

# Water Assessment in the GaBi LCA software

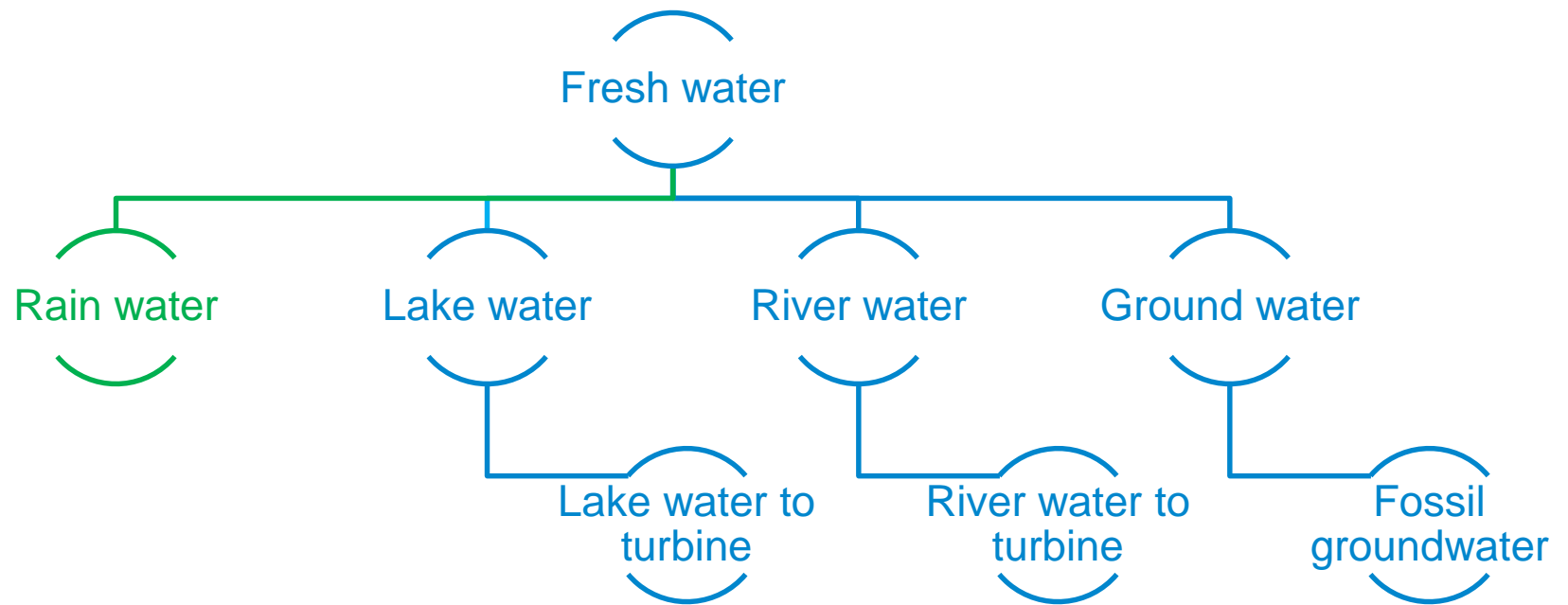
## **Webinar 1 – methodology overview (last Tuesday)**

- Initiatives and standards
- ISO 14046, WULCA, WFN
- Terminology
- Water Scarcity Footprint

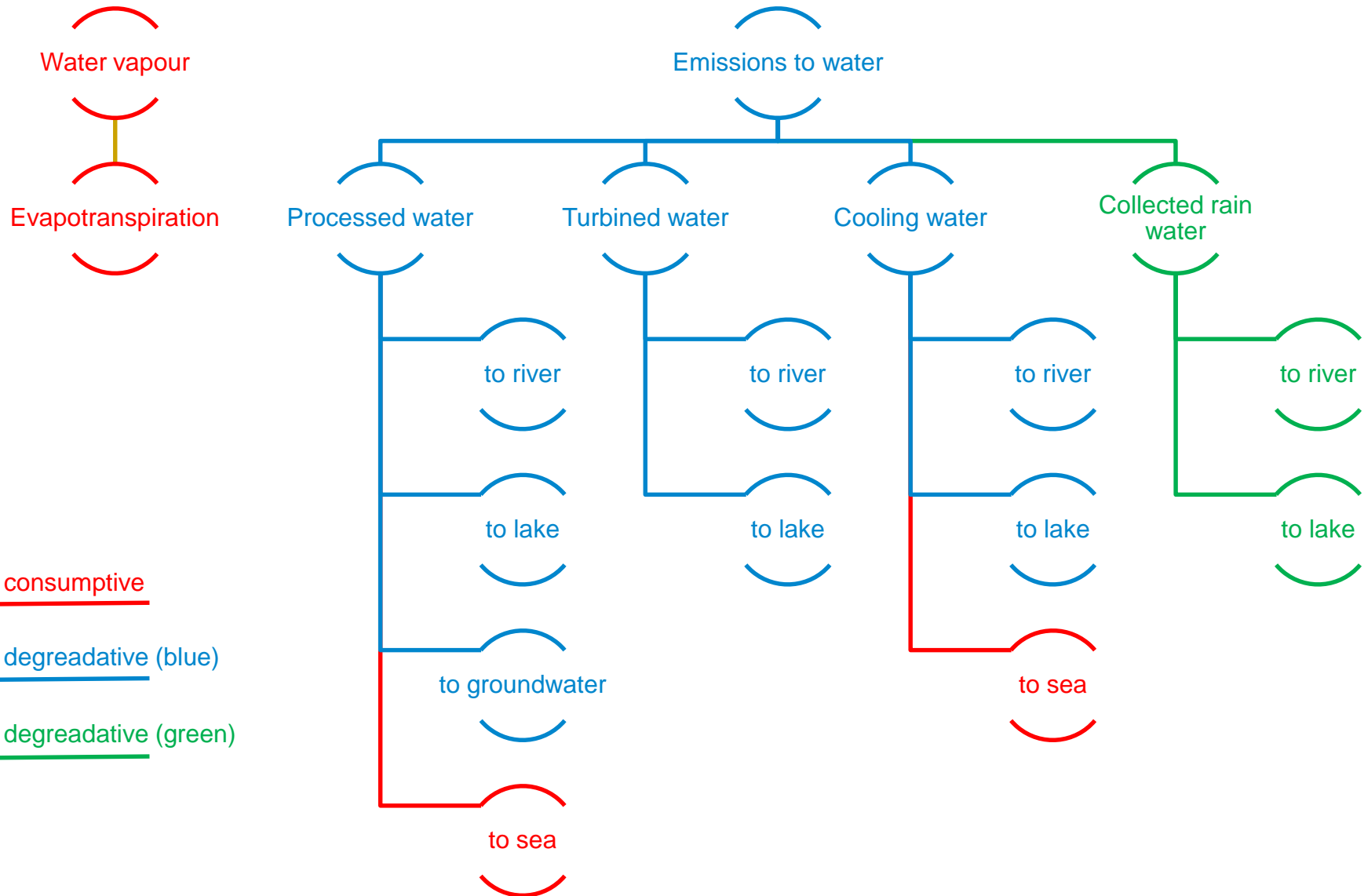
## **Webinar 2 - Water Assessment in the GaBi LCA software (today)**

- Inventory – Regionalized Flows
- Impact Assessment
- Example
- Limitations

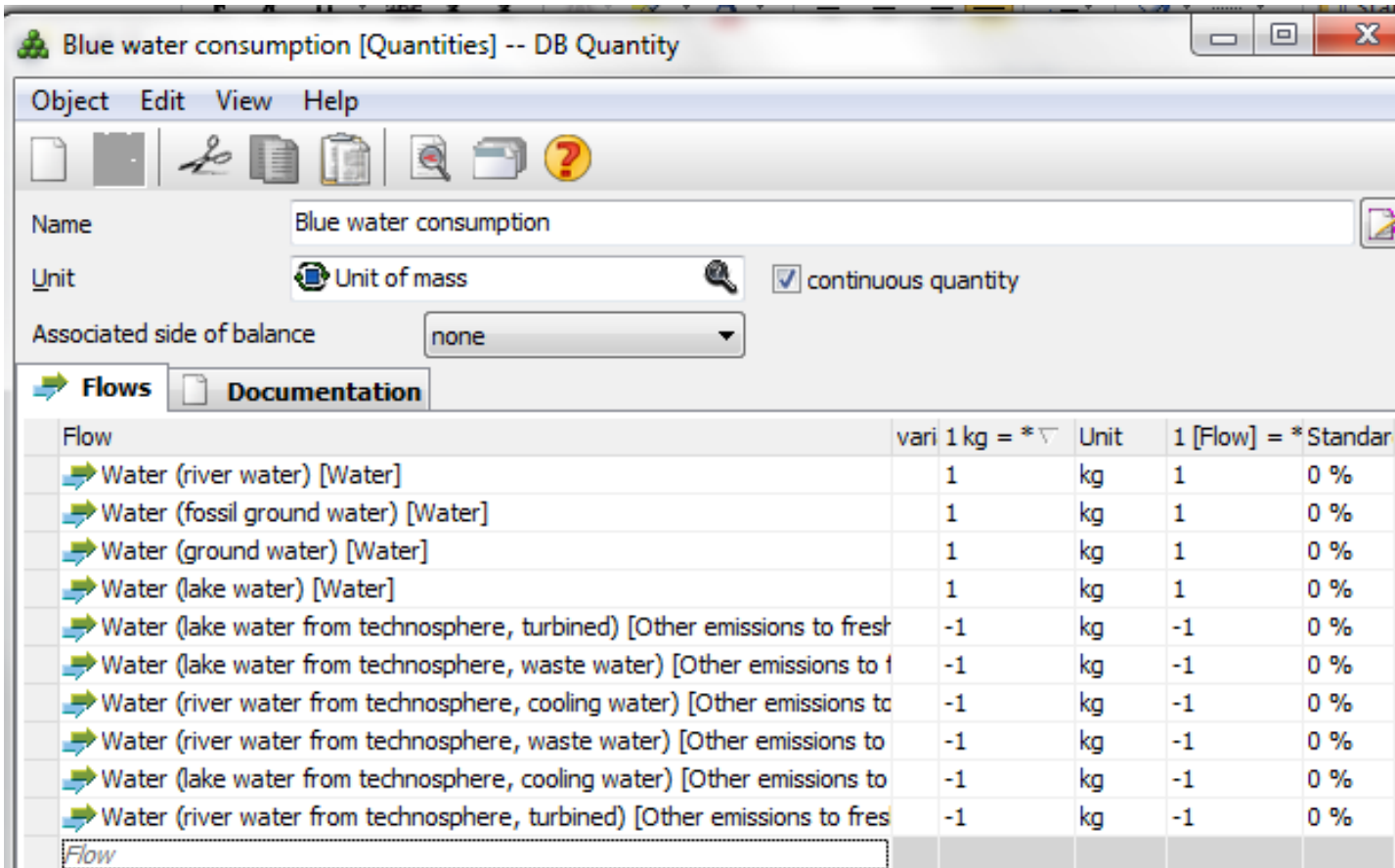
# Inventory



# Output flows – consumptive and Processed



Total freshwater consumption =  
total freshwater use (water input) –  
total freshwater release from technosphere (water outputs)



Blue water consumption [Quantities] -- DB Quantity

Object Edit View Help

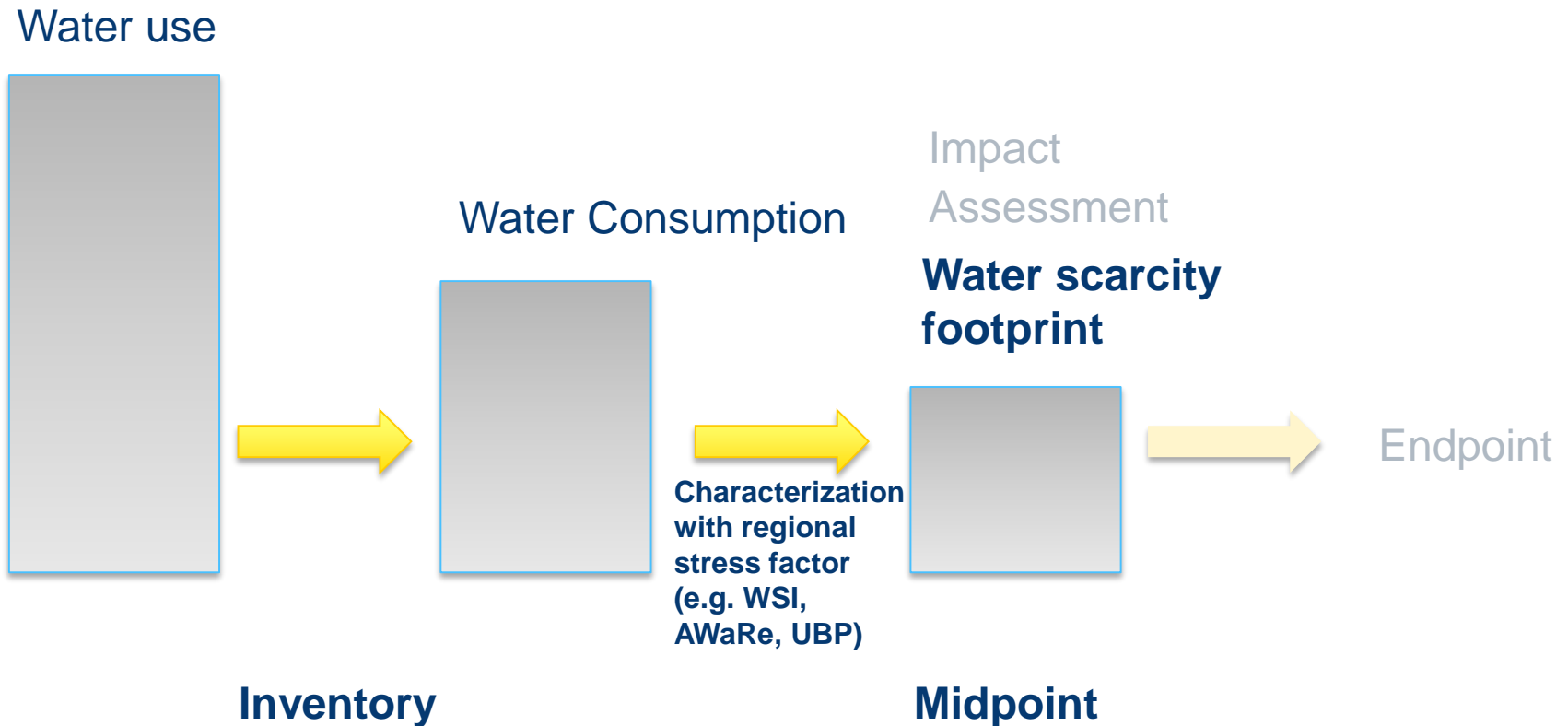
Name: Blue water consumption

Unit: Unit of mass  continuous quantity

Associated side of balance: none

Flows Documentation

Flow	vari	1 kg = * ▾	Unit	1 [Flow] = * Standar	
Water (river water) [Water]	1	kg	1	0 %	
Water (fossil ground water) [Water]	1	kg	1	0 %	
Water (ground water) [Water]	1	kg	1	0 %	
Water (lake water) [Water]	1	kg	1	0 %	
Water (lake water from technosphere, turbined) [Other emissions to freshw...	-1	kg	-1	0 %	
Water (lake water from technosphere, waste water) [Other emissions to freshw...	-1	kg	-1	0 %	
Water (river water from technosphere, cooling water) [Other emissions to freshw...	-1	kg	-1	0 %	
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For an assessment of water scarcity, it is important to know WHERE water consumption takes place:

→ **Regional water flows (country level) now available in GaBi**

On country level:

63 countries

according to GDP and datasets in GaBi

6 scarcity classes (acc. to PEF)

extreme, high, moderate, medium, low, very low

→ 69 copies of each flow

The GaBi DB contains more than 10000 datasets – First step: implementation for agricultural materials and energy



Extra water modelling gbx will be released (free download from homepage)

Contains p-agg processes:

- Tap water, process water, deionised water, waste water treatment
- Energy input and water are open (tracked) flows
- Dummy process to select country provided (to connect to open water flow)

# Impact Assessment

## **Water Scarcity Index (Pfister et al. 2009)**

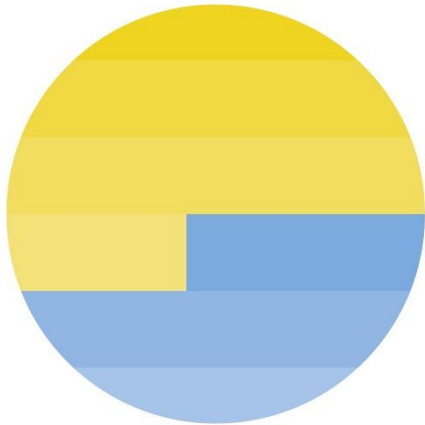
One of the first indices available to characterize water stress with global coverage, documented, public available, used in many water footprint studies so far

## **AWaRe (WULCA)**

New consensus method of UNEP/SETAC working group on water use in LCA (WULCA); released 2015, beta status, suggested by JRC as new standard impact assessment method for water use in PEF

## **UBP (Frischknecht et al. 2013)**

Eco-factors, expressed as eco-points per unit of pollutant emission or resource extraction (reference region Switzerland)



thinkstep  
**GaBi**

# Limitations



- Country level
- Temporal resolution
- Not all datasets are fully regionalized
- Hydropower

→ Absolute numbers should be interpreted with care

→ screening assessments and hot-spot analysis

→ **Starting point not terminal stop!**

### **Water Assessment Guidelines – GaBi homepage:**

[http://www.gabi-software.com/fileadmin/GaBi\\_Databases/Introduction\\_to\\_Water\\_Assessment\\_in\\_GaBi\\_2017.pdf](http://www.gabi-software.com/fileadmin/GaBi_Databases/Introduction_to_Water_Assessment_in_GaBi_2017.pdf)

### **Personalized Trainings:**

Deep dive into methods, issues relevant to your production system, advanced evaluation of results, WFP beyond GaBi defaults, quality assurance and much more...

**Get in touch!**

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