

PRESS RELEASE

World Water Week 2011

Stockholm, August 28, 2011 – This year's World Water Week closed its doors on August 27 in Stockholm. Experts repeatedly warned against an aggravation of the world's water crisis.

The global need for water will increase by 40% until the year 2030. This does not only apply to the security of water supply for the population (which does not exist for a majority of the population), but it also applies to the agricultural and energy sectors.

Lack of water leads to poor hygiene, an increasing number of diseases such as diarrheal disorders, and more fatalities. This weakens the economic performance of the affected countries. Ecological problems such as desertification and the resulting rural exodus lead to urbanization. Already today, large cities with their slums encounter significant problems in water supply and waste management. These problems will aggravate. The groundwater level will continue to sink due to overexploitation, and the contamination of surface waters will further increase.

„We need new and especially binding concepts. Those who ignore the water crisis for political reasons will pay the price in a few years' time.“, says Martin Geiger, expert of WWF Germany.

Institute Water for Africa agrees. Those countries who – for political reasons – will not make their meteorological and hydrological data available to their neighboring countries or at least to a politically neutral institution, will encounter severe problems with their water management. The key word is “Transboundary Water Resources Management“.

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Institute Water for Africa urgently calls decision makers in the German and African governments and in the African Water Ministries to commit to building a cross-border hydro-meteorological measuring network across Africa.