

5th joint meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the Water Convention, 6-8 May 2024

Item 8c / Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach

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1. Main achievements in this area of work

- **Expert discussions and knowledge sharing** on emerging themes of interest in the WFEE nexus area of work (Task Force)
- Discussion on the **future of the Task Force**: emerging themes and format of meetings/coordination
- Contribution to UNFCCC COP discussions on **water and climate mitigation** (side-event)
- Strengthening WFEE cooperation in **Central Asia** in cooperation with SED and ESCAP via joint events within SPECA WG on [Water, Energy and Environment | UNECE](#) and Almaty Energy Forum (AEF, <https://almatyenergyforum.kbtu.kz/Forummaterial.html>)
- **Preparation of the IKI Nexus Project** “Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land Nexus in Central Asia” (2023-2027). The project started for all partners, UNECE is about to sign the contract.
- Strengthened/continued **coordination with other areas of work** (PA1 increasing awareness of the convention, PA4 water and climate, PA5 Financing), within P3 (water allocation, NPDs)

2. How was it achieved?

Task Force meeting (7-8 December 2023)

- Taking stock of 10 years of nexus work
- Over 200 participants (in person and virtual)
- Panels of experts on:
 1. **financing multi-benefit, multi-source investments** – ADB(Carec, UNCDF/Blue Peace, Plan Trifinio, Network-Nature-Plus Consortium (expert on PPP)
 2. **water needs for energy transition** – SED, WMO, UNDESA, Bosnia and Herzegovina, IRENA, OAS
 3. **transboundary coop for energy transition** – incl. experience from Central Asia, ITAIPU Binacional, Mekong, Northumbria Uni (a “checklist” for international law applicable to TB hydropower)
 4. **water allocation** – WE-ACT project in Central Asia, IWMI in South Africa, Zambia, Namibia-Finland twinning)
 5. **mainstreaming of nexus in global processes** - GEF-IW LEARN, GWP, UNFCCC, GCF, IPBES, CEREGAS, GIZ, European Commission)
- Group discussion on the future of the Task Force



- 13 June 2023: Technical Workshop on Water and Climate Inter-Dependencies (Bonn, 2023, GIZ): Initial discussion of the UN-Water Expert Group on Water and Climate Change (WMO, UNECE, UNESCO) UNEP and UNFCCC
- November 2023: **Presidential event “Watering the Clean Energy Transition” COP28** - COP 28 Presidency, UK, Egypt, Japan, WMO, UNECE, UNESCO, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) and the Water and Climate Leader. *Focus: how clean energy policies and planning can consider water availability to 1) reduce water and energy risks 2) promote synergistic solutions.*
- November 2024 - ongoing: providing guidance in the framework of the UN-Water Expert group on water and climate change to “Technical study: Water for Climate Mitigation: Estimating the Freshwater Requirements of Climate Mitigation Measures” (by International Universities Climate Alliance (IUCA)
- ... discussion will continue at Bonn Climate Change Conference (June 2024) and at COP29 in Azerbaijan (November 2024)
- Sarajevo Energy & Climate week (September 2023) side-event: Climate Adaptation in the Drina River Basin with an Energy – Water Nexus Approach and Renewable Energy Development

2. How was it achieved? Water and Climate Mitigation



3. Challenges and lessons learned

- **New emerging topics:** water-energy (esp. hydropower sustainability considering climate, environment, and International Law)
 - Still **challenges** in ensuring **exchange, coordination and cooperation across sectors** and between stakeholders – both inter-ministerial and across different groups of stakeholders (e.g. gov-NGOs, public-private)
 - **WFEE Task Force** a well-recognized platform for discussion, however challenges exist in maintaining the discussion alive between meetings
 - Cooperation between **ENV and SED divisions** within UNECE has proved a good opportunity to find **synergies between respective projects on water-energy nexus**
 - More efforts are needed to **mainstream water and the benefits of transboundary cooperation into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**
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4. Proposed future activities POW 2025-2027

Before MOP10

- **UN-Water Analytical Brief on Water and Climate Change** with WMO-UNECE-UNESCO (for COP 29)

POW 2025-2027

- **2 meetings of the Task Force** on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus (thematic, back-to-back to global events)
- Capacity-building on the **water-energy nexus**, with partners such as SED UNDESA. Possible topics: climate resilience of energy systems and specific technologies (e.g., hydropower, hydrogen), the water-dependency of energy policy measures and the role of transboundary cooperation as an enabler of clean energy transition at the regional level.
- Support to the operationalization of nexus solutions and investments
- Promotion of the **TBNA Methodology and the Toolkit for Renewable Energy** and knowledge sharing from **case studies**, through regional and global events, and contributions to partners' events
 - Western Balkans (targeted nexus activities Drina River Basin as part of Italian supported work in the Western Balkans)
 - Central Asia (5-years project on supported by Germany's International Climate Initiative IKI)

4. Proposed future activities for 2025-2027

1/2: Support to operationalize solutions and investments on the ground: Western Balkans

Drina River Basin (Follow-up activities to the dialogue on water-energy for climate action Drina RB)

one workshop
one white paper (on hydropower cooperation)

capacity-building and exchange of experience through the Task Force.

Background:

- ✓ Drina Nexus Projects I and II and Follow-up Projects.
- ✓ Nexus Priority Project documents available: climate adaptation strategy outline, sediment management formalization of flow regulation and E-flows.
- Strategic partnerships with ISRBC, UNECE SED, GWP-Med.



4. Proposed future activities for 2025-2027

2/2: Support to operationalize solutions and investments on the ground: Central Asia

- Using a WEF E nexus approach to develop climate-smart, multi-benefit policy and investments in the region.
- Building on their combined experience and expertise, UNECE (ENV and SED) with OECD will facilitate:
 - **Regional policy dialogues:** political process driven through the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) (platform co-hosted by UNECE and UNESCAP)

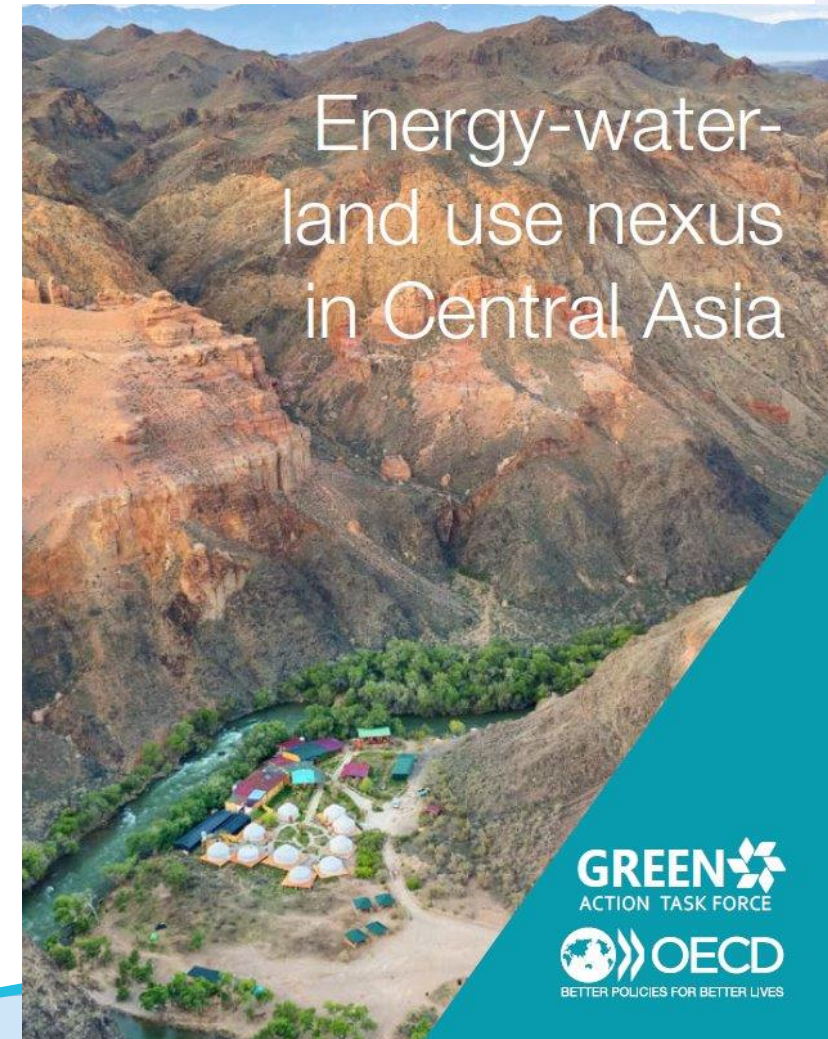
- **National and/or bilateral multi-stakeholder policy dialogues:** Multi-stakeholder policy dialogues, strengthening the nexus links in the National Policy Dialogues (NDPs)

On behalf of:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

of the Federal Republic of Germany



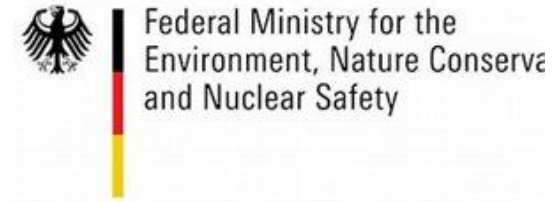
GREEN ACTION TASK FORCE



5. Partners



Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland



Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network



Thank you!

(please include your contact information)



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RESOURCES:

<https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/water-food-energy-ecosystem-nexus>

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