



## **Republic of Mozambique**

### **13th Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC**

*Geneva, 2 December 2013*

### **Overview of Mozambique's Article 5 Extension Request**

Delivered by

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Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of Mozambique, I thank you for the opportunity to update States Parties on our efforts to demine Mozambique and provide a brief overview of our Article 5 extension request. Despite many challenges, Mozambique has remained resolute in our effort to fulfill our obligations under Article 5. Despite our best efforts and the tremendous progress achieved during the current extension period, Mozambique regrets that it is unable to fully comply with the current extended deadline of 1 March 2014. On 24 May 2013, the Government of Mozambique submitted a request for an extension of the deadline for a period of 10 months until 31 December 2014 in order to allow for more time to complete the remaining minefields that straddle the Mozambique-Zimbabwe border.

Since submitting our original request and updating our fellow States Parties at the Standing Committee Meetings in May of this year, the National Demining Institute continued to gather information on the scope of the remaining work along the Mozambique-Zimbabwe border in order to further refine the estimates of time and resources required for the clearance of these confirmed hazard areas. From July 15<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup> 2013, a survey was conducted to better determine how much of the Zimbabwe border minefields extend into Mozambique. We are happy to report that, with the data from the new survey, the National Demining Institute was able to significantly reduce the amount of contaminated area that was located within the territory of Mozambique.

However, demining operations in the central region of Mozambique regrettably faced several challenges in 2013, including heavy flooding, insecurity in the region, difficult access to remote locations and a shortage of mechanical demining equipment. These challenges delayed progress towards clearing all known mined areas in the central region.

The National Demining Institute therefore revised the extension request to reflect the reduced number of demining tasks along the border and to include demining tasks in the central regional that will remain for completion during the 2014 extension period. The revised extension request was submitted on the 10th of October.

In our extension request, we highlighted the progress achieved so far during the current extension period. Between 2008 and November 2013, 495 suspected hazard areas out of the 541 identified in the Baseline Survey totaling 12 million m<sup>2</sup> out of the original 12.2 million sqm were demined, meaning that 93% of the total mine suspected area identified in the Baseline Survey are now already completed.

However, as envisioned in the extension request, additional surveys were required to further define the remaining mined area. From 2008 to 2011, a total of 512 new suspected hazard areas corresponding to approximately 22.2 million m<sup>2</sup> were identified that were not captured in the Baseline Survey. The identification of the previously unidentified mined areas required the Government of Mozambique to significantly increase the demining capacity in the country in order to stay on target to clear all known mined areas by 2014. To increase the effectiveness and the efficiency of the demining capacity in the country, the National Demining Institute also adopted two additional approaches, namely the 'land release' methodology and increased mechanical demining assets.

With these new approaches and the increase in demining capacity in the country, since 2008 until today, a total of 37,920,692 square meters of mine suspected area were released through survey and clearance that resulted in the destruction of 36,397 anti-personnel, 118 anti-vehicle mines and 4090 items of UXO . This includes both the baseline tasks previously mentioned as well as hazard areas that were not previously identified in the 2007/2008 baseline survey. As of today, we have completed demining operations in 109 out of 128 Districts in Mozambique, meaning that 5 out of the 10 Provinces are now free of all known mined areas.

We also highlighted the remaining challenges that hindered completion of all mine suspected areas by the current deadline. The circumstances that

impeded Mozambique from being in a position to expect to be able to declare completion by its existing 1 March 2014 deadline include:

(a) that Mozambique ended up having to deal with almost three times as much area known or suspected to contain mines than was originally known to be the case in 2008 (i.e., approximately 34.3 million square metres versus the original estimate of approximately 12.1 million square metres), and

(b) that the size and quality of the tasks along the border pose significant challenges that were largely unknown in 2008 including, difficult access to the minefields from the Mozambican side, dense minefields containing minimal metal mines and difficulty defining where the border since the minefield straddles both sides of the border.

As of November 2013, we have 6,169,070 square meters of mine suspected areas and 19 districts remaining to complete before 31 December 2014. Considering the large amount of mined area that was identified and surveyed after the submission of the 2008 extension request and therefore was not foreseen in the original plan for the five year extension period as well acknowledging that Mozambique remains one of the poorest countries in the world, we believe Mozambique has made tremendous progress in implementing Article 5 of the Convention despite these challenges. With the current demining capacity and with the financial support of our international partners, the National Demining Institute is confident that the remaining minefields along the Mozambique-Zimbabwe border and the Central Region can still be completed by December 2014. More information on the projected work plan for 2014 and the reasons for the extension request are included in more detail in the extension request document.

We admit that the 2014 National Mine Action Plan is ambitious and as with any plan, there are risks. The risks that would hinder us from completing demining within the target are the following:

- Heavier or longer than usual monsoon season that would prevent and delay access to flooded and remote suspected hazard.
- Continued insecurity in the central region would prevent the deminers from safely conducting operations.
- Insufficient financial support at the start of the year would delay the deployment of demining teams and led to insufficient capacity to finish all tasks within the timeline.
- Unforeseen technical challenges that would require additional mechanical assets or specific demining equipment that is currently not available in the country.

We are working to mitigate these risks as much as possible. We are working with our international partners to ensure adequate funding arrives in a timely pattern. The government of Mozambique is doing everything it can to improve security in the central region. Finally Mozambique and Zimbabwe are finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate demining along our common border.

Given these risks, we will regularly update States Parties on progress achieved and inform States Parties of any challenges that would hinder completion by the revised deadline.

The Government of Mozambique through its request reaffirms the government's commitment to destroy all Anti-Personnel Mines in the country as a pre-condition to social and economic development and in accordance with its obligations under article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Thank you.

**Geneva, 2 December 2013**



## **MOZAMBIQUE'S ARTICLE 5 EXTENSION REQUEST**

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the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

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### **Mozambique's Article 5 Extension Request**

- 24 May 2013 - Mozambique submitted its Article 5 Extension Request for an additional 10 months until 31 December 2014 to complete the demining of confirmed hazard areas along the Mozambique-Zimbabwe border.
- July and August 2013 – Additional Survey work conducted of the Mozambican side of the border.
- 10 Sept 2013 - Mozambique submitted a revised extension request with two major changes:
  1. The reduction of the confirmed hazard area in Mozambican territory along the border; and
  2. Inclusion of areas in Sofala and Manica Provinces that were delayed in 2013



## Summary of progress achieved, 2009 -2013

### Original plan in the 2008 Extension Request:

- The 2008 Extension Request was based on the results of the 2007-2008 Baseline Survey, which reported the existence of 541 remaining suspected hazard areas corresponding to 12.2 million m<sup>2</sup>, in the provinces of Tete, Manica, Sofala, Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo.

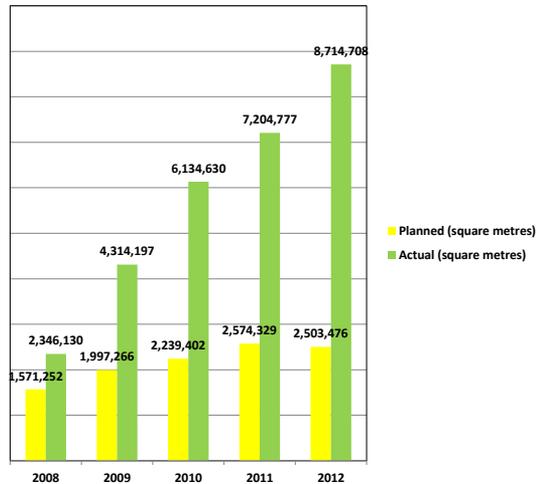
### New Surveys Resulted in the identification of previously unknown areas:

- As outlined in the 2008 Extension Request, additional surveys conducted from 2008 to 2011 identified a total of 512 new suspected hazard areas corresponding to approximately 22.2 million m<sup>2</sup> that were not captured in the Baseline Survey.



## Suspected Hazard Area Released from 2008 until 2012 compared to original plan

**Mozambique has achieved more than originally planned during the last 5 years thanks to the better coordination by the Government, increased demining capacity and continuing support from more than 20 international partners.**





## Summary of progress achieved, 2009 -2013

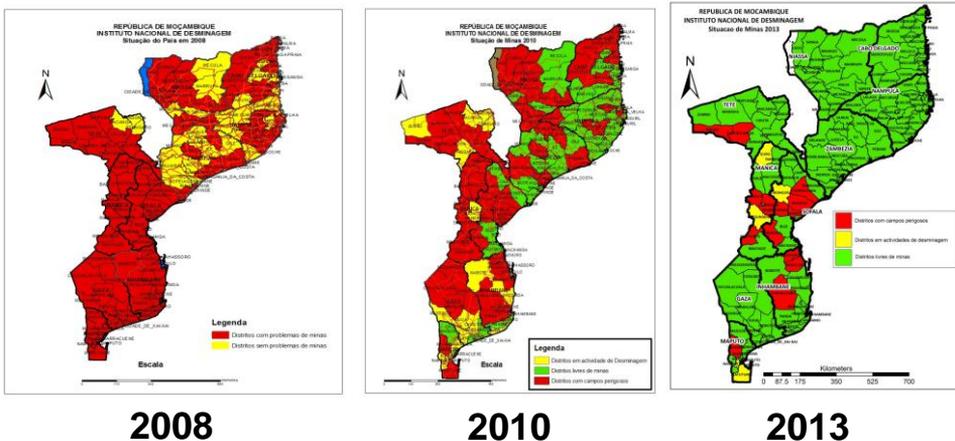
- Since 2008, release of 37,920,692 square meters of mine suspected areas, destruction of 36,397 AP landmines, 118 AT mines and 4090 UXO.
- Utilizing a district-by-district approach, able to declare 109 districts out of a total of 128 districts as 'mine-free', meaning there are no known mined areas remaining in these districts.
- 5 Provinces (Gaza, Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa and Zambezia) out of the 10 provinces in the country are now free of all known mined areas.

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## MINE AFFECTED DISTRICTS IN 2008, 2010, 2013



2008

2010

2013

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**Extension Request and Mine Action Work Plan  
1 March 2014 – 31 December 2014**

**The circumstances impeding Mozambique from declaring completion by its existing 1 March 2014 deadline include:**

- (a) Mozambique had to deal with almost three times as much area known or suspected to contain mines than was originally known in 2008 (i.e., approximately 34.3 million square metres versus the original estimate of approximately 12.1 million square metres).
- (b) the size and quality of the tasks along the border pose significant challenges that were largely unknown in 2008.



**Remaining Mine Suspected Areas as of 15.11.2013**

PROVINCE	Districts	Baseline Tasks		Non-Baseline Tasks		Total	
		Areas	m2	Areas	m2	Areas	m2
MAPUTO	3	-	-	2	146,000	2	146,000
INHAMBANE	4	19	81,976	8	180,834	27	262,810
SOFALA	6	26	108,028	76	3,418,787	102	3,526,815
MANICA	4	1	820	25	1,815,822	26	1,816,642
TETE	2	-	-	4	416,803	4	416,803
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>190,824</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>5,978,246</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>6,169,070</b>



## Mine Action Work Plan For 2014

Province	District	Tasks	Description	Area (m2)	Remarks
Sofala	Cheringoma	3	Road Tasks Requiring Mechanical Demining	622,000	Delayed demining in 2013 due to late arrival of demining machine
Sofala	Chibabava	75	Mine suspected areas	1,571,030	Delayed demining in 2013 due to access and insecurity
Sofala	Nhamatanda	1 (62 Towers)	Beira I & II Powerlines	155,000	Delayed demining in 2013 due to difficult road access
Manica	Gondola	1 (15 Towers)	Beira I & II Powerlines	33,000	Delayed demining in 2013 due to lack of mechanical demining assets
Manica	Manica	3	Nhamucuarara, Mucudo, Mudododo border minefields	453,300	Border minefields with access from Zimbabwe
Manica	Mossurize	14	Mine Suspected areas	545,652	New Surveys identified areas in 2013, close to border
Tete	Cahora Bassa	1	Chinzunga section of Cahora Bassa Mine Belt	75,000	Delayed demining in 2013 due to difficult road access
Tete	Cahora Bassa	1	Kahira Luia Border Minefield	344,970	Border minefield with access from Zimbabwe
Tete	Magoé	1	N'soluwamuthu Border Minefield	220.000	Border minefield with access from Mozambique
<b>Total</b>		100 Tasks		4.019.952	

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## Demining Completion in 2014

- To complete demining in 2014, the National Demining Institute estimates a total budget of about 13million USD will be required in 2014.

<b>Total estimated amount</b>	<b>13.284.856 USD</b>
Government contribution	2.000.000 USD
International contribution pledged	3.000.000 USD
Unfunded	8.284.856 USD

- Demining in 2014 will need to:
  - overcome technical challenges encountered along the powerlines and border minefields,
  - ensure bilateral cooperation with Zimbabwe on border minefields; and
  - maintain security in central region.

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Geneva, 28 May 2013