

## Landmines in Africa

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### Mine Ban Treaty Status

Forty-nine members of the African Union are States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty.<sup>1</sup> Three are not. Western Sahara is not eligible to join as it is not recognized by the UN.<sup>2</sup>

#### States Parties

Algeria	Ethiopia	Niger
Angola	Gabon	Nigeria
Benin	Gambia	Rwanda
Botswana	Ghana	São Tomé e Príncipe
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Senegal
Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Seychelles
Cameroon	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde	Lesotho	South Africa
Central African Republic	Liberia	Sudan
Chad	Madagascar	Swaziland
Comoros	Malawi	Tanzania
Congo, Democratic Republic of the (DRC)	Mali	Togo
Congo, Republic of the	Mauritania	Tunisia
Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritius	Uganda
Djibouti	Mozambique	Zambia
Equatorial Guinea	Namibia	Zimbabwe
Eritrea		

#### States Not Party

Egypt	Libya	Somalia
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<sup>1</sup> The African Union includes all countries in Africa with the exception of Morocco, which opposes the AU's willingness to seat a delegation from Western Sahara.

<sup>2</sup> In 1999, a Polisario representative stated that it would join the Mine Ban Treaty if eligible to do so. In November 2005, Polisario proclaimed a ban on antipersonnel mines by signing the Geneva Call Deed of Commitment.



## Universalizing the Norm

Forty-four of the 52 eligible African Union (AU) member states voted in favor of UN General Assembly Resolution 63/42 on 2 December 2008, which promoted universalization and full implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. Only two members abstained from voting: Egypt and Libya. Six AU members were absent from the vote, including five States Parties (Central African Republic, Chad, Gambia, Seychelles, and Sierra Leone), as well as Somalia. Somalia voted in favor of a similar resolution in December 2007.

## Contamination

More than half of AU members are contaminated with mines or explosive remnants of war (ERW): Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Western Sahara, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

## Clearance

Under Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty, each State Party must clear all known mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 10 years after the treaty enters into force for it.

At least three AU members have reported meeting their Article 5 clearance obligations: Malawi, Swaziland, and Tunisia. In 2003, Djibouti's mine clearance operations ended, however, Landmine Monitor knows of no formal declaration of completion to date. In 2008, Chad, Mozambique, Senegal, and Zimbabwe, each with 2009 clearance deadlines, were granted deadline extensions ranging from 14 months for Chad to seven years for Senegal. Uganda did not complete clearance by its Article 5 deadline of 1 August 2009 and is expected to submit a deadline extension request at the Mine Ban Treaty's Second Review Conference in November 2009.

## Casualties

In 2007, 5,426 casualties caused by mines, ERW, and victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were recorded in 78 countries and areas, including 24 AU members. In this region, a total of 969 casualties were recorded in 2007, which accounts for 18% of all recorded casualties. In some countries there is likely significant under-reporting of casualties.

### Recorded Casualties in Africa

Country	Killed	Injured	Unknown	Total
Algeria	30	48	0	78
Angola	14	34	0	48
Burundi	0	0	8	8
Chad	51	131	4	186
DRC	4	24	0	28
Egypt	8	17	0	25
Eritrea	17	53	0	70
Ethiopia	31	49	4	84
Gambia	2	1	0	3

Country	Killed	Injured	Unknown	Total
Guinea-Bissau	1	6	1	8
Kenya	1	0	0	1
Mali	11	0	0	11
Mauritania	1	2	0	3
Mozambique	22	25	0	47
Namibia	5	7	0	12
Niger	32	64	0	96
Rwanda	3	7	0	10
Senegal	1	0	0	1
Sudan	28	63	0	91
Somalia	26	40	8	74
Uganda	10	13	0	23
Western Sahara	12	24	0	36
Zambia	2	17	0	19
Zimbabwe	3	4	0	7

## Risk Education

In 2007, risk education was deemed adequate in 23 countries and areas (including six AU members) and inadequate in 38 countries and areas (including 15 AU members).

	Adequate Risk Education Coverage	Inadequate Risk Education Coverage
<b>States Parties</b>	Burundi, Eritrea, Gambia, Kenya, Mauritania, Sudan	Algeria, Angola, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
<b>States not Party</b>		Somalia
<b>Other areas</b>		Western Sahara

“Adequate” coverage means that a program was capable of providing appropriate risk education for at-risk groups and was able to respond to emerging situations. “Inadequate” means that appropriate risk education was not delivered on a scale to match the threat or geographical coverage necessary.

## Use of Antipersonnel Mines

There has been no confirmed use of antipersonnel mines by AU members—including states not party to the Mine Ban Treaty—for many years, although the situation in Somalia has been uncertain.

Some use of antipersonnel mines by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) may have taken place in 2007 and 2008 in Niger and Somalia, but Landmine Monitor has been unable to confirm use from available information.

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## Production

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Landmine Monitor identifies 13 states as producers of antipersonnel mines; none are AU members.

Compared to a decade ago, very few NSAGs today have access to factory-made antipersonnel mines. This is directly linked to the halt in trade and production, and the destruction of stocks, brought about by the Mine Ban Treaty. Some NSAGs have access to the mine stocks of previous regimes, including in Somalia, but most armed groups today produce their own improvised mines.

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## Stockpile Destruction

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Article 4 of the Mine Ban Treaty obliges all States Parties to destroy their stockpile of antipersonnel mines no later than four years after entry-into-force of the treaty for that state. Eighty-five Mine Ban Treaty States Parties have completed destruction of their antipersonnel mine stockpiles, including 31 AU members. Ethiopia is the most recent, in April 2009. Burundi and Sudan finished destruction in March 2008. Eighteen AU members apparently never possessed a stockpile. The only AU members now believed to stockpile antipersonnel mines are Egypt, Libya, Somalia, and Western Sahara.

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## Transparency Reporting

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Under Article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty, States Parties are required to submit annual transparency reports. As of 1 June 2009, 53% of States Parties had submitted their annual transparency reports due 30 April 2009. The compliance rate for AU members is 41%, with 20 of 49 States Parties submitting an Article 7 report.

Reports are outstanding from 29 countries. Several countries have never submitted an initial Article 7 report, including Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, and the Gambia. The Gambia, however, did submit a voluntary report as a signatory in 2002.

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## National Implementation Legislation

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Article 9 of the Mine Ban Treaty states that “Each State Party shall take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited” by the treaty.

Fifty-eight States Parties have passed new domestic laws to implement the treaty and fulfill the obligations of Article 9, including 14 AU members: Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Several AU members consider their existing domestic law code or criminal laws sufficient for implementing the Mine Ban Treaty, including Algeria, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, and Tunisia. Landmine Monitor is unaware of any progress that 16 AU members have made in enacting appropriate domestic measures to implement the Mine Ban Treaty: Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Republic of the Congo, São Tomé e Príncipe, Sierra Leone, and Sudan.

Legislation has been reported to be in progress for more than two years in 21 States Parties, including 14 Au members: Angola, Benin, DRC, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, and Uganda.

It is important for States Parties to pass legislation that includes penal sanctions for any potential future violations of the treaty, and provides for full implementation of all aspects of the treaty.