

# Lifetime extension of NPP and the Espoo Convention: a perspective

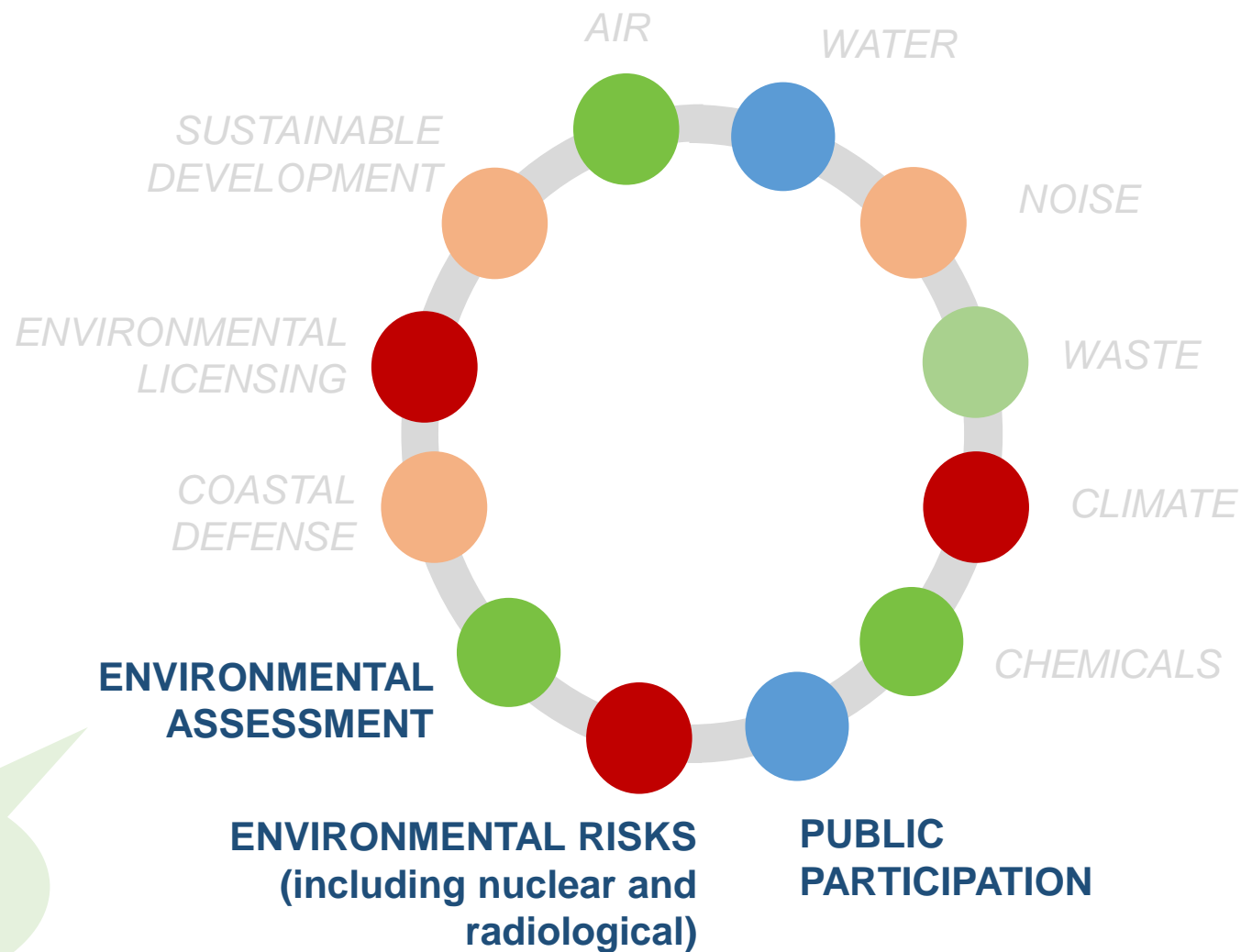
*João Oliveira Martins, Luís Portugal, Sara Sacadura Cabral*

Workshop on the application of the Espoo Convention to the Lifetime Extension of Nuclear Power Plants  
Geneva, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018

# Portuguese Environment Agency

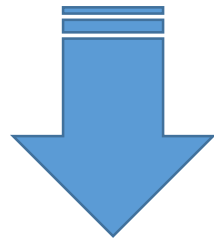


**NATIONAL EIA  
AND SEA  
AUTHORITY**



# Portuguese experience

- Not a nuclear country but a potential affected Party
- Neighbouring country with nuclear energy option
- Participation on transboundary consultation procedures nuclear related



Source: <https://www.csn.es>

**Relevance of considering for assessment purposes information on environmental radiological impacts both under normal conditions and in case of accident**

**A different approach will underestimate the potential for significant transboundary impacts**

# Safety Assessment and EIA



- **Licensing procedures for nuclear installations are mainly focused on nuclear safety issues and with no interlinkage with other assessment procedures such as EIA and public participation (different approach from other licensing procedures)**
- **New EIA Directive underlines the need for considering relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments under other instruments namely SEVESO Directive and Nuclear Safety Directive (under EURATOM Treaty)**
  - Portuguese experience has led to an integrated assessment under EIA and SEVESO directives for siting alternatives
- **Need to deal with public perception**



# Likelihood of LTE to cause significant adverse transboundary impact

- Assumption should not be made that it implies only the maintenance of a pre-existing activity and, therefore, without impacts different from those that already exist
- Need to compare a scenario in which the NPP will be decommissioned and dismantled (non-existent in the future) with a scenario in which the same NPP continues to operate
- Impacts should be assessed considering the same timeframe (the length of time that license is being extended) and the possible evolution of the environment within such timeframe



Extending the lifetime of a NPP implies a change in what was “agreed” with the society (public expectations)

This reinforces the need for a mechanism that ensures transparency and public participation

# Likelihood of LTE to cause significant adverse transboundary impact

- Nuclear safety assessments (such as periodic safety reviews) and measures to improve nuclear safety do not replace the need for an assessment under the EIA framework
- Nuclear safety and environmental impact assessment are distinct issues
- Not mutually exclusive nor does one fulfil the role of the other

**However, different situations may reflect differently on the potential for significant transboundary impacts, e.g.**

- If it implies changes or not in the installations and whether these are minor changes or not
- Extension of lifetime (short vs long)
- Changes in the surrounding environment
- If the plant itself has already been subject to an EIA previously or not

# Challenges ahead...

- Need to address LTE of NPP under an EIA framework
- Espoo Convention only foresees notification when a transboundary EIA is required
- However, as many different situations may occur, a screening exercise could be an approach to decide on the need for a full EIA

**Screening must be developed in close cooperation with the potentially Affected Parties and include consultation to the public concerned**

**Implementation issues...**

How to address screening under Espoo Convention?



What kind of assessment ?

# Challenges ahead...

*Despite all the difficulties and challenges, one thing is sure...*



*...all the discussion and debate that has been raised around this issue show us that the decision making process of a lifetime extension of a NPP can not be properly developed without engaging in a process of consultation and participation ensuring transparency and equal treatment of all the potentially affected public*





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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

joao.martins@apambiente.pt  
luis.portugal@apambiente.pt  
sara.cabral@apambiente.pt



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apambiente.pt