

# National Defence Strategy for the Environment, Security and Climate Change



*A National Defence committed and prepared  
for the challenges of a sustainable future*



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## GLOSSARY

<b>CF SEDSS</b>	– Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector
<b>CSDP</b>	– Common Security and Defence Policy
<b>DGRDN</b>	– Directorate-General for National Defence Resources
<b>DTIB</b>	– Defence Technological and Industrial Base
<b>ECAA</b>	– Coordinating Structure for Environmental Affairs
<b>ECO.AP</b>	– Resource Efficiency Programme in Public Administration
<b>EDA</b>	– European Defence Agency
<b>EDF</b>	– European Defence Fund
<b>EEAS</b>	– European External Action Service
<b>EGD</b>	– European Green Deal
<b>EMAS</b>	– Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
<b>EU</b>	– European Union
<b>GHG</b>	– Greenhouse Gases
<b>ISO</b>	– International Organization for Standardization
<b>LIM</b>	– Military Infrastructure Law
<b>LPM</b>	– Military Programming Law
<b>NATO</b>	– North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
<b>NIAG</b>	– NATO Industrial Advisory Group
<b>PESCO</b>	– Permanent Structured Cooperation
<b>SDGs</b>	– Sustainable Development Goals
<b>STCN</b>	– National Scientific and Technological System
<b>STO</b>	– Science and Technology Organization
<b>UN</b>	– United Nations Organisation



### Message from the Minister of National Defence

Climate change is now an undeniable reality, evidenced by increasing pressure on vast areas and populations. This phenomenon manifests itself in extreme temperatures, rising sea levels, rapid changes in precipitation patterns, or the growing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. These changes pose challenges to military operations in supporting civilian emergencies and will test our critical infrastructure and human resources. Collectively, these developments also contribute to the escalation of conflicts, especially in fragile states and regions, leading to new situations of catastrophe and aggravating the climate-security nexus.

Against this backdrop, the Ministry of National Defence of Portugal remains heavily committed to its responsibilities. More than a solid commitment to protecting the planet, the pursuit of environmental sustainability in the Defence sector must be seen as a key contribution to increasing national resilience. This effort is overarching in the recognition that events associated with climate change have unavoidable repercussions on global security. It is in line with the increasing incorporation of its impact into major international strategic guidelines, including those of the United Nations (UN), the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and the European Union (EU).

Nearly three years since the approval of the Environmental Directive for National Defence, it is crucial to consider the best way to ensure that the Armed Forces and Defence capabilities are adaptable and resilient. They should also contribute to mitigating the harmful effects of climate phenomena. Armed Forces that are more efficient in their use of resources and rely more on renewable technologies are also bound to be more autonomous, ready, and capable. This is the underlying message of the National Defence Strategy for the Environment, Security, and Climate Change.

In the face of an evolving global environmental paradigm, we need to rise to the challenge. This Strategy represents a renewed commitment to protecting the environment and reinforces our dedication to addressing the climate-security nexus. By outlining and developing a series of strategic objectives, it provides the necessary vision to continue reducing our ecological footprint and enhancing the energy efficiency of our activities.

**Helena Carreiras**

Minister of National Defence

*October 2023*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Climate change entails global consequences on many levels - environmental, social, economic and security - aggravating existing vulnerabilities. In this context, this phenomenon was classified in 2018 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as “the greatest threat to human security and sustainable development.” From a security standpoint, climate change can imply resource scarcity, mass migrations, as well as the escalation of conflicts and threats to sovereignty. As a result, there is a growing need for action by the defence and security sectors, particularly through the Armed Forces. The challenges posed to military activities further underscore the need for National Defence to prepare, adapt, and actively contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

Domestically, these needs have already been identified and addressed in the Climate Framework Act, approved in 2021 by the Portuguese Parliament. This law stresses the need to promote climate security and to act to prevent and mitigate the consequences of climate change and acknowledges the need to integrate its impacts into the strategic debate on the main national security and defence priorities. The law also mentions that the Armed Forces should incorporate the risks inherent in climate change to reduce the environmental impact of security and defence activities into their strategic and operational planning.

Key guidelines from international organisations of which Portugal is a member underscore the significance of a comprehensive approach that spans from the use of the Armed Forces to the capability aspect. At the EU level, the “Strategic Compass for Security and Defence” emphasises the need for Member States to develop strategies to prepare the Armed Forces to address the effects of climate change. Similarly, NATO has reinforced the need for Allies to adopt clear measures of adaptation and mitigation, while maintaining a robust stance of deterrence and defence, notably through the “NATO Climate Change and Security Action Plan”.

Against this background, and three years after the approval and implementation of the most recent Environmental Directive for National Defence, it is necessary for this foundational document on Defence environmental policy to take into account the challenges of climate change as well as the inevitable adaptation of the Armed Forces. Special focus should be placed on the operational aspect and on the adaptation and resilience of military capabilities and infrastructures. Therefore, it is considered appropriate to review and update objectives, emphasising achievements in terms of cooperation, education, and awareness of human resources. This effort aims to integrate various existing guidelines and prepare the Armed Forces for the consequences and challenges of climate change through a single document: the National Defence Strategy for the Environment, Security and Climate Change.

## 2. CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Environmental sustainability has long been a concern of the Ministry of National Defence and the Armed Forces, as evidenced by the creation of the National Defence and Environment Award in 1993, the approval of the first Environmental Directive for National Defence in 2011 and subsequent revision in 2020, and the creation of the Coordinating Structure for Environmental Affairs (ECAA), consisting of representatives from various entities within the National Defence sector.

In line with the priority assigned by the XXIII Constitutional Government to fight climate change and the challenges that arise from it, there is now an additional need to strengthen the adaptation of National Defence to predictable impacts, both in terms of infrastructure and in terms of operations and capability development. To support this effort, it is also necessary to accelerate the energy transition, with decarbonisation considered a strategic imperative in order to achieve: (i) resilience and autonomy; (ii) as well as the necessary interoperability between joint and/or combined forces.

The current scenario is all the more urgent given the way climate change is also fuelling existing threats, aggravating geopolitical instability, and insecurity associated with the scarcity of resources. This may result in contagion effects of external crises impacting national and international security. In the Armed Forces, direct consequences are best reflected in the health of military personnel, equipment, and infrastructure, especially in activities and operations carried out in adverse environments. This leads to a subsequent increase in logistical needs and military support missions for civilian authorities. Similarly, an impact can be anticipated on the missions that the Armed Forces will be called upon to carry out, whether of public interest (on national territory and partner countries) or those that may result from a deterioration of a nearby security context, aggravated by climate change.

The growing awareness of the effects of climate change on Defence activities therefore calls for urgent action in terms of adaptation. The aim is to increase resilience to climate phenomena and, at the same time, contribute to mitigating them, in line with national and international objectives. Table 1 summarises the main effects expected on National Defence activities, infrastructure, and equipment.

**Table 1** – Impacts of Climate Change on Defence Activities, Infrastructure, and Equipment.

- Increased vulnerability of military personnel to occupational and security risks.
- Greater geopolitical instability and an increase in conflicts due to resource scarcity, namely clean water and food.
- Rise in the number of military support missions to civilian authorities due to extreme weather events.
- More frequent humanitarian support missions.
- Missions in extreme environmental conditions requiring more energy and water (for example, a greater need for cooling increases electricity consumption).
- Adverse impacts on coastal infrastructure due to rising sea levels.
- Access to infrastructure and the execution of land operations may be compromised by events such as storms, floods, fires magnified by dryness resulting from periods of drought, and low water availability.
- Impacts on naval operations, as the increase in sea water temperature has implications for the cooling systems of propulsion systems and others and interferes with the detection and identification of objects by affecting the speed at which sound propagates.
- Impacts on aerial operations, as the performance of aircraft directly depends on air temperature and pressure, precipitation, and wind patterns. Possible loss of engine power, resulting in a reduction in payload, range, and loiter time.
- High-temperature environments increase the wear and tear on equipment and platforms (e.g., failures due to electrical overloads and overheating, in systems that are increasingly made up of electronic components).
- Greater budgetary needs for the maintenance and repair of infrastructure and equipment, as well as an increase in logistical commitments.
- Fewer days available for training due to extreme temperatures, which requires greater adaptation and flexibility in terms of planning.

Sources: NATO Climate Change & Security Impact Assessment 2022 and 2023; Impacts of Natural Hazards and Climate Change on EU Security and Defence

While the environmental dimension encompasses climate change in both its mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (actions to manage the impacts) aspects, it is crucial to address this issue specifically, given its urgency and the fact that it is one of today's biggest challenges with implications for future generations. Thus, the National Defence Strategy for the Environment, Security and Climate Change is divided into two areas: Environment, and Energy and Climate. The following sections introduce the main existing strategic guidelines that frame and substantiate national action in this regard.

## 2.1 Environment

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all UN Member States, outlines sustainable development priorities for 2030, serving as an urgent call to global action. This document covers topics ranging from drinking water and sanitation, renewable energies, to the protection of biodiversity, the efficient use of resources, and climate action. The following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) stand out for their influence on Defence activities: SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13 - Climate Action, SDG 14 - Life Below Water, and SDG 15 - Life on Land.

With regard to guidelines for environmental protection, International Humanitarian Law is also noteworthy. It aims to limit the effects of armed conflicts, particularly the damage caused to the environment, such as the destruction of ecosystems and contamination of water and soil, safeguarding the future of populations affected by the conflict.

Following the 2030 Agenda, the EU launched the European Green Deal (EGD), aiming for an ecological transition and the ambitious climate goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. For the Defence sector, and with regard to the objectives of the EGD for the environmental area, given the potential significant impacts caused by military activity on its surroundings, there is a need to address issues related to biodiversity, circular economy, waste management, and sustainability of chemicals, which involves preventing air, water, and soil pollution.

Meanwhile, over 25 years ago, NATO established an Environmental Protection Working Group, whose mission is to provide guidelines for environmental protection in military operations within NATO, such as best practices for environmental protection in military camps and environmental management systems in military activities. These guidelines are applicable to any military operations taking place on the national territory of Allied countries.

## 2.2 Energy and Climate

In 2022, the EU presented the "Climate Change and Defence Roadmap," advocating action on three fronts: (i) Operational Dimension; (ii) Capability Development; and (iii) Strengthening Multilateralism and Partnerships. Member States are encouraged to identify energy efficiency measures as well as solutions from renewable energy sources to be applied to the Armed Forces. They are also urged to deepen their participation in existing cooperation platforms. The need to incorporate environmental and energy sustainability factors into training activities, infrastructure, and equipment procurement processes is also emphasised.

Meanwhile, the 2021 "Concept for an Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security" aims to increase the impact of the Union's external action in peace support missions and in maintaining security. This is achieved by ensuring that the climate-security nexus is addressed in all relevant EU activities in this dimension, in line with the EU's environment and climate policies.

The "Strategic Compass for Security and Defence" of 2022 reinforces the urgency of incorporating environmental and climate considerations into the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) framework, as well as for civilian and military operations. To achieve this, by 2025, an environmental adviser is to be assigned to all missions. The role of the environmental adviser will be to raise awareness on how to optimise the use of resources and energy in missions, integrate environmental safety considerations and advise the command on best environmental practices. To this end, the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) have made efforts to establish the Climate Change and Defence Network. The aim is to support countries in integrating these considerations into strategic planning.

The June 2023 joint communication from the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy identifies the impacts that climate change and environmental degradation have on peace, security, and defence. Actions are outlined to make the EU and its partners more resilient and secure. The roughly 30 planned actions target four priorities, namely, (i) strengthening planning, decision-making, and action based on the analysis of evidence on the climate-security nexus; (ii) operationalising the response to climate and security challenges in the EU's external action, particularly through integrating the climate-security nexus into analyses of regional and national conflicts; (iii) improving climate adaptation and mitigation measures for civilian and military operations of Member States and their infrastructures to reduce costs and carbon footprint, while ensuring operational effectiveness; (iv) and strengthening international partnerships through multilateral fora and with partners such as NATO.

The "NATO Climate Change and Security Action Plan", in turn, recommends that Allied countries enhance knowledge and awareness of the impacts of climate change on their assets, facilities, and operations. Regarding adaptation, climate change should be incorporated into strategic planning, capability delivery, response to natural disasters, public procurement procedures, infrastructure and equipment, and training and exercises. On mitigation, it is important to measure, analyse, and monitor GHG emissions from military activities and infrastructure and to promote the use of innovative low-carbon technolo-

gies. The Alliance also seeks to enhance cooperation, share experiences, and engage in dialogue with civil society, with the different National Scientific and Technological Systems (STCN), through the Science and Technology Organisation (STO), and with the industry. This involves exploring synergies within the NATO Industrial Advisory Group (NIAG). NATO also produces annually the assessment report "Climate Change & Security Impact Assessment," in which it identifies the main impacts of climate change on different operational environments and proposes specific actions for mitigation and adaptation.

The energy transition, achieved through the implementation of energy-efficient and renewable technologies, is inherently connected to the fight against climate change. As a result of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the subsequent EU response through the RePower EU plan, investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies becomes even more relevant as a means to eliminate dependence on Russian fossil fuels. Moreover, EU Council Regulation 2022/1369 was approved, focusing on coordinated measures to reduce gas demand. This regulation aimed to prevent supply disruptions by voluntarily reducing gas demand by 15% between 1 August 2022 and 31 March 2023. If an alert situation arose in the EU, there was a provision for this target to become mandatory. In the case of Portugal, considering its limited interconnections, this reduction would then become 7%.

## 2.3 National Defence Action

Against this international backdrop, it is also important to depict the national context in which Defence is included. The aforementioned Climate Framework Act is particularly noteworthy, addressing climate security and national defence in Article 17. It states that climate change should be a fundamental premise in national defence strategic planning, both domestically and abroad, taking into account short-, medium- and long-term scenarios. This planning must, in turn, correspond to the development of capabilities, namely within the framework of the Military Programming Law (LPM), the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), and the Defence Technological and Industrial Base (DTIB).

Other important strategic documents include: the proposal for the Major Options of the National Defence Strategic Concept submitted to the Portuguese Parliament; the Strategy for the Development of the Defence Technological and Industrial Base, which identifies the Environment and Energy sector as a priority sector in the development of capabilities; the Navy's Strategic Directive 2022; the Army's Environmental Directive 2023-2024; and the Air Force's Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality 2050.

Concerning infrastructure, the existing Military Infrastructure Law (LIM) stipulates that projects should incorporate, whenever feasible, projections for enhanced energy efficiency and a contribution to environmental sustainability. This aims to diminish the environmental footprint of the security and defence activities within the fixed component of the force system.

Regarding cooperation on environment, energy, and climate, Portugal's active participation in various collaborative platforms within the framework of the UN, EU, and NATO is worth noting. This involvement includes the participation in fora on Energy Sustainability and Circular Economy, as well as on EDA's Energy and Environment Capability Technology Area. As provided for in the various strategic guidelines for external defence policy, it has also been possible to incorporate these topics into the bilateral agendas of National Defence, as well as in dialogues with civil society, contributing to and sharing experiences and best practices.

In order to ensure a whole-of-government approach, consistency has been upheld with other national policies and documents, such as: the National Strategy for Green Public Procurement 2030, the National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity 2030, the Circular Economy Action Plan, on the environmental side; and with the Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality 2050, the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change 2020 (extended to 2025) and the National Energy and Climate Plan 2030, on the climate side. This has required effective coordination with the other entities responsible for National Defence and the Environment. In the energy sector, and for Public Administration, the Resource Efficiency Programme in Public Administration 2030 (ECO.AP 2030) has also been considered. Its goal is to promote decarbonisation and energy transition in activities carried out by the state, contributing to the national targets for 2030 for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy, water, and material consumption, as well as for incorporating renewables into the gross final energy consumption.



### 3. VISION

Given the surrounding national and international context, the National Defence Strategy for the Environment, Security, and Climate Change adopts the following vision: “A National Defence committed and prepared for the challenges of a sustainable future”.

Aware of its significant contribution to environmental protection, the National Defence sector will fulfil its mission to promote an environmentally sustainable society and continue to adapt its planning, capability development and activities to climate challenges.

To this end, the Strategy is based on four guiding principles that contribute to Portugal’s commitments, ensure operational effectiveness, and enhance the resilience of the Armed Forces:

- i. Sustainability and Carbon Neutrality - Incorporate environmental and energy sustainability into training activities, infrastructure, and equipment procurement processes, whilst striving to achieve carbon neutrality.
- ii. Safeguarding operational effectiveness - Ensure that new solutions for the enhancement and resilience of National Defence capabilities do not compromise their operational effectiveness.
- iii. Cooperation and Training - Actively promote cross-sector collaboration and knowledge sharing with other government sectors, agencies and services, industry, the National Scientific and Technological Systems (STCN) and national and international partners in the field of environment and defence. This is essential given the cross-border nature of environmental and climate issues.
- iv. Transversality - Ensure that environmental and climate considerations are mainstreamed into National Defence planning, capability development and procurement activities and processes.

### 4. AREAS, FIELDS OF ACTION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Strategy is divided into two main areas “Environment” and “Energy and Climate”, aiming to facilitate a concerted response to the phenomenon of climate change.

The “Environment” area will focus on maintaining and certifying the environmental management systems of military units and preventing air, soil, and water pollution, as well as upholding the commitment to preserving biodiversity and nature conservation. Investing in the circularity of Defence products and in safeguarding the environment by introducing environmental criteria in public procurement is also deemed crucial.

The “Energy and Climate” area will encompass energy transition, carbon management and resource efficiency, as well as the effects that climate change will have on capability development, strategic defence planning, military activities and operations.

In this context, three fields of action were designated for the “Environment” area, three for the “Energy and Climate” area, and one cross-cutting field dedicated to enhancing the qualification and awareness of Defence personnel in both areas. These fields of action form the basis for determining initiatives and projects to be carried out by the Armed Forces and other entities within National Defence, establishing connections with the DTIB, STCN, and engaging with other governmental and non-governmental entities. Each field comprises one or more strategic objectives (SOs), totalling eight SOs. As they complement each other, it is expected that some actions developed in different fields of action will occur simultaneously.



## 4.1 Environment

### Field of action 1 | Environmental Performance

The National Defence sector remains committed to continuously improving its environmental performance, ensuring the maintenance of existing environmental management systems, and promoting the implementation of new systems, including those certified based on the ISO 14001 standard and the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

Entities within the Ministry of National Defence should pay special attention to preventing soil, water, and air pollution, taking into account European and national guidelines for managing the waste they generate. Collaboration with other government entities and the STCN will be fostered to address new developments in environmental legislation.

This field of action leads to **SO 1 – Promoting the improvement of environmental performance.**

### Field of action 2 | Nature Conservation and Biodiversity

Given the extensive territorial presence of National Defence entities and the restricted access to them, providing protection against undesirable human intervention, such as hunting and habitat destruction, ideal conditions already exist for the preservation of protected species.

For this reason, collaboration with other government bodies and STCN entities will be promoted in order to strengthen nature conservation and biodiversity, enabling integrated and careful management.

The National Defence sector will also seek to implement measures to safeguard and develop the fauna and flora existing within its facilities, in particular the protection of habitats and the control of weed species.

This field of action leads to **SO 2 – Promoting nature conservation and biodiversity.**

### Field of action 3 | Circular Economy

The National Defence sector will adopt the principles of circular economy by extending the life cycle of products, conscious consumption, raising awareness for sustainable choices, and reducing waste, thus fostering the restoration and renewal of resources.

Also, the inclusion of environmental criteria in public procurement will be encouraged, aiming to contribute to an environmentally more sustainable, competitive, and resilient economy.

National Defence representatives will actively participate in fora and working groups dedicated to the topic, disseminating information and best practices, promoting and engaging in projects aimed at resource circularity and environmental protection.

This field of action leads to **SO 3 – Promoting the adoption of circular economy principles.**

## 4.2 Energy and Climate

### Field of action 4 | Energy Transition

A reliance on energy imports results in a decrease in strategic autonomy. Recognising that the use of renewable energies offers clear benefits in terms of autonomy, the implementation of projects that exploit these technologies will be increased in the National Defence sector.

The energy transition will ensure that the energy available is more environmentally sustainable, secure, and affordable. This transition primarily involves the gradual phasing out of fossil fuels and the progressive incorporation of technologies geared towards renewable energy sources.

In addition to enhancing photovoltaic and solar thermal production capacity, an assessment will be conducted on the potential of hydrogen and other renewable energy sources for application in military platforms, including infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, and weapon systems. The goal is to facilitate projects in the realm of transportation and the advancement of military capabilities.

The global availability of essential raw materials for renewable energy technologies, associated supply chains, and geopolitical constraints will be taken into consideration.

This field of action leads to **SO 4 – Supporting energy transition.**

## Field of action 5 | Resource Efficiency

As a follow-up to completed projects, water and energy efficiency measures will continue to be implemented on military platforms (infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, and weapons systems).

ECO.AP 2030 measures will continue to be implemented, and the ECO.AP Barometer tool will help improve knowledge and information on the use of energy, water, and consumables by National Defence entities.

The National Defence sector will also collaborate with EDA and other agencies and organisations in initiatives for collecting and analysing data, as well as monitoring greenhouse gas emissions.

New methodologies geared towards resource management will also be fostered, such as ISO 50001 – Energy Management Systems and ISO 46001 – Water Efficiency Management Systems.

This field of action leads to **SO 5 – Promoting the efficiency of military platforms.**

## Field of action 6 | Climate Change

The National Defence sector will further incorporate climate change considerations so that the projects included in the Military Programming Law address the needs of mitigation and adaptation.

In order to anticipate possible strategic and operational constraints, information will be developed on the effects of climate change on military activities and collaboration with industry and the STCN will be fostered to help develop new capabilities.

As a result, climate aspects, namely climate risk assessments, will be introduced into the planning and advice of operations, exercises, and training. This will be done in coordination with the Internal Security, Emergency and Civil Protection System (strategic planning of information systems), with EU and NATO systems, with meteorological services that use meteorological assessment tools, and with other public and private civil and military organisations.

This section of the field of action leads to **SO 6.1 – Integrating the effects of climate change into capability development and strategic planning.**

The use of fossil fuels not only contributes to greenhouse gas emissions but also raises logistical challenges for the Armed Forces, particularly in missions that require the deployment of personnel and resources over long distances and for long periods of time.

Actions will be taken to anticipate the impacts and manage the risks associated with the health of military personnel during exercises and operations in extreme environmental conditions.

It will be necessary to adapt existing resources and capabilities to ensure their efficiency in the face of new climatic conditions. Similarly, possible needs for additional capabilities will be taken into account in order to respond to requests for military support for civil emergencies in the context of natural disasters fuelled by climate change.

Technological innovations will be promoted, particularly solutions that rely on intelligent systems for managing, storing, and reusing energy and water in military environments (smart camps) and that promote improvements in the logistics chain (especially with regard to the supply of energy and water).

This section of the field of action leads to **SO 6.2 – Adapting the Armed Forces to the effects of climate change.**



### 4.3 Knowledge and Training

#### Field of action 7 | Knowledge and Training

The National Defence sector remains committed to continuing to train and qualify its human resources in the areas of environment, efficient resource management, energy, and climate change.

Special attention will be paid to the training of environmental advisers as well as the qualification of more experts on environmental and climate matters within Defence entities.

Sharing projects of interest and best practices will continue to be one of the tools used to raise awareness and showcase what has been developed for environmental sustainability.

Cooperation with other states and organisations will be strengthened in order to promote an environmental and climate policy and enhance specialised knowledge.

This field of action leads to **SO 7 – Training human resources in environmental and climate matters.**

Table 2 shows the areas, fields of action and strategic objectives that outline the National Defence Strategy for the Environment, Security and Climate Change.

**Table 2** – Areas, Fields of Action and Strategic Objectives

AREAS		FIELDS OF ACTION and STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	
Environment	Field of action 7   Knowledge and Training	<b>Field 1   Environmental performance</b>	SO1 – Promote the improvement of environmental performance
		<b>Field 2   Nature Conservation and Biodiversity</b>	SO2 – Promote nature conservation and biodiversity
		<b>Field 3   Circular Economy</b>	SO3 – Promote the adoption of circular economy principles
Energy and Climate	SO7 - Train human resources in environmental and climate matters	<b>Field 4   Energy Transition</b>	SO4 – Support the energy transition
		<b>Field 5   Resource Efficiency</b>	SO5 – Promote the efficiency of military platforms
		<b>Field 6   Climate Change</b>	SO6.1 – Integrating the effects of climate change into capability development and strategic planning SO6.2 – Adapting the Armed Forces to the effects of climate change



## 5. FINANCING

In addition to the dedicated budgets of the various National Defence entities, funding opportunities will be explored under the Recovery and Resilience Plan, the Environmental Fund, European Structural and Investment Funds encompassing Portugal 2030, and other EU programmes such as LIFE or Horizon Europe.

Regarding research and development of defence capabilities, the Ministry of National Defence will continue to promote participation in projects within the framework of PESCO that address the needs of the EU in this area, thus contributing to the strategic autonomy of the Union. It will also promote access to opportunities funded by the European Defence Fund (EDF), as an instrument for military and civilian entities dedicated to research, development, and innovation, as well as for companies in the technological and industrial sectors, including in the areas of energy and environment.

The NATO Innovation Fund (NIF), in which Portugal participates and which aims to promote investment in innovation and in new emerging and disruptive technologies, will be explored. This fund will be used to develop the Armed Forces in collaboration with the industry. The NIF will complement other existing NATO programmes, notably the Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA), which focuses on security and defence challenges identified by the Armed Forces, mainly in dual-use technologies with security and defence applications.

Regarding the development of national capabilities funded through the Military Programming Law, and military infrastructures included in the Military Infrastructure Law, these should, whenever possible, promote environmental sustainability, efficiency, and resilience in Defence, with climate change as a fundamental premise.

The Directorate-General for National Defence Resources (DGRDN) will continue to ensure the necessary budgetary framework for activities related to environment, energy, and climate within the scope of its responsibilities.

## 6. GOVERNANCE, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND REVISION

A successful implementation of this strategy requires a holistic approach within the Ministry of National Defence, strong cooperation among Defence entities, and robust interministerial and intersectoral cooperation. To this end, the implementation of the Strategy will be led by DGRDN, with the support of the entities that make up the Coordinating Structure for Environmental Affairs (ECAA). The General Staff of the Armed Forces will play a prominent role in implementing the operational component of the Strategy.

The implementation of the Strategy will be carried out through its corresponding Action Plan, involving the Armed Forces and other National Defence entities that are part of ECAA. The Action Plan will outline measures, indicators, and targets, and will be drawn up within 90 days of the approval of this Strategy.

ECAA will be responsible for monitoring the progress and any constraints associated with the implementation of the Strategy and its corresponding Action Plan. A National Defence Report on Environment, Security and Climate Change will be drawn up annually, without prejudice to supplementary or interim information whenever necessary.

The Ministry of National Defence will communicate the progress of implementing this Strategy both domestically, sharing updates with the Portuguese Parliament and other government sectors, and internationally, keeping partners and allies in the UN, EU, NATO, and various bilateral and multilateral fora informed. This will involve active participation in working groups such as the Climate and Defence Network and other multilateral structures with similar aims.

The timeframe for implementation of this strategy extends until 2030, while not precluding any necessary revisions due to changes in the surrounding context.



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