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Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme Newsletter



Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus

A service by the Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme

Dear Reader,

Welcome to a very special edition of the Nexus Newsletter!

As you may already know, the [Nexus Regional Dialogues \(NRD\) Programme](#) and the [Frexus project](#) are quickly approaching the end of their respective phases, as such the Nexus team would like to take this opportunity to offer our loyal readers a more detailed glimpse into our work. This issue will be dedicated to taking stock of our achievements, what has been accomplished thus far and what is yet to come in these final remaining weeks.

Let's begin with the NRD Programme, and a few words on how it came to fruition. The Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Security Nexus approach emerged from the recognition of the existing interlinkages between these three sectors. In 2011, the German Government initiated an international multi-stakeholder dialogue on the WEF Nexus approach, resulting in the Bonn International Conference on "The Water Energy and Food Security Nexus — Solutions for the Green Economy". The event was an important step towards the development of concrete initiatives to promote integrated solutions and WEF resource security.

In line with this international trend, in 2014, the European Union (EU) together with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), launched the NRD Programme, which is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP-SA) and Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC). The first phase (2016-2019) aimed at operationalising the Nexus approach in five different regions across the globe, involving stakeholders, policy makers, private sector, academia, and civil society. The second and current phase - launched in 2020 - aims to institutionalise the approach in national and regional governance structures and investment decisions, as well as engage public and private investors for WEF Nexus projects. To this end, the NRD Programme implemented impactful demonstration projects, financing dialogues as well as trainings and developed reports and documentation on outcomes and learnings and disseminated Nexus knowledge through the [Nexus Resource Platform](#). Let's take a deeper look into the different regions!

In the Nexus Regional Dialogue in Central Asia, the implementing partner, CAREC, carried out a total of forty regional and national dialogue events throughout the region, contributing to the establishment of several intersectoral working groups. Demonstration projects have been launched in all five regional countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) aiming to integrate the approach into major regional programmes. Moreover, socio-economic and technical assessments, Nexus-based technical solutions, and a simulation analysis provided a reliable framework for upscaling, culminating in two investment proposals to be presented to potential investors.

Within the Nexus Regional Dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean, our colleagues worked to bring Nexus issues to high-level regional policy debates, fostering its application in policies and planning and increasing stakeholders' interest in Nexus projects. The regional team also actively promoted the qualification of "Nexus ambassadors" through trainings with government employees, project planners and academic researchers through the use of our Nexus training materials. In addition to the developed sectoral studies and the published methodological guideline for Nexus governance, key demonstration projects have been carried out, resulting in improved resource efficiency, productivity, income and climate resilience benefiting local communities. In Peru, a sustainable water management and agriculture system was developed; and in Ecuador, a solar cocoa dryer was installed, accelerating the processing time and thereby the profits of a cocoa processing cooperation (and by association also the income of cocoa producing farmers). Additionally, an Innovation Lab was co-organised with SAFEEM (Swiss Association For Entrepreneurship in Emerging Markets), which brought young innovators together to showcase and upscale their WEF Nexus solutions in close cooperation with local small- and medium sized cooperations. Moreover, sub-regional workshops, policy and financing dialogues, virtual forums, and an online Massive Open Online Course have been developed and implemented, providing and spreading valuable technical knowledge on WEF Nexus across the region.

In the Nexus Regional Dialogue in the Middle East and North Africa, a multi-tiered approach was pursued, showcasing the relevance and importance of the Nexus approach at different governance levels. In Egypt, the programme addressed the need for an enabling environment to make water- and energy-efficient farming technologies and methods more widely accessible to smallholder farmers. Two solar-powered greenhouses, constructed by GEBAL and Schneider Electrics, were used as demonstration sites and for research purposes. Both formed the basis of a series of dialogues with national banks, relevant policy makers and representatives of local farming communities to identify barriers and opportunities for a larger uptake of such climate-smart solutions. The Minaret II Initiative accompanied five municipalities across Tunisia, Lebanon, and Jordan to develop Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) focusing on WEF Nexus projects. Five project proposals, one feasibility study as well as a regional financing workshop resulted out of this process. In Jordan, the programme joined forces with the GIZ project 'Energy Efficiency in the Water Sector' to facilitate the establishment of a Nexus Governance Framework between relevant line ministries aiming at aligning natural resources management sustainably in policymaking. Additionally, in partnership with RES4Africa (Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa, a foundation that works in support of Africa's just energy transition), a market analysis was carried out for promising WEF Nexus business models along with a scoping study of available financing mechanisms in order to contribute to an enabling environment for the upscaling of integrated solutions in natural resources management and food security.

Our colleagues in the Niger Basin (NB) Nexus Dialogue accompanied the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) developed a set of Nexus Guidelines – the first of its kind- which have officially been endorsed by the affiliated Council of Ministers. This was achieved through a series of national and regional Nexus policy dialogues, capacity development and assessments of cross-sectoral projects identified per country. On a local scale, a WEF Nexus demonstration project carried out in Niger enabled a women's cooperative with forty members to increase their agricultural output during the dry season through a new solar pumping irrigation system and overall technical assistance for climate-adapted farming methods. Additionally, a WEF Nexus accelerator programme was implemented in collaboration with the International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering (2iE), which

provided business development support to a cohort of twelve entrepreneurial projects from the nine member states of NBA with impactful WEF Nexus solutions, aiming to scale their business and secure financing. Moreover, the partnership established with RES4Africa also encompasses the Niger Basin, contributing to the identification of promising WEF Nexus business models and financing mechanisms in the region.

In the Southern African Nexus Dialogue, the NRD Programme carried out by Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP-SA) contributed to the development of a regional WEF Nexus Governance Framework and a Screening Tool to encourage the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to prioritise projects with a holistic and intersectoral outlook. WEF Nexus Country Perspective Papers have been prepared for each of the 16 SADC member states, and workshops, technical and policy dialogues were carried out in Zambia, Lesotho, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Madagascar, and the Seychelles. Demonstration projects in Zambia and Malawi are being implemented under the sub-theme “Harnessing Climate-Smart Agriculture Practices to Reduce the Impacts of Climate Change in Southern Africa through a WEF nexus approach”. Tangible benefits have already been achieved, such as increases in yield diversity, food productivity and income, and a broadened access to clean water and electricity, favouring particularly women who had to travel long distances to fetch water for their families. The priority investment projects identified during the national dialogues will be presented to prospect investors, aiming at funding and scaling up these solutions.

The coordination of all five regions is supported by the Global Nexus Secretariat – in addition to the WEF Nexus Training Material developed for all regions, a Nexus Impact Assessment (NIA) Toolkit is being finalised which will enable practitioners to consider intersectoral solutions in project design, development and assessments. It provides a robust and comprehensive methodology that includes Nexus Principles, Safeguards, an Indicator Catalogue, and a Cost-Benefit Analysis methodology. The interdependencies between the resources water, energy and land can lead to synergies, but also to trade-offs, which in turn can lead to conflict between different users especially as these resources are getting increasingly difficult to access due to different external factors. Being aware of the conflict potential but also of existing mitigation measures is paramount in the management of natural resources.

The Frexus project, co-financed by EU FPI (Service for Foreign Policy Instruments) and BMZ and implemented by GIZ, addresses the vicious circle faced by Sahelian countries: conflicts and insecurity upsurge from the competitive exploitation of natural resources, which are likewise affected by the harmful effects of climate change.

Its first phase focused on developing tools and diagnostic studies on the relationship between natural resources, climate change and conflicts. Conflict analyses and climate risk assessments were performed in all three countries, a baseline study per intervention area were elaborated, and both a global early warning tool for resource-related conflicts and local scenario tools in Mali, Chad and Niger were developed and successfully applied. This enabled the participatory development of action plans that were adapted to the local situation in the communities in phase II. The project concludes in phase III and the implementation of selected measures, such as the construction of pastoral wells and the establishment of conventions between farmers and herders. Additionally, the project is raising awareness and building capacity measures around the peaceful management of natural resources for key stakeholders. A Frexus booklet has been developed offering a comprehensive overview of the project. Due to its innovative approach, the project has been in great demand for international events and has been presented most recently at the United Nations Water Conference in New York by its partner, the Republic of Niger. In the field of climate security, the Frexus project is one of the pioneers – precisely because it is not classically sectoral, it can address complex problems and contribute to a positive transformation of conflicts.

Summer of 2023 marks the conclusion of the NRD Programme and the Frexus project, both of which have successfully addressed global and regional WEF challenges at local level but also feeding

results and lessons learned into international agendas. The materials and knowledge acquired throughout the programme will remain publicly available to continue inspiring academics, practitioners and decision-makers to implement the Nexus approach, based on concrete and successful experiences, outcomes, and lessons learned.

The Nexus team looks forward to the next few weeks to continue to empower local stakeholders and strengthen their Nexus knowledge to ensure a successful continuation and implementation of the Nexus approach beyond the end of the programmes by finalising all activities and trainings across the regions and projects.

“The Water-Energy-Food Nexus approach safeguards, protects and upholds natural resources to guarantee water, energy and food security for all.”

Your Nexus Team

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The Nexus Resource Platform is a global Nexus information hub operated by the Global Nexus Secretariat as part of the Nexus Dialogues Programme. The Secretariat provides support to the Regional Nexus Dialogues and ensures knowledge exchange and global analysis on the topic across the participating regions and beyond.

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