



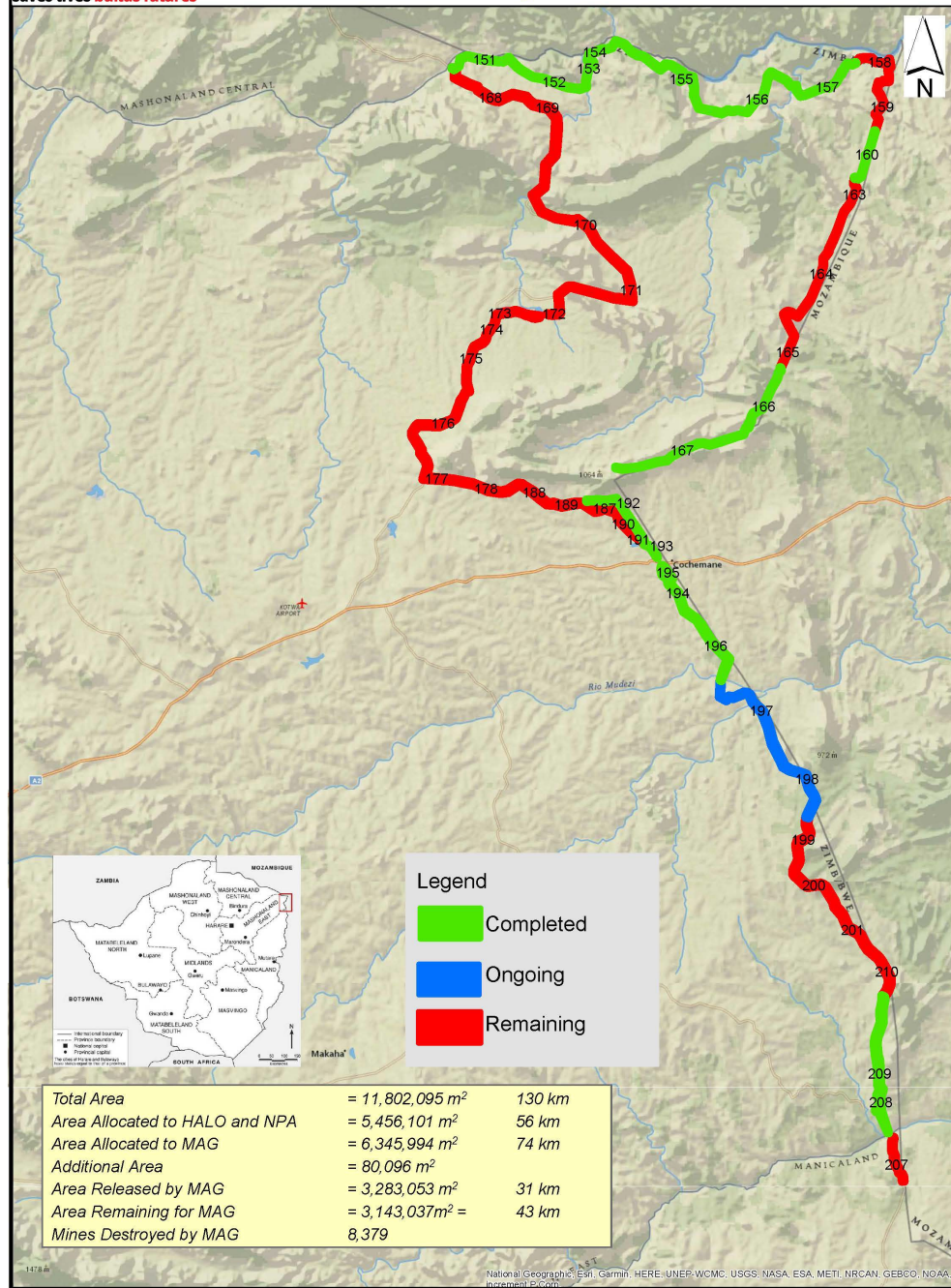
Mines Advisory Group ZIMBABWE

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

**Peter Avenell
Country Director**

MAG Operations in Zimbabwe:

- MAG were accredited with the Government in 2017 and started operations under the direction and coordination of ZIMAC in 2018
- MAG were given an Area of Operation (AoO) of 11.8 million square metres – 130km in length in Mudzi District, Mashonaland East Province – see map
- MAG mandate is to conduct Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)
- MAG have remained a relatively small operator in country with a yearly budget not exceeding \$2m
- Staffing at highest level has been (currently) 76 operational staff (41 male, 35 female) with additional 10 casual staff and 10 Harare support staff
- The coordination and leadership from ZIMAC has continued at the highest level



Achievements 2018 to date:

- MAG has been and continues as a small programme starting with 1 MAT and 1 CLT
- MAG currently deploy 5 MATs and 1 CLT
- Funding during this time has been from several donors including UK FCDO, NMFA, SIDA, Netherlands MFA, GOAC
- Currently 4 MATs and 1 CLT supported by FCDO and 1 All-Female MAT by NMFA
- Out of 11.8 million square metres as AoO allocated to MAG, we have released over 3.28 million sqm and destroyed 8,379 AP mines (as at end January 2025)
- The land released has benefited over 8,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries in the communities
- Reinforced Ploughshare Minefield conditions:





Achievements 2018 to date:

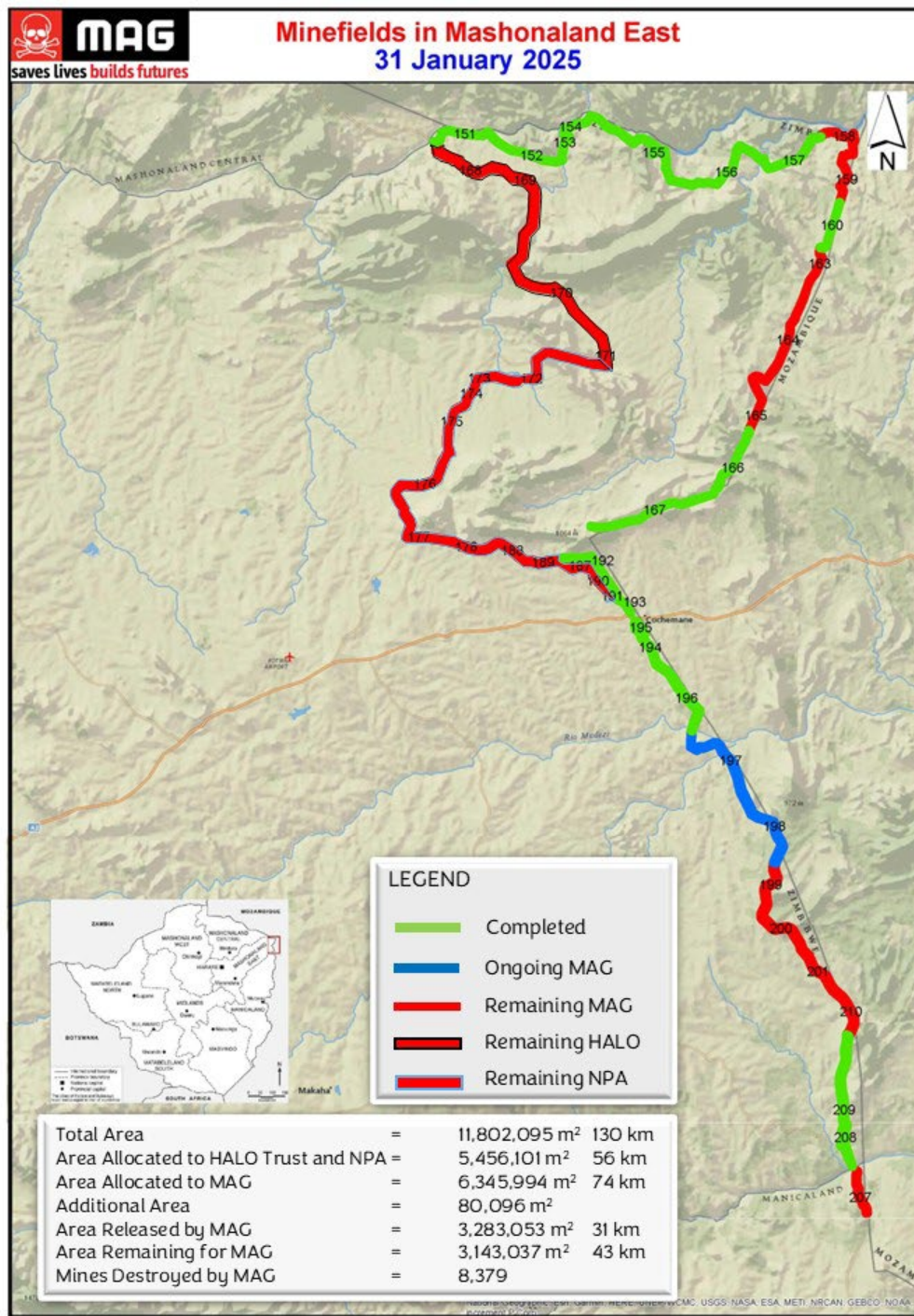
EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION (EORE)

- MAG has conducted 761 RE sessions to date that have instructed and benefited over 28,000 people with 70% being children
- MFs for 45 years.....communities generally know the risks from experience
- Children.....therefore prioritise school sessions



Achievements 2018 to date:

- MAG continues to work on the southern section MFs of under 3.3m sqm of REINFORCED PLOUGHSHARE – see map
- ZIMAC has coordinated handing over the north-west section of 5.6m sqm to HALO and NPA.
- The north-east section of Corsan MFs will be reviewed for handover (530,000 sqm) to other operators by ZIMAC



Current funding status:

- 4 MATs and 1 CLT funded by FCDO until end March 2025 and new funding for 12 months (to March 2026) will require reduction to 3 MATs and 1 CLT
- 1 MAT funded by NMFA until end April 2025 and funding will halt with currently no additional or new funding expected
- Status from May 2025 will be 3 MATs and 1 CLT
- Currently no other funding expected or in pipeline
- IF ZIMBABWE IS TO ACHIEVE MINE-FREE COMPLETION BY END OF 2028 WE ALL NEED ADDITIONAL FUNDING!

Projection on land release and funding required:

- With the same level of funding MAG operations will continue slowly as explained on the southern sections. We will achieve an estimated 280,000 sqm of land release per year with an estimated/expected and hoped for continuation of \$1.5m of funding per year from FCDO
- MAG would wish to increase our operational capacity from 3 to 8 MATs – that would need an additional \$2.5m per year plus an amount the first year to procure some vehicles and other assets such as detectors to fully scale up

Projection funding required continued:

- If MAG is to complete land release of the southern section of the AoO using the same tools of manual teams with detectors supported by mini excavators for safe preparation of sensitive 'reinforced' mine rows, MAG will need an additional \$12 million of projected funding
- If funding to MAG is not possible MAG would wish to see sufficient funding to come to the sector to reach the 2028 target
- The sector is estimating \$30 million additional funding required to reach completion in Zimbabwe by end of 2028.

Additional considerations:

- With completion of land release in Zimbabwe by 2028 comes additional considerations:

Residual contamination

- The minefields are well mapped and generally the contaminated areas are known
- However, explosive ordnance from battle areas can be found outside of known areas and land mines can also be found outside of the 'normal' pattern
- While mine action operators make all 'reasonable effort' to remove all mines there is always a residual risk
- It would be logical for the NMCU to be capacitated to respond to residual contamination through transfer of some assets and technical support as international operators withdraw

Additional considerations:

Humanitarian Mine Action to be brought into the Strategic Development Plans of Zimbabwe

- This would allow greater understanding amongst government ministries and donors of the need for services in the MF border areas and the opportunities for growth as relatively fertile land is released
- Donors through international and local NGOs can partner with the Mudzi Rural District Council to prioritise services and support according to the MRDC development plan
- With agriculture in different forms the major livelihood option for the communities, sustainable utilisation of the land and resources in place should be a key initiative

Additional considerations:

Demobilisation

- Across the operators 6-700 deminers and associated staff may be made redundant as the completion of mine-free status is achieved
- MAG as with other operators has been steadily building capacity of staff through various trainings and initiatives to prepare them for transition as funding allows
- This includes financial literacy, computer skills, poultry and vegetable gardening demonstration plots, Rosella and Baobab harvesting, catering: such efforts will continue as funding allows
- Technical demining and leadership training has continued for the few who may wish later to work in other countries but to also impart the skills of staff management, adherence to strict SOPs, data reporting etc that can be transferrable to other careers in Zimbabwe

Capacity building demonstration site
towards people and culture life skills
development.



Partnership • Progress • Prosperity



Additional considerations:

Gender Dynamics in the community

- MAG now has around 45% female demining staff earning 'good' USD salaries to support their households
- Originally, very few applied – work is for men and dangerous and risks of working/living in camp situation
- As the early female staff showed their abilities and earning potential, so others applied when vacancies arose
- It is important to note that their individual and collective standing in their household and local community has grown, with evidenced influence in decisions that affect their lives instead of 'just' the roles they used to play
- It is important that all efforts are made during demobilisation to have prepared all deminers and particularly the females for livelihood opportunities in the future so their roles in the community can continue to expand
- The Norwegian MFA has supported an all-female demining team for the past two years with the training and formation supported by FCDO and SIDA – see photo!



Questions

