



WATER
CONVENTION

Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook

**2nd Expert Group Meeting
30-31 May 2020**

***Presenter:
Dave Tickner, WWF***

***Thematic Group Discussion:
Environmental Flows***



SLIDE 1: Key reactions on current content of this thematic element of transboundary water allocation

- What are the most important aspects of this thematic element to include in the Handbook?
 - Ecosystems **not** a competing sector – more a foundation for, and a litmus test of, sustainable allocation and river system-wide health
 - Quantity, quality, timing of flow regime is “the master variable” that underpins ecosystem health
 - Intrinsic links to WQ, vital to downstream water users, freshwater fisheries, sediment transport
 - Myths – e-flows not only for environment, not only “minimum” flow
- Where would you highlight this thematic element within the different Chapters and how?
 - Already a running theme – good
 - Issues & challenges (II) – understanding e-flows, impacts of lack of flows
 - Principles (III) – e-flow definitions, myth-busting
 - Knowledge base (IV) – e-flows assessment, incl. socio-economic aspects
 - Operationalisation (IV) – e-flow implementation measures at multiple scales, focus on common barriers & enabling conditions

SLIDE 2: Reaction / proposal on illustrative case study/s

- Some case studies have been identified as relevant to this thematic element.
 - Not many case studies currently highlights e-flows – Okavango, Prypyat, Samur...?
 - Other potential examples:
 - Speed et al 2013 (“the ADB handbook”) – trans-jurisdictional water allocation case studies: Colorado, Indus, Yellow, Lerma-Chapala, Inkomati, Murray-Darling
 - Other possible case studies of “success” or “failure”: Mara, Mekong, Orange-Senqu, Reventazon...
 - Case studies of tools such as: pareto-optimal scenario assessment, e.g. Myanmar dam options; system-scale dam planning, e.g. Penobscot river, US
 - Wider lessons from multiple case studies in:
 - Barriers to implementation – *The Implementation Challenge* (WWF & TNC, 2010) <https://tinyurl.com/ruljtbl>
 - Successes/enabling factors – *Listen to the River* (WWF, 2017) <https://tinyurl.com/skopflp>

Common truths to effective e-flow implementation

Source: WWF, 2017, *Listen to the River*

