Water Statistics for Mauritius

Building the Evidence for Sustainable Water Management



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Importance of water statistics



Tracking Access to Safe Drinking Water and Health



Guiding Sustainable Agriculture



Managing Climate and Disaster Risks



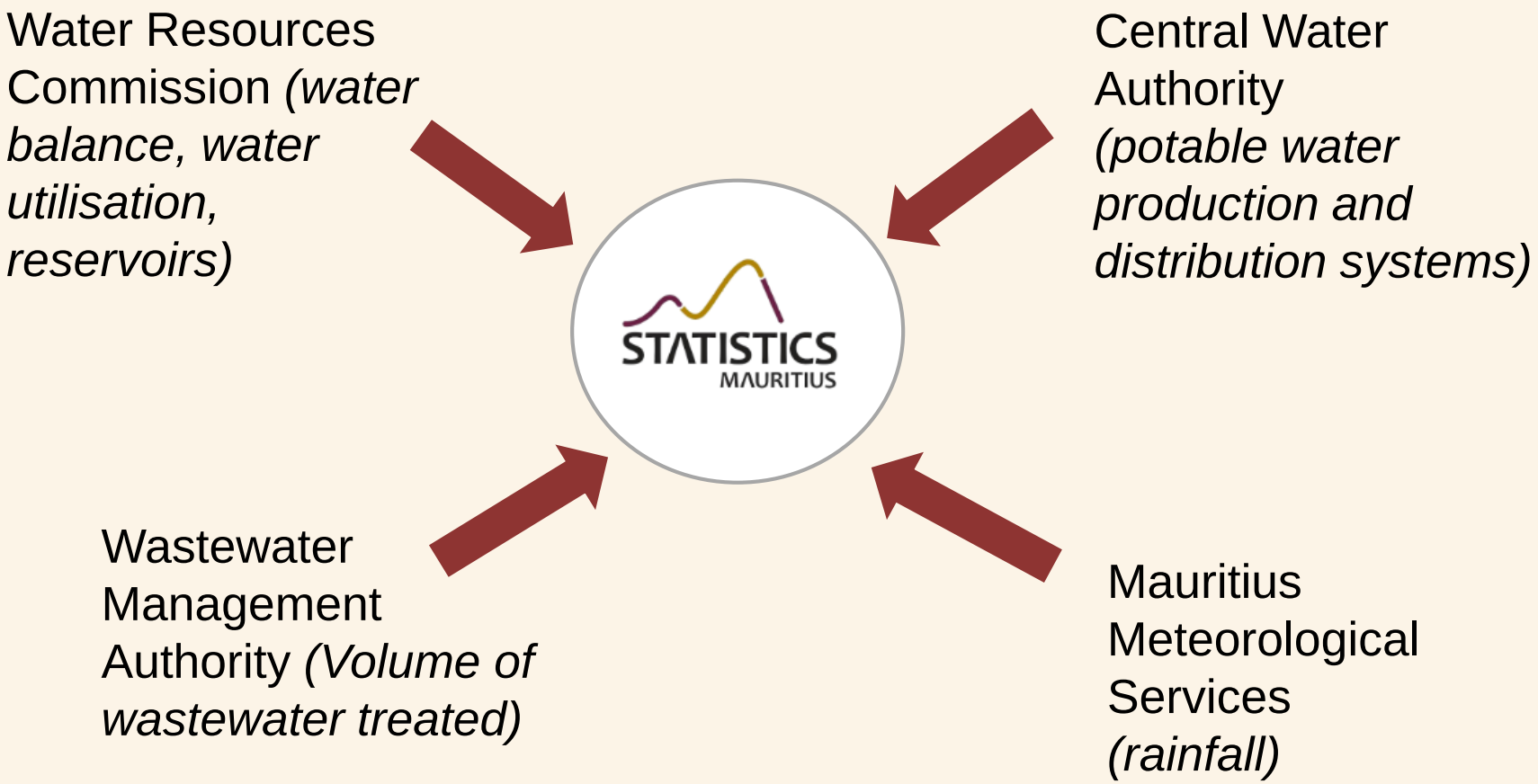
Exposing Inefficiencies and Leaks



SDG 6
Clean Water and Sanitation Reporting

Institutional Framework

The Data Ecosystem



Statistics Mauritius help transform dispersed data into coherent, policy-relevant official statistics

Statistical Frameworks

- **International Recommendations for Water Statistics**

-published by the UNSD, it provides coherent principles, concepts and definitions for the collection and compilation of water statistics on a comparable basis.

- **UN System of Environment and Economic Accounting (SEEA)**

-integrated conceptual framework that combines hydrological and economic information to measure water use, availability and management in a standardized manner.

- **Framework for Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) 2013**

-organises water statistics in core components such as water availability and resources, water utilisation by sector and wastewater and residuals.

Water Resources

Surface Water

Island of Mauritius

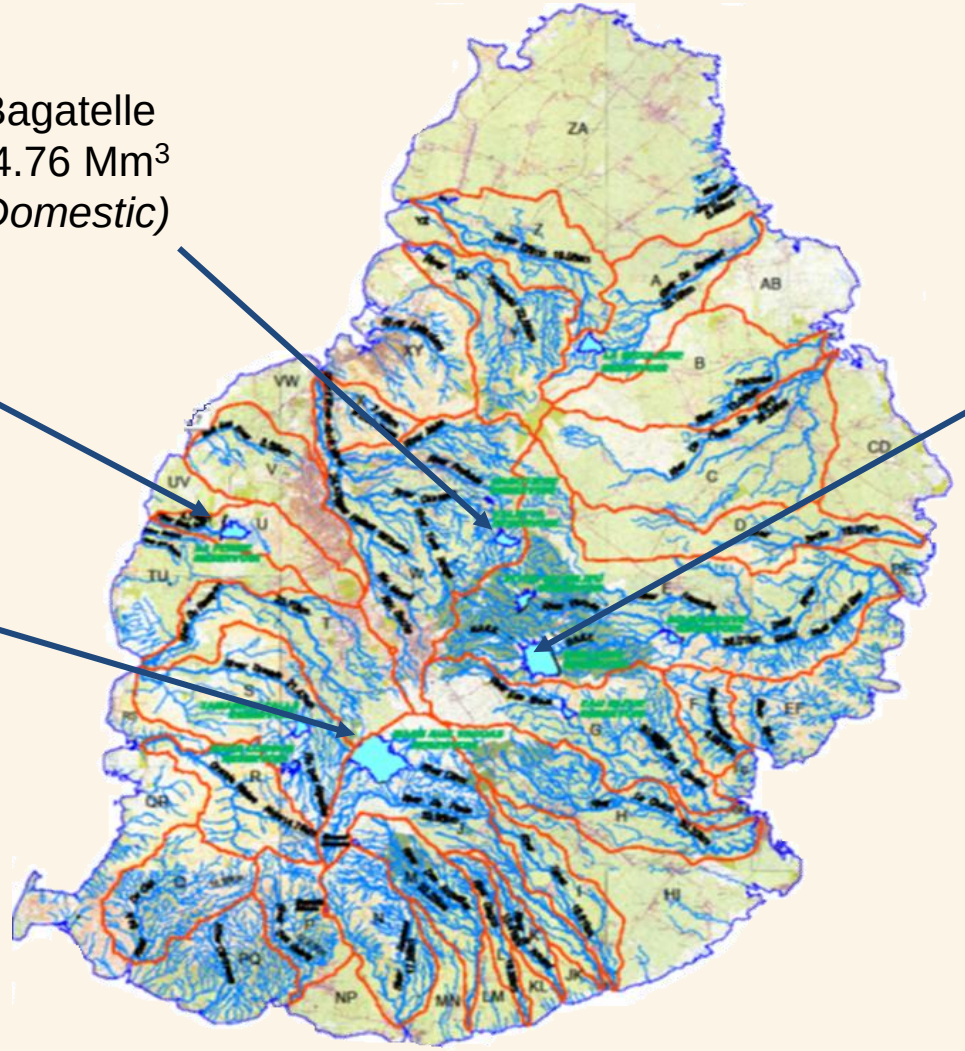
26 main rivers and streams ranging from a minimum length of 4.7 km to a maximum of 38.0 km.

Bagatelle
14.76 Mm^3
(Domestic)

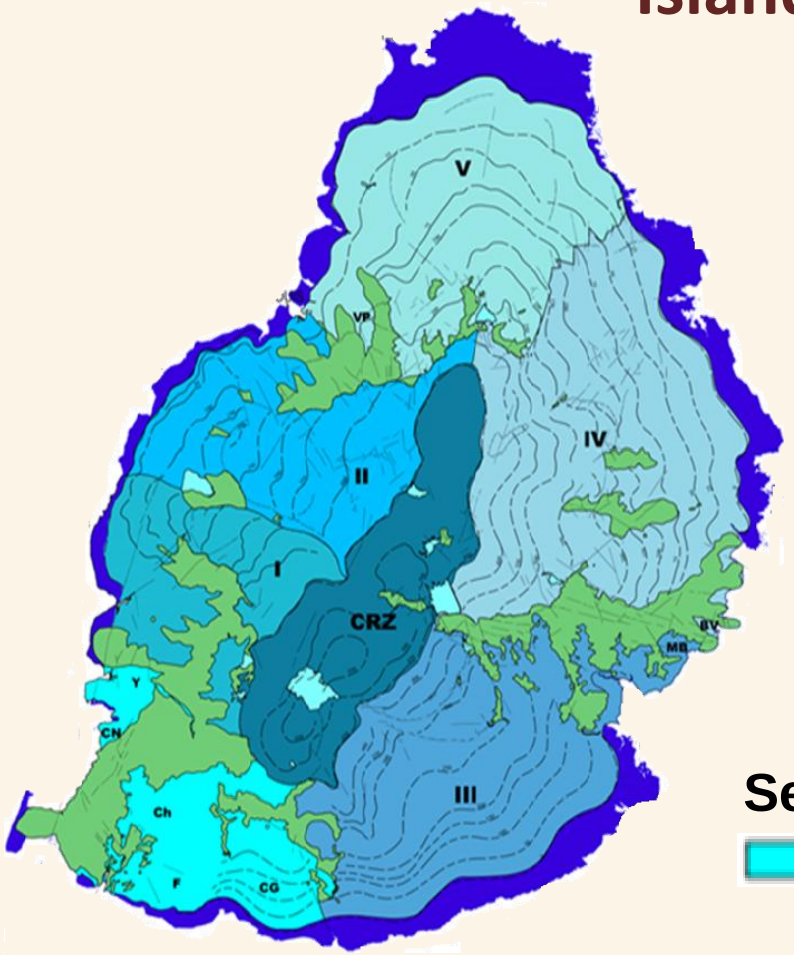
La Ferme
11.52 Mm^3
(Irrigation)

Mare aux Vacoas
25.89 Mm^3
(Domestic)

Midlands Dam
25.50 Mm^3
(Domestic, Irrigation and Industrial)



Water Resources
Ground Water
Island of Mauritius



CRZ: Common Ground Recharge

5 Main Acquifers

I : Curepipe/Vacoas/Flic-en-Flac

II : Phoenix/Beau- Bassin/Albion/Moka

III : Novelle France/Rose-Belle/Plaisance

IV : Novelle Découverte/Plaines des Roches/ Trou D'Eau Douce

V : Northern Plains

Secondary Acquifers

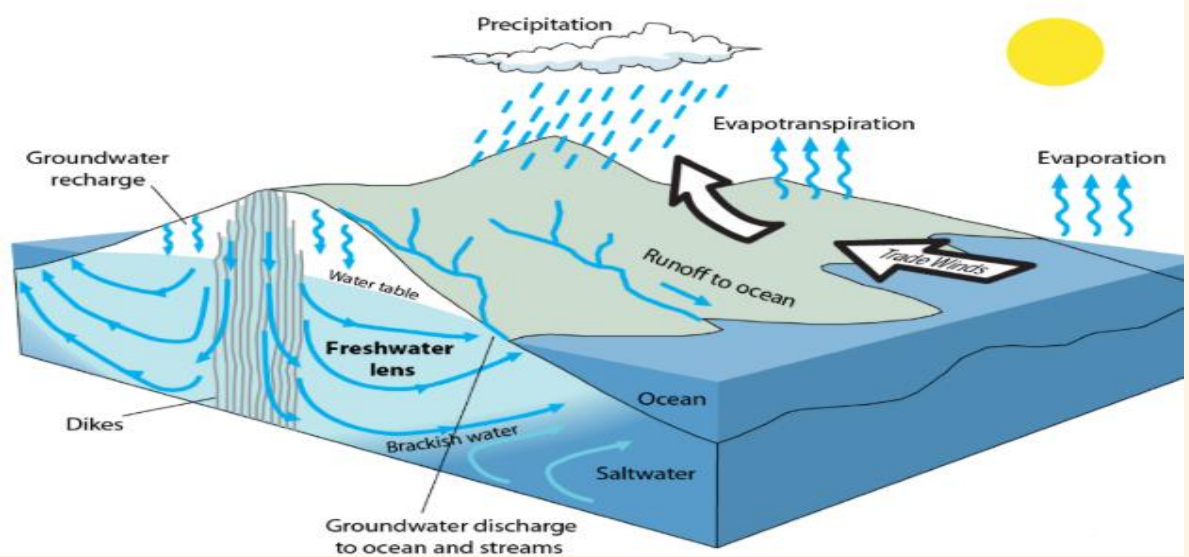
: Chamarel, Frederika, Chemin Grenier, Yemen

Water balance

Island of Mauritius, Year 2024/2025

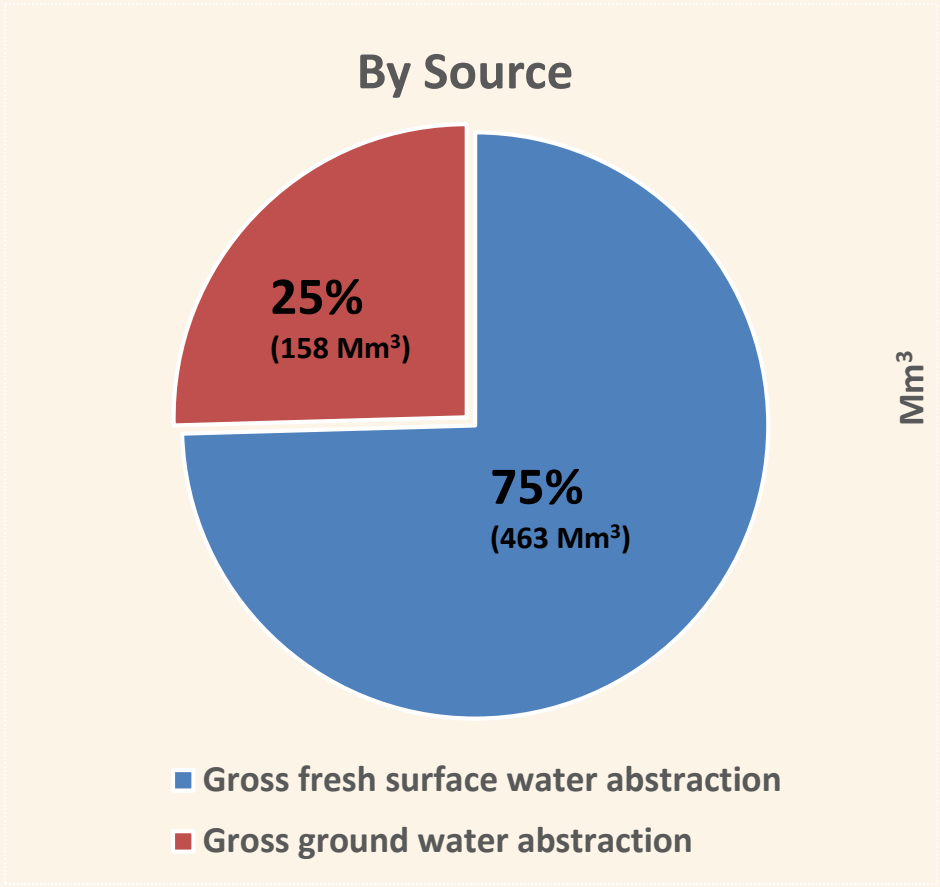
		Mm³
Year	**2024**	**2025**
Rainfall (Precipitation)	4,077	3,402
Surface Runoff	2,446	2,041
Evapotranspiration	1,223	1,021
Net Recharge to Groundwater	**408**	**340**

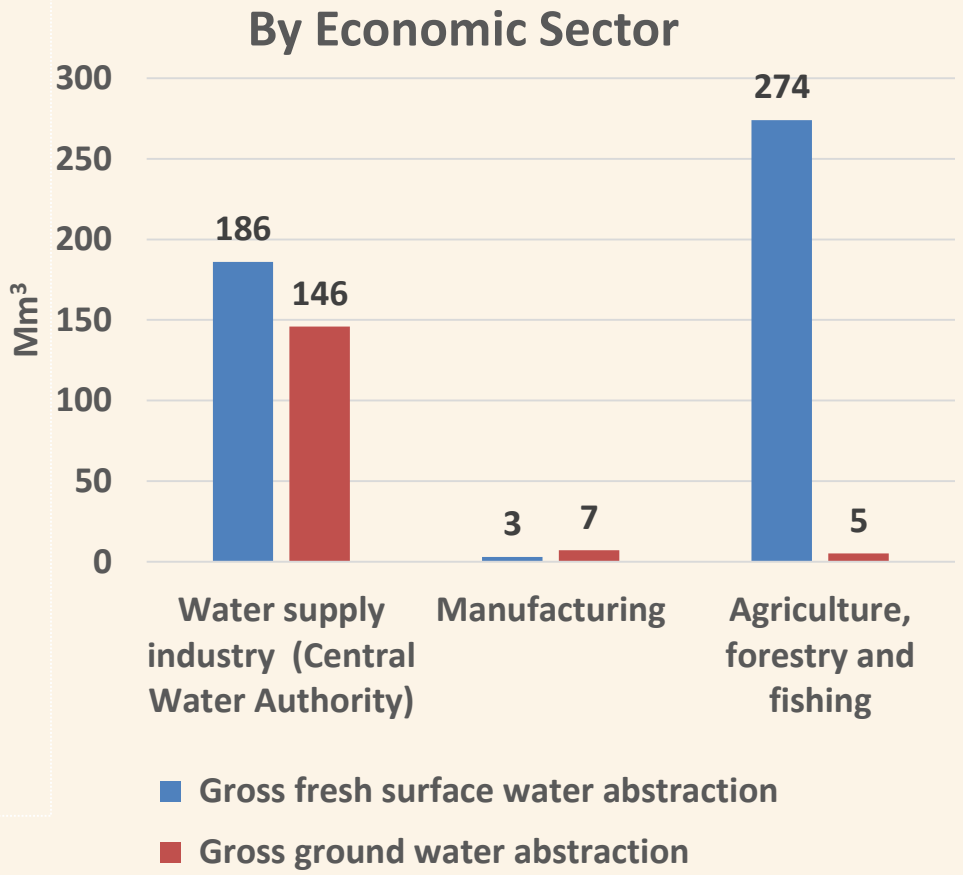
Because of the steep topography of Mauritius, most surface runoff flows rapidly into the ocean unless captured by reservoirs or infiltrated by into aquifers.



Freshwater abstraction

Island of Mauritius, Year 2025

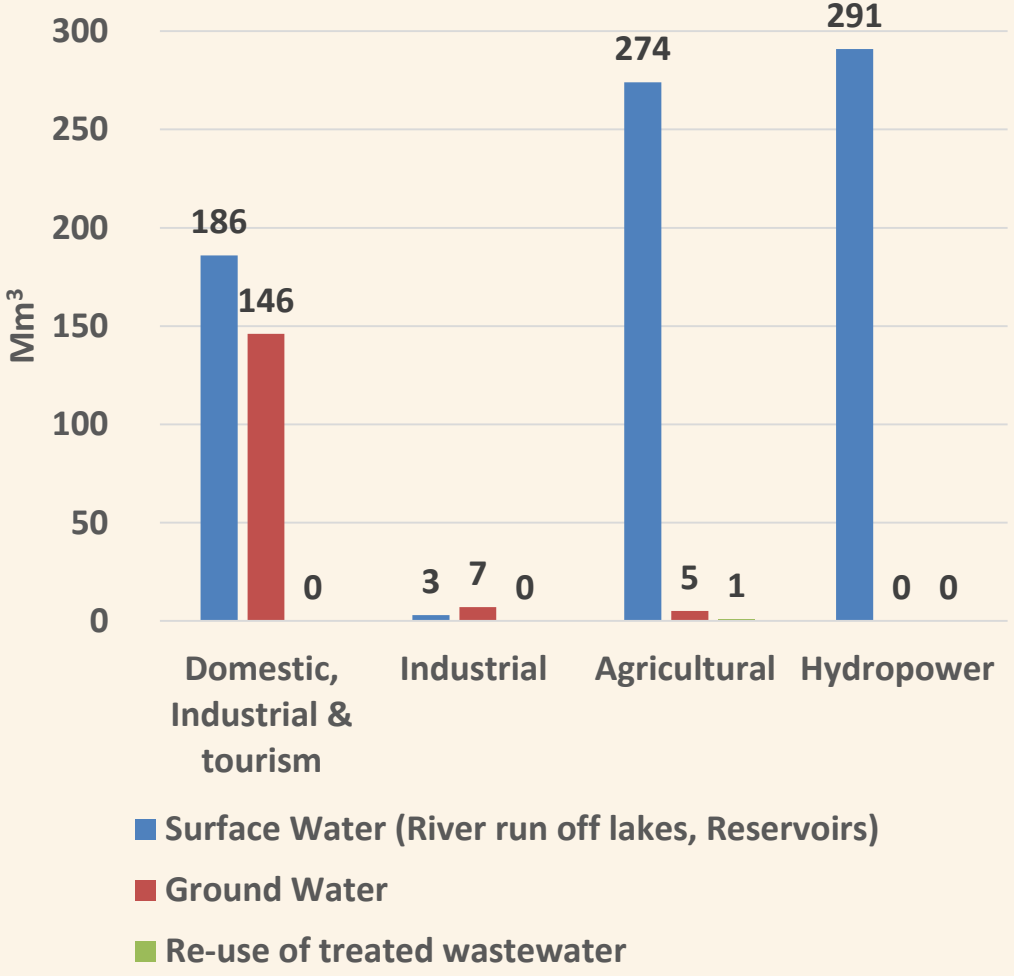


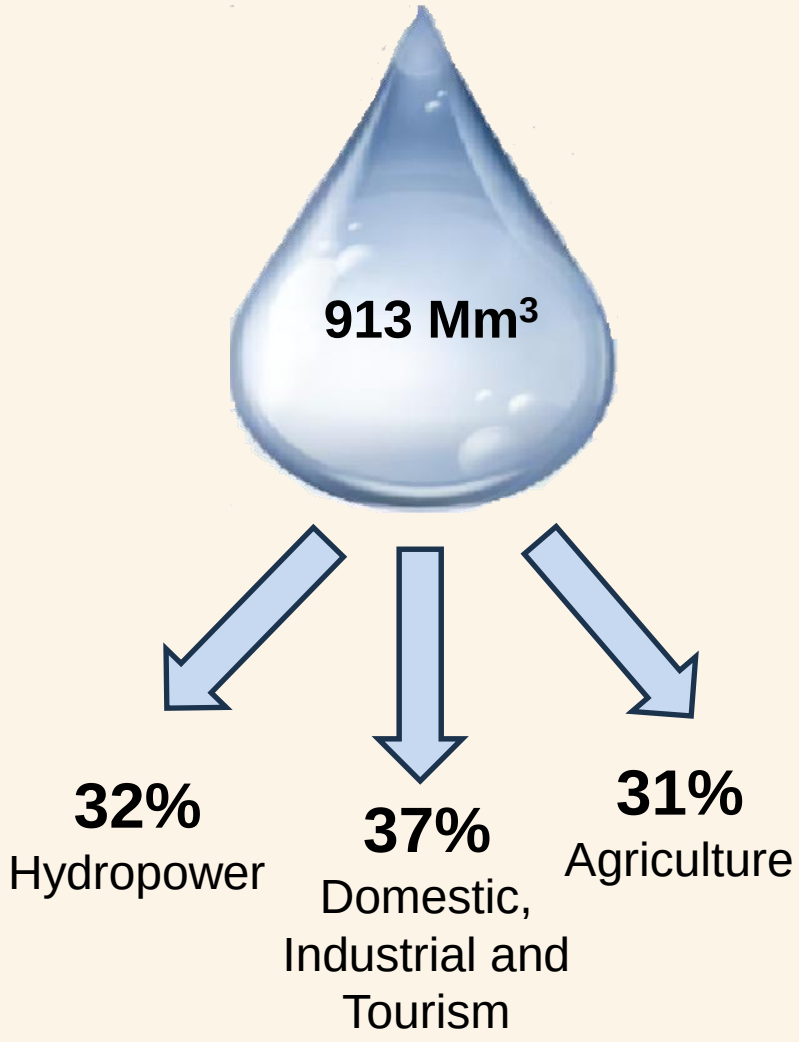


Water Utilisation

Island of Mauritius, Year 2025

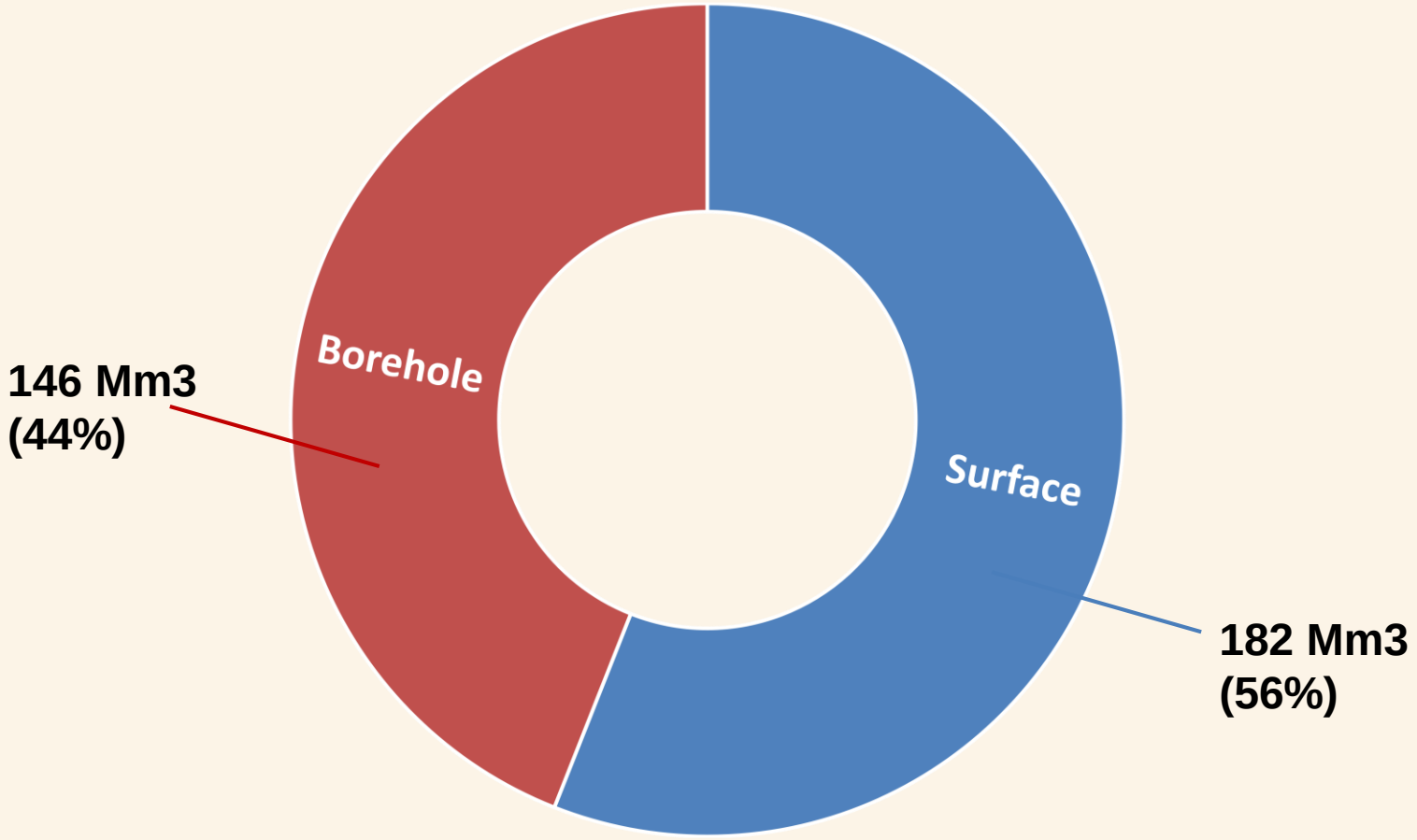
by Source and by Economic Sector





Potable water production

Average Potable water production from treatment plants and boreholes to distribution systems
Island of Mauritius,
Year 2025



Potable water production

Indicator	Unit	2024	2025
Produced	Mm^3	332	333
Used	Mm^3	115	115
Potable water produced per capita per day	litres	756	760
Potable water used per capita per day	litres	262	262

From 2024 to 2025, the total volume of potable water treated by the different treatment plants increased by 0.1% from 332 million cubic metres to 333 million cubic metres.

Wastewater Management

- According to the 2022 Housing and Population Census, around **27%** of the total number of households were connected to the sewerage system.

Serial No.	Treatment Station	Average Volume of wastewater treated (m^3/day)	Final Discharge point
1	St Martin	40,548	Irrigation
2	Baie du Tombeau	33,616	Sea Outfall
3	Montagne Jacquot	36,658	Sea Outfall
4	Grand Baie	2,685	Borehole Injection
5	Riviere du Rempart	356	Surface Water
6	Dubreuil	548	Surface Water
7	Flacq	548	Surface Water
8	Pailles	110	Surface Water
9	BoisMarchand	548	Surface Water
10	Vullemin	466	Surface Water

- Treated wastewater represents an under utilised resource for agricultural irrigation and industrial cooling.

Water Accounts: Linking the Environment and the Economy

Island of Mauritius | 2024 | Physical flows, million cubic meter (Mm^3)

STATISTICS MAURITIUS

FROM THE ENVIRONMENT

1,019 Mm^3

Freshwater abstracted (surface + groundwater)

Includes 398 Mm^3 for hydroelectricity

WITHIN THE ECONOMY

1,178 Mm^3

Total water use

1,019 Mm^3 abstracted + 159 Mm^3 received from other economic units

TO THE ENVIRONMENT

805 Mm^3

Water returned

214 Mm^3

Water consumption

Returns + consumption = 1,019 Mm^3 abstracted

WHAT THE ACCOUNT ADDS

It reconciles water abstracted, transferred between users, returned to water bodies or the sea, and consumed — providing a consistent evidence base for policy and planning.

Water Consumption and Return Flows

How the 2024 water account balances freshwater abstracted from the environment | Mm³

STATISTICS MAURITIUS

FRESHWATER ABSTRACTED

1,019

Total withdrawals from surface water and groundwater

RETURNED TO ENVIRONMENT

805

79.0% of abstraction was returned

WATER CONSUMED

214

21.0% of abstraction was consumed

WHERE DID THE 805 Mm³ GO?



KEY POLICY SIGNAL

Agriculture accounted for 189 Mm³ (88.3%) of total water consumption in 2024.

Interpretation: most abstracted water was returned to the environment, but 214 Mm³ was consumed and therefore did not return to water resources or the sea during the accounting period.

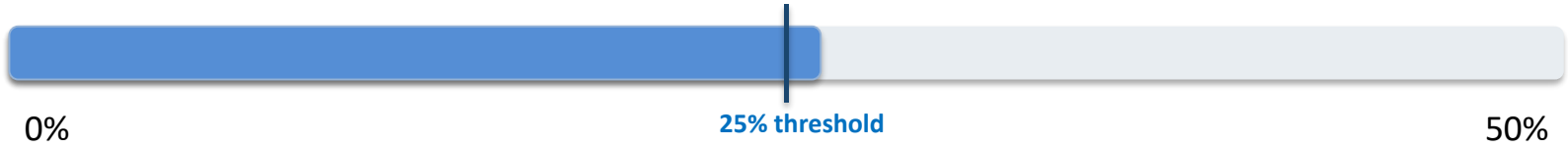
Water Stress: SDG Indicator

SDG indicator 6.4.2 - Level of water stress , 2025

Freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

26.1%

Above the 25% threshold: Mauritius is classified as water-stressed for 2025 under this indicator.



2024

21.8% Below 25% threshold

2025

26.1% +4.3 percentage points

Interpretation: the indicator increased from 21.8% in 2024 to 26.1% in 2025, crossing the 25% water-stress threshold. The UN considers water stress above 25% as a potential warning sign that freshwater withdrawals are putting increasing pressure on available water resources.

What the evidence tells us

1. **Water availability:** Rainfall variability and groundwater recharge need to be closely monitored.
2. **Water demand:** Sectoral abstraction and utilisation statistics are essential for managing competing water demands.
3. **Water efficiency:** Water consumption and return-flow statistics help identify opportunities to improve efficiency.
4. **Water reuse:** Treated wastewater represents an opportunity to reduce pressure on freshwater resources.
5. **Water stress:** The increase to 26.1% in 2025 signals the need for strengthened water resource management.

BETTER STATISTICS.
BETTER DECISIONS.
MORE SUSTAINABLE WATER.

Reliable water statistics are essential for protecting resources and supporting sustainable development in Mauritius.