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FACTSHEET

Frexus: Improving security and climate resilience in a fragile context through the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus

Project Name	FREXUS: Improving security and climate resilience in fragile contexts through the water-energy-food security Nexus
Joint co-financing	German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) European Commission (EC) DG DEVCO
Project location	Coordination office in Germany (GloBe). Actions in the Sahel: Mali, Niger and Chad
Partners	International, regional, national and local stakeholders
Implementing Agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
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Furthermore, sectorial projects addressing conflict and instability and strengthening climate resilient development sometimes have unintended negative effects, deteriorating the security situation even further.

In interdependent and complex constellations reinforced by climate change and other stressors, resources scarcity, competition over resources, conflict and instability mutually reinforce each other and form a vicious cycle (see figure on back page).

The Solution

The vicious cycle of scarcity, competition, conflict and instability can be turned into a virtuous cycle of resilience, sustainable resources management, cooperation and security (see diagram below).

This can be achieved by providing people, communities, countries and regions with means to mitigate current potential negative impacts of resources use by one group or sector on another while considering the impacts of climate change. A cross-sectoral and integrated approach in the areas of development and security will create and foster new opportunities ensuring sustainable development and peace in the long term (see figure on back page).

The Challenge

The Sahel region has experienced a deterioration of its security situation over the last decade with a rise in armed conflict, rebel groups and terrorism. Access to natural resources plays a major role in tensions between communities. In parallel, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has declared the Sahel one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change worldwide.

With a rapidly growing population, currently estimated at more than 150 million inhabitants, whose revenues depend mainly on agriculture and livestock, Sahelian countries face growing pressures on water, land and energy resources, exacerbated by climate change and leading to competition and conflict between different user groups.

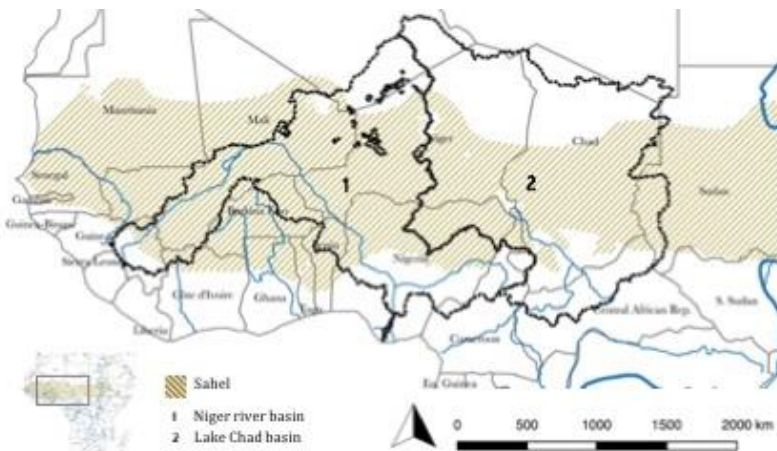


Diagram above:

The sequence leading from implementing the Water-Energy-Food security Nexus to achieving increased peace and security.

Map:

The project's action regions: the Niger river and lake Chad basins in the Sahel.



The Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Security Nexus Approach

A Nexus approach entails considering the totality of the available sources for food, energy and water security and planning holistically how they can most efficiently together serve human and conservation needs. Taking a Nexus approach to resource use and project planning in a basin allows to 1) avoid undesired impacts on other sectors and conflicts between them, and 2) improve efficiency in use of natural resources for human livelihoods ensuring ecosystem conservation. The involvement of the three sectors takes place on an equal footing and the intersectoral discussion of relevant issues and joint development of solutions leads to win-win solutions or (where this is not possible) at least to jointly accepted trade offs.

The proposed action focuses, amongst others, on local communities (potentially transboundary, including relevant security stakeholders) that are faced with the consequences of resource scarcity and climate change, aiming at providing them with adequate tools to address these challenges, avoid their negative consequences (such as competition over resources, conflict and foregone development opportunities) and instead turn them into sustainable development opportunities even under climate change conditions. The inclusion of the most vulnerable parts of the population, especially women, will be granted high importance in this context. With this, the proposed action is highly relevant for achieving the SDGs, namely SDG 2 (food security), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (water security), SDG 7 (energy security) as well as SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). Likewise, it contributes to the Paris Agenda by helping communities, countries and regions to adapt to the consequences of global climate change.

Key Outputs of the FREXUS project

1. Baseline studies for the Niger River Basin and Lake Chad Basin on key factors and key actors as well as climate stressors of existing resource use conflicts
2. Detailed Assessments at regional or national level
3. Development and testing of a specific analytical tool to assess the linkages between resource scarcity, climate change, and conflict and security from a nexus perspective
4. Identification of at least 4 areas (local/transboundary-local, national or regional) for conducting comprehensive hotspot analysis
5. Awareness-raising and capacity building measures for key stakeholders
6. Assessment of the impacts of climate change and climate variability in the Niger Basin and the Lake Chad Basin
7. Application of the assessment tool in at least 4 specific target areas (hot spots)
8. Establishment and Endorsement of action plans with stakeholders
9. Identification of activities (at policy and operational levels) related to the 4 target areas to counter existing challenges, mitigate resource conflicts and provide options for climate resilient development
10. Implementation of Stakeholder dialogues
11. Conflict sensitive Implementation of up to three measures selected by the stakeholders

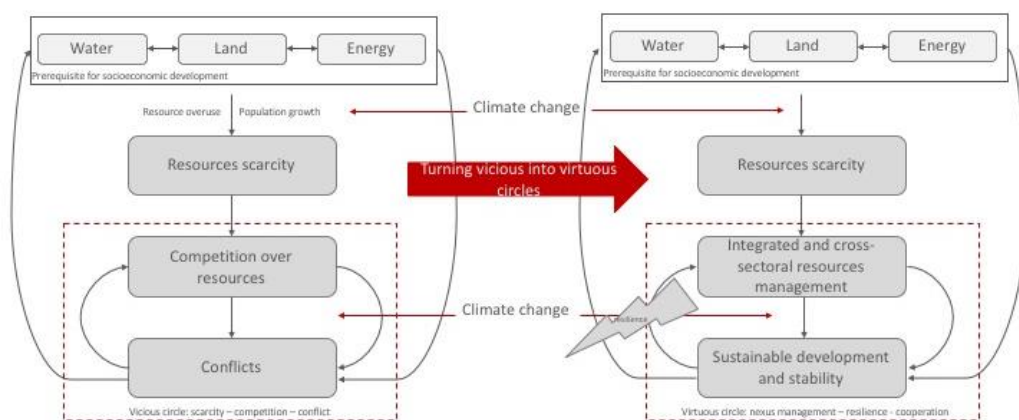


Diagram:

Integrated and inter-sectoral resource planning and management can provide people, communities, regions and countries with means to mitigate current potential negative impacts of resources use by one group or sector on another while facing the challenges of climate change.

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