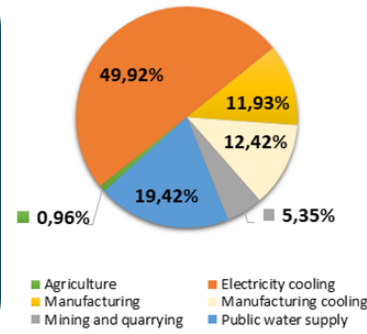
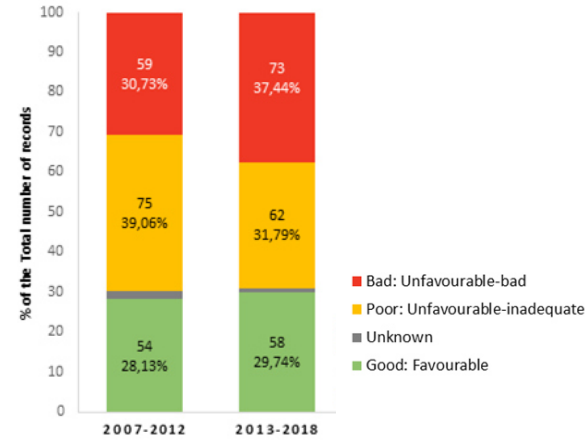




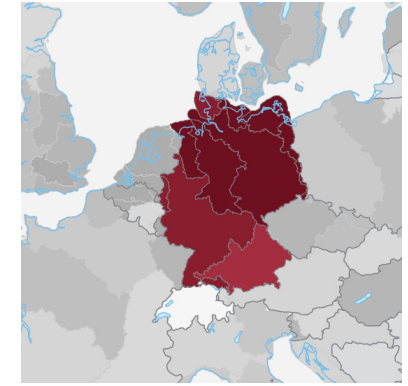
# of inhabitants **83.2 million**  
 Surface area **353 296 km<sup>2</sup>**  
 GDP per capita **117 pps [1]**  
 Significant bodies of water (RBDs) **Elbe; Rhine; Weser; et al**  
 Polity **federal state**  
 Layers of government **central government; 16 federal states (Länder); 401 counties (294 Landkreise, 107 kreisfreie Städte); 11,054 municipalities**  
 Legislative powers at the sub-national level **Yes**  
 Decentralisation index **2.5 (1 out of 27) [2]**  
 Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+) **5.46 % (2017) [3]**



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



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



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

**Main actors responsible for WEFE nexus relevant governance**

NEXUS PILLARS	POLICY MAKING	POLICY EXECUTION
<b>Water</b>	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)	federal states; municipalities
<b>Energy</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi)	federal states; municipalities
<b>Food</b>	Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL)	federal states; municipalities
<b>Ecosystems</b>	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)	federal states; municipalities

**WEFE NEXUS PERSPECTIVE**

**CHALLENGES**

- Establish conservation objectives and measures for all nature protection sites
- Develop a reporting system to inform policy makers on the ecological and economic effects of policy decisions
- Ensure compliance with the Nitrates Directive, especially in intensive farming areas
- Inform stakeholders about the advantages of natural capital accounting

**OPPORTUNITIES**

- A National Water Strategy[4] was launched by the Federal Ministry of Environment in 2023, aiming to modernize water infrastructure
- A Federal Action Plan on Nature Based Solutions for Climate and Biodiversity[5] was published in 2022, to create synergies between nature and climate protection
- Investment priorities in Germany have shifted towards greater support to policies aimed at stimulating sustainability transitions in a wide set of economic sectors.
- In the 2014-2020 period, Germany received EU support for 37 LIFE projects (for nature and environment)



[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://www.bmu.de/en/download/national-water-strategy-2023>  
 [5] <https://www.bmu.de/en/download/federal-action-plan-on-nature-based-solutions-for-climate-and-biodiversity>

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