

# NASA data shows global groundwater depletion

By Renee Lewis, Aljazeera America

In over half of the world's largest aquifers, water is being drawn faster than it is being replenished, while some of those wellsprings may be much smaller than previously assumed, according to two studies released on Tuesday.

As climate change and population growth increasingly stress the world's water supplies, understanding how much groundwater exists and at what rates it can be sustainably drawn is critical, said scientists behind the studies.

"Until improved storage estimates exist to determine a system's full capacity to buffer against renewable ground water stress, continued pressure on aquifer systems could lead to irreversible depletion that seriously threaten the sustainability of groundwater dependent regions," said a UC Irvine report titled "Uncertainty in Global Groundwater Storage."

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