



Third Meeting of the Expert Group: Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook

UEF and SYKE Drafting Team, Antti Belinskij, UNECE Video Conference, 20–21 October 2020

Session 3: Discussion of Chapters 2–5

Handbook Overview

Outline – October 2020

1. Introduction
2. Issues WA Can Address
3. Limitations to WA & Broader Approaches
4. Principles and Objectives of TWA
5. Cooperative Frameworks for TWA
6. Knowledge Base for TWA
7. Operationalizing TWA
8. Lessons Learned and Main Considerations
9. Conclusions

Outline – March 2020

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



Status



- First drafts
 - Ch 1 (Introduction), Ch 2 (Issues WA Can Address), Ch 4 (Principles and objectives), Ch 5 (Cooperative Frameworks)
 - Case study examples + some previous feedback and inputs need to be added in the chapters
- First drafts under preparation
 - Ch 3 (Limitations & Broader Approaches), Ch 6 (Knowledge Base), Ch 7 (Operationalization), Ch 8 (Lessons Learned and Main Considerations)
- First full draft in January 2021

Ch 4: Principles and Objectives of TWA

Rationale

- Current and emerging principles and objectives for transboundary water allocation
- Surface water and groundwater resources
- Global Water Conventions, bi- and multilateral agreements, international policies, national level measures



Ch 4: Contents

October 2020

1. Cooperation and Good Neighbourliness
2. Sustainability of Water Resources
3. Reconciliation of Different Water Uses and Needs
4. Public Participation & Stakeholder Engagement
5. Emerging Principles Relevant to TWA
6. Adaptive Capacity of WA Arrangements

March 2020

1. Sustainability of Water Resources
2. Reconciliation of Different Water Uses and Needs
3. Adaptive Capacity of WA Arrangements
4. Cooperation and Good Neighbourliness



Ch 4: Feedback

- Title and definitions
 - Principles and objectives, water allocation methods, approaches, priorities
- Overall coherence needed
- Some specific comments
 - Important to include: groundwaters, indigenous water allocation, interplay with national level measures
- Case study examples
 - E.g. Al Sag/Al Disi aquifer, Limpopo (e-flow), Kishenganga case; Murray Darling basin; Jordan-Israel agreement (timing), Helmand treaty; LIMCOM (DRR), EWFD, SADC Protocol, IGAD policy (joint body), Orange-Senqu (groundwater); Genevese aquifer (sub-national entities)





Ch 4: Discussion points



- How to find a right balance
 - Chapter's role in the Handbook
 - Objectives / principles
 - Established / emerging principles
 - Global water conventions / other law, soft law and policy instruments
 - International water law and policy / transboundary water allocation
 - Theoretical / practical approach

Ch 5: Cooperative Frameworks for TWA

Rationale

- How transboundary water allocation transitions from addressing common issues, principles and objectives to practical operationalisation
- Legal and institutional frameworks for cooperation: agreements / arrangements and joint bodies
- 1) Overview of global practice, 2) joint institutions, 3) transboundary, national and sub-jurisdictional levels



Ch 5: Contents



1. Transboundary Water Agreements / Arrangements
2. Joint Bodies and Institutional Frameworks
3. National Water Laws Coherence with Transboundary Agreements / Arrangements



Ch 5: Feedback



- Many joint bodies have water quantity issues under their mandate
 - Can mean a number of different things, very few have an explicit TWA mandate, their role and success vary considerably
- Relationship between Ch 4 and Ch 5 needs to be clear
- Interaction between international and national level
 - National level crucial in the development of IWL
 - EIA at the national level
 - Policy coherence
- Case study examples needed



Discussion points

- Law and policy / practice
- Overall frame + case studies

