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Building on transboundary nexus assessments: identifying cooperative opportunities for benefits across sectors

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Why a nexus approach in Africa?

Joint assessment as a starting point



National & regional development

- Has implications, also across borders
- Projects and plans commonly sectoral, but their effects cut across sectors -> necessary to coordinate
- Can create vulnerabilities

Therefore, assessing intersectoral links can help for

- Exploring policy inconsistencies and potential shared benefits
- Better understanding the interconnections
- Informing dialogue
- Selected quantification for operational solutions



Outlook to promoting intersectoral approaches on the African continent: many opportunities

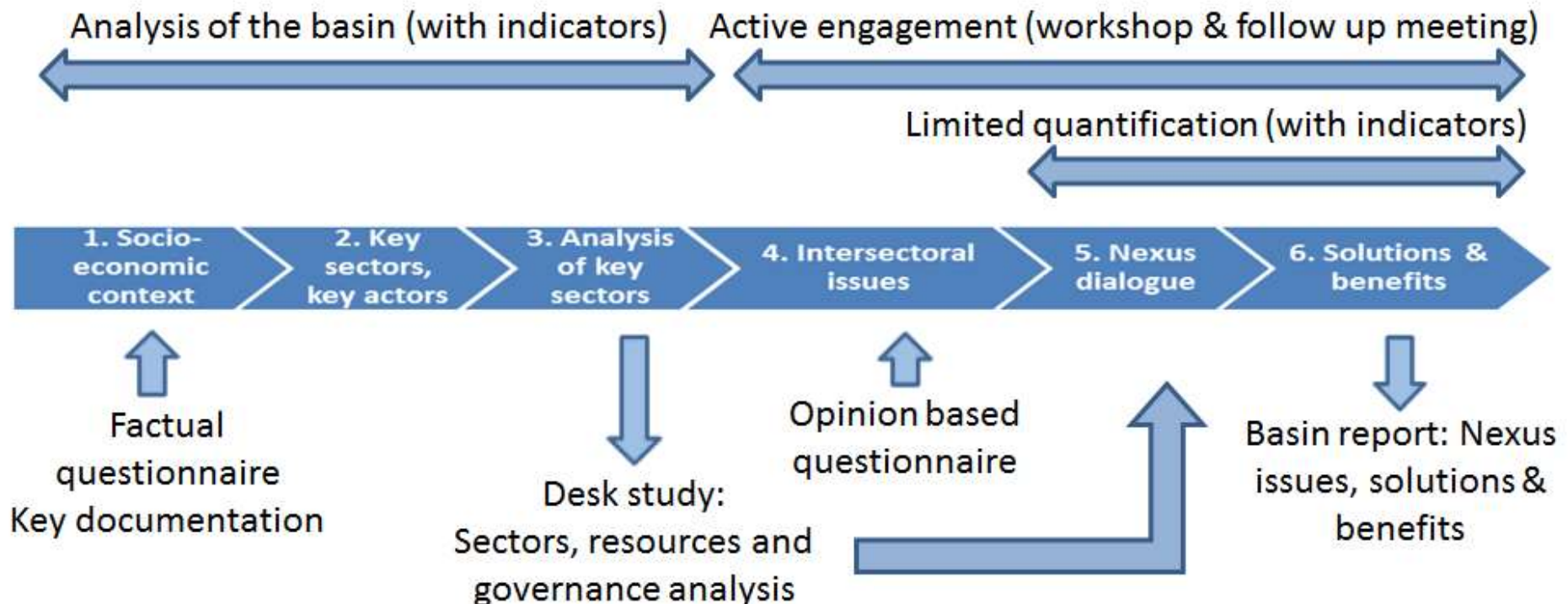
- Need for development, extending access to electricity and water
- African RBOs and power pools have developed and coordinated major infrastructure plans
- Development partners have facilitated various from project-specific up to continent wide studies on specific aspects on food security, energy, climate resilience of infrastructure etc.
- It has become more clear what a nexus approach can entail and what kind of actions could be taken (UNECE; IUCN, IWA, ICA etc.): basis for reflection on a tailored response in specific contexts
- countries, basins and sub-regions would benefit from dialogue about the cross-sectoral implications and benefits, bringing together the different elements, and it needs to be a TRANSBOUNDARY dialogue...
- Globalized UNECE/Water Convention stands ready to assist: catalyse political attention, multistakeholder dialogue, exchange of experience
- Implementation of the SDGs and the related support has potential strengthen consideration of different sectors



Nexus assessment methodology developed under the Water Convention



- Adapts to the context and the issues specific to the basin
- Provides for identification of cooperative ways to tackle nexus challenges in a non-prescriptive, inclusive and indicative manner highlighting a broad range of potential opportunities.
- Application to 5 transboundary basins demonstrates value for engaging different sectors into a dialogue



Balancing between various uses and protection of the resource, addressing the trade offs and increase synergies: Transboundary cooperation opportunities

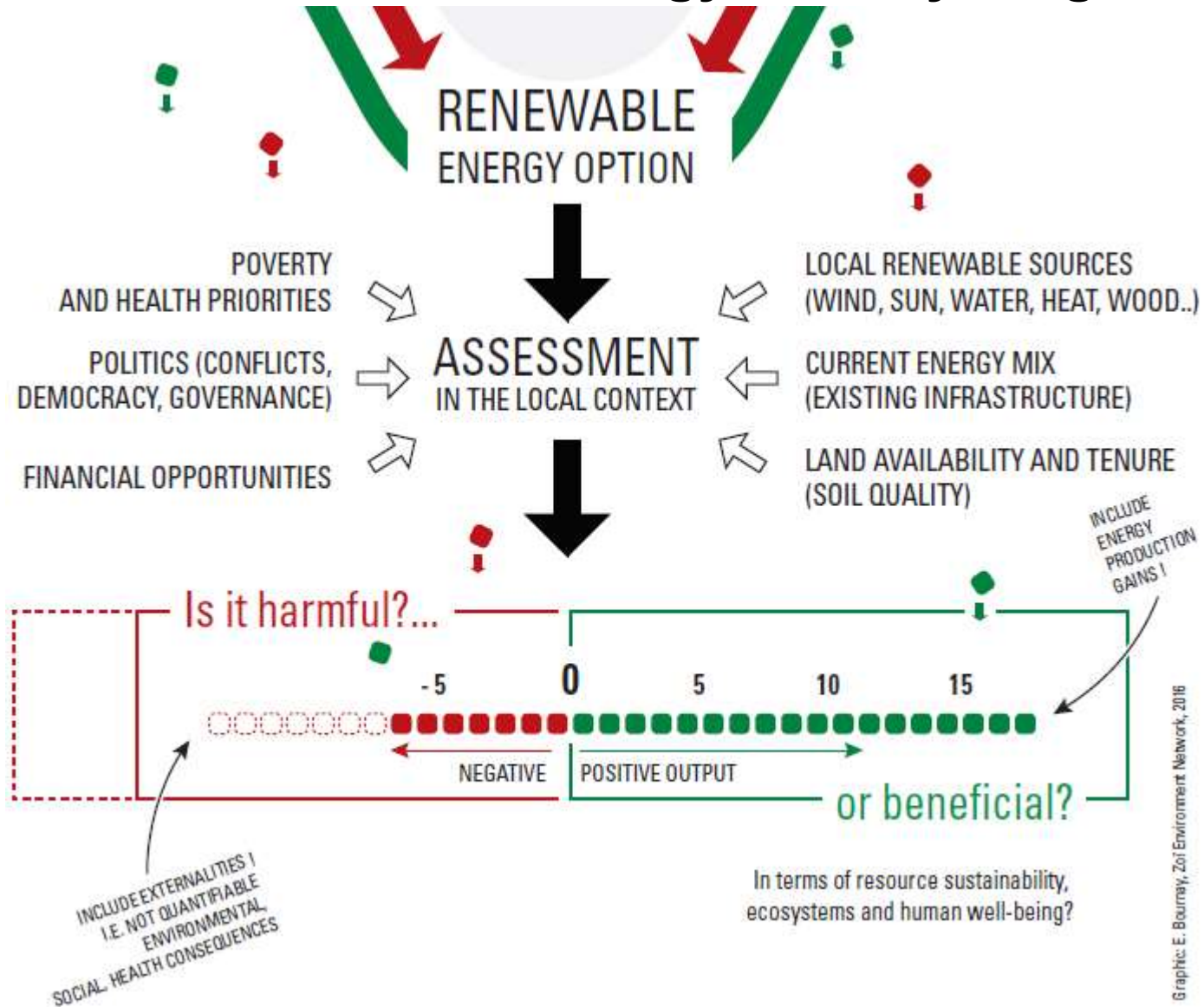


- Sharing information to ensure a solid basis for planning
- Notification and consultation on development plans, coordination of management measures
- Impact assessment (EIA)
- Adjustments to design to accommodate other uses
- Joint investments, participation in operation and maintenance costs
- Sharing access, transmission infrastructure
- Electricity trading; compensation arrangements
- Early warning to support operation and protection of infrastructure (procedures, contacts etc.)
- Better catchment management adds to the longevity and performance of the infrastructure



Renewable energy? For many reasons

Cost, emission reduction, energy security off-grid...



Nexus opportunities (examples)



Isonzo/ Soča
 Link RES generation to existing agriculture infrastructure (small hydropower, solar, biomass); improve river continuity and increase drought resilience

Sava
 Develop hydropower sustainably and integrate other renewable energies

Alazani/Ganykh
 Facilitate access to modern energy sources and energy trade; minimize impacts from new hydropower development; catchment management to control erosion

Syr Darya
 Promote restoring and vitalizing energy market, develop the currently minimal trade in agricultural products; improve efficiency in energy generation, transmission and use; improve efficiency in water use (esp. in agriculture)

Infrastructure:

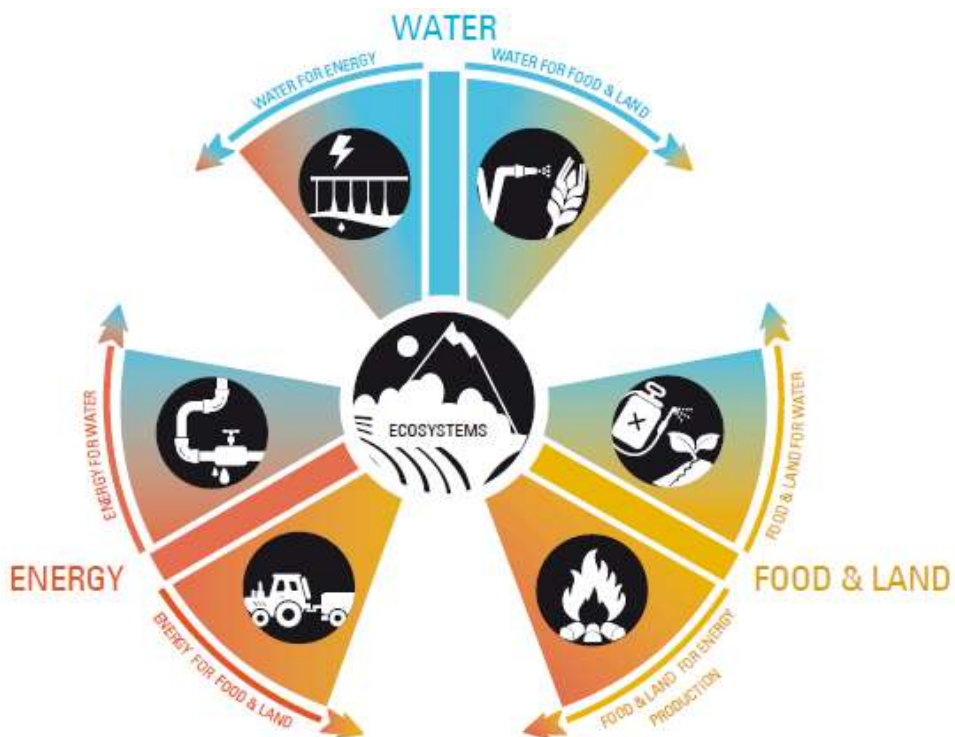
The sustainable management of basin resources will require larger investment in infrastructure, both grey and green. It will not just be about investing more, but about investing better:

- taking into account the broader intersectoral, socio-economic and environmental implications
- coordinating investments with related sectoral investments
- Consulting different users and interests
- Applying the principles and instruments of international law
- Evaluating opportunities related to multi-purpose designs
- Major investments are planned and made; new infrastructure will affect the performance of old.
- Considering predictions and uncertainties: resilience in the face of climate change



Types of intersectoral solutions supporting development of operation of infrastructure

- **Institutions**
 - Appropriate institutional frameworks and mechanisms for coordination, negotiation, evaluating impacts, monitoring, engaging resource users in operation and maintenance
- **Information**
 - multi-sector information to support policy, assessing impacts across sectors, use of agreed guidelines etc.
- **Instruments**
 - Appropriate mixes of economic and policy instruments, SEA etc.
- **International coordination and cooperation**
 - sharing information, plans, good practices etc.



African experience contributes

- **MENA and the Niger Basin contributed to the development of the assessment methodology**
- **Application of the methodology to the North–West Sahara Aquifer foreseen -> addressing the specifics of groundwater resources**
- **Integrated planning approaches with an important infrastructure component applied in African river basins provide valuable insights**
- **Global stock-taking workshop on the nexus and the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus: (Geneva, 6-8 December 2016, tbc) in cooperation with GEF Iw:learn, IUCN, GIZ and others – welcome!**

