



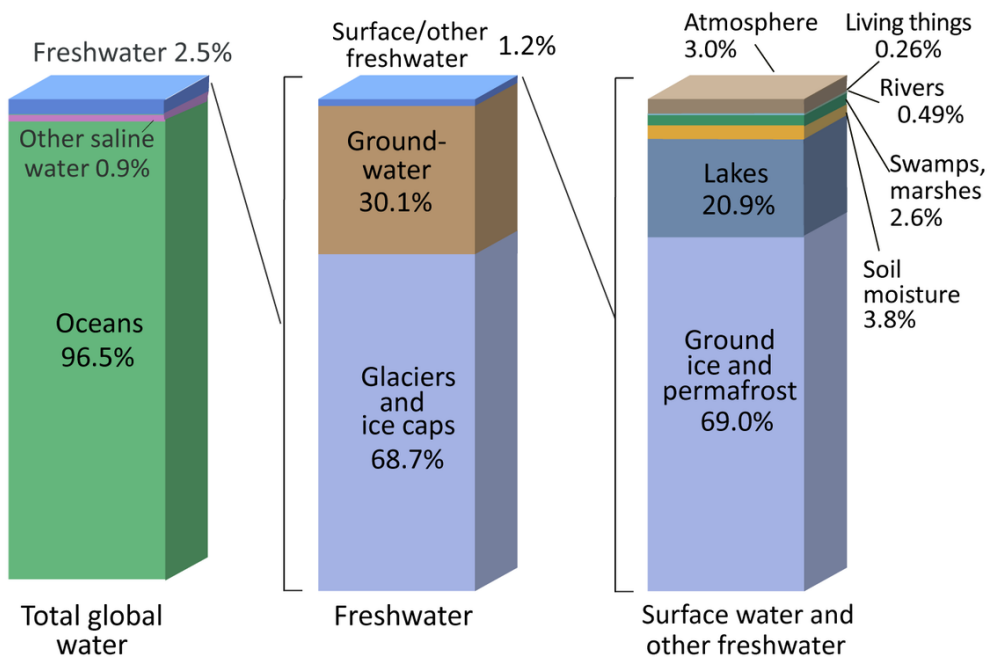
International Conference on Glacier's Preservation

[Source: TH](#)

Tajikistan hosted the 1st **UN International Conference on [Glaciers' Preservation](#)** in **Dushanbe (Tajikistan)** in collaboration with **UNESCO** and **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)**, leading to the adoption of the **Dushanbe Glaciers Declaration**.

- **About Glaciers:** Glaciers are **slow-moving ice masses** formed from **compacted snow** over centuries.
 - They mainly exist in **polar regions** (Greenland, Canadian Arctic, Antarctica) due to **low solar insolation**, while **tropical glaciers** occur at **high altitudes** near the **Equator**, like in the [Andes](#).
- **Importance of Glaciers:**
 - **Freshwater:** Only **3%** of Earth's water is **freshwater**, and glaciers hold about **70%** of the world's freshwater supply.
 - **River Systems:** The [Hindu Kush Himalayas \(HKH\)](#) are referred as "**Water Tower of Asia**" and contribute approximately 40% of the **Indus River system's water flow**.
 - **Climate Archives:** Glaciers **preserve climate records** dating back up to **800,000 years**, which help scientists study historical warming and cooling patterns.
 - **Monsoon Influence:** The **temperature difference** between the **Himalayan glaciers** and the **Indian Ocean** plays a key role in driving the [South West monsoon](#) winds.
- **Glacier Retreat:** Nepal lost Langtang's [Yala Glacier](#), while **Venezuela** became the 2nd country after **Slovenia** to lose **all its glaciers**.
- **Initiatives Taken:**
 - **India:** [National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem \(NMSHE\)](#), **Centre for Cryosphere and Climate Change Studies**, [Glacial Lake Outburst Flood \(GLOF\)](#) risk mapping.
 - **Global:** [International Year of Glaciers Preservation \(2025\)](#), [Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences \(2025-2034\)](#), [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development \(ICIMOD\)](#).

Where is Earth's Water?



Credit: U.S. Geological Survey, Water Science School. <https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/water-science-school>
Data source: Igor Shiklomanov's chapter "World fresh water resources" in Peter H. Gleick (editor), 1993, Water in Crisis: A Guide to the World's Fresh Water Resources. (Numbers are rounded).

Read More: [2025 as International Year of Glaciers' Preservation](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/international-conference-on-glacier-s-preservation>