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The Nexus Regional Dialogues (NRD) Programme

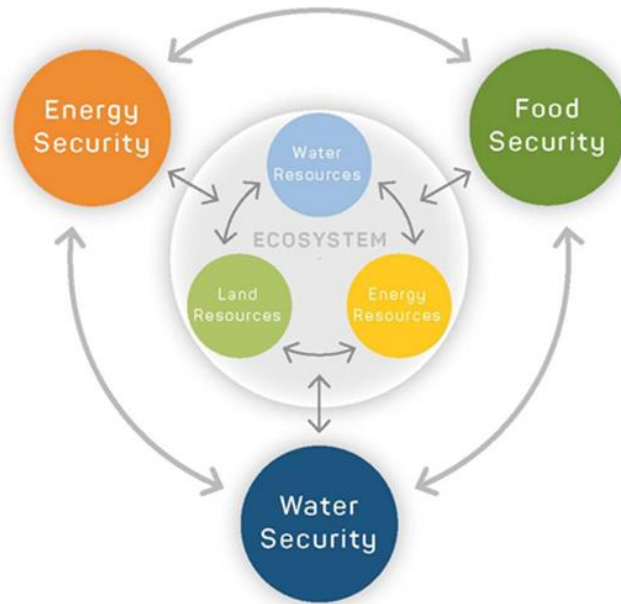
Implementing and mainstreaming the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus
in five regions



Presentation at DEVCO Environment Week 2018
19.10.2018, Brussels

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The Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus Approach




- Highlights the **complex interdependencies** of the water, energy and food sectors in light of **global challenges** (climate change, consumption patterns, economic growth, rapid urbanization, etc.)
- Framework to **determine trade-offs and synergies** between the sectors and to **reconcile their interests**
- Supports a **holistic and sustainable resources management** and promotes the **preservation of ecosystems**
- Pathways of sustainability: tool for **meeting the SDGs**
- **Resolving conflicts of use** around land and water resources is encouraged by developing suitable conflict management capacities – contributes to **peace keeping**

A comparison between IWRM and the WEF Nexus Approach

	IWRM	WEF Nexus
Objective	Water use efficiency and sustainability	Overall resource use efficiency; address externalities across sectors
Entry point	Water use, water resources management	Management of natural resources; Seeks to engage different sectors on a more equal footing
Boundaries of a typical assessment	Basin or sub-basin	Depending on the focus; local, national, basin level, regional or global
Sectors and resources	Water resources are at the centre	Depending on the focus, water, energy or land use can be at the centre (no universal methodology)

UNECE, Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus, 2015

Background

- Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme Phase I: **2016 – 2018**
 - Jointly funded by European Union (EU) and German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and jointly managed by EU-DEVCO and GIZ
 - **Five Nexus Regional Dialogues:**
 - Middle East and North Africa (MENA) (2016)
 - Niger River Basin (2017)
 - Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (2016)
 - Southern Africa (2017)
 - Central Asia (2017)
- 
- Diverse contexts, focus areas and enabling environments for implementing WEF Nexus approach; different starting points

Main objective Phase I:

- to promote and mainstream the WEF-Nexus approach on national and regional governmental and policy levels.
- to raise awareness and foster knowledge and information exchange of Nexus issues.
- to develop policy recommendations/guidelines and action plans.

Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme

Built on four Pillars:

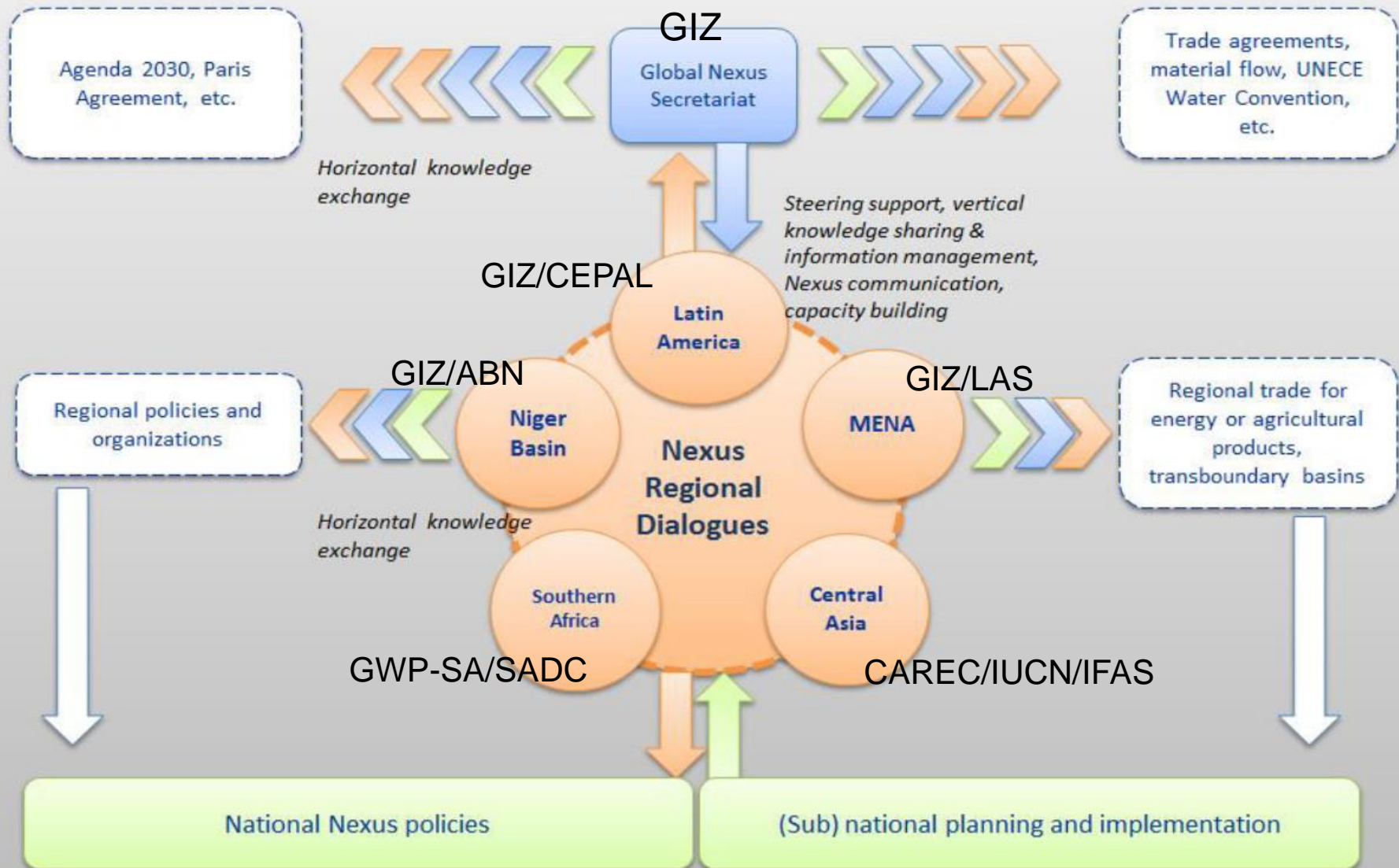
- Knowledge Exchange and Networking
- Nexus Resource Platform (www.water-energy-food.org)
- Human Capacity Development
- Activities and Pilot projects (Nexus country assessments and profiles, policy proposals and guidelines, investment portfolios, action plans)

Global level

National and regional level



Structure of the Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme



Implementing Partners of the Nexus Regional Dialogues

MENA



The League of Arab States (LAS)

LAC



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL)

Southern Africa



Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Central Asia



International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)

Niger Basin



Niger Basin Authority (NBA)

*Multisectoral
orientation*



*Basin – oriented
organizations*

Other networks and partners:

- National and regional organizations and institutions (IUCN, IFPRI, CAREC, FAO, UNECE)
- GIZ Nexus related programmes (e.g. Nexus in Bolivia, WaCCLiM, Urban Nexus in Asian Cities, etc.)
- Research Institutions (ITT University Cologne, Joint Research Centre, UNU-Flores)

Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme

Global Nexus Secretariat (GNS)

Main objective: To support global and regional Nexus dialogues and to improve global knowledge management on the WEF Nexus and stimulate mutual learning across regions engaging in regional dialogue.

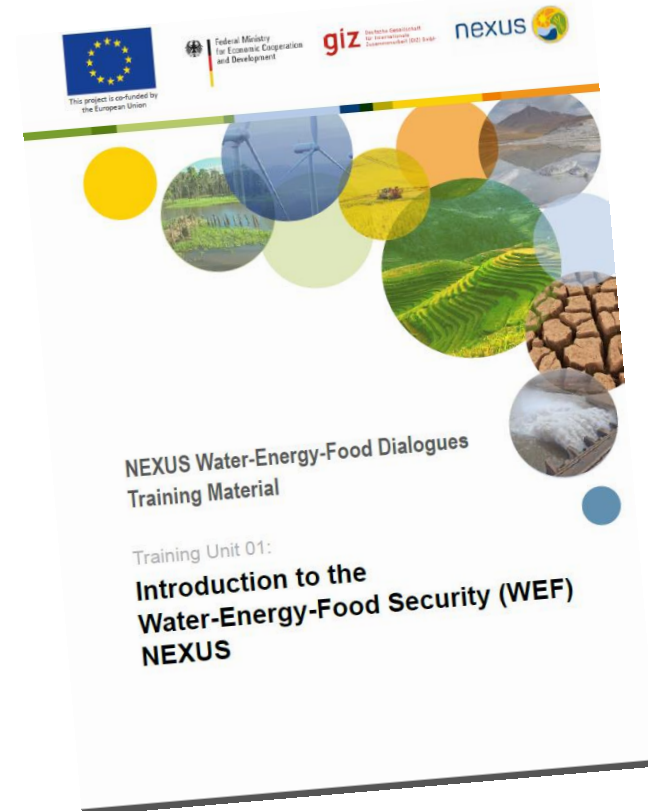
Ongoing activities:

- Establishing different **partnerships and cooperations** e.g. Austrian Development Agency (ADA), FAO, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNU-Flores
- Coordinating and supporting implementing activities in the regions → identification of common interests and synergies (e.g. SPIS in Morocco, Tunisia and Chile)
- **Bilateral** and **global regular teleconferences** with all five regional dialogues → Knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences and best-practices between the regional dialogues
- Operation and further development of the **Nexus Resource Platform (NRP)**
(www.water-energy-food.org)

Outcomes Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme Global Nexus Secretariat (GNS)

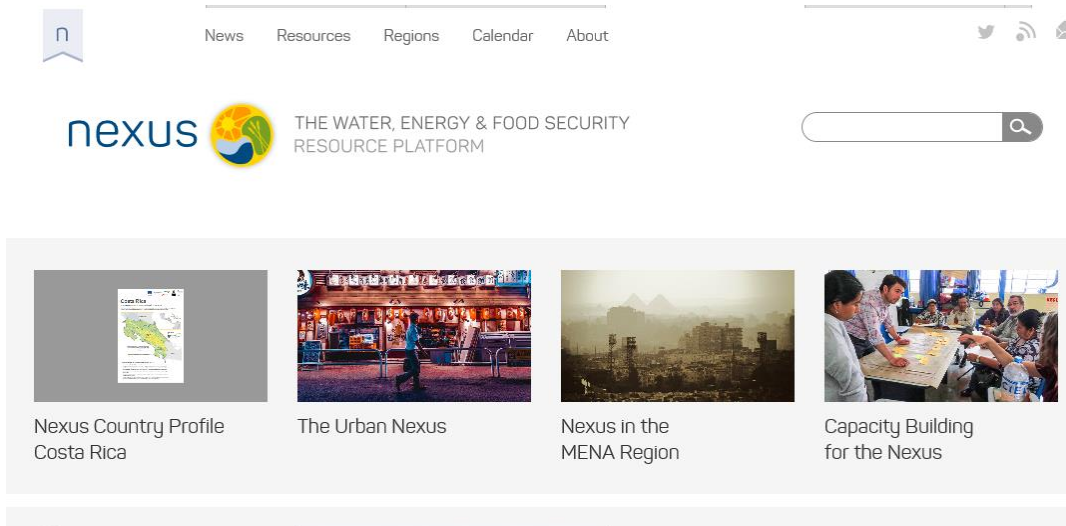
Products/final documents:

- WEF Nexus training material (Module I and II, available in English, Spanish, French and Arabic)
 - to date **320 participants trained**;
additional trainings planned in Khartoum (Sudan) and Niamey (Niger)
- Global Nexus Literature Review
- User needs survey Nexus Resource Platform
- Draft document: Global Nexus Principles → to be discussed and validated by all regions
- Draft document: Global Nexus Indicators → to be discussed and validated by all regions
- Global Report and Action Plans for the regions (February 2019)




The Nexus Resource Platform (NRP)


www.water-energy-food.org



- **Central knowledge hub** on the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus
- Reports, articles, news from research and practice, conferences, expert interviews, job postings

- 4130 data base entries
- Average 4400 visitors per month
- Core Topics (focus themes)
- Establishment of a WEF Nexus Newsletter; 3rd edition October 2018
- Social Media channels

 @NEXUSPlatform #Nexusplatform

 www.facebook.com/nexusresourceplatform/

The Nexus Regional Dialogue MENA



Dr. Nisreen Lahham, Regional Coordinator (GIZ),
based in Cairo, Egypt

Main Nexus Issues in the region:

- One of the world's most water scarce regions
- The world's largest importer of wheat. Economic instability enhanced vulnerability to food insecurity
- Despite rich oil and natural gas resources and high potential for renewable energy, around 30 mill people lack access to electricity (especially in rural areas)
- High urbanization rate
- Vulnerable to climate change risks



Activities and Outcomes of the MENA Regional Dialogue

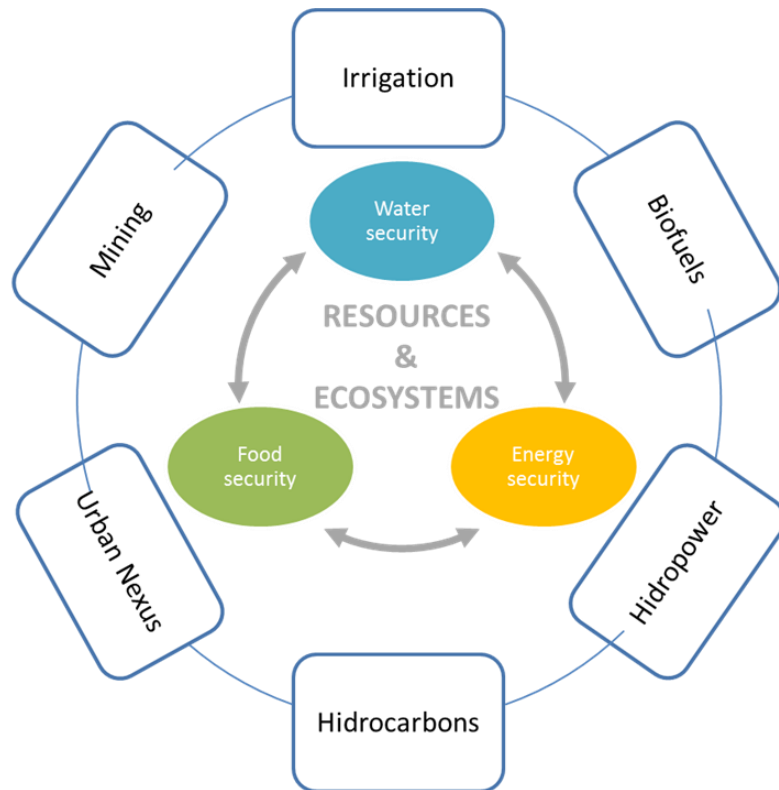
- **WEF Nexus country assessments in Tunisia and Sudan**
- **6 Nexus policy briefs** (available in Arabic and English)
- **Small Nexus applications:**
 - Nexus Assessment for ACCWaM Solar Energy Farming Pilot Project in Jordan
 - Environmental and Socio-economic Impacts of Solar Pumping in Tunisia
- **Nexus capacity development**
 - Nexus training and workshop in Sudan (October 2018)
 - Urban Nexus Training in Tunisia (February 2018): **More than 40 representatives** from 3 counties/4 municipalities; Monastir (Tunisia), Karak, Sahab (Jordan) and Jdaidet ech Chouf (Lebanon)
 - Nexus Workshop on German/European experiences and best practices in Libanon (December 2017): **41 high level representatives** from the water and energy sectors, from 14 countries (Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Sudan, Yemen, Palestine, Tunisia, Lebanon, Oman, Syria, Libya, Mauritania, Qatar and United Arab Emirates)
- **Cooperation with partners and building on existing MENA Nexus initiatives:** ACCWaM/GIZ Nexus Mainstreaming Project, ESCWA Nexus initiative, MINARET Nexus project
- Strong interest in the MENA region to move towards implementation and tangible projects.

The Nexus Regional Dialogue LAC

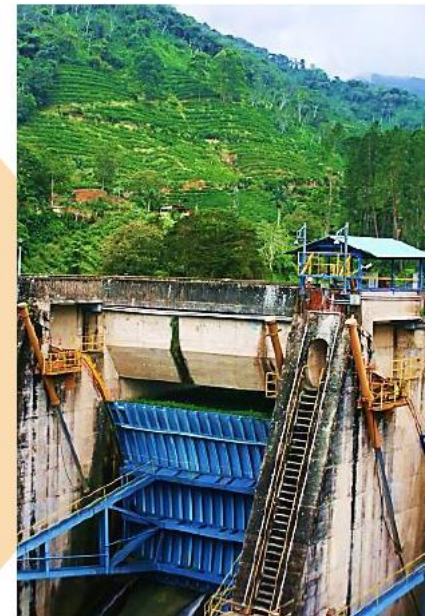


Reinaldo Penailillo, Regional Coordinator (GIZ),
based in Santiago, Chile

Main Nexus Issues in the region:

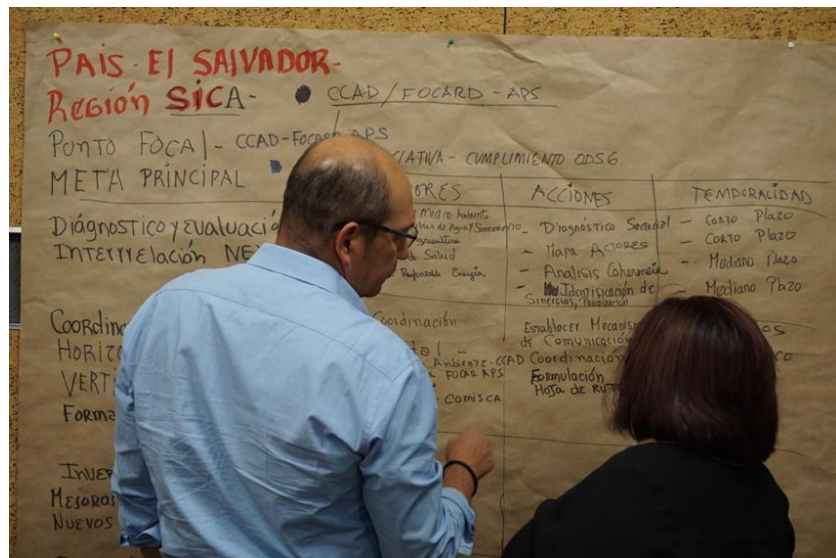


Hydropower is a main source of generating electricity in LAC. At the same time it can lead to conflict over access to water and other social and environmental impacts. Therefore, a WEF Nexus approach is essential for a sustainable development of the region.



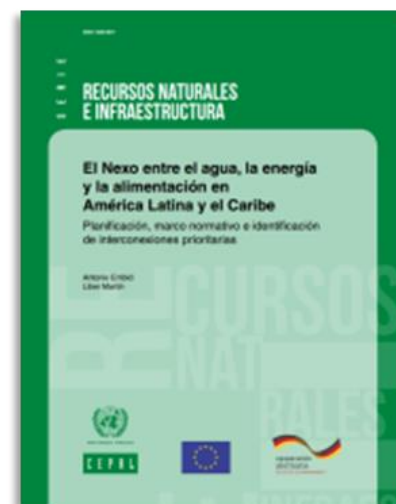
Dam at the Cachi Hydroelectric Plant,
Reventazon River, Costa Rica © Reinaldo

Activities and Outcomes of the LAC Regional Dialogue



- **3 WEF Nexus trainings:**
 - Guatemala 2016 (27 participants)
 - SPIS training in Chile, 2017 (27 participants from 7 countries)
 - Nexus dialogue and training in Chile, 2018 (43 participants from 14 countries)
- Regional Technical Political Dialogue in Chile (40 participants, 15 countries, 8 international/regional organizations)
 - **Recommendations of participants**

- 2 small-scale pilot applications on SPIS in Chile and Bolivia
- 2 WEF Nexus Country Assessments: Costa Rica and Peru
- 1 Regional Nexus Study for LAC region
- Nexus Policy Guidelines: to be published in October 2018 by CEPAL
- Requests by 10 countries to receive support for implementation of Nexus projects and by CEPAL



The Nexus Regional Dialogue Niger Basin



Luca Ferrini, Regional Coordinator (GIZ), based in Niamey, Niger

Nexus activities and outcomes:

- Diagnostic analysis of the Niger Basin Authority's Operational Plan (2016 – 2024) from a Nexus perspective
- Mainstreaming the WEF Nexus in the investment plan of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA)
- In cooperation with IFPRI, around 300 projects have been screened under a WEF Nexus lense (**Nexus indicators for investment projects**)
- The WEF Nexus approach is introduced within the planning process of a large infrastructure project – the Fomi Dam in Guinea
- 1 Nexus training in Niamey, Niger (October 2017)
45 sector representatives (water, energy, agriculture, environment,) and civil society representatives) from each of the 9 basin countries took part.

The Nexus Regional Dialogue Southern Africa (SADC)



Kidanemariam Jembere (GWP-SA), Manager WEF Nexus in the SADC region

Objective:

Applying the WEF Nexus approach in the formulation of multi-sector policy recommendations, strategies, action plans and investment programmes, including identification of concrete investment projects for financing.

→ Nexus operational framework developed

Outcomes:

- Multi-stakeholder Analysis and Project Inception Workshop (May 2017)
- National Nexus Perspective Papers for all each 15 SADC member countries
- 2 discussion papers: one addressing institutional issues; one addressing policy related issues
- Request from East Africa for technical support to replicate the SADC model with Nexus approach
- Development of a prioritized list of Nexus investment projects (ongoing)
 - A **Nexus project identification tool template** was developed and will be presented in November 2018; so far 11 projects have been proposed and reviewed

The Nexus Regional Dialogue Central Asia

Objective: development of a portfolio of investment projects that will look at ensuring security of water, energy and food (WEF) in Central Asia.

Project results:

- Strengthened dialogue and cooperation on the WEF Nexus that enables multi-sectoral planning and investments in the region
- Strengthened capacities of regional institutions for multi-sectoral planning and implementation of WEF Nexus investment projects
- Support during the selection of WEF Nexus investment projects as part of the Aral Sea Basin Planning process

Investment projects to foster water, energy and food security in Central Asia were discussed during the Regional Steering Committee Meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan (12th October 2018):

- 6 investment project ideas proposed and discussed
- Most promising project proposals will be further developed together with countries and financial institutions



Enhancing Synergies between the Nexus Regional Dialogues

Opportunities for the future

- Transmitting/contextualizing WEF Nexus methodologies from one region to another (e.g. WEF Nexus project identification tool, WEF Nexus assessment methodology, WEF Nexus communication tool, WEF Nexus investment criteria etc.)
- Creating and applying global WEF Nexus products
 - Global Nexus Principles
 - Global Nexus Indicators
 - Global Nexus Glossary
- Applying the same methodological framework e.g. for WEF Nexus assessments in order to allow cross-regional comparison and monitoring
- Further bundling and exchanging knowledge/experiences on the Nexus Resource Platform, developing NRP to an international and user friendly knowledge management/dissemination tool.
- Global Nexus Activities (e.g. Global Nexus Conference, South-South Exchange between regions and beyond)

Lessons learned

- There is no “blueprint” for the implementation and mainstreaming of the WEF Nexus approach – each region has its own context and different focus areas BUT **applying a coherent implementing strategy and monitoring** in order to create similar and comparable outcomes would be beneficial.
- Demand and need driven approach needed (e.g. country requests)
- Conflicting goals of the different sectors (water, energy, agricultural and environmental sector) pose a challenge to harmonization → medium to long term process e.g. for implementing change on a ministerial and policy level
- National or regional development objectives, focus areas or other political agendas are still often higher prioritized and might not be compatible with the Nexus approach – BUT: **SDGs, Agenda 2030 and Paris Agreement are great entry points!**
- **Regional partner should have the trust and respect of member states and the mandate to bring together different sectors and stakeholders (e.g. SADC’s central role as a regional actor for shared resources)**
- Ensure a cross-regional and **common understanding of the key objectives** and messages of the Nexus approach
- An **effective communication strategy** is needed in order to convince key decision-makers and stakeholders
- Inclusion of approaches and methodologies available to **assess the value of ecosystems, their services and nature-based solutions** would strongly merit attention to its essential role

Outlook

Global Report and Action Plans (end of phase I)

- Proposing concrete WEF Nexus projects on different scales and levels in the different regions (demand driven approach)
- Nexus Indicators, Principles and Literature review finalized



Bridging phase (2019)

- Operating the GNS
- Enhance NRP
- Proposing a structured and systematic communication strategy
- Proposing a well designed monitoring and evaluation framework for Phase II

Objective Phase II (2020 – 2022)

- Moving from theoretical to **concrete and tangible benefits and impacts of the WEF Nexus approach** in form of projects → outcomes of the Action Plans
- Use and development of **WEF Nexus decision supporting and evaluation tools**
- Upscaling outcomes and lessons learned to a global level
- Enabling conditions and capacity are important factors for implementing the Nexus approach in Phase II , too. But they should be always focused on concrete projects with tangible results.



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Thank you very much for your attention !!!

