Cross-cutting topic Water Footprint

Markus Berger, Jazmin Campos, Mauro Carolli, Ianna Dantas, Silvia Forin, Ervin Kosatica, Annika Kramer, Natalia Mikosch, Hamideh Nouri, Anna Schlattmann, Falk Schmidt, Anna Schomberg, Elsa Semmling

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Background

- Seven GRoW projects are related to water footprinting

- Workshops to exchange and identify topics that could be worked on jointly:

  – Integration of social and economic aspects in water footprinting

  – Linking ground- and surface water models

  – Modelling aquifer depletion

  – Consideration of water quality aspects and water pollution

  – Allocation of water resources to different users in a basin

  – Virtual water trade: How can trade influence local water stress

- Worked together and developed common recommendations
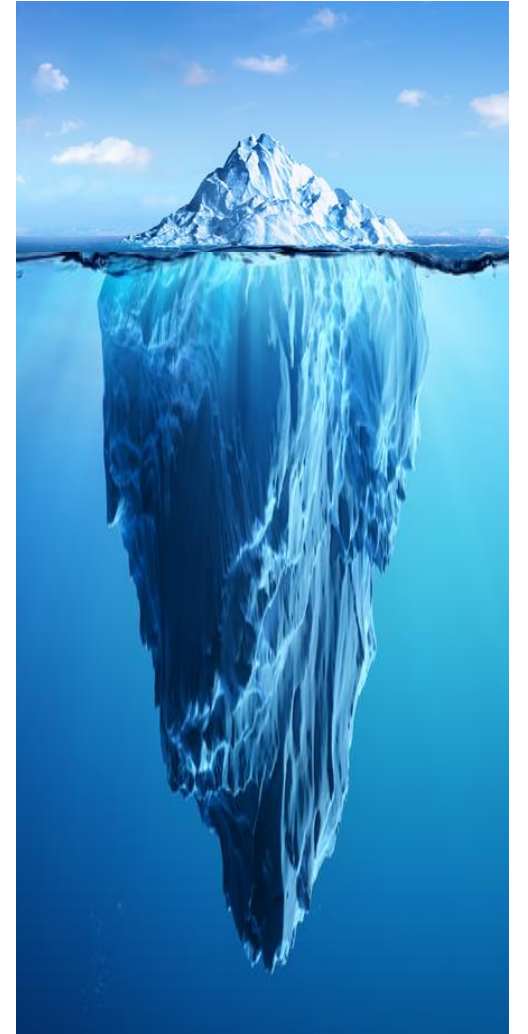
Three take-home messages

1. Take a holistic perspective on the water footprint: Also impacts of water use need to be assessed in addition to liters of water consumed and polluted

10.200 L/kg

125 L/kg
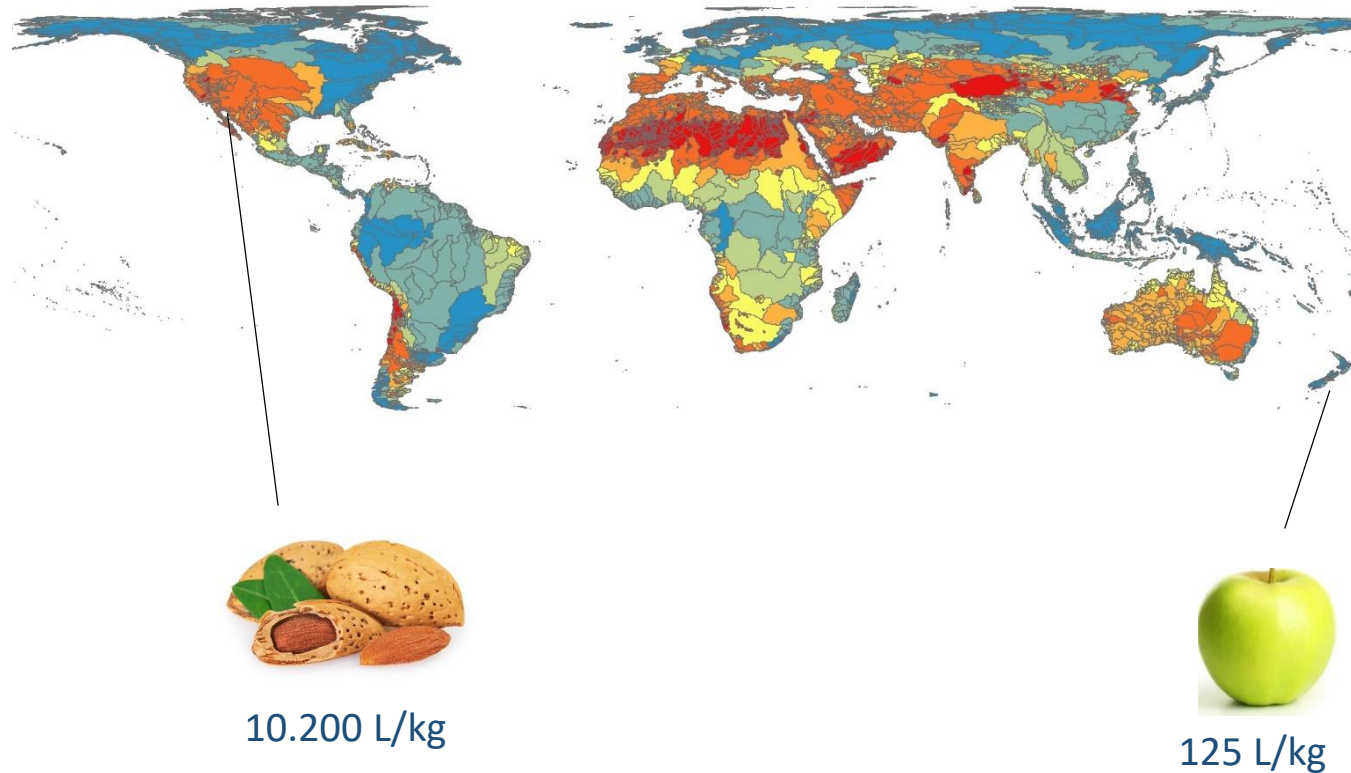
Three take-home messages

2. Make use of the water footprint to identify where efforts in more sustainable water use are most efficient

   For private companies as well as for governments, it might be environmentally more beneficial and often economically more efficient to invest in water use efficiency measures at suppliers or in exporting countries which face high water stress rather than focusing on production-site or domestic measures only.

Image: Rfischia | Dreamstime.com

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Three take-home messages

3. Analyze virtual water flows and resulting impacts to identify hotspots, associated with consumption and production, and develop policy measures, e.g.:

- Providing incentives for more efficient water use

- Steering specific technical development assistance

Policy measures based on virtual water trade analysis should consider local circumstances to prevent negative social and economic trade-offs, such as, reduced income or unemployment.
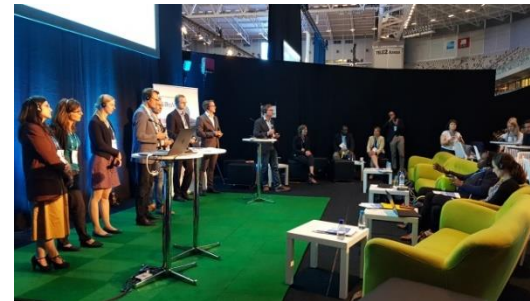
Deliverables

Policy Brief

Journal publication in review at
Water Resource Management

Event at SWWW 2019

https://www.worldwaterweek.org/event/
8523-supporting-sdg6-by-advancing-the-
water-footprint-tool

Online Tool

https://wf-tools.see.tu-berlin.de/wf-
tools/waterfootprint-toolbox/

Thanks a lot for your attention!