

Reducing our environmental footprint – Water stewardship

Our southern African operations are situated in regions facing significant water stress. Implats is committed to responsible water stewardship by prioritising water recycling and re-use at our operations, while also working to reduce our reliance on freshwater sources.



Highlights

- Above-target water recycled/re-used performance (59%)
- Above-average rainfall recorded at southern African operations in the third quarter of the reporting period, alleviating drought conditions at Zimplats operations.



Lowlights/challenges

- Capital constraints led to several water stewardship projects being deferred
- One water-related environmental incident was recorded.



Performance against key indicators

- Freshwater withdrawn: 25 008MI (2024: 27 175MI)
- Water recycled or re-used: 59% (2024: 55%) against a Group target of 56% water recycled or re-used in 2025
- Water-related level 3 environmental incidents: one (2024: zero).



Focus areas for FY2026 and beyond

- Progress water-use licence applications at Impala Refineries
- Deliver water-security projects as per the Group's approved capital plan
- Conduct catchment-level risk assessments for all operations
- Obtain water-use licence for Impala Refineries
- Achieve 60% water recycle/re-use rate.

These efforts are intended to strengthen our resilience to water scarcity, benefiting our operations and the surrounding communities.

The primary water-related risk facing our southern African operations arises from increasing water stress and the escalating costs associated with water supply and management. In line with our strategic objective to drive operational excellence, we continue to engage proactively with stakeholders on water-related matters. This commitment has shaped the development of our 2030 water stewardship strategy, which is designed to be embedded across the entire mine lifecycle. The strategy is tailored to the unique characteristics of each catchment area and ensures full alignment with regulatory permits and authorisations. It is further supported by site-specific plans and initiatives and is benchmarked against global industry best practices. Our water strategy, along with our 2030 goals, is focused on enhancing resilience to water scarcity across all southern African operations. Further details are available in our approach to ESG report.

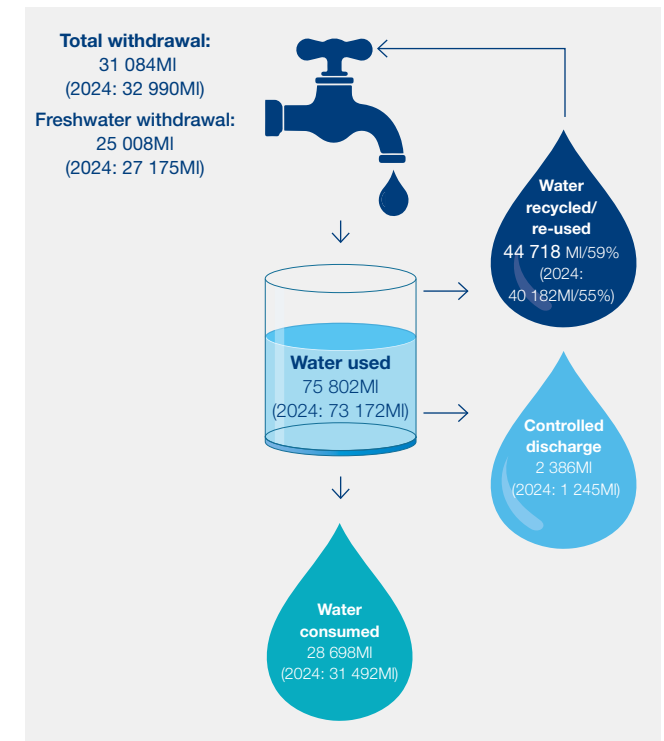
All our managed operations, except Impala Canada, are in designated water-scarce regions. Failure to establish resilience against water scarcity within the southern African region is a top operational and Group strategic risk.

Our water-related key indicators and performance in 2025

The definitions of our water-related key indicators, as well as their basis of calculation, are available on [page 106](#). These were aligned to best-in-class ICMM guidelines in 2024, to enable greater comparability with industry peers. The only parameter materially impacted by this recent change in reporting guidance is water consumed. Previously, water consumed was defined as the sum of water withdrawn and water recycled or re-used, and termed water used. The ICMM water-reporting guidance defines water consumed as water that is retained within the Group's boundaries for operational use and not discharged back to the receiving environment, therefore remaining unavailable to the catchment and other users. This change in definition has been applied prospectively from 2024 and, as such, our water

consumption performance from 2024 onward is not comparable to previous years.

A total water volume of 28 698MI was consumed across the Implats Group in the reporting period. Our water recycling/re-use rate of 59% was above the 56% target for the year (target 2024: 55%), resulting in a 8% decrease in freshwater withdrawn year-on-year. This was due to improved operations at Impala Refineries' effluent treatment plant after several process improvements were commissioned, in line with the operation's capital programme, the successful replacement of potable water with fissure water for various mine operations at our Impala Rustenburg and Impala Bafokeng operations, and above-average rainfall the third quarter of the financial year at our southern African operations, which increased the availability of water in our storage dams for recycling/re-use.



Reducing our environmental footprint – Water stewardship continued

Other water performance indicators

	2025	2024**	2023	2022	2021
Freshwater withdrawal (Ml): all operations	25 008	27 175	23 525	21 530	21 322
Freshwater withdrawal (Ml): operations in water-stressed catchments*	23 294	25 440	21 202	19 460	19 396
Water recycled/re-used (Ml): all operations	44 718	40 182	27 402	27 551	25 869
Water recycled/re-used (Ml): operations in water-stressed catchments	39 258	33 255	19 758	20 134	18 153
Total water consumed (Ml): all operations	28 698	31 492***	53 008	51 504	50 671
Total water consumed (Ml): operations in water-stressed catchments	27 738	29 986***	44 078	42 666	41 029

* Operations in water-stressed regions: Impala Rustenburg, Impala Refineries, Impala Bafokeng, Marula and Zimplats.

** Maiden inclusion of Impala Bafokeng.

*** Not comparable to previous years due to change in definition to align to ICMM guidelines.

Our progress on addressing water-scarcity risk at southern African operations

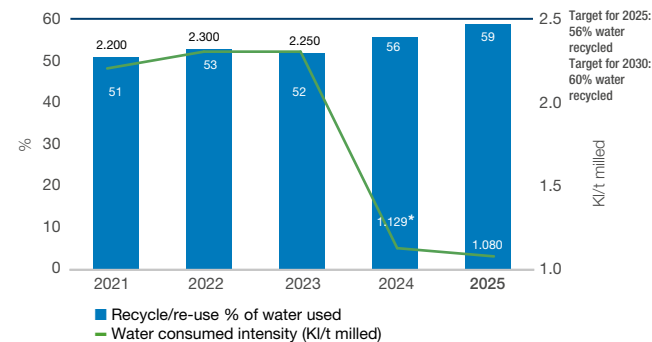
Water-related risk-management disclosure continues to play a key role in our stakeholder engagements and Implats participates in the CDP's Water Disclosure Project, achieving an A- score for the latest (2024) submission.

Each of our operations has fit-for-context plans in place to build resilience, including social performance initiatives to help communities access water and improve their food security (see [page 50](#)). Capital curtailment over the past two years has led to a significant decrease in funds allocated to water stewardship projects. In 2025, an estimated R172 million of capital was spent on water-related initiatives (2024: R279 million). Over the next five years, the Group plans to spend approximately R500 million on water-stewardship projects at its southern African operations.

At our Impala Rustenburg operations, the planned closure of end-of-life shafts – 1, 6 by 2026 and EF by 2027 – will reduce freshwater requirements on-site. The operation continues to optimise its recycling sources to further offset potable water use. The projects reported in last year's report, namely the stormwater separation initiatives and the exploration of decentralised water storage facilities to complement the existing 25Ml reservoir on site, are scheduled for completion in 2027 and 2029, respectively, as planned. At Impala Refineries, the nickel wash water project is set to significantly cut down freshwater

withdrawals, while an expansion of the base metals refinery's effluent treatment plant will boost the amount of recycled water used. Meanwhile, Marula is installing flow meters on its tailings thickeners to improve water management and is progressing efforts to use fissure water for plant operations. Zimplats is also contributing to the Group's water stewardship goals by progressing the Turf Village sewage recycling project, now scheduled for commissioning in 2029, a shift from the 2027 completion date reported last year. The Group is instituting dynamic water balances across all sites and reinforcing systems to increase monitoring of water-related permits for timely renewals, as potential delays or lapses can impact compliance and project timelines.

Recycle/re-use % of water used



* Not comparable to previous years due to change in definition to align to ICMM guidelines.



Flamingos feeding at one of Impala Rustenburg's TSFs

Reducing our environmental footprint – Water stewardship continued

Operation	Initiative	Objective	Capital allocated
Western Limb (Impala Rustenburg and Impala Bafokeng)	Construction of stormwater catchment dams.	Improved stormwater separation, storage and greater resilience to extreme weather events (floods, droughts).	R191 million
	Decentralised tanks at strategic shafts (following the commissioning of a 25MI reservoir in August 2023).	Improved water storage and resilience to water supply disruptions.	R80 million
Impala Refineries	Nickel wash water optimisation projects.	Improved water recycling and re-use capacity and reduced freshwater intake.	R100 million
Marula	Flow metering on the tailings thickener.	Improved water accounting.	R45 million
	Tailings dam water plume remediation, ground water monitoring and construction of settling dam.	Prevent pollution of underground water sources.	
Zimplats	Turf and SMC sewage water recycling study.	Improved security of water supply for operations and reduced freshwater intake.	R164 million

Other embedded, non-capital controls to manage water-scarcity risks include:

- Board-approved Group water strategy and water policy
- Participation in, contribution to and financial support of catchment-level water management forums
- Monitor water use through dashboard reporting
- Infrastructure maintenance to retain rainwater and increase its re-use
- Water capture/storage infrastructure and technology to recycle/re-use water
- Progressively increase water recycling/re-use targets
- Use alternative greywater sources
- Mature programmes to improve host community access to water and resilience to water scarcity.

Stakeholder engagements on water

Water-use licence (WUL) updates

At Impala Refineries, a new WUL application is progressing alongside environmental impact assessments and public participation, with several technical studies already completed. Zimplats successfully renewed its Manyame Dam abstraction permit for 10 years. WUL amendment applications at the Impala Bafokeng, Impala Rustenburg and Marula operations, are underway with no foreseeable operational risk.

Every drop counts – shared responsibility for water stewardship

Impala Rustenburg continues to avail up to 2MI per day of its freshwater allocation from regional water suppliers to surrounding communities, and Impala Refineries allocates 0.8MI per month of its potable water supply to fully cover the needs of a local epilepsy awareness centre. All Group operations partner with local authorities to conduct education campaigns on water conservation.



From left to right, Group COO Patrick Morutlwa, competition winner Otlotleng Motlhabane and Group water specialist Murendeni Makhado

Group water-saving challenge

To celebrate Water Month in March, Implats conducted a water awareness webinar and launched its water-saving challenge: Innovate to Conserve! – a Group-wide competition that encouraged employees to think creatively about how we can use water more efficiently at our operations. The challenge was designed to tap into employee insights and innovation at ground level – where real change happens. Employees were invited to assess their work areas and submit proposals outlining:

- Current water-use challenges
- Creative, practical solutions
- Implementation plans
- Potential savings and environmental benefits.

The Group received many entries from enthusiastic employees with excellent ideas. Ultimately, Otlotleng Motlhabane, a graduate metallurgist at UG2 Mills and Slag Plant at Impala Rustenburg, was selected as the winner. His proposal was to employ technology to control water use at one of the operation's plants, and his entry stood out for its practicality and potential impact. The solution could reduce water use at the plant by up to 30%, saving 800 000 litres and R400 000 a year, while improving processing performance and reducing environmental impact.

In recognition of his achievement, Otlotleng received a top-of-the-range iPad and an exclusive lunch with Implats COO Patrick Morutlwa, to further explore how his idea can be brought to life at our operations.



Equipped borehole at Shungudzevana

Improving community access to water

This year, Zimplats continued its efforts to improve community access to water for domestic use and for livestock and agricultural productivity. The operation installed solar-powered boreholes and upgraded reticulation at Tyrone Village 2 and Shungudzevana Orphanage. These boreholes will benefit 88 households in Tyrone and 70 orphans at Shungudzevana, and result in better nutrition and greater community cohesion around this shared resource. See [page 58](#) for further reading on the Group's community water projects.