

Special Issue

Sustainable Groundwater Resources Management

Message from the Guest Editors

Groundwater is the world's largest freshwater resource. However, in light of the increasing population, an ecology-based but economic management is required for its sustainability. Besides the basic questions of groundwater recharge and tolerable abstraction volumes, particular attention should be paid to the diverse interactions between aquifers and surface waters decisive for the movement of water and the substances transported in catchments and landscapes or over regions. Most of the world's rivers are mainly fed by groundwater outflow from adjacent aquifers. The abstraction of groundwater will decrease their flows, with a particular impact on low flows. With lowering groundwater levels, perennial rivers recharged by continuous groundwater flow turn into intermittent rivers. Additionally, vegetation and soil use, forests, agriculture, irrigation, urbanization, etc., have impacts, sometimes temporarily, often seasonal, bringing up questions about groundwater storage recuperation and water balances.

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