

Nexus Assessments and Solutions The Regional Experience

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Key inter-sectoral issues in the Mediterranean

- A clear distinction between North and South & East Mediterranean
 - Variations in climatic conditions, availability of natural resources, risks from climate change, economic development, governance, demographic trends, socioeconomic issues
 - Water availability in North: 3,700 m³/capita/year (2015) compared to 562 m³/c/y in South
- Climate Change the critical long-term stressor in the security of supply of water, food and energy resources
 - Reduced precipitation, increased temperatures and frequency & intensity of extreme events
 - Sea level rise affecting 55% of population living in coastal areas
 - Especially in South: Reduced water availability and increased droughts to affect food production.
- Selected cross-sectoral issues
 - Desalination; wastewater treatment; increased energy demand for irrigation; reduced hydro output; cooling of thermal plants

Key inter-sectoral issues – Focus on SEE

- A water-rich region, prone to flooding
- Hydropower the key energy source
 - Multi-purpose use of dams
- Biodiversity hotspot – pristine natural areas
 - Potentially threatened by uncontrolled hydro development
- Widespread use of wood biomass from logging
 - Affecting ecosystems, erosion, sedimentation, water quality
- Need to expand sanitation coverage and wastewater treatment

Experience in advancements in applying the Nexus approach

- Recent advancements in national cross-sectoral coordination
 - Yet mainly in institutional settings; not so in policy integration
- Regional initiatives and political processes
 - ✓ UfM Task Force on the Nexus Approach in the context of the Water Agenda
 - Country-driven, work-programme prepared, collaboration with International organisations
 - GWP-Med providing Technical Assistance
 - ✓ GEF Nexus project under the UNEP/MAP MedProgramme
 - Serving Policy-making at Regional Level & Nexus Assessments and Solutions in 3 countries
 - ✓ RCC Growth Strategy 2020 - Explicit priority/endorsement
 - GWP-Med mandated by RCC
 - Regional Nexus Policy Dialogue Process 2017-2019

Experience in advancements in applying the Nexus approach - in partnership with UNECE

- The case of the Drin river basin
 - Trade-offs and synergies in the interface of hydropower and flood management; potential for sustainable forestry management and biomass use
 - Steered by the Drin Core Group under the Drin Coordinated Action
 - Phase I in the context of the Drin TDA; Phase II assisting in implementation of SAP
- The case of the Drina river basin
 - The role of hydropower and the potential for RES diversification; transboundary cooperation on flow regulation
 - Synergies with transboundary initiatives and processes in the Region
- ✓ Shortlist of concrete interventions of TB relevance – Preparation of Project Documents for priority ones
 - Using the UNECE Framework for Nexus Solutions

Experience in advancements in applying the Nexus approach - in partnership with UNECE (II)

- The case of the NWSAS
 - TB Nexus Assessment with solutions proposed
 - Potential to enhance TB cooperation and spur national actions
- The case of Albania
 - Enhancing cross-sectoral coordination in the implementation of the National Sectoral Programme on Water
 - Synergies with the cross-sectoral Thematic Group on Water Resources

Key take-aways

- ✓ Need to advance coordination from institutional to policy & management levels, including common targets
 - Issue of overlapping responsibilities often remains
- ✓ Need to actively engage a broad range of sectors / stakeholders
 - Notably from the energy sector
- ✓ Need to link integration efforts to higher-level processes
 - E.g. Climate Change, SDGs, EU accession, Strategic Investments...

- Nexus: A key entry-point for overall integrated management of resources
 - Instrumental to advance sustainable solutions/investments
 - Can provide a successful example of success in integration

On Future Opportunities

- ✓ A strong and established cooperation with UNECE
 - Hope to continue collaboration on Assessments and advancing solutions
- ✓ Planned Med / SEE Annual conferences for the next 4 years to advance Nexus approach in regional and national policy making
- ✓ Working with 3 countries for Nexus Assessments / Identification of Solutions and Investments
- ✓ Forthcoming Consultations in Drin-Drina-Albania to discuss solutions
- ✓ Work under RCC framework, with SEE countries that have already requested development of Nexus Assessments / Identification of Solutions and Investments / Capacity Building
- ✓ Stock-taking of solutions: a valuable living document, to be supplemented and enriched based on further TB and National Assessments

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