



# Quick Brief

A news update from the NBI on its programmes, business leadership and issues on sustainable development.

7 December 2016

## WWF's Water Risk Filter

In November 2016 the NBI hosted a Thought Leadership Series (TLS) event with WWF and CDP on the Water Risk Filter, focussing on how to access and make use of this tool, as well as to understand its application by companies.

The **Water Risk Filter (WRF)** is a free, online tool that enables users to analyse and respond to physical, regulatory and reputational water risks across their operations, supply chains and sourced commodities. The WRF can assess over 120 crops and has settings for over 35 industries.

The WRF was used by 66 of the companies reporting to **CDP Water** in 2016 (out of 607 responding companies) and the tool has 2,500 unique users. Analysis conducted by users on the WRF website is private to each particular user and their respective profile. The tool is also used in tandem with other water tools by a number of companies, in particular the WRI's Aqueduct tool.

### How the WRF works

Essentially, this tool enables companies to assess their portfolio, offers valuation estimates, and guides users to tailored mitigation options to address their water risk. The tool is free to use and is easy to navigate around, providing detailed information without requiring onerous data inputs.

The *Water Risk Assessment* tab on the WRF website is for uploading sites for inclusion in a water risk assessment. The *Mitigation* tab enables users to explore options on how to mitigate their water risks.

The *Maps* tab allows users to explore various risk maps with their own sites overlaid. The *Country Profiles* tab allows the user to explore over 200 country profiles, each providing detail on national water availability and water governance. Finally, the *Knowledge Base* tab is a rich source of additional details on the WRF and related initiatives such as water stewardship.

South Africa is fortunate to be one of only two countries internationally for which there is high resolution data available within the WRF, the other country being the United Kingdom. Examples of national datasets included in the high resolution version of the WRF for South Africa include the following:

- The Department of Water and Sanitation’s All Towns Reconciliation Studies;
- CSIR’s downscaled climate change data;
- The Water Research Commission’s Water Resources of South Africa 2012 Study; and
- South African local census data.

Analysis focusing purely on South Africa can therefore benefit from the high resolution data that is now available within the WRF. However, for comparisons between countries that do not all have high resolution data available, the use of the WRF’s global dataset is recommended to ensure consistency and comparability across countries. Users also have the option to manually input their own data in order to strengthen their use of the tool.

The WRF tool provides results to users in the form of maps, reports and a variety of graphics. The more and the better quality the information added by the user – the better the quality of results. At a minimum, a user will need to provide a physical location. Thereafter, you can indicate your type of industry or agricultural activity. Lastly, users are able to answer a questionnaire of about 30 questions about their water use at the site and the conditions in the catchment, to provide the most comprehensive set of results.

**For more information on the Water Risk Filter please contact [Alex McNamara](#).**

**Business Action for Sustainable Growth**

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