



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



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## Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme Newsletter



### Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus

A service by the Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme

Dear reader,

This year is picking up speed, the first quarter has already been and gone!

As we enter a new season, we also begin the final sprint of the [Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme Phase II](#) and the [Frexus Project](#). As always, our Nexus colleagues are busy ensuring the institutionalisation of the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus approach through various activities and events.

This edition highlights some of the key activities and events that our colleagues and key stakeholders have been working on and participated in since the last issue of the Nexus newsletter. This includes national and regional dialogues, WEF accelerator programmes, and the coveted United Nations 2023 Water Week in New York. Additionally, we present new additions to the “Nexus Story” series where we dive into the WEF Nexus from the beneficiaries’ point of view, emphasising the impacts of adopting a cross-sectoral approach.

Knowledge dissemination is key to ensuring widespread adaptation of the WEF Nexus. To make sure this approach and our Nexus knowledge is accessible to all, new tools and publications are currently being developed. Catch a glimpse of the upcoming Nexus Impact Assessment (NIA) Toolkit in our brand-new infographic – but stay tuned for the final product to be released in the next issue! Also, be sure to explore the new interactive infographic on the Transboundary Nexus Assessment Methodology which helps facilitate the cross-sectoral cooperation in transboundary settings.

These are just a few of the highlights over the past few months. So, dive into this 16th issue of the Nexus newsletter and take a closer look!

Happy reading!

**Your Nexus Team**

## 1. GLOBAL NEWS

## 2. NEWS FROM THE PROJECTS

- » NRD - Central Asia
- » NRD - Latin America and the Caribbean
- » NRD - MENA | Middle East and North Africa
- » NRD - Niger Basin
- » NRD - Southern Africa
- » Support to the Integrated Management of Water Resources of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River
- » The Frexus Project

## 3. NEXUS FACTS, TOOLS AND PUBLICATIONS

## 4. WEF NEXUS RELATED EVENTS

### Global News

## Sustainable Water Management at the 2nd WASAG International Forum

“Making Agriculture resilient to climate change”

First launched in November 2016, the Global Framework on Water Scarcity (WASAG) has grown into a partnership platform of exchange on solutions to adapt to climate change in agriculture. It has since then held two international forums, the first one marked by the adoption of the [Praia Commitment](#) in March 2019. The 2nd WASAG International forum took place in Praia, Cabo Verde from the 7th to 10th February 2023.



The 2nd WASAG International Forum.

[Read Review](#)



## New Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus Training Material

Now available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish

The newly established [WEF Nexus training material](#) developed in cooperation with [adelphi](#) to inspire the implementation of the WEF Nexus approach worldwide! It serves to contribute to an increased

application of the WEF Nexus approach in planning, policymaking and implementation in countries belonging to the five target regions of the Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme and beyond.



## Module I - Introduction to the Water-Energy-Food Security (WEF) Nexus



Want to learn more about the training material and discover how it can be adapted per context? Download it here!

[Learn More](#)



### News from the Projects

The Nexus team is composed of three key projects:

- 1) **The Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme (NRD):** Building on the results of Phase I, the NRD Phase II aims to institutionalise the WEF Nexus approach in national and regional governance structures and investment decisions and to engage the public and private investors for WEF Nexus projects. The Programme is implemented in Central Asia; Latin America and the Caribbean; Middle East and Northern Africa; the Niger Basin and Southern Africa in cooperation with regional partner organisations.
- 2) **Support to the Integrated Management of Water Resources of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River Project:** The aim of the project is to support the river basin organisation ABAKIR (Autorité du Bassin du Lac Kivu et de la Rivière Ruzizi/ Rusizi) to improve the hydrological and operational management of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi/Rusizi River. ABAKIR is mandated by its three member states: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. [Please note: This project has ended in October 2022]
- 3) **Frexus: Improving security and climate resilience in a fragile context through the Water-Energy-Food Nexus:** The project operates in Mali, Niger and Chad and aims to support the peaceful resolution of social tensions and conflicts between population groups that are caused or exacerbated by climate change in fragile areas.





## Nexus Regional Dialogue in Central Asia

### The Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus approach is widely promoted in Turkmenistan

Members of the Academy of Civil Service discover the WEF Nexus with the help of the Nexus Game

On the 7th and 10th of February 2023, thirty three lecturers and professors from the Academy of Civil Service under the President of Turkmenistan and the Turkmen Agricultural Institute learned about the interactions between water, energy, food and environment security through the Interactive Nexus Simulation Game.



The Interactive Nexus Simulation Game in full swing.

[Read More](#)



### Afforestation of the dried bottom of the Aral Sea

Piloting a closed root system

The Aral Sea, once the fourth largest lake in the world, has been facing rapid depletion, shrinking to 10% of its original size and splitting into four lakes. Central Asian states have acknowledged the low possibility of recovering the Aral Sea and directed their efforts on mitigation measures. In this regard, the Nexus Regional Dialogue in Central Asia supports the afforestation of the dried bottom, which is considered one of the most viable ways to halt desertification and reduce exposed toxic soils and pollutants.





A sign of hope and a new beginning.

[Read More](#)



## Nexus Regional Dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean

### The Future of WEF Solutions in Latin America and the Caribbean

The LATAM4WEF Innovations Programme

Recognising the need for innovative solutions to WEF Nexus challenges - the LATAM4WEF Innovation Lab brought together some of the brightest minds from across the region. The five winning teams of the Innovation Lab have created solutions to some of the toughest challenges facing the region. This article series presents the successful contestants and their innovative ideas.



Innovative WEF solutions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[Read the Series](#)



# The 2023 Regional Water Dialogues of Latin America and the Caribbean

Finding sustainable solutions for universal access to safe water and sanitation

The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) organised the third edition of the 2023 Regional Water Dialogues. The event analysed the need to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (“Clean Water and Sanitation”) in the region, discussing sustainable solutions for universal access to safe water and sanitation and presenting the Regional Action Agenda for Water.

The full event is available on [YouTube](#) (in Spanish).



The third edition of the 2023 Regional Water Dialogues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[Read More](#)



## Nexus Regional Dialogue in MENA

### Working towards climate resilient municipalities in the MENA region

Applying the Water, Energy and Food security Nexus for integrated and sustainable solutions at community level

The [MINARET II Project](#) aims to enable municipal governances to develop their skills in the fields of climate assessments, integrated resources management and mobilisation of funds in order to deliver high-quality public services, in particular with regard to policies that affect the usage of water, energy and food resources.





The MINARET II Project team.

[Read the Nexus Story](#)



## Securing municipalities' climate finance within the WEF Nexus framework

The closing ceremony of the MINARET II Initiative

“Road to Finance – Nexus Thinking and Decentralisation of Subnational Governments” was the title of the MINARET II Project Regional Meeting that took place in Beirut, Lebanon on the 24th of February to mark the closing of an 18-month initiative to strengthen the climate resilience of municipalities in Lebanon, Tunisia and Jordan.



Closing ceremony of the MINARET II Initiative.





## Nexus Regional Dialogue in the Niger Basin

### The first EU-Niger Business Forum 2023 aims to stimulate Niger's economic expansion

Strengthening EU-Niger cooperation for development

The first edition of the [EU-Niger Business Forum](#) was held on the 7th and 8th of February 2023, in Niamey, Niger. The event can be considered one of the most important business meetings in the economic history of Niger. It hosted more than 400 Nigerien, European and sub-regional companies, economic decision-makers, politicians, development actors and investment experts with the aim of stimulating Niger's economic growth.



Regional Coordinator of the Niger Basin Nexus Dialogue, Robert Kranefeld, at the EU-Niger Business Forum.

[Read More](#)

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### Meet the winning start-ups of the WEF Nexus bootcamp

The WEF Nexus Acceleration Programme in the Niger Basin

Since the launch of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus bootcamp in 2022, we have been following the contestants on their journey as they complete the 9-month long acceleration programme in our article series. Be sure to read the three (of five) profiles already published on the innovative start-ups: [Agro-Eco Service](#), [Clean Energy Services](#) and [SAVIP](#). Our next issue will cover the remaining two.



The five teams of the 9-month Accelerator Programme.

[Read the Article Series](#)



## Nexus Regional Dialogue in Southern Africa

### Towards the institutionalisation of the WEF Nexus at regional and national governance structures

Regional SADC workshop on water, energy and food security

With the objective of fostering Water-Energy-Food security, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Oceanic States workshop was conducted on the 9th of March 2023 at the Pearle Beach Resort & Spa in Flic-en-Flac. Within the framework of the Nexus Regional Dialogue in Southern Africa, the national dialogues are being organised for all 16 SADC Member States with the aim of strengthening WEF Nexus capacities in conducting WEF Nexus analyses to inform decision-makers.



Regional SADC workshop participants pose for a group photo.

[Read More](#)



## Get to know the implementing agency Global Water Partnership Southern Africa

The Nexus Regional Dialogue in Southern Africa

The Global Water Partnership – Southern Africa (GWP-SA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) are jointly supporting development cooperation through multi-sector resource management in the Southern African region. Demonstration projects, capacity building activities and the identification of financing opportunities show the value-added of the WEF Nexus in the region.





The Nexus Regional Dialogue in Southern Africa.

[Read More](#)



## Support to the Integrated Management of Water Resources of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River Project

### Online reports available from the project upon its completion

Support to the Integrated Management of Water Resources of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River Project

We are pleased to report that on the 31st of October, 2022, the project „Support to the Integrated Management of Water Resources of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River Basin” concluded implementation. We invite you to explore some of our report outputs, which can be found [here](#).



The closing of a Nexus chapter.

[Discover the Studies](#)



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

### Regional River Basin Organisations working towards sustainable solutions for natural resources related conflicts

Technical workshops between Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Niger Basin Authority

From June 2021 to February 2023, the [Frexus Project](#) has been facilitating a series of three technical workshops between the two Regional Basin Organisations (RBO), the [Niger Basin Authority \(NBA\)](#) and the [Lake Chad Basin Commission \(LCBC\)](#), to exchange on experiences and reflect on the roles these basin organisations play in the Sahelian region.



Daily life of communities within the pilot areas of the Frexus Project.

[Read Full Review](#)





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## Training of local actors on the integration of the «Do No Harm» approach in natural resource management

Providing effective tools for the management of land, natural resources and ecosystems

Governance aspects have been identified as key conflict factors in the [Frexus Project](#) intervention areas, training of local actors in natural resource conflict management and prevention has been undertaken. Training workshops on the « Do No Harm » approach were conducted in each intervention country. These trainings enabled the actors to acquire an approach and effective tools for the management of land, natural resources, and ecosystems.



Group photo of participants at the "Do No Harm" workshop in Niger.

[Read More about the Workshop](#)



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## Reactivation of the convention on natural resource management

The signing ceremony of the local convention in Bellen, Mali

As part of the [Frexus Project](#), a convention on natural resource management was signed during a workshop in the commune of Bellen, Governorate of Segou, Mali, on the 18th of January, 2023. The convention was signed by the main stakeholders who make use of or play a role in the management of the convention and who seek the peaceful and sustainable management of the natural resources in the commune of Bellen.





Group photo of local actors involved in the signing of the convention in Bellen, Mali.

[Read More](#)



## Nexus Facts, News and Publications

### The Nexus Impact Assessment (NIA) Toolkit

Cross-sectoral thinking made clear

The Water-Energy-Food Nexus approach aims at minimising unintended risks and conflicts in resource management that arise with solely sectoral approaches. In response, the Nexus Impact Assessment (NIA) Toolkit, developed by the [Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme](#), combines several useful and helpful tools which can be used collectively as well as independently. The [NIA Toolkit infographic](#) introduces the benefits and possible applications of the different tools ahead of its publication in the next issue!



# Nexus Impact Assessment (NIA) Toolkit

Cross-sectoral thinking made clear!

Nexus means to "connect" – it highlights the interrelation between water resources, energy generation and food production. The Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus approach recognises these dynamic interlinkages and aims at minimising unintended risks and conflicts in resource management that arise with solely sectoral approaches. In response, the NIA Toolkit combines several useful and helpful tools, which can be used collectively as well as independently.

The tools below enable professionals such as policy makers, project developers or investors to

- familiarise themselves on how to implement the WEF Nexus in policies and projects,
- identify WEF Nexus potential and its added value, measure cross-sectoral impacts and
- carry out subsequent monitoring and evaluation of projects.

## Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA)

Complementing the other tools, the CBA of WEF Nexus projects demonstrates the added value and economic benefit over sectoral approaches. It serves as a decision-making tool for project development and investment purposes.

## WEF Nexus Safeguards

Using these safeguards enables an easy assessment of whether a project or intervention improves WEF security while resources are safeguarded and negative impacts on another WEF sector be avoided.



## WEF Nexus Principles

The selection of core principles serve to guide the successful application, implementation and operationalisation of the WEF Nexus approach at different levels and in different regions.

## WEF Nexus Indicators

This by no means exhaustive catalogue of indicators provides inspiration and helps to select or develop indicators relevant to measure WEF Nexus aspects in project activities. These can be adapted to projects needs.



The NIA Toolkit infographic - Cross sectoral thinking made clear!

[Learn More](#)



## The Transboundary Nexus Assessment (TBNA) Methodology

An interactive infographic simplifying the six-step TBNA methodology developed by UNECE

The Transboundary Nexus Assessment (TBNA) Methodology developed by the UNECE can assist countries seeking to initiate, broaden or revisit transboundary cooperation across sectors. It is a flexible framework that can be adapted to enhance existing processes of cooperation. It was

developed through an iterative process of consultations and learning by doing involving 300 country officials, experts and key stakeholders. It enables policy makers and other stakeholders to identify positive and negative links, benefits, trade-offs, and solutions between relevant sectors. The resulting insights can help reinforce national efforts to optimise resource use, improve policy coherence towards crosscutting objectives like climate action, and share benefits from coordinated projects.



WATER  
CONVENTION

# Transboundary Nexus Assessment (TBNA) Methodology

A participatory approach to  
facilitate cross-sectoral cooperation  
in transboundary basins

The TBNA Methodology developed by UNECE simplified in an interactive infographic.

[Discover the Methodology](#)



## WEF Nexus Related Events

### Webinar Series: Unpacking Freshwater's Role in Climate Mitigation

On the report: “The essential drop to reach Net-Zero: Unpacking Freshwater’s Role in Climate Change Mitigation”

The fifth and final instalment of the webinar series "Unpacking Freshwater's Role in Climate Mitigation" titled: Joint action through integrated approaches and hosted by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) will be held on the 12th of April, 2023 to discuss the report “The essential drop to reach Net-Zero: Unpacking Freshwater’s Role in Climate Change Mitigation”. This report is the first ever summary showing the connections between freshwater and climate mitigation, and how they are inextricably linked.



Feb – Apr 2023  
Online: Zoom



## Webinar series: Unpacking freshwater's role in climate mitigation



This spring, SIWI Swedish Water House is arranging a webinar series diving into the chapters of the recently launched report "The essential drop to reach Net-Zero: Unpacking Freshwater's Role in Climate Change Mitigation". Join us!

- Measures in **drinking water and sanitation services** – 7 Feb
- Measures in **energy systems** – 16 Feb
- Measures in **freshwater ecosystems** – 16 Mar
- Measures in **land systems** – 30 Mar
- Joint action through **integrated approaches** – 12 Apr

Organizations behind  
the report:



"Unpacking Freshwater's Role in Climate Change Mitigation" a Webinar Series by SIWI.

[Learn More](#)



Dear reader,

That's it, you are all caught up on Nexus news. Thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter! Stay tuned for the next issue, **N°17 to be published in May 2023**.

Be sure to share any articles you liked with our **new share button** and follow our social media channels ([twitter](#), [facebook](#), [youtube](#)) for real time updates from the projects!

Your Nexus Team



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

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