

Shrinking source

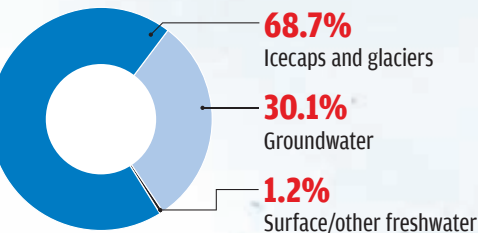
More than half of the world's major aquifers, which store groundwater, are depleting faster than they can be replenished

- Aquifer System where groundwater levels are depleting (in millimetres per year)
 - Aquifer System where groundwater levels are increasing (in millimetres per year)
- Map based on data collected by NASA's Grace satellite between 2003 and 2013

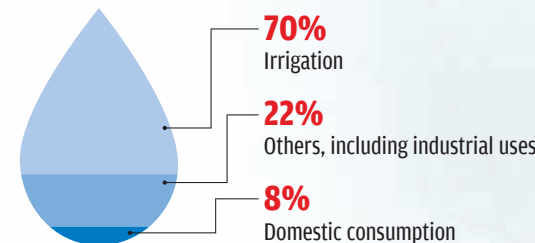
Why aquifers are important

Only three per cent of the world's water is freshwater; 30 per cent of which comes from aquifers

Freshwater sources



How we use it



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Infographics: Raj Kumar Singh
Analysis: Kiran Pandey and Rajit Sengupta
Data source: FAO, UN and Water Resources Research journal
For more such infographics visit: www.downtoearth.org.in/infographics

How bad is it already Aquifers under most stress are in poor and populated regions, where alternatives are limited

145 km³

The amount of groundwater the world extracts every year

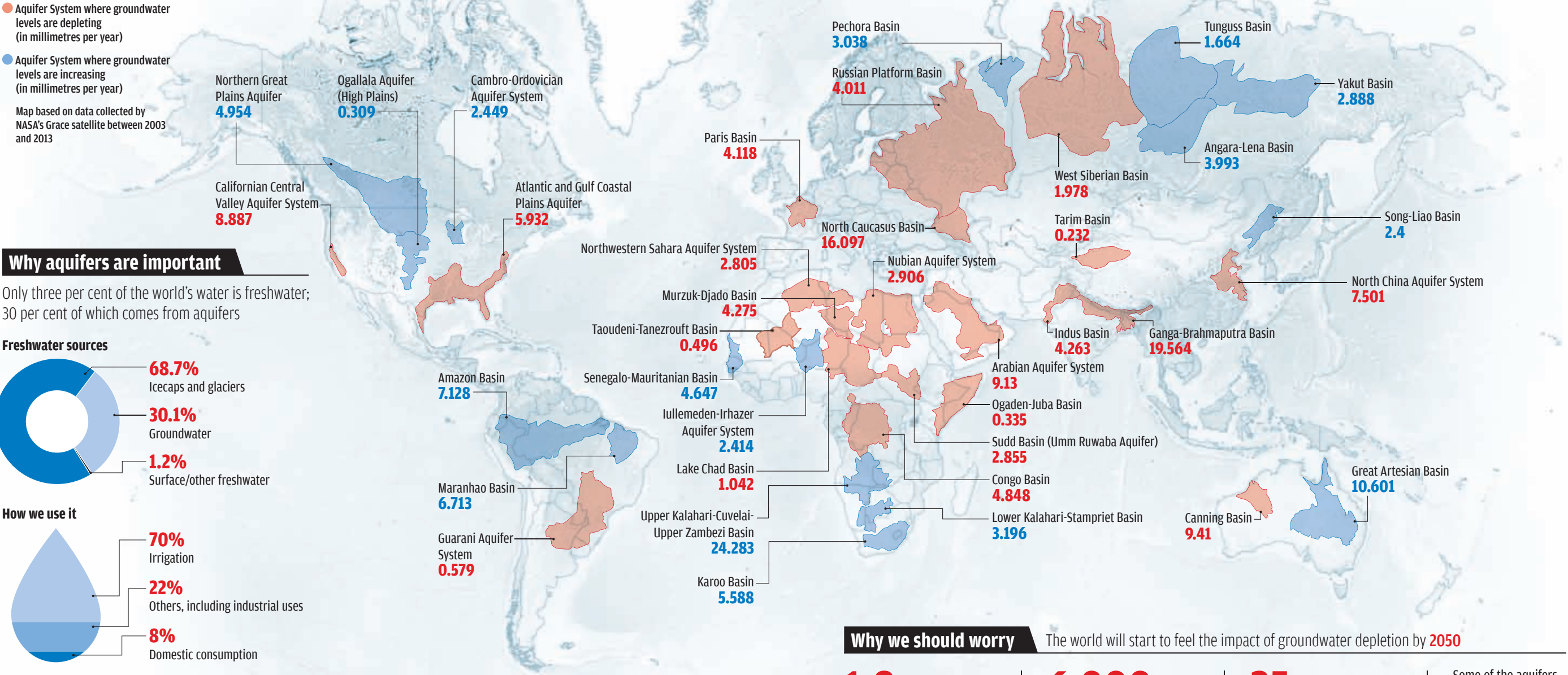
21

of world's 37 largest aquifer systems—shaded in red—lost water faster than they could be recharged between 2003 and 2013

8

of these 21 aquifer systems are overstressed, which means they get hardly any natural recharge

Ganga-Brahmaputra Basin in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, North Caucasus Basin in Russia and Canning Basin in Australia have the fastest rate of depletion in the world



Why we should worry The world will start to feel the impact of groundwater depletion by 2050

1.8 billion

people would live in areas where groundwater levels are fully or nearly depleted

6,000 km³

additional water will be required annually to feed the ever-growing population

25%

of the rise in sea levels will happen because of groundwater extraction

Some of the aquifers in India, Pakistan, southern Europe and the western US would dry out