

Jordan among region's water poorest countries - report

AMMAN - Jordan is among the region's water poorest countries as it is dependent on water from the Jordan River, limited rainfall and groundwater, according to a report to be released next week.

The annual water per capita in Jordan and the Palestinian territories is the lowest among Arab states, ranging between 100-200 cubic metres per capita per year, a regional report by the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED) indicated, attributing the situation to the fact that the two countries "share their water resources with Israel, which is expanding in terms of both space and population".

The report titled, "Arab Environment: Impact of Climate Change on Arab Countries", will be officially launched on Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

It aims to provide information to governments, businesses, academia and the public on the impact of climate change on Arab countries and proposed recommendations for concrete action, according to the AFED.

The report warns that water resources in the Arab region are shrinking and will reach an "alarming" stage within the next 15 years due to climate change and mismanagement of the water sector in Arab countries.

Unsustainable and irresponsible irrigation practices which waste half the regional water resources, the construction of large-scale dams and high water consumption rates in some Arab countries are aggravating the regional water situation, according to the report.

It stressed that better management of the water sector is a "pressing issue", calling for efficient irrigation practices and exploring new water resources, including investment in desalination technologies.

The 200-page report covers the impact of climate change on the region, including its negative effect on freshwater resources, human health, food production, tourism, biological diversity and infrastructure.