

UNECE Nexus Methodology

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Background

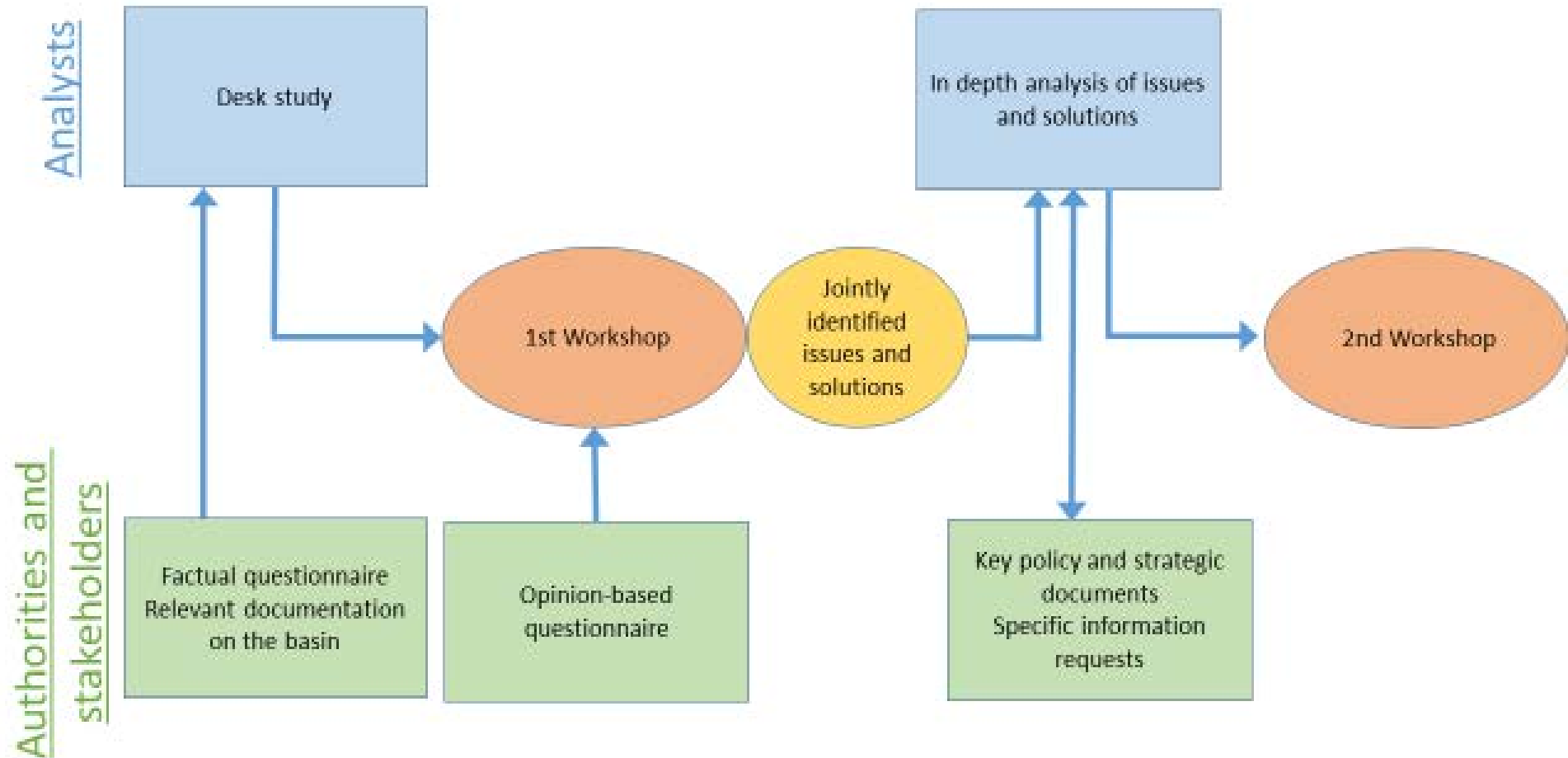
Methodology developed ad hoc for the UNECE. Pillars:

- Participatory process
- Knowledge mobilization
- Sound scientific analysis
- Benefits and opportunities

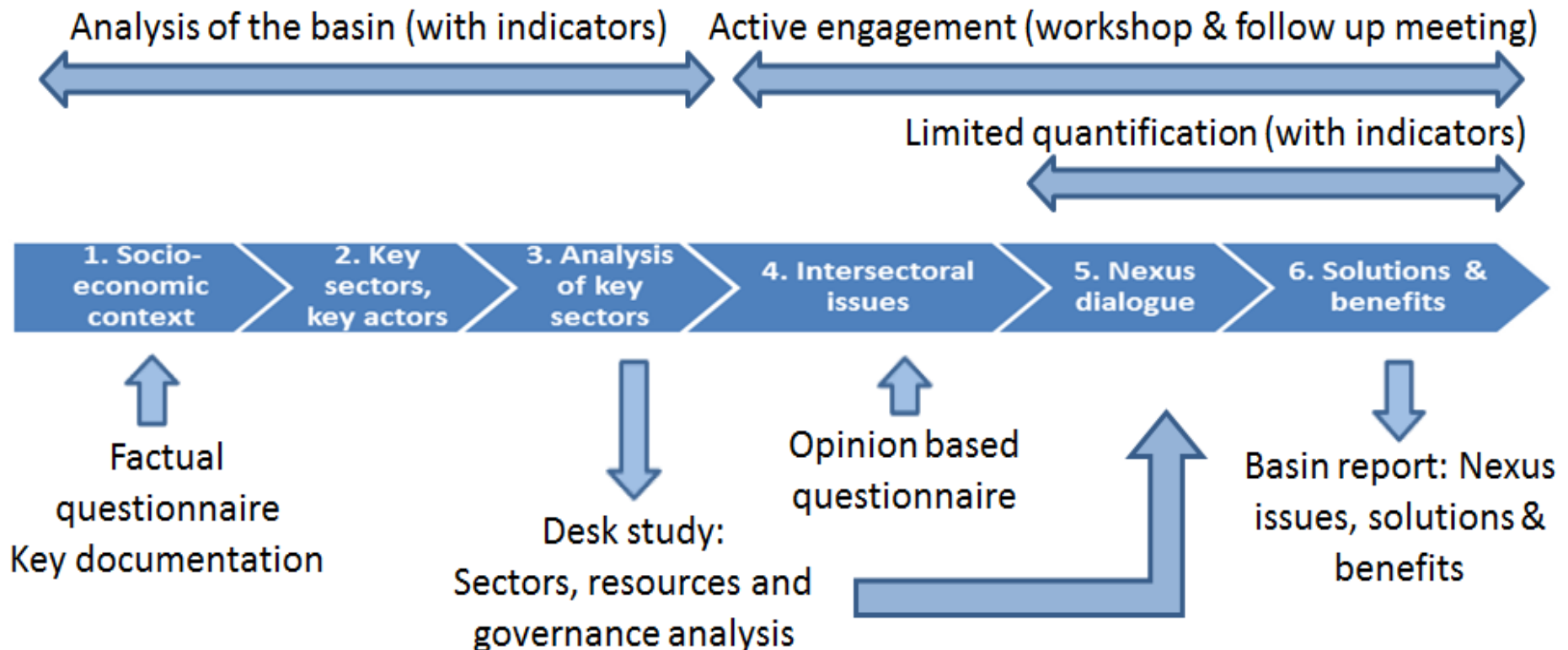
Applications:

- Alazani/Ganykh (Azerbaijan, Georgia)
- Sava (Bosnia&Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia)
- Syr Darya (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan)
- Isonzo/Soča (Italy, Slovenia)
- Drina (Bosnia&Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia)
- North West Saharan Aquifer System (Algeria, Lybia, Tunisia) (ongoing)

The Assessment Process



A six step methodology



A six step methodology



Steps in the nexus assessment of a basin

	Step	Actors	Location	Sectors
1	Identification of basin conditions and its socio economic context	Analysts.	Desk study	General. Information normally used to underpin sectoral planning. Key elements include general socio-economic goals and targets.
2	Identification of key sectors and stakeholders to be included in the assessment	Analysts. Authorities	Desk study	General. Requires expert judgment understanding of local context and governance.
3	Analysis of the key sectors	Analysts. Authorities	Desk study/ 1 st Workshop	Individual sector experts and plans. Key elements include identifying resource flows and institutional mapping.

	Step	Actors	Location	Sectors
4	Identification of intersectoral issues	Stakeholders	1 st Workshop	Sectoral group discussion on interlinkages (input needs, impacts and trade-offs), and discussion on sectoral plans
5	Nexus dialogue and future developments	Stakeholders	1 st Workshop	Agreeing on a prioritization of main interlinkages. How the interlinkages are expected to change according to jointly identified development trends, noting key uncertainties and most important drivers
6	Identification of opportunities for improvement (across the sectors and countries)	Stakeholders and analysts	1 st Workshop/ 2 nd Workshop / Desk study	Within the context of 5, there is an identification of solutions with multiple impacts between sectors, scales and boundaries. Such solutions could eventually be integrated into policies and programmes in the countries/basins.

Methodological progress



General:

Governance – effort to streamline elements of governance analysis

Application to the case of an aquifer - ?

Specifically on steps:

1. Exploiting synergies with earlier efforts, e.g. questionnaires often not necessary
2. Identification of actors - ?
3. Higher involvement of local experts for better understanding issues
- 4-5. Towards more focused discussions on specific issues: thematic working groups
6. Structured discussion on benefits of cooperation during workshop

Case by case changes to maximize impact in the basins/regions:

Looking for alignment and synergy with other projects (e.g. GEF TDA)

For more information on the methodology see:

UNECE, 2015. *Reconciling resource use in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus*. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

de Strasser, L.; Lipponen, A.; Howells, M.; Stec, S.; Bréthaut, C., 2016. A Methodology to Assess the Water Energy Food Ecosystems Nexus in Transboundary River Basins. *Water* 8, 59.