



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

Annukka Lipponen
UNECE Water Convention



Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Status

- *Initial concept elaborated based on the inputs from the governing bodies & partners*
- *The discussion paper developed by the secretariat with input from Finland (work area leader), FAO, SEI and SIWI presents a possible approach — **a very preliminary one, as basis for discussion, needs to be developed***
- *The approach essentially a continuum from qualitative/descriptive elements to use of indicators and to quantification of selected aspects; possible future perspective (SEI & SIWI will present in detail)*

Objectives of the nexus assessment (a proposal for discussion)

- *Characterize the influence of individual sector-policies on the other sectors within and across countries of a transboundary water system;*
- *Identify jointly barriers and opportunities to cooperation which generates additional benefits from stronger integration of policies and planning across sectors, and promotes equitable sharing of these benefits.*
- *Demonstrate the benefits of cooperation through optimization of interdependent energy, food and ecosystem goods and services' policies leading to increased gain in food, water and energy security across transboundary water systems.*
- *Produce useful information for regional, national and basin level policymakers and stakeholders to support decision-making, transboundary cooperation, public participation and policy coherence.*



Key principles of the approach

1) Participatory process that supports ownership by the participating countries and organizations, and meaningful participation of various stakeholders; and

2) Knowledge mobilization; and

3) Capacity building - supporting mutual learning across basins, sectors and State borders.

Limitations

- 1) **Time:** *the assessment has to be ready for the 7th Meeting of the Parties in 2015*
- 2) **Funding:** *budget has been adopted by 6th MoP; some contributions and pledges have already been received, not all financial commitments to carry out the assessment are yet in place; co-funding and in-kind inputs needed +*
- 3) *Subject to the approach to be defined but the assessment is likely to be data intensive —not possible to assess a large **number of basins***
- 4) **Sufficient data** *for meaningful analysis: certain consistency needed even though some flexibility is necessary*

Process considerations

- *Process as important as final product for capacity building & exchange of experience*
- *Broad expertise and information needed – How do we ensure the necessary intersectoral coordination as well as cooperation and inputs from other sectors?*
- *Potential synergy with other areas of the work plan, other initiatives?*
- *Strategic partners? Relevant work done by others already?*



This meeting is THE opportunity to hear the needs, set our objectives, review what is on-going, identify contributors, and work out the scope and the



rocess

Selected basins to be assessed: diverse physical and nexus settings

- *A nexus approach should contribute to long-term sustainability and better management of resources in the basins to be assessed*
- *A representative set of basins aimed at: all UNECE subregions to be covered, N-S, E-W*
- *With the opening of the Convention, including basins from other regions valuable for exchange of experience*
- *Basins to reflect, ideally,*
 - *different transboundary relationships and level of socio-economic development*
 - *A diversity of issues, different angles to the nexus*
 - *Climatic zones i.e. different level of water availability*
 - *Varying relative resource scarcity and productivity*
 - *A adequate level of data availability — a common minimum level to be established, but room to be left for more ambition*



Basin proposals

River	Riparian countries	Proposed by
Sava	Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Slovenia	Sava River Commission
Narva	Estonia, Latvia, Russian Federation	Ministry of the Environment of Estonia
Dniester	Republic of Moldova, Ukraine	Moldovan Environment Ministry
Alazani	Azerbaijan, Georgia	State Agency for Water Resources under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan
Araks	Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey	State Agency for Water Resources under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan
Ural	Kazakhstan, Russian Federation	Water Resources Committee
Chu and Talas	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	Water Resources Committee

Basin proposals (2)

River	Riparian countries	Proposed by
Aral Sea Basin	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Committee for Water Coordination
Vakhsh, Pyanj, Kunduz (upper Amu Darya)	Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan	Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, Tajikistan
Mejerda	Algeria, Tunisia	Ministry of Agriculture, Tunisia
Niger	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Nigeria	Niger Basin Authority and the Wetlands International
Sesan, Srepok and Sekong rivers (Mekong)	Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia	Conservation International
Marowijne	Suriname, France (Department of French Guiana)	Conservation International

Time line

- *Basins to be assessed & participation of countries & commissions to be confirmed by end of June 2013*
- *Methodology to be refined on the basis of the discussions in this meeting & a list of data requirements to be specified by Sept 2013 for the pilot, end of Jan 2013 for the consolidated*
- *Testing the methodology on a pilot basin (to be selected), including data collection, analyses and assessment, conclusions of the testing and finalization of the methodology (October-December 2013);*
- *2nd meeting of the Nexus Task Force in mid-2014 (dates to be set; July or October 2014 possible)*
- *Jan 2014- Apr 2015: basin level process (inter-sectoral basin level meetings with concerned sectors & main water users) & assessments*
- *May 2015 content of the Assessment to be endorsed by the Nexus Task Force*
- *Publication in August 2015*

