

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE AND INTEGRATION

DEMINEING CENTER OF ECUADOR



HUMANITARIAN DEMINEING IN ECUADOR

Geneva, June 2008

1. TOTAL LAND NEEDING TO BE ADDRESSED AT ENTRY INTO FORCE

According to existing records, between 1995 and 1998, **10,910** mines were planted in territories in Loja, El Oro, Morona Santiago, Zamora Chinchipe and Pastaza provinces. Of these, **10,843** are antipersonnel mines and **67** are antivehicle mines. The total estimated clearing area is **621,034.50** sq.m. located in **128** areas.

FOTO: PARLAMENTO EUROPEO

2. ESTIMATED LAND REMAINING TO BE ADDRESSED

Until April 30, 2008 5,917 antipersonnel mines and 28 antivehicle mines awaited destruction in an area of 498,542.49 m², corresponding to 75 targets located in El Oro, Loja, Zamora Chinchipe, Morona Santiago and Pastaza Provinces.



WORKING AREAS ALONG THE CONDOR MOUNTAIN RANGE



3. AMOUNT OF TIME REQUESTED

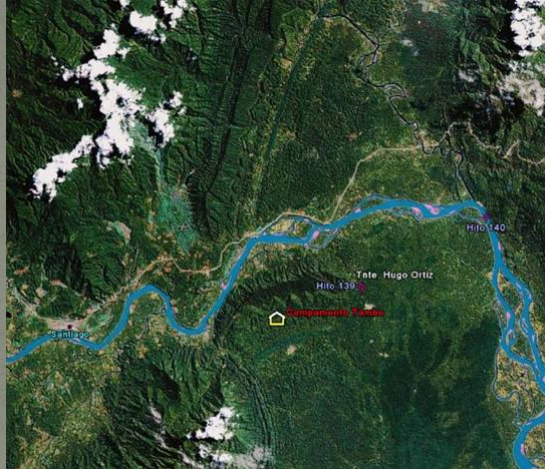
Ecuador needs EIGHT (8) additional years to completely eliminate antipersonnel mines in its territory, found in 42 targets Morona Santiago, 10 Pastaza, 8 Loja, and 1 El Oro, as well as 1 target Zamora Chinchipe.

The timetable proposed for the 8-year extension period has been prepared taking into account each target, including area, natural features, number of existing mines, degree of difficulty getting there, weather conditions in work areas, logistic and operating conditions, and increase of personnel starting in October 2009. This has allowed us to determine the approximate time required in each target.



Satellite Image of Ecuador

FEATURES OF TERRAIN



SATELLITE PICTURE OF SANTIAGO RIVER
AND SINGLE ACCESS ROAD



AERIAL VIEWS OF
ECUADORIAN AMAZON
REGION
SANTIAGO RIVER

WORKING PROCEDURE

- Technical Studies
- Mine Clearance
- Assurance of Internal Quality



MILITARY CAMP IN
PASTAZA

4. CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH IMPEDED THE ABILITY OF THE REQUESTING STATE PARTY TO FULFIL ITS OBLIGATIONS

- Extreme and adverse weather conditions with constant rain. High level of humidity and temperatures (24°- 40°)
- Huge number of mineralized stones
- Lack of roads leading to most mined areas (reached by boat, helicopter/on foot)
- Steep and irregular terrain
- High and dense vegetation (Tropical Rain Forest)
- Inaccurate coordinates of several targets



- Difficulty in conducting humanitarian demining tasks with manual demining techniques in some targets
- Difficult conditions of access to target areas
- Tropical diseases
- Obligatory use of helicopter as part of Medivac Plan in case of accident

EFFECTS OF RAIN IN WORK AREAS



DEEP QUAGMIRES CAUSED BY RAIN



TEMPEST- DIFFICULTIES IN HANDLING IN THE FIELD (Irregular terrain and Muddy conditions)

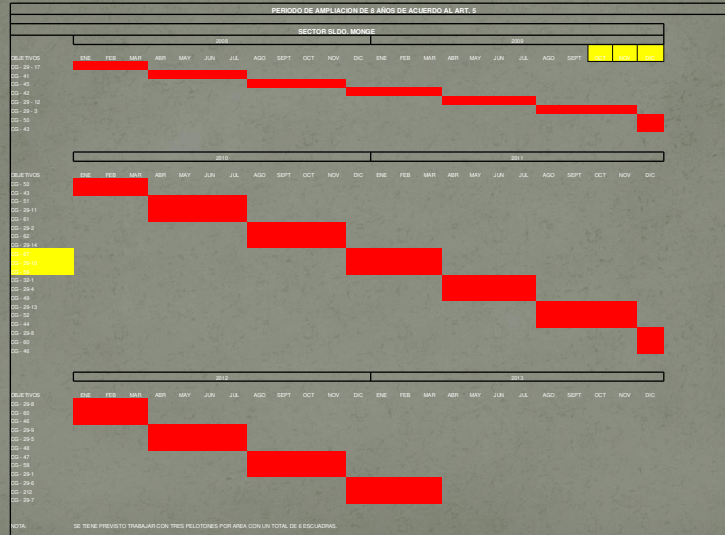


HIGH-RISK WORK
CONDITIONS

ROADS IN POOR CONDITION



5. ANNUAL PROJECTIONS OF MINED AREAS TO BE RELEASED





6. METHODS TO BE USED TO RENDER MINED AREAS NO LONGER DANGEROUS



- Manual of Procedures for Technical Studies in Ecuador
 - IMAS (international mine action standards)
 - Procedures established in manual are followed, i.e.: Impact assessment (to identify areas), technical survey, clearance and ACI
 - Manual demining method
 - Demining team consists in 1 team chief, 2 detectors, 2 surveyors, 1 explosions expert, 1 paramedic
- We are negotiating support to obtain mechanical demining equipment



7. NATIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES REQUIRED



- Trained personnel (60 sappers/deminers, and effective Oct 09, 100 sappers/deminers)
- Physical infrastructure
 - Supplies
 - Explosives to destroy explosive artifacts
 - Medivac facilities
 - Doctors and paramedics at humanitarian demining site
 - Communications equipments and instruments
 - 1 helicopter as part of medivac plan in case of accident

- Training of demining personnel
- Re-training of demining personnel
- This contribution currently totals \$500,000 and it will be increased to \$850,000 in 2010
- For the period of extension, the State of Ecuador will contribute a total of \$6'800,000.

8. INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES REQUIRED



The humanitarian demining process in Ecuador requires US\$1.5 million per annum to guarantee continuity of operations. Ecuador currently contributes US\$500,000. Accordingly, international cooperation assistance required totals US\$1,000,000, financed by donor countries through AICMA-OEA. At the same time, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is making contacts at diplomatic level in order to obtain more resources and include new donors.

9. HUMANITARIAN, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE EXTENSION



Social impacts of humanitarian demining are reflected in:

- Zero increase of number of mine victims;
- Population familiar with safe behavior in presence of antipersonnel mines, translated into zero accidents in last 4 years (since May 2004)

Economic impacts will be felt directly by population living near mined areas, as demined zones will be used mainly for agricultural, hunting, fishing, gold and building material mining purposes. Development of ecotourism activities will also be fostered.

Building of road networks as part of Ecuador-Peru border region bi-national development process.

