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LIBYAN WATER: AN EXAMPLE OF MANAGEMENT IN THE DESERT

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A summary of water management in Libya will be given that describes the balance between demand and supply. The renewable water supply is 10 times less than that deemed a scarce level per capita. The solution from Libyan government is to pipe water from over 500 miles away and desalination. This brings into question the value of agriculture and the cost of water purification. The issues that Libya face are forcing important decisions to be made regarding water, energy and food production and consumption. Understanding the interrelationships between these 3 entities is important in making rational policy decisions. Sandia National Laboratories is assisting former Libyan nuclear weapon scientists in contributing to solutions in these important arenas regarding the future of this North African country.

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