

News Brief

Republic of the Congo Is Mine-free

In January, 2012, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of the Congo asked Norwegian People's Aid to assist in fulfilling its Article 5 obligations to the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction* (Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention or APMBC). In fall 2012, NPA conducted a Non-Technical Survey with a representative from the APMBC Implementation Support Unit within its mine action program headquarters in adjacent Democratic Republic of the Congo.¹ NPA's NTS found no evidence of areas containing mines or explosive remnants of war in ROC.²

Republic of the Congo lacks a national mine action authority; MAG (Mines Advisory Group) was the sole clearance organization within the country. In 2011, the European Commission provided €579,530 (US\$706,041) to MAG for battle area clearance and community liaison activities.^{3,4}

MAG reports that between 2008 and 2010, under a grant from the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA), its team destroyed 771,162 items of ERW in ROC.¹ Between 2007 and 2008, MAG demolished 18 stockpiles of cluster munitions and returned in February 2011 to clear near the Maya-Maya Airport in Brazzaville, where a fire reportedly resulting from an electrical fault detonated a submunition within an ammunition storage area, scattering ERW in the surrounding area.¹ This project was also funded by PM/WRA; total PM/WRA funding for both projects was \$1,120,000. ©

See endnotes page 75~ Eric Keefer, CISR staff



Map of the Republic of Congo.
Map courtesy of CIA World Factbook.

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1. “Republic of Congo.” *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor*. <http://tinyurl.com/a5wfk5>. Accessed 15 November 2012.
2. “The Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) free of landmines.” *Norwegian People’s Aid*. <http://bit.ly/14I8QUs>. Accessed 8 February 2012.
3. “Congo, Republic of – Support for Mine Action.” *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor*. 10 September 2012. <http://bit.ly/U9WEpZ>. Accessed 19 November 2012.
4. Conversion as of 23 January 2013.