

Section VII: Emerging Issues in Ecology, Environment and Disease

Section summary

An important fraction of the burden of water-related diseases – in particular water-related vector-borne diseases – is attributable to the way water resources are developed and managed. In many parts of the world the adverse health impacts of water pollution, dam construction, irrigation development, and flood control cause significant preventable disease.

[Africa Water Atlas](#)

This Atlas is a visual account of Africa's endowment and use of water resources, revealed through 224 maps and 104 satellite images as well as some 500 graphics and hundreds of compelling photos.

However the Atlas is more than a collection of static maps and images accompanied by informative facts and figures: its visual elements vividly illustrate a succinct narrative describing and analyzing Africa's water issues and exemplifying them through the judicious use of case studies. It gathers information about water in Africa and its role in the economy and development, health, food security, transboundary cooperation, capacity building and environmental change into one comprehensive and accessible volume.

UNEP undertook the production of this Atlas at the request of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and in cooperation with the African Union, European Union, US Department of State, United States Geological Survey and other collaborators.

[Africa Water Atlas article](#)

The 'Water Atlas Article' file provides information and links.

[Africa Water Atlas Executive Summary](#)

There is also an 'Executive Summary' for decision makers in PDF format.

[Protection Against Flooding](#)

Preserving Holland's Tidal Ecology - an ingenious storm-surge barrier that can close in times of flood preserves tidal ecology and with it the fishing and tourism which depend on it. Variations of this "dam with doors" is being considered for use in other parts of the world. Lynn Redgrave is the on-camera host. This is Part 4 of Horizon International's TV series "One Second Before Sunrise: A Search for Solutions" Program 1.

[One Health Initiative Advances Care for Humans, Animals and the Environment](#)

"One Health is the collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally to attain optimal health for people, animals, plants and our environment."

"One Health implementation will help protect and/or save untold millions of lives in our generation and for those to come."

[A Tree of All Life Being Built to Bring Together What is Known About How Species are Related](#)

A new initiative aims to build a comprehensive tree of life that brings together everything scientists know about how all species are related, from the tiniest bacteria to the tallest tree. Information about evolutionary relationships is fundamental to comparative biology research. It helps scientists identify promising new medicines; develop hardier, higher-yielding crops; and fight infectious diseases such as HIV, anthrax and influenza.