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UNU-FLORES Showcases Nexus Observatory Project At Chapel Hill Conference

2018•05•10 Chapel Hill

The **Nexus 2018** conference, held at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on 16-18 April, focused on discussing experiences and lessons learned in bridging the science-policy divide, with the expectation of informing discussions at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2018.

The UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (**UNU-FLORES**) showcased lessons emerging from implementation of the Nexus Observatory project. The presentation received positive feedback. In particular, Nexus 2018 recognised the Wastewater Reuse Effectiveness Index (**WREI**), one of the main outcomes of that project, as one of the nexus tools that will advance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**). This was outlined in a **draft outcome document** by the conference directors - a final version of which will be circulated to UN Member States for consideration when preparing their Ministerial Declaration for the HLPF.

Organised by The Water Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the conference addressed the nexus between Water-Energy-Food (WEF) and Climate.

In the **session** on 'Nexus Partnerships: Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learned', co-convened by UNU-FLORES and UN-Habitat, UNU-FLORES Academic Officer Dr Mathew Kurian highlighted five major outcomes of the Nexus Observatory project as a mechanism to bridge the gap between science and policy, and shared the experience of 'working together' on the SDG target 6.3 through the WREI.

Dr Kurian also drew attention to Nexus Observatory initiatives that have strengthened efforts to bridge science and policy in practice; **online courses** targeted at decision makers, ongoing research undertaken by PhD researchers at UNU-FLORES to advance agreements with ministries on drought risk monitoring in East Africa, **publications** on the Nexus Approach, and policy-relevant research collaboration through the **Belmont WEF nexus grant**.

For more, see the **news story** on the UNU-FLORES website.

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