



THE ALBANIAN MINE ACTION PROGRAMME

“ALBANIA FREE FROM THE EFFECT OF MINES AND UXO BY 2006”

Presented by
Arben Braha
AMAE Director

MINE CONTAMINATED AREAS


The threat emanated from the Kosovo conflict; the 1999 general survey identified:

- 120 km in northeast Albania (border with Kosova)
- 102 contaminated areas
- 15,250,000 m²


It includes:

- AP and AT mines laid by FYR forces
- UXO and sub-munitions, including NATO strikes

No records of minefields available to Albania



Albania - General Overview of Mine/UXO Contamination





MINE CONTAMINATION IMPACT



View across the border with Kosovo

Socio – economic impact

Land pressure in 39 directly affected villages is aggravated by 75% mountainous terrain and mines.

34 people killed and 238 injured from mines/UXO since 1999

Impact on the environment and infrastructure.

Some water sources in NE Albania are still blocked by mined areas.

Prime land for eco-tourism development is a wasteland.

Impact on border infrastructure.

Difficult patrolling of the Albania/Kosovo border due to the mines contamination.

This is a weak point regarding integrated border management in South East Europe



ALBANIAN RESPONSE



The DMoD at the First Review Conference of Ottawa Convention



AAF support to MA

- General Survey and marking by indicating the total area contaminated
- Surface clearance, which drastically reduced civilian casualties
- Ratification of all relevant international treaties: Ottawa Treaty and CCW
- Establishment of a national humanitarian mine action structure: AMAC and AMAE
- Adoption of international humanitarian mine action standards
- Material and in kind support from the Albanian Government from 1998 to 2004 to the MA and EOD programmes totals US\$1,583,600
- In 2005 support with MEDEVAC service by helicopter and provision of explosive materials for the clearance operations.





ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL STRUCTURES

AMAC – Albanian Mine Action Committee

- Provide the national focus of mine action.
- Seek donor funding and assistance to the de-mining programme.
- Prioritise de-mining efforts in Albania.
- Sensitise the international community to the mines threat in Albania.

AMAE – Albanian Mine Action Executive

- Implement the mine action programme under direction of the AMAC
- Assisting AMAC with policy, strategy, legal structure and priorities of Mine Action
- Coordinate and monitor Mine Action in Albania
- Facilitate National Mine Action Planning
- Resource Mobilization



ALBANIA AND THE OTTAWA TREATY



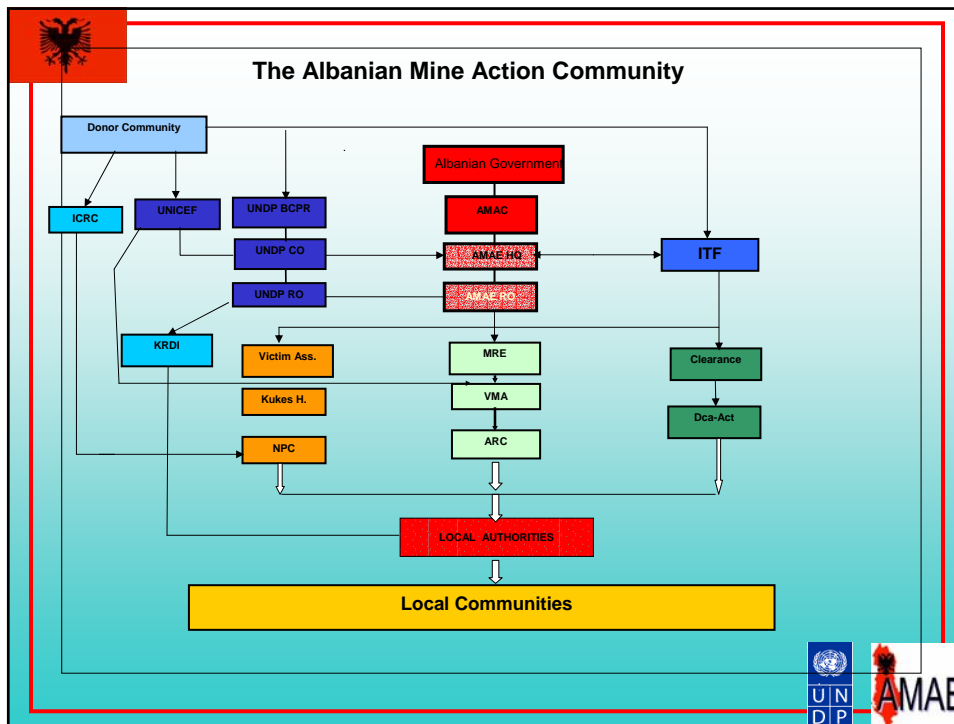
Disassembling fiber AP mines



APM bodies used for manhole covers

- Albania ratified the Ottawa Treaty on 29 February 2000.
- The APM Stockpile Destruction Project project was implemented under the NATO PFP Trust Fund with Canada as major donor.
- Demilitarisation was based on reverse assembly and recycling was a major aspect of the project.
- Last APM of 1,683,860, was demilitarized on 4 April 2002
- - 2 years ahead of obligatory period in terms of Ottawa Treaty.





NATIONAL STRATEGY

Programme Goals :

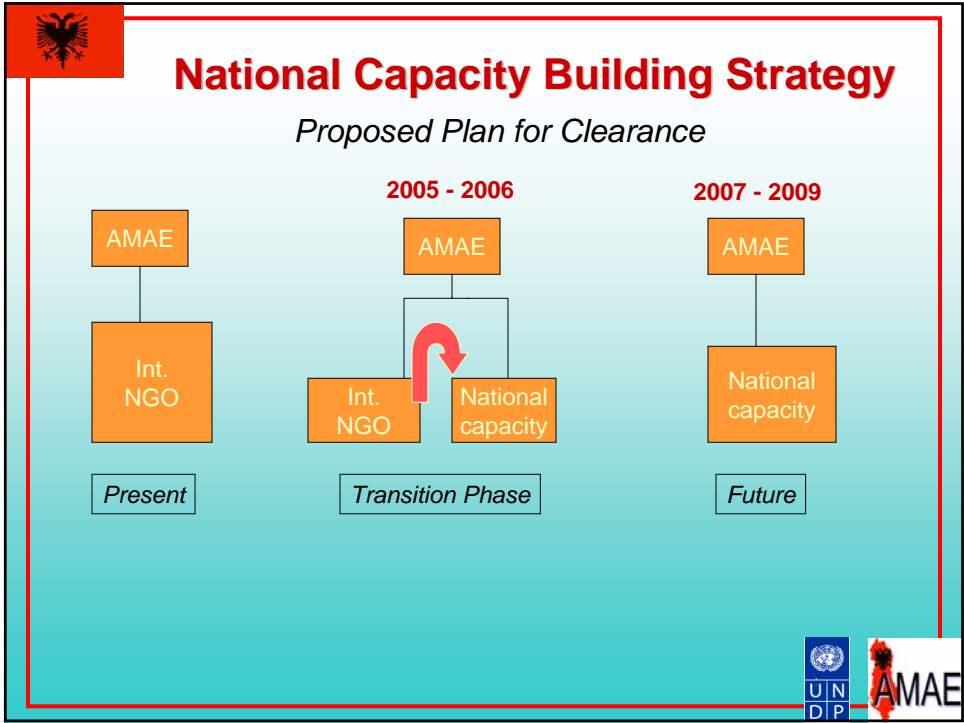
- Albania free from the effect of mines and UXO by 2006 where all high and medium impact areas are cleared.
- Albania is free from mines and UXO's by 2009 where all LOW impact areas are cleared by a local capacity

Key objectives:

- Conduct Mine Action in Albania with a National Capacity and as little International Support as needed
- Conduct Mine Action in Albania in an integrated manner with MRE and Victim Assistance
- Conduct Mine Action in Albania in a coordinated approach with long term development projects

National Mine Action Planning Workshop in Tirana

Logos for UNDP and AMAE are visible in the bottom right corner.



Mine Clearance Progress

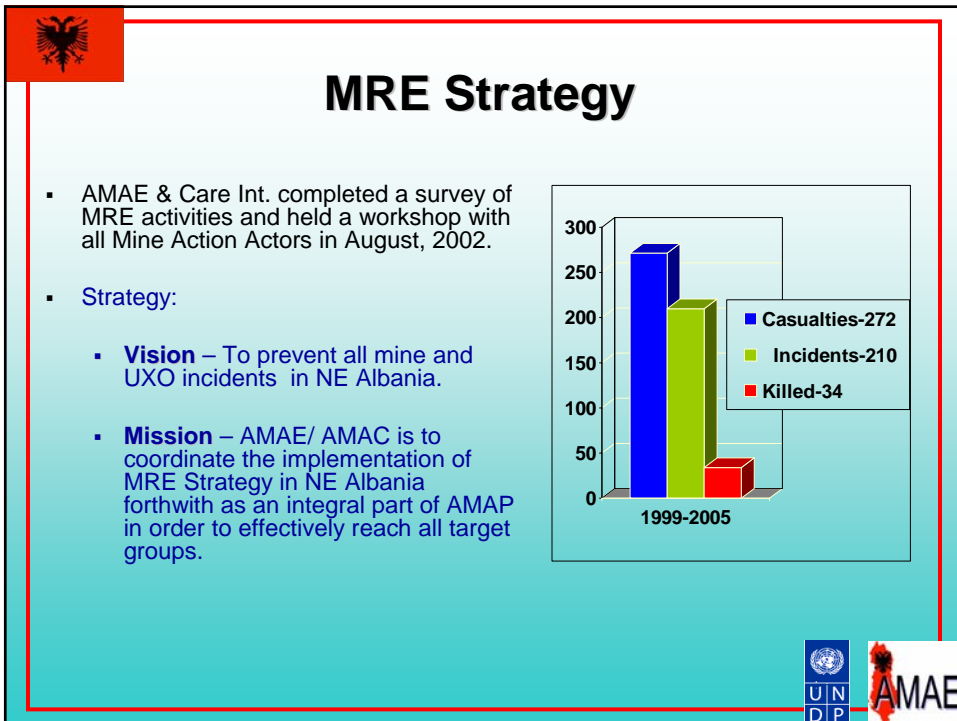
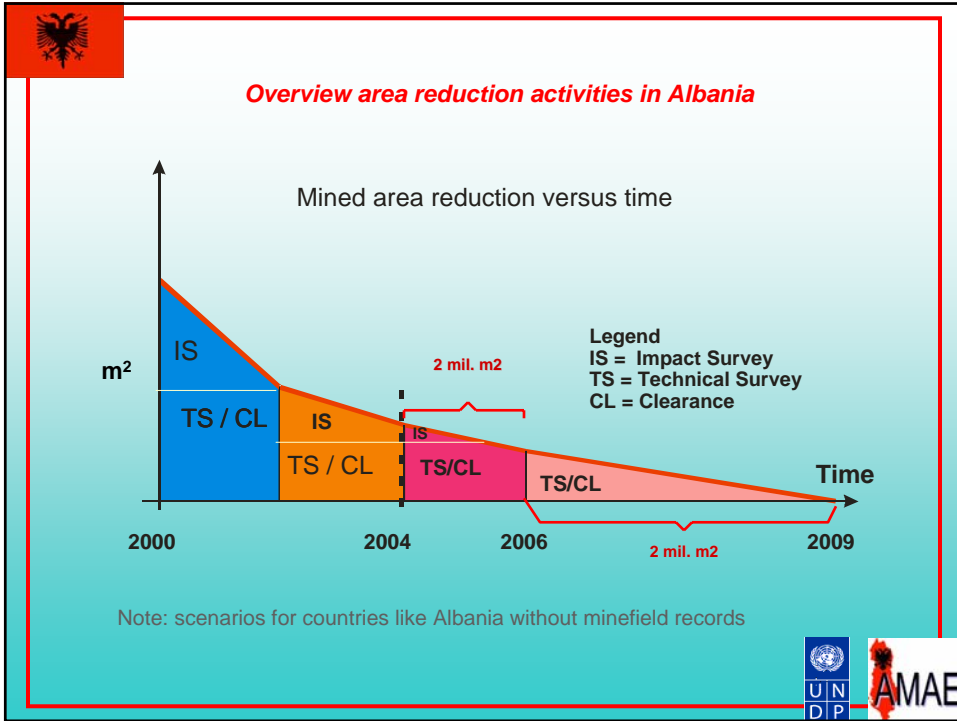


MDD working in mine clearance in Albania



DCA woman deminer working in Albania

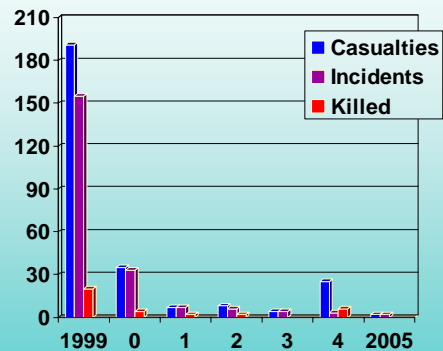
- Since 1999, about **11 million m²** of previously contaminated land has been released through surveys and clearance.
- Various international demining organizations have been working in Albania since 1999 including Help, RONCO, FSD, DCA-Act.
- A Technical Survey and Clearance Project funded by EC is being implemented in the field by DCA-Act through UNDP.
- Another mine clearance project funded by USA, Germany, Denmark is being implemented by DCA through ITF.
- Total demining assets of DCA-Act in 2005 being the only demining operator in country: 10 manual teams, 4 BAC teams, 2 MDD teams and 1 IS team with a total of 162 local demining operators.





MRE Activities


- MRE is being carried out in 39 affected villages (direct presentations, MRE play and awareness materials)
- Local NGO-s VMA and ARC: conducting MRE in the contaminated villages to discourage life-threatening activities
- 39 Community Based Entities (Anti-Mine Committees) active in all mine affected areas
- Definition of "Mine / Weapons Awareness" subjects in the school curriculum in collaboration with UNICEF and the Albanian Ministry of Education












Funding required for 2005




Components	Total budget 2005 (USD)	Shortfall
Coordination and monitoring	500,000	0
Clearance operations	3,520,000	350,000
Mine Risk Education	159,290	0
Victim Assistance	980,000	255,000





DONORS

 Canadian Government	 Luxembourg
 Czech Republic	 Switzerland
 Denmark	 UNDP
 European Union	 UNICEF
 Federal Republic of Germany	 United Kingdom
 International Trust Fund of Slovenia	 US State Department
 ICRC	


Considerations for SEEMACC cooperation

- Promoting the Initiative for a “Mine Free Region by 2009” launched in Nairobi Summit.
- Exchange of expertise among SEEMACC member countries
- Use of common Standing Operation Procedures
- Use of Regional Facilities for Accreditation (as for MDD-s)






General Mine Action Objectives 2005

- National Mine Action Plan implemented with the involvement of all stakeholders of the Albanian Mine Action Programme
- Another 1million m2 of mine and UXO contaminated land released in 2005
- Promote mainstreaming of mine action in development through connection with long term development initiatives
- Mine Risk Education covering most affected groups in order to maintain a “Zero Victims” target.
- Improve healthcare and social services and continue to implement income generating activities to ensure the physical, social, and economic reintegration of the 238 landmine/UXO survivors



CONCLUSIONS



Mine affected districts in NE Albania

- There is still a significant mines and UXO threat in Albania, but also an increased awareness and commitment to solve the problem.
- A national capacity will be consolidated in order to manage the remaining mine problem in the country after 2006.
- A sustainable victim assistance capacity will be established by 2006.
- The Albanian Mine Action Programme strategic goals to declare Albania mine safe by 2006 and mine free by 2009 are still achievable given continuous funding and support.

