The Regional environmental centre for Central Asia (CAREC)
+7 (727) 265 4333
+7 (727) 265 4334
info@carececo.org

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Ms Saltanat Zhakenova/ The Regional environmental centre for Central Asia and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

This project is funded by the European Union

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS REPORT

CENTRAL ASIA NEXUS DIALOGUE PROJECT: FOSTERING WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY NEXUS DIALOGUE AND MULTI-SECTOR INVESTMENT

Working document

Almaty
November 2017

CONTENTS

I. Executive summary 3
II. Acronyms 4
III. Background to the Nexus Project 5
IV. Objectives for the study 6
V. Methodology 6
VI. Results 7
VII. Conclusions and Recommendations 10
VIII. Annexes 12
Annex 1. Map of regional project's stakeholders (TBC) 12
Annex 2. Map of project's stakeholders in Kazakhstan 13
Annex 3. Map of project's stakeholders in Kyrgyzstan 14
Annex 4. Map of project's stakeholders in Tajikistan 15
Annex 5. Map of project's stakeholders in Turkmenistan 16
Annex 6. Map of project's stakeholders in Uzbekistan 17

I. Executive summary

1. This stakeholder analysis was undertaken for the project Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogue and Multi-Sector Investment in Central Asia. The project is financed by the European Union and implemented by CAREC in partnership with IUCN.

2. The main objective of this stakeholder analysis is to identify key stakeholders as a mechanism to facilitate improvements to inter-sectoral cooperation on Water- Energy-Food security. Many of required changes will be delivered through implementation of project's Communication Strategy to raise awareness, trainings to build capacity, and influencing to improve legislation, policies, management guidelines and codes of practice on national and regional levels.

3. The methodology adopted for the analysis included reviewing existing project document, forming the preliminary list of stakeholders and undertaking national consultations, individual meetings and working group discussions. These meetings and discussions were used to identify the stakeholders' roles, interests in cooperation within project, as well as identification of challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming the Nexus approach on policy level. Data obtained from these meetings and reviewing of documents led to the listing of communication activities. Those interventions that would facilitate the inter-sectoral national and regional dialogues will be also identified in the form of policy and training interventions.

4. For the purpose of this analysis, stakeholders classified within seven broad categories were identified and the appropriate discussions were organized during national consultations and working meetings. The national consultations and Working Meetings were held in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Participants were approached to identify: i) the priority sectors for WEF Nexus, ii) relevant sectoral agencies and potential partner agencies; iii) challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming the Nexus approach.

5. The broad categories include stakeholders at the basin, national, regional and international levels. At the local level, associations of farmers and water users identified as project stakeholders in terms of implementation of pilot activities. At the regional level, the International Fund for Saving Aral sea (IFAS), as well as Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD) and ministries or agencies, responsible for energy, agriculture and water resources management were identified as main project partners on national levels. State authorities, responsible for economic development, environment and attracting the investments were suggested as second priority stakeholders. The ministries of foreign affairs considered as bodies, responsible for coordination of regional activities. The engagement of scientific and research organisations is valuable in terms of development the scientific base, training activities and pilot testing for Nexus mainstreaming.

II. Acronyms

ASBP	Aral Sea Basin Programme
CA	Central Asia
CAREC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia
CAS	Central Asian State(s)
EC	European Commission
EC IFAS	Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea
EU	European Union
EU-CA WGECC	EU-CA Working Group on Environment and Climate Change
EC IFAS	Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
GNS	Global Nexus Secretariat
ICSD	Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development
IFAS	International Fund for saving the Aral Sea
IsWG	Intersectoral working group
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
REAP	Regional Environmental Action Plan
SIC ICSD	Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	UN Economic Cooperation for Europe
WEF	Water, Energy and Food
WECOOP	EU funded project “Coordination and strengthening of regional cooperation between the EU and Central Asia (CA) in Environment and Climate Change and Water"

III. Background to the Nexus Project

The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia is currently undertaking a project on Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogue and Multi-Sector Investment in Central Asia. The project is financed by the European Union and implemented by CAREC in partnership with IUCN.

Overall objective of the project is to render support to Central Asian countries in sustainable development and regional cooperation. The specific project objective is to create a multi-sectoral enabling environment to facilitate sustainable and climate-resilient investments for increased water, energy and food security in Central Asia.

The project's three-pronged strategy is devoted to achieve the following results:
Result 1: Nexus priority issues and possible responses and solutions at national and regional level are identified and prioritized;
Result 2: Regional institutions and capacities for multi-sectoral planning are strengthened;
Result 3: A list of WEF Security investment projects is established within a Nexus policy framework.

In this regard, the project will contribute to the development of an enabling political and technical environment for sustainable multi-sectoral investments aiming at increasing water, energy and food security in Central Asia while protecting the ecosystems. The project proposes a WEF Security Nexus approach that for now does not focus on current trade and markets existing in the region, but should be built on areas of mutual risk rather than direct economic cooperation. This includes climate change, disaster risk reduction, ecosystem services, possible common infrastructure, etc. that benefit countries nationally and regionally.

The Nexus Dialogue in CA will use the existing platforms and institutions in CA to discuss, test and promote WEF security, thus contributing to the development of those platforms and actors and ensuring better sustainability of the expected project outcomes. The project will provide a non-political platform for dialogues which helps countries to find new strategy(ies) for cooperation and development. The project will unite the knowledge, expertise and skills of its implementing partners for properly designing the national and regional processes to meet expectations of national partners. In addition, the project will support IFAS in its efforts to become a stronger regional institute and inspire the inclusion of the WEF Nexus concept and projects into the fourth edition of the Aral Sea Basin Programme (ASBP-4) aligning activities with the priorities of national partners/beneficiaries.

The project will invite different sectors to share their actual development and infrastructure plans, to discuss the potential benefits of those projects across sectors and possible opportunities for other sectors to participate (to contribute to costs, make them more acceptable, broaden the set of beneficiaries, reduce negative externalities etc.). Joint development of pilot project(s) for their further investment (Phase II of the Nexus Dialogues Programme) will help to establish working inter-sectoral working relations and cooperation mechanism in each CAS.

The project supports the awareness raising and mobilize the skills of involved stakeholders to apply the Nexus concept through building inter-sector working groups, supporting and facilitating their joint work for selection and elaboration of investment projects for the benefit of several sectors and countries.

IV. Objectives for the study

The objective of this study is to prepare a comprehensive stakeholder analysis for the Nexus Dialogues Project. For the purpose of this study, stakeholders are defined as those organizations (international, regional, national, basin), sectors or groups of individuals which either benefit from or have positive or negative impacts upon the mainstreaming of inter-sectoral approach in policy making and enabling environment for attractive climate-resilient investments.

The stakeholder analysis was designed to provide detailed and comprehensive information as follows:

- Stakeholder type and specifics;
- Needs for increased inter-sectoral cooperation, WEF Nexus and investment opportunities;
- Identify whether the action required is Communication, Training or Policy change

The Stakeholder Assessment Report will be used to prepare a comprehensive Communication and Capacity Building plan which will be published as separate reports. However, the Assessment should be considered as a working document and updated as the project progresses if required.

V. Methodology

Stakeholder analysis is a technique used to identify and assess the importance of key people, groups of people, or institutions that may significantly influence the success of an activity or implementation of the Nexus Dialogues project. For the purpose of this study, stakeholders were defined as any group that benefits from or has an impact upon/influences inter-sectoral cooperation and WEF Nexus at basin, national and regional levels.

In line with this definition, stakeholder analysis was undertaken to identify and detail the stakeholders impacting the WEF Nexus with the view to plan to the necessary interventions to reduce these impacts (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Stakeholder Assessment steps

Step I. To begin the stakeholder analysis, a sound understanding of the activities linked with the Nexus Dialogues Project was undertaken. This was done by reviewing project document, updated log frame and meeting reports;

Figure 2. Template Power/Interest Grid

Step II. Through analysis of existing institutional framework on national and regional levels and communications with Directors of CAREC Country Offices, map of stakeholders and classification them by their power and interest in WEF Nexus related issues was developed. For this purpose, the Power/Interest Grid tool (Figure 2) used.

Step III. For the purpose of gathering data, the National Consultations and Working Meetings was organized in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Representatives of stakeholders identified during Stage II were approached to identify: i) the priority sectors for WEF Nexus, ii) relevant sectoral agencies and potential partner agencies; iii) challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming the Nexus approach. These events were made from June- mid November 2017 and provided a bottom-up approach of data collection, as well as a realistic insight into the stakeholder impacts to the inter-sectoral cooperation and WEF Nexus;

Step IV. For the analysis, all project stakeholders were classified within seven broad categories and specific issues identified. The findings were reported in the Results section of this Report;

Step V. The results of this analysis presented in a comprehensive report which examines all the aspects related to the identification of the stakeholder benefits, their positive and negative impacts and the requited policy, communication and training interventions.

VI. Results

The following groups have been identified as stakeholders with whom the project needs to engage with:

1. Regional stakeholders (organizations/programs/projects):

- Executive Committee of International Fund for Saving Aral Sea (EC IFAS)
- Secretariat of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD)
- WECOOP2 project, EU
- CAMP4ASB project, WB/CAREC
- UN Environment Central Asia Office
- GIZ regional programmes on economic development, water and ecosystem management
- FAO Regional Office
- Regional water resource management programme, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SDC
- Central Asia and the Caucasus Regional Program, ICARDA
- Secretariat of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC)
- Scientific Information Center (SIC) of ICWC
- Scientific Information Center (SIC) of ICSD)
- Regional Mountain Center
- Regional Hydrology Center (RHC)
- Water Management Organization for Amudarya River Basin
- The Water Management Organization (WMO) for Syrdarya River Basin

2. National stakeholders:
- Ministries, Committees and Agencies, responsible for economic development, water, land and energy resources management, attracting investments and environmental protection
- Formed Inter-Sectoral Working Groups (ISWG), working on inter-sectoral thematic (Green Economy, Climate Change, Disaster Risks Reduction)

3. International Financial Institutions
- EIB
- EBRD
- ADB
- WB

4. Development funds
- Investment Facility for CA
- Green Climate Fund
- GEF

5. International organisations
- GIZ
- UNECE
- OECD
- UN agencies (UN Environment, UNDP, etc.)
- USAID

6. Expert community
- National experts
- NGOs
- Key Universities
- Scientific Research Institutes

7. Local Stakeholders
- Associations of Pasture Users
- Associations of Water Users
- Dehkan Associations
- Farmers associations

On the second stage, the analysis of existing institutional national and regional framework, as well as discussions with Directors of CAREC Country Offices lead to development of the maps of stakeholders and classification them by their power and interest in WEF Nexus related issues. The Power/Interest Greed tool (Figure 3) provides the basis for identification of communication,

engagement and capacity building activities (Annex 1). In particular, for institutional capacity building needs assessment.

Figure 3. Stakeholder's Power/Interest Grid

VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the findings of the Stakeholder Analysis, the following conclusions and recommendations are made.

1. *Set up an effective mechanism to enforce the existing rules and regulations supporting inter-sectoral cooperation in WEF security*

There is a strong realization that the anticipated awareness and training programs cannot alone deliver the expected outcomes as the current mechanisms to enforce the rules and regulations for inter-sectoral cooperation are poor. Formed Inter-Sectoral Working Groups (ISWG) plays the awareness raising role targeted to high-level officials. Some inter-agency working groups (IAWG) formed under the auspices of President or Prime-Ministers, in particular, the Climate Change Coordination Commission in Kyrgyzstan and Council on Green Economy in Kazakhstan. Therefore, a new inter-sectoral mechanism is needed to devise a plan to ensure the inter-sectoral cooperation for climate-resilient investments, conservation rules and regulations are appropriately enforced.

2. *Design, develop and deliver relevant awareness programs and communication campaigns through an effective Communication Strategy*

The findings from this Stakeholder Analysis will be used to design and develop a Communication Strategy that will detail activities for raising awareness, communication campaigns and detailed strategies for implementing these activities. The communication activities would be planned in such a way to ensure smooth implementation of the Nexus Dialogues Project activities. At the same time, the planned awareness programs will be delivered in close cooperation with all the stakeholders and sectors.

3. *Design, develop and deliver Institutional Gaps Analysis for Nexus in Central Asia*

The gap analysis will look into existing institutional arrangements and mechanisms at the national and regional level and provide recommendations with a view to improving enabling effective dialogue on Nexus in Central Asia and improving cross-sectoral and regional planning.

4. *Prepare a Nexus Capacity Development Needs Assessment in Central Asia*

The needs assessment will look into existing capacities and gaps and propose priority actions for capacity development on Nexus. The assessment will primarily focus on building institutional capacity for Nexus at the national and regional level.

5. *Based on Capacity Development Needs Assessment and interventions required, develop a Training Plan and start delivering training*

Based on the findings from the Nexus Capacity Development Needs Assessment, a Capacity Building Plan have to be prepared for project implementation period. This document would include the title of the programs, their priorities, and the delivery modes. The proposed training interventions would strive to expand the institutional capacity in Central Asia to facilitate activities supporting inter-sectoral cooperation for WEF Nexus.

VIII. Annexes

Annex 1. Map of regional project's stakeholders (TBC)

Annex 2. Map of project's stakeholders in Kazakhstan

Annex 3. Map of project's stakeholders in Kyrgyzstan

Annex 4. Map of project's stakeholders in Tajikistan

Annex 5. Map of project's stakeholders in Turkmenistan

Annex 6. Map of project's stakeholders in Uzbekistan