

Session 2: Overall status of the Global Handbook and regional processes / workshops

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TRANSBOUNDARY WATER ALLOCATION HANDBOOK
Third Meeting of the Expert Group
(Virtual, 20-21 October 2020)



BELÜGYMINISZTERIUM

Background to the Global Handbook



16 October 2017 – Global Workshop on Water Allocation organized by Water Convention



Eighth Meeting of the Parties in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan 10-12 October 2018

- Agreed on the Water Convention's Programme of Work for 2019-2021
 - Among the activities *“Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context”* (Lead Party: Hungary)



2 MAIN ACTIVITIES:

- 1. Development of a handbook on water allocation in the transboundary context**
- 2. Organization of 2 regional workshops on water allocation**

Transboundary Water Allocation 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

A **practical guide providing an overview of the key elements**, frameworks and modalities to consider in applying water allocation in a transboundary context. It will outline **options for, and alternatives/limitations to, water allocation, drawing on a diversity of practice.**

FORMAT

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

Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook



OUTCOMES

The Handbook will comprise a **set of main messages for taking into consideration** along with a **modular framework in the form of a flowchart** for ‘operationalizing’ transboundary allocation (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**.

ADVICE OF EXPERT GROUP

Composition: ≈35 experts, chosen for global diversity & balance. Technical inputs, review, advice.

3 Meetings: 1st = 21 October 2019 / 2nd = 30-31 March 2020 / 3rd = 20-21 October 2020.

Contents of the Global Handbook



- I Introduction
- II Issues Water Allocation Can Address
- III Limitations to Water Allocation & Broader Approaches
- IV Principles and Objectives of Transboundary Water Allocation
- V Cooperative Frameworks for Transboundary Water Allocation
- VI Knowledge Base for Transboundary Water Allocation
- VII Operationalizing Transboundary Water Allocation: Processes, Mechanisms & Examples
- VIII Lessons Learned & Main Considerations
- IX Conclusions

CASE STUDIES: over 30 case studies worldwide selected for inclusion to highlight global practices
-> Key features written into Handbook to illustrate elements of transboundary water allocation
-> 1page profiles written/reviewed/approved by the co-riparian states will be listed in the ANNEX

Objectives of the 3rd Expert Group Meeting



Sent the following documents for your review and feedback:

- 1 MS Word Document with the working drafts of Chapters I, II, IV and V
- 1 MS Word Document with the working drafts of Chapters VI & VII

Please note:

- **These are working drafts for now** and will be until we have a complete first full draft.
- These Chapters **should not be considered complete or final drafts** of any Handbook content.

We are holding this third Expert Group now to be able to:

- **Further refine, get your comments on and fill gaps** on the more detailed content of the early Chapters (Chapters I, II, IV and V) which is available at present;
- **Provide inputs, ideas and further resources on the overarching content** of Chapters VI & VII
- **Discuss the working draft of the Handbook's Main Messages**

Objectives of the 3rd Expert Group Meeting



- **Chapter III:** is currently being drafted by the Secretariat, with the support of the Drafting Team, and will subsequently be integrated with the other chapters following this meeting and be available for review in the full draft.
- **Main Messages:** under ongoing development, sent to you in working draft format for feedback.

YOUR FEEDBACK: There are **three** avenues in which you can comment and provide feedback:

- Prior to the meeting, via email to the secretariat, via track changes and comments in the document;
- During the meeting through verbal interventions or questions in the chat box during discussions on any of the structure or content;
- After the meeting, via email to the secretariat, with any new or additional feedback taking into consideration the existing feedback already highlighted during the meeting – to avoid duplication of effort – via track changes and comments in the document **up until 8 November 2020.**

Timeline for development & publication until MoP9



Key milestones for review, feedback, inputs



Expert Group Meetings

- 1st on 21 October 2019; 2nd on 30-31 March 2020; 3rd on 20-21 October 2020

Regional Workshops 2020

- 1st for Central Asia on 22-23 Sept; 2nd for Europe & Neighbourhood on 5-6 Oct
- SESSION: MENA Workshop on Transboundary Water Cooperation on 3-4 March 2020

Regular Meetings under the Water Convention

- Working Group on IWRM & Bureau Meetings: Oct 2019; Sept 2020; 26-30 Apr 2021
- Working Group on Monitoring & Assessment: Dec 2019
- Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus: 22-23 Oct 2020

Meeting of the Parties

- Launch the publication at 9th session & its adoption on 29 Sept – 1 Oct 2021 in Tallinn, Estonia

Regional Workshops & Regional Processes



AIMS:

- Sensitize Handbook; stimulate exchanges on practices, challenges, lessons, recommendations; ID case studies

Regional workshops (*2 workshops only due to COVID19)

1st WORKSHOP: Central Asia, 22-23 September 2020 (virtual)

- *Linked with Central Asia projects: International Water Assessment Centre contributes with regional projects funded by Kazakhstan on water allocation and environmental flows, providing experiences (case studies) and lessons learned)*

2nd WORKSHOP: Europe & Neighbourhood, 5-6 October 2020 (virtual)

- *Combined with EUWI+ initiative to broaden participants (originally scheduled for Hungary in April 2020)*

****COVID19 Pandemic severely restricted plans for other possible workshops, including one for Southern Africa**

Dedicated sessions on the Handbook

- *Session on the Handbook in MENA Workshop on Transboundary Water Cooperation on 3-4 March 2020*

2nd Workshop: how do Europe & its Neighbours *do* water allocation?



Taking stock of existing practices in water allocation, especially at the transboundary level

- What are the current technical approaches, as well as the legal and policy arrangements, being adopted to implement water allocation in addressing specific regional water challenges?
- How do you bridge the gap between national and transboundary allocation in practice?
- What future challenges might water allocation realistically address & how to implement this?

Limitations of water allocation must be taken into account

- What are the limitations of water allocation in addressing the specific challenges you face?
- Not advocating for using water allocation over other means, so we want to hear all methods

Outline broader approaches being implemented, as part of the discussions

- Certain approaches might be more appropriate than water allocation to addressing issues
- Nexus, benefit-sharing or other approaches might complement allocation measures or be considered as an alternative so please raise relevant issues or ideas during our exchanges

Objectives of the 2nd Regional Workshop



- **Support** efforts to develop sustainable and equitable transboundary arrangements on water allocation that strike a balance between robustness and flexibility
- **Increase** understanding and knowledge of criteria, mechanisms and tools for water allocation in transboundary basins and aquifers
- **Promote** dialogue and the exchange of historical/current experiences and existing practices
- **Share** challenges, lessons learned, potential solutions and recommendations on water allocation looking forward to future potential issues

Participants & outcomes of 2nd Regional Workshop



- **PARTICIPANTS**

- Over 50 participants from EU, Balkans, Eastern Europe, Caucasus (+ Neighbours)

- **TOPICS discussed relating to transboundary water allocation with case studies as examples**

- TOPIC 1 – Water Scarcity & drought
- TOPIC 2a – Strategic planning to progress towards sustainable water allocation at the national level
- TOPIC 2b – Sustainable environmental/ecological flows at transboundary level
- TOPIC 3 – Sustainable hydropower operation
- TOPIC 4 – Sustainable groundwater management

- **OUTCOMES**

- Exchange of ideas: lessons & recommendations to address common regional challenges
- Specific technical details shared to assist with examples and case studies in the Handbook

Questions & Feedback?

Additional information on the Water Convention's work on transboundary water allocation:
<https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/water/areas-of-work-of-the-convention/water-allocation-in-a-transboundary-context.html>

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