

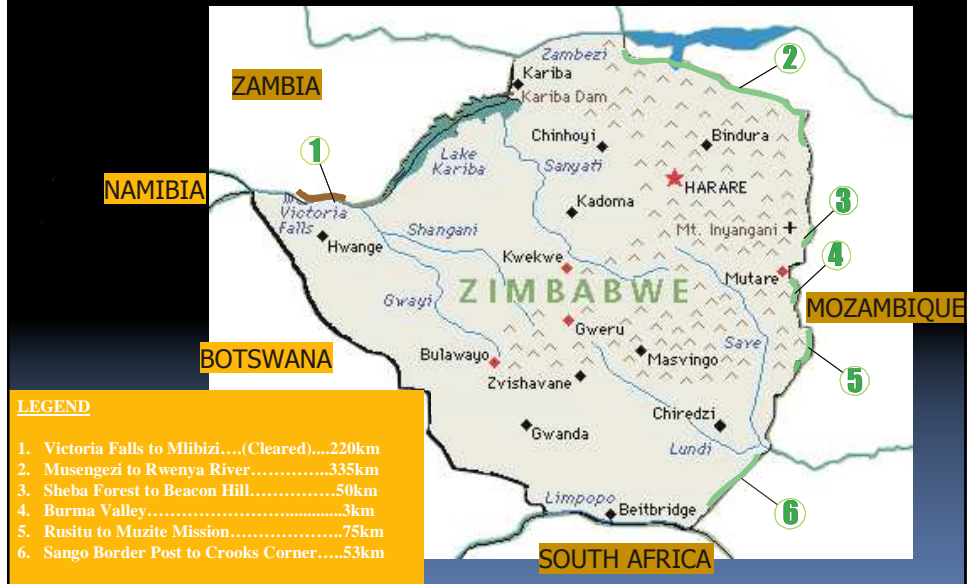


# **ZIMAC UPDATE TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINE CLEARANCE, MINE RISK EDUCATION AND MINE ACTION TECHNOLOGIES, 27- 28 MAY 2013, GENEVA**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Let me first respond to questions raised by Co-Chairs Mozambique and Netherlands before updating the meeting on Zimbabwe's current position. Zimbabwe has remained resolute in her endeavours to fulfil her obligations under Article 5 despite a lot of challenges. Over the last thirteen (13) years, Zimbabwe has depended on the military through the National Mine Clearance Squadron for all mine action especially demining and MRE. Since 1999, when the Convention entered into force, Zimbabwe has cleared the **286 km<sup>2</sup>** minefield on the Northern border with Zambia (Victoria Falls to Mlibizi), and is currently carrying out demining on the sixth minefield on the South Eastern part of the country (Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner minefield), **28,4 km** of this minefield has been covered, bringing the total of the cleared mined areas to **305,2 km<sup>2</sup>** and **209 256 AP** mines recovered and destroyed since entry into force.

## MINEFIELDS IN ZIMBABWE



Zimbabwe is very clear as to the remaining state of contamination. There are five minefields and three SHA that are yet to be cleared and these cover a total area of **205,85 km<sup>2</sup>**.

Zimbabwe continues to implement clearance as guided by the detailed work plan as contained in the extension request. Zimbabwe is also engaging the International Community, other States Parties for assistance in order to address the remaining implementation challenges.

### **CURRENT EFFORTS**

You will recall that from our extension request we indicated a number of milestones to be accomplished during the extension period. I am happy to report that some positive developments have taken place.

The National Mine Clearance Squadron continues to carry out all mine action programmes especially demining. This Squadron which is currently deployed on the South Eastern part of the country on demining operations on the Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner minefield has managed to clear an area of **7,1 km** and destroyed **4151** mines during 2012. This year the Squadron is currently carrying out survey and clearance of the secondary minefield and quality assurance of part of the primary and secondary minefields. It is also pleasing to note that the Squadron has also embarked on the survey and clearance of the Suspected Hazardous Area in Kariba and they have recovered and destroyed **163** Improvised Explosive Devices and they have managed to release an area of **6600 m<sup>2</sup>** for developmental purposes.





Through the partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross since February 2012, ZE Officers and NCOs were successfully trained in demining leadership training, demining and survey skills, Quality Assurance/Quality Control, Information Management System for Mine Action, Medical Trauma and EOD Level 1 courses. A Mine Risk Education course is set for July this year. The course is set to enable ZIMAC to increase its awareness outreach programmes in order to cover most of the high impact areas. The ICRC is also assisting Zimbabwe to develop our National Mine Action Standards. The production of draft copies has been completed and we now await the review of the standards before they are formally adopted as national governing documents. In the meantime, for our international partners they are using the international standards as guidelines for their operations.

With the assistance from the ICRC, we have established a functional IMSMA department. Two of our information management personnel were sent to Mozambique late last year for training in Information Management System for Mine Action. Beginning this year we have started the set up for the database and through liaison with our international partners, we have designed a common reporting procedure which will be the benchmark for all organisations working in Zimbabwe to ensure commonality in reporting and information management. We hope with more technical and material support, our information management capability will be enhanced to benefit all stakeholders and enable us collect data on landmines victims.

**Common Border Demining.** Demining of the minefields that either straddle the Zimbabwe-Mozambique border or stretch into Mozambique remains a challenge as the issue requires input by the two countries. The two parties are working on the finer details of how this can be done. Work on the proposed area will commence once this process has been completed.

**The African Union Commission** has also shown interest to assist Zimbabwe's Mine Action Programme and recently ZIMAC was invited for the AU Commission Seminar on Weapons Contamination. The AU Commission has indicated its willingness to support Zimbabwe through the provision of mine clearance equipment and emergency trauma bags. We are reliably informed that these have been procured and will be supplied soon.

**Norwegian People's Aid.** NPA has managed to conduct non-technical survey of Burma Valley and Sheba Forest to Beacon Hill minefields. Other achievements have been the importation of demining equipment into the country and completion of the Deminer Training Course. A Task Order was issued to NPA for the first operational deployment for technical survey and thereafter clearance operations on the Burma Valley minefield.

**HALO Trust.** HALO Trust has been given the green light to commence demining operations.

Let me conclude by saying Zimbabwe remains committed to her obligations under Article 5 to ensure a mine free Zimbabwe and the world at large.

I thank you







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