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Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme Newsletter



Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus

A service by the Nexus Dialogue Programme

Dear readers,

The new year has already recorded a wide range of activities across the Nexus sphere! Despite the small delay, there is no better place to round up these achievements than in our latest newsletter. We'll offer highlights from the past few months both globally and in each of our five Nexus Regional Dialogues, as well as bringing back our interview series to introduce our new head of the Global Nexus Secretariat, Irene Sander.

There are increasing voices, both from academia and in practice, asking to see tangible results and best practices of the WEF Nexus approach. A featured blog post and a new publication highlight some potential answers: they both take a critical look at current Nexus practices and offer recommendations for a constructive way forward. We'll also outline some recent events, such as World Water Day on March 22 and a recent FAO-led webinar series on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus where the Global Nexus Secretariat got to share their perspectives on the application of Solar-Powered-Irrigation Systems (SPIS) with a Nexus approach.

Wherever you are in the world, we hope this newsletter finds you safe, healthy and ready to learn about how WEF Nexus initiatives are progressing forward no matter the challenge!

The Nexus Team thanks you for your subscription. Stay updated by following us on Twitter or Facebook and regularly check news on the Nexus Resource Platform.

Enjoy reading our new Newsletter!

Your**Nexus Regional Dialogues Programm - Team!****NEWS FROM THE NEXUS REGIONAL DIALOGUES PROGRAMME GLOBAL**

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News from the Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme - Global -

Nexus Blog // The double-edged sword of solar-powered irrigation systems



This article presents insights of a recent webinar centred around the topic of Solar Powered Irrigation Systems (SPIS) in the MENA region and West Africa. The Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme presented two SPIS studies focussing on Tunisia and Morocco, while the WE4F project introduced a SPIS pilot project in Niger. An online audience with over 100 participants followed the webinar, which closed with a lively Q&A round. This session was part of the FAO WEF Nexus Webinar Series in the NENA Region and took place on March 16th, 2021.

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

Nexus Blog // Outcomes of the 4th Executive Committee Meeting: Nexus Regional Dialogues Phase II

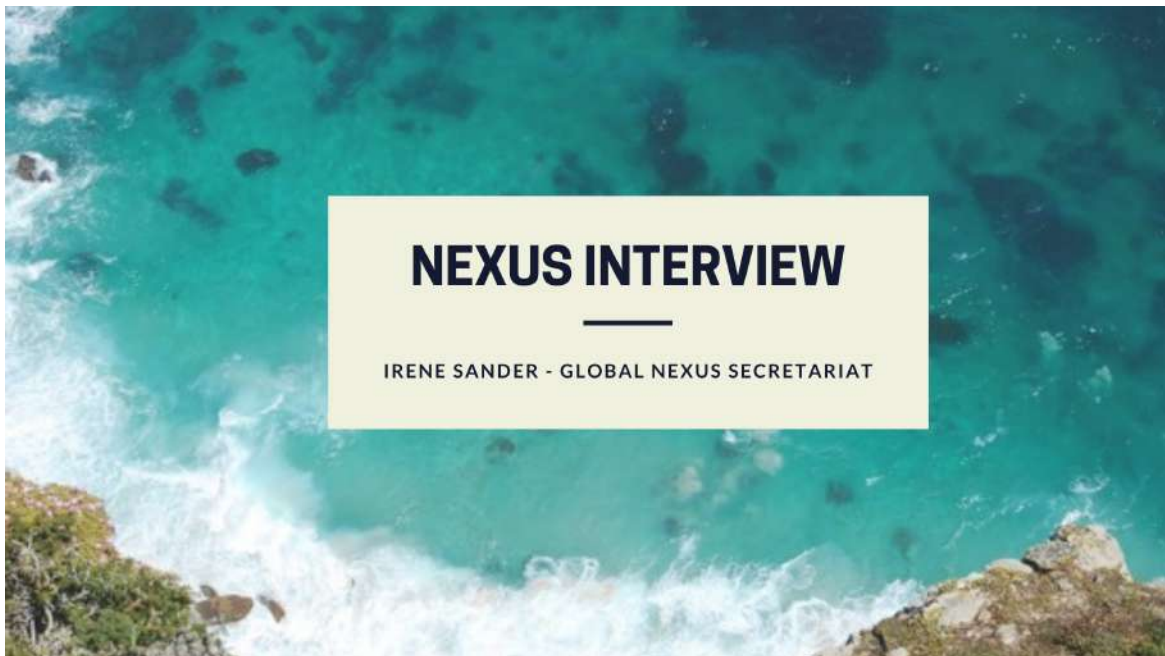
More than sixty participants from different regions and time-zones joined the virtual 4th Executive Committee Meeting of the Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme (NRD) from December 3-4th 2020 to kick-off the second phase of the Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme. Implementing partners agreed on collective goals and stronger collaboration to take the WEF Nexus to the next level and prove its value-added in the upcoming three years.



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

Interview Series // Introducing the Nexus Dialogue Programme and the People behind it

Irene Sander, Coordinator of the Global Nexus Secretariat



With this interview series, we introduce the people working for the Nexus Regional Dialogue Programme. We want to know about their individual perspectives on Water, Energy and Food security (WEF) Nexus challenges and opportunities based on their personal experiences – and about their visions of a future that holds equitable access to water, energy and food for all.

In this interview you will get to know Irene Sander, Coordinator of the Global Nexus Secretariat.

"For me Nexus means acknowledging the inter-connectedness between natural resources and planning actions in a way that grants equitable access to the resources to everyone while respecting nature's capacities to regenerate them."

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

News from the Nexus Regional Dialogue: Latin America and the Caribbean

Nexus Blog // Outcomes of the Nexus Virtual Forum N°7
"Integration of Biodiversity in the Nexus approach: Nature Based Solutions and the fragmentation of rivers for dams"



This article highlights the outcomes of the webinar “Integration of Biodiversity in the Nexus approach: Nature Based Solutions and the fragmentation of rivers for dams”, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and GIZ (GADeR-ALC). The webinar is part of a series of virtual forums with a special focus on WEF Nexus related issues in the South America and Caribbean region.

You can access the Spanish article here.

“Nature Based Solutions tend to offer multiple uses of resources and represent flexible options to face future challenges, in addition to being inclusive options that begin to insert a gender and indigenous peoples approach.” - Ms Marcia Tambutti, from ECLAC's Natural Resources Division

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

Nexus Blog // Virtual meeting of experts on policies of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus and projects of transboundary relevance in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

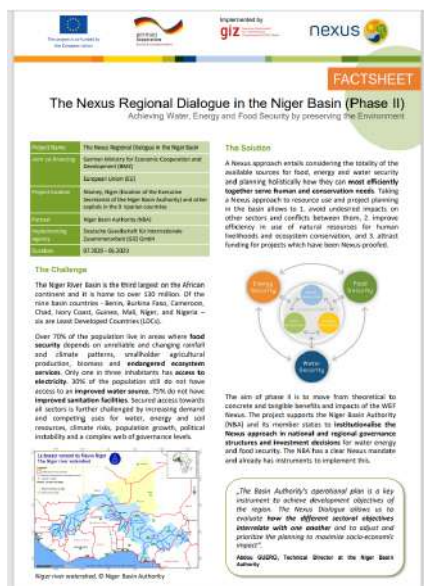
The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) organised a virtual meeting on Nexus solutions and investments in transboundary basins in LAC on February 22, 2021. The objective of the meeting was to initiate a dialogue about the experiences and opportunities for the application of Nexus solutions, including the investment challenges for the region. This article summarizes the main outcomes of the event. You can also access the ppt-presentations.



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

News from the Nexus Regional Dialogue: Niger Basin

Nexus Fact Sheet // The Nexus Regional Dialogue in the Niger Basin Phase II



© GIZ

The aim of phase II is to move from theoretical to concrete and tangible benefits and impacts of the WEF Nexus. The project supports the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) and its member states to institutionalise the Nexus approach in national and regional governance structures and investment decisions for water energy and food security. 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 NBA

[Access the Factsheet on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

News from the Nexus Regional Dialogue: Central Asia

Nexus Regional Dialogue Central Asia // European Union Supports Cross-border Project in Amu Darya River Basin

With this demo project, the Central Asia Nexus Regional Dialogue introduces the water-energy-food (WEF) Nexus approach at the transboundary Tuyamuyun Hydroelectric Complex, located along the Turkmen-Uzbek border. The growing siltation complicates effective water use for power generation and agricultural needs, which is a common challenge for all water bodies in Central Asia. The demo project aims to find technical solutions and investment opportunities to address the issue with a Nexus approach. A task force was set up, with members from relevant ministries and agencies of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the Tuyamuyun Hydroelectric Complex itself and the Central Asia Nexus Regional Dialogue programme - this article presents the outcomes of its first meeting.



Tuyamuyun Hydroelectric Complex, Ilkhom Zhuraev

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

Nexus Regional Dialogue Central Asia // Launch of the first small-scale demonstration project in Kazakhstan



"Greening the Dried Seabed of the Aral Sea: Piloting a Closed Saxaul Growing System" is the name of a Nexus demonstration project which was recently launched. It aims to support Kazakhstan's efforts to green the dried seabed of the Aral Sea with a multi-sectoral approach. Find out more about the project and further endeavours of the Nexus Regional Dialogue Central Asia within this article.

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

Nexus Regional Dialogue Central Asia // A new approach for agricultural planning in Kyrgyzstan - chances for the WEF Nexus?



Team members of the Nexus Dialogue in Central Asia met with Ms. Bermet Tursalieva, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic, who oversees the issues of food security in the country. Since the ministry recently overtook additional responsibilities in the areas of water management, land use, regional development and forestry, the potential of introducing a multisectoral approach (WEF Nexus) in the strategic agricultural planning in Kyrgyzstan was discussed. This article provides more information about the meeting.

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

News from the Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme: Southern Africa

Nexus Blog // First WEF-Nexus Winter School for Southern Africa to take place in July 2021

The first WEF Nexus Winter School designed specifically for Southern Africa will take place from 26 - 30 July 2021 in Pretoria, South Africa. This hybrid in-person/virtual event is organised by the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Centre for Transformative Agricultural and Food Systems, in partnership with Global Water Partnership Southern Africa, UNESCO-IHE Delft, the Water Research Commission, and WaterNet.



“As the WEF Nexus has grown in prominence and relevance over the last decade, a key capacity gap has also emerged. This gap has mainly been caused by trainings and capacity building exercises that continue to be sector-based. The WEF Nexus Winter School is a direct response to the need for developing capacity on all three of the WEF Nexus’ tenets – concepts, discourse, and analytics.” - Prof. Tafadzwa Mabhaudhi, Co-Director of the Centre for Transformative Agricultural and Food Systems.

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

Upcoming Events

Webinar // FAO Water-Energy-Food Nexus Webinar Series Session 6 - The WEF Nexus in practice: multi-scalar case studies and a WEF Nexus Index

In this webinar, three perspectives are presented aiming to demonstrate the WEF Nexus in practice. The first comes from the recent SIM4NEXUS project, showing the process of complex WEF nexus model development in the EU, including the incorporation of policies, and the development of online WEF nexus serious games. The second, from the ongoing WEF-Tools project illustrates ongoing, practically-relevant nexus research for the SADC and MENA regions. The final perspective showcases the development of a globally applicable WEF Nexus Index to track nexus performance in a concise, understandable manner. The webinar takes place on April 13, 2021 at 13:00–14:30 GMT+2.



[Register for the event on the Nexus Resource Platform »](#)

News from other regions, projects and science

Lake Kivu and Ruzizi River Project // Validation Workshop of the Extended Basin Baseline Study of the Lake Kivu and Ruzizi River



Photo: Rwanda is known as the country of 1,000 hills due to its steep topography. The hills pictured here in Karambo sub-catchment, a tributary to Sebeya have terracing for erosion control. Between the terraces, major gullies appear on historically unprotected areas.

This article presents the results of the workshop that was held on December 16th, 2020, where local stakeholders validated the extended basin baseline study that was conducted in the Lake Kivu and Ruzizi River Basin between July-December 2020. The workshop was facilitated by the GIZ Lake Kivu and Ruzizi River project, which is co-financed by the European Union (EU) and the BMZ. The project aims at improving the hydrological and operational management of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River, while pursuing an integrated and Nexus-based approach. The project started in 2019 and is led by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in cooperation with the regional partner ABAKIR (Autorité du Bassin du Lac Kivu et de la Rivière Ruzizi).



You can find the article in French here.

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

SPIS Toolbox App // Solar Powered Irrigation System (SPIS) Toolbox App launched



Powering Agriculture (PA) and its successor project Water and Energy for Food (WE4F) launched the new SPIS App. It is based on the existing SPIS Toolbox and includes all of its functions. The app supports users in budgeting, sizing and designing a solar-powered irrigation system. It also allows to save the data to have a seamless experience even in the field without internet connection.

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

Publication // Water-Energy-Food Nexus: Critical Review, Practical Applications, and Prospects for Future Research

This paper presents knowledge gaps and critiques on the water–energy–food (WEF) nexus that have emerged since the concept of the WEF nexus was proposed by the World Economic Forum and the Bonn 2011 Conference. This study also analyses current innovations on the WEF nexus concept, applications, and impacts during the period of 2012–2020.



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

Nexus Blog // Is it crunch time for the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus? 3 recommendations to move the needle



In this article, Jonathan Lautze, Dr. Stefan Uhlenbrook and Dr. Luna Bharati succinctly present three recommendations to take the WEF nexus to the next level in the international development community. They recognise the influence of the WEF nexus on cross-sectoral approaches at a conceptual level while outlining the risk that the concept may fade if the moment is not seized through approaches like effective researcher-practitioner partnerships to ensure attractive concepts translate to actual implementation for real benefits.

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

World Water Day // Reveal the hidden value of water

Water connects
various sectors
and actors across
generations



Water, Energy & Food Security

Valuing water means valuing our future!

Water connects the key elements of dignified livelihoods: Food, Energy and Ecosystems. The #WEF #Nexus approach offers solutions to ensure resource security for all - now and in generations to come!

World Water Day 2021 is about all the ways we value water and recognising the unexpected ways water shapes our lives. We highlight the importance of Water being not just a sector but a connector! Read more about it [here](#).

#Nexus Facts



Agriculture uses the major share (69%) of global freshwater resources. Global demand for food and other agricultural products is **projected to increase by 50%** between 2012 and 2050, driven by population growth - World Water Development Report 2021

82% of experts working in 50 community forests in the Gambia see **nature-based solutions** focusing on enrichment planting as their top pick to **balance water, energy and food** issues! - Publication // Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Practices as a Nature-Based Solution to Promote Water-Energy-Food Nexus Balance



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