

Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus in transboundary river basins The Alazani/Ganykh pilot project

Steering Committee of the
EU Water Initiative
National Policy Dialogues

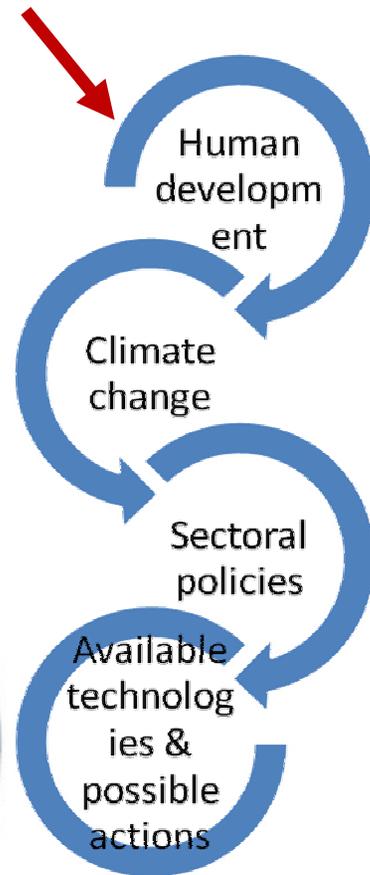
23 January 2014, Baku

Peep Mardiste
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



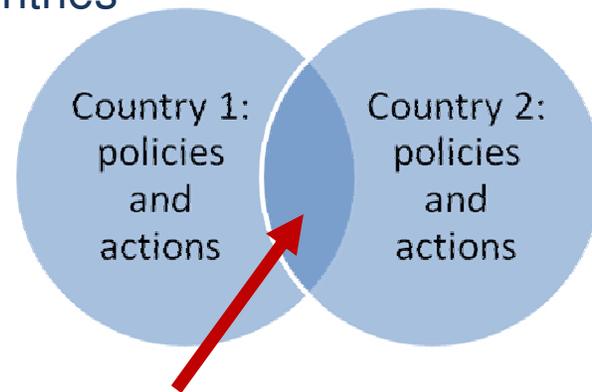
Why a Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus in transboundary river basins?

Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus



Need to integrate/coordinate:

1. A better understanding of inter-sector and inter-resources dynamics allows accounting for impacts & more effective resource management
2. To make policies and actions more coherent across sectors and countries



Communication, collaboration and joint action!



Previous Nexus case studies have shown that:

- An increased pressure on natural resources, climate change and various socio-economic trends call for systemic thinking and for a better understanding of intersectoral dynamics
- Sectoral policies have impacts on other sectors (not only water-related sectors!)
- Planned policy might not have expected outcomes due to inter-sectoral effects
- Potential economic benefit from integrated planning



The Nexus under the UNECE Water convention in selected basins

- Part of the Convention's Work Programme 2013-2015
- Some 6-8 basins to be assessed – pan-Europe, Africa, Asia; different nexus settings, climate, resource scarcity etc.
- One pilot basin: Alazani/Ganikh shared by Georgia and Azerbaijan
- Key partners: Finland (lead)/Finnish Environment Institute SYKE, FAO, Royal Institute of Technology KTH (Stockholm)
- Methodology developed, piloted & going through stakeholder consultation
- Basin assessments January 2014 - April 2015; report August 2015

Some Key Features of the Methodological Approach

The nexus analysis starts with a large-spectrum set of questions regarding the natural and socio-economical conditions, and human interaction with the environment of the target basin.

This is performed by:

- Joint identification of the pressing inter-sectoral issues with national sectoral administrations and basin stakeholders (workshop)
- Dissemination of a «diagnostic questionnaire»
- Using available statistic data and indicators



Pollution?

Water scarcity?

Biodiversity?

Irrigation?

Floods?

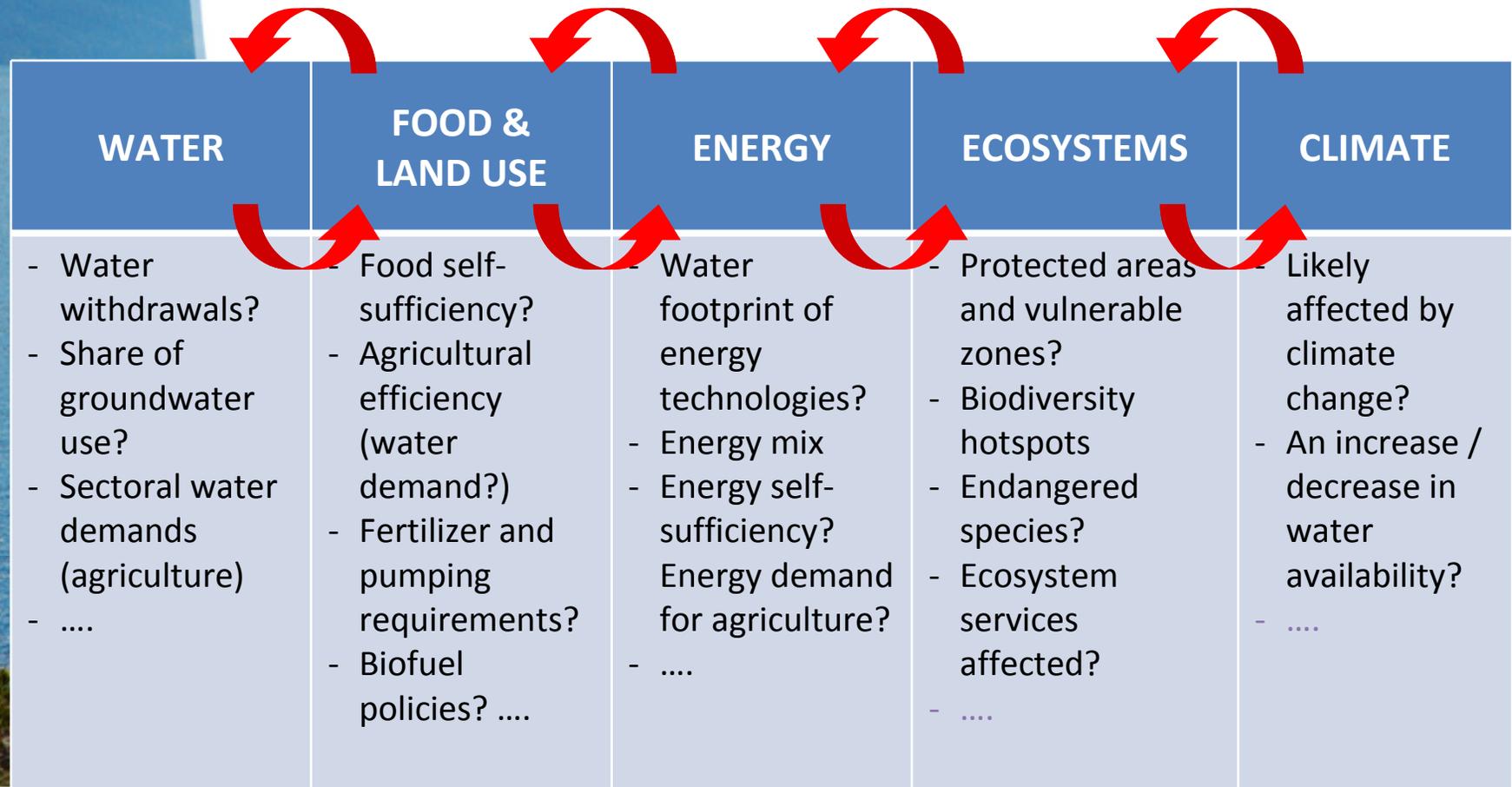
Erosion?

Growing demand?

Climate Change?

Diagnostic Phase

some examples of indicators and their potential interlinkages



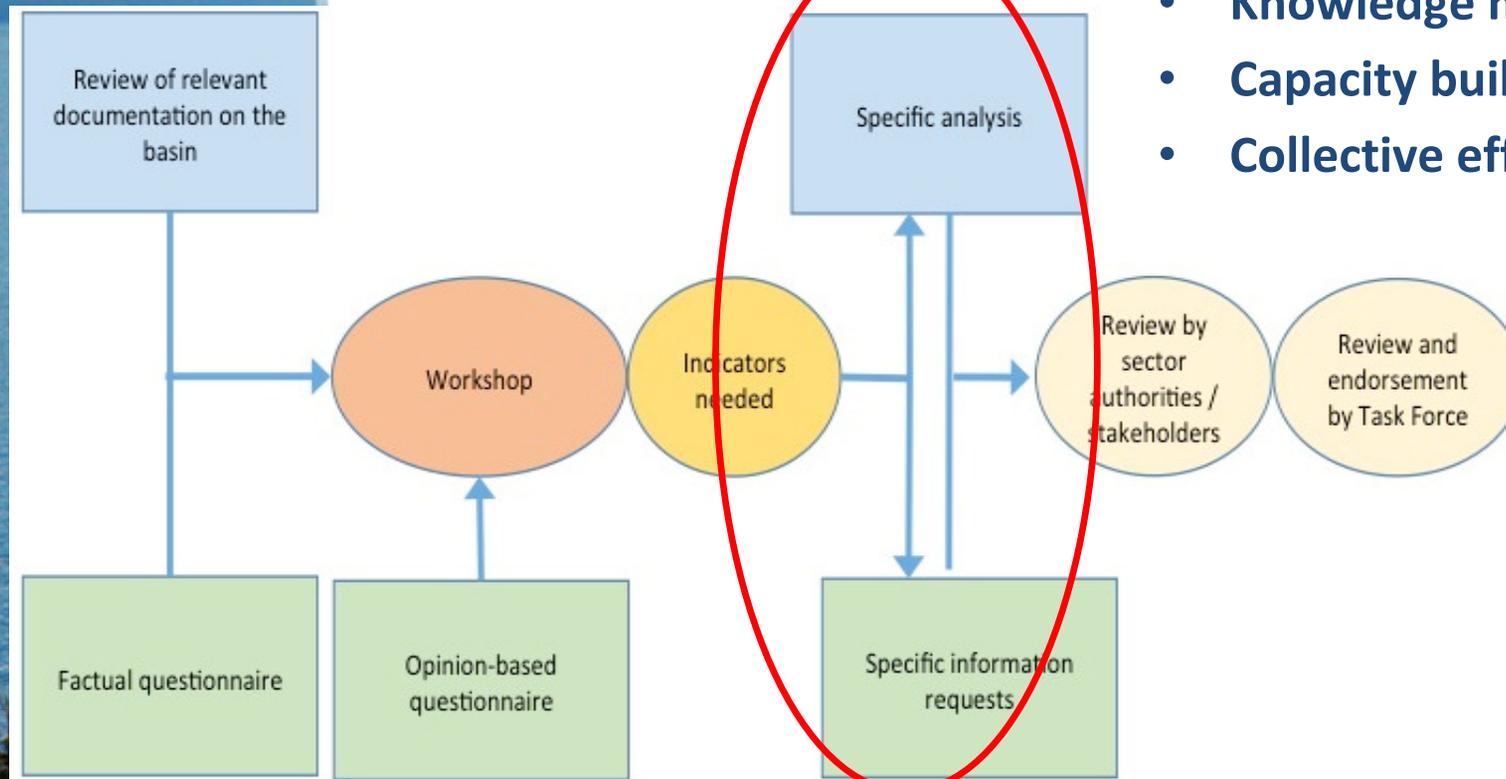


Why is assessing inter-sectoral links the Alazani/Ganykh basin timely?

- Good collaboration between Georgia and Azerbaijan – good network
- Agreement on transboundary waters being negotiated (AZ-GE); multi-sector representation from the countries
- Major support from UNDP-GEF Kura project: IWRM plans developed in Georgia and in Azerbaijan
- Need for economic development: inter-sectoral considerations timely to limit economic externalities & environmental impacts
- Existing effort to reduce environmental degradation from both sides
- Opportunities from new energy policy efforts and modernizing agriculture

Some Key Features of the Methodological Approach

- Participatory processes
- Sound scientific analysis
- Knowledge mobilization
- Capacity building
- Collective effort



The workshop in Kachreti, Georgia

25-27 November 2013

- Organised in cooperation with:
UNDP/GEF project “Reducing Transboundary Degradation in the Kura Aras River Basin” and the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia

- Among the participants:

ministries of environment, energy, agriculture, emergency situations, communities, agencies, companies, civil society



Work in groups and in plenary discussions

1. Nexus issues specific to the basin highlighted

What the countries plan? Are the plans of the different sectors compatible? What do changing drivers & the climate outlook mean for the nexus? How to better reconcile the different uses?

2. Sectoral and national plans shared

What opportunities there are to reduce negative intersectoral impacts and enhance synergy?
Institutional arrangements at transboundary level conducive to intersectoral coordination?

3. Potential solutions identified

Changes to policies, new policies, management and measures practices, institutional arrangements, ways the infrastructure is operated ...

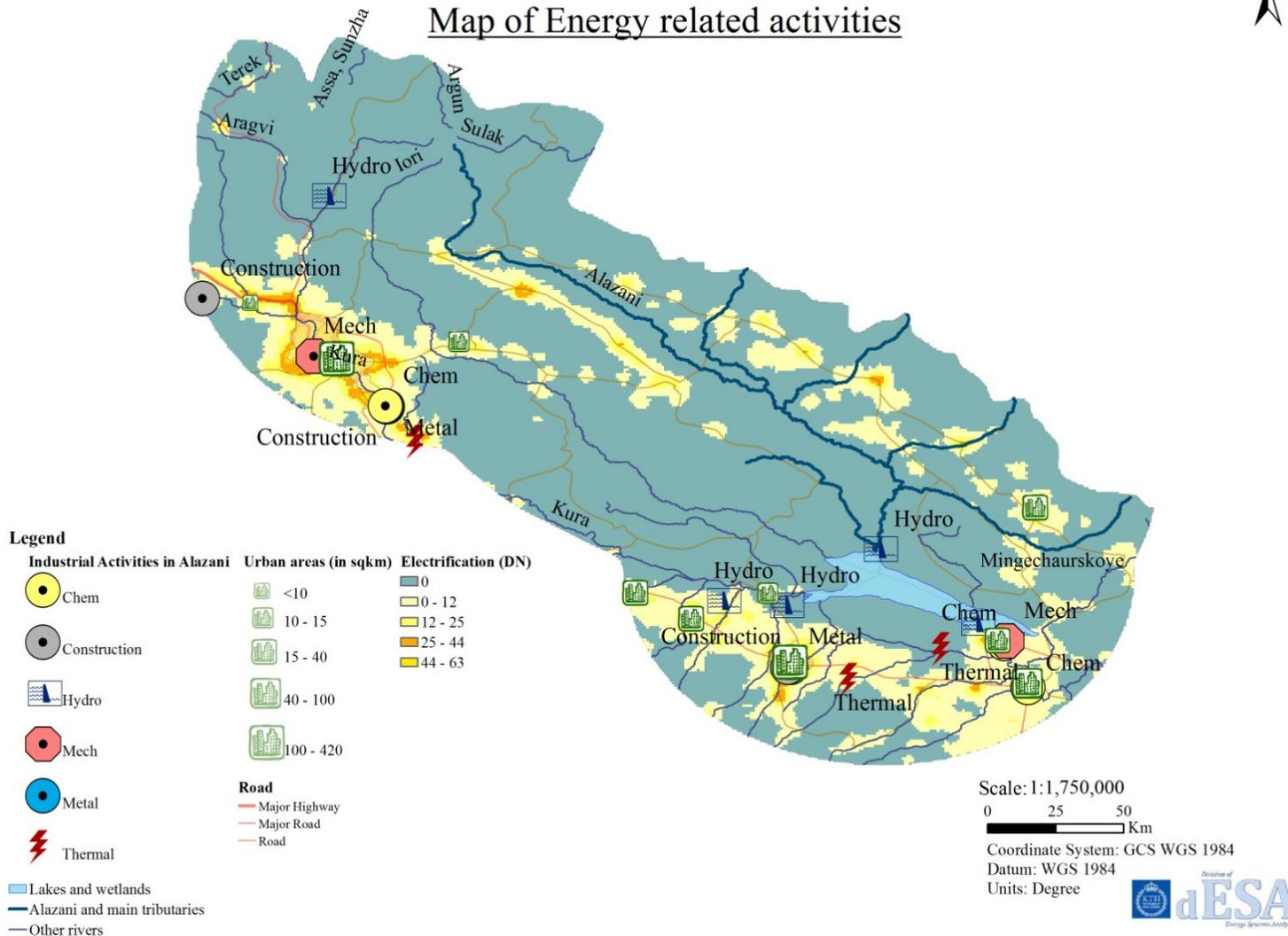


Nexus Analysis



UNECE

Alazani River Basin
Map of Energy related activities





Next steps on the Nexus in the Alazani/Ganykh

- Stakeholder input from the workshop analysed
- Draft assessment being developed; to be circulated for comments & for filling gaps to the sector administrations in late February
- An institutional assessment is being carried out — to be applied
- Revised assessment for review by nexus Task Force 8-9 September 2014



Questions from workshop

- The examples from the workshop illustrate some possible joint actions. Which institutions/actors could take related actions?
- Are there other important inter-sectoral issues that should be reflected?
- Where and how should the eventual findings be discussed & disseminated in the countries? Can the NPDs play a role?
- Follow-up activities? Should impacts of some policies or joint actions be assessed in detail?