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Findings from Drina Nexus Assessment Nexus approach in national and regional activities

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Drina Nexus Assessment

A Nexus dialogue in the Drina basin is ongoing since 2014 under umbrella of UNECE Water Convention

- ❑ „Nexus Assessment for Sava River Basin“ (2014-2016)
- ❑ „Phase I Nexus Assessment for Drina River Basin“ (2016-2017)
- ❑ „Follow-up project to the Nexus Assessment in the Drina River Basin“ (2018-2019)
- ❑ “Phase II Nexus Assessment for the Drina River Basin” was prepared within the framework of the project “Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Southeastern Europe, through the use of the Nexus approach” financed by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) implemented by Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

For more info: www.gwp.org/seenexus and <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/water-food-energy-ecosystem-nexus>

Phase II Drina Nexus Assessment

- The Assessment has served two aims:
 - the future of Renewable Energy -and the role of hydropower in particular- in the basin and the riparian countries overall, with the use of a multi-country integrated water-energy model taking into account policy, climate, environmental, resource, technical and budget constraints
 - agreeing about key aspects of flow regulation in the basin, taking into account all water uses and functions, including the environment, and progress towards formalizing some of these aspects
- The second, subsequent aim, was to set the basis for the development of a Drina Nexus Roadmap/Strategy



Drina Nexus Roadmap

- ❑ The Roadmap defines 10 key objectives for coordinated cross-sectoral policy and transboundary governance.
- ❑ The objectives include suggested lines of action to unlock solutions in infrastructure development, information exchange, flow regulation, wastewater treatment, sediment management, sustainable renewable energy and agricultural development.
- ❑ It's a "living" document that the countries can adjust as needed.
- ❑ Reflects the priorities of the countries (as discussed at the high-level workshop "Action across sectors and borders for the sustainable future of the Drina River Basin" - Belgrade, 2019).
- ❑ Includes a Joint Statement that demonstrates political will of riparian countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia) to strengthen regional cooperation.
- ❑ The Roadmap can assist and guide the implementation of **EU's Green Agenda for the Western Balkans at the Drina basin level and other ongoing projects and activities in the region, the GEF / World Bank "Sava and Drina Rivers Corridors Integrated Development Program" (SDIP)** by ensuring that investments address considerations of all sectors, capture potential synergies and maximise the use of available resources and platforms.



Regional activities with NEXUS approach

□ EU's Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

- By Sofia Declaration, signed in November 2020, leaders from the Western Balkans have set the basis for green growth in the region in line with the European Green Agenda.
- RCC (Regional Cooperation Council) has developed the **Action Plan for the implementation of the Sofia declaration on the green agenda for the Western Balkans (2021-2030)** which is structured so as to reflect the seven components of the Sofia Declaration (Climate Action, Energy, Transport, Circular Economy, Pollution, Sustainable Agriculture and Nature and Biodiversity Protection) grouped into five pillars. 1) Decarbonisation, 2) Circular Economy, 3) Depollution, 4) Sustainable Agriculture and 5) Protection of Nature and Biodiversity.
- EU4Green is ongoing Project implemented by Environment Agency of Austria with the aim to support the Western Balkans countries in the implementation of the Green Agenda, thus achieving their commitment to transforming their economies on a more sustainable path and reaching climate neutrality by 2050.

□ Sava and Drina Rivers Corridors Integrated Development Program

- The objective of the Project is to enhance transboundary water cooperation and strengthen climate resilience in the Sava and Drina Rivers Corridors.
- Covering three riparian countries of the Sava and Drina rivers—Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro—the program will use an integrated approach to finance flood protection, environmental management, and port modernization activities to improve connectivity along the Sava and Drina Rivers Corridors. The project will also help strengthen transboundary water cooperation and enhance regional economic growth in countries.

Transboundary climate adaptation

The waters of Bosnia and Herzegovina are split between the Danube River Basin District and the Adriatic Sea Basin. Some 40.2% of the Sava river sub-basin, the second largest sub-basin of the Danube River Basin, lies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnia and Herzegovina is also member of ICPDR and ISRBC/Sava Commission.

- ICPDR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (adopted in 2012, updated in 2018)

[Climate Change Adaptation in Danube River Basin](#)

- ISRBC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (only outline available – full strategy to be developed)

[Outline of the climate adaptation strategy for the sava rb.pdf](#)
[\(savacommission.org\)](#)

- Climate adaptation strategy of the Drina will be developed as part of the ADA nexus project / linked to the Assessment and Roadmap / with comments from ISRBC

National climate adaptation

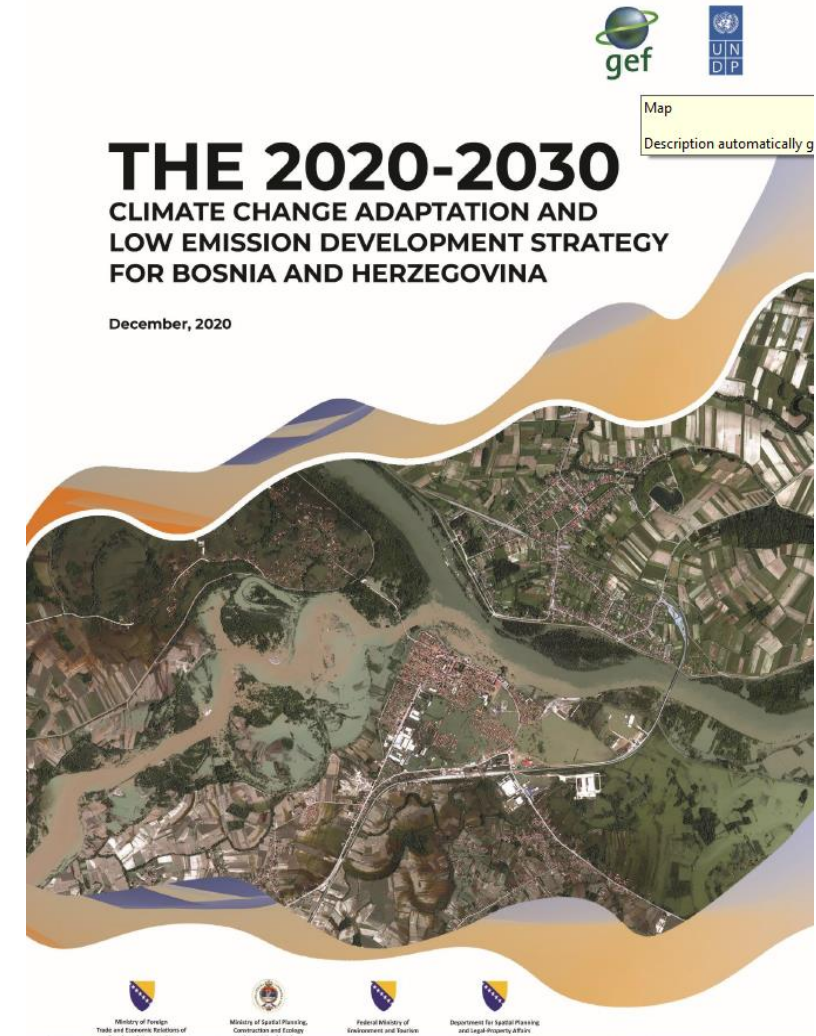
- ❑ Climate Change as a nexus issue is thoroughly addressed in the **Climate Change Adaptation and Low Emission Development Strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina**, 2014. In this document, vision of the State's development is that by 2025 Bosnia and Herzegovina will be a sustainable and progressive 'green economy' with strategic objective of which was to increase resilience of Bosnia and Herzegovina to climate variability and climate change, while preventing environmental degradation, as well as gradual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- ❑ The Strategy identified measures for climate change mitigation, measures for adaptation to climate change and capacity building needs, with the aim of providing a strategic and programme basis for effective international support
- ❑ The **2020-2030 Climate Change Adaptation and Low Emission Development Strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina**-update version (in process of adaptation)

The 2020-2030 Climate Change Adaptation and Low Emission Development Strategy for BiH

Aims to improve action plans based on monitoring and evaluation, as well as improved knowledge gained during the implementation of the first version of the Strategy identified six priority sectors for the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy:

- Agriculture
- Water resources/water management
- Forestry and forest resources
- Biodiversity and sensitive ecosystems
- Tourism
- Human health
- Energy

Water management and agriculture are considered to be the main priorities that, to a greater or lesser extent, affect other sectors.



Environmental Strategy and Action Plan 2030+

Bosnia and Herzegovina has finished the process of preparation of an environmental strategy and action plan as a comprehensive strategic document that will contain the Action Plan with measures and planned investments in this sector as well as mechanisms for their implementation in entire BiH.



Environmental Strategy and Action Plan 2030+ will:

- provide BiH environmental authorities with strategic goals, thematic objectives and feasible actions that are clearly defined, agreed and adopted
- help to align BiH's legal and institutional frameworks with the European Union environmental policies and procedures
- identify priorities for domestic financial allocations as well as assist BiH in accessing international financing
- raise the awareness around environmental issues among the general public and the business sector in BiH

<https://esap.ba/>

Conclusions/Lessons learned

- ❑ Improving transboundary cooperation is recognized as a key to unlock several opportunities, including further financial support to tackle climate change at the basin-level, to continue work on water and flood management, and to resolve any pending bilateral issues.
- ❑ The benefits of a basin approach to adaptation allow the sharing of the costs and benefits of adaptation measures, ensure their optimal location in a river basin and preventing of possible negative effects of unilateral adaptation measures.
- ❑ Bosnia and Herzegovina answers to issues related to energy, water, climate and food are directly influenced by its own national interests and international obligations (especially EU obligations). On the other hand, national policies depend on the character of cooperation and geopolitical situation on the regional scene. In this aspect, Transboundary Rivers play big role.
- ❑ ICPDR and ISRBC provide key frameworks and guidance for transboundary cooperation in Danube and Sava River Basins, but in bilateral cooperation there are specific needs which should be addressed by bilateral agreements, WGs, joint strategic documents etc.
- ❑ BiH will continue the cross-sectoral and transboundary dialogue in the transboundary basins, focusing on concrete actions and strong partnerships across countries, potentially with the development of a new projects on the Nexus in the basin, focusing on energy security and environmental protection because the impact of climate change is not geographically linked to its causes.

Thank you for your attention

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