



Item 6. Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context

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1. Main achievements (1)

PoW 3.3 “Sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context”

(Lead Party: Hungary): Development of a handbook on water allocation in the transboundary context

HANDBOOK AUDIENCE

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 transboundary contexts. The Handbook is **not binding**.

FORMAT

Takes 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** for further research as the Handbook user may need.



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Expert Group

- An Expert Group was set up to **provide technical guidance** at key milestones in the Handbook's development.
- Experts were chosen based on **key criteria** and seeking to achieve a **balanced composition** across different regions, basins, countries, institutions and sectors globally, drawing upon case studies and presenters at the Global Workshop on Water Allocation (*Geneva, 16 and 17 October 2017*).
- The secretariat organized **three Expert Group meetings** (*Oct 2019, Mar 2020, Oct 2020*) to review and discuss structure and content and solicit targeted feedback and inputs on existing drafts.
- The Expert Group also **regularly reviewed drafts** and assisted with developing case studies.

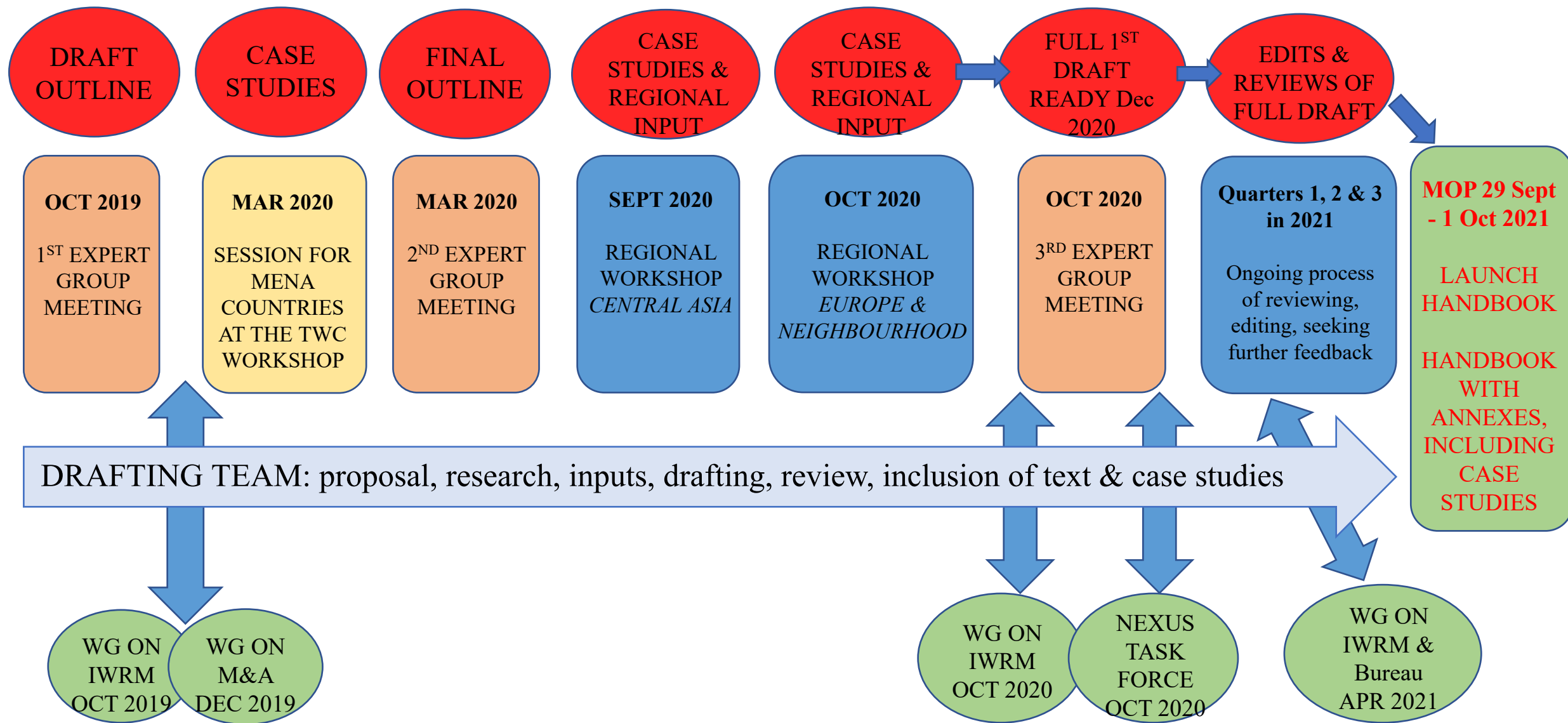


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2. How was it achieved? Major milestones since 2019





3. Lessons learnt for future work (1)



- With growing water scarcity, **determining water allocation**—represents a major challenge. In transboundary basins the challenge is even greater and the **political sensitivity high**.
- History shows transboundary allocation arrangements can work for the benefit of States involved, but only if **well designed, jointly agreed, adaptable and effectively implemented**.
- While allocating water in transboundary basins is **not a new practice**, the looming water crisis, accelerated social, economic and technological developments, and climate variability and change **call for new, flexible approaches in allocation**, in order to future-proof water management.



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3. Lessons learnt for future work (2)



- Handbook **addresses a significant and burgeoning interest** in the topic and will serve as a **valuable resource and modular guide** for those working on water allocation.
- Handbook, and the experiences it builds upon, **send a strong message** on the importance of **transboundary cooperation and of adaptability**.
- Handbook will **help build the capacity needed to address this complex issue** and contribute to the sustainable management of our transboundary waters.
- Further **activities and events to disseminate the Handbook and build capacity** on water allocation in a transboundary context are envisaged in collaboration with regions, basins and States where there is interest to learn more



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4. Suggested future work – Programme Area 3.3



1. A **global session/webinar** to promote the use of the Handbook and build capacity on water allocation.
2. **Broader capacity-building workshops or direct assistance** on a needs basis, tailored to the context and focusing on achieving outcomes via an integrated approach to transboundary water allocation.
 - At least **two regional workshops** and at least **one basin workshop** will be organized.
 - Activities will **incorporate relevant guidance documents, tools and resources** developed under the Convention, including on transboundary water allocation, the nexus approach, the benefits of transboundary cooperation and adaptation to climate change, as appropriate.
3. A **brief for policymakers** will be elaborated based on the main messages in the “Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context”. into French, Russian and Spanish and printed.

Lead Parties: Finland and Hungary.

Resource requirements for activity 3.3: \$401,500.



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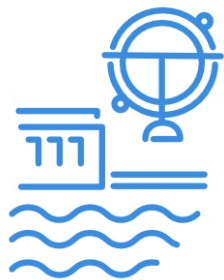
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Thank you



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For more information: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/water-allocation-transboundary-context>



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