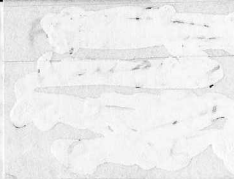


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# The Water Quality of World Rivers through the GEMS Program

by

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With 6 Figures, 6 Tables and 1 Appendix

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## Abstract

The GEMS-Water Programme covers the water quality of lakes, rivers and ground waters at a global scale. Survey statistics (1978 – 1984) for more than 40 variables on 250 rivers from 52 countries show that Africa is the least monitored continent and that heavy metals and harmful organic substances are generally surveyed at only 30% of these stations. Comparative distributions for common variables (Cond., pH, temp., TSS, BOD, COD, O<sub>2</sub>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, nutrients) are given. They show the high contamination of European rivers for N and P, of Asian rivers for fecal coli, and evidence of organic pollution for 10% of world rivers.

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