



HOW CAN OUR BLUE PLANET BE RUNNING OUT OF FRESH WATER?

Video transcript: If water runs dry

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We know that at the moment, something like 1 in 10 people on the planet lack access to safe drinking water. That's approaching 800 million people.

This is already a problem in places like California and in the Middle East, and if you talk to institutions like the World Economic Forum, and you gaze into your crystal ball, they estimate that by something like 2030, there'll be 40% more demand for fresh water on the planet than we can actually supply, so it's going to become a huge problem.

I think when water supplies run low, lots of different things will happen – I mean it will put pressure on agriculture, it will put pressure on food prices as well, we can imagine food prices will soar.

Worryingly there might well be conflict over getting access to water supplies. You can imagine regions where there's access to aquifers, rivers, one country trying to divert a river downstream, helps the agriculture in another country – it doesn't take much imagination to see that there could actually be water wars resulting if we don't act quickly, and in fact there are already – we know that there are tensions over water supplies already.

Holding image courtesy of Getty Images