

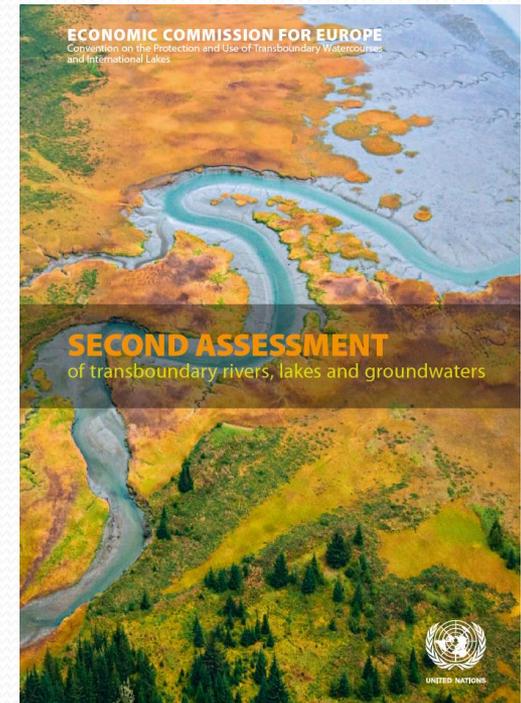
# Introduction to the nexus assessment of the Alazani/Ganikh: objectives, status

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# Background

- Among the Water Conventions obligations regular assessments of transboundary waters; decisions of the Parties in 2003 about regional assessments (2007, 2011)
- Findings:
  - Frictions between sectors about water use in many basins
  - Policy integration and coherence remains weak across the region; difficult to put into practice, painful trade offs. Stronger governance needed!
- High demand in the countries for effective, practical solutions for alleviating negative impacts between sectors
- Little done about the nexus at transboundary level



# Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus under the Water Convention in selected basins

- Part of the Convention's Work Programme 2013-2015, and possibly beyond
- Work overseen and guided by the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
- Up to 6 basins to be assessed – pan-Europe, Africa, Asia; different nexus settings, climate, resource scarcity etc.
- Key partners: Finland (lead)/Finnish Environment Institute SYKE, FAO, Royal Institute of Technology (Stockholm)
- Generic methodology developed & piloted on the Alazani/Ganykh; adapted to the different basins
- Sava and the Syr Darya worked on; other in preparatory stages

# Aims at the basin level

- Support transboundary cooperation by
  - identifying intersectoral synergies that could be further explored and utilized in the different basins;
  - Determining policy measures and actions that could alleviate negative consequences of the nexus and help to optimize the use of available resources
- Help to move towards increased efficiency in resource use, greater policy coherence and co-management
- Build capacity in addressing intersectoral impacts

# Challenges

- **Diverse expectations** concerning what the assessment can provide
- **Limited resources** constrain ambitions — especially to have a more interactive process, or to coordinate more actively with the countries and experts
- Dealing with the complexity requires a **workable approach**, gradually improved
- A **scoping level exercise!** Follow-up projects needed if more in-depth analysis and quantification are to be done
- **NO one-size-fits-all:** all the **basins are unique** the application of the general approach and the process shapes differently.
- **Active participation and commitment** needed from the countries to shape the approach into a valuable, relevant exercise that supports policy and decisions at different levels

# Some lessons learned – to be addressed in the next steps and future assessments

- Important practical experience from the Alazani/Ganikh
  - Assessing the nexus is complex and time consuming
  - Even though already the intersectoral-transboundary dialogue has value, adequate data is necessary for a meaningful analysis; systemizing and prioritizing information collection
  - Strengthening national experts' support and role
  - arranging, when possible, follow-up opportunities for getting the stakeholders to discuss the findings
  - Identification of synergies with other initiatives important
- promising partnerships have emerged



## Time-line and next steps

- Draft report sent to the countries and presented at the Nexus task force meeting on 8-9 September 2014
- Short version draft completed, including graphics
- Comments received from Georgia; further comments expected from the consultation meetings in Tbilisi and Baku
- UNECE secretariat with the support of experts will revise the content
- The content is to be reviewed and endorsed by the nexus Task Force in its 3rd meeting (Geneva, 28-29 April 2015)
- The stock-taking and short basin assessments are to be submitted to the Working Group on IWRM (Geneva, 24-25 June 2015)
- Findings of all the assessments to be presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (17-20 November 2015)
- Representatives of Azerbaijan and Georgia are invited to all these meetings

