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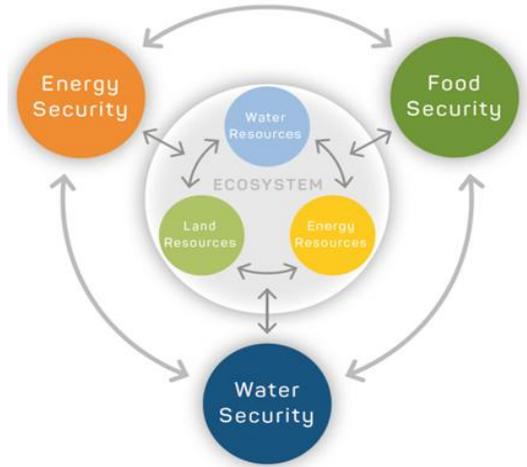
The Nexus Regional Dialogue in the Niger Basin

Achieving Water, Energy and Food Security by preserving the Environment

Project Name	The Nexus Regional Dialogue in the Niger Basin
Joint co-financing	German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) European Union (EU)
Project location	Niamey, Niger (location of the Executive Secretariat of the Niger Basin Authority) and other capitals in the 9 riparian countries
Partner	Autorité du Bassin du Niger (ABN)
Implementing Agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	07.2017 – 06.2020

The Solution

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 the basin allows to 1. avoid undesired impacts on other sectors and conflicts between them, 2. improve efficiency in use of natural resources for human livelihoods and ecosystem conservation, and 3. attract funding for projects which have been Nexus-proofed.



The Challenge

The Niger River Basin is the third largest on the African continent. It is home to over 130 million people who strongly rely on its water, soil, and forests for **drinking water, food security and energy production**. Of the nine basin countries - Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria – six are Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Over 70% of the population live in areas where food security depends on unreliable and changing rainfall and climate patterns, smallholder agricultural production, biomass and **endangered ecosystem services**. Only one in three inhabitants has access to electricity. Conflicting uses of resources, as well as degradation and population pressures on sources of food, energy and water have the strongest impact on the poorest of the poor and cause insecurity and migration.



Niger river watershed, © Niger Basin Authority

The aim of the project is to support the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) and its member states to **take a Nexus approach to the management of the basin**. This entails looking at resources in the basin in a holistic manner and putting in place cross-sectoral policies and projects. The NBA has a clear Nexus mandate and already has instruments to implement this.

*„The Basin Authority’s operational plan is a key instrument to achieve development objectives of the region. The Nexus Dialogue allows us to evaluate **how the different sectoral objectives interrelate with one another** and to adjust and prioritize the planning to maximize socio-economic impact“.*

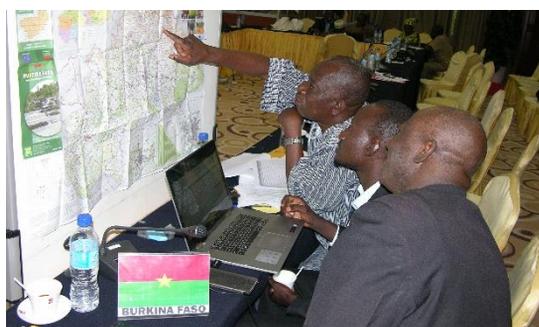
Abdou GUERO, Technical Director at the Niger Basin Authority

To achieve this objective the following fields of action are implemented:

- 1) **Mainstreaming of the Nexus** in the 350 projects of the Operational and Investment Plan of the NBA.
- 2) **Nexus assessment** of the basin with particular focus on **concrete applications** on the Fomi and Kandadji multipurpose dams and the Inner Niger Delta.
- 3) **Tailored trainings** at regional and national level (e.g. Mali, Niger, Guinea) on Nexus tools, applications and bottom-up policy implications and recommendations.

Major results to date

- 1) **Five regional and national appropriation and consultation workshops** on Nexus implementation.
- 2) **Nexus application strategies developed** for major multi-purpose dams: **Fomi and Kandadji**.
- 3) **Preparation of 10 investment projects** with Nexus potential for Phase II.
- 4) **Nexus mainstreaming** into operational and investment planning of the Niger basin – 350 projects.
- 5) **The NBA Ministerial Council** and Regional Piloting Committees **officially validated the work done**.
- 6) **ABN Nexus input** to the **UN Convention** on transboundary waters, Kazakhstan, October, 2018.
- 7) **Nexus country profiles for the 9 basin countries** and a Nexus basin-wide profile have been published.
- 8) **Adding a Peace & Security dimension to Nexus:** new financing approved for peace building in the basin through Nexus-based natural resource management.



Stakeholders from Burkina Faso at a consultation Workshop

Impact in numbers

- **9 countries**, in a basin **10 times larger** than that of the Rhine with over **130 Million** basin inhabitants regularly exchange **on the basis of agreed indicators** on the use of natural resources for water, energy, food security and environmental preservation.
- Media sensitization activities reaching **20 million** basin users
- More than **160 national** Nexus Focal Points and civil society representatives, **a third of which are women**, have been trained in Nexus tools. Mali, Niger, Guinea, and Chad initiated their own national Nexus dialogues.
- **350 cross-border** development projects are Nexus-screened and strengthened to maximise the human and environmental value of resources.
- The Niger Basin national focal points and **civil society representatives** have been strengthened in their role of cross-sectoral coordinators of **the 4 Nexus sectors**. They reach out to an estimated **1000 decision makers** across the region.

... and in stories

„Seven of the nine basin countries are in very difficult [for human livelihoods] and delicate [for climatic and security reasons] zones. It is imperative that we manage the basin's resources in such a way that we can at the same time produce affordable food for the populations, but also produce electricity for the industrialisation of our countries. And all of this requires water. This is why we believe strongly in the Nexus approach“.

– Nouradine TOURE,
Coordinator of the Niger Basin's Civil Society Representatives.



Growing up on the Niger river © GIZ-Nexus-ABN

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