



Left: MAG campsite near Lake Tanganika in Katanga Province. While on deployments, which can last up to three months, MAG teams generally camp at night, often during torrential rain. Right: Faulty ammunition collected from DRC authorities is destroyed off-shore in the lake

SUMMARY

Reporting Period: 01 – 31 March 2009

Activities & Outputs Summary:

- **Search and clearance of a total of 2,681m²** of land through a combination of hand, electronic, and visual techniques
- **Removal and destruction of a total of 13,483 hazardous items** by the Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) teams
- **127 Dangerous Areas identified**
- **169 MRE sessions conducted** targeting **9,885 beneficiaries**
- **Destruction of 693 weapons** and **31.98 kg of ammunition** by the CWMD¹ teams

Key activities:

A significant new operational development in March was the start-up of an HMA Emergency Response Team (ERT) based in Mbuji Mayi to be funded under the Dutch Government's ongoing HMA grant. This team will address contaminated areas in the two Kasai Provinces and provide an important service nationwide to NGOs and the UN. Discussions also took place this month with UNMACC regarding the drafting of their new Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and with the National Focal Point on Landmines regarding the preparation of the annual International Landmines day on 4th April.

March was a busy month in terms of staff turnover with the arrival of a new Base Manager for Equateur and the departure of the Finance Manager and Logistics Manager at the end of the month. A senior management meeting took place in Manchester in the UK, MAG's global HQ, and was attended by the Country Programme Manager and senior operations staff. MAG DRC also received a visit from a MAG consultant attached to the Nairobi Regional Centre for Small Arms control (RECSA) regarding ongoing CWMD projects, and a photographer visited the programme and deployed with CWMD and HMA teams to record their activities.

Pictures by Gwenn Dubourthoumieu, Base Manager, Katanga

¹ To more accurately reflect the range of activities being implemented and types of munitions being dealt with, MAG is using the term CWMD – *Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal* rather than *Small Arms Light Weapons* (SALW)

Equateur

The new Base Manager for Equateur was deployed this month and the Manual Clearance Team (MCT) and Community Liaison Team (CLT) funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency SIDA and based in Mbandaka both deployed to Befale. The MCT and CLT based in Gemena and funded by the Dutch Government deployed to Libenge at the beginning of the month and then to Gbadolite. The deployment to Gbadolite, which was accompanied and recorded by the visiting photographer, was partly in order to prepare the opening of a new base for MAG's local partner Humanitas Ubangi in April which will be funded under a new grant from UNICEF, provided via MAG, and will include a new CLT to conduct operations in North Ubangi Province.

Katanga

In Katanga this month both the MCT and CLT funded by DFID and the MCT and CLT funded by the Belgian Government deployed in the area around Moba and Moliro, including a two-week deployment by boat along lake Tanganika in order to access remote villages which remain inaccessible by road transport. The Katanga Base Manager, a published photographer, accompanied this deployment in order to make a photographic reportage, (see <http://www.maginternational.org/blogs/15-days-on-lake-tanganyika/> for more information).

Kasai Oriental and Occidental

MAG's Emergency Response Team (ERT) became operational this month and will be funded by the Dutch Government. The ERT will conduct clearance operations in Kasai Oriental, survey operations in Kasai Occidental and emergency response country-wide. A CLT staffed with personnel from MAG's new local partner NGO ECC-MERU, but supervised and funded through MAG, will be trained and become operational in July.

Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD)

Destruction activities continued this month at both the Central Logistics Base and for the two remaining mobile CWMD teams as, with the completion of the Dutch CWMD grant at the end of February, one of the three MAG DRC CWMD teams was discontinued at the beginning of this month. The grant given by the United States Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), supporting the two remaining CWMD teams, also finished at the end of March. MAG is currently in the process of confirming new funding in order to ensure long-term continuation of these activities.

During this month one of the two PM/WRA-financed CWMD teams deployed to Mbakana in Kinshasa Province to address ammunition stocks, and destroyed 746,717 items of ammunition weighing in total 5,342 kg. Meanwhile, the second CWMD team deployed from Mbuji Mayi to Kamina in Kasai Oriental Province where it destroyed 1,884 items weighing 26,637 kg. This team was accompanied by a photographer, funded by PM/WRA, who was tasked with producing visibility materials for use by the programme. Activities in the Central Logistics Base, funded by PM/WRA, also continued this month, resulting in the destruction of a total of 685 weapons.

One of the mobile CWMD teams also completed technical refresher training and medevac exercises this month.

MAG would like to express its gratitude to the following current donors to the DRC programme:

- Department for International Development (UK)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- United States Department of State, Political Military Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement
- Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

For more information on this or any of MAG's programmes across the world please visit www.maginternational.org, or contact:

Nicky Asfaw (Regional Desk Officer)
MAG, 68 Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3NJ

e-mail: Nicky.Asfaw@maginternational.org
Tel: +44 161 236 4311