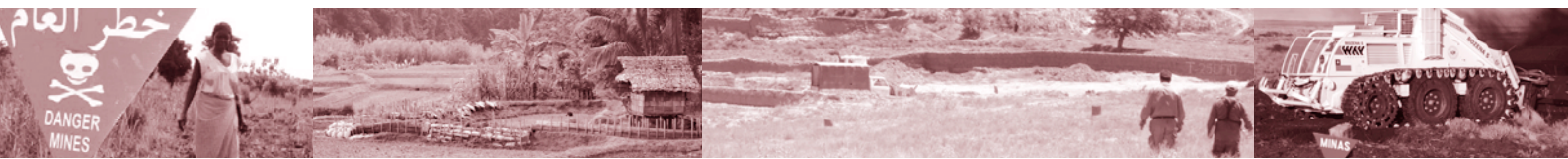


Annual Report

2010



GICHD | CIDHG



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2010 was an important year for everyone striving for a world free of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war. It was particularly important for the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and for its implementation. The evaluation of the APMBC Implementation Support Unit (ISU) confirmed the appreciation of the States Parties and other stakeholders for the effective work of the ISU and for the role played by the GICHD in hosting it.

Moreover, the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 1 August 2010 represented a positive legal and political step in supporting the fight against indiscriminate weapons. It is encouraging for operators in the field, who have surveyed, cleared and destroyed all kinds of ordnance over many years.

Some of the procedures, methods and techniques developed for the disposal of landmines can be used directly for cluster munitions clearance; others may need adaptation. The GICHD is undertaking research and developing practical tools to meet these challenges. In December 2010, the First Meeting of States Parties to the CCM took place in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The GICHD participated in this major event and organised a side-event focusing on the implementation of the new Convention.

The GICHD's dedication to support the full implementation of both the APMBC and the CCM, and towards humanitarian disarmament in general, will remain strong in 2011 and beyond. I would, therefore, like to thank our donors for their support, which enables the GICHD to fulfil its important mission.

Dr Barbara Haering | President of the GICHD Council of Foundation



FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR

In 2010, the Landmine Monitor reported that more than US\$ 620 million was allocated to mine action worldwide.

The GICHD, as a unique international centre of excellence, spends less than 1.5 per cent of this amount on research, development of standards, and the provision of training and advice. The Centre, along with many other actors throughout the last year, has helped to implement the land release concept. This approach has had a considerable impact on the speed with which land is handed back for productive use. It clearly illustrates the contribution of the GICHD in making mine action faster, cheaper, safer, more effective and sustainable.

Research and knowledge development are not only important in the fields of technology and operational methods. They are also important when it comes to measuring the socio-economic impact of mine action on information management, institution building, and on legal issues, such as liability and insurance, contracting or land rights. Gender and diversity aspects have also become an indispensable feature in all our activities.

The GICHD continues to disseminate knowledge that supports evidence-based policy decisions. On our website, we are launching LIMA - the Links and Information for Mine Action database. Through this, users will be able to easily find and make immediate use of research reports, evaluations, equipment information and many other facilities. LIMA will be completed during the first half of 2011.

A general evaluation of the GICHD was undertaken in 2010, and a second evaluation followed, centred on the work and progress of the Information Management section and the IMSMA project. The findings of these two evaluations, together with the conclusions of previous evaluations and many other inputs, will form a strong basis for a new GICHD strategy, which will be developed throughout 2011 and enter into force in 2012.



MINE ACTION | THE CHALLENGE

The Landmine Monitor 2010 reported that 66 states and a further seven other areas were suspected or confirmed to be mine-affected. In the previous year, 3,596 casualties were recorded. However, the real casualty rate is likely to be higher, due to incomplete or inaccurate reporting. These figures represent an improvement in the scale of the landmine problem – in comparison with the 2008 figures, three fewer states were affected, and the number of recorded casualties fell by approximately 28 per cent.

However, the challenge of addressing the impact of these weapons remains. Post-conflict reconstruction and development continues to be delayed by the presence of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Roads and farmland must be cleared to allow animals to graze and crops to grow; hospitals, schools, markets and other vital facilities need to be made safe and accessible; and access to water and other resources has to be achieved in order to allow communities to function again.

The challenge of mine action is not limited to clearing landmines, but includes the clearance of other explosive remnants of war. Unexploded ordnance such as bombs, mortars, grenades and other devices can fail to explode on impact, and may remain live and potentially lethal if touched. Abandoned explosive ordnance, which is ammunition that has not been used during the conflict, but which has been left behind or dumped, can also pose a threat.

Cluster munitions represent a particular threat. These unexploded submunitions are found in more than 30 countries, and several of them are severely affected by this particular contamination. There are far more stockpiles of cluster munitions than mines, estimated to contain several billion submunitions worldwide.



WORKING METHODS

The GICHD provides professional services to mine action programmes worldwide. Our support is based on a combination of experience, applied research, information exchange and programme evaluations, to ensure relevance and effectiveness in everything we do. We provide expertise in areas such as programme planning, quality management, risk assessment and education, survey and detection, manual and mechanical clearance, ammunition destruction and information management.

Research findings are followed by outreach, through the development of international and national standards, publishing guide books, the conduct of training workshops and the provision of needs based advisory services.

Our work is based on a wide range of partnerships – with governments, the United Nations, other international, regional and national organisations, operators and research institutions. In 2010, GICHD staff visited numerous countries and territories worldwide to deliver training, conduct studies, hold workshops and provide professional advice and expertise on mine action. During the year we worked throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America.

PROGRAMMES

The work of the Centre continued to be guided by our current Strategy 2009 – 2011. During the course of the year, we internally re-organised resources and activities to produce three key sections within our capacity building activities – strategic management, operations and information management. In addition, our Standards section continued its work in managing the International Mine Action Standards on behalf of the United Nations, and our Francophone programme provided support to French-speaking national programmes.

Strategic Management

Capacity Development

One of the key aims for the GICHD in 2010 was to assist mine-affected countries to improve the management of their mine action programmes. A wide range of information and training was delivered to various programmes. Subjects ranged from national legislation, standards, international law, priority setting, strategic planning, through to needs assessment and land rights. A particular highlight was the support provided to the recently established National Mine Action Programme in Vietnam, which contributed to the adoption by the Government of a multi-year plan for mine action, the appointment of a National Mine Action Authority, and the inclusion of mine action in the new Vietnamese Socio-Economic Development Plan: 2011-2015.

Activities included:

- > delivering training workshops on the topic “Evaluating Mine Action” in Ljubljana (co-hosted by the International Trust Fund for Demining and Victim Assistance), Baku (co-hosted by the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action), and Geneva (as part of the Swiss Partnership for Peace initiative)
- > holding the first international practitioners’ workshop on Landmines and Land Rights in Conflict-Affected Contexts, followed by the publication of seven country case-studies (Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, South Sudan and Yemen) and a Policy Brief outlining practical guidance for mine action actors on how to mainstream land rights issues into their operations
- > training survey teams and social scientists in Afghanistan to take part in a Landmines and Livelihoods survey – designed to provide best evidence to date on the nature and extent of the harm done to communities by landmine/ERW contamination, the benefits accruing from mine action and ways to enhance those benefits.
- > follow-up research with mine action donors on how mine action is funded – trends, modalities and future prospects, with a report launched at the 10th Meeting of the States Parties to the APMBC
- > conducting an experience review of Handicap International’s Swiss-funded Participatory Mine Action and Development project in Bosnia Herzegovina
- > delivering a second Strategic Planning workshop and an MRE workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal
- > providing training on developing mine action legislation in Poland

Evaluations

The GICHD continued to work within a broad definition of quality management, moving beyond just safety and efficiency, into development outcomes. The Centre's evaluations also take into account whether a policy, programme or project is sustainable, relevant to local needs and effective in promoting reconstruction and development priorities in affected countries.

During 2010, evaluations were conducted in a number of countries. In January, the Centre conducted an evaluation of the Danish Demining Group's (DDG) programme in South Sudan on behalf of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). This was followed in December by a similar exercise for the DDG Dutch-funded projects in South Sudan and Somalia. In July, we evaluated the Mines Advisory Group's (MAG) programme in Northern Iraq. In addition, the GICHD undertook an evaluation of German-funded mine action projects in Lao PDR, as well as a follow-up project evaluation of the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) work in Tajikistan, which was funded by Germany.

The GICHD also delivered a report to the European Commission and a European Parliamentary Committee on the results of the EC Regional Evaluations which had been ongoing since 2007.

The mine action evaluation repository, on the GICHD website, represents an enormous source of knowledge. The Centre continued to add to it during 2010. The total number of evaluations stored in this database is currently 422.

Gender and diversity considerations have now been incorporated into terms of reference for all evaluations, reflecting the greater emphasis placed recently on these issues within the GICHD and its activities.



Operations

Land Release

Land release approaches are concerned with the better targeting of clearance resources through improvements in technical and non-technical survey activities. Outreach activities in 2010 consisted of over 20 workshops and meetings, intended to facilitate a greater understanding of land release principles. They included workshops in Lao PDR and Iraq, and an assessment of the Sudan land release methodology. In addition, the GICHD presented a paper on land release approaches for improved clearance of submunitions at the first Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

A publication reviewing technical survey aspects of the land release process was written in 2010 and will be launched in early 2011.

Animal detection

In 2010, the REST (Remote Explosive Scent Tracing) research project was finalised. A workshop for researchers and operators to review the previous years of research was conducted, with several participants contributing to a REST publication, which will be launched in mid-2011.

The support to the Afghan Mine Dog Centre (MDC) and the test and licensing system of the Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan (MACCA) continued throughout 2010. This included a review of national standards, recommendations for improvements on testing the dogs, and the training of ten national and international staff on the production of harmless surrogate mines for training purposes.



Mechanical demining

The use of mechanical methods to improve the efficiency of mine action operations has increased in recent years. The GICHD has maintained a capacity to support mechanical activities, and in 2010, this included participating in the testing of new equipment, advising manufacturers and operators on effective solutions, and the drafting of new IMAS.

Mechanical demining training was carried out with five national authorities or operators in 2010; CMAC in Cambodia, TMAC in Tajikistan, UNIFIL Mine Action Coordination Centre in South Lebanon, DDG in Afghanistan, and IND in Mozambique. Advice was provided in regard to testing rollers, a tiller attachment for a mine action machine at SWEDEC, as well as to more than ten demining operators and manufacturers. The GICHD also initiated the development of a software tool to help manage demining operations, which is currently being trialed by four operators.

EOD and Stockpile Destruction

The GICHD increased its activity in supporting training and provision of advice on broader explosive ordnance disposal, and in the destruction of stockpiles of mines and submunitions.

A mission to Albania took place in July 2010 to review the feasibility of IMSMA in the context of managing destruction of stockpiles. A comprehensive technical presentation on stockpile destruction alternatives was provided at a meeting initiated by the ICRC in Amman, Jordan in October. Furthermore, the GICHD assisted UNIDIR in reviewing the definitions and effects of “Explosive Weapons”.

Following a request in late 2010, the GICHD also supported the Norwegian MFA during preliminary meetings in early 2011 with the government of Ukraine on the issue of destroying Ukraine’s stockpile of AP mines.

GICHD | WORKING AROUND THE WORLD

The GICHD works across the world with mine-affected countries, and also visits donor countries. In 2010, GICHD staff visited 71 countries to deliver training, conduct research, hold workshops and to provide professional advice and expertise on mine action. This map illustrates the countries GICHD staff visited during 2010.



- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 Afghanistan | 19 Cyprus | 36 Kenya | 49 Palau | 61 Tajikistan |
| 2 Albania | 20 Democratic Republic of Congo | 37 Kosovo | 50 Peru | 62 Tanzania |
| 3 Angola | 21 Denmark | 38 Lao PDR | 51 Poland | 63 Thailand |
| 4 Australia | 22 Ecuador | 39 Lebanon | 52 Senegal | 64 Turkey |
| 5 Austria | 23 Egypt | 40 Lithuania | 53 Slovakia | 65 Uganda |
| 6 Azerbaijan | 24 Eritrea | 41 Mauritania | 54 Slovenia | 66 UK |
| 7 Bahrain | 25 Ethiopia | 42 Mongolia | 55 Somalia | 67 USA |
| 8 Belgium | 26 Finland | 43 Morocco | 56 South Africa | 68 Vietnam |
| 9 Benin | 27 France | 44 Mozambique | 57 Sri Lanka | 69 Western Sahara |
| 10 Bosnia and Herzegovina | 28 Gaza | 45 Nepal | 58 Sudan | 70 Yemen |
| 11 Burundi | 29 Georgia | 46 Netherlands | 59 Sweden | 71 Zimbabwe |
| 12 Cambodia | 30 Germany | 47 Norway | 60 Switzerland | |
| 13 Canada | 31 Guinea-Bissau | 48 Oman | | |
| 14 Chad | 32 Iraq | | | |
| 15 Chile | 33 Italy | | | |
| 16 China | 34 Japan | | | |
| 17 Colombia | 35 Jordan | | | |
| 18 Croatia | | | | |

▼ Missions & Meetings

▼ IMSMA

▼ Combined activities



Technology

The GICHD continued to provide advice and to support research into new techniques and tools for mine action.

For example, in Georgia, advice was given on the performance of metal detectors for underwater clearance, and in Sweden, trials were conducted on metal detector systems with discriminating properties, intended to make clearance of explosive submunitions faster, safer and more cost-effective. Advice on detector technology was also extended to NPA programmes in Laos and Serbia.

In the last quarter of 2010, the GICHD, together with UNMAS, co-hosted an international conference on mine action technology. A total of 75 participants from 35 different countries attended the conference. In December, the GICHD provided technology-specific training to senior managers and operations staff of the mine action programmes in Northern Iraq.

Contracting

In 2009, the GICHD completed a study and guide into contracting in mine action, to assist national directors and mine action programmes with the management of various aspects of contracting. The publication provided information on contracting methods and practices from various agencies and organisations, and explained the basics of mine action contracting and procurement.

A number of training courses on “Contracting in Mine Action” were held in 2010, including two with the Iraqi National Mine Action Authority and the Iraqi Ministry of Environment and Oil, and a further course with commercial operators and government representatives from Poland. A training side-event was also held during the UNMAS Programme Managers Meeting in Geneva in March, with additional support provided later in the year to UNDP in Sri Lanka, regarding tendering and procurement procedures in mine action.



Information Management

Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA)

Information management is central to the development and continuation of an effective mine action programme. The core product of the GICHD is the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). IMSMA is a key tool in more than 50 national mine action programmes around the world. As the largest project of the GICHD, it represents considerable investment in providing mine action programmes with an effective information management tool.

IMSMA is specifically designed to provide users with solutions to their information management needs. Since its introduction ten years ago, the system has been continuously revised and improved, becoming the de facto standard in mine action information management, as well as being the UN's preferred system for those programmes which it supports.

Two clear trends in information management emerged. First, a shift in the mine action community towards seeing information management as a cross-cutting organisational activity, as opposed to the traditional way of looking at information management as a computer-based technical support function. Secondly, a growing awareness of the power of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which has resulted in an increase of technical support requests.

Software Development

A software programme like IMSMA must undergo upgrades and development in order to stay effective and responsive to changing needs. This does not require the development of additional functionality. It is not foreseen that IMSMA will change considerably from the version delivered in 2010 (which is called IMSMA^{NG}). The existing package is stable and answers the needs of the majority of the mine action programmes. However, due to limited resources available for installing upgrades, several countries are using versions that are several years old. Sustained efforts are in place to move all countries to the last and final version of IMSMA. In 2010 a further round of mine action programmes continued or completed their migration towards IMSMA^{NG}, including Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, DRC, Eritrea, Lebanon and Sri Lanka.

Implementing Partners

In 2009 the GICHD set up an implementing partners initiative for information management, involving organisations such as Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), the US Humanitarian Demining Training Center (HDTC), and Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP). Its purpose was to certify experts who, in turn, can provide support to mine action programmes on behalf of the GICHD. Training of additional experts was completed in November which represents a valuable resource to users of IMSMA.

Training

Development of training materials for information management, including IMSMA, is a central activity of the GICHD. Further development of large sets of training materials is also underway on end-user guides, administration of IMSMA and IMSMA usage for operations. An e-learning site, designed to deliver a curriculum on IMSMA and related GIS tools, is also under construction by a partner organisation. Quick reference guides have been developed and distributed to IMSMA users. Overall, the aim is to produce a comprehensive set of pedagogical material ranging from exercise books, to publications, videos and websites.

To deliver advice in the area of information management as an activity, a set of documentation has been devised. The primary publication is the Information Management standard (IMAS 05.10), which is currently being developed. This will be followed by more thematic publications that inform mine action programmes "how-to" conduct certain tasks, like the development of information management national standards or business process mapping (BPM).

With the arrival of intuitive web-based GIS tools like Google Earth, many mine action programmes have become aware of the potential of GIS tools. Consequently, mine action programmes request support to strengthen their GIS staff and to amass the auxiliary data that is required to make efficient use of GIS. This includes the provision of training, as well as support in the procurement of baseline satellite images and cartography. More advanced advisory support is also provided. Advice has been given on the use of remote sensing for proxy detection of explosives in vegetation in satellite and aerial images. The work in remote sensing and GIS by the GICHD has resulted in international recognition, exemplified by the invitation to GICHD to a project selection for the European Space Agency, as well as the invitation to deliver the key note address for the largest GIS conference in Europe.

The GICHD has continued its efforts to make effective, innovative partnerships with other relevant organisations and to spread the word about the effectiveness of IMSMA as an information management tool beyond the domain of mine action.

MINE ACTION STANDARDS

The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) provide guidelines for national governments, mine action centres, demining organisations and militaries engaged in humanitarian demining for safe and efficient implementation of mine action programmes and projects. IMAS are a framework for the development of the national mine action standards (NMAS) and standing operational procedures (SOPs). The IMAS and other related documents are managed by the GICHD on behalf of the United Nations. This management consists of the review process for extant IMAS and technical notes for mine action (TNMA); the development of new IMAS and TNMA; and an outreach support capacity to disseminate information on the new and amended IMAS and other related documents as well as assistance in the development of national mine action standards.

In 2010, seven MRE IMAS were redrafted into a single IMAS in conjunction with UNICEF and the MRE Advisory Group, resulting in the endorsement of IMAS 12.10 which is published on the IMAS website. This reduced the total number of IMAS from 47 to 41.

In addition to the regular amendment of the planned IMAS in 2010, one major piece of work was the review of all the IMAS to ensure issues in relation to the Convention on Cluster Munitions are integrated.

Preparation for an independent evaluation of the IMAS also took place. The terms of reference for the evaluation were agreed in late 2010, along with further agreement on how to proceed. The evaluation will now take place in mid-2011 with funding from UNMAS.

The GICHD continued its IMAS outreach work, including the publication and distribution of 1000 copies of the revised IMAS CD 2010. This included further translations (official and unofficial) of the IMAS.

The IMAS website (www.mineactionstandards.org) was completely redesigned with a new look and format presenting information and standards in an improved fashion. The IMAS website was transferred in October 2010 to the GICHD and re-launched in November 2011.

IMAS training was conducted in several settings during 2010. These included the senior managers course at the James Madison University (JMU) in June, a national mine action workshop in Poland in January, a national workshop in November in Colombia as well as the Third GICHD Francophone Seminar in Mauritania and the Partnership for Peace (PfP) training courses conducted in Geneva. The GICHD supported a number of mine action programmes either in the development or revision of national standards in 2010. These countries included Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, and Mozambique.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The GICHD has supported the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in a number of practical ways since 1999. The Centre hosts the meetings of the Standing Committees established by the States Parties to the Convention, administers a delegate sponsorship programme and provides technical and operational input as an observer delegation at the Convention's meetings.

Since 2001 the GICHD has hosted the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU) pursuant to a formal mandate agreed to by the States Parties. The ISU provides States Parties with professional advice, assistance and information concerning all aspects of the Convention's implementation process. The ISU serves as the principal support for the Convention's President and Co-Chairs of the Standing Committees and advises the Sponsorship Programme Donors' Group. In 2010, the States Parties adopted the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU", ensuring that the ISU is directly responsible to the States Parties while it continues to be hosted by the GICHD. The States Parties also mandated the Convention's President to conclude an amended agreement with the GICHD regarding implementation support.

The GICHD has continued to support global efforts to address the threat from cluster munitions. This includes the publication of a revised and updated edition of *A Guide to Cluster Munitions*, in English and subsequent translations into French, Russian, Arabic, Vietnamese and Lao. These publications were prepared for, and distributed at, the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), held in Lao PDR in November 2010. The GICHD will assist the President's Executive Coordinator in providing the necessary conference support for the first Intersessional meetings in June 2011.

The GICHD also has observer status to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) – a framework convention that aims to ban or restrict the use of various types of weapons deemed to cause unnecessary human suffering. The Convention has five protocols, two of which deal with the use of landmines and other ERW. Amended Protocol II restricts the use of landmines, booby traps and other devices, while Protocol V is designed to minimise the risks and effects of ERW in the post-conflict period. The GICHD also administered the CCW sponsorship programme, aiming to promote the universalisation and implementation of the CCW and its annexed Protocols.

In addition to the support provided to the implementation of these international treaties, the GICHD is involved in other political and legal processes related to the broader field of humanitarian disarmament. Among others, our Head of Standards section is a member of the CASA (Coordinating Action on Small Arms) Expert Reference Group to review draft International Small Arms Control Standards. The GICHD is also following closely the Arms Trade Treaty process and current developments pertaining to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. A workshop on this issue will be organized together with UNIDIR during the International Security Forum taking place in Zurich, Switzerland in May 2011.

SPREADING THE MESSAGE

During 2010, the GICHD produced many different publications. Some of these were studies based on the results of new research by the Centre's specialist staff. Other key publications included guides for field staff of demining organisations and operators, manuals for specialists, as well as current information on demining equipment.

During 2010, we took the decision to move one of our key publications to a web database – the Detectors and PPE Catalogue 2010. We have previously maintained a rotational publishing schedule – each year we would produce either an updated Mechanical Demining Equipment Catalogue or a Detectors and PPE Catalogue. Having moved this year's publication to a database format, it will allow regular updates as new products and test results become available to us, keeping this database relevant for users.

The catalogues will form part of the new LIMA (Links and Information for Mine Action). This will be a useful resource for mine action actors, bringing together research reports, evaluations, equipment information, photographs and many other facilities.

In 2010, our emphasis on improving the quality and relevance of our publications continued. They must be practically useful to those in the field, as well as at international and national levels. They must also be accessible and clear to all our readers.

2010 publication highlights included:

- > A Guide to Cluster Munitions, second edition, which is now available in English, French, Russian, Arabic, Lao and Vietnamese.
- > A Guide to Mine Action – Fourth Edition (available in English and French)
- > Land Release and Explosive Submunitions
- > IMAS CD - Issue 6 – 2010
- > Landmines and Land Rights Policy Brief

In addition, the GICHD produced several publications on behalf of the ISU APMBC, in particular in support of the key meetings during 2010.

All of our publications are available free of charge. They can be downloaded or ordered online from the Centre's website publications pages at www.gichd.org.



Francophone Programme

Work continued on the French Bibliomines website (www.bibliomines.org) after its launch in 2009. This is an online library of French mine action resources. At the end of 2010, the total number of documents available online had grown considerably to 3,400. Training was provided to African Bibliomines experts as part of the gradual transfer of responsibility for this French mine action document database to our African partners (Centre de perfectionnement aux actions post-conflituelles de déminage et de dépollution (CPADD) in Benin, Senegal and Mauritania).

Further support to the Francophone mine-affected countries was provided by the third annual seminar, this time held in Mauritania, which brought together 60 delegates for a very full programme of discussions.

There was continuing partnership with both the CPADD in Benin and the French Engineers School in Angers (ESAG) for ongoing translation of IMAS, as in previous years. The total number of IMAS translated into French now stands at 41, and six Technical Notes are also available in French. They are used widely throughout the French-speaking mine action community.

RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

The GICHD, like any other professional service provider, needs to have an effective combination of staffing and financial resources to deliver its mandate. We are fortunate to have a group of donors and partners who assist us in achieving this aim. Our donors, both governments and organisations, provide the vital contributions which allow us to continue our work. During 2010 we received 20 contributions from donors and contracting agencies. We would like to thank those governments and organisations – Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America, UNICEF, UNMAS, UNOPS, the Danish Demining Group, Handicap International and the Mines Advisory Group, as well as some private contributors for their support.

Many of these contributors have been regular donors to the GICHD over the past years, which is greatly appreciated, and we thank them for their consistent support. Contributions come in different forms – some funds are specifically earmarked for individual projects or contracts while others provide core funding which can be applied flexibly. We receive substantial contribution from the Swiss government, which represents the majority of funding and also covers all the basic administrative costs of the Centre. In pursuing our wide range of activities in 2010, we had expenditures of approximately CHF 11.65 million. This amount does not take into account the Trust Funds administered by the Centre (ISU APMBC, Sponsorship Programme APMBC, Sponsorship Programme CCW).

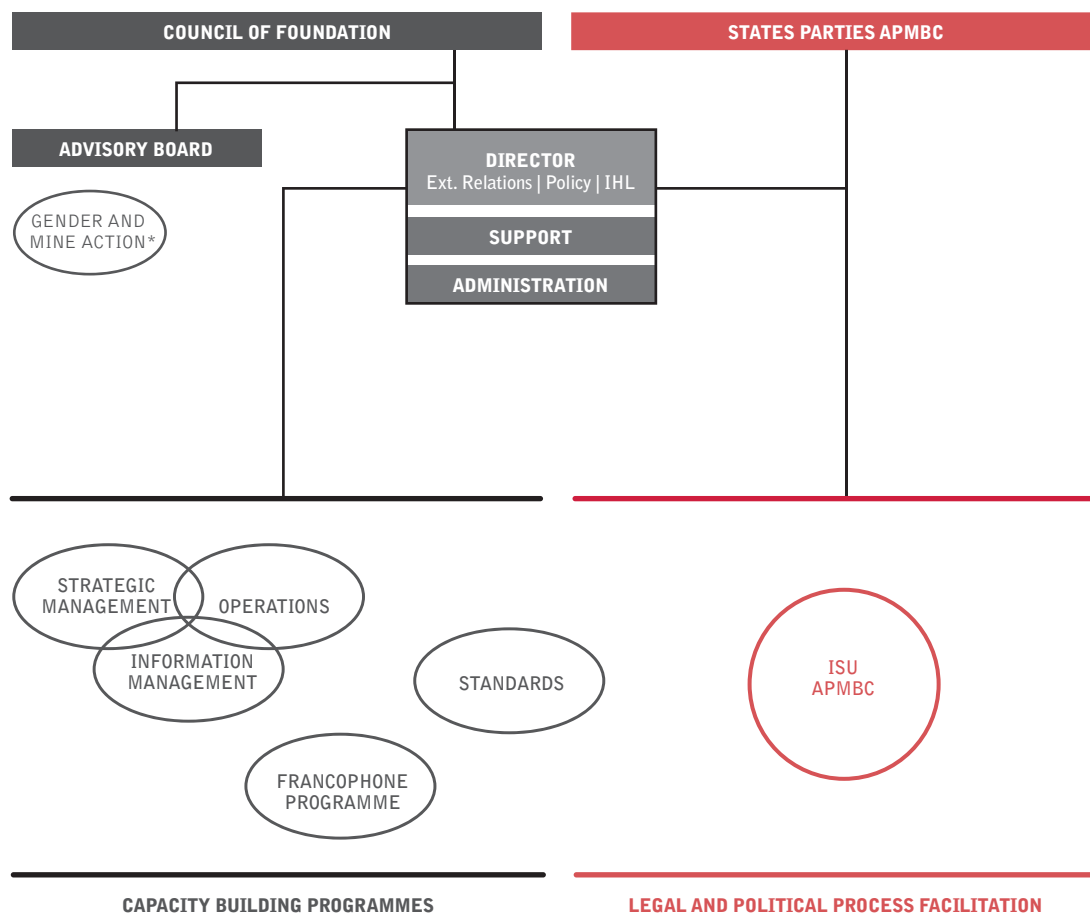
The Centre is aware of the current constraints in the mine action funding environment and has made significant efforts to reduce costs while maintaining activities, wherever possible. Some of these changes have been described earlier and included the closure of the REST (Remote Explosive Scent Tracing) programme and a reduction in staff numbers and costs.

The GICHD can only deliver its mandate and its annual work plan with the right combination of skills and knowledge within its staff. During 2010, we re-arranged the combination of skills and responsibilities to better reflect the needs of the organisation. There were 40 staff, including five from the ISU APMBC team. In addition the Centre benefited from the presence of some interns or trainees throughout the year. As always we drew some of the young professional staff from mine-affected countries to work with us on a temporary basis. Young graduates from Azerbaijan, Benin, the Union of the Comoros, Eritrea and Tajikistan benefited from both professional experience at the Centre and from exposure to the mine action world.

The GICHD places great importance on the role of its Council of Foundation and the Advisory Board. The Council of Foundation has 22 States/organisations represented, including seven which are mine-affected, and UNMAS in an observer role. It met twice in 2010 to review our performance and supervise activities of the Centre.

20 members form the Advisory Board, coming from national authorities, NGOs, commercial organisations, and international organisations such as UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF. Their in-depth expertise provided the Centre with valuable input through the meetings held three times in 2010, as well as the regular consultation which took place throughout the year.

GICHD Governance and Organisation | Strategic chart



* Independent programme hosted by GICHD

DISCUSSION | INTERVIEW WITH IAN MANSFIELD

Ian Mansfield, the Deputy Director and Head of Operations of the GICHD, has been in mine action for over two decades. His mine action career started with a professional posting by the Australian Army to Afghanistan in 1991. In the intervening years he has held mine action programme management field posts with the UN in Afghanistan, Laos and Bosnia, as the Mine Action Team leader at UNDP headquarters in New York and, for the last eight years, with the GICHD in his current role.



At the GICHD he has been responsible for the operational, technical and research activities carried out by the Centre. He is also responsible for analysing existing and potential activities for the Centre, as well as evaluation, assessment and consultancy activities.

Ian's presence in mine action has been a remarkably long one – below are some of his thoughts on what he has witnessed during this time and what the future may bring.

You have been working in demining for an unusually long time, what do you remember of the sector's beginnings?

The start of humanitarian demining is well-recognised as occurring in Afghanistan. In 1988 an appeal for funds was made to enable humanitarian demining activity to take place in this seriously affected country. Inevitably, military demining methods, personnel and equipment set the early parameters. Gradually, the sector emerged from a rather ad hoc phase where programmes operated, unregulated, in isolation and evolved into non-military processes and priority-setting methods.

As an individual, I followed a similar path – making a challenging transition from a military mindset to understanding the broader context of humanitarian demining efforts and their wide impact on affected communities.

What have been some of the key trends/developments you have witnessed, as the sector has matured?

Several key developments spring immediately to mind – the remarkable establishment of the political framework of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention helped create great momentum, the moving of responsibility from the early leadership role of the UN towards national governments, the creation of national mine action authorities and the development of mine action operators to meet specific operational needs. In technological assistance, the development of information management tools which support assessment and planning of activities has been significant, especially coupled with the development of technical survey methods and techniques. The importance of reliable data for effective analysis and decision-making cannot be over-emphasised, in my opinion, and overcoming any inherent weaknesses in this area will be vital in the coming years.

International Mine Action Standards were created to provide definition and guidance in planning and activities. The gradual growth of national capacity in mine-affected countries has been fundamental to how the mine action sector is structured, and how mine action objectives are achieved.

What have you seen as being the key developments of the last years?

The ratification and entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions has represented a significant 'rounding-out' of the treaty framework within which mine action professionals operate. It adds considerably to the energy behind ridding conflict-affected countries of explosive remnants of war. Article 5 extension requests within the APMBC context have illustrated the need for faster land release methods. The development of more efficient methods of releasing suspect hazardous areas back to communities for productive use has benefited affected countries significantly. While discussion still exists around these issues of technical and non-technical survey methods, there has been a greater acceptance of the concept in recent years. This has been the subject of intense focus and development within the GICHD.

The role of mine action in relation to wider post-conflict reconstruction and development issues has also come to the front of discussions within mine action in the last years. This has resulted in a fresh perspective on where mine action parameters and partners lie in this wider field.

What do you see as being the strengths of the sector at the moment?

The international treaty framework combines the strength of governments and civil society in the pursuit of well-defined goals. Agendas are, for the most part, clear and unambiguous and provide an excellent environment for achievement of significant progress. I welcome the added impetus and energy which has emerged from the recent cluster munition treaty process, including renewed public interest in this area. There is synergy between the aims of each relevant treaty.

There are well-established sources of assistance and expert knowledge in the mine action sector – the United Nations is clearly one and so is the GICHD. Other structural components include highly capable specialised NGOs and commercial operators, each of whom plays a necessary part in an integrated approach to solving the landmine issue.

However, as the mine action sector continues to mature, there may be a danger of disintegration of efforts and cooperation – a general sense of ‘taking our eye off the ball’. It is vital that the sector keeps its objectives clearly in sight in the next few years.

What do you think the future may bring for the GICHD?

I believe that the Centre will continue to shape trends within the sector through its research and activities in land release, land rights, and gender issues, to name a few of our key efforts. Continued relevance of information management and the IMSMA tool for mine action programmes throughout the world remains a key focus for our team. In 2011, the Centre is developing our new strategy for 2012 onwards to ensure that we have a coherent strategy in place which deals with the changing environment and needs of those we serve. One aspect of the changing environment which we, with others in mine action, must be aware of is the changing funding context. The funding picture of today is very different from a few years ago (donor thematic funds have closed and levels of funding have shrunk) and this, inevitably, puts a greater emphasis on spending wisely to achieve definable goals.

The Centre has always been demand-driven by the needs and requests of mine-affected countries and donors, and these are continuing to flow towards the Centre. We will keep providing some of the ‘backbone’, or fundamental elements, of the mine action sector in the shape of advisory missions, seminars and conferences (both exchange of knowledge and training based), publications, the provision of IMSMA and the development of standards, in particular the IMAS.

There is always something new to learn or to improve within mine action and that is very much part of the ethos of the Centre - to carry on looking for ways to help mine action actors undertake mine action in a more efficient way. We cannot do this without truly effective partnerships with other key organisations.

You have had a long journey through the mine action landscape - how would you summarise this?

It has been a deeply rewarding personal involvement in mine action. In many ways, my field experiences, both military and humanitarian, have been the most satisfying and had a great impact on me. Working with committed manual deminers, for example, is an inspiring reminder of the responsibilities of field operations. When I moved to New York and subsequently to Geneva, I have been dealing with broader global issues of policy and ‘shaping’ of the sector. One of my key contributions to mine action was the initiation of the senior managers’ training course during my time with UNDP in New York. Many of the leading figures in mine action today have ‘graduated’ from this course over the years and it has contributed extensively to the sector’s increased professionalism over the last decade. Throughout my time in mine action I have been regularly reminded of the remarkable levels of dedication, skill and knowledge which colleagues, from every part of mine action, bring to their efforts.

I have had the privilege of viewing mine action from both ends of the spectrum, field operations and global policy-making, and understand clearly where the different components have strengths.

During the coming year, Ian will retire from the GICHD to return home to Australia, from where he plans to continue with some involvement in mine action.

COUNCIL OF FOUNDATION

The Council of Foundation has 24 members and one observer nominated by States/organisations contributing significantly and/or participating in the Centre's immediate activities.

Members of the Council in 2010 (as at 31 Dec 2010)

President

Dr Barbara Haering

Honorary President

Dr Cornelio Sommaruga

Members of the Council in 2010

Afghanistan | **Ambassador Zalmai Aziz** | Permanent Representative of Afghanistan | Geneva

Albania | **Ambassador Gazmend Turdiu** | Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Albania

Australia | **Ambassador Peter Woolcott** | Permanent Representative of Australia to the Conference on Disarmament | Geneva

Canada | **Ambassador Marius Grinius** | Permanent Representative of Canada to the Conference on Disarmament | Geneva

Colombia | **Ambassador Alicia Arango** | Permanent Representative of Colombia | Geneva

European Union | **Mr. David Spence** | Political Counsellor | European Union's delegation | Geneva

Finland | **Ambassador Hannu Himanen** | Permanent Representative of Finland | Geneva

France | **Ambassador Eric Danon** | Permanent Representative of France to the Conference on Disarmament | Geneva

Germany | **Ambassador Hellmut Hoffmann** | Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament | Geneva

Italy | **Ambassador Giovanni Manfredi** | Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament | Geneva

Japan | **Ambassador Kenichi Suganuma** | Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan | Geneva

Lebanon | **Ambassador Najla Riachi Assaker** | Permanent Representative of Lebanon | Geneva

Mozambique | **Ambassador Frances Victória Velho Rodrigues** | Permanent Representative of Mozambique | Geneva

Netherlands | **Ambassador Paul van den Ijssel** | Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament | Geneva

Norway | **Ambassador Susan Eckey** | Deputy Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Norway

Senegal | to be confirmed

Sweden | **Ambassador Jan Knutsson** | Permanent Representative of Sweden | Geneva

Switzerland | **Brigadier General Erwin Dahinden** | Secretary of the Council of Foundation | Head International Relations | Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport | Switzerland

Switzerland | **Ambassador Jürg Lauber** | Treasurer of the Council of Foundation | Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament | Geneva

Tajikistan | **Ambassador Nasridinov Salohidin** | Permanent Representative of Tajikistan | Geneva

Thailand | **Ambassador Sihasak Phuangketkeow** | Permanent Representative of Thailand | Geneva

United Kingdom | **Ambassador John Duncan** | Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Conference on Disarmament | Geneva

United States of America | **Ambassador Laura Kennedy** | Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament | Geneva

Observer

Mr Maxwell Kerley | Director of United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) | New York

ADVISORY BOARD

It provides advice to both the Council of Foundation and the management of the GICHD. It consists of a group of distinguished practitioners who are in charge at various levels of the international mine action community. It is chaired by the Director of the GICHD.

Members of the Advisory Board in 2010

(as at 31 Dec 2010)

Mr Havard Bach | Head of Operations and Human Security | APOPO

Ms Arianna Calza-Bini | Programme Manager | Gender and Mine Action | Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines (SCBL)

Mr Carl Case | Director | Humanitarian Mine Action | Organization of American States (OAS)

Mr Chris Clark | Senior Liaison Officer in Geneva | United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Mr Mark Downes | Head of International Security Sector Advisor Team (ISSAT) | Ass. Director | Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

Mr Hansjoerg Eberle | Director General | Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)

Mr Steinar Essén | Deputy Director | Mine Action | Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

Mr Etsay Gebre Selassie | Director General | Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) | Ethiopia

Ms Judy Grayson | Senior Advisor | United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Mr David Hewitson | Director | PRESCIENCE AG

Mr Keith Krause | Director Small Arms Survey | Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Mr Ben Lark | Head of ERW/Mine Action Sector | International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Mr Dorijan Maršić | Director | International Trust Fund | Slovenia

Mr Lou McGrath | Chief Executive | Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

Mr Rashid Mohammed Sediq | Chief of Operations | Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan | Afghanistan

Ms Deemah Naser | Head of Planning Department | National Committee of Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) | Jordan

Mr Heng Rattana | Director General | Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) | Cambodia

Ms Sara Sekkenes | Senior Advisor and Team Leader Mine Action, Armed Violence and Small Arms | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr Rasmus Stuhr Jakobsen | Head of the Danish Demining Group (DDG)

Mr Paul Vermeulen | Director | Handicap International | Switzerland



Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
Centre International de Déminage Humanitaire | Genève

7bis, av. de la Paix | P.O. Box 1300 | 1211 Geneva 1 | Switzerland
t. + 41 (0)22 906 16 60 | f. + 41 (0)22 906 16 90
info@gichd.org | www.gichd.org