

**WILEY ONLINE LIBRARY** >> SEARCH BY  Titles  
 Authors  
 Keywords  
 References  
 Funding Agencies

**ADVANCED SEARCH** over 5 million articles

Journals | Books | Databases | Lab Protocols

# Securing water for people, crops, and ecosystems: New mindset and new priorities

1. Sandra L Postel

Article first published online: 16 APR 2003

DOI: 10.1111/1477-8947.00044

Issue



## Natural Resources Forum

Volume 27, Issue 2, ([/doi/10.1111/narf.2003.27.issue-2/issuetoc](https://doi.org/10.1111/narf.2003.27.issue-2/issuetoc)) pages 89–98, May 2003

Additional Information

### How to Cite

Postel, S. L. (2003), Securing water for people, crops, and ecosystems: New mindset and new priorities. *Natural Resources Forum*, 27: 89–98. doi: 10.1111/1477-8947.00044

### Author Information

1 The Global Water Policy Project, Amherst, Massachusetts [spostel@globalwaterpolicy.org](mailto:spostel@globalwaterpolicy.org)  
(<mailto:spostel@globalwaterpolicy.org>)

### Publication History

1. Issue published online: 16 APR 2003
2. Article first published online: 16 APR 2003

- Abstract
- [Cited By \(/doi/10.1111/1477-8947.00044/citedby\)](https://doi.org/10.1111/1477-8947.00044/citedby)

[Get PDF \(143K\) \(/doi/10.1111/1477-8947.00044/pdf\)](https://doi.org/10.1111/1477-8947.00044/pdf)

## Keywords:

Water; Freshwater ecosystems; Rivers; Sustainability; Water policy; Water management; Ecosystem

A fundamentally new approach to water and human development will be needed during this new century if we are to secure sufficient freshwater to meet the needs of some 9 billion people while at the same time protecting the critical ecosystem services upon which the human economy depends. Signs of unsustainable water use — including falling water tables, shrinking lakes, and the drying up of rivers and streams — are widespread and spreading. In many regions, greater modification and appropriation of freshwater systems for human purposes will yield greater costs than benefits and create the risk of irreversible losses of species and ecosystem services. A new mindset is needed to guide water use and management in this new century, one that views the human water economy as a subset of nature's water economy. Living within nature's limits will require that societies satisfy the basic needs of people and ecosystems before non-essential water demands are met. It will require on the order of a doubling of water productivity. And it will require stronger institutions to encourage equitable sharing of water to alleviate tensions within and between countries.

[Get PDF \(143K\) \(/doi/10.1111/1477-8947.00044/pdf\)](https://doi.org/10.1111/1477-8947.00044/pdf)

## More content like this

Find more content:

- [like this article \(/advanced/search/results?articleDoi=10.1111/1477-8947.00044&scope=allContent&start=1&resultsPerPage=20\)](https://advanced/search/results?articleDoi=10.1111/1477-8947.00044&scope=allContent&start=1&resultsPerPage=20)

Find more content written by:

- [Sandra L Postel \(/advanced/search/results?searchRowCriteria\[0\].queryString="Sandra L Postel"&searchRowCriteria\[0\].fieldName=author&start=1&resultsPerPage=20\)](https://advanced/search/results?searchRowCriteria[0].queryString=)