

Freshwater – a valuable asset for people and the environment

Preserving and restoring freshwater ecosystems, such as lakes, rivers and groundwater, and improving water quality is more important than ever in order to adapt to climate change and ensure reliable supplies of drinking water.

5 FACTS ABOUT WATER

0,3%

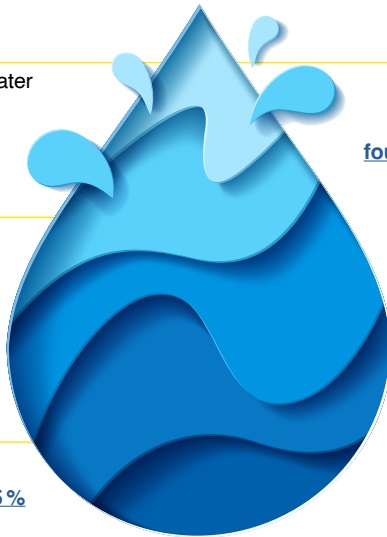
Only **0,3%** of the world's water is accessible to humans.

70%

Agriculture: the largest global water user, with **70%** of global water consumption.

55%

Global water demand is expected to increase by **55%** by 2050.



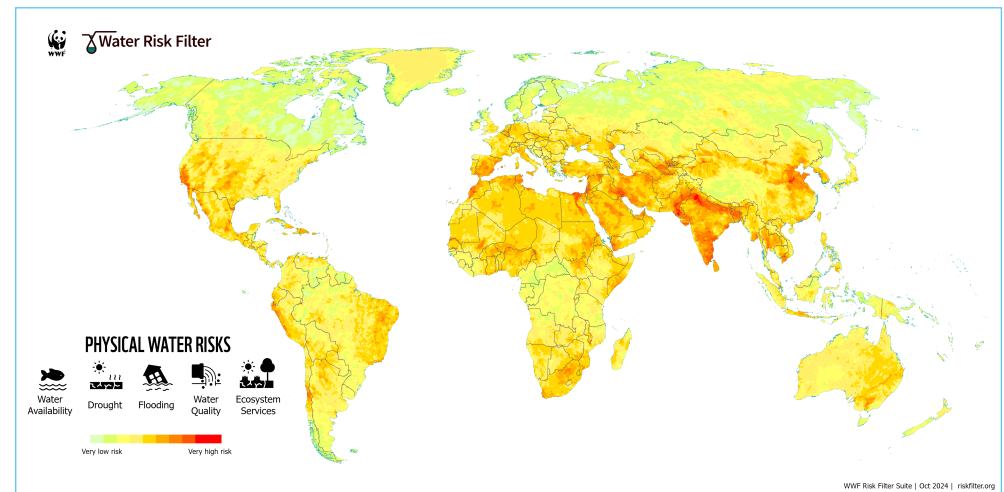
Water shortage

Scarcity of natural resources, such as water, is one of the **four risks** with the most serious perceived long-term consequences for human society.

85%

Since 1970, there has been an **85%** decrease in freshwater biodiversity.

GLOBAL WATER RISKS



Basin Physical Water Risk (WWF 2024)

WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF WATER RISKS?

Physical:

- water scarcity/droughts,
- water pollution
- floods

Regulatory:

- inadequate regulation for water protection
- inequitable water distribution

Reputational:

- negative media coverage
- loss of consumer confidence



WHAT IS THE WATER FOOTPRINT OF AN AVERAGE GERMAN CONSUMER?

In Germany, daily direct water consumption per person (e.g., for drinking, cooking, washing) is approximately **130l**. Indirect water consumption via consumer goods, especially our food, is **7.200l**.



WHAT DOES WATER STEWARDSHIP MEAN?

For a company, water stewardship is a commitment to a more sustainable and responsible use of water resources in its own operations and also throughout the river basin. This is done through regular exchanges with other water users.





Our commitment to a more sustainable use of water

RECOGNIZING AND REDUCING WATER RISKS IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

1. Making water risks transparent

In its own supply chains, EDEKA checks in which regions water risks exist and how they can be addressed. This is done with the [EDEKA Water Risk Tool](#).



2. Systematically reducing water risks

Based on the water risk analyses, EDEKA suppliers are continuously working to reduce their water risks. This is done, for example, through additional certifications from independent bodies that promote more sustainable water usage.



The [Alliance for Water Stewardship Standard \(AWS\)](#) is an example of such certification. The AWS Standard:

- certifies agricultural businesses for sustainable water use.
- is currently the only certification that takes a holistic view of water stewardship.

3. Promoting AWS together with WWF

Together with the WWF, EDEKA has been intensively promoting AWS since 2016 and supports numerous agricultural businesses in implementing the ambitious requirements for water protection.



For example, the world's first AWS certification in banana cultivation was carried out by EDEKA and the WWF.

In Spain, an EDEKA orange supplier was the first farm in Europe to be certified as 'AWS Gold Status'.

4. Implementing water stewardship projects

EDEKA and WWF jointly implement water stewardship projects in water risk areas:



Colombia:

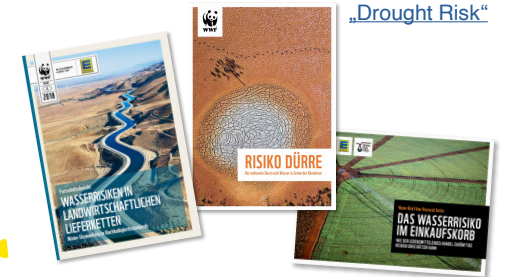
Promote collective action between banana, coffee and palm oil producers, civil society, and authorities.

Spain:

Since 2016, working towards a more sustainable cultivation of oranges, clementines and mandarins. One focus: The more responsible use of water.



JOINT PUBLICATION OF STUDIES (WWF & EDEKA)



„Water risk in agricultural supply chains“

„Tackling growing water risk in the food sector“

PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO THE PROTECTION OF FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS

EDEKA signed the [WWF Initiative](#) and publicly campaigned for the survival of the Spanish Natural World Heritage site of Doñana.

AWARENESS RAISING



Videos:

[For suppliers](#)

[For the general public](#)



[Online learning course](#)