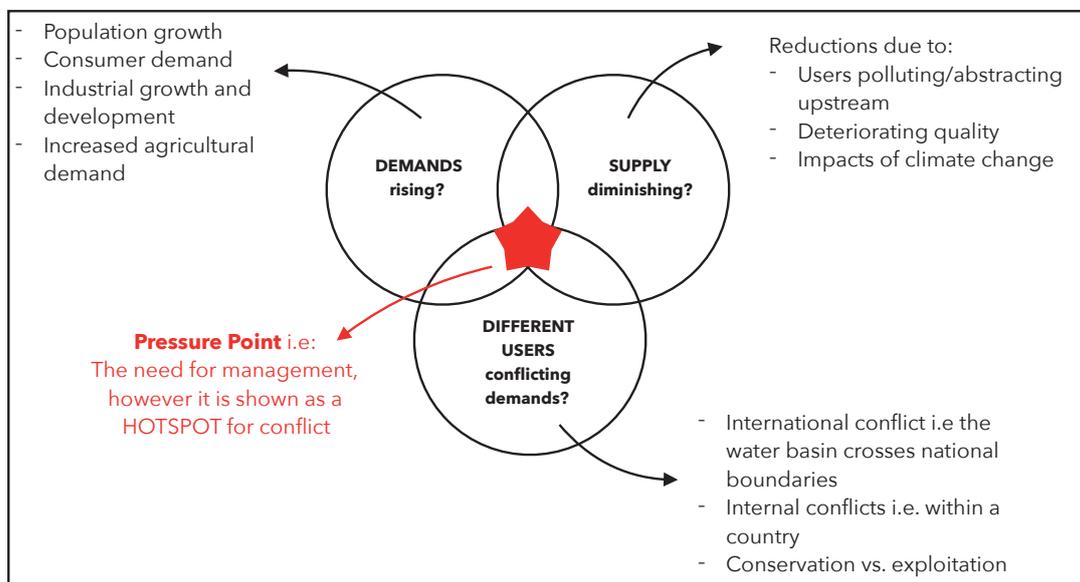


Conflict over water sources

Conflict can arise when more than one country has access to the same supply of water. A conflict arises when a pressure point is reached. The diagram below shows how a number of factors contribute to a pressure point being reached:



CASE STUDY: Middle East

There is huge ongoing tension in the Middle East region, due to the fact that this area is extremely arid and water is very valuable. Israel has a variety of water issues such as:

1. **Over consumption** - Israel consumes more water than it has naturally (consumption is around 2200 billion litres per year when supply is only 1700 billion litres each year). This overuse is therefore very unsustainable.
2. **Growing population** - By 2050 11 million people living in Israel will need to be supplied with water
3. **Degradation of existing supplies** - Israel's main sources of water are beginning to show degradation with irreversible contamination of ground water supplies due to the overabstraction of aquifers. This has led to salt water incursion and therefore an unusable aquifer.
4. **Border disputes** - Border disputes are one of the biggest areas of conflict in the Middle East regarding water. There are a number of disputes such as:
 - The shifting of border means that many Palestinians live in areas that once used to be occupied by Israel. This means that Israel believes that it can still use these water supplies, even though the area is no longer occupied by them
 - Many aquifers are now underneath Israeli controlled land, yet Israel is continuing to take water from underneath Palestinian controlled West Bank. This means that there is now an unequal distribution of water between the two nations
 - Syria also wants its border reinstated to where it was prior to 1967. This means that the Golan Heights would be returned and 25% of Israel's water supply would be compromised

