

of inhabitants 47.4 million

Surface area 502 654 km²

GDP per capita 85 pps [1]

Significant bodies of water (RBDs) Cantábrico; Duero; Ebro; Guadalquivir; Guadiana; Júcar; Miño-Sil; Seguí; Tajo; et al

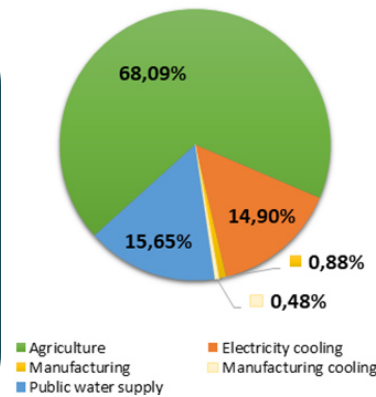
Polity decentralised unitary state with a parliamentary monarchy under the 1978 Constitution; federal or quasi-federal state

Layers of government central government; 17 self-governing regions; 50 provinces; 2 autonomous cities (Ceuta and Melilla); 8 131 municipalities

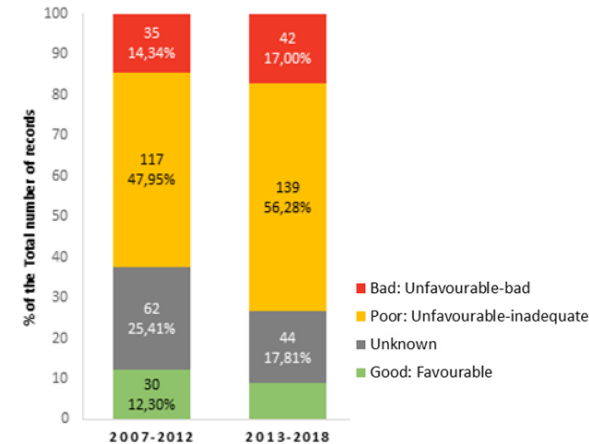
Legislative powers at the sub-national level Yes

Decentralisation index 2.2 (6 out of 27) [2]

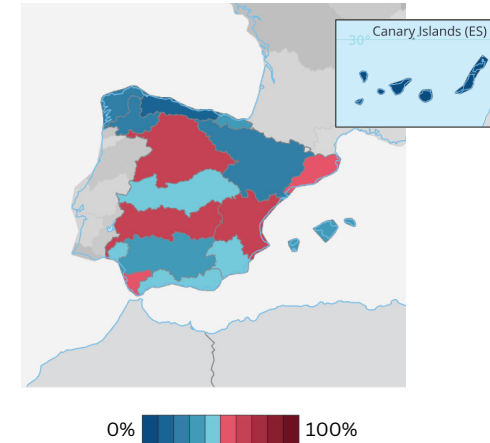
Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+) 23.71% (2017) [3]



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



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



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

Main actors responsible for WEFE nexus relevant governance

NEXUS PILLARS

POLICY MAKING

POLICY EXECUTION

Water

Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO); National Council on Water (Consejo Nacional del Agua); autonomous communities (regional government)

River Basin Authorities (Confederaciones Hidrográficas); irrigation communities; municipalities

Energy

MITECO; State Secretariat for Energy; Directorate General for Energy Policy and Mines

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Food

Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Food; autonomous communities (regional government)

autonomous communities; municipalities

Ecosystems

MITECO; autonomous communities (regional government)

Spanish Environmental Agency (EPA); National Parks Agency (OAPN); municipalities



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://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/details/5645>
[5] <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/details/5726>
[6] <https://www.es-partnership.org/>

WEFE NEXUS PERSPECTIVE

CHALLENGES

- Improve coordination and cooperation among authorities
- Improve water distribution and wastewater management infrastructure
- Establish conservation objectives and measures for all Natura 2000 sites
- Integrate Natura 2000 conservation objectives in River Basin Management Plans
- Reduce nitrates pollution from agriculture and clean up nitrates hotspots

OPPORTUNITIES

- The LIFE ALNUS TAEJO project[4], together with Portugal, aims to protect and restore rivers and riverbanks
- -The LIFE REMAR project[5] aims to demonstrate the viability of using managed aquifer recharge (MAR) technology at WWTP's
- The Spanish government approved the National Plan for Wastewater Treatment, Sanitation, Efficiency, Savings and Reuse (DSEAR Plan) in July 2021[7]
- Spain adopted a national Strategy for Green Infrastructure, Connectivity and Ecological Restoration in July 2021[8]
- Spain participates in the Ecosystem Service Partnership (ESP)[6], connecting over 3 000 ecosystem services scientists, policy makers and practitioners

- [7] https://www.miteco.gob.es/content/dam/miteco/es/agua/temas/planificacion-hidrologica/dsear_plan_book_english_tcm30-538717.pdf
[8] https://www.miteco.gob.es/en/biodiversidad/temas/ecosistemas-y-conectividad/infraestructura-verde/infr_verde.html

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