



U.N. says world entering "water bankruptcy"

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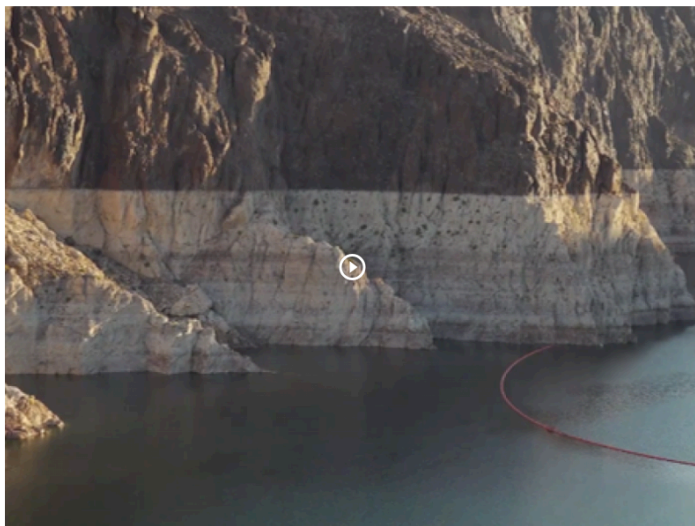
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STREAMGLISH – THE COLORADO RIVER IS RUNNING DRY

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THE COLORADO RIVER IS RUNNING DRY

VOCABULAIRE ENREGISTRÉ



Durée : 2min

Langue : English

Sous-titres : Sous titres pédagogiques par niveau

Accents : 🇺🇸

KEYWORDS / RECAP

Water crisis /'kraɪsɪs/

→ **water bankruptcy** /'bæŋkrʌp(t)si/ (“faillite hydrique”)

To live beyond one's means = vivre au-dessus de ses moyens

Ø **Climate change**

Heat = la chaleur

Drought /draʊt/ = la sécheresse

To compound (a problem) = aggraver / exacerber

A looming environmental disaster = une catastrophe écologique imminente / qui se profile

A dam = un barrage

Aridification = /ə'ɪdɪfɪ'keɪʃən/



“If climate change is a shark, water is its teeth.”

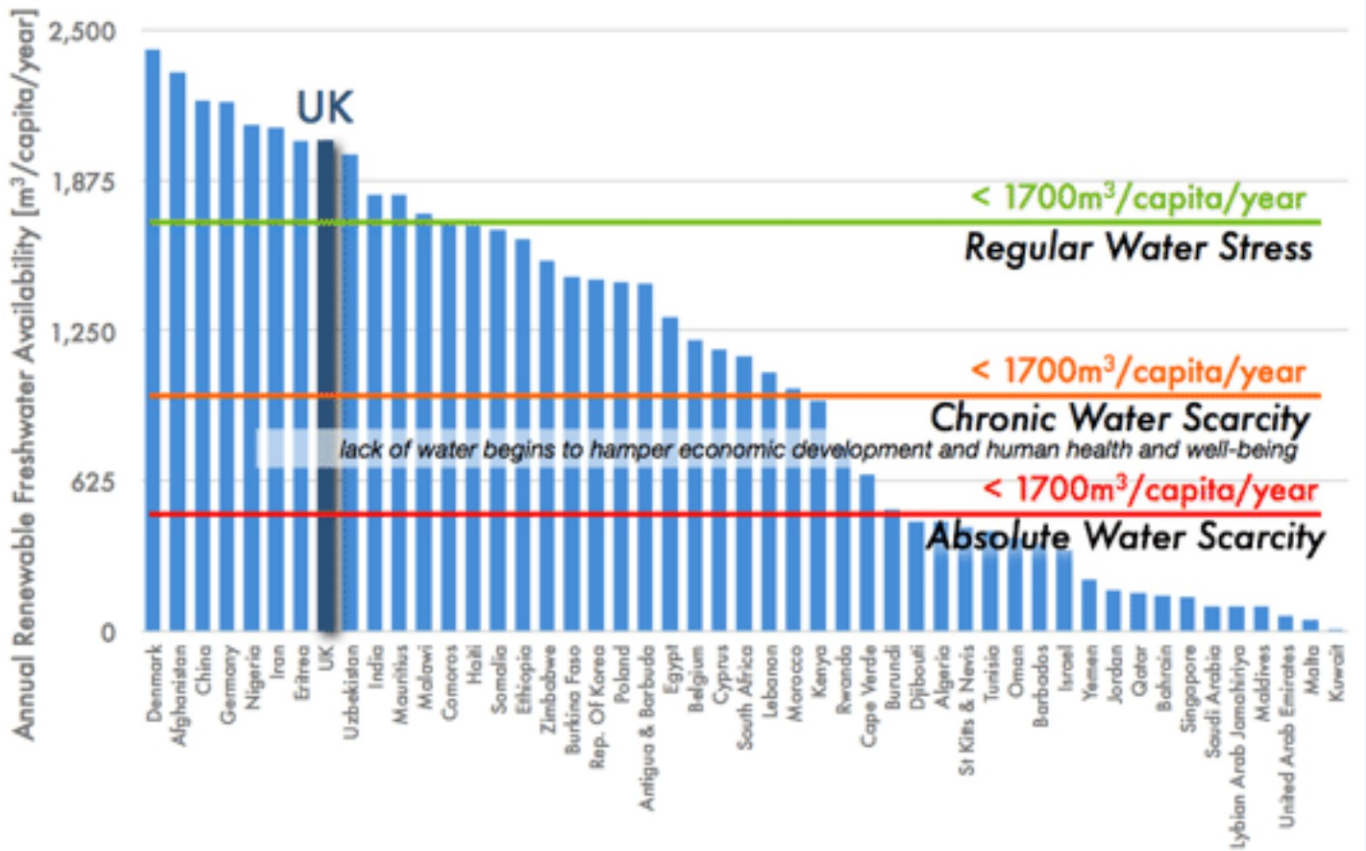
<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/42Dc8F0u0a8>



**'If climate change
is a shark,
water is its teeth'**



Water Scarcity



University of Nottingham - Water Scarcity - Annual Renewable freshwater availability for a selection of countries, 2025

Half the world's 100 largest cities are in high water stress areas, analysis finds

The Guardian, Thu 22 Jan 2026

Half the world's 100 largest cities are experiencing high levels of water stress, with 38 of these sitting in regions of "extremely high water stress", new analysis and mapping has shown.

Water stress means that water **withdrawals** (= _____) for public water supply and industry are close to exceeding available supplies, often caused by poor management of water resources exacerbated by climate **breakdown**.(= _____) (...)

About 1.1 billion people live in major metropolitan areas located in regions experiencing strong long-term drying, compared with about 96 million in and around cities in regions showing strong wetting trends. (...)

Now in its sixth year of drought, Tehran is perilously close to “day zero” when no water will be available for its citizens, and last year the country’s president, Masoud Pezeshkian, said the city may have to be evacuated if the drought continues. (...)

On Tuesday the UN announced that the world had entered a state of water bankruptcy where deterioration of some water resources had become permanent and irreversible. Prof Kaveh Madani, director of the United Nations University Institute for Water Environment and Health, said poor management of water is frequently the main cause of bankruptcy and that climate breakdown is **seldom** (= _____) the sole reason: “Climate change is like a recession on top of bad management of business.”(...)

By 2055, England could need to find an additional 5bn litres of water a day **to meet demand** (= _____) for public water supply – more than a third of the 14bn litres of water currently put into the public water supply, according to the Environment Agency. Other water sectors, such as agriculture and energy, may need an additional 1bn litres of water a day.(...)

Parts of southern England have recently suffered water **outages** (= _____), which South East Water **blamed on** (= _____) winter storms. However, regulators had already written to the company with “serious concerns” about its security of supply. (...)

The Chicago River was once a heavily polluted mess, a source of deadly diseases like cholera and typhoid fever. The waterway was so dirty that engineers famously reversed its direction in 1900 so it would no longer flow into Lake Michigan, the city's source for drinking water. However, in recent decades, the Chicago River's water quality has improved significantly, thanks to legislation like the 1972 Clean Water Act and organizations like Friends of the Chicago River, Openlands and Urban Rivers.

Now, new research adds to the growing body of evidence that the once-contaminated waterway is getting healthier. At least 24 species of fish are now successfully reproducing in the Chicago River, according to a new study published in the Journal of Great Lakes Research, which suggests clean-up and restoration efforts are working.

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The Chicago River is a 156-mile system of rivers and canals flowing through the heart of downtown, providing an ideal vantage point for viewing the city's many architectural wonders by boat. Scientists already knew that nearly 60 species of fish were living in the waterway. But they didn't know how many were spawning there—a good indicator of the river's ability to sustain and support diverse fish populations. Austin Happel, a biologist with the Shedd Aquarium, wanted to find out.

For the new study, Happel focused on two specific sections of the waterway, the North Branch and the South Branch. At ten total sites, he installed illuminated devices designed to attract fish larvae. In the end, he gathered 2,211 specimens between 2020 and 2022.

Back at the lab, Happel performed DNA analyses on the larvae, which revealed two-dozen species, including gizzard shad, golden shiner, spotfin shiner, black crappie, bluegill and largemouth bass. He also identified brook silverside and mimic shiner fish, which are generally considered to be intolerant of pollution. Finding juvenile members of these species was a “pleasant surprise,” suggesting the Chicago River is relatively clean, per a statement from the aquarium. (...)

The researchers also noticed a difference between the North Branch and the South Branch. The North Branch had more species that tend to be tolerant of pollution, while the South Branch had a higher number of pollution-intolerant species. This finding is likely the result of “some combination of suitable substrate, submerged vegetation and water quality” in the South Branch, Happel writes in the paper. This section of the river also has unused barge slips and other backwater areas that might be offering protection from predators and abundant food for young fish.

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Zooming out, Happel and his colleagues are also conducting studies to understand how habitat restoration initiatives—such as the introduction of artificial floating wetlands—are affecting fish behavior and populations in the Chicago River. (...) Conservationists are also heartened by the presence of wildlife—including American mink, beavers and “Chonkosaurus,” a large snapping turtle who went viral a few years ago. And, for the first time in roughly a century, the city is hosting an open-water swim in the waterway to raise money for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, research.

The Chicago River Swim, which took place on Sunday, “mark[ed] a major victory for our city—a testament to decades of hard work revitalizing our river,” says Brandon Johnson, mayor of Chicago, in a statement.

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REVERSE OUTLINING : Read the article, which has been broken down into its main sections. For each part, provide a **key heading** and explain the **clues** or **keywords** that helped you identify its purpose.

Running dry: New study warns of extreme water scarcity in the coming decades

by Institute for Basic Science, PHYS.ORG, September 25, 2025



A new study published in the journal *Nature Communications* by researchers from the IBS Center for Climate Physics (ICCP) at Pusan National University in the Republic of Korea reveals that global warming is accelerating the risk of multi-year droughts that can lead to extreme water scarcity, threatening water demands in cities, agriculture, and livelihoods worldwide, already within the coming decades.



The study uses the latest generation of climate model simulations to determine the time when local water demands will exceed the regional water supply from precipitation, rivers, and reservoirs. This time is commonly referred to as the Day Zero Drought (DZD). Cities, such as Cape Town (South Africa) in 2018 and Chennai (India) in 2019, have already been close to DZD conditions, highlighting the growing vulnerability of urban water supply systems for drinking water and agriculture.



Understanding where and when these conditions will emerge is crucial for developing effective water management strategies for rural and urban communities. The new study shows that the frequency of DZDs will increase sharply over the coming decades, much sooner than previously anticipated.

The climate models used by the authors were forced with the SSP3-7.0 and SSP2-4.5 greenhouse gas emission scenarios. Focusing on hydrological compound extremes, including prolonged rainfall deficits, reduced river flow, and increasing water consumption, but excluding groundwater reservoirs, the study identifies robust DZD hotspots across the Mediterranean, southern Africa, and parts of North America. Urban areas are particularly vulnerable.



According to the simulations, DZDs are likely to emerge in 35% of the vulnerable regions already within the next 15 years. By the end of this century, DZD conditions could threaten about 750 million people globally, including 470 million city residents and 290 million people in rural areas. The Mediterranean region is projected to have the highest urban exposure, whereas Northern and Southern Africa and parts of Asia face the most severe rural impacts.

"Our study shows that global warming causes and accelerates Day Zero Drought conditions worldwide. Even if we meet the 1.5 °C target, hundreds of millions of people will still face unprecedented water shortages," says Ph.D. candidate Ravinandrasana, first author of the study.

"According to our calculations, and due to the increasing severity of hydrological stress, 14% of major water reservoirs could dry out already during their first DZD events, with severe impacts on people's livelihoods," says corresponding author Prof. Christian Franzke from the IBS Center for Climate Physics.



"Day Zero Droughts are no longer a distant scenario: they are already happening. Without immediate adaptation and sustainable water management, hundreds of millions of people are likely to face unprecedented future water shortages," says Ravinandrasana.

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(...)

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N32 "Cent", "Des centaines de..."

Deux constructions sont possibles. Tout dépend de ce qu'on veut dire :

"Des centaines de", "des dizaines de"..." → [-s] +OF	"Plusieurs dizaines de", "trois mille", "quatre cent millions"..." → Ø (pas de [-s] ni de OF)
<i>dozens of people</i> <i>hundreds of cars</i> <i>thousands of flowers</i> <i>millions of stars</i> <i>billions of words</i> <i>hundreds of thousands of casualties</i> <i>thousands of billions of dollars</i>	<i>two dozen eggs</i> <i>several hundred cows</i> <i>many thousand sheep</i> <i>a few million satellites</i> <i>more billion sentences</i> <i>5 hundred thousand species</i> <i>several thousand billion euros</i>

On peut ajouter **THE** devant toutes ces expressions si on leur ajoute un complément :
The dozen eggs I bought broke on the way.
The billions of words processed in this corpus are all US English.

“Sustainable water management” 🤔

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/42Dc8F0u0a8>



**'If climate change
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water is its teeth'**



Provide a **title**, a **key question** or **thesis**, and a **rough plan** for a synthesis based on the two articles.

Reminder: Do not treat the documents separately. You must establish connections between the two documents.

TITLE :

What future for water? / The uncertain future of water resources

Water at the Crossroads of Renewal and Scarcity

Water : From Depletion to Renewal ?

THESIS/KEY QUESTION

The corpus explores humanity's contrasting relationship with water, between signs of resilience and evidence of global depletion.

EC278936

