Thematic assessment on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus

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Main achievements in this area of work

- Methodology for assessing intersectoral links, trade-offs and benefits developed
- An improved knowledge base about intersectoral issues and addressing them at a transboundary level – conclusions and general recommendations
- Basin assessments:
 - Main intersectoral linkages identified jointly; prioritization and the effects discussed
 - a "menu" of possible synergetic, beneficial actions identified
 - Benefits of applying a nexus approach identified, possible solutions
- The interest from diverse countries and basins indicates pertinence of the challenges from intersectoral coordination
- Work has attracted a lot of international attention.
 Awareness raised about intersectoral impacts and opportunities; and has contributed to the understanding of the nexus



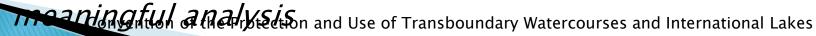
2. How was it achieved? Major milestones since 2013

- Methodology for nexus assessment piloted and refined
- 4 basins assessed at a scoping level: the Alazani/Ganykh, Sava, Syr Darya, Isonzo/Soča
- A basin workshop organized in each basins, consultations at the basin level (Sava) and nationally, using the National Policy Dialogues
- 3 nexus Task Force meetings organized Experience shared in various events



3. Lessons learnt for future work

- All basins unique: the generic approach adapts upon application to diverse settings. The methodology improved gradually in use.
- Result of the nexus assessment may controversial to a sector or a country; the design of the process is important to ensure acceptance
- An active participation and commitment from the countries necessary to shape the process into a valuable exercise, focusing on relevant policy issues
- Ensuring a sufficiently broad participation of other sectors is challenging (work through partners?)
- Complex issues: clear and accessible communication needed to ensure attention to the conclusions
- Even though already the intersectoral-transboundary dialogue has value, adequate data is necessary for a



4. Suggested future work in this area

- Assessments replicating and adapting the methodology with or through partners: the Isonzo/Soča (possible continuation); North-Western Sahara Aquifer (GWP-Med, OSS), Niger (NBA, FAO, GIZ etc.); others subject to interest
- Promotion of the findings and methodology (e.g. a brochure; policy brief; regional and international events and processes, possible basin reports)
- Stock-taking workshop on the assessments in 2016 (with GEF IW:LEARN and others)
- Facilitating identification of and agreement on follow-up actions by the countries through e.g. NPDs
- Input to collecting experience on water allocation

