

NATIONAL REPORT OF PORTUGAL

Prepared for the IDNDR mid-term Review and the 1994 World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction

I. OVERVIEW AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Portuguese Government decision upon National Committee for IDNDR nomination remains to be taken. The Serviço Nacional de Protecção Civil (SNPC) - National Service for Civil Protection - has been the Focal Point for activities related to the International Decade's objectives.

2. Despite its own limitations the SNPC has been programming and developing some actions towards the fulfillment of the three main IDNDR's objectives.

II. RISK ASSESSMENT

3. Earthquakes, Tsunamis and Volcanic Eruption. PORTUGAL is located in a world area of medium seismic activity. The maximum seismic intensity has been recorded in AÇORES Islands, western continental coast down to south of LISBOA, TEJO river valley, and ALGARVE (IX and X degrees in the modified Mercalli scale).

The most vulnerable area in the continental part of PORTUGAL is the TEJO river valley, because of the high demographic density, the big deal of infrastructures and buildings, and the high concentration of economic activities located on the river banks.

It is estimated a 200 years' period of recurrence for the continent, and around 20 years for AÇORES.

When the earthquake's epicenter comes about Gorringe Fault (Atlantic Ocean), the coastal areas of LISBOA down to south, and ALGARVE, are mostly affected by tsunamis.

There are several historical records of such disasters, namely associated to the 1775 Nov. 1 earthquake.

At present, the only region with volcanic activity is AÇORES. The last eruption took place in 1957.

Annex A - Seismic Activity Map

4. Floods and Storms. The type of floods is linked to the prevailing weather and geomorphologic features of water basins.