



Enhancing National Climate Adaptation Policies and Financing through the Broadened Water-Energy-Food (WEF+) Nexus Workshop

Adaptation Academy under CASTT Programme

22 to 26 April 2024, Pretoria, South Africa

Concept Note and Programme

Global challenges such as advancing climate change, rapid population growth, overexploitation of natural resources and increasing urbanisation rates are putting additional pressure on rising demand for freshwater, energy and food. The 2023 Adaptation Gap report highlights that from the countries assessed, 81 per cent of countries have adaptation options that respond to the assessed climate vulnerabilities and risks in priority sectors, such as agriculture, water and health. In this context, securing supply in one sector directly or indirectly impacts another. Therefore, an integrated view of the three sectors (water, energy and food, including environment and health) competing for the same scarce resources - water, energy and agriculture (nexus perspective) - is imperative.

The Nexus approach aims to unite different interests in resource use, manage conflicts, and simultaneously respect the planet's ecological carrying capacity limits. The WEF Nexus approach is a fundamental shift from a pure sectoral approach to solutions that embrace a cross-sectoral, coherent, and integrated perspective. It challenges existing structures, policies and procedures at global, regional and national levels. In southern Africa, sustainable development largely depends on goods and services derived from its environment and natural resource base. Hence, we adopt a broadened WEF nexus approach, which includes environment and health. The environment and natural resources are crucial in efforts to eradicate poverty. Livelihood strategies, food security, and the health of people experiencing poverty depend directly on functioning ecosystems and the diversity of goods and ecological services they provide. Equally, water, food and energy security, including human and environmental health, which are critical for development, depend on natural endowment.

However, several drivers, like climate change, environmental degradation, and growing economies and populations, are intensifying the pressure on water, land, and energy resources. These pressures and drivers imply the social, economic and ecological systems, which greatly impact water, energy and food security. The WEF Nexus approach has matured immensely over the past ten years, largely in parallel with adopting the Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015. Most SADC countries' National Adaptation Plans and many Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) consider the opportunities for adaptation and mitigation through water resources management and the production and delivery of energy and food.

In addition, the SADC's WEF nexus framework has always recognised the centrality of the environment (E) as integral to the WEF nexus. More recently, owing to lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, there have also been calls to broaden the dimensions of the WEF nexus to include environmental and health dimensions explicitly. This aligns with the One Health and Planetary Health perspectives, emerging locally and globally.



In the broadened context, the WEF+ nexus acknowledges that water, energy, and food security are inextricably linked to environmental and human health/wellbeing. Hence, actions in any WEF sector impact not only each other but also environmental and human well-being. Integrated planning of water, energy, and food sectors and promoting regional cooperation have been considered strategies to simultaneously meet water, energy, and food security targets, enhance sustainable socio-economic development, improve regional natural resource use efficiencies, and achieve environmental and human wellbeing. Opportunities to align these efforts with the Paris Agreement are conceptually clear. However, training country focal points and other staff in associated agencies to act on these opportunities and improve implementation, monitoring, and reporting are critical.

Operationalising WEF+ nexus in the SADC region

a. Through national policies and strategies

Previous work that has been carried out to analyse policy coherence of water, energy and food security has shown that most SADC countries have siloed policies and institutions. Different views on overcoming these challenges of Nexus governance have included creating new institutions to deal with the integration of different sectors. However, such radical measures as establishing a new 'Nexus ministry' would likely add further complexity to already fairly complex governance systems and, therefore, would not necessarily improve cooperation and dialogue.

In another line of thought, the operationalisation of the WEF approach has been used as a tool to help countries achieve SDGs and climate goals. Within the SDG framework, there is a goal that aligns with each WEF element: water (SDG 6), energy (SDG 7) and food security (SDG 2). These are closely linked directly or indirectly (e.g., via environmental and climate goals (SDG 11, 13 and 15) and can be purposefully addressed via the Nexus approach. The improved coordination and partnership espoused by the nexus approach also links to SDG 17 (Partnership). More recently, calls for broadening the WEF nexus to include explicit dimensions of environment and health create linkages to SDGs 3 and 12. In contrast, the shift from a resource-centric to a people and planet-centred WEF nexus framework creates further linkages with several other SDGs.

Related to this, the WEF Nexus approach is often referred to as an adaptation measure with mitigation co-benefits to cope with the effects of climate change. All the WEF-related SDGs directly involve acting on climate change.

To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015. In the agreement, all countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius and, given the grave risks, to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius. Implementing the Paris Agreement is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and provides a roadmap for climate actions that will reduce emissions and build climate resilience.

One of the key challenges for the SADC Member States in implementing the Paris Agreement is the limited capacity to articulate climate change and water security issues and mobilise financial and technical support to build climate resilience in the WEF sectors. The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain the successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures to achieve the objectives of such contributions. NDCs are submitted every five years to the UNFCCC secretariat to ensure increasing ambition and alignment with the latest climate science. The NDC revision process allows countries to reflect internally and draw on the experiences of others, both in the region and globally. Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries are at different stages in this process. Of the 16 Member States, 11 could submit their revised NDCs to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) before the UNFCCC's twenty-sixth



Conference of the Parties (COP26) in November 2021. The next round of submissions is in 2025, and it presents an opportunity for SADC Member States to take bolder action through the NDC revision process – for example, to adopt new, cost-effective technological solutions, such as renewable energy solutions and also ensure a strong link with the SDGs-including water, energy and food security. Thus, the SADC Member States must understand the UNFCCC process and climate change negotiation tracks to identify some entry points to push WEF issues.

a. Through WEF Nexus investments

Equally important is that the economic case for the WEF Nexus approach needs to be strengthened to attract investment. Accelerating the mobilisation of resources to achieve WEF security and climate resilience is now a key focus for the SADC Member States. One of the key outcomes of the different dialogues held at national and regional levels was the call for ACTION. Projects demonstrating the environmental and developmental benefits of the WEF Nexus for improved WEF security and climate change resilience in the SADC are limited due to several barriers, including siloed investments, governance challenges and capacity issues. Yet funding opportunities for climate resilience and WEF Nexus projects are increasingly becoming available and accessible. SADC member states need to capitalise on such opportunities to develop proposals for identified projects and ensure that they align their WEF security goals with the national climate agenda to ensure better access to green financial resources.

It is worth mentioning an example of South Africa. South Africa's National Treasury put forward a Green Finance Taxonomy in April 2022 and set standards for sustainable and green economic activities to increase its attractiveness to foreign investors. The workshop will also facilitate such knowledge exchange and lessons between member states.

To address the specific challenges faced in integrating WEF Nexus into national policies and catalyse access to climate finance for investments, the SADC Secretariat, with support from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Canadian International Development Agency, Global Water Partnership Southern Africa, UNFCCC CASTT Adaptation Academy, IHE-Delft, The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, AGWA, Water Research Commission of South Africa and Nexus Gains is organising a policy and climate finance workshop from 25 to 28 March 2024.

The workshop's objectives are to build capacities for effectively planning WEF Nexus, including integrating WEF Nexus issues into the NDCs. Furthermore, the workshop will facilitate peer-to-peer learning and the development of the community of practice on WEF security. The specific objectives include:

- Support SADC Member States in integrating the water-energy-food nexus, including environmental and health methodology, into national policies, particularly NDCs, to increase societal resilience and reduce the risks of climate change.
- Provide training on accessing climate finance from various sources (exploring the link between NDCs, GST, and ETF, including collecting, analysing, and reporting on climate finance needs and support received) and preparing and submitting proposals.
- Facilitate cross-learning and collaboration between countries to share lessons and best practices on national policy development, for example, the new COP28 UAE DECLARATION ON CLIMATE AND HEALTH, which directly references the Energy, Water, and Agriculture thematic areas concerning cross-sectoral adaptation planning.



Proposed agenda

Day One: 22 April 2024		
Moderator: GWPSA		
Time	Activity	Responsible
12:30-13:30	Registration	
13:30-14:00	Welcome and opening remarks	Keynote addresses: Host country rep South Africa UNFCCC secretariat IHE Delft SADC Climate Change Division
14:00-15:00	Setting the scene Climate change in the context of the SADC region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 	IHE-Delft
15:00-16:00	The WEF Nexus and its relevance to climate adaptation and mitigation and Trade-offs and synergies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 	UKZN/IHE/LSTHM
16:00-16:15	Closing reflections	MS representative
16:15-17:00	Tea	
Day Two: 23 April 2024		
WEF Nexus		
Moderator: LTHM		
09:00-09:30	Day 1 Recap	
09:30-10:30	The Paris agreement and the Enhanced Transparency Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 	UNFCCC
10:30-11:00	Tea	
11:00-11:45	Overview of the key components of the Biennial transparency report (BTR) and common tabular formats (CTFs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 	UNFCCC
11:45-12:30	Linkages among NDCs, NAPs, and the ETF Reporting adaptation information in national reports under UNFCCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 	UNFCCC
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:00	Zambia NAP case study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 	GWP SA / Zambia Ministry of Green Economy and Environment
14:00-14:45	The SADC Regional Nexus Approach	SADC WEF Working Group
14:00-15:00	Case studies showcasing gender-inclusive Nexus application <i>Litumelo will also present how GESI was integrated and the GESI perspective in the project and outline some key considerations for future projects</i>	SADC FANR/GWPSA/Nexus Gains



15:00-16:30	Interactive Workshop - Critical review of and reflection on participant-selected NDC reports - Policy coherence and gaps at global, regional, and national scales and the consequences for NDCs and National Adaptation Plans with a WEF perspective	Group work
16:30-16:45	Day 2 Closing Reflections	SADC Member state
16:45-17:00	Tea break	
Day Three: 24 April 2024 Accessing climate finance <i>Moderator: UNFCCC secretariat</i>		
08:30-09:00	Day 2 Recap	UNESCO-IHE
09:00-10:00	Financing mechanisms to support climate adaptation Enhanced Transparency Framework: reporting information on support needed and received in BTR	UNFCCC
10:00-10:30	Tea	
10:30-11:00	Climate finance landscape in the SADC region: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Finance studies• Opportunities for mobilising innovative gender-responsive climate finance. <i>Two people will present for 15 min each.</i>	GWPSA
11:00-11:10	Discussion	All
11:10-11:50	Panel discussion on intersectoral collaboration and finance mobilization	DBSA EIF SANBI GWP
11:50-12:10	Discussion	
12:10-12:40	Presentations on Global Climate Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GCF• GEF• Adaptation Fund	
12:40-12:50	Discussion	
12:50-13:00	Introduction of Group Work	
13:00-14:00	Lunch break	
14:00-17:00	Group work preparation and submission of project ideas. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Please communicate with the MSs to think of project ideas they</i>	GRP1: GCF GRP2: GEF GRP3: Adaptation Fund



	<p>would like to explore (This should be communicated before the workshop).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please allocate technical facilitators. GWP is available to facilitate the GCF group 	
<p>Day Four: 25 April 2024 Summary and next steps Moderator: UNFCCC secretariat</p>		
8:30-10:00	Plenary feedback and discussion	3 groups
10:00-10:30	Tea	
10:30-11:30	Reflections	Panel discussion
11:30-11:45	Closing remarks and Way forward	UNFCCC secretariat SADC
11:45	Handover of certificates	
12:30	Closure	Chair SADC (Member state)