



“The Nexus Assessment process in the Drin river basin”

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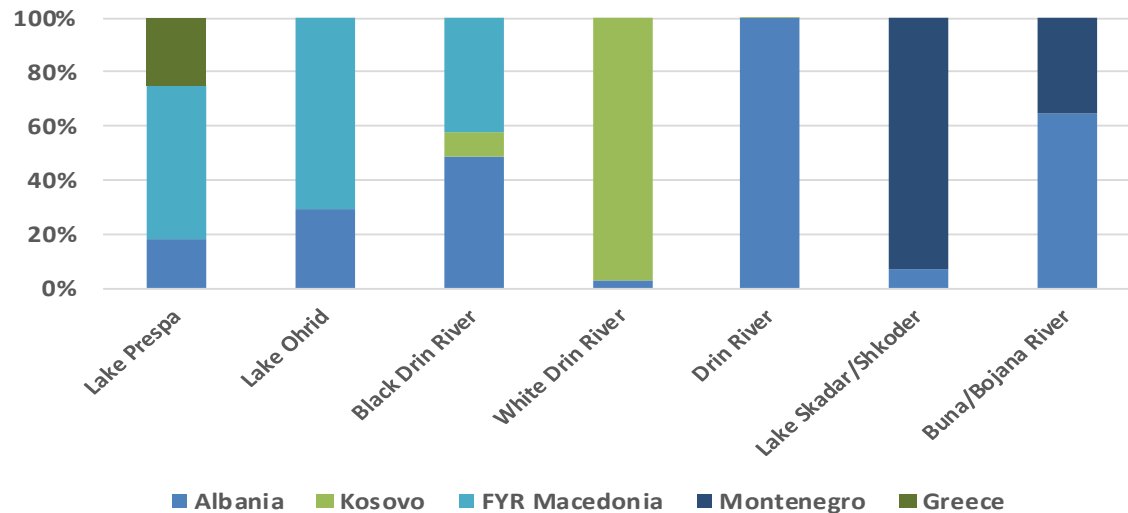
Country: North Macedonia

Organisation: Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

Brief Drin Basin description

The “extended” Drin River Basin is located in the region of the Western Balkans and it is shared by Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo, and – for a small share – Greece

The Drin River Basin includes 7 sub-basins, each of them shared by at least two countries.



Nexus analysis (Phases I and II)

The Nexus analysis of the Drin River Basin is carried out following Transboundary Basin Assessment Methodology developed by UNECE.

The analytical work was divided in two phases:

- ❖ Phase I includes the identification of Nexus issues of priority and a **qualitative** assessment, for each of the priority issues of linkages, benefits, trade-offs, among the Nexus sectors.

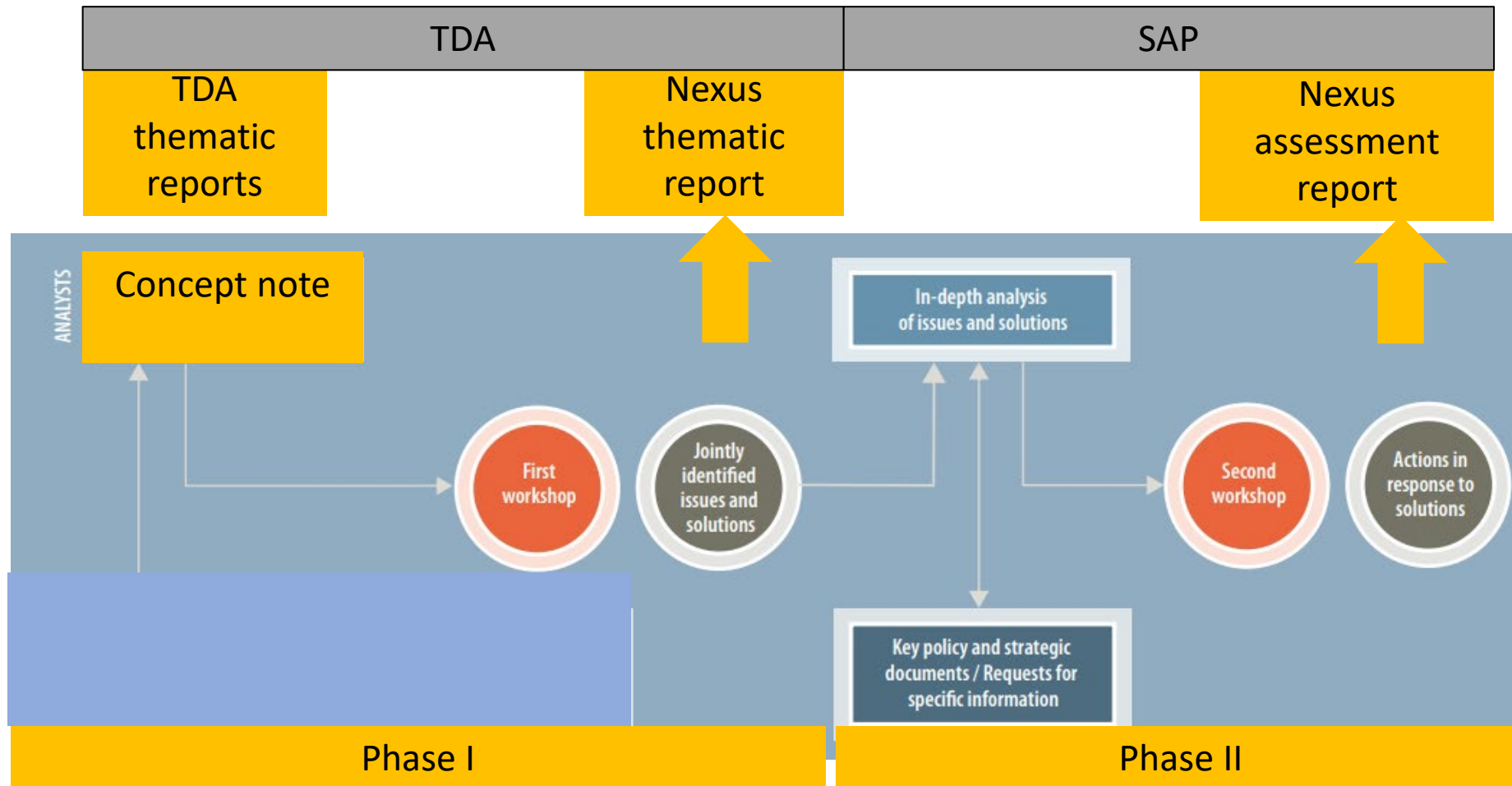
- Nexus Thematic Report

- ❖ Phase II comprises the use of modelling tools to support the **quantitative** assessment of selected key linkages, benefits, trade-offs via an analysis of resource flows and their development under different developmental/climatic scenarios.

- Nexus Assessment Report



Nexus assessment, TDA and SAP



Nexus Assessment Report completes the Nexus Thematic Report and supports implementation of the SAP

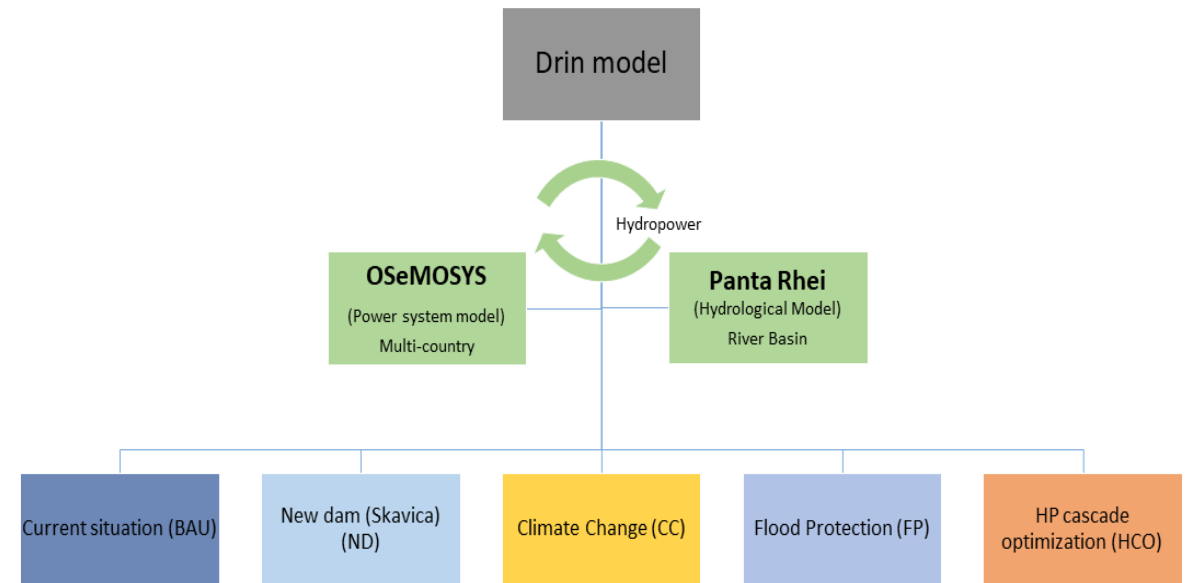


Hydropower and floods

Study of the physical relation between hydropower operations and flood episodes in the basin, to clarify:

- Actual and potential cooperation across HPPs
- Costs and benefits of shifting to “flood-smart” HPP operations
- Cost-effectiveness of new HPP planned in the basin

Based on an Integrated energy-water model



Project outputs beyond the Assessment

The SEE Nexus Project is supporting:

- The preparation of 2 Project Documents for “**Nexus priority interventions**”.
 - 1: Sustainable Forest Management (linked to various SAP Objectives)
 - Sustainable forest management practices and small biomass plants to produce processed biomass products in 2 pilot areas in the Drin Basin.
 - Viable opportunities for financing will also be identified.
 - 2: Nature Based Solutions (implementing action under Goal 5 - Objective 1 of the Drin SAP ("Reduction of untreated wastewater discharge"))
 - Implementation of Nature Based Solutions for Wastewater Treatment in two small/medium settlements in the Drin River Basin
 - Exploring synergies for nutrient recovery, energy extraction and water reuse.
 - Viable opportunities for financing should also be identified.
- **Nexus Roadmap** – focusing on options to operationalise and advance the SAP's cross-sectoral objectives and activities related to the interface of HPP operations and floods and to sustainable forestry and biomass

How is the project accelerating progress towards ...?

... the objectives of the International Water Action Decade:

- the **sustainable development and integrated management of water resources** for achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives -> *water-management related recommendations to energy, agriculture and forestry sectors (Drin Nexus Assessment Report)*
- the implementation and promotion of related programmes and **projects** -> *2 project documents on “priority nexus interventions” (on forestry/biomass and nature-based solutions)*
- the furtherance of **cooperation and partnerships at all levels** to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development -> *Drin Nexus Roadmap to implement SAP objectives through stronger cross-sectoral cooperation*

... the objectives of SDG6:

- 6.4 By 2030, substantially **increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater** to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- 6.5 By 2030, implement **integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation** as appropriate
- 6.6 By 2020, **protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes**

-> *policy recommendations, capacity building, analytical work – supporting transboundary cooperation and the work of the Drin Core Group*



Thank you



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