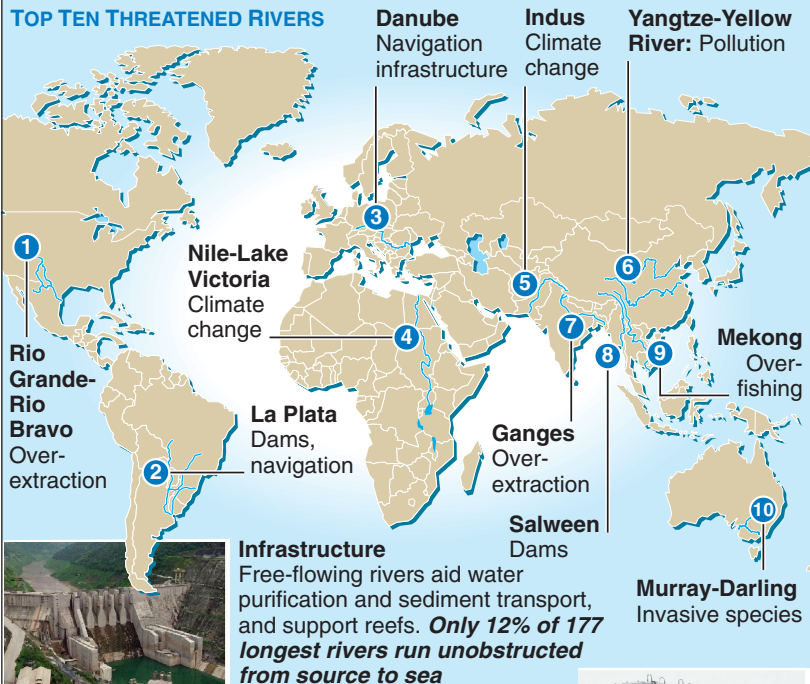


# World's rivers reaching crisis point

Rivers on every continent are drying out as a result not only of climate change but also of human activity. Dams, agricultural over-extraction and industrial pollution are damaging wetlands and floodplains and decimating fish stocks, threatening severe water shortages around the world

## TOP TEN THREATENED RIVERS



**Over-extraction:** Groundwater withdrawn faster than it can be replenished – reduces river flow and can lead to salination of supplies, making them undrinkable.

**Agriculture accounts for 70% of human water use**

**Climate change:** Global warming affects evaporation and precipitation levels in vulnerable regions. As glaciers disappear, rivers dependent on glacial run-off will dry up. Deforestation also increases evaporation