



Water and Conflict

CHALLENGE

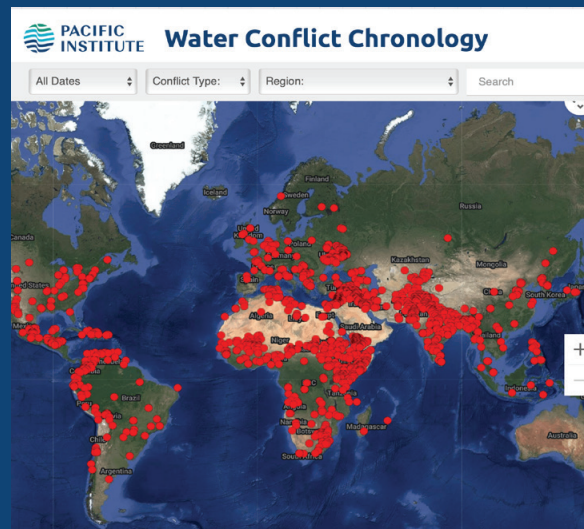
Water brings life, to people, ecosystems, and economies. But increasingly, it is also a source and target of conflict. Across the globe, growing populations, climate change, and political instability are driving water-related violent conflict. These events include the increasingly tense relations over the Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan after an April terrorist attack, targeting hydropower dams by Russia in the war in Ukraine, and the dozens of protests in South Africa over lack of water access that lead to violence and arrests. These events and tensions threaten peace, stability, and human security. Unfortunately, **global trends show that water-related violent conflict is increasing.** Water-related violent conflict has increased by more than 50% in recent years, threatening to derail progress on achieving the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 6: ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Little is being done to directly address this trend.

RESPONSE

In this urgent context, the Pacific Institute stands as a global leader, raising awareness and driving action at the critical intersection of water and conflict. For nearly four decades, Pacific Institute has been leading the effort to identify, track, and analyze water-related conflict from around the world.

The Pacific Institute's Water Conflict Chronology stands as a significant contribution to efforts aimed at **addressing inequities in water resource management, keeping peace, and protecting critical infrastructure and sources during violent conflicts.** This widely respected resource traces the history of water as a trigger, a casualty, or a weapon of violent conflict. With this work, we continue to raise awareness about the issue and identify and promote solutions to prevent and reduce water-related violent conflict at local, national, and global levels.

Our research, outreach, and engagement with on-the-ground stakeholders around water, conflict, and security serves to advance activities that will support peace and water resilience for communities across the globe.



Violent conflicts continue in many parts of the world, devastating civilian infrastructure, damaging the environment, displacing millions, eroding social cohesion, and weakening the capacities of countries and communities to meet emerging water challenges.

It is urgent that the causes of water tensions be understood and solutions to water conflicts be found and implemented.

The failure to build a water resilient world and protect water resources and infrastructure will generate new and growing security risks across economic classes, political borders, and international boundaries.

PRIORITIES

For nearly four decades, the Pacific Institute has been at the forefront of research, policy, and on-the-ground collaboration. Through its world-renowned Water Conflict Chronology, the Pacific Institute has built the **most comprehensive database of water-related conflicts in existence**—used by policymakers, diplomats, scholars, and journalists worldwide.

Our work goes beyond data to translate evidence into action. Our team advises governments and organizations on water conflict. We promote cooperation instead of competition in water-stressed regions. And we raise the alarm about these issues, ensuring that water insecurity—and its role in exacerbating violence—is seen, understood, and addressed.

The failure to solve water problems—and the interrelated challenges of food production, energy security, and climate change—will inevitably lead to new and growing water-related conflict risks across economic classes, political borders, and international boundaries.

“As water crises accelerate today, they trigger systemic stresses that spark conflict, food insecurity, and human migration. Fortunately, the Pacific Institute helps us learn from past and present water conflicts in order to map paths to a more peaceful, stable, equitable water world in the changing climate.”

– J. Carl Ganter
Managing Director, Circle of Blue

Take Action

When you support the Pacific Institute, you lead international research addressing water, cooperation, and conflict issues. **Your gift will:**

- Maintain and improve the most comprehensive, open-source database on water-related violent conflicts.
- Produce actionable, innovative, and multidisciplinary research and policy recommendations on the links between water, climate change, and international peace and security.
- Support major outreach and communications efforts to raise awareness of this critical issue for policymakers, media, and the public.

Please join us in addressing water conflict today.

To learn more and take action:

- **Contact:** Nicole Wickenhauser, Chief Growth Officer, at nwickenhauser@pacinst.org
- **Visit:** <https://pacinst.org/water-conflict-chronology/>
- **Donate:** pacinst.org/support



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