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The ONEPlanET Newsletter - May 2025

5th - Edition

Dear <<First Name>>

As the world grapples with the consequences of a growth-first, sustainability-later approach, ONEPlanET continues to push for integrated, science-based, and people-centred solutions. We believe that meaningful change is not just necessary—it's already underway.

We deeply appreciate your continued interest in our work and the time you take to engage with our newsletters. Your support helps amplify the impact of our shared mission. Remember, you can also follow our journey and access regular updates, stories, and resources via our social media channels.

In this edition, we spotlight key activities and breakthroughs from across our network—where innovation, research, and community engagement are driving progress in the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus. From field-tested tools and policy briefs to collaborative hackathons and new learning platforms, discover how the ONEPlanET project is shaping inclusive and sustainable development across Africa and Europe.

Making Strides: A closer look towards achieving the goals of Africa's Agenda 2063

Over the past few months, the ONEPlanET project has hosted a range of impactful events aimed at advancing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and testing innovative approaches within the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus. From hands-on hackathons to expert-led webinars, these engagements have brought together stakeholders across Africa and Europe to co-create solutions for sustainable development.

Nairobi Hackathon: Driving Innovation in Kenya's Water-Energy-Food Nexus

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From March 10–13, 2025, Strathmore University in Nairobi hosted the ONEPlanET Hackathon, bringing together students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers to co-create solutions around Kenya's Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus.

Participants tackled pressing issues such as fragmented governance, inefficient resource use, and the lack of integrated planning. The event featured systems thinking workshops, real-time testing of the ONEPlanET Toolkit, and the practical application of Living Lab principles—culminating in pitch sessions that showcased actionable policy prototypes.

Explore the full article to learn how local collaboration and innovation are shaping WEF governance in Africa.

[Learn More](#)

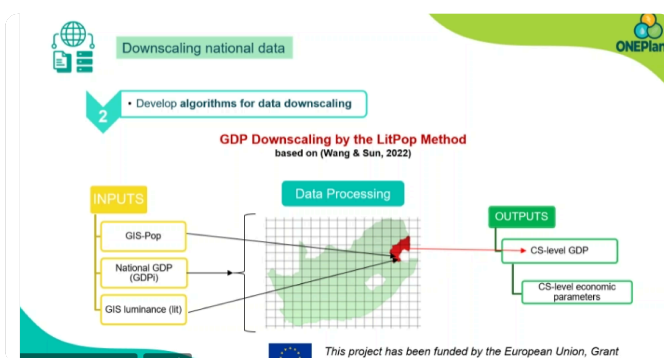
Webinar Spotlight: Addressing Data Challenges in WEF Nexus Modeling for Africa's Just Energy Transition

Downscaling national data

- 1) <https://hub.worldpop.org/project/categories?id=3>
- 2) <https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/data/projects/gpw>
- 3) <https://mapsam.info/data/>
- 4) <https://www.copernicus.eu/en/access-data/copernicus-services-catalogue/land-cover-classification-gridded-maps-1992-present>
- 5) <https://data.mendeley.com/datasets/z9zfhzk8cr/6>
- 6) <https://zenodo.org/records/7898409>

Reference Paper for GDP downscaling: Wang, T., & Sun, F. (2022). Global gridded GDP data set consistent with the shared socioeconomic pathways. *Scientific Data*, 9(1), 221. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-022-01300-x>

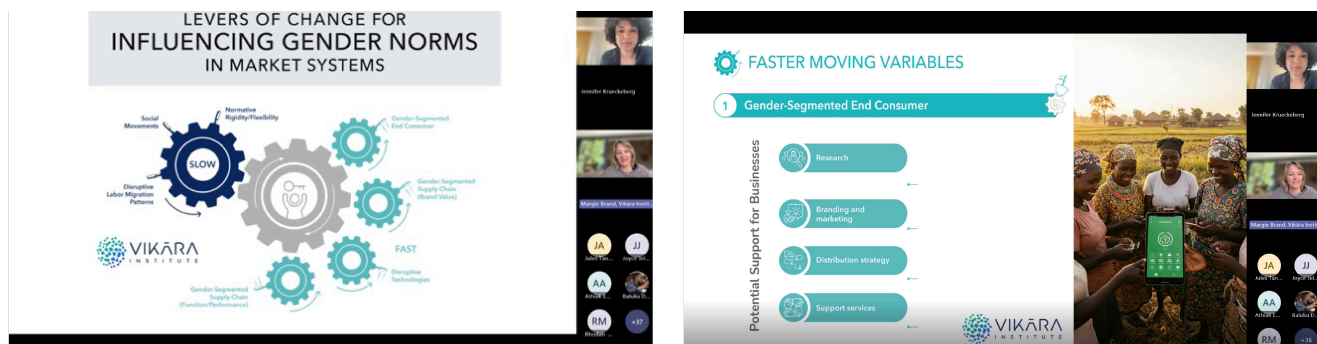
This project has been funded by the European Union, Grant Agreement: 101019150



The ONEPlanET team recently hosted a webinar addressing the complex data challenges of modeling the Water-Energy-Food Nexus in Africa. From refining downscaling techniques to

[Dive deeper into the challenges and solutions discussed in the full recap.](#)

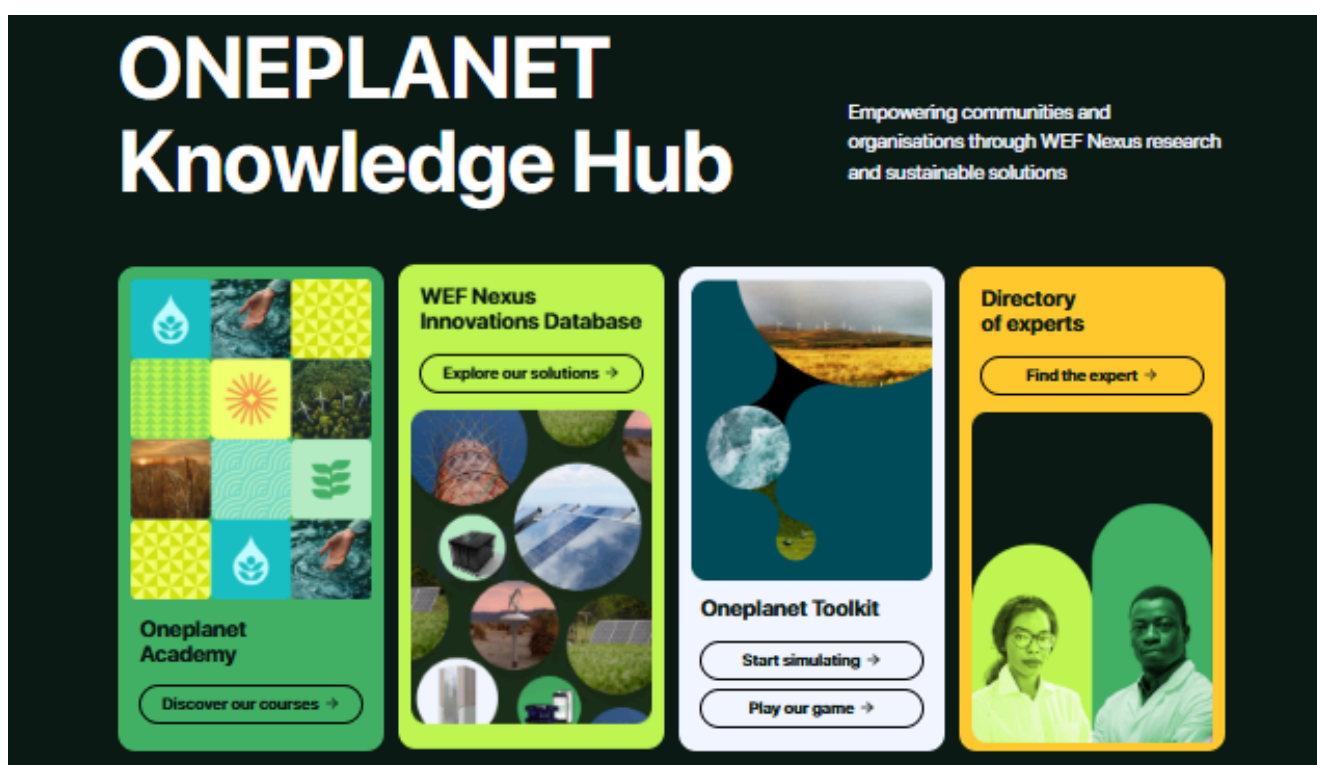
Gender Perspectives within the WEF Nexus



A recent webinar spotlighted the vital yet often overlooked role of women in managing water, energy, and food systems—especially in rural communities. Panelists explored the barriers limiting women’s participation and the need for more inclusive policies and leadership.

[Read the full article to learn more about the discussions and pathways to equity.](#)

ONEPlanET Knowledge Hub: We put our knowledge in the palm of your hand



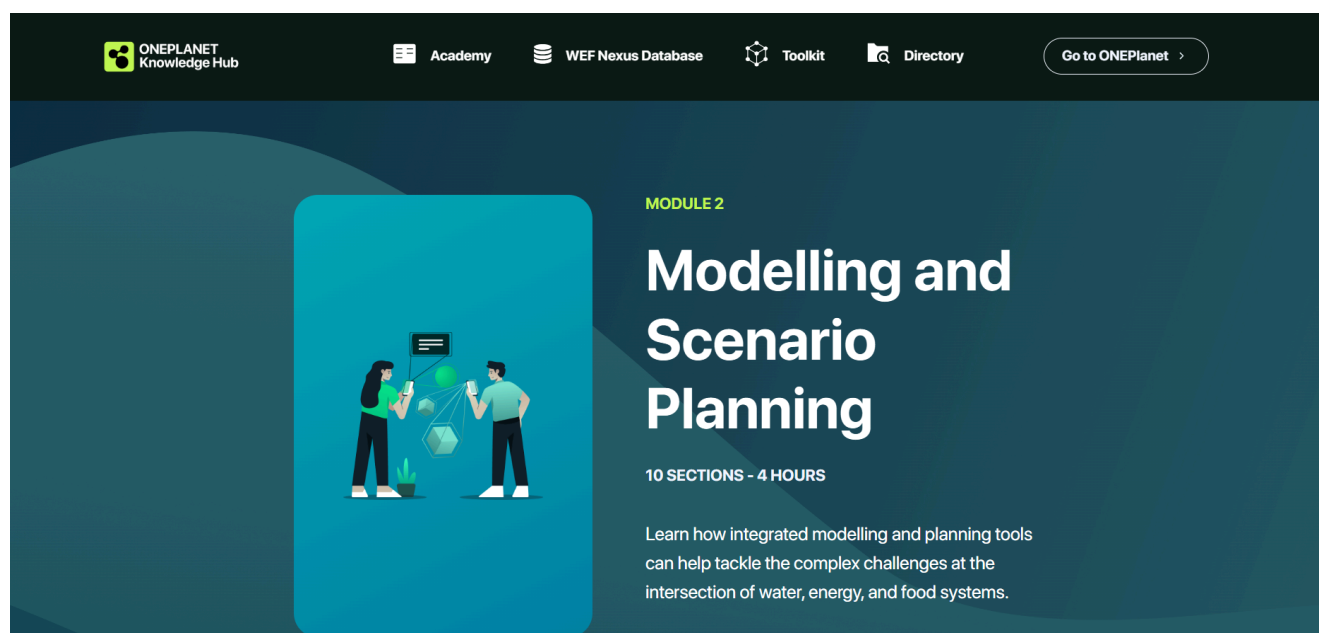
through the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus. It provides free access to expert knowledge, innovative solutions, and networking tools for policymakers, researchers, investors, and entrepreneurs.

Key Features

- Academy: A free e-learning platform offering training on WEF Nexus challenges and solutions.
- Innovation Database: A repository of cutting-edge technologies and tools tackling WEF Nexus issues.
- Directory: A networking tool connecting experts and stakeholders in the sustainability space.
- ONEPlanET Toolkit: Resources to support clean energy generation and sustainable resource management.
- Simulation Tool & Serious Game: Interactive tools to analyze policy scenarios and foster better decision-making.

Visit the Knowledge Hub today

Module 2 of the ONEPlanET Academy is now live!

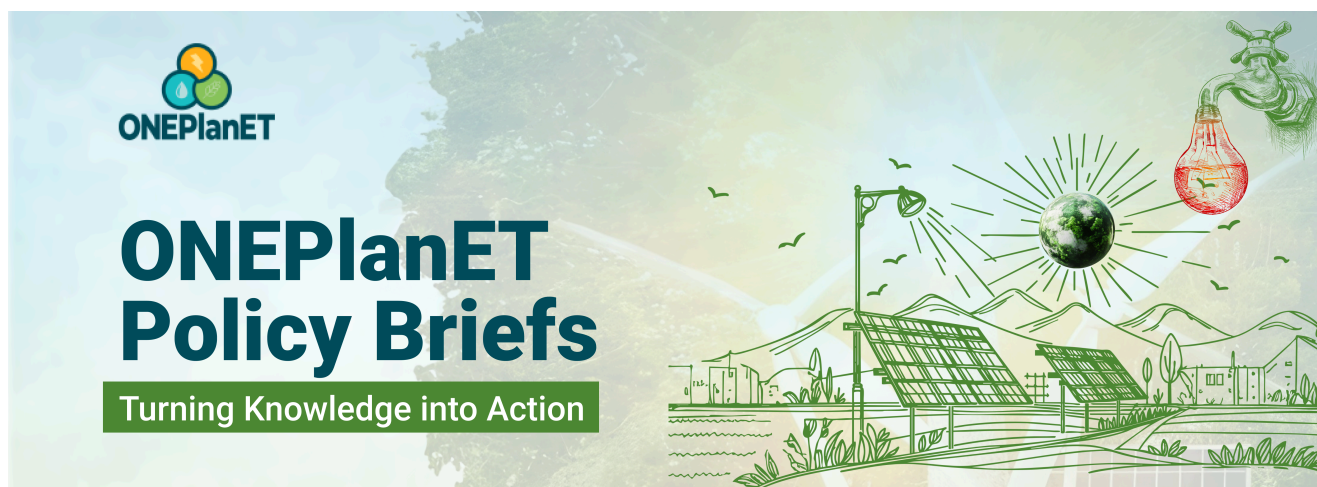


The screenshot shows the ONEPlanET Knowledge Hub website. The header includes the logo and navigation links for Academy, WEF Nexus Database, Toolkit, and Directory, along with a 'Go to ONEPlanET' button. The main content area features a large blue graphic with an illustration of two people discussing a model. To the right of the graphic, the text reads: 'MODULE 2', 'Modelling and Scenario Planning', '10 SECTIONS - 4 HOURS', and a description: 'Learn how integrated modelling and planning tools can help tackle the complex challenges at the intersection of water, energy, and food systems.'

This new release dives into integrated modelling and scenario planning for the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus, offering a hands-on introduction to systems thinking, conceptual frameworks, and dynamic tools designed to support sustainable resource management. Explore how modelling can inform better decision-making in the face of climate change, resource scarcity, and population growth.

Start learning now!

Insights from the Policy Front



As Africa works toward achieving the ambitions of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals, effective policymaking around the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus remains critical. The ONEPlanET project has developed a series of policy briefs based on in-depth regional analyses and multi-stakeholder engagements. These briefs identify key regulatory and implementation gaps while offering actionable recommendations to enhance coherence and impact in sustainability governance across the continent.

Below, we highlight two recent policy briefs addressing major challenges and opportunities within the WEF Nexus framework.

Policy Brief 1: Bridging the Regulatory Divide: Advancing Agenda 2063

The inaugural ONEPlanET policy brief explores the regulatory gaps undermining progress toward Africa's Agenda 2063, with a focus on the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus. Case studies from Mali, Malawi-Tanzania, and South Africa highlight policy fragmentation and misalignment between sectors and regions.

The brief calls for stronger institutional frameworks, integrated planning, regional cooperation, and increased investment in nexus governance.

[Read full policy brief here](#)

Policy Brief 2: Overcoming Barriers to Africa's Energy Transition

The ONEPlanET project has released its second policy brief, ***Barriers Hindering the Energy Transition in the African Union***. This timely publication examines the cultural, socioeconomic, and structural challenges impeding sustainable energy progress across Africa.


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implementation.

With Africa's immense solar potential, the brief calls for stronger institutions, decentralized energy solutions, and targeted R&D to drive an inclusive transition in line with Agenda 2063.

[Read full policy brief here](#)

Spotlight on Research: Scientific Contribution from ONEPlanET



Paper Title: Evaluation of water/energy intensity of green hydrogen production plants in Africa scenario.

Massimo Rivarolo
Assistant Professor
University of Genova, Italy
Authored By: M. Rivarolo, S. Barberis, A. Portesine, A.F. Massardo

A new study under the ONEPlanET and JUST-GREEN AFRH2ICA projects explores the water and energy intensity of green hydrogen production in Kenya, Mali, and South Africa. The research highlights key trade-offs within the WEF Nexus and offers guidance for sustainable development.

Read the full article for insights on land use, water sources, and hydrogen economics.

[Read the Publication here](#)

Join our Stakeholder Community



Are you an organisation actively involved in Water-Energy-Food (WEF) and Climate initiatives?

The ONEPlanET network is growing—and you're invited. Join a dynamic community of innovators, policymakers, and researchers working to drive sustainable WEF Nexus solutions across Africa.

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Events & Calls

As part of our continued commitment to co-creation, capacity building, and knowledge exchange, ONEPlanET is preparing a series of targeted activities that bring together key actors from across the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus. These upcoming events aim to deepen collaboration, test tools in real-world contexts, and further align innovation with sustainability goals across Africa and Europe.



The ONEPlanET project will be hosting the **ONEPlanET WEF Transitional Living Lab – Cyprus Edition**, a 5-day event organized by **The Cyprus Institute**, with training support from the **European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL)**. This gathering forms part of efforts to develop a place-based Living Lab anchored in Nairobi, Kenya, and focused on the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus in Africa.

Explore what the 5-day programme will cover in our full event preview.

[Read full event programme here](#)

Verde.

The ONEPlanET consortium will host a Final Event at the Last general assembly. This event marks the culmination of three years of collaborative research, innovation, and impact. The closing event will bring together project partners, and participation of two sister projects EMERGE and EPIC AFRICA to showcase key achievements, key outcomes and share insights from the project's scientific outcomes and explore the future potential of the ONEPlanET approach.

The agenda will include:

- ✓ Reflections on achievements and lessons learned
- ✓ Strategic discussions on knowledge and innovation
- ✓ Exploration of opportunities beyond the project
- ✓ Strengthening of networks for sustained impact

Further details, including the full agenda and logistics, will be shared directly with stakeholders in the coming weeks.



The project has received funding from the European Union, grant agreement number 101084127.



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