

**Format for the Aarhus Convention implementation
report in accordance with Decision IV/4
(ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1)**

**The following report is submitted on behalf of PORTUGAL in
accordance with decisions I/8, II/10 and IV/4.**

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Signature:

Date:	2025
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Implementation report

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

Party:	PORTUGAL
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National Focal Point:

Full name of the institution:	APA - Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente / Portuguese Environment Agency
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I. Process by which the report has been prepared

Provide a brief summary of the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the type of public authorities that were consulted or contributed to its preparation, how the public was consulted and how the outcome of the public consultation was taken into account, as well as on the material that was used as a basis for preparing the report.

Answer:

The preparation of the 7th report on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention under the coordination of Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente - APA, followed a participatory and transparent process. It was based on the previous report submitted in 2021, and sought to update the information already provided, but without losing the overall sense of the information.

Bodies of the central and regional State government were consulted during the two periods of public consultation (9 May to 31 July 2024 and 27 January to 16 March 2025). Environmental non-governmental organisations (ENGO) and advisory bodies such as the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNADS) and the National Water Council (CNA) were also consulted in the latter period. In the second period of public consultation, and in the same way as for the previous report, local government bodies were consulted, by means of a questionnaire and through their coordinating bodies (namely ANMP - National Association of Portuguese Municipalities, and ANAFRE - National Association of Parish Councils). Wherever possible, the submissions received in this way are reflected in this report.

II. Particular circumstances relevant for understanding the report

Report any particular circumstances that are relevant for understanding the report, e.g., whether there is a federal and/or decentralized decision-making structure, whether the provisions of the Convention have direct effect upon its entry into force, or whether financial constraints are a significant obstacle to implementation (optional).

Answer:

In terms of territory, Portugal is divided into a continental part and two archipelagos - the Azores and Madeira. On the mainland, the administrative division is made up of districts and each district is divided into municipalities (concelhos) - where the municipal councils are based - and these are further subdivided into parishes (freguesias). There are no districts in the archipelagos.

The Regional Coordination Committees (CCDR) are decentralised departments of central government. They are administratively and financially autonomous, and are responsible for implementing measures for the development of the respective regions, grouping together various municipalities, in coordination with various ministries. On 14 October 2020 the presidents of those organisations were, for the first time, elected by the mayors of the respective geographical area. Prior to that they had been directly appointed by the Government.

The Azores and Madeira are Portugal's two autonomous regions. They are territories endowed with political-administrative autonomy, which does not affect the integrity of national sovereignty, and have their own government: the Legislative Assembly and the Regional Government. In each of the autonomous regions there is a Representative of the Republic, appointed and dismissed by the President of the Republic, after hearing the

Government; he is responsible for signing and ordering the publication of regional legislative decrees and regional regulatory decrees, exercising the right of veto when justified and exercising powers of constitutional review.

III. Legislative, regulatory and other measures implementing the general provisions in article 3, paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the general provisions in article 3, paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8, of the Convention.

Explain how these paragraphs have been implemented. In particular, describe:

- (a) With respect to **paragraph 2**, measures taken to ensure that officials and authorities assist and provide the required guidance;
- (b) With respect to **paragraph 3**, measures taken to promote education and environmental awareness;
- (c) With respect to **paragraph 4**, measures taken to ensure that there is appropriate recognition of and support to associations, organizations or groups promoting environmental protection;
- (d) With respect to **paragraph 7**, measures taken to promote the principles of the Convention internationally; including:
 - (i) Measures taken to coordinate within and between ministries to inform officials involved in other relevant international forums about article 3, paragraph 7, of the Convention and the Almaty Guidelines, indicating whether the coordination measures are ongoing;
 - (ii) Measures taken to provide access to information at the national level regarding international forums, including the stages at which access to information was provided;
 - (iii) Measures taken to promote and enable public participation at the national level with respect to international forums (e.g., inviting non-governmental organization (NGO) members to participate in the Party's delegation in international environmental negotiations, or involving NGOs in forming the Party's official position for such negotiations), including the stages at which access to information was provided;
 - (iv) Measures taken to promote the principles of the Convention in the procedures of other international forums;
 - (v) Measures taken to promote the principles of the Convention in the work programmes, projects, decisions and other substantive outputs of other international forums;
- (e) With respect to **paragraph 8**, measures taken to ensure that persons exercising their rights under the Convention are not penalized, persecuted or harassed

Answer:

Article 3, paragraph 2

The Aarhus Convention was adopted by the Portuguese Parliament in accordance with Resolution No. 11/2003 of 25 February, ratified by Decree No. 9/2003 of the President of the Republic. In Portuguese law there are different legal instruments which, in general, allow the guiding principles of this Convention to be put into practice, as mentioned in

previous implementation reports. These are: the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic (CRP); the Basic Law of Environmental Policy (LBA) - Law no. 19/2014, of 14 April -; the General Basic Law for Public Policy on Land, Spatial Planning and Urban Management - Law no. 31/2014 of 30 May -; the Code of Administrative Procedure (CPA) – Decree-Law no. 4/2015 of 7 January -; the Law that defines the statute of Environmental NGOs (ENGO) - Law no. 35/98 of 18 July. (national legislation can be accessed in the electronic edition of the Diário da República at <https://dre.pt/>).

In order to highlight that citizen participation is a central component of democratic governance models and its importance in decision-making processes, in 2021 the National Participation Day was established in Portugal (RCM 130/2021, of September 10) - the last Thursday of January each year.

As far as more specific legislative and regulatory measures are concerned, the Aarhus Convention is applied in Portugal through the transposition of various EU Directives. Special mention should be made of **Directive 2003/4/EC** regarding public access to environmental information, transposed into national law by means of the **Law approving the regime for access to administrative and environmental information and the reuse of administrative documents (LADA) - Law No. 26/2016, of 22 August**, with amendments arising from Law No. 58/2019 of 8 August, and Law No. 33/2020 of 12 August. This Law, which entered into force on 1 October 2016 revoked Law No. 19/2006 of 12 June, which regulates Access to Information on the Environment (previously referred to as LAIA), together with Law No. 46/2007 of 24 August, which regulates Access to Administrative Documents and their reuse (previously referred to as LADA). It does not in any way diminish the foregoing rights and guarantees, but unifies them in a single item of legislation. This Law was updated by Law No. 58/2019, of 8 August, which ensures the implementation, in Portuguese law, of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the Parliament and the Council, of 27 April 2016, concerning the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free circulation of such data - hereinafter known as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It was also updated by Law No. 33/2020 of 12 August, which adapts the composition of the Commission for Access to Administrative Documents to the regime of incompatibilities established in the Statute for Members of Parliament.

The **Commission for Access to Administrative Documents (CADA)** www.cada.pt is an independent administrative entity which works together with the Portuguese Parliament and is responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of Law no. 26/2016 of 22 August (cf. Article 28, paragraph 1). The most important powers held by the CADA (article 30) relate to the issuing of opinions on complaints from those who request access to administrative documents and do not obtain a response or consider the refusal to be undue, and the issuing of opinions on doubts raised by the Administration with regard to the possibility of enabling access to administrative documents. The opinions of CADA are not binding but, for the most part, are complied with by the requested or consulting entities. In line with the provisions of the Aarhus Convention and Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, CADA considers (cf. <https://www.cada.pt/noticias/relatorio-anual-da-tividade-da-cada-no-ano-de-2020>) that “the community can and should participate, can and should demand of all institutions and bodies the highest possible levels of clarity, transparency and openness. This participation is an essential condition if progress is to be made. Institutions and bodies must correspond and think ahead, wherever and whenever possible, with active dissemination of information.”

Also of note is **Directive 2003/35/EC** providing for public participation in preparing certain plans and programmes relating to the environment. This Directive is transposed into **various items of legislation**, particularly those relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) [Decree-Law no. 151-B/2013 of 31 October, amended and republished by Decree-Law no. 152-B/2017 of 11 December, which transposes into Portuguese law Directive No. 2014/52/EU, of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects upon the environment], Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) [Decree-Law No. 173/2008 of 26 August, revoked by Decree-Law No. 127/2013 of 30 August], the Strategic

Environmental Assessment (SAE) [Decree-Law No. 232/2007 of 15 June, amended by Decree-Law No. 58/2011 of 4 May] and the Water Law [Law No. 58/2005 of 29 December and Decree-Law No. 77/2006 of 30 March, amended and republished by Decree-Law No. 130/2012 of 22 June], with the latest amendment resulting from Law No. 44/2017, of 06/19] and the general regime for waste management, approved by Annex I of Decree-Law no. 102-D/2020, of December 10, in its current wording, and by the CPA itself.

Natural or legal persons may submit complaints to the **Ombudsman** about acts or omission by public authorities with regard to access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decision-making. This is an independent and impartial State body whose main function is to defend and promote the rights, freedoms, guarantees and legitimate interests of citizens, ensuring justice and legality in the exercise of public powers. In Portugal, the Ombudsman is also a National Human Rights Institution with a general mandate to protect and promote human rights. Thus, in the assessment of the specific cases presented to it, it promotes the link between the protection of the right to the environment and quality of life and the enjoyment of human rights. (cf. www.provider-jus.pt). Public entities have a duty to cooperate with the Ombudsman whenever asked to do so; specifically, by sending documents and files for examination when so requested. The Ombudsman's intervention often takes the form of mediation between authorities with environmental powers and interested parties, favouring dialogue and consensus, through quick and informal action. However, when necessary, the Ombudsman will make recommendations to the competent bodies to correct an illegal or unjust act, or with a view to improving the organisation and administrative procedures. It can also issue recommendations to interpret, amend or repeal legislation or to draft new legislation. Failure to comply with his recommendations must always be justified. The Ombudsman does not have binding decision-making powers; its power resides in the sound foundation of the positions it takes up and its institutional prestige.

The **Portuguese Environment Agency** (APA) is the national focal point for the Aarhus Convention. Its mission is to propose, develop and monitor the integrated and shared management of environmental and sustainable development policies, in conjunction with other sectoral policies and in collaboration with public and private organisations working towards the same ends. It aims to achieve high-level protection and appreciation of the environment, and the provision of high quality services to citizens (cf. <https://apambiente.pt>). The focal point of the Aarhus Convention has been finding ways to provide greater accessibility to environmental communication and information, as well as to practice active citizenship with regard to environmental matters, explaining how the Aarhus Convention is applied in Portugal at APA website (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/index.php/apa/convencao-de-aarhus>). In addition to the various information systems it provides, the PORTAL DO ESTADO DO AMBIENTE (<https://rea.apambiente.pt>) stands out, as it gathers the most recent information, expressed in indicators and annual reports on the state of the environment in Portugal, constituting a systematized, free and easily accessible source of information for the whole of society. Also worthy of note is the PARTICIPA.PT PORTAL (cf. <http://participa.pt>), available since 2015, which provides access to all public consultation procedures launched in Portugal. This has made it much easier to access information on public consultation procedures and participate in them digitally.

Also with a view to making it easier for citizens to participate directly in improving the environment, the nationwide "SOS Environment and Territory" line was created in 2002. This line receives complaints and reports of situations that may infringe environmental law, 24 hours per day, every day of the year - by telephone on 808200520, online reporting system at http://www.gnr.pt/default.asp?do=5r20n/EF.qr070pvn5/s14z_5r20n, or by e-mail to sepna@gnr.pt. This service is currently under the responsibility of the Nature and Environmental Protection Service (SEPNA) of the **National Republican Guard** police force (GNR) - cf. Decree-Law No. 22/2006 of 2 February. It can be deemed as a way of citizens participating and cooperating as "environmental police", caring for the welfare of all in the national territory, assuming the preservation, conservation and enhancement of natural heritage as a fundamental duty and right. SEPNA missions are grouped into five

major areas: nature, environment, forests, animal and health protection and environmental education. Complaints received by this service are analysed, recorded and investigated, and the complainant informed of the steps taken and the outcome. SEPNA, which under the terms of Ordinance No. 798/2006 of 11 August is established as the “environmental police” (in addition to the Public Security Police, PSP, which also has powers and acts as “environmental police”, according to Law no. 53/2007, of August 31, in its current wording, in particular paragraph n) of no. 2, Art. 3), works together with various national bodies involved in environmental policy, and with international bodies dedicated to the monitoring and investigation of nature and environment-related crimes, such as the Spanish Guardia Civil Nature Protection Service (SEPRONA). The Electronic Complaint System is also worthy of mention - <https://queixaselectronicas.mai.gov.pt/>. It is general in scope and managed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MAI), which includes complaints that will be investigated by the PSP or GNR, it forwards complaints of an environmental nature to SEPNA, ensuring their proper routing. Statistical records on environmental criminal offenses under the Penal Code are provided by the Directorate-General for Justice Policy. It should be noted that SEPNA/GNR records around 85% of the environmental crime recorded in Portugal each year and more than 90% of environmental administrative offenses are prosecuted by SEPNA/GNR.

The main areas of intervention of the **General Inspectorate of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning** (IGAMAOT) include control, inspection and audits of the services and bodies within IGAMAOT's sphere of activity, in the respective areas of administration and management, and in the mission areas, namely in the field of regulation and food safety and the control of support financed by national funds and European Union funds and, in the areas of the environment, radiological protection, land use planning and nature conservation, the permanent monitoring and assessment of legality (cf. Decree-Law no. 23/2012, of February 1, amended and republished by Decree-Law no. 153/2015, of August 7, as subsequently amended by Decree-Law no. 108/2018, of December 3, and by Decree-Law no. 87/2020, of October 15). IGAMAOT is responsible for processing and deciding on cases arising from notices drawn up either by this Inspectorate General or by other entities, namely the police. It also acts as a criminal police body (OPC) for crimes related to the fulfillment of its mission in environmental matters. The work carried out in environmental criminal matters at IGAMAOT has required a high level of specialization and technical training, as an OPC with specific competence, in line with Directive 1/2023 of the Attorney General's Office (PGR), of November 2, regarding the Criminal Policy Law (<https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/diretiva/1-2023-230097563>), which recognizes that, given the specific nature of environmental offences, the delegation of competence for investigation should take into account that IGAMAOT carries out its own functions as a criminal police body in relation to crimes that are related to the fulfilment of its mission in matters of environmental impact. The PGR's Central Department for State Litigation and Collective and Diffuse Interests (DCCEICD) has strengthened collaboration in criminal investigations. IGAMAOT cooperates with national and international counterparts, being a member of IMPEL - European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law, <http://www.impel.eu/> and EnviCrimeNet - Network of European Union police authorities cooperating in the fight against environmental crime, <https://www.envicrimenet.eu/>. The work carried out in environmental criminal matters at IGAMAOT has required a high level of specialization and technical training, as an OPC with specific competence, in line with Directive 1/2023 of the Attorney General's Office (PGR), of November 2, regarding the Criminal Policy Law (<https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/diretiva/1-2023-230097563>), which recognizes that, given the specific nature of environmental offences, the delegation of competence to the OPC should be carried out by the IGAMAOT.

On July 1, 2024, the iFAMA portal - Single Platform for Inspection and Supervision of Agriculture, the Sea and the Environment was launched, hosted by IGAMAOT <https://ifama.igamaot.gov.pt/Portal/LandingPage>. This portal is a single point of entry, management and centralization of complaints, in a dematerialized form, by a group of

partner administrative entities (cf. website) with powers in the areas of agriculture, the sea and the environment. On this portal, citizens are aware of the matters on which they can submit complaints and, once they have been submitted, the partner entity responsible and how they are dealt with until they are concluded, with a coordinated and timely response to occurrences that may constitute infringements of legislation in the areas of agriculture, the sea and the environment. This new portal complies with the principles of collaboration and cooperation, and rationalization in the use of public resources, allowing the sharing of relevant information and thus greater effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling the competences of public entities, ensuring the protection of personal data under the terms of the legislation in force. Until now, IGAMAOT provided a complaints form and, if that option was not viable, they could be submitted via e-mail (igamaot@igamaot.gov.pt) or, as a last resort, by mail. The IGAMAOT portal contains annual reports on the management of complaints sent by citizens and private or public entities, managed by this Inspectorate-General in accordance with the procedure approved by Order no. 1681/2020 (Diário da República, 2nd series, No. 25, February 5, 2020). Depending on the criteria, complaints were either followed up directly by IGAMAOT, when it was within its remit, or forwarded to the materially competent entity(ies) for investigation, appropriate action and a response to the complainant. The annual reports, accessible at <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/pt/espaco-publico/relatorios/balancos-denuncias#1>, set out the main data and statistics, namely the number of situations reported, their scope, the geographical predominance of the complaints and the entities involved in resolving them. In the case of reported situations that were forwarded and in the areas of agriculture, the sea and the environment, the aim was also to ensure that the materially competent body or bodies responded to the complainants whenever they approached IGAMAOT again, claiming that there had been no response. In some specific cases, and given the consideration of new facts, namely the lack of a response from the competent authority, this Inspectorate General follows up on the steps taken to resolve the situation. Em 2023 foram analisadas pela IGAMAOT um total de 1.540 novas situações denunciadas, das quais 42 foram acompanhadas diretamente pela IGAMAOT, 1.498 reencaminhadas para a(s) entidade(s) materialmente competente(s), para averiguação, atuação em conformidade e resposta ao denunciante, conforme relatório de 2023 acessível em https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/contents/pagelist/relatorio-balanco-reclamacoes-e-denuncias-2023_6377.pdf

The fight against environmental crime is also a priority area in the fight against organised and serious international crime, assumed by the EU, priorities and Operational Action Plans are periodically established within the framework of the EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats). The national authorities with responsibility for environmental crime take part in a series of actions, coordinated by the Internal Security System - <https://ssi.gov.pt/>.

From a practical point of view, many other Ministry organisations responsible for environmental policy, as well as many other public bodies, employ staff with the appropriate training and experience to provide citizens with assistance and guidance in seeking access to information. This enables them to take part in the decision-making process and to seek access to justice in environmental matters. In implementing the principles of e-government and providing better access to environmental information, most of these bodies, **whether at central or regional level** - Regional Development Coordination Commissions (CCDRs) and APA decentralised services for matters concerning the management of water resources (ex-ARH) - have websites through which information is made available within the scope of their duties. These have been improved in order to provide increased accessibility to citizens. **Local authorities** also have documentation centres and/or libraries, websites, newsletters, etc., geared to local or specific public interests, within which the subject of the environment is usually present due to its pervasive nature. At all of these levels of public administration, there are also procedures for responding to requests received via e-mail. This correspondence has the same value as that received on paper. In addition to the PARTICIPA.PT portal mentioned previously, the respective websites play a leading role where plans, programmes and projects relating to the environment and subject to public consultation and participation are concerned, driving their disclosure and communication with all stakeholders. Increased

openness and experimentation has been observed with the new participatory methods of public administration, particularly with regard to the participatory budget initiatives organised by a growing number of authorities, also nationally, creating a new form of governance based on the direct participation of citizens in identifying problems and needs in the definition of priorities and the implementation and monitoring of projects.

In the Autonomous Region of the Azores, within the framework of the XIV Regional Government, the Regional Secretariat for the Environment and Climate Action implements environmental policies through the Regional Directorate for the Environment and Climate Action, the Regional Inspectorate for the Environment and the Regulatory Entity for Water and Waste Services in the Azores, coordinating its activities with the Regional Directorate for Forest Resources and Spatial Planning and the Regional Directorate for Maritime Policies, among others. In the Autonomous Region of Madeira, the Regional Secretariat for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment is responsible, among others, for the Regional Directorate for the Environment and the Sea and the Regional Directorate for Spatial Planning.

The implementation of Local Agenda 21 processes has been a way of bringing the principles of Aarhus and environmental democracy to a local level, closer to the citizens. A special contribution was made by the nomination and awarding of the ECOXXI awards (cf. <https://ecoxxi.abaae.pt/>) and the ECO-FREGUESIAS XXI awards (<https://ecofreguesias21.abaae.pt/>), promoted in Portugal by an NGO, the Blue Flag Association of Europe (ABAE), with the support of numerous public entities and private entities, as well as academia, working directly or indirectly in the environmental area (cf. <https://ecoxxi.abaae.pt/sobre/comissao-nacional/>). Among the indicators relating to sustainable development that decide on the allocation of the “Green Flag” to local authorities, several are related to information, education, citizenship and participation in environmental matters. Currently these awards integrate the “Green Flag Territories” family, an aggregating concept that identifies municipalities (ECOXXI), parishes (Eco-Freguesias XXI) and tourist destinations (Green Destinations) as integral parts of a movement for change and which, to this end, meet a set of sustainability criteria. There are many projects and actions implemented that can be replicated in other territorial contexts, identifying, recognising and rewarding municipalities with good sustainability practices, and thus motivating municipalities and citizens in terms of the importance of being involved in the process of transition to a more responsible and sustainable society. It is also worth mentioning the ODSlocal Platform - Municipal Platform for Sustainable Development Goals <https://www.odslocal.pt/>. This initiative aims to mobilize municipalities and other relevant entities to achieve, on a local level, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the United Nations 2030 Agenda. This Platform includes: i) a dynamic technology-based online portal, ii) a training plan for municipal agents and iii) a cycle of events with high media coverage.

In a survey carried out among municipalities on the local implementation of the Aarhus Convention, to which 100 municipalities replied (about 33% of a total of 308 municipalities), about half (49%) claimed to know about the Aarhus Convention. The vast majority (91%) believe that the necessary measures have been taken in order to maintain and promote good governance practices, and that there is an effective “culture of transparency” and collaboration with the citizenry and civil society organisations (especially those that protect the environment) by all employees of the respective municipalities, manifested in different ways. The same cannot be said of the parishes, to whose survey only 70 parishes responded (around 2% of the total 3.091 existing parishes), indicating a high level of ignorance about this Convention (79%); nevertheless, the majority (75-80%) believe that the necessary measures have been taken to maintain and promote good governance practices, and that there is an effective “culture of transparency” and collaboration with the public and civil society organizations (especially those that defend the environment) on the part of all parish officials, expressed in various ways.

Article 3, paragraph 3

The Ministry responsible for environmental policy has, through its diverse organisations, not only promoted but also supported **programmes and measures on environmental education** organised by civil society, aimed at informing citizens about matters covered by the Aarhus Convention.

These programs and actions are framed by the National Strategy for Environmental Education (ENEA), approved by RCM No. 100/2017, of 11 July, which establishes a collaborative, strategic and cohesive commitment to the construction of environmental literacy in Portugal which, through inclusive and visionary citizenship, leads to a change in the civilizational paradigm, and is translated into sustainable models of behaviour in all areas of human activity. It is based on three thematic axes: decarbonizing society, making the economy circular and enhancing the territory. It is promoted and supervised by the APA (cf. <https://enea.apambiente.pt>) and is made operational through its appropriation by numerous public and private entities, with special emphasis on environmental NGOs, supported by funding from the Environmental Fund (<https://www.fundoambiental.pt/>).

The responsibilities of APA include promoting education, training and awareness of the environment and sustainable development, as well supporting environmental NGOs. It has an active role in disseminating information and mobilizing citizens on environmental issues. To do this, the APA seeks to monitor and develop the implementation of policies to educate and train citizens in environmental matters (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/index.php/apa/educacao-ambiental>) and promote and monitor ways of supporting the environmental NGOs (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/index.php/apa/organizacoes-nao-governamentais-de-ambiente>), emphasising their recognition through inclusion in the National Register of Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations and Similar Organizations (RNOE – cf. <https://onga.apambiente.pt/>), support provided via the Network of Coordinator Teachers of Environmental Education Projects highlighted in ENGO (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/index.php/apa/cooperacao-ambiente-educacao>), and a higher percentage in the financing of projects proposed and supported by the Environmental Fund. APA also seeks to promote and guarantee access to information and public participation in environmental decision-making processes (access to various items from the menu of the APA website and PARTICIPA.PT portal). In this way, APA seeks to directly and indirectly develop and support formal and non-formal educational initiatives, projects and other forms of disseminating training and informative content, from civil society organisations and from other State bodies.

The **National Programme for Spatial Planning Policy** (PNPOT) is of particular relevance because, in the area of territorial governance, it contributes to intersectoral cooperation, territorial culture, and greater territorialization of public policies. In order to empower and inform citizens about these policies, not just urban but also environmental and social, it takes special measures into consideration, particularly in the area of governance. The Governance model defined in the PNPOT uses a set of tools aimed at promoting the execution of the Programme, mobilizing the protagonists who will implement the Programme, systematically monitoring and reporting on the actions undertaken, and, finally, assessing the outcomes of the measures and the conditions for their implementation (cf. <https://pnpot.dgterritorio.pt>). In addition, since spatial planning is a transversal area, Decree-Law No. 80/2015 of 14 May, the Legal Framework for Territorial Management Instruments (RJIGT) not only regulates territorial management but also covers public information and participation in the formation of territorial programmes and plans, with a view to transparency in terms of effective information to citizens. The National Policy for Architecture and Landscape (PNAP), approved by RCMR No. 45/2015 of 7 July, deals with the right and the duty to actively participate in the construction of its framework and living environment. The State is responsible for ensuring access to information and knowledge, and for maintaining the institutions and platforms necessary to promote an active and timely participation of populations in the transformation of the built environment and landscape, through extended processes of sharing and involvement, based on a principle of collective accountability (cf. <https://pnap.dgterritorio.gov.pt/>). The updating of the legal framework on cartography with the publication of Decree-Law No. 130/2019, of 30 August, changed the principles and standards that must be complied with by

cartographic production in the national territory, with the reinforcement of the national registry, the creation of the national cartography database, and the publication of the technical specifications for topographic cartography. This legislative amendment seeks to clarify, simplify and develop the legal framework for cartography, specifically with regard to thematic cartography and the rules for the use of basic cartography by territorial plans and programmes.

In relation to the various areas of the environment, the following is significant:

With regard to **climate change**, the main strategic documents at national level include:

- Basic Climate Law (LBC);
- Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality 2050 (RNC 2050);
- National Energy and Climate Plan (PNEC);
- National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (ENAAC);
- Action Program for Adaptation to Climate Change (P-3AC);
- National Roadmap for Adaptation 2100 (RNA 2100).

The **Basic Climate Law** (Law no. 98/2021), approved by Parliament on December 31, 2021, consolidates objectives, principles and obligations for the different levels of governance for climate action through public policies and establishes new provisions in terms of climate policy. In addition to strengthening the right of citizens to participate in the processes of drafting and reviewing climate policy instruments, for example through clarification sessions with climate policy decision-makers, it also creates provisions such as the creation of the Climate Action portal (<https://transparencia.gov.pt/pt/ambiente/tema/>) in order to promote and enable citizens and civil society to participate in climate action and monitor systematic information in this context. Also in the context of the Basic Climate Law, it is important to note that transparency, accessibility and effectiveness of information, the legal framework and information, reporting and monitoring systems, as well as encouraging education, are defined as objectives of climate policy. In terms of climate education, the Basic Climate Law stipulates, for example, that climate issues should be incorporated into primary and secondary school curricula, along with the development of teaching content on climate change in higher education and the need to promote climate education actions aimed at raising awareness among the general population.

The **Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality 2050** (RNC2050), approved by RCM No. 107/2019 of 1 July, establishes the sustained trajectory to attain carbon neutrality in 2050, defines the main guidelines, identifies cost-effective options to achieve this in different socio-economic development scenarios, and constitutes the national long-term development strategy for low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, it is currently being revised, taking into account, among other things, the commitment to bring forward climate neutrality to 2045, the achievement of the carbon neutrality target in 2050 is based on a strategic vision that seeks to promote decarbonization of the economy and energy transition, aiming at carbon neutrality in 2050, as an opportunity for the country, based on a democratic and fair model of territorial cohesion that enhances generational wealth and efficient use of resources. The implementation of this strategic vision is based on eight fundamental premises, one of which concerns the need to “**involve society in the challenges of climate change, investing in education, information and awareness, contributing to increased individual and collective action**”. Thus, the RNC 2050 recognises and advocates the need to promote the involvement of society in the transition, helping to increase individual and collective action, adopt sustainable behaviours and change production and consumption patterns in favour of sustainability, specifically through environmental education and awareness. Moreover, some of the main vectors of decarbonization and lines of action for a carbon neutral society established in the RCN2050 involve promotion of the participation of cities and local administrations in decarbonization, stimulating an integrated approach to its different vectors such as mobility, buildings, services and waste management, and enhancing the role these have played in mitigating climate change.

The **National Energy and Climate 2030 Plan** (PNEC2030), approved by RCM No.

53/2020 of 10 July - also under review, such as the RNC2050, to ensure the alignment of policies, objectives and targets established between the short and long term -, will be the main instrument of national energy and climate policy for the decade 2021-2030 towards a carbon neutral future. It puts into practice policies and measures for effective application of the guidelines contained in the RNC2050 and for the achievement of the stated targets. The PNEC2030 establishes goals and targets for the reduction of GHG emissions, renewable energies, energy efficiency, and interconnections for the 2030 horizon. One of the most important objectives is “Ensuring a just, democratic and cohesive transition”, which encompasses several lines of action, namely:

- Combat energy poverty and improve instruments to protect vulnerable customers;
- Improve knowledge on climate change mitigation, disseminate good practices and encourage low-carbon behaviour in society, and
- Provide consumers and companies with information, contributing to better energy literacy and simplifying interaction with the market.

The PNEC 2030 was developed in conjunction with the work of the RNC2050, taking advantage of the different interactions with society promoted in this context to achieve the defined trajectory and guidelines arising from this long-term exercise in 2030.

In accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of December 11, 2018, on the Governance of the “Energy Union and Climate Action”, Portugal submitted to the European Commission, on March 15, 2023, the state of implementation of its NECP, through an integrated national progress report on energy and climate covering the five dimensions of the “Energy Union”. Under Article 14 of the Regulation, a proposal to update the NECP submitted in December 2019 was submitted to the European Commission on June 30, 2023. New developments in European and national regulations that entail major changes in energy and climate policy, with significant impacts on the three pillars of sustainability, have also triggered the need to revise the 2030 PNEC to ensure that the policies, objectives and targets previously established are aligned with this new international and Community context. The revision exercise includes a reinforcement of the ambition previously presented, in order to ensure that the established climate and energy targets are achieved. The objectives, principles and obligations set out in the Basic Climate Law, which revises the GHG emission reduction targets set out in the RNC2050 even more ambitiously, are also included in the revision of the PNEC 2030, given their impact on current energy and climate policy. It should also be noted that the proposal to update the PNEC 2030 submitted to the European Commission on June 30, 2023, took into account the results of stakeholder and civil society participation/consultation processes in general, with the development of public hearings and consultations and participatory assemblies held at regional level (see more detail later in this report).

With regard to policies of adaptation to climate change, general coordination is ensured by the **National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change** (ENAAAC2020), approved by RCM No. 56/2015 of 30 July. Its governance framework is supported in conjunction with the sectorial bodies responsible for management of public policies in the respective sector. In turn, the same bodies promote the work with relevant stakeholders. This participatory method was also used in the preparation of the three strategic instruments of the adaptation policy: the Research and Innovation Agenda for Climate Change (Agenda I&I AC)¹, the National Programme for Spatial Planning Policy (PNPOT)² and the Action Programme for

¹ In compliance with the ENAAAC 2020 goal of improving knowledge, the I&I AC Agenda (available at: https://www.fct.pt/agendastematicas/docs/agenda_alteracoes_climaticas_pre_finalizada.pdf) was published in 2019 through a process led by the Foundation for Science and Technology and the APA. The ENAAAC Scientific Panel played a vital role in its writing. This process also ensured collaboration with ENAAAC sectors in the identification of needs and gaps in knowledge.

² With the aim of integrating the adaptation, the revised PNPOT was approved by Law No. 99/2019 of 5 September. This Law is a strategic territorial development instrument which establishes the main options relevant to the organisation of national territory, sets out the frame of reference to be considered in the creation of other Territorial Management Instruments, and constitutes an instrument of cooperation with other Member States for the management of territory. The

Adaptation to Climate Change (P-3AC)³. In 2020, the ENAAC 2020 was extended until December 31, 2025, and work is underway to revise the Strategy, with the involvement of the Coordination Group. Also with regard to consultation and public participation in decision-making processes, in accordance with the provisions of Article 23(7) of the Basic Climate Law, it should be noted that the draft revision of the ENAAC should be subject to a public consultation process, accompanied by an opinion from the Climate Action Council (CAC), which should ensure that a wide range of entities are heard (Autonomous Regions; CCDR; ANMP; ANAFRE; CES; CNADS).

The **Action Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change (P-3AC)** complements and systematizes the work carried out under the second objective of the ENAAC, defining nine priority lines of action for adaptation. This instrument supports the planning and mobilization of funding instruments and other policy-making exercises, guided by a list of concrete actions in the territory and a specific line of action for generic cross-cutting actions. The P-3AC also establishes a monitoring system based on indicators to track progress.

Also worthy of note is the "**National Roadmap for Adaptation 2100**" (RNA 2100), concluded in 2024, which sought to update the reference climate scenarios for Portugal, as well as assess climate risks, with a special focus on modeling impacts on coastal zones, water resources, agroforestry and fires. The results were translated into adaptation narratives for the various regions (NUTS2) of Portugal. RNA 2100 also explored the economic component of adaptation and the costs/impacts of inaction, and included the production of a Guide to guidelines and good practices on integrating adaptation to climate change into territorial planning instruments at municipal level. The articulation and integration of stakeholder opinions was also a concern throughout the process, and workshops were held with the involvement of stakeholders from the different sectors under study, as well as seminars to present and discuss the results of RNA 2100 in the different regions of the country. All the detailed results obtained are accessible and available to the public on the project website (<https://rna2100.apambiente.pt/>). It should be noted that the climate data and high-resolution climate simulations produced for mainland Portugal and the archipelagos of Madeira and the Azores are part of the new Climate portal, produced as part of RNA 2100 (<http://rna2100.portaldoclima.pt/>). It is intended that the latest scientific knowledge produced in the RNA 2100 project, among other contexts, can be useful in supporting the revision of the ENAAC by 2025.

The **National Air Quality Strategy (ENAR 2020)**, approved on 8 June 2016, is a significant development in the field of **ambient air quality**. Its aim is to achieve the air quality objectives proposed in the Clean Air Programme for Europe and contribute to the Green Growth Commitment, in line with national climate policy instruments; in particular, measures with a co-benefit for air quality. It forms a reference framework for the development of air quality improvement plans, which is the responsibility of the CCDR, thus allowing effective integration between the measures of local, regional and national scope. This Strategy is currently being reviewed and its update will be included in the National Air Pollution Control Program (PNCPA).

Since 2012, APA has been the **National Water Authority** and the **National Dam Safety Authority**. As the National Water Authority, its duties are: to propose, develop and monitor the implementation of the national water resources policy, in order to ensure its sustainable management, as well as ensure the effective application of the Water Law and other complementary legislation; ensure the protection, planning and spatial planning of

PNPOT review paid particular attention from the outset to the Paris Agreement. As a result, integrated elements of the effects of climate change upon territorial systems are evident throughout the report and the PNPOT action programme.

³ Given the objective of implementing adaptation measures, the P-3AC was approved by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 130/2019 of 2 August. This programme defines eight lines of action for adaptation, with direct intervention in territory and infrastructure, and an additional one of a cross-sectional nature. The actions thus provide a response to the main impacts and vulnerabilities of the national territory.

water resources; promote efficient use of water and the spatial planning of water use; issue licences for the use of water resources and ensure compliance with their application; apply an economic and financial framework for water resources; establish and implement water resource monitoring programmes; manage drought and flood situations, coordinate the adoption of exceptional measures in extreme drought or flood situations and settle disputes between users relating to obligations and priorities arising from the Water Law and other statutes; promote the conciliation of any conflicts involving users of water resources, namely, encouraging the use of arbitration, cooperating in the creation of arbitration centres and establishing agreements with institutionalized arbitration centres which already exist; promote the creation and implementation of the integrated coastal zone management strategy and ensure its application at a regional level, ensuring the protection and enhancement of coastal zones; ensure compliance with other responsibilities referred to in the Water Law and complementary legislation. As the National Dam Safety Authority, the APA exercises regulatory and supervisory functions within the scope of safety control, as well as promoting and inspecting compliance with the Dam Safety Regulation. This function is granted by the Water Law and established by Decree-Law No. 21/2018 of 28 March, which led to the first amendment to the Dam Safety Regulation (RSB), approved in annex to Decree-Law No. 344 /2007 of 15 October, and approved the new Regulation of Small Dams (RPB). This Decree-Law also revoked technical Standards ordinances relating to the Design, Observation and Inspection and construction of Dams, replacing them with "Technical Support Documents" for the application of the RSB; these are intended to support the application of the RSB to large dams. For small dams, and with the aim of supporting small dam construction owners in specific aspects of Portuguese legislation, in November 2018 several elements were disclosed in advance and made available on the APA website (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/prevencao-e-gestao-de-riscos/legislacao-e-guias>). Since 2014, APA has been associated with the global initiative to celebrate World Fish Migration Day, opening up to the public the "Fish Passage" built on the Ponte Coimbra Dam in order to raise public awareness of the importance of **safeguarding the integrity of rivers** in general, and, in particular, ensuring the **conservation of migratory fish stocks**. As we will see below, public participation in decision-making processes relating to the management of water is being encouraged.

APA is the national authority for **waste**. In the period under review, three new waste management plans were drawn up and published: the National Waste Management Plan (PNGR 2030), the Strategic Plan for Urban Waste (PERSU 2030) and the Strategic Plan for Non-Urban Waste (PERNU 2030). As you can read in more detail in Article 7, the various stakeholders were involved in drawing it up.

Every year, the Municipal Waste Report (RARU) is made widely available, presenting the analysis and evolution of the production and treatment of municipal waste in that year, as well as the availability of data by Municipal Waste Management System, so citizens can find out about the performance of the system in their area by consulting <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/dados-sobre-residuos-urbanos>. The need to reduce waste produced has once more been a particular focus in terms of raising awareness among the general public during the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR), european campaign with APA as a partner.

With regard to the **specific waste flows** subject to the principle of **extended producer responsibility**, the Directorate-General for Economic Activities (DGAE) and the APA, renewed the licenses of several management entities (in the field of packaging and packaging waste, waste electrical and electronic equipment, used tires, waste batteries, end-of-life vehicles) and licensed management entities with new scopes (in the field of single-use plastics, a management entity was licensed for tobacco products with filters and filters marketed for use in combination with tobacco products, which contain plastic; and in the field of packaging and packaging waste, a license was granted to set up a deposit and refund system (SDR) for non-reusable primary beverage packaging made of plastic, ferrous metals and aluminum with a volume of less than 3 liters). The time horizon of the licenses runs until the end of 2034. Each of the licenses provides for the presentation of a Strategic

Awareness, Communication & Education Plan for the respective period of validity, which must contain actions to be developed involving all those involved in the life cycle of the products in the stream in question, as well as taking into account the actions proposed in the plans approved at national level, namely the PNGR, PERSU, PERNU and PAEC. These plans are approved by the APA and the DGAE, which are essential for the dissemination of good practices and promotion of behavioural changes, and fundamental to the environmental objectives and targets with which the managing entities are obliged to comply, thus also contributing to national objectives and targets. DGAE and APA also participate in awareness-raising and educational initiatives promoted by the management entities, mainly aimed at schools.

Also in specific waste flows, the APA publishes the results obtained in terms of meeting the targets set at EU level on its website every year, guaranteeing the sharing and transparency of information in this area. More information can be found at <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/fluxos-especificos-de-residuos>.

The mission of the Regulatory Authority for Water and Waste Services (ERSAR), created in 1997, is the regulation and supervision of **public water supply, wastewater sanitation and urban waste management** services, supported by an Advisory Board and a Tariff Board in which the main entities of the sector are represented. It also performs the functions of competent authority for the coordination and supervision of the quality regime of water for human consumption. During the period under review, with a view to improving the availability of information and raising public awareness of environmental matters, the following are worth of note:

- Creation of thematic and educational awareness videos and a new institutional video on the mission of this regulatory body, aimed at the general public. A section for multimedia content has also been created on ERSAR's website, which includes these videos <https://www.ersar.pt/pt/comunicacao/multimedia>
- Updating of the Awareness Booklets and publication of four thematic booklets (2nd series 2022) - two focused on water issues, one on waste and one on consumer rights and duties <https://www.ersar.pt/pt/publicacoes/cadernos-de-sensibilizacao>
- Promotion of ERSAR's own channels on the social networks LinkedIn and Youtube, which allow it to communicate with a wide and varied audience
- Annual initiative "ERSAR March Conferences", held since 2022, to bring together national and international experts to share reflections, good practices and suggestions for improvement in the water and waste sectors
- Annual "Water and Waste Services Awards and Seals" initiative, aimed at distinguishing management entities for the quality of the service provided and good practices, making it possible to disseminate and disseminate annual information to the sector and the end user
- Launch of the "Innovation Award" category as part of the "Awards and Seals" initiative, with the aim of encouraging technological innovation with potential benefits for the end user
- Publication of the "Annual Report on Water and Waste Services in Portugal" (RASARP), in two separate volumes (Quality of water and Quality of service), which embodies the legal duty of information set out in ERSAR's statutes
- Annual publication of the progress report on the implementation of the objectives and targets of the Water Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes of UNECE/WHO Europe, in order to comply with paragraph 7 of Joint Order No. 2064/2021 of February 24 of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action.

It should also be noted that, at the beginning of 2022, the ERSAR app was updated with a set of additional features and a new image: <https://www.ersar.pt/pt/comunicacao/app-ersar>. This mobile application allows the general public to easily access relevant information on water supply, sanitation/wastewater management and urban waste management services in

Portugal.

In terms of the **sea and the marine environment**, the General Directorate for Maritime Policy (DGPM) includes in its mission to increase education, training, culture and literacy of the Ocean through the active mobilization of society, involving multiple stakeholders, with the purpose of transforming the way of thinking and acting, in particular of children and young people, future active citizens. The Blue School is an educational program whose mission is to promote Ocean literacy in Portugal, which distinguishes and guides schools that work in the Ocean field, creating a community that brings together schools, teachers, students, the marine sector, municipalities, universities and other entities with an active role in marine education. It encourages schools to work with the Ocean in a structured, interdisciplinary and vertical way, without being restricted to the classroom context. This educational program received, in 2024, the endorsement of the United Nations Ocean Decade, after a long application process where the added value of the program for the objectives of the UNESCO Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development was proven. In December 2024, the Program has 463 Blue Schools, distributed throughout Portugal (Mainland, Autonomous Region of the Azores and Autonomous Region of Madeira) and in some countries of the Portuguese-speaking community (Angola, São Tomé and Príncipe, Mozambique and East Timor). It currently involves around 3,000 teachers, 21 participating municipalities and 125 partners offering approximately 420 educational offerings. Since its implementation, Escola Azul has worked with more than 100 thousand students, presenting some of the initiatives promoted:

- Blue School Day, celebrated on May 19, involves all schools, many partners, municipalities and school and local communities;
- Webinars to celebrate World Oceans Day aimed at teachers and students of Blue Schools;
- Webinar Series “In Defense of the Ocean”, with #EstudoEmCasa Supports;
- “A Sea of Ideas! – How do you see the Ocean in 20 years” competition, with EMSA
- “There’s Only One Water” Illustration Challenge, with Hidroval;
- Olympic Blue Schools, with CEIP Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente;
- Plogging Challenge Portugal, with Plogging from Santa Maria da Feira;
- Accredited training sessions for kindergarten teachers and primary and secondary school teachers at the Blue Schools.

Also noteworthy is the **Mário Ruivo Award – Ocean Generations**, an initiative that, since the 2017/2018 school year, has as its main objective to convey to society the importance of the Ocean, as a life support system on planet Earth, responsible for regulating the climate, providing food, transportation and leisure, in addition to providing many other economic, social, environmental, cultural and emotional benefits. It is an initiative that challenges young people, aged 14 to 21, to make films that contribute to understanding the relevance of the Ocean for humanity, actively promoting behaviors that contribute to the preservation of marine heritage, a healthy Ocean and a more sustainable future. In the 2nd edition, in the 2021/2022 academic year, there were 7 films in the competition and, in 2023, the Regulation of the Mário Ruivo Award – Oceanic Generations was published in the Official Gazette (Dispatch No. 3631/2023, of March 22), which defined the constitution of the Award Organizing Committee (COP), composed of entities from five areas of government, in particular Economy and Sea, Culture, Science, Technology and Higher Education, Education and Environment and Climate Action. The 3rd edition (2023) had 49 participants, who presented 22 films for the competition and, in 2024, in its 4th edition, the most participated edition of all time, dedicated to the theme “The Ocean and Climate Change”, 44 entries were received, presented by 59 young people, with an average age of 17 years. Overall, the films convey the relevance of the Ocean for humanity, sustainability and global balance; using creative directing and production techniques; also conveying the importance of ocean science for the benefit of society and the environment. All winning films are available for viewing at <https://www.premiomarioruivo.pt/>

Also worth highlighting is the Mission Structure for the Extension of the Continental Shelf (EMEPC), whose mission is to continue the work of strengthening the foundations and

defending Portugal's proposal, before the United Nations, for the determination of the outer limit of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the width of the territorial sea is measured, until the conclusion of the aforementioned process initiated in 2009. One of the main objectives of the EMEPC is to publicize the importance of the extension of Portugal's continental shelf for society, as set out in Council of Ministers Resolution No. 191/2019, of December 11. In this context, since 2017, EMEPC has been holding lectures in schools and study visits to EMEPC headquarters, where the ROV LUSO is also located, the remotely operated vehicle that dives up to 6000m in the Portuguese Sea. In these outreach lectures, it is common to address the sustainability of the oceans, particularly with regard to their living and non-living resources and their possible prospecting and exploration in the coming decades. Topics related to biodiversity and marine protected areas are also addressed. From 2021 to 2024, EMEPC participated in 39 events related to the promotion of Mar Paulista and held 449 lectures (85+152+152+60) involving 14.193 students from 208 schools.

The Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests (ICNF), in conjunction with the Oceano Azul Foundation, developed the campaign "The seahorses in the Ria Formosa Natural Park are few, fragile and under threat. Help protect them!" These animals are very sensitive to human activities that lead to disturbance and degradation of their habitat, such as pollution and trawling and bottom fishing. They are also often captured to be sold as "souvenirs". These threats have led to a sharp decline in the seahorse population in the Ria Formosa Natural Park, which once had the world's largest seahorse community. More information can be found at <https://www.oceanoazulfoundation.org/pt-pt/sem-categoria/cavalos-marinhos-da-ria-formosa-a-cavalgar-para-a-extincao/> and leaflet <https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/9a1a9c68881d0162>. The ICNF website dedicates a space dedicated to the marine and coastal environment, where you can find various information and materials <https://www.icnf.pt/oquefazemos/materiaisinformativoseeducativos/ambientemarinhoecosteiro>.

In its dual role of **national authority for the conservation of nature and biodiversity and national forestry authority**, the ICNF has developed an expanded range of activities targeted at disseminating information, providing education and raising awareness among the agents and organisations in the field of nature and forest conservation, in order to create a collective consciousness of the importance of natural values. In addition to making various teaching material available on its website (cf. <https://www.icnf.pt/oquefazemos/materiaisinformativoseeducativos>), the following information is important:

- In relation to **forests**, the implementation of the National Forest Health Awareness Plan and its Technical Reference (cf. <https://www.icnf.pt/florestas/fitossanidade/sensibilizacaoemsanidadeflorestal>) stands out, the main objective of which is to increase the effectiveness of actions in terms of the involvement of each citizen in the design of a healthier and more resilient national forest, in the face of present and future threats, and also in the recognition and appreciation of the wide range of forest goods and services. Some awareness-raising actions on forest phytosanitary issues that deserve to be highlighted during this period were implemented with the financial support of the PDR2020 Environmental Development Program within the scope of Action 1.1 (of the Operational Groups) and the Environmental Fund within the scope of the Mais Floresta Program. Between 2021 and 2024, and in relation to the forest, the following aspects were particularly highlighted:
 - promoting greater involvement of representatives of the "interested public" in decision-making processes relevant to the protection of forests in relation to pests and diseases that cause loss of productivity or death of trees and that can affect large areas with high economic, ecological and social value.
 - raising awareness among the "interested public" about the need to

implement measures to control and eradicate quarantine pests present in national territory under the responsibility of the Public Administration (ICNF in the case of pinewood nematode <https://www.icnf.pt/florestas/fitossanidade/nematododamadeiradopinho> and ICNF and DGAV in the case of *Xylella fastidiosa* https://www.icnf.pt/florestas/fitossanidade/agentesbioticosnocivos/xylella_fastidiosa), which involve cutting down shrubs and trees, following guidelines from the European Commission; To this end, notices were posted in public places, which not only explain the reasons for implementing such measures, but also the locations and forest systems in which they will take place.

- risk reduction in the application of plant protection products, namely for the chemical control of eucalyptus weevils and trachymela in eucalyptus forests, in compliance with the provisions of paragraph d) of Article 16 of Law no. 26/2013, of 11 April. To this end, the procedure for providing advance warning to the "interested public" has been widely publicised, particularly among beekeepers in the vicinity of the treated areas.
- Regarding **rural fires**, we highlight the implementation of the National Action Program of the National Plan for Integrated Management of Rural Fires (PNGIFR), approved by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 71-A/2021, of June 8. The ICNF is responsible for adopting and implementing measures to promote environmental education and awareness. Therefore, for the period 2021-2024, we refer to the actions included in the strategic guideline "Changing Behaviors" with a view to complying with the PNGIFR. We highlight the following:
 - Initiative 1 (Leaflets and posters): in 2021, 87,900 leaflets were produced on 7 themes and 60,088 posters on 4 themes; in 2022, 89,400 leaflets were produced on 7 topics and 60,100 posters on 4 topics.
 - Initiative 2 (awareness and education spots): in 2021, 461 television spots, 18,605 radio spots and 251 spots inserted in print media were released; in 2022, 3,387 television spots, 31,599 radio spots and 237 spots inserted in print media were released; in 2023, 279 television spots, 29,606 radio spots and 218 spots inserted in print media were released; In 2024, more than 246 television spots, more than 830 radio spots and more than 40 spots in the press are expected to be released.
 - Initiative 3 (call center): to clarify issues related to the registration of burnings and burnings, reduction of ignitions, fuel management and phytosanitary conditions, 74,178 calls were answered in 2021; in 2022, 93,809 calls were answered; in 2023, 113,442 calls were answered and in 2024, up to June, 68,672.

And, within the scope of the Forest Firefighters Program:

- Proximity awareness actions in the areas under the responsibility of the Forest Firefighters, whose teams and brigades have their equipment and operations financed by the ICNF, through the Environmental Fund. In the period between 2021 and the first half of 2024, 2,380 awareness-raising actions were carried out, equivalent to 1,495 full days of dedication to this activity. Between 2021 and 2023, an annual average of 112 forest brigade teams (eSF) were involved in these actions, with 115 eSF teams involved in 2024.

The ICNF provided voluntary and socially responsible actions with public and private institutions, in the celebration of the anniversary of the Natural Parks it manages, with the participation of children and adults and carried out forest cleaning and tree planting actions throughout the country. Dune cleaning was also carried out in several coastal parks.

The Natural.PT brand is an initiative for the integrated promotion of the territory, products and services found in protected areas and their immediate surroundings, which share values and principles of sustainability and the appreciation of nature and endogenous resources. The brand was officially launched on July 25, 2014, and the following years were dedicated to its promotion and attracting members, with continuous growth in products and services

associated with the Protected Areas of mainland Portugal.

Within the scope of the ICNF Communication strategy, the following actions stand out:

- The ICNF website, www.icnf.pt, provides relevant information aimed at raising awareness among the population in order to reconcile development and well-being with nature conservation and the management of natural resources. The ICNF website has more than 300,000 users and more than 1 million views per quarter, with the most visited pages being related to contacts, and within the scope of its competences, the areas dedicated to information on hunting activities (HUNTING <https://www.icnf.pt/caca>) and on the trade in wild species (CITES <https://www.icnf.pt/cites>). In the period in question:
 - structural changes were made to the presentation and organization of the content presented throughout the website, simplifying the language and access to it. The update is daily and permanent;
 - new content areas were created, microsites, namely on companion animals <https://www.icnf.pt/animaisdecompanhia>, exotic species <https://www.icnf.pt/conservacao/especieexoticas>, marine environment <https://www.icnf.pt/conservacao/meiomarinho>, RN2000 <https://www.icnf.pt/conservacao/redenatura2000>, support <https://www.icnf.pt/apoios>, co-management in protected areas <https://www.icnf.pt/cogestao>, rural fire management <https://www.icnf.pt/florestas/gfr> and on the Natureza 22 initiative <https://www.icnf.pt/natureza22>;
 - new and varied informative and educational materials were made available, by thematic areas, from publications to games, among many other possible formats for producing teaching materials;
 - in the news area, in extended text, and in the press area of reproduction of releases sent to the media, an average of 41 news items and an average of 50 press releases were published annually, the latter aimed primarily at journalists, but also at the community that can thus access the information from the primary source, broadcast first-hand.
- In addition to traditional media and the website, ICNF is present on social media. Ease of access and instant sharing of content have been determining factors for ICNF's adherence to these communication platforms. ICNF's accounts on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/icnf.oficial/>, Instagram https://www.instagram.com/icnf_oficial/ and YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/oICNF> are among the ten most popular social networks in Portugal, and ICNF's positioning on social media is fundamental to its affirmation as a public entity that provides differentiated services to different audiences and different age groups, a particularly relevant focus among young people and young adults.
 - The INSTAGRAM account had, at the time, 27,057 followers and a quarterly average of more than 170,000 accounts reached. In the period in question, 7,386 pieces of content, posts, reels and stories were published.
 - Given that the environment and climate change are a popular topic on Facebook with around 43% of users seeking information, ICNF has continually sought to respond to this demand. On the FACEBOOK profile there are 15,013 followers, a number reached in the last 2 years, since at the beginning of December 2022 the previous page was hacked and it was necessary to start a new page, regaining followers and space in this universe, with a monthly reach of around 336.5 thousand accounts. In the period under analysis, 5,579 publications, posts and stories were made;
 - The ICNF channel on YOUTUBE contains 377 videos, 124 of which were published in the period under analysis, 2,620 subscribers and more than 40 thousand annual views.
- Regarding audiovisual production, "PORTUGAL NATURAL" stands out

<https://www.icnf.pt/atualidade/portugalnatural>, a series produced by ICNF and shown in prime time by TVI and TVI Player, about Portuguese natural heritage, consisting of 40 episodes with content from ICNF's activities in the fields of fauna, flora, forestry, habitat restoration and companion animals. This series is available for viewing on the YouTube Channel; also in this context, a video was made about the Mata Nacional de Leiria https://mnleiria.icnf.pt/videos/mn-leira/icnf_mata_nacional_de_leiria720p.mp4 and a documentary about the “Missão Natureza 22” route <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRG4tWcZQls>.

- In terms of relations with the press, 201 press releases were sent to national and regional media outlets and one media coverage was provided per month.
- Graphic materials and infographics are produced annually in Portuguese for more than a dozen global commemorative dates and more than a hundred dates of national relevance, namely anniversary dates of protected areas. The aim is to disseminate this information through all channels, facilitating the approach to the topic, or theme, to be highlighted. When it comes to Conservation Units belonging to RNAP, in addition to the graphic material produced, there is promotion of local events and national dissemination.
- In addition to advertising on digital channels, the ICNF organizes events and promotes initiatives, including the following for the period under analysis:
 - The creation of the new marine protected area, the Recife do Algarve Marine Natural Park – Pedra do Valado <https://www.icnf.pt/conservacao/mapareasprotegidas/parquesnaturais/parquenaturalmarinhodorecifealgarvepedradovalado>, justified the holding of two events in the Algarve, such as the presentation of the proposal to create the Lagoa dos Salgados Nature Reserve.
 - Also in the marine area, we highlight the workshop “Interaction with orcas” held with the aim of updating information and finding solutions that minimize or eliminate this new behavior, with a view to protecting sailors and their boats, but also the animals themselves. In partnership with the Portuguese Navy and the National Maritime Authority.
 - Highlight for the set of events that took place throughout the country, between May 2022 and May 2023, the “Nature 22 Mission” <https://www.icnf.pt/natureza22>. Seven regional sessions were held (between Valongo in the north and Loulé in the south), involving the whole of society, two national conferences, an inaugural and a closing one, the latter with the participation of national figures in the area of nature conservation and members of the government.
 - The Final Seminar of the Biosphere Reserves project: Sustainable Territories, Resilient Communities, in September 2023, also concluded a tour of the Biosphere Reserves of mainland Portugal.
 - On the other hand, the event held in Castelo Branco was the launch of training and qualification of human resources allocated to the co-management model in the 32 protected areas nationwide, which is part of the co-management promotion project, whose ultimate purpose is to publicize and promote these territories to the public.
 - The OBSERVANATURA nature tourism fair had a 12th edition in 2023.
 - In the area of forests, the main highlight is the event “Forest Dialogues” <https://www.icnf.pt/atualidade/dialogosdafloresta2023>, a meeting held over two days in Sertão, which aimed to stimulate dialogue between the different actors in the Portuguese forest, addressing threats and opportunities and welcoming the contributions of various experts for the construction of a participatory and concerted strategy. The “Forest Dialogues” were attended by different public entities in the sector and the main forest actors in the private sector, with forest policies, climate change, fires and financing being the key topics of discussion.
 - In May 2023, the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference took place,

- with ICNF presenting its own space in the exhibition area and promoting 3 Speed Talks sessions on the themes “Fires and Society”, “Fires and Biodiversity” and “Fires and Economy”, open to the public and having keynote speakers and moderators who were key names in the subject, managers, journalists, etc.
- “THE FOREST on the path to SUSTAINABILITY” was the theme of the conference held in Lousã, presenting the content of the balance of the work carried out.
 - The training meeting for the rural fire management structure, “PROTECTING IS OUR NATURE”, brought together more than 1200 rural fire management professionals, in Santarém, in May 2023.
 - The forest and landscape regeneration of Tremelgo Park – 230 trees, 10 native species planted in a semicircle, representing the 230 AR seats and the 10 parties, was an action of great public relevance, as it symbolized the political commitment to the recovery of the Mata Nacional de Leiria.
 - The presentation of the “Strategic and Action Plan for Wild Boar in Portugal” <https://www.icnf.pt/caca/programaseplanos>, a study promoted by ICNF and prepared by the Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies (CESAM) of the University of Aveiro, between September 2020 and December 2022, was presented in a public session in Évora.
 - Regarding the area of companion animal welfare, three national conferences were held between 2021 and 2023, one per year, in Lisbon and Porto. They had the participation of municipalities, sector organizations and civil society, totalling more than 700 participants.
- Also, as a way of promoting the dissemination of ICNF activities and giving visibility to the work carried out, the institute developed the following campaigns and partnerships:
- “DON'T LEAVE ME OUT OF THE GAME” <https://fundacaodofutebol.ligaportugal.pt/noticias/2024-25/nao-me-deixes-fora-de-jogo-com-plataforma-online-para-adocao-de-animais/> is the ongoing campaign, a partnership between ICNF, Liga Portugal Betclic and Fundação do Futebol, which promote this campaign as an alert to the problem of abandoning companion animals and call for responsible adoption.
 - Also nationwide, the #ICNFsomosTODOSnos campaign, a challenge to plant 50,000 trees, has gained unexpected and surprising support, especially as it involves individual initiatives, coming from all corners of the country, rural and urban from north to south. Within 24 hours, the Portuguese enthusiastically declared that we are all ICNF, accepting the challenge that was set to them to plant 50,000 trees.
 - The lynx was at the center of several partnerships, including the campaign “Remarkable Lynxes: True Stories of Determination and Freedom”, with Infraestruturas de Portugal and also the initiative “Lynx Villages” which aimed to publicize the process and results of the artistic and participatory communication intervention with residents of three villages in the expansion zone towards the Algarve, of the Iberian Lynx reintroduction area – Guadiana Valley.
 - ICNF and BUSINESS as NATURE – Association for Sustainable Production and Consumption and the Circular Economy (BasN), responding to the challenge launched by the UNCCD in the area of women's rights and their role in combating desertification, promoted a conference, which was the launch of the project “Network of Guardians of Nature and Sustainable Development of the Rural World”, a network that can identify, catalyze and coordinate the implementation of intervention projects in rural areas, especially in protected areas and that

can be local drivers of regeneration, recovery of ecosystems and biodiversity, sustainable use of endogenous resources, and promotion of projects.

- In partnership with surfing personalities, 100 trees and bushes were planted in Mata dos Medos, where they were accompanied by a group of 25 volunteers also linked to surfing.
 - In a partnership, still ongoing, with the Imprensa Nacional – Casa da Moeda, the ICNF carried out between 2021-2024, an initiative resulting from the signed protocol, continuing the technical review of the philatelic themes chosen for the “Endangered Species” series, having in this context been issued coins with the respective images and the launch of children's and young people's books.
 - In 2021, a collection of philately stamps on Portugal's Protected Areas was issued, in partnership with CTT, consisting of 5 stamps, one for each region of the country.
- Finally, the following editions were published:
- “The adventure of the lynx Leonardo” <https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/028be00cab1e234d> by Ana Xavier / ICNF, with illustrations by 5th and 6th grade students at Escola Básica Professor Joaquim Moreira, in Martim Longo, Alcoutim, the result of the environmental education project about the Iberian lynx “Os Guardiões do Lince”;
 - The pedagogical booklet “The Chameleon that Didn’t Change Color” was also published for the same target audience <https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/8a77960dec30f290>;
 - In 2021, five children's works were published in digital format, about five species of Portuguese fauna: “Tonight I dreamed of the seahorse” <https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/e157894bf3ae6cc6>; “I have a wolf friend who has a dog friend” <https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/d1cfd3d2ac5c5f43>; “The bottlenose dolphin gang” <https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/7425b07f05f9be74>; “Where is the long-tailed salamander?” <https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/a69d693f9fc5c5d9>; “Today we saved a saramugo” <https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/903f520094287184>;
 - From books to games, the quiz on the theme of Protected Areas included in the RNAP – National Network of Protected Areas, allows, in a fun way and through group dynamics, to raise awareness and empower people regarding the importance of Portuguese natural heritage and Protected Areas in particular. It consists of 52 question cards, totaling 156 questions, with each card consisting of 3 questions and 3 levels of difficulty to cover all ages and different levels of knowledge.
 - “A Fronteira Viva”, a book by Luís Pedro Nunes and Joel Santos about five border natural parks, published with the support of the Environmental Fund, is a unique work in Portugal that documents the country's natural heritage through stories of nature and people.

It is also worth highlighting the NaturalPTrails app, for smartphones and tablets, compatible with iOS and Android operating systems, in Portuguese and English, which provides a set of tools that allow you to select routes by type, location or protected area, refine your search, evaluate the routes, earn points for each one taken, view them offline and save the ones you like the most, also making the products and services of the Natural.PT brand, promoted by ICNF, known. For greater safety of visitors, it also provides weather and fire danger alerts, provided directly by IPMA. The goal is to discover a reality much more fantastic than the virtual one, feeling nature! Regarding the Film Portugal –

Natural Heritage (trailers and full film) about Protected Areas, they are available on the ICNF YouTube channel. The ICNF is in line with the PT2020 Governance Model in the innovations it is investing in, highlighting the simplification of beneficiaries' access to financing and the reduction of the respective administrative costs, considering the principle of reasonableness in the effective justification of the procedural requirements adopted.

The existing protocol between REN, DGES and the Ministry governing environmental policy, gave rise to the development of a campaign with the theme 'Heroes of all Species'. This was aimed at children in the 3rd and 4th year of basic education, and involved the production of physical and digital content to be distributed throughout various schools nationally.

In terms of **education and raising awareness**, SEPNA/GNR undertakes several awareness raising initiatives each year, with particular emphasis on schools and people involved with agricultural and livestock activities, being the national entity with the greatest presence and representation in the national territory. A total of 12.278 complaints were registered through the SOS Ambiente e Território line in 2024, of which 5.109 were dealt with; these were the complaints made by non-anonymized senders. On this same SOS line, based on requests for information received, 25.627 records were verified. In relation to the **protection of the forest against fires**, an area where the GNR is responsible for prevention and awareness, SEPNA undertakes different initiatives each year with the aim of preventing the occurrence of fires, by conducting various awareness raising initiatives. 7.224 such initiatives were carried out during 2024, attended by 115.427 people. The GNR website provides a range of information and advice on protection of nature and the environment: <http://www.gnr.pt/default.aspx>, as well as on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GuardaNacionalRepublicana>.

In the **Energy** sector, the General Directorate for Energy and Geology (DGEG) has sought not only to raise awareness among stakeholders and the general public about the importance of the role of energy efficiency and the promotion of renewable energy in combating climate change and ensuring safety and security of supply, but also to provide information on the various Community and national legislative updates concerning the areas within its jurisdiction. DGEG has accordingly kept the content of its website www.dgeg.gov.pt/ updated with varied information and tools relating in particular to the:

- Energy Efficiency Directive - Decree-Law No. 68-A/2015 of 30 April, resulting from the transposition of Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 25 October 2012. In the context of articles 12 and 13 (energy audits and consumption records for non-SME companies), a set of answers to the most frequently asked questions was made available regarding the application of the provisions of these articles, a circular on the delivery deadline for energy audits and the order of the Secretary of State for Energy, defining the minimum criteria for conducting said audits. Also in relation to this field, the non-SME Registration System was created on the DGEG Services portal, as provided for in paragraph 1, article 13 of Decree-Law No. 68-A/2015. Following the publication of the new Directive (EU) 2023/1791 on energy efficiency, the content will be updated in line with the transposition obligations;
- Ecodesign and Energy Label - general framework of eco-design legislation and energy labelling of energy-related products (respectively Directive 2009/125/EC of 21 October and Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 of 4 July, existing regulations and delegated regulations respectively for the ecodesign and energy label and the availability of several relevant links on these themes. In terms of preparations for the national campaign on the readjustment of the energy label scale, that took place in 2021, the DGEG collaborated with ADENE in the context of ADENE's participation in the Label 2020 project, which aims to ensure the right conditions for successful adoption of the substantial amendments in the application of the energy label on the market, brought about by the new regulatory framework Regulation (EU) 2017/1369. The

most relevant and significant of which is the readjustment of the label's energy classes, returning to a closed scale from A to G. Following the publication of the new ESPR regulation, i.e. Regulation (EU) 2024/1781 of 13 June, which sets ecodesign requirements for sustainable products in general other than energy-related products only, the content will be updated in phase with the provisions of the regulation and its transitional provisions for energy-related products;

- Buildings - Decree-Law No. 101-D/2020, of December 7, which establishes the requirements applicable to buildings to improve their energy performance and regulates the SCE – Energy Certification System, and RCM No. 8-A/2021, which approves the ELPRE – Long-Term Strategy for Building Renovation and respective half-yearly progress reports;
- Energy Audits - in the context of RGCE – Energy Management and Consumption Regulation for the Transport sector, the SGCIE - Intensive Energy Consumption Management System and Decree-Law No. 68-A/2015;
- National energy sector – with regard to the legislative framework for the activities of the national energy sector, provision of information relating to:
 - o Allocation of rights through competitive procedures and auctions of guarantees of origin;
 - o Electricity production, self-consumption, cogeneration, regarding obtaining rights, projects carried out, licensing rules, etc.;
 - o Rights and duties regarding electrical installations consumption facilities, namely regulations, minutes, etc.;
 - o Activity and professions within the scope of lifting installations, private service installations, production installations in the national electrical and mobility sector, within the scope of identifying requirements for their registration.
- Environmental impact assessment (EIA) of projects likely to produce significant effects on the environment, the Directorate-General for Energy and Geology, as the licensing entity for some types of projects provided for in Annexes I and II of Decree-Law No. 151-B/2013, of October 31, as amended by Decree-Law No. 11/2023, of February 10, has published on its website, as provided for in article 3. and 30 of the aforementioned diploma, decisions on the need to undergo EIA, resulting from the analysis of the susceptibility of projects to cause significant impacts on the environment, based on the criteria established in Annex III of the aforementioned Decree-Law (see link – <https://www.dgeg.gov.pt/pt/areas-setoriais/energia/combustiveis/aplicabilidade-do-rjaia-pronuncias/>).

Within the scope of Energy Consumer Protection Policies, more specifically in terms of Energy Poverty, DGE has kept the content of its website www.dgeg.gov.pt/ updated with various information related to this topic, as well as making this content available on its LinkedIn social network, namely:

- Directive (EU) 2023/1791 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September on Energy Efficiency, which establishes for the first time a common definition of Energy Poverty.;
- National Long-Term Strategy to Combat Energy Poverty 2023-2050 (ELPPE), approved by Council of Ministers Resolution (RCM) No. 11/2024, of January 8;
- National Observatory of Energy Poverty (ONPE-PT), whose main mission is to monitor the evolution of energy poverty at a national level (created through Council of Ministers Resolution (RCM) No. 11/2024, of January 8). Its composition and operation were determined by Order No. 1335/2024, of February 2.

Regarding ONPE-PT, its composition and functioning stand out, as it will have an Advisory Committee composed of invited members from different areas of knowledge of civil society, active in areas that contribute to the objectives of ELPPE and its areas of action.

It is worth highlighting that the National Long-Term Strategy to Combat Energy Poverty

2023-2050 (ELPPE) was subject to public consultation, the first between April 14 and May 15, 2021 and the second between January 20 and March 3, 2023, having collected contributions from all entities and citizens who wished to participate. However, electronic services and platforms do not reach all consumers, particularly the most vulnerable and those with less access to this type of service, so information must also be disseminated through services close to consumers. Examples of this are the Citizen's Shops and the Citizen Energy Space, which provide support structures on a local scale, focus on increasing energy literacy, train citizens to implement energy and water efficiency measures, as well as to adopt energy-sustainable behaviors, and provide information on the various financing options. This action measure will also be promoted through the implementation of the ELPPE, in particular action line 3.1.1 Promote an integrated network of Citizen Energy Spaces of the Strategic Objective (OE).

The National Observatory on Energy Poverty (ONPE-PT), created through Council of Ministers Resolution No. 11/2024, of January 8, aims to strengthen the territorial information base on energy poverty; contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies to eradicate energy poverty in Portugal, ensuring coordination with the National Energy and Climate Plan 2030, the Social Plan on Climate and the Action Plan to Combat Poverty; ensure decentralized action, in close coordination with local actors; and promote energy literacy throughout the territory.

The operationalization axis of ONPE-PT includes activities related to the creation of the ONPE-PT portal, which will aggregate information on the topic of energy poverty, namely integrating a territorial mapping of Energy Poverty and a repository of the various projects implemented at national level in this area.

DGEG, still aiming to raise awareness and provide information to both citizens and the entities/institutions most closely linked to the energy sector, has participated in various seminars, workshops and Q&A sessions, among other things. It has also given presentations on policies and priorities for energy efficiency; funds and incentives for the energy efficiency of buildings; energy audits; opportunities and challenges arising from the implementation of the energy efficiency directive; Intensive Energy Consumption Management System (SGCIE); ecodesign and energy labelling; Eco-Mobility/ECO.mob Programme); promotion of renewable energies and new energy technologies, as well as in relation to the LIFE-CET- Clean Energy Transition subprogramme, in which the DGEG participates in the promotion at national level of this subprogramme and related themes, the objective of which is to catalyse the energy transition through innovative techniques, methods and approaches in all relevant dimensions, and to develop, implement, monitor and reinforce EU legislation, improving governance, supporting the large-scale dissemination of relevant technical solutions, as well as the mobilisation of investments and improving access to sources of financing.

DGEG also participates, at national level, in LIFE-CAP PT II – Portugal Capacity Building for better use of LIFE II, running from April 2023 to March 2026, whose objective is to disseminate and provide training within the scope of the LIFE program and better use of this financial instrument by potential national candidates. This participation involves biweekly coordination meetings, preparation and participation in national infodays, regional information sessions in various locations across the country, participation in networking meetings with other NCPs – EU National Contact Points, clarifying doubts of potential candidates, participation in podcasts, reviewing FAQs, participation in various specific training courses and workshops dedicated to helping with applications.

In terms of renewable energy, a policy of promoting this type of energy has been maintained nationally within the framework of commitments made at EU level, with an awareness of the need to respond to the challenges posed by climate change and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. In addition to the inventorying of endogenous renewable energy sources and the monitoring and dissemination of the use of technologies for harnessing those resources, SCE.ER software was developed and made available for standardised calculations of the energy produced by solar thermal or photovoltaic systems.

In the **mobility and transport sector**, the Institute for Mobility and Transport (IMT) has

been promoting the transition to a more efficient and sustainable mobility system that integrates, inter alia, behavioural changes, new business models, new digital instruments, reinforced use of collective public transport, to the detriment of a private vehicle, a promotion of active mobility and a utilization of vehicles with zero emissions. In this square, stand out: In this square, stand out: a

- **National Strategy for Active Mobility (ENMA)** – strategy that governs the pedestrian components – **National Strategy for Active Pedestrian Mobility (ENMAP 2030, RCM No. 67/2023, of July 7)** – and cycling components – **National Strategy for Active Cycling Mobility (ENMAC 2020 2030, RCM 131/2019, of August 2)**. Together, ENMAP and ENMAC will enable us to develop a holistic vision of public policy orientation in our domains of mobility, transport and territorial organization.
- **Incentiva+TP Program – Incentive Program for Collective Public Passenger Transport**, approved by Decree-Law No. 21/2024, of March 19, which replaces the Tariff Reduction Support Program (PART) in collective public passenger transport and the Support Program for the Densification and Reinforcement of Public Transport Offer (PROTransP). In 2024, this Program is financed by the allocation of part of the revenues from carbon taxes in the amount of €360,000,000, increased by €50,000,000, in order to ensure that the prices of public transport passes valid in 2023 are maintained, as an exceptional measure to mitigate the effects of inflation.
- **Plataforma 1Bilhete.pt** - a project of national scope that consists of the creation of a **technological platform of intermodal billing, allowing interoperability between existing systems**, as well as the introduction of new systems of billing. It will allow the universality of the use of supports (cards and tickets) and the integration of mobility services, as well as the possibility of creating public travel cards for national coverage and the use of bank cards, in physical or virtual support, to acquire or validate transport titles, opening the possibility of attributing benefits deriving from the use of a unified account (see <https://1bilhete.pt/>).
- Legal regime for the activity of individual and paid transport of passengers in unmarked vehicles from an electronic platform (**TVDE**) – Law No. 45/2018, of August 10, as a form of mobility as a service (MaaS) (cf. <https://www.imtonline.pt/index.php/9-uncategorised/2295-tvde-2>);
- IMT website (<https://www.imt-ip.pt> and <http://www.imtonline.pt/>), with access to the framework documents (legislation, manuals, guidelines, etc.) necessary for sustainable mobility. The Detran Monthly Statistical Bulletin and the Statistical Yearbook of Mobility and Transport stand out,
- **MOBI.Data** portal, an interactive portal on the Mobi.E network – or Electric Mobility Network – and its impacts on the environment, with a dynamic nature, real-time information and permanent monitoring of the network of electric vehicle charging stations with universal access, interoperable and user-centered. MOBI.E, S.A. has been a public company since 2015 and, since then, has been designated as the Managing Entity of the Electric Mobility Network, and is currently responsible for the management and monitoring of the Mobi.E network.

In September 2023, the Ministry of Economy, through GEE, published the study "Electric Vehicles in Portugal - Economic and Environmental Opportunities and Challenges", which analyzes the evolution and current context of electric mobility in Portugal, in the context of the EU, in terms of market growth and socioeconomic and environmental impacts - <https://www.gee.gov.pt/pt/estudos-e-seminarios/estudos-de-temas-economicos-category/33127-te-119-veiculos-eletricos-em-portugal-oportunidades-e-desafios-economicos-e-ambientais>.

In Portugal, the sustainability of the **Tourism sector** is considered a priority development area, a basic element of public tourism policies and constitutes a strategic basis for the future. The Tourism Strategy 2027 (ET27), approved by RCM n. ET27 aims to «affirm

tourism as a hub for economic, social and environmental development throughout the territory, positioning Portugal as one of the most competitive and sustainable tourist destinations in the world», with the establishment of ambitious goals for economic, social and environmental sustainability. The environmental sustainability goals are aimed at tourism companies and aim to ensure that more than 90% of companies adopt, by 2027, measures for efficient use of energy and water and develop environmental waste management actions. Turismo de Portugal, IP (TdP), as the national tourism authority responsible for the promotion, enhancement and sustainability of tourism activity, has been identifying relevant areas of action that aim to contribute to a tourism response to the urgent challenges of sustainability, in alignment with ET27, in terms of circular economy and sustainability, about which it provides information on its website (cf. <https://www.turismodeportugal.pt>).

The 2020-2023 Sustainable Tourism Plan, with its Sustainability Monitoring Group, constitutes the strategic, participatory and dynamic, broad and creative framework through which the TP assumed the responsibility of mobilizing agents and society to promote sustainability in tourism in Portugal. In the area of public guidance, education and awareness, the following stand out:

- Sustainable Tourism Project: a better future for [with] everyone, with the support of the Environmental Fund – a project based on collaborative work between TP and several partners, which resulted in the preparation of the following Guides and Tools that aim to enhance the adoption of sustainable practices in the tourism sector:
 - the Good Practice Guide for a Circular Economy in Tourist Accommodation: presents examples and guiding principles on circularity and examples of how to implement a more sustainable business model, applied to tourist accommodation;
 - the Carbon Neutrality Guide for Tourism Enterprises: provides the guiding principles, concepts and practices that allow tourism enterprises to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions;
 - the Guide to Sustainable Construction in Tourist Enterprises: aims to adopt sustainable practices in terms of construction, making the business more sustainable, with lower consumption of resources and greater economic and environmental benefits;
 - the Guide to Tourist Accommodation – Let's Reduce Single-Use Plastics: together with the Communication Guide and the accompanying Self-Assessment Checklist, it aims to help business owners and employees eliminate and reduce the use of single-use plastic;
 - the Guide for Tour Operators – Let's Reduce Single-Use Plastics: aims to encourage these companies to reduce waste and better communicate with customers the necessary behavioral changes;
 - the Good Practice Guide for Circular and Sustainable Restoration: aims to promote the adoption of sustainable practices in the restaurant and similar sectors, demonstrating, through practical examples, how to make the business more sustainable, with greater economic and environmental benefits;
 - Analysis of Water Efficiency on Golf Courses in Portugal: presents updated information on irrigation water management practices on golf courses and the measures planned within the scope of water efficiency, as well as proposing strategies for greater efficiency in water consumption on golf courses;
 - GEET Tool – Greenhouse Gas Emissions from a Tourist Enterprise: integrated into the Carbon Neutrality Guide for Tourist Enterprises, this tool allows you to quantify the annual GHG emissions of a tourist enterprise;
 - Standard Operating Procedures (SOP): complementary tools to support companies with examples and suggestions for action;
 - GreenerGuest Platform: a tool through which companies can briefly consult a market of alternative products and which also offers free online training “How to reduce Single-Use Plastics in Tourist Accommodation and keep Staff and

Customers safe”.

- Thematic Guides for Good Sustainability Practices: in compliance with the actions foreseen in the 2020-2023 Sustainable Tourism Plan, the TdP, in collaboration with public bodies and associations, has prepared the following Thematic Guides, which aim to support tourism agents in changing their behavior and adopting best sustainability practices, especially in the environmental and social dimensions:
 - the Guide to Good Sustainability Practices for Infrastructures Supporting Nautical Tourism, on the Coast, Rivers and Reservoirs: presents a set of good practices to be implemented by the managers of these infrastructures, aiming to improve the quality of the experience of sailors, tourists and visitors in marinas and recreational ports, minimizing their impacts on fauna, flora, soil and water resources, enhancing the continuous improvement of energy efficiency, safeguarding the well-being of communities and the inclusion of all;
 - the Guide to Good Sustainability Practices for Tourist Entertainment: aims to list a set of good practices or alternative management practices that allow improving environmental, economic and social sustainability associated with the development of tourist entertainment activities that take place in the field of natural and cultural heritage;
 - the Guide to Good Sustainability Practices in Thermal Baths: presents a set of good practices and management methodologies to be implemented by managers of thermal establishments, aiming, in particular, at energy and water efficiency, and promoting the quality of the tourist experience.
- AQUA+ HOTELS – Water Efficiency Classification System for Tourist Accommodation: TdP and ADENE (Energy Agency) signed, on December 15, 2021, a protocol within the scope of the launch of the AQUA+ Hotels system, for collaboration in initiatives and projects that aim to promote energy and water efficiency and sustainable mobility in the tourism sector, in the context of the objectives of the Sustainable Tourism Plan 2020-2023. It is a simple, agile and voluntary instrument that allows the assessment and classification of the water efficiency of tourist developments and local accommodation establishments, in all their life stages (design, construction, in use and rehabilitation), constituting an important tool in supporting the sustainable transition of the tourist offer in Portugal.
- FIT for 55 – New EU “green” framework: challenges and opportunities for tourism – in February 2022, the TdP held an information session on the New EU “green” framework: challenges and opportunities for tourism, with the aim of publicizing the legislative proposals within the scope of the FIT for 55 and the Tourism Transition Pathway.
- “Save Water” Water Efficiency Seal: measure coordinated by the Algarve Tourism Region, in conjunction with TdP and ADENE, presented on March 18, 2024, which results from the public recognition of the alert situation, due to drought, in the Algarve region, being applicable to tourism enterprises, aiming to contribute to achieving the objectives of reducing the volume of water consumed by the urban sector by 15%.
- Guidance Guide Approach to Tourism in the Review of PDM: document prepared by the TdP to support municipalities and design teams in the review of PDM (Municipal Master Plans), as well as other public and private entities with specific interests in matters of tourism planning, which establishes that environmental efficiency requirements applicable to the installation of tourist enterprises and golf courses are ensured in the regulatory provisions of the plans. Aware of the emerging problem of climate change, TdP has been extending this purpose to all the Territorial Management Instruments that it monitors.

- Responsible Motorhome Program: program promoted by TP with a view to meeting the growing demand for this modality, as well as encouraging the adoption of appropriate measures to harmonize its practice with environmental, public health, land use planning and land transport requirements. This program includes: the development of a national network of Motorhome Service Areas (ASA), which ensures the infrastructure of the national territory with a sufficient and qualified supply network of spaces for motorhomes; the promotion of the “Life Campers” concept, aimed at raising awareness among tourists about the need to respect the territory, the environment and local populations, as well as the use of suitable places for parking and overnight stays and the adoption of good practices in this area; the preparation of a Guide to Good Practices for Motorhome Tourism, which aims to inform motorhome owners and entities responsible for licensing ASAs of the applicable legislation and current rules, in order to promote the adoption of good practices by this modality.
- Portuguese Pact for Plastics (PPP): TP is a founding institutional member of the PPP, an unprecedented collaboration platform that brings together the different actors in the national plastics value chain, academia, NGOs and other public bodies, and is committed to solving the problems associated with plastics, committing to the development of actions aimed at achieving a set of ambitious goals and objectives for 2025. Progress Reports of the Portuguese Pact for Plastics have been published, which measure the performance of the initiative's members in relation to the established goals.

Still on the subject of the Tourism sector, the Ministry of Economy, through the Strategy and Studies Office (GEE), as part of its information activity, published at the end of 2022 the study “Environmental impact of tourism in Portugal – comparative analysis and challenges”, which analyses a set of sustainability indicators to position the tourism ecosystem in Portugal, in comparison with the EU, namely the capacity and challenges to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of climate neutrality and sustainability – <https://www.gee.gov.pt/pt/estudos-e-seminarios/estudos-de-temas-economicos-category/32530-te-108-environmental-performance-of-tourism-in-portugal-comparative-analysis-and-challenges>

In 2025, given the importance of its implementation for the tourism climate agenda, fundamental for the decarbonization of the sector, it is important to mention the “Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality of Brazilian Tourism”. The implementation of this Roadmap will differentiate and align TP with a more efficient future, which will contribute to the growth of the tourism sector in what is a more competitive and sustainable economy. It constitutes an important milestone for TP, as it represents the completion of the work started in 2024, which involved its employees. Throughout this process, several contributions were received that allowed the Roadmap to be consolidated based on four main axes: (i) infrastructure and logistics, (ii) people, (iii) companies and (iv) mobility. The Roadmap development process also included the analysis of proposals with a broader impact, the viability of which will be assessed at a later stage, considering the potential for reducing emissions and the associated cost. Other initiatives were considered that, although they do not contribute so directly to carbon neutrality, reinforce the institutional commitment to social and environmental responsibility. For its operationalization, it will be essential to understand the starting point and the current carbon footprint of the TP, the path to be followed and the set of investments and actions required, as well as the definition of an action plan for the implementation of priority measures, ensuring their alignment with national and European carbon neutrality objectives for the coming years. With the implementation of this instrument, the TP reaffirms its ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% in 5 years and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

The **Ombudsman** also acts to promote knowledge among civil society about the rights and means of recourse available to it in order to obtain information, participate in decision

making and gain access to justice in environmental matters, through the exercise of its human rights education mandate and awareness raising.

On the Ombudsman's website <https://www.provedor-jus.pt> and in the activity reports submitted each year to the Portuguese Parliament, relevant information on environmental issues is disclosed. These awareness-raising initiatives include collaboration on environmental studies and recommendations.

When investigating complaints, the Ombudsman investigates the actions of environmental authorities with regard to information and public awareness where there are risks to the environment and human health; an example is the request for clarification from the Government on the actions carried out to disclose the risks resulting from the use of herbicides containing glyphosate.

At the regional level, The following works by ARH Algarve stand out::

- Environmental Volunteer Project for Water: this was established in 2009, in partnership with various regional entities and with the support of many municipalities in the Algarve. Its main objective is to contribute to participatory management of water in the Hydrographic Region of the Algarve, specifically through the implementation of a voluntary network for monitoring the Water Resources of the Algarve, developed by civil society in formal contexts, such as schools, and informal contexts such as institutions, NGOs, and citizens, in partnership with several regional entities and the support of many Algarve municipalities(cf. <https://voluntariadoambientalagua.apambiente.pt/site/frontoffice/default.aspx>).
- Regional Meeting of Environmental Volunteering for Água JOVEM (ERVAA Jovem), which usually takes place in the winter period. The activities are based on a theme chosen by the School within the 2030 Agenda /SDG, and may include games, video clips followed by a brief debate, among others.
 - the 6th ERVAA Jovem (03/25/2022), in Alvor
 - the 7th ERVAA Youth (9/6/2022), in Armação de Pêra
 - the 8th ERVAA Jovem (14/03/2023), in Portimão
 - the 9th ERVAA Youth (31/03/2023), in Olhão
 - the 10th ERVAA Jovem (11/16/2023), in Guia
 - the 11th ERVAA Jovem (2/2/2024), in Albufeira
 - the 12th ERVAA Jovem (4/6/2024), in Lagos
- “Water Efficiency at School” Competition with the 2nd edition in 2024 and the 1st edition in 2021, in partnership with AMAL and the company Águas do Algarve and the support of the University of Algarve, ADENE and DGEST- DSR Algarve. This competition takes place within the scope of the Algarve Regional Water Efficiency Plan (PREH-Algarve). Its main objective is to raise awareness and mobilize school communities in the Algarve, in partnership with their municipalities, about the need to measure their water consumption, while simultaneously promoting the implementation of best practices for its efficient use. The aim is to assess the school community's ability to measure and reduce water consumption, efforts to detect leaks in building networks and the implementation of Best Practices in school establishments.
- “Água Jovem” competition, in partnership with the companies Águas do Algarve S.A., Mundo Aquático SA (Zoomarine) and International Water Technology, SA, with the support of the Directorate-General for School Establishments-DSR Algarve, ICNF – DRCNF Algarve and the Algarve local authorities. Its main objective, through knowledge of the Sustainable Development Goals, is to raise awareness among young people in the Algarve about the knowledge and preservation of water heritage, challenging them to be Water Ambassadors in their school community, in their home and in the Algarve. The awards ceremony takes place during the ÁGUA JOVEM FORUM, which is always held in the area of the

territory that was the target of the competitors' work, in order to improve their knowledge of the territory's resources and the main sustainability issues in question.

- the YOUNG WATER FORUM 2022 (10/12/2022), in Silves
 - the YOUNG WATER FORUM 2023 (05/31/2023), in Monchique
 - the YOUNG WATER FORUM 2024 (05/28/2024), in Castro Marim
- Environmental Education and Volunteering Initiatives Week (SEIVA) – annual initiative that includes several actions that take place simultaneously in the Algarve region during the Autumn period. Its main target audience is school communities, but it also aims to publicise the work carried out by organisations in the area of education and environmental volunteering, as well as to mobilise the population of the Algarve to reflect on the main challenges of sustainable development and biodiversity, and the importance of their participation in decision-making processes.
- SEIVA 2022 (October 8-16), with the theme “The impact of climate change on aquatic ecosystems”.
 - SEIVA 2023 (14-22 Oct), with the theme “Alliance for Water.
 - SEIVA 2024 (12-20 Oct), with the theme “Water for Peace: United for water, driven by climate”.

At the level of the autonomous regions, in the **Autonomous Region of the Azores**, the Regional Secretariat for the Environment and Climate Action promotes information, awareness, education and training in the areas under its supervision, including support for economic activities in matters related to the environment, implementing policies within the scope of environmental citizenship, environmental promotion and education for the environment and sustainable development, ensuring dialogue with civil society organizations with an interest in the environmental and sustainable development areas, organizing and keeping up to date the regional register of non-governmental organizations, as well as monitoring the implementation of the support regime for these organizations. The Regional Directorate for Environment and Climate Action constitutes the Environmental Authority at regional level, executing the various regional policies in the area, acting in place of the APA on some issues at national level.

In the areas of education and awareness, in the Azores, the Educating for the Environment and Sustainability Platform is of particular importance <https://educarparaoambiente.azores.gov.pt>, which brings together the educational offer of environmental awareness actions for schools, from projects and campaigns, educational resources, linking to environmental centers. The Regional Environmental Education Meetings allow for in-depth study and exchange of experiences among stakeholders in these areas.

Also noteworthy:

- Espírito Verde Awards, aim to highlight environmental commitment and reward companies, institutions and personalities that stand out in the Autonomous Region of the Azores for good environmental practices, as well as environmental research, activism, volunteering and patronage;
- Maintenance of pedestrian circuits in classified areas, allowing greater sharing between Man and Nature.

On a local level, of the 100 respondents to the questionnaire on the implementation of Aarhus, around 75% confirmed the existence of an environmental education and sustainable development strategy or programme in the municipality, while at the level of the 70 responding parishes, only 36% recognize it.

Article 3, paragraph 4

Since 1987, when the Law on Associations of environmental protection was approved (Law 10/87 of 4 April, later repealed by Law No. 35/98 of 18 July), Portuguese law has provided a legal framework for the intervention and support of environmental associations. The situation reported in 2011 remains the same, with the website constantly updated with relevant information <https://apambiente.pt/apa/organizacoes-nao-governamentais-de-ambiente>, as well as the National Register of environmental NGOs and equivalent bodies (RNOE), through an online database (cf. <https://onga.apambiente.pt/>).

At the end of 2024 there were 116 active Environmental NGOs registered on the RNOE.

As already mentioned in paragraph 2 of article 3, NGO initiatives can be financed through applications to the Environmental Fund <https://www.fundoambiental.pt/>, which channels all public funding in the environmental area.

Furthermore, according to the legislative change introduced by Law No. 42/2024, of November 14, ONGAs are now able to enjoy the possibility of the tax benefit of assigning the quota equivalent to 1% of the IRS collection settled based on annual declarations - cf. <https://apambiente.pt/destaque2/aumento-para-1-do-limite-da-consignacao-fiscal-da-receita-de-irs-favor-das-onga>.

It is also worth mentioning the support given, since 1996, through the Network of Teachers coordinating environmental education projects highlighted in ONGA (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/index.php/apa/cooperacao-ambiente-educacao>), under a cooperation protocol between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry responsible for environmental policies. With the deployment of education professionals and environmental specialists in NGOs, which develop work with a high capacity for innovation and dissemination of good practices for local, regional and national dynamism, both in schools and in society in general, this support has generated a great impact.

Whenever a Conference of the Parties (COP) takes place at an International Convention on the subject of the environment, the Ministry that oversees environmental policy, where justified and via the International Relations department of its Secretariat General, sends an invitation to the Platform of Environmental and Developmental NGOs in order that two of these organisations can take part in the COP. They form a part of the respective national delegation. The ENGOS that participate in these COPs share their vision and positions in appropriate places and times for this purpose. This happens particularly at the COPs of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. In fact, according to the Climate Framework Law (Law No. 98/2021), associations that dedicate their action to defending the environment, in addition to being considered subjects of climate action, must also receive support from the State with a view to facilitating their contribution to raising awareness in society regarding the importance of combating climate change.

Every year, several briefings were held with Environment and Development NGOs prior to the meetings of the European Union Council of Ministers for the Environment, in which these entities were consulted on the themes and decisions of the aforementioned Council of Ministers.

With the aim of publicizing and enhancing the initiatives of NGOs, in 2010 the APA created a page on the social network Facebook “Cidadania e Meio Ambiente”, which remains updated (cf. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cidadania-e-Ambiente/>).

Following the cooperation protocol signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Portuguese Platform of Non-Governmental Organizations for Development Cooperation (NGDO) <https://www.plataformaongd.pt/>, a line of co-financing for Education for Development (ED) projects for NGDOs was created in 2005 and remained active. It should be noted that a significant number of these projects deal, in whole or in part, with the global dimension inherent to different environmental issues, including sustainable development, responsible production and consumption, fair trade, climate change and SDGs. It is also worth noting that some of these projects have been promoted in partnership with NGOs.

From 2015 onwards, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, a new era of development cooperation began. It has sought to continue supporting its priority partners to meet their needs, as well as to meet its international commitments within this new framework, with new, more demanding transparency rules, both for donor countries and for aid recipient partners. Although this framework implies an increase in the scope of financing in the private sector, the use of public financing continues to be highly relevant, particularly when it supports the leverage of private funds. The Environmental Fund <https://www.fundoambiental.pt/>, although a domestic fund, has opened a financing window to support development cooperation interventions (programs, projects and actions - PPA), with the aim of supporting its cooperation partners to strengthen their capacities in the field of the environment, in particular with regard to combating climate change and increasing resilience in this field, water and sanitation and biodiversity. The financing of the Environmental Fund, which can also be considered as official development assistance (ODA), has been playing a fundamental role as an additional complement to conventional ODA financing, both at bilateral and multilateral level. Relevant statistical information can be found on the Camões, IP website - <http://coop.instituto-camoes.pt/bdcoopfrontend>.

Article 3, paragraph 7

APA is aware of and committed to promoting the Almaty Guidelines regarding the principles of transparency, accountability and inclusion in international decision-making processes in the environmental field, seeking to encourage them especially in the various international negotiation processes in which it is involved.

The Ministry responsible for environmental policy has given great attention and dedicated resources to portuguese cooperation in the field of the environment, with all documentation and training actions identified as necessary by the various CPLP countries were provided. Both here and in many other international initiatives – e.g. the organization of the 2nd edition of the Sustainable Blue Economy Investment Forum (SBEIF), an initiative organized in the wake of SDG 14 – the principles of the Aarhus Convention were taken into account and promoted.

Article 3, paragraph 8

In this context, it is noted that article 268, paragraph 4 of the CRP states as follows: “Citizens are guaranteed effective jurisdictional control over their legally protected rights or interests including, namely, the acknowledgement of these rights or interests, the ability to challenge any administrative acts which may prejudice them, regardless of their form, the determination of the practice of legally appropriate administrative acts and the adoption of appropriate cautionary measures”.

Given that Law No. 83/95, of 31 August - Law on Procedural Participation and Popular Action (LAP) - also guarantees legitimacy for the exercise of the right to complain and the establishment as a party of interest in criminal proceedings, as stated in article 4 of Law No. 19/2008, of 21 April - it approves measures to combat corruption -, which provides guarantees for the worker - regardless of the sector in which they work - who complains of an offense they became aware of in the exercising of their duties or because of them, which may apply to the reporting of infringements relating to the environment.

It is worth highlighting the work carried out during the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union (PPUE) – January to June 2021 – in coordinating and adopting a position statement by EU Member States, at the 25th Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties, on the need to implement a “rapid response mechanism” for the purpose of implementing and strengthening the guarantee provided for in paragraph 8 of Article 3 of the Aarhus Convention for “environmental defenders”, having subsequently been established, at the 7th Meeting of the Parties, the rapid response mechanism with the creation of a Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders.

IV. Obstacles encountered in the implementation of article 3

Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 3 listed above.

Answer:

The complexity of the regulatory framework applicable to environmental impact assessments (EIA) led to complaints being filed with the Ombudsman, who found that mastering the applicable legal framework presents substantial difficulties, both for interested citizens and for the public services responsible for the matter. The Public Defender's Office argued to the authorities, in 2022, that the definition of a public consultation phase does not exhaust or consume the exercise of the right of access to environmental information.

V. Further information on the practical application of the general provisions of article 3

Provide further information on the **practical application of the general provisions of article 3**.

Answer:

In the context of this Report, between early February and early April 2025, new questionnaires on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention at a local level have been sent for the second time to the 308 Portuguese municipalities via the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities (ANMP) and more than 1.000 parishes via Associação Nacional de Freguesias (ANAFRE). 100 municipalities - almost 33% of the total municipalities in Portugal - and 70 parishes - only 2% of the total of 3.091 existing - completed the questionnaire. Although the percentage of respondents was higher this time than for the last questionnaires carried out in 2016 and 2021, it still cannot be considered a representative result. Rather, it is indicative.

VI. Website addresses relevant to the implementation of article 3

Give relevant website addresses, if available:

www.cada.pt

www.provedor-jus.pt

www.portaldocidadao.pt

<https://www.gov.pt/>

<https://www.sg.pcm.gov.pt/o-governo/portal-do-governo/>

<https://portautarquico.dgal.gov.pt/>

www.apambiente.pt

www.gnr.pt

<https://ifama.igamaot.gov.pt/Portal/LandingPage>
<https://queixaselectronicas.mai.gov.pt/>
<https://educarparaambiente.azores.gov.pt>
<https://www.dgpm.mm.gov.pt>
<https://anmp.pt/>
<https://www.anafre.pt/>

VII. Legislative, regulatory and other measures implementing the provisions on access to environmental information in article 4

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the provisions on access to environmental information in article 4.

Explain how each paragraph of article 4 has been implemented. Describe the transposition of the relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3, paragraph 9. Also, and in particular, describe:

- (a) With respect to **paragraph 1**, measures taken to ensure that:
 - (i) Any person may have access to information without having to state an interest;
 - (ii) Copies of the actual documentation containing or comprising the requested information are supplied;
 - (iii) The information is supplied in the form requested;
- (b) Measures taken to ensure that the time limits provided for in **paragraph 2** are respected;
- (c) With respect to **paragraphs 3 and 4**, measures taken to:
 - (i) Provide for exemptions from requests;
 - (ii) Ensure that the public interest test at the end of paragraph 4 is applied;
- (d) With respect to **paragraph 5**, measures taken to ensure that a public authority that does not hold the environmental information requested takes the necessary action;
- (e) With respect to **paragraph 6**, measures taken to ensure that the requirement to separate out and make available information is implemented;
- (f) With respect to **paragraph 7**, measures taken to ensure that refusals meet the time limits and the other requirements with respect to refusals;
- (g) With respect to **paragraph 8**, measures taken to ensure that the requirements on charging are met.

Answer:

Article 4, paragraph 1

In addition to the aforementioned article 3, §2, reference is made to Law No. 26/2016 of 22 August (LADA), which approves the scheme for accessing administrative and environmental information and for the reuse of administrative documents, transposing Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 28 January, and Directive 2003/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 November, in force since 1 October of that year.

Public authorities are obliged to make available to the applicant environmental information in their possession or held on their behalf, without the applicant having to justify their interest (article 5, paragraph 1, of LADA).

The APA makes available online, on the State of the Environment portal <https://rea.apambiente.pt/>, the information and data included in the editions of the State of the Environment Report (REA), since the first, in 1987. Whenever requested, it responds to requests for access to information and clarification on the data contained in the REA within the legal deadline. To be able to do this, generate a broad set of information, as explained in art. 5.

Specifically with regard to the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of public and private projects likely to have significant impact on the environment, Decree-Law No. 151-B/2013 - amended by Decree-Law No. 47/2014 of 24 March - like the legal framework it repealed and which was in force until 31 October 2013, considers that all data and procedural documents relative to the EIA, for checking the environmental compliance of the performance project and post-assessment, are, safeguarding due exceptions, public and to be made available by the EIA authorities. The exception to this rule are procedures covered by commercial or industrial confidentiality, including intellectual copyright, or which are relevant for the protection of national security or the conservation of natural and cultural heritage (cf. article 28). Notwithstanding this general rule, Decree-Law No. 151-B/2013 provides for the creation of an "electronic one-stop shop" that will enhance the availability of the most relevant documents in the context of the assessment procedures, as well as promote a greater exchange of information among the various stakeholders, particularly during periods of public consultation (cf. article 28-31). This "electronic one-stop shop" is yet to be implemented, as well as the area envisaged on the Administrative Modernisation Agency's website (AMA) to centralise public consultations <http://www.ama.pt/>. The Ministry that oversees environmental policies, aware of the need to achieve greater involvement from citizens in the processes of public participation and, consequently, in decision-making regarding environmental issues that concern the general public, has made the PARTICIPA portal www.participa.pt available since July 2015. It is an innovative initiative where, for the first time, all public consultation processes are concentrated by this Ministry in a single place of consultation. PARTICIPA is the official portal where the processes in public consultation are available. It permits a simpler, more agile and more efficient participation. Under the law in effect until October 2013, the documents relating to the various stages of the processes are also available with the EIA authorities for consultation on paper. Copies can be made at a reasonable cost to the public (prices for Environmental NGOs and students are lower).

With regard to the system to prevent major accidents involving hazardous substances, Decree-Law No. 254/2007 of 12 July, amended by Decree-Law No. 42/2014 of 18 March, stipulates in article 24 that "(...) APA and other competent authorities shall ensure transparency and public access to information produced pursuant to this Decree-Law, without prejudice to the provisions of legislation applying to access to information on the environment". Accordingly, APA has demonstrated its availability to provide information requested by the public, in paper and digital format, whenever it is available.

Following each inspection action, IGAMAOT prepares a descriptive report of the pertinent findings with regard to the facility's compliance with the obligations established in the Environmental Document / Environmental Licence or other applicable environmental legislation, and presents conclusions on the possible need to take other measures. This report is communicated to the inspected operator and the respective licensing entities.

Pursuant to article 110 of Decree-Law 127/2013 of 30 August, which transposes the Industrial Emissions Directive (DEI) into Portuguese law and establishes the Industrial Emissions Regime (REI), a report is made to the public about this installation via the IGAMAOT portal, pursuant to Law No. 19/2006, of 12 June in its current wording (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/pt/espaco-publico/relatorios/inspecoes-ambientais-rei>). For many years, IGAMAOT has produced Thematic Reports that stand out for the heterogeneity of the themes they deal with (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/pt/espaco-publico/relatorios/tematicos-ambiente> e <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/pt/espaco-publico/relatorios/inspecoes-de-seguranca-e-prevencao-de-riscos>). Matters such as Transboundary Waste Movements, Regulations relating to the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemical Substances (REACH) and Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures (CLP), Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC), European Trade in Emissions Licenses (CELE), are some of the themes developed in these reports and that meet the standards contained in the powers of this General Inspectorate. These Reports are made available on the portal on the understanding that the information provided may be of some use to those who consult them and wish to follow the main outcomes of the inspection activities undertaken by IGAMAOT. The reports include information such as a summary of the inspection activities undertaken, their territorial framework and characterization by sector of economic activity; situations of non-compliance detected and reports filed, thereby promoting administrative transparency and accessibility for citizens. Since June 2021, IGAMAOT has also been promoting the biannual publication of a "newsletter" on its portal and sent to all subscribers, which aims to be a means of expanding the dissemination of its activity (complementing the information on its portal) and publicizing the work developed in its various areas (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/pt/espaco-publico/newsletter>).

At IGAMAOT, its legal powers and responsibilities in environmental matters require it to give priority to inspections determined by the Risk Analysis Systems of the different legal regimes whose control is directly entrusted to it, namely, facilities covered by the industrial emissions regime, in particular the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control regime and activities and facilities that use organic solvents; activity facilities covered by the regime for the prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances (SEVESO); facilities covered by the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Products and the Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation (REACH Regulation) and Regulation (EC) No 1272/2006 on the Classification, Labelling and Packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP Regulation); radiation protection, nuclear safety and radioactive waste; and also specific inspections within the scope of waste transport and operators associated with waste transfers (MTR). This action gains permanent complexity, which leads to a need to establish standards and procedures which will ensure the harmonization of inspection activity, together with the introduction of good practices in order to ensure that it is a continuous and consistently improving activity. Procedures Manuals and Support Guides have been prepared for this purpose, as a set of documents providing guidance for the standardisation and harmonisation of the procedure to be adopted in preparing and implementing environmental inspection activities, as well as in the preparation of the respective Report and any subsequent actions. They are structured in the form of a list of the main tasks associated with the planning, preparation and carrying out of environmental inspections. These documents are of a dynamic nature, and are updated whenever it is considered necessary to add processes, procedures and instruments of work which aim not only to support environmental inspection inspectors in the performance of their functions, but also to inform citizens as clearly as possible of the way in which inspection actions are prepared and carried out, as well as their possible follow-up. Available on the IGAMAOT portal (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/pt/quem-somos/organizacao-interna/equipas-multidisciplinares>), a Procedures Manual and various support guides (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/contents/pagecollapselist/gaia-portal-versao-20221221.pdf>, e <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/contents/pagecollapselist/manual-de-procedimentos-e-anexos.pdf>), together with various guides, such as the Environmental Inspection Support Guide, SEVESO Inspection Support Guides, Support Guides for Radiological Protection Inspections, Support Guide for the carrying out of inspections of Genetically Modified

Organisms (GMOs), Waste Management Operators Inspection Guide, for Specific Waste Flow or Support Guide for inspections in the surface treatment sector.

In terms of land use planning and nature conservation, IGAMAOT aims to monitor and assess compliance with legality among entities integrated into central and local administration when the pursuit of objectives of national and regional interest arising from territorial Plans and Programs on which the territorial management system is based is at stake. It is up to IGAMAOT to assess, together with these entities, in terms of verifying conditions for land occupation, use and transformation, compliance with public interests with territorial expression, such as the National Ecological Reserve (REN), the National Agricultural Reserve (RAN), the Water Domain (DH), the National Network of Protected Areas (RNAP) and classified areas integrated in the Natura 2000 Network (RN2000). The conclusions of the inspection actions carried out within the scope of the Multidisciplinary Team for the Assessment and Monitoring of Spatial Planning and Nature Conservation (EM AOT/CN) are translated into reports, accessible at <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/pt/espaco-publico/relatorios/avaliacoes-territorio-natureza>.

On a local level, the vast majority of municipalities and parishes surveyed in the questionnaire on the application of the Aarhus Convention consider that they are implementing LADA globally.

Article 4, paragraph 2

The time limits established in article 15 of LADA stipulate that the public authority to whom the request is addressed must provide the requested information within 10 business days whenever, within their respective responsibilities and according to legislation, it should have collected and processed this information. In all other cases the time limit is one month. In exceptional circumstances the time limit for making the information available may be extended up to two months.

Article 4, paragraphs 3 and 4

The request for access to environmental information can be refused when the public authority does not hold the requested information (article 18, paragraph 1 of LADA).

Pursuant to article 12 of LADA, if the request is formulated in general terms, the public authority shall invite the applicant to formulate it in a precise manner, providing assistance for such.

Pursuant to article 18, paragraph 2 of LADA, when the application relates to processes in progress, unfinished documents and data or internal communications, access is deferred until the decision is made or the procedure shelved.

Article 18, paragraph 4 of LADA establishes the situations in which the access request may be rejected for jeopardising the confidentiality of the process, international relations, public security or national defence, the confidentiality of any police investigation, business secrets, intellectual property rights, the confidentiality of personal data, the interests of those who may have provided the information and the protection of the environment.

Article 18, paragraph 5 of LADA states that the grounds for rejection must be restrictively interpreted, and ensures that certain grounds for rejection may not be invoked when the request for information relates to environmental emissions.

Article 4, paragraph 5

Articles 15, paragraph 1(c) and 18, no. 1 of LADA establishes that, where a public authority is aware that information is held by another public authority or is held on its behalf, it must immediately refer the request to that authority and inform the applicant.

Article 4, paragraph 6

Article 18, paragraph 6, of the LADA, determines partial access; that is, “whenever it is possible to purge the information that justified the dismissal”.

Article 4, paragraph 7

Article 15 (c) of LADA states that within 10 business days of receipt of the application, the applicant is notified in writing of the total or partial dismissal of the request for information, stating the reasons for rejection as well as information on the appeal mechanisms established by LADA.

Article 4, paragraph 8

Article 14 of LADA defines how the fees should be charged for access to environmental information, predicting a 50% reduction for ENGOs and equivalent entities.

For many organisations, the fees established by Ministry of Finance Order No. 8617/2002, published in the Official Gazette, Series 2, of 29 April, which establishes the amounts to be paid for the reproduction of documents included in administrative processes, continue to be levied.

VIII. Obstacles encountered in the implementation of article 4

*Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 4.*

Answer:

Nothing to report on this item.

IX. Further information on the practical application of the provisions of article 4

*Provide further information on the **practical application of the provisions on access to information in article 4**, e.g., are there any statistics available on the number of requests made, the number of refusals and the reasons for such refusals?*

Answer:

The annual reports on CADA's activity, which can be seen at <https://www.cada.pt/relatorios-de-atividade>, provide concrete data on the processes analysed by this Committee, with a marked increase in the number of complaints against express or tacit refusal for access to administrative information or documentation, in relation to the number of applications by entities. Most of the opinions resulted in a favourable understanding of the claim for access and it should be noted that, in most cases, despite the opinion of CADA not being binding, the requested entities accepted the solution offered by it. The intervention of CADA continues, therefore, to promote the quickest overcoming of doubts and obstacles, and avoid unnecessary litigation.

X. Website addresses relevant to the implementation of article 4

Give relevant website addresses, if available:

www.cada.pt

XI. Legislative, regulatory and other measures implementing the provisions on the collection and dissemination of environmental information in article 5

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the provisions on the collection and dissemination of environmental information in article 5.

Explain how each paragraph of article 5 has been implemented. Describe the transposition of the relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3, paragraph 9. Also, and in particular, describe:

- (a) With respect to **paragraph 1**, measures taken to ensure that:
 - (i) Public authorities possess and update environmental information;
 - (ii) There is an adequate flow of information to public authorities;
 - (iii) In emergencies, appropriate information is disseminated immediately and without delay;
- (b) With respect to **paragraph 2**, measures taken to ensure that the way in which public authorities make environmental information available to the public is transparent and that environmental information is effectively accessible;
- (c) With respect to **paragraph 3**, measures taken to ensure that environmental information progressively becomes available in electronic databases which are easily accessible to the public through public telecommunications networks;
- (d) With respect to **paragraph 4**, measures taken to publish and disseminate national reports on the state of the environment;
- (e) Measures taken to disseminate the information referred to in **paragraph 5**;
- (f) With respect to **paragraph 6**, measures taken to encourage operators whose activities have a significant impact on the environment to inform the public regularly of the environmental impact of their activities and products;
- (g) Measures taken to publish and provide information as required in **paragraph 7**;
- (h) With respect to **paragraph 8**, measures taken to develop mechanisms with a view to ensuring that sufficient product information is made available to the public;
- (i) With respect to **paragraph 9**, measures taken to establish a nationwide system of pollution inventories or registers.

Answer:

Article 5, paragraph 1

The portuguese authorities, based on the measures they have implemented and often as a

requirement of Community law and international agreements, has been collecting and disseminating information on the environment for many years.

The practice of using indicators as support base for decision making and public participation has become more widespread. The use of information and communication technologies, including databases and their dissemination via the internet, has become common practice.

As a result of the objectives established for the generalisation of electronic government (e-government), nearly all public administration bodies of the State at central, regional and local government levels have their own websites and harness the potential of the internet and web 2.0 to better inform and raise the awareness of citizens and civil society organisations.

The implementation of the first pillar of the Aarhus Convention, whether strictly in the environmental field or in the sectors of activity interacting with it, has thus been facilitated.

Of particular importance, due to its concrete impact on the way environmental policies are informed in Portugal and in the European Union, is the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet) - a partnership network of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its 38 member and cooperating countries. EPA is responsible for developing Eionet and coordinating its activities in conjunction with National Focal Points (NFPs) in countries. In Portugal, the APA is responsible for the role of NFP, whose main responsibility is to develop and promote the national network, made up of 16 national bodies with specific skills in areas considered key to the AEA.

The Eionet network is responsible for reporting environmental and climate data, as well as producing knowledge, including the preparation and dissemination of reports, including monitoring reports, technical summaries and the processing of indicators.

The information produced by the Eionet network is publicly accessible on the EEA website <https://www.eea.europa.eu>, with links to the different thematic channels, as well as data reporting, with the APA having a link on its website to the EEA <https://apambiente.pt/apa/agencia-europeia-do-ambiente-e-eionet>.

One of the main products produced by the Eionet network in collaboration with the EEA is the State and Outlook European Environment Report (SOER), the next edition of which is in preparation and will be published in 2025 (it is published every 5 years, the last one being in 2020 – cf. <https://www.eea.europa.eu/soer>).

The Eionet network contributes to the monitoring of the European Union's Environmental Action Programmes. The current Action Program, the 8th, had a first report, published in December 2023 and the second in February 2025. The APA, as NFP, contributes and leads the collection and submission of contributions from other institutions in Portugal for these monitoring reports.

Article 5, paragraph 2

The information made available is presented according to subject areas.

Climate

The **Climate Framework Law** (Law No. 98/2021), approved by the Assembly of the Republic on December 31, 2021, consolidates the right to citizen participation and access to information. In these terms, all documentation relating to climate policy is available on the APA website (<https://apambiente.pt/clima>) and on the Climate Action portal (<https://transparencia.gov.pt/pt/ambiente/acao-climatica/tema/>), as determined in art. 10 of the Climate Guidelines and Bases Law, which stipulated the creation and provision of a public, free and accessible digital tool via the Internet to, following the principle of transparency, allow citizens and civil society to participate in climate action and monitor systematic and national information. Additionally, APA is responsible for proposing,

developing and monitoring the implementation of environmental policies, particularly in the context of combating climate change. For the purposes of responding to international undertakings taken on by Portugal, APA assumes national responsibility for preparing reports and other communications. It relies on the contribution of several public and private institutions of a sectoral nature for this purpose, under legal mechanisms, protocols or voluntary agreements. The basic information provided is decisive for the adequate reporting to international institutions on matters of climate change.

This being the case, Portugal regularly submits reports to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to the European Commission (EC) on the implementation of its obligations and commitments, including five-year and ten-year emissions projections up to and including 2050.

The following are submitted to the UNFCCC:

- National GHG Inventory - prepared annually and submitted by 15 April;
- National Communication (article 12 of the PQ) – drawn up every four years (the 8th National Communication of Portugal was submitted in 2022 and subject to review in 2024);
- Biennial Report (BR) under Decision 2/CP.17 of the COP to the UNFCCC and article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. The 5th BR was submitted in 2022 as an annex to the 8th national communication and subject to review in 2024.

With regard to the European Commission, the sequence of submission of the required reports was established by Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, being submitted the following reports :

- Estratégias de longo prazo (artigo 15.º);
- Inventário Nacional de GEE (artigo 26.º) - elaborado anualmente e submetido em dois momentos diferentes. Os dados preliminares são enviados até 15 de janeiro e a versão final é enviada até 15 de março;
- Inventário aproximado de GEE (artigo 26.º) – elaborado anualmente e submetido até 31 de julho relativamente ao ano anterior;
- Sistemas Nacionais e da União para as Políticas, Medidas e Projeções (artigo 39.º);
- Projeções relativas às emissões totais de gases com efeito de estufa e estimativas separadas relativas às emissões de gases com efeito de estufa previstas para as fontes de emissões abrangidas pela Diretiva 2003/87/CE e pela Decisão nº 406/2009/CE (artigo 18.º);
- Comunicação de informação relativa aos Planos e Estratégias Nacionais de Adaptação (artigo 19.º);
- Comunicação de informação sobre o apoio financeiro e tecnológico aos países em desenvolvimento (artigo 19.º).
- Comunicação sobre a utilização das receitas das vendas em leilão de licenças de emissão e dos créditos por projetos (artigo 19.º);
- Os relatórios acima mencionados são publicados no portal da APA, podendo ser consultado nos seguintes endereços eletrónicos:
- Submissões dos Inventários Nacionais de GEE à Comissão Europeia e UNFCCC: <https://apambiente.pt/clima/inventario-nacional-de-emissoes-por-fontes-e-remocao-por-sumidouros-de-poluentes-atmosfericos>;
- Relatórios Bienais (UNFCCC): <https://apambiente.pt/clima/relatorios-de-progesso-submetidos-no-ambito-da-convencao-sobre-alteracoes-climaticas-unfccc>;
- Reportes no contexto do Regulamento de Governação da Energia e Ação Climática (UE): <https://apambiente.pt/clima/relatorios-submetidos-ao-abrigo-do-regulamento-mm>; <https://apambiente.pt/clima/leiloes-cele>; os reportes no âmbito deste Regulamento estão também acessíveis ao público através de <https://reportnet.europa.eu/public/country/PT>.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, which led to the closure and/or reduction of activity in many sectors, the APA carried out estimates to assess the impact of prevention and emergency measures on the level of GHG emissions. The monthly reports (from March

2020 to December 2021) are published on the APA portal and can be consulted at <https://apambiente.pt/clima/impacte-covid-19-emissoes-gee>.

In May 2022, the Ministry of Economy, through GEE, published the study “Decarbonization in Portugal – The sectors in the ring of fire”, which presents an analysis of recent trends at European level in a selection of carbon-intensive sectors: aluminum, iron and steel, cement, fertilizers and electricity generation, as well as their main characteristics and importance in the Portuguese economy. The disparities found justify a sectoral approach, in order to consider the specificities of each sector in decarbonization policies - <https://www.gee.gov.pt/pt/estudos-e-seminarios/estudos-de-temas-economicos-category/32073-te-96-decarbonization-in-portugal-the-sectors-in-the-ring-of-fire>.

RNA 2100, within the scope of the results produced, included the creation of Guidelines to establish key steps and reference practices for the implementation of adaptation in Portugal. The document produced is organized as a guide aimed at facilitating the integration into Municipal Master Plans of adaptation measures to the hazards covered by RNA 2100, namely droughts, water scarcity, rural fires, erosion and coastal flooding. The Guide produced (“Guidelines and good practices for integrating adaptation into municipal master plans”) follows on from the previous work of reviewing the current panorama of adaptation to climate change in territorial plans and programs, and is available for consultation by all interested parties (https://rna2100.apambiente.pt/sites/default/files/inline-files/wp8d_pt_2.pdf).

Given the emergence of the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in multiple areas, the Ministry of Economy, through GEE, published in the 3rd quarter of 2023 the study “Artificial Intelligence in the Climate Transition - Challenges and Potentials in the European Union” - <https://www.gee.gov.pt/pt/estudos-e-seminarios/estudos-de-temas-economicos-category/33090-te-118-a-inteligencia-artificial-na-transicao-climatica-desafios-e-potencialidades-na-uniao-europeia>. This work analyzes the relationship between AI and sustainability, highlighting the significant role that AI can have in advancing sustainability objectives in the EU. AI has the potential to support society in overcoming sustainability challenges through its ability to optimize, reduce waste and improve data-driven decision-making. However, the implementation of AI also raises important ethical questions that must be addressed to ensure its use is fair, transparent and equitable. The study presents an analysis of the benefits, challenges and ethical implications of applying AI to sustainability, proposing strategies to maximize its benefits and mitigate potential risks. The conclusion emphasizes the need for constant change and adaptability, arguing that AI can be an important tool in promoting sustainability, as long as its implementation is guided by ethical standards and focused on sustainability objectives.

As a national authority in the fields of Weather and Climate, IPMA develops and maintains

- Programmes for the collection of meteorological and climatic data,
- Atmospheric constituents relevant to the climate:
 - o total column ozone,
 - o ultraviolet radiation and
 - o greenhouse gases: CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, CO, SF₆).

The information collected is processed, validated and shared with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) World Data Centres in accordance with the procedures recommended and established by this organisation. A large part of this information and other information regarding climate, environmental, hydrological and agro-climatological monitoring is available to the public on the IPMA website (cf. www.ipma.pt):

- Daily monitoring (<http://www.ipma.pt/pt/oclima/monitoriza.dia/>);
- Monthly, seasonal and annual climatological bulletins (cf. <http://www.ipma.pt/pt/publicacoes/boletins.jsp?cmbDep=cli&cmbTema=pcl&idDep=cli&idTema=pcl&curAno=-1>);
- Weekly air temperature analysis bulletins for health; jointly with the Directorate General of Health for the inclusion of additional information in the temperature warnings;

- Reports monitoring the meteorological drought situation in mainland Portugal, as part of the Technical Advisory Working Group for the Standing Committee for Prevention, Monitoring and Tracking the Effects of Drought;
- Bulletins containing agrometeorological information for mainland Portugal, on a monthly basis;
- Graphical information on the daily evolution of the thickness of the ozone layer in Portugal (IPMA – Ozono <https://www.ipma.pt/pt/saude/ozono/index.jsp?f=Lisboa>);
- Graphical information on the daily evolution of pollen concentration for various species in Portugal (IPMA – Polens <https://www.ipma.pt/pt/saude/polens/>).

IPMA works with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) to collect precipitation samples for analysis of hydrogen and oxygen isotopes (GNIP - Global Network of Isotopes in Precipitation), with a view to studying atmospheric circulation and the hydrological cycle on a world scale.

In accordance with the recommendations of Portuguese Parliament Resolution 45/2015 of 4 May, IPMA makes daily Ultraviolet Index (UVI) forecasts available to the general public up to 5 days for all district capitals and autonomous regions (IPMA - IUUV Geo <https://www.ipma.pt/pt/otempo/prev.uv/index-iuv.jsp>). This programme is supported by certain NGOs such as the APCC (Portuguese Association of Skin Cancer).

IPMA also provides an Application Programming Interface (API) to facilitate access to a set of data, which can be integrated into applications (IPMA – api <https://api.ipma.pt/>).

On a regional and local level, various initiatives are being developed to provide information on responses to the global challenge of climate change, with greater relevance to the citizen and the specific reality of that area. CCDDR LVT prepared a report entitled “Spatial Planning in Response to Climate Change – contribution to the PDMs” (May 2019), and has made it generally available on its website (cf. <http://www.ccddr-lvt.pt/files/e85da0b52d3e72c3a6aa739bf8b8fc997d87f83c.pdf>). This document aims to show that spatial planning can play an important role in promoting adaptation to the impacts of climate change, and seeks to systematize ways of mitigating and adapting to climate change which can be taken into consideration in the preparation of municipal master plans (PDM). It is an organised and structured summary of strategic references and measures; focusing more on responses and solutions than on problems, and providing access to existing studies which can be used by the municipalities. It also identifies examples of projects and solutions which have already been developed and which could be replicated, and ensures that the issue of climate change is integrated into the various stages of the planning process.

Air

Improved air quality in Europe has been one of the great successes of the European Community’s environmental policy in recent decades, showing that it is possible to enjoy economic growth without undergoing environmental degradation. However, despite the progress achieved, there are still problems which persist and which need to be addressed. The National Air Strategy 2020 (ENAR 2020), published in 2016, established a framework of policies and measures that aimed to ensure consistency and adherence between emissions and air quality policies and measures, with a view to reducing the impact on health and ecosystems. The National Atmospheric Pollution Control Programme (PNCPA) is currently under review, which arises from the obligations in the Ceilings Directive (current Directive 2001/84). This Program succeeds ENAR 2020, with the ultimate objective of defining a framework of measures aimed at fulfilling national commitments to reduce atmospheric pollutant emissions in 2020 and from 2030 onwards.

The existence of basic information about air quality and atmospheric emissions is a key tool to support the decision-making processes. APA gathers and publishes on its website <https://apambiente.pt/ar-e-ruido/qualidade-do-ar> and <https://apambiente.pt/index.php/ar-e-ruido/monitorizacao> a vast range of information on which the estimates for reduction are

drafted and the compliance with national commitments is monitored and checked (cf. article 5, paragraph 3).

An operation to reinforce information and monitoring systems was carried out since half of 2016 - modernisation of the air quality system (QualAr 2020), integrated in ENAR 2020. This operation aims to improve the knowledge and communication of air quality information in compliance with the Directives INSPIRE (Directive 2007/2/EC) and Air Quality (Directive 2008/50/EC), contributing to reinforce of the capacity for risk management by decision-makers and populations, enabling the achievement of the following objectives:

- Optimise the management and dissemination of information on air quality, exchange of information with the COM and AEA in line with the requirements and procedures set out in Directive 2008/50/EC and Decision 2011/850/EU establishing rules for the Directives 2004/107/EC and 2008/50/EC as regards the reciprocal exchange and reporting of ambient air quality;
- Provide appropriate indicators to decision-makers, enhancing policy-making capacity in relation to air quality, particularly where air pollution control measures are concerned;
- Increase the information provided by air quality forecasting and assessment models from a risk prevention perspective;
- Assess the contribution of the cross-border long-range transport of air pollutants on the levels measured in urban and suburban areas;
- Increase understanding of specific pollutants, such as suspended particles and ozone, to ensure the development of appropriate policies and measures;
- Improve knowledge of black carbon concentrations which, in addition to health effects, contribute to climate change,

and also foster the following opportunities:

- Create services with personalised content and more effective dissemination;
- Create warning and alert mechanisms for various entities, enabling them to initiate appropriate procedures to protect populations;
- Increase citizens' awareness of air quality and its effects on health.

On 2019, a National Air Day was established in Portugal on 12 April by RCM No. 64/2019, of 10 April. A national campaign called "For a Country with Good Air" was launched at the same time <https://por1bom-ar.apambiente.pt/> with a view to promoting improved air quality by changing behaviour and encouraging the implementation of environment-friendly measures for individuals as well as organisations, with short-term action and continuous action over time. To date, about 150 entities, including several municipal councils and other public and private organisations, have signed a partnership protocol for the dissemination and implementation of measures focused on improving air quality and reducing the effects that poor air quality causes in terms of human morbidity and mortality.

In 2021, a project called "the Air I Breathe" was created in collaboration with the Blue Flag Association for the Environment and Education (ABAAE), which is aimed at all age groups in the school community (<https://ecoescolas.abaae.pt/o-ar-que-eu-respiro/>). This program seeks to raise awareness among students about the problem of air quality and has the following objectives:

- Contribute to strengthening the connection between education at different school levels and environmental education;
- Develop an environmental education module that promotes the training of children and young people in the acquisition of principles, values and skills that favor learning and contribute to awareness, knowledge and training for more assertive and supported choices with a view to protecting the air resource;
- Stimulate through activities the increase in literacy regarding air quality;
- Know the main air pollutants that affect air quality and our health;
- Know the measures to be adopted to minimize exposure to polluted air;
- Promote good habits to contribute, individually and collectively, to reducing

emissions and promoting good air.

APA, with the collaboration of IPMA, integrates the monitoring program European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP), part of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP). In 2024, a reassessment of participation in this program was carried out, which culminated in the reactivation of the Monte Velho station in this network and the installation of a new station (Santa Combinha), which began to report regularly to this Program from that same year onwards. IPMA also collaborates with APA in the Comprehensive Atmospheric Monitoring Programme (CAMP), of the OSPAR Convention (OSlo and PARis Convention). These two Programmes constitute the main scientific instruments for assessing the transport of atmospheric pollutants across European borders and for supporting decision-making on possible emission reduction measures.

In compliance with its obligations to monitor the effects of air pollution on ecosystems, in 2022 the APA expanded its monitoring network to include the various types of terrestrial ecosystems and increase the monitoring sites for aquatic ecosystems for better territorial coverage. This review and expansion of the monitoring network will make it possible to meet current information requirements regarding the impacts of air pollution on ecosystems and biodiversity.

It is also worth noting that, within the scope of its powers, IPMA issues statements on episodes of transport of desert dust and smoke particles that can affect air quality.

Noise

APA has responsibilities with regard to the noise prevention and the control of noise pollution, as established in the General Regulation on Noise (RGR), approved by Decree-Law no. 9/2007, of January 19, in its current wording, and by Environmental Noise Assessment and Management Regime established by Decree-Law no. 146/2006, of 31 July, in its current wording, which transposed Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June, as well as its amendments..

The APA has the following powers:

- harmonization of data collection and processing procedures;
- providing technical support to the competent authorities, including defining guidelines for the preparation of noise maps and noise reduction plans;
- analysis and approval of strategic noise maps and action plans and their reporting to the European Commission;
- monitoring compliance by different entities with the obligations to prepare strategic noise maps and action plans. and regarding the effective implementation of the measures provided for in the plans, within the established deadlines;
- centralization of information relating to external environmental noise and provision to the public of documents sent to it in this context. and
- centralization of information relating to external environmental noise, making available to the public the documents sent to it in this context.

On the APA website at <https://www.apambiente.pt/ar-e-ruído/ruído-ambiente>, information is available to the public for consultation, including:

- legal documents regulating noise production and normative documents, guidelines and technical notes,
- management instruments, where all municipal noise maps and municipal noise reduction plans prepared, approved and made available to the APA by the respective municipalities can be viewed, as well as all strategic noise maps and action plans approved by the APA.
- the terms in which noise complaints must be submitted to the competent authorities designated to act, depending on the type of noise source.

The CCDRs provide clear and accessible information within the scope of the procedures in which they have powers of coordination or participation; these include measures to

integrate the prevention and control of noise (e.g. SEA, EIA, AIncA, PMOT).

Water

The APA website at <https://apambiente.pt/agua> provides the public with reference information on water resources management, including:

- The implementation status of the various community directives (among others, the water framework directive, the bathing water directive, the urban waste water directive and the nitrates directive, the directive on assessment and management of flood risks);
- National Water Plan (PNA);
- Reports on the hydrographic region management plans (PGRH) concerning the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (DQA), including the results of the public participation phases;
- Reports of flood risk management plans (PGRI) on the implementation of the Flood Risk Assessment and Management Directive (DAGRI), including the results of the public participation phases;
- Information on the work carried out by the Management Committee of Reservoirs and the Standing Committee for the Prevention, Monitoring and Monitoring of the Effects of the Drought;
- Information on the Commission for the Monitoring and Development of the Convention (CADC) that allows management of cross-border river basins;
- Monitoring of water resources in quantity and quality;
- Licensing the use of water resources, including the 2015-2022 inspection reports that presents the main results and conclusions of actions carried out exclusively by the APA inspection services, or in cooperation with external bodies, namely SEPNA-GNR, IGAMAOT, CCDR, ICNF and AMN.

All information relating to water, transferred from INAG to APA, can be found on the National Water Resources Information System (SNIRH) at <https://snirh.apambiente.pt/>. This resource database allows the consultation of data resulting from the operation of networks which monitor the quantity and quality of surface water and groundwater. Information on water resources is also available, most notably the monthly bulletins on rainfall, temperature, reservoir storage and groundwater quantities. The SNIRH portal is being updated which aims to make a set of web services available for use by any citizen, with the objective of increasing knowledge about water resources, with a view to greater protection of water resources.

APA, as the National Water Authority, has strengthened and developed the Water Resources Surveillance and Alert System (SVARH). This system allows the management and monitoring of flood events in real time. It creates a platform to support decision-making with regard to actions that will protect people and property. The climate change may increase the incidence of very intense precipitation events, therefore new features are being developed in the SVARH to increase knowledge and perception of the risks to which the population is exposed, with a view to encouraging the adoption of self-protection measures.

The LNEG geoportal <http://geoportal.lneg.pt/> provides access to the database of Portuguese hydrogeologic resources and a glossary of hydrogeological terms – HIDROLEX.

The website of the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DGADR), the Irrigation Information System (SIR) provides information on water reserves in reservoirs (cf. <http://sir.dgadr.pt/reservas>). From 2015 onwards, the DGADR provided public access in editable format to the available records of water plans and accumulated volumes of water in the Group II Hydro-agricultural reservoirs, under the responsibility of MAM since 2005.

Waste

APA, as the national waste authority, provides relevant information on its website

<https://apambiente.pt/residuos> about the generation, production, management and prevention of waste, including the transboundary movement of waste (MTR). Some examples stand out:

- Annual national reports from 2010 to 2020 on shipments of waste requiring notification to and from Portugal, under the powers of APA as National Competent Authority for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No. 1013/2006 of 14 June;
- National annual reports from 2014 to 2020 on shipments of waste subject to the general requirements for information, to and from Portugal, under the powers of APA as National Competent Authority for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No. 1013/2006 of 14 June;
- A set of FAQs, links providing access to Guidelines, as well as user manuals for the MTR Green List and MTR Orange List modules of SILiAmb, which aim to inform the citizen about the interpretation and application of the procedures required under the MTR.
- Annual publication of reports on urban waste (RARU) which aims to monitor the production and management of urban waste, by urban waste management system, as well as to present Portugal's position in relation to the community targets, set out in PERSU 2030, and the progress made in meeting the targets of each of the aforementioned systems;
- 2010 and 2011 update of the National Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) Decontamination and Disposal Plan, in compliance with Decree-Law No. 277/99 of 23 July, rectified by Rectification No. 13-C/99 of 31 August, amended by Decree-Law No. 72/2007 of 27 March, particularly in relation to the updating of data concerning the disposal and decontamination of equipment containing or contaminated by PCBs and by PCB-contaminated oils, pursuant to the terms and deadlines set forth in Directive 96/39/EC of the Council of 16 September; and making available the 2010 Guide to Good Practices for the Management of Equipment with PCBs, and the preparation of annual "National PCB Inventory" reports, available at <https://apambiente.pt/prevencao-e-gestao-de-riscos/inventario-nacional-de-pcb>;
- "Standards and Procedures" - a set of documents aimed at informing citizens and companies with regard to interpretations and clarifications on current legislation in force and APA's interpretations on waste, complemented by information and documents available on the website to support the use of the Integrated Electronic Waste Recording System (SIRER) modules of the APA Information System, SILiAmb (Integrated Environmental Licensing System) - <https://apoiosiliamb.apambiente.pt/>;
- Statistics on the production and management of waste covered by specific legislation.

The licences are still accessible, together with a set of FAQs on the activities of the management entities licensed to oversee specific waste stream management systems.

Soils

Within the scope of contamination prevention and soil remediation, in addition to the guides indicated in the previous report, the following technical guides and recommendations were prepared/updated and published on the APA website:

- "Technical Guide - Reference Values for Soil", 2019 – rev. 3, September 2022;
- "Technical Guide – Soil Sampling Plan and Monitoring Plan", 2019 – rev. 2, January 2022;
- "Technical Guide – Methodology for Determining Natural Soil Fund Values", 2022;
- "Technical Guide – Reference matrices for presenting analytical results", 2020 – rev. 1, July 2021;
- "Measures/Recommendations to be adopted in terms of licensing, monitoring of execution, supervision and inspection of urban operations – soil assessment and remediation aspects", 2019 – rev. 4, July 2021;
- "Guidance Document - Soil remediation operations - Management of uncontaminated soils", 2021 – rev.1, August 2021;
- "Guiding Elements - Soil Quality Assessment Report", 2023;

- “Guiding Elements - Quantitative Risk Analysis Report”, 2023;
- “Guiding Elements – Remediation Project”, 2023;
- “Guiding Elements - Intermediate/Final Soil Remediation Report”.

Environmental Responsibility

As part of the implementation of Directive 2004/35/EC, of the EP and of the Council, of 21 April, amended by Directives 2006/21/EC, 2009/31/EC and 2013/30/EU, of the EP and of the Council, , APA made available on its website the reports "Legal Framework for Liability for Environmental Damage - Environmental Occurrence Report" (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/avaliacao-e-gestao-ambiental/ocorrencias-ambientais>).

Regulation of water and waste services

The Water and Waste Services Regulator (ERSAR) plays important roles in the context of Aarhus, such as analysing users' complaints and conflicts with the utilities providing public water supply services, urban wastewater sewerage services and urban waste management on mainland Portugal, promoting conciliation and arbitration between the parties and taking the measures it deems necessary and urgent. It provides a telephone and e-mail contact service for service users to monitor and clarify issues related to the management of complaints.

ERSAR regulates the service quality of around 400 utilities, implementing an annual cycle of quality of service regulation for each one. This cycle begins in January, on the basis of previously defined procedures and specifications, providing management entities with access to the ERSAR portal in order that they may see data relating to each individual activity (supplies, sanitation and waste) for the previous year, also enabling them to access the resulting data and indicators together with the extraction of reports containing results and data. ERSAR then begins the process of validating that data, in its own office and/or by in-situ audits of the utilities. ERSAR then evaluates the service quality, using a set of indicators regarding the adequacy of the user interface, sustainability of the service management and environmental sustainability. It analyses the evolution over time of each management entity compared to the baseline; evaluates contradictions by utilities and considers possible changes in the evaluation; compares utilities with each other performing benchmarking by clusters and comparing with the reference values; evaluates the evolution over time of each service quality indicator for all the entities.

ERSAR promotes a comparison and public disclosure of the activities of the companies which manage public water supply, wastewater sewerage services and urban waste management, consolidating a culture in which concise, credible, and easily interpreted information is made available. For this purpose, ERSAR annually makes available to all stakeholders of the sector, including consumers, the Annual Report of Water and Waste Services (RASARP), available on its website <http://www.ersar.pt/pt/publicacoes/relatorio-anual-do-setor>. The data in the databases that are the basis of this analysis are also immediately available to the public, free of charge. These data provide baseline information for the national statistical system and for monitoring and follow up of the sector's strategic plans (such as PEAASAR and PERSU 2020). ERSAR, in its cycle of economic regulation, evaluates the proposals for the formation/revision of tariffs for year n+1 from the utilities that provide services to end users, in accordance with the Regulatory Procedures Regulation (Regulation No. 446/2018, of 23 July), concentrating on coverage of expenses and affordability to service users. These and other ERSAR opinions are available on its website and can be viewed by any user.

As part of economic regulation, ERSAR gathers data on end-user tariffs in force in the various municipalities of the country. On the ERSAR website, the monthly charges most recently found associated with a consumption of 10m³/month (currently for the year 2018) and the respective tariffs (since 2007) are available, by municipality.

Another aspect of economic regulation involves an analysis of accounts belonging to the

regulated services of the management entities providing services to end users, based on the financial statements for each regulated service, in the format requested by ERSAR, with the inherent calculation of cost coverage.

Also worthy of note is the billing model for water and waste services provided by ERSAR, which includes detailed information on the content of the bills and simplified information on details relating to water quality, wastewater sanitation and the despatch of urban waste, pursuant to Decree-Law No. 114/2014 of 21 July, as amended by Law No. 41/2018 of 8 January.

Regarding the invoice model, ERSAR launched Public Consultation no. ° 3/2024 - Draft Recommendation regarding the information to be included in service invoices, with the aim of consolidating the various guidelines already issued by this regulatory entity on the information to be included in invoices, also meeting additional information requirements imposed by Decree-Law n° 69/2023, of August 21.

Conservation of Nature, Biodiversity and Forests

ICNF, as part of its mission to promote and develop information regarding the enhancement and public recognition of natural heritage, makes available on its website www.icnf.pt an extensive set of general and technical information in the field of nature conservation and biodiversity and sustainable forest management. A diverse range of information is available on this site, and it concerns in particular: the Natura 2000 network (geographic distribution, objectives, management models, etc.), protected flora and fauna species, regulations and guidelines for sustainable forest management (notably with regard to the Forest Management Plans - PGF), annual information on areas burned by forest fires, different plans and initiatives to control forest pests and diseases, the phenomenon of desertification and how to minimise its impact, and the "Business & Biodiversity" initiative, among others. In the field of territorial planning, in the nature conservation sector, the ICNF is responsible for preparing special programs for protected areas. In this context, in addition to the right to information and participation provided for in the Legal Framework for Territorial Management Instruments (DL no. <https://www.icnf.pt/conservacao/ordenamentoegestao/programasespeciaisdasareasprotegidas>). To date, the Special Program for the Serras de Aire e Candeeiros Natural Park has been published (RCM no. 104/2023, of September 1).

At the regional level, it is worth highlighting the “Regional Ecological Structure - Pedestrian Paths as a Feature of Enhancement”, systematization and dissemination project, available on the CCDR LVT website (cf. <http://www.ccdr-lvt.pt/pt/estrutura-ecologica-regional-%7C-percursos-pedestres-como-fator-de-valorizacao/9860.htm>).

National Nature Reserve (REN)

The objective of the REN, as established in its legal framework (in Decree Law No. 166/2008 of 22 August, amended and republished by Decree Law no. 124/2019 of 28 August), is to protect natural water and soil resources, safeguard biophysical processes and systems associated with the coast and the terrestrial hydrological cycle, prevent and reduce the effects of degradation of the resupply of groundwater resources, the risks of marine floods, flooding, soil erosion and mass movement of slopes (landslides), and contribute to the ecological coherence and connectivity of the Basic Network of Nature Conservation.

The legal framework of the REN establishes in article 6 thereof the right to be informed of and participate in procedures for developing the strategic and operational measures of the REN (achieved through the definition of the boundaries of the REN at municipal level).

The National Commission of REN (CNREN) was initially set up by the Ministry of Quality of Life, by Decree-Law No. 321/83 of 5 July, but it only started operating after the repeal of this statute by Decree-Law No. 93/90 of 19 March. Since then, its composition, constitution and powers have varied according to the changes in the REN legal framework and

compliance with the mandates of its members. Following subsequent legislative changes (in particular Decree-Law No. 166/2008 of 22 August, amended and republished by Decree-Law No. 239/2012 of 2 November, it was replaced in 2015 by the National Land Commission (CNT) through Decree-Law No. 80/2015 of 14 May, which approves the revision of the Legal Framework of Territorial Management Instruments (RJIGT). The CNT, chaired by the Directorate-General of Territory (DGT), follows on in part from CNREN's powers, abolished by article 201. Its role includes the responsibility of coordinating the implementation of national spatial planning policy. It has held ordinary meetings every two months since September 2015 at the DGT premises. The CNT has a web page (cf. <https://cnt.dgterritorio.pt/>) containing information on the matters discussed at the meetings, reference documentation within the scope of its powers, with emphasis given to the opinions and recommendations of this body, including a public area dedicated to REN where technical guides and recommendations are available to support the delimitation of this restriction of public utility. Within the scope of this Commission, in addition to the Working Group for REN (GT REN), the Working Group for Territorial Management Instruments (GT IGT) and the State Report on Spatial Planning Working Group (GT REOT) were in operation. The REN WG promoted, whenever necessary, a set of activities with a view to supporting the delimitation of REN in terms of the typology of Areas at High Risk of Soil Erosion by Water or Headwaters of Hydrographic Basins. In the last three years activities included carrying out tests to assess a methodological procedure for delimiting Headwaters of Hydrographic Basins and holding a workshop with the participation of DGT, APA (central services and ARH), CCDR and some guests. This initiative promoted the acquisition of skills by the bodies involved in the process, notably in terms of critical interpretation of the results. The work carried out also resulted in the production of a Technical Guideline to Support the Calculation of the Headwaters of River Basins

- https://cnt.dgterritorio.gov.pt/sites/default/files/ORIENTACAO_TECNICA_CABECEIRA_S_REN_20240701.pdf. The CCDR in the first instance, and subsequently the Technical Secretariat of the CNT, answer questions addressed to it in writing, by phone or by e-mail, from the general public or from public or private entities, providing information regarding the REN. In addition to the information provided by the CNT, the CCDR provide information on the boundaries of the REN at municipal level published in a Council of Ministers Resolution, in paper format but usually accompanied by online tools on its webpages (cf. Algarve Spatial Data Infrastructure IDEAlg <http://idealg.ccdr-alg.pt/ren.aspx>; REN cartography and georeferenced files in the Alentejo CCDR at <http://giserver.ccdr-a.gov.pt/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a4616dc789c2418fb044e24693af6e02> and <https://www.ccdr-a.gov.pt/index.php/ord/ren/consulta-da-ren>; the LTV CCDR provides an extended set of informative resources at <http://www.ccdr-lvt.pt/pt/reserva-ecologica-nacional-ren/1345.htm>, etc.). Some CCDRs also provide answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) on their websites, which seek to clarify doubts regarding the application of the RJREN, in particular the procedures therein, as well as any prohibitions, restrictions and compatible uses or action. DGT, which has maintained the collection since 2008 and is responsible for delivering letters pertaining to the municipal delimitation of the National Ecological Reserve (REN), promoted the expansion of the IGT Automatic Submission Platform (SAIGT) to accommodate, from January 2017, simplified publications in the Official Gazette and delivery to DGT by CCDRs of maps of the REN. All of the published maps of REN and contained in the files of the National System for Territorial Information (SNIT) are now available online and via web services; they have been digitalised and georeferenced for this purpose and uploaded in a simplified format onto the SAIGT Platform (cf. <http://snit-mais.dgterritorio.gov.pt/PortalSNIT/>)

National Agricultural Reserve

The National Agricultural Reserve (RAN) is defined as the set of lands that, by virtue of their agroclimatic, geomorphological and pedological characteristics, are deemed more suitable for agricultural activity (cf. <https://www.dgadr.gov.pt/ambord/reserva-agricola-nacional-ran>). As such, it is an instrument of territorial management which restricts public

use by establishing a set of constraints on the non-agricultural use of land, and which plays a fundamental role in the preservation of soil resources and its allocation to agriculture.

RAN's objectives are:

- To protect the soil, a fundamental element of land, in order to support the development of agricultural activity;
- To contribute to the sustainable development of agricultural activity;
- To promote the competitiveness of rural territories and contribute to territorial planning;
- To help preserve natural resources;
- To ensure that the current generation respects the values to be preserved, allowing for diversity and sustainability of resources for future generations which are at least similar to those inherited from previous generations;
- To contribute to the connectivity and ecological coherence of the basic network of nature conservation;
- To adopt precautionary management measures which take due account of the need to prevent situations which could prove unacceptable for the perpetuity of the soil.

In exceptional circumstances, non-agricultural use of the land is permitted in RAN areas, where it is considered compatible with the objectives of protecting agricultural activity, upon prior binding opinion or prior notification to the relevant regional entity of the RAN. Favourable opinions can only be granted when one or more of the situations referred to in the sub-paragraphs of paragraph 1 of article 22 of Decree-Law No. 73/2009 of 31 March are concerned, with the changes introduced by Decree-Law No. 199/2015 of 16 September, in conjunction with Ordinance No. 162/2011 of 18 April, and where there is no viable alternative outside of the RAN.

An appeal may be lodged with the National Agricultural Reserve Entity (ENRA) against an ERRA decision; interested parties will be notified by official letter of the ERRA's or the ENRA's decision.

The RAN cartography, in shapefile format, is available at <https://www.dgadr.gov.pt/cartografia/reserva-agricola-nacional>.

Agriculture

The mission of the Planning and Policies Office (GPP) is to support the definition of strategic lines, priorities and objectives to be included in Ministry of Agriculture (MA) and Ministry of the Sea (MM) policies, and of coordinating, monitoring and evaluating their application, as well as ensuring their representation in the community and internationally, while providing technical and administrative support to the offices of government members and other bodies and services which make up the MA/MM, integrating the environmental component and guidelines in matters of planning and sustainable management of the territory. To this end, its website, www.gpp.pt provides information relevant to the sector in terms of dissemination and support to citizens; in particular:

- Agricultural policy / Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): includes information on, among other things:
 - Instruments and Measures of Support applicable in Portugal regarding payment for agricultural practices which benefit the climate and the environment under the direct payments regime, and on the legal management requirements and minimum standards for good agricultural and environmental conditions of land under the cross-compliance regime, <https://www.gpp.pt/index.php/table/pac/instrumentos-e-medidas-de-apoio/>
 - The Future of the CAP, which provides information on the CAP post-2020, including the Strategic Plan for the CAP 2023-2027 currently in preparation, <https://www.gpp.pt/index.php/pac/pac-pos-2020>
- Production and markets - Market Support: includes information and technical guidance on the Fruit and Vegetables Operational Programmes (POFH) as part of the National Sustainability Strategy for Operational Programmes in the Fruit and

Vegetables sector 2019-2023; that is, national and community legislation, description of environmental measures and activities, manuals and forms, <https://www.gpp.pt/index.php/po-frutas-e-hortcolas/po-frutas-e-hortcolas>

- Production and markets - Combating Food Waste: information produced as part of the National Commission to Combat Food Waste (CNCDA), namely: the Strategy and Action Plan, progress reports, the various initiatives, procedures for awarding the distinctive Sustainable Production, Sustainable Consumption seal, the Platform (under development) for food donation, <https://www.cncda.gov.pt/>
- Statistics and analysis - Information Systems: includes the Agricultural Accounting Information Network (RICA), with information on income and economic activities with regard to agricultural holdings, produced to assess the efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of measures to support agriculture within the scope of the PAC, <https://www.gpp.pt/index.php/rica/rede-de-informacao-de-contabilidades-agricolas-rica>
- Statistics and Analysis - Statistics: Structural Agricultural and Production Statistics, which comprises various agricultural statistics on a national (Agricultural Statistics, 2018, INE) and European (Statistical Book on Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics, 2020 edition, ERSOSAT) level, as well as statistics relating to Organic Agriculture and Certifications of Geographic Origin, among others, <https://www.gpp.pt/index.php/estatistica-agricolas-estruturais-e-de-producao/estatisticas-agricolas-estruturais-e-de-producao>
- Statistics and Analysis - Analysis: Drought Monitoring, information produced within the scope of the Standing Committee for the Prevention, Monitoring and Monitoring of the Effects of Drought, in particular the Prevention, Monitoring and Contingency Plan for Drought Situations and Agrometeorological and Hydrological Monitoring reports, <https://www.gpp.pt/index.php/monitorizacao-da-seca/impacto-da-seca>

Information on agro-environmental measures, such as those promoted under the Rural Development Plan, PDR 2020, are directed from the GPP website to the website of the Management Authority (cf. <http://www.pdr-2020.pt>).

The mission of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DGADR) is to promote the development, competitiveness and sustainability of agriculture and rural territories. It is the central department of the Ministry of Agriculture, with specific responsibilities in the area of professional training in the fields of agriculture, forests, agri-food and rural development. On its website www.dgadr.gov.pt it provides a wide range of information about the different areas it governs, which can be accessed and viewed by any citizen. An answer is always provided by letter, fax or e-mail to members of the public or any organisation that requests it. This website provides information on:

- Soil Mapping and Land Use Capability as well as other thematic maps, available in analogue and digital format. (WMS and WFS map service or *shapefile* at: <https://www.dgadr.gov.pt/cartografia/servicos-wfs-e-wms>);
- Thematic and irrigation cartography (cf. <http://sir.dgadr.gov.pt/>);
- Irrigation areas and use of water from reservoirs (SIR) (cf. <http://sir.dgadr.pt/reservas>) together with the Strategy for Public Irrigation 2014-2020 which, in addition to defining concepts and the basis for guides to be followed in the development of public irrigation, identifies some of the priority interventions; this is not, however, a plan of works;
- Global System for Innovation and Modernization of Portuguese Agriculture (SIGIMAP). The support platform (cf. <http://sigimap.dgadr.pt/>) allows operational support to be provided for the purpose of a knowledge and information transfer network between the DGADR and the Associations of Irrigators and Beneficiaries; provide joint information, handled with credible analysis methods and objectified in standard indicators. It is a simple and versatile tool that provides support to its various users in technical, economic, environmental and political decision-making (policy definition and investment priorities).
- Portuguese Partnership for the Soil (cf. <http://parceriaptsolo.dgadr.pt/index.php>)
- National Soil Information System (SNIS) - updating the cartographic synthesis and

making credible and joined-up information on soils available (classification systems, language and methodologies) with access via a web portal and map service (to be completed by 2021);

- Water needs of crops. Sources of water for irrigation and environmental action 7.1 for water saving
- Structuring of land ownership, with emphasis on the National Pool of Land (cf. <http://www.bolsanacionaldeterras.pt/>);
- Diversification actions in rural areas (handicrafts and micro-enterprises, tourism in rural areas, mycological resources and rural heritage) providing the Manual of Good Practice in the Harvesting and Consumption of Wild Mushrooms, Guide to Collecting Mushrooms and Guide for the Observation of Rural Heritage (cf. <https://www.dgadr.gov.pt/diversificacao>);
- Detailed information on Professional Training;
- Adoption of support measures to create positive discrimination in favour of family farming, providing information and technical guidance on the Statute of Family Farming (EAF) and application form at <https://www.dgadr.gov.pt/agriculturafamiliar>;
- Implementation of the Nitrates Directive (Directive 91/676/EEC of the Council of 12 December 1991), with information on the Vulnerable Areas of mainland Portugal (<https://www.dgadr.gov.pt/rec-hid/diretiva-nitratos/zonas-vulneraveis>), the Action Programme, published by Ordinance no. 259/2012, of 28 August (<https://www.dgadr.gov.pt/rec-hid/diretiva-nitratos/programa-de-accao>) and the new Code of Good Agricultural Practices, published by Order no. 1230/2018, of 5 February, the respective quarterly reports published since 1996 and the Public Participation Report in the Action Plan, as well as Information Note No. 1/2014 on the calculation of the amount of nitrogen supplied by irrigation water (N), among other things;
- Use of animal by-products (SPA) and derived products (PD) as organic fertilisers or organic soil improvers (FOCOS), subject to the health rules laid down in Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009 of the European Parliament of 21 October;
- The scheme for the use of sewage sludge on agricultural land, transposing into national law Directive 86/278/EEC of the Council of 12 June;
- New Regime for the Exercise of Livestock Activities (NREAP), under which the DGADR has promoted several acts, namely:
 - agricultural and environmental awareness, through the holding of sessions to share good agricultural and environmental practices, in the field of sustainable management of livestock effluents, to various stakeholders and citizens;
 - sharing of information, either technical or legal, via the respective website and seminars, embodied in the legal rules applicable to the livestock activity, as well as in the interpretative/informative rules prepared by the NREAP working group (consisting of several bodies, namely, the APA, the CCDR, Regional Directorates of Agriculture and Fisheries (DRAP), Institute for Financing Agriculture and Fisheries (IFAP), General Directorate of Food and Veterinary Matters (DGAV), DGT and representatives of the livestock sector). It provides clarification/information about the procedures applicable in the NRAP;
 - consultation of stakeholders during the legislative review applicable to livestock activities; namely, the review of Ordinance No. 631/2009 of 9 June, on the management of livestock effluents, which was submitted to public consultation via the NREAP WG.

Also in this context, DGADR participates in the Nutri2Cycle Project, promoted by the Instituto Superior da Agronomia, which started in 2018 and will run until 2022, and which aims to develop the circular economy with regard to agricultural holdings. This Project will analyse the agricultural practices applied to the various agricultural holdings in Europe, in terms of environmental impact, with a view to identifying the agricultural practices which allow for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a reduction in soil erosion. This project is based upon the sharing of information and knowledge between the respective participants, increasing their capacities in areas relating to agriculture and the environment;

- Means of sustainable production and improved quality, with reference to production methods - integrated protection (IP), integrated production (PRODI) and organic production (MPB). The "traditional.pt" brand is to be highlighted, a collective brand of registered certification that aims to differentiate traditional Portuguese food products (agricultural products, foodstuffs or prepared dishes) as a form of protection and appreciation of their authenticity. The Quality Certification Scheme is worthy of mention because it is the process by which an independent entity attests that a product meets certain standards, regulations or specifications, thereby providing a guarantee so that third parties can be certain that these requirements have been complied with;
- Agriculture and organic production (cf. <https://mpb.dgadr.gov.pt/>). The XXI Constitutional Government took on a commitment in its Programme to define a National Strategy for Organic Agriculture and implement an Action Plan for the production and promotion of organic agricultural products and foodstuffs. On 27 July 2017 RCM No. 110/2017 was published, which approves the National Strategy for Organic Agriculture (ENAB) and the Action Plan (PA) for the production and promotion of agricultural products and organic foodstuffs. In this statute, the DGADR undertakes to coordinate the implementation of the measures provided for in the strategy. The DGADR publishes a monthly newsletter providing information on what has been done in each period (cf. <https://www.dgadr.gov.pt/estrategia-nacional-para-a-agricultura-biologica>).
- Other certification and good practice schemes, such as voluntary certification schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs intended to provide guarantees regarding certain aspects of the product or its production method, in accordance with established standards (cf. <https://www.dgadr.gov.pt/sustentavel/outros-sistemas-de-certificacao>);
- Traditional products and PDO / IGP / ETG (cf. <http://tradicional.dgadr.pt/pt/>), as well as reference to labelling, marketing standards and quality terms;
- Genetic resources, taking into consideration the increasing concerns of consumers with regard to the preservation of the environment and the quality of agricultural products, having defined strategic lines of enhancement in terms of the quality policy (cf. http://www.dgadr.pt/images/docs/val/Recursos_Geneticos/planos_recursos_geneticos_set_2014_final-1.pdf);
- Mediterranean diet (cf. <http://dietamediterranea.net/>);
- Guide to Aid for Farms (cf. <http://guiaexploracoes.dgadr.pt/>);
- Guide to Supporting the Creation of Microenterprises (cf. <http://data.dgadr.pt/microempresas>);
- Guide to supporting the establishment of the Statute of Family Agriculture (EAF) (<https://www.dgadr.gov.pt/agriculturafamiliar>);
- Agricultural And Forestry Advisory Service (SAAF) - Regulation (EC) No. 1782/2003, of the Council, of 29 September (cf. <http://saaf.dgadr.gov.pt/>);
- One-Stop Shop (cf. <http://www.dgadr.mamaot.pt/balcao-unico>).

Sea

Regarding access to information, EMEPC provides the scientific community with data, samples and images collected as part of its Extension Project in the Sea of Portugal campaigns, by completion of a form available on the website <https://www.emepc.pt/campanhas-dados-e-amstras>. In addition, it is a partner organisation of information systems about the sea, such as the SNIMar (cf. <http://snimar.pt/>), BioMarPT (cf. <http://biomarpt.ipma.pt/>) projects and SEAMind (<https://www.dgpm.mm.gov.br/seamind>). Developed by the DGPM, the SEAMInd platform – Economic, Social and Environmental Monitoring Indicators is an integrated decision support system within the scope of policies for the Sea, allowing alignment with transition policies towards a blue economy, with low carbon content and more efficient use of resources, which also contributes to measuring the results of the National Strategy for the Sea in economic, social and environmental terms; Public sessions have been organized to present the project and the progress of the work, with the participation of representatives

of the broad network of partners, who work collaboratively to measure the results of maritime policy in Portugal.

During the 2nd cycle of implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2018-2024), the DGPM ensured the economic and social analysis of marine waters, based on methodologies supported by the OSPAR Convention guidelines, focusing on indicators such as Gross Value Added (GVA), employment and production, in line with international standards. These data are crucial to ensure the monitoring and assessment of the environmental status of national marine waters and the pursuit of the objectives defined in the environmental targets and the Program of Measures.

Within the scope of the analysis of the Integrated Territorial Investment for the Sea (ITI Sea), provided for in the governance model of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and published in Decree-Law No. carried out in the 2021 report, published in December 2022, highlights the contribution of the ITI Sea to national and European strategic objectives, as well as the positive impact on the sustainability and development of economic activities linked to the Sea..

Coastal management

As part of its remit, APA promotes the development and implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy (ENGIZC), and ensures its implementation at the regional level, ensuring the protection and enhancement of coastal zones. Following up on ENGIZC, APA developed the first version of Coastal Action Plan XXI (PAL XXI) in 2017 as a instrument of reference for active management of the coastal zone, looking to a future beyond 2020. This document, updated in 2019 and 2024, reflects the main lines of policy and strategic options for the Coast, identifies and prioritizes the interventions to be undertaken on the basis of a vision that takes into account the geographic specificities of each stretch of the Coast, and which responds to the global processes arising from climate change.

The Coastal Action Plan XXI is subject to a follow-up and evaluation. This allow an assessment of the results achieved, correction of any deviations, and an understanding of the physical and financial performance by type of intervention and area of operation, as well as how to adapt or update it whenever the territorial dynamics or planning instruments so require.

The Coastal Resource Management System (SIARL) is a collaborative platform for supporting decision-making which provides a global and local view, promoting the integration of entities and users, and favouring the continuous update of knowledge on coastal dynamics, with particular focus on coastal risks. It guarantees a closer relationship between the administration and the general public, with the provision of updated information on this subject. This platform, which until 2016 was governed by the Directorate General for the Territory (<http://www.siarl.igeo.pt/destaques.aspx>), was transferred to the APA infrastructure, and is currently in the final phase of testing and information loading (<https://siarl.apambiente.pt/>). This platform has 3 different user profiles: a public profile, a partner profile and an APA technician profile in development and updating.

The APA, recognizing the importance of integrating technical-scientific knowledge generated by monitoring into the management and decision-making process of coastal zones, launched the Monitoring Program for the Coastal Strip of Continental Portugal (COSMO) in 2018. The COSMO Programme, co-financed by POSEUR and with a total cost of approximately €3,500,000 over three years, has consolidated the technical-scientific knowledge generated by coastal monitoring as an essential mechanism for the integrated interpretation of the evolution of the coastal zone and as a dimension of decision support. The knowledge and forecasting capacity improved by the analysis and interpretation of coastal monitoring data by the national technical-scientific community and APA has allowed it to carry out several projects/studies and interventions in the field of coastal protection/defense, environmental impacts, risk management and cost-benefit analysis. The

future continuity of the COSMO Program is essential to continue ensuring support for decision-making by coastal strip management entities and for applied research in this area of knowledge. The new program (called COSMO 2.0) will start soon (September/October 2024), being in line with the previous one, but duly adjusted and adapted in view of the accumulated experience and respective learning process, in order to correct and improve some particular aspects, namely in terms of: cost optimization, readjustment and adaptation of monitoring areas, temporal frequency and acquisition techniques..

It is worth highlighting that the National Roadmap for Adaptation 2100 project – assessment of the vulnerability of the Portuguese territory to climate change in the 21st century (RNA 2100), came to define narratives of the evolution of vulnerabilities and impacts of climate change, as well as the assessment of investment needs for adaptation and socioeconomic costs of inaction. Coastal areas were addressed within the scope of WP4 – Sectoral Impacts and Modelling - WP4.5/6 – The impact of climate change on the Portuguese coastal areas: from sea level rise to coastal erosion. In RNA 2100, an exhaustive and comprehensive assessment of the future hydro-morphodynamic changes projected along the coastal strip of mainland Portugal was carried out. Future coastline evolution and extreme coastal flooding projections were obtained through high-resolution hydro- and morphodynamic modeling for five critical sectors, selected due to their greatest vulnerability to climate change (based on historical records). Projections, based on ensembles forced by Global Climate Models (GCMs), were used to accurately assess the extent of projected future extreme coastal flooding based on RCP4 scenarios. 5 and RCP8.5, having carried out a national analysis of coastal vulnerability. (cf. <https://rna2100.apambiente.pt/pagina/programa-ambiente-alteracoes-climaticas-e-economia-de-bottom-carbono>).

APA is also responsible for managing the water domain in the river and maritime components. In planning land use, APA ensures the preparation of new special programmes: for the coastline and public water reservoirs, and of the respective management regulations relating to the water domain and contiguous areas. In this context and in addition to the right to participate and receive information, which is guaranteed in the preparation of new coastal programmes, the approved programmes, accompanying documents and geographical information produced are made available to the public on its website. In addition to the Coastal Edge Programs (POC) for the Ovar-Marinha Grande and Alcobaça-Cabo Espichel sections, approved through RCM no. 112/2017 of 10 August and no. 66/2019 of 11 April, respectively, in the last three years, the Coastal Zone Programmes (POC) for the Caminha-Espinho e Espichel-Odeceixe sections were approved, through RCM no. 11/2021 of 11 August and RCM no. 87-A/2019 of 4 October, respectively. The Management Regulations for the sections Ovar-Marinha Grande, Alcobaça-Cabo Espichel and Espichel-Odeceixe were also approved through Notices no. 11506/2017, of September 29, no. 12492/2019, of August 6 and no. 23368/2022, of December 12. Is currently under consideration for Public Discussion the Management Regulation of the Caminha-Espinho section and is in the final stage of preparation the POC for the Odeceixe-Vilamoura section.

In terms of Spatial Planning, APA participated in the preparation of the National Programme for Spatial Planning Policy (PNPOT), approved by Law No. 99/2019 of 5 September, Diário da República No. 170/2019, and in the preparation of the State of Spatial Planning Report, under the responsibility of DGT. In this context, it participates in the meetings of the PNPOT Intersectoral Forum, as well as in the monitoring and updating of indicators and initiatives that guarantee compliance with the established objectives and measures.

It also forms part of the Monitoring Committees for the Regional Territorial Planning Programs (PROT) and the Landscape Reorganization and Management Program (PRGP), coordinated, respectively, by the CCDR and DGT.

Geology

LNEG, in addition to the activities of general public disclosure on its Geoportal

<http://geoportal.lneg.pt/>, provides integrated geoscientific content of the national territory in digital format, streamlining its use and moving it closer to citizens as well as the support provided to decision-making centres. Several online databases related to energy, geology (including geo-sites), marine geology, groundwater and geothermal information are available at this Geoportal.

Chemicals

APA provides information on chemicals on its website <https://apambiente.pt/prevencao-e-gestao-de-riscos/quimicos>, in particular under the following EU Regulations.

- Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 December, concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH); its implementation in domestic law was guaranteed by Decree-Law No. 293/2009 of 13 October;
- Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 December, concerning the Classification, Labelling and Packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP); its implementation in domestic law was guaranteed by Decree-Law No. 220/2012 of 10 October;
- Regulation (EU) No. 649/2012 of the European Parliament and the Council of 4 July, concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals (PIC);
- Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on persistent organic pollutants; its execution in the national legal system is ensured by Decree-Law No. 75/2022, of October 31.

To ensure the provision of advice to manufacturers, importers, downstream users and any other interested parties regarding the respective responsibilities and obligations under REACH and CLP, the National Assistance Service was created, coordinated by the Innovation and Competitiveness Agency (IAPMEI) with the collaboration of APA and the General Directorate for Health. As one of the competent entities in terms of REACH monitoring, without prejudice to the powers of the Food and Economic Safety Authority (ASAE) and the Tax and Customs Authority (AT), IGAMAOT makes reports on inspections in this area available on its portal. For its part, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA - <https://echa.europa.eu/pt/home>) plays a leading role in compiling and disseminating information to the public, particularly within the scope of the REACH, CLP, POP and PIC Regulations. The APA's action in this context focuses on community monitoring, including the discussion and decision-making forums of ECHA and also the European Commission, as well as on the assessment of the environmental effects of substances, in particular for the proposal of classification and labelling at European Union level. IGAMAOT is represented in the ECHA forum and participates in a set of REACH-EN-FORCE (REF) projects, the summary of which is made available in an annual report of its international activity: <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/pt/espaco-publico/relatorios/relacoes-internacionais>.

Limited use of Micro-organisms and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

APA makes available on its website <https://apambiente.pt/prevencao-e-gestao-de-riscos/organismos-geneticamente-modificados> detailed and updated information on the operations of limited use involving microorganisms and genetically modified organisms, within the scope of Decree-Law No. 55/2015 of 17 April, e também informação detalhada e atualizada sobre as libertações deliberadas no ambiente de organismos geneticamente modificados, no âmbito Decreto-Lei n.º 72/2003, de 10 de abril. No âmbito das suas competências de inspeção nesta matéria, a IGAMAOT publica sínteses dos resultados das ações inspetivas no seu portal sobre o Regime de Utilização Confinada de Microrganismos e Organismos Geneticamente Modificados, o mais recente – da campanha de 2023 - em <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/contents/pagecollapselist/relatorio-mgo-ogm-2024.pdf>.

Prevention of Serious Accidents

As regards the provision of information to the public under the scheme to prevent major accidents and Decree-Law No. 150/2015 of 5 August, APA keeps detailed and updated information on its website for the general public and operators of establishments covered by this legislation, such as the establishments governed by this legislation and related obligations, as well as several guidance documents and forms supporting compliance with these obligations (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/prevencao-e-gestao-de-riscos/prevencao-de-acidentes-graves>).

APA has also held meetings, information sessions and seminars on this topic, in addition to always being available to provide explanations in writing or by telephone.

In transposing Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and the Council of 4 July (the "Seveso III Directive"), the operators and entities involved in the implementation of the law were invited to participate in the six-year assessment of implementation of the law, either by being present at the stakeholder consultation session held in September 2013, or by sending their contributions to the implementation process. As a result of this assessment, one of the points identified as positive was the interaction with stakeholders as well as the production of guidelines and guidebooks to assist operators in implementing the law.

APA does not, although it is provided for in law, disclose the safety reports through publication on the APA website. These documents are available on request, subject to the provisions of legislation concerning access to environmental information and the possibility of such being confidential. It should be noted that this way in which APA works is aligned with the provisions of the "Seveso III Directive", which stipulates in its article 14, paragraph 2 that the safety report is made public on request.

The National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority (ANEPC) website also makes available to the public, under the Emergency Planning Information System, the external emergency plans of the establishments covered by Decree-Law No. 254/2007 (cf. <http://planos.prociv.pt>).

When risk situations occur that may affect persons, property or the environment, the ANEPC issues warnings to the general public and press releases disclosing the possible effects and the respective self-protection measures.

Moreover, the most important active occurrences in the area of civil protection and the respective history by district are recorded daily on the ANEPC website (cf. <http://www.prociv.pt/cnos/HAI/Pages/Junho2016.aspx>).

As part of its inspection powers in this matter, IGAMAOT publishes summaries of the results of inspection actions on its portal, the most recent - from 2023 -, accessible at https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/contents/pagecollapselist/relatorio-seveso-2022-2023_1056.pdf. At the international level, IGAMAOT collaborates with the Major Accident Hazards Bureau (MAHB), Joint Research Centre and is part of the Technical Working Group on Seveso Inspections (TWG2) and the Mutual Joint Visit Programme for Seveso inspectors (MJV).

Radiological Protection, Nuclear Safety and Safe Radioactive Waste Management

With the entry into force of Decree-Law No. 108/2018 of 3 December, APA assumed the functions of competent authority for radiological protection, for nuclear safety, as well as for the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, with the exception of practices involving medical exposures, resulting from the changes introduced into this diploma by Decree-Law No. 139-D/2023. With the changes introduced, the competent authority for practices with medical exposures became, from July 1, 2024, the Health Regulatory Authority.

APA exercises the powers of a regulatory authority independently, remaining functionally distinct from any other body or organisation relating to the promotion or use of regulated practices. It is equipped with its own human, technical and financial resources that are

necessary for its operation. IGAMAOT, as an inspection authority in the areas of radiological protection, nuclear safety and radioactive waste, independently inspects compliance with the aforementioned Decree-Law No. 108/2018, with amendments introduced by Rectification Declaration No. 4/2019, of January 31, by Decree-Law No. 81/2022, of December 6 and by Decree-Law No. 139-D/2023, of December 29, establishes the legal regime for radiological protection, namely through the planning and carrying out of ordinary or extraordinary inspections.

Verification of compliance with this legislation was reinforced by entities with specific competences in the matter, namely the General Inspectorate of Health Activities (IGAS) in the areas of activity and provision of health care, in the public and private sector, the Authority for Working Conditions (ACT) in the area of labor relations and the Food and Economic Safety Authority (ASAE) in the areas of economic activity.

APA is therefore responsible for ensuring the existence of a high level of radiological protection and nuclear safety, as well as the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, except in practices involving medical exposures, for which this responsibility is assigned to the Health Regulatory Body.

As part of its regulatory functions in these areas and in compliance with legal provisions, APA provides, through its website and free of charge, all information regarding the legal framework and the regulations issued by it, including the thematic guidelines for the regulated sectors. Information on nuclear safety and radioactive waste is also available on the APA website, being a legal obligation of the respective frameworks. On the other hand, operators are also responsible for disclosing information to the public about their activities. APA also makes available on its website, at no cost to the user, reports submitted regarding compliance with community provisions, as well as under international conventions, such as the Nuclear Safety Convention, and the Joint Convention for Safe Management of Irradiated Fuel and Radioactive Waste.

In compliance with Decree-Law No. 108/2018, APA is the body responsible for preparing and implementing the National Radon Plan, approved by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 150-A/2022. The preparation of this plan involves the design of an e-Communication Strategy to raise public awareness and inform local decision-makers, employers and employees about the risks of radon, including in combination with tobacco. Several actions have already been taken in this context, such as: making website content available on the APA dedicated to the issue of radon (general information, health effects, forms of propagation inside buildings, mitigation measures); a citizen's helpline dedicated to radon, with its own e-mail address and telephone line; brochures and posters for dissemination; webinars dedicated to different target audiences and recorded for subsequent viewing on the APA website.

IGAMAOT discloses to the public summaries of all inspection actions carried out involving their competences within the scope of Radiological Protection, Nuclear Safety and Safe Management of Radioactive Waste. To this end, it provides a link on its website, where any citizen can consult and download the said summaries (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/pt/espaco-publico/relatorios/inspecoes-de-seguranca-e-prevencao-de-riscos>). IGAMAOT collaborates with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the areas of nuclear and radiological safety, sealed radioactive sources, processing of naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM), radioactive waste. It also established, together with the APA, a tripartite Protocol for sharing information/training with the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear (CSN), Spain.

Radiological Emergency

APA is the competent authority for planning and responding to radiological emergencies whenever the effects for workers, the public and the environment do not constitute an emergency coordinated by the competent civil protection entities, under Decree-Law 108/2018 of 3 December. APA is also the contact point for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as the Competent Authority for the Conventions of Rapid Notification of

Radiological and Nuclear Accidents, and for the European Commission, at the level of the European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange (ECURIE).

APA also assures, under its own powers, technical contact with the Competent Authority of Spain for radiological and nuclear emergencies of Spain, the Nuclear Safety Council (CSN).

In order to optimise bilateral relations with Spain in these matters, and to better protect the public in the event of an accident, APA, ANPC, the Instituto Superior Técnico of the University of Lisbon, the Portuguese Republic, and the Nuclear Safety Council of the Kingdom of Spain on 30 July 2015 signed a Technical Protocol concerning nuclear and radiological emergencies and environmental radiation protection.

In this context, APA also includes the National Radiological Emergency Commission (CNER), which is chaired by the President of the ANEPC and made up of national entities with powers in radiological and nuclear matters.

In the event of a radiological emergency, information is provided to the public in accordance with the provisions of Decree-Law No. 108/2018 of 3 December. This Decree-Law establishes the "prior information" that should ensure the population likely to be affected in the event of a radiological emergency is informed of the appropriate safety measures to take. The communication mechanisms in the event of accidents can follow various routes, with surveillance personnel 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Inspection in environmental matters, radiological protection, and land use planning and nature conservation

With a view to making information available to the public within the scope of its powers, IGAMAOT has been reinforcing a coherent and integrated approach to the functions entrusted to it, in particular those which ensure that the legal and regulatory norms concerning a wide range of matters, and in their areas of intervention, are complied with, with regard to both government bodies and private operators, and even citizens.

With this in mind, the IGAMAOT portal presents relevant information on its activity, providing information to all citizens on the results of the General Inspectorate's work in the different areas in which it intervenes, in the control, inspection and audits of services and bodies within the scope of IGAMAOT's activities, in the respective areas of administration and management, and in the mission areas, namely in the scope of food regulation and safety and the control of support financed by national funds and European Union funds and, in the areas of the environment, radiological protection, land use planning and nature conservation, the permanent monitoring and evaluation of legality. On this portal, the user also has information about access to administrative documents, accessible at <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/pt/espaco-publico/pedido-de-documentacao/pedido-de-documentos-administrativos>.

The National Environmental Inspection and Monitoring Plan (PNFIA), launched in 2017, constitutes an annual strategy with national incidence, based on a digital platform designed and created by IGAMAOT, with the assumed purpose of developing synergies resulting from the articulation, in a sustained and systematic way, of the specific attributions of each of the entities with licensing/supervision and inspection attributions in the environmental government area. The PNFIA platform allows for accommodation and planning in a coordinated manner, as well as making the most of resources and avoiding unjustified overlaps in actions, with efficiency gains in the activity of monitoring compliance with environmental legislation by the Administration. The PNFIA annual reports present the results registered on the platform by all the entities that comprise it: IGAMAOT, APA and their respective Decentralized Services, the Hydrographic Region Administrations (ARH) of the North, Center, Tejo and West, Alentejo and Algarve, the five Regional Coordination and Development Commissions (CCDR) of the North, Center, Lisbon and Tagus Valley, Alentejo and Algarve, and the Directorate-General for Energy and Geology (DGEG). The 2023 report is available at

<https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/contents/pagecollapselist/extratorelatoriopnfia2023.pdf>.

IGAMAOT's legal powers and responsibilities in environmental matters require it to give priority to inspections determined by the Risk Analysis Systems of the different legal regimes whose control it is directly responsible for, namely, facilities covered by the industrial emissions regime, in particular the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control regime and activities and facilities that use organic solvents; activity facilities covered by the regime for the prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances; facilities covered by the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Products and Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulations; radiation protection inspections; and also specific inspections within the scope of waste transport and operators associated with waste transfers.

Portuguese cooperation in the environment area

Relevant information on Cooperation for Development, Language and Culture - as part of Portuguese Foreign Policy - is published and permanently updated on the website of Camões - Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, I.P. (www.instituto-camoes.pt), with particular emphasis on information relating to Development Cooperation programs, projects and actions, as well as the most important instruments and strategies in this field.

In this context, the Portuguese Cooperation Strategy 2030 (ECP 2030), approved by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 121/2022 (<https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/resolucao-conselho-ministros/121-2022-204502329>), stands out, constituting the reference framework for the implementation of the public policy of international cooperation for development, giving national and international coherence to the efforts made and reinforcing the political commitment in this matter. In this document, in the “Planet” pillar, through thematic axis 5, it is planned to strengthen sustainability and resilience, encompassing three priorities:

- 5A. Climate action and green transition, supporting partner countries to seize opportunities in the transition to more sustainable economic development patterns, particularly in the energy, agriculture, water and sanitation, waste or biodiversity sectors;
- 5B. Oceans and the blue economy, focusing on various actions promoting governance and sustainable management of the oceans and their contribution to development;
- 5C. Biodiversity, defending the integration of nature conservation and biodiversity policies.

Protecting the environment and combating climate change within a framework of promoting sustainability constitutes one of the guiding principles integrated transversally into the cooperation policy at all levels and is considered a structuring pillar of this policy.

Also within the scope of Portuguese cooperation in the environmental area, and as reported in the previous report, the information covered by the second National Strategy of Education for Development (ENED), which is reflected on the website <https://ened-portugal.pt/pt/home>. It is also important to mention that the General Secretariat of the Ministry responsible for Environmental policy created the “Rede CPLP Ambiente” website (cf. <http://www.ambientecplp.org/>) and ensures that its content is constantly updated. This website provides information on the activities of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) in the field of the environment, including the Ministry's initiatives with CPLP member countries, and access to the texts of the main conventions in the fields of environment, climate change and desertification.

Regional information

As part of their duties and responsibilities, the Regional Coordination and Development

Committees - CCDR - generally provide updated information on:

- Environmental matters:

- Environmental Impact Studies (EIA) subject to public consultation and respective Non-Technical Summaries (NTS);
- Environmental Impact Statements;
- Environmental Incident Decisions;
- Monitoring Reports;
- Regional inventories of atmospheric emissions;
- Annual Air Quality Reports.

- Spatial planning matters

Follow up of the preparation, modification, revision and monitoring of Plans:

- Regional Spatial Plans (PROT);
- Municipal Land Plans (PTM), which consist of
 - Municipal Land Management Master Plans (PDM),
 - Urban Development Plans (PU) and
 - Detailed Plans (PU);
- National Nature Reserve (REN);
- Opinions on Soil Use, Occupation and Transformation.

The Alentejo CCDR specifically provides updated documentary and cartographic information on the Regional Land Management Plan of Alentejo at <https://www.ccdr-a.gov.pt/programa-regional-de-ordenamento-do-territorio-prot/>.

CCDR LVT provides up-to-date documentary and cartographic information on the Regional Spatial Plan for the Territory of the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon (PROT AML) and the Regional Spatial Plan for the Territory of Oeste and Vale do Tejo (PROT OVT) at <https://www.ccdr-lvt.pt/ordenamento-do-territorio/programas-planos-regionais-de-ordenamento-do-territorio-prot/>.

CCDR Algarve provides information through a spatial data infrastructure of Algarve IDEAlg - <http://idealg.ccdr-alg.pt> - which adopts information and communication technology (ICT) and uses geographical information system (GIS) technology. The page for the PMOT contains features that provide for the interactive search of municipal master plans by municipality, by type, by the current status of such plans or by their location on the regional plan, as well as by the respective name. It also provides direct links to look up the legal instruments referred to in the information made available for each plan. PROT Algarve can be found at <https://www.ccdr-alg.pt/site/info/prot-algarve>.

The stand-out tools of the North Portugal CCDR are the Land Monitoring System (GTS) for the Northern Region, with systematisation and availability of up-to-date territorial information; the Mapoteca Geographic portal; the Alto Douro Wine Region (TdP) monitoring system; in addition to the database of sources of gas emissions and the Air Quality Measurement Network of the North Portugal Region. Information about PROT Norte can be found at <https://www.ccdr-n.pt/pagina/prot-norte>.

The CCDR Centro provides information through a spatial data infrastructure – IDECENTRO, a system that brings together a set of technologies, policies, institutional agreements and tools which, by providing high levels of interoperability, facilitate exploration, sharing and access to information of a spatial nature between different data producers and users. The most visible component of this project, where the various resources are made available to the public, is the IDECENTRO.CCDRC.PT geportal, available at <http://idecentro.ccdrc.pt> Information about the PROT Center can be found at <https://www.ccdrc.pt/pt/areas-de-atuacao/ordenamento/prot-centro/>.

The Computer System of the Legal Framework of Urbanisation and Construction (SIRJUE) is also worthy of note. This tool was made available in 2008 on the Local Government portal (cf. <http://www.portalautarquico.pt/pt-PT/servicos-on-line/sirjue/>). It cuts the red tape of the entire urban licensing process, making it accessible online to all stakeholders,

allowing the final opinion of the municipality to be obtained in just one month.

Of note in 2013 in terms of administrative simplification is the fact that at the “One-Stop Entrepreneur Shop” <http://www.portaldaempresa.pt/CVE/pt/bde>, a set of forms related to the application for licensing landfill projects was made available, with the collaboration of AMA, APA and the CCDR.

The role of the Ombudsman

As there are several entities that exercise powers in the field of the Environment, the Ombudsman directs citizens to contact the competent entities at national, regional and local level. The Ombudsman asks the public authorities for clarification in order to deal with complaints about specific environmental issues, providing the information received to complainants. The high technical complexity of some procedures that require the integrated analysis of various legal regimes is difficult to understand by citizens without specific qualifications and who are not organised into an association. In these cases, the Ombudsman's intervention also has the effect of elucidation, by means of more accessible language.

Article 5, paragraph 3

The information on the environment is progressively available online in easy to access databases. Many of them are geo-referenced and most often associated with digital platforms for participation and access to citizenship at national, regional and local levels. These tools have constituted significant steps towards civic awareness and promotion, and are established in article 14 of the CPA - Decree-Law No. 4/2015 of 7 January.

The Ministry of Economy, through GEE, in October 2022 published a global approach on the topic of Environmental Economy and made available a database for systematizing indicators - <https://www.gee.gov.pt/pt/estudos-e-seminarios/competitividade-category/32429-pilar-de-competitividade-economia-do-ambiente>. With these two tools, the aim was to diagnose national progress in terms of the environment and compare performance in relation to other EU countries; In addition, it aimed to contribute to monitoring progress achieved and support the evaluation of policies in this area. The database includes data on the importance of the environment in the Brazilian economy, on the implementation of environmental policy and the relative importance of environmental taxes and spending.

Climate, climate action and National Adaptation Roadmap (RNA) portals

The climate data and high-resolution climate simulations produced for mainland Portugal and the Madeira and Azores archipelagos are part of the Climate portal, produced within the scope of RNA 2100 (<http://rna2100.portaldoclima.pt/>).

The Climate Action portal (<https://transparencia.gov.pt/pt/ambiente/tema/>) is a public digital tool to, following the principle of transparency under article 10 of the Climate Framework Law (Law no. 98/2021), allow citizens and civil society to participate in climate action and monitor systematic and national information on:

- Greenhouse gas emissions and the sectors that contribute most to these emissions;
- Progress towards the goals referred to in section II of chapter IV;
- The sources of financing available, at national, European and international level, for actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change, for the public and private sectors, and their respective implementation status;
- The international goals and commitments to which the Brazilian State is bound;
- Studies and research and development projects carried out within the scope of climate change; and
- International cooperation projects in the field of climate change.

All detailed results obtained within the scope of the RNA 2100 project are accessible and available to the public on the Project website (<https://rna2100.apambiente.pt>).

National Environmental Information System (SNIAmb)

APA developed the National Environmental Information System (SNIAmb) in 2010. It is an instrument that aims to optimise and streamline procedures for the collection, evaluation and communication of relevant and reliable information on the environment to support decision-making processes and the development and implementation of environmental policies and strategies and their integration into sectoral policies: <https://sniamb.apambiente.pt>.

The SNIAmb currently includes three key tools: the Geographical and Documentary Metadata portal, the Sustainable Development Indicators portal and the Geographical Information Viewer.

National Water Resources Information System (SNIRH)

The National Water Resources Information System (SNIRH) consists of a database that stores hydro-meteorological and water quality data (surface and underground), collected by the water resources monitoring network. Access to this information is made through the system portal <https://snirh.apambiente.pt>, where monthly thematic summaries are also published, aiming at a description of national water availability, technical reports, cartography on water resources (for example floodable areas), technical documents and photographs related to water resources. The system is based on an open data policy, in order to facilitate its wider use.

Marine Environment Information Systems

The BioMar PT project (cf. <http://biomarpt.ipma.pt/>) – Learning more about the marine environment in Portugal – is an initiative that aims to contribute to increased staff skills to ensure the implementation of the Strategic Marine Framework Directive (DQEM) in mainland Portugal, providing training and qualification in the carrying out of continuous multidisciplinary monitoring, acquisition of technical skills for the application of standardised methodologies for processing and analysis of collected samples, as well as the processing and analysis of data and their availability in a simple, uniform and easy to understand way. It is promoted by IPAMA and has EMEPC and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Marine and Environmental Research (CIMAR) as partners.

The SNIMar project (cf. <http://snimar.pt>) was established to answer questions like "what data about the marine environment exist?", "where are they?" and "how can I access them?". To this end, the project identified and harmonised information on the marine environment that is dispersed around various public entities and centralized it on a technological platform that is easy to access and use – the SNIMar geoportal (cf. <http://geoportal.snimar.pt/>). The SNIMar geoportal is an important tool for the environmental management of Portuguese marine waters, contributing to the implementation of the DQEM, as it facilitates sharing, research and access to marine metadata and data; it is especially useful for public administration officials and researchers from universities and research institutes. Sponsored by the EMEC, it is currently managed by IPMA and has the support of a number of other entities,

Coastal Resource Management System (SIARL)

New SIARL is based on geographical information, associated with a database, using a geoportal to provide information relating to the coast (cf. <http://siarl.dev.apa.local/destaques.aspx>).

Currently, for the public profile, SIARL provides the following modules:

- Occurrences on the coast (such as overtopping or slope mass movements);
- Documents of interest for coastal knowledge and with geographical expression;
- Directory of Entities;
- Metadata,

in addition to providing a set of basic information, including information related to the Water Domain, MDT, oblique photographs, drone flights as well as various spatial analysis resources.

For the most comprehensive profile (APA technical), this system provides a set of advanced recording, editing and research tools and resources organized in the following modules:

- Occurrences in the coastal domain
- Coastal interventions, including actions that involve investment (such as coastal defence works and interventions in areas at risk);
- Water Domain - demarcation of the bed and bank boundary lines, DPH delimitation processes, legal actions for recognition of private property, among others;
- Soil use and occupation, through the centralising of access to decisions of central and local government relating to land management;
- A set of predefined thematic geoviewers;
- Management Support;
- Adaptation Strategy;
- Directory of Entities;
- Documents of interest with regard to knowledge about the coast and of geographical significance.

This platform is being developed and updated with a view to adapting the system to Coastal Adaptation Strategies in Climate Change Scenarios through two components: Collection, Processing and Uploading of Data; and Technological Development to modernise the system and implement new functions to adjust to the new paradigms of coastal management. As part of this project, APA acquired 3 centimeter-precision drones.

Monitoring Programme for the Coastal Strip of Mainland Portugal (COSMO)

COSMO involves the collection, processing and analysing of information on the evolution of beaches, dunes, in-shore sea beds and cliffs along the coastal strip of mainland Portugal.

As part of the monitoring work, it has systematically carried out topographic (terrestrial and aerial means – UAV) and hydrographic surveys on beaches, dunes, in-shore sea beds and cliffs. The information obtained under the COSMO Programme has significantly increased knowledge about the evolution of the coastal strip, as well as the respective impacts and situations of increased risk, and it is available at <https://cosmo.apambiente.pt/>

InfoPraia application on the quality and occupation of bathing areas

In 2019, APA launched the “Beach Info” mobile application to quickly provide up-to-date information on beaches and the quality of coastal, transitional or inland bathing waters on the continent. In a straightforward and simple way, it provides information on the annual classification data of each area of bathing water, its main characteristics (type of bathing water, existence of the blue flag award and accessible beach, existence of works, risk of cliff erosion) and existing services - restaurants, bathing support, lifeguard, availability of amphibious wheelchair, among other things.

Throughout the bathing season, APA performs around 6,000 analyses to assess whether the waters are still suitable for bathing. Users of this app will be notified whenever the respective results are obtained, with their favourite beaches always highlighted.

In addition to the information provided by APA, daily weather forecast data is provided by

IPMA - Portuguese Sea and Weather Agency service.

Information System on Environmental Impact Assessments (SIAIA / EIA Digital)

Decree-Law No. 151-B/2013 of 31 October, like the legal framework which it repealed, assigns to APA the role of the national EIA, the authority responsible for ensuring the coordination and technical support under the referred legislation. It is the responsibility of APA, as the national EIA authority, to organise and maintain a system of information on EIA. This agency, therefore, publishes on its website (cf. <http://siaia.apambiente.pt>) all information relating to EIA processes, both those in the public consultation phase (which have also been made available since July 2015 on the PARTICIPA portal - <http://participa.pt>), and those on which a decision has already been reached.

Integrated Environmental Licensing System (SILiAmb)

Administrative simplification and the computerisation of processes are key challenges to promote economic growth, competitiveness and quality of life of citizens. Environmental licensing involves several stakeholders, where users, citizens or corporate bodies stand out as agents interested in engaging in activities with an environmental impact. The State is also involved, which has responsibility that begins on receipt of requests to use, followed by its expert analysis based on multiple criteria and subsequent decision. The decisions of the State are based on legislation and factors related to planning and management.

The Integrated Environmental Licensing System (SILiAmb) placed this relationship between users and the State on an electronic platform where, in addition to systematically steering the process data, it is possible to streamline the expert analysis and improve communication between the parties, reducing bureaucracy and enabling the provision of a better quality, faster and nationally harmonised service. It was developed to enable the reduction of red tape, standardisation, simplification and streamlining of licensing procedures for the different areas under the responsibility of APA - it currently includes the licensing of water resource uses with greater demand and the gradual integration of the Integrated Electronic Waste Registration System (SIRER), which already includes the report of Transboundary Movements of Waste (MTR), with regard to "green list" waste, reporting the "orange list" to MTR, issuing and managing the electronic waste monitoring guides (e-GAR), the forms of the Integrated Registration Map for Waste (MIRR) and the Urban Waste Registration Chart (MRRU), the registration of product producers and the registration of operators. It was presented on 23 October 2012, a date that also marked its public disclosure: <https://siliamb.apambiente.pt>

The commissioning of this platform ensured a range of benefits in the licensing of water resources, which include:

- Easy access, easy to use and precise indications for each type of use in accordance with legal requirements, reducing the time private individuals and businesses spend on submitting applications;
- Standardisation of forms nationwide;
- Harmonisation of evaluation criteria of the licensing process, although allowing some flexibility to include regional specificities;
- Expert analysis supported by the environmental constraints report, automatically obtained by geoprocessing, with the consequent reduction of the analysis periods and issue of utilisation permits;
- Systematisation and management of the collection of self-monitoring data on a single platform;
- Greater transparency and consistency in the application of legal schemes in force;
- Easier data validation;
- Optimisation of APA's human and financial resources.

The current SIRER, supported on SILiAmb, constitutes a uniform mechanism for recording and accessing data by the State about the various types of waste, replacing the previous

paper-based record systems and charts. The registration requirement remains, for that purpose, the responsibility of waste producers and entities operating in the waste transport, commerce and treatment sector, and also of those who place products covered by the extended responsibility of producers and by entities managing specific waste flows. Although the data registered in the SIRER are not automatically available for consultation by the public, it is from this system that the information necessary to respond to data requests is obtained, serving as a basis for evaluating the results of policies, measuring the performance of the Urban Waste Management Systems (SGRU), calculating the Waste Management Fee (TGR), and preparing national statistics, as well as community and international reports.

In 2015, the website <http://apoiosiliamb.apambiente.pt/> was created, where information is made available to support the use of SILiAmb, namely the modules related to waste: e-GAR, MIRR, specific flows, to support completion and ensure better data quality.

Decree-Law No. 75/2015 of 11 May, on the Single Environmental Licensing Regime (LUA) was also published in 2015, which applies to all licensing and authorisation procedures in the environmental field. This law establishes that the decisions of each of the environmental regimes are embodied in an electronic instrument - the Single Environmental Document (TUA) - that collects all the information related to the requirements legally applicable to the establishment or economic activity related to the environment. It is also envisaged that all requests for environmental licensing or prior checking are presented in a form of reduced bureaucracy through an electronic shop.

In this context, the LUA Module was developed on the SILiAmb platform, designed to ensure articulation with the electronic platforms provided for in the regimes applicable to the economic activities in which the LUA is involved.

The LUA Module in SILiAmb is composed of a dynamic simulator and an electronic form that is dynamically generated according to the simulator results and the request actually made. This tool aims to enable the electronic processing of all applications for licensing and authorisation, and the applicant is able to:

- Access the simulator, which determines the contextualisation of the activity, project or establishment under the various applicable environmental regimes, as well as the calculation of the corresponding sole environmental rate;
- Choose the integrated sole environmental licensing or include only one or more licensing acts;
- Submit the licence application after completing the electronic form;
- Follow all procedural phases of the LUA;
- Obtain the TUA.

For management, the BackOffice component of the LUA module in SILiAmb aims to enable the consultation and analysis of licensing and authorisation applications covered by Decree-Law No. 75/2015. The BackOffice user may perform the following actions:

- Access all processes and respective information;
- View the updates made by the departments involved and their technicians;
- Request additional data elements from the applicant, with or without suspension of the deadline;
- Confirm the information to be made available in public consultation;
- Submit the process for public consultation;
- Propose a decision according to the regime;
- Terminate the process at the request of the applicant or for duly justified reasons.

Information System on Waste Management Operations Licensing (SILOGR)

The Information System on Waste Management Operations Licensing (SILOGR) is a computer application that aims to facilitate access to relevant data about companies licensed to develop waste treatment operations, with a view to its correct routing and handling. Since the beginning of 2019, licences issued through the LUA module have

automatically migrated to SILOGR. However, the data made available do not replace or take precedence over the licences/permits issued by the respective licensors.

Air quality information system (QualAr)

Since 2001, air quality information has been made available daily on the APA website, and QualAr <https://qualar.apambiente.pt> has been implemented, an online Information System (IS) that constitutes a repository of information on air quality collected at monitoring stations on the Portuguese mainland and islands. This IS gives access, almost in real time, to the concentrations of various pollutants measured at all stations on the mainland and islands, those exceeding the threshold for providing information to the public and/or the alert thresholds. It also gives access to the information archive concerning the characteristics of the stations and the statistical processing of the validated data

The QualAR system also includes an information processing and analysis component with the aim of providing the public with an easy to read air quality index (IQAr); this is made available in accordance with two levels of information, by zone/agglomeration and by station. The IQAr has five classes, from "Very Good" to "Bad", calculated by taking into account the existence of mandatory measurements of pollutants which differ depending on whether it is a zone or agglomeration: the arithmetic averages of the measured values for ozone pollutants (O3) are considered as being particles with a diameter of 10 µm (PM10) or less, or 2.5 µm (PM2.5) or less in the case of zones, and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollutants and PM10 or PM2.5 in the case of agglomerations. If information on sulphur dioxide (SO2) is available, this can also be taken into account in the calculation.

The global index for each zone/agglomeration results from the worst result obtained in relation to the pollutants monitored at the stations in each area, with the pollutants at the highest concentration being responsible for the colour of the index and for the respective classification attributed to daily air quality.

From 2008 onwards, QualAr began to provide daily information regarding the predicted indices and levels for inhalable PM10 particles and ozone, for the same day and for the following day. In 2019, the forecasting service was improved and also started to show information for PM2.5, NO2 pollutants, as well as the contribution to PM10 concentration originating from a natural event. The evolution of this service also included the provision of air quality forecasts using data produced within the scope of the European Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring System (CAMS) project, with the implementation of the CAMS model in the global and pollutant visualization format, on the forecast maps (Madeira and Mainland) already implemented and made available using the national forecast models. This implementation made it possible to provide the QualAr forecasting system with an alternative backup service in the event of the unavailability, for technical reasons, of the forecast using national simulation models, triggered through an automatic system.

IS QualAr is also disseminated through an app, enabling it to be used as widely as possible, having been implemented, since April 2024, the possibility of accessing all the services of this IS, also from mobile devices.

A procedure was established, besides the reporting through QualAr, with regard to information to the general public concerning values in excess of the information and alert thresholds, making it the responsibility of the CCDR to send real-time e-mails to various local/regional/national agencies and media entities when such events occur, to better disseminate the occurrence among the public, technicians and decision makers.

Also published on the website of APA are reports of the results of continuous scrutiny of the self-monitoring of air pollutants, with information from the universe of sporadic sources that meet legal requirements, the analysis of non-conformities and the monitoring regime, as well as the assessment of trends.

National inventories of atmospheric emissions

APA is responsible for the coordination, annual preparation and online availability of national inventories of atmospheric emissions that include greenhouse gases (GHG) and respective carbon sinks, acidifying substances and other air pollutants. The CCDR are responsible for regional inventories of the area under their territorial jurisdiction and the dissemination of the results.

The National System of Air Pollutants Emissions and Removal Inventory (SNIERPA) includes an entire set of institutional and legal responsibilities and the definition of procedures intended to ensure the emissions estimate has a high level of confidence, its timely reporting in compliance with legal obligations on the matter, the archiving of all relevant information and access of the public to information related to inventories.

National Radioactivity in the Environment Warning Network (RADNET)

APA maintains a network of continuous measurement of radioactivity in the environment, so that situations of abnormal increases of radioactivity in the environment can be detected (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/prevencao-e-gestao-de-riscos/rede-de-alerta-de-radioatividade-no-ambiente-radnet>). RADNET consists of 14 fixed stations for measurement of the environmental radioactivity rate in the air, 1 fixed station for measuring the environmental radioactivity rate in the water (at Fratel Dam on the River Tagus), 1 mobile station, 1 portable station and 1 self-moving station for measuring the environmental radioactivity rate in the air.

The expansion of RADNET is underway with the aim of providing this network with 6 new stations and with the capacity to identify radioisotopes, through the acquisition of gamma spectrometers and the acquisition of mobile monitoring capability. Information on the results of online and real-time measurements of RADNET is permanently available to the public on the APA website <https://radnet.apambiente.pt>.

National Forest Inventory (IFN)

The ICNF is responsible for the IFN. It is a process of a statistical and mapping nature that aims to assess the abundance, status and condition of national forest resources in mainland Portugal. The production of statistics in the IFN is based on sampling processes, which are performed at different stages that comprise the overall task of the Inventory. Now in its 6th edition, the ICNF portal provides information about the IFN at <https://www.icnf.pt/florestas/flestudosdocumentosestatisticasindicadores>. Following previous exercises, it allows us to assess the temporal evolution of the state and use of forest resources.

ICNF Information System (SI-ICNF)

With the entry into force, on 17 October 2013, of the legal scheme applicable to afforestation and reforestation actions (RJAAR) established by Decree-Law No. 96/2013 of 19 July, it is the responsibility of ICNF to ensure the authorisation and prior communication of action procedures, establishing a system of control, assessment and information.

On 1 September 2015, the information system of the RJAAR (SI ICNF - RJAAR module) <https://www.icnf.pt/florestas/arborizacoes/rjaar> entered into operation, governed by joint ordinance of the Secretaries of State for Administrative Modernisation and of Forests and Rural Development, Ordinance No. 204/2014 of 8 October.

It should be noted that the ICNF has its spatial data infrastructure available at <https://geocatalogo.icnf.pt/>, which allows citizens to view and download geographic information related to nature and forest conservation issues (geocatalogue), as well as interact with this information through GeoRubus <https://geocatalogo.icnf.pt/websig/>.

National Geographical Information System (SNIG)

The General Directorate of Territory (DGT) is responsible for the Spatial Planning, Urban Planning and Geographical Information portal <http://www.dgterritorio.gov.pt>. In this context, it coordinates and develops the SNIG <https://snig.dgterritorio.gov.pt>, National Spatial Data Infrastructure (IDE) that aims to enable, from several points of access, the possibility to search, view and explore geographical information about the country. It is also a space of contact that helps streamline, coordinate and organise the activities related to this topic in Portugal and also in the context of the INSPIRE Directive.

DGT is the national contact point for the INSPIRE Directive. In developing the SNIG and preparing the application of this Directive, networks of contact points and metadata managers were created that, actively participating and in a joined-up way, allow the establishment of harmonised bases of national metadata and the pursuit of the goals of SNIG and INSPIRE. In 2015, Vision SNIG2020 was produced (cf. <https://snig.dgterritorio.gov.pt/sites/default/files/Documentos/120/Visao-SNIG2020-R11-final.pdf>), built in a collaborative and participatory manner, following a broad national debate on what is expected of the national geographic information infrastructure (IIG) in the medium term. Like the INSPIRE Directive, the SNIG2020 Vision intends to have an IIG based on an open data policy that guarantees cost-free sharing of geographic information produced or held by public administration bodies. A commitment to the use of free and reusable open-source software in other infrastructures is another of the principles defended in the SNIG2020 Vision.

National Territorial Information System (SNIT)

To ensure public access to information from the national archive of the Land Management Instruments deposit (Territorial Plans and Programmes), the DGT developed the SNIT, provided for in the Legal Framework of Territorial Management Instruments.

From its creation (2008) until today, SNIT has created a pathway of technological evolution and increased the information it makes available. As of 1 July 2017, the SNIT also made REN's municipal maps available. In 2019, it was possible to invest in the development and updating of its software and provide it with new features capable of providing more information in the field of Public Utility Easements and Restrictions (SRUP) and in the Areas and Operations of Urban Rehabilitation (ARU/ORU). In 2020, a new IT infrastructure was implemented to support better performance (cf. <https://www.dgterritorio.gov.pt/snit>). In the context of resilience measures to rural fires, from 2021 onwards this system began to provide Landscape Intervention and Management Areas and Operations (AIGP/OIGP), as well as Landscape Reorganization and Management Programs (PRGP), within the scope of the Landscape Transformation Program (PTP). In 2023, SNIT began to serve the Integrated Rural Home Management System by providing the primary network and secondary network of fuel management bands and other SRUP that are part of it.

Therefore, the SNIT is an official information service providing a public information service about the national territory and the state of its planning. This enables public and private bodies and the general public to obtain up-to-date, independent and autonomous consultations.

SNIT currently provides more than 2.200 web services and comprises:

- 3 geoportals (SNIT Geoportal, SNIT+, Overlay portal and SNIT Loc Location Plan to be integrated into the Entrepreneur's One-Stop Shop;
- 2 online exploration and consultation applications, respectively for the current IGT in force and SRUP;
- 2 Digital platforms that, in an integrated manner, converge towards the progressive improvement of access to the documental and cartographic contents of the Instruments of Territorial Management and Soil Policy.

Collaborative Territorial Management Platform (PCGT)

The PCGT went into production on 1 July 2017, with the aim of supporting entities involved in the procedures for forming territorial programmes and plans. Its goal is to provide all documentary information through a single platform, as well as managing communications between all those involved in the process of monitoring territorial programmes and plans (cf. <https://pcgt.dgterritorio.gov.pt/>). In 2024, 464 entities and 2.951 users were accredited in the PCGT, of the 1.117 procedures of programs or territorial plans integrated into this system, 562 were in progress on this date.

The PCGT has a citizenship zone (cf. <https://pcgt.dgterritorio.pt/lista-procedimentos>), designed to provide interested parties and citizens in general with information of a public nature regarding the monitoring of territorial plans and programmes.

Observatory for Spatial and Urban Planning (OOTU)

The OOTU established by Order No. 9315/2019 of the SECNFOT Office, of 15 October 2019, is intended to monitor, follow up and assess the effects of territorial public policies and the implementation of the PNPOT, and aims to improve access to information, reinforce territorial culture and support strategic decision-making about the territory.

DGT, aware of the need for joined-up thinking and cooperation between entities that contribute to producing information and knowledge about the territory, ensured the creation of a digital platform for this purpose, for the production, organisation and availability of the national system of territorial indicators (cf. <http://observatorioindicadores.dgterritorio.gov.pt>).

The integrated system of indicators made available under the OOTU is structured around four fundamental themes and allows public access to information through the visualization of statistical maps, for different territorial divisions, to which detailed supporting information is associated.

Platform for the Automatic Submission of Territorial Management (SAIGT)

SAIGT started operating in 2011, and from that date ensured simultaneous submission for publication in the Diário da República (DR) and deposit of the IGT in into the DGT, complete legibility of the respective graphic documents, making full advantage of the fact that they were created in digital, standardised format, and the rapid availability for consultation on the SNIT - in particular, geographic information and WEB services - and the visualization of graphic documents on the SNIT via a link from the DR (cf. <https://ssaigt.dgterritorio.pt>).

The advantages of the procedure through SAIGT have progressed with new versions, responding to the need to extend the obvious set of advantages to other statutes alongside the IGT. It was first extended to municipal maps of RENs in January 2017. In 2018, a new module was included for publication in DR of the ARU/ORU. A new module for other SRUPs is under development, and a new module for Landscape Intervention and Management Areas and Operations (AIGP/OIGP) is being planned as part of the Landscape Reorganisation and Management Programmes.

Also with a view to continuing a policy of open data and informed participation, DGT provides the following information:

- Land Use and Occupation Map (COS) (updated to 2019). CRUS is an official territorial information product, nationwide, produced by DGT, based on the Municipal Master Plans in force, in an attempt to standardise the various classes of land use on mainland Portugal. Access to information on the land use regime is made available via 279 WFS services on SNIT and aims to promote the monitoring and evaluation of public policies, giving weighting to their

territorialization (cf. <https://www.dgterritorio.gov.pt/Carta-de-Uso-e-Ocupacao-do-Solo-para-2018>);

- Land Use Map - COS (2018 edition) - COS2018 is a thematic map of land use and occupation for mainland Portugal for the year 2018. The Directorate-General for the Territory being responsible for its production. This work, completed in the first quarter of 2020, is crucial in order to allow for an analysis of the dynamics of land use and occupation for Mainland Portugal, namely by comparisons with the current versions of COS1995, COS2007, COS2010 and COS2015 that are made available by DGT on its website and through SNIG. (<https://www.dgterritorio.gov.pt/ordenamento/crus>);
- Built up areas and urban-rural interface. The 2018 Mapping of Built Up Areas and Urban-Rural Interface for mainland Portugal was produced by DGT as part of a project (POSEUR-02-1810-FC-000504) developed in partnership with the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests, aimed at producing information to support the planning of forest defences against fire. The products of this cartography are available via the SNIG web services;
- 25 cm Orthophotos - Mainland Portugal – 2018. Regular coverage with 25 cm orthophotos. Orthoimages showing the territory of mainland Portugal acquired with a digital photogrammetric camera, with spatial resolution (GSD) of 0.25 m, with four spectral bands (RGB+NIR), obtained by a orthorectified aerial photography mosaic. Made available by DGT on its website and via SNIG;

Irrigation Information System (SIR)

The SIR is a website under the responsibility of DGADR, the National Irrigation Authority, which has compiled information on national irrigation, in particular its public aspect, i.e. the hydro-agricultural irrigation projects promoted at the initiative of central government (cf. <http://sir.dgadr.pt>). The SIR has a range of information available which is useful not only for farmers, but for all types of general public, such as:

- General Cartography
- Thematic Cartography concerning Irrigation
 - Irrigation vs. Aridity index
 - Irrigation vs. Nature Conservation Areas
 - Irrigation vs. Susceptibility to desertification
 - Irrigation vs. Burnt areas (2004-2006)
 - Irrigation vs. Less Favoured Areas (EAFRD)
 - Rehabilitation/modernisation needs
 - Water reserve in reservoirs
 - 2012 drought
 - Monitoring the irrigation campaign
 - Monitoring the water level of reservoirs
 - Change in the water level of reservoirs

National Rural Network (RRN)

The RRN is a structure linking agents with active roles in rural development, which aims to disseminate and share information, experience and knowledge with the objective of improving the implementation of programmes and measures for the development of rural policies and the qualification of the intervention of the agents involved in rural development. The RRN interacts with the European Network for Rural Development, the Network of the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture and Agricultural Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) and the Rural Networks of other Member States. It is operated under the DGADR, and developed by a Technical Organisation (ETA) which includes a central unit (DGADR) and regional focal points (Regional Directorates of Agriculture and Fisheries, on mainland Portugal, and Regional Offices in the Autonomous Regions). Network activity has a strong component connected with public access to information on

Rural Development which, from the perspective of sustainability, includes the environmental dimension intrinsically linked to the economic and social dimensions. Hence, the Action and Communication Plans of the RRN predict the identification, analysis, sharing and dissemination of content on various topics, which also ties in with the environmental focus, namely the conservation of nature and wild and domestic biodiversity, efficient use of soil resources, water and energy and factors of production, waste management, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, marketing in small circuits, local products and quality systems, the Mediterranean diet and healthy eating, innovation and entrepreneurship, diversification of agricultural activities, rural tourism, the built, cultural, natural and scenic rural heritage, governance, etc. The content is posted on the RRN website (cf. www.rederural.pt), the “Innovation for Agriculture” website (cf. <https://inovacao.rederural.gov.pt/>), the “Feed the Feeder” website (cf. <http://www.alimentequemoalimenta.pt/>) and then disseminated among the members and the general public. In terms of the environment, the RRN website has specific areas for the dissemination of good examples of national projects in rural areas, promotion of RRN initiatives (approximately 10% of them directly related to environmental matters), and marketing in small circuits, as well as a Resource Centre (<http://www.rederural.gov.pt/centro-de-recursos>) organised by thematic area, giving access to information related to rural development (products resulting from RRN initiatives, studies, reports, conclusions of seminars, manuals and methodological documents, etc.). The “Innovation for Agriculture” website shares information about innovative projects supported by the various funds: EAFRD, Interreg, LIFE, Horizon 2020, Regional Operational Programmes. Many of the projects identified and shared address the issues of climate change and the bioeconomy. There is also information on the Competence Centres, which have environmental issues on their innovation and research agendas. The “Feed the Feeders” website publicizes local producers, local markets and platforms that promote short distribution circuits. ETA is also responsible for producing a thematic magazine and for publishing 2 electronic Information Sheets, one on Rural Development and the other on Innovation in Agriculture, with one of each published in alternate months. Biodiversity and nature conservation strategy, plans and programmes

Geographic Information System for Tourism (SIGTUR)

SIGTUR (cf. <https://sigtur.turismodeportugal.pt>) is an interactive tool developed to respond to the needs of Turismo de Portugal (TP), other public entities and civil society, to help them learn how to distribute the tourism attractions in the territory. This application provides geo-referenced information on various topics relating to the tourism industry; in particular, tourist developments, local accommodation establishments, golf courses, marinas and recreational ports, main surf spots, etc. The application allows users to carry out research in accordance with various territorial areas, including administrative areas, environmental protection areas, areas recognised by UNESCO, area covered by the National Programme for Territorial Cohesion (PNCT) or areas of intervention of Territorial Programmes.

Public Passenger Transport Information System (STePP) – Database Diagram.

STePP is the evolution of the previous system (SIGGESC) and has the most extensive national database in terms of regular public passenger transport. Contains information on road modes - municipal, intermunicipal, interstate; flexible services; express services - rail and river. The main users of STePP include the IMT, the Mobility and Transport Authority (AMT), Transport Authorities and regular public passenger transport service operators, among others. With the aim of providing a more comprehensive knowledge about STePP to all who use or wish to learn about this system, IMT makes available the respective database diagram, which operates on PostGresSQL technology (cf. <https://www.imt-ip.pt/sites/IMTT/Portugues/TransportesRodoviaros/RJSPTP/Paginas/STePP%E2%80%93DiagramaBaseDados.aspx>).

International Conventions and Protocols on the Environment

A paper-based compilation of all International Conventions and Protocols on the Environment has been prepared and distributed to certain organisations and groups of citizens who requested it, providing access to these texts in electronic format via the website of the General Secretariat of the Ministry responsible for Environment policy <https://www.sgambiente.gov.pt> in Online Library. On the same website under “Ligações Úteis” you can access various international organisations in the Environment area and the United Nations System, the OECD, the EU, and the CPLP, as well as an exhaustive list of all bilateral agreements signed by the Ministry of the Environment. On the Public Ministry website at <http://gddc.ministeriopublico.pt/tratados> it is also possible to access the texts of these international instruments.

Regionally, the CCDRC developed the Data Centre in 2010 <https://datacentro.ccdrc.pt/>, the IT platform of the system for monitoring and assessing the situation in the Central region. This is an investment in public information service, at a uniquely regional level, which is easy to use and aimed at a diverse target audience. It is organised into major fields (Central Region, NSRF, Economic, Europe and CCDRC), and integrates over 1,000 statistical indicators of different sources of information, which can be combined according to the needs of the user or accessed through predefined tables for different levels of geographical breakdown. The highlights of the environmental area are topics such as air quality, air emissions, projects subject to EIA and Assessment of Environmental Issues, surveys carried out in different contexts, issuing of reports and permits, production of industrial and urban waste and waste treatment infrastructure.

The CCDRN has also developed a Territorial Monitoring System (SMT) for the Northern Region, as a mechanism for systematizing and providing updated information on a territorial basis, developed in conjunction with the various processes and Organic Units of the CCDR-N that use this type of information. In this way, it becomes possible to provide online access to a set of statistical indicators organised by NUTS III and respective municipalities in terms of demographics, economics, social issues and the environment.

CCDR Alentejo has developed the WebSIG CCDR Alentejo application, accessible at <https://giserver.ccdr-a.gov.pt/portal/home/>, which enables the limits of some IGTs to be identified, in particular those relating to areas with protected status and the development of reservoirs. This aspect of consulting the IGTs is a priority in the future development of the app, both in terms of the number and diversity of the IGTs, and in the progressive availability of information not only on the limit, but also on the respective content. Tools and applications are also being developed that will allow citizens, through GIS tools to be implemented on the CCDR Alentejo website, to consult and, eventually, download other information relating to the environment and spatial planning.

Article 5, paragraph 4

State of the Environment Report (REA)

In Portugal, according to Law No. 11/87 of 7 April - Law on the Environment – a report is presented to Parliament, along with the Major Planning Options of each year, on the state of the environment in Portugal in the previous year. From 2014, the annual preparation of the REA and of a White Paper on the State of the Environment (every five years) is governed by the new Law on the Environment (Law No. 19/2014 of 14 April), and its yearly submission to the Parliament will remain mandatory.

This report is now published and disseminated by the Ministry responsible for Environmental Policies via APA, which ensures the collection, processing and analysis of environmental information, proceeding with the annual preparation and provision of the REA <https://rea.apambiente.pt/content/sobre-o-rea?language=pt-pt>.

In existence for over 30 years, the national REA has become a reference instrument in this context, and is fundamental in supporting the definition, execution and evaluation of environmental policy, allowing the development of policies and strategies to be monitored, and the integration of the environment into sectoral activities. In this way, the REA has taken on a central role in the assessment and communication of the country's environmental performance. The first REA was published in Portugal in 1987 and, since then, the reports have been published annually, seeking to follow major international trends and practices in this field, with all information provided being based on stable and well-founded indicators.

In recent years, the results of compiling, computerising and updating information on the state of the environment, carried out by a vast team of organisations and individuals, have also been made available on the "REA State of the Environment portal" <https://rea.apambiente.pt> which, in addition to records containing several dozen indicators by environmental domain, gives access to an analysis of global trends and other studies on these matters.

Like the previous ones, in the REAs of 2022/2023, 2020/2021 and 2024 (cf. <https://rea.apambiente.pt/content/ultimaedicao?language=pt-pt>) relevant public administration entities were involved with the aim of providing the public with systematized and updated information on the state of the environment in Portugal. The REA are a systematic repository of information that allows the evaluation, through indicators, of the evolution of national policies and measures implemented in terms of the environment and sustainable development, presenting the progress achieved in terms of the country's performance in relation to the commitments and goals assumed. They are, therefore, an excellent instrument for supporting decision-making processes in these matters.

State Report on Spatial Planning (REOT)

The REOT is the instrument used to assess the execution of the National Programme for Spatial Planning Policy (PNPOT), presented by the government to the Portuguese Parliament every two years. It is produced by the DGT, within the scope of the Spatial and Urban Planning Observatory and with the collaboration of organisations from the Intersectoral Forum, monitored by the CNT and with contributions from the Public Consultation.

In 2023, the State of Territorial Planning Report (REOT 2022) was made available to the public, which translated, through a set of indicators for the period 2020-2021, the dynamics of the territorial model systems and the execution of the agenda for the territory through initiatives to implement policy measures in this period. This document was under public discussion (<https://participa.pt/pt/consulta/reot-2022>) between 16/06 and 28/07 2023. In 2024, a new REOT was prepared for the period 2022-2023. This document was under Public Discussion (<https://participa.pt/pt/consulta/reot-2024>) between 23/11/2024 and 3/1/2025.

Sustainable Development Indicators

The Sustainable Development Indicators System (SIDS) arose from a need to assess the country's progress in sustainability, permitting its connection with key strategic levels of decision - policies, plans and programmes – on a national, regional and sectoral level. The work carried out over the years in this area by APA, and reflections and comments received on the first edition of a proposal in 2000, resulted in the publication of "SIDS Portugal" in 2007.

Following on from recommendations resulting from a methodological review of the REA and the SIDS conducted by APA in 2006, other material to disseminate sustainable development indicators were produced. More recently, the APA provided access to the State of the Environment portal (cf. <https://rea.apambiente.pt>), a platform that includes information and analysis for a wide range of users and which is intended to be established as a reference for consultation regarding the main environmental indicators and trends in

our country.

The National Statistics Institute (INE) <https://www.ine.pt>, Statistical Authority of Portugal, in addition to the annual publication of “Environmental Statistics” https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?PORTLET_ID=JSP&xpgid=ine_publicacoes&xpid=INE&PORTLET_NAME=ine_cont_header_pub&PORTLET_UID=%23JSP%3Aine_cont_header_pub%23&PUBLICACOEStema=55523&PUBLICACOESdata_inicial=&PUBLICACOESdata_final=&PUBLICACOESfreeText, started to follow other international commitments in the area of sustainable development, of which the UN 2030 Agenda follow-up publications are an example (cf. https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_destaques&DESTAQUEStipo=ea&DESTAQUEScolecao=292036506&selTab=tab0).

Article 5, paragraph 5

The online edition of the Official Gazette - the official report of legislative acts in Portugal - is fully official and valid since 1 July 2006 and the publication of legislation in it is effective for all legal purposes: <https://dre.pt/>.

The Public Prosecutor's Office provides an online Legislation Database of domestic law, which is free to use and available to anyone, at https://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei_main.php (corresponding to the website of what used to be the Lisbon District Attorney General, now known as the Regional Attorney General of Lisbon), with content relating to the environment and administrative procedure and proceedings in the Courts; it displays all statutes with the successive versions that followed each other over time.

The Office of Documentation and Comparative Law (GDDC), which operates under the responsibility of the Attorney General's Office (Ministry of Justice), provides access on its website to TRATADOS, which is a compilation of bilateral or multilateral instruments signed by Portugal with other States or with International Organisations, governed by international law, including those that fall within the field of the environment (cf. <http://gddc.ministeriopublico.pt/tratados>).

The General Secretariat of the Ministry responsible for environmental policy also provides on its website <https://www.sgambiente.gov.pt> a link to various international organisations in the Environment field, as well as to the texts of international Conventions and Protocols in that area, and the respective Technical Secretariats of International Conventions and Fora. It also provides national technical information on the status of the respective signature and ratification processes.

In general, all bodies of the state administration, at the level of their territorial and sectoral expertise, disseminate current legislation as well as the respective plans, programmes, strategies and policies. APA provides, regarding the plans and programmes that impact on the environment and land areas, and under the procedures provided for in the respective strategic environmental assessment scheme, online information of concluded processes, specifically at the PARTICIPA.PT portal since 2015, supplemented by information provided by DGT via SNIT <https://www.dgterritorio.gov.pt/snit>.

Article 5, paragraph 6

For an environmental policy to be effective it is necessary, even indispensable, to support the mechanisms of voluntary membership, which advocate and rely on good sustainability practices - information, transparency, accountability; examples of this are ISO 14001 environmental certification, EMAS registration, EU Ecolabel or even awards promoted in Portugal by an environmental NGO, ABAAE, with the support of countless government organisations, such as the Blue Flag of Europe <https://bandeiraazul.abaae.pt/> (for beaches, pleasure boat ports and marinas, and pleasure craft), the ECO XXI Green Flag for municipalities <https://ecoxxi.abaae.pt/>, the ECOFREGUESIAS XXI Green Flag <https://ecofreguesias21.abaae.pt/>, and the Green Key <https://greenkey.abaae.pt> (for hotel

units), etc.

With regard to the ISO 14001:2004 standard, at the end of 2019, 1,202 certifications were awarded in Portugal by the eight existing certification bodies, accredited in the Portuguese Quality System.

For the EC Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), APA is the competent body, under the terms of Decree-Law No. 95/2012, of April 20, which designates the entities responsible for exercising the functions provided for in Regulation (EC) No. 1221/2009, of November 25.. APA keeps updated information on organisations registered with EMAS on its website <https://emas.apambiente.pt/>.

Of note in relation to environmental labelling is the EU Ecolabel System (Regulation (EC) 66/2010 of the Parliament and the Council of 25 November) as a market instrument, also voluntary, which aims to stimulate supply and demand for products and services with reduced impact on both the environment and health during their production and consumption, promoting products and services with high environmental performance. In accordance with Order No. 15512/2006, concerning the implementation of the Community Ecolabel Attribution System, the DGAE is the competent national authority for the allocation of licenses permitting the use of the EU Ecological Label and respective management. DGAE maintains updated information on products and services with the EU eco-label on its website <https://www.dgae.gov.pt/servicos/sustentabilidade-empresarial/rotulo-ecologico/catalogo-portugues-de-produtos-e-servicos-com-reue-.aspx>.

As part of its concern for quality and environmental sustainability - one of the most important resources for the development of tourism -, the TdP supports initiatives and establishes partnerships with several entities to promote voluntary membership initiatives with an impact on the area of tourism, such as those already mentioned by ABAAE. Furthermore, the system for assigning the classification of tourist enterprises, by the TdP, comprises several environmental sustainability requirements - such as the use of systems that promote the efficient consumption of water and its reuse, systems that promote the efficient consumption of energy, including the use of renewable energy, energy or environmental certification according to national or European standards -, with a high value, in order to promote the adoption of sustainability measures in tourist enterprises. Also noteworthy is the work related to the Portuguese Quality System by the Technical Committee for Standardization for Tourism - CT 144, managed by the TdP, whose mission is to define quality benchmarks for tourism activities in the field of facilities and services (cf. <https://business.turismodeportugal.pt/pt/crescer/qualidade/Paginas/normas-de-qualidade.aspx>). Finally, in November 2021, TdP created the Empresas Turismo 360° Program (cf. <https://empresaturismo360.turismodeportugal.pt>), designed to encourage companies in the tourism sector to report their sustainability performance, providing them with technical support in integrating ESG – Environmental, Social and Governance factors into their business strategy, management and organizational culture, and guiding them in the process of regularly reporting information related to their environmental, social and governance practices.

Eco-design of products is an essential element of the Community strategy for the "Integrated Product Policy", and is a preventive approach that aims to optimise the environmental performance of products at source, while preserving their functional and safety characteristics, and must not lead to negative health impacts or increase costs for consumers. The Ecodesign Directive (Directive 2009/125/EC, of the EP and the Council, of 21 October) is a Framework Directive, a fundamental component of European policy that has made it possible to establish, through specific regulations by product type, harmonised minimum requirements for energy efficiency, functional and environmental performance for energy-related products, in the context of a temporal dynamic of increasing demand, thus improving the energy and environmental performance of these products in the internal market. The Ecodesign Directive is complemented by Regulation EU 2017/1369 of the EP and of the Council of 4 July 2017, which establishes a framework for energy labelling. In this context, the European Commission established a Work Plan for the period 2016-2019 –

COM(2016)773 final, as part of the circular economy package - integrating both the list of 12 works in progress at the date of the presentation of the plan (November 2016), as well as 22 reviews of existing regulatory measures, also identifying an additional set of 6 product groups to be considered for future work. Given that these are energy-related products, this matter is also covered on page 19 of this report, referring to DGE's actions.

With regard to green public procurement, Council of Ministers Resolution No. 38/2016 of 29 July was published, approving the National Strategy for Ecological Procurement (ENCPE 2020). The main purpose is to create a supplementary instrument for environmental policies, contributing to the goal of promoting pollution reduction, reducing the consumption of natural resources and, inherently, increasing the efficiency of systems. It focuses, for this reason, on the definition of technical specifications for the set of priority products and services.

The aim of ENCPE 2020 is also to stimulate the adoption of a green public procurement policy, thus constituting a repository of good practices and reinforcing the incentive for technological and product innovation, encouraging suppliers and service providers to benefit from the advantages of environmentally-oriented contracting, in a framework of effective transparency and shared responsibility.

A set of information initiatives were carried out for the implementation of ENCPE 2020, namely:

- Development of a specific area for ecological public procurement on the APA website as a repository of information, dissemination of specifications and ecological, general and adapted criteria, using open standards, pursuant to Law No. 36/2011 of 21 June - the ecological public procurement portal can be found at <https://encpe.apambiente.pt/>;
- Holding of an annual conference aimed at disseminating and sharing up-to-date knowledge on the various topics, as well as the communication of results related to the monitoring of objectives and goals pursued during the economic year in question - a final conference is planned for early 2021 in order to disseminate the results of the strategy; this will be held online.
- Carrying out training activities with entities covered by ENCPE 2020 and other stakeholders - for this purpose, APA joined LNEG, which was the organisation selected by the European Commission to carry out training activities in green public procurement in Portugal, as part of the GPP Toolkit (https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit_en.htm). Two training sessions were held, in Coimbra and Lisbon, in face-to-face and online formats, for a group of representatives from central and local government bodies.

In 2023, the ENCPE2020 review process, which began in 2020, was completed in collaboration with the Faculty of Science and Technology of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa (FCT/UNL), based on relevant documentation, namely the ENCPE2020 Final Monitoring Report, the Audit Report on Green Public Procurement prepared by the Court of Auditors and the information collected within the scope of the participatory process that included several entities from the public sphere and the private sector. Following this work, the new ECO360 – National Strategy for Green Public Procurement 2030 was approved, adopted through Council of Ministers Resolution No. 13/2023, of February 10, which defines the vision, objectives and main vectors of action for green public procurement in Portugal. The Action Plan of the National Strategy for Green Public Procurement, provided for in ECO360 (PA ECO360), essential for the operationalization of said Strategy, was prepared by APA in collaboration with FC/UNL by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 162/2024, of November 12.

As with the dissemination and promotion of ecological public purchases, APA also participated in initiatives within the scope of ecological public contracting, which have taken place continuously since 2021 in various forums, debating issues related to the circular economy, sustainable school meals, waste in the construction sector and its use, among others. In 2023, Council of Ministers Resolution No. 132/2023, of October 25, was

published, which defines ecological criteria applicable to public procurement procedures, for sixteen categories of products and services, applicable to the direct and indirect administration of the State, including the State business sector, some of which are mandatory. Since the end of 2023, APA, in collaboration with ICLEI, PwC and national entities with expertise in the area of public procurement, has participated in the development of a national roadmap for strategic public procurement, in the social, environmental and economic aspects. This is an initiative promoted by the European Commission in the various Member States.

Based on applicable legal and regulatory requirements and in order to maximise the reliability and objectivity of the data generated, IGAMAOT has implemented risk analysis systems (SAR) in the context of planning environmental inspections. These play an essential role in establishing the most appropriate strategies and methodologies, allowing the selection of targets on the grounds of objective criteria and with a view to those which will have the greatest impact on the environment and human health. The methodology used by the SARs to schedule inspection activities is based on the IRAM (Integrated Risk Assessment Method) tool developed by the EasyTools project, part of the European IMPEL network (European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law), and enables classification of the risk associated with each industrial unit/infrastructure (the higher the rating, the greater the risk). Using this model, a classification of each unit as “significant risk/non-significant risk” can be obtained. This classification will objectively determine the establishment of the corresponding type and frequency of inspection. It is a high-quality, reliable tool that has the following advantages:

- Risk analysis tool which is harmonised throughout Europe;
- Uses mechanisms for control and adjustment: Weighting Factors and Terms for Criteria, Risk Category, Safety Net;
- Has an associated “rule” that calculates the category of risk based on the minimum number of higher Impact Criteria (CI) values associated with an operator; and
- Allows the frequency and effort of inspections to be determined on the basis of available resources.

Calculated on a probabilistic tendency method, it is based on the concept of risk as a function of the severity of its consequence (effect) and the probability of its occurrence. The Effect assesses the severity of the installation's impact on its surrounding environment and is measured by a set of Impact Criteria, each one graded from 1 to 5, where 1 has less effect and 5 has greater effect. Examples of Impact Criteria are the type of activities carried out at the facility and the location of the facility. Probability assesses the characteristics of the operator which can influence the probability of the effect occurring. It is measured by Operator Performance Criteria and its function is to increase a value, or maintain or decrease within a value, the value of the impact criterion, turning it into a risk. Examples of Operator Performance Criteria are the existence of Certified Environmental Management Systems, the installation having been the subject of complaints/reports, or compliance with the conditions of the environmental licence. Specifically, the following SAR have been designed and implemented in the IGAMAOT:

- Risk-PCIP (Industrial Emissions Regime / Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control);
- Risk COV (Industrial Emissions Regime / Installations and activities that use organic solvents);
- Risk-Seveso (Prevention of Serious Accidents – Storage of large amounts of hazardous substances);
- Risk-ETAR (Urban Waste Water Treatment Plants in areas with 2000 or more equivalent inhabitants);
- Risk-MTR (Transboundary Waste Movements);
- Risk – RAD (Ionizing radiation).

A National Network (IMPEL) was created as part of the European Network for the implementation and application of current environmental legislation. IGAMAOT is responsible for coordinating its national representation, and it currently comprises the

Attorney General's Office (PGR), General Secretariat of the Ministry responsible for environmental policy, Portuguese Environment Agency (APA), Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests (ICNF), Regional Environment Inspection – Azores (IRA Azores), Regional Directorate for Environment and Climate Change – Madeira (DRAAC Madeira), DGT, ERSAR, CCDR, Public Security Police – Environmental Protection Brigades (PSP/BriPA) and GNR, as well as the National Council for Sustainable Development (CNADS) and the Superior Council of the Judiciary; the two latter with the status of Observers). This network aims to contribute to a reinforcement of the implementation of European legislation in the field of environment and nature conservation, through the sharing of knowledge and organisation of joint action between Public Administration entities. A report on its activity will be published each year on the IGAMAOT portal (cf. https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/contents/pagecollapselist/relatorio-impel-2023_5775.pdf).

For its part, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) <https://echa.europa.eu/pt/home> is the main vehicle for disseminating information among regulatory authorities on the implementation of European Union legislation with regard to chemical products, with the aim of improving health and the environment, as well as boosting innovation and competitiveness. ECHA includes, among other bodies, an Information Exchange Forum (Forum), which is a European network of authorities responsible for promoting the exchange of information on monitoring compliance with REACH, CLP and PIC, POP and Biocidal Products regulations in the EU, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Coordinated and harmonised enforcement across all Member States is a key factor in the success of the regulations and is, therefore, one of the Forum's main objectives. The Forum is composed of members nominated by Member States. Each Member State nominates a Forum member, chosen for their roles and experience in enforcing chemicals legislation. In Portugal, IGAMAOT is member of the the Forum, which establishes the necessary contacts with the other competent national authorities. The Forum holds 3 plenary meetings each year, continuously developing various activities through different working groups, which seek to provide solutions for specific areas of REACH, CLP and PIC, POP and Biocidal Products regulations, while at the same time putting inspection campaigns into place for monitoring compliance with specific provisions of these Regulations.

In the area of forest management, ICNF is the sector's standardisation body (ONS) for Sustainable Forest Management, according to the protocol of cooperation in the field of standardisation between the national standardisation body, Portuguese Institute of Quality, and ICNF. Accordingly, ICNF and in its capacity of ONS, is responsible for coordinating the Technical Committee of Standardisation for Sustainable Forest Management (CT 145), an entity aimed at standardising the definitions and requirements for sustainable forest management in which individual and collective entities interested in these matters participate on a voluntary basis, organised into three areas: environmental, economic and social, and ensuring public participation in this topic.

Reference should also be made to the "Guidance on the labelling of foodstuffs produced according to the organic production method", which aims to facilitate the application of the provisions of Regulations (EC) 834/2007 and 889/2008, applicable since 1 January 2009, available on the DGADR website (cf. http://www.dgadr.mamaot.pt/images/docs/val/bio/Biologica/Guia_rotulagem_MPB.pdf).

With regard to public water supply, urban wastewater sanitation and urban waste management services, the “ERSAR Awards and Seals” initiative each year rewards utilities in mainland Portugal which have distinguished themselves with excellent provision of service. Through a rigorous evaluation system, consumers have the opportunity to find out which organisations are the best providers of services in the different areas in question. Indicators such as safe water, real water losses, occurrence of supply failures, recycling of waste from selective collection, replies to complaints and coverage of expenses are some of the parameters evaluated: <http://www.ersar.pt/pt/setor/premios-e-selos-de-qualidade>. The decision on the winners of the ERSAR awards and seals is based on a selection process based on quantitative and qualitative criteria, which are then submitted for assessment by a jury made up of several entities representing the sector and chaired by ERSAR. (cf.

<http://www.ersar.pt/pt/setor/premiose-selos-de-qualidade>).

Article 5, paragraph 7

The generalisation of online communication and information and the increasing penetration of the internet has facilitated the implementation of the objectives of the Aarhus Convention.

Article 5, paragraph 8

For more effective communication that makes it easier for consumers to make sound environmental choices, the General Directorate for Consumers institutionally promotes the consumer website at www.consumidor.pt which includes concerns for sustainability.

Reference should be made to the www.imtonline.pt platform provided by the IMT, which allows users to avoid unnecessary travel and thereby contribute to a reduction in pollutant emissions and greenhouse gases (the number of requests registered on the portal enable the emission of thousands of tons of CO₂ to be avoided).

The civil society organisations include DECO, the consumer association, which also provides specific information on the environment: <http://www.deco.proteste.pt/>.

Environmental NGOs have also promoted extensive work in this context, such as Quercus (Eco-house Project <http://www.ecocasa.pt/> and daily items in the media: “Green Minute” on TV <https://www.rtp.pt/programa/tv/p21614>, and “One Minute for the Earth” on the radio <https://www.radio.pt/p/antena1minuto>), and Associação Natureza Portugal (ANP) (Project 'Fish Forward – for responsible consumption of fish and seafood and a future for the oceans' encourages responsible consumption of fish and seafood in Portugal and Europe https://www.natureza-portugal.org/o_que_fazemos_222/oceanos/fish_forward_/).

Article 5, paragraph 9

The national electronic PRTR system, previously hosted on the SIRAPA platform, included some IPPC monitoring obligations for establishments that are both PRTR and IPPC. The system was linked to waste reporting through MIRR, with the information being submitted only once. With the need to update the information systems, the SIRAPA platform was discontinued and all reporting systems were transferred to SILiAmb <https://apoiosiliamb.apambiente.pt/>. PRTR only started to be collected by SILiAmb in 2019 and, due to various constraints, it was not possible to integrate the report at the same level that existed in SIRAPA. However, as a result of the changes introduced, such as the REFIT programme sponsored by the EU (intended to reassess environmental reports in order to eliminate redundancies, reduce bureaucracy and improve the quality of environmental data), the PRTR report now also includes data relating to the reporting from large combustion plants (GIC / LCP). The possibility of creating a second version of this form, that takes advantage of the fact that almost all environmental reports are now being collected in SILiAmb, is currently being studied. The aim is to take advantage of the development of computer systems which have changed the way data can be compared and integrated, for example using different collection platforms that can be made interoperable, as opposed to collecting all the information in one step. This way of proceeding has the advantage of keeping an independent basic PRTR form, even if the other reports are changed. The links between the PRTR and other reports may take on different aspects depending on the data collected as part of the other environmental obligations:

- Direct data migration, with the operator being responsible for validating or changing the migrated data;
- Migration of part of the data, with the operator having to complete the missing data;
- Comparison of data reported in response to different legal obligations, with the

Competent Authority being responsible for resolving any differences found.

Until the preparation of the national PRTR portal has been completed, PRTR data for Portugal can be consulted on the EU website <https://prtr.eea.europa.eu/#/home>

Pursuant to article 7 of Decree-Law No. 127/2008 of 21 July, the competence to monitor compliance with the PRTR Regulation is assigned to the 5 CCDRs and the APA and the IGAMAOT is invested with the power to inspect.

On a local level, approximately 60% of the respondents to the Aarhus Convention questionnaire have municipal environmental monitoring programmes. Despite the fact that the collected data are made available to those who request them, more than half (55%) of the responding municipalities do not have them accessible in databases and/or online reports on the respective websites. The same does not happen with the parishes that responded to the questionnaire: the majority (84%) stated that there were no environmental monitoring programs.

XII. Obstacles encountered in the implementation of article 5

*Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 5.*

Answer:

The constant evolution of the REACH, CLP and POP regulations of the EU in the area of chemicals requires an additional effort in terms of disclosure by Member States, to ensure that the public and especially businesses have access to permanently updated information. However, the increasing involvement of ECHA and ongoing developments towards establishing a common database could help to address this issue.

Regarding the PRTR, information is still not available on a national portal. The information can be requested directly from the APA and is provided free of charge, and is also available on the Industrial Emissions portal <https://industry.eea.europa.eu/>. Despite all efforts, there is still no scheduled date for the implementation of a National PRTR portal.

XIII. Further information on the practical application of the provisions of article 5

*Provide further information on the **practical application of the provisions on the collection and dissemination of environmental information in article 5**, e.g., are there any statistics available on the information published?*

Answer:

Nothing to report on this item.

XIV. Website addresses relevant to the implementation of article 5

Give relevant website addresses, if available:

ANAC - National Civil Aviation Authority - www.anac.pt

ANPC - National Civil Protection Authority - www.proteccaocivil.pt

APA - Portuguese Environment Agency – www.apambiente.pt

CADA - Committee on Access to Administrative Documents – www.cada.pt

Camões - Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, I.P. - www.instituto-camoes.pt

CCDR Alentejo - Regional Development and Coordinating Committee of Alentejo – <https://www.ccdr-a.gov.pt/>

CCDR Algarve - Regional Development and Coordinating Committee of Algarve – www.ccdr-alg.pt

CCDR Central Portugal - Regional Development and Coordinating Committee of Central Portugal – www.ccdrc.pt/

CCDR LVT - Regional Development and Coordinating Committee of Lisbon and Tagus Valley – www.ccdr-lvt.pt

CCDR North Portugal - Regional Development and Coordinating Committee of North Portugal – www.ccdr-n.pt

CNA - National Water Council – <http://conselhonacionaldaagua.weebly.com/>

CNADS - National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development - www.cnads.pt

DGADR – General Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development - <http://www.dgadr.gov.pt>

DGAE – General Directorate for Economic Activities – www.dgae.min-economia.pt

DGC - General Directorate for Consumers - www.consumidor.pt/

DGEG – General Directorate for Energy and Geology - www.dgeg.pt

DGPJ – General Directorate for Justice Policy - <https://dgpj.justica.gov.pt>

DGPM - General Directorate for the Policy of the Sea – <http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt>

DGRM – General Directorate for Natural Resources, Maritime Services and Security – www.dgrm.min-agricultura.pt

DGS - General Directorate of Health - www.dgs.pt/

DGT – General Directorate for Land - <http://www.dgterritorio.gov.pt/>

DR – Electronic Official Gazette - <https://dre.pt/>

DRAPNorte - Northern Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries - <http://portal.drapnorte.gov.pt>

DRAPCentro - Central Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries - <https://www.drapc.gov.pt/>

DRAPLVT - Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries of Lisbon and Tejo Valley - <http://www.draplvt.mamaot.pt/Pages/Homepage.aspx>

DRAPAlentejo - Alentejo Regional Directorate for Agriculture and Fisheries - <http://www.drapal.min-agricultura.pt/drapal>

DRAPAlgarve - Algarve Regional Directorate for Agriculture and Fisheries - <https://www.drapalg.min-agricultura.pt/pt/>

EIONET - European Environment Information and Observation Network - <https://www.eionet.europa.eu/>

ERSAR - Water and Waste Services Regulator – www.ersar.pt

GEE - Strategy and Studies Office - www.gee.min-economia.pt

GNR - Guarda Nacional Republicana - www.gnr.pt/

GPP - Office for Planning and Central Government Policies – www.gpp.pt

ICNF - Nature Conservation and Forestry Institute – www.icnf.pt

IGAMAOT - General Inspectorate of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning – www.igamaot.gov.pt

IMT - Institute for Mobility and Transport - <http://www.imt-ip.pt>

INE - Instituto Nacional de Estatística – www.ine.pt

INPI - Instituto Nacional da Propriedade Industrial, I.P. – <http://www.marcaspatentes.pt>

IPMA -Portuguese Sea and Weather Agency – www.ipma.pt

LNec - National Civil Engineering Laboratory - www.lnec.pt

LNEG - National Engineering and Geology Laboratory - www.lneg.pt/

MP – Public Prosecutors’ Office - www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei_main.php

NATURAL.PT - www.natural.pt

PJ - Ombudsman - www.provedor-jus.pt/

PARTICIPA portal - <http://participa.pt>

SEPNA - Nature Protection and Environmental Service of the GNR police - www.gnr.pt/default.asp?do=5r20n/DD.0n674rCn/an674rCn

SGMAMB – General Secretariat of the Ministry of the Environment - www.sg.mamb.gov.pt

TdP – Turismo de Portugal, I.P. – www.turismodeportugal.pt

SRA Açores – Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e Ação Climática dos Açores - <https://portal.azores.gov.pt/web/sraac>

DRAAC - Direção Regional do Ambiente e Ação Climática - <https://portal.azores.gov.pt/web/draac>

DRRFOT - Direção Regional dos Recursos Florestais e Ordenamento Territorial - <https://drf.azores.gov.pt/>

Portal do Ordenamento do Território dos Açores - <https://ot.azores.gov.pt/>

Portal dos Recursos Hídricos dos Açores - <http://www.azores.gov.pt/GRA/srn-drotrh>

Portal do clima - <http://rna2100.portaldoclima.pt/pt/>

Portal da Ação Climática - <https://transparencia.gov.pt/pt/ambiente/tema/>

XV. Legislative, regulatory and other measures implementing the provisions on public participation in decisions on specific activities in article 6

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the provisions on public participation in decisions on specific activities in article 6.

Explain how each paragraph of article 6 has been implemented. Describe the transposition of the relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3,

paragraph 9. Also, and in particular, describe:

- (a) With respect to **paragraph 1**, measures taken to ensure that:
 - (i) The provisions of article 6 are applied with respect to decisions on whether to permit proposed activities listed in annex I to the Convention;
 - (ii) The provisions of article 6 are applied to decisions on proposed activities not listed in annex I which may have a significant effect on the environment;
- (b) Measures taken to ensure that the public concerned is informed early in any environmental decision-making procedure, and in an adequate, timely and effective manner, of the matters referred to in **paragraph 2**;
- (c) Measures taken to ensure that the time frames of the public participation procedures respect the requirements of **paragraph 3**;
- (d) With respect to **paragraph 4**, measures taken to ensure that there is early public participation;
- (e) With respect to **paragraph 5**, measures taken to encourage prospective applicants to identify the public concerned, to enter into discussions, and to provide information regarding the objectives of their application before applying for a permit;
- (f) With respect to **paragraph 6**, measures taken to ensure that:
 - (i) The competent public authorities give the public concerned all information relevant to the decision-making referred to in article 6 that is available at the time of the public participation procedure;
 - (ii) In particular, the competent authorities give to the public concerned the information listed in this paragraph;
- (g) With respect to **paragraph 7**, measures taken to ensure that procedures for public participation allow the public to submit comments, information, analyses or opinions that it considers relevant to the proposed activity;
- (h) With respect to **paragraph 8**, measures taken to ensure that in a decision due account is taken of the outcome of the public participation;
- (i) With respect to **paragraph 9**, measures taken to ensure that the public is promptly informed of a decision in accordance with the appropriate procedures;
- (j) With respect to **paragraph 10**, measures taken to ensure that when a public authority reconsiders or updates the operating conditions for an activity referred to in paragraph 1, the provisions of paragraphs 2 to 9 are applied, making the necessary changes, and where appropriate;
- (k) With respect to **paragraph 11**, measures taken to apply the provisions of article 6 to decisions on whether to permit the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms into the environment.

Answer:

Article 6, paragraph 1

Environmental impact assessment

As mentioned in previous reports, efforts have been made, by means of the EIA procedures for specific projects, to continue ensuring the effective participation of citizens in decision-making processes with regard to specific activities, and promoting their right to consult and access information on the environment. The entities responsible for managing these public participation processes are APA and the CCDR, with various other public bodies participating depending on the type of project and its implementation location. These procedures can be found on the APA website at <https://apambiente.pt/avaliacao-e-gestao-ambiental/avaliacao-de-impacte-ambiental>.

The current legal EIA framework is established by Decree-Law No. 151-B/2013 of 31 October, amended and republished by Decree-Law No. 152-B/2017 of 11 December, which transposes into domestic law Directive no. 2014/52/EU, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 16 April, on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. Decree-Law no. 151-B/2013 also reflects the commitments undertaken by the Portuguese Government under the Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), approved by Decree no. 59/99 of 17 December. Decree-Law No. 152-B/2017 of 11 December, entered into force on 1 January 2018.

It should be noted that one of the changes made by Decree-Law No. 152-B/2017 of 11 December, was an increase in the period of Public Consultation in comparison with that established in Decree-Law No. 151-B/2013 of 31 October. (cf. Article 15). In line with the previous legislation, it confirms that interested members of the public are entitled to participate in the public consultation (cf. article 28 - article 31).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EimpA)

EimpA is a process that requires periods of public consultation, and is legally framed by the following legislative instruments:

- Decree-Law 215-B/2012 of 8 October is applicable to power plants that use renewable energy sources. In this case the EimpA is coordinated by the respective CCDR. In this context, the compulsory public consultation, provided for in point 5 of article 33 S of said diploma, is 20 days;
- Decree-Law No. 49/2005 of 24 February, which implements the first amendment to Decree-Law No. 140/99 of 24 April (subsequently also amended by Decree-Law No. 156-A/2013 of 8 November), establishes that “the actions, plans or projects not directly related to the management of a site on the national list of sites, a site of Community Interest, a special conservation area or a special protection zone, and which are not necessary for that management but likely to affect this area significantly, individually or in combination with other actions, plans or projects, should have their environmental impacts assessed in relation to the conservation objectives of the said zone”. According to article 10(7) of the Decree-Law, this procedure is preceded, where appropriate, by public consultation.

Since 2015, public participation procedures on behalf of both EIA and AIncA can be found on the PARTICIPA.PT portal <https://participa.pt/>.

Environmental Noise Assessment and Management

Within the scope of the Environmental Noise Assessment and Management Regime established by Decree-Law no. legal that determines that

- the process begins with the publication of a notice in the media,
- the draft plan is made available to the public, accompanied by a summary highlighting its essential elements,
- the consultation lasts at least 30 working days,
- the responsible entity, after this period, prepares the final version of the plan, taking into account the results of popular participation.

Under the same terms, the action plans of municipalities, constituted as agglomerations, are also subject to the public consultation process.

Chemicals

The EU REACH and CLP Regulations envisage, in many cases, the sharing of information among stakeholders and ECHA, set in motion by the ECHA referring to proposals for:

- Testing on vertebrate animals for harmonised classification and labelling,
- The identification of substances of very high concern (SVHC),
- Recommendation of the inclusion of substances in Annex XIV (list of substances subject to authorisation),
- Authorisation requests and
- Proposals for restrictions (inclusion in Annex XVII) and other opinions requested in this context.

The EU Regulation on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) also provides for this type of information sharing between stakeholders and ECHA, through public consultations triggered by ECHA in the framework of the preparation and evaluation of technical dossiers, such as:

- Proposals for the inclusion of substances in the lists of POPs contained in the Stockholm Convention or the Protocol.
- Risk profile and risk management assessment of substances covered by the said convention

This Regulation also establishes the need to involve interested parties in the preparation or updating of their Stockholm Convention implementation plan.

Prevention of Serious Accidents

Decree-Law No. 150/2015 of 5 August transposes Directive 2012/18/EU into domestic law and establishes the framework for the prevention and control of major incidents involving hazardous substances, and the limiting of their consequences upon human health and the environment. This statute revokes Decree-Law No. 254/2007 of 12 July, amended by Decree-Law No. 42/2014. The main change introduced is the adaptation of Annex I, which provides for the categories of substances to the classification system for substances and mixtures defined by Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008, of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 (CLP).

The installation and alteration of establishments covered by this legislation is subject to the issuance of an opinion by the APA on the Location Compatibility Assessment (ACL).

In the case of establishments subject to EIA, this procedure is integrated in the EIA procedure and public participation is made through public consultation, in accordance with EIA legislation.

In the case of establishments whose projects are not covered by EIA, the ACL provided for in article 8 of Decree-Law No. 150/2015 of 5 August, is a procedure for prior assessment of the installation of new establishments and substantial changes to existing establishments. Its objective is to monitor the installation of new establishments and alterations to existing ones, so that adequate distances are maintained between establishments and vulnerable elements of the territory. Therefore, construction or alteration of the establishments covered can only start after the issuance of a decision by the APA attesting to the compatibility of the location. This procedure provides for a public consultation period of 15 working days (article 11), integrated into a total period of 50 working days for the APA to issue a decision on the assessment of location compatibility.

Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Decision (IPPC)

In the case of establishments subject to PCIP (cf. Chapter II of Decree-Law no. 127/2013, 30 August) public consultation is carried out whenever a project for the construction of a new establishment, or substantial alteration of an existing one, is submitted.

The public consultation takes place online on the PARTICIPA.PT portal (<https://participa.pt/pt/>) where participations are collected, which can also be sent directly to the competent entity for the PCIP (APA). Comments are taken into account when establishing licensing conditions.

Environmental licenses are subsequently made available to the public on the APA website (<https://apambiente.pt/avaliacao-e-gestao-ambiental/licencas-ambientais>).

Participatory Budgets (PB)

PBs are democratic participative procedures whereby public investment projects can be presented and decided upon. They constitute a new form of governance based on direct participation of citizens, the identification of local problems and needs, the definition of priorities, and the implementation and monitoring of projects.

This type of participatory procedure and the involvement of the general public have become more widespread, particularly at a local level.

Article 6, paragraphs 2 to 6

The current legislation for EIA, SEA, IPPC, GMO, Environmental Noise Assessment and Management, etc., provides that the public concerned is informed in an effective, timely and appropriate manner from the beginning of the decision-making process; that the deadlines are reasonable; that such run when all options are open, the public concerned is identified and it is provided the requested information free of charge. State Administration bodies at national, regional and local levels have been modernised in order to reach citizens more effectively and efficiently, who in some way, directly or indirectly, are expected to be affected by interventions with a territorial impact. In this sense it is customary to resort to traditional public notices, advertisements in newspapers and websites, more recently using "social media" and other forms of communication under the scope of Web 2.0.

The Ministry responsible for environmental policies, aware of the need to achieve greater involvement from citizens in the processes of public participation and, consequently, in decision-making regarding environmental issues that concern the general public, from July 2015 made the PARTICIPA.PT portal (cf. <http://participa.pt>) available to the public. The purpose of PARTICIPA.PT is to (i) facilitate the access of citizens and stakeholders to consultation processes, (ii) encourage informed participation; (iii) improve process management efficiency. It is an innovative initiative where, for the first time, all public consultation processes are concentrated by the Ministry responsible for environmental policies in a single place of consultation. The existence of this portal, where the processes in public consultation are available, permitted simpler, more agile and more efficient participation.

Article 6, paragraphs 7 to 10

As already mentioned, public participation in decision-making processes relating to environmental matters in Portugal was significantly improved from 2015 onwards with the creation of the PARTICIPA.PT portal, where all processes in public consultation launched in Portugal are made available (cf. <http://participa.pt>). This portal is used to notify the public, either directly via e-mail or by consultation of the website, of the opening of all processes (or just those of interest, previously selected by theme or geographical area), and gives access to all documents under consultation. Interested parties can freely issue their thoughts and opinions, and find out the final decision and how any contributions received were duly taken into account. The use of this portal has been growing, with an increase in the number of processes under public consultation, access to the portal and effective participation. From the analysis of the evolution of the data available since 2017 (cf. <https://rea.apambiente.pt/content/participa%C3%A7%C3%A3o-p%C3%BAblica-portal-participa?language=pt-pt>), it can be concluded that the average rate of participation in public consultation processes on PARTICIPA.PT has also increased, which is not unrelated to the implementation of large-scale projects supported by the Recovery and Resilience Plan (PRR).

In 2021, a platform to support participatory processes in Public Administration was created:

the civic participation portal PARTICIPA.GOV <https://participa.gov.pt/base/home>. The aim of this portal is to facilitate citizen participation in all areas of government, through the use of simple, secure and reliable technologies, namely Blockchain. In the medium term, these portals and others that already exist with the same purpose (notably Participatory Budgets at different levels of administration, from local to central), may converge on the same platform.

The iFAMA portal - Single Inspection and Monitoring Platform for Agriculture, Sea and Environment - came into operation in 2024 <https://ifama.igamaot.gov.pt/Portal/LandingPage>. This portal is intended to be a single point of entry, management and centralization of complaints, in a dematerialized form, by a group of partner administrative entities with expertise in the areas of agriculture, the sea and the environment. When filed, complaints and reports are directed to a partner entity, when the matter is included within the scope of its competences, with the citizen having access to information about its treatment.

Where concerns are raised and not dealt with, complaints can be filed with the Ombudsman <https://www.provedor-jus.pt/> with regard to public participation for the protection of well-being and quality of life among the local population, in relation to projects that present risks to the environment. At times, the reasons for the options taken - namely regarding the location of activities and routes - do not appear to be sufficiently clear in a preliminary analysis. In such cases, the Ombudsman questions the authority that is coordinating the procedure, seeking to identify the reasonableness of the decisions taken, the grounds upon which they have been taken and the consideration given to concerns and proposals presented in public consultation, in order to assess whether the participation was effective or a mere formality.

Article 6, paragraph 11

See Chapters XXXIII - XXXVII (Genetically Modified Organisms).

At a **local level**, the response to the questionnaires carried out at local level, indicates that among the 100 municipalities and 70 parishes respondents, almost all of them state that if there is any activity/intervention that has a significant impact on the environment - at the initiative of the municipality, parish or other public or private entities - the general public is informed and/or duly consulted in advance (article 6 of the Convention) – 98% for municipalities and 87% for parishes. Likewise with plans, programmes and policies (article 7 of the Convention), although with less expression — 96% e 56% respectively -, and with the creation of regulations and other normative instruments at the municipal and parish level (article 8 of the Convention) -) – 94% e 59% respectively. Information is disseminated fundamentally by means of the respective websites and associated social networks, in addition to the traditional public notices. The method of participation is based on the mechanisms established for this purpose at a municipal and parish level: assemblies, public meetings, decentralized meetings, and meetings created as a result of the processes themselves, in addition to traditional mail or e-mail. Compared to previous years, there is greater use of the PARTICIPA.PT portal.

XVI. Obstacles encountered in the implementation of article 6

*Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 6.*

Answer:

The Ombudsman followed a complaint regarding the alleged insufficiency of the public disclosure and participation measures adopted by the DGEG (under Decree-Law No. 88/90

of 16 March, now revoked), in the context of the granting of prospecting and research rights for kaolin mineral deposits in the municipality of Soure, district of Coimbra.

Two issues, specifically, were the subject of study:

- Firstly, the concrete analysis of the environmental impacts and the health of the inhabitants, in view of the prospecting and research activity to be carried out by the concessionaire.
- In strict connection with the first question, the problem of the applicability of the Aarhus Convention: since the activity in question is not expressly and specifically included within the scope of the aforementioned international instrument (cf. Annex I), it could only be included therein if it were understood that it would have “significant impacts on the environment.”

The aforementioned contract granting prospecting and research rights was, however, revoked by DGEG, at the request of the concessionaire.

XVII. Further information on the practical application of the provisions of article 6

*Provide further information on the **practical application of the provisions on public participation in decisions on specific activities in article 6**, e.g., are there any statistics or other information available on public participation in decisions on specific activities or on decisions not to apply the provisions of this article to proposed activities serving national defence purposes.*

Answer:

In 2023, 262 public consultations were generated on the PARTICIPA.PT portal, which represents a decrease of 17.4% compared to 2022. However, this slight decrease was accompanied by an increase in participations, as well as in the average participation rate per process, not only in relation to 2022 but also since the portal began to be made available. This fact reflects not only a greater knowledge of the same, but also the fact that, in 2023, complex processes will be subject to public consultation, such as those supported by the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) – cf. <https://recuperarportugal.gov.pt/>.

With regard to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), eight notifications were submitted to APA in the period between 2021 and 2024, for deliberate release of GMOs into the environment under Decree-Law No. 72/2003 of 10 April - 4 notifications in 2021, 2 notifications in 2022 and 2 notifications in 2023.

XVIII. Website addresses relevant to the implementation of article 6

Give relevant website addresses, if available:

www.apambiente.pt

<http://participa.pt>

<https://www.provedor-jus.pt/>

<https://portal.azores.gov.pt/web/gov/consultas>

<https://apambiente.pt/avaliacao-e-gestao-ambiental/licencas-ambientaistua>

XIX. Practical and/or other provisions made for the public to participate during the preparation of plans and programmes relating to the environment pursuant to article 7

List the appropriate practical and/or other provisions made for the public to participate during the preparation of plans and programmes relating to the environment, pursuant to article 7. Describe the transposition of the relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3, paragraph 9.

Answer:

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a tool to support decision making that seeks to promote sustainable development. In accordance with national and Community legislation it contributes to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with the involvement of public and environmental authorities.

Portuguese SEA legislation, which arises from the transposition of Directive 2001/42 and dates from 2007, is very flexible, focusing on procedural transparency and the responsibilities of the entities that develop plans or programmes. The Ministry responsible for the Environment assumes a regulatory role, while APA's role is to monitor the implementation of legislation and disseminate information, ensuring dialogue with the European Commission.

Public participation in the preparation of plans and programmes is formally ensured by the corresponding national legislation. Decree-Law No. 232/2007 of 15 June, amended by Decree-Law No. 58/2011 of 4 May, outlines the institutional reference framework for SEA at national level. The option was taken in relation to land management instruments (IGT) to maintain the pre-existing procedures under the land management and urban planning policy, adjusting them to the requirements of the SEA through Decree-Law No. 80/2015 of 14 May, which establishes the legal regime of IGT, defines and regulates the public participation process for each type of instrument, as well as access to information under the policy of land and urban planning.

Participation is open to the general public, including - in addition to associations and NGOs - all citizens "who may somehow have an interest or be affected" by the approval of plans and programmes or for future approval of projects encompassed by such.

The public consultation lasts at least 30 days and is advertised by electronic means of communication, including by publication on the website of the entity responsible for preparing the plan or programme and by publishing adverts in at least 2 successive issues of a regional or national newspaper, when the scope of the plan or programme warrants such.

During the duration of the consultation, the draft plan or programme and the respective environmental report are available to the public at the locations indicated by the entity responsible for its preparation and in the municipalities of the area covered, or the CCDR in the case of national plans. Electronic means of publication may also be used if this is standard practice.

Approved plans or programmes, accompanied by the respective Environmental Statements are available to the public on the web pages of the entities responsible for their preparation. The results of further evaluation and control are also available to the public in the same way, at least on an annual basis.

APA is responsible for the overall processing of information relating to the environmental assessment. It holds a primary position in the dissemination of information on SEA through

the website <https://apambiente.pt/index.php/avaliacao-e-gestao-ambiental/avaliacao-ambiental-estrategica>.

A Good Practice Guide for Strategic Environmental Assessment was published in 2007, which includes recommendations that the communication strategies adopted ensure active involvement by different target groups that may be strategic in the successful implementation of the plan or programme. This guide was revised and updated in 2012 based on the experience of the first years of implementation of the legal framework, having focused on presenting practical aspects to promote good practices in order to contribute to improving SEA quality.

The website also contains the Environmental Statements (cf. <https://siaja.apambiente.pt/AAEstrategica>), and other technical guides and examples of good practice (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/avaliacao-e-gestao-ambiental/guias-e-modelos>).

The first assessment of the SEA in Portugal, published by APA in December 2010 highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the enforcement of the law and the implementation of the recommended good practices. The most interesting findings show that in environmental assessments conducted at the beginning of the enforcement of national legislation the concern was to meet the legal requirements, but this did not always translate into good practices. In this field APA has been developing initiatives to promote good practices and improve articulation between entities, based on the conclusions of subsequent reports that have been prepared (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/avaliacao-e-gestao-ambiental/balanco-da-aplicacao-da-aae>).

The PARTICIPA.PT portal (see reply to article 6) also provides for public consultations within the scope of the SEA. The balance of public participation in SEA processes, from the moment this platform was made available, is positive.

XX. Opportunities for public participation in the preparation of policies relating to the environment provided pursuant to article 7

Explain what opportunities are provided for public participation in the preparation of policies relating to the environment, pursuant to article 7.

Answer:

Several examples of public discussions of strategies, plans and programmes in the period covered in this report are presented, during which citizens and their organizations were given the opportunity to express their views:

Strategies and plans in the areas of energy and climate change

Citizen participation is considered one of the principles of climate policy under the Climate Framework Law, which also defines, in the context of climate rights, that full and effective protection of legally protected rights and interests in climate matters must be guaranteed, including, in particular: a) the right to action to defend subjective rights and legally protected interests and to exercise the right to public action and popular action; b) the right to promote the prevention, cessation and remediation of risks to climate balance; c) the right to request the immediate cessation of the activity causing a threat or damage to the climate balance.

Several examples of public discussions of strategies, plans and programs are presented during the period covered by this report:

- Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality (RNC2050)

The transition to carbon neutrality is an ambitious challenge requiring the extended

and participative involvement of the whole of society, which is why the preparation of the RNC2050 was based on a broad process of involvement of all sectors and the mobilization of Portuguese society.

This involvement took place throughout the different phases of the process, in particular the construction of the macroeconomic scenarios that serve as the basis for the entire prospective modelling. It allowed for the collection of contributions from various institutions and national experts, and gave rise to the three scenarios considered. Cycles of technical workshops were conducted that allowed us to understand the role of the circular economy in the future of different sectors, as well as to inform on the modelling work in the development of some of the main assumptions and trends (this cycle included sectorial workshops on Mobility, Forestry, Agrifood, Construction, Cities, Energy, Waste and Wastewater). Thematic events around the decarbonization of society were held, which included public sessions focusing on the themes of Mobility, the role of Forests in decarbonization, Energy Transition, Fair Transition and Sustainable Financing.

After the public presentation of the preliminary results of the RNC 2050, the formal process of public consultation was initiated, which took place over a period of about 3 months via the PARTICIPA.PT portal (<http://www.participa.pt/consulta.jsp?loadP=2428>). Various documentation was made available for this purpose. This public consultation received around 83 submissions.

At the same time, public sessions were promoted for the joint presentation of these results and of the preliminary version of the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PNEC 2030), in order to provide general public awareness of these two key instruments of energy and climate policy, and to invite contributions and comments which could potentially lead to further improvement of the works. These sessions took place across the country.

– National Energy and Climate Plan (PNEC 2030)

During the technical work of the PNEC 2030 review process, currently underway, institutional and civic participation was encouraged, as well as the monitoring and active cooperation of entities representing different sectoral interests through the implementation of various discussion actions. This exercise was supported by a participatory dialogue with society, with technical sessions being developed with agents from different sectors, especially for the discussion and validation of assumptions and the search for energy in different activities (session held on March 22, 2023, followed by a period for collecting written contributions). Also in this context, a regional tour of Participatory Assemblies was also promoted, with the participation of the government areas of energy and climate and regional development, and of APA and DGEG, co-coordinators of the review of PNEC 2030. Between May and June 2023, five sessions were held (Vila Nova de Famalicão, Silves, Coimbra, Lisbon and Évora) and which aimed to: (i) the involvement of civil society in the process of reviewing PNEC 2030; (ii) raising awareness of the strategic objectives of PNEC 2030; and (iii) the collection of contributions that benefit the review of PNEC 2030. Subsequently, the Public Consultation process was carried out in two distinct periods. The first prior consultation period took place between March 15 and April 14, 2023, through the PARTICIPA portal (<https://participa.pt/pt/consulta/consulta-previa-sobre-a-revisao-do-pnec2030>), with the aim of gathering contributions from society on the objectives, goals and main lines of action of PNEC 2030. In this process, 59 participations were obtained from the most diverse sectors of the economy and the economy. society. The second consultation period, on the final proposal for revising the PNEC 2030, is currently underway for a period of 45 days, ending on September 5, 2024 (<https://participa.pt/pt/consulta/plano-nacional-energia-e-clima-2030-pnec-2030>).

Portugal has actively participated in the Energy Union and Climate Action Committee and in the European Commission's Technical Working Groups on Integrated National Energy-Climate Plans (Working Group 2 of the Energy Union Committee),

maintaining open communication with the European Commission and the other Member States.

– Infra-national Adaptation Strategies and Plans

A significant part of the territory is currently covered by municipal and/or inter-municipal Adaptation Strategies/Plans (NUTS3). This progress was due to the replication of the work carried out as part of the ClimAdaPT.Local Project (completed in 2016), which marked the start of large-scale infra-national adaptive management. In this Project, a reference method was established for the creation of these strategies (27 were produced), with several events involving communities and local agents, as well as the training of local technicians. ClimAdaPT.Local has provided guidance manuals that support nearly all infra-national adaptation strategies in place and in preparation.

With the requirement set by the Climate Guidelines and Bases Law, all municipalities and regional coordination and development commissions must prepare a climate action plan (municipal or regional) that ensures the complementarity of policies and investments for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

– Climate Change Adaptation Action Programme (P-3AC)

The definition of the lines of action of the P-3AC resulted from the screening and prioritisation of the various adaptation measures listed in the sectorial, municipal and inter-municipal planning exercises. For this purpose, the ENAAC 2020 Coordination Group reviewed and collected submissions from the constituent members of the various sectoral working groups (made up of different types of sectoral stakeholders). The P-3AC was also submitted to public consultation and was the object of an opinion from the Scientific Panel of ENAAC 2020, thus ensuring wide-ranging consideration in the preparation of this reference instrument.

– National Strategy for Hydrogen

The National Strategy for Hydrogen (EN-H2), approved by RCM No. 63/2020 of 14 August, aims to promote the gradual introduction of hydrogen as a sustainable and integrated cornerstone of a broader strategy for transition to a decarbonised economy and carbon neutrality in 2050 (cf. <https://www.portugalenergia.pt/setor-energetico/bloco-4/> and <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc22/comunicacao/comunicado?i=conselho-de-ministros-aprova-estrategia-nacional-para-o-hidrogenio>). A period was established to hear public opinion, given the strategic and transversal nature, and the impact of EN-H2. This comprised a public consultation which took place between 22 May and 6 July 2020 (cf. <https://participa.pt/pt/consulta/en-h2-estrategia-nacional-para-o-hidrogenio>). At the same time, in-depth dialogue was held with the main players in the sector, with a view to consolidating the main objectives of this Strategy, in particular with regard to the targets for the incorporation of hydrogen in the various sectors (six sessions to discuss the strategy were organised with representatives from the sectors of Innovation and Development, Industry, Transport, Energy and Training, Qualification and Employment).

Portuguese NGOs active in diverse thematic areas, such as the environment, cooperation for development, human rights and local development, have also given increasing importance to the issue of climate change, contributing to greater awareness and information among citizens and monitoring the actions of companies, public bodies and policy decisions in this field.

On the understanding that promoting conversations on the theme of climate change among citizens and civil society is one of the fundamental steps for the success of climate policies, each year the APA has issued invitations with a view to including representatives from civil society in the official Portuguese delegation to the Conference of Parties as part of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. These invitations have been sent to platforms and confederations representing civil

society organisations in the fields of environment, development support and entrepreneurship. This initiative not only contributes to the greater awareness of these bodies on the theme of climate change, but also provides better information, aimed specifically at target audiences and also the general public, on the work which is ongoing at the heart of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Strategy for Air

The National Air Strategy (ENAR 2020), approved by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 46/2016 of 26 August, is being reviewed and will be incorporated into the National Atmospheric Pollution Control Program (PNCPA), which will aim to establish measures that lead to the reduction of atmospheric emissions necessary to meet the emission reduction targets between 2020 and 2029 and from 2030 onwards and that allow achieving the air quality levels recommended by the WHO as well as reducing the impact of air pollution on ecosystems and biodiversity (by reducing critical loads and levels defined for ecosystems).

Water resources plans and programmes

The Water Law (Law No. 58/2005 of 29 December, republished by Decree-Law No. 130/2012 of 22 June), supplemented by Decree-Law No. 77/2006 of 30 March, and other regulatory instruments, transpose to national law Directive No. 2000/60/EC, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 23 October (the Water Framework Directive - WFD), governing the way in which the planning and management of water resources should be developed <https://apambiente.pt/agua/lei-da-agua>. The following programmes and plans are to be highlighted in the period covered in this report:

- The main goal of the National Programme for the Efficient Use of Water 2012-2020 (PNUEA) is to promote efficient water use in Portugal, especially in the urban, agricultural and industrial sectors, helping to minimise the risk of water shortage and to improve environmental conditions in water resources without jeopardising the needs and the quality of life of populations, as well as the socio-economic development of the country. It associates the improvement of water use efficiency with the consolidation of a new water culture through which this resource is increasingly valued not only for its relevance to human and economic development but also for the preservation of the natural environment, in a perspective of sustainable development and respect for future generations. It also aims to achieve the reduction of the pollutant loads returned to water resources and the reduction of energy consumption, aspects that are highly dependent on water use. <https://apambiente.pt/agua/programa-nacional-para-o-uso-eficiente-da-agua>; This Program is currently under review;
- The River Basin Region Management Plans (PGRH) are tools for planning water resource management aimed at the environmental, social and economic protection and enhancement of water in river basins integrated into river basin districts. Their creation is under the responsibility of APA - <https://apambiente.pt/agua/planos-de-gestao-de-regiao-hidrografica>. The planning of water resource management is structured in six-year cycles, under the WFD and the Water Law. The first PGRHs drafted under this framework, corresponding to the 1st planning cycle, were in force for the period 2009 to 2015, with those corresponding to the 2nd cycle being in force between 2016-2021. Council of Ministers Resolution No. 62/2024 of 3 April, approved the PGRH of Mainland Portugal for the period 2022-2027. All information on the various stages of public participation in the WFD planning cycles that have already taken place or are in progress are available on the APA website. It should be noted that in each planning cycle, public participation involving all interested parties for a period of at least 6 months is encouraged in three phases of the planning of each PGRH. The WFD and the Water Law establish that all documents relevant to the preparation, review and updating of the PGRHs are made available to the public, with

specific periods of participation at determining phases of the process, so that the final version of the various documents includes all of the submissions received, as follows:

- 1st Phase: Schedule and Programme of Works
 - 2nd Phase: Significant Water Management Issues (QSiGA)
 - 3rd Phase: PGRH Provisional Versions
- The National Water Plan (PNA) defines the national strategy for integrated water management, and establishes the main options of the national water policy and the principles and rules governing this policy to be applied by the river basin region management plans, and by other water planning instruments. The current PNA was approved by the Decree-Law No. 76/2016, of 9 November, approved the PNA under the terms of paragraph 4 of article 28 of the Water Law, approved by Law No. 58/2008 of 31 May. It created the Inter-ministerial Commission for the Coordination of Water - <https://apambiente.pt/agua/plano-nacional-da-agua>. The PNA is under review.
- The Flood Risk Management Plans (PGRI) constitute a sectorial for flooding in the Areas of Significant Potential Risk of Floods (ARPSI), which are those that have records of severe impacts resulting from this natural phenomenon. PGRIs aim to reduce risk by reducing potential harmful consequences for human health, economic activities, cultural heritage and the environment. The implementation of the Flood Risk Assessment and Management Directive (DAGRI) comprises three phases:
- 1st Phase: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (APRI);
 - 2nd Phase: Preparation of Flood Zones and Flood Risk Maps (CZICRI);
 - 3rd Phase: Preparation and implementation of PGRI.
- Implementation of the DAGRI is carried out in six-year planning cycles. The 2nd cycle PGRI were approved through RCM n° 63/2024, of April 23 and are in force until 2027. 63 ARPSIs were identified in mainland Portugal - 47 of which are of river origin and 16 of coastal origin - the delimitation of the flooded area and the associated risk, a program of measures to minimize impacts. They also include, within the scope of land use planning, a regime for land use and occupation in ARPSI.. Documentation on this process is available on the APA portal (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/agua/2o-ciclo-de-planeamento-2022-2027>);
- The Regional Water Efficiency Plans (PREH) for the Algarve and Alentejo are plans whose creation was determined to respond to the structural problem of drought in these regions, which is likely to worsen due to the expected effect of climate change. Order No. 443/2020, of January 14, determines the preparation of the PREH bases for the Algarve and Order No. 444/2020, of the same date, determines the preparation of the PREH bases for the Alentejo. The documentation relating to this process is available on the APA portal (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/agua/planos-regionais-de-eficiencia-hidrica>);
- The Public Water Reservoir Management Plans (POAAP), Estuary Development Plans (POE) and Coastal Management Plans (POOC) are special land use plans that, through the Basic General Law of Public Policy on Land, Spatial Planning and Urban Management (Law No. 31/2014 of 30 May) and the new legal framework for instruments of territorial management (Decree-Law No. 80/2015 of 14 May), became Special Programmes, which are submitted to public discussion as part of their planning process. Throughout the preparation of the new programmes, the relevant information is made available to all stakeholders via the APA website, and the current status of development of the different plans, including the public consultations, may be checked at <https://apambiente.pt/agua/planeamento-e-ordenamento>.

Internationally, the management of shared basins is governed by the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Waters of the Portuguese-Spanish River Basins, signed by the two countries on 30 November 1998, and hereinafter known as the Reservoirs Convention. It aims to define the framework for cooperation between the two countries for the protection of surface and ground waters and the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems directly dependent on them, and the sustainable use of water

resources of the Portuguese-Spanish river basins (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/agua/convencao-de-albufeira-cooperacao-luso-espanhola>). Four specific working groups were set up under the Commission for the Implementation and Development of the Convention (CADC). The most significant of these was Exchange of Information and Public Participation, due to its importance in the context of the Aarhus Convention, in addition to a secretariat for technical support.

The National Water Council (CNA) is the independent consultative body of the Portuguese Government for the planning and sustainable management of water, created by Decree-Law No. 45/94 of 22 February. The structure and operating means of the Council were redefined by Decree-Law No. 84/2004 of 14 April. Represented on the CNA are the Public Administration, the municipalities and the most representative national scientific, economic, professional and non-governmental organisations in the various uses of water, ensuring the involvement and coordination of the government and civil society (cf. <http://conselhonacionaldaagua.weebly.com/>). The main objective of the CNA is to rule on the preparation of plans and projects with special emphasis on the uses of water and water resources, providing a forum for discussion of the management of national water resources policy and the strategic options for its implementation, from an integrative perspective of the environmental values and the sectoral and territorial economic interests. During the reported period, the CNA monitored the preparation and reported on the third cycle of PGRH (which will be in force until 2027), and monitored the drought and scarcity situation recorded in Portugal. The aforementioned monitoring addressed, in particular, the effectiveness of the water resources planning/management instruments and strategies in force in Portugal (PGRH, National Water Plan, Strategy defined for water reuse, among others) to address the drought/scarcity situation.

The Hydrographic Region Councils (CRH) are consultative bodies which provide support to the APA on matters of water resources, for the hydrographic basins included in the respective areas of jurisdiction, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 of article 8 of the Decree-Law No. 56/2012 of 12 March. They represent users related to the consumptive and non-consumptive use of water in the respective river basin, as well as technical, scientific and non-governmental organisations representing the uses of water in the river basin. The powers of the CRH are established in Ordinance No. 37/2015 of 17 February.

Strategies, plans and programmes for the coastal zone.

- The National Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ENGIZC) establishes the strategic framework for the global, integrated and participatory management of the coastal zone, in order to guarantee sustainability conditions for its development. Provides the framework for the development and implementation of plans, programmes and strategies with a focus on the coastal zone. Presents the vision for 2029 to achieve a harmoniously developed and sustainable coastal zone, based on a systemic approach and enhancing the value of its resources and identity assets based on scientific knowledge and managed according to a model that articulates institutions, coordinates policies and instruments and ensures the participation of the different actors involved. The strategy development process started in 2006 with the preparation of the document "Bases for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy", which was opened to public discussion in early 2006 and disclosed in 2007. ENGIZC was also the subject of a public discussion process. The strategic environmental assessment of ENGIZC was developed based on the principles defined in Decree-Law No. 232/2007 of 15 June. ENGIZC was approved by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 82/2009 of 8 September.
- Law no. 31/2014 of 30 May was published in 2014, which establishes the general bases of the public policy of soils, land use and urban development planning, which classifies the coastal programmes, as special programmes, as instruments of national scope. Article 3 enshrines citizens' participation as a general principle, strengthening access to information and their intervention in the procedures for drafting,

implementing, evaluating and reviewing land programmes and plans. Article 49 establishes the right to information and participation. Decree-Law No. 80/2015 of 14 May develops the bases of the public policy of soils, land use and urban development planning, defining the coordination system of national, regional, inter-municipal and municipal scope of the land management system, the general legal scheme for land use and the system of preparation, approval, performance and assessment of land management instruments. Article 5 states that all stakeholders have the right to be informed about land management policy and, in particular, about the preparation, approval, monitoring, implementation and assessment of the land programmes and plans.

- The Litoral XXI Action Plan recognises that information is essential for the construction of a responsible and participatory society, whether to increase participatory processes in coastal management where the involvement, consultation and participation of different local agents and the population contribute to a constructive debate of ideas and concrete actions, or for the success of policies in the area of environmental education, in particular the ENEA 2020. It reinforces the importance of internalizing a culture of planning which promotes the informed, active and responsible participation of citizens and institutions. Within the framework of the ENEA 2020, it acknowledges the relevance of valuing the territory, where the central theme of “The Coast” is essential to promote a more rational and resilient approach to spatial planning by the citizens who live in this narrow and fragile strip of national territory.
- The new Coastal Zone Programmes (POC) for the Caminha-Espinho, Ovar-Marinha Grande, Alcobaça-Cabo Espichel e Espichel-Odeceixe sections of coastline, already approved, were submitted to public consultation via the PARTICIPA.pt portal, and are available on the APA website. The Management Regulations for these sections were also submitted for public discussion. A strategic environmental assessment of these programmes was carried out, based on the principles defined in Decree-Law No. 232/2007 of 15 June and the provisions of the new Legal Framework for Territorial Management Instruments approved by Decree-Law No. 80/2015 of 14 May.

Strategy, plans and programmes for the sea

- In 2021, Portugal adopted its third National Strategy for the Sea 2021-2030 (ENM 2021-2030) <https://www.dgpm.mm.gov.pt/enm-21-30> (Council of Ministers Resolution No. 68/2021) and the respective Action Plan for its implementation (Council of Ministers Resolution No. 120/2021), which includes 185 concrete measures, distributed across the various priority intervention areas of this strategy, of which 30 are considered emblematic due to their special scope and high potential for multiplier effects. The ENM 2021-2030 is a public policy instrument for the Sea, whose vision is to promote a healthy Ocean to enhance sustainable blue development, the well-being of the Portuguese and affirm Portugal as a leader in Ocean governance, through the reinforcement of scientific knowledge and the development of technological innovation. The guiding principles of the ENM 2021-2030 are aligned with the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the European Green Deal, the European Union's Integrated Maritime Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy, and the recent Biodiversity Strategy 2030, Farm to Fork Strategy and Starfish Mission 2030: Recovering our Ocean and Waters, presented by the European Commission. To outline the best measures to combat the global challenges that Portugal and the world face, such as climate change, the overexploitation of the planet's natural resources and the decline of its biodiversity, hunger and thirst, human and ecosystem health and the loss of assets and knowledge linked to cultural heritage, the ENM 2021-2030 established 10 strategic objectives for the decade and defined 13 priority areas for intervention. The ten strategic objectives (SO) aim to “Combat climate change and pollution and protect and restore ecosystems” (SO1); “Promote employment and the circular and sustainable blue economy” (OE2); “Decarbonize the economy and

promote renewable energy and energy autonomy” (OE3); “Bet on ensuring sustainability and food security” (OE4); “Facilitate access to drinking water” (OE5); “Promote health and well-being” (OE6); “Stimulate scientific knowledge, technological development and blue innovation” (OE7); “Increase education, training, culture and literacy of the Ocean” (OE8); “Encourage reindustrialization and productive capacity and digitalize the Ocean” (OE9) and “Ensure security, sovereignty, cooperation and governance” (OE10). In turn, the 13 identified priority intervention areas represent sectors, or sets of sectors, and areas linked to the sea, within which it is intended to develop measures, incentives and support so that they are strengthened and contribute to achieving strategic objectives. The ENM 2021-2030 was the subject of a highly participatory public consultation process, with more than 1,300 participants (online and in person), the holding of 12 public sessions and the collection of more than 240 contributions from companies, citizens, Public Administration, non-governmental organizations and business associations, among others. The ENM 2021-2030 starts from the Ocean as one of the main pillars of sustainability on the planet and is based on the principles of preservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystem resources and services in harmony with economic, social and environmental development. Regarding the monitoring of the ENM 2021-2030, the DGPM prepares annual reports on the Maritime Economy in Portugal, thus seeking to monitor the evolution of a set of relevant indicators, of an economic, social and environmental nature that can support the Interministerial Commission for Maritime Affairs and provide information to the various interested parties (Reports published in the Blue Economy Observatory). Law No. 17/2014 of 10 April was published in 2014, which establishes the bases of the Policy for Planning and Management of the National Maritime Space. Article 12 of that law enshrines the information and participation rights of all stakeholders in the process of preparation, alteration, revision and suspension of the instruments for the planning of the national maritime space. Decree-Law No. 38/2015 of 12 March develops Law No. 17/2014 of 10 April, specifically in article 7 on the right to information and article 8 on the right to participation. The terms of participation in the preparation of the Situation Plan (article 17) and public consultation of the proposed contract for management (article 32) are also defined in the scope of the allocation plans. This law also makes the Situation Plan (article 13) subject to environmental assessment, under the terms of law, and makes the Allocation Plans equivalent to projects, for the purposes of applying the legal scheme for environmental impact assessment (article 23).

- Aquaculture production area of Central Portugal - public participation processes between 24 March and 11 April 2014, pursuant to paragraph 5 of Ordinance No. 4222/2014 of 21 March.
- Aquaculture production area of Tavira - public participation processes between 24 March and 11 April 2014, pursuant to paragraph 5 of Ordinance No. 4223/2014 of 21 March.

Waste plans and programmes

National waste management plans are drawn up by the National Waste Authority (ANR) - APA is currently the ANR - and approved by Council of Ministers Resolution, after hearing the entities that make up the Waste Management Monitoring Committee (CAGER - <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/comissao-de-acompanhamento-da-gestao-de-residuos-cager>) in the case of the National Waste Management Plan (PNGR) and the Non-Urban Waste Management Strategic Plan (PERNU); and after hearing the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities (ANMP) in the case of the Urban Waste Strategic Plan (PERSU).

Given the importance of listening to and gathering proposals and recommendations from the widest range of entities in the waste management sector or those directly involved in it, within the scope of the preparation of PNGR 2030 and PERSU 2030, an Administration Working Group and an Advisory Committee were created, composed of 15 entities,

namely, business confederations and associations and professional orders.

In 2020, public consultations were launched on the ongoing work to prepare PNGR, PERSU and PERNU for the 2030 horizon. In 2022, the proposed plans were put out for public consultation, and, in the case of PERSU and PERNU, with the respective Environmental Assessments. After approval, the national waste plans, which are part of the respective waste prevention programs, are made available to the public on the APA website <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/planeamento>.

During the period covered by this report, three new national waste management plans were drawn up and published:

- National Waste Management Plan (PNGR 2030) – with a time horizon until 2030, the PNGR is a macro-planning instrument for waste policy that aims to change the current paradigm in terms of waste, advocating the prevention of waste production in order to protect, preserve and improve the quality of the environment and protect human health, ensuring that the management of waste that cannot be prevented is carried out through sustainable management of materials, guaranteeing efficient use of natural resources, promoting the principles of the circular economy, reinforcing the use of renewable energy and increasing energy efficiency. The PNGR was subject to public consultation and was published in 2023 by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 31/2023, of March 24. More information about this Plan can be found at <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/plano-nacional-de-gestao-de-residuos-pngr>;
- Strategic Plan for Urban Waste (PERSU 2030) – with a time horizon also up to 2030, PERSU aims to continue the application of the national waste policy, guiding the agents involved in implementing actions that allow the country to be aligned with community policies and guidelines, contributing to increased prevention, recycling and other forms of valorization of urban waste, with the consequent reduction in the consumption of natural raw materials with limited resources. This plan focuses on preventing waste production and selective collection, with particular attention to new fractions: textile waste, hazardous waste and bio-waste, while also giving importance to promoting the use of materials derived from waste (waste-derived fuel, compost, recovered recyclables, biogas and ash/slag). The Plan was also subject to public consultation, having been published in 2023, by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 30/2023, of March 24. More information about PERSU can be found at <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/plano-estrategico-para-os-residuos-urbanos-persu>;
- Strategic Plan for Non-Urban Waste (PERNU 2030) – as in the two previous Plans, with a time horizon until 2030, this is a new reference instrument for non-urban waste policy in Portugal, replacing the specific sectoral plans whose validity has ended and covering both the other sectors not covered and the specific flows that may be associated with them. PERNU 2030 establishes the vision, objectives, global and specific targets, as well as the measures to be implemented within the framework of non-urban waste in the period up to 2030 and the strategy that supports its implementation. This Plan, like the previous ones, was subject to public consultation, having also been published in 2023, by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 127/2023, of October 18. More information can be found at <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/plano-estrategico-para-os-residuos-nao-urbanos-pernu>.

Biodiversity and nature conservation strategy, plans and programmes

- The National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity for 2030 (ENCNB 2030), approved by Council of Ministers Resolution 55/2018 of 7 May, is based on a recognition of the fact that the Portuguese natural heritage is a determining feature of the country's international affirmation and, as such, contributes to the realization of a development model based on a sense of value of its territory and its

natural values. It is a fundamental instrument for pursuing the environmental policy and for responding to national and international responsibilities to reduce the loss of natural assets. ENCNB 2030 lists the objectives, ordered by priority, which are to be pursued by 2030. These unfold into a set of implementation measures, for which indicators, priorities, deadlines, means of verification, instruments and responsibilities are defined. Taking into consideration the undertakings assumed as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regard to the targets and objectives for implementation, the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the EU Biodiversity Strategy also seek to consolidate a document which will then be able to serve as a reference with regard to the challenges imposed upon the Portuguese republic for the post-2020 period, in the context of its geopolitical framework. Its approval was preceded by a period of public consultation on the PARTICIPA.PT portal (cf. <https://participa.pt/pt/consulta/estrategia-nacional-de-conservacao-da-natureza-e-da-biodiversidade-5805>) between 12 June and 30 September 2017.

- The Legal Scheme for Nature and Biodiversity Conservation, RJCNB (cf. Decree-Law No. 242/2015 of 15 October, which republishes Decree-Law No. 142/2008 of 24 July), envisages that the **nationwide classification of protected areas** is necessarily preceded by a period of public discussion aimed at gathering comments and suggestions on the classification as a protected area. The procedure and time limits of this public discussion are stipulated in paragraphs 5 and 6 of article 14 of that Decree-Law. According to paragraph 3 of article 14 of that law, paragraphs 4 to 6 of that same article 14 also apply to the classification of protected regional or local areas. The RJCNB also establishes that the provisions of legal instruments for land management shall apply to procedures for preparation, approval, implementation and assessment of **management plans for protected areas**, protecting the right of public participation in the preparation, modification, revision, implementation and assessment of land management instruments. The legal scheme of the Natura 2000 network (sub-paragraph a) of paragraph 3 of Article 7 of Decree-Law No. 49/2005), the **Natura 2000 network management plans** are preceded by public consultation, which follows the procedures provided in the legal scheme of land management instruments for special land management plans.
- **The Action Plan for the Surveillance and Control of Vespa Velutina in Portugal** (cf. <https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/4187db2acfea6e33>) is operated by ICNF via the – “STOPVESPA” – platform, designed to enable citizens to report online the existence of nests of the so-called Asian hornet, accessible at <https://stopvespa.icnf.pt/>. ANEPC's involvement in the Action Plan involves its dissemination, while the municipal councils are responsible for coordinating the process of controlling and destroying nests. According to the Monitoring Committee for the Surveillance, Prevention and Control of Vespa Velutina, anyone who detects or suspects the existence of nests or specimens of Vespa Velutina must notify the relevant authority through one of the following means:
 - Online insertion/georeferencing of the nest or wasp specimens and online completion of a form with information about them, available on the portal <https://stopvespa.icnf.pt/>. Completion of the “citizens” form, which will lead to the relevant municipality being informed by e-mail;
 - Contact through the SOS AMBIENTE line (808 200 520). In this case, the observer will be informed of the procedure to be followed for effective communication of their concerns;

The cooperation of the parish council closest to the place of detection/suspicion may also be requested, in order to complete the form.

Strategy, plans and programmes in the area of forests

- The National Forest Strategy, adopted by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 6-

B/2015 – cf. <https://www.icnf.pt/quemsomos/documentosdereferencia> -, as well as the 7 Regional Forest Management Plans (PROF) – cf. <https://www.icnf.pt/florestas/pro> were prepared according to procedures that included and guaranteed public participation, as established in legislation (Decree-Law No. 16/2009 of 14 January, amended by Decree-Law No. 114/2010 of 22 October). The PROF are approved by Ordinance and are made up of the Regulation, the strategic document and the graphic documents.

- Legal scheme for Forestation and Reforestation (RJAR) <https://www.icnf.pt/florestas/arborizacoes> and Legal scheme for the Harvest, Transportation, Storage, Processing, Import and Export of pine cones - both were the subject of extensive public participation initiatives, mainly centred on thematic seminars and discussion forums based on the ICNF website <https://www.icnf.pt/florestas/fileirasflorestais/regimesjuridicos>. A similar process also took place with Regulation 995/2010 of the EU Parliament and the Council of 20 October, laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market, namely the preparation of additional implementing rules <https://www.icnf.pt/florestas/fileirasflorestais/operadordemadeiraederivados>.
- Forest Management Plans (PGF) <https://www.icnf.pt/florestas/pgf> relating to State-owned land, land in Forest Intervention Areas (ZIF) <https://www.icnf.pt/florestas/zif> or integrating community land (wasteland) are mandatorily the object of public consultation and participation prior to their approval. In the period in analysis such land exceeded 650,000 ha for a total of about 200 PGF.
- The Operational Programme of Forest Health (POSF) <https://www.icnf.pt/florestas/fitossanidade/pos> approved by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 28/2014 establishes the bases of intervention for the reduction of risks of introduction, spread and damage caused by harmful biotic agents. It has been designed by a multidisciplinary and interinstitutional team of forestry technicians and researchers with different specialised skills, representing a wide range of public and private entities covering the fields of forestry production research, forest-based industries and service providers. It also underwent consultation prior to its publication.

National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (PANCD)

The PANCD review process began in January 2010, more than a decade after the entry into force of PANCD 1999. It meets the obligations and necessary alignment with the guidelines of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) following the adoption of the Ten Year Strategy 2008/2018, which defines new strategic and operational objectives, expected impacts and global and national indicators to be complied with by national programmes for the period in question. These strategic objectives include the sustainable management and recovery of ecosystems of the susceptible areas and the articulation and promotion of synergies with the processes related to climate change and biodiversity in these fields.

The new PANCD was approved by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 78/2014 of 24 December, for the 2014-2020 horizon. The PANCD underwent public discussion before its approval and adoption. That discussion encompassed strategic guidelines for the development of the fight against desertification in its direct issues, but also - as is apparent from the UNCCD - in areas associated with soil degradation and drought, as well as combating poverty and depopulation (cf. <https://www.icnf.pt/conservacao/ambitointernacional/combateadesertificacao>). The PANCD was also the object of a Strategic Environmental Assessment process, which included a process of public discussion.

Strategies in the area of agriculture

- The Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy CAP 2023-2027, currently under development, will guide the application of the future CAP in Portugal. It was subject to a consultation procedure, from 9 November 2020 to 8 January 2021, published at <https://www.gpp.pt/index.php/noticias/plano-estrategico-da-pac-2023-2027-consulta-alargada-4>, with request for contributions via pac_pos2020@gpp.pt.
- The Innovation Agenda for Agriculture 2030 (Terra Futura), approved by Council of Ministers Resolution no. 86/2020 of 13 October, aims to guide the sector's strategy and policies, aiming at a system of agriculture which is even more sustainable, competitive and innovative, and which gives and receives knowledge, https://www.gpp.pt/index.php/terra_futura/terra-futura.
- National Strategy for Organic Agriculture and Action Plan - The XXI Constitutional Government undertook a commitment in its Programme to define a National Strategy for Organic Agriculture and implement an Action Plan for the production and promotion of agricultural products and organic foodstuffs. On 27 July 2017 Council of Ministers Resolution No. 110/2017 was published, approving the National Strategy for Organic Agriculture (ENAB) and the Action Plan (PA) for the production and promotion of agricultural and organic foodstuffs, the DGADR being responsible for coordinating the implementation of the planned measures. This Strategy was the object of public consultation from 2 to 30 September 2016. The DGADR publishes a monthly newsletter on its implementation, at <https://www.dgadr.gov.pt/estrategia-nacional-para-a-agricultura-biologica>.
- The National Irrigation Programme was approved by RCM No. 133/2018 of 12 October - The XXI Constitutional Government's programme provided for the preparation of a National Irrigation Programme (PNRegadios), with the aim of expanding, rehabilitating and modernizing existing irrigation systems and creating new irrigated areas, ideally with the potential to connect to existing ones. The objective is to promote irrigation and other collective infrastructures with a view to sustainability, contributing to the adaptation to climate change, the fight against desertification and a more efficient use of resources. As stated in the introduction of the RCM, the PNRegadios programme, by implementing new hydro-agricultural systems in areas that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, constitutes an important measure of prevention and mitigation of such effects, increasing the resilience and robustness of agricultural systems as well as contributing to the settlement of populations, particularly in the areas most weakened by the dynamics of depopulation. The activities planned in the PNRegadios cover very diverse areas of the national territory. The creation and reinforcement of sources of surface water in the Trás-os-Montes, Beira, Alentejo and Algarve regions is a priority from the perspective of spatial planning and social justice, without prejudice to the need to link up with areas of greater environmental sensitivity, in particular the areas included in the 2000 Nature Networks.
- The National Strategy for Agricultural and Agro-industrial Effluents (ENEAPAI), under public discussion from 10 December 2020 to 22 January 2021, seeks to contribute to the resolution of environmental problems diagnosed in particular with regard to the quality of water bodies originating in the agricultural sector on mainland Portugal; https://www.consultalex.gov.pt/ConsultaPublica_Detail.aspx?Consulta_Id=171.
- The National Strategy for Combating Food Waste (ENCDA) and respective Action Plan, approved by Council of Ministers Resolution no. 46/2018 of 27 April, contains several measures and actions for informing the public and encouraging their participation, in particular:
 - Monthly newsletter <https://www.cncda.gov.pt/index.php/documentos-e-legislacao/newsletter>;
 - Plenary meetings <https://www.cncda.gov.pt/index.php/documentos-e-legislacao/reuniao-plenaria>;
 - Guidelines, manuals and clarifications <https://www.cncda.gov.pt/index.php/documentos-e-legislacao/orientacoes>;

[manuais-esclarecimentos;](#)

- Launching campaigns <https://www.cncda.gov.pt/index.php/documentos-e-legislacao/campanh>.

National Programme for Spatial Planning (PNPOT)

The PNPOT review was preceded by a wide-ranging process of participation (cf. <https://pnpot.dgterritorio.gov.pt/pcat/pcatsite/>) and debate, which the PNPOT portal (<https://pnpot.dgterritorio.pt/>) continues to promote in the current phase of implementation of the PNPOT. Organisations representing the sectors and territories as well as civil society participated.

In 2024, with the creation of a new IT platform, mechanisms for direct citizen participation were created through the possibility of reporting their own initiatives that contribute to achieving the objectives and expected effects recommended in the policy measures of the PNPOT Territorial Agenda.

Programmes in the field of radiological protection and nuclear safety

- National Programme for the Management of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste (PNGCIRR)

The PNGCIRR provided for in Directive 2011/70/EURATOM, as well as in Decree-Law No. 156/2013, which carried out its transposition, was created by the competent authority and approved by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 122/2017. Approval of this programme took place after a Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure, with public consultation, in which the various stakeholders and the general public had the opportunity to contribute. The initial programme was in force until 2019, with APA, which inherited the powers of the previous competent authority, preparing the necessary updating.

- Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring Programme (PMAR)

Also within the scope of its powers and responsibilities as the competent authority for Radiological Protection (DL no. 108/2018 of 3 December), APA is responsible for preparing and carrying out the annual PMAR. This Programme has as its main objective the quantification of radioactivity in food and in the environment. The results of this programme will make it possible to assess the public's exposure to ionizing radiation of natural and artificial origin; they will be made available to the public in good time and as soon as the results of the surveys are validated. As part of its international obligations, APA must also report its findings to the European Commission (article 35 and 36 of the Euratom Treaty) and to the OSPAR Convention Committee on Radioactive Substances.

- Technical Advisory Committee for Radiological Protection

APA, as provided for in the legal regime for radiological protection, constituted a Technical Advisory Committee in which various stakeholders in the area of radiological protection are represented. This Committee currently includes more than 29 entities from the public and private sphere, such as the General Directorate of Health, Authority for Working Conditions, Business Confederation of Portugal, Medical Association, Dental Association, Universities, Autonomous Regions, among others, and is responsible for ensuring APA's technical advice in this area. The Technical Advisory Committee, taking as its premise the highest levels of radiological safety, community directives and international standards, seeks to address several matters, including the procedure for issuing authorisations for practices involving ionizing radiation and the recognition of specialists in radiological protection, the response to radiological and nuclear emergencies, and the National Radon Plan, among others.

National Strategies for Active Mobility

The National Strategy for Active Cycling Mobility 2020-2030 (ENMAC), approved by RCM No. 131/2019 of 2 August, aims to contribute to the decarbonisation of mobility, favouring more sustainable travel options such as the use of bicycles. At the same time, it intends to maximize benefits for the health of citizens, providing them with healthier lifestyle habits. The creation of ENMAC 2020 -2030 was subject to a participatory process, which sought to promote effective ownership and accountability by civil society.. As a guarantee of participated processes, ENMAC 2020-2030 considers:

- Create Mobility Forums - to maximize the impact, visibility and participation in the measures to be implemented, all relevant entities, from the public, private and associative sectors, will be periodically involved, ensuring specific spaces for debate and discussion on active mobility and accessibility, in events designed to foster reflection and discussion, on a national, regional and local scale;
- Strengthen popular participation - participatory processes will be promoted and generalized, simplifying and making accessible the consultation of citizens and entities on the implementation of policies to promote active mobility, making the respective advantages evident to the population, for specific and delimited contexts.

The approval of the National Strategy for Active Pedestrian Mobility 2030 (ENMAP) - Council of Ministers Resolution No. 67/2023), proposes, among others, to expand and intensify information, training and awareness-raising mechanisms. For example, access to urban information is provided through the introduction of relevant communication in a format accessible to all people, namely, in the form of pedestrian maps as a way of encouraging walking, as well as guidance elements for people with disabilities, real-time information on transport access conditions at transport interfaces and/or through mobile phone applications, taking into account the principles of universal design, etc. The preparation of ENMAP involved a public consultation process that allowed contributions to be gathered and incorporated into the final version.

National Railway Plan (PFN)

The PFN aims to bring the railway to all district capitals, reduce travel time between Lisbon and Porto and promote better connections between the railway network and port and airport infrastructures. It should ensure adequate coverage of the territory and the connection of the most important urban centres, as well as Iberian cross-border connections and integration into the trans-European network. It should also ensure the integration of the railway mode into the main national and international logistics chains. The aim is therefore to progressively transfer passengers and goods to rail, making an important contribution to the objectives of decarbonization, environmental protection, economic development and a general improvement in people's quality of life. The PFN underwent a strategic environmental assessment in 2022, incorporating the corresponding public consultation, and was carried out by the National Civil Engineering Laboratory (LNEC),

Location of the new airport in Lisbon

Due to its size, history and mobilization of the entire portuguese society, it is worth mentioning the public participation that took place between 2022 and 2024 on the strategic airport options for the Lisbon region, in the context of a strategic environmental assessment. To coordinate its implementation, an Independent Technical Commission was established, coordinated by a personality of recognized merit; to ensure monitoring and independence of the work of the Technical Committee, a Monitoring Committee was created. As a “space for dialogue” and to ensure a participatory, transparent, democratic and informative process until the end, the website <https://aeroparticipa.pt/> was created. Public participation was possible in three phases of the process: contributing to the selection of viable strategic options, defining critical decision factors and the respective strategic evaluation framework, and the final evaluation of strategic options <https://aeroparticipa.pt/processo-de-participacao/>. The reports can be consulted at

Tourism sector strategies

- The Tourism Strategy 2035 (ET35), which will succeed the Tourism Strategy 2027 (ET27), is now under construction, aiming to establish itself as a new strategic reference for tourism in Portugal, enabling us to face the new challenges facing the country, Europe and the world, necessarily including the challenge of sustainability in its various dimensions. The ET35 construction process is being developed in conjunction with all public and private partners in the tourism ecosystem and, also, due to its thematic and geographic transversality, with partners that have an interconnection with tourism in different regions, comprising a Cycle of Conferences on the theme "Building the Tourism of the Future" that will pass through all regions of the country. The possibility of participating in the construction of ET35 is also open to the general public, through a platform made available for this purpose on the TdP website (cf. https://participa-et2035.turismodeportugal.pt/TP_Forms/Estrategia);
- Sustainable Tourism Plan 25-30 - in line with the new Tourism Strategy 2035, the new Plan is being prepared, continuing the work developed through the Sustainable Tourism Plan 20-23. The aim of this new Plan is to provide current responses to the increasingly urgent needs of the green transition and a climate agenda for tourism, contributing to a true circular economy that promotes the even more efficient use of resources and the environmental preservation of the planet, actively seeking to regenerate ecosystems and biodiversity and leaving a positive footprint in the territories, which strengthens local economies and the preservation of cultural traditions and the quality of life of their inhabitants, responding to the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs). We intend for the Plan to be configured as a new strategic reference, through which the TdP reaffirms its commitment to continue to mobilize agents and society to promote sustainability in Tourism in Portugal. Therefore, in addition to a public consultation period being planned for the same, we intend to create, for the purposes of monitoring and following up the future Plan, but also during its preparation phase, a Monitoring Group, similar to what happened in the case of the previous Plan 20-23, thus ensuring the involvement and participation of all stakeholders;
- The Tourism Strategy 2027 (ET27), approved by RCM n. ET27 aims to «Affirm tourism as a hub for economic, social and environmental development throughout the territory, positioning Portugal as one of the most competitive and sustainable tourist destinations in the world», with the establishment of ambitious goals for economic, social and environmental sustainability. The environmental sustainability goals are aimed at tourism companies and aim to ensure that more than 90% of companies adopt, by 2027, measures for efficient use of energy and water and develop environmental waste management actions. The TdP, as the national tourism authority, responsible for the promotion, enhancement and sustainability of tourism activity, has been identifying relevant areas of action that aim to contribute to a tourism response to the urgent challenges of sustainability, in alignment with ET27, in terms of circular economy and sustainability, about which it provides information on its website (cf. <https://www.turismodeportugal.pt>);
- Sustainable Tourism Plan 2020-2023: constitutes the strategic, participatory and dynamic, broad and creative framework through which the TdP assumed the responsibility of mobilizing agents and society to promote sustainability in tourism in Portugal. This mobilization and the public consultation phase of the plan resulted in more than 100 participations from sector agents, public entities, associations and citizens, which made the plan more complete and diversified, growing from 74 to 119 actions. Following the completion of the 2020-2023 Sustainable Tourism Plan, through the publication of the respective Execution

Report, the results achieved were identified and shared with a view to ensuring the continuity of the work carried out from 2024 onwards, which should be assumed as a second phase of the challenge of positioning Portugal as one of the most sustainable, competitive and safe tourist destinations in the world.

- Sustainability Monitoring Group: working group provided for in the Sustainable Tourism Plan 2020-2023, within the scope of its management and monitoring, which aims at shared responsibility in achieving the goals of said Plan and, subsequently, of the 2027 Tourism Strategy. This working group is made up of more than 50 entities representing the tourism sector, institutional partners, non-governmental organizations and academia, having met three times, between 2022 and 2023, to discuss the topics
 - Environmental dimension of sustainability in the tourism sector,
 - Social responsibility in tourism, focus on people, and
 - Accelerate the transition – prepare for the future.

National Strategy for Environmental Education (ENEA)

The ENEA approval by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 100/2017 of 8 June, establishes a collaborative, strategic and cohesive commitment to the construction of environmental literacy in Portugal which, through an inclusive and visionary citizenship, leads to a change in the civilizational paradigm, translating into sustainable models of behaviour in all areas of human activity. This was preceded by a period of public consultation between 13 April and 24 May 2017 on the PARTICIPA.PT portal (cf. <https://participa.pt/pt/consulta/enea2020-5782>), together with several sessions of clarification and debate.

Circular economy strategy, plans and programs

- The Circular Cities Initiative (InC2) <https://cidadescirculares.dgterritorio.gov.pt/> is a program of the Ministry of the Environment, managed by the DGT and financed by the Environmental Fund. This programme aims to contribute to improving the present and future conditions of place-based participatory planning practices and networked learning for the circular economy through supporting national networks of circular cities. InC2 includes financing and technical and methodological support for the development of local action plans for the circular economy and for collective learning processes and knowledge sharing between municipalities on the circular economy and sustainable urban development. This program implements one of the themes of regional and national convergence of the Action Plan for the Circular Economy in Portugal – Leading the Transition <https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/resolucao-conselho-ministros/190-a-2017-114337039>, and implements the National Program for Spatial Planning Policy <https://pnpot.dgterritorio.gov.pt/pcat/pcatsite/>. In the first edition of InC2, the partner municipalities of the Circular Cities Networks (RC2) promoted the creation and operation of Local Planning and Action Groups (GPAL), which included the involvement and participation of representatives of relevant local actors depending on the topics addressed. The GPALs allowed the development of collaborative processes between each municipality and its local community for the preparation of the respective Local Integrated Action Plans (PLAI). In this edition, which took place between 2019 and 2023, 32 Local Integrated Action Plans (PLAI) were produced to promote the transition to a circular economy. The second edition of this program will take place, along similar lines, between 2024 and 2028.
- The preparation of the Circular Economy Action Plan for the 2025-2030 horizon (PAEC 2030), a joint initiative of the APA and the DGAE, was the subject of a public consultation on the PARTICIPA.PT portal between October 9 and November 24, 2023. Around 650 contributions were received from 60 entities,

public and private, and from individuals with an interest in the matter. Furthermore, meetings were also held with the confederative/associative structures representing the sectors of activity identified as priorities, and the entities potentially responsible for coordinating the execution of the Plan's actions were consulted. The contributions received in this broad and diverse consultation process were fundamental for the consolidation of the initial proposal, having been prepared the Public Consultation Report of the PAEC 2030 project, published on the PARTICIPA.PT portal at <https://participa.pt/pt/consulta/plano-de-acao-para-a-economia-circular-paec>.

Strategies within the scope of Portuguese cooperation

- The Portuguese Cooperation Strategy 2030 (ECP 2030), in addition to being consulted on the ConsultaLex portal, was also the subject of discussion and consultation at the Interministerial Cooperation Commission and the Development Cooperation Forum, which is a space for promoting coherence and complementarity in Portuguese cooperation, allowing reflection and dialogue between the State, Local Administration and Civil Society, in order to encourage the emergence of common projects, partnership actions, proposals and opinions on cooperation matters.
- As with previous editions, the process of preparing the new edition of the National Strategy for Education for Development (ENED), which will be in force until 2030, is the result of a political commitment made by public entities from various areas of government and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). To Camões, I.P. is responsible for leading the entire process. The various editions of ENED are accompanied by corresponding Action Plans, the first of which, in 2018, was signed by sixteen entities, including the APA and the Portuguese Confederation of Environmental Protection Associations (CPADA). The subscribing entities meet regularly and contribute to the preparation of annual reports, published at <https://ened-portugal.pt>. The construction of the third strategic document on Education for Development was based on the methodologies already used in the two previous editions of ENED, based on collaborative processes between partner institutions. The final document will be approved by means of a Resolution of the Council of Ministers. The preparation of the corresponding Action Plan is underway, also following a collaborative, participatory and collective work methodology between members of public institutions and CSOs.

XXI. Obstacles encountered in the implementation of article 7

*Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of article 7.*

Answer:

The main difficulty found in terms of public participation relating to the preparation of plans, programmes and policies on the environment, as well as other environmental policy instruments, is the lack of significant public involvement. However, the public services have improved the quality of the information made available and access to the participative procedures, in particular with the launch of the PARTICIPA.PT portal in 2015. There is an overload of information made available by means of various media, in particular audio-visual media, which makes it difficult for people to focus their attention. Organisers have come to understand that there is a need to complement the digital information tools (e.g. website) with other effective tools for information sharing and raising awareness, to

provide greater visibility of both the informational tool and the opportunity that the participatory process itself provides.

XXII. Further information on the practical application of the provisions of article 7

Provide further information on the practical application of the provisions on public participation in decisions on specific activities in article 7.

Answer:

Nothing to report on this item.

XXIII. Website addresses relevant to the implementation of article 7

Give relevant website addresses, if available:

<http://participa.pt>

XXIV. Efforts made to promote public participation during the preparation of regulations and rules that may have a significant effect on the environment pursuant to article 8

Describe what efforts are made to promote effective public participation during the preparation by public authorities of executive regulations and other generally applicable legally binding rules that may have a significant effect on the environment, pursuant to article 8. To the extent appropriate, describe the transposition of the relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3, paragraph 9.

Answer:

To allow citizen participation in the legislative and regulatory process, not only in the environmental area, but also in other areas, the ConsultaLEX portal <https://www.consultalex.gov.br/> was created in July 2019. It is the Government's public consultation portal, through the consultation of diplomas and the formulation of suggestions, permanently monitoring the preparation of this diploma until the final approval phase.

Climate

The transition to carbon neutrality and the creation of innovative instruments capable of promoting a broad spectrum of mitigation measures, including the reduction of GHG emissions and the promotion of carbon sequestration, represent a challenge that requires the broad and participatory involvement of all stakeholders, so that the preparation of the draft Decree-Law on the Voluntary Carbon Market was based on a broad process of stakeholder involvement and mobilization of Portuguese society. This involvement occurred during the different phases of the process, gathering contributions from various public and private entities, with a view to strengthening and aligning the proposal with other instruments

already existing on the market at an international level, making it more innovative and ensuring that it can meet climate needs and market needs at a national level, thus guaranteeing its sustainability and effectiveness.

The draft Decree-Law on the Voluntary Carbon Market was publicly presented on March 10, 2023 in Lisbon, and the formal public consultation process took place from February 8, 2023 to April 11, 2023 on the ConsultaLEX platform (https://www.consultalex.gov.pt/ConsultaPublica_Detail.aspx?Consulta_Id=284). During this period, 73 comments and 52 documents were received from numerous entities from different sectors.

Water and Health

In 2018, ERSAR promoted the extended consultation procedure for the document establishing the objectives relating to the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 convention, on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes of UNECE/WHO Europe. At the public consultation and public participation session, submissions were received from local public administration entities, companies, water sector associations and private citizens. Where relevant, these contributions were integrated into the final Protocol objectives document. ERSAR is coordinating the process of reviewing the objectives relating to the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes of UNECE/WHO Europe. This review process foresees, as happened with the establishment of the objectives in 2018, the promotion of a public consultation procedure (expected to be carried out in 2024), to inform the final document approving the review of the aforementioned objectives.

Regulations with external effectiveness

In the 2017-2020 period, ERSAR promoted public consultation of regulations with external effectiveness, specifically, the Regulation on Commercial Relations, the Tariff Regulations for Water and Waste and the Regulation on Regulatory Procedures. Their preparation and approval are obligatorily subject to public consultation within a period of not less than 30 days. The resulting documents were the Urban Waste Tariff Regulation (Regulation No. 53/2018), Regulation on Regulatory Procedures, (Regulation No. 446/2018) Commercial Relations Regulation (Regulation No. 594/2018). Submissions were received from the various stakeholders in the regulated sectors, also the case with its revisions and amendments, available at <http://www.ersar.pt/pt/o-que-fazemos/consultas-publicas>. In addition to these, the process of drafting ERSAR Recommendations, Technical Guides and/or other sector support instruments prepared by this regulatory entity are also subject to public consultations, scrutiny by NGOs and other entities in the sector.

According to article 12 of the ERSAR Statutes, approved by Law n. 10/2024, from 6 March, without prejudice to consultation with ERSAR's advisory bodies, the approval or amendment of any regulation containing provisions with external effectiveness is subject to public consultation, lasting no less than 30 working days, unless duly substantiated urgent situations motivate the definition of a shorter period, during which interested parties may issue their comments and present suggestions.

To this end, ERSAR informs the members of the Government responsible for the area of environment and consumer protection, the entities responsible for the services, the management entities covered by the scope of the regulation and consumer associations of general interest and the general public of the draft regulation prepared, providing them with access to the respective text and making it available on its website.

In the period 2021-2024, ERSAR carried out some public consultations (<http://www.ersar.pt/pt/o-que-fazemos/consultas-publicas>) relevant to citizen participation and the protection of their interests, namely:

- Public Consultation No. 1/2022 - Definition of the values of Unbilled Water (ANF) to be considered in the calculation of the Water Resources Fee (TRH)), for the purposes of passing it on to the end user, to be applied in 2022.
- Public consultation no. 2/2022 - Draft Recommendation on the allocation of social tariffs: given the importance of promoting the economic accessibility of water and waste services to domestic users in situations of economic need, through the universal adoption of social tariffs, ERSAR has drawn up a draft recommendation with the aim of promoting a broad discussion in the sector on what should be the harmonized criteria for the application and calculation of social tariffs, ensuring that they comply with economic, social and environmental principles and promote economic accessibility to services by end users in situations of economic need, without compromising the sustainability of the managing entities, assuming a scenario of efficiency in the provision of the service.
- Public consultation no. 3/2022 - Draft Recommendation on the formation of tariffs relating to the collection and treatment of bio-waste, resulting from the implementation of mandatory activities associated with this activity.
- Public consultation no. 1/2023 – Draft decision on the Definition of Non-billed Water (ANF) values, for the purposes of impact on the end user, to be applied in 2023.
- Public consultation no. 2/2023 - Draft Recommendation on the management of apparent losses in water supply systems. Apparent losses, whose economic impact on managing entities is not always properly assessed, have their main origin in the inadequate condition of the meter park and in the insufficient detection and control of illicit consumption.
- Public consultation no. 3/2023 - Draft Regulation on the quality of service provided to end users: this regulation defines minimum quality levels for aspects that are directly related to the quality of the service provided to users and the way in which they are perceived, such as making calls or activating the service, providing information when there are service interruptions and the deadline for the execution of certain services at the place of consumption. The service levels contemplated in the regulation are based on existing legal and regulatory obligations and also the indicators of the objective "adequacy of the user interface", provided for in the service quality assessment system implemented by ERSAR.
- Public Consultation No. 1/2024 - Draft decision on the definition of the values of Non-billed Water (ANF) to be considered in the calculation of the Water Resources Rate (TRH), for the purposes of impact on the end user.
- Public Consultation No. 2/2024 - Draft Recommendation on the disclosure of and access to information to be made available on the Website of the managing entities: taking into account the existence of dispersed legislation that establishes information obligations regarding various aspects of the provision of water supply, wastewater sanitation and urban waste management services to be disclosed on the Website of the managing entities, as well as the reinforcement of the right of access to information on water quality promoted by Decree-Law No. 69/2023, of August 21.
- Public Consultation No. 3/2024 - Draft Recommendation regarding the information to be included in service invoices: with a view to consolidating the various guidelines already issued by this regulatory entity regarding the information to be included in invoices, also taking into account additional information requirements imposed by Decree-Law n° 69/2023, of August 21.
- Public Consultation No. 4/2024 - Draft Regulation of Regulatory Procedures. This regulation concerns the procedures applicable to relations between ERSAR and the entities subject to its regulation, in the exercise of the powers and competences conferred by law, respectively, to the regulatory entity and its bodies.
- Public Consultation No. 5/2024 - Draft Regulation of the national system for the approval of products in contact with water intended for human consumption. This draft regulation establishes, with regard to construction products, and on the basis of various documents adopted by the European Commission, an accredited

certification system, without prejudice to other applicable legislation, thus aiming to ensure a uniform application of all criteria in the various Member States of the European Union.

Public procurement

The National Green Public Procurement Strategy 2030 (ECO360), adopted through Council of Ministers Resolution no. ECO360 aims to act as a lever for the ecological reform of Portuguese public administration, at all levels, including central administration bodies as well as the state business sector. In this way, the Public Administration is intended to act as a vector of positive change in the desired transition to an environmentally more sustainable, more competitive and more resilient economy. The ECO360 Public Consultation took place between January 12 and 23, 2023 on the ConsultaLEX portal, in an open process that was widely publicized among public and private entities, and civil society in general.

Portuguese cooperation

The Portuguese Cooperation Strategy 2030 (ECP 2030) was subject to public consultation, under the terms of article 101 of the Code of Administrative Procedure, approved by Decree-Law no. 4/2015, of January 7, through the ConsultaLEX portal. With the Office of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation as the Promoting Entity, the aforementioned public consultation began on July 22 and ended on September 30, 2022, and was the subject of 24 comments, 12 documents and 88 questionnaires. The aforementioned public consultation is available at: https://www.consultalex.gov.br/ConsultaPublica_Detail.aspx?Consulta_Id=252

XXV. Obstacles encountered in the implementation of article 8

*Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of article 8.*

Answer:

Nothing to report on this item.

XXVI. Further information on the practical application of the provisions of article 8

*Provide further information on the **practical application of the provisions on public participation in the field covered by article 8.***

Answer:

Nothing to report on this item.

XXVII. Website addresses relevant to the implementation of article 8

Give relevant website addresses, if available:

<https://dre.pt/>

<http://participa.pt>

XXVIII. Legislative, regulatory and other measures implementing the provisions on access to justice in article 9

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the provisions on access to justice in article 9.

Explain how each paragraph of article 9 has been implemented. Describe the transposition of the relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3, paragraph 9. Also, and in particular, describe:

- (a) With respect to **paragraph 1**, measures taken to ensure that:
 - (i) Any person who considers that his or her request for information under article 4 has not been dealt with in accordance with the provisions of that article has access to a review procedure before a court of law or another independent and impartial body established by law;
 - (ii) Where there is provision for such a review by a court of law, such a person also has access to an expeditious procedure established by law that is free of charge or inexpensive for reconsideration by a public authority or review by an independent and impartial body other than a court of law;
 - (iii) Final decisions under this paragraph are binding on the public authority holding the information, and that reasons are stated in writing, at least where access to information is refused;
- (b) Measures taken to ensure that, within the framework of national legislation, members of the public concerned meeting the criteria set out in **paragraph 2** have access to a review procedure before a court of law and/or another independent and impartial body established by law, to challenge the substantive and procedural legality of any decision, act or omission subject to the provisions of article 6;
- (c) With respect to **paragraph 3**, measures taken to ensure that where they meet the criteria, if any, laid down in national law, members of the public have access to administrative or judicial procedures to challenge acts and omissions by private persons and public authorities which contravene provisions of national law relating to the environment;
- (d) With respect to **paragraph 4**, measures taken to ensure that:
 - (i) The procedures referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 provide adequate and effective remedies;
 - (ii) Such procedures otherwise meet the requirements of this paragraph;
- (e) With respect to **paragraph 5**, measures taken to ensure that information is provided to the public on access to administrative and judicial review.

Answer:

The framework for the implementation of article 9 of the Aarhus Convention on access to justice has not substantially changed from that stated in the previous national report.

The right to information, participation and access to justice are interdependent rights on which the Aarhus Convention is based. In actual fact, in the context of environmental issues and making the decisions relevant to them, the process of participation depends on the

access to information, just as access to justice ensures the exercise of participation and information rights.

Portugal has vast and updated legislation that ensures access and freedom of information. The legal texts in force guarantee not only the right of access to information and participation, but also the access to justice in environmental matters to all citizens in a very comprehensive framework, in particular through the right of every citizen to act on behalf of the common interest.

The 1976 Constitution of the Portuguese Republic (CRP) dedicated a specific rule to the environment, which raised it to the level of legal asset and the protection of which is primarily delivered to public entities but for which the whole community is responsible - article 66, paragraph 2 of the Constitution. The protection of the environment is a simultaneously public and collective task, with relevance on the State's fundamental task (cf. article 9 e) of the Constitution). The Constitution itself gives it a specific defence mechanism, available to natural and legal persons, translated into "popular action" or popular legitimacy for the defence of varied interests - article 52, paragraph 3 of the Constitution, which will be focused on in more detail below.

Therefore, in Portugal all citizens are constitutionally guaranteed access to the law and to the courts in defence of their legally protected rights and interests, and access to the courts cannot be denied due to insufficient economic resources. Everyone has the right to legal information and advice and to assistance from a lawyer. The law guarantees to citizens rapid and priority judicial procedures to obtain the effective protection of the rights, freedoms and guarantees - article 20 of the Constitution. In view of the importance of the free circulation of information as a contribution to the formation of citizens' opinion, the Constitution of 1976 enshrined in article 37 the freedom of information, consisting of the rights to inform, to obtain information and to be informed. This triple configuration of the right to information has significant impacts on the delimitation of the normative scope.

It is important to refer here explicitly to article 268 of the CRP, regarding the rights and guarantees of the managed, which is transcribed:

- “1. Citizens have the right to be informed by the Administration, whenever they so request, about the progress of the procedures in which they are directly interested, as well as the right to know the definitive decisions taken on them.
2. Citizens also have the right to access administrative files and records, without prejudice to the provisions of the law on matters relating to internal and external security, criminal investigation and personal privacy.
3. Administrative acts are subject to notification of the interested parties, as provided for by law, and must be based on express and accessible reasoning when they affect legally protected rights or interests.
4. Citizens are guaranteed effective jurisdictional control over their legally protected rights or interests including, namely, the acknowledgement of these rights or interests, the ability to challenge any administrative acts which may prejudice them, regardless of their form, the determination of the practice of legally appropriate administrative acts and the adoption of appropriate cautionary measures.
5. Citizens also have the right to challenge administrative rules with external effectiveness that harm their legally protected rights or interests.
6. For the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2, the law shall establish a maximum period for the Administration to respond.”

In terms of Portuguese law, these concerns are covered within the scope of the administrative procedure and judicial process, specifically, for that relevant here, in the Law of Procedural Participation and Popular Action (LAP) - Law 83/95 of 31 August -, the Code of Procedure in Administrative Courts (CPTA) - Law No. 15/2002 of 22 February -, the Code of Administrative Procedure (CPA) - Decree-Law No. 4/2015 of 7 January - and the Law that approves the regime for access to administrative and environmental information and for the reuse of administrative documents (LADA) – Law No. 26/2016 of 22 August.

With regard to LAP, it should be noted that this not only enshrines (i) the right to class

action - meaning action in the Courts and Administrative Courts -, but also (ii) the right to participate in the administrative procedure, or procedural right to popular participation, in the matters defined by it, namely, the environmental matters, regardless of whether it is a future lawsuit, (iii) for which it ensures consultation of administrative documents. It also guarantees (iv) legitimacy for complaints in criminal proceedings.

Freely, the right to information belongs to those directly interested in the procedure to which the intended elements refer and, by extension, such right also belongs to any person who proves to have a legitimate interest in knowing the data they seek - article 85 of the CPA. Apart from these cases, it is possible to access administrative records and files under the aforementioned conditions in situations of extra-procedural information, in addition to the rules and limitations contained in LADA (namely article 2, no. 1) and Law no. 58 /2019 of 8 August (GDPR).

Requests must be responded to by the Administration within 10 days, except with regard to the deadline for deciding on the procedure and in the absence of a special provision or different period established by the Administration, as provided for in article 86, paragraph 1 of the CPA. Such period will be counted under the terms of article 87 of the CPA, with special attention to article 88 of the CPA. As far as extra-procedural information is concerned, in the cases provided for in article 15, paragraph 4, of LADA it is established that, in exceptional cases, if the volume or the complexity of the information warrants such, the time limit may be extended by a maximum of two months. In that case the applicant shall be informed within 10 days, stating the reasons for such (with the general period to be found in article 15, no. 1 of LADA).

If the requests are not satisfied, although an optional complaint may always be made to the body that denied the information, in whole or in part, or when it has not replied to the request (cf. article 184 *et seq.* of the CPA), there are two ways to proceed:

- appeal by means of a complaint to an independent administrative authority, and/or
- legal action.

Any applicants who consider their request for information has been ignored, totally or partially wrongfully refused, obtained an inadequate response or where compliance with the law was not assured, can challenge the legality of the decision, act or omission pursuant to general law, and also submit a complaint to an independent public entity. That entity, in this case, is the Commission for Access to Administrative Documents (CADA), an entity that works with the Portuguese Parliament and has the purpose of ensuring, in accordance with legislation, compliance with law regarding access to administrative information.

CADA is responsible for ensuring compliance with LADA (cf. article 28, Law 26/2006 of 22 August). In order to ensure the exercise of the right of access to information on the environment, LADA governs access to the administrative documents and their re-use, and establishes free recourse to the CADA. In accordance with article 16, no. 4 of LADA, the complaint must be assessed by CADA within 40 days, preparing a report appraising the situation, sending the appropriate findings to all stakeholders. On receiving the report, the public authority must inform the interested party of the final decision within 10 days, otherwise no decision will be considered to have been taken (cf. article 16, no. 5, of LADA). The opinions of CADA are not binding. However, if the public authority chooses not to abide by the opinion of CADA, applicants may challenge that decision in the courts pursuant to article 16, paragraph 6 of LADA, referring to the rules enshrined in the CPTA.

It is also possible to file complaints against the actions or omissions of public authorities.

While the Ombudsman's role can promote the achievement of the objectives of the Aarhus Convention, its decisions are also not binding. The Ombudsman's intervention often takes the form of mediation between authorities with environmental powers and interested parties, favouring dialogue and consensus, through quick and informal action.

Whenever judicial intervention occurs, the principle of independence of the courts and the prevalence of their decisions over those of any other entities leads to the filing of the complaint procedure submitted to the Ombudsman.

However, the Ombudsman will not fail to explain the litigation means at its disposal to interested parties who submit complaints in the field of environmental justice. This referral takes place, in particular, when a citizen does not agree with the administrative decision and the collected data do not define a specific stance taken by this State body, or when the opinion of the administrative authority remains unchanged, not accepting the Ombudsman's suggestion.

Within the scope of access to the courts, it is possible to request that a summons be issued on the administrative entity to provide information, allow the consultation of documents or issue certificates, under the terms of article 104 *et seq.* of the CPTA, "when requests made in exercise of the right to procedural information or the right to access administrative archives and records are not fully satisfied".

Pursuant to articles 104 to 108 of the CPTA, this process is characterised by the speed and effectiveness: the procedural deadlines are reduced, the decision period is short, tending to be less than one month, article 107 of the CPTA, and the judge may order the levying of mandatory penalty payments for each day late in the event of conviction of the entity from which the information was requested, article 108, paragraph 2 of the CPTA. Once the challenge is submitted, the judge orders the administrative entity to respond within 10 days. In case of deciding for the action, the judge sets the time limit in which the summons must be served, which cannot exceed 10 days.

The most common situation is to attempt an intra-administrative solution of the matter with the CADA before proceeding to court, since, although the summons has a particularly low court fee, cf. article 12, paragraph 1(b) of Decree-Law No. 34/2008 of 26 February (Regulation of Costs of Proceedings), it always requires contracting a lawyer and paying the fees, while the use of CADA is free and no lawyer needs to be hired. Furthermore, there is nothing in the law indicating that one procedure obligatorily takes precedence over the other.

On the other hand, either the interested party or, 'regardless of having a personal interest in the claim, any person, as well as the associations and foundations defending the interests in question' may file lawsuits in administrative courts against administrative or private entities invested with public powers, (i) to challenge the validity of administrative acts, or to request the court to order the entity to perform due administrative acts, or to request the court to order the entity to act accordingly, or to request the court to order the payment of due compensation, in relation to the matters under the provision of article 6 (decisions) and (ii) to others related to environmental matters (iii) as well as to challenge regulatory standards or request the judgement on the issuance of regulatory standards in environmental matters.

It is also possible to take legal action against private individuals in courts for the protection of environmental rights.

In the context of access to the courts, the right to class action provided for in article 52, paragraph 3 of the Basic Law and, in particular, in LAP (Law No. 83/95), exercised in administrative courts against administrative entities or in the courts against private parties, 'any citizens, in the enjoyment of their civil and political rights, and the associations and foundations are granted the right to defend the interests provided for in the previous article [namely the environment], regardless of whether or not they have a direct interest in the claim'. In that case, 'the plaintiff represents at its own initiative, with waiver of mandate or express authorization, all other holders of the rights or interests in question who have not exercised the right of self-exclusion' and that 'the effects of final and non-appealable judgments handed down as part of the proceedings that have as their object the defence of homogeneous individual interests cover the holders of rights or interests who have not exercised the right to exclude themselves from legal representation'. In addition, 'local authorities are also holders of the rights referred to in the preceding paragraph with regard to the interests they hold by virtue of residing in the area of the respective district'.

In short, in terms of environmental protection, national legislation allows every citizen to defend his personal, subjective right to the environment before the courts. In the context of

class action, any citizen may, despite not having a personal and direct interest in the object of the case, bring actions in the courts in defence of the environment which is deemed to be a diffuse right. In other words, it is understood as the supra-individual right, which relates to an undifferentiated plurality of people. It allows the same to associations or foundations, if constituted with this object; and allows the same for local authorities, within the framework of their territory. In addition to the previously mentioned citizens and entities, there is the Public Prosecutors' Office, which has the legitimacy to propose legal actions in defence of the environment as a constitutionally protected asset.

It is also important to mention some of the provisions contained in the Climate Framework Law (Law No. 98/2021, of December 31), recently approved. Some even refer to the foundations of "climate law" established there. It refers, in particular, to the fact that this Law stipulates that everyone has the right to climate balance, under constitutional and internationally established terms, translating into the right to defense against the impacts of climate change, as well as the power to demand that public and private entities comply with the duties and obligations to which they are bound in climate matters. Furthermore, it further states that full and effective protection of legally protected rights and interests in climate matters is guaranteed, including, in particular:

- The right to action to defend subjective rights and legally protected interests and to exercise the right to public action and popular action;
- The right to promote the prevention, cessation and remediation of risks to climate balance;
- The right to request the immediate cessation of the activity causing a threat or damage to the climate balance.

XXIX. Obstacles encountered in the implementation of article 9

*Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 9.*

Answer:

Nothing to report on this item. Portugal identifies with the objectives of the Aarhus Convention. The Constitution of the Portuguese Republic, which has enshrined this right since 1976, pioneered the treatment of the environment as a fundamental right, and even inspired other framework laws in European and Portuguese-speaking countries. Therefore, Portugal has sought to implement legislation that supplements and fosters access to justice in environmental matters and practices that make this effective.

XXX. Further information on the practical application of the provisions of article 9

*Provide further information on the **practical application of the provisions on access to justice pursuant to article 9**, e.g., are there any statistics available on environmental justice and are there any assistance mechanisms to remove or reduce financial and other barriers to access to justice?*

Answer:

In relation to statistical data on environmental justice, the Ministry of Justice does not have isolated data on the matter, which is why it does not have statistical information to present. Portugal has a large body of case law on the environment. We can indicate, for example, the following judgments of the Supreme Court of Justice:

Judgement of the Supreme Court of Justice of 26/01/1988 IN BMJ N373 PAG483;
 Judgement of the Supreme Court of Justice of 06/03/1990 IN BMJ N395 PAG542;
 Judgement of the Supreme Court of Justice of 14/11/1991 IN BMJ N411 PAG549;
 Judgement of the Supreme Court of Justice of 26/05/1992 IN BMJ N417 PAG734;
 Judgement of the Supreme Court of Justice of 03/11/1992 IN BMJ N421 PAG400;
 Judgement of the Supreme Court of Justice of 21/09/1993 IN CJ TIII PAG96. Judgement of the Supreme Court of Justice of 21/02/1995 IN CJ TI ANOIII PAG96.

XXXI. Website addresses relevant to the implementation of article 9

Give relevant website addresses, if available:

CADA – www.cada.pt
 Ombudsman – <http://www.provedor-jus.pt>
 DGPJ – General Directorate for Justice Policy - www.dgpj.mj.pt
 e-Justice portal - https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_access_to_justice_in_environmental_matters-300-pt.do?init=true

Articles 10-22 are not for national implementation.

XXXII. General comments on the Convention's objective

If appropriate, indicate how the implementation of the Convention contributes to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being.

Answer:

Portugal identifies with the objectives of the Aarhus Convention, seeking to be guided by the same processes related to governance and therefore seeking to implement legislation that addresses those objectives and the practices that ensure their implementation.

XXXIII. Legislative, regulatory and other measures implementing the provisions on genetically modified organisms pursuant to article 6 bis and Annex I bis

Concerning legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the provisions on public participation in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms in article 6 bis, describe:

- (a) With respect to **paragraph 1 of article 6 bis** and:
- (i) **Paragraph 1** of annex I bis, arrangements in the Party's regulatory

framework to ensure effective information and public participation for decisions subject to the provisions of article 6 bis;

(ii) **Paragraph 2** of annex I bis, any exceptions provided for in the Party's regulatory framework to the public participation procedure laid down in annex I bis and the criteria for any such exception;

(iii) **Paragraph 3** of annex I bis, measures taken to make available to the public in an adequate, timely and effective manner a summary of the notification introduced to obtain an authorization for the deliberate release or placing on the market of such genetically modified organisms, as well as the assessment report where available;

(iv) **Paragraph 4** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure that in no case the information listed in that paragraph is considered as confidential;

(v) **Paragraph 5** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure the transparency of decision-making procedures and to provide access to the relevant procedural information to the public including, for example:

- a. The nature of possible decisions;
- b. The public authority responsible for making the decision;
- c. Public participation arrangements laid down pursuant to paragraph 1 of annex I bis;
- d. An indication of the public authority from which relevant information can be obtained;
- e. An indication of the public authority to which comments can be submitted and of the time schedule for the transmittal of comments;

(vi) **Paragraph 6** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure that the arrangements introduced to implement paragraph 1 of annex I bis allow the public to submit, in any appropriate manner, any comments, information, analyses or opinions that it considers relevant to the proposed deliberate release or placing on the market;

(vii) **Paragraph 7** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure that due account is taken of the outcome of public participation procedures organized pursuant to paragraph 1 of annex I bis;

(viii) **Paragraph 8** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure that the texts of decisions subject to the provisions on annex I bis taken by a public authority are made publicly available along with the reasons and the considerations upon which they are based;

(b) With respect to **paragraph 2 of article 6 bis**, how the requirements made in accordance with the provisions of annex I bis are complementary to and mutually supportive of the Party's national biosafety framework and consistent with the objectives of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biodiversity.

Answer:

(a) Article 6 bis, paragraph 1

Annex I bis, paragraph 1

Decree-Law No. 72/2003 of 10 April, transposing into national law Directive 2001/18/EC of 12 March on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), clearly establishes in its article 27 that the competent authority - APA - must provide the public with information concerning the deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of GMOs, including:

- Information on the permits granted;
- Results of monitoring carried out;
- Register of the location of released GMOs and cultivated GMOs;

- Information on the deliberate release or placing on the market of products containing or consisting of GMOs, done without authorisation.

Annex I bis, paragraph 2

Decree-Law No. 72/2003 envisages in article 28 that only information considered confidential can be waived for public disclosure in order to protect intellectual property rights as well as the competitive position of companies.

Annex I bis, paragraph 3

The legislative instrument provides for in its article 14 that the competent authority shall send to the European Commission a summary of the notification deliberate release into the environment of GMOs for any purpose other than placing on the market (experimental testing) within 30 days of the date of its receipt.

Annex I bis, paragraph 4

According to Decree-Law No. 72/2003, article 28, paragraph 3, and in accordance with the provisions of the Aarhus Convention, the following information cannot be declared as confidential:

- a) Description of the GMO, name and address of the notifier, purpose and location of release
- b) Methods and plans for monitoring the GMO and for the emergency response
- c) Assessment of environmental risks.

Annex I bis, paragraph 5

APA provides information through its website, in particular with regard to legislation, information on the cultivation of GMOs, environmental monitoring, GMOs authorised for placing on the market, authorised notifications for deliberate release into the GMO environment for experimental purposes, and procedures for notifiers who wish to submit applications for the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment or the placing on the market of GMOs.

It should be noted that, under the authorisation procedures for the deliberate release of GMOs (experimental trials) a public consultation is held prior to decision-making, pursuant to article 11 of the referred Decree-Law. The announcement of the public consultation is done through the written media as well as on the PARTICIPA <http://participa.pt> website.

On the topic of GMOs, APA also ensures the provision of explanations where necessary, via e-mail or telephone.

Annex I bis, paragraph 6

Decree-Law No. 72/2003 of 10 April establishes in its article 11 that the general public is to be consulted prior to a decision being made on applications for the deliberate release into the environment (experimental trials), ensuring the notification is displayed for a period up to 60 days. The announcement of this information is made by means of an advertisement in 2 national newspapers, and, if possible, on a regional or local level, showing the exact location where the information can be viewed and indication of the start and end dates of the public consultation. This information is also made available on the PARTICIPA.PT portal <http://participa.pt>.

Annex I bis, paragraph 7

The outcome of the public participation was taken into account when making the decision. Each response received which is directly related to the object of the consultation, i.e. with the respective notification, was analysed in all public consultation processes. The reports of the public consultations carried out are published on the APA website at <https://apambiente.pt/prevencao-e-gestao-de-riscos/organismos-geneticamente-modificados>

Annex I bis, paragraph 8

Texts of the decisions made with regard to the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment, or with their being placed on the market, are published on the APA website at <https://apambiente.pt/prevencao-e-gestao-de-riscos/organismos-geneticamente-modificados>.

(b) Article 6 bis, paragraph 2

The provisions of article 6 bis have been included in national legislation since 2003 (see text in **Annex I bis, paragraph 6**).

Ratification of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, through Decree No. 7/2004 of 17 April, has ensured compliance with the requirement to raise global awareness and public participation in respect of the cross-border movements of GMOs. In Portugal, APA, as the competent authority for the Cartagena Protocol, submits information through the central portal of the Information Interchange Centre - Biosafety Clearing House (BCH).

Thus, national legislation ensures compliance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 6 bis.

XXXIV. Obstacles encountered in the implementation of article 6 bis and annex I bis

*Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 6 bis and annex I bis.*

Answer:

No obstacles were encountered to the implementation of Article 6 bis and Annex I bis.

XXXV. Further information on the practical application of the provisions of article 6 bis and annex I bis

*Provide further information on the **practical application of the provisions on public participation in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms in article 6 bis**, e.g., are there any statistics or other information available on public participation in such decisions or on decisions considered under paragraph 2 of annex I bis to be exceptions to the public participation procedures in that annex?*

Answer:

APA encourages public consultation of applications for the deliberate release of GMOs (experimental trials) prior to decision-making, pursuant to article 11 of Decree-Law No. 72/2003 of 10 April (see text of **Annex I bis, paragraph 6**).

XXXVI. Website addresses relevant to the implementation of article 6 bis

Give relevant website addresses, if available, including website addresses for registers of decisions and releases related to genetically modified organisms:

Answer:

The general public can find a list of authorisations granted for the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment, or with regard to their being placed on the market

- on the APA website:

<https://apambiente.pt/prevencao-e-gestao-de-riscos/organismos-geneticamente-modificados>

- on the website of the General Directorate of Food and Veterinary Matters – DGAV

www.dgv.min-agricultura.pt

XXXVII. Follow-up on issues of compliance

If, upon consideration of a report and any recommendations of the Compliance Committee, the Meeting of the Parties at its last session has decided upon measures concerning compliance by your country, please indicate (a) what were the measures; and (b) what specific actions your country has undertaken to implement the measures in order to achieve compliance with the Convention.

Please include cross-references to the respective sections, as appropriate.

Answer:

In the reporting period there were no recommendations/measures to apply to Portugal.