

First Cairo Water Week

First African Young Water Professional Forum

GWP-Med side event on

Nexus approach toward achieving SDG Goals

What role could young African professional play?

Introduction

25 September 2018 marked the three-year anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by 193 countries. Although each of the 17 goals has its specific targets, achieving any single SDG is inherently interlinked with the success of all other SDGs.

Acknowledging the interconnection of issues related to water (SDG 6: *Clean water and sanitation*), food security (SDG 2: *Zero hunger*), and energy (SDG 7: *Affordable and clean energy*), for instance, is essential to manage environmental resources in an integrated way (SDG 15 : *Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems*). Considering the *interdependencies and interlinkages between all these sectors, the WEF Nexus: Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystem Approach* could be an efficient way toward achieving SDGs.

Why a “Nexus Approach” ?

Population growth, economic development, increased energy and food needs all exert increasing pressures on natural resources. Common development needs to be met in a sustainable manner, without compromising the functioning of ecosystems. However, energy, land management and water resources planning commonly take place in isolation, without adequate consideration of what the planned developments require or assume from other sectors, and what implications – positive or negative – they have. Shortcomings in intersectoral coordination are a major challenge, in developing as well as in developed countries.

The “nexus approach” aims to enhance water, energy and food security by increasing efficiency, reducing trade-offs, building synergies and improving governance across sectors, while protecting the integrity of ecosystems.

Nexus Approach toward achieving SDG

A Nexus perspective is therefore essential for promoting the integration of goals across sectors and reducing the risk of sector-specific SDG actions undermining each other. The nexus

approach also analyses trade-offs and synergies between goals, and therefore serves as a 'vehicle' that boosts implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The implementation of a Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus approach can further contribute to optimizing the use of vital natural resources while addressing environmental needs and climate variability and change impacts.

Youth, SDGs Goals and the Nexus approach

Youth has an important role to play in contributing towards water, energy, food and ecosystem security and achieving SDGs Goals. Young people should be involved in related policies, innovative projects and research and are key actors in securing a more sustainable future in their countries.

For all of these reasons, and on the occasion of the African Young Water Professional Forum of the 1st Cairo Water Week, the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean will organise a side event focusing on the role of African Young water professional in the implementation of the Nexus approach in order to promote the sustainable and integrated management of natural resources and toward achieving SDGs Goals in African countries.

Three regional projects contributing and supporting the organisation of this Side event are :

- **MAVA Mediterranean Capacity Building Platform on Water Management and Abstraction;**
- **The GWP - Water Climate and Development Project (WACDEP), and**
- **Making Water Cooperation Happen in the Mediterranean (aka the Matchmaker Project) supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).**

Objectives

The main objective of the side event is to introduce and to share knowledge about WEFE Nexus: Water Energy Food and Ecosystem approach to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Participants will discuss the importance of the implementation of WEFE Nexus approach and will share some examples about the interlinkages of WEFE sectors in their countries, new ideas, innovations, programmes, partnerships and pilot projects promoting a Nexus approach for sustainable development and toward achieving SDGs.

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Cairo, 14-15th October 2018,

Steigenberger Hotel

Agenda

First Session: <u>Nexus approach toward achieving SDG Goals</u> 14 October 2018, 12h00_ 13h00	
12h00 – 12h15	<p><u>Opening Session</u></p> <p>Welcome by <i>Prof. Michael Scoullos, Chair, GWP-Med</i></p> <p>Introduction and context of the side event <i>Dr. Anthi Brouma, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med</i></p>
12h15_12h35	<p><u>Keynote Presentation</u></p> <p>Nexus Approach towards achieving SDGs <i>Mr. Khaled Bedoui, Programme Officer, GWP-Med</i></p>
12h35_13h00	<p><u>Facilitated Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main interlinkages between Water-Energy-Food and Ecosystems sectors, some examples from your countries? • How could the water-energy-food nexus Thinking/Approach help us in working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals? <p><i>Facilitators: Dr. Anthi Brouma & Mr. Khaled Bedoui</i></p>

Second Session: Examples on Nexus solutions & the role of youth in their implementation

15 October 2018 , 09h30_ 11h30

09h30_09h45	Interactive recap of the First session
09h45_10h30	<p><u>Panel Discussion</u></p> <p>Sharing Knowledges and experiences about Nexus and the role of young water professional in the design and the implementation of Nexus projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Eng. Mohamed Wahba, <i>Chairman , African Regional Working Group (AFRWG) – ICID</i>• Dr. Anthi Brouma, <i>Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med</i>• Dr. Makram belhaj Fraj, <i>Agronomy scientist, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture, ICBA</i>• Ms. Tabara M’bodj, <i>Young water professional, president of AISER CSO, Mauritania</i>• Mr. Abraham AMALI, <i>Young water professional, Nigeria</i>• Ms. Adey Nigatu Mersha, <i>Young water professional, Ethiopia</i> <p>Facilitator: <i>Mr. Khaled Bedoui</i></p> <p>Plenary Interventions</p>
10h30_ 11h00	<p><u>Group Work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to your experiences in your respective countries: Are young people consulted and involved in the development of new strategies or national development plans related to Water, Energy Food and ecosystem sectors.• What do you suggest reinforcing the role of young professional in the decision making related to these sectors?• What role does Youth have in understanding and addressing these complex challenges? <p>Facilitators: <i>Dr. Anthi Brouma & Mr. Khaled Bedoui</i></p>
11h00_11h25	<u>Presentation of working groups’ results and plenary discussion</u>
11h25_11h30	<u>Conclusions & take away messages</u>

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