

# FACTSHEET

## Nexus Regional Dialogue in the Niger Basin

### PROJECT DETAILS



**Project Name:** Nexus Regional Dialogue in the Niger Basin

**Joint Co-financing:** German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), European Union (EU)

**Duration:** July 2020 – June 2023

Project Location	Implementing Agency	Partner
Niamey, Niger (location of the Executive Secretariat of the Niger Basin Authority)	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	Niger Basin Authority (NBA)



**Vision:** *Inclusive water, energy and food security on the path to a climate resilient and resource efficient future for all*

– *Vision of the NRD Programme*

### Nexus Challenges

As the major river in West Africa, the basin of the Niger River and its ecosystems provide the foundation for the everyday activities and livelihoods of around 160 million people. The river provides drinking water, hydropower generation, irrigated agriculture, cattle breeding, fishing and transportation – making it the *élan vital* of the nine riparian countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Nigeria.

Due to **climate change**, rainfall variability will lead to **longer dry periods** in the region. Rainfall intensity and **extreme flooding events** are likely to increase. **Rapid population growth** and urbanisation heighten the demand for electricity, clean drinking water and food.



Over **70% of the population** live in areas where food security comes from unreliable water sources vulnerable to climate change<sup>1</sup>

Over **85% of freshwater withdrawals** are used for agriculture<sup>2</sup>

The population in the region is expected to increase almost threefold between 1990 and 2030 to reach **516 million people**<sup>3</sup>

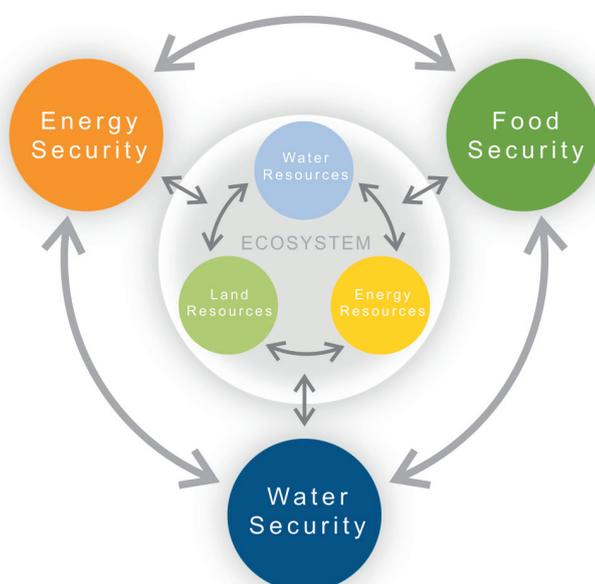
<sup>1</sup> European Commission (2016). Exploratory Mission Report: Towards a Niger Basin Nexus Dialogues Project. B&S Consortium and AGRER. First draft;

<sup>2</sup> Namara et al. (2011); <sup>3</sup> UN (2015). Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population prospects: the 2015 revision, DVD edition.

## Solution: WEF Nexus Approach

The Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus approach addresses this complex reality and recognises that water, energy and food security can only be achieved through safeguarding, protecting and upholding natural resources. It contributes to a better understanding of the deep interconnectedness between natural resources and their planning, management and consumption. For example, pumping to irrigate crops can lead to over-exploitation of water resources. The cultivation of biofuel crops, while they provide renewable alternatives to fossil fuels, can compete with food production for land and water.

At its heart, the WEF Nexus promotes a **holistic and integrated way of thinking and acting to ensure inclusive water, energy and food security in a sustainable way.** It turns attention to opportunities: untangling trade-offs, inspiring compromises and uncovering synergies. It further promotes policy coherence and multi-sectoral cooperation at all levels.



## Objectives and Key Activities

Building on the results of Phase I, the Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme Phase II aims to **institutionalise the WEF Nexus approach** in national and regional governance structures and investment decisions and engage public and private investors for WEF Nexus projects through:

-  Policy dialogue
-  Investment facilitation
-  Demonstration projects
-  Communication
-  Capacity development
-  Impact assessment

## Main objectives of the Nexus Regional Dialogue in the Niger Basins

- **Mainstreaming of the Nexus** through policy and investment dialogue events.
- **Tailored trainings** at regional and national level in all nine member states on Nexus tools, applications and bottom-up policy implications and recommendations.
- **Tangible benefits of the Nexus approach** through support and documentation of **demonstration projects** (e.g. applying cost-benefit analysis).
- **Nexus investment accelerator programme** for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the basin.

*“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, Former Technical Director at the Niger Basin Authority**

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