

Assessment of the water- food-energy-ecosystems nexus

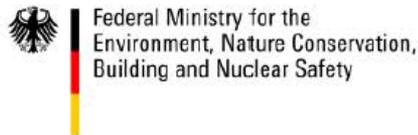
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Progress and activities in this area of work in late 2016-2017: types of activities

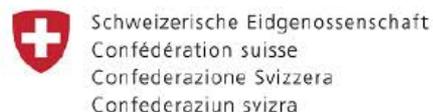
- * *Global workshop*
- * *Completion of assessments*
 - * *Final workshop (Sarajevo, April 2017) of the Drina nexus assessment and cooperation benefits study*
 - * *Issuing related reports, policy briefs*
- * *Informing other processes: work of the Renewable Energy Expert Group (GERE), Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development (Baku 2016, Astana 2017), European Commission-GIZ Regional Nexus Dialogues (Central Asia, Latin America), SPECA*
- * *Launching new basin assessments or phases in cooperation with Global Water Partnership Mediterranean: W. Balkans, NW Sahara aquifer*

Progress and activities in this area of work in late 2016-2017: Global workshop

- * **Global Stock-Taking Workshop on Assessments of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus and Response Measures in Transboundary Basins** (6-7 December 2016); back-to-back with 4th Task Force on the nexus
- * reviewed the current understanding and practical application of the nexus concept, methodologies, discussed possible management responses
- * >120 participants, representing governments (esp. water & energy), river basin organizations, specialized agencies, int. organizations, NGOs, academia.



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Progress and activities: reports and policy briefs

* **Technical reports:**

- * **Nexus assessment methodology and the basin case studies:** printed in Russian, in French
- * **Syr Darya** in English in January 2017, soon in Russian
- * **Sava** in January 2017; press release circulated in the local languages

* **Policy briefs:**

- * **Summary brief** on the basin assessments 2013-2015
- * **Sava** nexus assessment
- * **Drina** nexus assessment

* **Brochure/policy document:**

- * **Nexus and renewable energy** – building on the basin assessments, expanded with good experience (prepared for the 8th Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development)
- * **All publications** available from: <http://www.unece.org/env/water>

UNECE

Deployment of Renewable Energy:

The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus Approach
to Support the Sustainable Development Goals

Good practices and policies for intersectoral
synergies to deploy renewable energy



New policy brochure to highlight opportunities for RES from intersectoral synergies

- * Launched in Astana at the Forum on Sustainable Energy
- * Describes nexus and the RES, Tools supporting identification of intersectoral synergies, good practices (focus on innovation), transboundary basin case studies (illustrating concrete synergy opportunities)
- * Developed under UNECE Water Convention in cooperation with GERE
- * Calls for integrating intersectoral links and synergies between 1) developing RES and 2) use & protection of water resources and the environment, into energy policies and investment plans



Western Balkans

- * Activities under the “Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Southeastern Europe, through the use of the Nexus approach” Project, funded by ADA and led by GWP-Med provides for work in 2 transboundary basins.
- * Contributes to implementation of the objectives of the SEE2020 Strategy under its Dimension Environment.
- * Work builds on the Sava and the Drina nexus assessment
- * Synergy with the GEF project on the Greater Drin

Outlook and synergies in the regions

Central Asia

- Syr Darya documentation (reports, analysis, briefs) substantiates the EC funded dialogue implemented by CAREC and contributes to capacity building
- Fora for awareness raising, sharing experience, extending the dialogue: National Policy Dialogues, SPECA Thematic Working Group

MENA/N. Africa

- NW Sahara Aquifer: Relevant experience of the nexus of ESCWA and IRENA to be built on
- Niger Basin: possible application of the transboundary assessment methodology to support existing planning processes (considered by GIZ)

W. Balkans

- Experience from the Sava and Drina projects prepared the ground for further application in the region. Tools demonstrated attract interest.
- GEF Drina project: The Drina nexus study as part contributing to the information basis (one of the studies making up for a TDA)

Across regions

- Other UNECE legal instruments (Espoo Convention, Protocol on SEA) as means to apply a nexus approach
- Nexus approach for substantiating SDG links and trade-offs
- Sharing experience from application of the transboundary assessment methodology (subject to interest)

Lessons learned and challenges

- * Application to 5 transboundary basins so far demonstrates value of the participatory nexus assessment methodology for engaging different sectors into a dialogue
- * The work has come a long way from a new concept to something recognized as valuable
- * A lot of the effective responses would require the economic sectors to take action. It remains difficult to engage all and/or all riparians
- * Other organizations/sector taking on the nexus approach, regional projects may serve dissemination
- * Necessary follow up:
 - * Impact of the assessments (checking about responses to the recommendations)
 - * Succinct local/regional language communications of the main findings and recommendations
 - * Possible requests from the countries

Planned future activities in this area in 2017-2018

- * 5th Meeting of the Task Force on the nexus (18 October 2017), back to back with the global workshop on water allocation (16-17 October 2017) to review the status of basin assessments, exchange experience, discuss the methodological advances (esp. governance) and explore possibilities for documenting materials and tools used in the participatory assessment processes.
- * Distill from the nexus work under the Convention experience relevant to GEF projects, in the form of a brief (IW:LEARN)
- * Continuation of basin assessments in cooperation with partners.
- * Preparation of a synthesis document for MoP in 2018