



**REPÚBLICA DA GUINÉ-BISSAU**  
**MINISTÉRIO DOS COMBATENTES DA LIBERDADE DA PÁTRIA**  
*Gabinete de Ministra*

**DECLARATION by HER EXCELLENCY Mrs. ISABEL MENDES CORREIA  
BUSCARDINI,  
THE MINISTER OF FORMER COMBATTANTS AND CHIEF OF THE  
DELEGATION OF GUINEA-BISSAU  
AT THE 8<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES OF THE OTTAWA  
CONVENTION ,**

**AMMAN (JORDAN)  
18 – 22 NOVEMBER 2007**

- **Your Excellency Mr. President of the 8th Meeting of States Parties of the Ottawa Convention ;**
- **Honorable Representatives of the Kingdom and Government of Jordan;**

The delegation of Guinea-Bissau wishes to take the opportunity to express gratitude to the Royal Family, Government and Nation of the Jordan for the excellent welcoming in your marvelous and historical country.

- **Your Excellency Member States present in this room, my Delegation wishes to welcome new member states who joined us in a serious humanitarian challenge, the creation of a less violent world free of human suffering caused by anti-personal land mines.**

On the other hand we wish to encourage the States who are not Members to adhere to this unique international instrument which totally prohibits any use, storage, production, transfer of anti-personal land mines and which demands their full destruction.

- **Honorable Representatives of different international organizations, United Nations System Agencies and NGOs.**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In front of this magnificent assembly I wish to reaffirm one more time the determination of my Government to comply with all the clauses of the mentioned Convention which my country signed on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1997 and ratified in May 2001.

During the last six (6) months Guinea-Bissau have worked on mines removal, above all in the capital Bissau, and in August 2006 at a simple ceremony, the city of Bissau was declared free of mine. Although, the capital and the Country are still polluted with different munitions and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

Therefore, the problem that most affects the Country at present is the removal and destruction of explosive devices, within which exist airplane bombs containing sub-munitions. Hence, to address the situation Guinea-Bissau organizes the training done by specialists in EOD and do the battle area clearance (BAC).

Excellencies,

The operations to be undertaken at this moment in our country go beyond the competencies and logistical-technical capacities of national NGOs. This was the reason to bring in the support of the North American Military Specialists (USAF) and two International NGOs working at present in the country: Land Mine Action and Cleared Ground Demining who work in partnership with the national NGOs: HUMAID and LUTCAM under the Coordination of CAAMI and with the support of UNDP.

Taking into consideration the situation, the Country is motivated to adhere to other Conventions such as CCW and its additional Protocols, as well as to the Norway Initiative on sub-munitions. (Cluster munitions)

In our opinion all the above mentioned Conventions defend the principles of the International Humanitarian Law and should merit the attention of each Civilized State.

Excellency,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The majority of the affected countries are poor countries, such as ours. Often, the will of the Government does not match with the Economic capacities, and therefore the wished results are not attained.

Therefore, we continue to request the support from stronger countries in order to continue to support the process. On the other hand, we wish to see concrete support to the wounded, their families and communities. Since the suffering of the victims and wounded in general is not less important than the undergoing demining operations, and therefore should merit more attention, especially in the phase we are currently going through.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

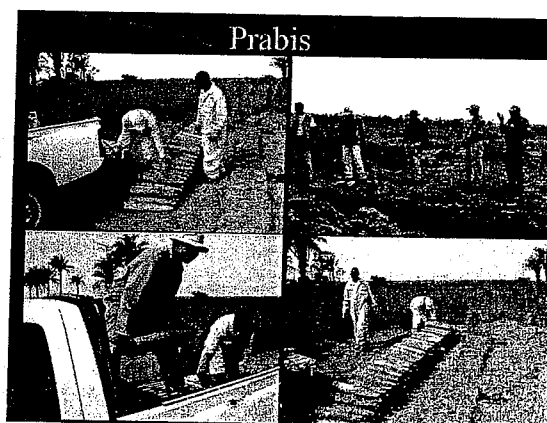
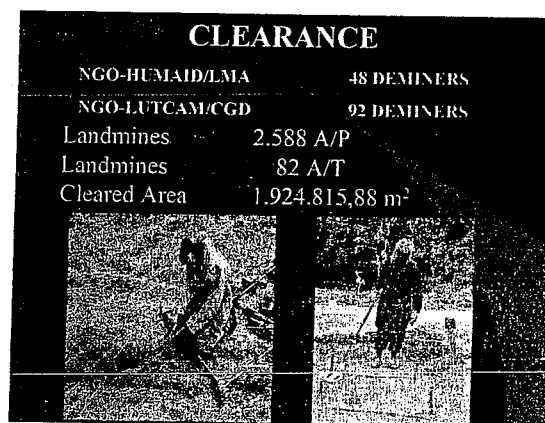
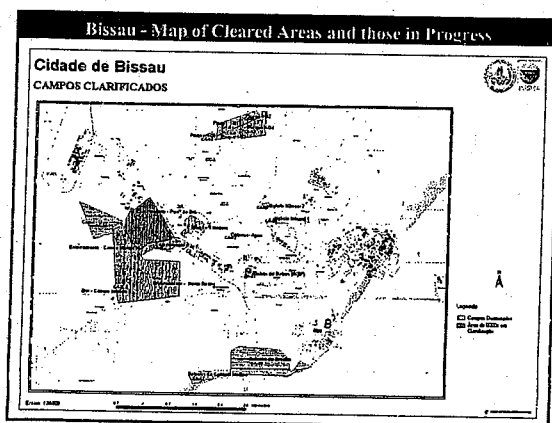
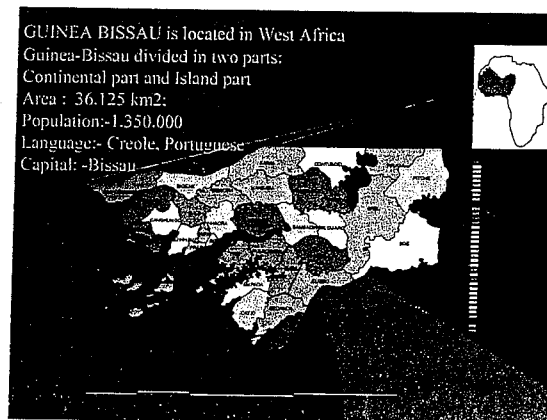
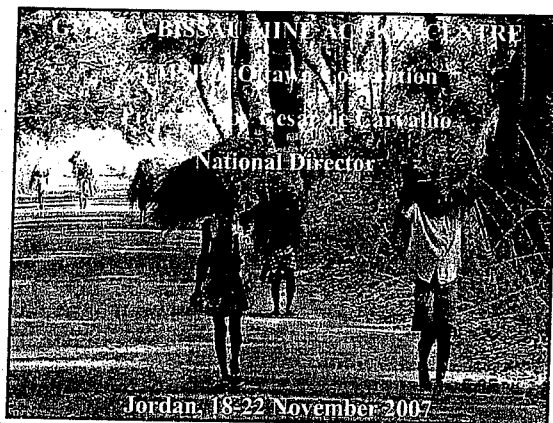
Our delegation once more thanks the hospitality of the Jordan Nation, our wide gratitude to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in partnership with the Donor Countries who made possible through the Sponsorship Program the presence here of two (2) members of my Delegation

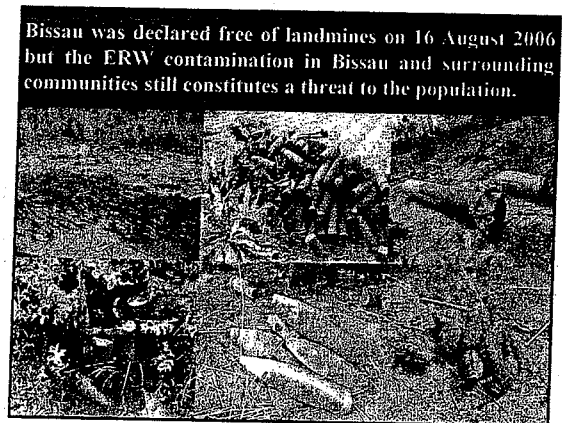
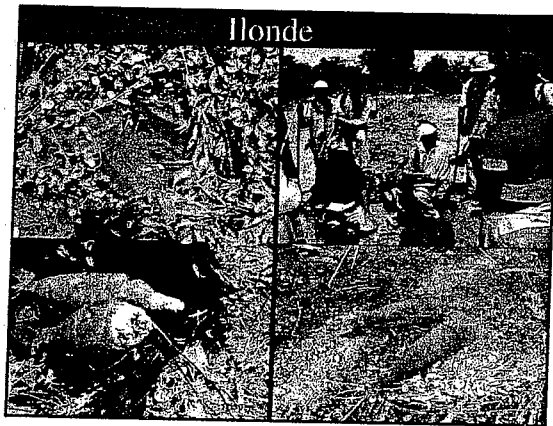
Taking the opportunity, I wish to thank once more the support of the United Nations in general and more particularly the UNDP local office and UNDP New York for the continuous and pertinent support provided to Guinea-Bissau and its fight against LandMines. We also wish to encourage the donor countries to continue support such countries as ours to promote and apply the Policy of the Humanitarian Mine Action, which can let Guinea-Bissau be free of mines and UXOs in some years.

**Thank you for your attention.**

**Mrs Isabel Buscardini**

**Minister**

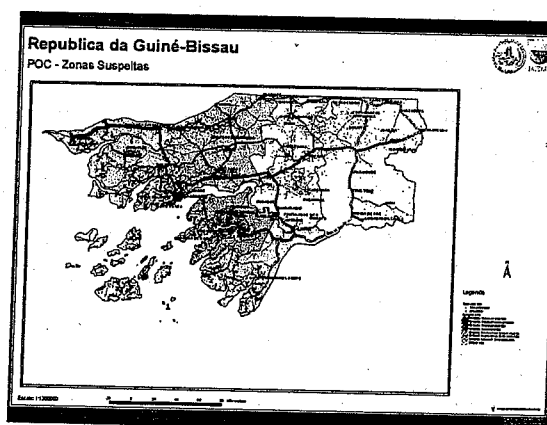




**Landmine Impact Survey (LIS)**

**Preliminary Opinion Collection**

- Executed by CAAMI at the end of 2006
- Process of information collection and analysis identified over 277 communities contaminated by mines and ERW
- New information from conflict area was integrated



**LIS Phase 2**

- UNDP launched tender – 15 June 2007
- Planned Commencement Date – Oct 2007 by Land Mine Action NGO
- Planned Completion Date – March 2008
- National Strategic Plan to be finalized by June 2008

**Current Work Plan**

### 1. UXO Clearance in and around the capital Bissau: Paiol, Rossum, Prabís, Ilonde and Bissau's Spot Tasks.



### 2- Buruntuma MineField

Minefield from the Independence War located on the border with Guinea-Conakry.



### Manual Mine Clearance - Buruntuma

A/C m2	A/P	A/T	UXO	kg Metal remove
63.076	32	12	<12.7mm 3.251	650.6

In addition to the above farmers and military delivered Eighteen (18) mines.

They were removed while cultivating their land. There were two 05 AP-M35 (13) AP-AUPS mines.

Also, 3 UXO were obtained from farmers.

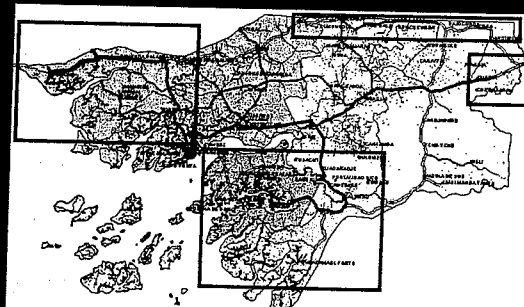
### HUMAIID - BURUNTUMA



### Future Work Plan



### 3. Other Impact Areas



- LIS
- S.DOMINGOS on Casamance border
- QUINARA (Fulacunda)
- Military Stockpiles of SALW
- Others Locations in accordance with LIS findings

#### The Conditions We Face:



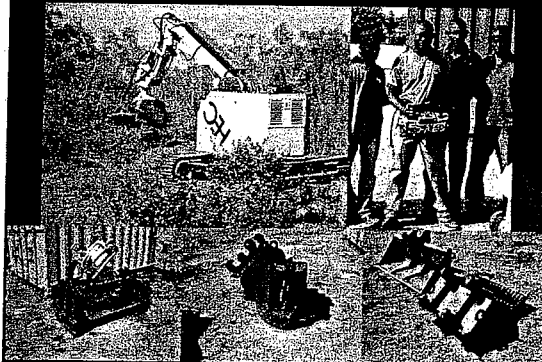
#### Types of vegetation



#### Type of soils



#### Mechanical Methodology- MAXX



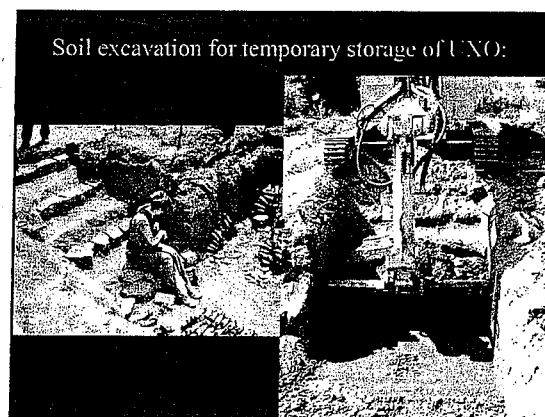
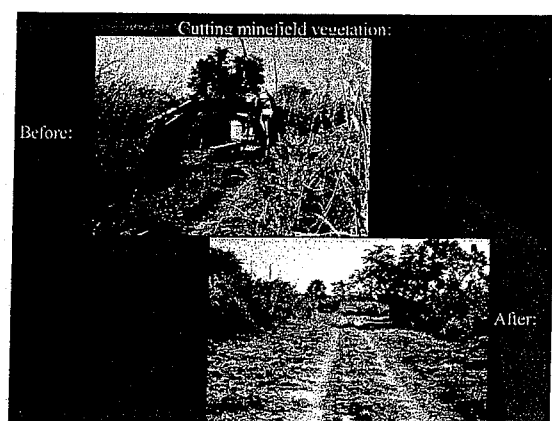
#### MAXX -- Mechanical Assistance for Demining



Under an evaluation phase, the machine was brought to Guinea-Bissau by the US Department of Defense in 2006, within the framework of a tripartite agreement between: the US Government, the Government of Guinea-Bissau and LNDP.

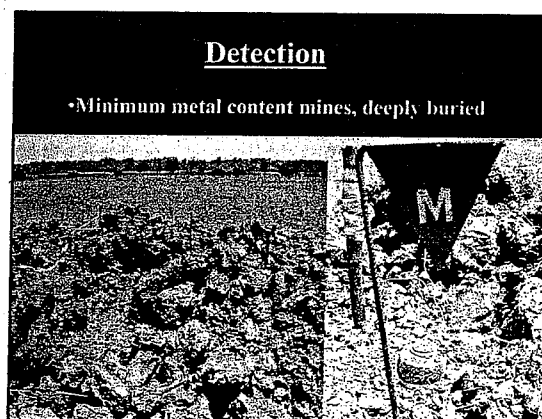
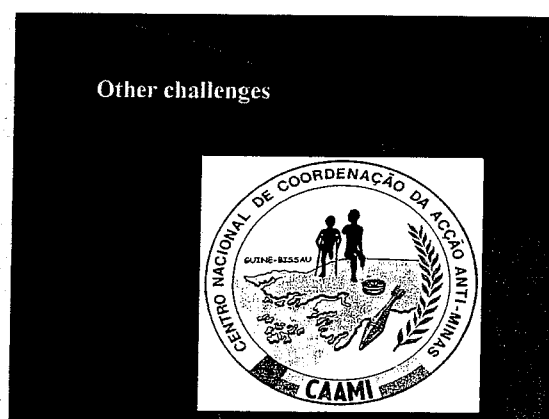
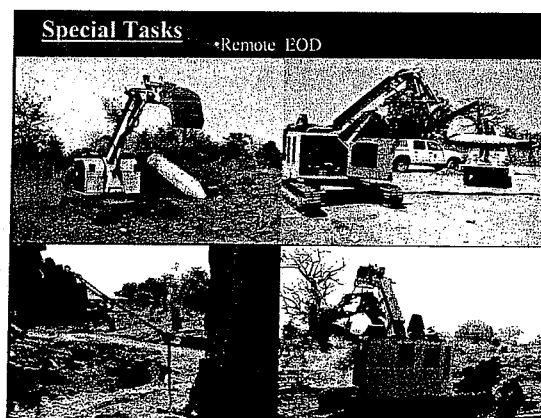
#### Maxx Capacity

- Remotely controlled
- Can work safely inside minefield (anti-personnel mine threat)
- Vegetation Cutter
- Excavation
- Soil sifting
- Ground preparation



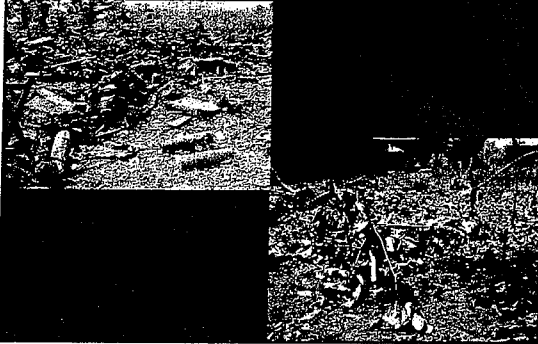
**General Summary of Productivity**  
March 2006 – September 2007

Vegetation Area Cut (m <sup>2</sup> )	Excavated Area (m <sup>3</sup> )	Diesel (litres)	Hydraulic Oil (litres)	Diesel Oil (litres)	Rat (ton) (litres)	Work Hours
120.063.1	2.007	3.080	65.5	36	17.2	565.4

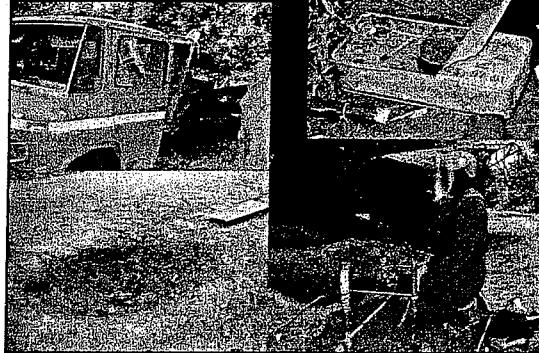




**Former Frontline Areas/High Density of Metal Fragments**

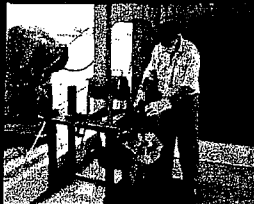


**Low Density, or Nuisance Mining (large areas, few items)**



## Explosive Harvesting Program

- Difficulty obtaining explosives in Guinea Bissau
- Military stockpiles EHP potential
- Golden West & Cleared Ground train-the-trainer in Cambodia
- Fly away kit arrives Bissau Aug 2007
- Additional donor assistance being sought for set-up & implementation

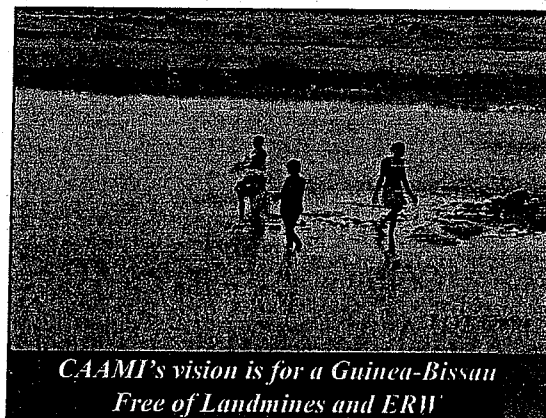


## MINE RISK EDUCATION - MRE




- Financial support from the International Community for MRE significantly reduced over the past two years. This has led to a reduction in the number of MRE "activists" in the country. UNICEF continues to support us with a funding that we are using in the high priority area of S. Domingos, which borders Senegal.
- This year we completed all cycle of training, were more than Volunteers from all affected/suspected areas was train.





Undertaking landmine/UXO risk Education into Isolated Areas



Thank four your attention  
We thank all our current and past stakeholders

