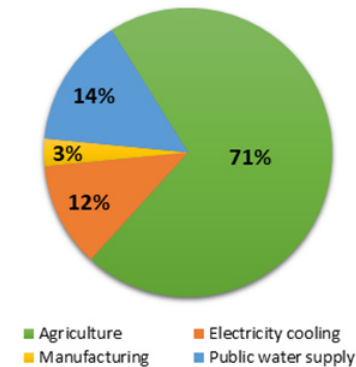
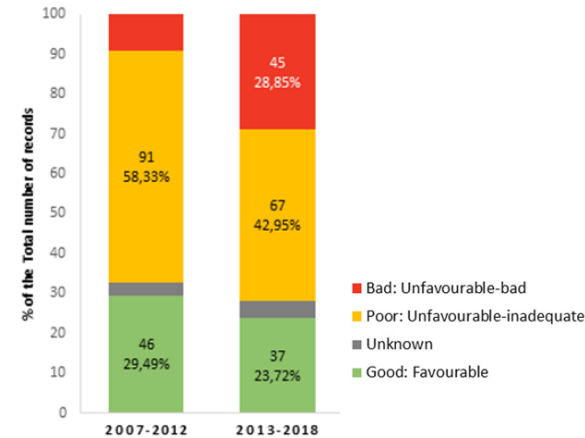


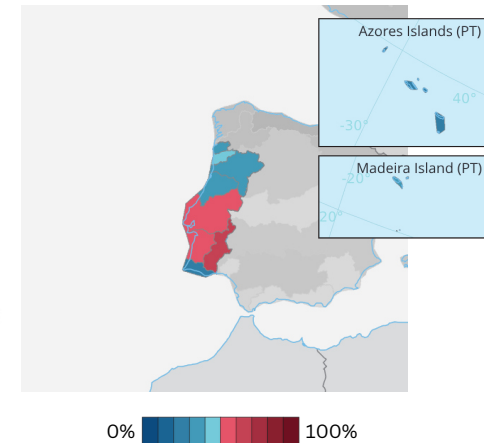
# of inhabitants	10.4 million
Surface area	90 996 km ²
GDP per capita	77 pps [1]
Significant bodies of water (RBDs)	Douro; Tagus and West Rivers; Vouga, Mondego and Lis; et al
Polity	republican state and parliamentary democracy
Layers of government	central government; 2 autonomous regions (The Azores 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

Water

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

Energy

Ministry of Environment and Energy Transition

Portuguese Environment Agency

Food

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development

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Ecosystems

Ministry of Environment and Energy Transition

Portuguese Environment Agency



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%

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

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