

Programme area 3: Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

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11th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management
Geneva, 18-19 October 2016

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Progress and activities in this area of work in 2016

- * Long assessments (technical reports on the Alazani/Ganykh, Sava and the Syr Darya) at different stages of editing & finalization
- * Promotion:
 - * Side event at Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, Batumi, Georgia in June 2016
 - * Summary assessments of the Alazani/Ganykh published in Azeri and in Georgian, the Syr Darya in Russian
- * Assessment and benefits study of the Drina financed by Italy nearing completion
- * NW Sahara Aquifer (part of a GWP lead & SIDA financed MENA project) at inception stage: Preparatory mission, engagement of experts, desk study initiated



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Progress and activities in this area of work in 2016

- * *The Drina nexus and benefits project*
 - * *Intersectoral basin level workshop held in Podgorica, Montenegro 21-22 April 2016*
 - * *Main intersectoral issues identified & some potential solutions explored (co-optimizing flow regulation, rural development, solid waste*
 - * *2nd workshop to discuss the preliminary findings: 8-10 November 2016, Belgrade, Serbia*
 - * *Nexus assessment built on by detailing of selected benefits of transboundary cooperation; cooperation with UNECE Sustainable Energy Division and the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)*



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Progress and activities in this area of work in 2016

- * Energy sector involvement in the nexus work has strengthened: cooperation with GERE & better participation from the energy sector on the Drina, joint water/environment-energy events etc
- * Nexus at the Sustainable Energy Forum (Baku, Azerbaijan, 18-21 October 2016)
 - * Water Convention's nexus work will be presented to the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, also as an official document to demonstrate the value of a nexus approach for sustainable development of renewable energy
 - * The Syr Darya nexus assessment will be discussed at the SPECA (UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia) Thematic Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment



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Most significant achievement in this area of work and illustration

- * *Methodology was developed for assessing intersectoral links, trade-offs and benefits in transboundary basins, which is proven applicable to diverse settings & attracts international attention*
- * *4 basin assessments have been carried out, 2 more currently worked on:*
 - * *Main intersectoral linkages identified jointly with stakeholders; prioritized and the effects discussed*
 - * *a “menu” of possible synergetic, beneficial actions identified*
 - * *Benefits of applying a nexus approach identified, possible solutions*
- * *An improved knowledge base about intersectoral issues and addressing them at a transboundary level - conclusions and general recommendations developed*



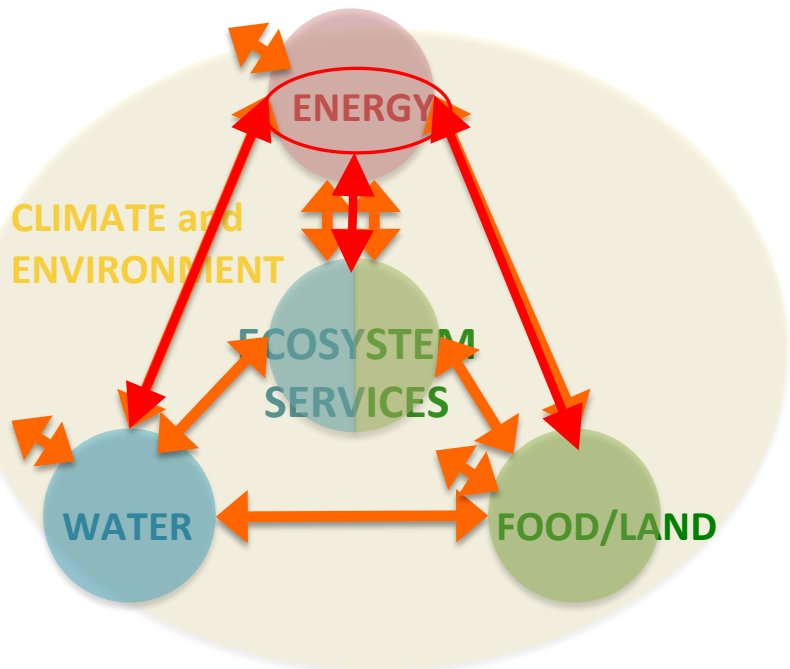
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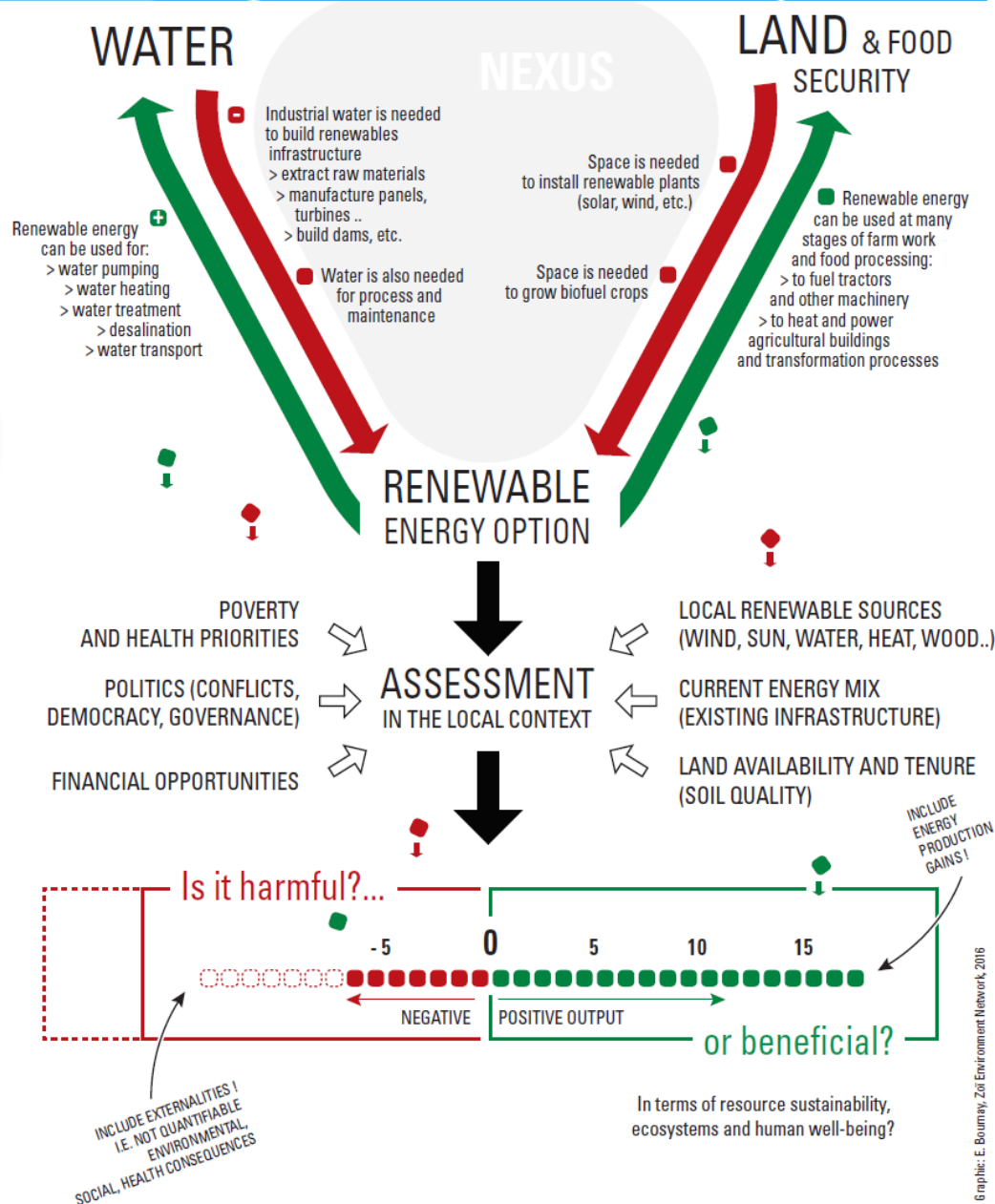
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Example: renewable energy and the nexus



UNDERSTANDING THE SPECIFICS TO REACH OUT AND MOTIVATE ACTION IN ORDER TO INCREASE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION, LIMIT TRANSBOUNDARY IMPACTS, MANAGE SHARED WATERS MORE SUSTAINABLY



Lessons learned and recommendations to others

- * *Result of the nexus assessment may be controversial to a sector or a country; the design of the process is important to ensure acceptance*
- * *An active participation and commitment from the countries necessary to shape the process into a valuable exercise, focusing on relevant policy issues*
- * *Ensuring a sufficiently broad participation of all relevant sectors is challenging (work through partners & with sectors)*
- * *Identifying benefits of joint action can motivate improvements (e.g. investments, which transboundary agreement and multi-sectorality can make progress)*
- * *Complex issues: clear and accessible communication needed to ensure attention to the conclusions*
- * *Even though already the intersectoral-transboundary dialogue has value, adequate data is necessary for a meaningful analysis*



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Planned future activities in this area in 2016-2018

- * **Assessments** replicating and adapting the methodology with or through partners: Drina; NW Sahara Aquifer (GWP-Med, OSS); Isonzo/Soča (possible continuation); Niger (NBA, EC, GIZ etc.); others subject to interest
- * **Sub-regional work:** Central Asia Nexus Dialogue (CAREC lead, EC funding); South-Eastern Europe (GWP-Med)
- * **Promotion** of the findings and methodology (e.g. policy brief; regional and international events and processes, basin reports)
- * **Global stock-taking workshop** on the assessments and practical application; 4th nexus Task Force from 8 to 10 December 2016 (with GEF IW:LEARN, GWP, GIZ, IUCN and others): basins interested in the approach welcome to present their case; examples of solutions called for
- * **Facilitating identification and agreement on follow-up actions by the countries through e.g. NPDs; some project proposals have been developed**



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