

**DECLARATION OF COMPLETION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE  
PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES  
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

**Rwanda**

**30 November 2009**

1. Rwanda ratified the Convention on 8 June 2000. The Convention entered into force for Rwanda on 1 December 2000. In its initial transparency report submitted on 4 September 2001, Rwanda reported that there were areas in Rwanda that were known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. In doing so, Rwanda acknowledged that it had an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention to address these areas under its jurisdiction or control and to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines contained in these areas as soon as possible and no later than 1 December 2010.
2. The landmine problem in Rwanda dated as far back as the 1990 to 1994 liberation war with additional landmines laid during the 1996 to 1998 insurgency war in the north of the country. As a response to this problem, the Rwandan National Demining Office (NDO) was established in April 1995 and entrusted with the tasks of coordinating all demining activities, proposing policy and strategies on mine related issues to the government, maintaining a national data base, providing information for mine action activities and developing and supervising a sustainable, comprehensive and integrated mine action plan for Rwanda. The NDO initially operated in a hasty way to get rid of all scattered unexploded ordnance (UXO) and landmines being reported by the population with the intention of reducing the high rate of mine victims and efforts were then consolidated to systematically clear mined areas.
3. In its initial transparency report submitted on 4 September 2001, Rwanda reported that based on reports of the NDO survey section, developed from information collected from local authorities, former military, former combatants, and from school children and the local community through mine risk education campaigns, especially in the rural area, mined areas were located in the following provinces: Umutara Province (northeast), Byumba Province (north), Kigali Rural Province (central), Kigali Urban Province (central), Gisenyi Province (northwest), Ruhengeri Province (northwest) and Gitarama Province (central). At this time, available information included the locations of each mined area with an indication of its approximate total area (over/under 5 hectares) most of them being smaller than 5 hectares and no distinction made between mined or suspected mined areas. A total of 32 mined areas were identified with 22 areas having been cleared as of the reporting date. The report also indicated that more detailed information would be obtained after carrying out a level 1 survey which Rwanda urged all governments and non governmental organizations to support.
4. By late 2001 a number of achievements had been registered including more than 25,000 mines and explosive remnants of war destroyed nationwide by both the Manual Demining teams and the EOD teams, hundreds of kilometres of commercial roads reopened, tea plantations cleared from anti-personnel mines and factories reopened, several commercial centres cleared and reopened, farmland cleared and agricultural activities resumed, casualty figures reduced through intensive mine risk education efforts, more than 600,000 people resettled without fear of being killed. By 2003 all 32 areas identified and Jali (from the 18 surveyed areas) were successfully manually cleared

culminating in the clearance of 1,053,218.7 square meters and the destruction of 444 AP mines, 10 AT mines, 1,374 UXO .

5. From October 2002 to January 2003 a level 1 impact survey was carried out by NDO with support from RONCO with 2 teams collecting information from the twelve provinces of Rwanda. The results of the level 1 impact survey indicated that of the twelve provinces of Rwanda, areas containing or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines were located in the following four provinces: Byumba Province in the northern region (9 mined areas), Kigali rural in the central regions (5 mined areas), Gisenyi Province in the western region ( 3 mined areas), and Ruhengeri Province in the northern region (1 mined areas). The survey identified 18 mined areas to be cleared in Rwanda with an approximate area of 974,673 square meters. These areas were located in complicated terrain which would require significant means and expertise to clear.
6. In 2004, the estimated mined area had been reduced from the approximate area of 974,673 square meters to 639,770.2 square meters with the clearance of 3 mined areas located in Kanombe North (214,523 square meters) in Central Province , Jali in Central Province (88,740 square meters) and Nyabishambi in Northern Province(31,639 square meters)<sup>1</sup>. These areas were addressed through mechanical clearance (Maxx machine on trial), manual clearance (NDO manual deminers) and mine detection dogs (Ronco's), respectively. However, as accidents occurred in Kanombe and Nyabishambi after clearance the decision was made to carry out reclearance of these areas which was addressed in 2006 by redeploying manual deminers with MAT mine detection dogs (nyabishambi) and NPA Minewolf with MAT mine detection dogs( Kanombe north & south) .
7. In 2004, Rwanda's mine action program capability deteriorated following the termination of financial support for demining. This left the NDO with no option but to focus its resources on responding to hasty population reports while mined areas remained untouched representing about 900,000 square meters of good agricultural land. Furthermore, the mined areas that remained were extremely challenging (heavily vegetated and on steep slopes) and required additional resources which were unavailable to the NDO including mechanical assets and mine detecting dogs.
8. In 2004 and 2005, with the termination of financial support for demining, the NDO focussed on responding to hasty operations (destroying UXOs) and land service ammunitions stockpile destruction (Eastern province). In early 2006, NDO in collaboration with the International Mine Action Training Centre (IMATC) based in Nairobi sent an initial 140 personnel for humanitarian demining training. To date IMATC has trained and equipped 230 personnel from NDO. In October 2006 NDO resumed mine clearance activities with technical advice from Mines Awareness Trust in the top priority areas of Nyabihu and Rubaya (Western Province).
9. By 2006, Rwanda reported that 33 small and medium mined totalling 1,053,218.7 square meters had been cleared and returned to communities for social economic activities. More than 100 kilometres of commercial roads was cleared to allow repairs. Rwanda also indicated that 17 mined areas measuring an estimated 885,930 square meters remained uncleared. In order to deal with the remaining challenge Rwanda increased its personnel from 150 to 237 and deployed these men to high priority areas. By 2008 15 of the remaining 17 were cleared.

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<sup>1</sup> Change in administrative areas in Rwanda, NORTH, WEST, SOUTH, EAST and CENTRAL Provinces replaced the previous 12 provinces with effect from JANUARY 2006.

10. In April 2008, as the remaining large mined area to be addressed in Kanombe had a total approximate area of 630,000 square meters and was overgrown with thicket, there was a need for international assistance to acquire assets other than manual clearance assets which would allow Rwanda to fulfil its Article 5 obligations as soon as possible. In this regard, Rwanda entered into conversation with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) to acquire mechanical clearance equipment support as well as with Mines Awareness Trust (MAT) to acquire mine detecting dogs (MDDs) support. After conversations between NPA and Rwanda during a stakeholders meeting in Rwanda, NPA initiated its support to the NDO with mechanical demining to address the mined area in Kanombe. By the end of November 2008, the NDO, with the support of NPA, had completed clearance operations in Kanombe releasing a total amount of 629,600 square meters with the NDO carrying out sampling and quality control using MDDs provided by MAT, before the handover took place. Following completion of the mined area in Kanombe only one mined area from the 17 identified remained to be cleared – Muhororo (2,242 square meters) -before Rwanda could fulfil its Article 5 obligation. In late July 2009 two additional mined areas were located Remera (Christus) (17,718 square meters) in Central Province and Mutobo (3,242 square meters) in Western Province.
11. The Mohororo, Remera (Christus) and Mutobo mined areas were cleared manually between June and October 2009 culminating in the destruction of 11 AP mines and 8 UXO.
12. As a result of efforts undertaken since Rwanda submitted its initial transparency report, Rwanda declares that it has fulfilled its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention by having determined that there are no longer areas under the jurisdiction or control of the Rwanda in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced. Upon declaring completion, 52 mined areas were addressed representing a total of 1,946,754.5 square meters of area in which antipersonnel mines were known or suspected to be emplaced has been released through survey and clearance. This work has culminated in the destruction of 660 antipersonnel mines, 29 antitank mines, and 2,034 UXO.
13. In the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered after this date, Rwanda will:
  - i. report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and share such information through any other informal means such as the Intercessional Work Programme;
  - ii. ensure the effective exclusion of civilians in accordance with Article 5 and;
  - iii. destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in these mined areas as a matter of urgent priority, making its need for assistance known to other States Parties, as appropriate.

## Annex I: Mined and suspected mined area in Rwanda

| No | District             | Region            | Geographic location  | Size of area | Types and quantities of munitions destroyed |          |     | Date when area was released |
|----|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|---|----------|-----|-----------------------------|
|    |                      |                   |                      |              | AP Mines                                    | AT Mines | UXO |                             |
| 1  | Iwawa                | Western Province  | 36M QT 39001 8601    | 567 092      | 130   | 0        | 235 | 1995                        |
| 2  | Nyaburiba 1          | Central Province  | 36M 0168343 9790036  | 30 000       | 26  | 0        | 57  | 1996                        |
| 3  | Buramira (Tumba)     | Northern Province | 35M 0123475 9814428  | 5152         | 4   | 0        | 32  | 1997                        |
| 4  | Bukinga (Tumba)      | Northern Province | Rulindo              | 7470         | 2   | 0        | 20  | 1997                        |
| 5  | Shangasha            | Northern Province | Nyabishambi          | 14 400       | 11  | 0        | 30  | 1997                        |
| 6  | Rugano               | Northern Province | Rulindo              | 25 800       | 8   | 0        | 23  | 1997                        |
| 7  | Gikundamvura         | Central Province  | 36M 0188459 9851415  | 10 580       | 5   | 0        | 13  | 1997                        |
| 8  | Bushara              | Eastern Province  | 36M 0187678 9850963  | 6 348        | 3   | 0        | 40  | 1997                        |
| 9  | Rugende              | Central Province  | 36M 0193206 9784121  | 45 720       | 2   | 2        | 65  | 1997                        |
| 10 | Gatunda              | Eastern Province  | Ex-Mutara            | 7 935        | 4   | 1        | 45  | 1997                        |
| 11 | Gashenyi 1           | Eastern Province  | 36M 0191852 9847580  | 11 109       | 5   | 0        | 31  | 1998                        |
| 12 | Gashenyi 2           | Eastern Province  | 36M 0192439 98476559 | 3 348        | 0   | 0        | 13  | 1998                        |
| 13 | Kabuga               | Eastern Province  | Ex-Mutara            | 1 282        | 13  | 4        | 43  | 1998                        |
| 14 | Nyaburiba 2          | Central Province  | 36M 0169707 9788314  | 4 500        | 7   | 0        | 45  | 1998                        |
| 15 | Kimihurura           | Central Province  | 36M 0176391 9784096  | 160          | 5   | 0        | 54  | 1998                        |
| 16 | Nyaburiba 3          | Central Province  | 36M 0168356 9790319  | 20 000       | 14  | 1        | 33  | 1998                        |
| 17 | Nyamirambo (BNR)     | Central Province  | 36M 0172501 9780350  | 800          | 5   | 2        | 47  | 1999                        |
| 18 | Nyamirambo (Sisters) | Central Province  | 36M 0171715 9780225  | 1 120        | 5   | 0        | 41  | 1999                        |
| 19 | Kacyiru              | Central Province  | 36M 0176051 9784716  | 3 500        | 2   | 2        | 32  | 1999                        |
| 20 | Gitovu 1             | Central Province  | Gitovu bridge        | 5 000        | 5   | 0        | 19  | 2000                        |
| 21 | Gitovu 2             | Central Province  | Gitovu farm          | 90 000       | 5   | 1        | 23  | 2000                        |
| 22 | Pfunda               | Western Province  | Pfunda tea factory   | 5 417.9      | 33  | 2        | 70  | 2000                        |
| 23 | Murambi              | Northern Province | 36M 0168343 9790036  | 4 000        | 35  | 0        | 46  | 2001                        |
| 24 | Kanzenze bridge      | Central Province  | 36M 0175815 9781106  | 100          | 11  | 3        | 12  | 2001                        |
| 25 | Gahanga              | Central Province  | 36M 0176122 9772950  | 3 500        | 15  | 0        | 65  | 2001                        |
| 26 | Kivugiza             | Central Province  | 36M 0171328 9780345  | 8 400        | 32  | 1        | 51  | 2001                        |
| 27 | Mburabuturo          | Central Province  | 36M 0174386 9783028  | 11 142.9     | 16  | 0        | 24  | 2002                        |
| 28 | Apapeb school        | Northern Province | Kibali sec school    | 209          | 10  | 0        | 14  | 2002                        |
| 29 | Remera christus 1    | Central Province  | 36M 0179271 9783357  | 48 770.9     | 3   | 1        | 32  | 2003                        |
| 30 | Matimba              | Eastern Province  | Gatsibo              | 837.3        | 1   | 0        | 26  | 2003                        |
| 31 | Gaseke (Nyamugali)   | Northern Province | Rugezi valley        | 348.8        | 4   | 0        | 9   | 2003                        |
| 32 | Rwerere (cyeru)      | Northern Province | 35M 819696 9836910   | 435.7        | 3   | 0        | 13  | 2003                        |
| 33 | Jali                 | Central Province  | 36M 0168757 9789282  | 88 740       | 20  | 0        | 71  | 2003                        |
| 34 | Nyabihu              | Western Province  | 35M 779712 9816504   | 17 214       | 10  | 0        | 19  | 2006                        |
| 35 | Rubaya 1             | Western Province  | 35M 778547 9803598   | 22 945       | 20  | 0        | 24  | 2006                        |
| 36 | Rubaya 2             | Western Province  | 35M 778738 9804267   | 6 892        | 7   | 0        | 27  | 2007                        |
| 37 | Rubaya 3             | Western Province  | 35M 778059 9803376   | 55 785       | 15  | 0        | 37  | 2007                        |
| 38 | Nyabishambi 1        | Northern Province | 36M 0174591 9828673  | 6 644        | 100   | 3        | 53  | 2007                        |
| 39 | Nyabishambi 2        | Northern Province | 36M 0175781 9828877  | 2 124        | 4   | 0        | 5   | 2007                        |
| 40 | Nyabishambi 3        | Northern Province | 36M 0174800 9828340  | 4 349        | 5   | 0        | 61  | 2007                        |
| 41 | Nyabishambi 4        | Northern Province | 36M 0174800 982440   | 6 597        | 8   | 0        | 11  | 2007                        |
| 42 | Nyabishambi 5        | Northern Province | 36M 0174640 9828380  | 18 404       | 2   | 0        | 0   | 2007                        |
| 43 | Nyabishambi 6        | Northern Province | 36M 0174601 9828380  | 10 081       | 9   | 0        | 12  | 2007                        |
| 44 | Bugwe                | Northern Province | 36M 0179928 9833624  | 19 679       | 1   | 0        | 9   | 2007                        |
| 45 | Kabuga RC            | Northern Province | 36M 01787106 9851261 | 790          | 0   | 0        | 3   | 2007                        |
| 46 | Nkana                | Northern Province | 36M 0174820 9828370  | 1 286        | 0   | 0        | 0   | 2007                        |
| 47 | Kanyentanga          | Northern Province | 36M 01755329833624   | 86 073       | 0   | 1        | 26  | 2008                        |
| 48 | Yanze                | Northern Province | 36M 01766288 9789709 | 1 871        | 21  | 0        | 14  | 2008                        |
| 49 | Kanombe              | Central Province  | 36M 0185418 9780196  | 629 600      | 10  | 5        | 351 | 2008                        |
| 50 | Muhororo             | Central Province  | 36M 0168677 9797590  | 2 242        | 4   | 0        | 8   | 2009                        |
| 51 | Remera christus2     | Central Province  | 36M 0179324 9783425  | 17 718       | 1   | 0        | 0   | 2009                        |
| 52 | Mutobo               | Western Province  | 35M 779712 9816504   | 3 242        | 6   | 0        | 0   | 2009                        |

## Annual progress in implementation

|  | 2000      | 2001   | 2002     | 2003      | 2004 | 2005 | 2006   | 2007    | 2008    | 2009   | Total       |
|--|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|------|------|--------|---------|---------|--------|-------------|
| Number of areas cleared and deemed no longer dangerous due to the presence of anti-personnel mines | 22        | 04     | 02       | 05        | 00   | 00   | 02     | 11      | 03      | 03     | 52          |
| Area cleared and deemed no longer dangerous due to the presence of anti-personnel mines            | 866 733.9 | 16 000 | 11 351.9 | 139 132.7 | 00   | 00   | 40 159 | 132 631 | 717 544 | 23 202 | 1 946 754.5 |
| Number of anti-personnel mines destroyed   | 294       | 93     | 26       | 31        | 00   | 00   | 30     | 144     | 31      | 11     | 660         |