



Alentejo

Adaptação às Alterações Climáticas

ESTRATÉGIA REGIONAL DE ADAPTAÇÃO ÀS ALTERAÇÕES CLIMÁTICAS DO ALENTEJO

D6. Summary

July 2023

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Portugal is among the European countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change on society, the economy and ecosystems. Taking this fact into account, in recent years a process has been promoted with a view to strengthening the country's adaption to climate change. In this context, Alentejo Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDRA) took the decision to develop the Alentejo Regional Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change, intending to create the conditions for the territory and its agents to be better prepared for the effects of climate change.

The methodology followed in the Strategy was based on the ADAM methodology, and ten structural and priority themes were defined for the Alentejo Region in its adaptation process to climate change (Figure 1).

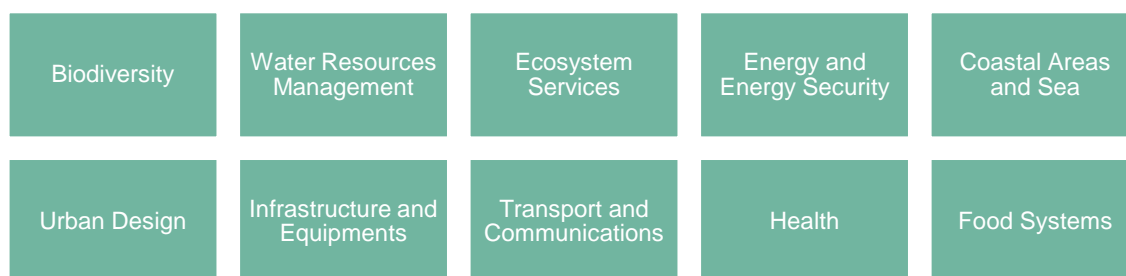


Figure 1. Themes defined in the Alentejo Regional Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change.

In order to proceed with the identification and study of the territory's current climate vulnerabilities, a Local Climate Impacts Profile (PIC-L) was prepared, having identified more than 450 events for the Alentejo Region that have occurred from 2010 to 2022 related to climate change. The analysis of the PIC-L, IPMA data and the occurrences provided by the District Command of Relief Operations (CDOS) made it possible to conclude that in recent years climatic extremes have occurred that generate various impacts on the territory, namely damage to human health, floods, fires, damage to infrastructure, changes in biodiversity, among others.

Additionally, according to the climate projections developed for the Alentejo Region until the end of the century (based on high spatial resolution regional simulations), new climate patterns will occur such as the increase in the daily average temperature, the increase of the frequency and intensity of heat waves, the decrease in precipitation and, consequently, an increase in drought conditions. These new climate trends will translate into a diverse set of impacts, vulnerabilities and climate risks for the territory of Alentejo.

In order to systematically assess the potential evolution of climate risks for the territory of Alentejo, as well as to support the prioritization of different climate risks in relation to potential adaptation needs, an analysis of climate risk was also developed. This climate risk analysis showed a worsening of climate risks in the geographic region of Alentejo with the appearance of three events (average temperature, heat waves and drought) at the maximum risk level (level 9), and one event (heavy precipitation) at the next lower risk level (6). Frost and intense wind have a reduced risk level (less than 4). This analysis highlighted the need to adapt the Alentejo Region to events for which risks of greater magnitude are projected in the future, namely: drought; increase in average temperature; heat waves; heavy precipitation.

Taking into account the analysis of the current and future climate vulnerabilities of the territory, the auscultation of the Intermunicipal Communities of the Alentejo Region, the municipalities of the Alentejo Region, and a set of relevant stakeholders at national and regional level, as well as the analysis of 40 case studies that constitute inspiring examples in the process of adapting to climate change, 52 adaptation measures considered as priorities for the Alentejo Region were identified.

In addition, in the context of the development of the Alentejo Regional Adaptation to Climate Change Strategy, a methodological approach was developed that allows the integration of the topic of adaptation to climate change in the Environmental Impact Assessment of Programs and Projects, and ways of integration of the proposed adaptation measures into the Alentejo territorial and management instruments were identified. Adaptation measures proposed within the scope of this Strategy were also evaluated according to their implementation prevision, effort and importance of integration into the territorial and management instruments and monitoring foresight.

