



**Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Film Profiles (videos)**

***Das Blaue Gold im Garten Eden* [Blue Gold in the Garden of Eden]**

Franke, Leslie. *Das Blaue Gold im Garten Eden* [Blue Gold in the Garden of Eden]. Hamburg: Kern Filmproduktion GmbH, 2003. arte/ZDF, 59 min. [https://youtu.be/cBeVU6F3\\_Zc](https://youtu.be/cBeVU6F3_Zc).

If today oil is a reason for war in the Middle- and Near East, tomorrow it could be fresh water. Turkey, Syria and Iraq share the two biggest rivers in the region - the Euphrates and the Tigris. For the last three decades, Turkey's South-East-Anatolia-Project (GAP) has produced one of the biggest dam walls in the upstream region of these rivers. Meant to bring development to Southeast Turkey, the GAP focuses on large-scale energy production and irrigation. This documentary highlights the social and ecological consequences of the Project such as displacement, poverty, water and ground pollution which have affected this "Garden of Eden." It also looks at relations between Turkey and its neighboring countries on issues of water distribution and availability.

(Source: Adapted from [Kern Filmproduktion on YouTube](#) )

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[About the Environmental Film Profiles collection](#)

**Further readings:**

- Albert, Jeff, Magnus Bernhardsson, and Roger Kenna, eds. *Transformations of Middle Eastern Natural Environments: Legacies and Lessons*. Bulletin Series, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, no. 103. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998.
- Dorcey, Tony, ed. *Large Dams: Learning from the Past, Looking at the Future*. IUCN/The World Bank Workshop Proceedings, Gland, Switzerland, 11–12 April, 1997.
- Ferragina, Eugenia. *Bridging Divides for Water: The Fifth World Water Forum (WWF) and the Alternative Water Forum*. Global Environment 4 (2009): 180–86.
- Harris, Leila M. "Water and Conflict Geographies of the Southeastern Anatolia Project." *Society & Natural Resources* 15, no. 8 (2002): 743-59. doi: 10.1080/08941920290069326.
- Mikhail, Alan. *Water on Sand: Environmental Histories of the Middle East and North Africa*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Unver, I. H. Olcay. "South-eastern Anatolia Integrated Development Project (GAP), Turkey: An Overview of Issues

of Sustainability." *International Journal of Water Resources Development* 13, no. 2 (1997): 187-208.  
doi:10.1080/07900629749827.

**Related links:**

- Our Water Commons - Toward a freshwater narrative (Report)  
<http://canadians.org/content/report-our-water-commons-toward-freshwater-narrative>
- Drowned Out (Film Profile)  
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/drowned-out>
- Patagonia Rising (Film Profile)  
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/patagonia-rising-frontier-story-water-and-power>
- My Mother, Oak (Film Profile)  
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/my-mother-oak>

**Websites linked in this text:**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBeVU6F3\\_Zc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBeVU6F3_Zc)
- <https://www.environmentandsociety.org/multimedia/collection/environmental-films-project>