

Water is Politics

Water demands political answers,



Water, essential for life and development, is becoming a central issue in political discourse as its scarcity and unequal distribution intensify across the globe. The growing water crisis demands urgent political answers, as water security increasingly influences economic stability, public health, and geopolitical relations.

Water, one of the most basic necessities of life, has become deeply intertwined with politics at local, national, and international levels. As the global population grows and climate change disrupts traditional water patterns, access to water is increasingly seen as a source of power, control, and potential conflict.

Water demands political solutions that prioritize human rights ,sustainability , and cooperation.



Whether at the local, national, or international level, leaders must develop policies that recognize water as a shared, finite resource essential for life. Collaborative and nature -based governance are key to securing water for future generations.

Water can serve as a bridge for peace if managed through cooperation and shared responsibility. By adopting diplomatic, legal, and sustainable approaches to water management, states can transform potential conflicts into opportunities for collaboration, trust-building, and long-term peace. Developing mutually beneficial and forward-thinking water policies is key to ensuring that water remains a source of life and not a cause of division.

Mutually beneficial regional cooperation approach is essential before water-related tensions turn into broader conflicts. If there is a will there is always a way .

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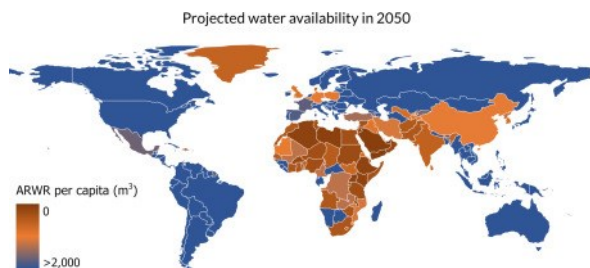
Half the world's countries have degraded freshwater systems, UN finds

30/08/2024

The leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system.

In half the world's countries one or more types of freshwater ecosystems are degraded, including rivers, lakes and aquifers. River flow has significantly decreased, surface water bodies are shrinking or being lost, ambient water is growing more polluted, and water management is off-track. These are some of the findings of three reports tracking progress on freshwater, published by UN-Water and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

The triennial series of reports is focused on progress towards achieving the goal of “clean water and sanitation for all” (SDG 6) through protecting and restoring freshwater sources. Based on greater data sets than ever before, the reports reiterate the call to scale up support for Member States in tackling challenges through the UN System-wide strategy for water and sanitation and the accompanying upcoming Collaborative Implementation Plan.



“Our blue planet is being rapidly deprived of healthy freshwater bodies and resources, with dire prospects for food security, climate change and biodiversity,” said Dianna Kopansky, Head of the Freshwater and Wetlands Unit, Ecosystems Division at UNEP. “At this critical point, global political commitments for sustainable water management have never been higher, including through the passing of a water resolution at the last UN Environment Assembly in February, but they are not being matched by required finance or action. Protection and restoration policies, tailored for different regions, are halting further loss and show that reversing degradation is within reach. We absolutely need more of them.”

Widespread degradation

A reported 90 countries, most in Africa, and Central- and Southeast Asia, are experiencing the degradation of one or more freshwater ecosystems. Other regions, such as Oceania, mark improvements. Pollution, dams, land conversion, over-abstraction and climate change contribute to the degradation of freshwater ecosystems.

Influenced by climate change and land use, river flow has decreased in 402 basins worldwide – a fivefold increase since 2000. A much smaller number is gaining in river flow.

Lakes and other surface water bodies are shrinking or being lost entirely in 364 basins worldwide. A continued high level of particles and nutrients in many large lakes can lead to algal blooms and low-oxygen waters, primarily caused by land clearance urbanization, and certain weather events.



Nevertheless, the construction of reservoirs contributes to a global net gain in permanent water, mainly in regions like North America, Europe, and Asia

Low levels of water quality monitoring

The poorest half of the world contributes under 3 per cent of global water quality data points, including only 4,500 lake quality measurements out of almost 250,000.

Half the world's countries have degraded freshwater systems, UN finds

This reveals an urgent need to improve monitoring capacity. Lack of data on this scale means that by 2030 over half of humanity will live in countries that have inadequate water quality data to inform management decisions related to addressing drought, floods, impacts from wastewater effluents and agricultural runoff.

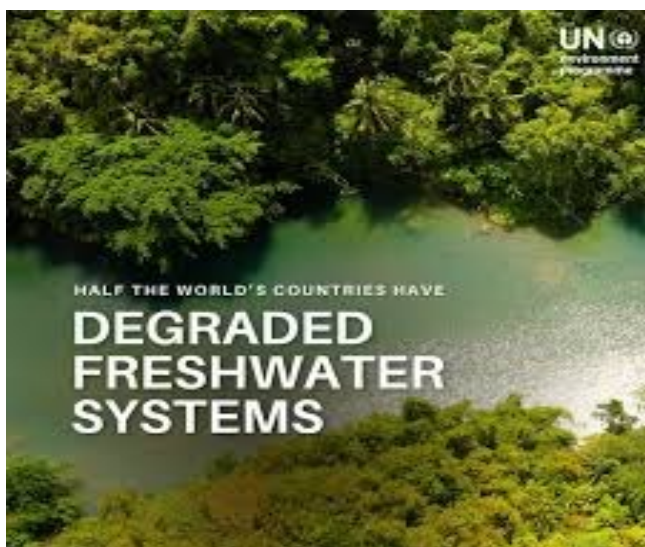
Inadequate progress on water resources management in over 100 countries

Balancing competing needs for sustainable water use from society and the economy requires the implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM) across sectors, at all levels and across borders by 2030.

47 countries have fully reached or almost reached IWRM, 63 countries need to accelerate implementation, while 73 countries have only limited capacity for IWRM. At the current rate of reported progress, the world will only achieve sustainable water management by 2049. This means that by 2030 at least 3.3 billion people in over 100 countries are likely to have ineffective governance frameworks to balance competing water demands.

Solutions include unlocking finance through revenue raising and cost recovery arrangements, investments in infrastructure and management, as well as coordinated action, greater institutional capacity and better monitoring networks.

Source : https://smartwatermagazine.com/news/un-environment/half-worlds-countries-have-degraded-freshwater-systems-un-finds?utm_source=Smart+Water+Magazine&utm_campaign=af8be45fee-SWM_Weekly_020924&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8200831b52-af8be45fee-305026585



What is Hydropolitics

The lack of a settled definition for hydropolitics—a prismatic concept that acquires specific meanings according to both the disciplinary boundaries within which it is used and the theoretical perspectives of those employing it—is consistent with the disagreement over its nomenclature (hydro-politics vs. hydropolitics).



The term has had many meanings and idiosyncratic usages over time, and there has been hardly any attempt to advance a clear definition for it. The strength of the concept of hydropolitics, its inter-disciplinary conceptual heterogeneity, is also its weakness. While the crystallization of some of the core features of hydropolitics in the literature—especially with regard to scale (namely, the focus on the inter-state level and the range of issues covered, that is, the politics of international water basins)—has anchored hydropolitics to “standard cases” of the concept, its theoretical underpinnings are still blurred.

The study of hydropolitics has substantially delved into trans-boundary, not just any, waters. Yet, both the ontology and epistemology of the concept are debatable, so few eclectic definitions for hydropolitics have emerged. Hence, by addressing the relationships between knowledge, theory, and action of hydropolitics, the scientific community, in particular scholars of international relations, political geography, and critical geopolitics, has struggled for theoretical coherence as well as for conceptual clarity over the use of the term.

This is not an easy task, though, because the fluid essence of hydropolitics escapes not only definition but also easy classification.

Source :Mattia Grandi. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199389414.013.644> .28 September 2020

UN Secretary-General Appoints Special Envoy on Water

The Envoy seeks to galvanize partnerships and concerted efforts to advance the water agenda, including the follow-up on the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference.

Marsudi will represent the Secretary-General in global water processes and work with UN-Water and its members to support the implementation of the UN System-wide Strategy on Water and Sanitation.



UN Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Retno Marsudi of Indonesia as his Special Envoy on Water. The Special Envoy champions and advocates for water and sanitation issues at the highest level, “convening stakeholders across the spectrum, amplifying the work of the UN system, and mobilizing action and financial resources to address the global water crisis.”

The Envoy seeks to galvanize partnerships and concerted efforts to advance the water agenda, including the follow-up on the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference, which concluded with an announcement that a UN Special Envoy for Water would be established. It was also agreed that a UN system-wide strategy on water and sanitation would assist the Envoy in their work. According to a statement by the Secretary-General, “[t]he Special Envoy will draw on these outcomes in the lead up to various global water processes, particularly the 2026 UN Water Conference.”

“She will support efforts to ensure a water-secure future for all by advocating for stronger political, economic, and social-cultural cooperation at all levels,” it notes. The Envoy will also work to strengthen international cooperation and synergies among international water processes in support of all water-related goals and targets, including SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation).

Marsudi will represent the Secretary-General in global water processes and work with UN-Water and its members to support the implementation of the UN System-wide Strategy on Water and Sanitation, in line with the SDG 6 Global Accelerator Framework.

Marsudi will assume the role of Special Envoy on Water on 1 November 2024, following completion her government service.

Per the Secretary-General’s statement, Marsudi served as Indonesia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs from 2014-2024. During her tenure, she oversaw the convening of the 10th World Water Forum in Bali 2024, which resulted in a Ministerial Declaration as its outcome.

In 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Marsudi was appointed Co-Chair of the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) Engagement Group. In that role, she supported the participation of 92 lower-middle-income countries (LMICs) and low-income countries (LICs) in the COVAX Facility, to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. Marsudi also served as Indonesia’s Ambassador to the Netherlands (2012-2014), and as Indonesia’s Ambassador to Iceland and Norway (2005-2008).

Source: https://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-secretary-general-appoints-special-envoy-on-water/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=SDG%20Update%2019%20September%202024&utm_content=SDG%20Update%2019%20September%202024+CID_3977af4073338e60ca604efc99e3b071&utm_source=cm&utm_term=Read

CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER SCARCITY AND MIGRATION (CWSM)

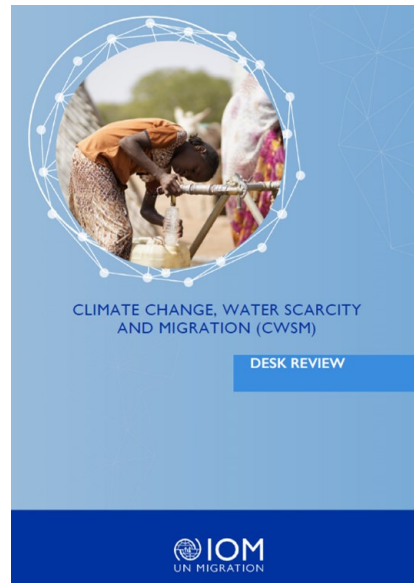
Regional overview

Over the past several decades, the total availability of water resources across the MENA region has trended downwards, thereby resulting in higher precedence of water scarcity (FAO, 2021). Increasing temperatures decreased rainfall rates, and desertification due to climate change overlaps with population growth, which has the Water scarcity is particularly harmful in rural communities given that most of the agriculture is located in these regions, and farmers depend on their crops both for survival and for their livelihood. Undoubtedly, general food security is threatened as well. Moreover, despite the indispensable quality of water in arid environments, human-induced water scarcity is prominent throughout the MENA region because of poor water management, wastefulness, and a lack of innovative strategies to mitigate water loss.

Water scarcity does not only impact the agricultural sector; it also plagues urban centres and has the potential to exacerbate conflicts. As droughts occur more frequently, many rural families are forced to migrate to larger cities to survive, though this typically occurs in conjunction with other contributing factors besides water scarcity. Upon their arrival, many individuals, especially poorer families, create makeshift homes and work in informal settings to provide for themselves, which effectively precludes them from accessing social services, and population growth can potentially reduce the amount of water available per capita. In Iraq, it has been demonstrated that ethnic and tribal tensions place migrant families at an increased risk for violence and exploitation, therefore reinforcing their state of vulnerability (IOM, 2021; IOM, 2020b).

Libya, one of the most arid nations within the MENA region, similarly struggles with water availability in urban coastal regions, though this is due primarily to the overuse of water from the Great Man-Made River (GMMR). Armed groups have even been known to fight the state for control of GMMR stations, during which access to its water has been cut off entirely in some cities..Sudan and Kenya have also experienced increased tensions between pastoralists and farmers regarding access to water resources, thereby demonstrating the need for more

adequate conflict resolution and resource management strategies.



Improving resource management strategies is one of the most pressing issues for the MENA region. Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia among other nations struggle to effectively irrigate industrial and private

farms, thereby resulting in additional water loss. North African coastal nations in particular have the potential to enhance their water desalination efforts to provide an alternative source of water given their population-dense coastline. However, many of these nations, like Libya, have not done so to the extent necessary to remedy the growing supply-demand gap, in no small part due to the high costs associated with the process. Saudi Arabia, conversely, demonstrates how extensive desalination infrastructure can successfully provide additional water resources to meet the demands of an arid nation-state. Moreover, geopolitical issues surrounding water access from rivers and aquifers increase tensions between countries like Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia, which confirms the need for improved transboundary water management in the MENA region.

To solve these issues, researchers and policymakers must establish the best practices to revitalize water infrastructure. Improving pipelines and canals for agricultural irrigation must be a priority. Regions in Morocco have even resorted to using saline water for crops due to the lack of water resources, which will reduce agricultural yield and deplete the soil over time. The situation appears quite dire, but better infrastructure, water management, and innovation with respect to desalination technologies have the potential to ameliorate water scarcity issues throughout the MENA region.

TÜRKİYE –IRAQ WATER FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Water projects and water management support will be provided to Iraq in exchange for oil

17.08.2024



Hidropolitik Akademi



Türkiye; It will provide project support to the Iraqi administration on the good management and economical use of the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Türkiye will finance the projects with the oil it will purchase from Iraq.

Ankara - The "Framework Agreement on Cooperation in the Water Field between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Iraq", approved by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, was published in the Official Gazette yesterday.



The issues agreed upon by Turkey and Iraq in the Decision Concerning the Approval of the Framework Agreement on Cooperation in the Water Field between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Iraq (Decision Number: 8836) are as follows:



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■ Turkish companies specialized in infrastructure, environment and water protection, sustainable and effective use of water resources, water desalination projects, flood and drought protection, irrigation and sewage networks, wastewater treatment and collection, purification and reuse of industrial wastewater, by the Republic of Iraq Participation in the tender processes to be announced upon invitation.

■ There will be cooperation in the field of implementation of joint projects on the development of sustainable water management in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and their best use in various fields such as agriculture, industry, municipal and drinking water in Iraq.

■ Expertise projects will be implemented in Iraq on the construction of water infrastructure and collection systems, dam safety and improvement of existing dams.

Projects will be financed in the most appropriate way to be agreed upon. The financing of each project will be met through a system based on Turkey's oil purchases from Iraq, unless otherwise agreed by the parties.

Source: <https://www.milliyet.com.tr/gundem/iraka-petrol-karsiliginda-su-destegi-verilecek-7173051>



Water for Peace Lost: Israel's War on Gaza Exacerbating Water Scarcity

96%

Drop in Average Water consumption
per capita due to War on Gaza



81% of households in Gaza
lack access to sufficient **clean water**



2 liters/person/day is the average water
consumption for all domestic needs

— **341** person share 1 toilet

— **1292** person share 1 shower



57%
of assessed WASH
facilities are damaged



40%
of the water networks in
Gaza Strip were destroyed



83%
of groundwater wells
are not operating

Statistics as of 20 March 2024

September 2024

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