

Interactive comment on “HESS Opinions: A Planetary Boundary on Freshwater Use is Misleading” by Maik Heistermann

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Received and published: 24 March 2017

I would like to thank the referee for his or her feedback.

Admittedly, the language of the article deviates from what we'd generally expect from a scientific paper. In my view, however, the opinion format justifies certain stylistic liberties. Then again, I have to agree with the referee that the language should, in general, aim at a neutral (or scholarly) style, even if the message might be considered provocative. I am certainly willing to reexamine the manuscript accordingly.

I also agree that the statement on co-authorship (p. 6, ll. 20-21) could be considered as "not to the point". In my view, it illustrates the fact that the concepts of the Water Footprint and the Planetary Boundaries have quite different histories, but, in my opinion, independently arrive at similar conclusions with regard to the need for global water

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governance. I understand, though, that it could be also be seen as a "trivia" piece of information which I would thus be willing to drop in a revised manuscript.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., doi:10.5194/hess-2017-112, 2017.