

Introduction

A Spanish stakeholder panel was organized taking advantage of the WP4 framework in the CONFIDENCE project with the aim of exchanging views, experiences and opinions related to the decision-making process during the transition phase. It was a step further to other previous participatory exercises with stakeholders, accomplished in Spain under the umbrella of previous European projects, as EURANOS, NERIS-TP or PREPARE, as part of the national preparedness for post-accident management process and response (EP&R).

Objectives

Main Goal

To facilitate the engagement of relevant stakeholders in the national post-accident preparedness process, and to assess their understanding of the critical aspects and uncertainties that arise during the transition phase (to manage the consequences of the accident and plan the recovery).

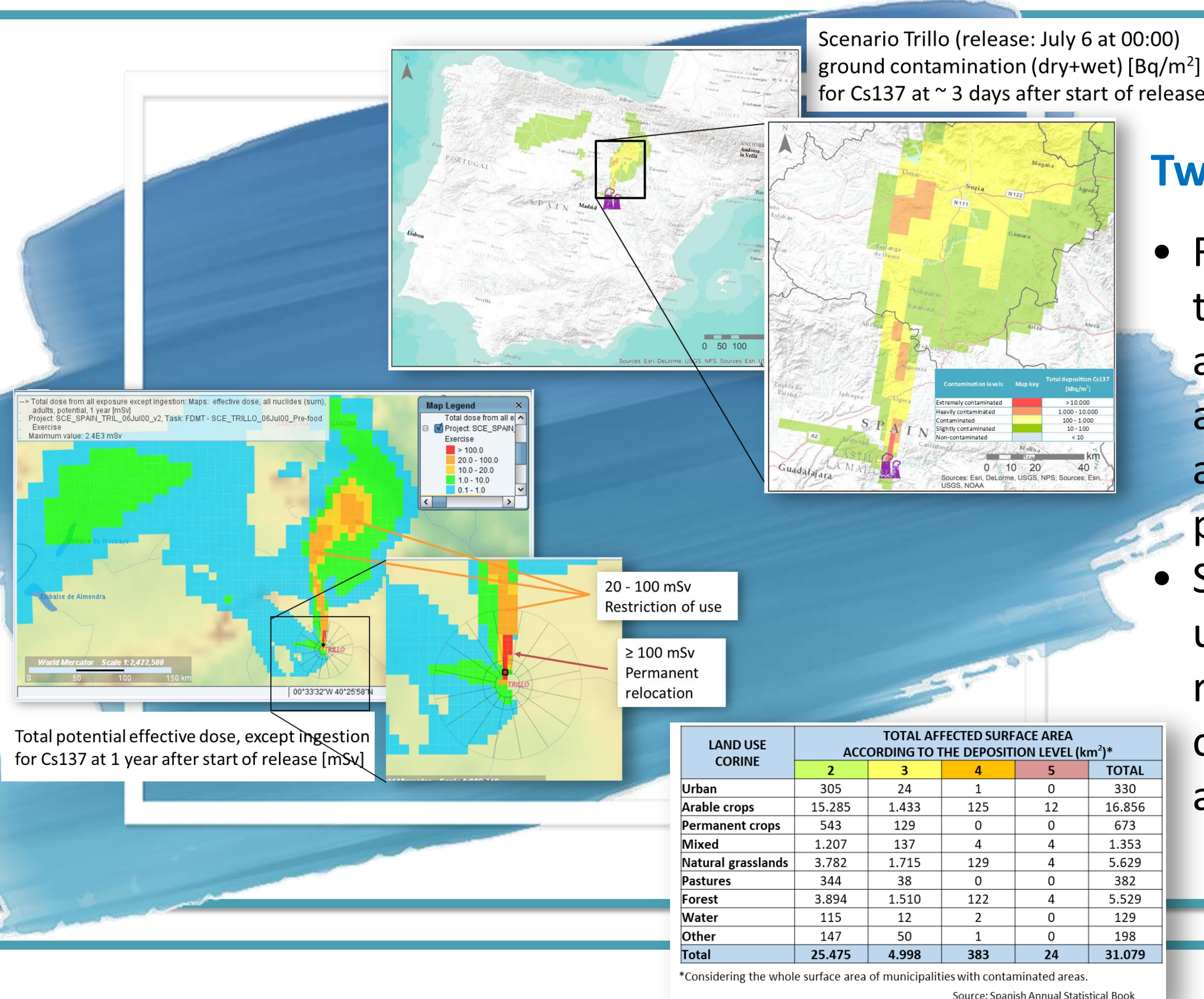
Specific objectives

- To understand the transition phase and challenges in the decision-making process
- To identify the critical aspects in the EP&R during the transition phase.
- To focus on how to deal with the uncertainties arisen in the transition phase.
- To obtain and prioritise the preferences of the stakeholders that could be incorporated in a multi-criteria decision-making analysis (MCDA) by WP6.

Materials and methods

Approach

- A “question-driven” table top exercise, facilitated by CIEMAT
- Simulating an intervention scenario from an accidental release in a Nuclear Power Plant (NPP), based in the contamination pattern monitored after the source term has been controlled and all the contamination has been deposited.
- Focussed in the management of the consequences and the post-emergency preparedness for the long term recovery.



Two sessions

- First session, with open discussions, to understand the meaning and scope of the transition phase, and to identify the critical aspects to be taken into account, as well as the most important objectives and criteria to guide recovery planning during this phase.
- Second session, more structured, to assess the uncertainties and dilemmas that play a central role in the dynamics of the decision and the criteria that would be used to evaluate the application and success of recovery strategies.

Results

Environmental uncertainties

- How to identify and zoning the affected areas?
- How does the contamination evolve over time and what factors could be involved ?
- How it could affect the contamination of aquifers, groundwater?

Social uncertainties

- Will people understand measures?
- How to ensure the follow-up of measures?
- Are they going to be accepted?
- Will the public trust?
- Where and how is the population going to be relocated?
- How would they be integrated in their new residence locations?

Economic uncertainties

- Will there be enough resources - material or technology, people and funding - to face the recovery actions, the collection and analysis of environmental samples and the monitoring of the affected people?
- Is there capacity to decontaminate the affected area? And to manage the waste generated?

Uncertainties related to human health and safety

- How could a successful health surveillance plan be designed and implemented, in order to avoid negative reactions among the population?
- What are the psychological effects suffered by the population affected by the emergency?

Uncertainties related to governance

- Who, how, when to involve stakeholders?
- How do address the preparedness of the actions during the transition phase?
- How to coordinate it? Who is responsible for? (roles and responsibilities)
- How to report information to international organizations?

Other types of uncertainties

- What (messages), Whom, How (mass media, social networks) and When to communicate?
- What is the transition phase? Definition, timing, and coherence among international organism regarding the transition phase.

Discussion

Discussions have been directed to find what the Spanish panel considers of priority. The main discussion topics have been: Understanding the transition phase, their main concerns, training and education; critical aspects around the preparedness and response during the transition phase; scenario-based stakeholder engagement in the decision-making process; selection of protective actions in urban and agricultural areas; radiological, social and economic aspects related to the strategies of recovery; and engagement of stakeholders. The radiological criteria, the effects on the local population and the economic stability were the main criteria to take into account to evaluate the success of the recovery strategies. Also, it was highlighted that it is important to look for the optimisation of the action strategies in the affected areas. Finally, they advocate for an effective engagement and involvement of stakeholders in the decision-making as the best manner to obtain political and public acceptance.

Conclusion

The stakeholders involvement has brought several challenges. One of them, to face their difficulties on focusing the debate around the preparedness of the post-accidental recovery and how to approach the planning of the rehabilitation to normal living conditions. So far, their focus has been the urgent emergency phase. Their interaction and engagement has been an enriching task as well as a good introduction to the Transition Phase and the challenges of its implementation. The panelists gave a great importance for the need to be prepared in advance, that is, having predictive and monitoring tools adapted, tried and tested for the national reality, communication plans in advanced at different levels, considering the development of consensual policies, identifying the roles of the different public authorities and other bodies and their coordination, the provision of adequate resources and infrastructures for the personal surveillance and environmental monitoring, reinforcing operational roles of the acting people and promoting social leadership to facilitate the implementing of the actions and to build trust among the population.