

## Documents

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**Water demand versus supply in Saudi Arabia: current and future challenges**

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**Abstract**

Saudi Arabia is facing a chronic water-shortage problem. Demand far exceeds the sustainable yield of both conventional and non-conventional water resources. The resulting demand-supply gap is being bridged through groundwater depletion. In this paper, demand-supply gaps for the coming 20 years are projected under three scenarios: optimistic, moderate and pessimistic. Future sustainable water yields are calculated and allocated to projected water demand in the domestic, industrial and agricultural sectors. The study shows that Saudi Arabia will not be able to bridge the demand-supply gap in the near future. Intensive water demand management measures are needed in all sectors to minimize future demand-supply gaps, especially focused on the largest water consumer: the agricultural sector. © 2013 Taylor & Francis.

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