



THIRD MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE WATER-FOOD- ENERGY-ECOSYSTEM NEXUS IN TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS UNDER THE WATER CONVENTION

GENEVA, 28–29 APRIL 2015

Provisional Agenda

Timing: 28 April 2015, 10.00–13.00 and 15.00–18.00; 29 April 2015, 09.30–12.30 and 14.30–17.30

Location: Room XI, Palais des Nations

Languages: English, French and Russian with simultaneous interpretation

At its sixth session (Rome, 28–30 November 2012), the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes included an assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Convention's programme of work for 2013–2015. This decision was in recognition of the possibility that friction and potential conflicts in water management might result from tensions between sectoral objectives, unintended consequences of resource management and trade-offs between sectors, both at the national and the international level. By assessing the situation in transboundary basins jointly and improving the knowledge base, synergies can be achieved and potential solutions identified.

The Parties decided that the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management would be the responsible bodies for the assessment.

The third meeting of the Task Force will have the following objectives:

- Provide an overview of the status of preparations;
- - Discuss the findings and the experience from the basin assessments;
- - Review draft contents the overall stocktaking report from the nexus assessment;
- - Agree on the concluding steps in the process to complete the presentation of findings for publication;
- - Discuss possible follow-up activities for the Convention's programme of work 2016–2018.

The Task Force Meeting is supported by the Finnish Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Environment, as well as the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. The preparation process is also supported financially from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.



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TUESDAY, 28 APRIL

10.00–10.30

Welcome and opening remarks

Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Secretary to the Water Convention, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Opening remarks

Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, Director of the Freshwater Centre, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and Chair of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus

Overview of the status of preparation of the nexus assessment

Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE

10.30–13.00

SESSION 1: Experience from applying the approach: Progress in assessing the nexus under the Water Convention

In this session, the revised methodology and the progress made in the basin assessments is presented and discussed.

Moderator: *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, SYKE*

Revised methodology for assessing the nexus developed under the UNECE Water Convention

Mr. Mark Howells, Royal Institute of Technology/Ms. Lucia de Strasser, UNECE consultant

Discussion about the revised methodology based on a document to be distributed to finalise it for inclusion in the stock-taking report

Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems assessment in the Alazani/Ganikh Basin

Mr. Alexander Mindorashvili, Main Specialist of Water Resources Service, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Georgia (to be confirmed) and Mr. Mutallim Abdulhasanov, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan (to be confirmed)

Findings from the nexus assessment and intersectoral coordination in the Sava Basin

Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary, International Sava River Basin Commission

Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Syr Darya Basin: preliminary findings

Ms. Lucia de Strasser, UNECE consultant

Discussion on the main points and conclusions of each basin assessment, as well as on how findings from finished cases could be taken into account in different planning processes.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Accuracy of the main findings from the basin assessment?
- Are the conclusions underpinned sufficiently by the data and information provided?
- Are the findings useful to policy makers and organisations supporting transboundary dialogue?
- Any need for revision of the draft assessments?

13.00–15.00



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Lunch

15.00–17.00

SESSION 3: Basin assessments in preparatory or exploratory stages

Gradually, through correspondence with the countries and joint bodies, as well as the identification of the necessary funding, the basins to be assessed have been confirmed from among those initially proposed.

After each of the presentations, the representatives of the countries sharing the basin are invited to comment.

Moderator: *to be confirmed*

The Isonzo/Soca

Mr. Paolo Angelini, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (to be confirmed)

Other possible basins explored for the assessment (brief updates on the status/perspectives):

Water for food, energy and ecosystems in the Niger Basin

to be confirmed, Niger Basin Authority

Analyzing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Niger Basin and in the Inner Niger Delta

Commentaries: Mr. Frank van Weert, Wetlands International (to be confirmed); GIZ (to be confirmed)

Assessing the North-West Sahara Aquifer System (NWSAS) for the nexus: support to cooperation and policy processes

Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Global Water Partnership Mediterranean

Discussion

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Outlook for the planned assessments: aims, resources, time frames?
- Any particular issues about the application of the methodology to these basins? What needs to be taken into account?

WEDNESDAY, 29 APRIL

9.30–11.30

SESSION 4: Structure of the stock-taking report and the contents of the general sections

In this session the scope, structure and contents of the overall stocktaking report on the nexus assessment is discussed. The report is to be produced for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, to be held in November 2015.

The report is proposed to contain a general or overview part as well as all the basin assessments compiled. For practical reasons, the basin assessments will need to be included as short versions.

Moderator: *Ms. Susanne Schmeier, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)*



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The proposed structure of the stock-taking report and overview of the general sections
Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE

Synthesis of the basins assessments and the general conclusions
Ms. Lucia de Strasser, UNECE consultant

Overview of assessment approaches and tools
Mr. Mark Howells, KTH and Ms. Lucie Pluschke, FAO

The role of governance in improving policy coherence and intersectoral coordination
Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE
Commentaries: Ms. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, Kazakh-German University; Mr. Christian Brethaut, University of Geneva (to be confirmed)

Discussion 1 about the general part of the assessment based on the presentations and draft chapters or documents to be made available

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Are the general conclusions balanced and sound?
- Is the range of cooperation opportunities, benefits and beneficial synergic actions presented sufficiently broadly and without significant omissions?
- Are the advantages of undertaking this type of assessment clear?

Discussion 2: Publishing of the findings (based on an introduction by the secretariat)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Are other supporting materials needed — an executive summary, a policy brief?
- Electronic publishing of the report?
- Possible promotional activities?
- Publishing of individual basin assessments?

11.30–12.30

SESSION 5: Other initiatives on the nexus and future outlook of cooperation

Various organizations have relevant initiatives on-going on different aspects of the resource nexus and with some of these collaboration has already been established. The purpose of this session is to explore how related synergies may contribute to the knowledge summarized in the nexus assessment's forthcoming stocktaking report or to the possible continuation of work on the nexus under the Water Convention's next programme of work (2016–2018).

FAO activities on the water-food-energy nexus
Ms. Lucie Pluschke, FAO

Nexus Infrastructure Solutions
Mr. James Dalton, International Union for Conservation of Nature/International Water Association

Joint Research Centre's assessment of the Nexus in the Danube Basin and in the Mekrou
Mr. Giovanni Bidoglio, European Commission Joint Research Centre

Nexus in the work of the Global Water Partnership
Ms. Gabriela Grau, Global Water Partnership (GWP) (to be confirmed)



Nexus activities of the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
Representative of SIWI (to be confirmed)

Food, Energy, Environment and Water (FE²W) Network
Representative of the FE²W Network (to be confirmed)

EU Water Initiative's National Policy Dialogues
Mr. Peep Mardiste, UNECE

QUESTIONS FOR ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING OTHER NEXUS INITIATIVES:

- What opportunities for exchange of experience are there for your initiative with the assessment under the Convention? Can they still contribute to the current cycle i.e. to the findings to be presented at the 7th Meeting of the Parties, or might they contribute to possible continuation of nexus activities in the next work programme (2016–2018)?

12.30–14.30

Lunch

14.30–16.00

SESSION 6: Next steps in the nexus assessment under the Water Convention and possible follow-up activities in the next work plan

The next steps and the timeline for finalising the nexus assessment on time for the 7th Meeting of the Parties will be discussed and agreed upon.

In addition, a look will be taken back at the past 3 years to draw some lessons learnt from the process. It will also be discussed what can be done to promote responses to the conclusions and recommendations.

In at least some basin assessments, more detailed analytical and modelling work is expected to continue beyond autumn 2015. Therefore, the 2015 report is not expected to reflect the full breadth and depth of the nexus assessment work.

Discussion on the nexus for the next work programme under the Water Convention (2016-2018)

The nexus was considered one of the priorities for the next programme of work under the Water Convention, 2016–2018, in the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Geneva, 25–26 June 2014) and has been included in the draft programme of work being proposed by the Bureau. The Chair will present the proposal of the Bureau as a basis for discussion on possible follow-up activities on the nexus.

Links to relevant global processes such as the proposed Sustainable Development Goals as well as to other programme areas of the Convention such as benefits of transboundary cooperation and climate change will also be discussed.

Chair: *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, SYKE*

Summary of the decisions: *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, SYKE, and Ms. Anukka Lipponen, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE*

Closure of the meeting