

Building trust among Central Asian countries: Any role to play for the cooperation on wildlife protection?

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Unequal regional share of energetic and water resources:

- Highly dependent economy on single-crop farming by down-stream countries
- Dependence on hydropower by up-stream countries

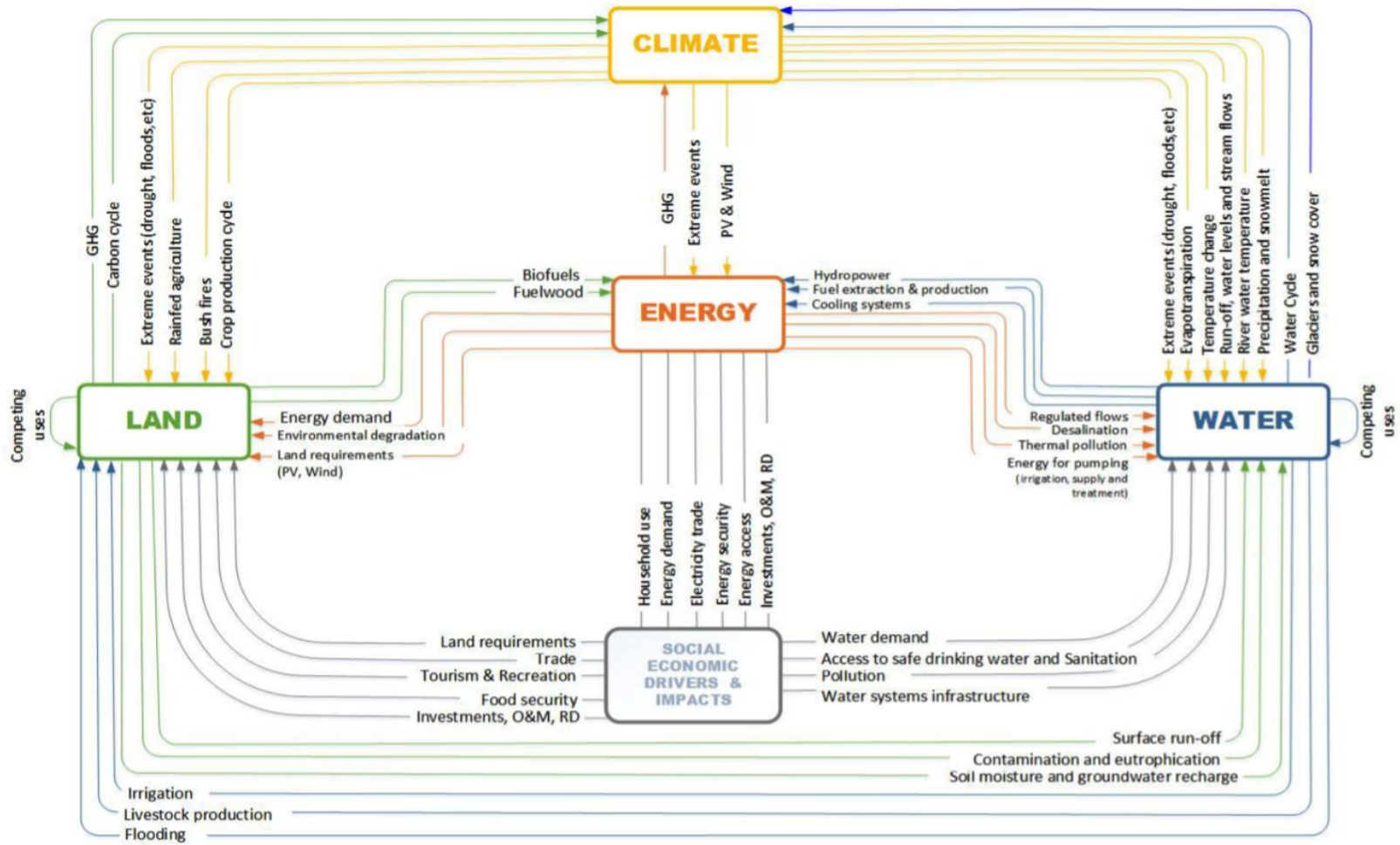


Unsustainable model for environment and for human development (ex: Aral Sea disaster)

- Competitive relation between countries
- Competitive use between resources

Concept: **Water, food, energy and ecosystem are interconnected. Without coordination those sectors tend to compete**

- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention)
 - Overall objective: “□**prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact**” -art.2-, by...
 - preventing, controlling and reducing pollution
 - ecological sound water management
 - reasonable and equitable use of water
 - ensuring conservation and restoration of ecosystems
- In 2012 the parties of the Water Convention adopted the Nexus approach:
 - Task Force on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus
 - Inclusion of “Ecosystems” in the scope of the Nexus
 - Assessment of the Nexus in a set of transboundary basins



Font: CLEWs Framework

Transboundary basin assessment process:

Analysis through 2 complementary perspectives:

- Technical analysis
- Governance analysis

Process:

1. *(mostly desk-based)*
 - a. Socioeconomic context
 - b. Key sectors & key actors
 - c. Analysis of key sectors
2. *(engagement of regional stakeholders: workshops)*
 - a. Intersectoral issues
 - b. Nexus dialogue
 - c. Solutions and benefits

The Nexus (energy-food-water-ecosystems)

In sum, what does the Nexus approach offers?

- More equitable dialogue across sectors
- Allows for a more effective application of the Water Convention: reducing the “transboundary impacts”

There is any role to play for the cooperation on wildlife protection?

Biodiversity hotspot:

- Snow leopard, argali, Siberian ibex, saiga antelope, Bukhara deer...
- “Few remaining regions in the world where ecologically important large mammals’ migrations can be still observed” (UNEP/CMS)

Challenges for biodiversity and wildlife:

- Illegal hunting (aggravated by the Eurasian Custom Union)
- Overgrazing
- Expansion of human settlements
- Installation of border fences

Opportunities

- “Sustainable consumptive and non-consumptive uses (trophy hunting, nature tourism) can create commercial opportunities and provide further economic, social and environmental benefits” (Mischeler, 2006)

International treaties

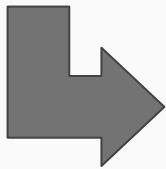
- Members of CBD
- CITES* (*except Turkmenistan)
- CMS* (*except Turkmenistan)

Cooperation on protection of wildlife:

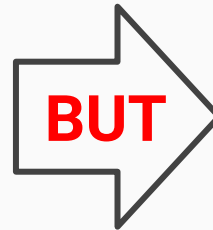
- CMS framework: **Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)**
 - MOU Concerning Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer (2002)
 - MOU Concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (2006)
 - Inter-national Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Argali (2014).
- CMS & CITES framework: **Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Program**
- ...

Restrains to the effectivity of those projects due to other uses of resources that have transboundary effects:

- Building of linear infrastructures: pipelines, channels, power lines, etc
- Increasing use of land for grazing
- Over-exploitation of forests
- Agricultural expansion
- Drying of wetlands due to dam construction
- Habitat change due to climate change



Competitive use
of resources



**No application of the
Nexus approach in the
framework of the CBD,
CITIES or CMS**

Conclusions

- The different sectors of cooperation included in the Nexus are like “communicating vessels”
- The Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus approach is becoming mainstream in transboundary resources management
- **Using the “Nexus approach” in the regional protection of wildlife of Central Asia would create synergies and make more effective the international cooperation on water, energy and food security**