

A tale of two groundwaters

Opposing trajectories of resource development in an era of rapid change

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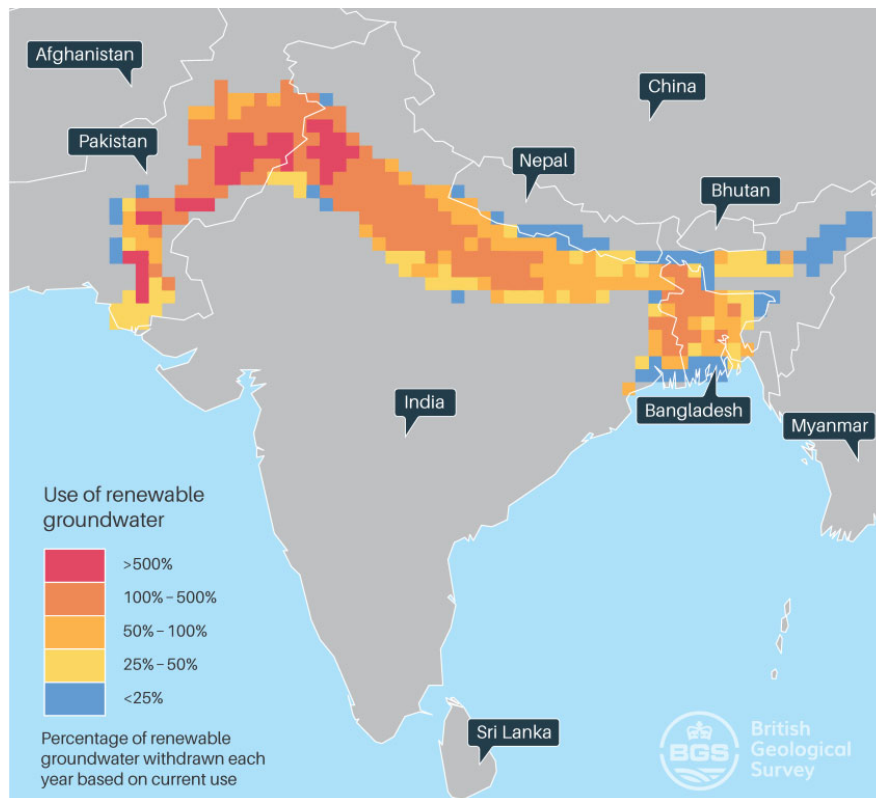
DONMAC@BGS.AC.UK



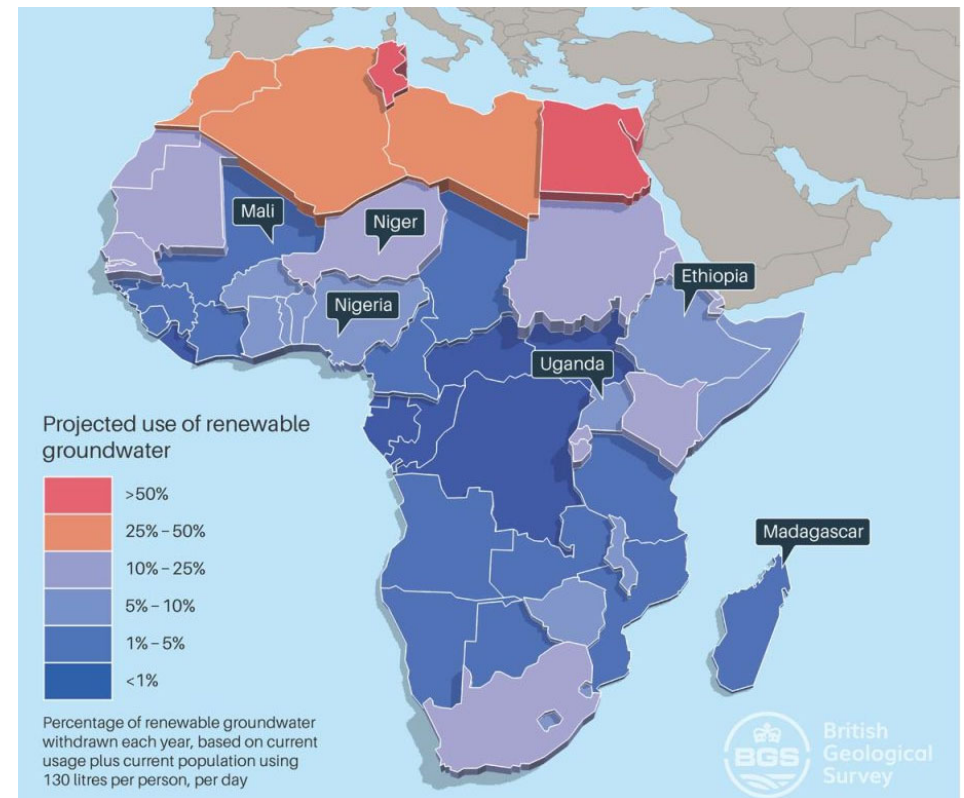
British
Geological
Survey

A TALE OF TWO GROUNDWATERS

Chapter 1: Over and under-development



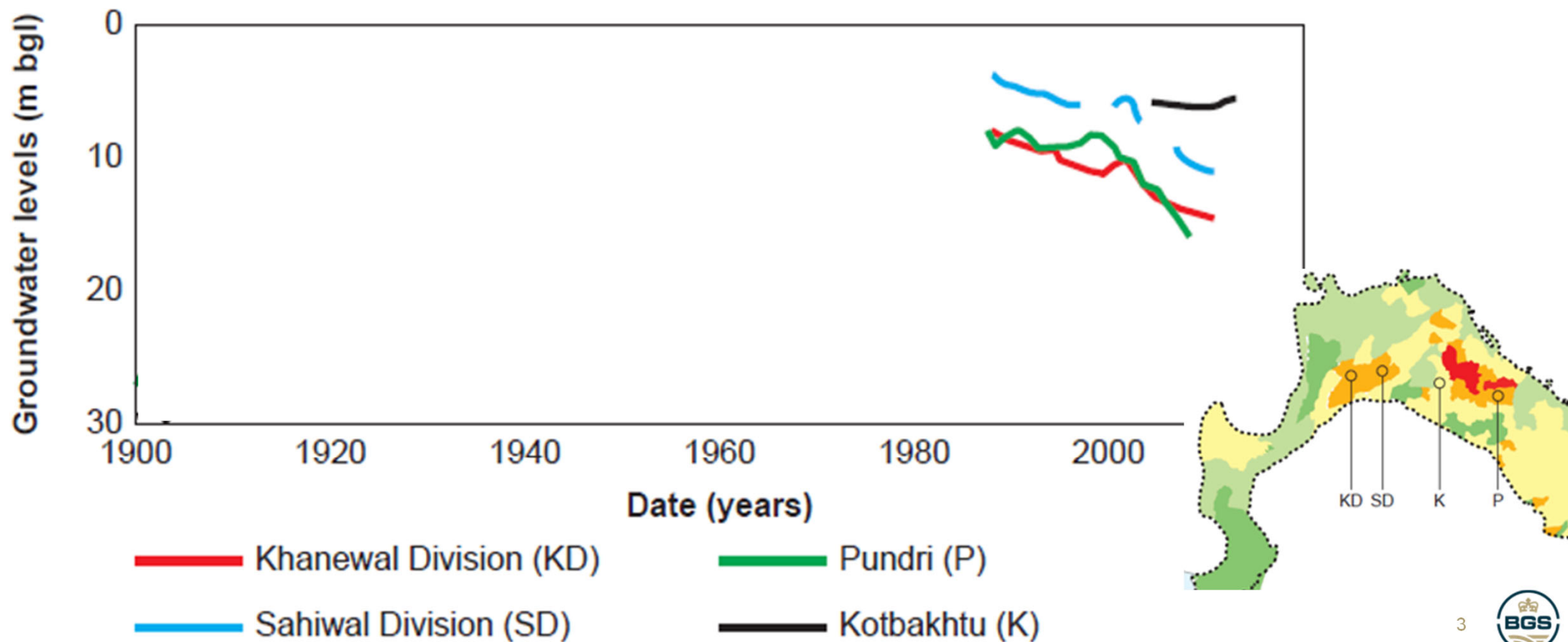
Groundwater is over-exploited and under threat



Groundwater is underutilised offering great potential

Chapter 2: The long-term perspective

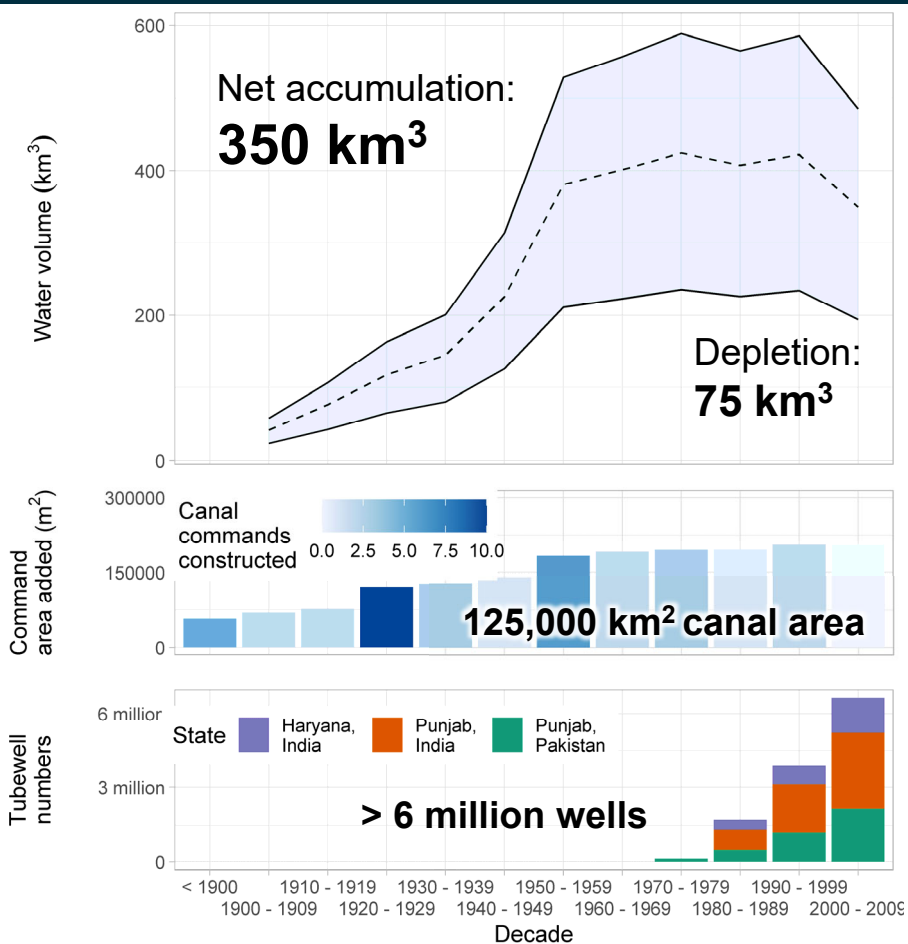
MACDONALD, A. M., et al. 2016.
Groundwater quality and depletion in
the Indo-Gangetic Basin mapped from
in situ observations. *Nature
Geoscience*, 9, 762 - 766.



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Chapter 2: The long-term perspective

MACALLISTER, D. J., et al. 2022. A century of groundwater accumulation in Pakistan and northwest India. *Nature Geoscience*, 15, 390-396.



Groundwater accumulation in Pakistan and north-west India



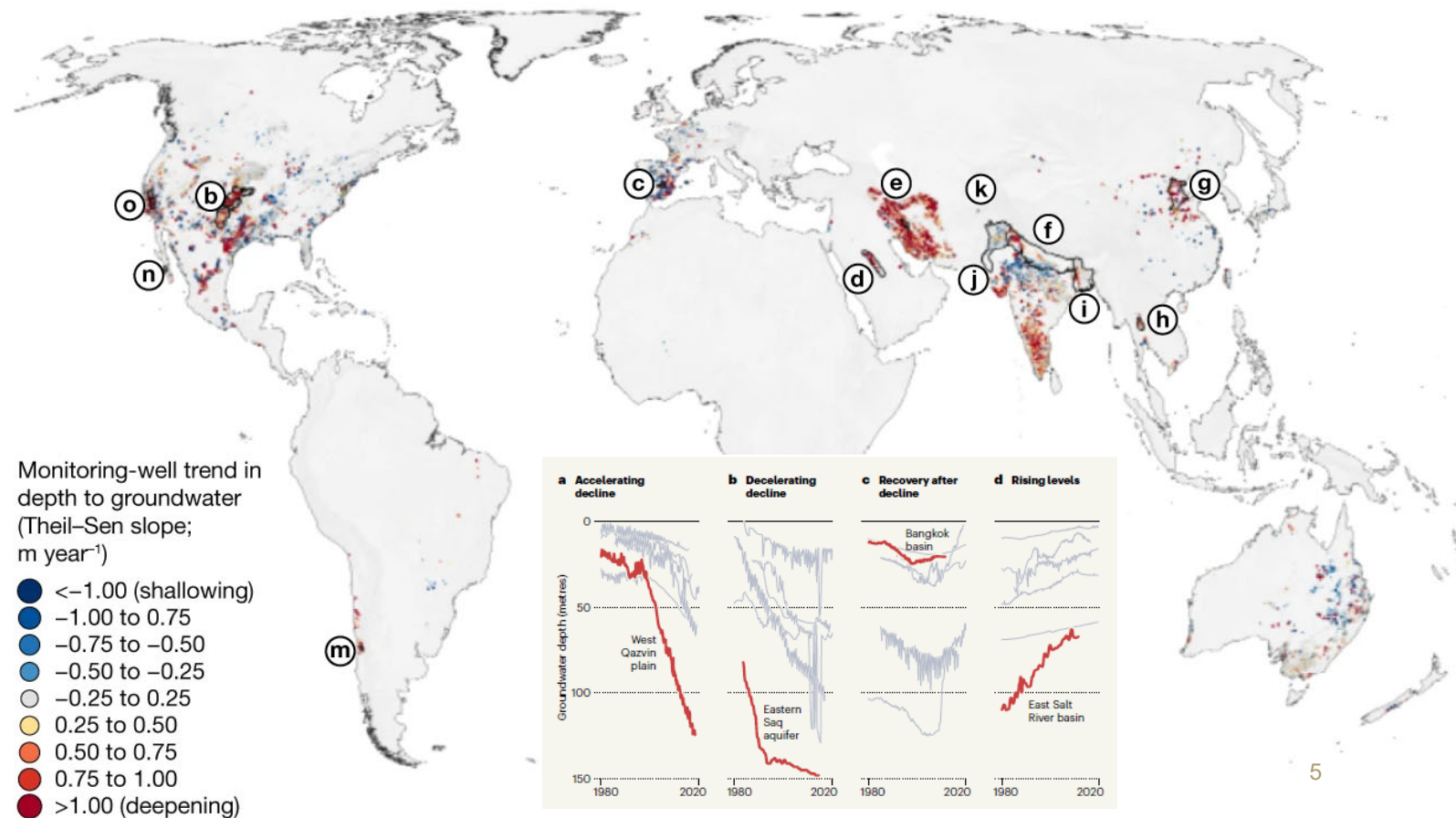
Long history of large-scale water resources developments with unintended consequences



Chapter 3: Inadequate data

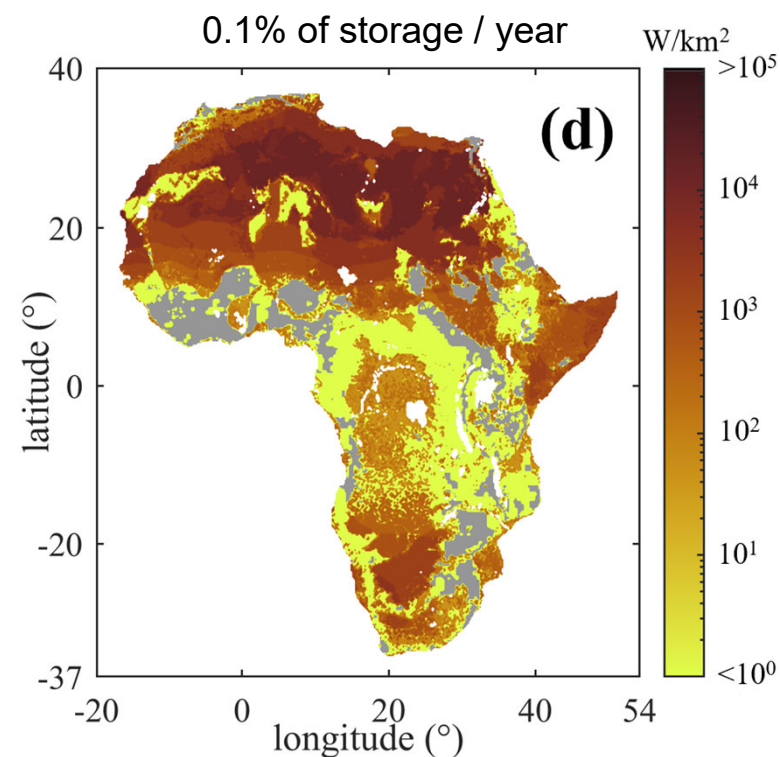
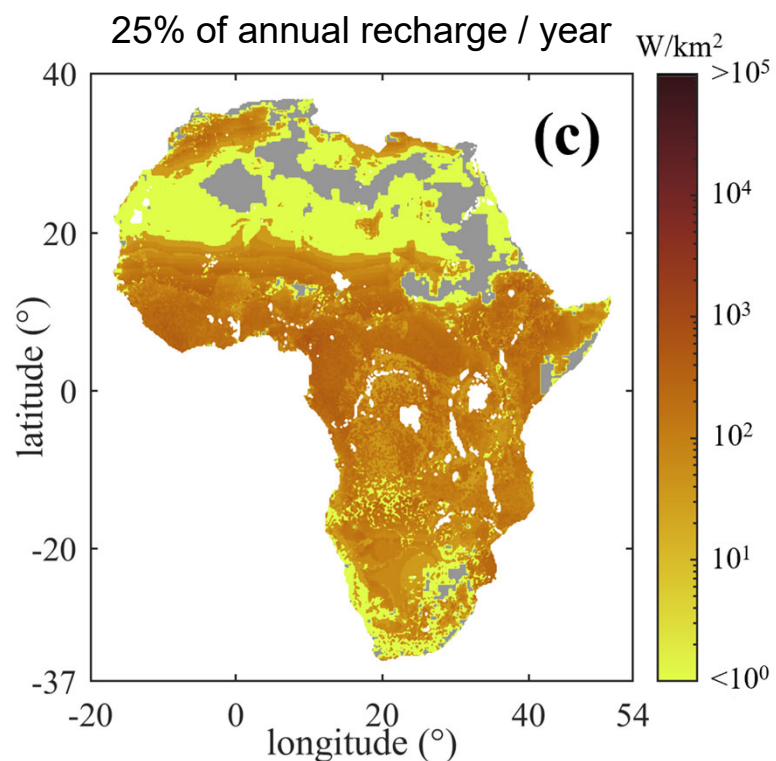
JASECHKO, S., SEYBOLD, H., et al.
2024. Rapid groundwater decline and some cases of recovery in aquifers globally. *Nature*, 625, 715-721.

- 40 countries, 75% of withdrawal but...
- ...in other 25% - data needed to improve our understanding of GW resources.
- Management can reverse or slow depletion, but data needed for decision making.



Epilogue: A different perspective

ZUFFINETTI, G., et al. 2024. A method for estimating maximum safe installable power for groundwater extraction with application to Africa. *Science of the Total Environment*. Under review.



Estimates of the maximum remaining installable power for groundwater development in Africa.