



# Regional Pathways to Climate Resilience

## Practical Approaches to DRM and Climate Adaptation

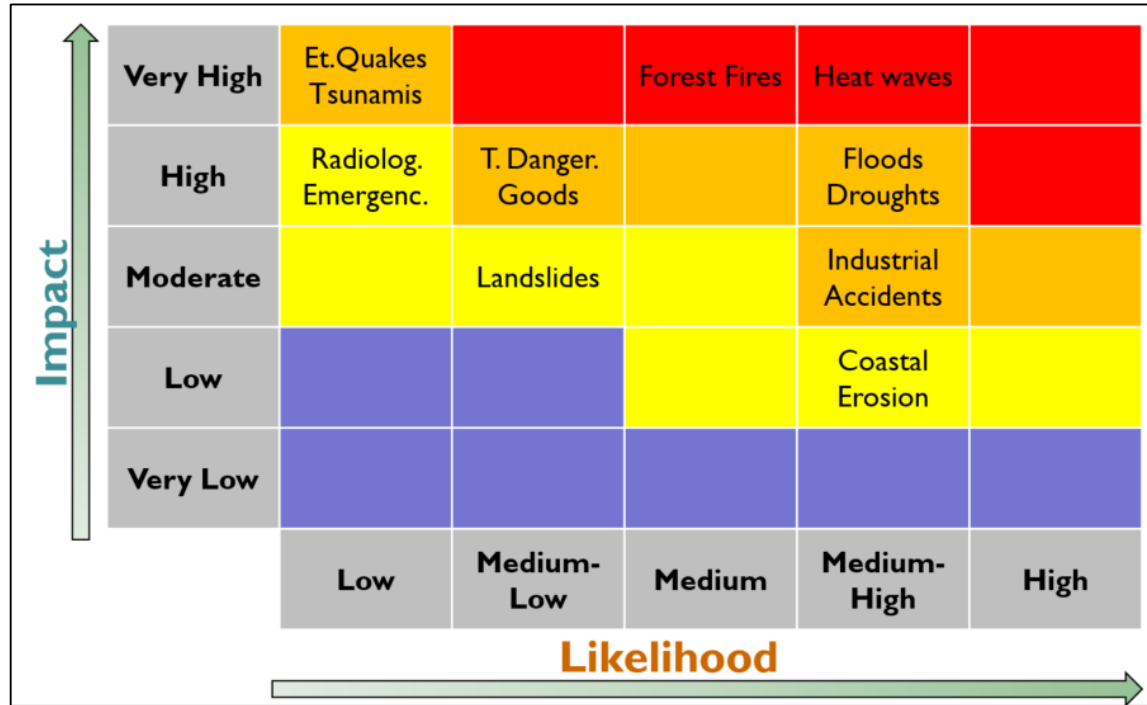


Carlos Mendes, Portuguese Emergency and Civil Protection Authority, 13MAY2025



# Background

## A country prone to climate disasters

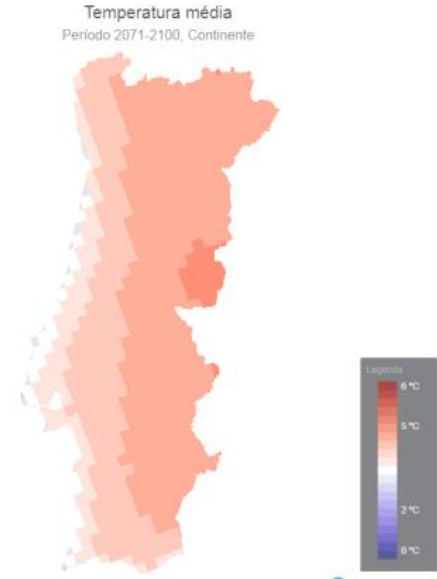




# Background

## Increasing wildfire, heat wave and drought risk is a climate trend

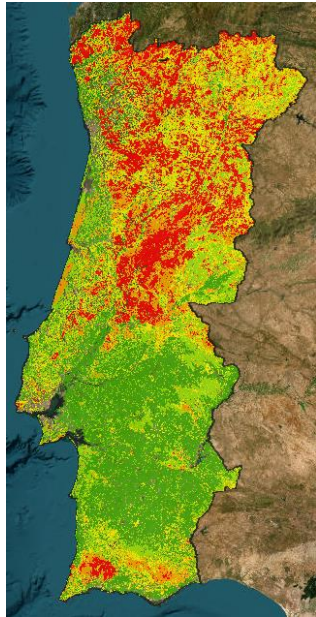
- Average temperature can **increase up to 5 degrees Celsius** in some areas
- More 30% of days with **extreme fire risk**
- Increase in the **frequency and intensity of heat waves** (during summer and autumn)
- Reduction of rainfall & increase of **drought**





# Background

**1/3 of the country in “high” or “very high” risk areas**



(~ the area of Belgium)





# Background

**2017 – Deadliest wildfire season (> one hundred casualties)**



17JUN



15OCT



## Background



High potential for  
**extreme “Mega-fires”** threatening  
the Wild-Urban interface



**Call for action** on  
governance, awareness and  
preparedness



***Risk-specific***  
initiatives  
+  
***Cross-cutting***  
actions



# Risk-specific initiatives

**Governance**

**Awareness**

**Preparedness**







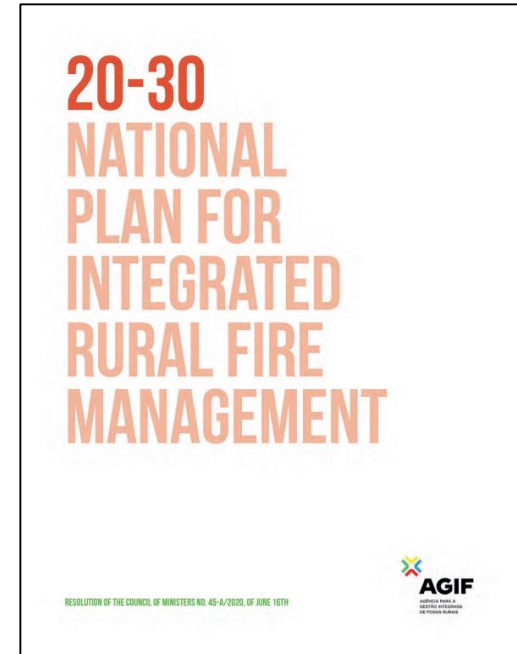
# Risk-specific initiatives: Governance

**New approach:** National Plan for Integrated Rural Fire Management

**New vision:** rural fires cannot be completely avoided. Use of fire in a technically sustainable manner should be balanced with safety improvements

**New goals:** Protection of human lives; Reduction in the percentage of fires with burnt area >500 ha; Reduction of the burnt area accumulated in 2020-2030 to <600,000 ha.

**New focus:** prevention (including risk education and awareness raising in communities) and vegetation management







## Risk-specific initiatives: Awareness and Preparedness

### “Safe Village, Safe People” Programme

- A tool to **increase the level of preparedness and awareness** in communities exposed to wildfire risk.
- The program envisages to **implement structural measures** for protecting both people and property, while **raising awareness** about risky behaviors and **promoting self-protection** practices.



**ALDEIA SEGURA**  
**PESSOAS SEGURAS**



# Risk-specific initiatives: Awareness and Preparedness

- More than **2300 villages** joined the Programmes
- More than **3000 shelters or places of refuge** implemented
- Nearly **1000 evacuation plans** implemented
- Local **warning mechanisms** established
- More than **70.000 citizens engaged in exercises and awareness** actions





# Cross-cutting actions





## Cross-cutting actions: Public warning systems

- **Preventive warnings (main goal: raise awareness on citizens):**

Disseminated well in advance of an event (up to 24h)

- **Action warnings (main goal: induce a specific behaviour on citizens):**

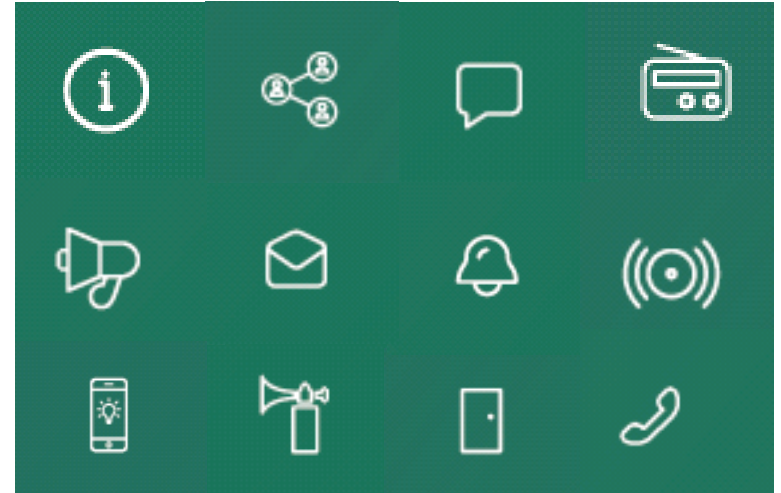
Almost real-time communication (short anticipation)



## Cross-cutting actions: Public warning systems

- **Redundancy:**

Need of multiple channels that complement each other, in order to reach the largest possible amount of citizens





## Cross-cutting actions: Public warning systems

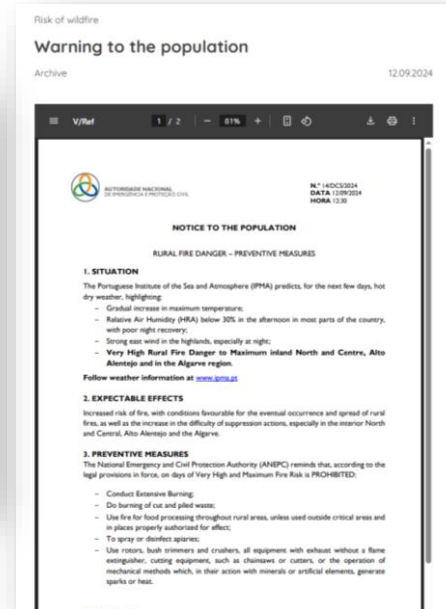






# Cross-cutting actions:

## Public warning systems

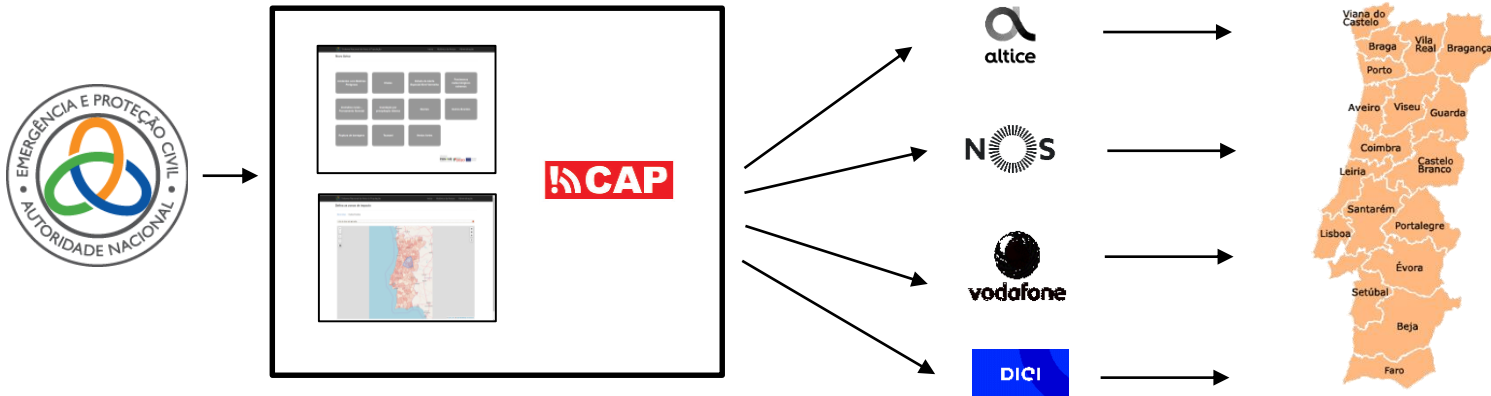






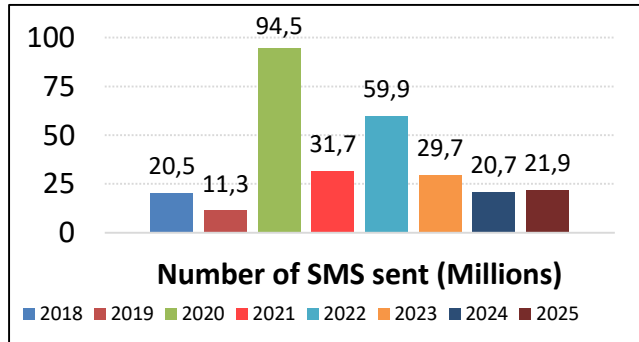
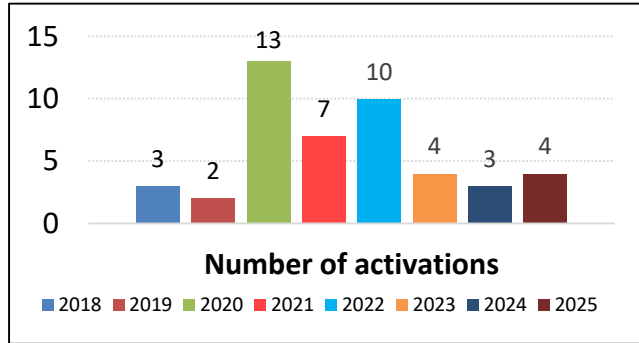
## Cross-cutting actions: Public warning systems

- **2018** - Pilot-project of LB-SMS Warning System (applicable only to the risk of forest fires)
- **2019** - Adoption of a Legal Basis and full implementation (all-hazards) of LB-SMS Warning System

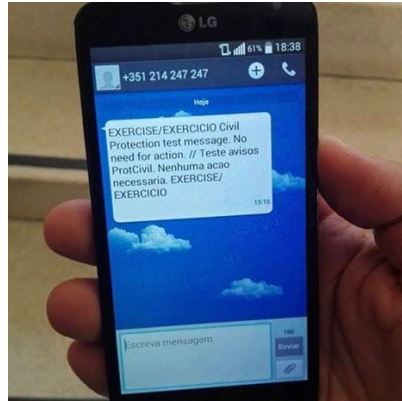




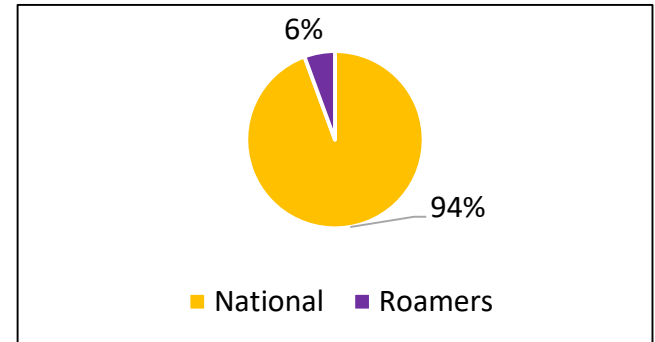
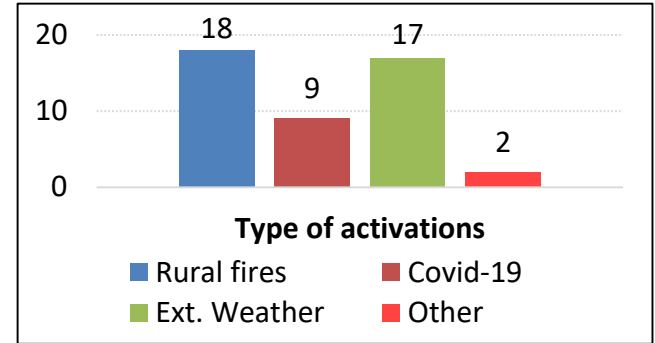
# Cross-cutting actions: Public warning systems



46  
activations



>295 Millions SMS sent





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