

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Portugal

PT-ENVIRONMENT Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon
Economy

2023

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The most significant results of the programme by the end of 2023 are:

1. In cumulative terms, the 'Environment Program' closed the 5 calls and the 3 Small Grant Schemes according to pre-defined calendar. Taking into consideration the three Pre-defined Projects 60 contracts were signed, exhausting the endowment provided for the approved projects. The summary of projects can be found on <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/>.
2. Of the 60 projects running 29 have partners from donor countries; by 31.12.2023, 44 Projects closed as planned and with significant deliverables to the relevant stakeholders and community in general. The most significant results can be found in <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/deliverables/>
3. The program operator (PO) considers that the program has made good progress, but some projects started with some delays and bureaucratic difficulties due COVID-19 pandemic, increase of prices and lack of demand to execute some works (public procurement difficulties: several calls had to open more than once). The most affected activities were events, presential meetings, import of materials to pilot construction sector projects or marine litter projects and increase prices to perform some construction that requires more time to execute the projects. Until now the Russian Invasion of Ukraine has low impact on Portuguese Projects. The increased price in materials is challenging and the Projects increased its share in co-financing.
4. PO executed more than 67% of the budget (in a total amount of €28.882.354). Since the last quarter of 2021 PO increased financial execution and kept a steady pace.
5. 110 On-the-spot verifications were performed by an external consultant between 2021 and 2023 (33 in 2023).
6. The visibility of the programme was ensured by several Projects' performance. Some good examples:

From the Public Policy at Local Level point of view

Deposit refund system for beverage bottles and cans turn out to become into Regional Law and regulated the nine islands from Azores. **Packaging deposit system in the Azores** - (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0014) - <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/packaging-deposit-system-in-the-azores/>

Rebuild 17 - Platform – one stop shop for demolition and waste to construction sector - (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0027) <https://portal.azores.gov.pt/web/lrec/projeto-rebuild-17;>
<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/pt/programas/ambiente/noticias/projeto-rebuild-17/>

'River Ceira River Basin Management in the face of Climate Change' (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0003) - aims to improve resilience and the capacity to respond to climate change of 'River Ceira Basin Management (<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/pre-defined-projects/pdp3-management-of-the-rio-ceira-river-basin-adapted-to-a-changing-climate/>).

Adaptation to Climate Change at Local Level Roadside Management Manual (EDIA – Alqueva).

From the Public Policy at at National Level perspective

National Roadmap for Adaptation 2100.

Platform – one stop-shop for 12 Biosphere Reserves. - The [project “Biosphere Reserves: sustainable territories, resilient communities”](#) (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0032) - <https://www.reservasdabiosfera.pt/en/projeto>;

In terms of Piloting Projects to Applied Innovation

E-REDES - Marine Pollution Caused by Non-Degradable: Plastics Providing biodegradable fishing nets to the local fleet. (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0010) <https://www.e-redes.esposende.pt/en/>

CircularBuild: complete circularity of the modular panels production system, allowing a total reuse of waste generated by the "deconstruction" of houses as raw material for new panels/ new houses, without compromising the building's performance in terms of energy efficiency, consequently contributing, directly and widely, to the new paradigm of "Zero Carbon Buildings". (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0023) - <https://www.circularbuild.com.pt/en/#!/home>.

CLIMA:AML [PT-ENVIRONMENT-0036](#) - Metropolitan Weather Network – Advanced Weather Monitoring (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0036)
(https://www.aml.pt/index.php?cp=COMPONENT_TEXT&sr=SUS601AD78307518&item).

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme progress and results

Objectives

The Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Program - 'Environment Program' - was created following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Portugal, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein, with a view to the application in Portugal of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism (MFEED - EEA Grants) 2014-2021 in the Environment and Ecosystems program areas (PA11), and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (PA13).

PT Environment Programme was approved, and the programme agreement signed on the 27th of May 2019 and the Programme Contract between NFP, and Secretary General for Environment was signed on 29th May 2019. Portugal changes the Government by March 2022, but it kept the same Party in power since 26th November 2015. The Ministry from Environment and Energy Transition become Ministry for Environment and Climate Action. More focus on climate policies such as mitigation and in particular adaptation to climate change policies. The current national policies focus on climate change, energy, in particular hydrogen, forestry, and urban transports. 2023 the national policy highlighted the severe droughts in the Country and the necessary preventive measures to save water and energy.

The national priorities are aligned with the European Green Deal that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient, and competitive economy: (i) where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and (ii) where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. It also aims to protect, conserve, and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. At the same time, this transition must be just and inclusive.

PO considers that is the most relevant National Policy Framework that contributes to attain the results frameworks goals and as well increase the path to reduce economic and social disparities, and strengthen cooperative relations with Donor Countries, through its bilateral activity, and the Projects' activities.

PT Environment Programme received 161 applicants and which 125 applicants were approved; 60 projects supported which 57 were approved under 5 calls and 3 small grant schemes; and we have 3 pre-defined projects; all calls closed; all contracted signed; and 29 projects have partners from donor countries. €52,390,148 of total investment co-financing by EEA Grants in more than 27M€. Therefore, the demand for funding were 2.25 higher than total funds.

PT Environment Programme strategically contributes to (i) Ensure good environmental status of ecosystems in Portugal; (ii) Reduce adverse effects of pollution and other human activities; (iii) Increase resilience to climate change through mitigation and adaptation measures for a low carbon economy; (iv) Reduce economic and social disparities and (v) Strengthen cooperative relations with Donor Countries.

The Environment Program stands out for financing a large number of innovative projects, promoting: (i) the development, sharing and application of new methodologies and technologies in the area of the circular economy (waste and construction) and climate change (mitigation and adaptation); (ii) citizenship in the area of the circular economy (waste), climate change and the enhancement of the territory; (iii) governance in the area of circular economy (waste) and climate change (mitigation); (iv) basic knowledge to support national policy decisions in the area of circular economy (waste) and climate change (adaptation); and (v) bilateral cooperation in the area of the circular economy and territorial enhancement.

The uniqueness of EEA Grants can be achieved by applied innovation as a complementary fund. In these cases (circular economy and the climate change, in particular, local level adaptation measures) they had special features funded by EEA Grants. The Concept Note and the calls / small grant schemes included the special features. The Environment Program promoted the creation of synergies between projects, and almost half of the funded projects have foreign partners / DPP. The dynamics created have provided partnerships, including with foreign entities, and some pilot projects will be reproduced or consolidated beyond the project execution deadline. The synergies between PT Environment Programme and Blue Growth Programme were reinforced.

Summing up the uniqueness of EEA Grants in Portugal to reduced social and economic disparities and strengthened bilateral cooperation and adding value can be achieved by applied innovation. By the end 2023 most of the deliverables of the projects can be replicated in the rest of the relevant stakeholders. Several Projects can also assure the sustainability of project after its conclusion.

At 09/05/2023 FMO and NFP approved a Programme Agreement modification for allocation savings from Management Cost and from termination of 03_Call#2 Project (outcome 1- output 1.4) to Fund Bilateral Relations and to Outcome 3 (output 3.3). This modification represents:

Budget	Amount	Amount (after May 2023)
Programme estimated eligible cost	€ 29,411,765.00	€28,882,352 .94
Maximum amount of Programme Grant	€25,000,0 00.00	€24,550,000, 00
Grant Rate	85,00%	85,00%

National Contribution	€4,411,765.00	€4,332,352.94
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3 Operational Objectives Environment Programme were revised in terms of total allocated amount. These three main outcomes aim to accomplish:

- 1st operational objective (Outcome 1): Promotion of the Circular Economy through specific targets (construction sector, reduce marine litter and pilot projects to beverage packaging return system) - endowment of € 11,503,826.
- 2nd Objective Territorial Enhancement (Outcome 2): endowment of €2,297,835 increased by savings from the closing Projects from Promotion of the Circular Economy, approved in 2022.
- 3rd Objective Decarbonisation of society (Outcome 3): endowment of € 13,333,634.

After Programme Agreement Modifications Environment Programme has a total amount of €28,882,352.94 due to an increase amount address to Outcome 3 and a small reduction to the total amount address to Outcome 1 and a reduction of management costs. After the modification approved in May 2023:

- Outcome 1 represents 39.83% of total amount of the Programme
- Outcome 2, 7.96% of total amount of the Programme and
- Outcome 3 represents 46.17% of total amount of the Programme and
- 6.5% for management costs.

In cumulative terms, by the end of 2023, the payment to projects and management costs reached more than €19 million which represents more than 67% of total amount.

Outcome 1: Increased application of circular economy principles in targeted sectors

Implementation Progress

The 1st operational objective (Outcome 1): Promotion of the Circular Economy through specific targets (construction sector, reduce marine litter and pilot projects to beverage packaging return system) - endowment of € 11,503,826 aims to Promote the application of the principles of the circular economy, by reducing the use of materials and production of waste, in particular, a system of return of plastic bottles and the application of innovation in the construction sector and in the use of building materials in two main areas: (i) Plastic Sector: a) Creation of a system of deposit and return of plastic bottles and b) Reduce marine plastic littering and (ii) Construction sector through the application of innovation in the construction sector and in the use of building materials which reduce the waste of energy and material resources and create value using digital technology. Support of demonstrative projects of economic and environmental advantages of an economy of less waste to encourage all economic sectors to adopt these models.

In accumulative terms, by the end of 2023, 86% of the total allocated amount to this outcome were executed - 9 911 946,41 €. From the point of view of the Results Framework in total of 15 indicators (outcome and output level indicators) 2 targets were accomplished, 12 overcome (like 31 jobs created (target is 25) and the Environment Programme couldn't achieve the 'Tonnes of plastic recycled through all supported schemes/measures' 229,99 tons accumulated in 2023 (target is 20,000 tons).

Delays, Deviations and Reallocations

After Programme Agreement Modifications Environment Programme approved in May 2023 has a total amount of €28,882,352.94 due to an increase amount address to Outcome 3 and a small reduction to the total amount address to Outcome 1 and a reduction of management costs. The total allocated amount reduction is 448,361 € due to savings from the closing projects.

Most Important Results Achieved, some project examples.

Projects closed as planned and with significant deliverables to the relevant stakeholders and community in general. The most significant results can be found in <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/deliverables/>, such as:

Pre-defined Project 1: [Regulation of the deposit system for beverage packaging made of plastic, glass, ferrous metals and aluminum](#) PT-ENVIRONMENT-0001 – aims to develop a regulatory model for the deposit system established by Law no. 69/2018, of December 26. Pre-defined project 1 is included in the outcome 1; closed in February 2022; 100% accomplish the target with 112,802€ -100% EEA Grants Grant Rate. The Degree-Law was approved in council of ministers last November 2023.

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/pre-defined-projects/pdp1-regulation-of-the-system-for-deposit-of-beverage-packaging-made-of-plastic-glass-ferrous-metals-and-aluminium/>.

"Packaging deposit system in the Azores" - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0014 - <https://www.azores.gov.pt/GRA/srrn-residuos>. The pilot project, implemented in the Autonomous Region of the Azores (RAA), foresaw the installation of 25 reverse logistics machines (RVM) that serve all the inhabitants dispersed across the 9 islands of the archipelago, ensuring at least one equipment per municipality. This equipment receives plastic (PET), metal (aluminum) and glass beverage containers with a maximum capacity of up to 2.5 liters, with a user premium of €0.05 per package. Although the project has a defined deadline, the deposit system for non-reusable beverage packaging will operate beyond this deadline, with a legal framework in article 15 of Regional Legislative Decree no. 5/2022/A, of 4 March, which establishes measures to reduce the consumption of single-use products and promote reuse and recycling. Through Ordinance no. 31/2022, of May 17, the rules, and criteria applicable to the pilot deposit system for non-reusable beverage packaging in plastic, glass and metal were defined, including a mechanism to encourage consumers to return the packaging, in order to ensure its recycling. Under the rules defined in the ordinance, the packaging deposit system of the Azores went into operation on May 18, 2022. All activities on the schedule are technically completed with a 100% execution rate; in total, 3,762,481 packages were deposited in the machines, of which 47% of these packages are made of glass, 33% of PET and 20% of aluminium. A total of 10,998 cards were issued and €188,124.05 in prizes were awarded. The project executed a total of €967,414.37. the project "Non-reusable beverage packaging deposit system in the Azores" contributed positively to the general objectives of the EEA Grants. Overall, the project contributed as follows: 1 job created (1 woman); 3 entities from the beverage industry participating in the pilot system.

OESTE + RECICLA Project - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0015. <https://www.oestecim.pt/506/oeste-recicla>. The objective of the pilot project was to boost the recycling rate of plastic packaging in Portugal by establishing a deposit and refund system (SDR) for plastic bottles in Portugal., in particular, to increase the application of the principles of the circular economy in specific sectors, in production and consumption, through the implementation of a deposit and return system for plastic bottles in all municipalities in the Western Region and with the experience of Empower as a partner organization. The Intermunicipal Community of the West guaranteed the continuity of discounts on the Western Road Transport Passes until the definition of the economic and regulatory model of the future deposit system for beverage packaging in plastic, glass, ferrous metals, and aluminum in Portugal. The project is considered to have been closed without any significant deviations from the schedule. However, the project, which started in July 2020, only started to have operational effects in 2022 and only because two addendums were signed to extend the project. In fact, the machines were only installed in 2022, which caused significant delays in the Communication Plan, as well as in Projects' Activities 2 and 3. The technical execution rate of the project was 90.48% and the financial execution was 92.3% (EEA Grants reimbursed the promoter €830,715.69). By the end of the project (December 2022), 171,113 packages were collected by the 18 machines installed in the 12 municipalities of the Western region. Of the 171,133 packages collected, 80.32% were PET packages and only 19.68% were cans. Of the type of packaging collected (up to 0.5L and 0.5L – 3L), €5,349.84 in prizes were awarded. In addition, about 2.9 tons of packaging waste of the previously identified materials (PET and Cans) were sent for recycling.

The iREC Project – Innovating Recycling - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0016 - <https://ambiente.cascais.pt/pt/irec/o-que-o-irec>, partially conditioned by COVID-19 allowed the adhesion of citizens, whose packaging deposits amounted to 1,381,525 packages, corresponding to 120.13 tons of waste. All project activities are completed, i.e. 100% executed. The project had a financial execution of approximately 97%. The project proceeds with the fulfillment of the objectives of the EEA Grants, to "promote the application of circular economy principles" through the reduction of the use of materials and waste production. In terms of indicators, iREC achieved 12 of the 14 targets defined in the contract; 15 machines RVM installed throughout the project; 94.39% of monthly hours in which the machines are in operation; 6590 of collections carried out over 18 months; 42 new services in the "Citypoints Cascais" application; 4 reports produced; 969 replies to the questionnaire; 563 attendees at workshops and launch events; 2065 average (monthly) visits to the project's website; 7869 interactions with social media posts; 1557% increase in registrations in the "Citypoints Cascais" application throughout the project; 85 articles published and media reports; 111 attendees at the international conference. Not completely achieved: amount of waste collected in the 10 RVMs over 18 months – the project only managed to collect 120.13 tons of packaging during the project compared to the 595 tons foreseen in the contract; exchange rate of city points for services throughout the project - an average exchange rate of 39% was achieved throughout the project compared to the 60% approved in the application.

Project 08_CALL#1-Mafra Reciclar a Valer + - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0018 - <https://www.cm-mafra.pt/p/mafrareciclaravalema> for 14 months in which the 12 machines were available to the public under this project, more than 2.5 million used beverage containers were collected. Of these, 82% were made of PET and 18% were made of aluminum. Overall, the number of packaging units collected increased by an average of 12% per month. In terms of project execution, 18% of the established target (14 million units collected) was achieved. The retail market is the main packaging collection channel of the project, clearly exceeding the level of collection observed in primary schools. The project had a total execution of €772,383.65, which corresponds to an execution rate of 91.95%. The project contributed positively to the results of the Environment Programme, as follows: 2 entities from the Beverage Industry participating in the pilot system (electron and new green); 3 companies in the retail sector participating in the pilot system; 63.4 tons of plastic and aluminum sent from recycling.

The "**Bebidas+Circulares**" project - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0020 - <https://www.bebidascirculares.pt/sobre-o-projecto/> registered more than 3.8 million packages returned between November 26, 2020 and December 31, 2022, corresponding to more than 240 tons of materials sent for recycling. Among the results of this initiative is the return of more than 2.2 million PET plastic beverage containers, more than 730 thousand cans and more than 806 thousand glass bottles. Every day, the 10 machines of this project received more than 4,000 beverage packages and registered more than 168,000 transactions.

Project 12_Call#1_Pra Cá Marão Embalagens não! - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0021 - <https://www.cm-vilareal.pt/index.php/component/content/article/para-ca-do-marao-embalagens-nao?catid=17&Itemid=101> was carried out with some deviations from the schedule presented in the application, because of the delay in the installation of the reverse logistics machines, which made it impossible for them to work fully from the beginning of the project; All actions were performed at 100% and were physically completed. A total of 704,424 non-reusable packages were collected, of which 498,473 were PET and 131,549 were aluminium; it resulted in a total of €23,304.26 and 46.36 tons of packaging collected and sent for recycling. The promoter received €467,758.74 from the fund, which represents a financial execution rate of 82.6% compared to the grant agreed in the contract (€566,321.7). This project had a great impact on the local population, allowing the identity of the local population with environmentally friendly behaviors, associated with the awareness of attitudes whose consequences of the action are reflected in the environment. It extended the range to other materials, namely textile components and toothbrushes, thus increasing the scope of collection for these materials, allowing the correct routing to the recovery lines, allowing the disposal, sharing and recovery of end-of-life garments, through physical and virtual Social Stores, upcycling and recycling. It should be noted that this was the first project that the Municipality of Vila Real implemented with financial support from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, through the EEA Grants.

PROJECT 08_Call#2 - (De)Building for the Circular Economy - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0024 - <https://desconstruir.pt/> completed all activities and achieved all objectives and involved the 13 municipalities of the Baixo Alentejo region. The financial execution rate of the project was 97.36%, with a total expenditure of €572,259.00. The project resulted in strong contributions and tools for the fulfilment of all the national obligations and impositions that lie ahead in terms of CDW by 2025, with the following being highlighted: Model Municipal Regulations that will allow the various municipalities to develop and adapt their regulations in the area of CDW in accordance with current legislation and thinking about the targets for 2025; Materials Passport – the result of the work developed by LNEG that can be an asset for the construction sector as it will identify all the specificities of the products with a view to their future reuse, recycling or, as a last resort, forwarding to the final destination; Pre-demolition audit guide – work developed by LNEG with great acceptance by partners with direct action in the construction area, this tool is undoubtedly a strong contribution to the process of "deconstruction of buildings" where all the materials that make up the buildings and their potential for reuse and recovery are identified, always from the perspective of the circular economy of products. However, due to the absence of data from the municipal partners, it was not possible to adapt the model to the intermunicipal region under analysis in the project. However, the suitability and overall behavior of the model were tested using an intermunicipal case study with two types of CDW from all parishes in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area (AML). The project contributed to Objective n. 1 of the Programme: "Increase the application of the principles of the Circular Economy in specific sectors" and Output 1.4 of the Programme, indirectly, by the creation of mechanisms and solutions at an inter-municipal scale for the reduction of the use of materials and waste production, and by the application of innovation at the level of the production chain of construction materials and allowed to increase the efficiency in the use of resources in the construction sector construction in 2 SMEs. The project also had results that were not initially foreseen and that will have an impact beyond its execution deadline, namely by the partner entities such as the three scientific articles and a master's thesis, which contributed to the international dissemination of the project

and to the consolidation of its results and the - IDN - an online platform/website (CIMBAL Knowledge HUB: home (overdrive.io)). It should also be noted that the e-learning course "Construction and Demolition Waste: Prevention and Recovery", promoted by the Smart Waste Portugal Association and aimed exclusively at project partners and municipalities of CIMBAL, was included as a good practice in the policy learning platform of the Interreg Europe programme.

Project Circular ECOBim - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0025 - the project contributed to increasing the application of Circular Economy principles in the construction sector (Outcome 1) by integrating circularity concepts into the growing BIM technology, which is on its way to becoming a common practice in the construction sector, which enhances the growth of the circular economy in this sector. The innovative solutions developed in this project, in activity 3, include the two C# plug-ins for the existing BIM Revit software for two circularity tools (1 LCA + 1 Circularity), a Dynamo tool for Revit (Circularity) and the software of the Digital Twin Platform. The project contributed to increasing the efficiency in the use of resources in the construction sector (Output 1.4) by developing a new generation of BIMs that incorporate information about the circularity potential of materials and components and, consequently, of the entire building. The Circular EcoBIM platform allows you to calculate aggregate circularity indicators and map opportunities for efficient resource management in the different phases of the building's life cycle, promoting waste prevention and the incorporation of secondary raw materials in the sector itself or in other sectors. As this is a pilot project in this area, the project activities will continue beyond its execution period, namely the use and development of the circular platform and the dissemination of the project and the principles of the circular economy. The project also contributed to bilateral relations within the scope of EEAGrants due to the presence of the Norwegian entity NTNU as a project partner. The project's financial execution rate was 91.95%, with a total expenditure of €539,367.08 and the overall material execution rate of the project is greater than 100%.

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/circular-ecobim/>
<https://circularecobim.eu/>

Project GrowingCircle – PT-ENVIRONMENT-0026 - This Project used 73.98% of secondary raw materials, presented 13 innovative solutions that contribute to increasing the efficient use of resources in the construction sector, and supported 404 small and medium-sized companies.

This project completed all activities and achieved all objectives. The project activities will continue beyond its execution period, namely the translation of documents, scientific results under review and/or yet to be published, translations of the Data Templates that will support Digital Product Passports, publication of news, reports, and other materials on the GrowingCircle website and LinkedIn page, in addition to publishing the project results. The project contributes to bilateral relations with donor countries as it is part of the partner Norwegian University of Science and Technology – NTNU. The GrowingCircle project was a pioneer in raising these issues and raising awareness on the topic, both nationally, in Norway and in different European member states.

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/growingcircle/>

[Information Framework Database translation](#)

[Level of Information Need \(LOIN\)](#)

[Data-driven asset management based on Data Templates](#)

(De)construct for Circular Economy – (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0024)

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/de-construct-for-circular-economy/>

To foster a regional strategy for the reuse of building products and components as well as the recycling of construction and demolition waste - <https://desconstruir.pt/>.

Project ReBuild 17 - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0027 - The project included the identification and characterization of construction and demolition waste produced in the Autonomous Region of the Azores, and the laboratory assessment of its potential for recovery through incorporation into construction materials. The project's material execution rate was 88% and the project's financial execution rate was 89.17%, with a total expenditure incurred of €423,180.23. The project contributed to Objective no. 1 of the Program: "Increase the application of Circular Economy principles in specific sectors" and Output 1.4 of the Program for the creation of mechanisms and solutions on a regional scale to reduce the use of materials and waste production. The project also contributes to bilateral relations with donor countries, with the presence of RSI - ReSource International ehf as an Icelandic partner entity. As this is a pilot project in this area, the project activities will continue beyond its execution period, namely with the circular platform, for better interactivity between the different players in the sector in different geographic, population and economic realities. <https://portal.azores.gov.pt/web/lrec/projeto-rebuild-17/>; <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/pt/programas/ambiente/noticias/projeto-rebuild-17/>

Project CirMat - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0028 - This project completed all activities and achieved all objectives. The overall material execution rate of the project is greater than 100%. The project's financial execution rate was 96.26%, with a total expenditure of €566,211.18. This project presented a high innovative character for circularity in the construction sector, presenting a high degree of valorization of CDW in higher value applications, namely in concrete and bituminous concrete, and an increase and promotion of the use of high-grade raw materials incorporation of EAF SSA. It was possible to demonstrate the industrial viability of these products, as well as understand the necessary adjustments in industrial units for their production.

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/cirmat-circular-aggregates-for-sustainable-road-and-building-materials/>

https://cirmat.pt/en_GB

Project **SECClass** PT-ENVIRONMENT-0029 – This project completed all activities within the expected execution time. The project consisted of introducing a Building Information Classification System optimized for sustainability. This system is oriented towards the BIM methodology and serves not only the sustainability component, but also other applications of a construction project, such as project management, BIM process management, quantification, compatibility in negotiations (conflict detection) and planning, and all phases of the product life cycle. The tools developed in the project are the basis for more efficient processes in the use of materials and the design of more sustainable buildings. The project also had results that will have an impact after its closure: 6 scientific articles; Community with 3 associated entities and reference to 4 projects with which synergies were established; two of the projects are from the Environment Program (CLOSER and Circular ECOBIM); E-learning course in partnership with

the ATHENA project and the project's YouTube channel currently has 2 videos, with 67 subscribers. The project's financial execution rate was 99.55%, with a total expenditure of €302,560.39. The project contributed to Objective no. 1 of the Program: "Increase the application of Circular Economy principles in specific sectors" and Output 1.4 of the Program for the creation of mechanisms and solutions on a regional scale to reduce the use of materials and waste production.

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/secclass-sustainability-enhanced-construction-classification-system/>

Project Circular2B - Construção circular em edifícios modulares e energeticamente eficientes - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0031 - This project completed all activities and achieved all objectives, presenting an overall material execution rate of around 99% and the financial execution rate of the project was 90%, with a total expenditure of €446,681.47. This project presented a high innovative character for circularity in the construction sector, having explored new materials and products with potential use in modular construction. The project contributed to increasing resource efficiency in the construction sector (Output 1.4) by developing innovative solutions, which include core insulation solution and finishing plaster. The materials were developed without the addition of Portland cement, with good mechanical and hygrothermal properties that can be incorporated into prefabricated modular panels, less plastic incorporated into modular panels. The indicators relating to forecasting the annual consumption of incorporated waste highlighted the significant potential impact of incorporating these materials into new construction solutions. As this is a pilot project in this area, the project activities will continue beyond its execution period, namely in improving the tested solutions and their potential for large-scale use. The Good Practice Guide prepared by the project aims to be a source of inspiration and help in making decisions for the recovery of waste, from the perspective of circularity from design, with greater durability and energy efficiency. The project contributes to bilateral relations with donor countries as it is part of the partner SINTEF.

<https://eeagrants.org/archive/2014-2021/projects/PT-ENVIRONMENT-0031>

In cumulative terms PO highlights the results already achieved in the previous years, such as:

Circular Buildings (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0006) -

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/circular-buildings/>.

- [Guide to creating building material passports](#)
- [Circular Material Passport Template](#)
- [Guide for improving building efficiency indicators](#)
- [Guide for promoting circularity in Environmental Product Declarations](#)
- [Methodological note - Tool for calculating environmental and economic impacts](#)

Closer (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0005) -

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/closer-close-to-resources-recovery/>)

Development of a guide for preliminary demolition and/or renovation audits applicable to the Portuguese reality. You may access the project website here - <http://closer.Inec.pt/eeagrants.html>.

- [Conceptual framework](#)
- [Final Guide](#)

E-REDES PT-ENVIRONMENT-0010 E-REDES: The implementation a pilot study in the Marine Protected Area of the Northern Littoral Marine Park. The effect of this initiative on the reduction of ghost fishing and of synthetic plastic materials in the ocean will be assessed (<https://www.e-redes.esposende.pt/>) <https://www.e-redes.esposende.pt/>

Fishing the Plastic PT-ENVIRONMENT-0011 Fishing the Plastic: FishingthePlastic", contributes to the promotion of the reduction of plastic marine litter and especially of single use plastic through the involvement of the fishing community in its collection and by the creative and innovative awareness raising actions especially targeted at key groups related to the sea (<https://businessasnature.org/>). See [short film #fishingtheplastic](#).

LowPlast (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0013)

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/lowplast/>

Aquamuseu development of awareness/monitoring actions, with resource to an existing boat. People actively participate in collection sorting and counting of plastics and received information about possible sources and impacts.

- [Installation in water](#)
- [Beach cleaning](#)
- [LowPlast Seal](#)

REFILLH2O (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0009)

https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/refill_h2o/

To increase the use of secondary raw materials to replace the use of plastics by promoting the development of a refill station for plastic-free reusable water bottles. The prototypes were installed and made available in the 6 IPVC schools, their bars, canteens and academic residences, and the plastic bottles of mineral water will be withdrawn from commercialization.

[Project Requirements - Refill H2O](https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/media/5749/caderno-de-requisitos-refill-h2o_signed.pdf) - https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/media/5749/caderno-de-requisitos-refill-h2o_signed.pdf

Sustainable Value (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0004) -

(<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/sustainable-value/>):

Development of the Type I environmental labeling program, including the selection of product categories, environmental criteria, and functional characteristics of the products, for more sustainable construction, according to the procedures adopted based on ISO 14024 :2018 for certification and attribution of the label.

There's River and Sea, There's Waste to Transform (PT-ENVIRONMENT-0008)

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/there-is-river-and-sea-there-is-waste-to-transform/>

Development of a set of initiatives and tools that promote Ocean Literacy and the Protection and Preservation of the Sea integrated in educational systems, in informing citizens, in training technicians at administrative and business level. <https://www.lipor.pt/pt/recicla-te/ha-rio-e-mar/>.

Outcome 2: Enhanced sustainable development in Biosphere Reserves

Implementation Progress

In 2022, the endowment of €2,297,835 increased by savings from the closing Projects from Promotion of the Circular Economy. This enhancement was very useful to conclude the Project in 2023. It represents 7.96% of total amount of the Programme. In accumulative terms, by the end of 2023, 80% of the total allocated amount to this outcome were executed – 1,842,468.21 € for 1 project funded at 100% EEA Grants Rate. From the point of view of the Results Framework in total of 4 indicators (outcome and output level indicators) 1 target was accomplished, 2 overcome (like Number of people benefitting from the development of adaptation strategies 5,145,613 persons (target is 2,600,000) and Number of people benefitting from the implementation of mitigation low-carbon measures 522,610 persons (target is 13,000)), and the Environment Programme couldn't achieve the 'Number of people benefitting from enhanced sustainable development in Biosphere Reserves' 283,960 (target is 320,125 National Statistical Office revised the population figures from 2011 to 2021).

Most Important Results Achieved

The Project 'Biosphere Reserves: sustainable territories, resilient communities' is the only project from outcome 2 that aims at valuing territories in complicity with communities, understanding heritage assets and ecosystem services, and focusing on strengthening skills and the governance model. The Sustainable Development Plans following participatory methodologies, will be the programmatic framework, aiming at the differentiated territorial development, the resilience and sustainability of the Biosphere Reserves. Since end of November 2023, 283,960 people will be benefitting from enhanced sustainable development in Biosphere Reserves; 12% of National Territory about 2 132,452 acres and 10,328 species relevant part of National Biodiversity are covered.

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/biosphere-reserves-sustainable-territories-resilient-communities/>

<https://www.reservasdabiosfera.pt/en/>

Outcome 3: Increased climate change resilience and responsiveness in targeted areas

Implementation Progress

Through concrete measures of adaptation to climate change at the local level, and the application of low carbon technology solutions and mitigate climate change measures in cities. Adaptation to Climate Change at Local Level: a) Plans and climate change adaptation initiatives in cities, following the previous programme (2009-2014); b) Pursue a pilot project in the River Basin of 'Ceira' (Centre Region of Portugal) for the recovery of green infrastructure, awareness of climate change and reduction of vulnerabilities to climate change, bearing in mind the aspects socio-cultural in the region and promoting the involvement of the population.

Living Labs for Low Carbon and Mitigation of Climate Change in Cities: The effects of climate change are evident by the emission concentration and resources in the main urban centres of Portugal. In big cities, there is a high potential to test innovative solutions and digital technology due to the concentration of resources and active citizens. the Environment Programme will promote living labs to test innovation and the development of low carbon solutions in specific areas of the cities.

The 3rd Objective of the Programme, Decarbonisation of society (Outcome 3): endowment of € 13,333,634. After the modification approved in May 2023 represents 46.17% of total amount of the Programme. In accumulative terms, by the end of 2023, 47% of the total allocated amount to this outcome were executed – 6,213,493.21 €. This priority supports 30 projects. Only 14 projects closed to 2023. For 2024, 16 projects will remain active until April.

From the point of view of the Results Framework in total of 15 indicators (outcome and output level indicators) 1 target was accomplished, 9 overcome (like Number of people benefitting from the development of adaptation strategies 5,145,613 persons (target is 2,600,000) and Number of people benefitting from the implementation of mitigation low-carbon measures 522,610 persons (target is 13,000)), and 5 indicators are in progress.

Delays, Deviations and Reallocations

After Programme Agreement Modifications Environment Programme approved in May 2023 has a total amount of €28,882,352.94 due to an increase amount address to Outcome 3 and a small reduction to the total amount address to Outcome 1 and a reduction of management costs. The total allocated amount enhancement is 448,362 €.

Most Important Results Achieved, some project examples.

Regarding this priority (Outcome 3) it must be highlighted:

PRE-DEFINED PROJECT 2 - Portuguese Territorial Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. It aims is the territorial vulnerability assessment of climate change aims to become the National Roadmap for Adaptation and Climate Change for the XXI Century; 1,300,000€ total investment; 400,000€ EEA Grants and 30.8% EEA Grants grant rate. Promoter: Agência Portuguesa de Ambiente, I.P. (APA) and Partners: Banco de Portugal (BP), Direção-Geral do Território (DGT)

Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa (FCUL), Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA) and Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB).

Main results by the end of 2023: this project had a financial execution of 66,97% (267,866.98 € fund spent in a total amount of 400,000 € EEA Grants and National Fund); and physical execution of 75,00%. From the development of adaptation storylines, the project concluded that: Adapted to each NUTS2 region; Climate projections; Illustration with decreased return period of symbolic past extreme events (e.g. forest fires of 2017); Associated risks and impacts, with more detail in modelled key sectors; Investment needs on adaptation; Costs of inaction and Lack of adaptation measures in respective Territorial Management Instruments. It will close in April 2024. <https://rna2100.apambiente.pt/en/pagina/environment-climate-change-and-low-carbon-economy>

PRE-DEFINED PROJECT 3 - Management of the Rio Ceira River Basin adapted to Climate Change: It aims to improve resilience and the capacity to respond to climate change of 'River Ceira River Basin Management; 2,600,000€ total investment; 100% EEA Grants grant rate; PO have monthly meetings with the consortium for a closer monitoring. 1 Promotor: Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente, IP (APA) and 7 Partners: Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade de Porto (FEUP), Município de Arganil, Município de Góis, Município de Lousã, Município da Pampilhosa da Serra, Comunidade Intermunicipal da Região de Coimbra (CIM|RC) and Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB).

Project Goals are: Increase knowledge on water resources in the Ceira river basin; Improve the hydrometric and udometric monitoring system on Ceira river basin; Improve the floods management and control of the baixo Mondego region; Implement a warning system for extreme phenomena; Increase surveillance capacity for water resources; Improve the relationship of local communities with the river; recover infrastructure and cultural heritage linked to the river; Increase the resilience of riparian galleries to extreme weather phenomena. Most important Activities are Rehabilitation of traditional river structures (dams); Rehabilitation of riparian gallery across Ceira River; Rehabilitation of sociocultural infrastructures (zero carbon); Installation of flow monitoring stations; Development of hydrological model to predict floods; River surveillance by River Gards; Public participation actions and training.

Main results by the end of 2023: Flow monitoring programme—8 monitoring stations installed, collecting data from the Ceira river in real time; Reduction of invasive species —more than 90 ha or intervention area, 68.000 invasive plants removed from 9 species, 28.000 native plants carried out; Training for local communities 5 public participation actions, 29 professional trained; Habitats recovery—99% of habitat area recovered; Flow management programme—Under development, will allow predict the impact of the water flow in the Mondego river floods; River Gards 4 persons will monitor the river up to 2024, helping the local communities interaction with the river; Sociocultural infrastructures(zero carbon) – 11 infrastructures from the river heritage to be recovered; River structures— 8 river dams recovered;. Guide to local climate change and a Manual for river rehabilitation projects; improve river connectivity – Intervention across 38km on Ceira River and construction of 1 fish passage. This project had a financial execution of 57,63% (1,498,447.54 € fund spent in a total amount of 2,600,000 € EEA Grants and National Fund); and physical execution of 90%. It will close in April 2024.

On the 30th and 31st October was the final event of the Project. <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/pt/programas/ambiente/noticias/evento-final-do-projeto-pdp3-gestao-da-bacia-hidrografica-do-rio-ceira-face-as-alteracoes-climaticas-1%C2%BA-dia/>; <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/pt/programas/ambiente/noticias/evento-final-do-projeto-pdp3-gestao-da-bacia-hidrografica-do-rio-ceira-face-as-alteracoes-climaticas-2%C2%BA-dia/>

Other Good Examples:

CLIMA:AML [PT-ENVIRONMENT-0036](#) - Metropolitan Weather Network – Advanced Weather Monitoring: this project seeks to create an integrated solution for weather monitoring through a metropolitan network of certified sensors and an online platform for information query. The purpose is to learn about the patterns associated to climate change and its impacts on local communities. With this project, decision processes will be reinforced based on management and dissemination models of real-time information and, simultaneously, on aggregating key metrics to understand climate change and promote adaptation.

https://www.aml.pt/index.php?cp=COMPONENT_TEXT&sr=SUS601AD78307518&item.

PLAAC Arrábida [PT-ENVIRONMENT-0045](#): The project achieved all the proposed objectives without any significant deviation from the established schedule or from the budget. The project has made it possible to obtain a detailed photograph of the Arrábida territory in bioclimatic, socio-cultural, economic, and ecological terms, allowing us to know its current situation in the face of climate change and to carry out a prospective analysis. PLAAC - Arrábida contributed to the implementation of Objective No. 3 of the Programme: "Increase resilience and responsiveness to climate change in specific areas" and Output 3.1 of the Programme, "Enhanced adaptation to climate change at local level". The PLAAC project benefited 231,253 people through the development of adaptation strategies and reached 3 municipalities with these adaptation plans (Palmela, Sesimbra and Setúbal). The methodology used for the elaboration of PLAAC Arrábida is the one that was adopted in the ClimAdaPT.Local project, as well as in the Metropolitan Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change of the Lisbon Metropolitan Area (PMAAC-AML). This methodological approach was developed and adapted to the Portuguese reality based on the Adaptation Wizard methodology, developed within the scope of the UKCIP (UK Climate Impacts Programme). The results obtained can be summarized according to the forcing, which determines each of the hazards considered: sea level rise; elevated temperature; precipitation; and wind. the main climate change adaptation measures and actions found during this project. (<http://www.plaac.ena.com.pt/>).

Climate Change Adaptation in Vila Nova de Poaires [PT-ENVIRONMENT-0038](#) - The main objective of this project was the elaboration of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which aimed to contemplate the knowledge of the sectoral specificities of the municipality, the assessment of its current and future vulnerability to Climate Change, as well as the identification, definition and prioritization of specific adaptation measures for the municipality. Annex [folheto_informativo.pdf] consists of the summary of the Municipality's Climate Change Adaptation Plan that was presented at the final event, highlighting the priority areas of action: heritage conservation, environmental protection, sustainable development, health and safety of people and property. I also share the Climate Change Adaptation Plan in Vila Nova de Poaires – [VNPoaires_paac_FINAL.pdf.pdf]. This project had a Norwegian partner, NILU – Norsk Institutt for Luftforskning Stiftelse, presented a material execution rate of 100% and a financial execution rate of 95.18%. This project contributes to the fulfilment of Outcome 3 - Increasing resilience and responsiveness to climate change in specific areas, reaching 6,929 people who benefit from the development of adaptation strategies and to Output 3.1 - Enhanced adaptation to climate change at local level, constituting 1 of the 8 target municipalities with adaptation plans developed under the Environment Programme. More details of the project can be found at the links:

<http://cm-vilanovadepoaires.pt/ruido> and the see the Adaptation Climate Change Action Plan https://cm-vilanovadepoaires.pt/images/areas-de-acao/Ambiente/PAAC_Vila_Nova_de_Poaires_.pdf.

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/news/climate-change-adaptation-in-vila-nova-de-poaires-second-meeting-of-stakeholders/>

Municipal Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change of the Municipality of Almodôvar - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0048 -. The Municipality of Almodôvar, covered by the Intermunicipal Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change of Baixo Alentejo (PIAACBA), and recognizing the urgency of the theme of climate change, intended with this project to continue the work developed, deepening the analysis and diagnosis carried out at the municipality level, with the definition of local actions and their prioritization and execution indicators and respective goals to be achieved in the short term, medium and long term, through the elaboration of the Municipal Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change of the municipality of Almodôvar (EMAAC Almodôvar), which includes actions and action measures that will increase resilience and response capacity to climate change in specific areas, identified as the main vulnerabilities for the municipality. The physical execution rate of the project is 100%, with the completion of all planned tasks, however, €56,104.05 were executed. The financial implementation rate of the approved amount is 98.5% through the elaboration of Almodôvar's EMAAC. The implementation of this project made it possible to concretize and detail the options, measures, and concrete actions for adaptation to the most relevant climate impacts and the integration of adaptation options in the current activities and policies/management instruments of local entities. These objectives are in line with ENAAC 2020, namely its Objective II: "Implement adaptation measures" and Objective III: "Promote the integration of adaptation into sectoral policies". The implementation of the Strategy will reduce vulnerability and increase response capacity. The results of the project were: R01 - Methodological and descriptive guide of the work; R02 - Current Climate Vulnerabilities Report, R03 - Future Vulnerabilities Identification Report and R04 - Almodôvar Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Report and are in accordance with the provisions of the respective application.

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/estrategia-municipal-de-adaptacao-as-alteracoes-climaticas-do-concelho-de-almodovar/>

<https://cm-almodovar.pt/municipio/autarquia/camara-municipal-almodovar/eea-grants-projetos-financiados/>

CUIDAR BRAGA II – Proteger a Natureza, Pessoas e Bens - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0039 -This Project executed 100% of all planned activities and spent a total of €234,892.48 out of an initially approved amount of €234,892.48, corresponding to an execution rate of 95.18%. Based on the general objectives of the environment programme, whose expected results are to increase resilience and responsiveness to climate change and to strengthen adaptation to climate change at a local level, it is considered that the Cuidar Braga II project contributes positively to achieving them. The activities carried out in this project already make it possible to assess concrete data about the results achieved in the context of reducing the adverse effects of pollution and other human activities, as well as promoting resilience to climate change. The use of the bio shredder to eliminate forest and agricultural woody leftovers contributes directly to the fulfilment of the measures established in the climate change adaptation strategy, from the outset by the pedagogical effect of changing behaviours and the non-emission of greenhouse gases, benefiting the approximately 190,000 inhabitants of the municipality of Braga. This project contributes directly to the implementation of the EMAAC of Braga, and results as an example of good practices to neighbouring municipalities that they will be able to replicate in their territories. So far, the activities carried out in this project promote the reduction of the adverse effects of pollution and other human activities. Since the opening of the bio shredding centre, the service has been requested 45 times, a number higher than the previous year with the project cuidar braga I. The amount of crushed biomass from private leftovers or from the execution of fuel management strips under public responsibility is slightly lower than the previous year. At this moment, 75 tons of shredded leftovers have already been accounted for, corresponding to 118 tons of CO2 not emitted into the atmosphere if they were eliminated with the use of fire.

SMILE - Sintra Motion and Innovation for Low Emissions - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0053 –

SMILE – Sintra Motion & Innovation for Slow Emissions is a proposal from the consortium led by the Aga Khan Foundation in partnership with the Municipality of Sintra, DST Solar, Innovation Point, Watt-is, Card4b, IrRADIARE, Faculty of Sciences (Lisbon University) and International Development Norway Association, in view of promoting the development of innovative technological solutions, and in particular to create a living laboratory as a test centre for mitigating carbon emissions. It aims to implement significant improvements in the Bairro da Tabaqueira through the generation and use of renewable sources of electricity in buildings, sustainable urban mobility, and circular economy practices. By the end of 2023 this project had a financial execution of 52,35% (460,106.30 € fund spent in a total amount of 878 928,95 € EEA Grants and National Fund); and physical execution of 57,00%. <https://www.smile-sintra.com/#/home>.

+Solo+Vida - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0060 – Territorial Program + SOIL + LIFE -

+Solo+Vida - PT-ENVIRONMENT-0060

Territorial Program + SOIL + LIFE - Adaptation and mitigation of Climate Change (CC) and fight against desertification, in the Guadiana Valley Natural Park (PNVG), is a pilot project for the design, implementation and evaluation of a territorial program to boost CC adaptation and mitigation and to reduce vulnerability to desertification. The program + SOIL + LIFE, with a participatory approach, will empower local actors, especially farmers, to adopt good silvopastoral practices, through a model of local-based governance, which will ensure its sustainability over time. This initiative contributes to the reduction of social and economic disparities in Europe, because it increases the resilience and responsiveness of actors in the PNVG, to climate change (expected result) and develops a replicable model in other regions. This result will be achieved through A1, A2 and A3. Under A3, 10 good practices will be implemented, in a total of 94 hectares, within the PNVG (PTZPE0047, PTCON0036 and site RAMSAR Ribeira do Vascão), specifically in Monte do Vento, ADPM's farm, certified organic production and demonstration center of good practices, and other sites, to make an open and inclusive process. The good practices to be implemented will focus on the following habitats identified as priorities in the notice and present in Monte do Vento: 92d0 - Southern riparian galleries and scrub (Nerio-Tamaricetea and Securinegion tinctoriae), 4030 - European dry heaths and 6220* - Sub-steppe grasses and annuals of the Thero-Brachypodietea. An attempt will be made to identify sites that can also contribute to habitat 92a0 - Salix alba and Populus alba gallery forests. By the end of 2023 this project had a financial execution of 44,54% (152,983.89 € fund spent in a total amount of 343,501.34 € EEA Grants and National Fund); and physical execution of 44,00%.

<https://maissolomaisvida.pt/>

Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme

Bilateral Implementation Progress

In cumulative terms of the 60 projects running 29 have partners from donor countries: 25 Norwegian partners, 4 Icelandic partners. 8 matchmakings were co organised by the PT Environment Programme and DPP (Innovation Norway). 5 training courses co-organised by donor state and beneficiary state entities. In summary all the targets were overcome.

Other bilateral Activities that were developed (in cumulative terms in **2023** and 2022):

- Between 23 and 25th of January 2023 Environment Program and Blue Growth Program together in project visits. In these visits that demonstrate the great synergies between these two programs, will be present the Norwegian ambassador in Portugal, the team from the General Secretary of Environment, operator of the environment program, the team from the Directorate General of Sea Policy, operator of the blue growth program, the national management unit, program partners common to both programs, innovation Norway and the EEA Grants FMO. The visits will focus on blue growth program projects in Lisbon, followed by a working lunch and cooperation committee meetings at the Environment program headquarters. The group continues its visit in Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia to visit three Environment Program pilot projects. These projects focus on using low-carbon technologies and natural engineering methods to regulate small rivers in the city of O'Porto, the group will visit a project of the blue growth program, followed by a networking lunch among all involved that will end with the presentation of one of the projects. These visits highlighted the importance of collaboration between the Environment and Blue Growth programs in creating sustainable solutions for the future. The use of low-carbon technologies and natural engineering methods in the pilot projects in Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia demonstrate the potential for these programs to work together to create a more sustainable future. Projects visited were: FaroBoats Solar Set Solution; MarineSIM; Asprela + Sustentável; Plano de Valorização e Reabilitação das Linhas de Água do Município do Porto; Afurada Living Lab; MP-RAS and Peladrone.
- From 17 to 21st of April 2023, The Blue in the Green: Portuguese-Norwegian cooperation on environment and the ocean. The EEA Grants Portugal participate in the One Ocean Week - a meeting place for debate and exchange of experiences related to a sustainable use of the ocean, that will take place in Bergen. Portugal and Norway share a long history and strong connection to the ocean. The One Ocean Week in Bergen is an excellent arena to showcase bilateral cooperation related to the blue economy and sustainable ocean, through conferences, meetings, activities and cultural sessions. The week was open to everyone who is interested in the thematic of preserving and using the sea, the lakes and marine resources in a sustainable way. In connection with the One Ocean Week, EEA Grants in Portugal, in cooperation with the Norwegian Embassy in Portugal, Innovation Norway and Programme Operators from Blue Growth and Environment Programmes and several other partners, will organize a public seminar, on 18th April, with a twofold aim: Showcase some of the ongoing bilateral cooperation projects between Portugal and Norway related to the blue and sustainable ocean, financed by the EEA Grants; Discuss the synergies with the Blue Growth and Environment areas, as well as to identify best practices and opportunities for future cooperation.
- In October 2023 the mid-term event "Applying Circular Economy Principles to the Construction Sector - Sharing some results" was a two-day event offers a valuable opportunity to share experiences and learnings from the implementation of projects funded by EEA Grants under the Environment Programme. The projects aim to apply sustainable practices in the construction sector, promoting efficiency in the use of resources and, consequently, sustainability. The circular economy, a model that aims to optimise the use of materials and resources, reducing waste and promoting recycling and reuse, is extremely important for minimising environmental impact in the construction sector and encouraging long-term sustainability. The first day's programme, exclusive to Environment Programme partners, includes a visit to the CircularBuild project, presentations on the modular construction system, the challenges of the green transition for construction solutions and a visit to the CircularBuild prototype. In the afternoon, participants will have the opportunity to visit the Adão Barata park in Loures and explore the different spaces, where solutions and innovations related to energy, building information modelling, air quality, waste management, mobility, water efficiency and green spaces will be presented. On the second day, which starts at 9.30am, the seminar will be held at the emblematic Barbadinhos

Steam Pumping Station in Lisbon, providing a unique opportunity to learn about experiences from the practical application of pilot projects funded by EEA Grants under the Environment Programme.>> [See the full programme for day 2 here](#). The event was a platform for sharing knowledge and good practices, encouraging the adoption of more sustainable practices in the construction sector, and reinforcing the commitment to the circular economy. *Access pitches*

[Speakers](#)

[Environment Programme Projects](#)

[Environment and Energy Programmes of Beneficiary Countries](#)

[Digital poster information](#)

- In May 2022, the Secretary General for the Environment (SGA), operator of the Environment Programme, and the Directorate-General for Maritime Policy (DGPM), operator of the Blue Growth Programme, organized an event which aims to demonstrate the synergies between both Programs and publicize the projects financed in the areas of circular economy and marine litter reduction. The event took place on the 3rd of May 2022, with a hybrid nature – online and in person, at the Pavilhão do Conhecimento, Lisbon, in the presence of the Norwegian Ambassador to Portugal, Tove Bruvik Westberg, the Secretary of State for the Sea, José Maria Costa, Secretary of State for the Environment and Energy, João Galamba, the Partner of the Innovation Norway Program, Magnar Ødelien, the Deputy Director of the General Directorate for Sea Policies Conceição Santos, the Coordinator of the National Management Unit, Susana Ramos and the Secretary General for Environment and Climate Action, Alexandra Carvalho. During the pitch session that took place in the morning, 13 projects were presented on the themes of removing single-use plastics from the maritime environment, through actions to raise awareness of the need to reduce the consumption of single-use plastics and plastic bottles. and encourage their recovery after use, innovation applied in the quantification of waste in the marine environment and in the development of new by-products and raw materials from waste and surpluses from the sea, production of sustainable networks and optimization of waste management. The afternoon session included the promotion of Bilateral Meetings (b2b) where the Promoters had the opportunity to demonstrate the stage of development of their projects and respective results.
- Visit to the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves, to 3 Biosphere Reserves occur between 30th May and 2nd June 2022. A field trip to the Boquilobo Paul Biosphere Reserve took place on May 31st with the objective of strengthening bilateral relations between Portugal and Norway and to make known the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves. These field visits are attended by representatives of the Norwegian environment agency, innovation Norway, university of bergen and the nordhordaland UNESCO. The first day of field activities included a visit to the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve located in Golegã, where it was possible to interact with local agents related to the main economic activities of the territory - agriculture and Lusitano horse breeding. The second day the Norwegian team to visit the Trans Biosphere Reserve Gerês-Xurés and interact with local actors from the Portuguese side (Gerês) and the Spanish side (Xurés). Throughout the day it was possible to know this reserve rich in natural heritage, but also cultural and historical. And in the last day it was dedicated to share best practices between Portuguese Biosphere Reserves and nordhordaland UNESCO in Peniche.

Bilateral Delays, Deviations and Reallocations

In 2023, on the 09th of May the FMO and NFP approved a Programme Agreement modification for allocation savings from Management Cost and from termination of 03_Call#2 Project (outcome 1- output 1.4) to Fund Bilateral Relations and to Outcome 3 (output 3.3). This

modification represents a transfer of 450,000€ from the EEA Grants component to the Bilateral Relations Fund.

Bilateral Most Important Results Achieved

The Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States get 7.00: the Level of satisfaction with the partnership reach 6.78; 100% share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership involving 3 cooperating organisations.

5 training courses co-organised by donor state and beneficiary state entities, in particular from two Projects: PT-ENVIRONMENT-0026 (13_Call#2): 3 and PT-ENVIRONMENT-0007 (05_SGS#2) (2).

Three documentaries in national television program – Europa Minha - <https://www.rtp.pt/play/p10187/e621675/europa-minha>; <https://www.rtp.pt/play/p10187/e624303/europa-minha>; <https://www.rtp.pt/play/p10646/e648627/europa-minha>

Working in close cooperation with FMO, DPP, NFP is key and will keep on. The purpose is to strengthen and extended the Network and cooperation between Portuguese and Donor Partner Entities.

C. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Monitorings carried out

The on-site checks carried out allowed obtaining a very complete and detailed knowledge of the projects, which is essential for assessing their development as well as any existing constraints and the added value they bring. Since there is a proximity to the project team, which can provide the project status in the different areas and to share the necessary documentation for the digital dossier. On-site checks also allow the identification of information gaps, errors or omissions that are corrected/avoided.

In general, projects that have already been subject to local verification are of high interest, whether those of a more practical nature with results on the ground, or those involving the development of platforms or environmental policies and tools, innovative in their thematic area, with potential for scalability, continuity and in many cases, with the potential to create new markets and products.

110 On-the-spot verifications were performed between 2021 and 2023 (33 in 2023). On-the-spot verifications were performed by an external consultant. This actions are intended to control the reality of the project/operation, in particular the supply of the product(s)/service(s) in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract, physical progress, evidence of compliance with Community rules on information and publicity, public procurement and the environment, as well as the collection of additional evidence of the actual physical and financial implementation of the project (i.e., project/operation implementation reports prepared directly by the promoter). Each Project must have at least one and in projects with a duration more than one year must have one per year. Please find project's details on Annex 5: Monitoring plan.

CALL	Total Projects Approved	Local Verifications 2021	Local Verifications 2022	Local Verifications 2023	Local Verifications Cancelled 2023

Cal I#1	8	5	8	2	0
SG S# 1	6	4	5	0	0
Cal I#2	9/10	9	8	4	0
SG S# 2	4	4	1	0	0
Cal I #3	1	0	0	1	0
SG S #3	17	0	16	13	1
Cal I #4	7	0	0	7	0
Cal I #5	4	0	0	4	0
PD P1	1	0	1	0	0
PD P2	1	0	1	1	0
PD P3	1	0	0	1	0
To tal	59	22	40	33	1

The criteria to proceed to this on-spot verification were: (i) Very low technical and financial execution and significant project delays; (ii) some technical issues such as Difficulty in collecting data from one of the project indicators - quantity of recovered packaging or Low technical execution due to the breakdown of the machines acquired for the project; (iii) closing of the projects with duration of 12 to 18 months; (iv) delays in the execution of some activities due to the pandemics and adaptation of several activities to remote activities; and for example

(v) activity execution and management risk: due to bureaucratic situations and the pandemic situation, it was requested an extension of the project's deadline, adjusting the schedule for the realization of all the activities.

Apart from regular on-the-spot verifications PT Environment Programme promotes several regular meetings with the Projects in two main modalities: bilateral (extraordinary, monthly, and bimonthly), and by call /SGS gathering all the project promoters and partners. These regular meetings, namely, to promote a small, oriented capacitation sessions with all the projects from the same output is very useful for sharing experiences and problems. PO shares the most relevant documents of the Program, as well as the main conclusions obtained in the Technical-Scientific Meetings with the Projects up to December 2023 in <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/documents/>

- Adaptation: From theory to practice: Increased climate change resilience and responsiveness in targeted areas (Outcome 3).
- Adaptation: Governance and Impact
- Blue Book
- Dissertation - Deposit refund systems for beverage bottles and cans: a circular instrument? the Portuguese case.
- Dissertation - Pilot deposit reimbursement system for beverage packaging (PET and aluminum), at the University of Aveiro
- Document with questions and answers about the Quiz of DRS
- Ebook of the Matchmaking Event of February 28th
- Ebook of the launch of Programme Environment of May 29th
- Ebook of the Conference 'Breaking the Barriers in a Circular Economy', September 24th and 25th, in Oslo
- Green Evaluation Report
- Management and Control System
- Marketing and Communication Strategy EEA Grants 2022

The Programme has on the website the most relevant results achieved by each of the Projects, funded by the Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Programme also creates several infographics to assess the results from the concluded projects - <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/deliverables/>.

It is intended, therefore, to expand as much as possible the dissemination of the progress of the projects / operations, in view of the expected results.

The technical and scientific results obtained by the projects are systematized in specific goals contributing to public awareness, increased visibility, providing information and disseminating activities, products, and practices in a transparent way, as a continuous process.

Call#1 Deposit refund system for beverage bottles - [Infographics: Call#1](#)

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/media/6124/en-infographics-call1-1.pdf>

Small Grants Scheme#1 - Projects to prevent and raise awareness to reduce marine litter
<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/media/6129/ingles-infografia-sgs1.pdf> - [Infographics: Small Grants Scheme#1](#)

Call#2_SGS#2_Projects to promote Circular Economy in the Construction Sector

- <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/media/6372/infografia-aviso2-en.pdf> - [Infographics: Call#2 and Small Grants Scheme#2](#)

This information provides useful comparisons between the achieved results between projects supported by the same Call/SGS.

PO has **taken preventive measures** to assess the good quality of the projects' execution, as well as to ensure that all the remain projects will be successful concluded in 30th of April 2024, such as: Monthly bilateral meetings with 16 projects that are going to close before 30.04.2024 from: 4 projects from Call5 – Combat to Desertification; 7 living labs pilot projects from Call4 and PDP-2 – Roadmap to Adaptation to Climate change and PDP3 – Rio Ceira and 3 from SGS#3. External Local Verification and PO EEA Grants team is more frequent and External experts for financial auditing help the PO in financial execution. For that reason, PO keeps the same level of low risk and assures the closing of the programme without any restrictions.

2. Evaluations carried out

In February 2023, it was published the Midterm evaluation of the EEA and Norway Grants green programmes (2014-2021) Final Report. The midterm evaluation of green programmes explores the coherence, efficiency, and potential effectiveness of green programming under the EEA and Norway Grants. The report identifies success factors and obstacles and provides recommendations to inform the next programming period. It also assesses the extent to which programme design and implementation has considered bilateral cooperation. This includes consideration of the extent to which bilateral partnerships have added value, and how this may be enhanced in future programming. The scope was 15 'Green Programmes' that have their outcomes linked to three interconnected Programme Areas (PAs): PA1 "Environment and ecosystems", PA12 "renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy security" and PA 13 "Climate change mitigation and adaptation", distributed among 12 beneficiary countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (15 programmes amounts to €426 million). The report is available in https://eeagrants.org/sites/default/files/resources/green-evaluation-report-final-2022%20%282%29_0.pdf.

The conclusion for this Programme is very positive:'Portugal outperforms by exceeding its target more than 7-fold... already have good personal contacts with the active entities in the donor countries and, therefore, were more successful in finding new, and building on existing, partnerships....Programme Operators' ability and willingness to reach out to potential project promoters is an important factor in determining the success of the programme...**Grassroot innovation**, made most explicit in the design of the environmental programme in Portugal, demonstrates practical ways and approaches to involve local stakeholders and the population at large in co-creation of climate and environmental solutions....

During 2023 NFP provide capacitation sessions to design ex-post evaluation of the Programmes. All the procedures were written in 2023 by PO's team. In the following year

external programme evaluation will be performed. The selection procedure is accordingly public procurement rules.

D. ANNEXES

- 1. Results achieved**
- 2. Communication summary**
- 3. Project summary and call details**
- 4. Risk management**
- 5. Monitoring plan**
- 6. Evaluation report**
- 7. Agreement conditions**

Annex 1: Results achieved

Objective: Improved environmental status in ecosystems and reduced adverse effects of pollution and other human activities								
Outcome 1: Increased application of circular economy principles in targeted sectors								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Construction and demolition waste avoided by the supported sectors	Percentage	48.60 %	76.08 % (APR 2022)	50.73	50.9	99.67 %	70.00 %	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected
Use of secondary materials increased in the supported sectors	Percentage	-	73.98 % (APR 2022)	29.56	50.9	58.07 %	15.00 %	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected
Number of jobs created	Cumulative number	0	28 (APR 2022)	-	-	31	25	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	28	-	-	31	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	28	-	-	31	-	-
Tonnes of plastic recycled through all supported schemes/measures	Cumulative number	0	145.61 (APR 2022)	-	-	229.99	20,000	-
Output 1.1: Deposit-refund system for beverage plastic bottles (and cans) piloted								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		

Number of retailers participating in the deposit-refund system	Cumulative number	0	26 (IFR 2023)	-	-	26	25	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected
Number of beverage industry organisations participating in the deposit-refund system	Cumulative number	0	33 (IFR 2023)	-	-	33	2	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected
Output 1.2: Strengthened framework for the management of plastic packing including a deposit-refund system for plastic bottles								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Regulation governing the deposit-refund system developed	Binary	No	Yes (IFR 2023)	-	-	Yes	Yes	-
Output 1.3: Reduced contribution from land-based sources of marine plastic littering								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of voluntary schemes supported	Cumulative number	0	136 (IFR 2023)	-	-	136	3	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected
Number of CSOs supported	Cumulative number	0	6 (IFR 2023)	-	-	6	3	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected
Number of awareness-raising campaigns carried out	Cumulative number	0	513 (IFR 2023)	-	-	513	3	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected
Output 1.4: Increased resource efficiency in the construction sector								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of innovative solutions for increased resource efficiency piloted	Cumulative number	0	22 (IFR 2023)	-	-	35	5	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected.

Number of SMEs supported	Cumulative number	0	15 (IFR 2023)	-	-	15	5	Better SME involvement than initially expected
Number of demonstration buildings constructed	Cumulative number	0	7 (IFR 2023)	-	-	6	3	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected. Most are pilot buildings.
Output 1.5: Standards, guidance and declarations developed								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of businesses developing product declarations	Cumulative number	0	10 (IFR 2023)	-	-	10	10	-
Number of standards/best practices developed	Cumulative number	0	6 (IFR 2023)	-	-	6	5	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected.
Outcome 2: Enhanced sustainable development in Biosphere Reserves								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of people benefitting from enhanced sustainable development in Biosphere Reserves	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2022)	-	-	283,960	320,125	-
Output 2.1: Increased capacity to manage biosphere reserves								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of sustainable development plans for Biosphere Reserves developed	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2023)	-	-	12	12	-

Number of Biosphere Reserves where measures have been implemented	Cumulative number	0	6 (IFR 2023)	-	-	7	6	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected.
Number of professional staff trained	Cumulative number	0	4 (IFR 2023)	-	-	300	24	Better staff involvement than initially expected
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	4	-	-	300	-	-
Outcome 3: Increased climate change resilience and responsiveness in targeted areas								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of people benefitting from the development of adaptation strategies	Cumulative number	0	4,093,240 (APR 2022)	-	-	5,145,613	2,600,000	Better people involvement than initially expected
Number of people benefitting from the implementation of mitigation/low-carbon measures	Cumulative number	0	13,997 (APR 2022)	-	-	522,610	13,000	Better people involvement than initially expected
Estimated annual CO2 emissions reductions (in tons)	Annual number	0	129 (APR 2022)	-	-	358	43,000	-
Number of jobs created	Cumulative number	0	8 (APR 2022)	-	-	17	10	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	8	-	-	17	-	-
<i>Age</i>								
<i>Children and youth (0-17)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Young adults (18-29)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Adults (30-64)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Elderly (65+)</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-

<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	8	-	-	17	-	-
Percentage of habitat areas, that were damaged by forest fires, recovered in the Rio Ceira River Basin	Percentage	-	53.86 % (APR 2022)	59.45	119.07	49.92 %	30.00 %	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected.
Number of acres with reduced susceptibility to desertification	Cumulative number	0	27.50 (APR 2022)	-	-	28	250	-
Output 3.1: Strengthened climate change adaptation at local level								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of targeted municipalities that have developed adaptation plans	Cumulative number	0	27 (IFR 2023)	-	-	28	8	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected.
Number of targeted municipalities that have implemented concrete measures in their adaptation plans	Cumulative number	0	19 (IFR 2023)	-	-	19	9	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected.
Output 3.2: Vulnerability Assessment to Climate Change updated for territorial focus								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of Portuguese territories/regions included in the updated assessment	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2023)	-	-	2	5	-
Output 3.3: Low-carbon economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures implemented (in targeted urban areas)								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of targeted municipalities with mitigation measures implemented	Cumulative number	0	5 (IFR 2023)	-	-	5	3	Better municipality involvement than initially expected

Number of innovative mitigation/low-carbon measures supported	Cumulative number	0	16 (IFR 2023)	-	-	22	4	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected.
Output 3.4: Management of the Rio Ceira River Basin adapted to a changing climate								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Flow monitoring programme in place	Binary	No	Yes (IFR 2023)	-	-	Yes	Yes	-
Number of Invasive Alien Species reduced	Cumulative number	0	9 (IFR 2023)	-	-	9	5	Better results at the end of the projects than initially expected.
Number of professional staff trained	Cumulative number	0	29 (IFR 2023)	-	-	60	160	No gender data available
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	29	-	-	60	-	-
Output 3.5: Pilot projects to combat desertification completed								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of projects combating desertification piloted	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2023)	-	-	1	3	Final results at the end of 4 projects approved.
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States	Scale 1-7	6.86, Survey administered	7 (APR 2022)	-	-	7	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an	Better results than initially expected.

		d by the FMO					increase on the baseline value	
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	6.70, Survey administered by the FMO	6.78 (APR 2022)	-	-	6.80	4.50, Target is ≥ 4.5 , and an increase on the baseline value	Better results than initially expected.
Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	100.00 % (APR 2022)	100	100	100.00 %	50.00 %, Target is minimum 50 %	Better results than initially expected.
Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between donor states and beneficiary states entities facilitated								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of training courses co-organised by donor state and beneficiary state entities	Cumulative number	0	5 (IFR 2023)	-	-	5	4	Better results than initially expected.
Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	Cumulative number	0	29 (IFR 2023)	-	-	29	4	Better DPP involvement than initially expected.

Annex 2: Communication summary

1. Best projects

PT-ENVIRONMENT-0014_Packaging deposit system in the Azores: Deposit refund system for beverage bottles and cans turn out to become into Regional Law and regulated the nine islands from Azores.

<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/packaging-deposit-system-in-the-azores/>. To increase the quantity of selective collection of packaging waste, we intend to implement a deposit and incentive system for the consumer to return the non-reusable beverage packaging, made of plastic, metal and glass, in the entire archipelago. This system will make it possible to improve the quality of the packaging collected, making it more valuable when it is recycled and instilling good habits regarding the consumption of solid waste. The project covers the entire population of the Azores and involves the entities managing Urban Waste, specifically the 19 municipalities of the RAA, through the respective associations and all the companies responsible for the sorting centers. Also noteworthy, is the involvement of the three largest companies in the beverage industry based in the Azores and the participation of the Integrated Citizen Support Network (RIAC), through its 55 stores on all of the islands. The project is based on the acquisition of 25 reverse vending machines, designed for the deposit of non-reusable beverage packaging, to be installed in all 9 islands of the Azores archipelago, due to the territorial dispersion and guaranteeing at least one machine per municipality.

PT-ENVIRONMENT-0027 Rebuild 17 – Platform: one stop shop for demolition and waste to construction sector - <https://portal.azores.gov.pt/web/lrec/projeto-rebuild-17>; <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/pt/programas/ambiente/noticias/projeto-rebuild-17/>. This project intends to contribute significantly to the development of the circularity of value chains, through the creation of a platform for the valorization of waste originated in the construction sector, in which the various stakeholders associated with the sector participate. To this end, it is considered important to develop the platform itself, but also to undertake a range of ancillary activities that contribute to greater effectiveness, widespread adoption and sustainability. These ancillary tasks include: 1) the in-depth study and characterization of waste produced in the region and eventually at national level; 2) the experimental evaluation of the reuse potential of waste produced in new construction products; 3) the determination of the characteristics of various material alternatives that incorporate them and the development of marketable solutions through an idea contest; and 4) management, governance and dissemination of the platform to attract stakeholders in and outside the RAA.

PT-ENVIRONMENT-0003 'River Ceira River Basin Management in the face of Climate Change': - aims to improve resilience and the capacity to respond to climate change of 'River Ceira Basin Management (<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/pre-defined-projects/pdp3-management-of-the-rio-ceira-river-basin-adapted-to-a-changing-climate/>). Pre-defined Project 3 aims to improve resilience and responsiveness to climate change in selected areas through concrete climate change adaptation measures at the local level. The Project has three main components: hydrological, ecosystem and cultural: (i) The hydrological component aims to characterise the behaviour of the basin, including assessment of flows and implementation of a monitoring system, in order to minimise the effects of extreme events (floods and droughts). For this purpose, the establishment of a flow monitoring programme is proposed; (ii) The ecosystem component aims to strengthen the role of green infrastructure in adapting to climate change. The project aims to rehabilitate ecosystems and their services, increasing their resilience to climate change. Rehabilitation and

protection of the river basin is paramount in adapting to climate change in this project; (iii) The sociocultural component is a key factor in raising awareness of climate change. The involvement of the local population will be based on the preservation of some historical elements. The focus on the recovery of traditional good practices, with emphasis on the potential of "River Guards" (a previous practice now abandoned), is a visible aspect of a new governance model based on proximity.

PT-ENVIRONMENT-0002_National Roadmap for Adaptation 2100: Support the activities of ENAAC 2020, implementation and monitoring of P-3AC, as well as other strategic and planning tools for adaptation to CAs. Contribute to the implementation of the PNPTOT, identifying and mapping the territories vulnerable to extreme events, at national and regional scale, to assure the socio-ecological resilience of the territories, at different levels of planning and management. Create tools to identify climate vulnerabilities, based on the best available knowledge, to support decision making at the various territorial levels. Constitute a reference for communication and awareness actions in this area. Support the progressive integration of adaptation to CA in the design of direct and indirect intervention projects in the territory. Identify needs for implementing adaptation measures at all sectoral and territorial levels, including an intersectoral approach according to territorial specificities. Characterize the socio-economic impacts at different territorial scales and assess financial needs. Know and publicize how adaptation is being integrated into the various territorial and sectoral planning instruments, as well as the actors involved.

PT-ENVIRONMENT-0032_Biosphere Reserves: sustainable territories, resilient communities: The project targets the territory level, through the integration of heritage assets and ecosystem services, with a special focus on people, on strengthening their skills and on the governance model. The SD Plans (SDP) of the BR, following participatory methodologies, will be the comprehensive and in-network programmatic framework, aiming at the differentiated territorial development, the resilience and sustainability of BR. (<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/biosphere-reserves-sustainable-territories-resilient-communities/>). The project aims to enhance sustainable development in Biosphere Reserves and will target the territory level, through the integration of heritage assets and ecosystem services. A special focus will be directed towards people and strengthening their skills as well as on the governance model. The project will follow the objectives of the "Sustainable Development Plans" (SDP), following participatory methodologies, that will be the programmatic framework aimed at different territorial developments, resilience and sustainability of the Biosphere Reserves (BRs). The SDP will function as a guiding instrument within each reserve and between national BRs and international thematic and geographic networks. Exchange of knowledge will be ensured through the participation and cooperation between universities (Portuguese and Norwegian), the UNESCO chairs of Coimbra, Bergen and Nova Lisboa, and the participation of an international network in the fields of ecology, biodiversity and sustainability. This will reinforce the role of knowledge as a social transformation and territorial enrichment tool and promote new dynamics of interdisciplinary research. Emphasis will be placed on the integrated valorization of ecosystem services, involving local communities in the identification of priorities, for their own benefit and for the sustainability of their territories.

PT-ENVIRONMENT-0028_CirMat: Circular aggregates for sustainable road and building MATerials: Circular aggregates for sustainable road and building MATerials, aims at industrial development and the promotion of multiple products / materials with a high degree of incorporation of waste from the construction and steel industry sectors (<https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/programmes/environment/projects/projects/cirmat-circular-aggregates-for-sustainable-road-and-building-materials/>). This project aims at the industrial development and promotion of multiple products / materials with a high

degree of incorporation of waste from the construction and steel industry sectors. i) the development of industrial technology for structural concrete and bituminous concrete with incorporation of residues; ii) systematic models for the recovery of waste in a business environment, and its transition to the market. It is intended to contribute to a high degree of recovery of CDW, through its incorporation (up to 35%) in the development of structural and bituminous concrete and for the increase and promotion of the use of secondary raw materials, namely, with a high degree of incorporation (up to 75%) of Inert Steel Aggregate for Construction.

PT-ENVIRONMENT-0010_E-REDES - Marine Pollution Caused by Non-Degradable: Plastics Providing biodegradable fishing nets to the local fleet. <https://www.e-redes.esposende.pt/en/>. The present proposal aims at implementing a pilot study in the Marine Protected Area of the Northern Littoral Marine Park, where degradable gillnets and trammel nets will be provided to the fishing community in an unprecedented pilot test. The effect of this initiative on the reduction of ghost fishing and of synthetic plastic materials in the ocean will be assessed. Alongside, a thorough study and update of the state of knowledge will be conducted in order to determine the physical properties to be measured, the procedures to be adopted in the characterization of the degradation of biodegradable monofilaments, to promote the capacity building for producing fishing gear from selected biodegradable monofilaments, and to compare the fishing performance of nets made of conventional nylon and of the biodegradable material. Subsequently the sustainability of using biodegradable materials versus conventional synthetic gear will be assessed considering economic (costs and local economy), environmental (ecosystems health and biodiversity) and social (traditions and local practices) factors. Another key challenge in this project is to identify litter sources and evaluate the amount and nature present on beaches. This information is crucial to take action against the sources of marine litter and help to design future management measures to tackle this challenge, based on systematic and consistent monitoring to provide decision makers with the evidence needed to take action. The final challenge is the promotion of awareness in the community.

PT-ENVIRONMENT-0023_CircularBuild: complete circularity of the modular panels production system, allowing a total reuse of waste generated by the "deconstruction" of houses as raw material for new panels/ new houses, without compromising the building's performance in terms of energy efficiency, consequently contributing, directly and widely, to the new paradigm of "Zero Carbon Buildings". - <https://www.circularbuild.com.pt/en/#!/home>. The project CircularBuild - Development and Validation of the Concept of Circularity Applied to Modular Prefabricated Construction aims to investigate alternative materials for panels – replacing those currently used – that enable the complete circularity of the modular panels production system, allowing a total reuse of waste generated by the "deconstruction" of houses as raw material for new panels/ new houses, without compromising the building's performance in terms of energy efficiency, consequently contributing, directly and widely, to the new paradigm of "Zero Carbon Buildings".

PT-ENVIRONMENT-0036_CLIMA:AML - Metropolitan Weather Network – Advanced Weather Monitoring: (https://www.aml.pt/index.php?cp=COMPONENT_TEXT&sr=SUS601AD78307518&item.CLIMA.AML) seeks to create an integrated solution for weather monitoring through a metropolitan network of certified sensors and an online platform for information query. The purpose is to learn about the patterns associated to climate change and its impacts on local communities. With this project, decision processes will be reinforced based on management and dissemination models of real-time information and, simultaneously, on aggregating key metrics to understand climate change and promote adaptation.

2. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

2.a. Communication activities

Concerning our activities, the number of page views of the Environment Programme already surpassed the threshold defined (400) in the Communication Plan. The Calls were in a daily newspaper, 100% of replies to request for information by email and the organization of events related to EEA Grants – The signing of the Programme Agreement for the Environment Programme, the Matchmaking Initiative on the application of Circular Economy, the Interim event of the Environment Programme - "Applying Circular Economy Principles to the Construction Sector" and the presence in events such as the International Conference "Energy and Climate Challenges of the Republic of Croatia" in Dubrovnik. The participation in the communication network allowed to produce the Communication and Design Manual EEA Grants Portugal 2014 – 2021. The communication meetings with the NFP and all the Programme Operators were very useful to share common issues to present effective solutions. The visibility of the Grants and the Donors is ensured by the EEA Grants joint website, the Secretary General Youtube Channel, the National Focal Point Social Media and the Projects Website and Social Media, as well as the production of Infographics of projects for the prevention and awareness of the reduction of marine litter and the deposit refund systems infographics for beverage bottles and cans.

2.b. Project stories

40 news published in the EEA Grants website in 2023 and over 2000 views for the Environment Programme videos in the Secretary General YouTube Channel.

3. Media coverage

<https://aidglobal.org/noticia/769/visita-oficial-dos-eea-grants-ao-parque-adao-barata>

<https://www.sulinformacao.pt/2023/11/amal-lanca-campanha-nao-feches-os-olhos-ao-clima-algarve-tempo-de-cuidar/>

<https://afuradalivinglab.pt/2023/01/27/afurada-living-lab-recebe-comitativa-do-programa-ambiente-dos-eea-grants/>

<https://www.apiam.pt/noticias/bebidas-circulares-distinguida-pelos-eea-grants-portugal/422>

<https://www.mare-centre.pt/pt/evento-final-do-projeto-eea-grants-%28des%29construir-para-a-economia-circular>

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Link to programme website		Total number of page views in the reporting year	
https://www.eegrants.gov.pt/en/progr...		3921	
	Link or account handle	Number of posts published in the reporting year	Number of followers
YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/@SecretariaGeraldoAmbiente	7	867

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PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0002	https://rna2100.apambiente.pt/ https://apambiente.pt/clima/projetos-em-adaptacao
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PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0004	https://csustentavel.com/requisitos-para-obtencao-do-sv-iso-140242018/
PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0005	http://closer.lnec.pt/

<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0006</u>	<u>https://construcaocircular.pt/edificios</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0007</u>	<u>https://cplused-platform.pt/en/</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0008</u>	<u>www.lipor.pt/pt/recicla-te/há-rio-e-mar/</u>
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<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0010</u>	<u>www.e-redes.esposende.pt</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0011</u>	<u>https://businessasnature.org/projetos/fishingtheplastic/</u>
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<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0013</u>	<u>https://aquamuseu.cm-vncerveira.pt/pages/893</u>

<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0014</u>	<u>https://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/srrn-residuos/menus/secundario/SISTEMA+DE+DEPOSITO+DE+EMBALAGENS</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0015</u>	<u>http://www.oestecim.pt/custompages/showpage.aspx?pageid=14984dc9-807c-4c11-9e2f-5a5ad724b4e8&m=c1086</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0016</u>	<u>https://ambiente.cascais.pt/pt/irec/o-que-o-irec</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0017</u>	<u>https://www.ecoiberia.pt/pagina/geral/eea-grants/</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0018</u>	<u>https://www.cm-mafra.pt/p/mafrareciclaravalemais</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0019</u>	<u>https://www.ua.pt/pt/reap</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0020</u>	<u>https://www.bebidascirculares.pt/</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0021</u>	<u>http://www.cm-vilareal.pt/index.php/cidadao/ambiente</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0022</u>	<u>www.tellus.pt</u>

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<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0024</u>	https://cimbai.pt/pt/menu/1331/desconstruir-para-a-economia-circular.aspx
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<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0026</u>	https://growingcircle.netlify.app/
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0027</u>	https://portal.azores.gov.pt/web/lrec/projeto-rebuild-17
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0028</u>	http://www.cirmat.pt
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0029</u>	www.secclass.pt
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0030</u>	https://www.ua.pt/pt/risco/uaveirogreenbuilding

<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0031</u>	<u>https://paginas.fe.up.pt/~circular2b/</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0032</u>	<u>https://www.reservasdabiosfera.pt/</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0033</u>	<u>https://www.cm-loures.pt/AreaConteudo.aspx?DisplayId=1669</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0034</u>	<u>https://www.cm-vfxira.pt/municipio/comunicacao/noticias/noticia/franc-d-ptacao-plano-para-adaptacao-as-alteracoes-climaticas-em-fase-de-acompanhamento</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0035</u>	<u>https://www.cimac.pt/adaptalocalcimac/</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0036</u>	<u>https://www.aml.pt/index.php?cp=COMPONENT_TEXT&sr=SUS601AD78307518&item</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0037</u>	<u>https://cimbal.pt/pt/menu/1438/viver-o-clima-no-baixo-alentejo.aspx</u>
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<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0041</u>	<u>https://www.mertolafuturelab.com/blog/portfolio/alteracoes-climaticas-a-seguranca-de-pessoas-e-bens-o-turismo/</u>
<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0042</u>	<u>https://www.algarveadapta.pt/</u>
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<u>PT- ENVIRONMENT- 0052</u>	<u>https://afuradalivinglab.pt/</u>
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Annex 3: Project summary and call details

1. Project summary

	Number	Total Grant	Amount budgeted to dpps (estimate)
Total number of projects contracted	60	€ 27,024,102	€ 1,046,752
Number of pre-defined projects contracted	3	€ 3,150,000	€ 90,000
Number of projects with a donor project partner	29	€ 16,928,499	€ 1,046,752
Number of projects with a donor project partner Norway	26	€ 15,871,365	€ 952,032
Number of projects with a donor project partner Iceland	4	€ 3,255,800	€ 94,720
Number of projects with a donor project partner Liechtenstein	0	€ 0	€ 0

2. Call details

Call title	Outcome(s)	Call amount	Submission deadline	Number of applications received	Grant amount applied for	Grant demand %	Number of applications approved for funding	Grant amount awarded	Number of projects contracted	Amount contracted
Call #3 - Projects to 'Enhance sustainable development in Biosphere Reserves'	Outcome 2	€ 2,200,000	15/05/2020	7	€ 15,342,675	697.39 %	1	€ 2,198,666	1	€ 2,198,666
Call #4 – Implementation of pilot projects of living labs for decarbonisation and climate change mitigation	Outcome 3	€ 6,058,823	20/10/2020	7	€ 7,008,384	115.67 %	7	€ 6,058,801	7	€ 6,058,801
Call#1 - Deposit refund system for beverage bottles and cans	Outcome 1	€ 6,400,000	31/01/2020	13	€ 9,001,753	140.65 %	8	€ 6,400,000	8	€ 6,400,000
Call#2 - Promoting circular economy in the construction sector	Outcome 1	€ 3,500,000	31/10/2019	25	€ 10,317,693	294.79 %	8	€ 3,453,707	10	€ 4,241,932
Call#5 - Projects for climate change-related extreme weather preparedness and risk management	Outcome 3	€ 1,229,858	18/01/2022	13	€ 4,559,126	370.70 %	4	€ 1,229,858	4	€ 1,126,085

Small grants scheme #1 – Projects to prevent and raise awareness to reduce marine litter	Outcome 1	€ 1,000,00 0	31/10/2019	24	€ 3,796,739	379.67 %	6	€ 1,000,00 0	6	€ 1,000,000
Small grants scheme #2 – Projects for the development of standards in the construction sector that promote the circular economy	Outcome 1	€ 1,000,00 0	31/10/2019	4	€ 198,969	19.90 %	4	€ 198,969	4	€ 198,617
Small Grants Scheme #3 - Projects to strengthen climate change adaptation at local level	Outcome 3	€ 2,650,00 0	30/04/2020	67	€ 9,816,846	370.45 %	17	€ 2,506,30 3	17	€ 2,650,000

Annex 4: Risk management

Risk description	Likelihood (1-4)	Consequence (1-4)	Risk score	Planned response in 2024
a) Technological issues	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	Testing a common IT System for all Programme Operators is still in progress.
Deviations from key fiduciary principles of: economy, efficiency, effectiveness, integrity, openness/ transparency, fairness and accountability	1 low	2 medium low	1.41	For the 16 remaining projects until April 2024 - Endurance the monitoring alerts (weekly basis): Non-compliance alerts, task planning, elaboration of checklists; Correction of damages caused (extension of deadlines; disclosure of information; presentation of correction solutions on a case-by-case basis).
Improper or poorly defined procedures or excessively burdensome controls	1 low	1 low	1.00	Request for clarification more thoroughly. - Request for clarification in writing NFP Development & Cohesion Agency, if necessary. - Programme Icon / Image.
Overall risk of not absorbing most financing and achieving most targets (1-4):			1.00	

Annex 5: Monitoring plan

Please note this Annex is uploaded separately and is not visible in this document. Please download and print separately if needed.

Annex 6: Evaluation report

Please note this Annex is uploaded separately and is not visible in this document. Please download and print separately if needed.

Annex 7: Agreement conditions

Description	Type	Tracking	Fulfilled	Date of fulfilment	Description of measures taken
1. During the implementation of the programme, the Programme Operator shall seek to ensure synergies with the programme “Blue Growth Innovation and SMEs” implemented in Portugal under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021.	General	Continuously tracking	No		<p>It was agreed on Cooperation Committee Meeting last December 2021 to adopt flexibility to accommodate the ‘COVID effect’. The same initiatives are expected to happen as soon as possible for spring 2022 onwards, such as joint workshops with Blue Growth Programme, webinar PT – NO in specific topics of Programme Areas.</p> <p>PT Environment Programme highlights the modifications that were taken into consideration during the year 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modification of PA#3 in 02/07/2021 for the reallocation of 1M € from the Reserve to Outcome 3: Increased climate change resilience and responsiveness in targeted areas. • Modification of PA#4 in 10/09/2021 for the modification of call amount and results framework. <p>Modification of PA#3: last June 2021, the Environment Programme benefitted from a reallocation of €1,000,000 approved 2nd July 2021. So, at this moment the Programme estimated eligible cost is €29,411,765,00. The Maximum amount of Programme Grant €25,000,000,00, keeping the Grant Rate</p>

				<p>85,00% and the National Contribution is €4,411,765,00. This modification implies that the 3rd Objective Decarbonisation of society Outcome 3: Increased climate change resilience and responsiveness in targeted areas endowment of €12,885,294 increased due to the new open call: Call#5 – Projects for climate change-related extreme weather preparedness and risk management (https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/media/4377/pt-env-call-5-combat-desertification.pdf).</p> <p>Modification of PA#4: to clarify and fully endorse the objectives of the PT Environment Programme. In more detail the modification took into consideration:</p> <p>a) Output 3.1 Strengthened climate change adaptation at local level: separate in two indicators and revision of the target.</p> <p>Justification: Small Grant Scheme # 3 – Projects to strengthen climate change adaptation at local level has two Priority Areas:</p> <p>A. Drawing up Climate Change Adaptation Plans and Strategies on a local scale.</p> <p>B. Operationalising Climate Change Adaptation Plans and Strategies on a local scale. This priority area aims to implement</p>
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				<p>the adaptation measures foreseen on the Climate Change Adaptation Plans and Strategies, applicable to the territory under evaluation.</p> <p>In the Final Report the 17 projects funded, 8 in Priority A, which are an extension of the previous mechanism (2009-2014) – AdaPT Program, and 9 in Priority B. These 17 projects were the ones with higher quality. The initial indicator was 30 but PO only has funds (total allocation amount) for 17 projects (€2,650,000). As such, the clarification was to split in two different indicators which will fully endorse the objective of the SGS#3. No intention to modify the initial terms, nor the nature of the activities.</p> <p>b) Output 3.4 Management of the Rio Ceira River Basin adapted to a changing climate</p> <p>Justification: It was a clerical error. This indicator covers four municipalities with low density of population. As such this target was overestimated. No intention to modify the initial terms, nor the nature of the activities.</p> <p>Both modifications will have no impact in the level of ambition that is the same; no changes in the budget; no modification of the level of Risk Matrix, or on the objectives of</p>
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				<p>the Environment Programme and were approved by FMO.</p> <p>After Programme Agreement Modifications in 2021 Environment Programme has a total amount of €29,411,765 due to an increase amount address to Outcome 2 and 3 and a small reduction to the total amount address to Outcome 1. 3 Operational Objectives Environment Programme aim to accomplish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st operational objective (Outcome 1): Promotion of the Circular Economy through specific targets (construction sector, reduce marine litter and pilot projects to beverage packaging return system) - endowment of €11,952,187 • 2nd Objective Territorial Enhancement (Outcome 2): endowment of €2,297,835 increased by savings from the closing Projects from Promotion of the Circular Economy • 3rd Objective Decarbonisation of society (Outcome 3): endowment of €12,885,294 increased due to the new open call: call#5. <p>At 09/05/2023 FMO and NFP approved a Programme Agreement modification for allocation savings from Management Cost</p>
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				<p>and from termination of 03_Call#2 Project (outcome 1- output 1.4) to Fund Bilateral Relations and to Outcome 3 (output 3.3). This modification represents:</p> <p>Budget Amount (after May 2023)</p> <p>Programme estimated eligible cost € 29,411,765.00 to €28,882,352.94</p> <p>Maximum amount of Programme Grant €25,000,000.00 to €24,550,000,00</p> <p>Grant Rate 85,00%</p> <p>National Contribution €4,411,765.00 to € 4,332,352.94</p> <p>3 Operational Objectives Environment Programme were revised in terms of total allocated amount. These three main outcomes aim to accomplish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st operational objective (Outcome 1): Promotion of the Circular Economy through specific targets (construction sector, reduce marine litter and pilot projects to beverage packaging return system) - endowment of € 11,503,826.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Objective Territorial Enhancement (Outcome 2): endowment of €2,297,835 increased by savings from the closing Projects from Promotion of the Circular Economy, approved in 2022. • 3rd Objective Decarbonisation of society (Outcome 3): endowment of € 13,333,634. <p>After Programme Agreement Modifications Environment Programme has a total amount of €28,882,352.94 due to an increase amount address to Outcome 3 and a small reduction to the total amount address to Outcome 1 and a reduction of management costs. After the modification approved in May 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1 represents 39.83% of total amount of the Programme • Outcome 2, 7.96% of total amount of the Programme and • Outcome 3 represents 46.17% of total amount of the Programme and • 6.5% for management costs. <p>PT Environment Programme strategically contributes to (i) Ensure good environmental status of ecosystems in Portugal; (ii) Reduce adverse effects of pollution and other human</p>
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				<p>activities; (iii) Increase resilience to climate change through mitigation and adaptation measures for a low carbon economy; (iv) Reduce economic and social disparities and (v) Strengthen cooperative relations with Donor Countries.</p> <p>The Environment Program stands out for financing a large number of innovative projects, promoting: (i) the development, sharing and application of new methodologies and technologies in the area of the circular economy (waste and construction) and climate change (mitigation and adaptation); (ii) citizenship in the area of the circular economy (waste), climate change and the enhancement of the territory; (iii) governance in the area of circular economy (waste) and climate change (mitigation); (iv) basic knowledge to support national policy decisions in the area of circular economy (waste) and climate change (adaptation); and (v) bilateral cooperation in the area of the circular economy and territorial enhancement.</p> <p>The uniqueness of EEA Grants can be achieved by applied innovation as a complementary fund. In these cases (circular economy and the climate change) they had special features funded by EEA Grants. The Concept Note and the calls / small grant schemes included the special features. The Environment Program promoted the creation</p>
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				<p>of synergies between projects, and a third of the funded projects have foreign partners / DPP. The dynamics created have provided partnerships, including with foreign entities, and some pilot projects will be reproduced or consolidated beyond the project execution deadline.</p> <p>Between 23 and 25th of January 2023 Environment Program and Blue Growth Program together in project visits In these visits that demonstrate the great synergies between these two programs, will be present the Norwegian ambassador in Portugal, the team from the General Secretary of Environment, operator of the environment program, the team from the Directorate General of Sea Policy, operator of the blue growth program, the national management unit, program partners common to both programs, innovation Norway and the EEA Grants FMO. The visits will focus on blue growth program projects in Lisbon, followed by a working lunch and cooperation committee meetings at the Environment program headquarters. The group continues its visit in Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia to visit three Environment Program pilot projects. These projects focus on using low-carbon technologies and natural engineering methods to regulate small rivers in the city of O'Porto, the group will visit a project of the blue growth program, followed by a newtworking lunch among all involved that</p>
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				<p>will end with the presentation of one of the projects. These visits highlighted the importance of collaboration between the Environment and Blue Growth programs in creating sustainable solutions for the future. The use of low-carbon technologies and natural engineering methods in the pilot projects in Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia demonstrate the potential for these programs to work together to create a more sustainable future. Projects visited were: FaroBoats Solar Set Solution; MarineSIM; Asprela + Sustentável; Plano de Valorização e Reabilitação das Linhas de Água do Município do Porto; Afurada Living Lab; MP-RAS and Peladrone.</p> <p>From 17 to 21st of April 2023, The Blue in the Green: Portuguese-Norwegian cooperation on environment and the ocean. The EEA Grants Portugal participate in the One Ocean Week - a meeting place for debate and exchange of experiences related to a sustainable use of the ocean, that will take place in Bergen. Portugal and Norway share a long history and strong connection to the ocean. The One Ocean Week in Bergen is an excellent arena to showcase bilateral cooperation related to the blue economy and sustainable ocean, through conferences, meetings, activities and cultural sessions. The week was open to everyone who is interested in the thematic of preserving and using the sea, the lakes and marine resources in a</p>
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					<p>sustainable way. In connection with the One Ocean Week, EEA Grants in Portugal, in cooperation with the Norwegian Embassy in Portugal, Innovation Norway and Programme Operators from Blue Growth and Environment Programmes and several other partners, will organize a public seminar, on 18th April, with a twofold aim: Showcase some of the ongoing bilateral cooperation projects between Portugal and Norway related to the blue and sustainable ocean, financed by the EEA Grants; Discuss the synergies with the Blue Growth and Environment areas, as well as to identify best practices and opportunities for future cooperation.</p>
<p>2. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that project promoter's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period; • Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project 	General	Continuously tracking	N/A		<p>It is included in the Description of the Management and Control System as well as in the Applicants guide for financing of projects supported by environment, climate change and low carbon Economy programme, to establish the rules and conditions for access in national territory to the Financing.</p> <p>The Programme Operator executed the following responsibilities (EEA Grants Regulation Art 5.6.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Ensuring the quality of the implementation of the Programme ·Selecting projects

<p>implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years following the completion of the project. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Facilitating bilateral cooperation ·Assessing risks ·Independence and functional separation of tasks ·Transparency and availability of documents ·Entry of project-specific statistical data to maintain the reporting database ·Ensuring that the Project Promoters are fully committed and able to implement their projects. <p>Two major comprehensive amendments made in the Description of the Management and Control System ensures that it is given more detail and transparency to the Programme implementation.</p> <p>PO has taken preventive measures to assess the good quality of the projects' execution, as well as to ensure that all the remain projects will be successful concluded in 30th of April 2024, such as: Monthly bilateral meetings with 16 projects that are going to close before 30.04.2024 from: 4 projects from Call5 – Combat to Desertification; 7 living labs pilot projects from Call4 and PDP-2 – Roadmap to Adaptation to Climate change and PDP3 – Rio Ceira and 3 from SGS#3. External Local</p>
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					Verification and PO EEA Grants team is more frequent and External experts for financial auditing help the PO in financial execution. For that reason, PO keeps the same level of low risk and assures the closing of the programme without any restrictions.
No costs shall be eligible under pre-defined project no. 3 (number under Section 5.1 of Annex II to the Programme Agreement) before a detailed description and budget for the respective pre-defined project, including the role and contribution of any project partner(s), has been submitted by the Programme Operator and the FMC has confirmed the grant to the project as described in Annex II to this programme agreement.	Pre-eligibility	One-time fulfilment	Yes	04/10/2019	The detailed descriptions and budget for the respective pre-defined project, including the role and contribution of any project partners, were been submitted by the Programme Operator.