

THE RISE OF INTERNATIONAL WATER POLITICS



Water scarcity could lead to conflict or political instability in many countries. Sources including the Euphrates, Tigris, Jordan, Nile, Danube and Okavango rivers as well as the Tibetan watershed and resources will become insufficient to support the surrounding areas. These sources currently provide water to dozens of countries across Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

Water scarcity will therefore affect communities across the globe. Importantly, it may spark conflict over remaining water resources, within a nation or even between nations. Anya Groner at The Atlantic points to evidence of past conflicts that have revolved around water. These include the riots in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2012, which responded to inequality in the distribution of water resources.

The Pacific Institute put together a timeline of water conflicts from the earliest records until 2019. Causes of these conflicts include territorial disputes, drought, inequities and municipal water cuts. The severity of conflict may range from protests and theft to more violent killings and bombings. This makes it clear that decreases in water access may lead to political or violent conflict if the world does not take action to ensure sustainable, equitable water access for all.

Countries facing water scarcity have the difficult task of allocating a limited resource. To ensure that everyone can access water, these countries must take many different steps.

However, awareness about this issue cannot solve it on its own. Innovators around the globe have engineered new ways to collect freshwater and provide clean water to communities worldwide.

Additionally, Water Politics Limited is conducting research on how to maximize water access through political action. It is investigating water transport and pipeline initiatives, exporting water, worldwide water rights and public participation in water conservation.

As nations move forward with water politics initiatives, we must pay attention to regions most at risk of experiencing severe water scarcity. Places like sub-Saharan Africa with dry climates have already been plunged into prolonged droughts, facing political conflict as a result. Thankfully, public awareness campaigns, technological innovations and governmental cooperation can ensure that everyone has a right to safe drinking water. *EllieWilliams*

NEWS FROM DISPUTED BASINS



Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli speaks to BBC

PM on GERD: Egypt is not against development in Nile Basin countries but projects should not harm its water rights

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Egypt's Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli stressed that the country is not against the development projects in Nile Basin countries but most importantly they should not harm the Egyptian water rights.

In an interview with BBC News Arabic, Madbouli said Egypt even told the Ethiopian side of its desire to take part in the construction of GERD.

Madbouli said Egypt is following up very carefully on GERD through all possible diplomatic and political means to deal with the file.



"All what we call for until this moment is to reach consensus together ... with Sudan and Ethiopia for a legally binding agreement that

regulates the rights of the three countries in benefitting from development work," Madbouli said.

The prime minister affirmed the importance of reaching a dialogue and consensus on the GERD file, saying it is not in the benefit of the three countries' peoples to maintain conflicts and disputes over a natural resource.

"On the contrary, we all have the space to benefit from this important natural resource in a manner that serves the rights of our peoples, without prejudice to the rights of another people," the prime minister added.

Source :<https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/111913/PM-on-GERD-Egypt-is-not-against-development-in-Nile>

Hydropolitics- rising tension in Pakistan and India over the Indus River.



Indo-Pakistani relations have always been tense since their independence from British rule in 1947. Different kinds of conflicts characterise the relationship between the two countries. One source of conflict between the two is over the Indus River whose waters they share. It flows through India and Pakistan to the Arabian Sea. The disputes were settled in 1960 thanks to the Indus Water Treaty which allocated the water of the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab to Pakistan and the waters of the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi to India. Pakistan could be water scarce by 2025. The UN, IMF, and Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) have been deliberating potential water scarcity for the past few years.



The fact that the seriousness of this danger was not well known within the Pakistani populous for so long is unsurprising, as the warnings of water security experts

have been largely ignored. But today — primarily due to three events that occurred this past year — the water crisis seems to be getting the attention that it deserves. First, Pakistan's Permanent Indus Commission objected to the Kishanganga hydroelectric project initiated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on grounds that it violated the Indus Water Treaty. Simultaneously, the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources predicted that Pakistan could "run dry" by 2025. Both of these events catalyzed public outcry and brought the severity of the situation into mainstream discussion. These first two events then culminated in the most tangible representation of the urgency of the water crisis: The Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan Damer-Bhasha created the Mohmand Dams Fund — an attempt initiated by the Chief Justice of Pakistan to crowdsource \$14 billion for the construction of a large dam.

Water in diplomacy: EU Council confirms EU's commitment to enhanced EU engagement



In last November the Council approved conclusions highlighting the **strategic importance of water**, in particular for sustainable development, poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, human development, climate action, environmental protection, biodiversity and ecosystem preservation, humanitarian action, peace and stability, and the importance of water as a human right.

The conclusions reaffirm the EU's **diplomatic engagement on water**, especially **transboundary water cooperation**, as a tool for peace, security and stability. The conclusions call for further implementation in this regard and for an increase in synergies between **water, climate and energy diplomacy**.

The Council is concerned that the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 - 'Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all' **remains severely off-track and under-financed**. Therefore, the Council calls for **the issue of water to be given increased emphasis in the EU's external action and in the UN agendas**, in line with the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.

To this end, the EU welcomes the **UN 2023 Water Conference** as an opportunity to mobilise all stakeholders and sectors, and stresses the need for concrete outcomes.

European Commission declares nuclear and gas to be green



The European Commission has labeled nuclear and gas as sustainable. Critics are calling the step "greenwashing" and say it could threaten the bloc's bid to become climate-neutral by 2050.

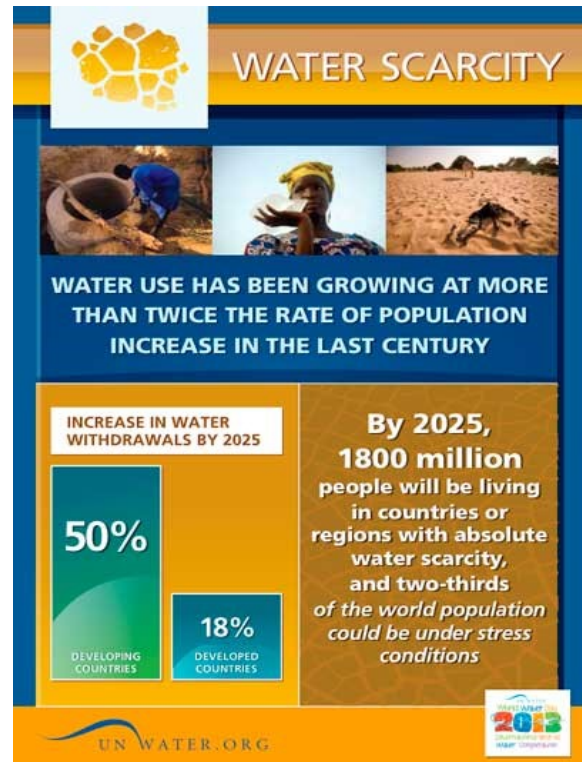
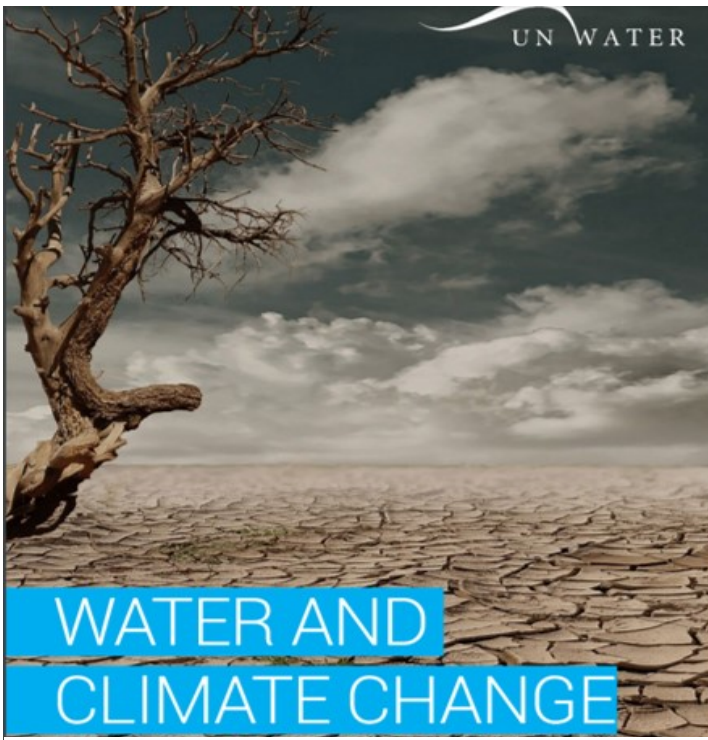
European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen cannot repeat often enough how close stepping up climate action is to her heart.

She described the European Green Deal as "Europe's man on the moon moment." She has called climate neutrality "our European destiny." And she solemnly proclaimed that no effort will be spared for Europe to become the world's first continent with net-zero emissions.

The European Commission's taxonomy proposal will now be reviewed by the 27 EU member states and by the European Parliament.

As the EU's executive opted for a delegated act, a type of fast-track legislative procedure, only a total of 20 EU countries, or a majority of EU lawmakers at the European Parliament, would be able to reject it.





Facts and figures

- Globally, water scarcity already affects four out of every 10 people. A lack of water and poor water quality increases the risk of diarrhoea, which kills approximately 2.2 million people every year, as well as trachoma, an eye infection that can lead to blindness, and many other illnesses. ([WHO](#))
- Increasing temperatures on the planet and more variable rainfalls are expected to reduce crop yields in many tropical developing regions, where food security is already a problem. ([WHO](#))
- By 2025, 1.8 billion people are expected to be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two-thirds of the world population could be under water stress conditions. ([UNESCO, 2012](#))
- With the existing climate change scenario, by 2030, water scarcity in some arid and semi-arid places will displace between 24 million and 700 million people. ([UNCCD](#))
- By the 2080s, land unsuitable for agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa due to severe climate, soil or terrain constraints may increase by 30 to 60 million hectares. ([FAO](#)).
- Scientists, farmers and the business community consider variability, casted as 'extreme weather events', as one of the most likely production risks over the next ten years ([WEF, 2015](#)).

We need to build a future,
Where people live in harmony with nature

HPA

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