

18th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources  
Management (IWRM) under the Water Convention, 19-21 June 2023

# Agenda Item 8d

## Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context

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# 1. Main activities & achievements

## Regional Workshop

- Transboundary Water Allocation in Central Asia (Astana, 2–3 November 2022).
- Organised by Finland, Kazakhstan & IWAC, with Water Convention and SDC
- More than 45 participants, including officials from key ministries of the five Central Asian countries, as well as international and regional organizations
- Improved understanding and knowledge of criteria, mechanisms, tools and best practices for water allocation in transboundary basins, and broader cross-sectoral opportunities (WFEE nexus)
- Outcome document with a set of key conclusions

## Summary Handbook

- Contains the key information from the Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context (Handbook) adopted at MOP9
- Shorter and targeted practical resource for policy and decision-makers
- Includes new examples of models & systems for allocation planning
- Timely update given increasing prevalence of water scarcity, drought since Handbook was adopted and in line with ongoing global UN processes.



## Sharing water resources in Central Asia was discussed at a regional workshop

November 03, 2022

News > News of Kazakhstan



In Astana, at the Regional Seminar “International experience of transboundary water allocation and prospects for the development of cooperation on the joint use of water resources in Central Asia”, general approaches to the application of international experience in the distribution of water resources in transboundary basins and the development of cooperation on the joint use of water resources in Central Asia were discussed, transmits [ortcom.kz](http://ortcom.kz).

The workshop brought together more than 45 participants, including officials from key ministries of the five Central Asian countries, as well as international experts.





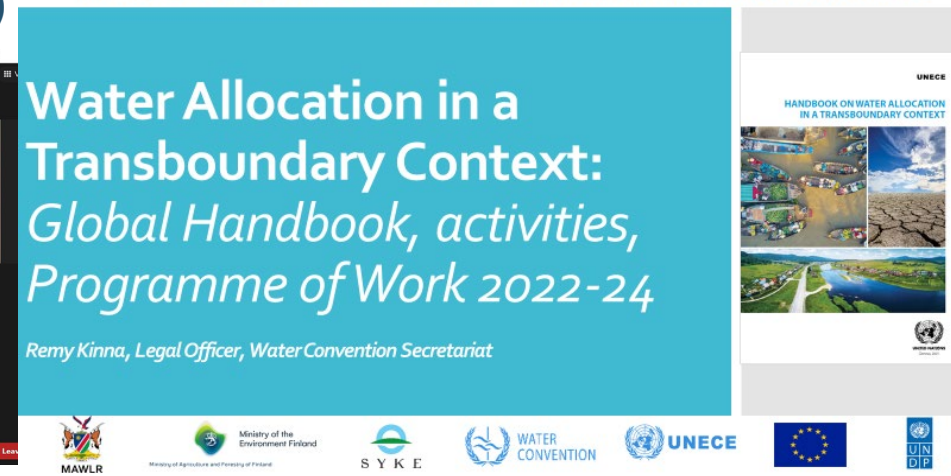
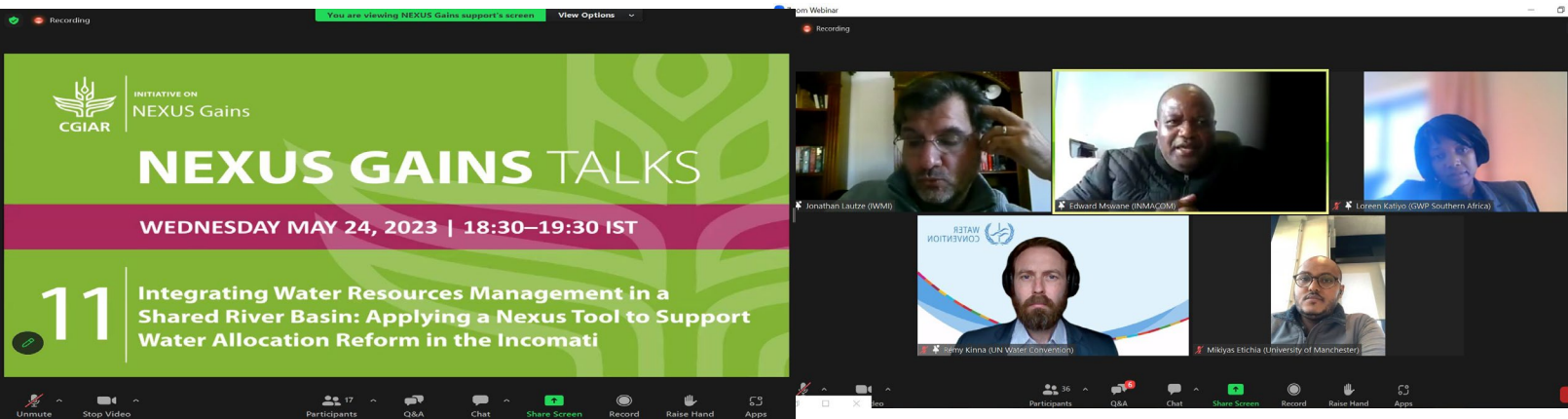
# 1. Activities & achievements (cont.)

Awareness raising, exchanges & synergies for practical application

- **National workshops:** Highlighting transboundary water allocation Programme of Work area and global Handbook in accession workshops ie **Zambia**, September 2022, **Tanzania**, December 2022
- **Capacity-building seminars:** Highlighting Handbook and its potential for practical use and application in current projects and programmes in transboundary basins ie **Cuvelai & Kunene basins** (Angola, Namibia) with UNDP, CUVECOM; **Incomati-Maputo** (Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe) with IWMI, CGIAR, INMACOM, University of Manchester
- **Exchanging experiences:** Supporting exchanges of experiences on Allocation ideas, tools, approaches: Twinning Project (**Namibia, Finland**)



WATER CONVENTION - TWINNING INITIATIVE



### 3. Challenges

- Topic remains a **highly sensitive topic in many regions**
- **Groundwater continues to be missing** from many transboundary allocation planning processes
- As water scarcity increases under pressures of climate change, **allocation will rise higher on the water and political agenda of countries**
- Water allocation, like transboundary cooperation, **relies on long-term trust and capacity-building.**

### 4. Planned future activities until MOP10

- A basin and/or regional workshop – welcome proposals for organising such workshops
- Continue to pursue opportunities for awareness raising, exchanges & exploring synergies for practical application
- Publish the *Summary Handbook* and translate into French, Russian and Spanish language versions.
- Translate *Handbook* into Spanish and French language versions

### Lessons learned



- Build capacity to **move beyond perceptions of allocation as fixed quantitative amounts.**
- Need to **highlight broader holistic approaches (such as IWRM, WFEE nexus)**
- **Groundwater needs to have increased visibility** for effective conjunctive management of surface and groundwater via allocation in basins.
- **New, exciting projects are piloting innovative systems, models** and emerging technologies; they should be monitored, **showcased and supported where possible**
- **Exchanges of experiences vital to build trust and capacity**

# 5. Partners



KÜLGAZDASÁGI ÉS  
KÜLÜGYMINISZTERIUM



Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland

Ministry of the  
Environment Finland



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

**Federal Office for the Environment FOEN**



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**IWAC**

INTERNATIONAL WATER  
ASSESSMENT CENTRE



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DELFT**



**OECD**



# Thank you!



WEB

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RESOURCES

<https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/handbook-water-allocation-transboundary-context>

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



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