



## **Alternatives: The backbone of EIA**

Good practice on alternatives: the Portuguese case

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# EIA in Portugal: History

1981-1990

Absence of  
legislation

Initiative of  
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Influence of  
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Lack of public  
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DL 186/90  
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copy of the 85  
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Assessment  
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Strong public  
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2014-...

DL 151-B/2013  
Detailed

Detailing of the  
procedures

**Reinforcement  
of the phasing  
approach**

Weakening of  
public  
participation

# Why alternatives were considered important?

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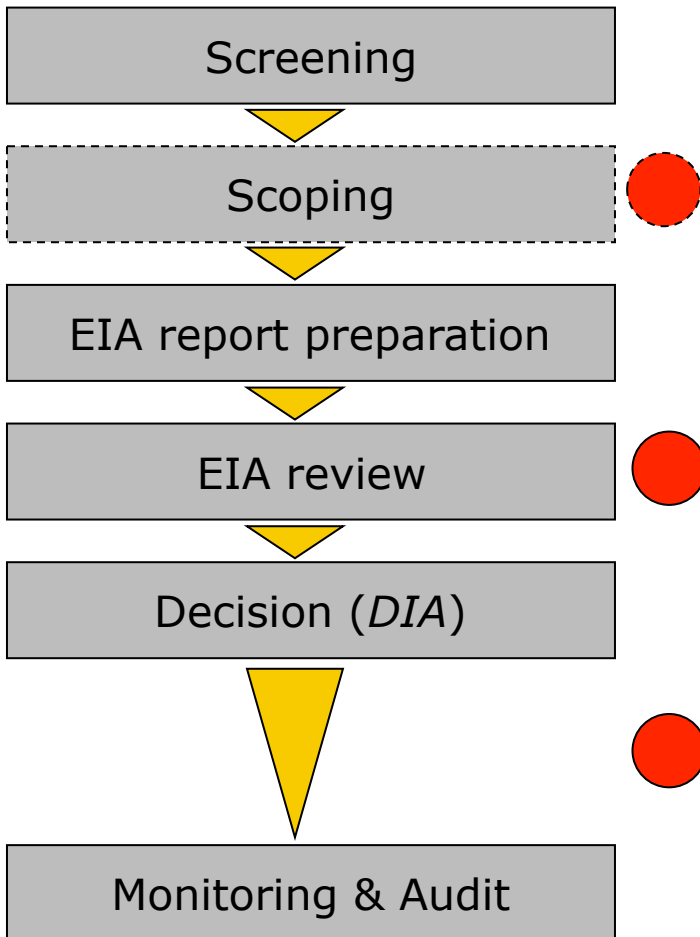
**1990-2000: Alignment of the main stakeholders (developers, consultants, authorities) with international benchmarks**

**1990-2000: European funding for infrastructure projects, namely linear projects**



# Portugal: The phased approach

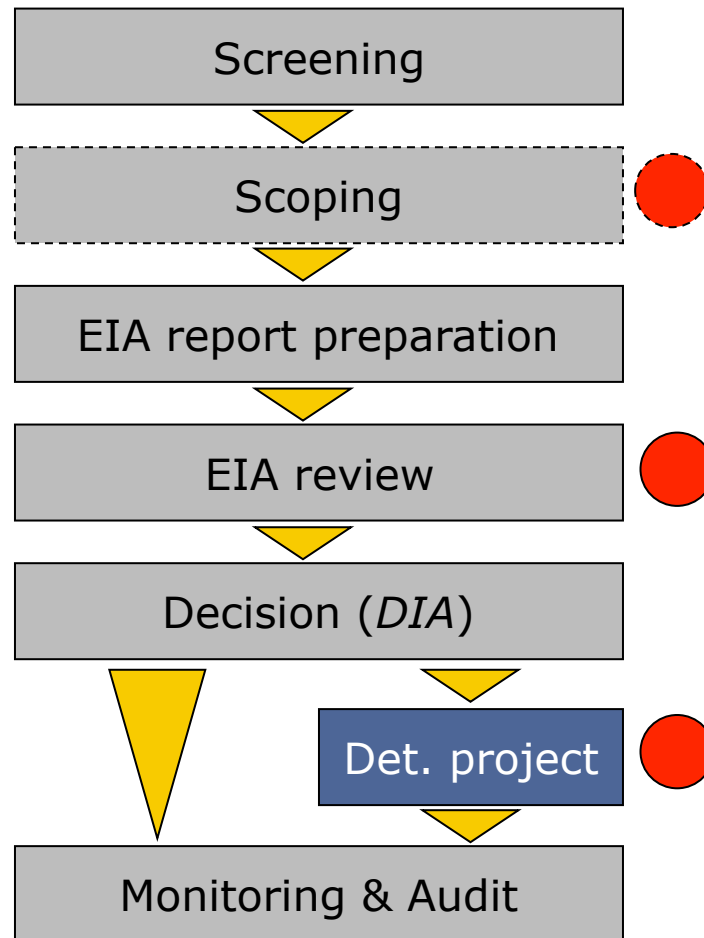
EIA  
in Portugal




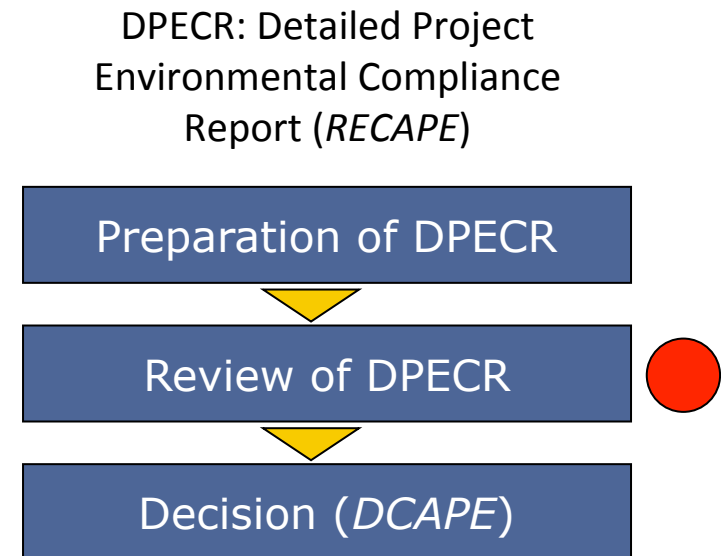
Public & institutional  
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# Portugal: The phased approach

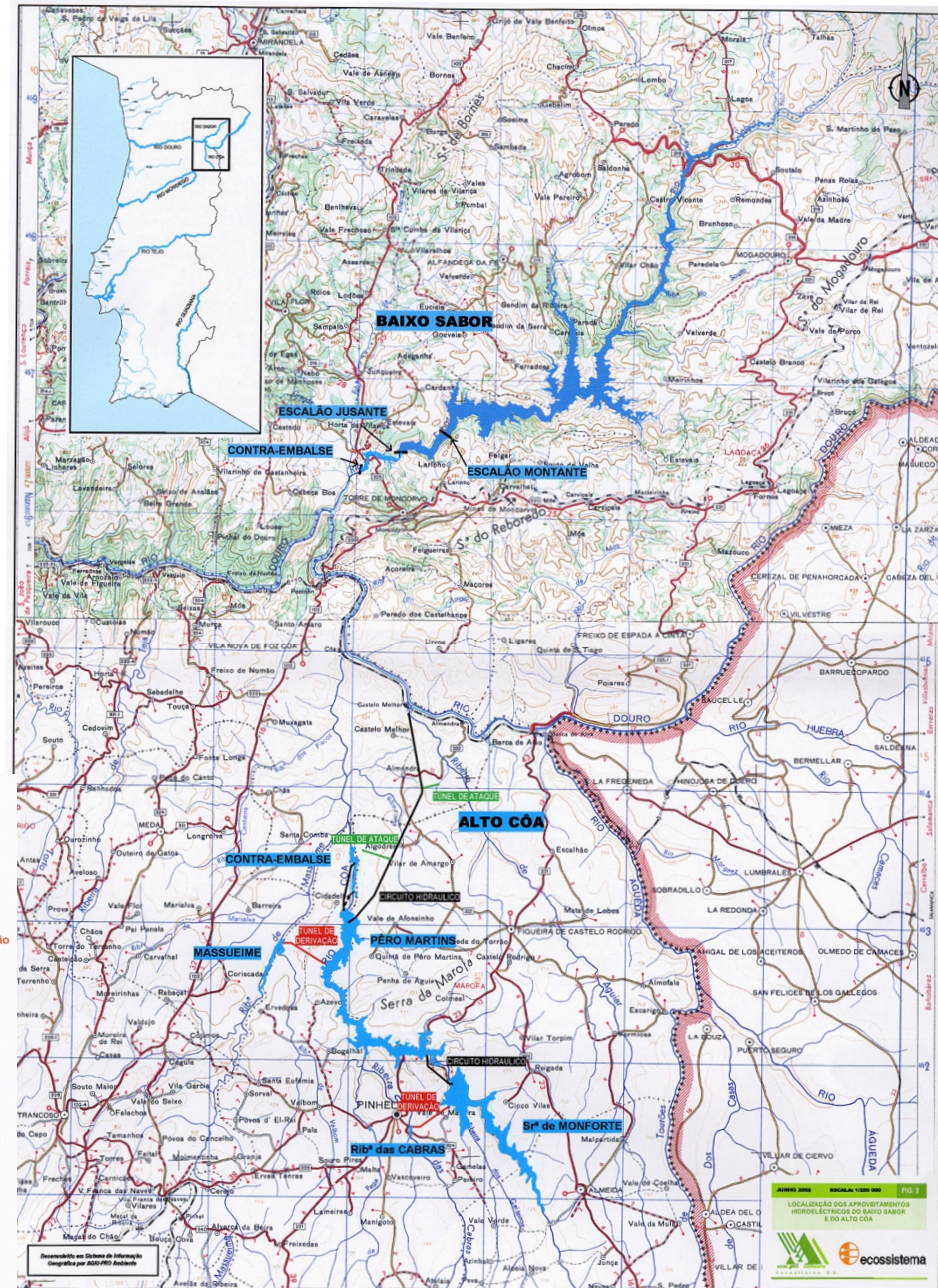
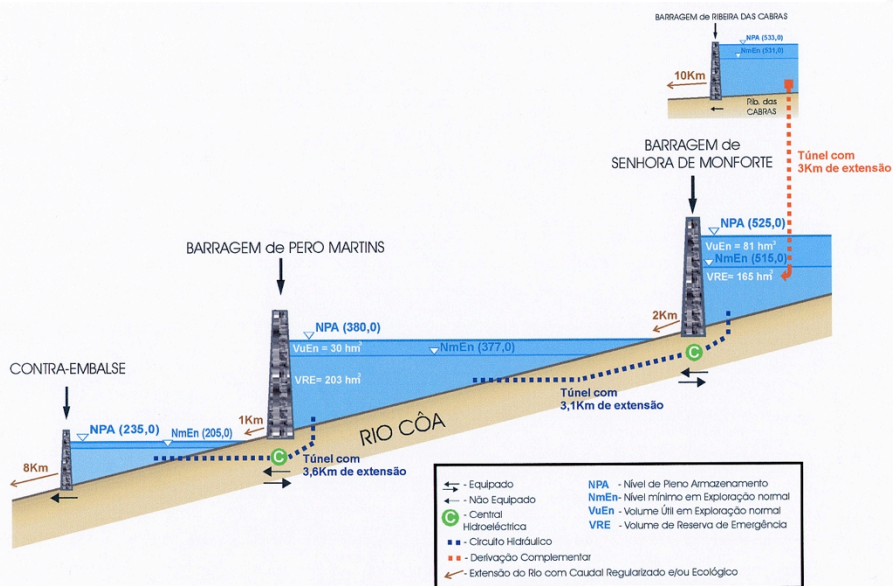
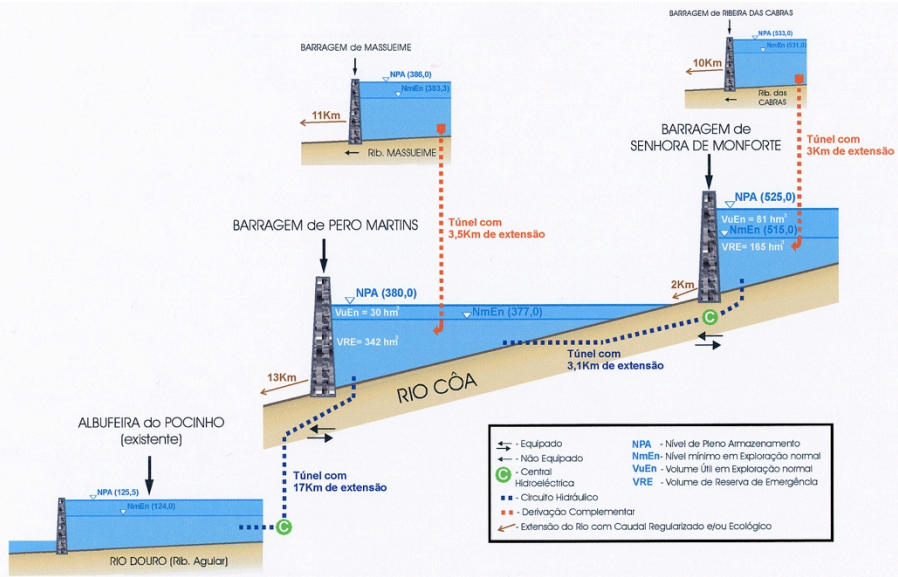
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in Portugal



 Public & institutional consultation



# Alto Coa / Baixo Sabor dams



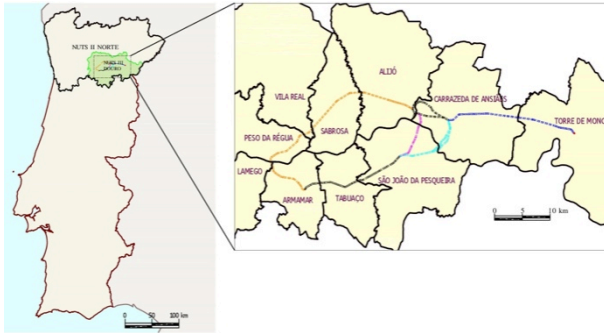
## Vilamoura Lakes (inner marina)

Origin of the water for the lakes:

- Freshwater (runoff + groundwater)
- Salted water (from the sea)



# Power line crossing Alto Douro Wine Region (UNESCO World Heritage)

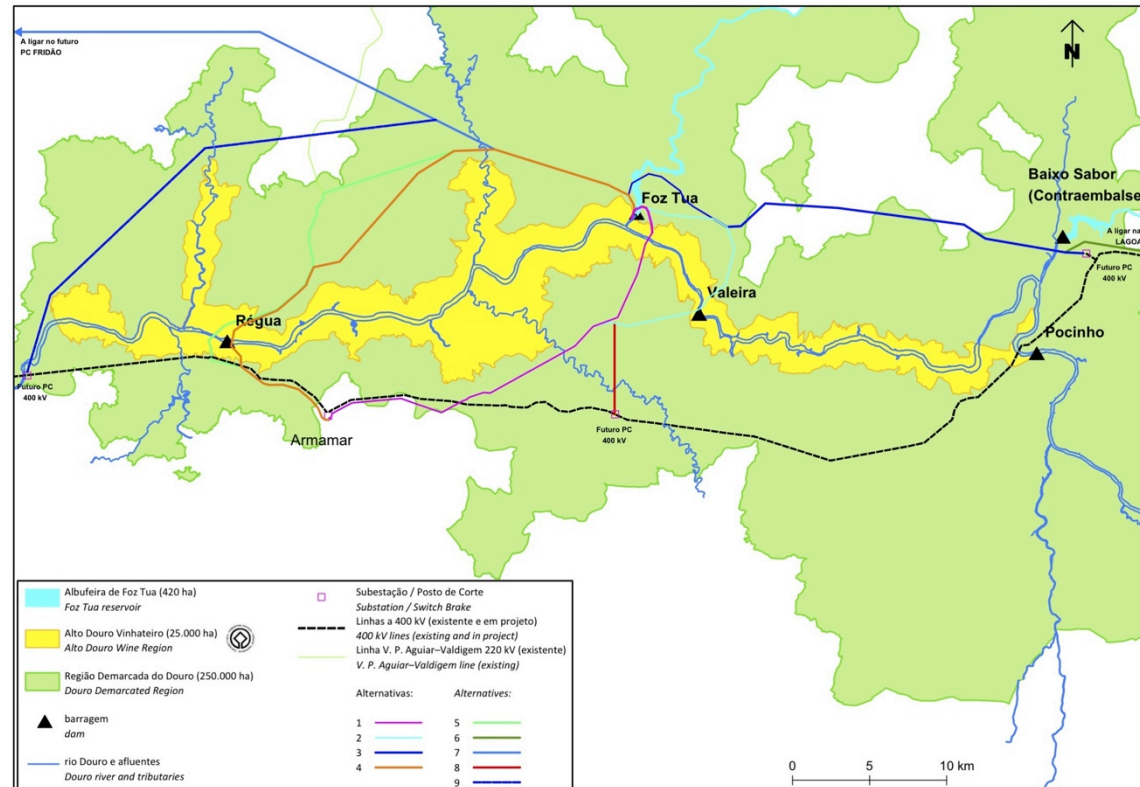


Alternatives in the scoping phase:

- Aerial vs. underground
- 400 kV vs. 220 kV
- 6 points of connection to the national grid, with 9 routes

Alternatives evaluated in the EIA:

- Aerial
- Partially mixed (400 kV sharing poles with existing 220 kV)
- 2 connection points, with 4 routes



## Lessons learned

**Alternatives are important for public participation and for decision-making**

**Initially preferred alternatives are often replaced by other reasonable alternatives**

**EIA consultants, authorities and the public are important drivers in the generation of alternatives**



Comments and questions?