

SOLACE GLOBAL

LATEST

TRAVEL ADVISORY



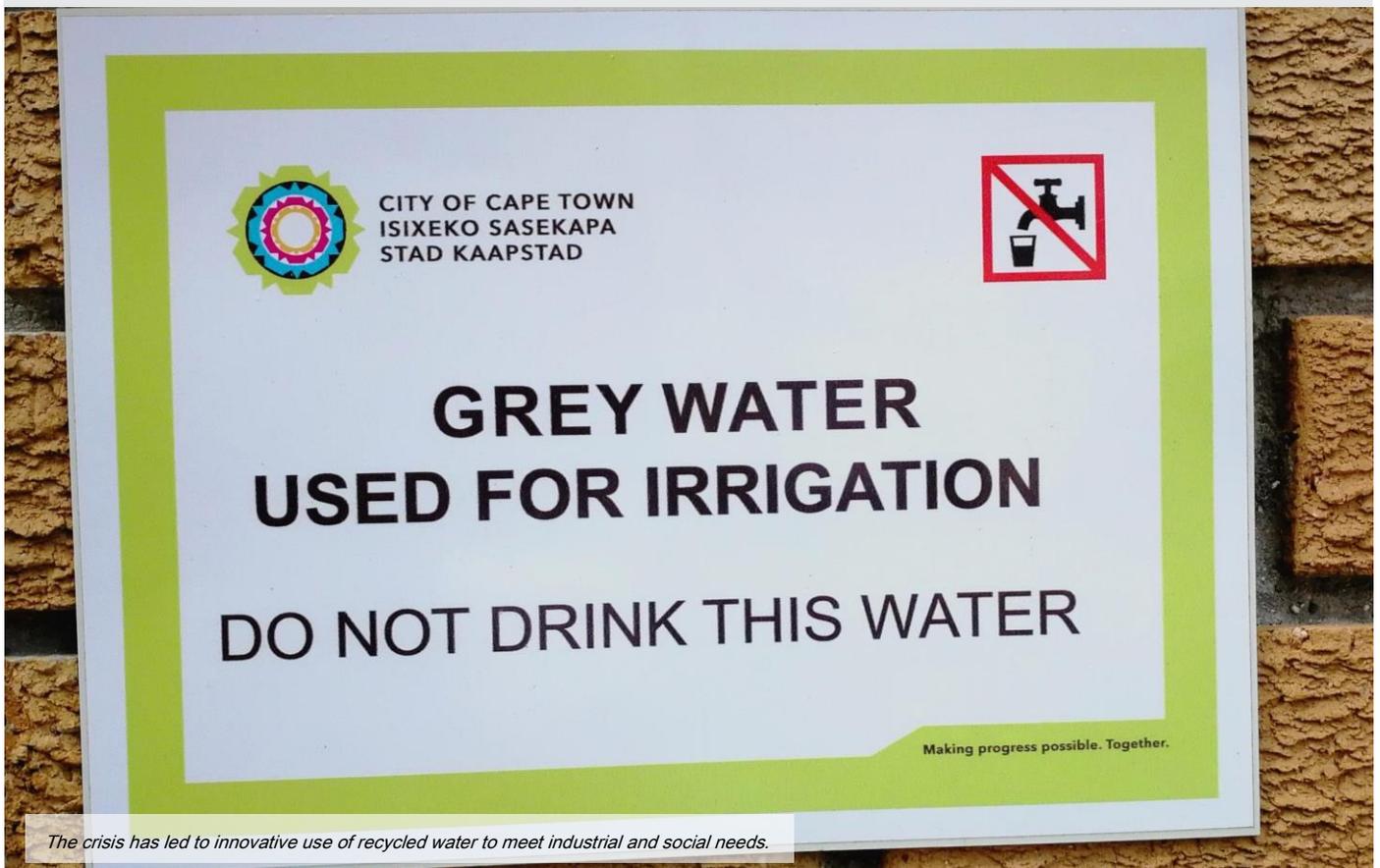


TRAVEL ADVISORY • 14 MARCH 2018

Water Limitations, Cape Town

KEY POINTS

- Water usage restrictions have been imposed throughout the city.
- Present estimates indicate that water supplies may be depleted by mid-August, if winter rains are not sufficient.
- Political tensions have been raised by the crisis, but no significant unrest has occurred.



SITUATIONAL SUMMARY

Environmental: Cape Town has experienced protracted water shortages which are highly likely to persist until the end of 2018. A combination of three years of drought, and persistent poor water management has resulted in a situation in which access to water is heavily curtailed.

Based on present water usage, "Zero Day" is presently anticipated to be 27 August 2018. This is defined as the day at which water levels will fall sufficiently low that domestic mains water supply will be turned off, with all water to be collected from controlled and secure municipal stand-pipes. This has been pushed back significantly, with original estimates suggesting that it would occur in April 2018. This delay to August means that the forecast winter rainfall may result in Day Zero being further postponed until 2019, provided water discipline is maintained, however water scarcity is likely to remain an issue for years to come



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SOLACE GLOBAL COMMENT

Cape Town, and its surrounding region, has experienced significantly lower-than-average levels of annual rainfall since 2015. Water levels in the city's supply reservoirs has dropped to approximately 24 per cent, with the final 10 per cent being unfit for human consumption.

A key factor in worsening the drought has been the widespread mismanagement of the city's water supplies by local government, and significant delays in the implementation of measures which could have staved off the present crisis. Major local leaders refused to authorize the construction of desalination plants prior to the imposition of strict water restrictions. Authorisations have since been given, with temporary desalination plants coming online through March 2018, and intended to provide interim water supplies until 2020. New boreholes to deep aquifers are intended to provide a long term solution, however it has yet to be determined how such an aquifer could be topped up, as such desalination programs may become more permanent features of Cape Town's infrastructure in future. The political conflict surrounding the crisis is likely to persist, with Patricia de Lille, Cape Town's mayor, facing increasing pressure due to her actions relating to the crisis.

Since late 2017, a series of increasingly strict water restrictions have been imposed upon travellers and residents in Cape Town, the most recent being the restriction of water usage to 50 litres per person, per day. By means of comparison, a toilet flush can use up to 10 litres, as can one minute of showering. An average UK resident uses between 110 and 150 litres per day, depending on their living arrangements. In order to meet these targets, the majority of Capetonians have adopted measures including reduced showering, more water efficient cleaning habits, and enhanced use of "grey" (non-drinking) water.

SECURITY ADVICE

MODERATE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK



Travellers to Cape Town are strongly advised to remain aware of their water usage. The hospitality industry has voluntarily implemented a wide variety of water saving measures in order to ensure continued provision of service. Water to meet basic hygiene and hydration needs will be available even in the case that Day Zero takes place.

Travellers are also likely to be requested to observe basic water saving measures such as:-

- Reusing towels; hotel laundries are a major consumer of water. This won't prevent you from receiving a new one if required, but is intended to avoid unnecessary usage.
- Flush toilets only when necessary; each flush may use between six and 14 litres, depending on the type of toilet.
- Avoid running taps when cleaning your teeth; use a cup of water to rinse instead.
- Have short showers and no baths; the average bath uses over 100 litres of water, and showers may use up to 10 litres per minute. The recommended shower length is under 90 seconds.
- Report any water leaks as soon as possible.
- Avoid washing clothes until a full load is ready.
- Swim in the sea, or salt water pools rather than fresh water.
- Use dishwashers rather than handwashing, and only for a full load.

Solace Global would advise clients to consider enhanced security measures when visiting certain parts of South Africa. Risk levels differ greatly from one area to another and so should be subject to separate threat assessments. All travellers are advised to utilise travel tracking and intelligence software in order to implement duty of care and maintain situational awareness.



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Solace Global remains available to provide the full range of Travel Risk Management services to clients. Solace Global is also able to provide comprehensive crisis management, in-country journey management, tracking, response, and evacuation services.

For further details please contact +44 (0)1202 795 801 or email sg@solaceglobal.com