

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)
Actions by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Title:

Foster resource efficiency and reduce trade-offs by supporting assessments of the water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus in transboundary basins

Focus area 2: Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital.

Description of the action: In the framework of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention):

1. identifying synergies between the water, food, energy and ecosystem sectors in transboundary basins, on the basis of the methodology developed under the Convention;
2. determining policy measures and actions that could alleviate negative consequences related to the multiple needs of the riparian countries for common resources and help to optimize the use of available resources, thereby fostering transboundary cooperation;
3. helping to move towards increased efficiency in resource use, greater policy coherence and intersectoral co-management;
4. developing capacity in addressing intersectoral impacts, including by disseminating the lessons from the nexus basin assessments.

Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate: Activities will be developed in the framework of the Water Convention's programme of work for 2016-2018 and beyond. Results will be reviewed at the eight session of the Convention's Meeting of the Parties in 2018.

A global stock-taking workshop will be organized in December 2016 to review progress and to exchange experience.

Type of action: information, joint assessment, capacity-building, fit-for-purpose analytical tools, measures

Economic sectors: water management and services, energy, agriculture, industry, navigation, tourism etc.

Reference instruments and sources: UNECE Nexus assessment methodology and case studies:

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41427>

Website of the UNECE Water Convention: <http://www.unece.org/env/water.html>

Nexus assessments under the Water Convention: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/nexus.html>

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: Reduced negative impact on transboundary waters, reduced trade-offs and conflict potential, more efficient resource use, improved policy coherence.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: 2.3, 2.4, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 15.1

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: Number of assessments carried out, intersectoral solutions identified

Partners: Finland as lead Party for this area of work
Subsidiary bodies under the Water Convention

UNECE Sustainable Energy and Trade Programmes:

Member States and river basin organizations

FAO

European Commission

Research institutes and academia

NGOs

Contact point

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