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Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme Newsletter



Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus

A service by the Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme

Dear readers,

These are exciting times! It has been busy weeks for the team of the Nexus Regional Dialogues (NRD) Programme and we are happy to see many activities at the international stage, bringing the Water-Energy-Food Nexus approach to the attention of more and more people!

It is, therefore, not surprising that this newsletter edition features a great variety of news. We present interesting and inspiring work, that is currently done not only by the NRD team but also by various actors in several regions around the world. Amongst others, you can look forward to getting to know Djahida Boukhalfa, who joined the NRD team recently as regional coordinator of the MENA Nexus Dialogue. Learn how the WEF Nexus approach is realized in a remote Andean village in Peru and receive interesting facts and figures of WEF interlinkages in the basin of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River. You have missed World Water Week? Not to worry! We reviewed two WEF Nexus sessions and present the main discussion points and outcomes. Have a closer look at other features, there is even more to discover!

Enjoy reading!

Your

Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme-Team

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Global News

In Review

The WEF Nexus at World Water Week 2021



How can funding for integrated natural resources projects be leveraged? And can the WEF Nexus approach facilitate access to much-needed investment in such projects? This article reflects on the World Water Week session “**From risks to returns – WEFE Nexus solutions for climate resilience**”, which tackled these questions on August 24, 2021. Jointly organized by the Nexus Regional Dialogues

Programme, the Interamerican Development Bank and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the session counted 168 participants from more than 45 countries.

La versión en español de este artículo está disponible [aquí](#).

Pour la version française de cet article, voir [ici](#).

World Water Week 2021



“Not only do integrated WEFE projects bring about greater development impact on local communities than sole energy provision, but they can also bring better financial performance for investors

This is a game changer”

-Luca Traini
Programme Manager Access to Energy at
RES4Africa Foundation

[Read the full article and watch the recorded session on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

On August 26, 2021, the GIZ Frexus project, together with the Government of the Netherlands, the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education and the World Resources Institute invited to the session ‘**From forecast to prevention – acting on resource-related conflict risks**’ in the frame of World Water Week 2021. This event explored how national



and international policy-makers can take effective actions to prevent conflicts relating to water, food and energy insecurity.

Pour la version française de cet article, voir [ici](#).

[Read the full article and watch the recorded session on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

Recap: The Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme at the 5th Arab Water Forum in Dubai

Water sector professionals, innovators and decision-makers from across 22 Arab Countries came together at the 5th Arab Water Forum on the 21-23 September to discuss and explore solutions for the challenges facing the Arab region with regards to water resources. Under the banner 'Arab Water security for Peace and Sustainable Development', the Forum delved into the following three main priority areas: Arab Water Security, Cooperation across Borders and Water for Sustainable Development as well as cross-cutting Means and Tools.



The Nexus Regional Dialogues (NRD) Programme, represented by Irene Sander, the Head of the Global Nexus Secretariat, was invited to attend the Science-Policy dialogue on Wastewater Reuse in the MENA region, which was organized by ReWater MENA funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and led by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in partnership with the Arab Water Council (AWC) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as well as the League of Arab States (LAS). The aim of the session was to ensure a common knowledge basis on the status of non-conventional water management in the region and to explore means to exploit its vast potential to meet the challenges of the water sector. For NRD, wastewater treatment and integrated resource recovery is an important entry point for the WEF Nexus approach to highlight the added-value of cross-sectoral cooperation. The participation at the session offered an important opportunity for NRD to scout cooperation points with other organizations active in the field and concrete processes to support to help operationalize and institutionalize the WEF Nexus approach in the MENA region.

Regional News

Pilot Project Nexus Dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean

In a remote Andean Village in Peru, Nexus connects an Ancestral Lagoon, Guinea Pigs and Solar Energy



Main square of San Pedro de Casta. © AQUAFONDO

This article presents a pilot project of the Nexus Regional Dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Bringing together ancestral water sources with solar power, crops and livestock, the project seeks to build food security and prosperity in San Pedro de Casta, Peru, through a practical demonstration of the water, energy and food security (WEF) Nexus approach.

La versión en español de este artículo está disponible [aquí](#).

[Read the full article on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

Updates from the Nexus Dialogue Southern Africa



Stellenbosch vineyards mountains; LongJon @ Shutterstock

The first WEF-Nexus Masterclass designed specifically for Southern Africa took place 27-29 July 2021, with support from Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA). The virtual event addressed the need for capacity development at a regional and national level, by supporting early career researchers, postgraduate students, managers, and practitioners in applying the WEF Nexus as a transformative approach to sustainable natural resource management and socio-economic development.

Achieving water, energy, and food security is a priority for southern Africa – given climate change, increasing urbanization, population growth, and advanced ecosystem degradation. Achieving WEF security will require a collaborative and inclusive approach, which considers the interconnections and interdependencies between the water, energy, and food sectors.

[Read the full article on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

WEF Nexus Session at the 9th SADC River Basin Organisation Dialogue

The WEF Nexus approach was identified as an investment-enhancing opportunity for transboundary waters in the Southern Africa region. Kidanemariam Jembere, Technical Advisor at GWPSA, presented on the WEF Nexus during the 9th SADC River Basin Organisations/Shared Watercourse Institutions (RBOs/SWIs) Workshop held virtually on 22-23 September 2021, under the theme: “Promoting Inclusive and Collaborative Transboundary Water Financing for Sustainable Industrial Development”.



“The SADC-EU WEF Nexus Project, now in its second phase, calls for high-level political support, continuous multisector stakeholder dialogues, and building on existing structures, as well as capacity for analysis to support decisions on WEF Nexus are critical” said Jembere.

[Read the full article on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

Southern Africa Youth WEF Nexus Innovation Network Training on Entrepreneurship in the Water, Energy and Food sectors

Thirty-two young professionals and entrepreneurs in the Water, Energy and Food (WEF) sectors in SADC are taking part in an inaugural interactive and exciting entrepreneurship training focusing on entrepreneurial skills and greater insight of the WEF Nexus to contribute to the region’s economy and society.

The training is an initiative of the Southern Africa Youth WEF Nexus Innovation Network (SAYWIN), in collaboration with Global Water Partnership Water Academy for Youth (GWP WAY). The training forms part of the SADC Nexus Regional Dialogue project, funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by Global Water Partnership (GWP).

WEF Nexus Regional Guidelines Document

GWPSA is supporting the development of Regional WEF Nexus Guidelines which will guide implementing agencies at the national, regional and transboundary level on how to integrate the WEF-Nexus into investment planning and project preparation. The Regional Guidelines will make use of case studies from within the SADC region to practically demonstrate and provide technical guidance and support required to identify and prioritize WEF nexus investment projects and facilitate

the operationalisation of the WEF Nexus in the SADC region.

The development of the Guidelines forms part of the SADC Nexus Dialogue Project “Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogue and Multi-Sector Investment in the SADC Region”, as supported by the European Commission as part of the global ‘Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme’.

Baseline Study for the Basin of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River



Fishing Boats at Lake Kivu; Rwanda @ 3iffi Shutterstock

The basin baseline study documents the current state of the basin’s water resources and natural environment while also identifying current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the basin. The study takes a holistic WEF Nexus approach, analyzing the interlinkages between water, energy, food security, and the natural environment. The study was drafted in close cooperation with GIZ project partner and basin organization ABAKIR (Autorité du Bassin de Lac Kivu et de la Rivière Ruzizi/Lake Kivu and Ruzizi River Basin Authority).

La version française de cet article est disponible [ici](#).

[Download the report on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

Nexus Interview Series

Djahida Boukhalfa, Regional Coordinator Nexus Dialogue in the MENA region at GIZ



“The WEF NEXUS approach, in my opinion, is a tool to resolve conflicts between vital sectors such as Water, Agriculture and Energy, and bring them to a collaboration for a better life for the population”

With this interview series, we want to provide a better picture of the people working for the Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme and their perspectives on WEF Nexus challenges and opportunities. In this episode, we interviewed Djahida Boukhalfa, Regional Coordinator of the Nexus Dialogue in the MENA region at GIZ.

[Read the full article on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

Pilot Project Nexus Regional Dialogue Niger Basin

Towards a feminisation of the Nexus Water-Energy-Supply concept in Kollo, Niger



© GIZ

To help combat the effects of climate change, the Nigerien National Coordination of Users Natural Resources in the Niger Basin (CNU-BN/Niger), with support from German Cooperation by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and its Water & Energy for Food Project (WE4F), funded a water-energy-food nexus demonstration project for a group of 180 women in a village in the department of Kollo.

Pour la version française de cet article, voir [ici](#).

[Read the full article on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

Other News and Resources

Recording

Session #1 of the Webinar Series on Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus Solutions

This is the recording of the first session of the 2nd Round of the webinar series on Water-Energy-Food Nexus, focusing on Nexus solutions. The webinar series is organized by the WEF Nexus in Africa Initiative, WE4F, GIZ, and SEI. It took place on September 14, 2021, and discusses different approaches across Africa to prevent, mitigate and address disaster risk and resilience, specifically through a WEF Nexus lens with solutions in mind.



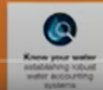
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

2nd round Webinar Series: Water-food-Energy NEXUS
NEXUS SOLUTIONS

1st Session:

Disaster resilience and risk in the context on Water-Energy-Food Nexus: Insights from Africa

Date: 14- September-2021



0:03 / 1:24:45

[Watch the recorded session on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

Nexus Blog

Six key principles for improving agricultural water productivity

Water resources are being placed under an unprecedented amount of stress especially in the context of climate change. This calls for an urgent response to achieve improved, more resilient and more sustainable agricultural water management. A White Paper by The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture in a Changing Climate (WASAG) sets out six key principles to guide policy makers' efforts to strengthen water and food security.



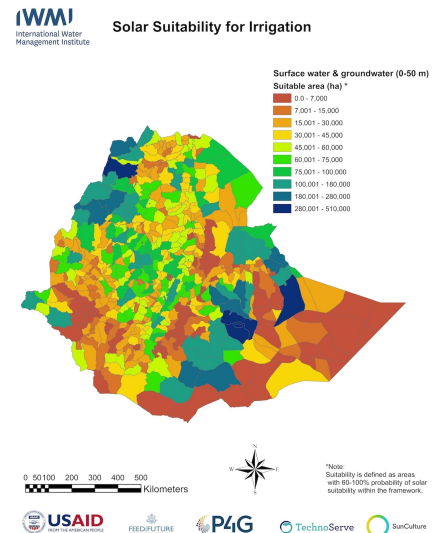
Irrigation System South Africa; MartinMaritz @Shutterstock

[Read the full article on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

Solar Suitability Maps

Mapping tool helps private sector identify high-potential locations for solar irrigation pumps

As climate change threatens to exacerbate water scarcity and food insecurity in many parts of Africa, solar water pumps combined with sustainable irrigation practices could boost the climate resilience and livelihoods of millions of farmers. But which farmers are in the right places to benefit from these pumps? And how do the companies that manufacture and distribute them ensure solar irrigation is part of a sustainable package of solutions to water scarcity and not part of the problem? One answer is solar suitability maps.



[Read the full article on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

#Nexus Facts from the Nexus Resource Platform Archive



The **majority of Africa's river basins** hold **massive unrealised water development potential**, both in terms of hydro-electric power and agricultural development. Electrification rates are among the lowest in the world and vulnerability to climate extremes is increasing across the continent.

Nexus approaches also often implicitly **reproduce a Western concept of single scientific rationality** (Wiegleb and Burns 2018) as the basis for 'good nexus governance', which is incompatible with a pluralistic approach to policy integration, or ignores existing systems of resource allocation and interaction between nexus stakeholders (Merrey 2009).

For more information about these facts read the recently published **policy brief "An adaptive and context-driven approach to the water, energy and food nexus"** by the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM).

Upcoming Events

Session #2 of the Webinar Series "Solutions Using Water-Energy-Food Nexus Approaches"

Cooperation across borders and sectors: Regional experiences of WEF Nexus institutionalization and governance

Date: **19.10.2021, 13.30-15.00 CEST**

Organizers: FAO, GIZ, WEF Africa Initiative, SEI



This session will give insights into the successful mainstreaming of the water, energy and food security Nexus approach into governance structures. It will present different approaches for WEF Nexus transboundary cooperation and governance from three different regions: Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Niger Basin.

[Find more information on the event on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

Webinar Series

From Research to Resilience: Climate-smart solutions to enhance ecosystem health and strengthen food, nutrition and water security for all

CGIAR | RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Water, Land and Ecosystems

FROM RESEARCH TO RESILIENCE WEBINAR SERIES

Climate-smart solutions to enhance ecosystem health and strengthen food, nutrition and water security for all

October 2021

October 2021, Tuesdays & Thursdays (8 sessions)

A webinar series to assess the progress of research for development, capture lessons learned, and identify the scientifically proven tools and approaches that climate-vulnerable communities can adopt to secure more inclusive, sustainable and resilient futures. Organized by CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE).

[Find more information about the event on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021

01-12 NOV 2021

GLASGOW

COP26

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



The Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme will support two sessions at this year's COP26 within the frame of the Water Pavilion (Blue Zone):

On Tuesday, **November 3**, a scene-setting session will be held in the morning 9h-10h British Summer Time (BST) to honor Energy Day. This session intends to provide insight to delegates as to why the water-energy nexus is important to their discussions and decisions regarding climate change. The esteemed speakers will shed light onto the different challenges and opportunities inherent to the water-energy intersection, present ambitious national plans from the Middle East and East Africa and explore the important role of the private sector to bring about innovation and investments.

On Friday, **November 12**, the session "Conflict, climate, and borders: The role of River Basin Cooperation for Climate Resilience" will take place.

[Find out more about the event on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

WEFE Nexus Panel Session

of the Central Asian Preparatory Conference for the 9th World Water Forum



Aral Sea Desert @ Valerio Bonaretti, Shutterstock

Date: **October 20, 2021**, 9:00-11:00 am (Dushanbe time)

Organizers: USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity (WAVE) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

This panel session will facilitate the presentation and platform of discussion on the qualitative linkages' analysis for improved cross-sectoral decision making in the Central

Asian region and opportunities to institutionalize WEFE Nexus approach. Two international experts and four national government panelists will focus on the opportunities, steamed from the WEFE nexus to strengthen transboundary water management and regional economic connectivity. The presentations and interventions will present and comment on available best practices and lessons learnt with respect to innovative framework that captures the interrelationships, synergies, and trade-offs between water, energy, and food demand (and supply) in different environmental contexts. In the overall, the session will contribute to better understanding of the WEFE nexus benefits and, therefore, promote the most appropriate strategic axis of water-related regional development and cooperation in a long-term perspective.



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