

Status of work on the Water-Food-Energy- Ecosystems Nexus: from assessments to solutions and investments

Annikka Lipponen

Finland/Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Lucia de Strasser

UNECE/Water Convention Secretariat

Global Task Force on “transboundary nexus”

- Objectives of the Task Force:
 - oversee nexus activities under the Convention, as well as activities on water allocation in transboundary context
 - provide a global platform for sharing knowledge and experience about addressing cross-sectoral issues in shared basins.
- Includes Parties and non-Parties, country authorities and basins, experts, partner organizations
- established in 2012 and chaired by Finland. Meets regularly



Activities on Nexus: Basin Assessments



* United Nations administered territory under the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

Main activities

Dissemination of the Publication “Solutions and investments in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus: A synthesis of experiences in transboundary basins” (UNECE, 2021) at various events

Work on **projects on the ground:**

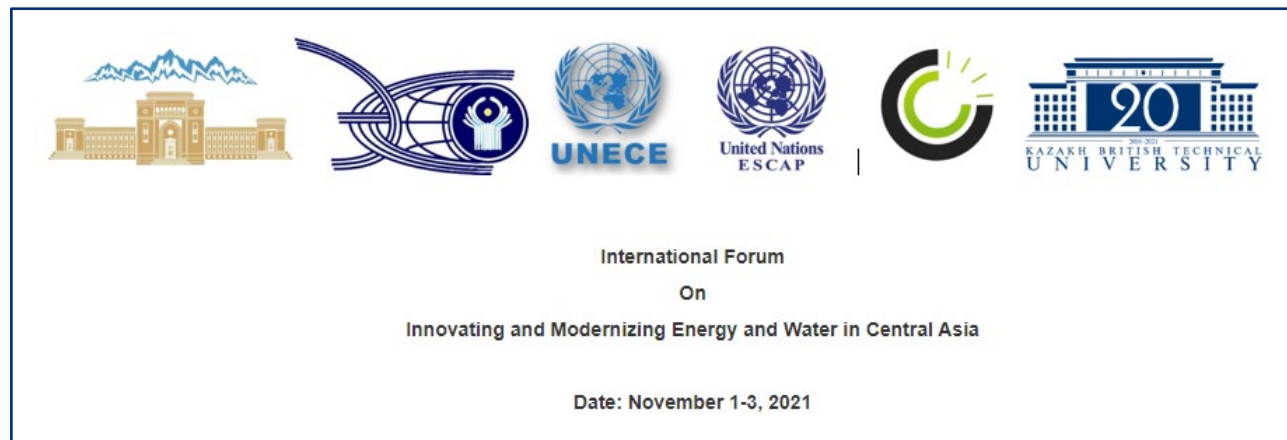
- Finalization of project “Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Southeastern Europe, through the use of Nexus approach” (2019-2021)
- Preparation of project “Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land Nexus in Central Asia” (2022-2027)

Promotion of cooperation between the water and energy sectors and the Publication “Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment” (UNECE, 2020)

Increased visibility “outside” the field of water

Promotion of transboundary water cooperation and basin approach among stakeholders from energy, climate, private sectors, e.g.:

- 2021 Forum on energy and water modernization (Central Asia - UNECE and ESCAP)
- 2021 Workshop on Social, Economic & Environmental Implications of Energy & Climate Strategies (Eastern Europe - IAEA)
- 2022 Global Symposium on Water and Energy Solutions (Global Network - UNDESA and ITAIPU Binacional)



SAVE THE DATE

Global Symposium on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions

13-15 JUNE 2022
ITAIPU BINACIONAL BRAZIL / PARAGUAY | HYBRID

CONVENED BY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

HOSTED BY
ITAIPU BINACIONAL

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SUSTAINABLE WATER & ENERGY SOLUTIONS NETWORK

Register for virtual participation: bit.ly/GlobalSymposium2022 by 10 June.
Apply for side events: bit.ly/GlobalSymposiumSideEvents2022 by 3 June.
For questions and inquiries, please contact Ms. Nadine Salame at salame1@un.org
<https://www.un.org/en/waterenergynetwork>

Lessons learned for future work

- Nexus solutions and investments need to build on **common understanding** and **mutual trust**
- Nexus solutions and investments can promote transboundary water cooperation and **conflict prevention**
- **Institutional arrangements and processes** conducive to developing cross-sector designs and solutions commonly lacking (e.g. different planning cycles)
- More effective cross-sectoral “nexus” cooperation would improve the sustainable management of natural resources in transboundary basins
 - > **need political commitment or a common motivation to work together** (e.g. climate action)
- The nexus approach could catalyse **co-financing for water and environment** services from other sectors and private actors (notable energy and agriculture/forestry)

Activities for 2022-2024

- **2 meetings of the Task Force** on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus (12-13 December 2022 and 2023)
- Promotion of the **methodology** for transboundary nexus assessment – production of a leaflet (in ENG FRE RUS SPA)
- Continue support/assistance in the **operationalization on nexus solutions and investments**- in up to four regions/basins, through:
 - identification of projects and of financing options
 - development and/or operationalization of cross-sectoral regional/basin strategies with e.g. focus on climate
 - opportunities from past assessments and partnerships
- Nexus work in Central Asia through the project: **“Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land Nexus in Central Asia”**

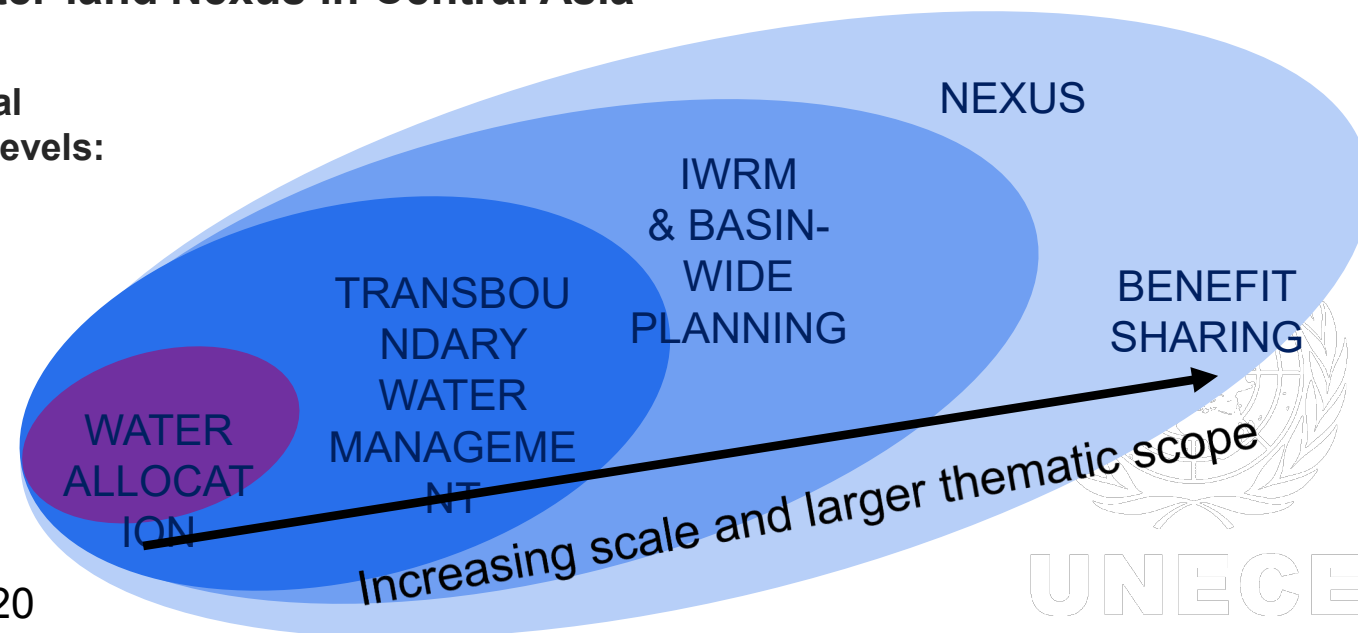
Opportunities of leveraging on **synergies**

1) **PA3: Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water resources management at all levels:**

Continuum Nexus - IWRM – water allocation

2) **Other areas of work**

- Climate adaptation
- Financing cooperation
- Source-to-Sea approach





Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland

 Austrian
Development
Agency

 **Sida**
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conserva
and Nuclear Safety



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

 **Global Water
Partnership**
Mediterranean

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

IUCN



UNITED NATIONS

الشرق
ESCWA



UNDESA



 **IDB**
Inter-American
Development Bank

 **European
Investment
Bank**

 **OECD**
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES


European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development



**United
Nations**



**Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions
Network**

UNECE

Thank you



Email address: annukka.lipponen@gov.fi
Secretariat: lucia.destrasser@un.org



For more information: <https://www.unece.org/env/water/nexus>



Twitter: [@UNECE_Water](https://twitter.com/UNECE_Water)



Facebook: [@UNECEWater](https://www.facebook.com/UNECEWater)



LinkedIn: [@UNECEWater](https://www.linkedin.com/company/UNECEWater)



UNECE