

GOVERNMENT OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

ARTICLE 7 REPORT - 1 JANUARY 2004 to 31 DECEMBER 2017

**CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION
AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Introduction

The Solomon Islands joined the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention on 1 July 1999. On 11 February 2004, the Government of the Solomon Islands submitted its first Article 7 report, covering the period 1 July 1999 to 31 December 2003. Due to a range of internal difficulties, the Government has not been in a position to provide any further reports until now. This current Article 7 report therefore covers the period 1 January 2004 until 31 December 2017. Within this period, accurate records regarding the disposal of unexploded ordnance have only been kept since 2011.

Background

The Government of the Solomon Islands has never produced, used, stockpiled or transferred anti-personnel landmines, as indicated in the first Article 7 report. There are no known areas that contain or are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines under the jurisdiction or control of the Solomon Islands. However, to this day, explosive remnants from World War II continue to be discovered in the Solomon Islands. Between 1 August 2011 and 31 December 2017, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) has found and destroyed 30,000 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO), including 79 anti-personnel mines, which were either abandoned, stockpiled mines or random, singularly emplaced mines found during RSIPF EOD response tasks.

In the event that previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines or randomly emplaced mines are discovered after the date of this report, the Solomon Islands will report such anti-personnel mines in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and share such information through any other informal means, such as the Intersessional meetings. The Solomon Islands will destroy or ensure the destruction of these stockpiled anti-personnel mines as a matter of urgent priority, making its need for assistance known to other States Parties, as appropriate.

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Form A. National Implementation measures:

No specific national implementation measures have yet been taken. However, during 2017 the Government of the Solomon Islands held a series of workshops with the aim of better regulating the

UXO sector. As a result of these workshops, it has been agreed to draft a new 'UXO Act' and it is intended that this UXO Act will include the provisions necessary for the Solomon Islands to be compliant with the Convention. The Government has also established an inter-ministerial 'UXO Coordination Committee' and is developing a UXO Policy, UXO Action Plan and National UXO Standards. This work will continue throughout 2018 and the progress will be reported in due course.

At the operational level, the 14 person RSIPF EOD team has the sole responsibility for responding to UXO call-outs from civilians and for the removal and/or destruction of UXO found.

Form B. Stockpiled anti-personnel mines:

Not applicable

Form C. Location of mined areas:

There are no areas that contain or are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines under the jurisdiction or control of the Solomon Islands

Form D. Anti-personnel mines retained for training:

Not applicable

Form E. Status of programs for conversion or de-commissioning of anti-personnel mines:

Not applicable

Form F. Status of programs for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines:

Not applicable.

Form G. Anti-personnel mines destroyed after entry into force:

Not applicable.

Form H. Technical characteristics of each type of mined produced/owned or possessed:

Not applicable.

Form I. Measures to provide warning to the population:

Since 1 August 2011, the RSIPF EOD team has provided general safety messages about the dangers of World War II UXO to school children and villagers, on an as-required basis.

Form J. Other relevant matters:

As mentioned previously, there are no areas that contain or are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines under the jurisdiction or control of the Solomon Islands. However, to this day, explosive remnants of US or Japanese origin from World War II continue to be discovered in the Solomon Islands. The EOD team of the RSIPF are the only organization allowed to respond to UXO callouts and to move items of UXO or destroy them in situ. In 2011, the Golden West Humanitarian Foundation received a grant from the United States to provide training and technical support to the RSIPF EOD team. Since that time accurate records have been kept of all the items of UXO found and destroyed by the RSIPF EOD team.

Between 2011 and 2017, the EOD team of the RSIPF has found and destroyed 30,000 items of unexploded ordnance (see Chart 1), including a total of 79 anti-personnel mines, which were either abandoned, stockpiled mines or random, singularly emplaced mines retrieved through RSIPF EOD response tasks. Two anti-tank mines have also been found. Table 1 below shows the details of the anti-personnel mines that have been found during the period 1 August 2011 until 31 December 2017. All the mines found had deteriorated badly and were inoperable. The 74 abandoned, stockpiled mines that were that were found in the Russell Islands during the joint foreign naval exercise, Operation Render Safe 2013, were destroyed explosively by the relevant military team. The five randomly emplaced mines located during response tasks by the RSIPF EOD team were deemed safe to move, transported to EOD team base at Hell's Point and explosively destroyed as part of a 'bag shot', or routine bulk demolition of recovered UXO.

End.

Chart 1. UXO Located and Destroyed in the Solomon Islands between 1 August 2011 and 31 December 2017



RSIPF EOD UXO Statistics

**Located and Destroyed
Aug 2011 to Dec 2017: 32,854 Items**

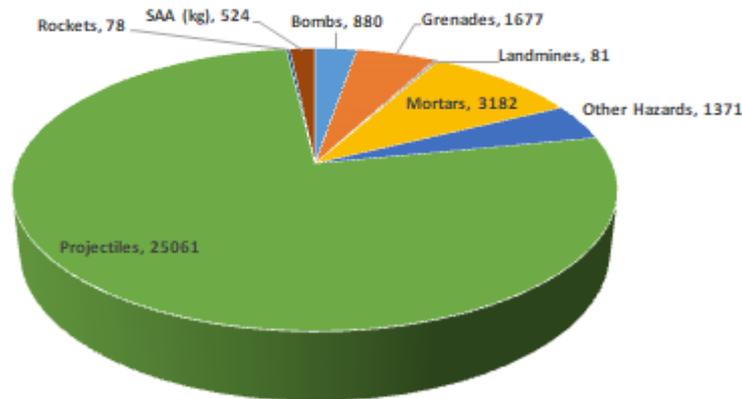


Table 1. Anti-Personnel Landmines found and destroyed in the Solomon Islands during the period 2011 to 2017

Date	Quantity		Origin	Type	Location
13-Nov-13	54	each	US	M2 APERS	Russell Sifola
13-Nov-13	8	each	US	M2 APERS	Russell Block 9
13-Nov-13	2	each	US	M2 APERS	Russell Sharks Point
27-Nov-13	10	each	US	M2 APERS	Russell Islands, Sifolo
10-Nov-12	1	each	US	M2 APERS	Public
4-Oct-11	1	each	US	M2 APERS	KG Technical School
18/Sep/14	1	each	US	M2A4 Anti Pers	Hells Point
17-Oct-12	1	each	US	M2 APERS	Hells Point
24-Dec-12	1	each	US	M2 APERS	Hells Point

Sources:

Royal Solomon Islands Police Force EOD team

Golden West Humanitarian Foundation

28 March 2018