



# CRISIS IN BALI

Where's the water going?

The freshwater in Bali is already 75% depleted.  
YOU can be the part of the solution.



Yayasan Konstrvasi Sawah Bali has produced this informational brochure in conjunction with academic internships for community outreach to inform about our work in natural resource management.



## A Culture and its water

- Water plays such an important role in Balinese religion that it has been called "*agama tirtha*," or 'the religion of holy water'".
- In all religious rituals, holy water is used for purification and to cleanse ritual objects, sites and individuals. Water is honored for its power to make things grow and wash away impurities, physical and spiritual.
- Historically Bali was an agrarian economy. Water is essential for wet rice cultivation and for religious rituals in rice culture.

## The Subak System

- The Subak is a 1000 year old artificial water distribution system, democratically managed by farmers, designated into UNESCO World Heritage status in 2012.
- Balinese people believe that only the Subak has the blessings of the Gods and can legitimately control water management.
- Farmers + wives prepare offerings to the Gods during the rice growing cycle. The Subak binds Balinese agrarian society to villages' community, temples, and Balinese Hinduism/animism.
- Hence, water is the center of a significant social, agrarian and religious construct, which is necessary for effective food production.



Bali was one of the few islands in the world blessed by enough heavy rainfall from the rainy season to fulfill its needs.  
Due to rampant expansion and mismanagement in tourism development, freshwater availability has reached a point of crisis.



This brochure is intended to help you make informed decisions when you visit or live in Bali.