Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

17 September 2024

English only

Siem Reap, 25-29 November 2024 Geneva, 20 June 2024 Item 8(c) of the provisional agenda Review of the operation and status of the Convention Clearing mined areas

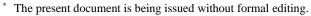
Updated Work Plan

Submitted by Croatia*

1. The decision taken by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties on the request submitted by Croatia for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of antipersonnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention¹, indicates that:

"Also in granting the request, given that increased clarity concerning the remaining challenge will only be progressively acquired as non-technical survey continues, the Meeting requested that Croatia submit to the States Parties updated work plans every two years (i.e. by 30 April 2020, 30 April 2022 and 30 April 2024) for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Meeting noted that these work plans should contain an updated detailed list of all areas known or suspected to contain antipersonnel mines using terminology consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with each year during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, matched to a revised detailed budget."

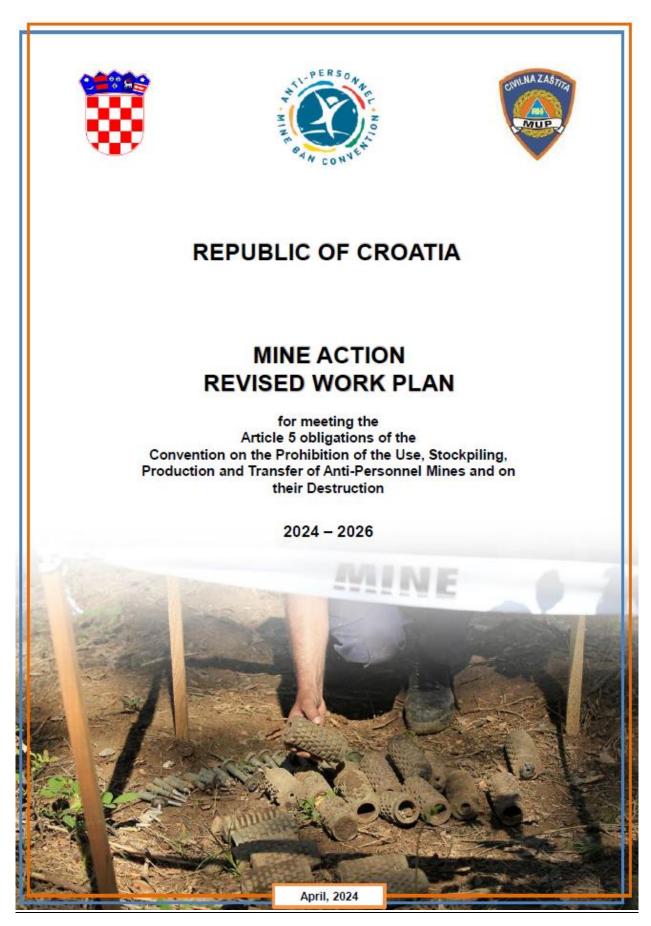
2. Croatia's Updated Work Plan was received on 31 May 2024..

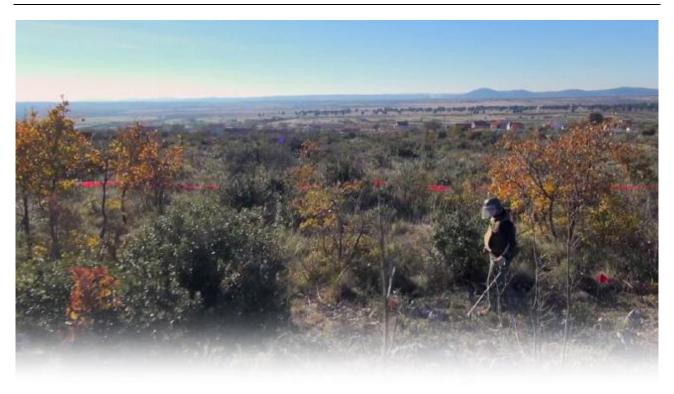


¹ APLC/MSP.17/2018/12.



Annex





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2026.



This document focuses on presenting the main updates of the Croatian Mine Action Programme efforts since the 2nd request of the Republic of Croatia for extension of the deadline regarding the Article 5.1 obligations of the Convention on Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (hereinafter: the Convention) and is being submitted on the basis of the Decision by the States Parties to approve the 2nd request of the Republic of Croatia for extension of the deadline for completing the stated obligations by 1st March

These updates should be considered as milestones for the comparison with the 2nd request of the Republic of Croatia for extension of the deadline regarding the Article 5.1 obligations, previous work plans in the 2020-2024 period and have been developed by the Civil Protection Directorate (CPD) of the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense (MoD), harmonized with the main strategic document, the National Mine Action Program of the Republic of Croatia for the period until 2026, adopted officially by the Croatian Parliament in February, 2023.

In accordance with the paragraph (iii) of the Decision on the request, this Plan contains an updated, detailed list of all known and suspected areas contaminated with mines (Anti-personnel mines), in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) terminology, with annual projections of the land release of the established hazardous areas (hereinafter: HAs) during the remaining period covered by the request along with a revised financial forecast. The plan also contains a two year review of the other activities of the Croatian Mine Action System highlighting the key aspects of Victim Assistance, Risk Education and International Cooperation and Assistance.

In the period since the adoption of the Decision of the States Parties, the Republic of Croatia had submitted annual reports in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention (for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023) where all of the relevant Mine Action updates have been presented on an annual basis and in more detailed view, while this document should be regarded as an executive summary for the Mine Action community and respectable ISU, containing key elements and main changes in the previous and remaining timeframe.







BASE VALUES OF THE 2. REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION



County	No. of towns/Municipalitie s with HA	CHA (km²)	SHA (km²)	Total HA areas (km²)
Karlovačka	8	15	31,4	46,4
Ličko-senjska	9	94,5	32,1	126,6
Osječko-baranjska	12	18,1	19,5	37,6
Požeško-slavonska	2	18,6	0,5	19,1
Splitsko-dalmatinska	3	36,2	28,3	64,5
Sisačko-moslavačka	10	15,9	3,3	19,2
Šibensko-kninska	7	12,1	5,7	17,8
Zadarska	8	11	13,1	24,1
Total (responsibility of the CPD / MoI/CROMAC)	59	221,4	133,9	355,3
Total MoD responsibility	/	32	/	32
TOTAL CROATIA		253,4	213,4	387,3

Table 1. Hazardous Areas in the Republic of Croatia on January 1, 2019

As displayed in the above table, the challenge in the period of the 2nd Request for an extension , included 59 Towns or Municipalities with Hazardous areas, out of which 57 Towns or Municipalities with confirmed contamination with landmines. Total hazardous area in the Republic of Croatia at noted time amounted to 355,3 square kilometers (under civilian jurisdiction and under the responsibility of the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior), while additional 32 square kilometers were declared as hazardous under the jurisdiction and responsibility of the Ministry of Defense. Overall, 2nd Request for an extension and corresponding efforts of the Republic of Croatia regarding the Article 5 obligations of the Convention have had a main target to remove danger from 387,3 square kilometers until the approved deadline set as March, 2026, with a reasonable intention to finalize all operational activities until the end of 2025.

MAIN TASKS

Complete all clearance activities and survey tasks by December 31, 2025 (administratively by March 1, 2026) and therefore fulfill the obligations from Article 5 in accordance with the goals of the member states and in line with the Maputo Declaration +15

The decision on the extension requested that the Republic of Croatia submits to the member states **updated work plans every two years** (ie by April 30, 2020, April 30, 2022, and April 30, 2024) for the remaining period covered by the Extension.

Transparently report on all other elements that were the subject of the Decision on granting the extension on an annual basis in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention.



COMPARISON BETWEEN PLANNED AND ACHIEVED TARGETS

2 nd Extension - planned land release (m ²)	54.400.000	53.700.000	55.500.000	57.200.000	58.600.000
and release [m ²]	(2)	24	24) 	123	1
Mol / CPD / CROMAC	22	100	2.5		
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Clearance	38.859.668	49.243.950	34.107.289	40.181.314	41.305.96
Non-Technical Survey	3.335.994	7.220.901	6.758.410	9.355.718	10.864.62
Technical Survey	3.894.443	4.169.222	4.973.645	5.681.726	5.605.36
Total survey	7.230.437	11.390.123	11.732.055	15.037.444	16.470.98
Inclusion NTS	223.165	310.931	770.121	482.897	426.61
TOTAL	45.866.940	60.323.146	45.054.302	54.701.348	57.551.31
MoD	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Clearance	2019 300.147	2020 280.040	2021 375.961	2022 488.200	2023
	5000 and 5000 and 5000	5 - Cold	12/07/2010/01/1		
Clearance	5000 and 5000 and 5000	280.040	375.961	488.200	396.15
Clearance Survey	300.147 0	280.040 133.716	375.961 267.803	488.200 9.361.948	396.15 165.52
Clearance Survey	300.147 0 300.147	280.040 133.716 415.756	375.961 267.803 643.764	488.200 9.361.948 9.850.148	396.11 165.52 561.67

Table 2. Achieved vs. planned in the 2nd Request for an extension

Current data displayed in the above Table 2 in the period 2019-2024 indicates a difference in the total realization compared to the 2nd Request for an extension under Article 5 in the amount of 1.5%. In the observed period, a total of 275.268.543 m² was released in comparison with the 279.400.000 m² planned / defined in the 2nd Request. The abovementioned suggests that the Republic of Croatia is on track to fulfill the planned release activities.





COMPARISON BETWEEN PLANNED AND ACHIEVED TARGETS

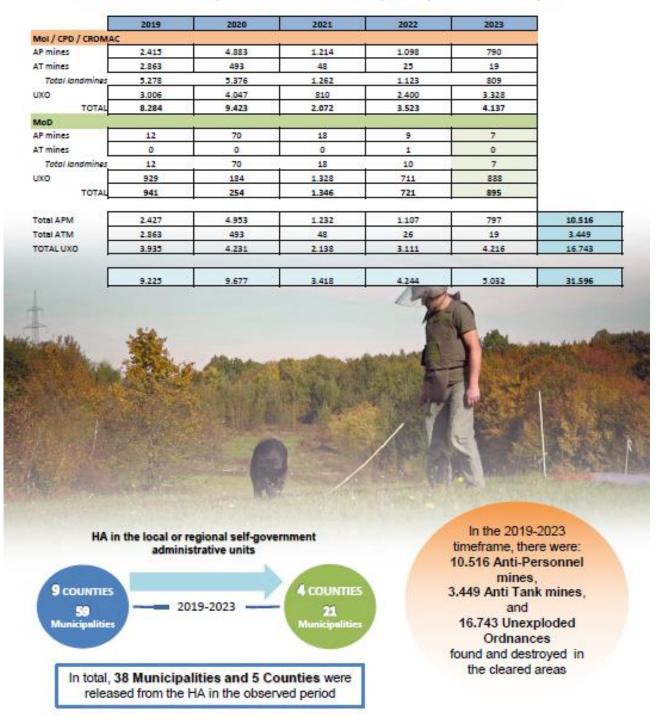


Table 3. Landmine and other Explosive ordnances found and destroyed in the period since the 2nd Request



COMPARISON BETWEEN PLANNED AND ACHIEVED TARGETS



- Timely submitted updated National Work Plans aligned with IMAS terminology for 2020-2022, 2022-2024.
- Timely submitted National annual reports in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 aligned with the IMAS terminology

In February 2023, the Croatian Parliament adopted the NATIONAL MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATA UNITL 2026 as the main strategic document that clearly presents the goals and guidelines of the Mine Action in the period until the obligations from Article 5 of the Convention are fulfilled, which is also one of the measurable indicators in the Decision on the approval of the 2nd extension (17MSP).

Main strategic goals of the National Mine Action Programme until 2026 (OG 21/2023):

Completely remove the risk of landmines from the territory of the Republic of Croatia by March 1, 2026 (at the latest), in line with the Republic of Croatia obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction

Maintain and improve the marking of the entire Hazardous Area (HA) with the Mine warning signs Inform and implement EO education programs for the entire population that lives and/or works in the nearness of HA areas or gravitates towards it concerning the dangers of mines, UXOs and other ERWs.

Continue to provide care and rehabilitation, including psychosocial rehabilitation and economic reintegration to all mine and other ERW victims

Encourage the export of Croatian skills, knowledge, experience and equipment used in Mine Action activities.

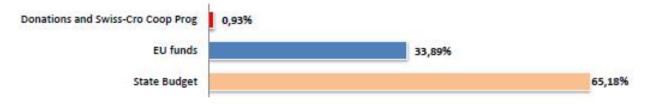


RESOURCES EMPLOYED IN IMPLEMENTATION AND FUTURE NEEDS

	2019.	2020.	2021.	2022.	2023.
State Budget	32.502.330,58€	31.577.554,98€	33.388.336,74€	34.794.208,50€	39.061.548,85€
EU funds	20.324.049,41€	23.858.469,04€	14.397.030,61€	15.195.116,12 €	15.314.738,43€
Donations and Swiss-Cro Cooperation Programme	164.586,01€	- (- 6	1.140.177,69 €	1.136.085,33€
Total (per annum)	52.990.966.00 €	55.436.024.02€	47.785.367,34€	51.129.502,32€	55.512.372,61€

Table 4. Financial resources invested in Mine Action in the period since the 2nd Request

Table 5. Sources of funding in the 2019-2023 period



In the observed period it is clear that there was a strong national ownership and motivation to continue with the clearance activities in accordance with the defined deadlines. The majority of funds invested in Mine Action (65,18%) were the National Budget funds, while the European Funds have continued with the positive and significant trend in supplementing clearance activities in Croatia with additional 33,9%. The Donations and Swiss-Croatian Cooperation funds, with a 0,93% of share seem rather limited, but nevertheless have had a significant impact towards Mine Victim support and socio-economic integration.

COMPLETELY DEFINED FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK UNTIL 2026

In the period 2024-2026, approx. EUR 165 million, of which EUR 129.4 million will be secured from the Competitiveness and Cohesion Program (EUR 80 million in grants), while the remaining funds will be designated from the State budget





OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE APPROVAL OF THE 2nd REQUEST

In line with the Article 6 of the Convention - International cooperation and assistance

The approval decision (17 MSP) suggested that the Republic of Croatia could benefit from cooperation in the technical challenges of surveying/demining forests and forest land with other States Parties that have experience and have faced similar challenges.

In response to the aforementioned suggestions, the Republic of Croatia participated in two studies conducted by the International Center for Humanitarian Demining from Geneva in the observed period on the subject:

- National Capacities and Residual contamination
- Difficult terrain in Mine Action







OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE SINCE THE LAST UPDATED WORK PLAN WAS SUBMITTED (2022)

In line with the Article 6 of the Convention - International cooperation and assistance

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION

In 2022-2023, all EORE activities were coordinated within the Civil Protection Directorate (CPD) of the Ministry of Interior, and directly provided or with the support of the National educational center of Civil protection - which is an organizational sector in the CPD. In the observed period, a total of 377 EO risk educations were held in 8 Counties and 56 cities and municipalities, invoving 22,087 people, predominately of preschool and school age, as well as the target population of the local inhabitants of municipalities and cities within the hazardous areas. The trainings were conducted by the officers of the Civil Protection Directorate in cooperation with officials of the authorized police precincts. In addition, a specific EORE education was created and conducted for the children from Ukraine which were staying in Croatia during 2022 as a part of broader, war relief, NGO and National partnership efforts. The number of activities related to the EORE were done in cooperation with the relevant Police departments through the "Less arms, less tragedy" public campaign, and city and municipal governments and other NGOs as well.





General Assembly adopted a Besolution on Assistance in Mine Action, declaring a April as the International Day for Mine Assareness and Assistance in Mine Action.



Since 2002, at the initiative of the Croatian Mine Action Centre, April has been marked as the Nine Protection Marth

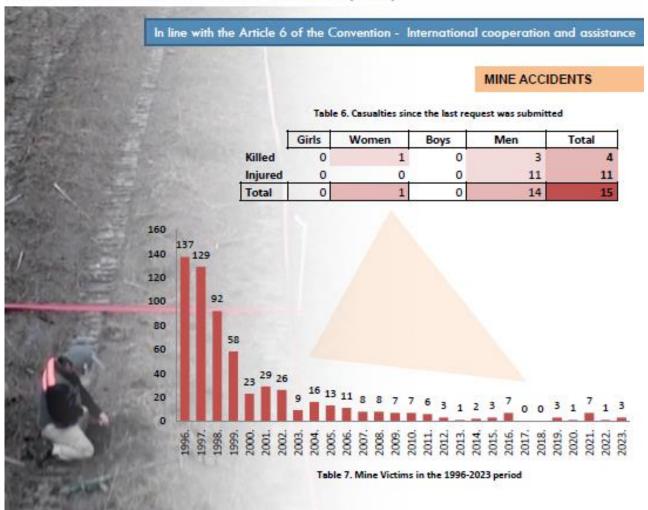
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Aside from mentioned educational ex cathedra activities, special EORE children theatre plays was organized as a part of EU funded project ""Demining, restoration and protection of forest and forestland in protected and Natura 2000 sites in Danube-Drava regions – NATURAVITA" as one of the largest nature conservation projects in Croatia, financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds, which included 6 children theatre plays gathering 657 elementary school pupils from Osijek-Baranja County.





OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE SINCE THE LAST UPDATED WORK PLAN WAS SUBMITTED (2022)



From 1996 (end of the Homeland war) till the end of 2023, the Republic of Croatia had accounted mine incidents where 610 people were harmed, out of which 207 with a fatal outcome. These unfortunate numbers also include 134 injured deminers, out of which 40 with a fatal outcome.

2022. - auxiliary worker activated landmine during mechanical clearance resulting with light injury 2023. – 2 fatal mine incidents with 3 deaths, one involving hunter, and other 2 deminers



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE SINCE THE LAST UPDATED WORK PLAN WAS SUBMITTED (2022)

In line with the Article 6 of the Convention - International cooperation and assistance

MINE VICTIM SUPPORT

UPGRADED SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO DIRECT AND INDIRECT MINE VICTIMS Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War (Official Gazette 84/21) - provides better protection of the rights of mine victims and their family members

Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme



Demining and Socio-economic integration

- Swiss Croatian Cooperation Programme
- the project includes two components humanitarian demining and assistance to Mine Victims and their family members with a total value of 6.12 million CHF, of which the Swiss donation amounts to 5.2 million CHF
- By the middle of 2024, the project will demine a total of 3.36 km² of CHA areas of Sisak-Moslavina County
- throughout the project, a Mine Victim database was established, coupled with the implementation of various educational programs and retraining and psychosocial support workshops in 2022
- Additionally, a comprehensive new brochure was created with consolidated information on the legal rights and possibilities of Mine Victims and their family members
- In 2023 financial resources were allocated (Public Call) towards the Mine Victims in the amount of CHF 200,000.00, which financed the start of new and expansion of existing entrepreneurships for the 15 mine victims and members of their immediate families. (indirect victims)







REMAINING CHALLENGES

HAZARDOUS AREAS

Hazardous areas in the Republic of Croatia on January 1, 2024 remained on 21 Municipalities / 4 Counties and amounted to 92.1 km² (78,5 km² CHA, 13,5 km² SHA), excluding the MoD areas of an additional 18.9 km² of HA. Approximate number of AP/AT mines emplaced (Estimate according to number of minefield records in CPD/CROMAC sector database and Annual demining report) on Jan 1, 2024 reached 10.052 mines (9.301 AP mines and 751 AT mines), excluding the areas under the MoD jurisdiction.

Table 8. Remaining	g challenges at County/Municipality level and CHA/SH	A
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County	No of Towns / Municipalities	CHA	SHA	Total HA
Karlovačka				
	Josipdol	3.400.402	0	3.400.402
	Plaški	10.264.105	76,762	10.340.867
	Rakovica	119,573	126,612	246,185
	Saborsko	482,417	Ó	482,417
ličko-senjska				
	Brinje	399,877	5,995	405,872
	Donji Lapac	8.953.687	4.797.138	13.750.825
	GOSPIĆ	17.351.201	4.107.845	21.459.046
	OTOČAC	9.183.223	1.407.713	10.590.936
	Perušić	37,469	0	37,469
	Plitvička Jezera	1.594.125	0	1.594.125
	Udbina	338,509	678,716	1.017.225
	Vrhovine	10.411.396	Ó	10.411.396
Splitsko- dalmatinska				
	Hrvace	3.706.606	0	3.706.606
	VRLIKA	4.247.805	0	4.247.805
Sisačko- moslavačka				
	Dvor	3.616.635	1.692.688	5.309.323
	GLINA	593,48	15,639	609,119
	Gvozd	35,762	0	35,762
	PETRINJA	1.490.077	2,559	1.492.636
	SISAK	425,76	493,011	918,771
	Sunja	1.883.944	154,343	2.038.287
TOTAL	Topusko	38,506	0	38,506
	21	78.574.559	13.559.021	92.133.580





REMAINING CHALLENGES

Table 9. Remaining Hazardous situation according to the types of mines-explosive devices emplaced

	No of Mine Field	No of	Mines	Incomplete
County	Records	AP mines	AT mines	Mine field Records
Karlovačka	21	401	0	6
Ličko-senjska	177	3952	751	74
Splitsko-dalmatinska	10	0	0	10
Sisačko-moslavačka	44	4948	0	14
UKUPNO	252	9.301	751	104

Total number of emplaced mines in accordance with the available data 10.052

Table 10. Comparison of Mine Action System Capacities over the years

Type of Capacity		2018	2024
	Deminers	676	362
	Work site leaders	121	98
	Auxiliary workers	101	52
Certi	fied Equipment		
Me	etal detectors	796	728
	MDDs	99	44
Dem	ining Machines	45	55

Table 11. Clearance output in accordance with the current capacities available

	Maximum effectiveness	No	Daily	Work days	TOTAL	
	Deminera	362	400	210	30.408.000	
	Work site leaders	98	400	210	8.232.000	
	MDDs	44	1.000	100	4.400.000	
	Demining Machines	55	55 3,500 100		19.250.000 43.040.000	
	Annual Total m2		Ś.,	S		
1915 195 165 T. S.	Total in 2024 - 2025 period (maximum)	2 1153	- Rice	W204	86.080.000	
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REMAINING CHALLENGES

Land release plan in the 2024-2026 period

County	2024	2025	2026
Karlovačka	11,8	2,6*	0,0
ičko-senjska	22,0	37,3	0,0
Sisačko-moslavačka	9,3	1,1	0,0
Splitsko-dalmatinska	8,0	0,0	0,0
TOTAL	51,1	38,4	0,0
MoD – clearance and survey	7,1	11,8	0,0
OVERALL	58,2	50,2	0,0

Table 12. Total Land Release of HA by clearance and survey operations until 2026

* Karlovačka County - In 2024. remaining challenge Is 2.6 km² of UXO contamination

In 2024 Karlovačka and Splitsko-dalmatinska Counties are expected to be completely released from landmines, while in 2025 remaining two Counties (Sisačkomoslavačka and Ličkosenjska) will be released.

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CONCLUSION

The updated work plan 2024-2026 document displayed that Republic of Croatia is still firmly on track to completing the Article 5 obligations in line with the 2nd Request for an extension timeframe. This has been clearly communicated as a part of the updates to the annual land release outputs, with a strong indication that the current resources are in line with the established milestones, especially in the terms of invaluable EU and Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme financial support.

The Republic of Croatia continues its activities according to all components of Mine Action for the successful implementation of obligations arising from relevant international agreements, especially the Mine Ban Convention.

The Republic of Croatia will continue to maintain Mine Action at a high level of interest and will strive to overcome all the challenges that need to be carried out in the aforementioned area by 2026 through optimal planning, but also after the deadline in terms of residual risk management.

All stakeholders of the Croatian Mine Action System will continue to support and develop partnership relations with the relevant international stakeholders such as the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Ban Mines, the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining, along with domestic and international representatives of civil / non-governmental sector.

As part of its mine action operations, the Republic of Croatia will primarily invest further efforts and all available human and financial resources in order to make the entire national territory completely free of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war within the given deadline, i.e. by March 1, 2026.

At the same time, active support will be continued in other important areas of Mine Action, especially assistance to mine victims, EORE and international cooperation, especially in the context of much needed support towards Ukraine.

The Mine Action System of the Republic of Croatia will also continue to be based on the effective and efficient use of available resources, including the application of the latest methodologies and verified technological achievements in line with the International Mine Action Standards.



