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Les eaux souterraines: peu visibles mais si importantes

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La terminologie relative aux eaux souterraines est reprise et expliquée avec de nombreux schémas illustrant la présence, les réserves et les ressources en eaux souterraines. La notion de bilan hydrologique est abordée. Les avantages et désavantages des eaux souterraines sont listés avec un aperçu rapide de la situation belge. Les principales menaces sur la qualité des eaux souterraines sont expliquées.

Le caractère renouvelable de l'eau douce ne peut être évalué qu'à l'échelle locale voire régionale. Il ne faut pas confondre 'consommation' et 'utilisation' de l'eau à partir de la production ou des prélèvements d'eau. À l'échelle mondiale, environ 30 % de l'eau douce disponible et renouvelable est "utilisée", tandis que moins de 15 % est réellement "consommée". Les pénuries d'eau sont dues à la répartition spatiale et temporelle inégale de l'eau douce, conjuguée à une gestion locale inadéquate. Les problèmes liés à l'eau ne sont pas seulement d'ordre quantitatif, mais aussi qualitatif. Les réserves d'eau souterraine représentent 76 fois les réserves d'eau de surface.

Pour terminer, la géothermie de faible température à circuit ouvert, et impliquant des études hydrogéologiques, est décrite sur base de quelques exemples tirés des travaux récents de l'équipe de l'orateur.

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