

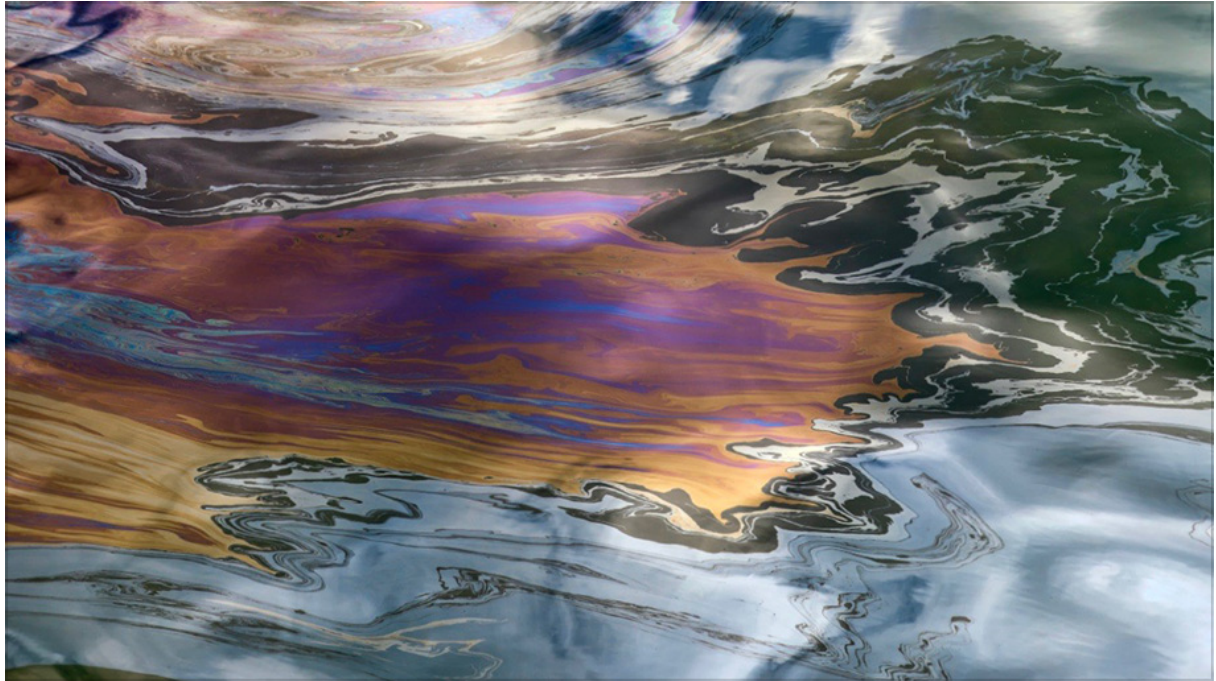
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Saudi thirst for water is creating a toxic brine problem

沙特海水淡化工业引发了毒盐水问题

Saudi (Saudi Arabia /ə'reɪbiə/) : 沙特阿拉伯 🇸🇦

thirst for: v. 渴望

toxic /'tɒksɪk/: adj. 有毒的；引起中毒的

- toxic gases 有毒气体

brine /braɪn/: n. (用于腌制食物的) 盐水，这里指有毒浓盐水

Saudi Arabia isn't just the world's top **crude oil exporter**. It's also the biggest producer of a **toxic effluent** that's the **byproduct** of slaking the desert kingdom's thirst for water.

沙特阿拉伯不仅是世界上最大的原油出口国，也是最大的有毒废水制造国。沙特阿拉伯是一座沙漠王国，而这些废水是其解决缺水问题时产生的“副产品”。

crude /kruːd/: adj./n. 未加工的；原油

- crude metal 原材料

exporter: 出口商

effluent /'efluənt/: n. 废水，污水

byproduct /'baɪprɒdʌkt/: n. 副产品；不好的后果

- When burnt, plastic produces dangerous byproducts. 燃烧塑料会产生危险的副产品。

- One of the byproducts of unemployment is an increase in crime. 失业的后果之一是犯罪增加

slake one's thirst: 解渴

slake : v. 解渴，满足

- slake your thirst with a drink 喝一杯解解渴

United Nations scientists warned that **desalination** is creating huge volumes of chemical-laced brine that risks **contaminating** food chains if left untreated. The problem is most **acute** in the Middle East and North Africa, which **account for** two-thirds of the world's water contaminated by **energy-intensive desalination plants**.

联合国科学家警告说，海水淡化会产生大量带有化学物质的盐水，如果不加以处理，这种盐水就可能有污染食物链的风险。这个问题在中东和北非最为严重。全世界来源于能源密集型海水淡化工厂的污水中，有三分之二来自中东和北非。

desalination /diːsælɪˈneɪʃn/

n. 海水淡化

- The country desalinates sea water to produce fresh water for drinking. (v.)

volumes: n. 容积

chemical-laced: adj. 带有化学物质的

lace /leɪs/

v. 带有，掺有，系上；n. 花边，蕾丝

- a piece of lace: 一条花边

- lace industry: 蕾丝编织业

- lace one's shoes: 系鞋带

- lace a drink with alcohol/poison: 在饮料中掺入酒精/毒药

- chemical-laced waters: 化学污染的水源

contaminate /kən'tæmɪneɪt/

v. 污染；弄脏

- Much of the coast has been contaminated by nuclear waste. 大部分海岸都被核废料污染。

- contaminate与pollute: contaminate 一般指参加了杂物，可能有害，pollute一定有害

if left untreated

如若不处理 / 不治疗

- It can lead to death if left untreated.

acute/ə'kju:t/

adj. 十分严重的；剧烈的

- She felt acute embarrassment. 她感到极尴尬。

- acute stomach pains 腹部剧痛

account for: 数量上占有比例

energy-intensive: 能源密集型的

desalination plants: 海水淡化厂

plant: n. 工厂；植物

Desalination is an **industrial process** that uses heat and pressure to make seawater fit for human **consumption**. For every **liter** of **potable** water produced, the UN **estimates** about 1.5 liters of **liquid** polluted with **chlorine** and **copper** are created. When **pumped** back into the ocean, the toxic brine **depletes** oxygen and impacts **organisms** along the food chain.

海水淡化是一种利用热量和压强使海水变得适合人类饮用的工业流程。据联合国估计，每生产一升饮用水，就会产生约 1.5 升被氯和铜污染的液体。当这些有毒浓盐水被泵回海洋，会消耗海水中的氧气，并影响食物链上的生物。

industrial process: 工业过程

consumption: n. 消费，消耗

liter: 升，一升容量的

potable/'poutəbl/

adj. 适宜饮用的

- clean and safe to drink

- drinking water = potable water

estimates: 估计

liquid: n. 液体

chlorine/'klɔ:ri:n/

n. 氯，氯气

- the chlorine in the swimming pool

copper/'kɑ:pər/

n. 铜

pumped: n. 泵，抽水机；v. 用泵输送

deplete/di'pli:t/

v. 消耗；耗费（资源、金钱、精力等）

- deplete the earth's natural resources : 耗尽地球的自然资源

- The illness depletes your energy. 疾病耗尽了你的精力。

organisms: n. 有机体，有机物

Saudi Arabia's desalination plants produce about 31.5 million **cubic meters** of contaminated water each day. That volume of liquid is equivalent to about 20 million **barrels** of oil a day, or, **double the amount of** crude it currently produces. The Kingdom is **tendering** seven desalination projects as it tries to **alleviate** the impacts of depleted **aquifers**.

沙特阿拉伯的海水淡化工厂每天都会产生约 3150 万立方米的污水。这个体积的液体相当于约 2000 万桶石油，或者沙特阿拉伯目前每日开采的原油量的两倍。为了减轻枯竭的地下蓄水层带来的影响，沙特阿拉伯还在提议七个海水淡化项目。

cubic meter

立方米

- **cube** /kjuːb/: n. 小方块，立方体

- cubic centimeter: 立方厘米

A be equivalent to B: A 相当于 B

barrel /'bærəl/

n. 桶（石油计量单位，相当于 120 到 159 升）

- Oil prices fell to \$9 a barrel.

double the amount of: 数量的两倍

tender /'tendər/

v. 提议，提出

- She tendered a proposal. 她提出了一项方案。

alleviate /ə'liːviət/

v. 减轻；缓和

- = ease

- to alleviate suffering 缓解苦难

- to alleviate the problem 缓解问题

aquifer /'ækwɪfər/

n. （岩石或土壤的）含水层，蓄水层

Other countries have successfully used the brine to **cultivate forage shrubs**, though at the cost of **land salinization**. "There is a need to translate such research and **convert** an environmental problem into an economic opportunity," said Manzoor Qadir, the UN **institute's** assistant director. "This is particularly important in countries producing large

volumes of brine with relatively low efficiencies, such as Saudi Arabia, U.A.E., Kuwait and Qatar.”

其他国家已成功利用盐水种植了饲用灌木，虽然这么做是以土地盐碱化为代价的。联合国机构的助理主管满祖尔·卡迪尔说道：“我们需要去实践这种研究，并把现存的环境问题转化为商机。对于因较低能效产生大量浓盐水的国家，比如沙特阿拉伯、阿联酋、科威特和卡塔尔，这种做法尤为重要。”

cultivate /'kʌltɪveɪt/: 耕作，种植

forage shrub: 饲料用的灌木，灌木类饲草

- forage: 草料

- shrub: 灌木

at the cost of: 以...为代价

land salinization: 土地盐碱化，土地盐渍化

convert A into B: 把A变成B

economic opportunity: 商机

institute: 机构

assistant director: 助理主管

relatively low efficiencies: 相对效率较低的

原文：

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