

Highlights

Our vision for the Handbook is to:

*Create an **accessible reference** for those seeking negotiated resolutions to water conflicts and dialogue opportunities at the transnational, subnational, and community scale.*

In the spirit of improving the accessibility of the Handbook, there are several highlights from the meeting:

- We have a **commitment from a sponsor to make the book open access**.
- We are opening a call for **honorariums** for select authors who, if awarded, have the choice between 10,000 SEK (~\$980 USD) or registration for the 2022 or 2023 World Water Week. (Deadline June 28th, 2022)
- We will be adding an **annotated glossary** and an **annotated atlas** that will create better connections between common terms and locations referenced by the chapters in the Handbook.

Meeting Outline

- We held our June meeting at 1 PM GMT on June 15th, 2022.
- There were 24 contributors in attendance.
- We began the meeting with some administrative updates on open access, honorariums, and peer review.
- We then went into breakout rooms to network and discuss the following questions:
 - How is the process going so far?
 - Any concerns with the proposed review process?
 - Ideas for future community meetings and direction for the group?
- We then closed with some feedback from the breakout room discussions.

Open Access Updates

We have a commitment to make the book open access under Routledge's "gold" open access model.

This means:

- the book will be freely available online (the hardcover book will still be available for the original price)
- you will retain the copyright to your work
- the previous agreements you signed will be voided (there may be alternative paperwork to come – we need to coordinate with the publisher to find out what that looks like)

Thank you to everyone who played a role in making this open access commitment possible, as well as to those who have shown patience with us as we explored different avenues to make this happen.

Honorariums

The editors, in collaboration with the International Centre for Water Cooperation, hosted by SIWI, are presenting a call for applications for honorariums for eligible authors.

Award: Choice of 10,000 SEK (~\$980 USD) or full registration to the 2022 or 2023 World Water Week

Eligibility:

- Authors with primary affiliations based in countries defined by the World Bank as ‘Low-Income Economies’ or ‘Lower-Middle-Income Economies.’
- Students without full-time employment relevant to the field.
- Authors from countries defined by the World Bank as ‘Low-Income Economies’ or ‘Lower-Middle-Income Economies’ without full-time employment.

Deadline: June 28th, 2022

Official details can be found here:

https://waterdiplomacyhandbook.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Handbook_Honorarium_Call_June2022.pdf

Peer Review

Goal

The goal of peer review is not to evaluate whether the chapter is “worthy of publication” but to help authors sharpen their presentation to improve clarity, accessibility, and connection to other ideas raised throughout the Handbook.

Timing

Given the varying timing needs created by extensions, we will be abandoning the fixed timeline we have previously posted and will be moving to a “rolling” peer review process.

- As an advantage, abandoning this fixed schedule will allow us to work more easily around holiday months.
- As a downside, feedback will probably be slower as we need to be reactive to incoming chapters and will need to recruit peer reviewers on-the-fly.
- You can expect feedback **8-10 weeks after your draft is submitted.**

How many reviews?

Ideally, each chapter gets two reviews:

- one from a person with similar professional expertise or familiarity with the topic
- one from a person with different professional expertise or who is not familiar with the topic
 - this review is aimed at improving the accessibility of your chapter to a broader audience

Who are the reviewers?

- Reviewers will primarily be other contributors to the Handbook.
- You may be asked to review a chapter, but you won’t be asked to review more than one chapter
- We will be seeking some reviewers from outside the Handbook to accommodate the new timeline.

What is the format?

- Reviews will be “single-blind.”
 - authors’ names will be visible; reviewers can share their names if they want to
- Recommended format for feedback:
 - A brief summary of the main points/goals of the chapter
 - Comment on title and abstract
 - List overall strengths
 - List recommendations for improvement
 - Provide specific comments in the document

Closing Discussion

During the closing discussion, contributors reflected on their conversations in the breakout rooms and shared other ideas.

Timing Guidance

- There was a **question regarding the deadline for drafts** – given that the original deadline has passed.
- The editors replied that we will handle extensions on a case-by-case basis according to needs so that we can remain as flexible as possible while not pushing all chapters off for an extended period.

Guidance for Case Study Structure

- There was a request that the editors provide more guidance on the structure for case studies so that they are more consistent.
- The editors raised the point that there had been a meeting of some case study authors a few months ago on this point.
 - The presentation from that meeting can be found here: <https://waterdiplomacyhandbook.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2022.03.10-Water-Diplomacy-Handbook-Case-Study-Meeting.pdf>
 - The conclusion from that meeting was not to impose any formal structure on the case studies but rather to have each case study make an explicit connection to one or more elements (themes or concepts) from the book.
- If you still feel you need more guidance to help you structure a case study, please contact an editor, and we will work with you directly.

Summary Questions & Lessons Learned

- There was a proposal to have summary questions at the end of each chapter that the reader should be able to (better) answer after they are done reading the chapter.
 - The editors will follow up on this suggestion and do a bit of research to see if there are examples where this has been done well in similar texts.
- There was a suggestion that case studies should have a clear summary of lessons learned.
 - The editors will follow up on this suggestion and consider the possibility of adding call-out boxes to each of the case studies that highlight the main findings.

Annotated Atlas and Annotated Glossary

- There was a question raised about how much background should be given for cases of water conflicts referenced in conceptual chapters.
- There was a suggestion that an **“annotated atlas”** could help here by providing basic background on all the water conflicts mentioned in the various chapters.
 - The annotated atlas would allow for better cross-referencing between the chapters and reduce the amount of background authors need to provide in the conceptual chapters when referencing conflicts.
 - The editors will pursue this suggestion and have already received some suggestions for potential authors.
- Rather than attempt a “top-down” approach to specifying definitions for key terms up front, we have also found contributors who will put together an **“annotated glossary”** that will clarify how terms are used (with potentially conflicting meanings) throughout the various chapters.