



Lessons learned from a global stocktaking of nexus solutions and investments in transboundary basins

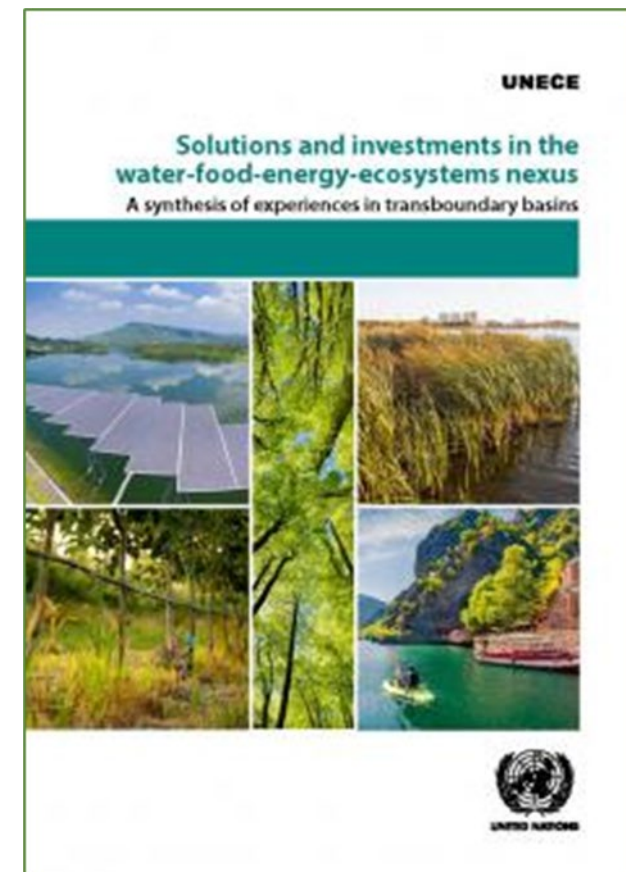
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Nexus Solutions and Investments in TB Basins

- A stocktaking of experience from around the world (2020): a survey, a literature review, inputs from expert consultations and a review of regional nexus dialogues.
- Transboundary focus: Water Convention, IUCN's Bridge project, GEF-IW, and others.
- Nexus solutions and investments to tackle issues of: **water quantity, water quality and environment.**
- The survey involved **stakeholders from different countries and river basins.**
- **36 case studies** analysed to find: common features and trends related to problems and solutions, financing sources and schemes, obstacles to implementation and enabling factors, perceived added value and benefits.



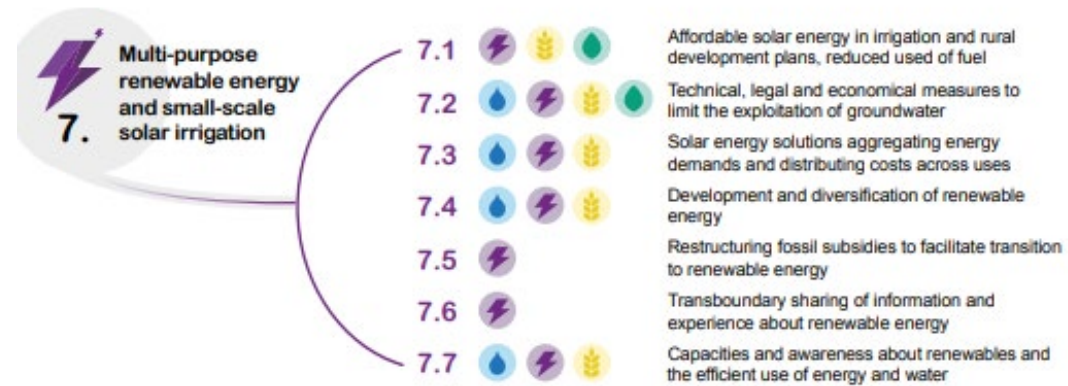
Enabling factors and challenges



- Enabling factors for the implementation of nexus solutions: **Stronger transboundary cooperation** (highest ranking), data and information sharing; increased awareness of options and benefits for cross-sector, transboundary trade-offs, compromise and synergies; and innovative operating rules for infrastructure among many others.
- Challenges that arise during implementation include: political obstacles, data and information shortcomings, inadequate institutions, financial constraints, persistent policy/sector silos, limited technical capacity, and limited time frames and options for benefit sharing.

North Western Saharan Aquifer System (NWSAS): A package of nexus solutions

. Coordinated actions across sectors to implement an energy-led nexus solution (NWSAS nexus assessment)¹⁶¹



The Paraná River: Multi-purpose shared infrastructure



Riparian countries: *Brazil and Paraguay*

Sectors: *water, agriculture, energy, industry*

Transboundary problems tackled: *water quantity, water quality, environmental issues*

Success factors in focus: *multi-purpose use of existing infrastructure*

Financing source: *Itaipu Binacional (binational entity)*

Financing delivery pathways: *project-specific funding, specific programme financing (e.g. climate funds), adaptable programme financing*

Transboundary cooperation framework and/or project: *Treaty of Itaipu 1973 (legal instrument for the exploitation of the hydroelectric potential of the Paraná River)*

Sava: A river basin organization facilitating nexus dialogues across countries



International Sava river Basin Commission; World Bank -GEF cross-sectoral «[Sava-Drina Corridor Program \(SDIP\)](#)»

Trifinio water fund: Innovative financing for watershed conservation



Riparian countries: *El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras*

Sectors: *water, agriculture, energy, environment, industry, tourism*

Transboundary problems tackled: *water quantity, environment*

Success factors in focus: *innovative financing*

Financing source: *TBD (project under development)*

Financing delivery pathways: *water fund (under development)*

Transboundary cooperation framework and/or project: *Plan Trifinio*

Concluding remarks

- Need for more dialogue, cost/benefit assessment and cases/demonstration of **benefits of nexus solutions**
- Evidence of **nexus investments** coming from private sources (energy and agriculture) is still limited, while **innovative financing solutions** could play a major role in upscaling nexus solutions by leveraging multiple sources (incl. climate): **high-level political commitment needed** to coordinate and partner across sectors and borders
- To **implement and upscale nexus solutions** and investments in transboundary basins: basin-level action plans, coordinated strategies and investment plans (also regional, facilitated by regional orgs or IFIs) can be important vehicles
- *Operationalization of nexus solutions and investments passes through the **nexus proofing** of:*
 - *Institutions and legislation (transboundary water agreements and/or arrangements)*
 - *Strategies, policies, and projects at basin level*