



of inhabitants 68.1 million

Surface area 633 886 km²

GDP per capita 101 pps [1]

Significant bodies of water (RBDs) Garonne; Loire; Rhône; Seine

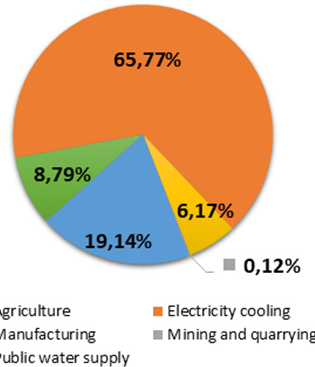
Polity unitary state organised on a decentralised basis under the 1958 Constitution

Layers of government 18 regions (13 metropolitan and 5 overseas regions); 101 departments; 35 358 municipalities

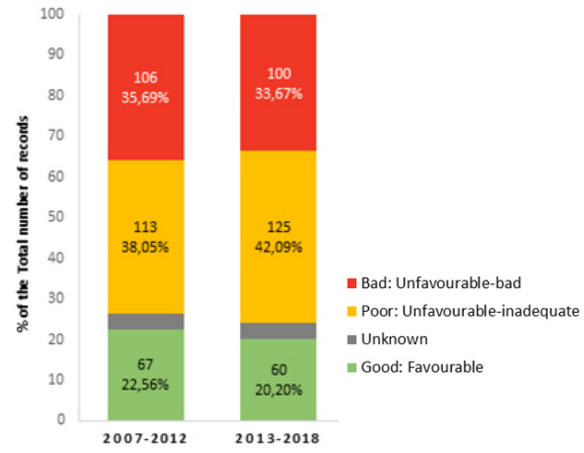
Legislative powers at the sub-national level No

Decentralisation index 1.7 (12 out of 27) [2]

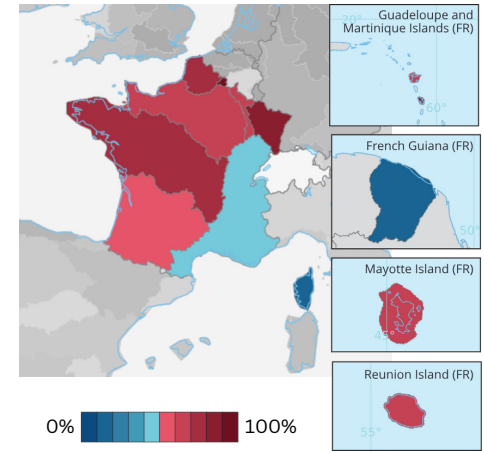
Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+) 6.14% (2017) [3]



Water abstraction per sector in France - Source: EEA (2022)



Conservation status for habitats in 2007-2012 and 2013-2018 in France - Source: EEA (2021)



Water bodies with less than good ecological status in France - Source: EEA (2021)

Main actors responsible for WEFE nexus relevant governance

NEXUS PILLARS	POLICY MAKING	POLICY EXECUTION
Water	Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition	Comité National de l'Eau; Water Agencies; local water commissions
Energy	Ministry for the Energy Transition	departments; municipalities
Food	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	regional directorates; departments; municipalities
Ecosystems	Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition	regional directorates (DREALs); departments; municipalities

WEFE NEXUS PERSPECTIVE

CHALLENGES

- Create more ecological connection zones between protected Natura 2000 sites , more diversified funding sources and visibility of Natura 2000 sites
- Support assessment of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting
- Improve wastewater management infrastructure
- Assess the why and how of new modifications to water bodies
- Prevent damage caused from agricultural, forestry and fishing practices

OPPORTUNITIES

- France adopted a national strategy for protected areas, which aims to protect 30% of the national territory from 2022, with a third under strong protection
- The Chambers of Agriculture provide tools and technical resources to help farmers complying with the nitrates legislation[4] and also assists with biodiversity matters (diagnostics, training, etc.)[5]
- The Agricultural Biodiversity Observatory (Observatoire Agricole de la Biodiversité or OAB) provides farmers with biodiversity observation protocols to help them gain a better understanding of biodiversity in agriculture

More information on WEFE nexus governance in the EU

[1] EU purchasing power standard
 [2] <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Decentralization-Index.aspx>
 [3] The threshold for water scarcity is set at > 20%
 [4] <https://chambres-agriculture.fr/agriculteur-et-politiques/politiques-environnementales/directive-nitrates/>
 [5] <https://chambres-agriculture.fr/agriculteur-et-politiques/politiques-environnementales/biodiversite/>, <https://chambres-agriculture.fr/exploitation-agricole/gerer-son-entreprise-agricole/favoriser-la-biodiversite/>

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