



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Bonn2011 Conference

The Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus

Solutions for the Green Economy

16–18 November 2011



BONN PERSPECTIVES IS AN INITIATIVE OF

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Bonn2011 Nexus Conference

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- ... was an official preparatory conference for the Rio+20 Summit.
- ... was a pioneering effort to bring together a wide range of stakeholders, leaders and experts from governments, businesses, NGOs, donors, and UN agencies to address the nexus of water, energy and food security.
- ... included strategic partnerships with IFPRI, World Economic Forum and World Wide Fund for Nature for the preparation of the conference.



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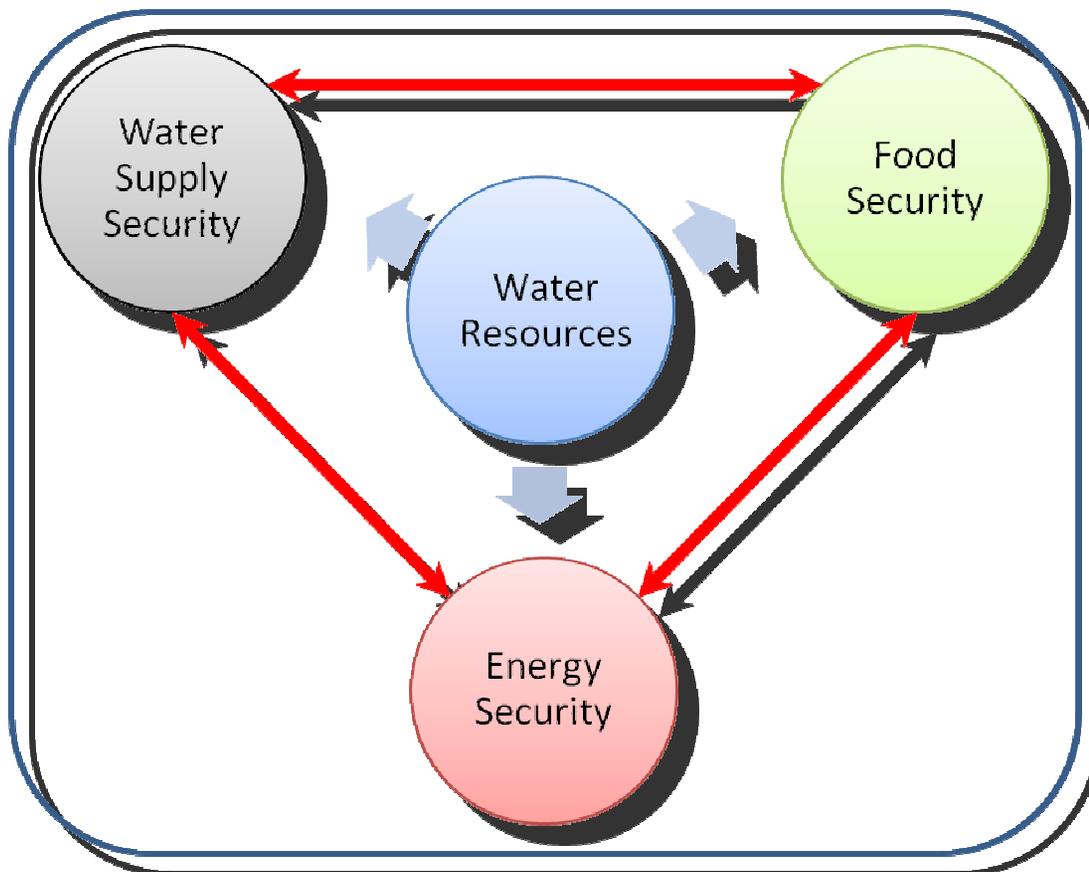


...provided a multi-stakeholder platform to:

- ...create a better understanding of the interlinkages between the water, energy and food sectors and to develop a joint perspective on common challenges and their interrelations and
- ...discuss options and solutions as well as enabling framework conditions and incentives for change for those topics which bear the largest positive impact potential.



The Nexus-Triangle and the 3 Dimensions of Sustainable Development



The social dimension:
improve access to basic provisioning and water, energy and food securities

The economic dimension:
Creating more wealth while using less resource input

The ecologic dimension:
Investing to sustain ecosystems and ecosystem services

Bonn2011 Nexus Conference – Key Messages

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The message from this conference is loud and clear:

**“Achieving long-term Water, Energy and Food Security for all is possible.
But business as usual is not an option.**

We need a transformation and must grasp new opportunities:

First of all, the gaps in access to food, energy, and water and sanitation must be closed. We have to overcome the deep inequality in access to natural resources and integrate the bottom of the pyramid. This is a humanitarian and strategic priority and requires highest political commitment and concerted action by all stakeholders.

Second, there is a very imminent threat to our water and land resources. We require a step change in the way we use our most precious resources to safeguard the viability of our economies. We still have the chance to avoid that scarcity becoming our destiny by continuously learning to create more with less.

Third, we must do what it takes to value and conserve essential life-supporting ecosystems.

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The Nexus-Perspective. Why is this so important?

First, a Nexus-Perspective helps to understand the interdependencies across water, energy, food and climate policies.

It helps to understand and to avoid unintended consequences from our actions. We need to change mindsets! Now!

Second, the Nexus-Perspective helps to tear down silos and ivory towers that disguise the view to interdisciplinary solutions. It opens the eyes for mutually beneficial responses and the potential of cooperation. We need to think and act interlinked! Now!

And third, the Nexus-Perspective helps to identify the policy levers to implement a common future agenda that accelerates access, creates more with less, and invests to sustain ecosystem services.

Bonn2011 Nexus Conference – Outcomes

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- A **huge demand for dialogue, exchange and mutual learning** was apparent throughout the conference
- **Policy recommendations** based on multi-stakeholder consultations focusing on cross-sectoral approaches (available soon after second round of web based consultation)
- Launch of **specific initiatives** (such as a water stewardship initiative for Africa) to address the water, energy and food security nexus in a coherent and sustainable way

From Bonn to Rio and beyond

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The nexus perspective is central to the themes of Rio2012 and the Green Economy. Bonn2011 has provided a first platform for consideration of the nexus, looking across the three sectors in a multi-stakeholder process.

The Bonn2011 Nexus Conference has achieved a new understanding which now has to be transformed into real and substantive steps towards a new approach to the challenges and opportunities in the future.

We look forward to carrying the momentum of the Bonn2011 Nexus Conference into the deliberations of Rio+20.

Our message is clear: outcomes of Rio should adequately take into account the interdependencies between water, energy and food as well as the underlying natural resources water, land and soil.

EU Contribution for Rio+20 - Nexus Elements already in

- **Provide global outlook and assessments on energy, water, food and other resource areas, based on a partnership of international and UN organisations.**
- **Promote international initiatives and partnerships to better address the "water/energy/food security nexus", involving economic actors and promoting appropriate goals and concrete initiatives to foster action. It could create synergies with other initiatives such as the "Sustainable Energy for all" initiative or the "Global Soil Partnership".**
- **The water chapter suggests:
"a new commitment to reduce water pollution from households, industrial and agricultural sources and promote water efficiency and the use of wastewater as a resource"**