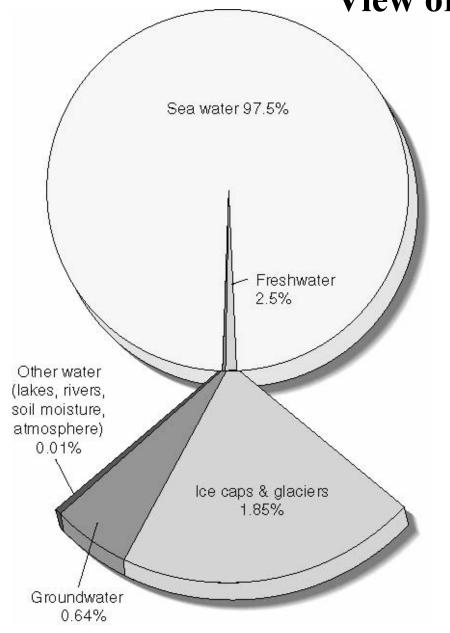
# Lecture 1: A Global Water Crisis?



### View of Earth from Mars









- Groundwater is an integral part of hydrological cycle
- Est. 4.2 million km3 of groundwater
- Within 1 km of earth's surface

#### **Compared to:**

- 125 000 km3 freshwater lakes
- 1250 km3 in streams

'the invisible resources'

TABLE 4.4 Estimated Residence Time of the World's Water Supply

Water Type	Residence Time
Oceans and seas	4000 years (approx.)
Lakes and reservoirs	10 years (approx.)
Swamps	1–10 years (approx.)
Rivers	2 weeks
Soil moisture	2 weeks-1 year
Groundwater	2 weeks-10,000 years
Icecaps and glaciers	10-1000 years
Atmospheric water	10 days

Source: Adapted from R. Allen Freeze and John A. Cherry, Groundwater (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1979), 5.

#### <u>Canada</u>

- •0.5% of world's population
- •20% of global freshwater
- •25% of wetlands (recharge)
- •7% flow of renewable water
- •\$7.5-\$23 billion annual contribution to Canada's economy

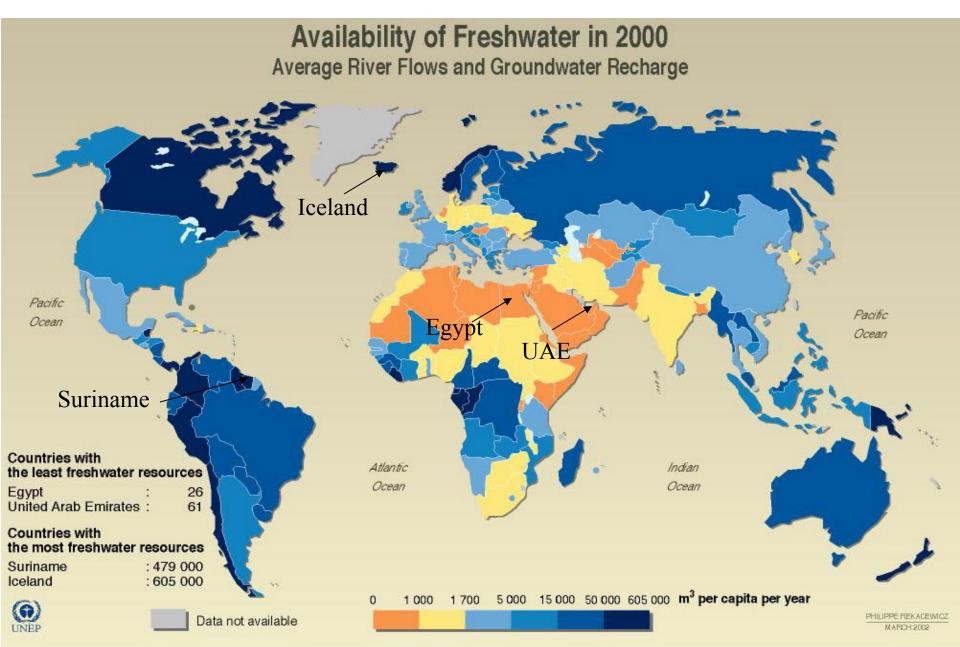
### Global Water Security



- •Control of Water Resources (state and non-state actors): where water supplies or access to water is at the root of tensions.
- •Military Tool (state actors): where water resources, or water systems themselves, are used by a nation or state as a weapon during a military action.
- •Political Tool (state and non-state actors): where water resources, or water systems themselves, are used by a nation, state, or non-state actor for a political goal.
- •**Terrorism** (non-state actors): where water resources, or water systems, are either targets or tools of violence or coercion by non-state actors.
- •Military Target (state actors): where water resource systems are targets of military actions by nations or states.
- •Development Disputes (state and non-state actors): where water resources or water systems are a major source of contention and dispute in the context of economic and social development.

http://www.worldwater.org/conflictchronoglogy.html

### Global Water Issues



#### Area of the 10 Largest Watersheds Amazon Canga Mississippi Nile Parana Yenisey Lake Chad Lena Niger Millions of km<sup>2</sup> Population of the 10 Largest Watersheds Amazon Canga Mississippi Nile 0b Parana Yenisey Lake Chad Lena Niger

30

120

Millians of geogle

150

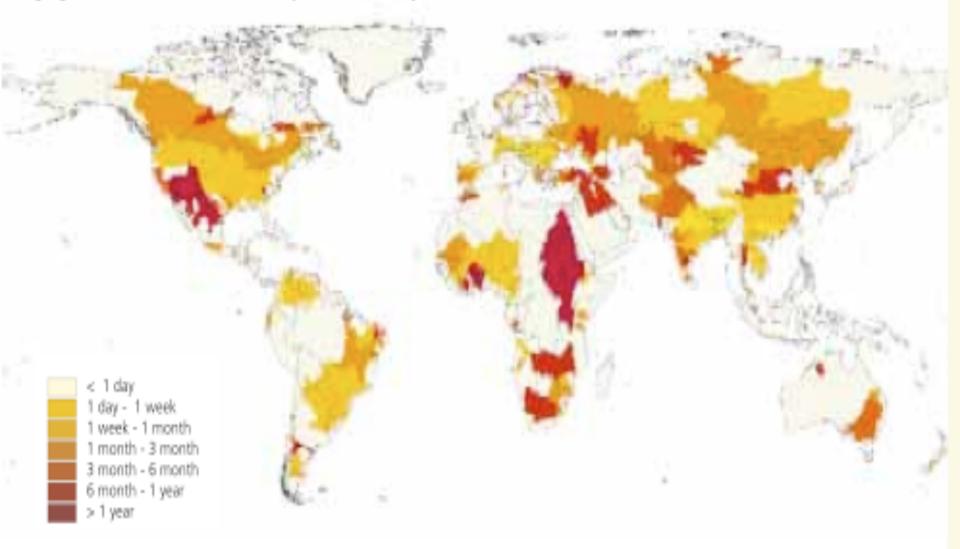
## Ensure sufficient quantity/quality of water adequate for human use

- •1.1 billion globally without access to safe water supplies
- •2/5 without adequate sanitation
- •Humans become thirsty after losing 1% of bodily fluids
- •Danger of death when this approaches 10%
  - 41 percent of the world's population, or 2.3 billion people, live in river basins under water stress, where per capita water availability is less than 1,700 m3/year
  - Of these, 1.7 billion people reside in highly stressed river basins where annual water availability is less than 1,000 m3/person.
  - •Assuming current consumption patterns continue, by 2025, researchers project that at least 3.5 billion people, or 48 percent of the world's population will live in water-stressed river basins. Of these, 2.4 billion will live under high water stress conditions

# Modification of Water Resources

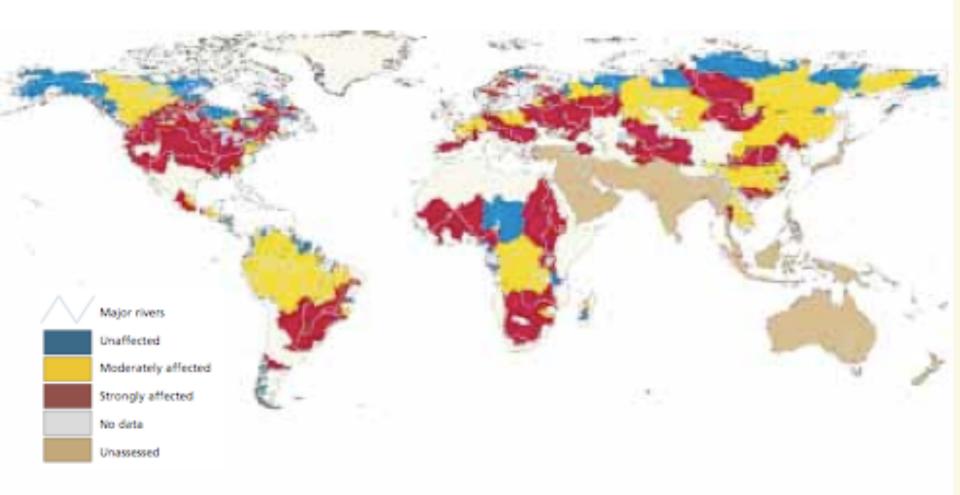
- Global demand in the 20th century
  - Population growth
  - Industrialization
  - Expansion of irrigated agriculture

Aging of Continental Runoff in Major Reservoir Systems

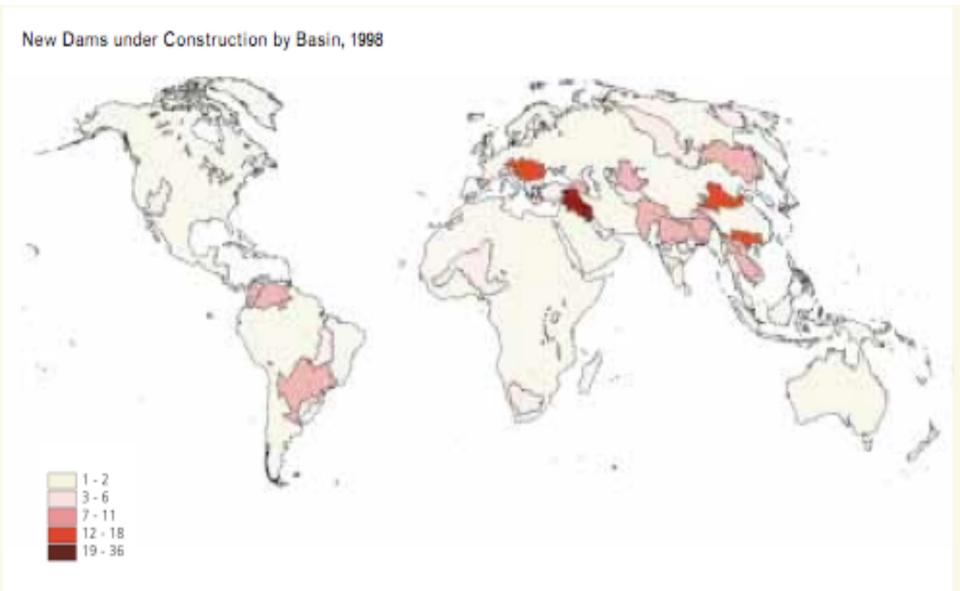


The pandemic construction of large reservoirs represents an important component of the terrestrial water cycle and one that merits due consideration in future global change studies.

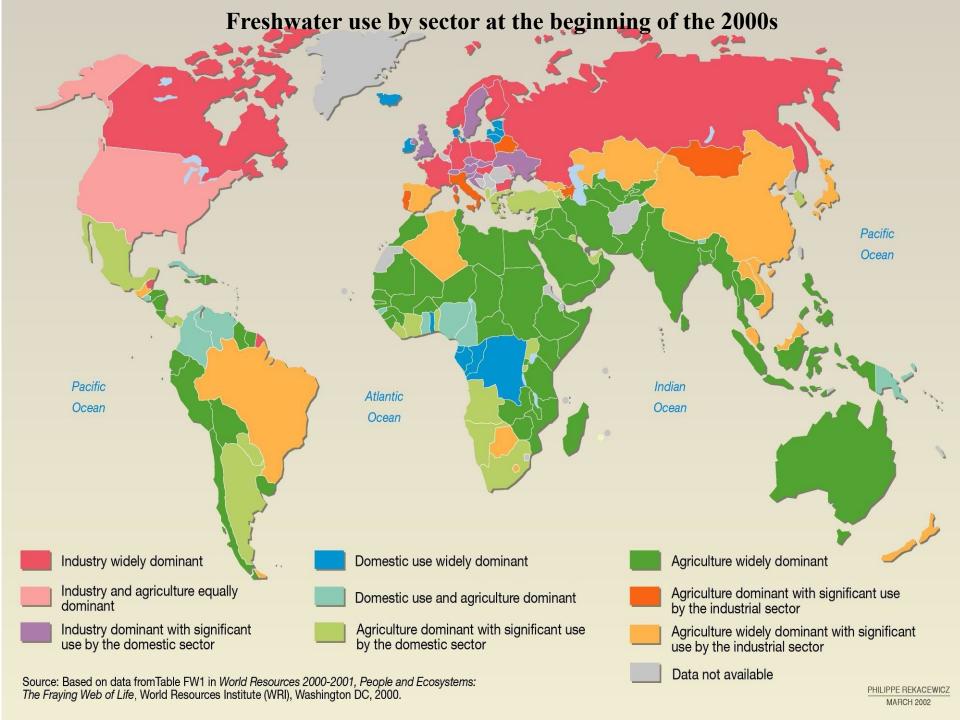
#### River Channel Fragmentation and Flow Regulation



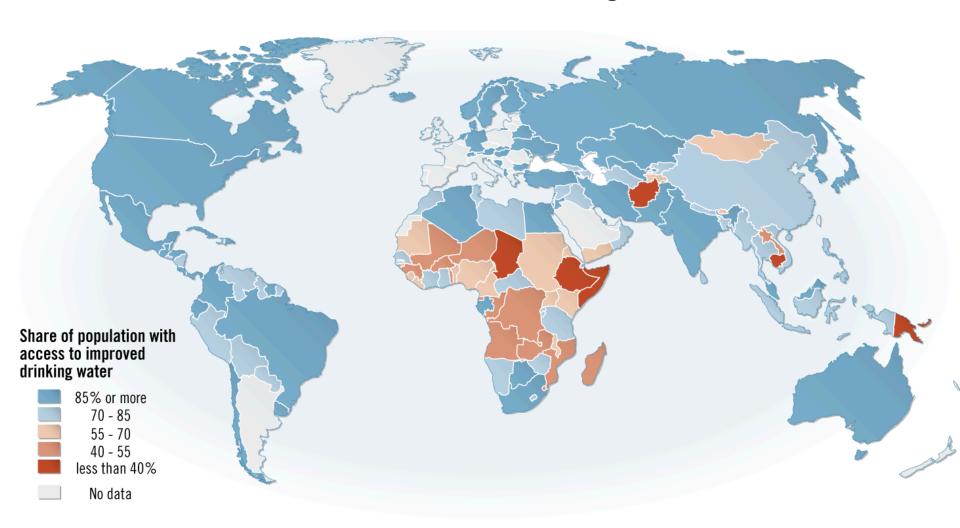
The map shows the extent of fragmentation, or interruption of natural flow, caused by human intervention in 227 large river systems



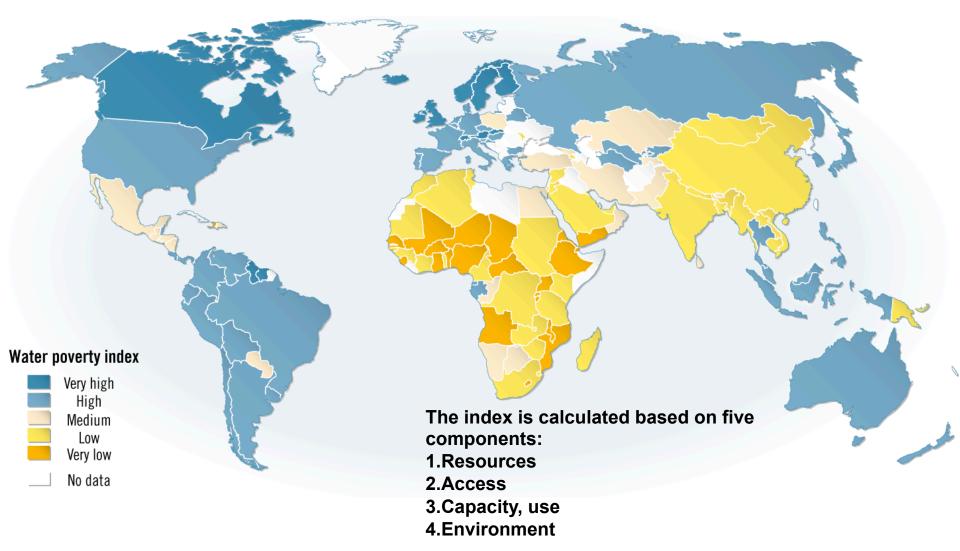
Dams slow the rate of natural flow, thereby increasing sedimentation and lowering levels of dissolved oxygen.

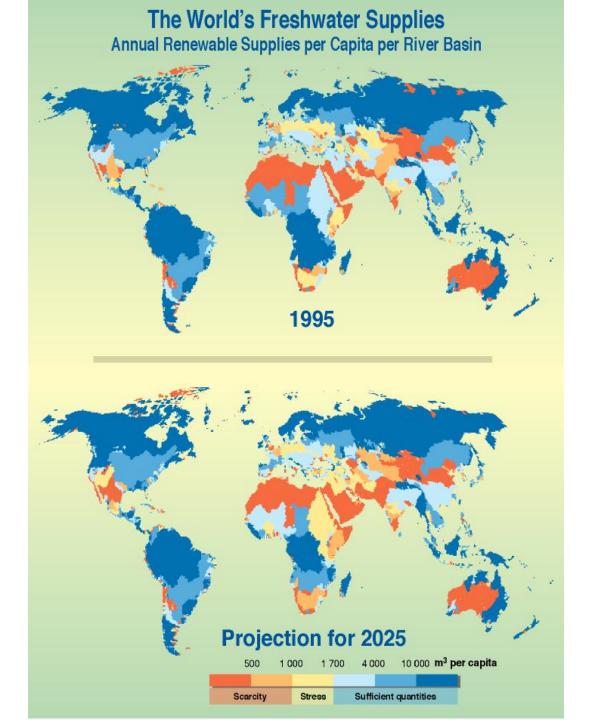


### Access to Safe Drinking Water



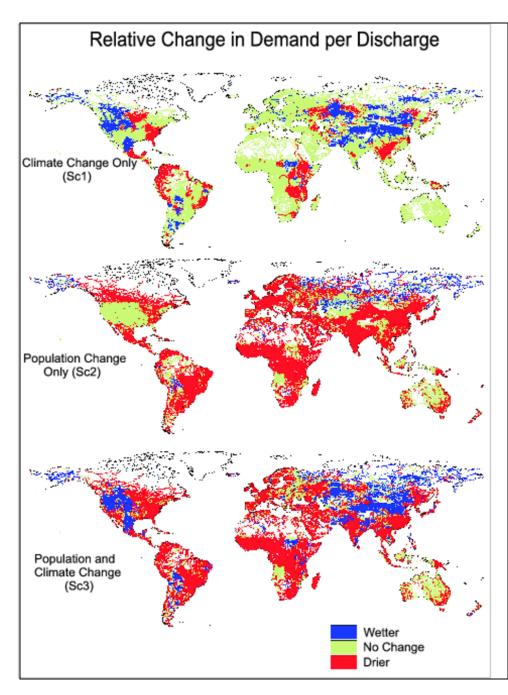
## Water Poverty Index





# Water Stress Changes to 2025

- 80% of future stress from population
  & development,
  not climate change!
- Future distortions of the water cycle are inevitable
- High resolution operational mapping of water stress important to food, health, international security



### Water Resource Management

- World Bank: Water Resources Management is the integrating concept for a number of water sub-sectors such as hydropower, water supply and sanitation, irrigation and drainage, and environment.
- •An integrated water resources perspective ensures that social, economic, environmental and technical dimensions are taken into account in the management and development of water resources.
- The decision-making, manipulative and nonmanipulative processes by which water is protected, allocated or developed
- Principles of Water Resources: Historical, development, management and policy arenas surrounding water resources



Other Global Issues...