

Water Scarcity Sorting Slips

Where water resource development is approaching or has exceeded unsustainable levels; it relates water availability to water demand and implies that arid areas are not necessarily water scarce.

Where water is available locally but not accessible for human, institutional or financial capital reasons.

Developing countries should invest in water management strategies that combine infrastructure with "natural" options such as safeguarding watersheds, wetlands and flood plains.

Trillions of dollars are represented in developed countries by the dams, canals, aqueducts, and pipelines that have been used to safeguard drinking water supplies.

Water from the watersheds that supply New York, in the Catskill Mountains and elsewhere around the city historically needed no filtering. That threatened to change in the 1990s, due to agricultural pollution and other issues. The city invested in a programme of land protection and conservation; this has maintained quality, and is calculated to have been cheaper than the alternative of building treatment works

For developed countries and the BRIC group - Brazil, Russia, India and China \$800bn per year will be required by 2015 to cover investments in water infrastructure, a target likely to go unmet.

Climate change is going to affect the amount of water that comes in as precipitation; and if you overlay that on an already stressed population ...

Widely held view that each person needs about 20 litres of water each day for the basics - to drink, cook and wash sufficiently to avoid disease transmission.

Japan and Cambodia experience about the same average rainfall - about 160cm per year. But whereas the average Japanese person can use nearly 400 litres per day, the average Cambodian must make do with about one-tenth of that.

In general we see drying in the sub-tropics and mid-latitudes, from southern Europe across to Kazakhstan and from North Africa to Iran. India, Bangladesh and Burma, there are indications of an increase in water availability.

Streams that are important for small communities in Tanzania may go dry for half the year, largely because people are taking more and more water for irrigating crops.

The principal cause of decreasing water stress (where it occurs) is the greater availability of water due to increased annual precipitation related to climate change.

The principal cause of increasing water stress is growing water withdrawals, and the most important factor for this increase is the growth of domestic water use stimulated by income growth.

Rapid shrinking of Himalayan glaciers which may lose four-fifths of their area by 2030, removing what is effectively a huge natural reservoir storing water for more than a billion people.

Population is four times more important than climate change when it comes to water shortages.

The US is one of the top five markets for desalination spending, especially on the west coast where California's agricultural industry is reliant on ever-diminishing sources like the strained Colorado River and Sierra Snow packs.

The US wastes 1.7 trillion gallons of water every year just through leaks and issues with our aging water infrastructure.

Rising sea levels do indeed threaten water supplies of coastal residents. The fresh water supplies are contaminated with salt water as tides creep farther inland.

Privatizing water means that corporations can participate in owning and providing water and sanitation services, and sometimes even water resources themselves. This is a big concern to water activists, who recognize the ability of a corporation to abuse its power over such a vital resource.