



CONCLUSIONS FROM WFEE NEXUS TF - CLOSING

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TBNA methodology

- The Transboundary Nexus Assessment Methodology (TBNA) developed under the guidance of this Task Force (a collective effort of countries and int'l orgs)
- The TBNA and a whole set of tools for integrated assessments and planning are available:
 - “nexus community”: GIZ platform [Home | Nexus - The Water, Energy & Food Security Resource Platform \(water-energy-food.org\)](https://www.water-energy-food.org/)
 - “transboundary water community of practice” GEF-IWLEARN platform [IW:LEARN | Home \(iwlearn.net\)](https://www.iwlearn.net/) (there is experience of nexus integration in the TDA-SAP process – e.g. Amazon basin)
- TBNA can be applied to any type of basin
- Similar approaches or adaptations of TBNA exist, e.g. the capacity building material for Central Asia (DKU), ICIMOD's landscape approach, NBA/GIZ's nexus dialogue in the Niger River Basin

Operationalization of nexus solutions and investments

- Experience from RBOs in advancing cross-sectoral cooperation through governance or through specific activities such as cross-sectoral investment plans
 - evolution of cross-sectoral cooperation over time (OMVS)
 - institutional reform to better tackle energy issues (EC-IFAS)
 - nexus guidelines for projects – just approved by council of Ministries (NBA)
 - cross-sectoral investment program (Sava Drina Corridor Program & ISRBC/regional component)
 - transboundary + cross-sectoral Water Fund in the Trifinio (El Salvador)

Operationalization of nexus solutions and investments (cont'd)

- Lessons learned from GEF-IW portfolio, including:
 - development as a driver for cooperation – need for a shared vision
 - tools need to be flexible / fit for purpose (e.g. flood and drought response)
 - closer cooperation of RBOs with regional economic commissions
 - objective: water security for regional integration, stability and peace
- There is much more to do e.g. need to strengthen the economic and financial case for nexus investments / evidence-base for benefits of cooperation (Central Asia IKI project's main objective)

Water Allocation

- Handbook – not prescriptive, a compendium of experiences via case studies, offers practical tools -> Brief for policy makers coming up
- Combining water allocation and nexus broadens the scope for action. Adaptable allocation agreements
- Experience shared with the Task Force:
 - Regional workshop on Central Asia (Nov 2022) – nexus approach also featured (IWAC/Kazakhstan, Finland, UNECE, and Switzerland) – outcome document: lines of actions for the region
 - Drina Study on flow regulation a practical case of reconciling different needs, proposing different options for formalization of flow regulation (see the Drina Nexus Assessment by UNECE and GWP-MED and Handbook)

Ecosystems in the nexus

- Increasing recognition of the central role of ecosystems in the WFEE nexus
- Transboundary basins are (complex) ecosystems in themselves
- Research is advancing (on biosphere and on society/economics) – because there is a lack of scientific data & methods to integrate ecosystems in nexus and sectoral policies
 - “Network on Water-Energy-Food Nexus for a low-carbon economy in Europe and beyond” (University of Oulu, University of Florence)
 - First “thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health” (IPBES)
- Political commitment to tackle ecosystems related issues is increasing
 - the new Climate deal (COP27) refers to Water in relation to preservation of Ecosystems; one day at COP was dedicated to Biodiversity. COP15 of CBD is drawing attention to the concerns about degrading biodiversity

Water-Energy Solutions

- «Sustainable Water-Energy Solutions Network» (UNDESA and ITAIPU) - a platform for knowledge, experience sharing, capacity building
 - Includes UN agencies, international & regional organizations, private sector
 - For transboundary solutions, synergies with the Nexus Task Force under the Water convention
- UNECE continues to support water-energy policy development – join the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, the Task Force on Energy transition on Central Asia
- Water and Energy at the 2023 UN Water Conference (and beyond). Which are the most important issues on water-energy?
- We need to mainstream also water into energy discussions, for a conferences, strategies, policies etc.