

## World's water supply being tracked by satellites

SAN FRANCISCO — Circling the Earth and flying 130 miles apart, a pair of roving satellites are being used to track the world's water supply, measuring everything from rivers and underground aquifers to water found in snow, according to a December 12 story from [CNET News](#).

The Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE), sponsored by NASA, has been using the satellites for the past three years to study the parts of the world where water shortages are occurring, the story said.

Data so far shows that over the past three years in Africa, the level of the Congo is losing about 21.6 millimeters of water per year, the Zambezi is decreasing by 16.3 millimeters and the Nile is going down 9.3 millimeters a year; also, groundwater is being depleted in California's central valley, parts of India, and Africa's Nubian Valley, according to the article.

The story reported that three years worth of Congo's water depletion equals about two years of drinking water for Africans.

GRACE spokespersons said it will take a few more years to be able to use the data to predict where and when the next water crisis will occur, the article said.

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