



## FIRST MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE WATER-FOOD- ENERGY-ECOSYSTEM NEXUS IN TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS UNDER THE WATER CONVENTION

Geneva, 8–9 April 2013

### Agenda

**Timing:** 8 April 2013, 10.00- 13.00 and 15.00–18.00; 9 April 2013, 9.30- 12.30 and 14.30–17.30

**Location:** Room VIII, Palais des Nations

**Organizers:** United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) under the leadership of Finland

**Languages:** English, French and Russian with simultaneous interpretation

Meeting the growing water demand without compromising sustainability is a rising challenge in the context of growing population and under the pressure of climate change impacts. It is therefore crucial to better understand the interactions between water, food, energy and water-related ecosystems in river basins, in order to strengthen synergies and policy coherence between water, agriculture, energy and land management sectors.

The assessment of these interdependencies is even more relevant in transboundary basins, where identifying intersectoral synergies and mutually beneficial solutions can help reducing trade-offs and potential conflicts, not only across sectors, but also across borders, and support the decision-making process to reduce conflicts and enhance sustainability.

Recognising this, the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) have included in the Work Programme 2013-2015 an assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in selected transboundary basins and established the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus to overview and guide its preparation. To this end, the first meeting of the Task Force will have the following objectives:

- Provide an overview of the status of preparations so far;
- Explore the needs and preferences of the riparian countries, river basin commissions and stakeholders in the basins proposed to be assessed for the nexus in order to agree on the scope and objectives of the assessment and on the deriving information and analysis needs;
- Discuss past and on-going efforts to analyse the nexus and to provide guidance for sectoral (and inter-sectoral) decision-making;
- Discuss and agree on the approach to assessing the nexus, including the methodology, under the Water Convention, and agree on the next steps in the process (including e.g. identification of a pilot basin and possible lead organizations for the different basin assessments, specifying the milestones in the process).

The meeting is organized with the financial support from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment and from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### MONDAY, 8 APRIL

10.00–10.45

Welcome and election of the Chair of the Task Force

*Mr. Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE*

Opening remarks

*Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, Director of the Freshwater Centre, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)*

*Ms. Ann Tutwiler, Special Representative of FAO to the UN organizations in Geneva and to the World Economic Forum, FAO Liaison Office with the United Nations in Geneva*



The importance of the transboundary dimension in the nexus

*Mr. Thomas Stratenwerth, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany*

Background to the nexus assessment: how the UNECE Water Convention promotes cooperation across borders and sectors

*Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of the Water Convention, UNECE*

10.45–13.00

**SESSION 1: Experience on the nexus obtained so far, needs and expectations from the assessment under the Water Convention**

This session will allow building on and learning from other exercises at the basin level. Presentations will be made on selected basins about what are the nexus implications, what work related to the nexus — reconciling multiple uses — has already been carried out, what are the lessons learned, and what are the needs and expectations for the nexus assessment under the Convention.

Moderator: *Ms. Anukka Lipponen, Water Convention secretariat*

Lessons from inter-sectoral coordination in the Sava Basin: water, environmental protection and economic sectors like navigation and tourism

*Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary, International Sava River Basin Commission*

Mutually acceptable mechanism for integrated use of water resources in the Aral Sea Basin through applying a scenario approach

*Mr. Giovanni Muñoz, FAO*

Water for food, energy and ecosystems in the Niger Basin

*Mr. Collins Ihekire, Executive Secretary, Niger Basin Authority and Mr. Frank van Weert, Wetlands International*

Joint Research Centre's assessment of the Water-Agriculture-Energy Nexus in the Danube Basin

*Mr. Giovanni Bidoglio, European Commission Joint Research Centre*

Illustrating the water-land-energy nexus: dynamic change of resource flows according to user-defined scenarios

*Ms. Liz Curmi, University of Cambridge*

Invited intervention: Mr. Christian Bréthaut, University of Geneva, on the Rhone River Basin

Discussion

QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION, IN PARTICULAR FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BASINS POTENTIALLY INVOLVED:

- What are your needs and expectations regarding the nexus assessment under the Convention?
- Which are the basic policy questions that the assessment should provide answers to?

**13.00–15.00 Lunch**



15.00–16.30

**SESSION 2: The proposed approach to assessing the nexus under the Water Convention**

In this session, on the basis of the discussion paper, the draft approach to the nexus assessment under the Water Convention will be presented and discussed. The participants are invited to refer to the discussion document for details on the proposed approach and scope of the assessment.

Moderator: *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, SYKE*

A proposed approach to the nexus assessment under the Water Convention: scope, process, methodology and limitations

*Ms. Annukka Lipponen, UNECE, Mr. Jakob Granit, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and Mr. John Joyce, SIWI*

Discussion

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- Is the approach proposed in the discussion paper the right way forward for the nexus assessment under the Convention?
- Are the proposed elements of the assessment the ones we should have?

16.30–18.00

**SESSION 3: Describing the nexus components — the diagnostic framework**

Drawing from the discussion in the previous session, specific possible components of the nexus assessment, will be discussed in this session (sections A-B of the Discussion Document).

Moderator: *Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Water Convention secretariat and Mr. Pasquale Steduto, FAO*

Description of the basin – lessons from the Second Assessment and information to be included in the nexus assessment

*Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Water Convention secretariat*

Addressing the nexus components from an Agricultural perspective

*Mr. Pasquale Steduto, FAO*

Water-energy nexus from a regional perspective

*Mr. Jakob Granit, SEI*

Characterizing the natural infrastructure and using indicators for assessing the status and impacts on the ecosystems

*Ms. Rebecca Welling, International Union for Conservation of Nature*

Discussion

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- Are the elements proposed in the discussion document to be covered in the descriptive part of the basin assessments what should be included?
- Basin workshops are proposed for identifying with the riparian countries the links and processes in the nexus, assessing their relative importance and identifying potential solutions jointly. Is this the most appropriate role for the basin workshops or what other role they should play? Can recommendations be made?

19.30 **Dinner reception** for all the participants of the meeting offered by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment  
Restaurant Le Pradier (6 Rue Pradier, Geneva)



**Tuesday, 9 April**

9.30–11.30

**SESSION 4: Developing the assessment of the nexus (group work)**

This session will involve dividing the participants into groups to discuss the different components of the assessment and through which indicators can those aspects be adequately assessed (sections B-C, pages 6-7) of the Discussion Document). The draft set of indicators needs to be reviewed and developed further. A rapporteur will be nominated for each of the groups and he/she will report back to the plenary at the end of the session.

Moderators: Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Water Convention secretariat and Mr. Pasquale Steduto, FAO

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION IN GROUPS:**

- What part of the assessment information should be quantitative and what should be qualitative? Which indicators we should use for different parts of the assessment? Can some aspects of the nexus be ranked, prioritized or presented semi-quantitatively or quantitatively? If yes, how to do this in practice?
- How to make a transboundary assessment, bringing together different perspectives and ensuring the consistency of the information and data across the basin?

The discussion groups report back to the plenary.

11.30-12.30

**SESSION 5: Scenarios as a possible additional component of the assessment**

Development options or scenarios could offer additional insights to the implications of different policies and plans. This session will illustrate a specific approach to scenarios and will introduce the discussion on how the nexus assessment could approach development options/scenarios. Interest of the countries and possibilities — either through a simple common approach or using different existing tools — will be explored (section D of the Discussion Document).

Moderator: *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, SYKE*

Addressing water, energy and food security in the Mekong Basin: an example of using development scenarios

*Mr. Anoulak Kittikhoun, Mekong River Commission secretariat (TBC)*

Possible options for development options/scenarios and their impacts on the nexus

*Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Water Convention secretariat*

**QUESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS, IN PARTICULAR FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BASINS POTENTIALLY INVOLVED (QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED BY BASIN):**

- Are you interested in experimenting with scenarios or quantifying some development options or possible policies? Do you have resources available for this? Should the assessment include information on modelling done through other exercises? If yes, could differences in approaches be accepted?
- Would it be necessary to assess in “your” basin an individual development scenario, i.e. looking at measures planned (in river basin management plans or sectoral development plans) and predictions for this particular basin? Is there an existing modelling tool which is applicable to quantifying some aspects of the nexus, is available and has been used on “your” basin?
- Or would it be possible to agree on a limited number of general developments and assess what they would imply in the case of each basin? Could such development options be briefly described – e.g. “more storage/flow regulation”, “green the economy”, “more renewable energies”, “intensify agricultural production” etc.

12.30–14.30 Lunch



14.30–15.15

**SESSION 6: Incorporating the climate change perspective into the assessment**

Climate variability and change influence how the nexus plays out in the future. The predicted changes to the hydrometeorology and their impacts on the different sectors and their relationships need to be considered. Useful experience can be drawn from the programme of pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins under the Water Convention.

Among relevant considerations related to the proposed basins are whether there is a strategy for adaptation to climate change either at national level or at the basin level, and what targets or measures are envisaged for adaptation in different sectors. What implications will these have for the nexus?

Impacts of climate change on different sectors: conclusions from the climate change pilot project on the Dniester

*Ms. Nadejda Chilaru, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Moldova*

Intervention by Mr. Tommaso Abrate, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

**QUESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS:**

- How should the climate change perspective be included in the assessment?
- In which of the proposed basins some efforts to assess the impacts of climate change on water resources and on the different sectors of the economy have already been made? How could such work be used?

15.15-17.00

**SESSION 7: Bringing it all together: our approach to the nexus assessment under the Water Convention**

In this session the proposed approach will be reviewed and consolidated with the insights from the discussions. The different elements of the methodology will be reviewed and agreed upon, reflecting on its feasibility in the case of the different basins.

Moreover, the next steps in the process will be agreed upon, including the deadlines and responsibilities. The authorities are expected to confirm their willingness to participate in the assessment with the planned approach. An identification of organizations willing to lead the preparation of the different basins in close cooperation with the secretariat and the partners/consultants will be made. A basin for testing the methodology will be selected and proposals from the authorities are welcome to this end.

Moderator: *Mr. John Joyce, SIWI*

Elaborated approach to the nexus assessment  
*Mr. Jakob Granit, SEI*

General discussion on the points described above

Summary of the decisions: *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, SYKE and Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Water Convention secretariat*

Closure of the meeting