

This country profile was compiled by the OECD Secretariat and reflects information available as of June 2013. Further information and analysis can be found in the publication: OECD (2013) *Water and Climate Change Adaptation: Policies to Navigate Uncharted Waters*, OECD Studies on Water, OECD Publishing. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264200449-en>. Country profiles for all OECD member countries are available for download at: www.oecd.org/env/resources/waterandclimatechange.htm. These profiles will be regularly updated and it is planned to expand coverage over time to include key partner countries.

Poland

Climate change impacts on water systems

Observed changes and trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The last two decades of the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st century were the warmest period in the entire 230 years of instrumental climate observations. Total annual precipitation increased to 635 mm during the period 2001-05, as compared to 616 mm in the period 1971-2000. Regional differences also increased. In recent years, abnormally warm springs (2002, 2007), autumns (2006) and winters (2000, 2006) were observed. 				
Projected impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant increase in temperature by the end of the 21st century. Increase in the minimum temperature in winter, with a more pronounced increase in maximum temperature in summer. Longer summer with frequent heat waves and droughts. Increase of water temperature of rivers and lakes in summer months and decrease of frequency of ice formation. Shifts in temperature and the hydrological regime may worsen water quality, especially for lowland rivers already burdened with substantial pollution. 				
Primary concerns	Water quantity	Water quality	Water supply and sanitation	Extreme weather events	Ecosystems
	✓	✓	✓	✓ (droughts and floods)	✓
Key vulnerabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water shortage during dry seasons and increased flood risks due to extreme weather events mainly impacting on agriculture, biodiversity, Natura2000 and urbanised areas. 				

Sources: Climate-Adapt, European Climate Adaptation Platform (2012), *Poland*, <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/countries/poland> (accessed 15 September 2012); Ministry of Environment (2010), *Fifth National Communication under the UNFCCC*, http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/items/4903.php (accessed 20 June 2012).

Key policy documents

Document	Reference to water?	Type	Year	Responsible institution
2030 National Water Management Strategy ¹	Y	National water strategy	2005	National Water Management Authority
Medium-term and Long-term Development Strategy		National development strategy	Planned for 2012	
National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change	Y	National adaptation strategy	Planned for end of 2013	Ministry of the Environment
		National adaptation plan	Under development	
		National risk assessment	Under development	

1. The Strategy was elaborated by the Minister of the Environment. The document was approved by the Council of Ministers on 13 September 2005.

Policy instruments

Areas	Policy mix	Regulatory instruments	Economic instruments	Information and other instruments
Water quantity				
Water quality		• Water Law Act of 18 July 2001. ¹		
Water supply and sanitation				
Extreme weather events		• Law Act of 19 September 2011 on specific measures concerning reducing flood impacts.		
Ecosystems		• Water Law Act of 18 July 2001		

1. Dz. U. 2001.115.1229; Dz. U. 2012.145.951.

Main research programmes

- Project KLIMAT, <http://klimat.imgw.pl> (in Polish).

Principal financing mechanisms and investment programmes