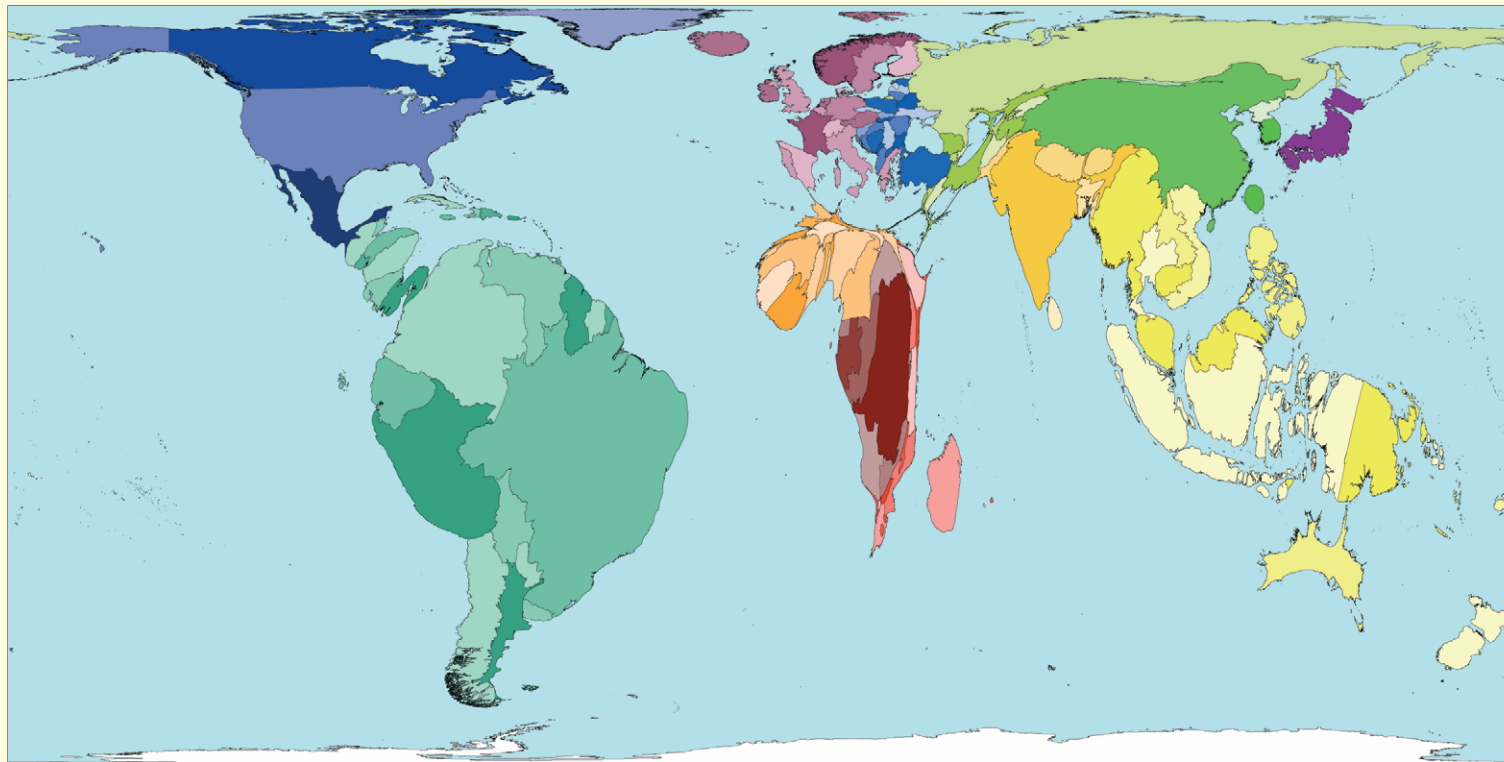


Water Resources

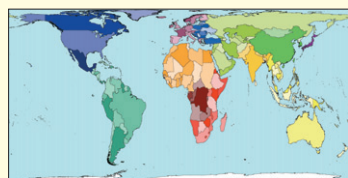


Water resources here include only freshwater, because saline (sea) water requires treatment before most uses.

Only 43 600 cubic kilometres of freshwater is available as a resource each year, despite more than twice this amount falling as precipitation (rain and snow). Much is lost through evaporation. Those countries with higher rainfall often have larger water resources. Of all the water available, the regions of South America and Asia Pacific have the most.

People living in Kuwait use sea water that is processed at a desalination plant. As such Kuwait has no area on this map because there are no freshwater resources there.

Territory size shows the proportion of all worldwide freshwater resources found there.



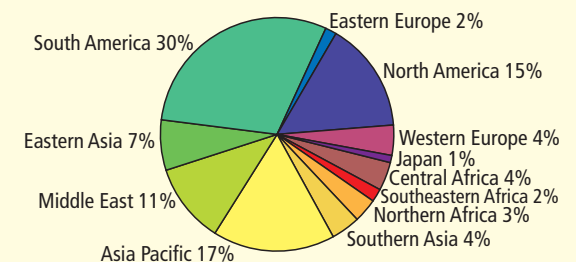
Land area

MOST AND LEAST WATER RESOURCES

Rank	Territory	Value	Rank	Territory	Value
1	Sao Tome and Principe	227	190	Qatar	0.46
2	Sierra Leone	223	191	Oman	0.32
3	Costa Rica	220	192	Turkmenistan	0.29
4	Liberia	208	193	Niger	0.28
5	Colombia	203	194	Bahamas	0.20
6	Bhutan	202	195	Egypt	0.18
7	Panama	198	196	United Arab Emirates	0.18
8	Taiwan	186	197	Saudi Arabia	0.11
9	Papua New Guinea	177	198	Mauritania	0.04
10	Malaysia	177	199	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.03

centimetres of water per year (cubic centimetres of water volume per square centimetre of land area)*

WORLD WATER RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION



- Technical notes**
- These data are from the United Nations Environment Programme.
 - Only freshwater resources are shown here.
 - *Kuwait had no recorded freshwater resources
 - See website for further information.

“The Amazonian basin, where ten of the twenty largest rivers in the world are to be found ... represents one fifth of the entire fresh water reserves of the planet.”

Brazilian Government’s Ministry of External Affairs, 2002