

WATER PLANET – LEONARDO DI CAPRIO FOUNDATION

_____ WHY IMPORTANT

Water planet

Water cycle supports all life , shaping weather, seasons, climate , providing habitats

Animals & us: almost entirely made up of water

A finite substance

A limited resource

Only a tiny fraction is fresh

It supports agriculture, sanitation, aquatic ecosystems like rivers & streams

_____ PROBLEM

-Water falls unevenly

-Most is locked up in glaciers , permanent snowcover, ice & permafrost

-Water is stuck underground, hard to reach

-Threatened by pollution, overpopulation, climate change, mismanagement & war

_____ CONSEQUENCES

-Pollutions is so severe that: Diseases increase in humans and animals, habitats destroyed, rain turns into acid ,

- Chemicals flow into rivers & lakes => composition fundamentally changed

_____ PROBLEM

-Human encroachment is drying out AQUAFIRS (ground water supply for wells) diverting the natural flow of rivers and Straining water supplies

- Everyday consumption Careless, unnecessary waste

-Massive dams displace millions of people & destroy ecosystems

-Global warming is altering water cycle: Flooding and droughts, ultimately shifting where water flows

-Unregulated corporate privatization threatens access to water for the poor

-Some governments failed to deliver water where needed most

_____ CCL

These stresses have caused political & military conflicts

Humanity is poisoning, squandering overburdening water resources

_____ RESULT

-Billions lack access to clean water

-Millions of children die every year from preventable water-born diseases

-Lack of clean water and basic sanitation traps people in poverty

-People are fighting and dying for it

_____ FUTURE ?

-A crisis point; we can still turn things around

-We can conserve water & not waste it

-Invest in smart water infrastructures & technologies

-Increase environmental regulations of polluting industries

-Tell gvt leaders to fulfil financial pledges for clean water

-Ensure it is not treated as a commodity

- Most important: recognize that access to clean water is a basic human right

- The UN should adopt a global treaty on the right to water

CCL: Protect water = protect ourselves

