Key Differences Between the Materials Impact Explorer and the WWF Risk Filter Suite

To help you evaluate the environmental and social risks and opportunities tied to your raw material sourcing, this document summarizes the key differences between Textile Exchange's Materials Impact Explorer (MIE) and WWF's Risk Filter Suite (RFS).

Both tools play a crucial role in aligning product development, procurement, and sustainability teams, supporting the creation and implementation of sustainability programs that build resilience and reduce the environmental impact of raw material sourcing. However, they differ in structure and focus, offering complementary insights to support decision-making.

The Materials Impact Explorer highlights climate, biodiversity, freshwater, forests, and air pollution risks and opportunities in material sourcing, and helps the user understand how a particular standards system may help to mitigate risks. Meanwhile, the WWF Risk Filter Suite is designed to be used as a set of corporate and portfolio-level screening tools – Water and Biodiversity Risk Filter- to help identify nature-related risks and prioritize action from companies and financial institutions.

The key differences between the two tools are outlined below. Textile Exchange and WWF will continue to collaborate to provide further guidance and enhance actionable steps companies can take to mitigate their impacts.

	Materials Impact Explorer	Risk Filter Suite
Scope: impact areas	Climate, biodiversity, freshwater, forests and air pollution	Freshwater and biodiversity risk assessment, and future water risk scenario analysis
Scope: sector(s)	Fashion, apparel, and textiles	26 industrial sectors, including apparel and textiles
Value chain focus	Tier 4 (raw materials)	Tier 4 (raw materials) through to Tier 0 (stores, offices, warehouses)
Focus of analysis	National	Basin/landscape level
Incorporates LCA data	Yes: to provide fiber potential impact risk ratings	No: the RFS does not base risk on LCA data as these data sets are less relevant for its basin/landscape level assessments. The RFS uses over 80 indicators, which are based on best available peer-reviewed spatial datasets to assess water and biodiversity risk globally
Outputs	Customizable portfolio view, risk ratings and recommendations	Customizable portfolio view and detailed scores of basin water and biodiversity risk
Designed to inform strategy?	Yes	Yes
Recommendations embedded within tool?	Yes	Not currently, but recommendations are under development