



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
National Religion King

THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT
Cambodian Mine Action and
Victim Assistance Authority

15 June 2006

To: All Interested Organizations

Subject: Area Reduction Policy

Please find attached “Area Reduction Policy” which has been approved by the Third National Conference on Mine Action Achievements held on 24 May 2006.

This Policy allows us to improve mine clearance planning, focus clearance efforts on areas posing greater risk to the rural community, and recognize suspected lands which have been returned to productive use by the locals. This Policy also allows us to constantly update national contamination database and utilize the already limited mine action resources more effectively.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank all clearance operators, development organizations and donors for their efforts and persuasion to help the CMAA in developing this valuable document.

On behalf of the mine affected Cambodians, allow me to thank you all for your continued support to the mine action sector in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Sotha
Secretary General
CMAA



Area Reduction Policy



Developed by:
The Cambodian Mine Action Authority

Approved: 24 May 2006

AREA REDUCTION POLICY

1. Background

- 1.1. Cambodia went through almost three decades of internal armed conflicts. During this period, all warring factions used munitions and mines indiscriminately in an attempt to gain and secure their respective areas of control. As a result, Cambodia is considered to be one of the most heavily mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) contaminated nations in the world.
- 1.2. Humanitarian mine clearance operations in Cambodia started in 1992 under the auspices of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). At that time, mine clearance operations concentrated very much on clearing road access, major roads, national roads building temporary camps, resettlement and agriculture lands, in support of the UN sponsored refugee repatriation program of more than 200,000 refugees from the Thai-Cambodia border to the country by emergency demining assistances. When the UNTAC mandate terminated in late 1993, the humanitarian demining program continued under financial and technical support from the international community, but without knowledge of the scope of contamination in the country.
- 1.3. In mid 2000, the Government of Canada provided financial support to a comprehensive National Level One Survey Project executed by a Canadian commercial firm, GeoSpatial International (GSI). The GSI then utilized CMAC personnel to implement the project. The objective of the project was to measure the scope and the impact of mines and UXO on Cambodia. In April 2002, the survey project concluded and the survey data (national mine contamination database) was subsequently handed over by the Government of Canada to the Royal Government of Cambodia for the development of a long-term national mine action strategy.

- 1.4. The survey data shows that 4,466km² (2.5%) of Cambodia was contaminated with mines/UXO. We understand that there were weaknesses in the methodology employed by the Level One Survey Project, especially with regard to a failure to identify suspected mined areas more accurately. Suspected areas identified were often too large and poorly defined. In addition, there were mined areas that were not captured during the survey project, and therefore discovered by clearance operators afterward. Regardless of the weaknesses, the survey data was useful at the time of its release in allowing the Royal Government of Cambodia to appreciate the magnitude of the national mine contamination, for the development of a long-term national mine action strategy, and for clearance operators to concentrate their clearance efforts on the most affected areas.

2. Present Situation

- 2.1. After the termination of the Level One Survey Project in April 2002, the very rapid internal migration of the population after conflict ceased has changed the settlement and use of land quite dramatically. Forest loss, especially in the north-west provinces, in the last few years has been extremely rapid and exceeds several hundred square kilometers. Consequently, the Level One Survey data has very quickly become out-of-date and no longer reflects the current mine situation in Cambodia.
- 2.2. The extent of land reclamation by local people and new settlers is extremely large in the north-west provinces. As a result, it changes the status of current suspected mined areas which needs to be formally recorded. This information is vital for use by provincial Mine Action Planning Units (MAPU) to improve the effectiveness of their mine clearance planning.
- 2.3. It has now been four years since the release of the Level One Survey date, and we strongly believe that it needs to be updated to reflect the current contamination situation, especially in the north-west provinces

where the majority of suspected lands have been returned to productive use by locals and new settlers. There is no reason to maintain the current status of mine suspected lands which have been turned to productive use in the national mine contamination database.

- 2.4. The level of land reclamation in the north-west provinces is already substantial and increasing constantly, as the local people and the new settlers will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Therefore, there is a need for the Royal Government of Cambodia to seek a practical and sustainable solution to update the national mine contamination database, so that mine clearance can be targeted on the areas posing the greatest risk to the local community.

3. Goal: To improve the effectiveness of mine clearance planning by targeting clearance efforts on areas posing the greatest risk to communities.

4. Objectives

- 4.1. To reclassify the previously mine suspected lands that have been returned to productive use in order to update national mine contamination database.
- 4.2. To improve the mine clearance planning by targeting clearance on areas posing the greatest risk to communities, and by doing so, recognize lands which have been returned to productive use without evidence of threat by recording them in the national mine contamination database.

5. Definition

- 5.1. Reclaimed land is land that was previously classified as mine suspect, but has been returned to productive use by locals for three years without accident.

- 5.2. Reclaimed land is not considered as cleared land. Rather it should be viewed as land where the threat has been reduced to a level that is acceptable to the locals. Due to the limited resources, clearance of such land should not be considered, unless there is a particular need to do so, such as infrastructure reconstruction and development. After three years of active use, the risk on reclaimed land is considered very low or non-existent. Continued use of the land shows that it is not a problem for the locals. Based on these reasons, reclaimed land does not qualify as a mine clearance priority and should not be included in the provincial clearance priorities.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1. Methodology

- 6.1.1. There are a number of possible solutions for updating the national mine contamination database. One of the solutions is to re-conduct Level One Survey. However, this solution is not considered feasible, because it will absorb significantly the already limited mine clearance resources and it cannot be the final solution. In addition, regular survey effort is required because land reclamation activity will continue on a large scale for many years to come, especially in the north-west provinces of the country.
- 6.1.2. Another possible solution is to record the reclaimed lands and use the information to update the national mine contamination database. This effort will require limited resources and is sustainable, and will involve interviewing people using the lands and checking the lands physically in order to collect relevant information.
- 6.1.3. CMAC is conducting technical survey on high risk villages to define the boundaries of mined areas and the level of threat, and as such the clearance priority for those villages. When the

technical survey work is concluded at one village, the information obtained can be used to update the national mine contamination database as well. Technical discussions with CMAC regarding this process will be held at a later stage.

- 6.1.4. The collection of reclaimed land information and technical survey should focus only on the areas where clearance operations are conducted in order to improve effectiveness of MAPU mine clearance planning. The implementation of such activities in areas where no clearance operations are being conducted is discouraged as they are not contributing to the mine clearance planning by MAPU.

6.2. The Clearance Operators and MAPU

- 6.2.1. Registered clearance operators and MAPU are encouraged to collect reclaimed land information by recording it in the standard report form issued by the CMAA.
- 6.2.2. The information collected is entered into the database application developed by CMAA and shared with the CMAA as per request. If this is not applicable, hard copy reports are to be sent to the CMAA as requested.

6.3. The CMAA

- 6.3.1. Collate the information from clearance operators and MAPU in hard copy or electronic form as required, and share it openly with clearance operators, MAPU and other stakeholders.
- 6.3.2. Coordinate and ensure effective implementation of this Area Reduction strategy.

6.3.3. The CMAA will work closely with clearance operators and MAPU to design a practical and effective methodology to collate and share the information widely amongst stakeholders operating in Cambodia.

7. Information Utilization

- 7.1. The information will be used to update the national mine contamination database which will be shared widely amongst mine action stakeholders operating in Cambodia.
- 7.2. The main custodian of the national mine contamination database will be the MAPU who will use the information to improve the effectiveness of their mine clearance planning by focusing mine clearance on areas posing the greatest risk to communities.

Attachment

Reclaimed Land Report Form



RECLAIMED LAND REPORT

Report No: _____

1. Location Information

Village			Code		Commune		
District				Province			
Map sheet		Map edition		Map name		Map scale	
Start point	UTM E: UTM N:		Description:				
Benchmark	UTM E: UTM N:		Description:				
Landmark	UTM E: UTM N:		Description:				
Has this land been marked as suspected area?				If yes, by which agency:			

2. Reclamation Information

The land was reclaimed by	<input type="checkbox"/> Current user <input type="checkbox"/> Labor <input type="checkbox"/> Previous user <input type="checkbox"/> Other						
Reclamation method	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Cow <input type="checkbox"/> Rotivator <input type="checkbox"/> Tractor <input type="checkbox"/> Other						
Reclamation date		Accident during reclamation	People killed:		People injured:		
No. of APM found		Type:					
No. of ATM found		Type:					
No. of UXO found		Type:					
Factor driving reclamation							

3. Land Use Information

Land plough method	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Cow <input type="checkbox"/> Rotivator <input type="checkbox"/> Tractor <input type="checkbox"/> Other						
Since when the land has been cultivated?		Crop type					
No. of APM found since cultivating the land		Type:					
No. of ATM found since cultivating the land		Type:					
No. of UXO found since cultivating the land		Type:					
No. of APM found in the last 3 years		No. of human accident in the last 3 years					
No. of ATM found in the last 3 years		No. of animal accident in the last 3 years					
No. of UXO found in the last 3 years		No. of families using the land					

4. Informants

Name			Name		
Position			Position		
Address			Address		

Name			Name		
Position			Position		
Address			Address		

Name			Name		
Position			Position		
Address			Address		

5. Perimeter of reclaimed land

From point	To point	Bearing (°)	Distance (m)	UTM E	UTM N	Remarks

Note: Projection system: UTM 48N, Datum: India 1960

6. Surveyor

Surveyed by		Verified by		Data entered by	
Signature		Signature		Signature	
Name		Name		Name	
Position		Position		Position	
Agency		Agency		Agency	
Date		Date		Date	

Attachment: Site sketch of the reclaimed land