

# Drought in Mexico

Mexico city residents on outskirts of Toluca Mexico Thursday April 22,2021 drought cover 85% of Mexico and in areas around Mexico city and Michoacan the problem has gotten bad lakes and reservoirs are drying up. Droughts condition cover 85% of Mexico and residents of nation's residents of the nation's central region said thursday lakes and reservoirs are drying up and the country's second largest of body of fresh water. The mayor of Mexico city said the drought was the worst in 30 years and the problem can seen at reservoirs that the store water from other states to supply the capital.



Isaias Salgado 60 was trying to fill his tank trunk at Villa Victoria a task that normally takes him just half an hour. On Thursday he estimated it was taking 3 1/2 hours to pump water into his 10,000-liter tanker.

"The reservoir is drying up said Salgado. If they keep pumping water out, by May it will be completely dry, and the fish will die. Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum said as the drought worsened, more people have tended to water their lawns and gardens, which worsens the problem.

The capital's 9 million inhabitants rely on reservoirs such as Villa Victoria and two others -- which together are at about 44% capacity for a quarter of their water; most of the rest comes from wells within the city. But the city's own water table is dropping and leaky pipes waste much of what is brought into the city.

Rogelio Angeles Hernandez, 61, has been fishing the water of Villa Victoria for the last 30 years. He isn't so much worried about his own catch; in dry seasons of the past, residents were able to cart fish off in wheelbarrows as water levels receded.

But tourism at reservoirs, such as Valle de Bravo further to the west, has been hit by falling water levels.

In the end, it's the capital that's really going to suffer.

"Fishing is the same, but the real impact will be on the people in Mexico City, who are going to get less water," Angeles Hernandez said.

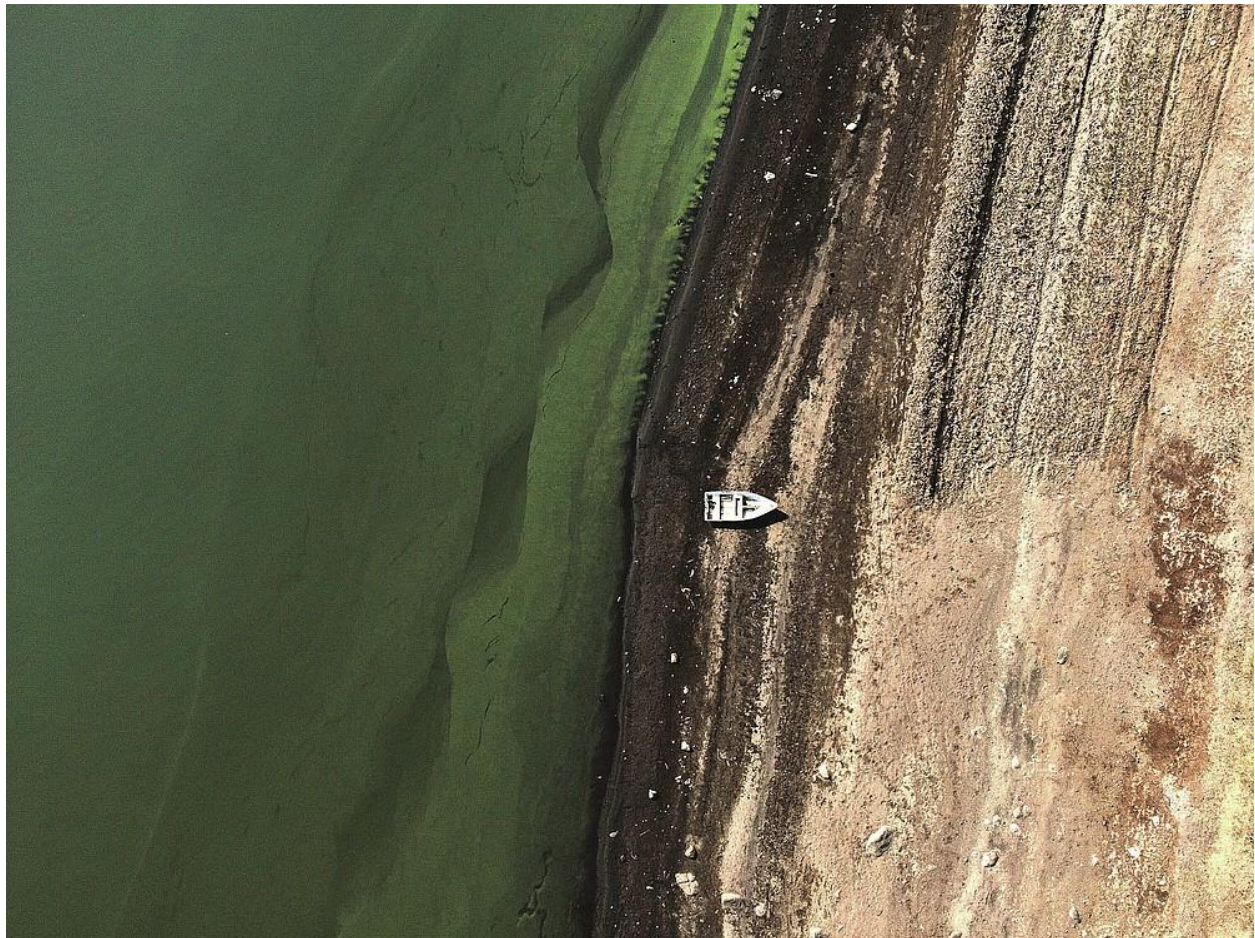
Farther to the west, in Michoacan state, the country is at risk of losing its second-largest lake, Lake Cuitzeo. About 75% of the lake bed is now dry, said Alberto Gomez-Tagle, a biologist and researcher who chairs the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Michoacan.

Gomez-Tagle said deforestation, roads built across the shallow lake and diversion of water for human use have played a role, but three extremely dry years have left the lake a dusty plain.

"2019, 2020 and so far 2021 have been drier than average, and that has had a cumulative effect on the lake," he said.

Michoacan Gov. Silvano Aureoles said so much of the lake has dried up that shoreline communities now suffer dust storms. He said communities might have to start planting vegetation on the lake bed to prevent the storms.

In a petition to the government, residents of communities around the lake said only six of 19 fish species once present in Cuitzeo remain. They said the dust storms had caused tens of thousands of respiratory and intestinal infections among local residents.



*A boat sits idle on the banks of Villa Victoria Dam, the main water supply for Mexico City residents, on the outskirts of Toluca, Mexico, Thursday, April 22, 2021. The mayor of Mexico City said the drought was the worst in 30 years, and that problem can be seen at the series of reservoirs that bring in water from other states to supply the capital.*





*A man stands up on his boat as he fishes in the waters of the Villa Victoria Dam, the main water supply for Mexico City residents, on the outskirts of Toluca, Mexico Thursday, April 22, 2021. Drought conditions now cover 85% of Mexico, and in areas around Mexico City and Michoacán, the problem has gotten so bad that lakes and reservoirs are drying up.*



*Cracked earth lines the banks of the Villa Victoria Dam, the main water supply for Mexico City residents, on the outskirts of Toluca, Mexico, Thursday, April 22, 2021. The mayor of Mexico City said Mexico's drought was the worst in 30 years*





*Cracked earth lines the banks of the Villa Victoria Dam, the main water supply for Mexico City residents,*



*Fishermen fish in the waters of the Villa Victoria Dam, the main water supply for Mexico City residents*





*Shepherds walk with their flock along the banks of the Villa Victoria Dam, the main water supply for Mexico City residents*





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*A man fishes off the banks of the Villa Victoria Dam, the main water supply for Mexico City residents.*