An Initiative of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research

GRoW

WATER AS A GLOBAL RESOURCE

Water Footprint and its potential to support achieving the SDGs

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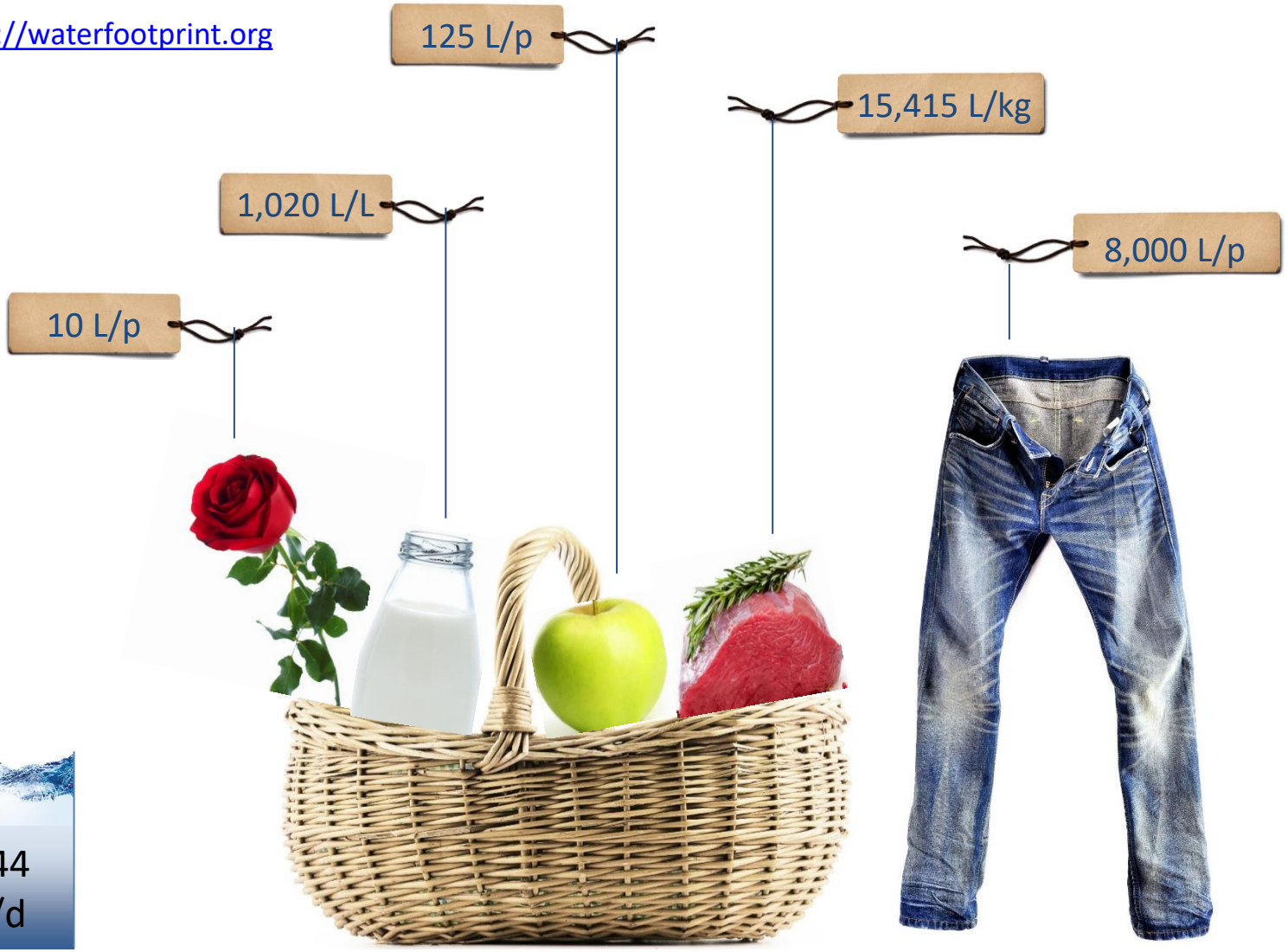
GEFÖRDERT VOM

Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

FONA Forschung für Nachhaltige Entwicklung BMBF

How much water do we need every day?

https://waterfootprint.org

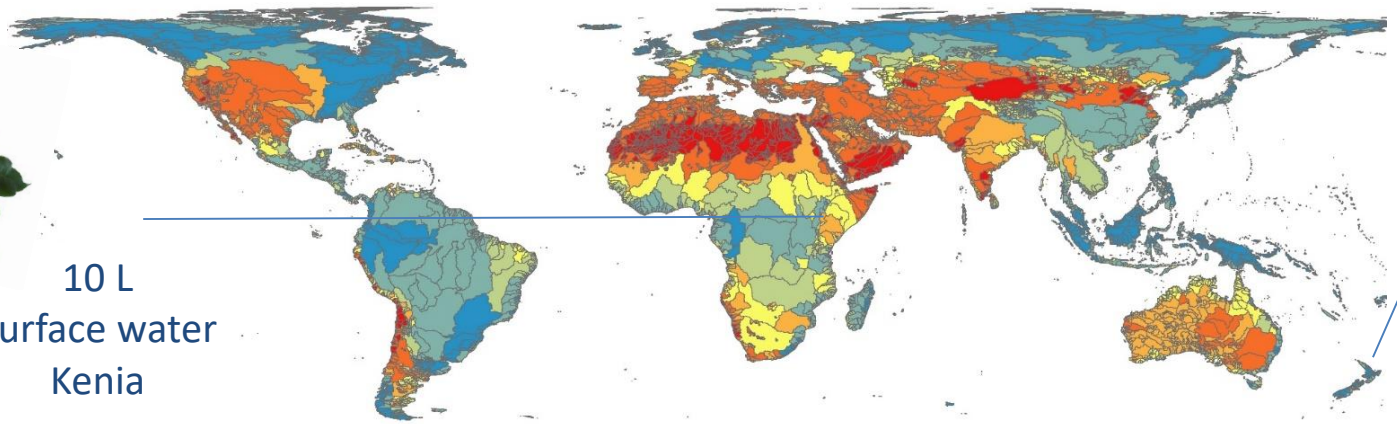


144 L/d

~2.000 L/d

Is that a problem? From liters to impacts...

10 L
Surface water
Kenia



125 L
Rain water
New Zealand

"A water footprint assessment addresses the **potential environmental impacts** related to water associated with a product, process or organization."

The water footprint toolbox

Tools enabling:

Awareness raising, labelling & communication

Software-tools supporting stakeholders in analyzing & reducing water footprints

Methods analyzing:

Volumes of freshwater use

Impacts on water resources

Impacts on humans

Impacts on ecosystem

Opportunities for achieving SDGs - Policy

- Analysis of virtual water trade between nations to explore:
  - → Dependency on external water resources
  - → Support for exporting countries

- On a national/regional level, the WF can guide sectoral policies and planning
- The WF can identify trade-offs in the water, energy and food security nexus
- On a local level, the WF can support increasing water use efficiency

Opportunities for achieving SDGs - Producers

- WF can support producers in analyzing water use along supply chains and to develop mitigation measures:

→ Design products in a way which reduces indirect water use

→ Support sustainable procurement to purchase water efficient materials/intermediates

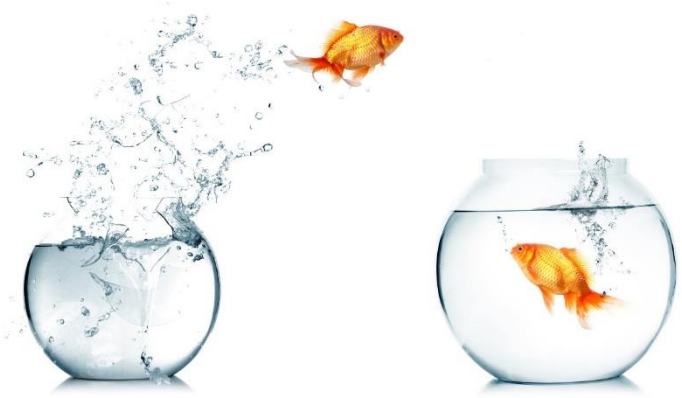
→ Broaden corporate environmental strategies:

- Save water at local hotspots in global supply chains
- Take collective actions in sensitive basins, via water stewardship

Methodological and practical challenges

- Even though several methods considering the impacts of water use have been developed, most WF studies stay on a volumetric level
- Both WF method development and case studies often neglect green water (especially relevant for agriculture) and water quality aspects
- Comparing and linking assessments conducted at different scales
- Studies analyzing virtual water trade are often followed by narrowly focused recommendations (shift trade, taxes, etc.)

⇨ Challenges addressed in GROW projects



Thank you and enjoy the conference!

InoCotton GROW

MuDak-WRM

WANDEL
Wasserressourcen Energiewende als bedeutsame Faktoren der auf lokaler und globaler Ebene

STEER

MedWater

trust

go-CAM

ViWA
Virtual Water Values

Globe Drought

iWaGSS

SaWaM

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