

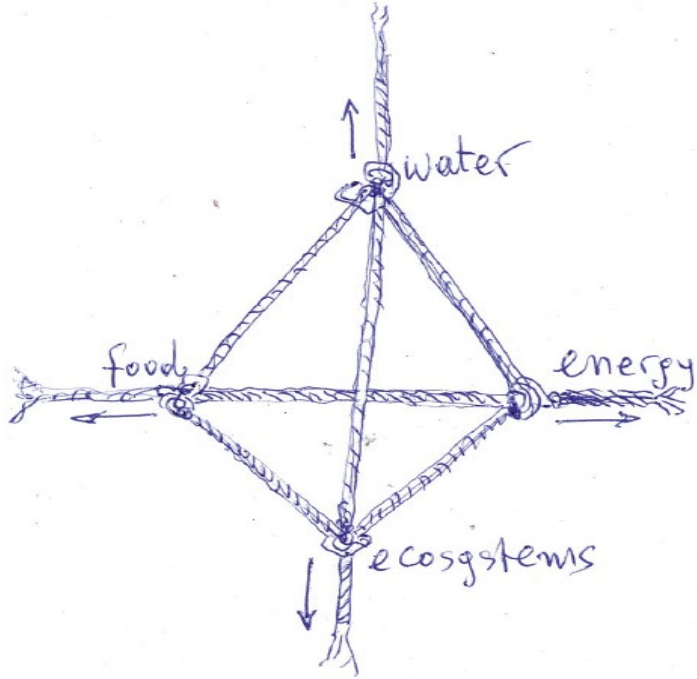
Conclusions of the

**1st Regional Roundtable on WEFE
Nexus in the Mediterranean**

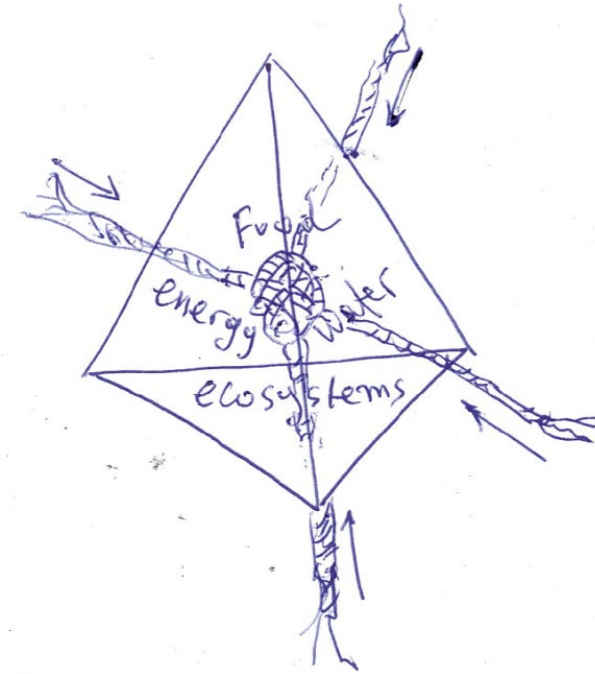
(6-7 June 2023, Rabat – Morocco)

Baseline facts and challenges

- There are water, energy, food, and ecosystems (WEFE) security risks directly connected to climate change and biodiversity loss, exacerbated by governance failures and socio-economic challenges that are interrelated, and threaten nature and humans, social and political security/stability and development.
 - Water, energy, food and ecosystems' security are at stake due to, among others:
 - Rising population, rapid urbanization, economic activities that are concentrated at large at the coastal zone.
 - Unsustainable economic growth and consumption patterns.
 - Parts of the region facing: persisting economic crisis, unemployment, particularly among youth, socio-political instability, armed conflicts, large-scale migration from the south to the north

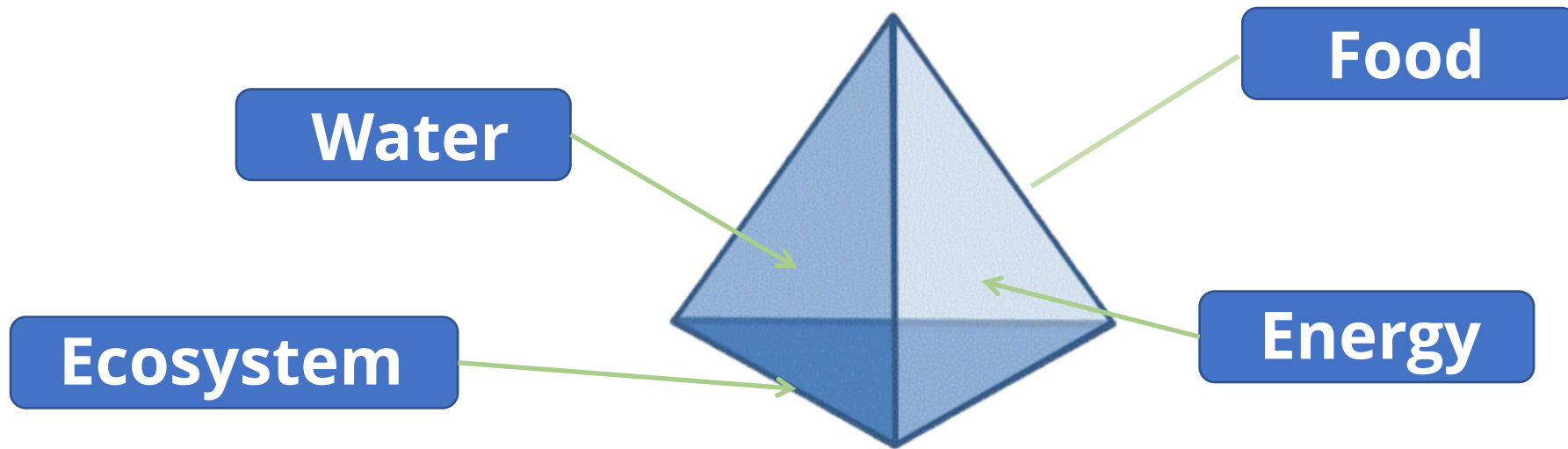


**From a system of
"tensions"**



**to a system of
"convergence"**

Nexus provides the “space” within which policies and interventions should be closely coordinated and optimized in order to approach SD and achieve the SDGs.



WEFE Nexus

Focusing on the **efficiency of the function** of the system, rather than on the productivity of each one of the components.

Mutually recognizing among sectors the interdependencies of all components and get involved in **rational and inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders**, leading to decision-making processes for efficient and responsible use of the 4 components.

Encourage and maintain coordination across sectors and stakeholders, focusing on **Public-Private Partnerships** to enhance **sustainability of synergies**.

WEFE Nexus

- Is an approach that **integrates management and governance** across the multiple sectors of water, energy, food, and ecosystems.
- Is a way to **make sure that policies and management** of water, energy, food and ecosystems **are not applied separately.**
- Globally, and particularly in the Mediterranean region, **there is a growing recognition among governments, sectors and stakeholders of** the interconnectedness between Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystem Security, and **the need to be addressed as a system, as well as opportunities at many levels, including in Regional and sub-regional cooperation.**

Points discussed at the Roundtable

- In the region we have attempts by State and non-State actors, some of which **promising**, including **PRIMA** Demos and WEFE4Med Community of Practice, DG RES projects, WES/DG NEAR, GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme and several more, that justify and advocate for a **Regional framework** and eventually for a Nexus Fund.
- WEFE requires the *“abolishment”* of the traditional *“silos”* approach, not necessarily by *“abandoning”* individual sectors, but by providing wide and multiple channels of efficient interconnection.

Points discussed at the Roundtable

- **The WEFE Nexus is not a panacea**
- Bringing together the four components is not enough. The functional combination and **synergy** among them defines the level of success.
- **Subsidies** for the stimulation of WEFE Nexus application may result in collateral damages, perhaps with time-lag
- Nexus is a cross-sectoral arrangement, which does not ensure necessarily the proper management of a water body (e.g a transboundary river). For instance, a well functioning multi-purpose dam upstream may still harm the downstream countries and users if International Water Conventions are not respected.
- This is where the Source-to-Sea approach needs to be understood as the **spatial complementary approach** of the WEFE Nexus

Points discussed at the Roundtable

- Many different aspects of WEF E Nexus were touched upon including **Gender** and **Art**, while others like **Education** where not given adequate attention.
- Further work is needed for appropriate **indicators** for all four components of Nexus. These could be both quantitative and qualitative and include stakeholders' ownership and willingness to pay for the related services.
- **Communities of practice** provide an important means for advancing common understanding and synergies for action. The **PRIMA WEF E4MED Project** mobilises such a CoP, and an **open invitation to join** was made to all stakeholders in the region and beyond.

Points discussed at the Roundtable

Towards a Strategic framework document
for WEF E Nexus in the Mediterranean
source to sea continuum

The need for a regional strategic framework to address the WEF E security related risks

- Action should be taken for addressing the risks related to water, energy and food security as well as for safeguarding the health of the ecosystems. This should be done in concert with efforts to address global governance issues including climate change and disruption of supply chains.
- The Mediterranean is a geographical continuum and a space of socio-economic interaction. Water -freshwater and marine- is the medium that links pressures and their effects to anthropogenic and natural systems.
- In this regard any action at national level wouldn't be enough; coordinated-among-countries-action is necessary to effectively address the WEF E Nexus risks.

Institutional framework

- Such a strategic document should be anchored to appropriate regional frameworks that have the necessary mandate and instruments to enable its implementation and the monitoring of results. The UfM and the Barcelona Convention constitute such - complementary- frameworks covering the entire region.
- Further, it should be aligned with the EU acquis as this is the overarching institutional and legal framework for integrated management of resources in the Northern part of the Mediterranean, and reflect the *Position Paper on Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2018)*, that provide a blueprint for such action in the rest of the Basin.

Objectives

The strategic framework document should:

- take stock and link with existing regional policies/strategies/action plans, adding value and avoiding duplication.
- assist countries and stakeholders enhancing individual and collective (as applicable and necessary) integration of policy and management frameworks and instruments across sectors to address WEF E security related risks in the source to sea continuum.
- promote leveraging of necessary funding.

Content and timeframe

- The strategic framework document could -depending on its type (political and/or technical)- include:
 - Goals
 - Integrated and possibly sectoral and spatial interlinked objectives to achieve the goals
 - *Type of actions [OR actions] to achieve the objectives; their nature and detail will be defined by the level of aspiration of the strategic document and the framework and means to be used to monitor implementation and results*
 - *Implementation framework*
 - *Framework and means to be used to monitor implementation and results*
 - *(Types of) Financial means and capacities to achieve the objectives and goals*
- The time scale of the strategic framework document would be till 2030 (as a first phase to be possibly followed by subsequent ones)

Process of development

- The strategic framework document will be ready till June 2024 and presented for adoption to the appropriate political fora.
- UNEP/MAP, UfM and the EC will lead the preparation process of the strategic framework document.
- GWP-Med and the Water and Environment Support (WES) project will facilitate the technical drafting process and will assist in multi-stakeholder consultations needed.
- A multistakeholder consultation process can be served by the MedProgramme through the planned Nexus Regional Roundtables and other means under Child Project 2.2.
- A high-level meeting of Water, Energy, Agriculture, and Environment officials, jointly called in the framework of and by competent regional institutions in a format that will be decided, may provide for endorsing the strategic framework document. Furthermore, or alternatively, the strategic document may be endorsed unilaterally by the institutions.
- Available material on Nexus, including the Mediterranean level Nexus assessment, will provide the factual basis for the content of the strategic document.
- PRIMA offered to engage and assist the process development.