

Turkey and water sources-related problems




On Water Resources in Turkey, problems such as design and practices related to “unsustainable” water use and lack of infrastructure cause problems on Water Resources. Highlights among these issues include:

1. Unsustainable water infrastructure projects (hydroelectric power plants, dams, water transfer within basins), contradictory practices.



2. Agricultural water use (inefficient irrigation methods, unconscious use of underground water)


3. Pollution: Out of the 3,225 municipalities in Turkey, only 296 have wastewater treatment plants. Polluted water resources directly affect not only human and environmental health, biodiversity, but also a large number of people whose livelihoods depend on water.

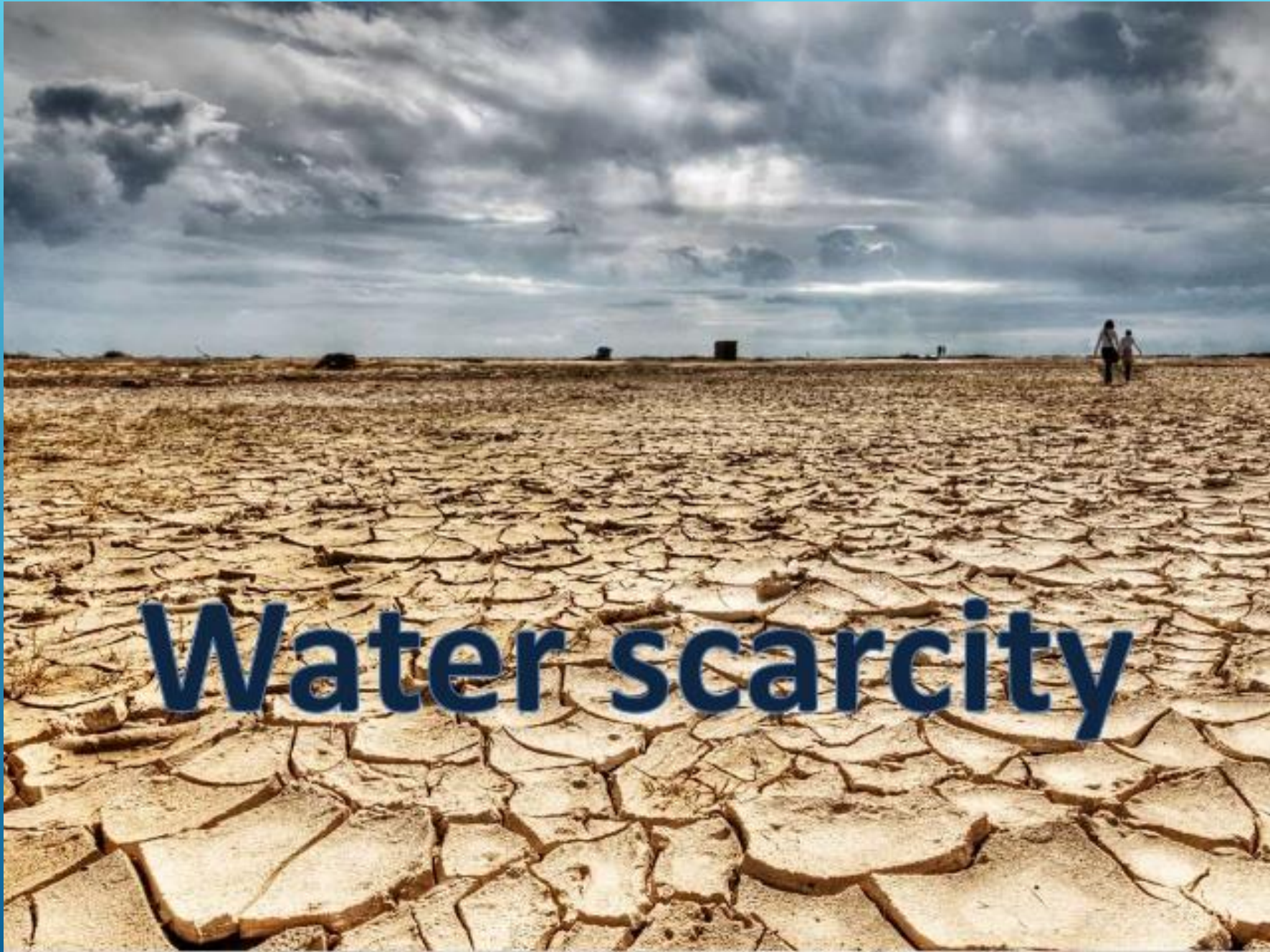
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4. Distribution of drinking/supply water (**waste**)
5. Global climate change: For example, it has been determined that precipitation has decreased by 20% in the last 25 years Mediterranean Region.
6. Mining, large constructions (making large amounts of water unusable)
7. Another problem with the water in Turkey in water on the official/ administrative/operational tasks is that many institutions

River Basin-specific Problems in Turkey

There are 25 river basins in Turkey and the specific problems related to the water basin are also taking place. For example, the main problem in Big Menderes and Ergene Basins is excessive agricultural water use in Konya Closed Basin, which has a semi-arid climate although there is pollution. |





Water scarcity

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Although there is no clear definition of the term "water scarcity" accepted by all circles, it is expressed in the broadest sense as the lack of access to sufficient amounts of water needed for human and environmental use. On the other hand, consensus on how to measure it has not been fully reached.

However, the **Falkenmark index** value or **Falkenmark Water Stress Index** is an index developed for this purpose.. This index is an expression of the amount of **renewable** water that the population in a given region is able to access.

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The Falkenmark index is a simple and easy calculation, but it is open to some errors. It is not possible to distinguish whether the amount of water in the area is available or not. The water in the area can be very deep groundwater. Or it could contain contaminants. On the other hand, if there is a saltwater treatment plant in the region, it cannot distinguish the inputs from here.

In another water scarcity assessment account, the amount of water available and the amount of water consumed is calculated by taking into account artificial water inputs and the amount of water used again. In this account, unlike the other two methods, if the country is unable to meet the future water demand without any investment or expenditure, it is called a **water-scarce country**. If this demand cannot be met even if investment or expenditure is made, it is called a country experiencing **physical water scarcity**.