



of inhabitants 10.5 million

Surface area 407 300km²

GDP per capita 119 pps [1]

Significant bodies of water (RBDs) Bothnian Sea

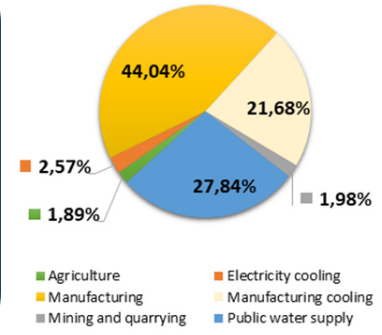
Polity unitary and decentralised state

Layers of government central government; 21 regions; 290 municipalities

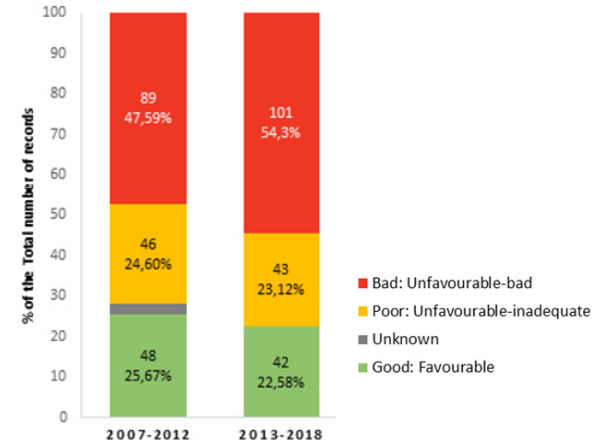
Legislative powers at the sub-national level No

Decentralisation index 2.4 (4 out of 27) [2]

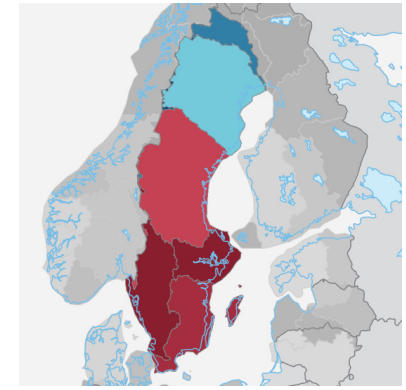
Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+) 0.69% (2017) [3]



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



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



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

Main actors responsible for WEFE nexus relevant governance

NEXUS PILLARS	POLICY MAKING	POLICY EXECUTION
Water	Ministry of Climate and Enterprise	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management; Swedish Environmental Protection Agency; 5 water districts; stakeholder water councils
Energy	Ministry of Climate and Enterprise	Swedish Energy Agency
Food	Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure	Swedish Board of Agriculture
Ecosystems	Ministry of Climate and Enterprise	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

WEFE NEXUS PERSPECTIVE

CHALLENGES

- Support assessment of ecosystem services and ecosystem accounting
- Assess the why and how of new modifications to water bodies
- Reinforce the nitrates action programme to better address eutrophication of waters
- Improve the wastewater management infrastructure
- Provide practical advice to farmers and land managers to improve management of Natura 2000 sites

OPPORTUNITIES

- Sweden's generational goal and its 16 associated environmental quality objectives to ensure for future generations: clean air, healthy living environment, and rich opportunities to enjoy nature [4]
- Ample use of the LIFE programme for nature purposes (e.g. Ecostreams for LIFE[5], LIFE RestoRED[6] and GRIP on LIFE[7])
- The Coalition Clean Baltic Experts (Germany, Poland, Sweden, Estonia and Latvia) to exchange experiences on river restoration
- Tool developed by the Swedish water authorities to support municipal decision-makers on water measures and their benefits
- The Swedish Board of Agriculture promotes the implementation of the Nitrates Directive by providing to farmers advice on manure, fertilizer use, and farm management practices

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://naturvardsverket.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1477059/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
 [5] <https://www.ecostreamsforlife.com/>

[6] <https://www.liferestored.se/>
 [7] <https://www.skogsstyrelsen.se/en/about-us/our-task/project/grip-on-life/>