Africa as an Anti-Personnel Mine-Free Zone – Progress and Challenges

Working the Ground: Zambia National Demining Programme

PRESENTATION BY
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BACKGROUND TO ZAMBIA'S MINE CONTAMINATION

- Zambia's mine and other explosive remnants of war stems from periods of armed struggle in neighbouring countries between 1960s to the end of the 1990s
- No conventional minefields, but nuisance mines
- Landmines and an unknown number of explosive remnants of war (ERW) were previously cleared with by the Zambia Army
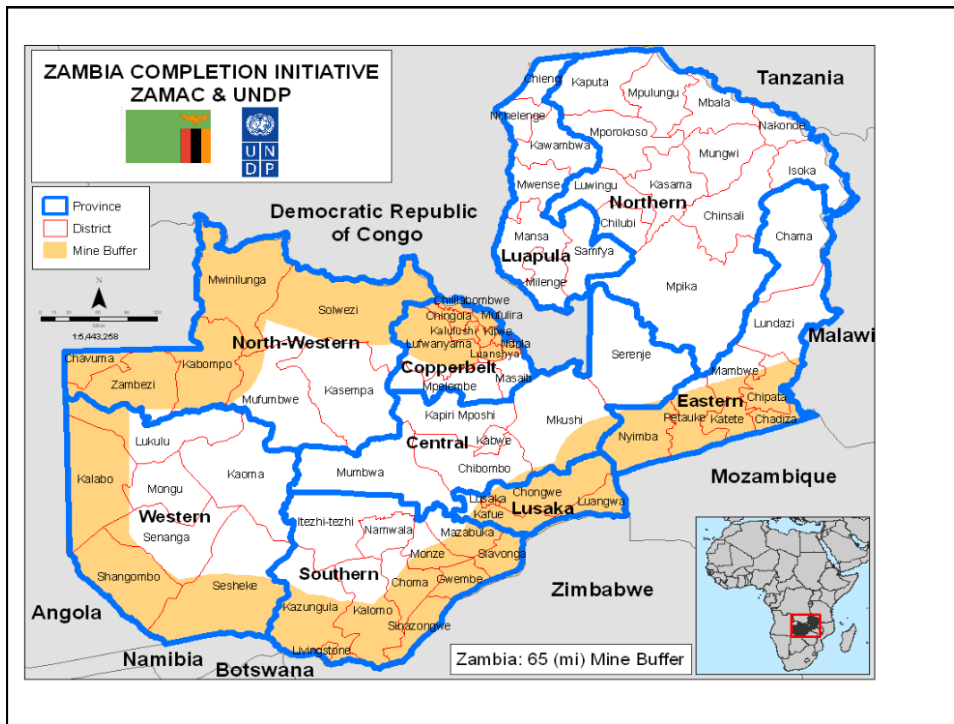
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APMBT

- Signed the Convention – 1997
- Ratified the APMBT and entered into force for Zambia – 1 August 2001
- Deadline for Article 4 compliance – 1 August 2005
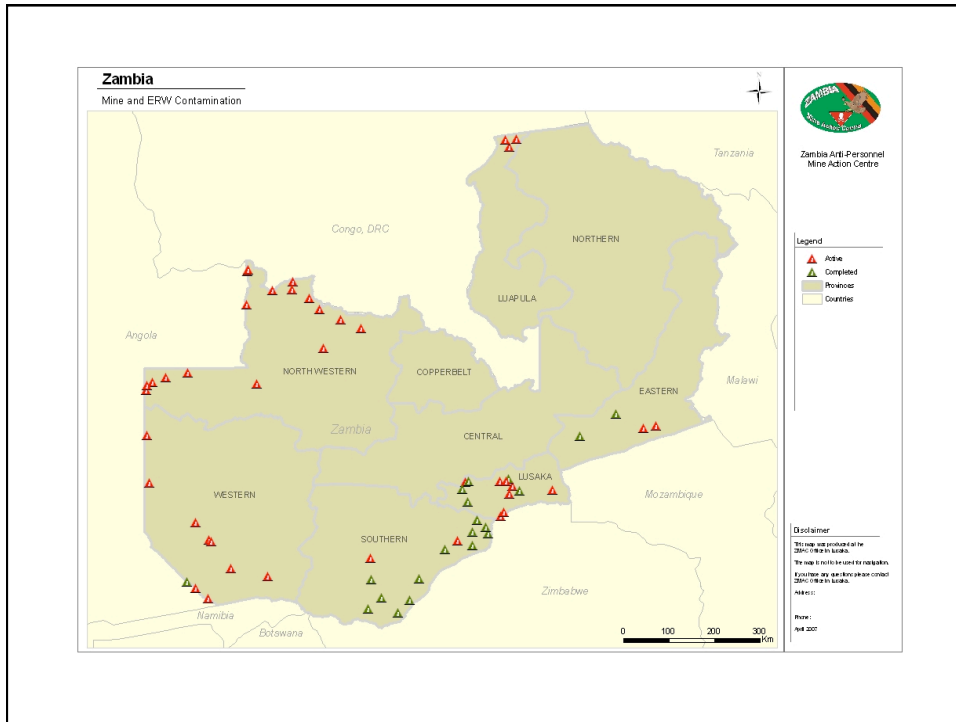- Deadline for Article 5 compliance: 1 August 2011

ZAMBIA MINE ACTION PROGRAMME

- Established 2001
- small structure
  - EOD Unit – Zambia Police Officers
  - Demining Unit – Zambia Army Engineers

CHALLENGES – 2004 TO 2007
- Limited Governmental budgetary allocation
- Lack of information
- Lack of technical capacity
- Inaccessibility of SHAs

NATIONAL RESOURCE MOBILISATION
- Public private partnerships
- Inter Ministerial / Governmental Agency Partnerships

PROGRESS

 ▪ Conclusion of cost effective nationwide
landmine survey in 7/9 provinces and final report to
be released shortly

▪ Clearance of 2 SHAs containing cluster munitions
and ERW in bulk to be done as soon as possible

 ▪ Currently ZMAC/EOD Teams undertaking spot
destruction of sporadic ERW found in 6 provinces

Zambia — Mine and ERW Contamination

THE WAY FORWARD

- Zambia develops a national action plan based on the survey results

- 15 SHAs containing sporadic ERW to be subject to technical surveys in order to locate and destroy as many ERW as possible.

- Risk Reduction Education to be intensified in districts close to the remaining SHAs and international borders in order to avoid further accidents

- Zambian government is likely to declare itself free of APMs as defined in Article 5 of the APMBT.

THANK YOU