



5. Water allocation in a transboundary context

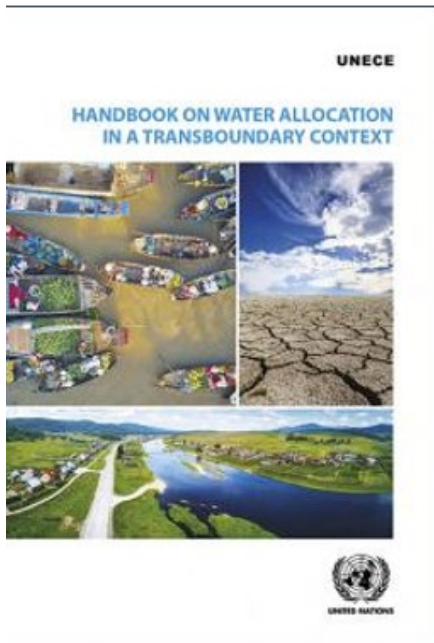
TIMELINE: Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context

2017: Organization of global workshop on water allocation

2019-2021 (LEAD PARTY: Hungary): Development of a Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context adopted at MOP9:

- Explains the phases, benefits and challenges of water allocation, supports governments in establishing water allocation arrangements.
- Contains 46 case studies highlighting key features of allocation and demonstrating their practical application in different transboundary water contexts around the world.
- Available at: <https://bit.ly/3rM3s4l>

2022-2024 (LEAD PARTY: FINLAND & Hungary): Organization of subregional and capacity-building events, Handbook documents



1. PoW 2019-2021: Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook



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.

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.

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

4. Programme of Work Area 3.3 (2022-2024)



Lead Parties: Finland and Hungary.

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.

4. Programme of Work Area 3.3 (2022-2024)



Activities Completed in 2022

- Handbook translated into Russian and disseminated at Central Asia regional workshop and sent to Russian language countries
 - *French and Spanish translations in process*
- 1 regional workshop (Central Asia)
 - *1 Regional workshop considered for Southern Africa in 2023 (TBC)*
 - *Basin assistance*
- Handbook distributed at Convention events/activities including National Workshops on the Water Convention in Uganda, Namibia, Zambia, Tanzania, Nigeria and at sub-national workshops in Zambia (Zambezi and Congo River Basins) and other meetings
- Brief for Policy makers drafted

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S Y K E



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Thank you



Secretariat: water.convention@un.org (staff responsible: Remy Kinna remy.kinna@un.org)



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



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