



water



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## Groundwater Resources Management: Reconciling Demand, High Quality Resources and Sustainability

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The prospect of a world population of 9 billion by 2050, growing urbanisation, intensive irrigated agriculture and climate change will add extra pressures on the water resources and the environment. The availability of high-quality freshwater is a decisive factor for socio-economic development. Water scarcity occurs in many countries—particularly in the Mediterranean, Middle East, Africa, etc.—that are confronted with a crucial combination of a severe lack of and increasing demand for high-quality water. World water resources seem abundant; however, only 0.7% of this total amount is usable water. Serious water pollution problems make 1/5 of the world's population (approximately 1.1 billion people) at risk of water-related diseases. Competition for water made scarce by intensive irrigation is already a major source of conflict in arid and semiarid areas.

Groundwater is worldwide the main source of domestic supply and irrigation. [...]

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# Special Issue

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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

In the context of global changes, the sustainable management of water cycles, going from global and regional water cycles to urban, industrial and agricultural water cycles, plays a very important role on the water resources and on their relationships with food, energy, biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and human health. *Water* invites authors to provide innovative original full articles, critical reviews and timely short communications and to propose special issues devoted to new technological and scientific domains and to interdisciplinary approaches of the water cycles. We ensure a critical review process and a quick turnaround between submission and final decision.

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