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.
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 I.W.M.I., CGIAR, INMACOM, University of Manchester

- **Exchanging experiences:** Supporting exchanges of experiences on Allocation ideas, tools, approaches: Twinning Project (Namibia, Finland)
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

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Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland

Swiss Confederation
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederazione svizra

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

SYKE

UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND

International Water Assessment Centre

UNESCO

IHE DELFT

OECD
Thank you!

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RESOURCES