

Pilot Assessment of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus in the Alazani/Ganykh River Basin

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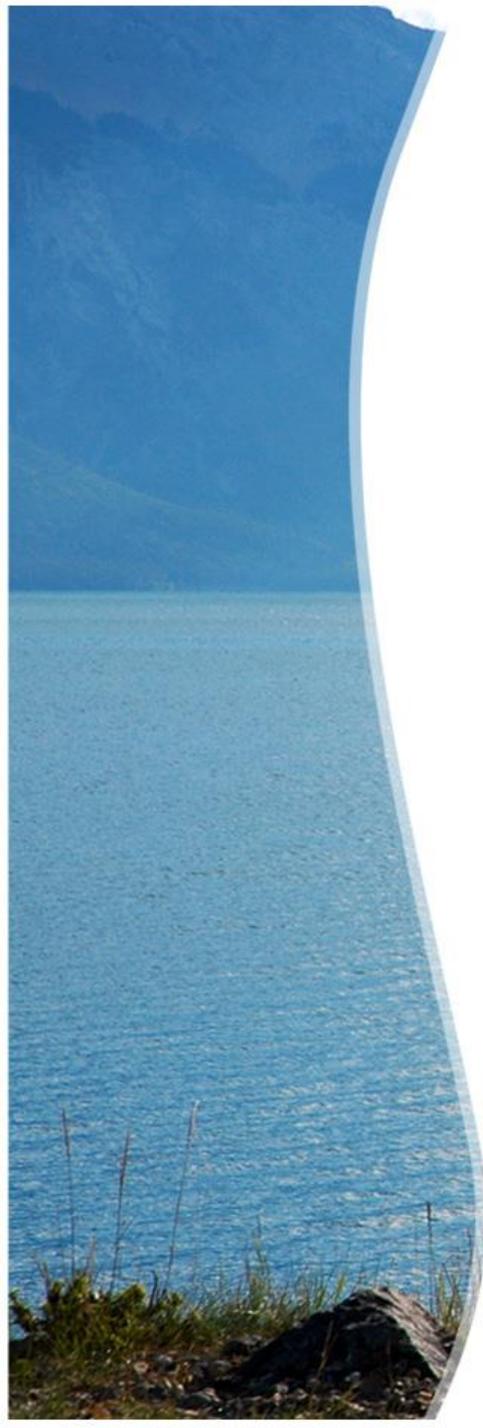
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Status of the Nexus in the Alazani/Ganykh

- Assessment on-going according to approach/methodology developed
- Basin workshop organised as cooperative effort of UNECE, UNDP/GEF project “Reducing Transboundary Degradation in the Kura Aras River Basin” and the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia
- Draft assessment developed and sent for comments to the Azerbaijani and Georgian authorities

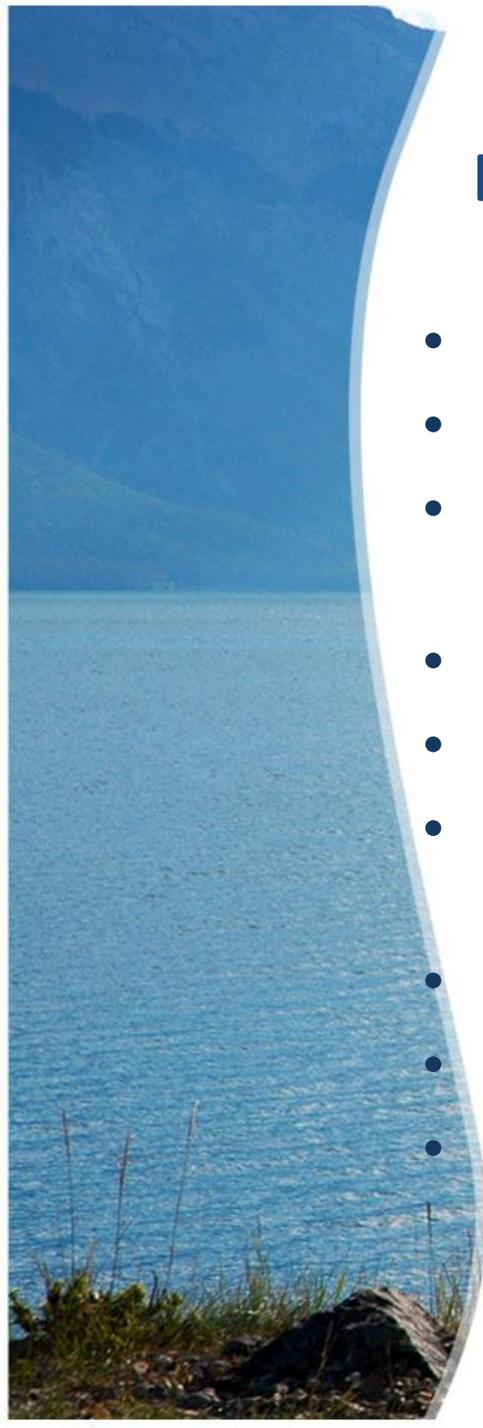




Nexus Workshop in Kachreti, Georgia

25-27 November 2013

- Among the participants: ministries of environment, energy, agriculture, emergency situations, communities, agencies, companies, civil society
- Scope of work in plenary and group discussions:
 1. **Nexus issues specific to the basin** highlighted: What the countries plan? Are the plans of the different sectors compatible?
 2. **Sectoral and national plans shared**: What opportunities to reduce negative intersectoral impacts and enhance synergy? What do changing drivers & the climate outlook mean? Institutional arrangements at transboundary level conducive to intersectoral coordination?
 3. **Potential solutions identified**: Changes to policies, new policies, management and measures practices, institutional arrangements, ways the infrastructure is operated ...



Draft outline of the assessment

- Geography of the basin
- Institutional assessment
- Brief overview of the sectors and resources of riparian countries
- Economic relevance of the basin
- National policies
- Selected transboundary issues with intersectoral impacts
- Possible intersectoral transboundary solutions
- Conclusions and recommendations
- Annexes: Comparative review of countries based on World Development Indicators, Basin indicators



Some intersectoral challenges and opportunities

- **Wood use** for household consumption contributes to deforestation aggravating land degradation and adds to sediment loads
 - *Deforestation plan, new energy policy, improving access to modern fuel supplies in rural areas (gasification, kerosene), improving viability of agriculture & developing agro-industries*
- Water **infrastructure** is aged and commonly degraded, **water use efficiency** could be improved especially in the agricultural sector (reduces also energy requirements)
 - *Improved regulation of water use, pricing and other economic instruments and new investments in infrastructure*
- **Flooding** damages the different sectors and sectors' plans (e.g. land management)
 - *Improved planning and coordination of measures (also at transboundary level); addressing deforestation*



Some intersectoral challenges and opportunities (...)

- Main sources of water **pollution** into the river are wastewaters and agricultural return waters (impact also on groundwaters)
 - *New wastewater treatment facilities and improvement of agricultural practices (as well as reclamation of illegal landfills)*
- Water **infrastructure** is aged and commonly in degraded condition, **water use efficiency** could be improved especially in the agricultural sector
 - *Improved regulation of water use, pricing and other economic instruments and new investments in infrastructure*
- **Hydropower development** increasing; How to increase sustainability?
 - *apply good practices and guidelines (e.g. of the Alpine countries) to minimise impacts on environment & other uses*

It is essential that policy incentives, economic instruments and other supportive measures are well addressed to support not just development of good practices, but also consider wider intersectoral impacts

Next steps in the Alazani/Ganykh

- Views of the national authorities waited for. Assessment to be revised in the light of the feedback for the nexus Task Force 8-9 September 2014
- Where and how should the findings be discussed & disseminated in the countries? The NPDs possibly providing a platform discussed.
- Follow-up activities? Should impacts of some policies or joint actions be assessed in detail?
- Can some of the findings be reflected in the national IWRM plans? Can other processes address some of the issues? — Azerbaijan's new Water Strategy, development plan for the regions? Georgia's new Energy Strategy, new Water Law? The bilateral agreement on water cooperation?
- What can be done with the support of UNDP-GEF Kura project's continuation?