



**# of inhabitants** 10.4 million

**Surface area** 90 996 km<sup>2</sup>

**GDP per capita** 77 pps [1]

**Significant bodies of water (RBDs)** Douro; Tagus and West Rivers; Vouga, Mondego and Lis; et al

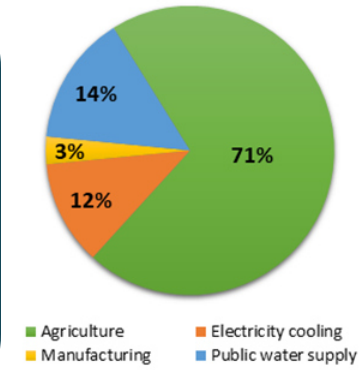
**Polity** republican state and parliamentary democracy

**Layers of government** central government; 2 autonomous regions (The Azores and Madeira); 308 municipalities; 3091 civil parishes (Freguesias)

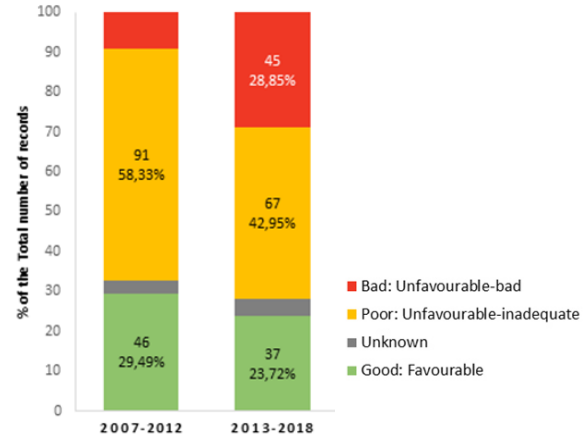
**Legislative powers at the sub-national level** Yes

**Decentralisation index** 1.6 (15 out of 27) [2]

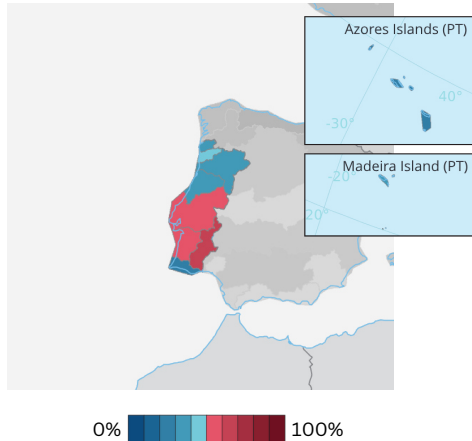
**Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+)** 12.67% [3]



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



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



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

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

NEXUS PILLARS	POLICY MAKING	POLICY EXECUTION
<b>Water</b>	Ministry of Environment and Energy Transition	Portuguese Environment Agency; River Basin District Administrations (multi-stakeholder forums); Aguas de Portugal; ERSAR the water and waste regulation authority
<b>Energy</b>	Ministry of Environment and Energy Transition	Portuguese Environment Agency
<b>Food</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development	--
<b>Ecosystems</b>	Ministry of Environment and Energy Transition	Portuguese Environment Agency

**WEFE NEXUS PERSPECTIVE**

**CHALLENGES**

- Invest in water supply infrastructure and reduce water leakages
- Improve wastewater treatment infrastructure and develop the potential of water reuse
- Improve the coordinated implementation between water, marine and nature policies
- Reduce nitrates pollution from agriculture in groundwater and address eutrophication of surface waters
- Implement nature-based solutions and river restoration

**OPPORTUNITIES**

- Portugal is currently preparing the PENSARP 2030, a new national strategic plan for the management of water supply, wastewater and pluvial waters
- The “We are ON the network (Natura 2000)” communication campaign demonstrated through its tailor-made educational activities how to achieve major and long-lasting impacts
- The Portuguese Initiative on Business and Biodiversity promotes the introduction of biodiversity strategies within businesses through voluntary arrangements
- Local governments are actively creating LEADER groups consisting of public and private stakeholders implementing community-led local development plans

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%

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