

# Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus under the Water Convention

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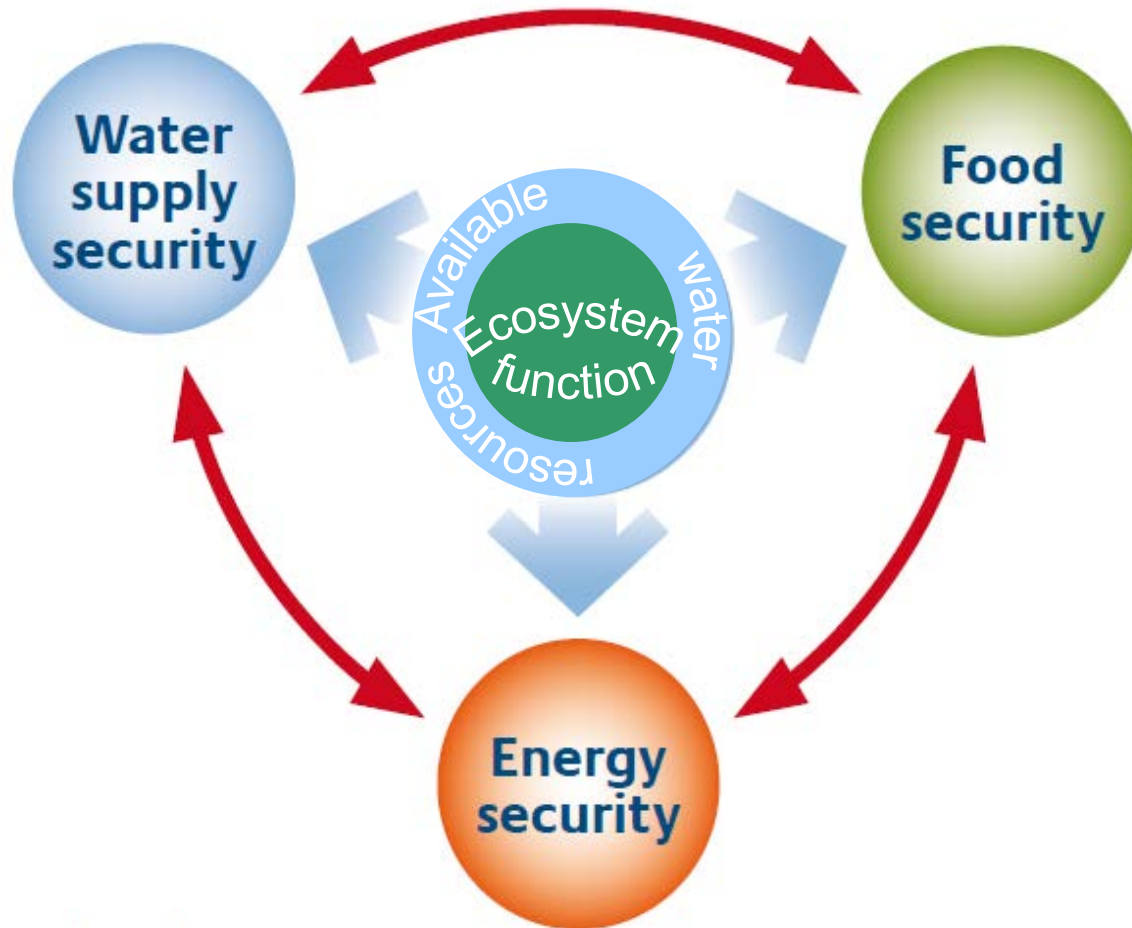


Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

# Background

- *Regular assessments of transboundary waters under the Convention*
- *Initial concept elaborated based on the inputs from the governing bodies & partners*
- *A part of the Convention's Work Programme 2013-2015*
- *MoP established a nexus Task Force to overview & guide*
- *The discussion paper developed by the secretariat with input from Finland (work area leader) and partners*
- *The approach essentially a continuum from qualitative/descriptive elements to use of indicators and to quantification of selected aspects; possible future perspective*

# Nexus



# Objectives of the nexus assessment

- *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.*



# The approach

*The approach essentially a continuum from qualitative/descriptive elements to use of indicators and to quantification of selected aspects; possible future perspective (a discussion paper available for details)*

## ***Key principles***

- 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.*

# 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: different UNECE subregions to be covered, plus some basins from other regions (valuable for exchange of experience with the opening of the Convention)*
- *Basins reflect*
  - *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*
  - *An adequate level of data availability — a common minimum level to be established, but room to be left for more ambition*



# Scope (preliminary)

A Description of the basin: overall setting

a. Macro-region political economy

- Sectoral aspects and policies at both national and macro-region level

b. Biophysical dimensions of the transboundary basin

c. Climate change and variability: observations, predictions, vulnerability of different sectors

B Describing the nexus through its components

- Water, food, energy & ecosystems

C Analysis of the nexus/reconciling different uses: Opportunities and barriers

D. Cooperative analysis, solutions and next steps





# Climate change related considerations

- *Among basic information for the assessment: quantity, quality and variability of the water resource, future outlook*
  - *Understand implications of predicted climate change to the interactions between water, food, energy and water-related ecosystems*
  - *If there is a strategy for adaptation to climate change either at national level or at the basin level, what targets or measures are envisaged for different sectors?*
  - *Assess how adaptation measures change the relations (the deployment of renewable energy sources)*
  - *Coherence of development policies in different sectors and climate*
- Integrating climate change into the assessment can be explored through the first basins to be assessed***





# Timeline

- *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 2014 for the consolidated*
- *Testing the methodology on a pilot basin, including data collection, analyses and assessment, conclusions of the testing and finalization of the methodology (October-December 2013);*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Nexus Task Force in mid-2014 (8-9 September 2014 tentatively)*
- *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*

