

Interactive comment on “Local and global perspectives on the virtual water trade” by S. Tamea et al.

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The authors address the interesting issue of the virtual water flow and trade at local scale and I do think it is of interest for HESS readers. The paper investigates the virtual water fluxes between a single country and its network of trading partners and analyses the virtual water budget both in space and time. The authors also study the variation of the exchanged fluxes and its influences on virtual water budget. The analysis of the distance between the origin and destination countries of virtual water is also carried out. The manuscript is well written, the methods are clearly described, the figures and tables are adequate. The results are posed in a very accessible way and they can be understood both by researchers and by general audience. Some points could be

better addressed: Page 3 line 77 the authors talk about the gray component of the water footprint, but they do not define the three components (green, blue and grey) of the WF. Page 7 Lines 224-227 Please explain better the concept.

I recommend therefore acceptance after a minor revision.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 9, 12959, 2012.

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Interactive Discussion

Discussion Paper