

Abstract

The Jordan River Basin is located in the Middle East where water is scarce. The river is shared basin is located between five riparians: Jordan, Syria, Israel, Palestine, and Lebanon. Tension over water allocation has made making an agreement between these countries very difficult. As a result, the Jordan River is dwindling in both amount of available water and water quality. Being located in a desert, the Jordan River already loses 88% of precipitation to evapotranspiration. The remaining water is not enough to support the five surrounding riparians. Citizens in Jordan's capital, Amman, are already limited to pumping water once a week. The decrease in the water table has led to a decrease in water quality, and the Jordan River as well as tributaries are declining in water quality. Overuse of the Jordan River has caused a decline in the Dead Sea as well. Sea level has dropped 22 meters in the past 70 years, causing struggle in the businesses that rely on the Sea's precious resources as a source of income. The decline in the Jordan River as also led to a change in the river's geomorphology. Although there are some agreements between some of the countries involved, all riparians must work together to come to an agreement for sustainable water practices and allocation before the Jordan River and Dead Sea diminish further. Without a policy change, the Dead Sea will drop to over 600 meters below sea level in the next 100-200 years.