



Global Workshop
on Droughts in Transboundary Basins
26-27 February 2024, Geneva



Transboundary water allocation: Convention's Programme of Work Area 3.3 & Launch of the Summary Handbook

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Activities under Programme of Work 2022-2024

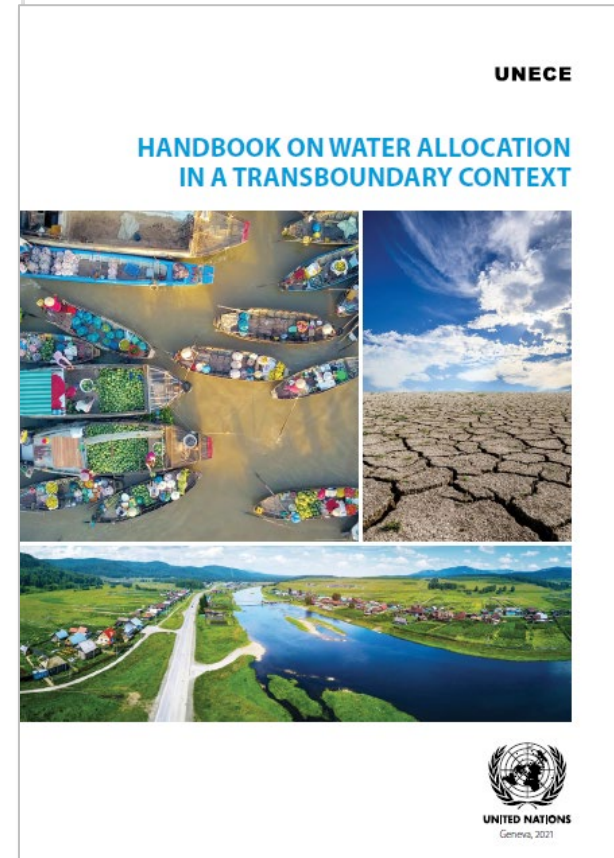
CO-LEAD PARTIES: Finland & Hungary

Broader capacity-building workshops or direct assistance on a needs basis, tailored to the context and focusing on achieving outcomes.


- Regional workshops: Central Asia, Nov 2022, Southern Africa Apr 2024
- With use of 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.
 - Twinning Initiatives (Finland-Namibia / Hungary-Ghana-Zambia)
 - Webinars (CGIAR Nexus Gains with IWMI, INMACOM & partners)
 - Handbook is listed literature for University Course on Allocation

A Summary Guide for policymakers based on Global Handbook

- "Summary Handbook"



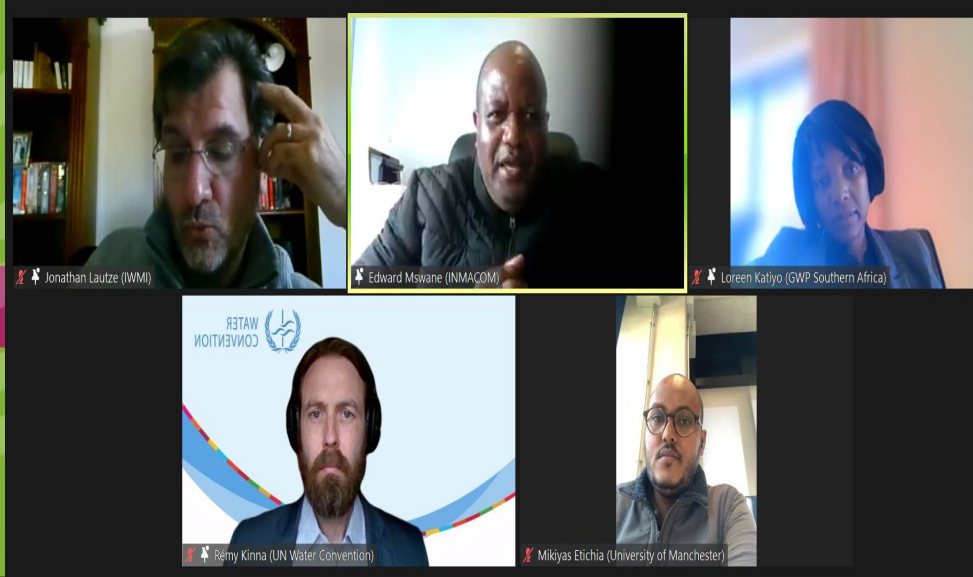
Capacity-building & awareness raising activities



NEXUS GAINS TALKS


WEDNESDAY MAY 24, 2023 | 18:30–19:30 IST

11 Integrating Water Resources Management in a Shared River Basin: Applying a Nexus Tool to Support Water Allocation Reform in the Incomati



Namibia transboundary water allocation cases

- Kunene River
 - 1969 Agreement –
 - 4.1.11 By virtue of South Africa's contribution towards the cost of the Gove dam, in terms of Article 4.1.3, Portugal agrees not to abstract more than 50% of the resulting regulated flow of the river which, for the purpose of this Agreement, shall be taken as 80 cubic metres per second at Basings, subject to adjustment when the agreed hydrological analyses referred to in Article 5.3 become available.
 - 4.2.2 The quantity of water to be abstracted by means of the pumping scheme during any one week, shall be limited to one half of the natural flow of the river at the point of abstraction during that week, subject to a maximum pumping rate of 6 cubic metres per second.




UNECE
HANDBOOK ON WATER ALLOCATION
IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT
UNITED NATIONS
Geneva, 2021

Background & Rationale for Handbook

BACKGROUND

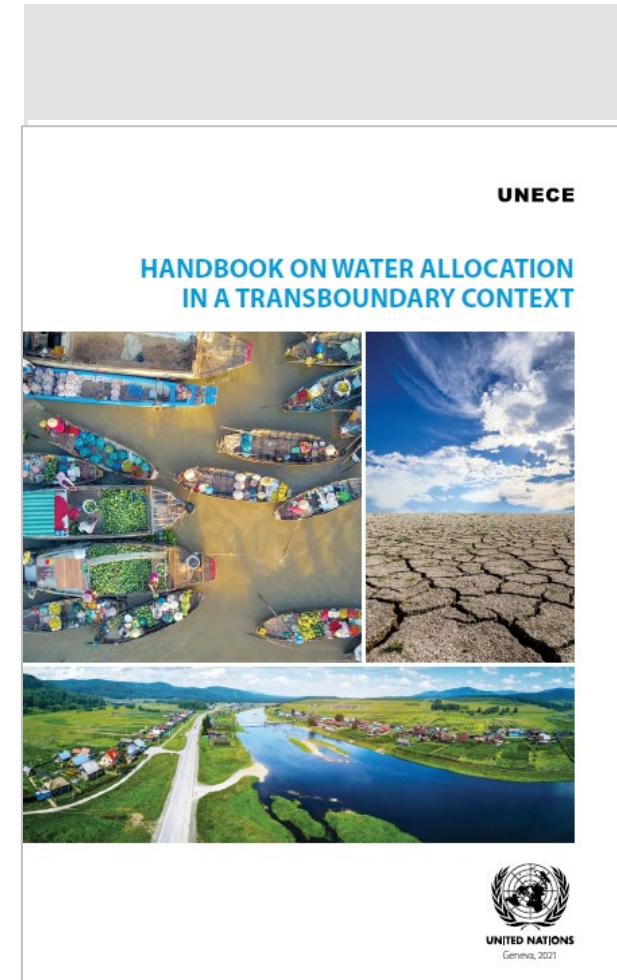
- Transboundary allocation arrangements can work for the benefit of States involved, when **well designed, jointly agreed, adaptable and effectively implemented**.
- Growing water scarcity => **need for new, flexible approaches in allocation**.

PURPOSE & CONTENT

- Aim = **practical guide, overview of the key elements, frameworks and modalities**
- A **compendium style Handbook**, covering the **major topics**
- **46 exemplar case studies**
- First **global overview of water allocation agreements in transboundary waters**

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESS & ROLE OF EXPERT GROUP

- Intergovernmental process = Participation of >100 countries, 70 international organizations, 20 river basin organizations = Adopted at MOP 9 in 2021
- **>50 experts** selected for expertise, regions & diversity => **balanced composition**
- Provide general technical oversight, advice & inputs on structure & content



Handbook: Modular Structure & Contents

MAIN MESSAGES

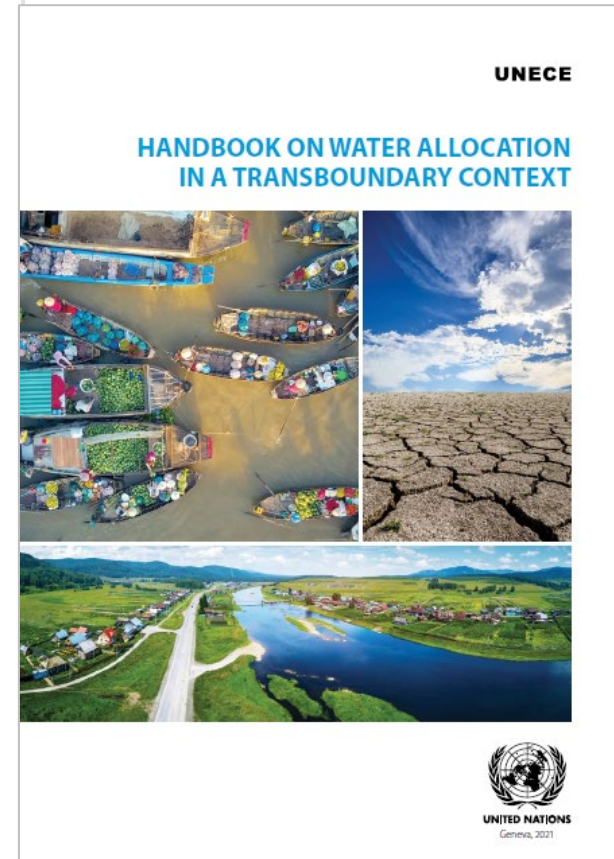
PART 1 – FOUNDATIONS

- Chapter I: Introduction to Transboundary Water Allocation and the Global Handbook
- Chapter II: Definitions, Objectives and Components of Transboundary Water Allocation
- Chapter III: Issues Water Allocation Can Address
- Chapter IV: Limitations to Water Allocation and its Linkages with Broader Approaches

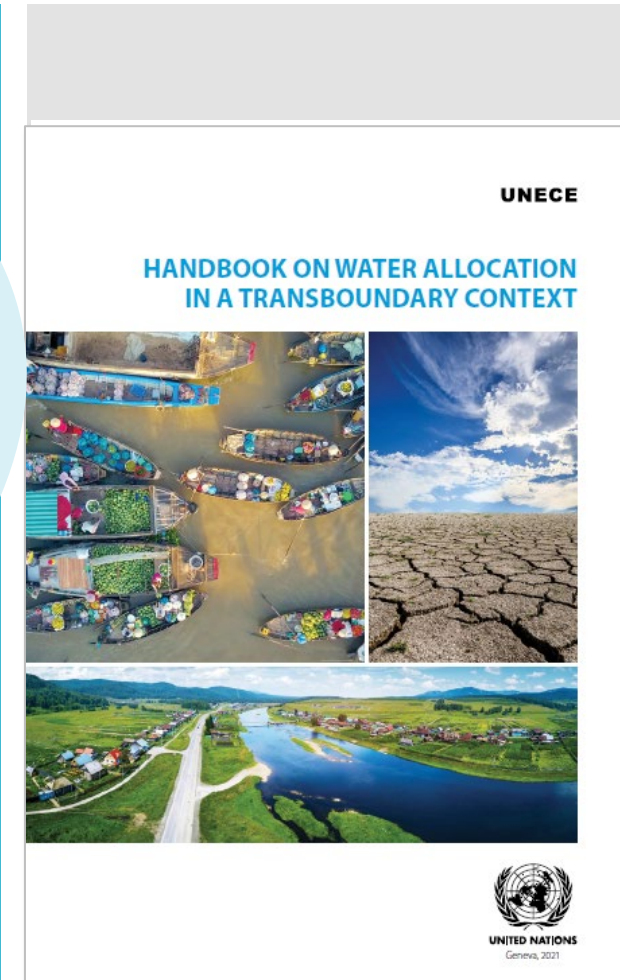
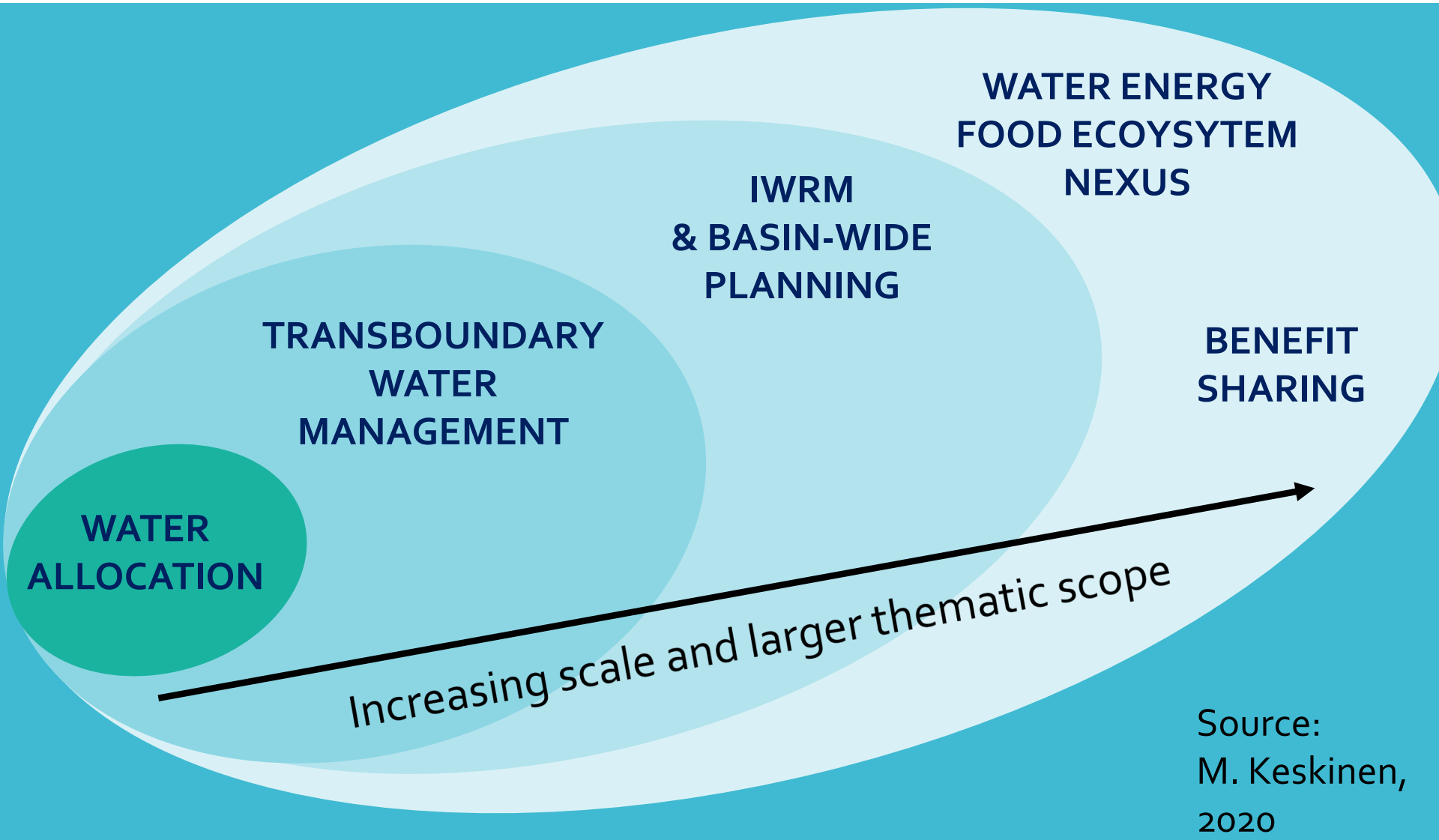
PART 2 – OPERATIONALIZING

- Chapter V: Objectives of Water Management and Related Principles of International Law to Guide Transboundary Water Allocation
- Chapter VI: Cooperative Frameworks for Transboundary Water Allocation
- Chapter VII: Knowledge Base for Transboundary Water Allocation
- Chapter VIII: Operationalizing Transboundary Water Allocation: Processes, Mechanisms and Examples

ANNEX: Typology of Transboundary Water Allocation

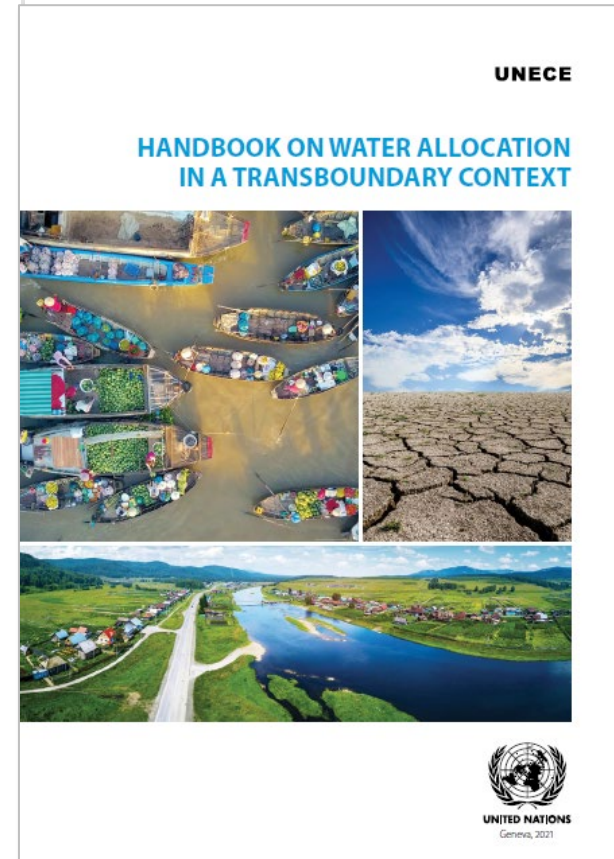


Complementary Approaches to Consider



Handbook: Lessons learned for ongoing work

- 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 = Unique, comprehensive reference tool for adapting to each context
- 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



Complemented by Central Asia Regional Process

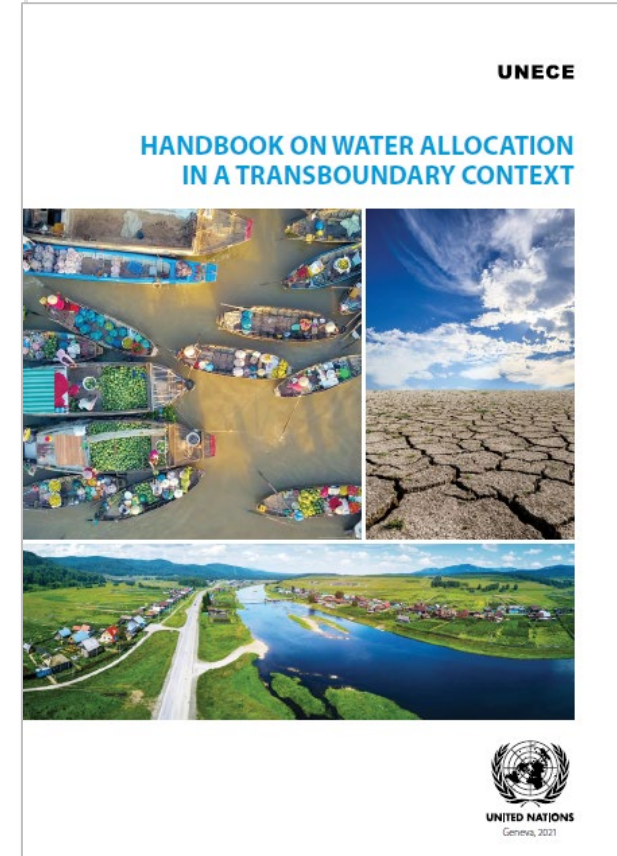
In Central Asia, a parallel regional process was coordinated by the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) in Kazakhstan:

- “Technical meeting of experts on water allocation and environmental flow assessment in the transboundary context” on 12–13 December 2019 in Astana
- Virtual “Regional meeting on water allocation and environmental flow assessment in a transboundary context” on 22–23 September 2020
- Virtual “Technical Meeting of Experts on Water Allocation and Environmental Flow Assessment in the Transboundary Context” on 15 May 2020

=> Identified good regional practices and approaches that can assist Central Asian and neighbouring countries in the development of equitable and sustainable transboundary allocation mechanisms.

⇒ Key outcomes of the IWAC regional process for Central Asia, including a report detailing lessons learned and main recommendations, informed the development of the Handbook along with selected case studies from the region.

⇒ **Central Asia regional workshop in November 2022, co-organized by IWAC, Finland, Switzerland, Water Convention**



Summary Handbook: timely, shorter, updated

A timely update to the Handbook given the increasing prevalence of water scarcity and drought since the Handbook was adopted at MOP9

A shorter, targeted practical resource for policy / decision-makers featuring snapshot of key elements, frameworks, modalities to consider

Reference to full Handbook Case studies from different continents, regions, basins are noted under relevant sections for further reading.

New case studies highlighting emerging initiatives and practices

- **CENTRAL ASIA:** The WE-ACT project: a climate sensitive decision support system for water allocation in the Naryn and Kara Darya catchments of the Syr Darya river basin
- **SOUTHERN AFRICA:** Transboundary water allocation modelling & strategy in the revised INCOMAPTO Agreement – the CGIAR NEXUS Gains Initiative



Thank you



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



Twitter: [@UNECE_Water](https://twitter.com/UNECE_Water)



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