

Handbook on Water Allocation in Transboundary Context

Discussion on four main content chapters

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Overview

Outline – October 2019

1. Introduction
2. Principles, policies & laws for TWA
3. Operationalizing the principles
4. Limitations and additional considerations
5. Conclusions and recommendations

Outline – March 2020

1. Introduction
2. Issues and Challenges WA Can Address
3. Principles and Objectives of Transboundary WA
4. Knowledge Base for TWA
5. Operationalizing TWA
6. Recommendations for TWA
7. Additional Considerations and Limitations
8. Conclusions

Expert Group Feedback on 1st version

- Target audience and focus
 - Authorities, practitioners and water users → more practical approach
 - Strong focus on practice, case studies and operationalization
- Important elements
 - E-flows, reconciliation water uses, decision support systems, supply and demand-side management, water quality and timing, ground waters, regional differences
 - Adaptivity, data requirements, dynamic assessments
 - Cooperation
- Final product

General feedback on 2nd version

- Traditional/modern water allocation
- Legal/practical approach
- Repetitions can be reduced
- References to existing work and guidelines under the Convention
- More European case studies
- Specific issues
 - Gender perspectives, scales and levels of WA

Chapter II: Issues and Challenges WA Can Address

- Rapid growth in demand for water and pressures on available resources
 1. Availability & Variability of Surface Waters and Groundwaters
 - Availability, Drought, Flooding
 2. Competing Uses
 - Water scarcity & efficiency, Sectors, Historical, current and future uses
 3. Impacts of Withdrawals and Flow Regulation
 - Existing uses, Water quality, Ecosystem Degradation
 4. Climate Change as a Cross-Cutting Challenge

Chapter II – feedback

- Overall

- Basin allocation, classification of different kinds of basins, indigenous and cultural water, benefit generation and distribution, IWRM, need for holistic approach, management options as subsections
- Previous work under Convention, EU Floods Directive

- Title

- Objectives of water allocation

1. Availability and variability of surface waters and groundwaters

- Water quality, interaction between surface water and groundwater, climate change, people's livelihoods, alternative sources, forecasts and uncertainty, risk mapping, refer to previous work under Convention

Chapter II – feedback

2. Competing Uses

- Competing interests; water quality; illegal uses; balancing nexus aspects; adaptation; equitability; historical context; management needs; tourism, fisheries, shipping, nature conservation; efficiency increases, prioritization; transboundary aspects; actual vs. perceived scarcity

3. Impacts of Withdrawals and Flow Regulation

- Return water; wastewater discharges; protection zones; licensing; river flow; impacts on other uses; ecosystem services

4. Climate Change as a Cross-Cutting Challenge

- Overarching team; mover under section 1

Chapter III – Principles and Objectives of TWA

- Regulation and policy guidelines for TWA
 1. Sustainability of Water Resources
 - Preventing, Controlling and Mitigating Impacts; Integrity of Ecosystems; Water quality and good status issues
 2. Reconciliation of Different Water Uses and Needs
 - Equitable and reasonable utilization; Quantity, quality and timing; Relationship between different uses
 3. Adaptive Capacity of Water Allocation Arrangements
 - Climate and development outlook; Drought and flood management
 4. Cooperation and Good Neighborliness
 - Transboundary water agreements; Joint bodies and cooperation arrangements; National water laws coherence

Chapter III – feedback

- Overall
 - Links to overarching development objectives and benefit sharing; duplications away; European guidance documents on water balances and accounts
- Title
 - Objectives and principles; objectives away
- 1. Sustainability of Water Resources
 - Definition of sustainable use; water quality dynamics; acceptable development space concept; traditional knowledge of water quality
 - Case studies: Al Sag/Al Disi aquifer (Saudi Arabia – Jordan), Limpopo basin (e-flow)

Chapter III – feedback

2. Reconciliation of Different Water Uses and Needs
 - Integrated approach; no clear prioritization in SDGs; cap and trade markets; licensing
 - Other/additional case studies; Kishenganga case; Murray Darling basin; Jordan-Israel agreement (timing)
3. Adaptive Capacity of Water Allocation Arrangements
 - Different allocation mechanisms + other approaches
 - Case studies: Helmand treaty; LIMCOM (DRR strategy)
4. Cooperation and Good Neighborliness
 - Agreements on data & info exchange; what if no joint body; good neighborliness as objective and principle?; national level relevant;
 - Case studies: EWFD, SADC Protocol, IGAD policy (joint body); Limpopo, Orange-Senqu (groundwater cooperation); Genovese aquifer (sub-national entities);

Chapter IV: Knowledge Base for TWA

- Need of having a shared knowledge base
 1. Information Needs & Data Harmonization
 2. Assessing Available Water Resources and E-flows
 3. Assessing Uses and Needs
 4. Environmental Impact Assessment
 5. Decision-support System (DSS)

Chapter IV – feedback

- Overall

- Decision-making under uncertainty should be addressed

1. Information Needs & Data Harmonization

- Best available data and models; legal framework; data format and quality; legal basis not always required; case studies: Rhine

2. Assessing Available Water Resources and E-flows

- Groundwater recharge, GW contributions to e-flows and adaptivity; aspects of basin closure; water reuse; case study: Meuse

Chapter IV – feedback

3. Assessing Uses and Needs

- Sharing info on cultivation and wells monitoring
- Case studies: Indigenous cultural values and flows in Australia; Limpopo case (groundwater)

4. Environmental Impact Assessment

- EIA and SEA; EU-funded programs; MRC SEA focuses on mainstream dams

5. Decision-support System (DSS)

- DSS's role in relation to different strategy documents; DSS's focus must be on efficient, fair and sustainable water allocation and benefit sharing; government/authorities apply systems
- Case study: CORB

Chapter VII: Additional Considerations and Limitations

1. Benefit-sharing
2. Alternative Water Resources
3. Indigenous and Traditional Water Allocation Principles
4. Emerging Principles Relevant to TWA

Chapter VII – feedback

- Overall
 - Important considerations; incorporate into other chapters?; change of order of Chapters VI and VIII
- 1. Benefit-sharing
 - SEEA Water Accounting tool, benefit-sharing & aligned incentives
- 2. Alternative Water Resources
- 3. Indigenous and Traditional Water Allocation Principles
 - Knowledge and benefits; exceptional circumstances
 - Case studies: New Zealand, Whanganui River
- 4. Emerging Principles Relevant to TWA
 - User / polluter / beneficiary pays principle

Thank you!



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