Drina River Basin Nexus Assessment: Governance Desk Study

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Roadmap

• Overview of the global/regional context for governance
  • UN and EU
  • Regional river basin organizations & planning processes (Danube, Sava)
  • Energy cooperation in the region

• Governance in the Sava Nexus Assessment

• Launching analysis of governance in the Drina
  • Context & common issues
  • Actors
  • Laws
  • Policies and planning cycles

Image source: Marcin Szala 2012 URL: http://tinyurl.com/z5wvm5c
UN/EU Context

UN Context

- SDGs 16-17: inclusiveness, accountable institutions, effective implementation. Rio Principle 10.

- All three countries are parties to the Water Convention, Espoo Convention, and Aarhus Convention, and have started to implement these conventions through legislation and policy documents.

EU Context

- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia are all on their way to EU membership, with its associated accession requirements.

- Harmonization with EU legislation has advanced to different degrees in the countries, i.e. with respect to approximation of the EU Water Framework Directive.
Regional river basin organizations & planning processes

- There are robust water governance mechanisms in place at the regional level of the Danube River Basin, primarily through ICPDR.

- There are robust water governance mechanisms at the regional level of the Sava River Basin, including the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB) and its implementing body, the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC).

- Gaps: there is no equivalent organization to the ISRBC at a regional level for the energy, food, and ecosystem sectors.

- Gaps: some sectors are not geographically oriented towards RBO level (energy, agriculture).

- Other regional planning/coordination takes place through transboundary Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments.
Energy cooperation in the region

- The European **Energy Community** aims to extend the EU's energy market to a number of South Eastern European countries, on the basis of a legally binding framework.

- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia are three of the eight countries involved, and have committed to: implement the relevant EU energy acquis, develop adequate regulatory frameworks, and liberalise their energy markets.

- As part of this, all three have established targets for renewables by 2020 as part of implementation of the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive, and have created **National Renewable Energy Action Plans** setting out how they will meet these targets.

- Several instruments can promote good governance – e.g., "Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development in the Danube Basin"
Biodiversity and land use/food/agriculture

- The international governance framework on protection of biodiversity is well-developed but requires national implementation
  - 5 UN biodiversity-related conventions
  - EU Natura network

- EU membership will mark a major shift in governance in agriculture (CAP)
  - Dynamic area under constant reform
  - Land use and agriculture tend to be determined more on a national level in comparison to other sectors
  - Agricultural lobbies are important actors
Governance Aspects of Sava Nexus Assessment (2015)

- The Sava Nexus Assessment analyzed the above-mentioned transboundary governance context, along with a broad overview of actors, institutions & legal frameworks on national levels.

- Governance solutions presented on:
  - Improving intersectoral coordination
  - Examination of organizational mandates in light of nexus analysis (possible revision)
  - Assuring common standards of participation, transparency and accountability across sectors and in transboundary context
From Sava to Drina

- Gaps: some sectors were less well represented
- Needs: Planning cycles, Geographic scales, Strategies for reaction to changes on EU/regional level, Feedback from project level to strategic level, experience with permitting etc

- The Drina Nexus Assessment provides an opportunity to:
  - “zoom in” – particularly on national and transboundary governance in particular sectors, and inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms
  - assess the potential of integrated permitting processes
  - further refine the Governance aspects of the Nexus Methodology
Context & Common Issues

- The importance of the energy sector and its impact on governance in the Drina
- Need for additional wastewater treatment infrastructure and overall improved management of wastewater and waste
- Need to fill data gaps regarding risks to water quality from waste and wastewater
Actors

- Further progress made in identifying actors in the three countries, especially in the areas of energy and water management.

- Overall, there is a need to create further mechanisms for horizontal coordination between policymakers on nexus issues, and to strengthen mechanisms that already exist.

- In some countries, legislation enables the creation of bodies that could obtain input from a variety of stakeholders on environmental issues; in some cases there are implementation issues.
Laws

- Constantly changing laws to keep pace with EU requirements creates progress, but also means implementation often lags behind law creation.

- In particular, there is often a lack of necessary secondary legislation (i.e. by-laws, regulations) for key pieces of environmental legislation.

- Laws on integrated permitting potentially a very good tool but not yet functioning optimally.
Policies and Planning Cycles

- Need to address delay in creating important environmental policies, strategies and action plans, and to ensure their full implementation
- In some cases, need for improved implementation reporting for existing plans/strategies
- Potential to better align policy timelines and related planning cycles
Thank You

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