

SESSION 2: Overview of the handbook development, team and rationale for the scope, structure and content of the Handbook

Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook

21 October 2019

Room IV, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland



3.3.1 Development of a handbook on water allocation in the transboundary context

Work will start with a global review of water allocation arrangements in transboundary basins.

The publication will include references to relevant tools & information resources & examples of:

- (a) prerequisites (e.g., institutional framework, data sharing) for agreeing on water allocations;
- (b) options and approaches that can be followed technically and legally;
- (c) relevant considerations in designing a process to agree on water allocation; and
- (d) the benefits that can be drawn from agreeing on water allocation.

The experience in implementing existing allocation arrangements will be taken into account.

The development of the handbook will be supported by an *Expert Group* which will meet twice.

Programme of Work 2019-21



3.3.2 Organization of regional workshops on water allocation

Two regional workshops on water allocation will be organized.

Likely that a third one will be held (to be confirmed).

Final publication to be launched

The manual will be translated into French, Russian and Spanish and published.

Launched at the ninth Meeting of the Parties in October-November in Estonia.

Key milestones aligned to Convention work



Expert Group Meeting

- First Meeting on 21 October 2019
- Second meeting on 30-31 March 2020
- Third meeting to be confirmed in October 2020 (Nexus Working Group)

Regional Workshops

- 1st workshop for EU, Caucasus, Eastern Europe, in Budapest in Apr-May, 2020
- 2nd workshop for Central Asia & surrounds in Nur-Sultan in Jul-Aug, 2020
- 3rd workshop to be confirmed in another region, possibly in Quarter 4, 2020

Meeting of the Parties

- Launch the publication at 9th session in Estonia in October or November 2021

Purpose of the Regional Workshops



Obtain feedback on latest draft Handbook sections

- Workshops will be used to disseminate sections of the Handbook for feedback
- Allow for more detailed review & discussion based on language/regional focus

Gather detailed information & resources on case studies, assess any problems

- Case studies from those regions will be discussed & further resources collected
- Identify alternative case studies if any are seen as too challenging for the region

Legitimacy and utility of the publication

- Generate interest and buy-in from officials / representatives in different regions
- Road-testing usefulness of the publication with practitioners to edit if needed

Timeline for development and publication



Key points to note in developing Handbook



AUDIENCE

The handbook's primary audience will be **government officials, basin authorities and water sector practitioners** working at different levels (local, national, inter-governmental) of governance of shared rivers, lakes and aquifers.

PURPOSE

It aims to be a **practical guide providing an overview of the key elements**, frameworks and modalities to consider in the application of water allocation in basins.

FORMAT

It will take the form of a **compendium style Handbook**, covering the major topics and **exemplar case studies to illustrate key elements** of transboundary water allocation in different contexts, with a **bibliography of specific references for further research** as the Handbook user may need.

Key points to note in developing Handbook



OUTCOMES

The Handbook will comprise a **set of general factors/conclusions for consideration** along with a **modular framework in the form of a flowchart** for practical assessment/implementation whereby practitioners can add/subtract water allocation elements to **assess those that might fit and apply to them their specific context.**

LIVING DOCUMENT

The Handbook in terms of its development and drafting with inputs, review and feedback should be seen as a **living document that is constantly evolving.** Drafts and especially the case studies will be **subject to revision and ongoing assessment** by different countries / institutions whereby the **final Handbook will reflect these consultative processes.**

SCOPE OF EXPERT GROUP MANDATE

Vital source of advice, yet **final decision-making rests with the secretariat & IWRM WG**

Key contacts, roles & responsibilities



UNECE Water Convention Secretariat (Remy Kinna & Annukka Lipponen)

- Over-arching coordination of the Handbook, convene meetings, finalise drafts

Expert Group

- Technical advice and feedback, provide case study inputs, additional resources

Hungary (Peter Kovacs) & IWAC (Zhanar Mautanova)

- Coordinating the initial two regional workshops in 2020

Handbook Project Team (key contacts: Antti Belisnkij & Anna-Stiina Heiskanen)

- University of Eastern Finland and the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
- Draft all sections of the Handbook, coordinate inputs/reviews

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QUESTIONS & COMMENTS