



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

Geneva, 8–9 September 2014

Provisional Agenda

Timing: 8 September 2014, 10.00–13.00 and 15.00–18.00; 9 September 2014, 09.30–12.30 and 14.30–17.30

Location: Room V, Palais des Nations

Languages: English, French and Russian with simultaneous interpretation

At its sixth session (Rome, 28–30 November 2012), the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes included an assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Convention's programme of work for 2013–2015. This decision was in recognition of the possibility that friction and potential conflicts in water management might result from tensions between sectoral objectives, unintended consequences of resource management and trade-offs between sectors, both at the national and the international level. By assessing the situation in transboundary basins jointly and improving the knowledge base, synergies can be achieved and potential solutions identified.

The Parties decided that the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management would be the responsible bodies for the assessment. The process and scope were discussed in the first meeting of the Task Force (Geneva, 8–9 April 2013), and a possible approach was presented there.

To this end, the second meeting of the Task Force will have the following objectives:

- Provide an overview of the status of preparations so far;¹
- Review the approach to assessing the nexus, including the methodology, under the Water Convention;
- Discuss the findings and the experience from the basin assessments carried out so far;
- Review the preparations for the forthcoming basin assessments, hear about the related expectations and discuss their specificities;
- Discuss the format and elements of the basin assessments to be produced as well as the overall stock-taking report from the nexus assessment;
- Agree on the next steps in the current process;
- Propose possible follow-up activities for the Convention's programme of work 2016–2018.

The preparation process is supported financially by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment and by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, the Task Force Meeting is supported by the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

¹ The status of the nexus assessment as well as the relevant background are explained in document http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2014/WAT/06Jun_25-26_Geneva/ECE_MP.WAT_WG.1_2014_6_ENG.pdf



MONDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER

10.00–10.45

Welcome and opening remarks

Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, secretary of the Water Convention, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Opening remarks

Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, Director of the Freshwater Centre, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and Chair of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus

Opening address/key note

Investments to address the Water/Food/Energy/Ecosystem Nexus in the Global Environmental Facility's (GEF) programming to enhance greater resource and environmental security

Ms. Astrid Hillers, Senior Environmental Specialist, GEF

Background to the nexus assessment: objectives, scope and expected outcomes

Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE

10.45–13.00

SESSION 1: Methodology

In this session, the methodology developed under the Water Convention for assessing the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus will be presented and discussed. The approach has been revised in the light of the piloting on the Alazani/Ganikh Basin and application to the Sava Basin, as well as the comments received.

Moderator: *Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Secretary to the Water Convention*

The methodology developed for the nexus assessment under the Water Convention

Mr. Mark Howells, professor, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm (UNECE consultant)

Proposed methodology for the institutional assessment

Mr. Christian Bréthaut, University of Geneva

Invited commentary: Land management and food security perspective to the nexus — possible indicators

Ms. Lucie Pluschke, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Invited commentary: Economic aspects

Ms. Tatiana Efimova, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Discussion

QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

- Is the methodology fit for assessment of intersectoral issues from transboundary basin perspective? Is the methodology well applicable to all the basins?
- Are there significant gaps in the approach?

13.00–15.00

Lunch

14:00–15:00: Lunchtime side event (by invitation): Planned assessment of the Syr Darya Basin

The country representatives, national coordinators, UNECE and partners in the assessment will meet to discuss the assessment, its organization, timeframe and responsibilities



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15.00–16.30

SESSION 2: Experience from applying the approach: Progress in assessing the nexus under the Water Convention

In this session, the progress made in the basin assessments are presented and discussed, namely in the pilot basin on which the methodology was tested, the Alazani/Ganikh River Basin, and the second basin assessed, the Sava River Basin.

Moderator: *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, SYKE*

Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems assessment in the Alazani/Ganikh Basin
Ms. Matanat Avazova, Deputy Director of Environmental National Monitoring Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan and Mr. Alexander Mindorashvili, Main Specialist of Water Resources Service, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Georgia

Preliminary lessons learned from the nexus assessment and intersectoral coordination in the Sava Basin
Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary, International Sava River Basin Commission

Discussion

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- What benefits can the assessments provide in the basins? What worked out well in the approach? Should something be improved in the process?
- What is the potential for using the first assessments' findings to respond to some relevant policy questions in the countries/basins and to inform on-going policy processes?
- Intentions to use the findings? Possible follow-up actions?

16.30–18.00

SESSION 3: Other basins to be assessed

Gradually, through correspondence with the countries and joint bodies, as well as the identification of the necessary funding, the basins to be assessed have been confirmed from among those initially proposed.

After each of the presentations, the representatives of the countries sharing the basin are invited to comment.

Moderator: *Mr. Chris Severin, Programme Manager, GEF*

Nexus issues in the Syr Darya Basin

Mr. Vadim Sokolov, Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Syr Darya Basin: the proposed approach
Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Water Convention secretariat

Water for food, energy and ecosystems in the Niger Basin

Mr. Jean Abdias Compaore, Environment Specialist, Niger Basin Authority

Approaching the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Niger Basin
Mr. Frank van Weert, Wetlands International

North-West Sahara Aquifer System (NWSAS): status of knowledge, issues and need for an intersectoral approach

Mr. Djamel Latrech, Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)

Assessing the NWSAS for the nexus: support to cooperation and policy processes
Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Global Water Partnership Mediterranean



Other possible basins explored for the assessment (brief updates on the status/perspectives):

The Isonzo/Soca

Mr. Paolo Angelini, Italian Head of Delegation in the Alpine Convention, President of the Permanent Committee for the Italian Presidency 2013-2014, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

Discussion

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Expectations about the planned assessments?
- Any particular issues about the application of the methodology to these basins? What needs to be taken into account?

Tuesday, 9 September

9.30–11.30

SESSION 4: Outline and format of the basin assessments, indicators

The proposed overall structure of the basin assessments, including their graphical elements, is presented in this session. Comments on this are invited in the discussion.

In the nexus assessment under the Convention, indicators are used at different levels: national level (for riparian countries), basin level and specific indicators identified for the identified main intersectoral issues. This approach addresses the need to balance between a consistent overall approach across the basins while reflecting the specificity of each basin adequately.

This approach to indicators is reviewed in discussion groups in the light of the experience so far and considering the characteristics of the different basins. 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.

Moderator: *Mr. Mark Howells, KTH*

The proposed outline and format of the basin assessments

Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Water Convention secretariat

Model maps and graphics

Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva (TBC), Zoi Environment Network

Discussion

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Is the proposed structure meaningful?
- Is the balance between quantitative and qualitative information in the approach good?
- Do the proposed graphics help to clarify and communicate more effectively some main findings from the assessments? Do the models focus on relevant aspects? Can similar maps and graphics be produced for all the basins to be assessed?

Nexus indicators & their use in the assessment:

Ms. Lucia de Strasser, KTH

Invited commentary: *Ms. Lucie Pluschke, FAO*



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Discussion in small groups by basin:

For those basins where the assessment is on-going, the discussion focuses on reviewing the appropriateness of the indicators and how well they allow the substantiation and quantification of the main nexus issues. For the basins where the assessment is forthcoming, the long list of possible indicators will be reviewed and their suitability and relevance for the basin under discussion will be reflected on.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION IN GROUPS:

- Is the balance between quantitative and qualitative information in the approach and the proposed structure meaningful?
- Are the available databases used for the national level information (World Bank, etc. A list will be provided) representative and acceptable?
- For basins under assessment: Are the indicators at the different levels appropriate? Do they illustrate key differences between the sectors or resources in the riparian countries and the importance of intersectoral linkages and trade-offs?
- For basins to be assessed: Are the proposed indicators suitable and relevant for “your” basin?
- For all: Are there significant data availability concerns related to the indicators, or issues of different approaches across borders?

The discussion groups report back to the plenary.

11.30–12.30

SESSION 5: The overall stocktaking report of the assessment under the Convention

In this session the scope, structure and contents of the overall stocktaking report on the nexus assessment is discussed. The report is to be produced for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, to be held in November 2015.

The report is proposed to contain a general or overview part as well as all the basin assessments compiled. For practical reasons, the basin assessments will need to be included as short versions.

In at least in some of the basins more detailed analytical and modelling work is expected to continue beyond autumn 2015. Therefore, the 2015 report is not expected to reflect the full breadth and depth of the nexus assessment work.

Moderator: *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, SYKE*

The proposed scope and structure for the stocktaking report from the nexus assessment
Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Water Convention secretariat

Discussion

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Are other supporting materials needed — an executive summary, a policy brief?
- Is there interest among partner organizations to contribute to the report?

12.30–14.30

Lunch



14.30–16.00

SESSION 6: Other initiatives on the nexus and potential synergies

Various organisations have relevant initiatives on-going on different aspects of the resource nexus and with some of these collaboration has already been established. The purpose of this session is to explore further opportunities for synergies.

Nexus Infrastructure Solutions

Mr. James Dalton, International Union for Conservation of Nature/International Water Association

Joint Research Centre's assessment of the Nexus in the Danube Basin and in the Mekrou

Mr. Giovanni Bidoglio, European Commission Joint Research Centre

Ecosystems, Water, Energy and Food — 3-S River Basin: Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia

Ms. Tracy Farrell, Senior Technical Director (Mekong Program), Conservation International

Transboundary cooperation between Cambodia and Viet Nam Integrated Water Resources Management in the Sesan and Srepok Sub-Basins

Mr. Tran Minh Khoi, Center for Water Quality and Environment, Southern Institute for Water Resources Planning, Viet Nam

EU Water Initiative's National Policy Dialogues

Mr. Peep Mardiste, UNECE

QUESTIONS FOR ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING OTHER NEXUS INITIATIVES:

- What opportunities for exchange of experience are there for your initiative with the assessment under the Convention?
- Are there some concrete synergies, for example in the organization of the workshops, analytical and modelling work, arranging opportunities in the countries and basins to discuss the findings with stakeholders, follow-up projects, etc.

16.00–17.00

SESSION 7: Next steps in the nexus assessment under the Water Convention and ideas for follow-up activities in the next work plan

The next steps and the timeline in developing the nexus assessment further will be discussed and agreed upon.

The nexus was considered one of the priorities for the period of the next work plan under the Water Convention, 2016-2018, in the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Geneva, 25-26 June 2014). Therefore, possible follow-up activities on the nexus will be discussed in the latter part of the session and the participants are welcome to propose their ideas.

Chair: *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, SYKE*

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

Closure of the meeting