



**A WaterWise Nation**  
Act Today. Sustain Tomorrow.

# South Africa's Water Reality At a Glance

## A Water-Stressed Nation

South Africa receives just **490 mm** of rainfall annually – half the global average – and it's unevenly distributed.

### Heat & Evaporation

High temperatures lead to rapid water loss. Less than **9%** of rain becomes river water.

### Aging Infrastructure

Poor maintenance causes up to **37%** of water loss in our water systems

### Alternatives Too Costly

Making seawater drinkable and groundwater harvesting exist but are too expensive to scale widely

### Extreme & Unpredictable

Our climate swings between drought and floods, often in nearby areas – and climate change is making it worse.

### Water Quality Under Threat

Mining and farming have polluted key water sources over decades due to unsustainable practices.

### No Room for More Dams

We've tapped out **98%** of available dam water. New dams are costly and inefficient.



# Rising Water Demand



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Water use is growing, led by

Agriculture – **63%**



Municipal use – **26%**



Industry – **11%**



## The Solution?

We can't make more water – but we can use less.

Start today:

1. Save every drop
2. Reduce waste
3. Make water-wise choices



**Water  
tips**