

MINE KAFON

WIND-POWERED DEVICE FOR DEMINING MINEFIELDS

Mine Kafon is a low-cost, wind-powered landmine clearance device. In Dhari Kafon means explosion. Indeed, the Mine Kafon is meant to detonate landmines while rolling on the ground.

Its creator, the Afghan Massoud Hassani, designed it as his graduation project for the Design Academy of Heindoven, the Netherlands, where he had arrived as a refugee nine years before. Hassani grew up in the outskirts of Kabul, on the edges of a desert and his designer career started creating handmade wind-powered toys. Sometimes, these objects rolled so far astray on minefields that they could not retrieve them anymore. Being Afghanistan littered with millions of landmines, like too many other countries in the world, Hassani felt the urgency of creating something that could help solve the problem.

The Mine Kafon looks like a huge dandelion. Its weight is about 70 Kilograms, light enough to be powered by the wind but also heavy enough to trigger landmines. It consists of approximately 175 bamboo legs, each with a round biodegradable plastic foot stemming out of an iron core, which contains a GPS chip for the mapping of minefields.

On every explosion, the Kafon loses just one or two legs, depending on how strong is the explosion, so it can detonate up to three or four landmines in one journey. Broken legs can be easily replaced screwing them on the core.

The Mine Kafon is still a prototype. It has been tested a few times by the Dutch army, but the outcome of trials was not technically satisfying. Due to its spherical shape and to its being driven by the wind, the Mine Kafon can miss many landmines, therefore it does not guarantee an effective mine clearance.

Hassani has then been suggested to focus not on clearing minefields but instead on a humanitarian purpose, as a mean for checking if an area is mined. And in fact, the Mine Kafon is a social project conceived for people living in dangerous areas of the world, affordable because of its cheap components.



As a design innovation, the Mine Kafon has already attracted the attention of the most influent international media and art and design contests. After being acquired by the [Museum of Modern Art MoMa](#), it is now being exhibited in New York.

But Hassani's aim is to implement it in order to make it go into production. In a few months, thanks to [Kickstarter.com](#), a website created to help independent projects to raise funds – it has collected more than 100.000 pounds given by individual people. Now, the next steps are: improving the prototype, making trials on real minefields, cooperating with engineers to implement ideas and suggestions given by people, developing the GPS core to make it more precise, creating a team to actually produce it, to raise awareness on the issue of landmines.

To know more

<http://minekafon.blogspot.it/>

[Time](#)

[Die Zeit](#)

[Le Monde](#)

[The Guardian](#)

[Wired](#)

[Reuters](#)

[Discovery Channel](#)

[National geographic](#)

