 as such there has been increased overgrowth of vegetation in the minefields and some mines are now deeply buried. This slows the pace of demining as the deminers spend time clearing the overgrowth, detecting, excavating and destroying the mines.

The above surface mines (ploughshare) were detonated by animals or veld fires action. On detonation the ploughshare spreads metal fragments on the minefields as such takes long for deminers to deal with both metal fragments and the actual mines.

### **Needs for Completion of Article 5 Implementation**

#### **a. Funding**

Zimbabwe needs one hundred and nine million seven hundred thousand dollars (US\$109 700 000-00) to achieve her goal of being a mine free country by 2025. The funding requirements is for all the four organisations accredited to Zimbabwe (APOPO, HALO Trust, MAG, NPA) and the NMCU.

#### **b. Equipment**

The NMCU requires additional equipment in the form of detectors. These are not manufactured in the country but imported. As earlier alluded to, Government has limitations due to economic challenges. Since the NMCU started the operations they have and are still using the Valon detector.

***Regardless of the above challenges we remain optimistic that our goal of 2025 mine free Zimbabwe is achievable.***



I thank you.