



**Item 7**  
**Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach  
to water management at all levels**

**Statements**



3<sup>rd</sup> joint meeting of the Working Group on IWRM and Working Group  
on Monitoring and Assessment (26-28 April 2021)



**Item 7 (a) Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins**

Statements by:

- Maria LAZAREVIC, Serbia
- Ylber MIRTA, North Macedonia
- Almotaz ABADI, from the Union for the Mediterranean (not delivered during the meeting).

Dear ladies and gentlemen, Dear colleagues,

I want to greet you on behalf of the Republic of Serbia and on my own behalf. First, I would like to share our experience with transboundary cooperation in Drina River Basin.

We do not have either basin-level cooperation mechanism or bilateral agreement with Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a sub-basin of the Sava River, the Drina benefits from Sava Commission. But multisectoral cooperation in the basin is lacking, especially communication and cooperation between water and energy sector.

Through the Water Convention, a nexus dialogue in the Drina Basin started in 2014. At first, it was the benefit just for having different stakeholders on the same table. By the time, we come to the well-developed platform for cross-sectoral cooperation.

Also, we are all aware of climate change influence in the water resources management. We have one 3 years project started in Serbia financed through Green Climate Fund. Having this experience, Serbia would very much appreciate UNECE support to have better use of this fund possible for projects in the Drina basin continuing with Nexus recommendations and defined possible actions focusing on the monitoring, assessment and information sharing in the Basin, as well as promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach at all levels and connecting to activities on adaptation to climate change. Serbia sees Nexus as a tool to connect Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina to get transboundary benefit from Green Climate Fund.

Last but not the least, I would like to express our gratitude to the Water Convention, UNECE Secretariat with really dedicated staff who do not try to change us in some suitable way but having the patient and respect to our situation and support us in the way the most suitable for our basin. Also, our appreciation goes to GWP Mediterranean and ADA who see the importance of financial support to our region.

Thank you!

The main achievement of the support to the nexus work are:

- Strengthening transboundary cooperation
- Moving from **Fragmented (separate sector) approach** to the **Nexus Approach** in addressing sector-specific challenges and demands in the water, energy and agriculture sectors,
- Development of an **Integrated energy-water model** and **study on biomass and forestry**
- Involvement of the energy sector or Power Utilities in North Macedonia and Albania

**Dear Ladies and Gentlemen**, North Macedonia was very active from the beginning of the project activities in Drin basin, related to transboundary water cooperation with other riparians, including nexus opportunities and also is very interested in continuation of this project activities.

In the next period, this Project, in coordination with the DCG will support the preparation of Project Documents for **“Nexus priority interventions”** in order to put the nexus approach into practice.

In this regard, we see a good opportunity in the draft Programme of Work 2022-2024 which foresees support to operationalizing cross-sectoral regional strategies, in our case support on implementation of the Nexus Roadmap for the Drin and the Drin SAP

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to thanks Austrian government, Water Convention, GWP-Med for supporting the Drin nexus assessment and we hope that this support will continue in the future.



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



# Meeting of the joint Working Groups to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

## The WEF E Nexus in the Mediterranean Region in the Framework of the UfM Water Agenda

Mr. Almotaz Abadi – Managing Director / UfM-Water  
27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus

The nexus concept recognises that **water**, **energy**, **food**, and **ecosystems** are all intertwined, and can both negatively and positively affect one another.

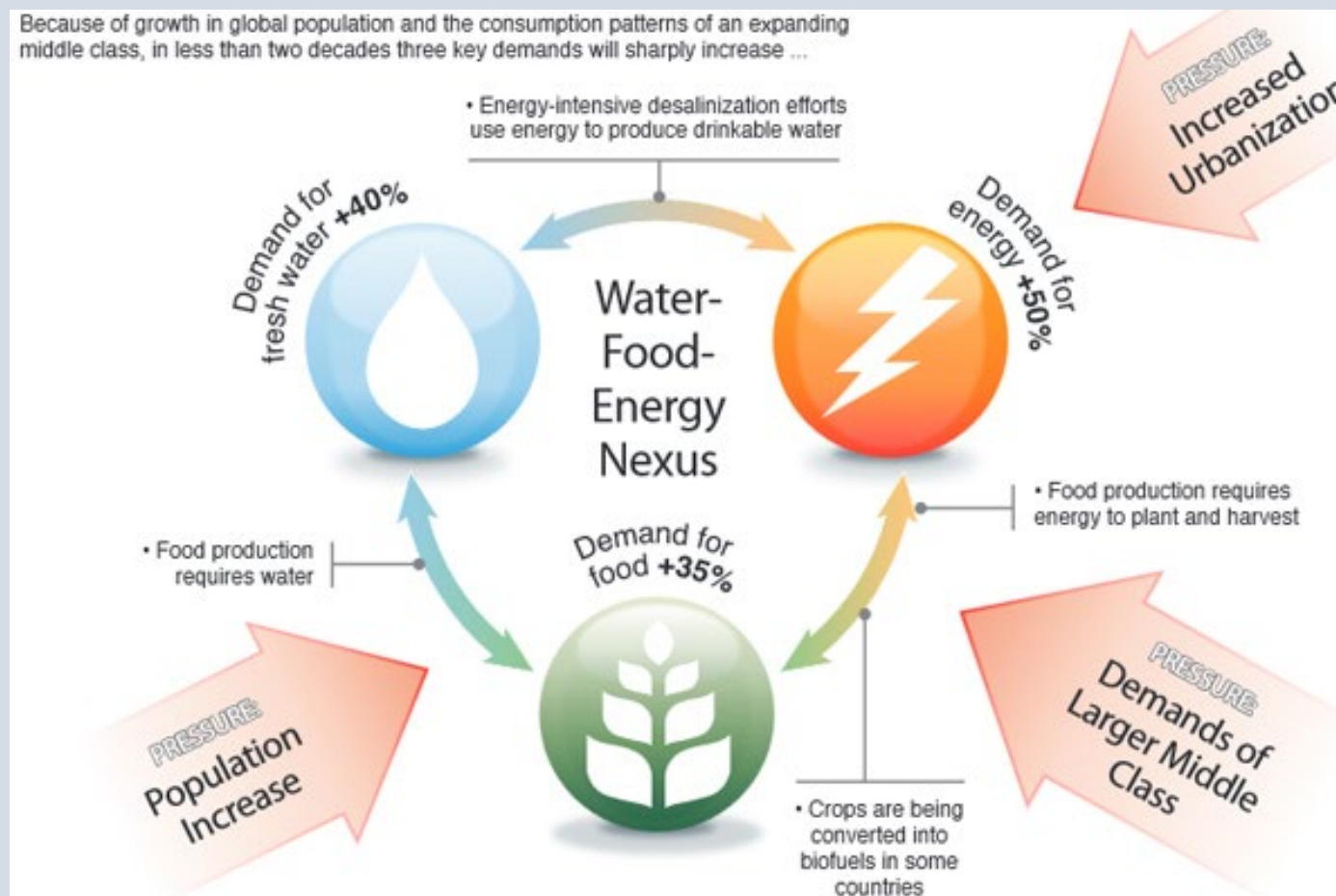


For example, **healthy ecosystems** support the **sustainability of food, water, and energy**, and are negatively affected if these are used in an unsustainable way.

Recommendations made within the WEFE Nexus therefore aim to **enhance water, energy and food security while preserving ecosystems**.



## Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus Approach

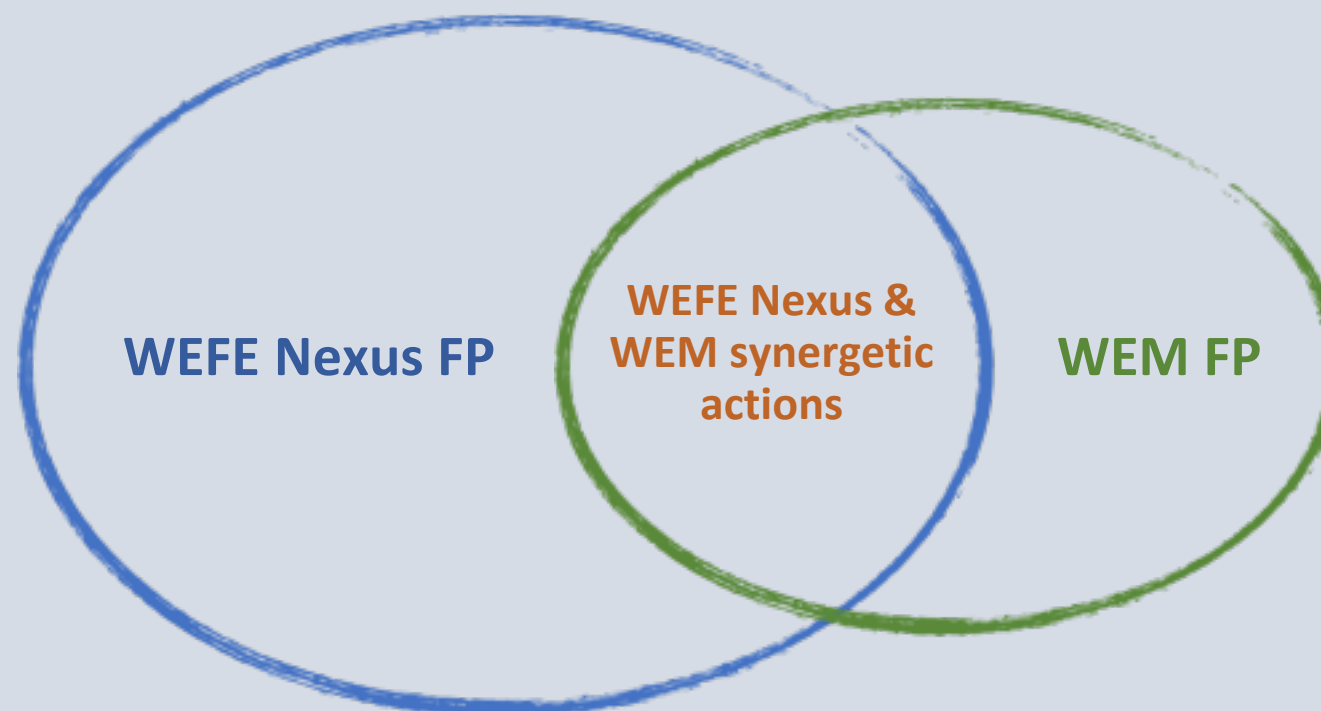


## Examples of Regional Actions Lines

UfM Water Agenda

WEFE Nexus  
& Water-Employment-Migration  
Synergetic Framework Programmes

Focusing on Tangibles  
& Proving the Concept



## WEFE Nexus Science Advance Conference / Mediterranean WEFE Gateway

- Analyse the role of science as a driver of innovation for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region, and its interfacing with the policy and decision-making processes.
- Recommend practical measures on how to integrate new paths in research and planning across the WEFE Nexus, through a collaborative response throughout the Mediterranean region.
- A Joint Publication with the EU JRC to raise awareness on the Nexus, from history to current practices, future directions and its effect on sustainable development.







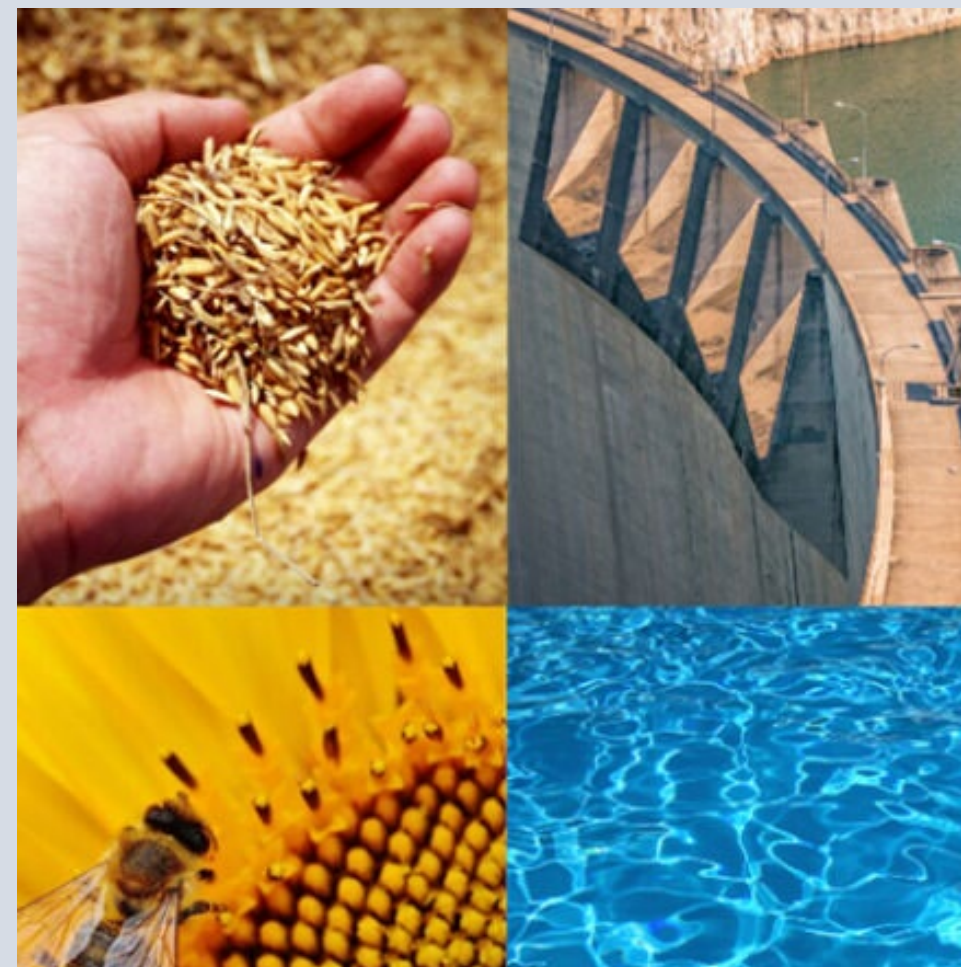
## MENA Water Match-Maker 2 Project

*Making Water Cooperation Happen in Middle East & North Africa: Piloting Tangibles*

- Overall aim: to equip UfM MENA countries with tangible and scalable local technical solutions combined with employability capacitation as well as with selected applicable and shareable policy tools for **improved water management and climate resilience**
- Main objective: to prove, through piloting, the integrated concept of **applying WEFE Nexus technical solutions** at local level while **capacitating priority beneficiary groups on employment** options, offering **measurable and scalable contributions** for further application in UfM MENA countries, and assisting the UfM Water Agenda to enter and mark progress on tangible benefits at local level.
- Inter-connected outcomes:
  - Outcome 1.** MED local stakeholders tangibly benefit from multi-sectorial efficiency approaches
  - Outcome 2.** MED youth, with emphasis on women, assisted towards employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in WEFE Nexus/NCWR fields
  - Outcome 3.** MED stakeholders' understanding on integrated WEFE Nexus/NCWR, WEM, gender and youth challenges

## Examples of Regional Actions Lines,,Suupported by UFM & Sida Implemented by GWP-med

Prove, through piloting, the integrated concept of applying local WEFE Nexus technical solutions, while capacitating beneficiary groups on employment options, offering measurable and scalable contributions for further application in MENA countries, and assisting the UfM Water Agenda to enter and mark progress on tangible benefits, contributing to Sweden's Strategy for MENA 2021-2025.



## Examples of Regional Actions Lines

1 - Nexus-based Scalable model for conjunctive Water use and high-value Agricultural Practices (NEXUS-SWAP)

2 - Reuse of treated wastewater to increase water and food security in a Palestinian community, Hebron].





## Nexus-based Scalable Model

Location: Jordan, Upper Jordan Valley

Objectives:

- Creating a proof of concept for water-energy-food nexus value chain creation in the Jordan Valley. This POC can be expanded to larger areas and other regions within Jordan and neighboring countries.
- Improving availability of year-round income to farmers, especially in vulnerable communities by improving their technical and business skills and availing cheaper water and energy resources to them.
- Job creation by improving and growing farming businesses in the project area.



## Nexus-Reuse of Treated Wastewater

Location: Palestine, Hebron Governorate

Objectives:

- To utilise a non conventional TWW, as a resource for agriculture.
- Improve water efficiency in agriculture.
- To increase food production and income for locals in the proposed project area.
- To promote climate and environmental resilience and biodiversity through the sustainable, holistic management of natural resources and ecosystems
- Innovations in food production to reduce water usage.
- To promote sustainable use of energy and water as well as related on farm agribusiness.



Thank you for your attention



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**Item 7 (c) Supporting National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative**

Statement by:

- Daler ABDURAZOQZODA, Tajikistan

**ВЫСТУПЛЕНИЕ**

Абдуразокзода Д., Начальника Управления водно-энергетической политики, развития науки и техники Министерства энергетики и водных ресурсов Республики Таджикистан

*27 апреля 2021 г.*

*Уважаемые участники совещания,  
Дамы и господа,*

Прежде всего, хотел бы выразить признательность Европейской экономической комиссии ООН за приглашение принять участие на совместном совещании рабочих групп по комплексному управлению водными ресурсами и по мониторингу и оценке, а также за многолетнее плодотворное сотрудничество в водной сфере.

Европейской экономической комиссии ООН является одним из партнёров Министерства энергетики и водных ресурсов Республики Таджикистан, содействующим успешной реализации Программы реформы водного сектора Республики Таджикистан на период 2016-2025 годы.

Сегодня в Таджикистане при поддержке Европейской экономической комиссии ООН и других партнёров по развитию успешно реализуется Программа реформы водного сектора, которая является главенствующей в достижении устойчивого управления водными ресурсами в стране. В рамках реализации программы реформы достигнуты значительные результаты в совершенствовании водного законодательства, институциональных механизмов управления водными ресурсами и восстановлении водной инфраструктуры. В том числе, приняты Водный Кодекс Республики Таджикистан с учетом создания механизмов интегрированного управления водными ресурсами в Таджикистане, Закон Республики Таджикистан «О питьевом водоснабжении и водоотведении»,

Закон Республики Таджикистан «Об ассоциациях водопользователей» в новой редакции, разработана Национальная водная стратегия Республики Таджикистан на период до 2030 года, а также разработаны проекты других нормативно правовых документов, обеспечивающих хорошую базу для эффективного управления водными ресурсами.

В месте стем, необходимо отметить, что в рамках регионального проекта по Национальным диалогам по водной политике (НДВП), финансируемого Европейским союзом, ЕЭК ООН оказала поддержку Таджикистану в разработке Методики расчёта водохозяйственных балансов водных объектов в соответствии с новой редакцией Водного кодекса. Проект методики был обсуждён в рамках круглого стола в феврале 2021 г. и сейчас находится на стадии утверждения.

Учитывая увеличивающуюся потребность в более эффективной и устойчивой форме управления водными ресурсами и с целью внедрения передовых всемирно признанных институционально-правовых механизмов управления водными ресурсами в Республике Таджикистан Правительство страны будет продолжать процесс активной реализации Программы реформы водного сектора и в этом плане мы надеемся на дальнейшее плодотворное сотрудничество с ЕЭК ООН и другими партнёрами по развитию.

***Спасибо за внимание!***