Supply chain water footprinting: emerging practice, benefits and limitations

Stuart Orr, WWF
Global Freshwater Programme
Supply Chain

- How much is unknown and what can be done?
  - Engagement and dialogue
  - Multiple and linked partnerships
  - Measures
- Defining where, how much and impacts
  - AWS, WFWG, Piloting
- What are the threats to supply and costs?
  - Regulatory and financial frameworks
  - Failing governance
- What is the policy environment around your supply chains?
  - Risk assessment
  - How much uncertainty can you live with
Responding to risk

- Demographic shift
- Economic growth
- Climate change

Intervention ("time")

Uncertainty ("risk")

Risk reduction through operational & supply chain interventions

demographic shift
economic growth
climate change
Water footprint

- Total water use

- Operational: processing, dyeing, washing, packaging, containers, waste water

- Upstream: Supply chain embedded or ‘virtual’ water content

- Downstream: Consumer uses and disposal?

- Measurements and boundaries
WF tools...the first steps to stewardship
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Addressing the supply chain - Footprint to Policy

- Water Footprint
  - WF Impacts
  - Water Risks

- Community Engagement
- Labeling
- Tools

- Off-Sets
- Neutrality
- AWS
  - Beyond footprint

- Public policy
- CEO Mandate

- Sustainable watershed management
Benefits

- Understanding volumes and impacts
  - Driving down impacts and risk

- Stewardship ethic
  - Credible and transparent approaches

- Links to impacts
  - Respond to impact not volumes

- Risk mapping
  - Where to intervene?

- Multi stakeholder responses
  - Credible and transparent platforms…sharing

- Common methods and language
  - Avoid wasting time and confusion
Limitations

- Data required from sectors
  - Poor knowledge of upstream and downstream
- Impact categories
  - Across sectors
  - Quantity and quality
- Low research and operational capacity
  - Investment required
- Lack of pilot studies
  - Across sectors
- Slow process
  - Multiple audiences
  - Confused language and mandate?