

Water Footprint Assessment

Ruth Mathews

Executive Director – Water Footprint Network

UN Global Compact CEO Water Mandate

Copenhagen, Denmark

16 May 2011



www.waterfootprint.org

Water Footprint
NETWORK



Water footprint – new contribution to companies water consumed vs. water withdrawn

The '**water footprint**' is a measure of human's appropriation of freshwater resources, measured in volumes of water consumed.

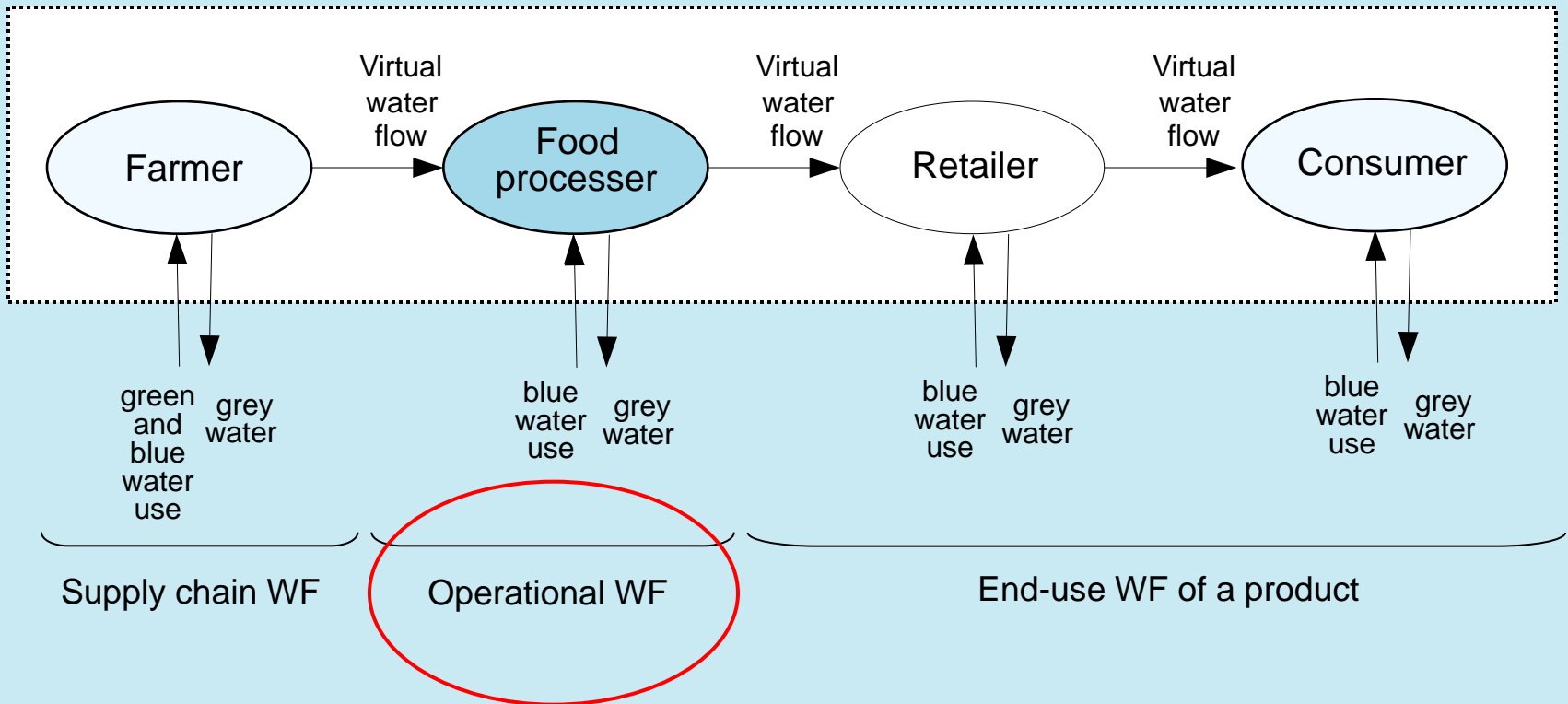
Green WF = vol. of rainwater consumed

Blue WF = vol. of surface or groundwater consumed

Grey WF = vol. of assimilation capacity consumed



Water footprint – new contribution to companies direct and indirect water use



The traditional statistics
on corporate water use



Water footprint – new contribution to companies sustainability assessment & prioritized responses

Phase 1

Phase 2

Phase 3

Phase 4

Setting goals
and scope

Water footprint
accounting

Water footprint
sustainability
assessment

Water footprint
response
formulation



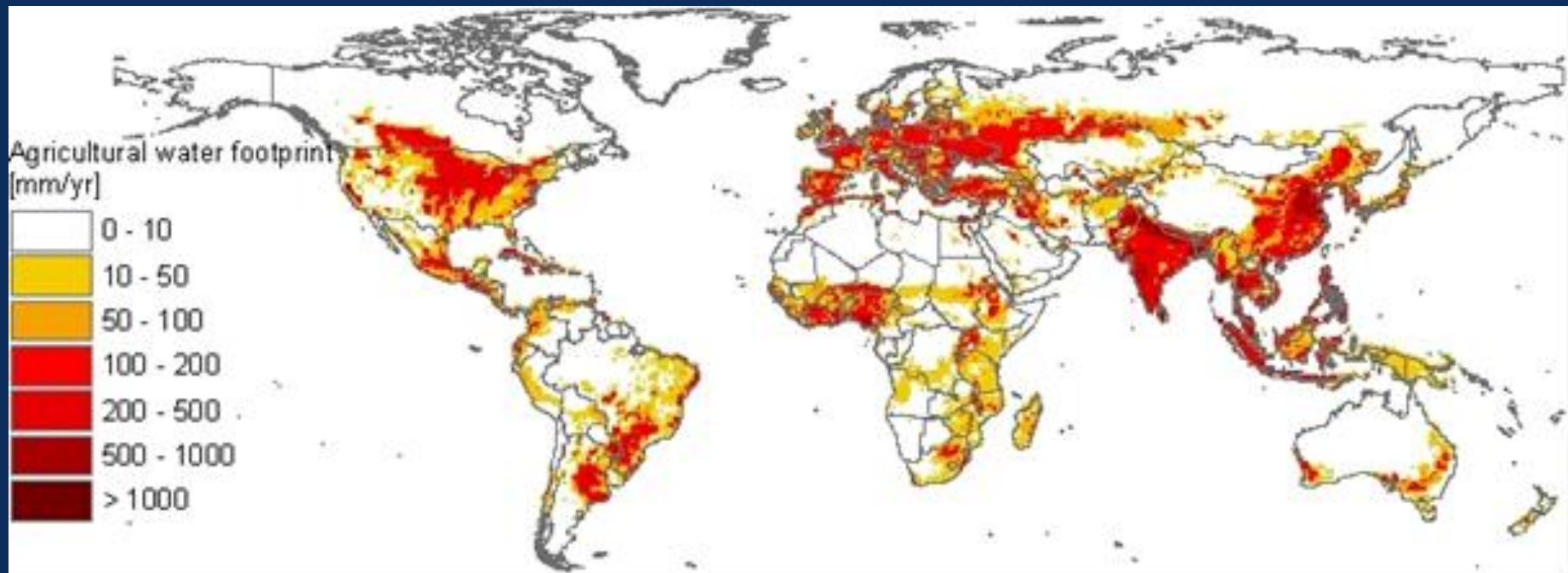
Water Footprint Assessment Tool

- Web-based tool facilitating access to global water footprint data
- Green, blue, grey & total water footprint
- 126 crops and their derived products
- Farm animals and their derived products
- Industrial and domestic water use
- 5 x 5 arc minute grid scale
- 400 river basins and nations



Water Footprint Assessment Tool

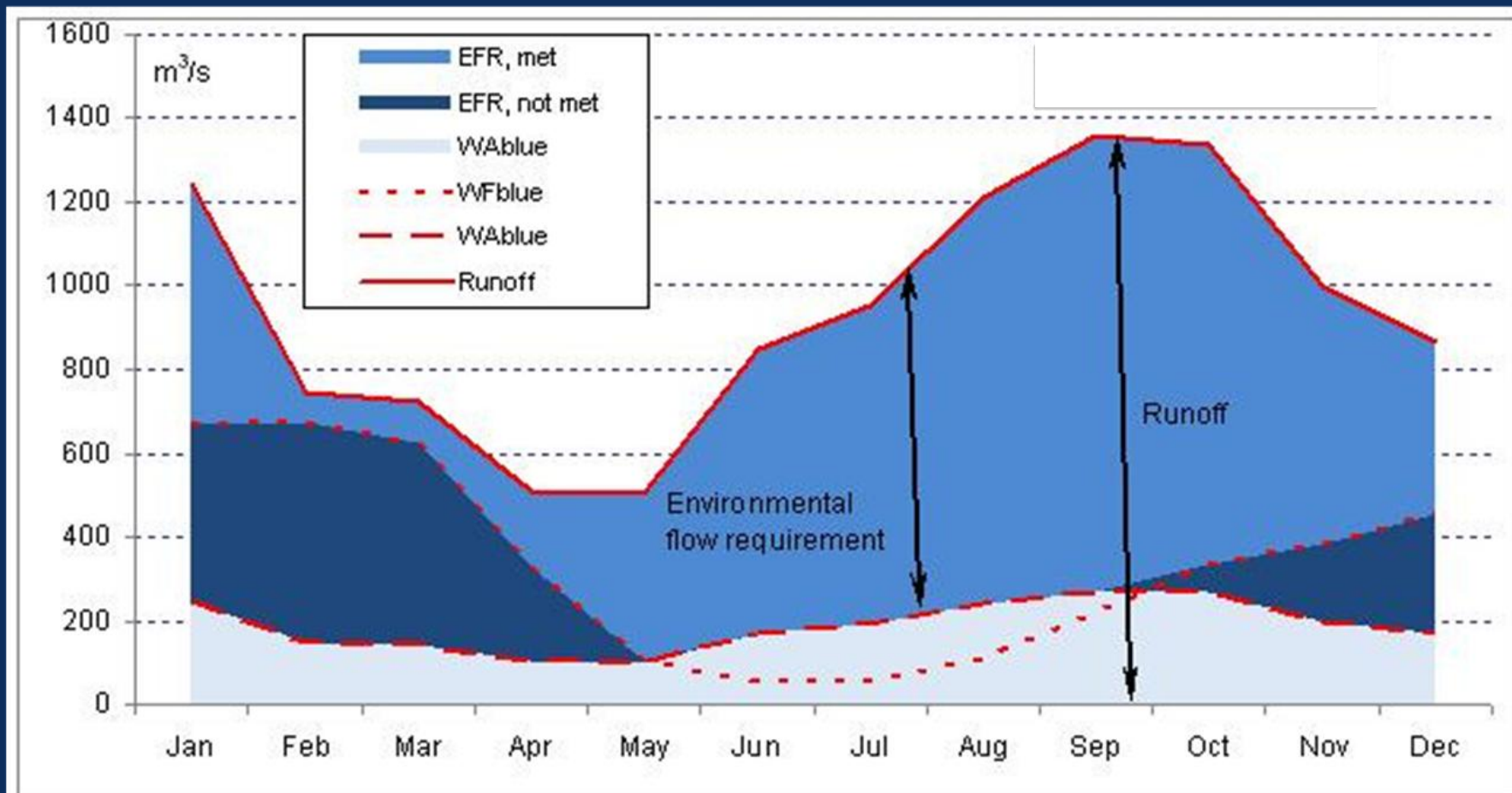
Agricultural Water Footprint





Water Footprint Assessment Tool

Sustainability Assessment

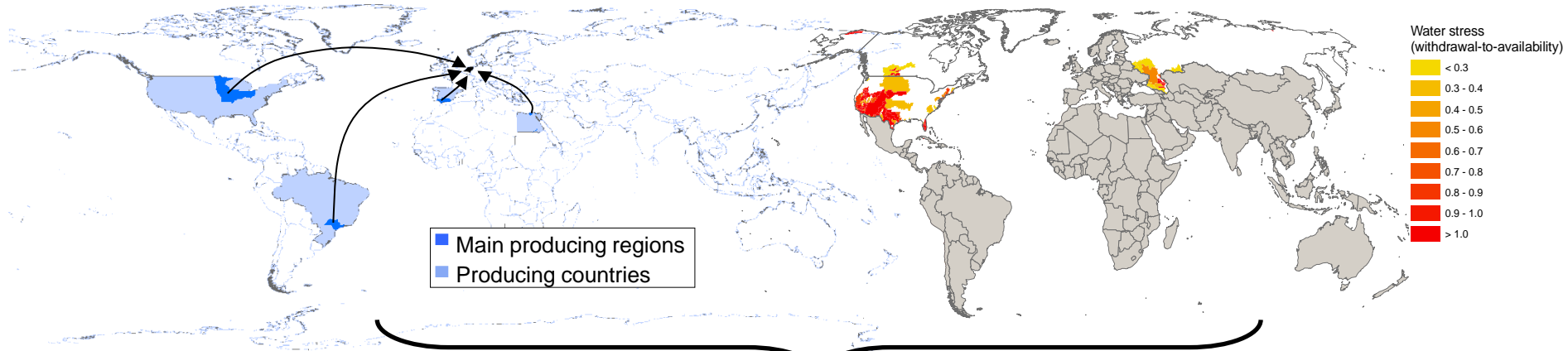


Water footprint assessment tool

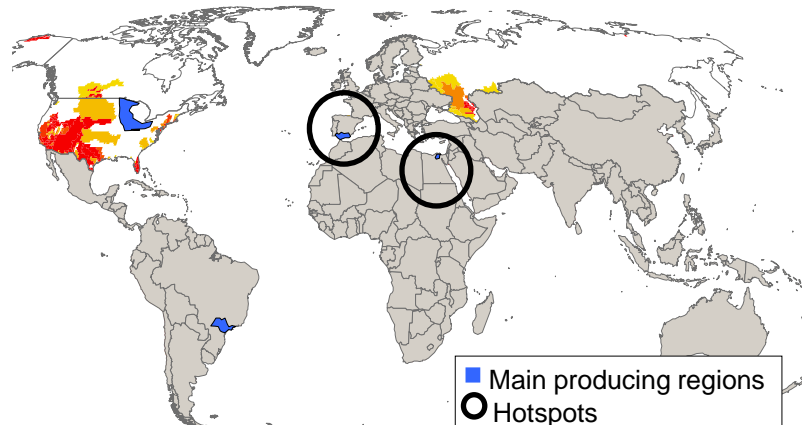
Response formulation

Global water footprint of a business located in the Netherlands

Hotspot map



Unsustainable components of the business water footprint





Water Footprint Assessment Tool

Response Formulation

- Multi-criteria scenarios to test different response strategies, e.g., increase green water productivity, irrigation technology improvements, different sourcing options, etc.
- Water footprint process benchmarks – ***the lowest reasonable water footprint*** – can be used to set water footprint reduction targets

Ruth Mathews

Water Footprint Network

Ruth.Mathews@waterfootprint.org

www.waterfootprint.org

