



Addressing Nexus issues affecting the coastal zone in Lebanon

Lebanon's natural resources are under great pressure, exacerbated by the ongoing crisis and posing a significant threat to the country's environmental security, human well-being and ultimately sustainable development. As in most Mediterranean countries, these sectors are dealt with in silos in terms of decision-making, management and investment planning. Moreover, the majority of the Lebanese population live by the coast, exerting significant pressure to the coastal ecosystem and its services.

The introduction of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach under Child Project 2.2 and the preparation of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)* Strategy for Lebanon under CP 2.1 are aimed at enhancing coastal zone management and assisting the country in identifying solutions and priority actions that promote environmental security and enhance access to critical resources.

Under Component 2 of the Project "Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Managing the Water-Energy-Food and Ecosystems Nexus" (C.P 2.2 of the MedProgramme) a set of activities are planned aiming to balance competing water uses through water, food, energy and ecosystems integrated governance, enhance environmental security and ultimately sharing of benefits for livelihoods and nature. The project, covers and addresses considerations related to all four Nexus sectors that geographically extend to the source-to-sea area and they include:

- the preparation of a Nexus Assessment for Lebanon related to the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems sectors and
- the organisation of related Nexus Policy Dialogues.



Nexus Assessment for Lebanon

The Assessment is used to identify and study the linkages among the Water- Energy-Food-Ecosystems sectors and to indicate ways for the optimal management and preservation of natural resources. The Phase-I Nexus Assessment in Lebanon will result in the development of an action plan for the implementation of priority solutions towards sustainable natural resources management in the country, that has been heavily afflicted by a challenging financial and economic crisis. Phase II of the Nexus Assessment will provide specific options and scenarios to inform decision making on integrated approaches that can provide benefits towards addressing water, food and energy security risks, while protecting ecosystems.

Nexus Policy Dialogues in Lebanon

Priority inter-sectoral concerns, i.e. among two or more of the Nexus sectors - namely the Water, Energy-Food and Ecosystems sectors - are identified through consultation events (roundtables, workshops, etc.) involving relevant Lebanese stakeholders. This multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue is expected to clarify the various goals, interests and drivers of stakeholders and offers a process to reconcile possible differences.

The Stakeholders Analysis and Governance Analysis are used as basis for both the Nexus Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Assessment and the Policy Dialogue. The Policy Dialogue in Lebanon

- involves institutional stakeholders from the Lebanese authorities directly related to the Nexus - the Ministries of Energy and Water, Agriculture, and Environment - as well as other relevant Ministries and governmental agencies and representatives of the private sectors, academia and NGOs and
- is guided by an inter-institutional Governance Body acting as the Steering Committee (SC) of the Dialogue, which:
- discusses the developments, provides advice for the implementation of the Nexus Dialogue including the preparation of the Nexus Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Assessment, approves reports and other outputs etc.
- discusses and assists in the formulation of a Nexus Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Strategy or Action Plan that will integrate the outcomes of the Nexus Dialogue.
- discusses and decides on steps for the implementation of this Nexus Strategy or Action Plan.



The outcomes of the Assessment are expected to facilitate coordination of policies and actions across the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems sectors and institutions in the country, reconciling conflictive coastal resources uses and contribute and assist to the ICZM Strategy for Lebanon.

Under the Regional (Mediterranean) **Component 1** of the Project:

- Lebanese decision makers are participating at the Regional Dialogues, which assist in advancing Nexus understanding and facilitate cross-fertilization among institutions, organisations and practitioners
- The preparation of a Mediterranean Nexus study also contains information about Lebanon
- Targeted Lebanese stakeholders, such as policy makers, managers at public administrations, civil society, members of the parliament and media etc. are invited to participate in Trainings to advance capacities in addressing policy, managerial and selected technical issues.

For related activities, see links below:

- <https://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-Mediterranean/WE-ACT/News-List-Page/2022/1st-multistakeholder-consultation-in-beirut/>
- <https://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-Mediterranean/WE-ACT/News-List-Page/20232/lebanon-news-item/>
- <https://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-Mediterranean/WE-ACT/News-List-Page/20232/2nd-multistakeholder-consultation/>