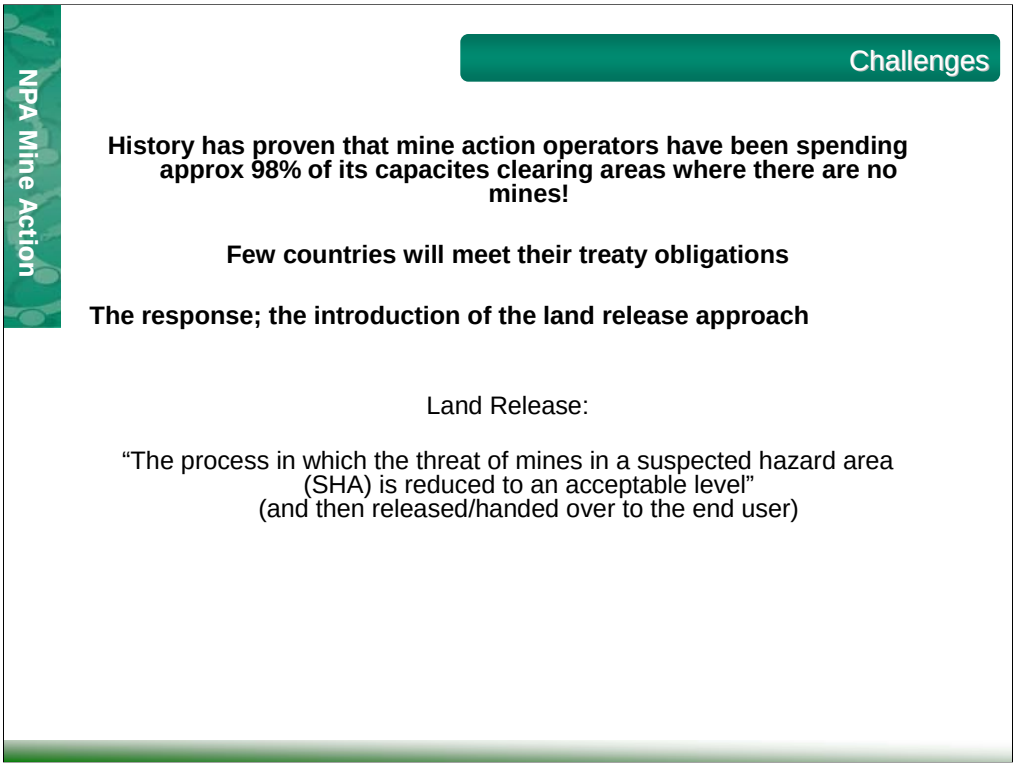
Norwegian People's Aid

The Land Release Concept

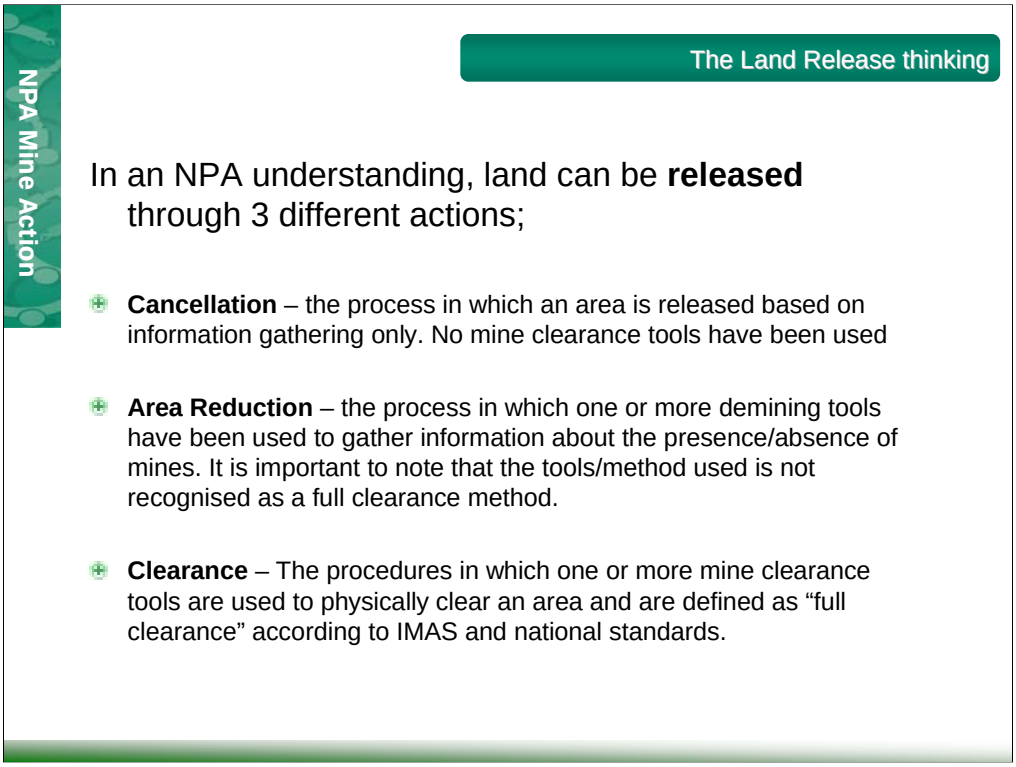
"A more cost efficient approach to mine action"

- **Introduction to Land Release**
- **A practical example from Jordan**

Geneva April 2007



If we are to fulfil the obligation of the Ottawa Treaty or free the world of landmine within reasonability time we need to dramatically increase the output. We can certainly not expect more money set aside for mine action and we should not expect new technology that can solve this issue- We need to start to work smarter with what we have got and we have to find more a more sustainable approach than current mode of operandi.



The utilisation of an area released by NPA depends on the users confident in the NPA approach. Currently the confident is reach by doing a 100 % clearance of the entire SHA. This current practice of clearance is very costly and slow, and the mine action industry has recognised the need to change the approach if we want to rid the world of mines within a reasonable timeframe.

In practice, this implies that NPA must release land through other means than only traditional clearance without jeopardising the quality of the work we do. NPA has developed a concept which will allow a structured and quantified assessment of the presence or absence of threats[1] on roads and verges and a cumulative reduction of potential risk to tolerable levels using a minimum of resources

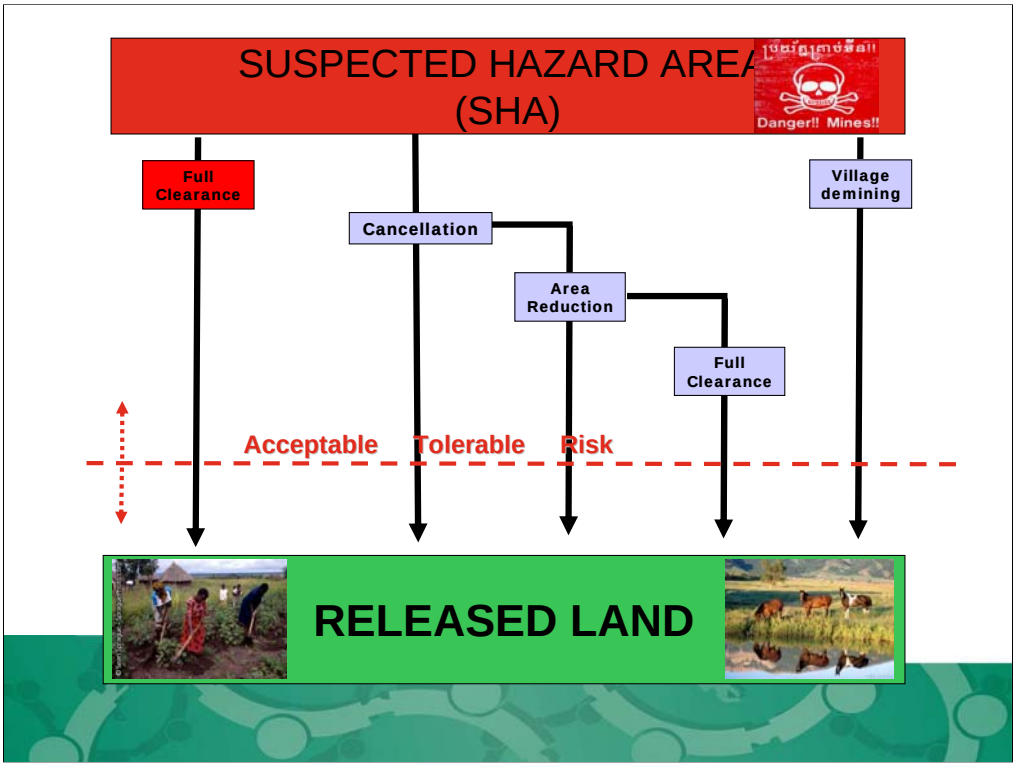
[1] A threat in this context, is either mines, UXO or small munitions

The reason for introducing a land release thinking , is that land can be released much faster and with the use of a minimum of resources.

The preferred action should be **Cancellation** – the process in which an area is released based on information gathering only. No mine clearance tools have been used.

The second approach should through area **Reduction** – the process in which one or more demining tools have been used to gather information about the presence/absence of mines. The method is used to increase your confident that there is no mine threat in the area. It is important to note that the tools/method used is not recognised as a full clearance method.

Your last option should be **Clearance** – The procedures in which one or more mine clearance tools are used to physically clear an area and are defined as "full clearance" according to IMAS and national standards. A Full clearance drill should only be used where and when the present of mines are confirmed.



Up on till now full clearance have been the only options to release a piece of land. With the introduction and acceptance of the land release and the risk management thinking land can be released through a number of different actions.

This thinking opens up for accepting village demining as a acceptable approach!!

NPA Mine Action

POTENTIAL BENIFIT OF A LAND RELEASE APROACH

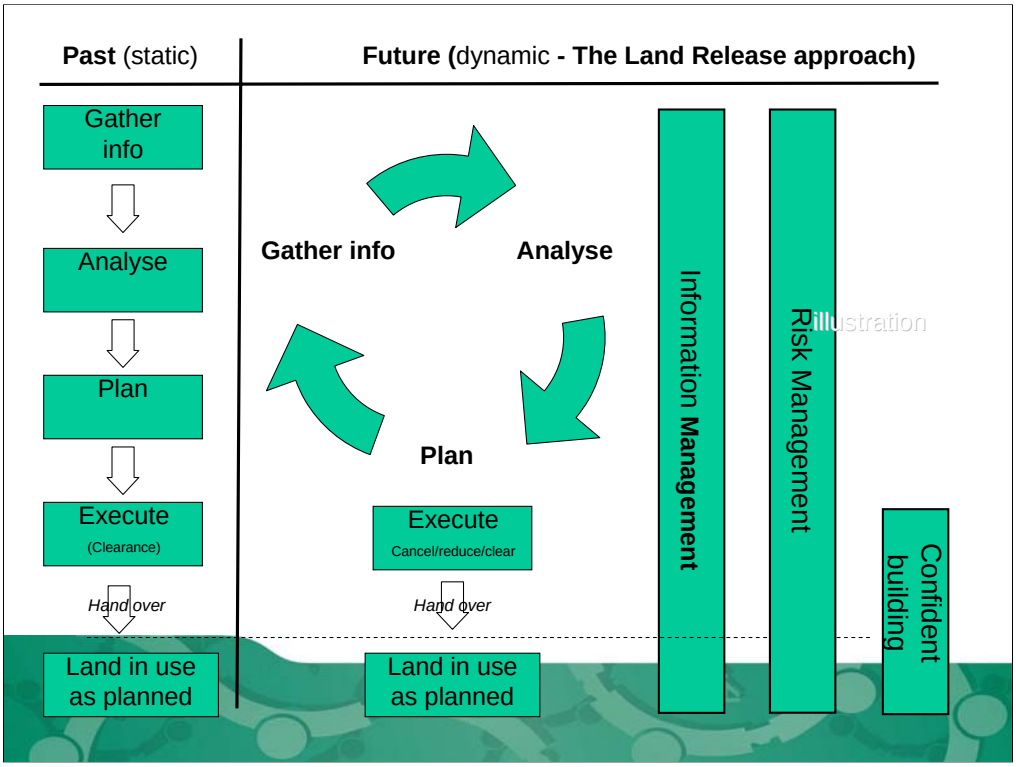
Past	Future		
Method	**Method**	**Time**	**Cost**
100 % clearance	50 % cancellation	1 %	0,1 %
	40 % Area reduction	40-70 %	50%
	10 % clearance	100 %	100 %

The introduction of a Land release approach has a tremendous time and cost saving potential (far greater than for example any dual sensor technology can provide)

NPA Mine Action

LAND RELEASE (LR) – HOW HAS IT CHANGED MINE ACTION

- It introduces a risk management thinking to mine action and an acceptance of residual risk.
- A Land Release thinking is a mental shift. Mine Action is not only about clearance, but now more about information gathering.
- Increased need for small technical and highly skilled survey teams (limited need for large manual capacities)
- Tools that previously had limited applications because they were not considered a clearance tool (did not find all the mines), are now a valuable asset for Area Reduction (Large loop, Casspirs etc)


Past (static)
Future (dynamic - The Land Release approach)
Gather info
Analyse
Plan
Execute
(Clearance)
Hand over
Land in use as planned
Gather info
Analyse
Plan
Execute
Cancel/reduce/clear
Hand over
Land in use as planned
Information Management
Risk Management
Confident building
illustration

NPA Mine Action

LAND RELEASE – Challenges

- The land release concept must be practical, reliable and easy to understand.
- The land release concept must be in accordance with IMAS and national standards/legislations
- The end user and other stakeholders needs to have confident in the methodology
- Accident will happen. Are we confident enough to the approach to accept it?

For the Land release concept to be a success it requires a strong and competent National Mine Action Centre that understand/approve/QA the approach and are ulitmately willing to take the responsibility if an accident happens