PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE SERBIE
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES
ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS
INTERNATIONALES

No: 670-1/2022

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and has the honor to enclose herewith updated information in accordance with Article 7, Paragraph 2, of the Convention, covering the previous calendar year, i.e. the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 29 April 2022

Implementation Support Unit
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction
GENEVA

5 Ch. Thury, CH-1206 – Genève, tel. +41 22 839 33 44 , fax. +41 22 839 33 59 , e-mail: mission.serbia.ungeneva@mfa.rs

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

UPDATED INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 7, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

SUBMITTED 30 APRIL 2022 COVERING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2021 TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

A. National implementation measures

1. No additional legal, administrative and other measures were taken during the previous calendar year to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the Convention.

B. Stockpiled anti-personnel mines

2. As of 31 December 2021, the Republic of Serbia possessed 3,134 stockpiled anti-personnel mines:

Type	Quantity Possessed	Lot Numbers
PMA-1	**494**	Unknown
PMA-2	**596**	Unknown
PMA-3	**540**	Unknown
PMR-2A	**504**	Unknown
PMR-3	**500**	Unknown
PROM-1	**500**	Unknown
TOTAL	**3,134**	

1. During 2021, Serbian Armed Forces destroyed none of anti-personnel mines.

Type	Quantity Destroyed	Lot Numbers
TOTAL	0	

C. Anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for permitted purposes

2. As of 31 December 2021, the Republic of Serbia retained 3,134 anti-personnel mines for purposes permitted under Article 3 of the Convention:

Type	Quantity Retained	Lot Numbers
PMA-1	**494**	**Unknown**
PMA-2	**596**	**Unknown**
PMA-3	**540**	**Unknown**
PMR-2A	**504**	**Unknown**
PMR-3	**500**	**Unknown**
PROM-1	**500**	**Unknown**
TOTAL	**3,134**	

3. The Republic of Serbia has authorised Ministry of Defence (MOD) to retain anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes.
4. The Republic of Serbia retains anti-personnel mines for training of the demining personnel, training of mine detection dogs, testing demining machines and studying the effect of the blast of various types of anti-personnel mines on demining equipment and testing of the protection equipment.

D. Areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines

5.

E. Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines

6. The Republic of Serbia has no additional information on the technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines owned or possessed.

Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic content	Colour photo attached	Supplementary information to facilitate mine clearance.
			type	grams			
PMA-1, 1A	**140 mm x 70 mm x 30 mm**	**UPMAH-1 (chemical)**	**TNT**	**200**	/	/	**Mine is plastic, without metal elements.**
PMA-2	**68 mm x 32 mm**	**UPMAH-2 (chemical)**	**TNT**	**70**	/	/	**Mine is plastic, without metal elements and waterproof closed.**
PMA-3	**103 mm x 36 mm**	**UPMAH-3 (chemical)**	**TETRYL**	**35**	/	/	**Mine is plastic, without metal elements and waterproof closed.**

Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic content	Colour photo attached	Supplementary information to facilitate mine clearance.
PMR-2, 2A	**66 mm x 132 mm**	**UPMR-2, UPMR-2S (mechanical)**	**TNT**	**100**	**1,700 g**	/	**Its fragments are dangerous within the range of 50 m. Detection with mine detectors is possible.**
PMR-3	**80 mm x 150 mm**	**UPMR-3 (mechanical)**	**TNT**	**410**	**3,000 g**	/	**Its fragments are dangerous within the range of 100 m. Detection with mine detectors is possible.**
PROM-1	**80 mm x 150 mm**	**UPROM-1 (mechanical)**	**TNT**	**420**	**2,580 g**	/	**Its fragments are dangerous within the range of 50 m. Detection with mine detectors is possible.**
VS-50	**90 mm x 45 mm**	**UVS-50 (chemical)**	**RDX**	**43**	/	/	**Mine is plastic, without metal elements and waterproof closed.**

F. Conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities

7. The Republic of Serbia has no additional information on the conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities. See the report submitted in 2021 for information that has already been provided by the Republic of Serbia on the conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities.

G. Victim assistance

8.

H. Cooperation and assistance

9. The Serbian Armed Forces maintain a capability to survey, search for, detect, clear and destroy landmines. This capability includes many types of detection equipment, mechanical clearance assets, disposal experts and specialist search and clearance teams.

10. The Republic of Serbia has the capacities for decommission of the landmines and unexploded ordnance. More detailed data were given in the report submitted in 2021.

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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SUBMITTED 31 APRIL 2022

1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

D. Areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines

As of 1 April 2022, there are 3 areas in the Republic of Serbia suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling **561,800 square metres***. See Annex II for complete list of these areas. Areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines remain in 3 villages in the Municipality of Bujanovac as follows:

Summary of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as of 1 April 2022

Municipality	Village	Number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines	Number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	Total number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	Amount of area known to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)	Amount of area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)	Total amount of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)
Bujanovac	Ravno Bučje	/	1	1	/	390,300	390,300
	Končulj	/	1	1	/	143,500	143,500
	Dobrosin	/	1	1	/	28,000	28,000
Total	3	/	3	3	/	561,800	**561,800***

***Please note that the Republic of Serbia is facing with a problem of newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality. In October 2019, in the territory of the Bujanovac Municipality, at the request of representatives of local self-government, the Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia (SMAC) conducted survey and marking of locations suspected to be contaminated by groups of mines. These are locations where forest fires occurred (in August 2021, too), and according to eyewitnesses, explosions could be heard in several places after the fire broke out, indicating the existence of mines in these areas.**

Representatives of SMAC and Emergency Management Staff of the Municipality of Bujanovac, visited the sites and interviewed local residents, local community representatives, fire-fighters, as well as police and military representatives.

Furthermore, mine suspected areas have been marked in order to clearly and visually warn of mine danger, as well as to ban the entry of population into mine suspected area. Mine warning signs have been posted in the areas of possible access to mined areas (roads, paths and other areas where movement of people is expected).

Given that the areas suspected to be contaminated with mines are located in the Municipality of Bujanovac, which is an area with multi-ethnic population, the whole area has been visibly marked with "Stop Mines" signs in Serbian and Albanian languages.

In the forthcoming period, and pending on available funds, SMAC intends to survey the remaining sites for which there are indications of contamination. The aim is to record all changes that have occurred as a result of new circumstances and are the consequences of new findings. The data on the scope of the contamination are not available at the time of writing this report.

In addition to this, there was one area which was, apart from mines, contaminated with various types of unexploded ordnance and totalled 298.700 sqm. Clearance project was developed by SMAC, funds provided through ITF, by the U.S. Government. Clearance was completed in October 2021, with 129 UXOs found and destroyed.

The Republic of Serbia's deadline for fulfilment of its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention is the 1st March 2023.

However, on the 18th March 2021, Serbia submitted its third request for the extension of the deadline for fulfilment of its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention. The requested period is 2 years, that is, a new deadline to be set for March 2025. Serbia believes that a 2-year period is a realistic period in which could be fulfilled the obligations under Article 5 of the Convention. Serbia will put maximum efforts into clearing known areas totaling 561,800 m^2 in 2022. National and international funds for 2022 clearance operations have been secured.
As regards the newly discovered mine suspected areas, since there is the need for recruitment of survey teams, training, survey of Bujanovac Municipality - input of all data - identification of confirmed and suspected areas - analysis and creation of prioritised plan for clearance, Serbia will need time and funds to complete these tasks.

The global goal of a mine free world by 2025 remains our objective.

There are a number of circumstances that have impeded Serbia from complying with its 4-year period of its second extension request.
Particular issues faced by Serbia are as follows:

-Unregistered mine contaminated areas: The remaining areas contaminated by mines do not have registries and have not been planted in specific patterns, which aggravates demining efforts, namely survey results are subject to alterations. These are groups of mines, not minefields. On most of these areas deaths of animals occurred or a mine was accidentally detected.

-Newly discovered mine suspected areas in Bujanovac, in October 2019 and in August 2021. However, the data on the scope of the contamination of the newly discovered areas are not available at the time of writing this update.

-Climactic conditions: Contaminated areas are inaccessible during some periods of the year causing operation delays.

-Contamination other than mines: Specificity and complexity of the problem presents the fact that apart from mines still remaining in the territory of Serbia, Serbia also encounters with numerous challenges related to clearance of the areas contaminated with unexploded cluster munitions, air bombs - rockets and other UXO, as well as residual contamination and clearance operations triggered by infrastructure development projects.

-COVID-19 crisis: -In 2021, the Serbian Government due to the COVID-19 crisis and government measures in the fight against consequences of the crisis, allocated 260.000 EUR.

In 2021, the Government of Serbia allocated around 260,000 EUR from the state budget for demining operations.

These funds were matched through ITF Enhancing Human Security with available donor funds (the US and Republic of Korea donation). One project by SMAC was implemented in the Municipality of Bujanovac, total area of 294,230 sqm, with 9 AP mines and 4 UXOs found and destroyed.

The Republic of Serbia remains committed to the completion of the Article 5 obligation, in order to primarily provide safety of local population, safe exploitation of woods, safe use of road communications, environmental protection, as well as reduction of fire risks.

SMAC, as a national mine action coordinating authority has requested from the Serbian Government to continue to allocate funds in the years to follow. Despite the economic and overall situation, the Serbian Government has taken ownership of the problem, by continuous allocating of funds for demining operations. However, international support is needed in order to solve the overall mine clearance problem.

The Serbian Government has allocated around 260.000 EUR for demining operations in 2022. These funds have been transferred to ITF to match the funds with donor funds (the US and the Republic of Korea donations). SMAC developed projects for the remaining known contamination totalling 561,800 sqm, which will be implemented in 2022.

As regards the previously unrecorded anti-personnel mine contamination that was revealed as a result of fire in Bujanovac in 2019 and 2021, SMAC has tentatively provided donor funds to start a non-technical survey project, that will include 2 mixed survey teams (1 Serbian and 1 Albanian team of 2 surveyors each), which will be fully trained and equipped to conduct required tasks. These activities will be supervised and monitored by SMAC and in cooperation with the local authorities. The project will take up to 1 year and will focus on the areas where fire forests occurred and explosions could be heard, but will also include all the other areas in Bujanovac where the existence of other mine indicators might be reported. During this period, technical survey projects will be developed, as well as land release projects for the assessed areas. Simultaneously with survey activities, MRE activities will be conducted in all 59 villages of the Municipality of Bujanovac. Upon completion of this project, SMAC will have a clear picture of the contamination, and an updated work plan for the remaining, previously unknown, mined area.

Summary of projections for the amount of area (square metres) suspected to contain anti-personnel mines to be released 2021-2023

2022	Areas	1
	Area	143,500
2022	Areas	1
	Area	390,300
2022	Areas	1
	Area	28,000
Total	**Areas**	**3***
	Area	**561,800***

***Newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality have not been indicated in the table, since the scope of it is yet to be determined. Upon the provision of funds for field operations, in the course of 2021 we expect the commencement of the assessment of the previously unrecorded anti-personnel mine contamination.**

Project for survey of newly discovered mine suspected areas in Bujanovac is in SMAC's 2022 work plan adopted by the Serbian government.

Upon completion of this project, SMAC will have a clear picture of the contamination, which means that by November 2023 (21MSP) an updated work plan for the remaining period of the request, 1 March 2025, could be provided.

In addition to demining operations (around 260,000 EUR), the Serbian State Budget supports the on-going work of the SMAC - salaries of the staff, running costs (electricity, water, heating), office and consumption material costs, fuel costs, maintenance of vehicles, costs of the SMAC staff insurance - as well as survey activities, development of adequate project tasks for demining/clearance of locations confirmed to be contaminated by mines, cluster munitions and other UXO, follow-up of the implementation of project tasks and conduct of demining quality assurance and quality control.

On an annual basis, from the Serbian State Budget is allocated around 350.000 EUR for the work of the SMAC.

The Republic of Serbia carries out a number of efforts to ensure that the civilians from affected communities are not injured by mines, cluster munitions and other UXO including through the following methods:

-Marking;
The whole area suspected to be contaminated with various types of mines has been visibly marked with "STOP UXO" signs in Serbian and Albanian languages, given that it is an area with multiethnic population. Areas contaminated with cluster munitions, air bombs - rockets and other UXO, have been also marked correspondingly. Marking is conducted by the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) and within its regular activities the SMAC periodically visits contaminated locations making sure that these signs remain emplaced.

-Risk education;
Locals of the affected communities are being informed about demining activities through a number of means and media. Mine risk education has been conducted in schools and affected communities. In accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations, evacuation of people from houses, shops and other communal locations located within the zone of demining works is conducted. Suspension of traffic on the roads within the zone of demining operations is conducted, too. In relation to that, the SMAC coordinates activities with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport), local media means in communities where demining operations are conducted.

The following methods have been employed in Serbia to release areas suspected to contain mines:

-Non-technical survey
-Technical survey
-Clearance

-Mechanical demining
-Canine demining

In Serbia, an initial survey which includes collection of data and analysis of available documentation on mine emplacement is employed, as well as a non - technical survey (NTS), which follows after an analysis of previously collected data, conditions in the field, statements by local population, hunters, foresters, people dealing with exploitation of wood, representatives of Civil Protection and Police, amongst others. One significant indicator has been data on accidents that have occurred.

Non - technical survey determines borders of the suspected area, coordinates of the location, type of mines and other UXO, allocation of land, impact on environment.

Technical survey is employed to additionally collect information by technical methods on a suspected area and in case when the data collected by a non - technical survey are not sufficient for suspected areas to be declared hazardous or safe. Technical survey is done by the combination of several methods - manual detection by metal detectors and visually. Manual detection is conducted in prospections. The scheme and dimensions of a prospection depend on land configuration, and all in accordance with the IMAS.

Clearance is conducted in accordance with the IMAS. It is done by a manual method at the depth of 20 cm. Apart from a manual method, demining machines can be used, as well as dogs.

The size of the area to be cleared is determined on the basis of processed data which have been collected by a non-technical survey.

There is equal access to employment for qualified women and men in survey and clearance.
During survey and community liaison activities, women, men and children are consulted.

In 2021, there were no demining accidents in the Republic of Serbia.

Priority is to demine those areas which directly affect the local population. There are mine contaminated areas close to the settlement where the locals stopped cultivating their land due to fear of mines. Demining will contribute to an increase of safety of local population, provide possibilities for safe exploitation of forest, cattle grazing and picking of mushrooms, which are one of the main sources of an income of local population.

As regards in-country national platform for dialogue, SMAC closely cooperates with the Bujanovac local authorities and other relevant stakeholders, in particular Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence, as well as Embassies of donor countries.

Currently, SMAC uses its own information management system. SMAC is in the process of concluding an agreement for the installation of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). The GICHD Information Management Division identified the team supporting SMAC with the implementation of IMSMA and Serbia is added to the list of countries to be supported. In the period June 28 to July 2, 2021, the GICHD Information Management team visited the Serbian Mine Action Centre in order to use the Information Management Capacity Development Framework to assess SMAC's information management capabilities and needs, as well as to offer detailed recommendations to SMAC to advance their information management processes and systems.

In 2021, SMAC staff attended the following courses:

-In the period from 16 to 27 August 2021 in Stans, Switzerland, the 70th Partnership for Peace (PfP) Global Course on Non-Technical Survey.
- Regional Technical Survey Course, in the period 6-10 September 2021, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in partnership with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Regional Quality Management Course in Serbia in the period 24 Nov - 1 Dec 2021.
- Online IMSMA Core training course, from 6th to 17th December 2021.

In 2022, training courses based on SMAC's training programme for educators for mine and ERW Education, will be implemented. Courses like EOD Level 1 and Level 2 are also expected to be implemented pending on provision of funds.

SMAC's planned training programme for educators for mine and ERW education has been verified in March 2021 by the Serbian Ministry of Education.

Pursuant to Article 35 of the Law on Ministries, SMAC conducts expert works in the field of humanitarian demining related, among others, to educating populations of mine/ERW risk.

In line with Oslo Action Plan, Action #28, and noting that SMAC is the only institution responsible for conducting training in RE, SMAC has developed its own program for recognizing explosive remnants of war in accordance with IMAS and submitted it to the Ministry of Education for verification, which verified it in March 2021.

In line with Action #31 of the Oslo Action Plan, the purpose of the SMAC training is to build national capacities to educate trainees (members of local self-governments, civil protection, hunters and construction workers engaged in excavation works in the ERW contaminated areas) in the field of mine action and to enable them to improve knowledge and ability to recognize ERW in the Republic of Serbia. In addition to SMAC staff, who will be engaged as trainers, experts from the Ministry of Interior will also be engaged, so that different aspects and training modules, among others, the basics of ERW recognition, international mine action standards, medical aspect, etc. will be covered. In relation to that, the SMAC coordinates activities with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport), local media means in communities where demining operations are conducted.

In line with Action #29, local at-risk populations are being informed about demining activities through a number of means and media. Mine risk education was conducted in schools and local communities. In accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations, evacuation of people from houses, shops and other communal locations located within the zone of demining works is conducted. Suspension of traffic on the roads within the zone of demining operations is conducted. Accordingly, given that in Serbia, the areas suspected to be contaminated with mines are located in the Municipality of Bujanovac, which is an area with multi-ethnic population, the whole area has been visibly marked with "Stop Mines" signs in Serbian and Albanian languages. During survey and community liaison activities, women, men and children are consulted. In addition, there is equal access to employment for qualified women and men in survey and clearance.

New Decree on Protection against ERW is about to be adopted by the Government - it was developed by SMAC and Ministry of Interior. This decree will introduce land release concept, not defined in the former decree, and also the need for development of national standards, which have not been developed in Serbia so far.

E. Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines

Please note that the areas in the Municipality of Bujanovac are contaminated with groups of mines of an unknown origin and types having been emplaced in accordance with no particular pattern and without any minefield records of it.

The Republic of Serbia has no additional information on the technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines. See the report submitted in 2021 for information that has already been provided by the Republic of Serbia.

H. Cooperation and Assistance

The Republic of Serbia is a State Party, which is not in a position to provide financial assistance, but it is able to share experience and lessons learned from the on-going and completed operations as concerns mine survey/clearance and training.
SMAC retains vast expertise in mine clearance, in particular as regards survey, project tasks developing, and quality control and governing of demining project tasks.

During the week of 4-9 July 2021, as part of the Study conducted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on the difficult terrain in mine action, which focuses on the countries in the Balkans, the GICHD representative had the opportunity to visit "difficult terrain" in Serbia, together with the representatives of the Serbian Mine Action Centre. The primary objective of the study was to support national authorities in their efforts of remediating explosive hazards contamination, and returning land to safe and productive use in 'difficult terrain'.

Based on the SMAC and the Ministry of Defense - Serbian Armed Forces General Staff Agreement on Cooperation in the field of demining and UXO/ERW removal, in the period 25 October to 19 November 2021, implementation of the Project - Training of trainers for conducting explosive ordnance disposal training course level 1 and 2 (EOD Level 1 and EOD Level 2) was carried out. The project was implemented with financial support of the EU Delegation in Belgrade, aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Republic of Serbia in the field of demining and UXO destruction. Trainees were SMAC and MoD staff.

Annex II: Areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as of 1 April 2022, and the estimated date of completion

Municipality	Village	Longitude	Latitude	Area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square meters)	Type and quantity of anti-personnel mines	Estimated period when mines were emplaced	Estimated date of completion (year-end)
Bujanovac	Ravno Bučje	21°47'16''E	42°35'22'' N	390,300	Groups of mines of unknown type and quantity	2000-2001	2022
	Končulj	21°41'16.08''E	42°28'27.84'' N	143,500	Groups of mines of unknown type and quantity	2000-2001	2022
	Dobrosin	21°38'10''E	42°26'58'' N	28,000	Groups of mines of unknown type and quantity	2000-2001	2022
Total	**3***			**561,800***			

*Newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality have not been indicated in the table, since the scope of it is yet to be determined. Upon the provision of funds for field operations, we expect the commencement of the assessment of the previously unrecorded anti-personnel mine contamination in the course of 2022 (non - technical survey project accompanied with MRE in all villages of the Bujanovac Municipality).
Upon completion of this assessment, SMAC will have a clear picture of the contamination, which means that by November 2023 (21MSP), an updated work plan for the remaining period of the request, 1 March 2025, could be provided.

Annex III: Areas released, 1 January 2021- 31 December 2021

Municipality	Village	Longitude	Latitude	Cancelled area (square meters)	Reduced area (square meters)	Cleared area (square meters)	Total area released (square meters)	Number of anti-personnel mines destroyed	Number of other explosive items destroyed
Bujanovac	Končulj	21°41'16.08''E	42°28'27.84'' N	/	/	294,230	294,230	9	4
TOTAL	1			/	/	294,230	294,230	9	4