

# Water As An Inescapable Risk: What You Need To Know

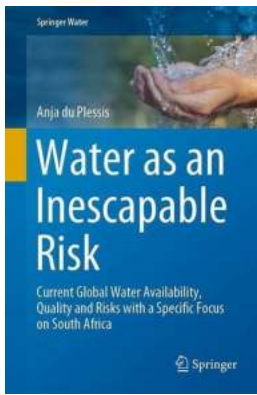
Water is a fundamental resource required for the survival of all living beings on Earth. From drinking and cooking to cleaning and agriculture, water is used in various aspects of our daily lives. However, along with its undeniable importance, water also poses significant risks that cannot be ignored. In this article, we will explore the inescapable risks associated with water and discuss why it is crucial to understand and address these risks.

## **Drowning: A Global Concern**

One of the most prominent risks associated with water is drowning. Every year, thousands of lives are lost due to drowning incidents worldwide, making it a global concern. Drowning can occur in various settings, including swimming pools, oceans, lakes, and even bathtubs. It does not discriminate based on age, gender, or location. Children are particularly vulnerable to drowning, and it remains one of the leading causes of accidental death among young individuals.

## **Water Contamination: A Silent Threat**

Water contamination is another inescapable risk that affects millions of people globally. Contaminated water sources can cause severe health issues, ranging from gastrointestinal illnesses to chronic diseases and even death. Contaminants can include bacteria, viruses, chemicals, heavy metals, and pollutants. Factors such as industrial activities, improper waste disposal, and natural disasters contribute to water contamination. It is essential to rely on safe sources of drinking water and promote proper sanitation practices to mitigate this risk.



## Water as an Inescapable Risk: Current Global Water Availability, Quality and Risks with a Specific Focus on South Africa (Springer Water)

by Monty Halls (1st ed. 2019 Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 79531 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 514 pages



### Water Scarcity: A Growing Challenge

While water covers about 71% of the Earth's surface, only a small percentage of it is freshwater suitable for consumption. Water scarcity is becoming a significant challenge in many regions around the world, including parts of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Population growth, climate change, and inefficient water management are exacerbating this issue. The lack of access to clean water not only affects basic human needs but also hampers agriculture, industrial production, and overall economic development.

### Natural Disasters and Flooding

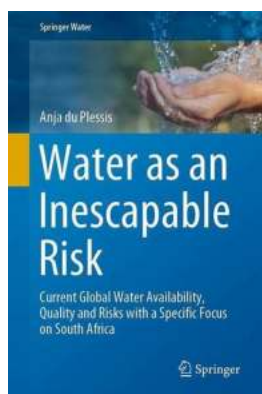
Natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and tsunamis can cause extensive damage and disrupt water resources. Flooding, in particular, poses a significant risk to communities and infrastructure. It can contaminate water sources and lead to the spread of waterborne diseases. Proper disaster preparedness and effective

flood management strategies are crucial in minimizing the impact of such events and ensuring the availability of safe water during and after disasters.

## Climate Change and Rising Sea Levels

Climate change is causing rising sea levels, which directly affect coastal areas and islands. As sea levels rise, freshwater reserves located near coastlines face the risk of saltwater intrusion. This intrusion contaminates freshwater sources, making them unsuitable for human consumption and agricultural use. Climate change mitigation efforts are essential to address this issue and protect coastal communities from water-related risks.

Water is undeniably an inescapable risk that can have both immediate and long-term consequences. From drowning incidents to water contamination, scarcity, and the impact of natural disasters and climate change, understanding and addressing these risks is crucial for the well-being and safety of individuals and communities worldwide. It is our collective responsibility to ensure access to safe water and implement sustainable practices to mitigate water-related risks for a better future.



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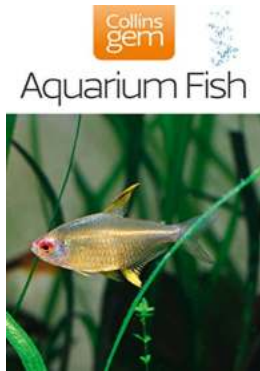
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The book presents an interdisciplinary systematic evaluation of increasing water stress and scarcity over the globe and specifically South Africa. South Africa is used as the prime example as the country is experiencing similar water challenges in terms of availability and quality as most regions across the globe.

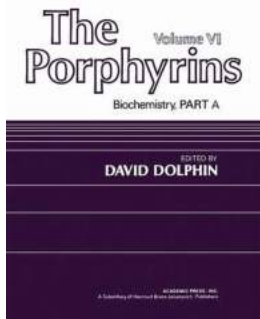
Water availability is predominantly used to illustrate water scarcity however, continued degradation of the world's freshwater resources, by a multitude of natural and anthropogenic factors, have consequently exacerbated water stress and scarcity due to it being of insufficient quality for various uses. The increase of water scarcity through both natural and anthropogenic factors has in turn led to water being viewed as an increasing risk within all spheres. Water as a source of conflict has come to the forefront especially within regions which struggle to meet the increasing demands from different water users and trying to achieve future sustainability of the resource.

The increase of water scarcity and stress as well as the continued pressure of population and economic growth has brought various new challenges into play. This book focuses on water as an increasing risk over the globe and specifically South Africa by reviewing both water availability and quality, evaluating water as a global and national risk. The book concludes by focusing on current limitations, necessary strategic actions as well as possible policy-related changes which may be required to adapt to future water challenges and to lessen water as an increasing risk.



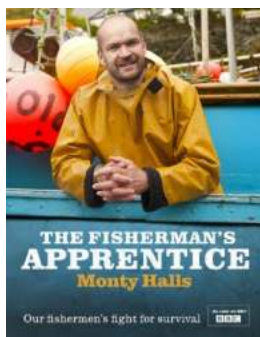
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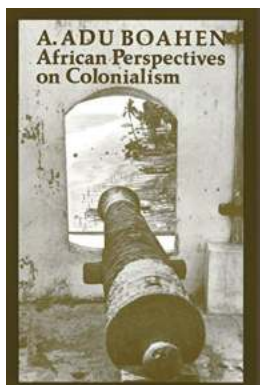
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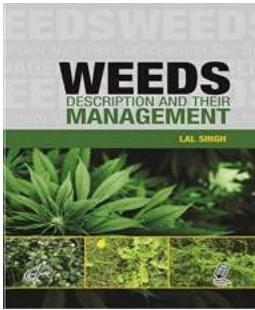
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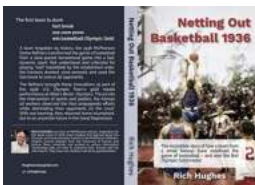
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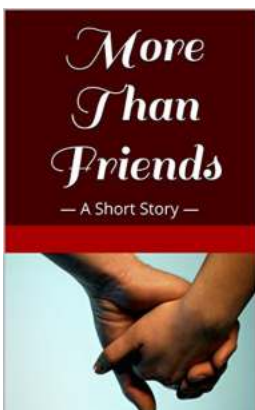
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