

Notes for

FACT SHEET 3

WATER RESOURCES FOR GROWING POPULATIONS

Table 1
Rainfall and Rivers

Continent	Average rainfall p.a, mm.	Average run-off mm.after evaporation	Largest river	Average annual flow of largest river. mill megalitres	Total run-off pa from rivers mill. megalitres	Megalitres per sq km
South America	1350	490	Amazon	5,705	16,545	930
Africa	1660	160	Congo	1,302	20,700	685
Asia	610	220	Yangtze	1,129	13,050	296
North America	660	260	Mississippi-	584	7,038	290
Europe	580	230	Missouri			
Australia	420	45	Danube	254	2,427	250
			Murray-Darling	13	387	51

Maps, tables, text and graphics are also needed to to show:

- Underground aquifers; the great artesian basins
- Approximate water use per head of population in contrasting regions
- Areas where fresh surface drinking water is short;
- The state of river basins of the world, such as Nile, Euphrates, Murray-Darling, Brahmaputra, Mekong, Yang-tze, Jordan valley, etc);
- Countries and coasts (e.g. Dubai) relying on desalination;
- Projected effects of climate change.
- Tables of waterborne diseases in the world likely to increase with climate change.
- Adjacent countries and states with conflicts over water, such as Israel-Palestine; Australian states over the Murray-Darling Basin; international conflicts over water from major watercourses and their head-sources, such as for the Ganges, Bramaputra, Mekong, Euphrates
- Problems with dam-building and consequences
- Problems with wells. From pre-history on, tribes and nations have relied on wells for water. As populations have grown, wells have become more problematic, and sometimes exhausted. Groundwater can be contaminated, as when the Bangladeshi well-digging campaign resulted in unexpected arsenic poisoning.

- Problems of water sources wrecked by sewage, industrial pollution, logging of catchments
- Areas in developing countries where people must source their water from ever further and further away, carrying it however they can.



<http://www.cbmphoto.co.uk/India/Womwater.html>

- Risk to fair access to world water resources - Water as a commodity, not an essential service.

The Managing Director of Water in the government of Victoria, Australia, wants the public to stop thinking water is an essential service, and regard it as only a commodity to be bought and sold for private profit, subject to market forces. (Melbourne Age, April 3, 2009, p 5). He adds that water is 'already privately owned in my view', and indeed this is happening world-wide, to end up in multinational ownership.