



WATER
RESEARCH
COMMISSION



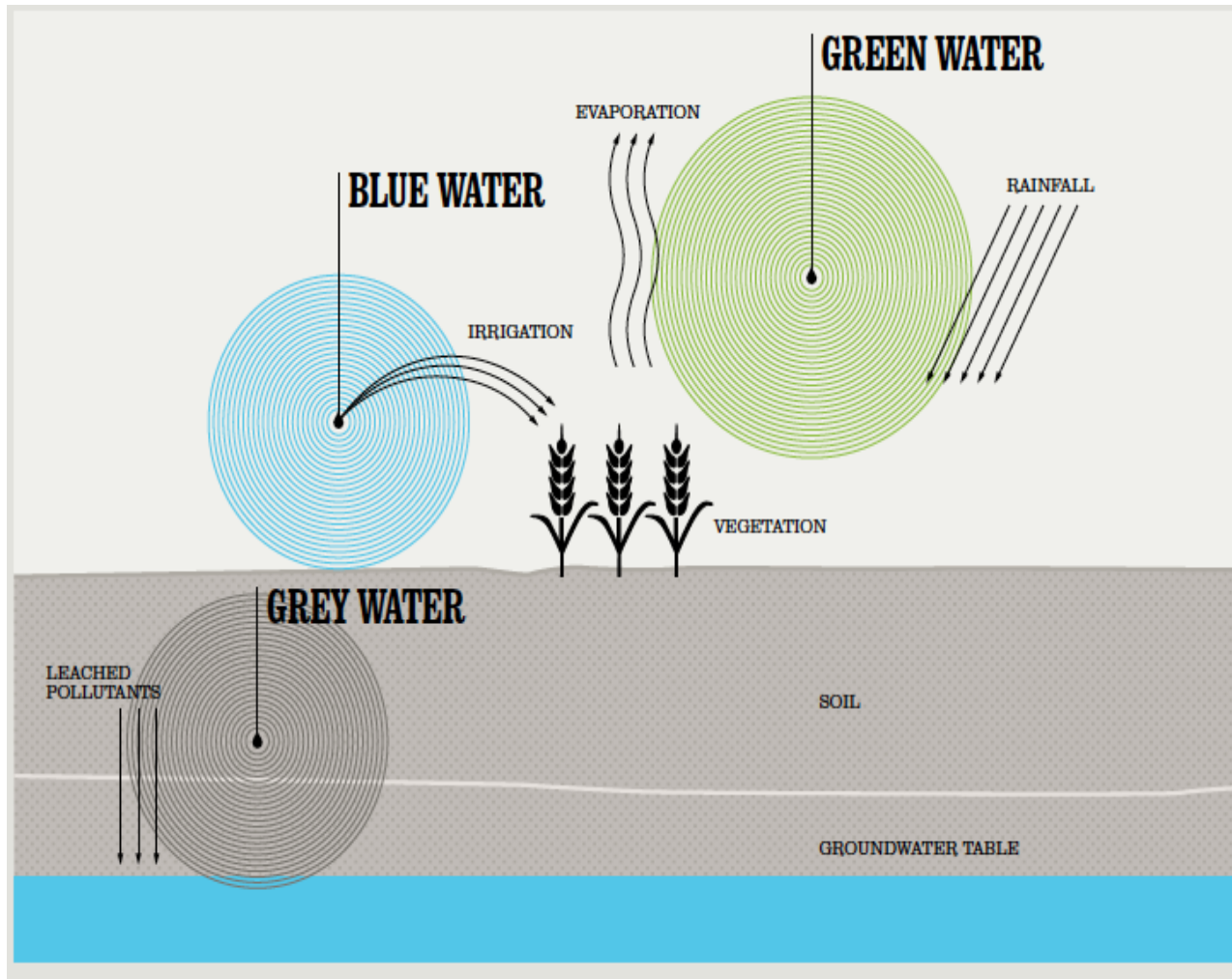
Water Footprints in Industry

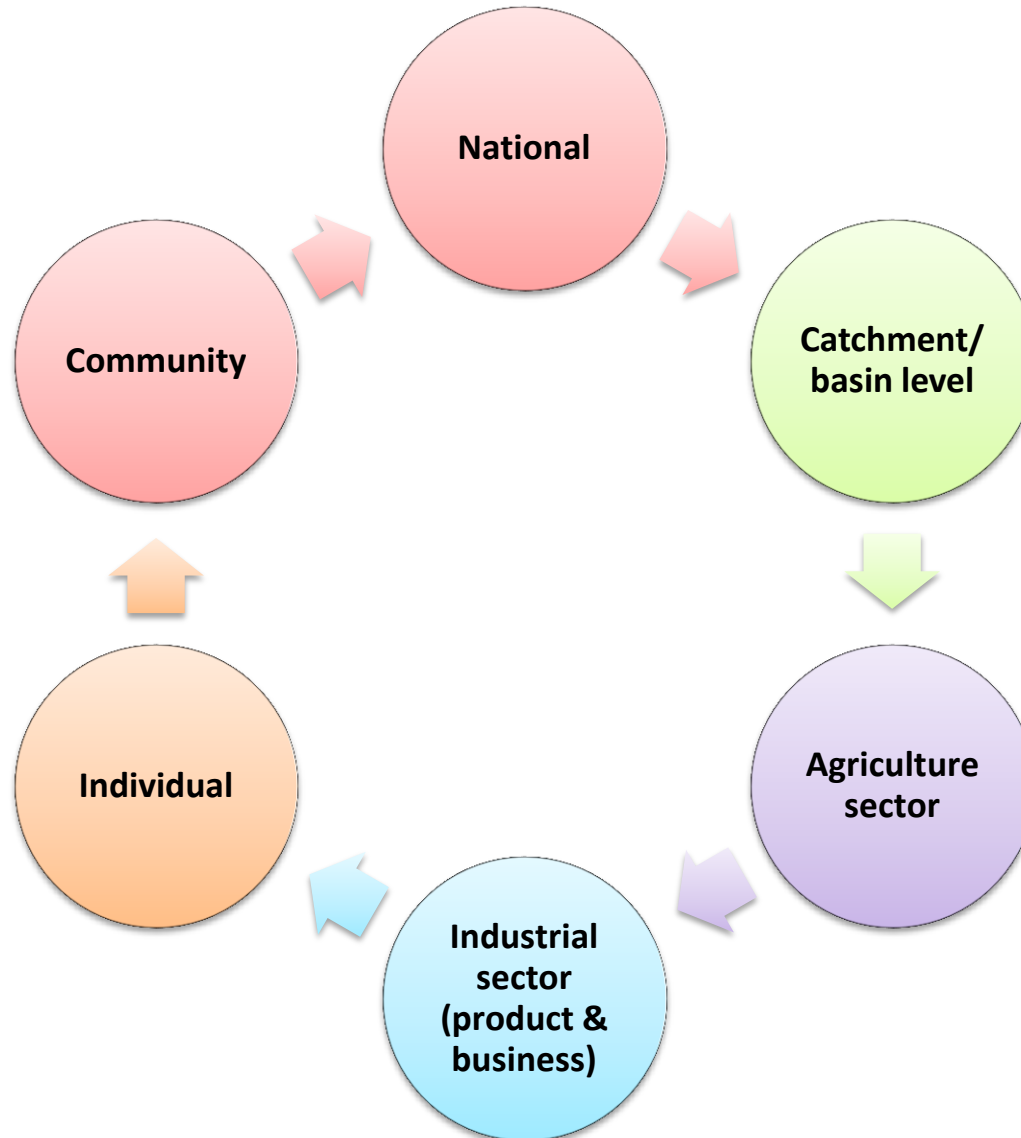
Valerie Naidoo

Water Research Commission

28th June 2013

Welcome





Why take an exploratory approach?

Virtual Water –
volume of water required
throughout the supply
chain to produce a good,
focus on trade

Water Footprint –
freshwater required in supply
chain to make a product,
distinguishing blue, green, grey,
potential for environ. impacts &
trade



LCA –
“cradle-to-grave”
investigation of
environmental
impacts

Ecological Footprint –
land required to supply resources
for and absorb waste resulting
from consumption, focus on
environmental impacts

Carbon Footprint – carbon
emitted in making a product
throughout the supply chain,
focus on environmental impacts



KSA 3 (Water Use and Waste Management)

- Water Footprints for Urban sector
 - **GWRC**
- Water Footprints for industry

KSA 4 (Water and Agriculture)

- Water Footprints in agriculture



WF for Urban Water Sector – Research Products

- 💧 Framework
- 💧 Research Strategy
- 💧 Summary of WF in Urban Water Sector
- 💧 WF Tools



**Global Water
Research Coalition**

WRC Current Project : Water Footprints in Industry

- 💧 Exploratory Study: Understand how to use water footprints in the water sector
 - 💧 Select and complete case studies
- 💧 Explore how to use water footprint as part of water-energy assessment (addressing questions of trade-offs)
- 💧 Explore how to position water offsetting within the context of responses, water risk, policy and how water footprints may contribute.



Expected Products from the Research

- 💧 WF: Case studies
- 💧 Draft Guide on WF (based on case studies)
- 💧 Review: Policy, legal and institutional environment
- 💧 Water offsetting/neutrality (regulatory)



WF has the potential for initiating and developing robust discussions on water and sustainability amongst industries, regulators, researchers, and communities

Objectives of Dialogues

- 💧 **Build understanding on the current global discourse on the application of water footprints**
- 💧 **The application water footprint by some key sectors in South Africa and the lessons that can be drawn from the current understanding;**
- 💧 **The implications of water footprint assessment as a water management tool.**
- 💧 **To share with the South African water sector the global trends and lessons on water footprint application and the policy and regulatory challenges and opportunities for the various stakeholders.**



Thank you



Panel Discussion

In your perspective, what contribution can Water Footprints provide in terms of:

- managing corporate risk and informing corporate strategy;*
- supporting corporate disclosure; and/or*
- enabling implementation and improved water management?*

