

Synthesis document on assessing the water-food- energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins: Passing on the experience

Dr. Annukka Lipponen
Environmental Affairs Officer
Water Convention secretariat
UNECE



Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes



UNECE

This presentation

- The mandate for synthesizing and documenting experience
- The status of the nexus assessment methodology's application and development, documents produced
- Objectives of the synthesis document
- Main target audience
- Proposed elements of the synthesis document
- Questions for discussion in groups
 - Objectives and scope
 - Lessons learned

Mandate from the Programme of Work 2016-2018

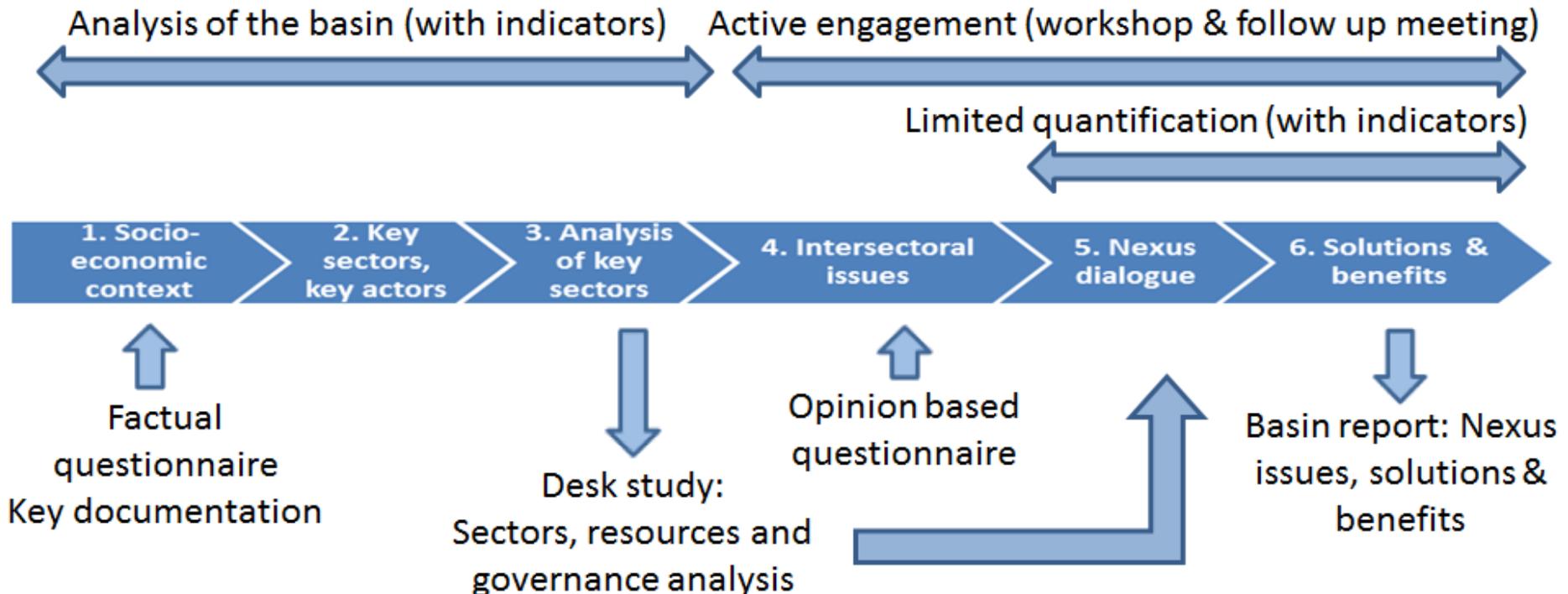


Publications and documents (extracts)

- "The methodology developed in 2013–2015 will be promoted for application by partners in other basins worldwide, including by preparing a synthesis brochure."
- Conclusions and recommendations from the basin assessments will be further disseminated in the form of brochures and policy briefs, and promoted at international events, forums and processes. Subject to resource availability and the interest of the riparian countries concerned and partners, the reports of individual basin assessments will be published and disseminated.

Nexus assessment methodology

- Provides for participatory intersectoral assessment at transboundary level informed by analysis, prepared in close cooperation with national governments
- Adapts to the context and the issues specific to the basin
- Applicable to surface water basins and aquifers
- Uses fit-for-purpose tools depending on the context & issues



Publications: reports and policy briefs

- **Reports**

- **Nexus assessment methodology and the basin case studies:** printed in English, Russian and French
- **Syr Darya** in English and Russian
- **Sava** in English

- **Policy briefs**

- **Summary brief** on the basin assessments carried out in 2013-2015
- **Specific basin briefs on the Alazani/Ganykh, Drina and Sava**

- **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>

Main developments 2016-2018

Relevant to the methodology and its application experience

- The Drina Basin assessed with an extended process and analysis
- 1st application to an aquifer: North-West Sahara Aquifer System
- Synergy with the application of the Policy Guidance on Benefits of Transboundary Cooperation has become evident
- The participatory aspects and job aids used (questionnaires, graphics for group works etc.) have gotten refined
- Governance aspect of the methodology have been refined
- Methodology applied in cooperation with partners (GWP among the first): new insights emerging and new tools getting identified
- For achievement of the SDGs, consideration of the trade-offs and synergies is called for: the potential of a nexus approach is recognized
- Need increasing to communicate towards specific sectors about the issues, notably energy

Objectives of the synthesis document

1. Promote application of the methodology

- Partners have increasingly a role in the application of the methodology and may want to use specific parts – need to share experience
- In particular, contribute the Convention's experience to ongoing and future GEF interventions, in cooperation with GEF IW:Learn

2. Complete documentation about the use of the methodology

Expand guidance material available based on the experience with implementation

3. Foster follow up action to the basin assessments

The basins assessments were scoping level: intersectoral issues identified & prioritized, illustrative quantification – the Governments will need more studies/analysis for developing policy and cooperation on specific issues

Assist countries in identifying meaningful next steps

Main target audience

- Sectoral authorities of riparian countries within a process of transboundary cooperation
- Regional organizations and joint bodies
- International organizations supporting development and cooperation (including GEF and GEF implementing agencies)
- Bilateral development partners

Proposed elements of the synthesis document



Element/chapter	Main purpose (main information sources)
Introduction: Why is a nexus approach important, with a focus on transboundary context	Recall and provide evidence of the usefulness of the approach, from different sectors' perspective Summarize nexus approach's recognition and application (global workshop in December 2016), Underline the linkages with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda
Methodology, its extensions and refinements	Self-standing, succinct overview from the methodology publication. Sub-chapters on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intersectoral governance • participatory methods • identification of cooperation benefits (expert contributions)
Lessons learned on how to tailor the approach to different situations	Distill lessons on different aspects of the nexus approach, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of the process • Application to groundwater • Synergies with other processes • Engagement of other sectors • Discussions on investments • Data and information • Limitations encountered • to be defined This section will include examples from basin assessments
Tools for analysing nexus issues	Brief description of analytical tools applicable at the transboundary level (tools referred to in 2015 nexus publication; tools available at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/nexus/Nexus_tools_final_for_web.pdf ; and information gathered at the 2016 global workshop)

Questions to be discussed in groups (replies to written down and handed to the secretariat)

A division into groups will be proposed by the secretariat

The questions cover the following aspects:

- Objectives and scope
- Lessons learned
- Do other aspects need to be discussed?

Questions 1: Objectives and scope

1.1

Are the proposed objectives appropriate and comprehensive?

1.2

Is the proposed scope the most appropriate? Is something missing? Or should something be added?

1.3

The core of the synthesis document is the work under the Water Convention. How and which other relevant work could be referred to?

Questions 2: Lessons learned

2.1

On which aspects would extracting some conclusions and recommendations be most useful?

(Draft list: Design of the process, Application to groundwater, Synergies with other processes, Engagement of other sectors, Discussions on investments, Data and information, Limitations encountered...)

2.2

Should lessons/recommendations also be developed with a view to specific groups or purposes, such as preparation of GEF projects?