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The Impact of Human Activities on Groundwater Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Groundwater is an extremely valuable freshwater resource in the natural world, playing a crucial role in maintaining the balance of ecosystems and supporting the development of human society's economy. However, as populations surge and industrial and agricultural activities expand rapidly, human utilization of groundwater resources has intensified, leading to impacts that are mainly reflected in two areas: a decrease in quantity and a deterioration in quality. In terms of quantity, the over-extraction of groundwater is the most direct impact. The continuous growth in demand for agricultural irrigation, industrial water, and urban supplies has led to a consistent decline in groundwater levels. Excessive pumping, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions, has not only made groundwater resources increasingly scarce but has also triggered a series of geological and environmental issues such as land subsidence and the drying up of springs. In terms of quality, the pollution of groundwater is worsening.

[...]
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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

In the context of global changes, the sustainable management of water cycles, going from global and regional water cycles to urban, industrial and agricultural water cycles, plays a very important role on the water resources and on their relationships with food, energy, biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and human health. *Water* invites authors to provide innovative original full articles, critical reviews and timely short communications and to propose special issues devoted to new technological and scientific domains and to interdisciplinary approaches of the water cycles. We ensure a critical review process and a quick turnaround between submission and final decision.

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