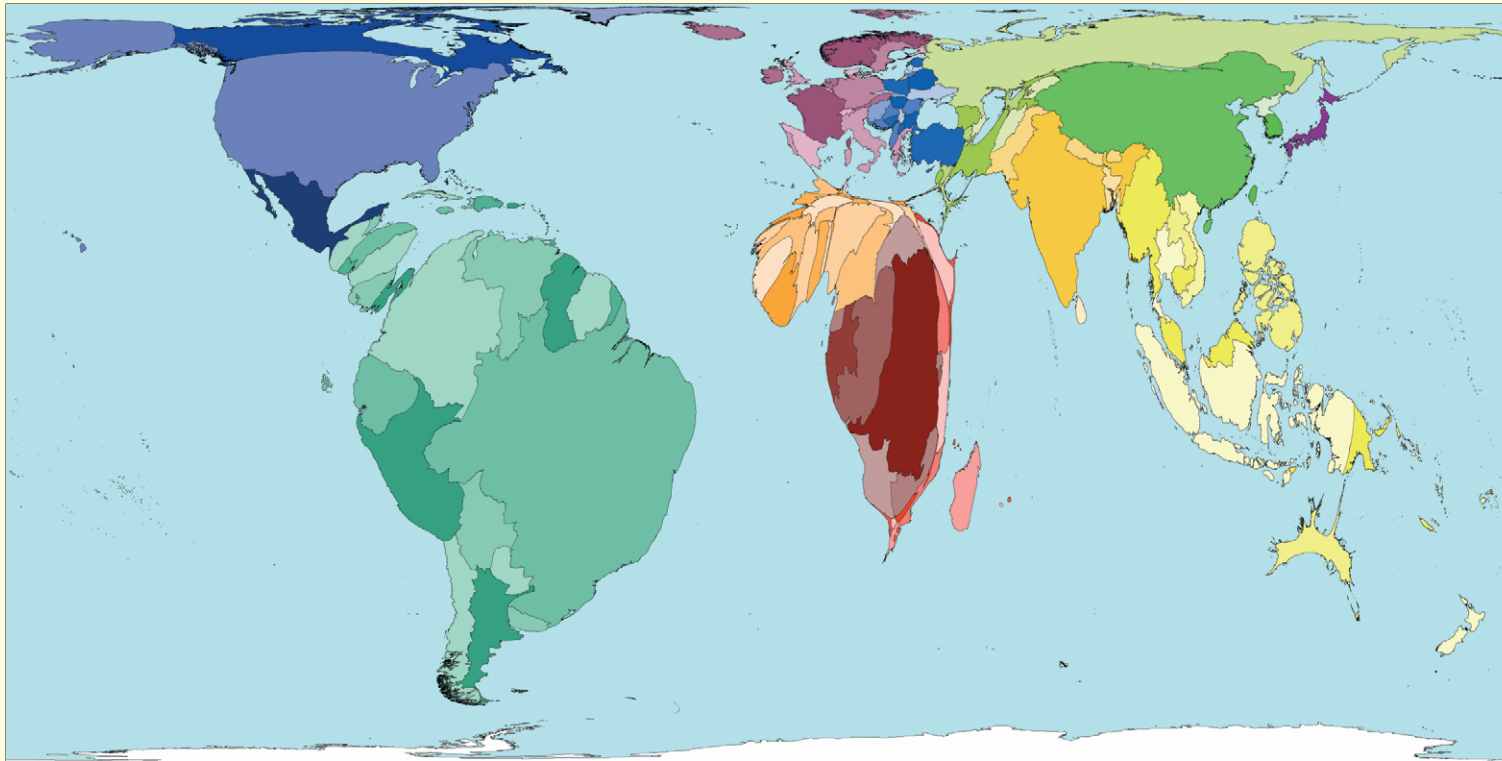


Groundwater Recharge

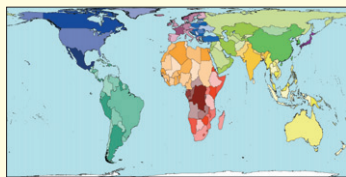


Groundwater is water that has infiltrated rocks, and moved deep into the ground. Groundwater usually travels through permeable rocks, and sometimes forms underground rivers. Nearly 70% of all freshwater is groundwater, making it an important water source.

Groundwater recharge is when the water stored below ground is replenished. Each year 11 400 cubic kilometres of surface freshwater becomes groundwater. In many places this is not enough to replenish water being withdrawn.

Regionally South America has the most groundwater recharge. The lowest is in Japan.

Territory size shows the proportion of worldwide groundwater recharge occurring there.



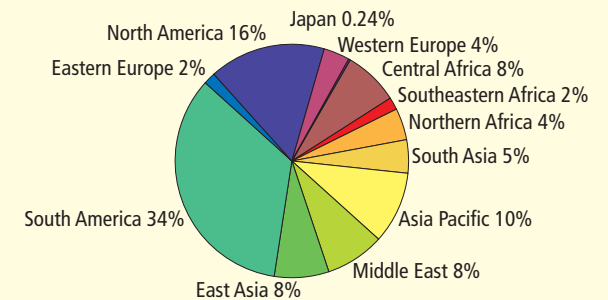
Land area

MOST AND LEAST GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

Rank	Territory	Value	Rank	Territory	Value
1	Costa Rica	73	189	Kazakhstan	0.23
2	Sierra Leone	70	190	Niger	0.20
3	Slovenia	67	191	United Arab Emirates	0.14
4	Liberia	62	192	Egypt	0.13
5	Philippines	60	193	Saudi Arabia	0.10
6	Congo	58	194	Turkmenistan	0.08
7	Guyana	52	195	Algeria	0.07
8	Suriname	51	196	Djibouti	0.06
9	Guinea-Bissau	50	197	Mauritania	0.03
10	Colombia	49	198	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.03

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

WORLD GROUNDWATER RECHARGE



- Technical notes**
- The data used here are from the United Nations Environment Programme, 2005.
 - *No groundwater recharge was recorded in Kuwait and Bahrain.
 - See website for further information.

“Groundwater is a vast and slow moving resource, whose volume greatly exceeds that of other available fresh water sources.”

University of New South Wales Groundwater Centre, 2006