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**Research Guide Series**

**Water Resources & Conflict**

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## Water Resources & Conflict

Water is vital for life, yet the supply available for human use is limited. Less than 1 per cent of the world's freshwater is readily accessible<sup>1</sup> and this is unevenly distributed throughout the planet. Changes to the climate threaten to affect the availability of water, while the world's population is ever increasing and creating more demand for this precious resource. Some authors have suggested that disputes over water have the potential to escalate into armed conflict, while others believe the importance of the resource encourages peace and cooperation between nations. This guide looks at the relationship between water and conflict in previous and predicted future scenarios.

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This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on water conflict. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.water.org/waterpartners.aspx?pgID=916#Ref\\_2](http://www.water.org/waterpartners.aspx?pgID=916#Ref_2)

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<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/natres/waterindex.htm>

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
<http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/pccp/>

Green Cross International: preventing and resolving conflicts over natural resources  
[http://gci.ch/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=14&Itemid=12](http://gci.ch/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14&Itemid=12)

The Pacific Institute: Water and Conflict  
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Compiler: Lisa Vellender, 2008  
Updated: Alison Pratt, 2011