

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

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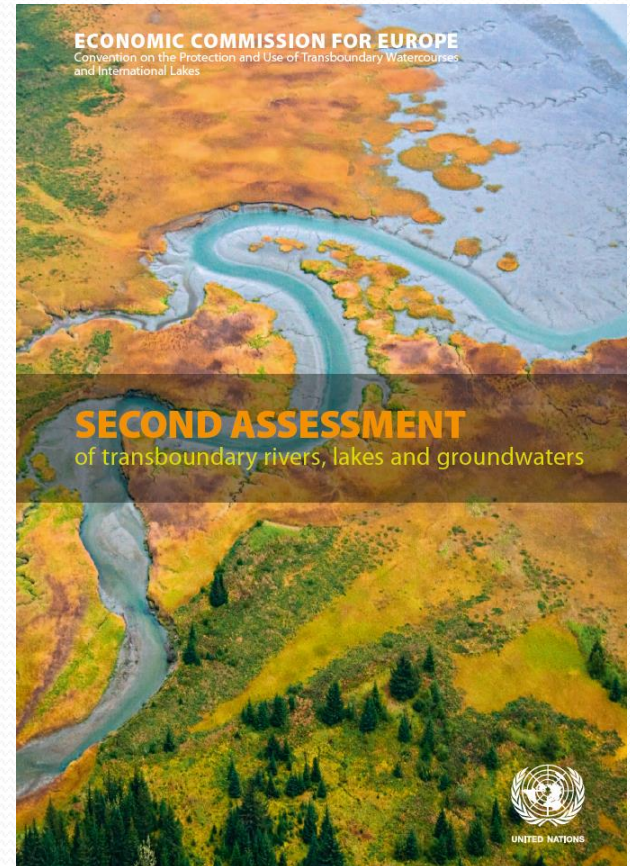
Background to assessment under the Convention and the nexus

- In 2003 the Parties to the Water Convention decided to regularly carry out regional assessments; First Assessment in 2007, Second Assessment in 2011
- Water, energy and food sectors strongly interlinked > impacts & trade-offs, also potential synergies — very topical but little done at transboundary level
- High demand in the countries for effective, practical solutions for alleviating the negative impacts in the nexus



Common issues in the region from the findings of the Second Assessment

- Uneven level of transboundary cooperation and related deficiencies
- Frictions between sectors about water use in many basins
- Policy integration and coherence remains weak across the region; difficult to put into practice, painful trade offs. Stronger governance needed!
- Agriculture (diffuse pollution, water use)
- Hydromorphological changes
- Climate change – projected impacts vary across the region, few studies & little coordination at transboundary level



What does the resource nexus entail in a transboundary context?

- the trade-offs and externalities may cause friction
- forming a holistic picture of the situation more complicated
- Finding a balance between various uses and protection of the resource: address the trade offs and increase synergies
- Necessary to coordinate plans & management measures between the riparian countries to avoid negative impacts from unilateral action
- more opportunity for benefits looking at the basin as a whole, only achievable through joint action



General objectives of the nexus assessment

The general aims from the programme of work for 2013-2015 adopted the Meeting of the Parties:

- provide a picture of the interdependencies (or their understanding) across water, ecosystems, energy, food and other areas, such as climate change and biodiversity, in terms of uses, needs, economic and social benefits and potential synergies, as well as conflicts and trade-offs;
- present the suite of sectoral policies together with an analysis of their integration, coherence and capacity to positively address the water, energy and food security nexus and improve water, energy and food security, taking into account linkages between water and land management



Benefits of the assessment under the Convention

- **Improved knowledge base** about linkages between sectors to **support decision-making** at national, basin & transboundary levels, analysis/quantification of selected aspects; gaps
- **Joint identification of opportunities** for benefits and of solutions for capitalizing on the synergies, addressing trade-offs and reconciling different resource uses;
- **Promotion of dialogue between the different sectors** and the riparian countries at the basin level; bring together authorities, private sector, civil society
- **Exchange** of good practices
- **Capacity building**: workshops, exchanges, self-assessment, knowledge mobilization in the process
- Serves to inform/increase awareness, guide & stimulate action



Aims at the basin level

- Support transboundary cooperation by
 - identifying intersectoral synergies that could be further explored and utilized in the different basins;
 - Determining policy measures and actions that could alleviate negative consequences of the nexus and help to optimize the use of available resources
- Help to move towards increased efficiency in resource use, greater policy coherence and co-management
- Build capacity in addressing intersectoral impacts

Objectives of the 2nd Task Force meeting

- Provide an overview of the status of preparations;
- Review the approach, including the methodology;
- Discuss the findings and the experience from the basin assessments;
- 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 and of the overall stock-taking report;
- Agree on the next steps in the current process;
- Propose possible follow-up activities for the Convention's programme of work 2016–2018

Concluding points

- **Diverse expectations, limited resources** constrain ambitions and dealing with the complexity requires a **workable approach**
- A **scoping level exercise!** Follow-up projects needed if more in-depth analysis and quantification are to be done
- **NO one-size-fits-all:** all the **basins are unique** the application of the general approach and the process shapes differently
- **Active participation and commitment** needed from the countries to shape the approach into a valuable, relevant exercise that supports policy and decisions at different levels
- Identification of **synergies** with other initiatives important — promising partnerships have emerged
- Even though already the intersectoral-transboundary dialogue has value, **adequate data** is necessary for a meaningful analysis