



EcoTech-LR



# Assessing water deprivation at the sub- watershed scale in LCA

Philippe Loubet<sup>1,2</sup>, Philippe Roux<sup>2</sup>, Montse Núñez<sup>3</sup>, Véronique Bellon-Maurel<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Veolia Eau d'Île-de-France, 6 esplanade Charles de Gaulle, 92751 Nanterre, France

<sup>2</sup>irstea, Research Unit: Information and Technologies for Agro-processes, 361 rue JF Breton, 34196 Montpellier, France

<sup>3</sup>INRA, UR050, Laboratoire de Biotechnologie de l'Environnement, Avenue des Etangs, Narbonne, F-11100, France

E-mail contact: [philippe.loubet@irstea.fr](mailto:philippe.loubet@irstea.fr)

*50th LCA Discussion forum  
on Water & LCA, Zurich  
December 4th 2012*

**VEOLIA**  
Eau d'Île-de-France  
Délégataire du SEDIF

# Objectives

Midpoint indicator to assess water deprivation in LCA, where are we ?

## ■ Product LCA

- ⇒ Current indicators  
(Pfister et al. 2009, Milà I  
Canals et al. 2008, etc.)  
are **operational**
- ⇒ Based on water scarcity  
indicators at the  
watershed scale

## ■ LCA focusing on water issues

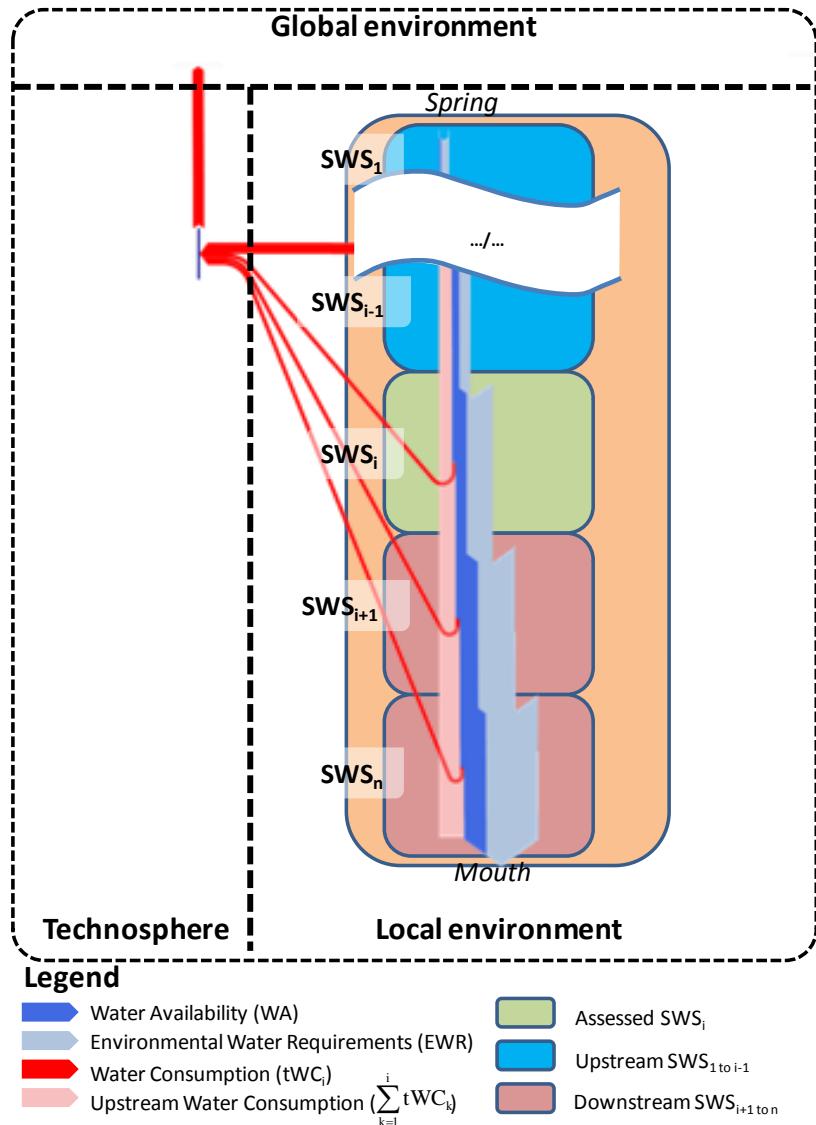
- ⇒ *e.g., irrigated land areas, cities,  
non marginal users, etc.*

### □ Needs for :

- ⇒ Finer geographical scale
- ⇒ Finer temporal resolution
- ⇒ Sensitivity to additional non  
marginal consumption
- ⇒ Redefinition of water deprivation  
impact including cascade effects



# Framework



*Two-step approach at the sub-watershed scale*

## ■ 1- CTA (scarcity)

- ⇒ Consumption-to-availability ratio
- ⇒ Shows SWS<sub>i</sub> water scarcity

$$CTA_i = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^i tWC_k}{WA_i}$$

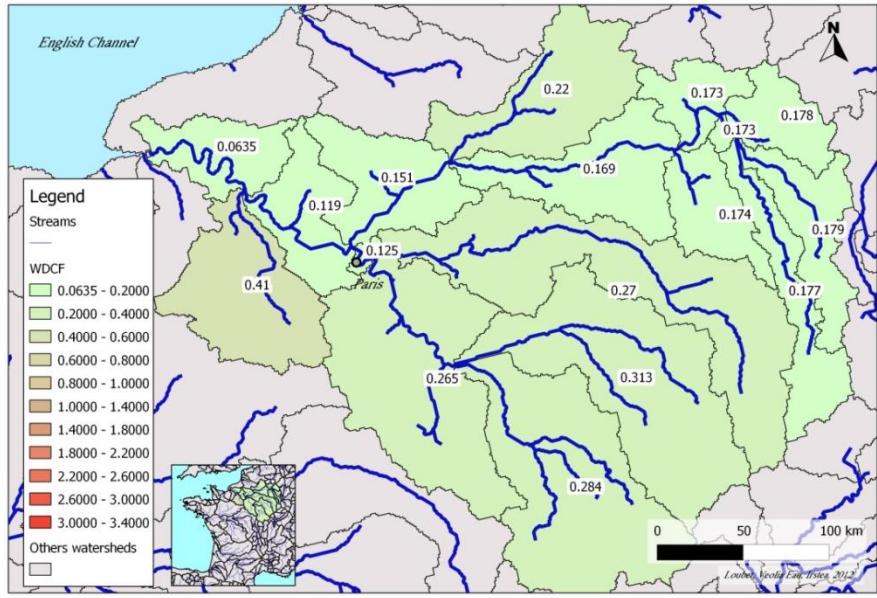
## ■ 2- WDCF (deprivation)

- ⇒ Water deprivation characterization factor
- ⇒ Assesses the cascade effect of water consumption in a SWS<sub>i</sub> on the downstream impacted SWS

$$WDCF_i = \sum_{j=i}^n (CTA_j \cdot K_j)$$

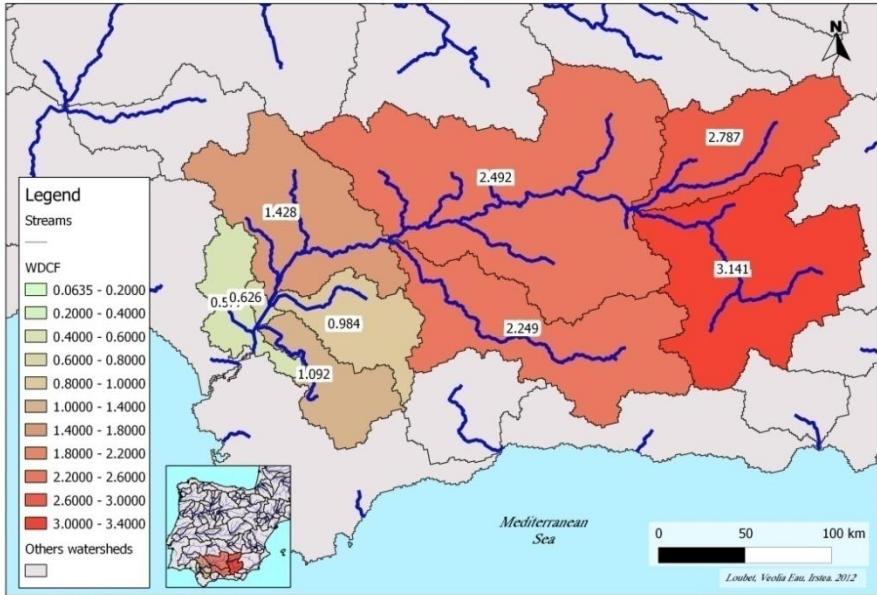


# Results



## ■ WDCF

- ⇒ Seine watershed,  
France
- ⇒ 0.06 to 0.41



- ⇒ Guadalquivir  
watershed, Spain
- ⇒ 0.58 to 3.14