Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook
2nd Expert Group Meeting
30-31 May 2020

Presenter:
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Thematic Group Discussion:
Environmental Flows
**SLIDE 1: Key reactions on current content of this thematic element of transboundary water allocation**

- What are the most important aspects of this thematic element to include in the Handbook?
  - Ecosystems **not** a competing sector – more a foundation for, and a litmus test of, sustainable allocation and river system-wide health
  - Quantity, quality, timing of flow regime is “the master variable” that underpins ecosystem health
  - Intrinsic links to WQ, vital to downstream water users, freshwater fisheries, sediment transport
  - Myths – e-flows not only for environment, not only “minimum” flow

- Where would you highlight this thematic element within the different Chapters and how?
  - Already a running theme – good
  - Issues & challenges (II) – understanding e-flows, impacts of lack of flows
  - Principles (III) – e-flow definitions, myth-busting
  - Knowledge base (IV) – e-flows assessment, incl. socio-economic aspects
  - Operationalisation (IV) – e-flow implementation measures at multiple scales, focus on common barriers & enabling conditions
• Some case studies have been identified as relevant to this thematic element.
  • Not many case studies currently highlights e-flows – Okavango, Prypyat, Samur...?
  • Other potential examples:
    • Speed et al 2013 (“the ADB handbook”) – trans-jurisdictional water allocation case studies: Colorado, Indus, Yellow, Lerma-Chapala, Inkomati, Murray-Darling
    • Other possible case studies of “success” or “failure”: Mara, Mekong, Orange-Senqu, Reventazon...
    • Case studies of tools such as: pareto-optimal scenario assessment, e.g. Myanmar dam options; system-scale dam planning, e.g. Penobscot river, US
    • Wider lessons from multiple case studies in:
      • Barriers to implementation – *The Implementation Challenge* (WWF & TNC, 2010) [https://tinyurl.com/ruljtbl](https://tinyurl.com/ruljtbl)
      • Successes/enabling factors – *Listen to the River* (WWF, 2017) [https://tinyurl.com/skopflp](https://tinyurl.com/skopflp)
Common truths to effective e-flow implementation

Source: WWF, 2017, *Listen to the River*