

# MONITORING WATER RESOURCES

**W**ater is essential to life. Increasingly rare, reserves of liquid fresh water (underground water tables, soil moisture, lakes, rivers, etc.) represent less than 1% of the volume of water on Earth.

Because of this, the study of inland water reserves and how they change over time in response to climate change and human activity has become an essential application of space observation. The Great African and American Lakes, the Aral Sea, the Amazon and Ganges rivers are thus monitored closely.

