

**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.**

Name of officer responsible for submitting the national report:	Margarida Marcelino
Signature:	
Date:	2021

Implementation report

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

Party:	PORTUGAL
National Focal Point:	
Full name of the institution:	APA - Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente / Portuguese Environment Agency
Name and title of officer:	Margarida Marcelino Senior technician / Senior officer
Postal address:	Rua da Murgueira, 9/9A Bairro do Zambujal 2720-865 Amadora PORTUGAL
Telephone:	+351214728284
Fax:	+351214721457
E-mail:	margarida.marcelino@apambiente.pt
Contact officer for national report (if different):	
Full name of the institution:	
Name and title of officer:	
Postal address:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	

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 6th 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 2017, 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 (15 May to 31 July 2020 and 9 December 2020 to 18 January 2021). 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:

One of the administrative changes that took place in the 2017-2020 period was that regional bodies, such as the Regional Coordination Committees (CCDR), were placed under the tutelage of the Ministry of Cohesion, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action and with the Ministry of State Modernisation and Public Administration. The CCDRs 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. 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.

When the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic began to spread beyond its point of origin in 2020, and during the first period of mandatory lockdown between 18 March and 2 May 2020 resulting from the declaration of the national state of emergency, all deadlines for public consultations already in progress were suspended, despite the existence of the PARTICIPA.PT portal. New consultations were only opened after this period had expired, in order to ensure that there were no obstacles to citizens from participating freely in decision-making processes and compliance with national legislation and international commitments.

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/>).

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], Decree-Law no. 178/2006 of 5 September, approving the general regime for waste management, as amended by Decree-Law No. 152-D/2017 of 11 December, 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. Of special note, and in addition to the existence on the APA website of an area dedicated to explaining how the Aarhus Convention is applied in Portugal (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/index.php/apa/convencao-de-aarhus>), and the various information systems it provides, is the STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT PORTAL (<https://rea.apambiente.pt>), which gathers the most up-to-date information, expressed in indicators and annual reports, on the state of the environment in Portugal. Also worthy of note is the PARTICIPA.PT PORTAL (cf. <http://participa.pt>), available since 2015 and recently remodelled, 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.

To accelerate the procedure for citizens who wish to participate in safeguarding the environment and people's quality of life, the **General Secretariat** of the Ministry that oversees environmental policy has implemented a mechanism for receiving complaints, reports and requests for clarification. It aims to provide members of the public with answers to the issues they have raised, and any information that they may have requested. 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 telephone 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, fax on 213217007, 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 national environmental police, 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. It is general in scope and also managed by the National Republican Guard, it forwards complaints of an environmental nature to SEPNA, ensuring their proper routing.

The main areas of intervention of the **General Inspectorate of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning** (IGAMAOT) include the inspection of environmental issues, radiological protection, spatial planning and nature conservation within public and private entities; auditing the procedural and financial regularity and legality of services with reference to the ministries responsible for this General Inspection; monitoring the legality of national and EU funds; and assessing official systems for regulation and monitoring and in matters of food safety. In its sphere of action, IGAMAOT also exercises its own functions as a criminal policing body in relation to crimes which are associated with the fulfilment of its mission in environmental matters, without prejudice to the attributions of other entities in the criminal area. IGAMAOT provides a complaints form so that they can, ideally, be submitted via this platform (www.igamaot.gov.pt – “Complaints” field, including the respective geo-referencing). If this option is not viable, they may be submitted via e-mail (igamaot@igamaot.gov.pt) or, as a last resort, by mail or fax. A section containing detailed information is also made available, dealing with the environmental aspects, in which the complaints and respective entities with jurisdiction in the areas and matters in question are inserted; this also gives information on how whistle-blowers identities are kept confidential. IGAMAOT receives, analyses and promotes the resolution of claims, reports and complaints relating to the environment, territorial planning, nature conservation and radiological protection which are received from central and local government bodies, individuals, public and private companies, police authorities and environmental associations. In view of the importance of correctly handling complaints and claims made in the exercise of citizenship for solving problems relating to the environment and radiological protection, among others, and in defending citizens' rights, associated with the need to publicly disclose the criteria and procedures used by IGAMAOT, the “Manual of Procedures for the Management of Complaints and Complaints by IGAMAOT” was approved by Order No. 1681/2020 of 5 February (cf. https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/wp-content/uploads/Manual_den-ncias_igamaot.pdf). The IGAMAOT portal also contains an annually prepared record of complaints and reports which have been made, with an analysis of the different types of complaints, geographical predominance, organisations involved in their resolution, inspections carried out in this context, together with other indicators considered relevant (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/relatorios/balanco-reclamacoes-denuncias/>).

The fight against environmental crime is a priority area in the fight against organised and serious international crime, assumed by the EU for the period 2017-2021 - European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats. Also of note is the fact that since 2017 several Operation Action Plans (OAP) have been underway. In Portugal, the GNR/SEPNA, in its capacity as National Contact Point for Environmental Crime, coordinated several Operation Actions:

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 in 2017 and 2018, 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.

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. <http://www.abae.pt/programa/ECOXXI/inicio.php>) and the ECO-FREGUESIAS XXI awards (<https://ecofreguesias21.abae.pt/>), promoted in Portugal by an NGO, the Blue Flag Association of Europe (ABAE), with the support of numerous public entities working directly or indirectly in the environmental area (cf. <https://ecoxxi.abae.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. The 2020 edition of these awards underwent some changes, integrating them into 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. More recently, in November 2020, a new initiative was launched, 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 81 municipalities replied (about 27% of a total of 308 municipalities), more than half (57%) claimed to know about the Aarhus Convention. The vast majority (over 90%) 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.

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.

In the period under review, a significant development was the adoption of the National Strategy for Environmental Education (ENEA 2017-2020), 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 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 this legal framework, 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 **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. 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 RNC2050 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, will be the main instrument of national energy and climate policy for the next decade 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.

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 Adaptation to Climate Change (P-3AC)³.

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

Also worthy of note is the project started in 2020 to create the "**National Roadmap for Adaptation 2100**", which seeks to define a narrative of the evolution of vulnerabilities and impacts of climate change, as well as assessing needs for investment with regard to adaptation and the socio-economic costs of inaction. As such, this Roadmap supports and responds to public policy exercises for adapting to climate change at the various levels of territorial intervention, and is also supported by various initiatives for the dissemination of results, including to the general public, thus providing an **important boost to education and awareness on the subject of adaptation to climate change**. The promotion of environmental education and awareness is essentially ensured in the scope of one of its six Thematic Areas, dedicated to "Communication and dissemination", which essentially focuses on the following issues:

- i) development of a National Adaptation Platform to centralize information around adaptation;
- ii) promotion of the collection, systematization and visualization of knowledge;
- iii) free availability of climate information and tools to support decision-making;
- iv) adoption of communication plans with a view to raising awareness among the general public on climate change.

Some of the progress made in this area resulted from the AdaPT Programme, which included two projects aimed at raising awareness and providing education on climate change – Portal do Clima and Clima@EduMedia (both concluded in April 2017). The first of these (<http://portaldoclima.pt/>) was developed by IPMA and enabled the general public to have easy access to systematized information on regional climate scenarios for Portugal, including the processing of data from the 5th Assessment of the IPCC, and serving as the basis for the preparation of various articles and communications. The Climate Portal has also been important in providing training on climate and climate change to students and young researchers, either through presentations/lectures at conferences and seminars, or through internships.

Clima@EduMedia was a project developed by the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto (FLUP), which **integrated and complemented environmental education on climate change through schools**, in the areas of mitigation and adaptation, in 33 pilot schools. One of the components of the project corresponds to three awards (financing) for the best projects implementing climate-change related measures in the school environment.

Other initiatives aimed at the dissemination of information on weather and climate change, education and awareness, under the responsibility of the IPMA, include:

- Participation in conferences/seminars/workshops, articles in magazines and lectures providing information to students at secondary schools and universities;
- Reception of school communities, associations,...

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

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 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.

scope. The aim, in order to mitigate the effects of atmospheric pollution, is to establish a reference framework for information, knowledge and awareness-raising directed towards a wide range of stakeholders, such as professionals, non-governmental organisations and citizens in general. The activities and behaviour of these groups may contribute, more or less directly, to mitigating the effects of air pollution. ENAR establishes a set of actions that include:

- Re-evaluate air quality information systems (current QualAr), extending their scope to new data sources (e.g. private networks, sporadic monitoring under EIA) and the new requirements arising from e-Reporting;
- Improve the national air quality information and forecasting system, particularly in relation to: inclusion of more pollutants, review of index classes, greater detail of spatial information;
- Improve the operational implementation of the public warning system on air quality, in particular the elements of harmonization at a regional level and reinforcing synergies with air quality forecasting tools; Disclosure to key institutions of episodes of pollution associated with natural events;
- Promote effective dissemination of information on air quality through new information technologies.

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 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**, and the issue of waste reduction has once more been a particular focus in terms of raising awareness among the general public during the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR), with increased emphasis given to actions aimed at primary school pupils (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/semana-europeia-de-prevencao-de-residuos>). The actions undertaken as a result of this initiative - and others that have been replicated with many different audiences - are framed within the Strategic Plan for Urban Waste Management 2020, which updated and integrated the Urban Waste Prevention Programme (PPRU), with a view to raising awareness of the need to reduce the amount of urban waste produced and the dangers thereof (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/prevencao-de-residuos>). This same website also offers citizens several other ideas on how to prevent the production of waste and reduce waste in general in their daily lives.

Also worthy of note is the yearly issuing of the Annual Report on Urban Waste (RARU), which gives an analysis and evolution of the production and treatment of urban waste in that year, as well as providing data from the Urban Waste Management System, in order that citizens can find out more about the performance of the System in their coverage area.

The Directorate-General for Economic Activities (DGAE) and the APA, as co-licensors of the Management Entities of **specific waste flows** subject to the principle of **extended producer responsibility**, approve the plans for raising awareness, communication and education over the validity period of the respective licences, 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.

In 2020, following the health authorities' indication for the widespread use of face masks to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry responsible for Environmental policies launched the campaign "Don't Let the Mask Drop" <https://naodeixescairamascara.pt/home> with the objective of encouraging the use of reusable masks rather than disposable ones, and also to educate the population to dispose of used masks in general garbage (undifferentiated) and not in the recycling bin, and especially not on the ground. It is estimated that, during these pandemic times, the Portuguese people are using on average around 160 million masks each month. Even if only 1% of masks are improperly discarded, this will generate around 6 tons of plastic. This is not, therefore, merely a public health issue, but also an environmental health issue.

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:

- Reformulation of the ERSAR website <http://www.ersar.pt> for the purposes of giving guidance, simplifying and making information more accessible to the end user/consumer. To this end, a menu item specifically aimed at the consumer was created: "rights and duties", "quality of services", "quality of water", "rates of services", "frequently asked questions", "requests for information" and "complaints";
- The creation and availability on the ERSAR website of various Technical Guides, in particular "Efficient use of energy in water services", "Good practices in relation to the human right to water and sanitation". As part of the same undertaking, a leaflet entitled "Find out more about water services" and "Implementation of PAYT-type systems" was also published: "Guide for evaluating the quality of water and waste services in Portugal", which aimed to contribute to the dissemination of information

to users, among other things. Institutional promotion and environmental awareness activities were also carried out on the "large numbers" related to the sector by the preparation of Information Pamphlets on "Use of individual septic tanks" and "Use of private water collection for human consumption", with information available at <http://ersar.pt/pt/publicações>.

- Awarding of “Water and Waste Services Awards and Seals”, aimed at rewarding management entities for quality of service provided and good practices, and enabling the annual dissemination and sharing of information with the sector and the end user/consumer.
- Preparation and publication of the annual report on regulation and supervision “Annual Report on Water and Waste Services in Portugal” (RASARP), which fulfils the legal duty contained in its Statutes to provide information.

The "ERSAR" application for mobile devices has been available since 2014. The ERSAR app provides all interested parties with easy access to relevant information on water supply, wastewater treatment and urban waste management services in Portugal. Information is available on the quality of the services provided, the quality of water for human consumption, news, tips and practical advice on the use of services, among others.

In terms of the **sea and the marine environment**, The Sea Literacy Project, which falls under the education, science and technology programme area of the National Strategy for the Seas (ENM) 2013-2020, coordinated by the Directorate General for Marine Policy (DGPM), with the support of the Task Group for the Extension of the Continental Shelf (EMEPC), advocates educating future generations about the values of the sea. Educational games have been produced to raise awareness of the sea, such as:

- Ruler - The Right Fish - Information on the minimum legal size of capture of the fish species most consumed in Portugal;
- Scientific toy "The Science of the Sea" - a kit containing 10 scientific experiments that teach simple concepts related to marine science;
- Passport of the Sea - access to associated institutions directly linked to Portuguese natural and cultural marine heritage;
- Quiz of the Sea – deck of cards with simple questions, making it easy to learn about concepts related to the sea.
- Read+Sea - Partnership with the National Reading Plan, *Aporvela* and *Público* newspaper. Schools are encouraged to create projects associating reading with the sea
- Sea Kit - Set of educational resources created to enable the introduction of sea-related themes in a school context. These resources cover multiple perspectives on how to work with the sea and are linked to school curriculums in different subjects.
- Educational Passages - Educational project that involves students on decorating, launching and monitoring small unmanned sailboats equipped with GPS. It allows for multidisciplinary teaching on sea-related themes and allows contact between students from different countries and cultures.
- Escola Azul - Escola Azul is an educational programme whose mission is to promote Ocean Literacy in Portugal. This national programme recognises and provides guidance to Portuguese schools that teach pupils about the Ocean, creating an Ocean Literacy community to bring together schools, the sea sector, municipalities, universities and other entities with an active role in marine education.

It also includes the following, as publicity initiatives for the sea, in which the DGPM was involved between 2017 and 2019:

- Best Fish Initiative II, at the Volvo Ocean Race - Lisbon Stopover, which took place from 31 October to 5 November 2017;
- “Espaço DGPM” at Business2Sea, Alfandega do Porto Congress Centre, which took place from 5 to 6 June, 2017;
- “Espaço DGPM” at “The Ocean and Human Health” and Oceans Business, Champalimaud Foundation, which took place from 7 to 8 September 2017;
- “Espaço DGPM” at Oceans Meeting, Oceans Business and Portugal Shipping Week,

- Gare Marítima de Alcântara, which took place from 17 to 21 September 2018;
- “Espaço DGPM” at Business2Sea, Alfandega do Porto Congress Centre, which took place from 14 to 16 November 2018;
- International Conference dedicated to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development - Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean: Observatories and Knowledge Networks – OECD, which took place on February 14, 2019;
- “Espaço DGPM” on European Maritime Day 2019, at the Lisbon Congress Centre, which took place between 16 and 17 May 2019;
- Oceans Meeting – Ocean Smart Governance, at Gare Marítima de Alcântara, which took place 16 and 17 May 2019;
- “Espaço DGPM” at Business2Sea, Alfandega do Porto Congress Centre, which took place from 11 to 13 November 2019;
- Sustainable Brands Oceans, Alfandega do Porto Congress Centre, which took place from 14 to 16 November 2019.

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 mission of the Task Group for the Extension of the Continental Shelf (EMEPC) is to continue reinforcing the foundations and defence of Portugal's submission to the United Nations, which seeks to determine the outer limit of the continental shelf beyond the 200 nautical miles of baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, until the conclusion of the process which began in 2009. One of EMEPC's main objectives is to publicise the importance for society of extending Portugal's continental shelf, as established in Council of Ministers Resolution No. 191/2019 of 11 December. In this context, since 2017 EMEPC has been giving lectures in schools and providing study visits to EMEPC headquarters, where the ROV LUSO, the remotely operated vehicle that can dive up to 6000m in Portuguese seas, is also located. In these information-sharing lectures, the sustainability of the oceans is often addressed, in particular with regard to their living and non-living resources and their possible prospecting and exploration in the coming decades. Issues relating to biodiversity and marine protected areas are also addressed. From 2017 to 2019, EMEPC participated in 23 events relating to the promotion of Portuguese seas and gave 174 lectures.

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/materiaisinformativoseducativos>), the following information is important:

- Between 2017 and 2019, 2,061 environmental education activities were carried out with different levels of school audiences or other organised groups, in which around 73,021 people participated. These initiatives included guided tours conducted by nature officers and guards. Of note is the voluntary participation of citizens in nature and forestry conservation activities. In the same period, a total of 16,153 volunteers were involved in varying initiatives such as the monitoring of exotic species, reforestation, recovery of habitats and species or maintaining visitor infrastructures, to

name only the most significant examples. Of particular note was the partnership with the Portuguese Institute for Sport and Youth (IPDJ) and the implementation of the “Youth Volunteering for Nature and Forests” Programme (cf. <https://programas.juventude.gov.pt/florestas>). There was also an increase in the use of reception structures, which registered a total of 872,998 interactions with clients. Attendance at events organised by or in which ICNF participated is also worth mentioning; visitor numbers came to more than 330,000. In addition to the referred initiatives are those intended to ensure public participation in specific processes such as the development of regulatory frameworks for forestry activities or the review of protected area management plans.

- On Forest Day 2019, celebrated on 21 March, a new movement was created with the objective of alerting citizens to the recreational, social, economic, professional and value-added importance of forest ecosystems. This was aimed at young people, and placed emphasis on the need to preserve this natural resource: “The forest needs your grit, determination, wisdom and confidence”. A website <http://florestacomfuturo.pt/> was created, containing a quiz which aims at teaching young people how they can contribute to helping the forest. In addition, this website shows the various professions related to this area, highlighting the need to make young people aware that there are dedicated career pathways for work in forestry, whether from Secondary or Higher Education, and that there is huge scope for employment in this area. These activities took place in six schools in the Algarve: Lagoa, Faro, Quarteira, Loulé and Vila Real de Santo António Secondary Schools. All other schools will also be made aware of the initiative, with the young people being offered a kit in order that they may take the quiz and join the movement. A second phase of the campaign took place in May with the establishment of a camp, in Albergaria-a-Velha, where young people were in contact with the forest.
- Between 2017 and 2019, in partnership with the Portuguese Mint, the ICNF made a technical review of the themes chosen for the “Threatened Species” series. This involved the issuing of coins with the respective images and launching of children’s books on the same theme.
- As part of the ICNF’s institutional representation at national and regional events, the environmental education activities developed were:
 - protected areas game
 - bird game
 - workshop for painting 3D plaster animals.
- In order to stimulate and encourage a “taste” for the study of science, and as part of the activities celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Serras de Aire e Candeeiros National Park (PNSAC), in October 2019 the ICNF, in collaboration with the municipality of Santarém and Alcanede Parish Council, held the 1st “Congress of Pint-Sized Scientists”. This congress aimed to publicise the Science and Environmental Education projects that are being carried out in the school districts neighbouring the PNSAC. Approximately 500 students, ranging from pre-school to 8th grade, presented their scientific projects to the community in the morning, and in the afternoon there were field trips to the Algar do Pena grotto and to the fossilized dinosaur footprints which can be found at Vale de Meios. The idea of involving students of various age groups in this event was to captivate their minds and educate them, in order to create critical/active citizens capable of defending and understanding the world around them.
- The existing protocol between REN, DGES and 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; between the year of its start (2017) and 2019, this project was presented to 4,700 schools, with new content created each year (3 new species per year), and received an overall appraisal rating of 4.7 out of 5 from 3rd and 4th

grade teachers. 5 schools are visited every year, around the country.

- At the end of 2019, the Quercus Environmental NGO launched its project “Fantastic things in Nature”, assessed and corrected in technical terms by ICNF and other partners. This project included:
 - A cartoon animation series dedicated to environmental awareness: “Fantastic Things in Nature”, which intends to create a set of animation videos, organised into sections of “helpful hints” and “did you know...?” for each of the protected areas covered. It will address biodiversity-related issues (fauna (including avifauna) and flora), habitats, historical and cultural heritage, in addition to the promotion of sustainable use of resources, good practices and environmental awareness.
 - Publication, in comic book format, of the main “helpful hints” and “did you know...?” for each of the parks; this will complement the previous activity, and provide national parks with innovative instruments for the promotion of Natural, Landscape, Cultural and Socioeconomic Values, Sustainable Use of Resources and Environmental Awareness among young people.

This project involves the following strategic objectives:

- instilling the values of environmental awareness in young people;
- educating young people on the potential of our natural and national parks;
- encouraging the creation of youth movements focussing on the sustainable promotion of national endogenous resources;
- encouraging and helping young people to create entrepreneurial projects and initiatives which respect environmental values and defend the principles and rules of nature conservation;
- making today's young adults responsible and aware of the importance/value of nature conservation;
- encouraging young people to raise awareness among their family and social groups and advocate the importance/value of nature conservation.

To mark the anniversary of the Natural Parks it manages, the ICNF invited adults and children to take part in voluntary and socially responsible activities together with public and private institutions. It also carries out forest cleaning and tree planting events up and down the country. Dune clearance was also carried out in several coastal parks.

The Natural.PT brand is an initiative for the integrated promotion of the territory, and of products and services existing in the protected areas and their close surroundings which share their values and principles of sustainability, appreciation of nature and endogenous resources. The brand was officially launched on 25 July 2014, and subsequent years were dedicated to its promotion and growing its membership, with a continuous increase in the products and services associated with the Protected Areas of mainland Portugal. In 2015 and 2016, a large number of products and services subscribed to Natural.PT, corresponding to a period of brand implementation. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, the number of subscriptions levelled off. In this report the aim is to review the state of progress of the activities developed within the scope of Natural.PT, as well as present the numbers of new subscribers during 2019. 2019 marked the year in which the new Integrated Management System for Brand Adhesion (SIGAM) became fully operational; this now supports Natural.PT's new website to provide information on new products and services. In 2019, the Local Operationalization and Management Platforms (PLOG) continue to provide valuable support in attracting members and analysing applications, with 24 PLOGs currently being established, comprising at least one protected area and working with the involvement of 142 entities related to the Brand's coverage area. Alongside the ICNF, the PLOGs are made up overwhelmingly of municipalities, local, regional and rural development associations, regional tourism entities and inter-municipal communities. A new protected area was also added, which in 2019 joined the National Network of Protected Areas; this is the Regional Protected Landscape of Serras do Porto Park. In the future it will allow the subscription of products and services from the municipalities associated with it, namely: Gondomar, Paredes and Valongo. With regard to the number of new entities that submitted applications

to Natural.PT in 2019 (up to 2 December), a total of 90 new organisations have been accepted with a further 13 under analysis; as of 31 December 2018 we had 88 new subscribed organisations. From 1 January 2015 to 2 December 2019, a total of 442 organisations subscribed to the Natural.PT brand with some type of product or service. This represents a total of 880 products and services subscribing to the brand. Between 1 January and 21 November 2019, Natural.PT's Facebook page grew from 12,649 followers to 16,806, a growth of 33%. The number of followers has been growing; however, the biggest increase was registered between February and March, and by the end of March the number of followers was around 14,778. This is 17% more than in February. This growth may possibly be related to its participation in the Lisbon Tourism Exchange, which took place between 13 and 17 March. Most followers are located in Portugal, and in the Lisbon area. Foreign followers are mostly located in the following countries: Brazil, Spain, France and the United Kingdom. There are also followers in the following countries: Switzerland, Germany and the United States. Natural.PT's Instagram account was created in May 2019 and to date (20 November 2019) it has 841 followers. 74 posts have been published and 108 Instagram stories have been shared.

With regard to the Natural.PT mobile project, work has been completed as part of the application to the Operational Programme for Sustainability and Efficiency in the Use of Resources - PO SEUR – 03-2215-FC-000006 NATURAL.PT MÓVEL, namely:

- Availability of the NaturalPTrails app in Google and Apple Stores;
- Promotion of the NaturalPTrails app at various events, with special emphasis on the 11th Observanatura fair;
- Five films have been produced, one on each of the regions (Regional Directorates), a general film about all protected areas nationwide, and a promotional film for the app. These are available online and via the aforementioned mobile app, and have been shown at various events.

The NaturalPTrails app for smartphones and tablets, compatible with iOS and Android operating systems, in Portuguese and English, provides a set of tools that enables users to select routes by type, location or protected area, refine their search, evaluate routes, earn points for each one travelled, view offline and save the ones they like most, also giving information on the products and services of the Natural.PT brand, promoted by ICNF. It also features weather and fire hazard alerts, provided directly by the IPMA, for greater visitor safety. The objective is to discover that a real environment can be much more fantastic than a virtual one, really experiencing nature! The film Portugal – Natural Heritage (trailers and full film) about the Protected Areas, is available on the ICNF Youtube channel. ICNF is aligned with the PT2020 Governance Model in terms of the innovations it is investing in, prioritising the simplification of beneficiaries' access to funding and reducing respective administrative costs, taking into account the principle of reasonableness in the effective justification of the procedural requirements adopted.

In the 2017/19 period, the following actions were highlighted as part of ICNF's communication strategy:

- Creation of free postcards, dissemination of newsletters, reports, evaluations, lists of approved projects, publication of news, the start of development of a bank of images and videos for use by all organisations, participation in protocols with focal points;
- Execution of the naturalPTrails app project, with the production and availability of a free app for Android and iPhone containing online information on routes through protected areas, with direct connection to the IPMA and online availability of related alerts;
- Publication of the magazine “Discovering Protected Areas”, considered by the general public to be an excellent source of information. The annual circulation amounted to about 5 thousand copies and is available in digital format, in both Portuguese <https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/0cc5758dede6eee9> and English <https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/26ef4b9bbc445598>;
- Institutional participation of the ICNF in approximately 30 regional and national events per year.

The ICNF website www.icnf.pt, together with the Portuguese Association of Nature Wardens and Keepers website, contain relevant information aimed at raising public awareness in order to reconcile development and well-being with the conservation of nature and management of natural resources. Page views of the ICNF portal have remained constant over time, with peaks of page views associated with news including photos and information on digital platforms for accessing information. The ICNF website homepage saw more than 300,000 visitors and over 1 million page views in the first quarter of 2020, with the contacts page being the most visited page. The most visited areas within the ICNF's powers were those areas concerned with hunting and CITES. The most searched keywords, linked to the ICNF's social networks were: region/forest/fire/icnf/Portugal/conservation.

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. A total of 10,285 complaints were registered through the SOS Ambiente e Território line in 2019, of which 4,461 were dealt with; these were the complaints made by non-anonymized senders. On this same SOS line, based on requests for information received, 33,533 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. 6,857 such initiatives were carried out during 2019, attended by 168,556 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;
- Ecodesign and Energy Label - general framework of these instruments, existing regulations and delegated regulations respectively for the ecodesign and energy label and the availability of several relevant links on these themes. Of note is the provision of a link to a calculation tool for the issue of energy labels of combined systems for heating the home and domestic water created by ADENE, under the Label Pack A + project, on which the DGEG has collaborated. This project continued in 2019, with the active participation of ADENE and with DGEG monitoring it through a new HARP-Heating Appliances Retrofit Plan project of which the main objective is to motivate consumers to plan the replacement of old and inefficient heating, ambient and water systems with more efficient alternatives that use renewable energy whenever possible. In terms of preparations for the national campaign on the readjustment of the energy label scale, due to take place in 2021, the DGEG has 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.

- Build Up Skills FORESEE, funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme, aims to put into practice the priority measures identified in the 2014-2020 Roadmap, under the ambit of the Build Up Skills project in Portugal. It also has the aim of engaging the different national stakeholders in providing training for people working in the construction sector and in the areas of energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy sources (RES);
- Buildings - Building Energy Certification System (SCE) - Decree-Law No. 118/2013 of 20 August and Law No. 58/2013, also of 20 August, in its current format, which entered into force on 1 December 2013, and other statutes subsequently published and associated with the SCE;
- Energy Audits - in the context of RGCE for the Transport sector, the SGCIE - Intensive Energy Consumption Management System and Decree-Law No. 68-A/2015;
- Financing mechanisms - for the most diverse sectors, with special relevance to those supporting initiatives relating to the promotion of energy efficiency and which are currently available to citizens, companies and public entities. These instruments are aligned with the promotion of an economic, social and territorial policy of development, with a view to achieving national goals and objectives in terms of energy and climate. In this context, the following are particularly significant:
 - o Energy Efficiency Fund (FEE) - a financial instrument capable of financing the programmes and measures established in the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (PNAEE), namely through support for predominantly technological projects in the areas of transport, residential zones and services, industry and the public sector, and support for cross-cutting actions inducing energy efficiency in the areas of behaviour, taxation and incentives and financing. The FEE can also support projects not established in the PNAEE but which have been proven to contribute to energy efficiency. FEE Notices have exceeded expectations: e.g. "Notice 20 - Efficient Buildings 2016" resulted in an increase of around double the amount initially anticipated for the allocation of Notice 20-A (private beneficiaries).
 - o Innovation Support Fund (FAI) - aims to support innovation and technological development projects, technological demonstration projects in the areas of renewable energies and energy efficiency, and energy efficiency investment projects, encouraging partnerships between Portuguese companies and the national technological and scientific system;
 - o Public Administration energy efficiency programmes have been mainly financed by operational programmes - Operational Programme for Sustainability and Efficiency in the Use of Resources (PO SEUR); Regional Operational Programmes. Public Administration energy efficiency measures are continually being monitored and refined, while at the same time a set of activities for clarification, information and monitoring have been developed. As an example, training instruments and activities have been developed for Local Energy Managers (GLE), and the ECO.AP Barometer tool was developed. The Barometer makes it possible to ascertain the actual energy consumed in government buildings, which enables users to diagnose needs and assess the impact of the implemented energy efficiency measures.

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.

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 model that integrates behavioural changes, new business models, new digital instruments, reinforced use of transport and vehicles that generate lower emissions. A notable feature in this area is the focus on raising awareness of soft mobility - an example of which is the U-Bike programme (cf. <https://www.u-bike.pt/>) which promotes the use of bicycles among academic communities. Several cities have started offering bicycle sharing services and micro mobility equipment, whether municipal or private. Also worthy of note is the promotion of public transport via the Programme of Support for Tariff Reduction on Public Transport (PART), which aims to combat the negative externalities associated with mobility, in particular social exclusion, greenhouse gas emission, air pollution, congestion, noise and energy consumption, attracting passengers to public transport through support, with an annual budget provided to the transport authorities, which allows them to carry out a careful adjustment of tariffs and supply (cf. <http://www.imt-ip.pt/sites/IMTT/Portugues/Paginas/Programa-apoio-PART.aspx>). The implementation of the PART in the metropolitan areas of Lisbon (AML - 18 municipalities) – cf. <https://www.portalviva.pt/pt/homepage/t%C3%ADtulos-de-transporte/uso-frequente/passes-navegante.aspx> - and Porto (AMP - 17 municipalities) – cf. <https://www.stcp.pt/pt/viajar/tarifas/titulos-intermodais-andante/assinaturas-mensais-andante/> - resulted in a profound change in the access possibilities of the general public to low-cost integrated mobility (bus, boat, train, metro,...), of which the impact on GHG emissions is yet to be measured. According to the PART 2019 Impact Assessment Report (<http://www.imt-ip.pt/sites/IMTT/Portugues/Noticias/Paginas/Relatorio-Avaliacao-Impacto-PART2019-290920.aspx>) this programme led to an overall increase in people using public transport in the two metropolitan areas and 21 inter-municipal communities. In the AML, the total number of passengers increased by over 18% in 2019, compared to the same period in the previous year. The AMP also saw a significant increase in the number of travel passes sold: in February 2020 there was a 38% increase in units sold, compared to the same month of the previous year (from 170,000 to 234,000 subscriptions).

The IMT also intends to contribute objectively to the required clarification of the technical/scientific and institutional plans for the existing set of initiatives, giving them the appropriate conceptual and methodological contextualisation and inserting them in an operational logic. Therefore, a strategy for sustainable mobility was defined by means of a reference framework for addressing issues relating to territory, accessibility, transport and mobility, based on the production of several framework documents, which were jointly called the Mobility Package. The documents that make up the Mobility Package are available at www.imt-ip.pt. More recently, within the scope of the EU CIVITAS Prosperity Project, IMT organised the 1st and 2nd National Meeting on Sustainable Mobility Planning, promoting the debate of ideas and an exchange of experiences among technicians involved in sustainable mobility planning processes. For communication during the Covid-19 pandemic period, reference should be made to the “Covid-19 - Useful information on transport and mobility” web portal at <https://covid-19-imt-ip.hub.arcgis.com/>. On this portal, the IMT provides citizens, companies and drivers with useful information on transport and mobility in the context of the extraordinary and urgent measures taken in response to the epidemiological situation of the new Coronavirus-COVID 19; in particular:

- New rules for face-to-face customer service for IMT, I.P.
- Contacts for telephone and e-mail service;

- Access to IMtonline (which provides several services relating to drivers, vehicles and transport);
- Bulletins and specific legislation relating to the fight against COVID-19) in the context of mobility and transport;
- Contingency measures for the mobility and transport sector;
- Contacts, links and other useful information.

The National Energy and Geology Laboratory (LNEG) participated in about 35 geology dissemination initiatives of various types, such as field trips, lectures, articles in newspapers or magazines, conducting study trips under school curricula or themed visits on nature tours. The highlights were:

- "The Health of Albufeira Lagoon" initiative, held as part of the 17th Living Science in the Laboratory programme;
- Guidance and geological description of the themed visit "geology and vegetation – the Fórnea route" at the PNSAC (Alvados/Porto de Mós), organised by the Serras de Aire and Candeeiros Natural Park POAP;
- Description and disclosure of geology in protected areas in collaboration with Gaia Biological Park, in the protected areas of this municipality;
- Evaluation of the capacity for classification of some existing outcrops in Gaia Biological Park, for possible classification as places of geological interest;
- Making a video on the geodiversity of the Bragança region and Montesinho Natural Park, at the invitation of the Bragança Living Science Centre, published on the website <http://www.cienciabraganca.pt/index.php?pagina=nav/naturais-show&id=676>.

As part of the initiative to raise awareness and provide information in the area of Sustainable and Circular Procurement, LNEG has been developing several actions, namely:

- Training and awareness activities on Sustainable and Circular Procurement by public authorities (LIPOR, CM Torres Vedras, CM Águeda, CCDR Centro)
- Information for the general public (interview with Jornal de Negócios newspaper, published on July 8, 2020)
- Participation in the Autumn Course on Circular Economy, University of Coimbra, 15-18 October 2019. LNEG is also active in the area of Circular Economy and Life Cycle Management for Sustainability. In this context, the following initiatives for training, awareness and provision of information are of importance:
- Training in circular economy, open access and as part of a protocol with IAPMEI. In the period reported, 11 workshops were held, involving around 150 stakeholders;
- Coordination and participation in funded training and demonstration projects, including Knowledge Alliance towards Circular Economy and Sustainability in Higher Education, KATCH_e (www.katche.eu), Life Cycle in Practice, LCiP (www.lifelcip.eu), Education for Zero Waste and Circular Economy (www.eduzwace.eu) and CircularStart (www.circularstart.eu). All of these projects lead to the development of training materials, tools, publications and free online resource centres. Of particular note was the launch of the first circular design discipline at a Portuguese university (Aveiro University), as a result of KATCH;
- Collaboration with other initiatives aimed at raising awareness among citizens, such as
 - o the ECO.NOMIA.PT portal of the Ministry that oversees environmental policy and
 - o the Circular Economy Forum of Alentejo;

As part of its standardisation activities, it is a member of the Technical Committee on Environmental Management and the Technical Subcommittee on Circular Economy;

In addition to the production of scientific material on the environment and sustainability, LNEG regularly publishes articles and news in various media.

The **tourism sector** represents the largest economic export activity in the country. In 2019 it accounted for 52.3% of service exports and 19.7% of total exports, with tourist revenue providing a contribution of 8.7% to the Portuguese GDP. In 2019, Portugal won the ITB Earth Award Trophy, one of ITB Berlin's "green" trophies, thanks to its "example of global leadership and innovation in responsible and sustainable tourism", along with the prize sponsored by the Portuguese Association of Business Ethics for the "Educate for Responsibility" project, which acknowledged the social responsibility and sustainability initiatives promoted by the Schools of Tourism network in Portugal.

Tourism of Portugal, IP. (TdP) provides activity indicators and statistics, market analysis and trends, together with market information, on TravelBI, a knowledge management platform for tourism. Another publication of note (since 2018) is Turismo de Portugal's Sustainability Report – 2017, available on its website, which provides information to all stakeholders of the financial, social and environmental performance of the Institute and the sector. Examples of innovative good environmental practices adopted by the various agents in the sector are regularly published on the TdP website, alongside environmental NGO programmes which include sustainable tourism components, supported by TdP through its participation as a member of the jury. In 2019, TdP supported the Quercus ENGO in making 10 films (available in Portuguese and English) on sustainable tourism that were published on various types of public transport and on national television (<https://www.youtube.com/c/TurismodePortugal-Institucional/videos>).

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 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, such as work on human rights and an assessment of the environmental impact of mining projects, prepared by the Iberoamerican Federation of Ombudsmen in 2020, in collaboration with the Ombudsman, among other institutions.

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, APA developed the following:

ARH Algarve:

- 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 (cf. <https://voluntariadoambientalagua.apambiente.pt/site/frontoffice/default.aspx>).

ARH Alentejo:

- Exhibition entitled "360° Climatic Changes", in collaboration with CCDR Alentejo, between 13 March and 28 April 2017, at the CCDRA Gallery in Évora.

Associated bodies: Institut Français, ULisboa and ICS.

- “Dune Protection - XVIII Summer Camp, 2017 - Praia do Carvalhal” - ARH Alentejo organised 2 environmental awareness events on the protection of dunes, on 16 August and 29 August 2017.
- Exhibition “Marine Trash: A Global Problem”; a joint initiative with CCDR Alentejo, from 4 to 15 June 2018, at the CCDRA Gallery, in Évora. Special focus on the school community, specific ARH activities: educational support for visiting school groups; 15 lectures given to students from groups and schools in the city of Évora. Associated bodies: FCT-UN, MARLISCO, MARE.
- ACECA Project Technical Conference, 26 March 2019, APA auditorium in Lisbon, for the purpose of disclosing outcomes; namely, actions to control water hyacinths on watercourse banks and awareness measures, prevention and control actions in the Portuguese section, etc. Associated entities: EDIA, CHG, JEX, DGMA.
- Eco-activity “Cleaning the Monte Novo Reservoir”, 19 October 2019, promoted by the Alentejo APA/ARH and supported by Évora City Council, to clean the banks and bed of the Monte Novo Reservoir, taking advantage of the temporarily low level of the reservoir’s water. Citizens took part voluntarily. Associated bodies: CIMAC, GESAMB, EIM, AdVT, CCDRA, CVP, GNR, CMM, CMRM.
- “Final Days of the VALAGUA project, 27 November 2019, auditorium of the Sapal Nature Reserve of CM and VRST, for the purpose of disseminating the results achieved; the intention was to promote a public debate on the difficulty of managing “water” and “biodiversity” resources, which contribute to the enhancement and sustainability of the Baixo Guadiana area in Spain and Portugal. Associated bodies: ADPM, DPH, ODIANA, UHU, UA Ig, CAGPDS-JA, ICNF, CHG.

CCDR Central: Still on a regional level, and in the context of the collaborative commitment upon which the National Strategy for Environmental Education (ENEA 2020) is based, in 2018 the CCDR Centro approved the Regional Intervention for Environmental Education, Awareness and Promotion (IRESPA). IRESPA is organised into 4 areas which cover various activities:

- Area 1 promotes interventions aimed at companies, with the goal of creating greater possibilities for economic operators who generate green employment, and contributing to improving the environmental performance of other regional companies.
- Area 2 seeks to raise awareness among citizens, with the goal of contributing to an inclusive and sustainable society.
- Area 3 is concerned with the promotion of public participation, and aims to contribute to a more active and participatory society.
- Area 4 provides support to regional and local structures and associations, with the aim of promoting activities which can contribute to the promotion of sustainability and the environment.

In 2018 and 2019, areas 1 and 4 developed information and training initiatives aimed at the business sector and identified methods of action and good practice, which were implemented by the 77 municipalities of the Central Region. These initiatives may have contributed to the reduction in the concentration of ozone (O₃) and particulate matter (PM) pollutants in the region, undertaken as part of the “Better Air in the Centre” project, which was co-financed by the PO Centro and the Environmental Fund.

On a local level, of the 81 respondents to the questionnaire on the implementation of Aarhus, around 78% (63 municipalities) confirmed the existence of an environmental

education and sustainable development strategy or programme in the municipality.

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 2019 there were 104 active Environmental NGOs registered on the National Register of Environmental NGOs and similar entities.

A Facebook page called "Citizenship and Environment" was created in 2010, harnessing the potential of Web 2.0, with the aim of disseminating the initiatives of environmental NGOs (cf. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cidadania-e-Ambiente/>).

It is worth mentioning that whenever a Conference of the Parties (COP) takes place at an International Convention on the subject of the environment, the Minister for the Environment, 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 have specific spots for the purpose of setting out their views.

In 2018 and 2019, 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.

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. A special folder entitled "In times of COVID-19" was created during the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights the work that has continued to take place, albeit by video conference, and how this work is connected to the possible impact of COVID- 19 on the environment. A good example of this work is the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action's video encouraging us to take a fresh look at the forests, rivers and streams and the extraordinary biodiversity of Portugal, as well as a video conference on Desertification day to address this year's theme of "Food, feed and fibre" and its impact in Portugal.

Article 3, paragraph 7

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 requested by the various CPLP countries being made available to them. Congresses for technical training on selected subjects are also held, based on the needs identified by the CPLP countries themselves.

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.

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:

Nothing to report with regard to this article.

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 December 2020 and January 2021, a questionnaire on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention at a local level was sent for the second time to the 308 Portuguese municipalities via the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities (ANMP). 81 municipalities completed the questionnaire - almost 26% of the total municipalities in Portugal. Although the percentage of respondents was higher this time than for the first questionnaire carried out in 2016, it still cannot be considered a representative result. Rather, it is indicative. Although only slightly more than half of the respondents state that they are aware of the Aarhus Convention, more than 96% consider that the necessary measures are being taken to maintain and promote good governance practices within their internal organisation and in terms of territorial action.

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

www.apambiente.pt

www.gnr.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).

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 of the Environment, 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/relatorios/dominio-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/dominio-ambiental/>). 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.

IGAMAOT, and more specifically the Multidisciplinary Environmental Inspection Team (EMIA), has the objective of pursuing the public interest of protecting the environment, namely through activities of control, supervision and inspection. 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 consistently improving activity. A Procedure Manual and Support Guide 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. An EMIA Procedures Manual (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/wp-content/uploads/Manual-de-Procedimentos-e-anexos.pdf>) and various support guides (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/guias-de-apoio-as-inspecoes/>) are available on the IGAMAOT portal, together with various support guides, such as the Environmental Inspection Support Guide, SEVESO Inspection Support Guides, 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.

On a local level, the vast majority of municipalities 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.

Article 5, paragraph 2

The information made available is presented according to subject areas.

Climate

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 (article 4 of the PQ) - prepared annually and submitted by 15 April;
- National Communication (article 12 of the PQ) – drawn up every four years (the 7th National Communication of Portugal was submitted in December 2017);
- Biennial Report (BR) under Decision 2/CP.17 of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC and article 18, paragraph 1 of the MMR. The 3rd BR was submitted in December 2017, and the 4th BR in December 2019.

With regard to the European Commission, the sequence of submission of the required reports was established by Decision 280/2004/EC, known as the Monitoring Mechanism (MMD), which has since been repealed by Regulation (EU) No. 525/2013 of the European

Parliament and the Council of 21 May (MMR). Under this legal statute, the following reports are submitted:

- Low Carbon Development Strategies (article 4);
- Union Inventory System (article 6);
- National GHG Inventory (article 7.2) - prepared annually and submitted at two different times. The draft version is sent on 15 January and the final version is sent on 15 March;
- National and Union Systems for Policies and Measures and Projections (article 12);
- Separating planned and non-planned projections in the European Emission Trading System - EU ETS scheme (article 14.1b).
- Communication of information on National Adaptation Plans and Strategies (article 15).
- Communication of information on financial and technological support to developing countries (article 16).
- Communication of the use of revenue obtained from sales by auction and credits by projects (article 17).

Moreover, this legal statute describes the climate policy reporting requirements, namely: APA has sought wherever possible to produce the reports and communications referred to above in a bilingual format; that is, in English and Portuguese. The aforementioned reports are published on the APA website, and can be found at the following links:

- National Communications (UNFCCC): <https://apambiente.pt/clima/inventario-nacional-de-emissoes-por-fontes-e-remocao-por-sumidouros-de-poluentes-atmosfericos>;
- Biennial Reports (UNFCCC): <https://apambiente.pt/clima/relatorios-de-progresso-submetidos-no-ambito-da-convencao-sobre-alteracoes-climaticas-unfccc>;
- MMR Reports (EU): <https://apambiente.pt/clima/antecedentes-1> .

Following the appearance of the first case of COVID-19 in Portugal, detected on 2 March 2020, and with a State of Emergency having been declared on 19 March 2020, which determined the closure and/or reduction of activity in many sectors, APA began to carry out estimates to try to assess the impact of prevention and emergency measures, resulting from the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on the level of GHG emissions. Monthly reports related to this analysis are published on the APA portal and can be consulted at <https://apambiente.pt/clima/impacte-covid-19-emissoes-gee>.

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 ozone column,
 - 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.

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. This programme is supported by certain NGOs such as the APCC (Portuguese Association of Skin Cancer).

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. CCDR 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.ccdr-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 action being taken there are still problems which persist and which need to be addressed. The current climate of review of European policy for cleaner air has accelerated the development of ENAR 2020 in order 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 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-ruído/qualidade-do-ar> 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 has been ongoing since the beginning of the 2nd 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 12 April 2019, a National Air Day was established in Portugal 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 the 2020/2021 school year, the theme to be explored by the Eco-Schools Programme will be “Air and outdoor spaces”. This campaign is one of the materials to be explored by the approximately 1,900 schools belonging to this Programme.

As part of its responsibilities, IPMA collaborates with the APA in reviewing the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP) programme, part of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) and the Comprehensive Atmospheric Monitoring Programme (CAMP) within the scope of the OSPAR Convention (OSlo and PARis Convention). The main objective of this review is to resume the suspended gas and particulate sampling programmes, as well as those for dry and wet deposition, which were suspended in 2009. These programmes constitute one of the main scientific instruments for evaluating the transport of air pollutants across Europe's borders and for deciding on possible measures to reduce emissions.

Noise

APA has responsibilities with regard to the noise prevention and the control of noise pollution, as established respectively in the General Regulation on Noise (RGR), approved by Decree-Law no. 9/2007, of January 19, and by Decree-Law no. 146/2006, of 31 July, amended and republished by Decree-Law no. 136-A/2019, of 6 September. It has powers of harmonizing procedures for collecting and processing data and centralizing information on external ambient noise, making available to the public the documents sent to it in this context (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/ar-e-ruido/ruido-ambiente>). 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, 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), including the results of the recommended public participation phases;
- Reports 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 Development and Monitoring of the Convention that allows management of cross-border river basins;
- Monitoring of water resources;
- Licensing the use of water resources, including the 2018 inspection report 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 - SNIRH XXI - 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. In the face of climate change, 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 in the event of extreme incidents.

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); namely:

- Annual national reports from 2010 to 2018 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 2018 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.
- The 2009 and 2010 Reports on the Monitoring of the Principle of Self-Reliance, on the performance of APA in its role relating to ensuring compliance with the Principle of Self-Reliance and Proximity, in accordance with the provisions of article 4 of Decree-Law No. 178/2006 of 5 September, amended and republished by Decree-Law No. 73/2011 of 17 June;
- 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 [em https://apambiente.pt/prevencao-e-gestao-de-riscos/inventario-nacional-de-pcb](https://apambiente.pt/prevencao-e-gestao-de-riscos/inventario-nacional-de-pcb);
- Monitoring reports of the Strategic Plan for Urban Solid Waste (PERSU II), jointly prepared every year with ERSAR, between 2007 and 2010. Since 2011, APA has published an Annual Report on Urban Waste (RARU) that includes the monitoring under PERSU II and other items related to the activity of Urban Waste Systems Management. From 2014, and by means of the publication of the Strategic Plan for Urban Waste Management (PERSU 2020) repealing PERSU II, the RARU was reoriented to monitor the production and management of urban waste, in accordance with the Strategy set out in this new Plan, and includes the monitoring report of the 2009-2016 Urban Waste Prevention Programme (PPRU). As of 2017 (referring to the 2016 data), a report will be made every two years by the Group to support the management of PERSU 2020, containing an analysis of the implementation of the Plan;
- The current situation with regard to waste production data, physical characterization and treatment operations;
- Provision of other information relating to the development of waste planning, namely the assessment report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Hospital Waste (PERH);
- "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; in particular, waste streams such as packaging, household and car batteries, electrical and electronic equipment, mineral oils, tyres and vehicles at the end of their useful life.

Soils

The PRoSolos legislative project was developed, which establishes the legal framework for

the prevention of contamination and the repair of soils, with a view to safeguarding human health and the environment, establishing the process of quality evaluation and soil remediation, as well as accountability for contamination, based on the principles of 'polluter pays' and liability. This project, presented on 3 September 2015, was made available for public consultation on the PARTICIPA Portal between 4 September and 4 November 2015, at <https://participa.pt/pt/consulta/prosolos-5415>, together with the respective Public consultation report. These contributions were analysed and considered, and the Project was consolidated accordingly.

In terms of industrial environmental liabilities, the Methodological Guide for the Identification of New Environmental Liabilities was published in July 2016, available at <https://sniambgeoviewer.apambiente.pt/GeoDocs/geoportaldocs/solos/GuiaMetodologicoN ovosPassivosAmbientais.pdf>. The aim is to assist potential applicants for European Community funds, under the Community framework - Operational Programme for Sustainability and Efficiency in the Use of Resources, applicable to the 2014-2020 period.

In terms of prevention of contamination and the remediation of soils, the following technical guides and recommendations were prepared and published on the APA website <https://apambiente.pt/avaliacao-e-gestao-ambiental/guias-tecnicos-0>:

- "Technical Guide - Soil Reference Values", 2019 (cf: https://sniambgeoviewer.apambiente.pt/GeoDocs/geoportaldocs/AtQualSolos/Guia_Tecnico_Valores%20de%20Referencia_2019_01.pdf);
- "Technical Guide – Sampling Plan and Soil Monitoring Plan", 2019 (cf: https://sniambgeoviewer.apambiente.pt/GeoDocs/geoportaldocs/AtQualSolos/Guia_Tecnico_Plano%20de%20Amostragem_Plano%20de%20Monitorizacao_rev1_jul2919.pdf);
- "Technical Guide – Risk Analysis and Risk Acceptability Criteria", 2019 (cf: https://sniambgeoviewer.apambiente.pt/GeoDocs/geoportaldocs/AtQualSolos/Guia_Tecnico_Analise_de_Risco_Criterios_de_Aceitabilidade_2019_01.pdf);
- "Technical Guide – Reference matrices for the presentation of analytical results", 2020 (cf: https://sniambgeoviewer.apambiente.pt/GeoDocs/geoportaldocs/AtQualSolos/Guia_Matrizes_resultados_analiticos_solo_e_agua_final.pdf);
- "Measures / Recommendations to be adopted in matters of licensing, monitoring of execution, inspection and supervision of urban operations – aspects of soil assessment and remediation", 2019 (cf: <https://apambiente.pt/avaliacao-e-gestao-ambiental/medidas-e-recomendacoes>);
- "Transfer of land property rights where a potentially contaminating activity is being exercised or carried out, or where there are indications or evidence of contamination", 2020 (cf: <https://apambiente.pt/avaliacao-e-gestao-ambiental/medidas-e-recomendacoes>).

In recognition of the need for strategic coordination to protect this non-renewable natural resource, the Portuguese Partnership for Soil (PPS) was created <https://parceriaptsolo.dgadr.gov.pt/>. It is hoped that the PPS will contribute to the preservation of soil, as a factor of sustained development. This national partnership, continuing the mission of the European Partnership and the Global Soil Partnership and adopting the principles of the European Soil Charter and the World Soil Charter, aims to raise awareness of the importance of soil and contribute to the development of technical and scientific capacities on this theme, making scientific knowledge more widely available and facilitating and contributing to an exchange of knowledge and technology between interested parties with regard to the management and sustainable use of soil resources. One of the strategic objectives of the partnership, specifically with regard to access to information about soil, is to raise awareness about soil resources, promoting the importance of soil and knowledge of it among all levels of society: education (from basic to higher), policy makers, consultants and technicians, land users and the general public. (cf. strategic and specific objectives <https://parceriaptsolo.dgadr.gov.pt/parceria-3/parceria/termos-de-referencia>).

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, and anticipating the provisions of article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1010, 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 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.

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: land management plans (e.g. Protected Area Land Use Plans - POAP - or Regional Forestry Management Plans - PROF), 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. Data collected from Google Analytics for the 39-month period between January 2017 and March 2020 show a total of 2,851,249 users (about 73,108 per month), who accessed the portal in a total of 4,901,913 sessions (about 125,690 per month); totalling 15,870,097 page views (about 406,925 per month).

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 (landslips), 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. In 2019, 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. In 2019, the REN WG promoted 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. Activities included carrying out tests to assess the methodology and, later, holding a workshop aimed at central government and training activities aimed at municipalities, which aimed to support these entities in the application of the REN criteria for delimiting the typology of Areas at High Risk of Soil Erosion by Water (AEREHS). This initiative promoted the acquisition of skills by the bodies involved in the process, notably in terms of critical interpretation of the results and the modelling of the topographic factor. The work carried out also resulted in the production of Guides to support the REN delimitation - calculation of the LS topographic factor (May 2020), soon available at <https://www.dgterritorio.gov.pt/ordenamento/projetos/delimitacao-tipologia-REN>. 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-hortícolas/po-frutas-e-hortícolas>
- 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, EURSOSAT) 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-amostras>. In addition, it is an organisation which promotes and partners information systems about the sea, such as the SNIMar (cf. <http://snimar.pt/>) and BioMarPT (cf. <http://biomarpt.ipma.pt/>) projects.

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 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 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 will be subject to a follow-up and evaluation. This will allow for 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 being developed and updated.

With a view to increasing the rationality and sustainability of the options taken by decision makers, and with the aim of increasing knowledge on the dynamics and evolution of coastal systems, in July 2018 APA launched the Monitoring Programme for the Coastal Strip of Mainland Portugal (COSMO), which has made it possible to strengthen and evaluate the monitoring of this area of the country and provide the essential technical and scientific foundations to support strategic planning and coastal management.

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 the last three years, the Coastal Zone Programmes (POC) for the Ovar-Marinha Grande and Alcobça-Cabo Espichel sections were approved, through RCM no. 112/2017 of 10 August and no. 66/2019 of 11 April, respectively. The Management Regulations for these sections were also approved through Notices No. 11506/2017 of 29 September and 12492/2019 of 6 August. The POC for the Caminha-Espinho section is in the approval phase and the POC for the Espichel-Odeceixe and Odeceixe-Vilamoura sections are in the final stages of preparation.

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. The preparation of the State of Spatial Planning Report, under the responsibility of DGT, is currently in progress.

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).

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.

Limited use of Micro-organisms and Genetically Modified Organisms

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.

Prevention of Serious Accidents

As regards the provision of information to the public under the scheme to prevent major accidents and Decree-Law No. 254/2007 of 12 July (amended by Decree-Law No. 42/2014 of 18 March), 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>).

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, consolidating the powers previously distributed to different entities.

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, independently inspects compliance with the aforementioned Decree-Law No. 108/2018, namely through the planning and carrying out of ordinary or extraordinary inspections.

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.

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 the National Radon Plan, which should be completed in 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 simplified reports of all inspection actions carried out involving 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 simplified reports (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/dominio-seguranca-radiologico-nuclear/>).

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 incorporating a more 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, on a single platform, relevant information on the activity of this General Inspectorate, providing information to all citizens on the results of the General Inspectorate's work in the different areas in which it intervenes, most importantly in the environmental area. On this platform, the user can also find out about the best way to use public services, without having to travel, namely the forms which need to be filled in – thus enabling the provision of the services most suited to the needs of citizens and businesses. This includes the Accident/Incident Notification Form, developed by IGAMAOT, which is used to collect information considered relevant in such situations and which must be completed and sent to igamaot@igamaot.gov.pt in the event of an accident/incident (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/registo-acidentesincidentes/>). The obligatory requirement to complete the aforementioned form often arises not only because it is stipulated in the licences they hold, but also because this condition is established in the Directives or Regulations in force, and must therefore be directly reported by the operators involved to the competent authorities. Accordingly, in the event of an accident, the operator must provide, as soon as possible, information on the causes, effects and consequences on people and the environment, as well as the measures taken or planned to prevent a similar accident or incident and which mitigate the effects of this occurrence in the medium or long term. Other forms are also included in this set of information for citizens, such as Requests for Information/Clarification (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/balcao-eletronico/pedidos-de-informacaoesclarecimento/>) or Comments/Suggestions (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/balcao-eletronico/comentariossugestoes/>).

The Single Platform for Inspection and Supervision of Agriculture, Sea and Environment (iFAMA), is in the operational phase, coordinated by IGAMAOT with the involvement of various bodies and services of the Ministry that oversees environmental policy and the Ministry of Agriculture and Sea; namely, APA, ICNF, DGT, CCDR, DGADR, DGAV, Douro & Porto Institute of Wine, I.P. (IVDP), Institute of Vine and Wine, I.P. (IVV), Regional Directorates for Agriculture and Fisheries (DRAP), DGRM, Docapesca - Portos e Lotas, SA and DGEG and their integration with the Sectoral Plans for Information and Communication Technologies. Its implementation will allow the integration and centralisation of dispersed information, increase the quality of information produced, provide faster access to available information, simplify processes with the elimination of red tape, reduce operational and response time for administrative services, improve citizens'/businesses' relationships with the Administration.

Portuguese cooperation in the environment area

All relevant information about development cooperation, language and culture as part of Portuguese external policy is disseminated temporarily or permanently on the website of Camões, Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, www.instituto-camoes.pt, including information on development cooperation programmes, projects and actions, as well as the most important instruments and strategies in this field.

In this context, the information covered by the second National Strategy of Education for Development (ENED 2018-2022), approved by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 94/2018, published on 16 July 2018, is important. ENED 2018-2022 makes reference to the National Strategy for Environmental Education, approved by Council Ministers Resolution No. 100/2017 of 11 July. On 23 November 2018, the Action Plan was signed by sixteen entities, including APA and the Portuguese Confederation of Environmental Protection Associations (CPADA). The signatory entities meet regularly and contribute to an annual report, published on ENED's website: <https://ened-portugal.pt/>

Subsequent to the cooperation protocol signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Portuguese Platform of Non-Governmental Organisations for Development Cooperation (NGO), a line of co-financing for NGO Development Education projects was created in 2005. It should be noted that a significant number of these projects wholly or partially refer to the overall dimension inherent to different environmental issues, including sustainable development, responsible production and consumption, fair trade, climate change and Sustainable Development Objectives (ODS). It is to be highlighted that some of these projects have been promoted in partnership with environmental NGOs.

The area of disaster resilience/risk reduction was incorporated into the Operational Strategy for Humanitarian Action and Emergency, approved by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 65/2015.

The institutionalisation of the Development Cooperation Forum from 2005 is also worth mentioning as well as the strengthening of this coordination mechanism. This takes into account, in particular, the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which requires strengthening of the Coordination and Coherence of Policies. It is a space for promoting the coherence and complementarity of Portuguese cooperation, fostering reflection and dialogue between the State and civil society and providing for the emergence of joint projects, initiatives taken in partnership, proposals and opinions regarding cooperation policy, particularly in the context of sustainable development, involving agencies of central and local government and civil society.

Also worthy of note is the fact that in 2015, in the context of the European Year of Development, particular attention was given to creating public awareness and participation by means of a set of actions specifically devoted to the different dimensions of sustainable development and its link with the international negotiations that took place in that particular year; most importantly, those which led to the Paris Agreement as part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. These negotiations have given a new dimension to environmental issues in the context of development cooperation.

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.

As mentioned above, starting in 2015, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, a new era in terms of cooperation for development has begun. It has sought to continue supporting its priority partners in meeting their needs as well as their international commitments under this new framework, with new, more demanding transparency rules for both donor countries and aid recipient partners. Although an increase in the scope of financing to the private sector is foreseen under this new framework, the use of public financing continues to have great relevance, particularly when it supports the leverage of private funds.

The Environmental Fund, although a domestic fund, opened a financing window to support development cooperation interventions (programmes, projects and actions – PPA), with the aim of supporting its partners by strengthening their capacities in the area of the environment, in particular with regard to combating climate change and increasing resilience in this area, water and sanitation and biodiversity. The financing of the Environmental Fund that can also be considered as public aid for development (ODA) has come to play a fundamental role as an additional complement to conventional ODA financing, both bilaterally and multilaterally. Relevant statistical information can be found on the Camões, I.P. website at: <http://coop.instituto-camoes.pt/bdcoopfrontend>

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/index.php/ord/prot-alentejo>.

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 <http://www.ccdr-lvt.pt/pt/ordenamento-do-territorio/7115.htm> LVT. Also noteworthy is information on the Report on the State of Spatial Planning in the LVT Region – 2017, available at <http://www.ccdr-lvt.pt/pt/relatorio-sobre-o-estado-do-ordenamento-do-territorio-da-rlvt/9778.htm>, which was the subject of public discussion from May 7 to June 18, 2018, on the PARTICIPA.PT portal

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.

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.

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 geoportal, available at <http://idecentro.ccdrc.pt>

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.

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)

SIARL is a system that is based on geographical information, using a geoportal associated with a database (cf. http://siarl_dev.apa.local/destaques.aspx).

It is organised into modules for the systematic recording of information, namely:

- Occurrences in the water domain (e.g. accidents);
- Coastal interventions, including actions that involve investment (such as coastal defence works and interventions in areas at risk);
- Soil use and occupation, through the centralising of access to decisions of central and local government relating to land management;
- Easements and restrictions;
- 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.

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.

In 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, greater concentrations of people on beaches could have resulted in an increased risk of contagion, if hygiene and safety rules were not adopted. The 2020 bathing season brought new rules regarding traffic on access roads to beaches, bathing facilities and occupation of the bathing area, in order to respect the recommended physical distance. To avoid an excessive influx of visitors to the beaches, the concessionary bodies - or the local authorities, in the case of non-concession beaches - started to indicate the state of occupation using coloured signage via flags at the entrance to the beach, in order to inform users so that they could responsibly opt for one or another bathing area:

- Green: low occupancy, meaning up to one-third of the area is in use;
- Yellow: high occupancy, meaning between one- and two-thirds of the area is in use;
- Red: full occupancy.

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).

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. 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 air quality forecast for the following day is released using the forecast index, presented for the municipal area, in its least disaggregated form. QualAr is also disseminated through an app, enabling it to be used as widely as possible,

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 faxes/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.

Currently in its 6th edition - the photointerpretation work ended at the end of 2018, however the final data were only available in June 2019 - the IFN follows on from previous years, thus enabling an assessment of the temporal evolution of the state and use of forest resources. The ICNF portal provides information about the IFN at <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/florestas/ifn>.

National ICNF Information System (SNI-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.

Until the implementation of the information system provided for in article 8 of the said Decree-Law, the transitional regime provided for in article 19 of the same Decree-Law was in force for the submission of requests for authorisation and prior communication.

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.

With the aim of conveying information that is as complete as possible of the afforestation (reforestation) action authorised for the mainland, the country has, for the first time, statistical data on the afforestation processes (technical and administrative aspects). This was impossible before the entry into force of the RJAAR - the figures presented in this report refer to the processes under this legal scheme, including the information available on afforestation and reforestation actions.

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>) and study the development for making Areas and Operations of Intervention and Landscape Management (AIGP/OIGP) available within the scope of the Landscape Reorganisation and Management Programmes.

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 1800 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/>). At the end of 2019, PCGT had recorded around 400 accredited bodies, with 1,418 users for a volume of around 20 GB of documental information (files attached to the procedures) and 3 GB of information in a database (the procedures themselves).

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 is an interactive tool developed to respond to the needs of Turismo de Portugal, other central government entities, municipalities, Universities and Polytechnics 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 (existing and planned), marinas and recreational ports (existing and planned), 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. This application is available on the TdP website (cf. <https://sigtur.turismodeportugal.pt>).

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 Services / International Relations / Multilateral Affairs / International Conventions and Protocols. By clicking through the links, it is possible to 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, 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.

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.

The first National REOT, to be presented in 2021, is configured as a base report which establishes the integrated system of indicators for monitoring and assessing the execution of the PNPOT, and will present the reference situation of the territory at the date on which the first revision of the PNPOT is approved.

Sustainable Development Indicators System (SIDS)

The 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&PUBLICACOESstema=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 (GDCC), 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 Ecolabels or even awards promoted in Portugal by an environmental NGO, ABAE, with the support of countless government organisations, such as the Blue Flag of Europe (for beaches, pleasure boat ports and marinas, and pleasure craft), the ECO XXI Green Flag for municipalities, the ECOFREGUESIAS XXI Green Flag, and the Green Key (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.

Two registrations were made in Portugal under the EC Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) in 2017. At the end of this year 54 organisations were registered (which corresponded to a total of 93 registered activity sites). In 2018, two more registrations were made in Portugal; as such, by the end of this year 51 organisations were registered (which corresponded to a total of 98 registered activity sites). In 2019, four more registrations were made in Portugal; as such, by the end of this year 51 organisations were registered (which corresponded to a total of 90 registered activity sites). At the end of 2020, there were 49 organisations registered with EMAS (which corresponds to a total of 84 registered activity sites). One new registration was assigned. 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. 20 licences for the use of the EU Ecolabel were valid at 31 December 2019, in the following product groups: "Rinse-off cosmetic products" (1), "Hard surface cleaning products" (2), "Detergents for manual dishwashing" (2), "Interior and exterior paints and varnishes" (4), "Tissue paper products" (4), "Copy paper and graphic paper" (1) and "Textile products" (1) - which in total include a set of 4,650 trademarks - as well as 5 licences assigned to "Tourist accommodation" services.

The ecological design of products is an essential element of the EU strategy for the 'Integrated Product Policy', which is considered a preventive approach aimed at optimising the environmental performance of products while preserving their functional and safety characteristics. They also cannot have negative impacts on health or increased costs for consumers. The Ecodesign Directive (Directive 2009/125/EC, of the EP and of the Council, of 21 October) is a framework directive, a fundamental component of European policy. By means of specific regulations for each product type, it has enabled the establishment of harmonised minimum requirements for energy efficiency and functional and environmental performance in energy-related products in the context of a temporary trend for increasing demand, thereby improving the environmental and energy performance of these products on 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 an energy labelling regime. In this context, the European Commission has established a Work Plan for the 2016-2019 period – COM(2016)773 final, as part of the circular economy package – including a list of the 12 works in progress on the date of the plan's presentation (November 2016), together with 22 reviews of existing regulatory measures and identification of an additional set of 6 product groups to be considered for future work. As these are energy-related products, this matter is also dealt with on page 19 of this report, with regard to the activities of the DGEG.

Turismo de Portugal supports initiatives such as the National Tourism Award (with a Sustainable Tourism component) and establishes partnerships with other bodies to promote other such initiatives. An example of these is the "Chave Verde" / "Green Key" award, organised by the Blue Flag Association of Europe (ABAE), an environmental NGO which aims to distinguish businesses, local accommodation, restaurants and events in the field of tourism which promote good management practices and environmental education (cf. www.abae.pt/programa/chaveverde). TdP is part of the National Commission for this and other programmes promoted by ABAE: the international "Blue Flag" award, which aims to provide education towards the sustainable development of coastal and river beaches, recreational ports and marinas, and recreational and ecotourism vessels, which apply and

adhere to a set of criteria relating to Environmental Information and Education, among other things (cf. <https://bandeiraazul.abae.pt/>). Another is the “Green Flag” award - which includes the ECOXXI programme for municipalities and Eco-Freguesias XXI. These aim to identify and acknowledge good sustainability practices, placing value on education, among other things, with a view to sustainability and environmental quality (cf. <https://ecoxxi.abae.pt/bandeiraverde>).

TdP, as part of its concern for quality and environmental sustainability - one of the most important resources for the development of tourism - participates in several activities related to the environment and its preservation, in particular:

- European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET), the Tourism Working Group (TOUERM);
- ISO/TC 228 - the highlight is the work related to WG 13 on Sustainability in Tourism Projects, and WG7, which is currently developing a Sustainability Standard for Adventure Tourism, with Portugal responsible for the proposal;
- National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (ENAAC), in particular with regard to the specific working group on Tourism.

It should be emphasised that the system for setting the classification of tourism enterprises by TdP comprises several environmental sustainability requirements - such as the use of systems that promote efficient water consumption and reuse, systems that promote efficient energy consumption, including the use of renewable energies, energy or environmental certification by national or European standard, of high valuation, in order to promote the adoption of sustainability measures in tourism developments. A review of the classification requirements for tourism developments, which foresees a greater focus on environmental sustainability criteria, is currently underway. 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 was planned 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.

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).

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); the latter with the status of Observer). 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 (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/rede-nacional-impel/>).

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, the Forum member is an inspector from the IGAMAOT's Multidisciplinary Environmental Inspection Team, 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>.

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 (between 2017 and 2020 the number of requests registered on the portal enabled the emission of around 851 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://apojosiliamb.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, IGAMAOT is invested with the power to inspect compliance with PRTR Regulations. In 2019, IGAMAOT produced a report, available online at https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/wp-content/uploads/Rel_Desemp_PRTR_2018-1.pdf, which aimed to reflect the environmental performance of establishments covered by the PRTR regime. It was prepared on the basis of information collected through inspection activities carried out in 2018, and includes a summary of these actions, their territorial framework, their characterization by sector of PRTR activity - environmental aspect and environmental legal framework - existence of harvests, assessment of compliance with the PRTR regime, and detected non-compliance situations.

On a local level, approximately 70% 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, almost half of the responding municipalities do not have them accessible in databases and/or online reports on the respective websites.

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 and CLP 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.

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/>

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

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

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

Under Decree-Law No. 146/2006 of 31 July, amended and republished by Decree-Law No. 136-A/2019 of 6 September, which transposed Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise, noise action plans drawn up by the competent authorities for large transport infrastructures are submitted for the approval of APA after having been subject to the public consultation process carried out under the terms of the Convention.

Chemicals

The REACH and CLP Regulations envisage, in many cases, the sharing of information among stakeholders and the European Chemicals Agency (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).

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.

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. The Participatory Municipalities Network (RAP), created on 3 December 2014 as part of the Portugal Participa project, emerged in a context of developing and strengthening of citizen participation mechanisms at the level of local authorities. As a collaborative structure, it aims to promote meeting points between different initiatives, encourage an exchange of experiences, expand public visibility and institutional recognition and build cooperation between different areas of local governance. On the <http://portugalparticipa.pt/> website, up-to-date news is provided of the various PB that are taking place, mainly those carried out at a municipal and parish level.

In 2017 and 2018, for the first time, a national PB took place - the “Portugal Participatory Budget” (cf. <https://opp.gov.pt>). This initiative won an award at the GovInsider Innovation Awards 2018 in the category of Best Citizen Engagement.

In 2018, the first “Portugal Young People’s PB” was started (cf. <https://opjovem.gov.pt/>), aimed at citizens aged between 14 and 30; further Young Peoples’ PBs followed in 2019 and 2020, with subsequent editions already in preparation.

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 by consultation of the website or directly via e-mail, 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.

Where concerns are raised and not dealt with, complaints can be filed with the Ombudsman 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. To give an example: following the investigation of a complaint with regard to a project to expand a quarry, the Ombudsman concluded that the overall impact of the project had not been properly assessed in the public consultation phase by stakeholders, as the true scale of the project had not been made known; the lack of complete information hindered the effective participation of interested parties. A recommendation was made to the Government that the practices in terms of environmental impact assessment should be improved (Recommendation No. 1/A/2017, available at <http://www.provedor-jus.pt/>).

Article 6, paragraph 11

See Chapters XXXIII - XXXVII (Genetically Modified Organisms).

At a **local level**, the response to the questionnaire carried out among the municipalities indicates that, of the 81 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, or other public or private entities - the general public is informed and/or duly consulted in advance (article 6 of the Convention). Likewise with plans, programmes and policies (article 7 of the Convention), although with less expression, and with the creation of regulations and other normative instruments at the municipal level (article 8 of the Convention). 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 level: municipal meetings, public executive meetings, decentralized meetings, and meetings created as a result of the processes themselves, in addition to traditional mail or e-mail.

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:

Nothing to report on this item.

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:

Between 2017-2020 the most relevant data relating to the PARTICIPA.PT portal have been:

- 958 public consultations created;
- 8,080 submissions made;
- 6,853 actively registered participants:
 - o 476 participants with group registration;
 - o 6,377 participants with individual registration;
- 410,263 hits on the website.

With regard to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), no notifications were submitted to APA in the period between 2017 and 2019-2020, for deliberate release of GMOs into the environment under Decree-Law No. 72/2003 of 10 April.

XVIII. Website addresses relevant to the implementation of article 6

Give relevant website addresses, if available:

www.apambiente.pt

<http://participa.pt>

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://siaia.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:

Strategies and plans in the areas of energy and climate change

- 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 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)

The public discussion of the PNEC 2030 began with the holding of a public presentation session in Lisbon. Subsequently, several joint presentation sessions of the PNEC 2030 and the RNC2050 were held throughout the country, which aimed to promote debate around the main issues on Energy and Climate over the coming decades.

There were also sessions dedicated to specific themes, attended by specialists from a wide range of study areas, to seek solutions for the fulfilment of national goals and objectives associated with the themes involved.

The Public Consultation process was then carried out over a period of 30 days via the online PARTICIPA.PT portal (cf. <https://participa.pt/pt/consulta/plano-nacional-de-energia-e-clima-2030>), with contributions having been received through the

“Participa” platform and other channels, such as e-mail and official letter. This public consultation received around 59 submissions

– 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.

– 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, aims to improve air quality for the protection of human health, the quality of life of citizens and the preservation of ecosystems.

During the ENAR 2020 drafting process, a number of consultations were held with entities with specific responsibilities, namely DGAE, DGEG, DGS, GPPA of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Sea, IMT, as well as the regional bodies with competences in the area of air (CCDR and DRA). In the phase for gauging measures, stakeholders were consulted on the ENAR 2020 proposal and on the set of actions that will contribute to Portugal achieving the objectives and targets for emissions and air quality by 2020. ENAR 2020 was publicly presented on 20/04/2015 and public discussion took place until 11/05/2015. The comments and suggestions collected during this period, included in the public consultation report, were analysed and considered in the corrections and improvements made to the final documents.

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>;
- 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 were in force for the period 2009 to 2015. At the end of December 2012, the creation of the 2nd cycle of the PGRH began. Council of Ministers Resolution No. 52/2016 of 20 September, republished by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 22-B/2016 of 18 November, approved the River Basin Region Management Plans of Mainland Portugal for the period 2016-2021. The process of reviewing the PGRHs relating to the 3rd planning cycle, which will be in force between 2022 and 2027, and of which the provisional version will be put to public participation in early 2021, began in 2018 with the preparation of the schedule and programme of works, which were made available for public participation between

22 December 2018 and 22 June 2019. The second phase of public participation, relating to the identification of the QSiGA, took place between 22 December 2019 and 15 September 2020. 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. After a process of public participation that took place between 21 July and 21 August 2015, 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 Flood Risk Management Plans (PGRI) constitute a sectorial and also a specific plan for flooding in the Areas of Significant Potential Risk of Floods (ARPSI). 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 first cycle of implementation of the DAGRI began in December 2011, with the first phase taking place in 2013 to identify the ARPSI, the second phase in 2015 with the preparation of CZICRI relating to the 22 ARPSI previously identified, and the third phase with the preparation and implementation of the PGRI, which were approved in 2016 and will remain in force until 2021.
- In 2018, the 2nd cycle of DAGRI implementation began via the 1st APRI phase, with a survey and analysis of flood events occurring between 2011 and 2018, to allow the reanalysis of the ARPSIs identified in the previous cycle and definition of new ARPSIs. The APRI was launched for consultation and public participation over a period of 30 days, from 26 November 2018 to 26 December 2018. 63 ARPSIs were identified in mainland Portugal, 47 of which are of river origin and 16 of coastal origin.
- In 2019, the CZICRIs were prepared and revised for the 63 ARPSIs. The 2nd cycle PGRI are under development; their preliminary version should be complete by June 2021, and following public consultation the final version of the PGRI will be published.
- DAGRI anticipates that the documents pertaining to the three phases of each planning cycle will be made publicly available and that the participation of all interested parties in each of the phases is encouraged.
- Documentation on this process is available on the APA portal (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/agua/planos-de-gestao-dos-riscos-de-inundacoes>).
- 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. The CNA discussed and approved in plenary, between 2017 and 2020:

- Removal of obsolete hydraulic infrastructure;
- Luso-Spanish Reservoir Convention;
- Water quality in the Tejo river basin;
- The 2017 drought in the context of adaptation to climate change;
- Drought risk management plans;
- Implementation of the Water Framework Directive;
- Reuse and circular economy in the water sector. The National Strategy for the Reuse of Treated Wastewater;
- Water and rivers of the future;
- The contribution of hydroelectricity as part of the Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality;
- Coastline Programmes.

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 National Strategy for Environmental Education for the period 2017-2020 (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 National Strategy for Environmental Education (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 Ovar-Marinha Grande and Alcobaça-Cabo Espichel sections of coastline, approved by RCM no. 112/2017 of 10 August and no. 66/2019 of 11 April, respectively, were submitted to public consultation via the PARTICIPA.pt portal, and are available on the APA website. The Management Regulations for these sections, published by Notices no. 11506/2017, of 29 September and no. 12492/2019, of 6 August, 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

- The National Strategy for the Sea (ENM 2013-2020) is the public policy instrument that presents the vision of Portugal for the period 2013-2020 in relation to the development model based on the conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystem resources and services, indicating a long-term path to smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth based on the maritime component. It revised and updated the first version of the ENM 2006-2016 (RCM No. 163/2006 of 12 December), "taking into account the increase of national interest for the Ocean as a strategic vector, as well as the paradigm shift, marked both internally and externally, by an institutional context geared to sustainable development". The implementation of ENM 2013-2020 is being applied through the Mar-Portugal Plan, which includes a set of Action Programmes and Projects covering a wide range of domains, which has been periodically updated http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt/Pages/ENM_2013_2020_jan.aspx. In this Plan, IPMA seeks to be the central element through the production of knowledge and innovation in the areas of marine natural resources (living, non-living and energy resources) and the various uses of the ocean (activities and services with economic value, including aquaculture). During 2019, programmes of thematic workshops on the ENM Review were carried out for the period 2021-2030, in an open, participatory and wide-ranging process, involving contributions from all interested parties. These workshops were held in various parts of the country in an attempt to decentralize such events, and an extended period of public consultation took place, from January to the end of 2020 (cf. <https://www.dgpm.mm.gov.pt/consulta-publica-enm2030> and <https://participa.pt/pt/consulta/consulta-publica-relatorio-do-2-ciclo-das-estrategias-marinhas-da-dqem>).
- 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 Plan (PGRNU); and after hearing the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities (ANMP) in the case of the Urban Waste Management Plan (PGRU). Once approved, the national waste plans and respective waste prevention programmes are made

publicly available on the ANR website
<https://apambiente.pt/index.php/residuos/planeamento>.

- The National Waste Management Plan (PNGR) is a tool for planning waste management policy setting strategic objectives of national scope and establishing the guiding rules to be defined by specific, necessarily more detailed, sectoral plans for waste management policy (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/plano-nacional-de-gestao-de-residuos-pngr>). The drafting of the PNGR 2014-2020 was accompanied by an environmental impact assessment procedure, which resulted in an Environmental Report. Both documents were under public consultation for a period of about a month and a half. 11 contributions from individual citizens, associations, public and private entities were received, which are compiled and analysed in the Public Consultation Report. Opinions were requested of entities with specific environmental responsibilities in 2 separate stages of the environmental assessment, in accordance with current legislation. The specific waste management plans implemented by the 2014-2020 PNGR in each specific area of activity, and whose validity has expired, have to date been subject to an environmental assessment procedure. This PNGR is currently being updated for the 2020-2030 period. As part of this, documents pertaining to its preparation have been shared on the PARTICIPA portal; in particular, those developed within the Consultative Committee, created by Order no. 4242/2020 which determines the preparation of the PNGR 2030 Plan and the Strategic Plan for Urban Waste (PERSU 2030). As a result of this information being available, eight submissions were received, consisting of suggestions, comments and observations from companies, associations and confederations, which, once their relevance had been assessed, were included in the draft Plan.
- The preparation of the PERSU for the 2014-2020 period (PERSU 2020) (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/plano-estrategico-para-os-residuos-urbanos-persu>) was accompanied by an environmental assessment procedure. Both the PERSU 2020 Plan and the respective Environmental Report underwent public consultation in 2014. The entities that constitute the Plan's Monitoring Committee were asked for an opinion on the progress of the environmental assessment and on the preparation of the draft Plan. PERSU 2020 was approved in 2014 and can be viewed at <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/antecedentes>. Recognising the level of ambition reflected in the new European targets for landfill waste, reuse and recycling of municipal waste, recycling of packaging and reduction of plastic, as well as the new target for landfill, it became imperative to take measures to realign the strategic approaches of PERSU 2020, implemented in PERSU 2020+. This plan focused on a prospective dimension in view of the targets set by the EU, joining up strategic adjustments in various domains, in particular with regard to technical and management models, once it had been subject to public consultation. The submissions received in this area, together with the respective public consultation report, can be accessed via the PARTICIPA portal (<https://participa.pt/pt/consulta/?loadP=5602>). PERSU 2020+ was approved by Ordinance No. 241-B/2019 of 31 July 2019. The PERSU for the 2020-2030 horizon is currently being prepared. Documents relating to its preparation, which will be accompanied by an environmental assessment procedure, have been made available on the PARTICIPA portal.
- The Urban Waste Prevention Programme (PPRU) 2009-2016, approved by Ministerial Order No. 3227/2010 of 22 February, was made available in advance on the APA website to collect opinions, in addition to direct consultation with various bodies holding responsibilities in the area of waste. It was consequently reassessed after analysis of the submissions received. The new PPRU for the 2020-2030 period is included in PERSU 2020-2030.
- The Strategic Plan for Non-Urban Waste (PERNU) (cf. (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/plano-estrategico-para-os-residuos-nao-urbanos-pernu>)) for the 2020-2030 period is also being prepared, and an environmental assessment procedure has been initiated. A preliminary version of the draft Plan was made available on the PARTICIPA portal, and submissions received in this area are

currently being analysed.

- In 2020, in view of the obligation, introduced by a review of the 2018 EU Waste Framework Directive, either to implement selective biowaste collection networks or start separating and recycling biowaste at source throughout the country, the Biowaste Strategy was created by the Secretariat of State for the Environment. Its main objectives were to (i) enable a transition to the selective collection of biowaste and use of installed capacity for composting and anaerobic digestors, progressively replacing undifferentiated waste sources; (ii) promote the use of compost resulting from the recovery of biowaste, and (iii) encourage installation of equipment which would allow the recovery of bio gas issued from anaerobic digestors. This Strategy was subject to an extensive consultation, bringing together a set of submissions on the issue (cf. <https://apambiente.pt/residuos/estrategia-dos-biorresiduos>).

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. <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/pn/biodiversidade/patrinatur/resource/docs/exot/vespa/vespa-plano-acao-janeiro2018.pdf>) 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 <http://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* *Nigrithorax* 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 <http://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. <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/florestas/profs> 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) 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. 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.
- Forest Management Plans (PGF) relating to State-owned land, land in Forest Intervention Areas (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) approved by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 28/2014 - <http://www.icnf.pt/portal/florestas/prag-doe/posf> - 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. <http://www.icnf.pt/portal/naturaclas/ei/unccd-PT/pancd>). 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 2020, 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/newsletters>;
 - 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-e-esclarecimentos>;
 - Launching campaigns <https://www.cncda.gov.pt/images/DocumentosLegislacao/Campanhas>.

National Programme for Spatial Planning (PNPOT)

The PNPOT review was preceded by a wide-ranging process of participation (cf. <https://participa.pt/pt/consulta/alteracao-do-pnpot-6015>) 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.

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 Strategy for Active Cycling Mobility 2020-2030

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 (http://www.imt-ip.pt/sites/IMTT/Portugues/Noticias/Paginas/EstrategiaNacionalparaaMobilidadeAtivaCiclista2020_2030_ENMAC.aspx). The creation of EMNAC 2020 -2030 was subject to a participatory process, which sought to promote effective ownership and accountability by civil society. It was a process embodied in two stages: the first, public participation by various public entities and civil society, and the second, public consultation with the population in general, from 18 March to 28 April 2019. The implementation of this strategy will maximize benefits for people's health, take cars off the streets, give back public space, alleviate urban congestion, reduce noise levels and bring down air pollution.

Strategy for Tourism 2027 (ET27)

The 2027 Strategy for Tourism, approved by RCM No. 134/2017 of 27 September, establishes the strategic framework for tourism in Portugal over the next decade, with a view to establishing tourism as a sustainable activity throughout the year and throughout the entire territory, placing value on Portugal's natural resources and contributing to the creation of jobs and wealth and the promotion of territorial and social cohesion. ET27 aims to «Establish tourism as an economic, social and environmental hub throughout the territory, positioning Portugal as one of the most competitive and sustainable tourist destinations in the world», with the establishment of Economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability Goals (cf. <https://estrategia.turismodeportugal.pt>). In this context, the sustainability of tourist destinations is an absolute priority of tourism policy in Portugal. The creation of sustainability observatories in the various regions, which allow an in-depth knowledge of the activity's impact on the territory and greater efficiency in the planning and management of destinations, is one of Turismo de Portugal's strategic objectives, which seeks to contribute to establishing Portugal as an international leader in matters of sustainability. Preparation of the 2027 Strategy for Tourism was based on a live, open and participative process, a model that is intended to be followed and reinforced in its implementation; the public participation process was streamlined by means of technological platforms, international focus groups and Strategic Tourism Laboratories/Public Sessions, which took place between 24 May 2016 and 6 January 2017. In fulfilment of the defined goals, in January 2018 the Sustainable Tourism Observatory of Alentejo (ASTO) was recognised within the international network of the OMT (INSTO). Now, in January 2020, on the occasion of FITUR, two more observatories have been recognized, the Azores Tourism Observatory and the Algarve Regional Observatory for Sustainable Tourism (ORTSA).

National Strategy for Environmental Education (ENEA 2017-2020)

The approval of the National Strategy for Environmental Education for the period 2017-2020, 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.

At a regional level, the process of drawing up a Regional Agenda for the Centre for Circular Economy, which was started in 2017 and includes an online form for the collection of contributions from stakeholders and citizens, is available at <http://agendacircular.ccdrc.pt/en/inputs/>.

Programmatic documents developed as part of the regional development stand out. As these are not strictly environmental documents, they address issues and work in areas that intersect with environmental actions to be implemented, or whose effects have repercussions on the environment. At the level of the CCDR LVT, the preparation of two programmatic documents that will frame the community financial support in the next programming period 2021-2027, the Lisbon Metropolitan Area Strategy AML2030 and the Lisbon Regional Strategy for Intelligent Specialisation, are nearing completion.

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:

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.

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.

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.

In general, Portugal has vast and updated legislation that ensures access and freedom of information. The legal texts in force guarantee the right of access to information, participation and 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 Portuguese Constitution (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 - 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 Portuguese 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 Law No. 83/95, 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, 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 - 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 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.

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 Portuguese Constitution, 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, 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 <http://participa.pt> website.

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.

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.

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.