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ADVISORY-Thirsty world: Features package on water

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Dwindling reservoirs in Spain. Damaged crops. Parched London parks. After another long, hot summer, Europe is wondering what the future holds for its water supplies.

A third of the world's population faces water shortages because of poor management and soaring water usage, driven mainly by agriculture, the International Water Management Institute has said. Both rich and poor nations are vulnerable. The WWF environmental organisation has said that rich countries have to make drastic changes to policies if they are to avoid the water crisis facing poorer nations. Concerns about climate change have only served to intensify fears of future shortages.

Next Monday, Reuters will run a special package of stories looking at some of the water woes gripping Europe. The series will include special reports from drought-hit Spain and from Hungary where desertification is threatening central plains. We will ask whether water conflicts are a real risk for the world and we will look at where investors who want to get in on the water action are putting their money.

The stories will move at 2300 on Sunday and will be repeated at 0700, 1300 and 1800 on Monday, as part of our features file.

For clients subscribing to Reuters pictures and graphics services, related photographs and graphics will be filed. Illustrations will carry the same slug as the corresponding story.

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