

# Water Footprints and water accounts

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## A European Perspective

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## content

- EEA environmental information SOER 2010
- Accounting approaches EU
- Link to UNEP activities
  - resource panel
- relevance of water footprints for EU2020 and resource efficiency

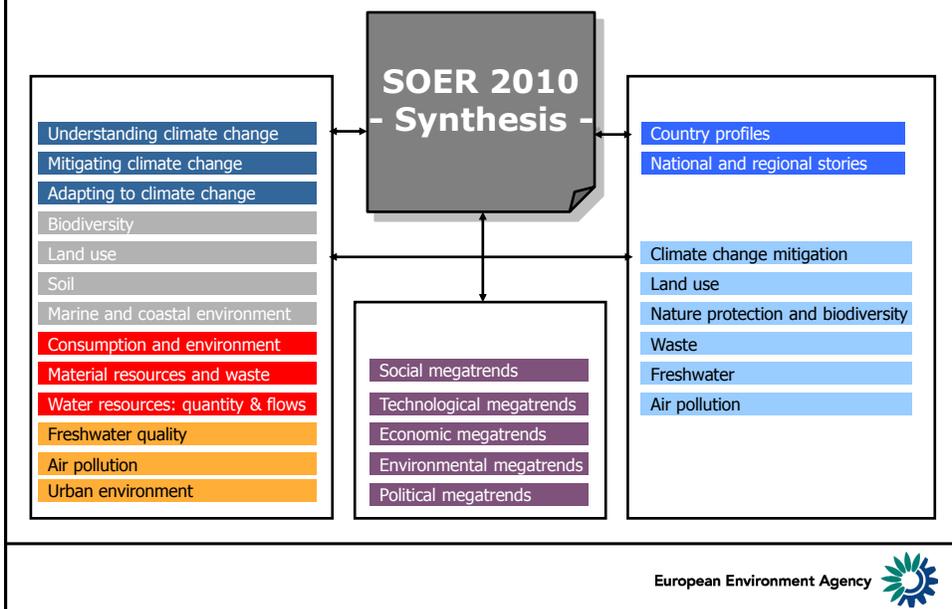
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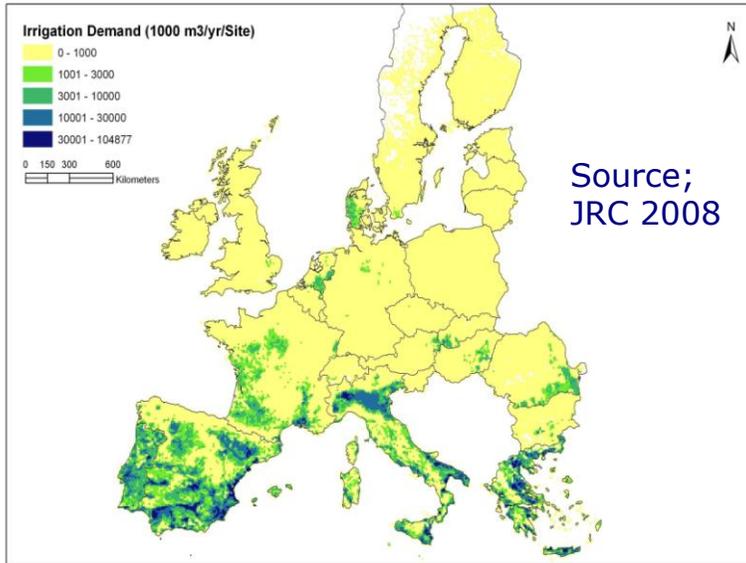


## What is SOER 2010?



## EEA SOER 2010 water quantity + quality

- Agriculture with eutrophication and water use is still responsible for the biggest impacts for inland water and coastal water bodies.
- Reduction at source both in agricultural and urban water management need to be part of the solution.
- Water Scarcity and Drought is continuously an issue in southern Europe driven by CC and increasing demands.
- CC impacts are likely to worsen the picture both regarding WS&D and Floods.
- Supply side measures are continuously part of hydromorphological pressures affecting EU-water bodies
- The Water-Energy link is vital for further developing resource efficiency (e.g. linking carbon and water footprint)



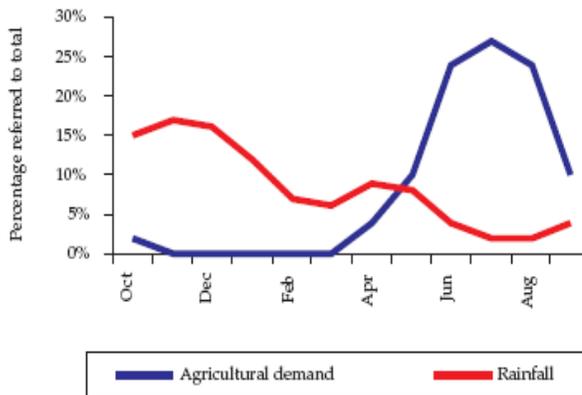
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## Agricultural Water Demand peaks in summer when natural availability is at a minimum

Figure 107 Precipitation versus agricultural demand patterns

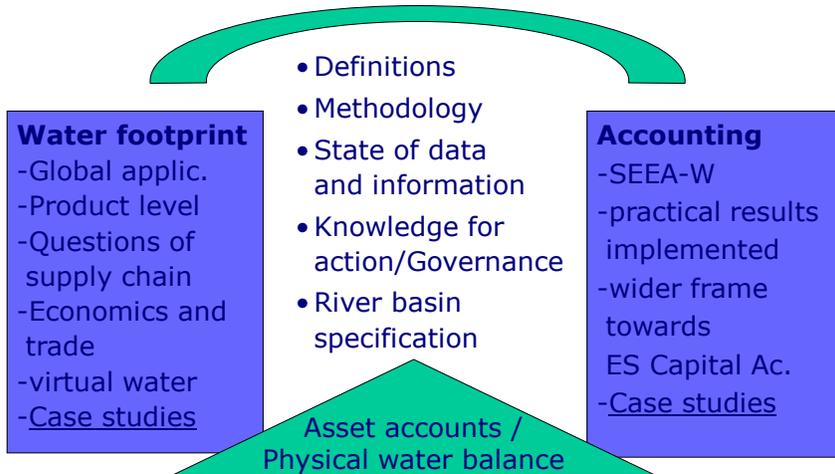


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## Elements for 2nd report of the water efficiency working group of the UNEP resource panel - "water accounting and water footprint"

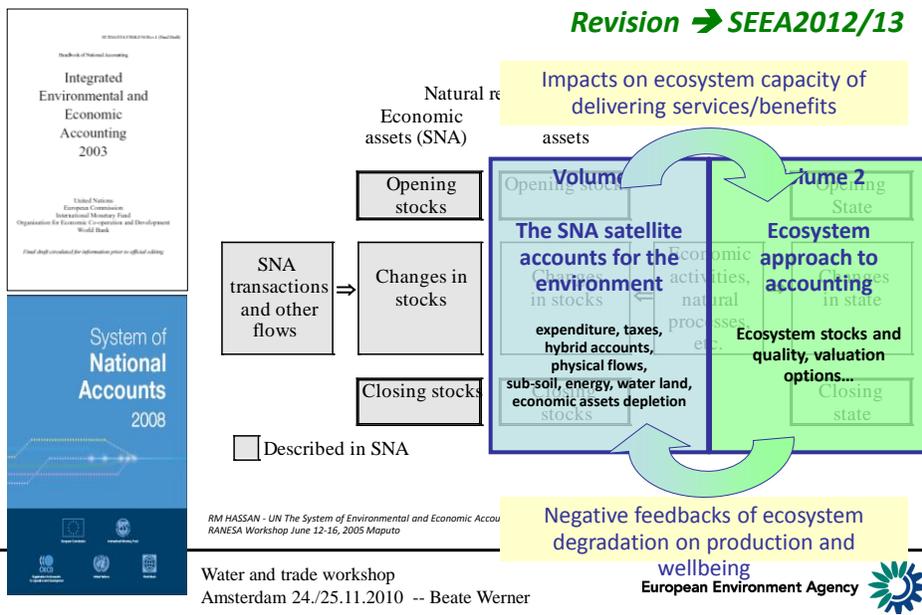


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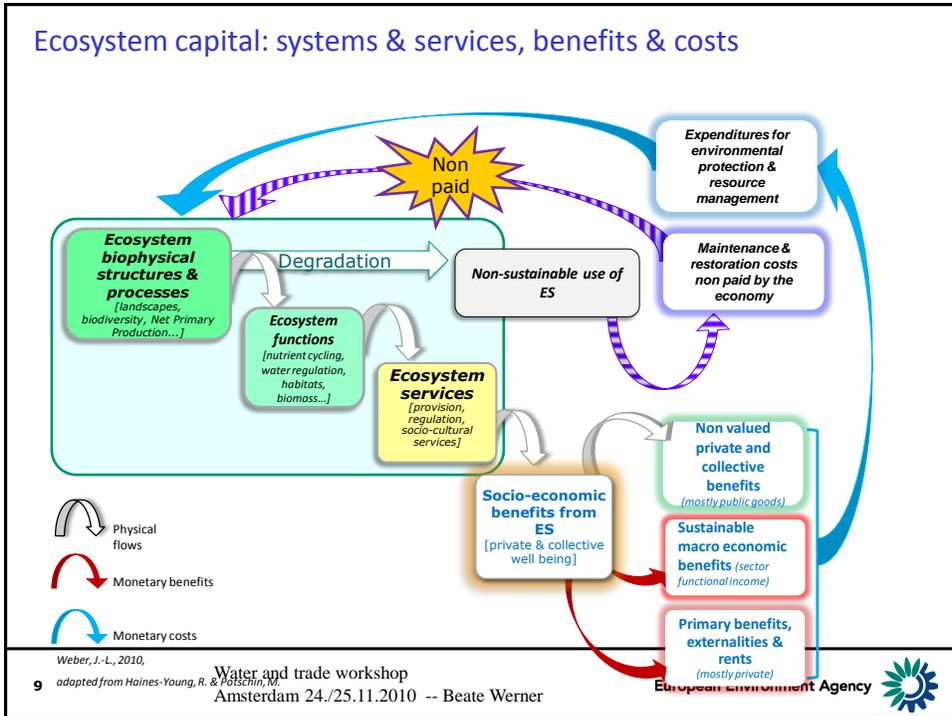
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## UN manual for environmental-economic accounting: SEEA2003 Enlargement of SNA1993 (now 2008)

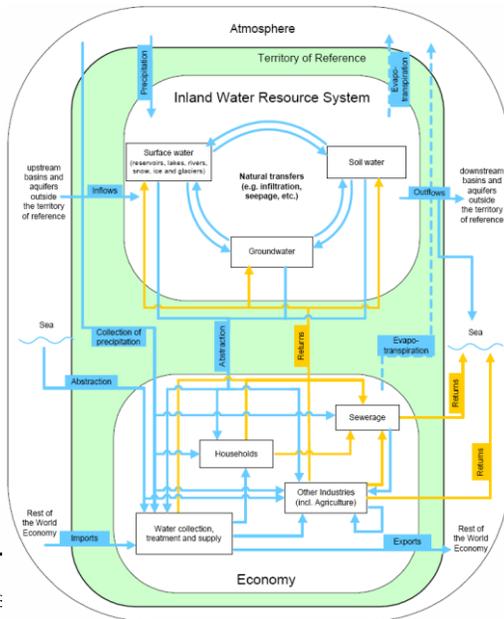


## Ecosystem capital: systems & services, benefits & costs



## Water Accounts - SEEA

- River basin scale water accounts
- Monthly basis
- Stocks, flows, abstractions, returns, transfers of water
- All sectors
- Identify water stress to link human activities to environmental impacts
- Provides framework for economic analysis



## Water footprints and resource efficiency

- **Resource efficiency** relevant in all sectors: utilities, household (incl. tourism), industries and agriculture
- Main environmental water problems still resulting from Agricultural (pollution and use)  
→ How would a **water footprint** in the end influence the practice and **resource efficiency of agricultural management** in the source-catchment - governance, pricing, social considerations?
- **Reduction at source** and water energy link are vital for future (not only EU) water policies.

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## Recomendations / Needs

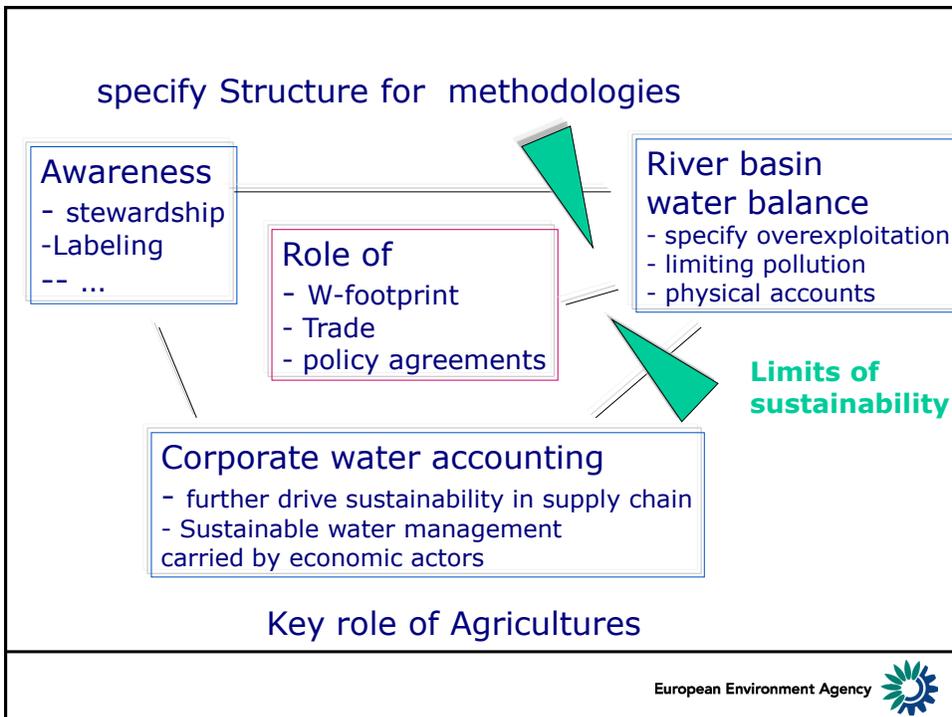
- Link to existing policy processes, help underpinning water aspects in there:
  - EU 2020 strategy, Resource efficiency
  - Beyond GDP and water accounts for upcoming *Environmental Accounting Regulation*
  - In line with upcoming „Blueprint elements“
- EEA needs improved knowledge base on
  - water environment state, trends and impacts
  - relation water economics/environment (as offered by water accounts) to assess relevant developments in both corporate water management and national/macro-economic water issues - pricing

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***Thank you for you attention***

more information on:  
[www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water](http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water)

For SOER 2010 after 30.11.2010:  
[www.eea.europa.eu/soer](http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer)

and for the WISE – EEA data centre:  
[www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/dc](http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/dc)

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