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President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention

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His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan
Meeting of the State Parties

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According to Article 5 in the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, Denmark hereby applies for an extension of the deadline for completing the release of the remaining area with suspected hazardous anti-personel mines on the peninsular with the name of Skallingen.

99 % of the estimated 1.4 million landmines deployed during the Second World War in Denmark have been removed. The balance left is located on Skallingen, a peninsular in southwest Jutland on the North Sea coast. According to information obtained from maps and other records, the mines left were laid in a random distribution and consisted of several types, including both anti-tank and anti- personel mines.

The mines remaining are located in dunes, beach, and marsh habitat. Approximately 10 % of the total area of Skallingen has been mine affected. The area is a very dynamic environment with fluctuations in ground levels over time due to the movement of the dunes. Due to the environment of very high value, Skallingen is protected by several international directives and conventions including the RAMSAR environmental convention.

Skallingen is not inhabited and the most common usage of the area is for grassing and tourism. The mine-affected area has primarily been used for grassing and is now fenced off due to suspicion of hazardous anti-personel mines. No incidents associated with the mines on Skallingen have officially been recorded since 1946.

Danish authorities have researched and monitored the mine-affected areas and the functionality of the mines.

During the summer of 2005, an eight kilometre long IMAS compliant fence was erected to replace and compliment an old fence and sign postings. A total of approximately 295 hectares was fenced off from the public. This includes a buffer zone due to the inconsistency in the available mapping information. Of



the approximately 295 hectares, 90 hectares is beach area which can be mine polluted due to the eroding coastline, if the beach borders the minefield.

In November 2005 Denmark concluded a national political agreement in Danish Parliament regarding Skallingen with a view to the fiscal bill for 2006.

At the same time the suspected mine polluted area at Skallingen was divided into three smaller areas. Area 1 was cleared for mines and released in 2006. Area 2 is in progress and the area is supposed to be cleared for mines and released during late 2008.

The decisions on the time and the method for the potential clearing of area 3 were postponed due to the uncertainty of the character of the area. The quality of the existing information of this area is not sufficient to confirm to which extent the area is potentially infected. At the same time the environment of the area 3 is extremely sensitive and only a limited admission to the area is allowed. As well international preservations as the declaration of RAMSAR are committed to the area.

It follows from the political agreement from autumn 2005 that timing and method for the release of area 3 will be decided once areas 1 and 2 have been cleared. The decision will be founded on the experience from the clearance of areas 1 and 2 and on further investigations of the remaining area including, the condition of the mines and the environmental influence in the area.

The national political agreement in 2005 allocated a total of 86 million DKK (approximately 16 million US Dollars) for the clearing of mines in the dune and beach areas on Skallingen. During 2006 a further 32 million DKK (approx. 6 million US Dollars) were allocated.

The Danish Coastal Authority was given the task of clearing the landmines. A project organisation has been established, and it was decided to execute the de-mining through a competitive international tendering process. Extensive historic research, surveying, mapping, technology review, and test trials were conducted and have formed the basis for the tendering process.

It was decided that part of the area was to be released to the public during mid 2006 and three areas were identified as giving the biggest net value to the public upon release. These three areas were released to the public as planned.

A British company was awarded the turn key contract for 2006 after a competitive web- based bidding process. Initially 18 companies applied for prequalification and 5 were chosen to submit competitive proposals and bids.

A total area of approximately 18.5 hectares was cleared and released in 2006. By the end of 2006 a large number of mines and mine components have been detected, removed or detonated. The majority of the findings have been



rendered non-functional because of environmental destruction of the mines. A total of 67 potentially dangerous mines and mine components were found during this first phase with the majority being found in the dunes.

A new tender process for mine clearance in 2007 – 08 was initiated late in 2006 and followed the same procedure as for the previous tender. The total area to be cleared is 47,5 hectares. A contract for the mine clearance was concluded in March 2007, with work commenced in April 2007. The contract for 2007 – 08 was given to a Danish consortium. This tender process did draw extensively on the experiences from 2006 and benefited greatly from it.

By the end of October 2007, 105 potentially dangerous mines and mine components have been found. The finding depth of the mines varies from surface level to several metres below the present surface. So far, the accumulated clearance figures from phase 1 and 2 are now at a total of 172 potentially dangerous mines and mine components. Since the work began in April 2007 and until end of the year, half of the total area has been cleared. It is therefore expected that the second phase will be concluded as scheduled by the end of 2008.

The risk of causing irreparable damage to the very sensitive nature at South Skallingen calls for the utmost cautiousness when planning the further process towards the full release of the mine affected areas. A survey shall provide basis for area reduction of areas which do not contain hazardous mines.

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Please find enclosed the completed proposed template for assisting state parties in requesting an extension under article 5 of the Ottawa Convention.

Yours sincerely

Jakob Karlshøj

Copenhagen March 27

**MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION
OF THE USE, STOCKPILLING, PRODUCTION
AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL
MINES AND THEIR DESTRUCTION**

APLC/MSP.8/2007/3
27 August 2007

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

**PROPOSED TEMPLATE FOR ASSISTING STATES PARTIES
IN REQUESTING AN EXTENSION UNDER ARTICLE 5**

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Background

Article 5.1 requires each State Party “to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than ten years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party.” Related to this paragraph is the provision in Article 5.3 which states that “if a State Party believes that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines referred to in paragraph 1 within that time period, it may submit a request to a Meeting of the States Parties or a Review Conference for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of such anti-personnel mines, for a period of up to 10 years.” Article 5.4 proceeds to indicate what each request shall contain. The following template has been prepared to assist States Parties for use on a voluntary basis in providing pertinent information in its request for an extension of its deadline.

Summary

The last known mined area from World War II in Denmark is now under clearance in a three area clearance project at the peninsula of Skallingen at the Danish West coast.

Area 1 was conducted in 2006, releasing 19 hectares of beach and dunes. Area 2 was initiated in May 2007 and will be completed at latest by October 2008, releasing another 47 hectares. The remaining third Area covers approximately 120 hectares of sensitive and highly protected nature. This is also the most difficult Area of the release of the Skallingen Suspected Hazard Mine Area in Denmark as it includes wetlands and is covered by specific environmental restrictions.

Denmark will fulfil its obligations in accordance with the Ottawa Convention. A clearance plan and time schedule for Area 3 will be based on the experience of Area 1 and 2, when Area 2 is completed. Furthermore it will be based on further investigations e.g. of the remaining area, the condition of the mines and the environmental influence in the area.

A technical survey will be conducted as soon as possible. It will take place when the environmental authorities have approved the survey plan and funds have been allocated.

Environmental restrictions can influence the time frame of Area 3 significantly. This will need clarification, before a release plan and time schedule can be made.

Form A: The duration of the proposed extension

Date of entry into force	1 March 1999
Date ten years after entry into force	1 March 2009
Proposed end date of extension period	When Area 2 is concluded and the environmental issues mentioned under paragraph B.8. and the conditions of the mines etc. are clarified, a time schedule for Area 3 will be made. By then an end date to the extension will be proposed.

A detailed time table and choice of release method can be made when a more detailed survey has been conducted in the last Area of the Skallingen project. That is also the most difficult Area of the clearance of the mine area in Denmark as it includes wetlands and is covered by specific environmental restrictions. The exact location of contamination is not yet determined, and the area that was fenced off is larger than the actual mined area. Further area cancellation and area reduction methods have to be considered to delineate actual hazard mine areas. Preliminary investigations and finds in the past indicate that most or all remaining mines are ineffective because of the salty, wet environment in the area.

If permission from the Environmental Authorities imposes restrictions on work during the birds nesting period, like the restrictions which has been in place for the south part of Area 2, the total time frame will be extended significantly. This will need clarification, before a time schedule can be made.

Form B: A detailed explanation of the reasons for the proposed extension

Table B.1.

Name of area	Means used to	Date area	Location of	Total area in
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	identify and record this area as an area in which AP-mines were known to be emplaced.	identified as an area in which AP-mines were known to be emplaced.	Suspect Hazard Area	which AP-mines were/are known to be emplaced.
Skallingen	German mine reports from 1944 and marking established by the mine clearance teams in 1947.	Since the mines were placed in 1944.	UTM32, WGS84 453100, 615000	<p>The Area 1 mined area which has been cleared is approximately 19 hectares.</p> <p>The Area 2 mined area which is being cleared at the moment is approximately 47 hectares.</p> <p>The Area 3 suspected mined area is approximately 120 hectares but boundaries and size of the actually mined area need to be further defined.</p> <p>To employ clearance resources only on hazard mine areas, further area cancellation and area reduction efforts will be done in accordance with IMAS</p>

Location of Skallingen Peninsula

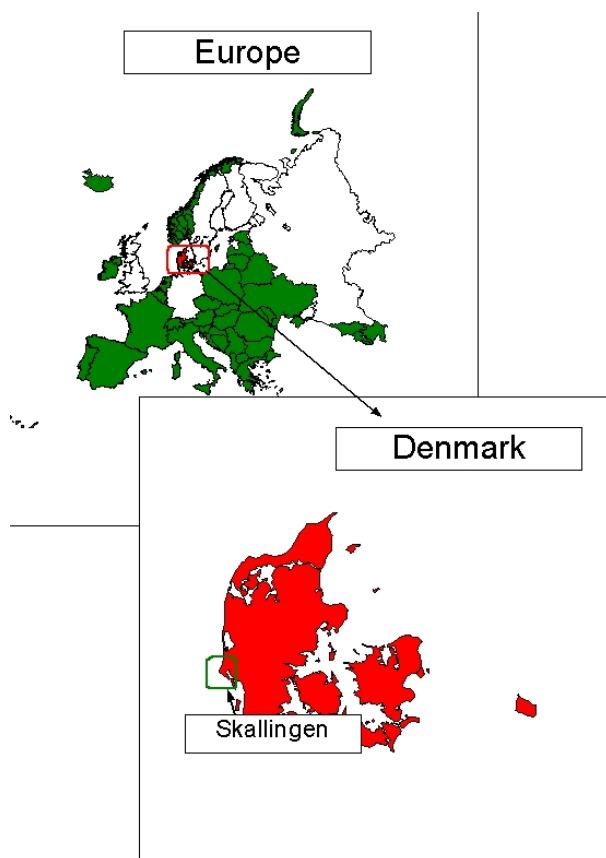


Table B.2.

Name of Area	Total area in which the State Party destroyed or ensured the destruction of all AP-mines contained within.	Means used to destroy or ensure destruction of all emplaced mines and to assure quality.	Number of AP-mines destroyed.	Number of other explosive ordnance destroyed.
Skallingen	<p>Area 1: 19 hectares are cleared.</p> <p>Area 2: 47 hectares are under clearance.</p>	<p>Metal detection with various deep search instruments.</p> <p>Clearance by point target excavation and/or sifting.</p> <p>All explosive items are destroyed as they are found or collected and destroyed in a central demolition site at Skallingen.</p> <p>The mine clearance is subject</p>	<p>Area 1: 14 AP-mines</p> <p>Area 2 until 30/10 2007: 10 AP-mines.</p>	<p>Area 1: 21 AT-mines and 32 other items (fuses or UXO)</p> <p>Area 2 until 30/10 2007: 4 AT-mines and 91 other items (fuses or UXO)</p>

		<p>to an extensive Quality Management system which assures that the work is conducted within the framework of IMAS, the project specific technical guidelines and in accordance with the Danish legislation.</p> <p>The Danish Coastal Authority (KDI) outlines in the tender documents the demand for quality management which is required from the contractor.</p> <p>KDI has contracted a quality auditor (Bureau Veritas in Area 2) which in co-operation with the KDI Quality Manager makes an organisational accreditation of the contractor based on his proposal and Standard Operating Procedures.</p> <p>The contractor's equipment is accredited when it has proven its capabilities in tests at Skallingen.</p> <p>KDI and the external auditor monitor the mine clearance and check the extensive amount of recorded data following from this type of mine clearance.</p> <p>Finally quality control samples are made in completed areas.</p>		
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Local Skallingen standards based on the International Mine Action Standards were developed for the project. The mine clearance standards for the two first Areas were adapted to the environment in which the clearance should take place. Based on the experience from Area 1, the standards were altered slightly for Area 2. Prior to a future Area 3, the standards will be reviewed and formulated

so they address the situation in the new area of operation. IMAS compliance is implicit in developing the local standards.

Suspect area prior to project: 2,950,000 m2

Area reduction during initial survey: 1,090,000 m2

Area cleared during Area 1: 185,000 m2

Area for clearance during Area 2: 475,000 m2

Total released area after Area 1 and 2: 1,750,000 m2

Suspect area for Area 3: 1,200,000 m2

Table B.3.

Name of area	Area in which AP-mines are still known to be emplaced which <u>has been</u> perimeter marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians.	Area in which AP-mines are still known to be emplaced which <u>has not been</u> perimeter marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians.	Area in which Denmark must still destroy or ensure the destruction of all AP-mines contained within.	Estimated date for destroying or ensuring the destruction of all AP-mines contained within this area.
Skallingen	Approximately 120 hectares are suspected of containing mines. This entire area is fenced to the land side.	All hazard areas or suspected hazard areas are fenced to the land side. There is no fence to the sea side as the rough sea does not allow this.	Approximately 120 hectares are suspected of being mined. The size of the area is not yet defined and area reduction and area cancellation process will be employed in this Area in order to deploy resources on hazard mine areas.	The time frame of Area 3 will be made on basis of the experience of the previous Areas when Area 2 is completed and further investigation e.g. of the remaining area, the conditions of the mines and the environmental influence in the area.

Table B.4

Name of area	Estimated size of the area in which AP-mines are suspected to be emplaced.	Basis for the suspicion that the area may contain AP-mines.	Area in which AP-mines are suspected to be emplaced which <u>has been</u> perimeter marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians.	Estimated area in which AP-mines are suspected to be emplaced which <u>has not been</u> perimeter marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians.	Estimated date for determining whether mined areas indeed exist in the area.
Skallingende	120 hectares	The area was mined in 1944. Mine clearance took place in the area from 1945, but the area was not released when the clearance ended in 1947.	120 hectares	No suspect hazard areas are left without fence.	The existence of mines in some parts of the area is confirmed by finds in the past. The condition of remaining mines needs to be investigated further.

Table B.5

Type of planning and mine action structure.	Date of establishment	Number of staff	Ministry or National Authority Responsible	Mandate or responsibility of the organization
A project organization under the Danish Coastal Authority which can task and co-ordinate civil contractors and conduct project management as a client.	The project organization was established in late 2005.	4 persons: A project manager, a quality manager, a GIS manager and an administrator. In addition the project can make use of various	Ministry of Transport	The organisation is responsible of the mine action activities at Skallingen.

		experts in coast technical matters from the Coastal Authority and hire external consultants when needed.		
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B.6.1.

The National Political Agreement in 2005 granted a total of 86 million DKK for the clearing of mines in the dune and beach areas on Skallingen. During 2006 a further 32 million DKK were allocated.

Area 1 and 2 are fully financed.

B.6.2.

No financial resources have yet been allocated for Area 3.

Denmark will fulfil its obligations in accordance with the Ottawa convention. However, the allocation of funds awaits the outline of a time schedule and a clearance plan which will be based on the experience of Area 1 and 2 when Area 2 is completed and further investigations e.g. of the remaining area, the condition of the mines and the environmental influence in the area.

B.6.3.

Area 1 was conducted by the British contractor European Land Solutions.

Area 2 is being conducted by the Danish consortium Minegruppen, consisting of Per Aarsleff and Damacon.

B.6.4.

Mine clearance of Area 3 will be conducted by a civil contractor. A contractor will be identified in a tender process similar to the tender processes of Area 1 and 2.

B.6.5. and B.7

At the present stage it is not possible to detail personnel- or equipment resources needed for Area 3.

The Danish Coastal Authority will provide the task description and clearance criteria in a tender and contractors must in their proposals account for their ability to conduct the job, including the necessary personnel and equipment.

B.8. Impeding circumstances for Area 3

When the political decision on Area 1 and 2 was taken, it was decided that the decision on Area 3 should await the clearance of Area 1 and 2. Area 1 and 2 are expected to be concluded October 2008. Furthermore clearance of Area 3 will be based on the further investigations of the remaining area, the condition of the mines and the environmental influence in the area.

The time schedule is furthermore dependent on the procedure for achieving acceptance from the Environmental Authorities. One of the key issues is whether Area 3 will need an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment). A separate permission from the Environmental Authorities might be needed for the technical survey.

The mined area is part of the internationally famous Waddensee-area, which is designated as a specially protected nature and wildlife area under both the RAMSAR Convention, and the EU-Birds- and Habitats Directives. Therefore the area has the strongest international and national legal protection against activities which may disturb or deteriorate the high nature qualities.

Based on an impact analysis, the environmental authorities in Denmark approved the mine clearance project Area 1 and 2, provided that a number of restrictions and recommendations were followed. These concerned reestablishment of dunes, precautions to prevent sand loss from the beach, measures to keep dune- and beach sand separated, restrictions in use of access roads etc. The most serious measure of the operational planning consists of a ban on vehicles and use of explosives in the southern part of the area of operation, from April to August.

Environmental restrictions similar to those imposed on the southern part of Area 2 will be quite troublesome on Area 3. A mine clearance will have to stop from April to August every year to avoid disturbance of colonies of protected rare breeding birds. These months are the most productive mine clearance months due to the weather conditions and because a large part of the area is under water in the remaining part of the year. So besides reducing the working year to 8 months, the effective use of the resources will be significantly reduced. Yearly demobilisation and remobilisation will furthermore increase the project cost and might impede the personnel continuity. Furthermore, it may be impossible to demine the salt meadows without deteriorating them strongly, and this is probably not compatible with the rules of the Habitats Directive and RAMSAR Convention.

A technical survey will be conducted as soon as possible. It will take place when the environmental authorities have approved the survey plan and funds have been allocated.

Form C: The Humanitarian, social, economic and environmental implications of the proposed extension

Table C.1. Humanitarian implications – victims.

Year	1947-2008
Civilians injured	0
Civilians killed	0
Military injured	0
Military killed	0
Total	0

No victims have been recorded in the area since the post war clearance ended in 1947.

Table C.2. Humanitarian implications –refugees and IDPs

Refugees	Internally displaced persons	Total
0	0	0

There are no humanitarian implications of the minefield.

Table C.3. Social and economic implications.

The social and economic impact of the minefield is insignificant. Tourists can not walk to the south end of Skallingen and small boats from Esbjerg can not land there either. Hunters can not hunt in the area concerned. None of this has any economic implication on the local community.

Table C.4. Environmental implications.

Mined area	Implication	Supplementary information

The environmental impact of the minefield is mostly positive due to restricted human access, while mine clearance is anticipated to have large detrimental impacts on the very fragile and special nature of the area. Restrictions on access have minimized human disturbance to the area for about 50 years, resulting in rare and on a European scale threatened birds breeding in colonies in the mined area.

Since a new fence was erected in 2005, domestic animals have not grazed the area, while cows and sheep always grazed the area until 2005. The missing grazing is changing the vegetation in a detrimental way, because the salt meadows and dunes are overgrowing with high and lush plants unsuitable for the rare birds, which were the reason for international designation as a nature protection area.

The salt meadows still show signs and scars of the mine clearance carried out in the 1940's. These salt meadows are among the finest salt meadows of the Waddensee today, and it does not seem possible to carry out mine clearance without more or less destroying them.

Thus are environmentalists urging to find a solution where the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention would have the minimum impact on the very unique environment at the southern part of Skallingen due to the areas status as nature reserve and the probably ineffective condition of the remaining mines.