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# 4.5 million years

This is the time women and children in Africa spend on collecting water **every year**.  
A pan-continental shortage has made hunt for water a daily exercise and forced  
Africans to spend more on water than on food.

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## A new trap: climate and water scarcity

- Africa is one of the world's most water-stressed continents
- In last 25 years population has doubled, but access to water has progressed by just 20 per cent
- >400 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa don't have access to safe drinking water
- Adults, women and children travel 4.5 million years/year, or more than the total evolutionary time period of humans
- JMP of WHO says poor are more prone to contaminated water
- WMO says Africa loses 5% of its annual GDP due to water scarcity

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## A new **trap**: climate and water scarcity

- The water scarcity is often mentioned as “**Hydrocide**”, because of the situation amidst abundance
- 60 transboundary rivers, over 160 lakes and vast network of wetlands – still the second driest continent after Australia
- 1/3<sup>rd</sup> Africa population live in drought-prone areas
- Eastern Africa: Drought has increased from 1/6 years to 1/3 years since 2005
- **Conflicts are increasingly** revolving around access to water

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# WAR FOR WATER

Almost all major river basins have become the epicentre for conflicts in Africa

■ Countries that have experienced unrest over water

**LAKE CHAD BASIN**  
Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon  
Dispute started in 1980  
The water body has diminished by 90% since the 1960s due to overuse and climate change effects. Conflict between herders and farmers have become common as livelihoods are lost. Families dependent on the lake are migrating to other areas in search of water.

**NIGER RIVER BASIN**  
Niger, Mali and Nigeria  
Dispute started in 1980  
Climate change is responsible for disagreements over damage to farmland and restricted access to water

**CONGO BASIN**  
Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon  
Dispute started in 1960  
The basin witnesses multifaceted crisis including forced displacement, violent conflicts, and political instability and climate change impacts

**NILE RIVER**  
Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia  
Dispute started in 2011

The Nile water dispute stems from an under-construction dam by Ethiopia, which Egypt (that lies downstream) fears will impact its water flow. Once completed, the Grand Renaissance Dam hydropower project will be the largest in Africa

**TURKANA LAKE**  
Kenya and Ethiopia  
Dispute started in 2016

Lake Turkana receives 90% of its water from Omo river. Rising temperatures and reduced rainfall have contributed to the lake's retreat into Kenya. To survive, the Ethiopians tribes began following the water. As a result, inter-tribal conflict is increasing. The construction of the Gilgel Gibe III Dam on Omo river has made matters worse.

**VICTORIA LAKE**  
Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania  
Dispute started in 2009

Competition over the lake's dwindling resources has been fueling conflict between the three countries.

**LAKE EDWARD**  
Uganda and DRC  
Dispute started in 2018  
Tensions have mounted between the two countries over who has the right to the lake's natural resources.

**LAKE NYASA**  
Tanzania and Malawi  
Dispute started in 2011

The discovery of oil and gas in 2011 brought an Anglo-German treaty signed in 1890 back to the fore. The treaty allows Malawi—which, back then, was a British protectorate under the name of Nyasaland—exclusive rights to use of the lake. However, Tanzania claims the lake should be a shared resource in accordance with international law.



## A new trap: climate and water scarcity

- WMO: Last 5 decades, 1,695 disasters related to weather, water, and climate. “0.73 million deaths,, economic loss of \$38.5 billion”
- Floods account for 60% of the disasters and 4% deaths
- Droughts for 16% of disasters but 95% of the deaths, the highest in the world
- World Bank: 5 lake Victoria basin countries will see 16.6 and 38.5 million internal migration due to water scarcity