

Water Desalination in Cabo Verde

Strengths and Weaknesses as Part of the Water Mix for
Integrated Coastal Water Management

ANAS/2026

Location and Water Context of Cabo Verde



25°C – 30°C



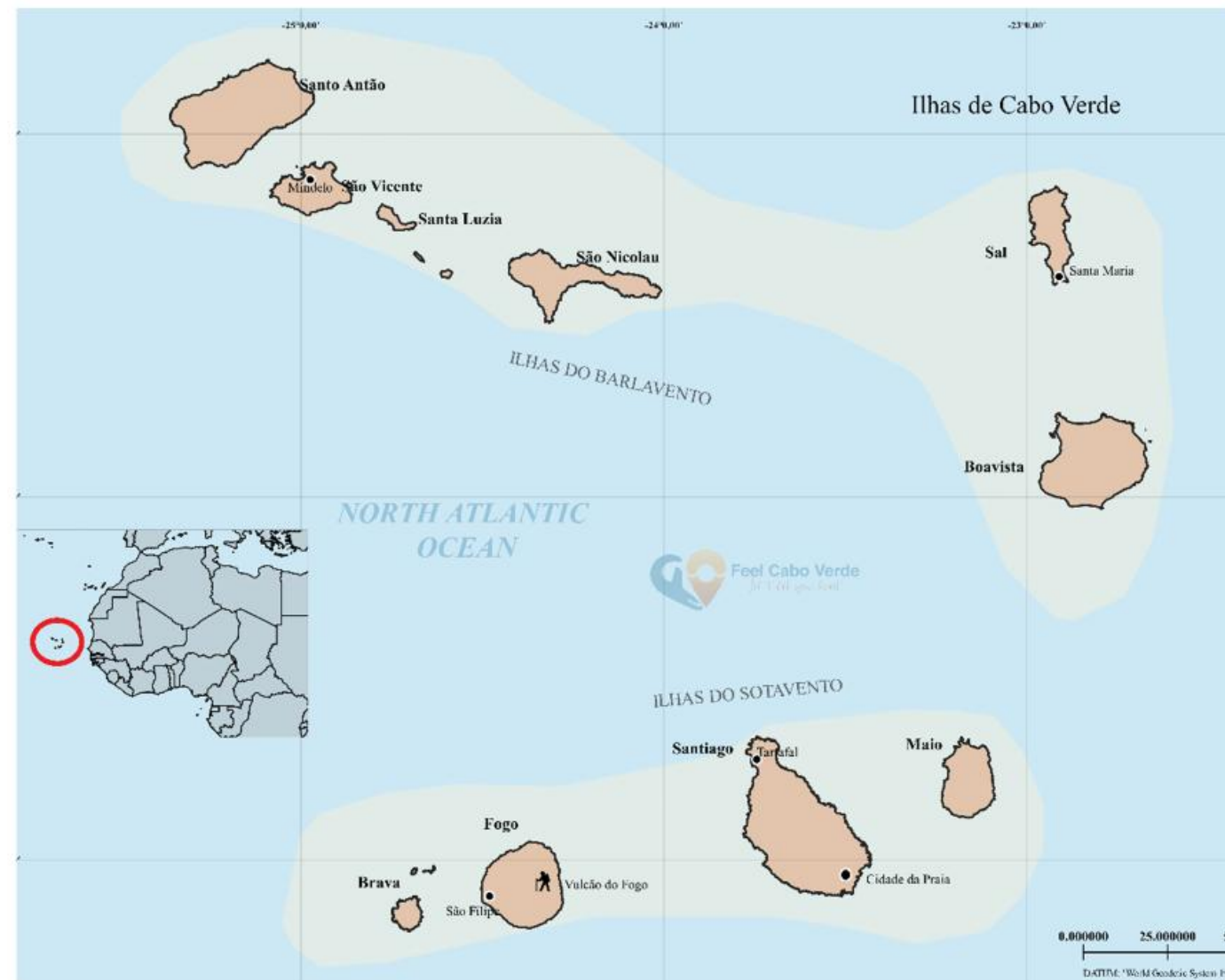
Population
527,000



Avg Rainfall
230 mm/year



Area
4,033 km²



Desalination: A Strategic Choice Since 1954



Now: 15 plants
public supply
(SA, SV, SN, Sal,
BV, Maio, ST)

Futur: Capacity
reinforcement,
New Plants
Construction

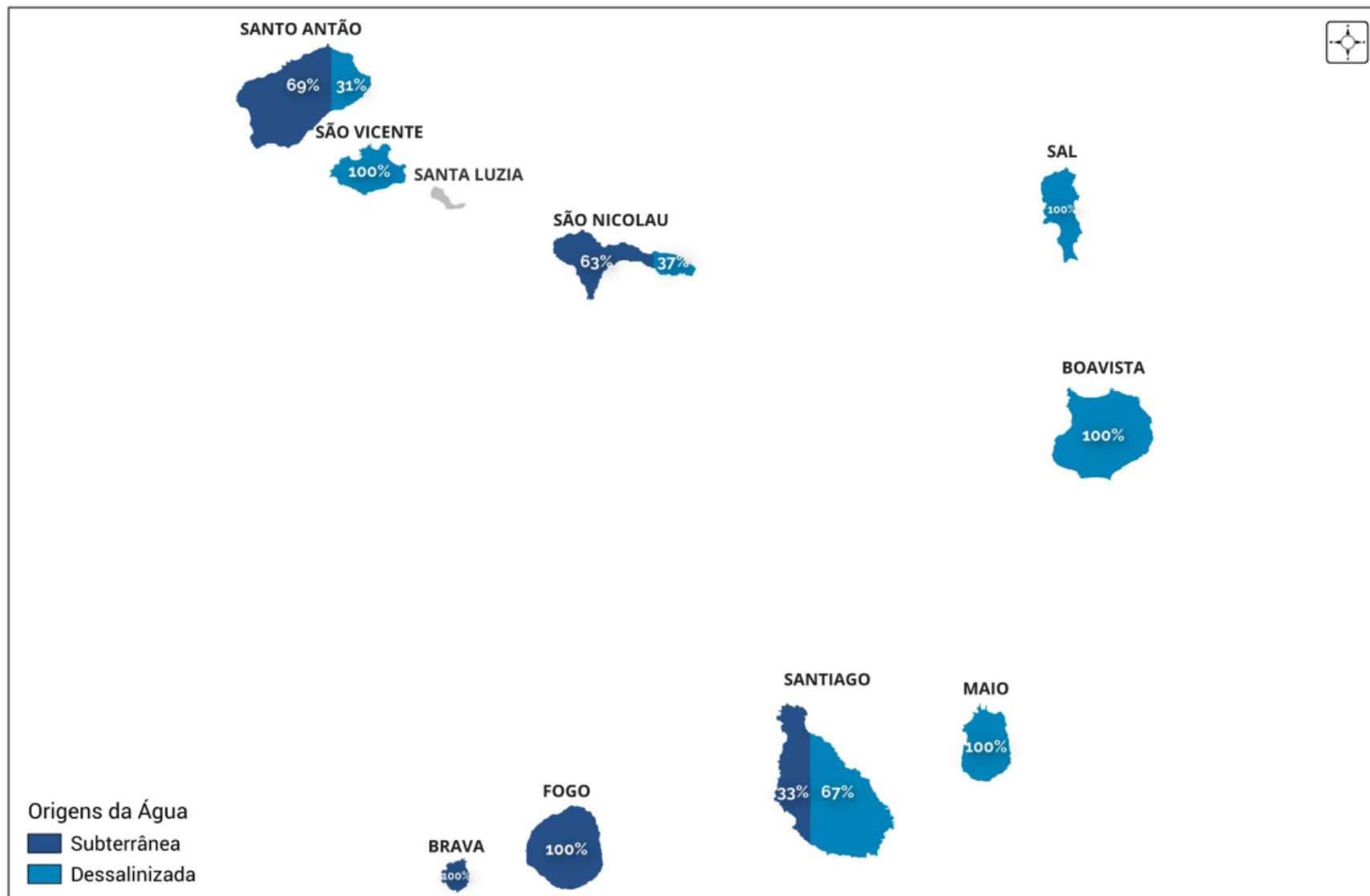


Now: 13 privaty
plants (BV, Sal, ST)

Desalination: main origin for public supply

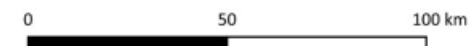
Fogo (no plant)

Brava (project ongoing)



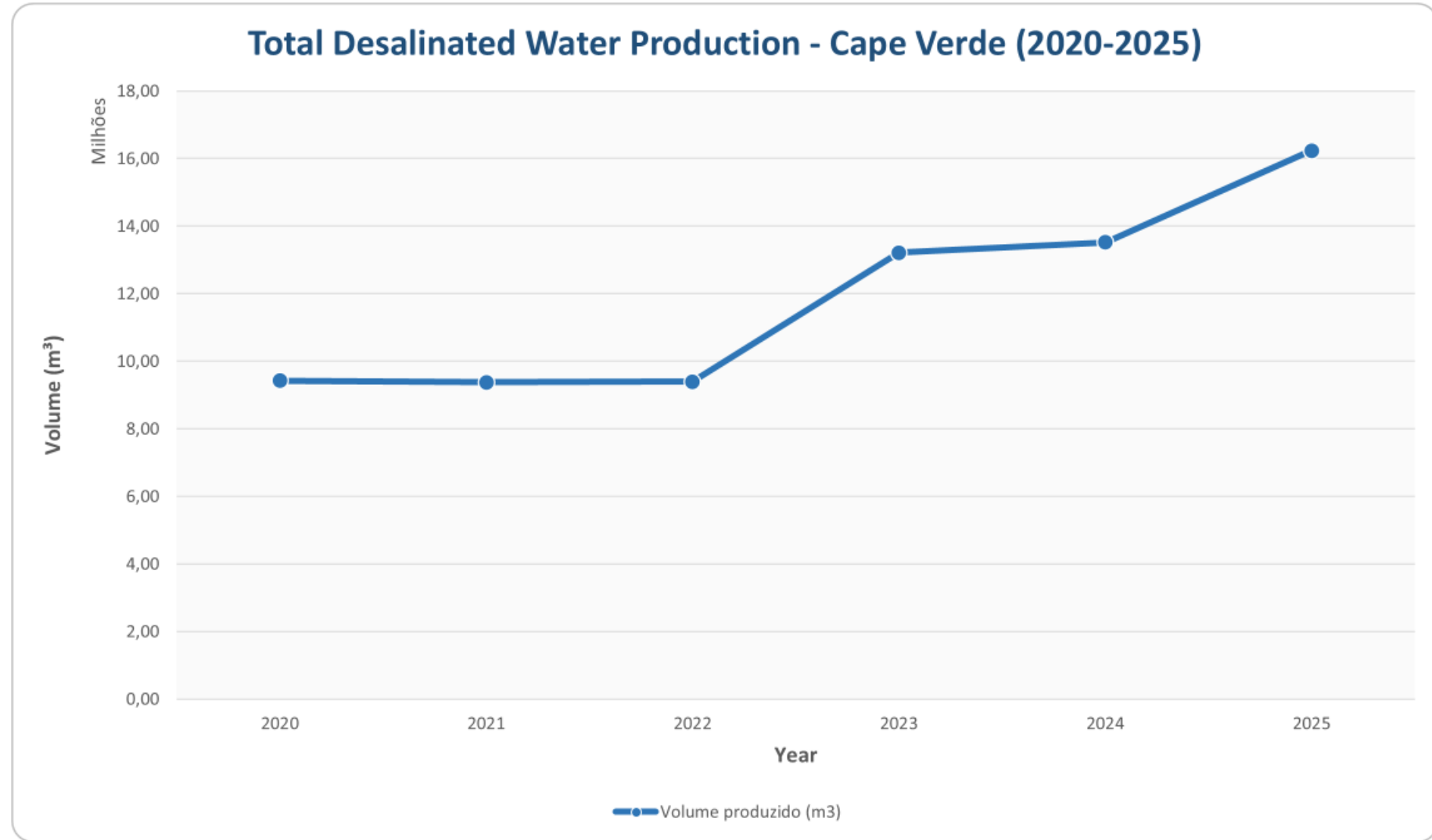
© ANAS, 2025

Base Cartográfica: - Divisão Administrativa (INGT)



Desalinated Water Use em Cabo Verde

- Public Supply
- Tourism – (Hotels with own units)
- Localized Agriculture - strong trend of increasing use
- Industry



Desalination Strengths



Climate-
Independent



Security
Supply



Supports
Economic Growth



Abundant Marine
Resource

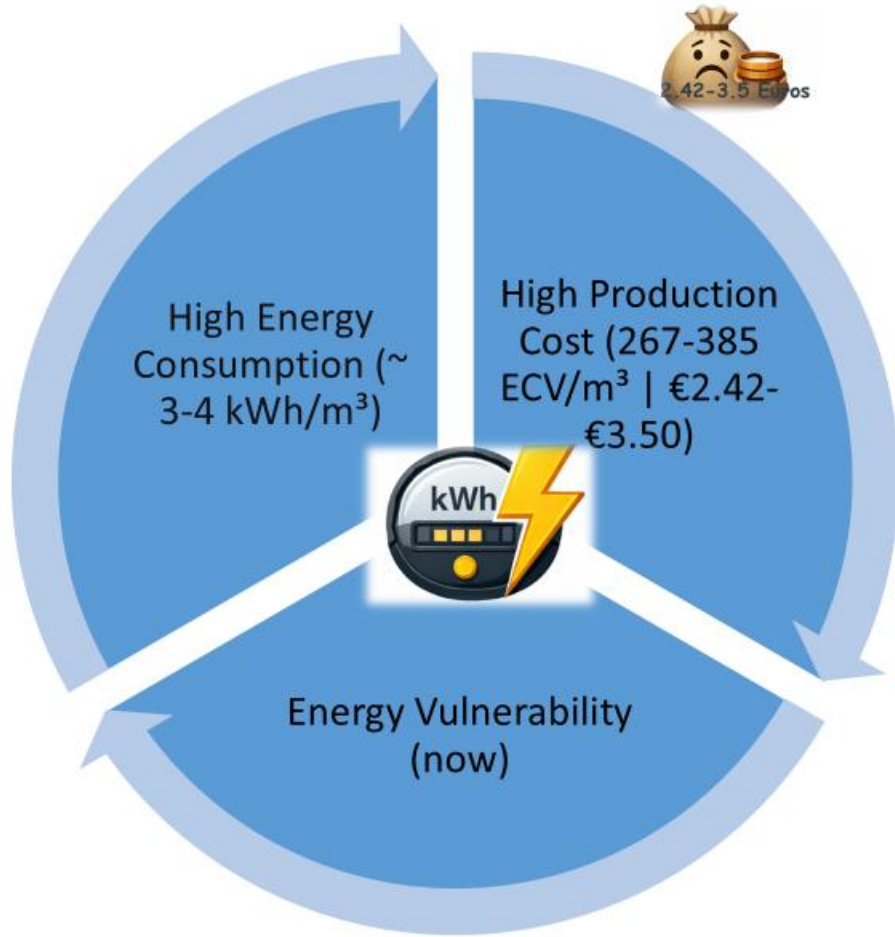


Protects
Groundwater



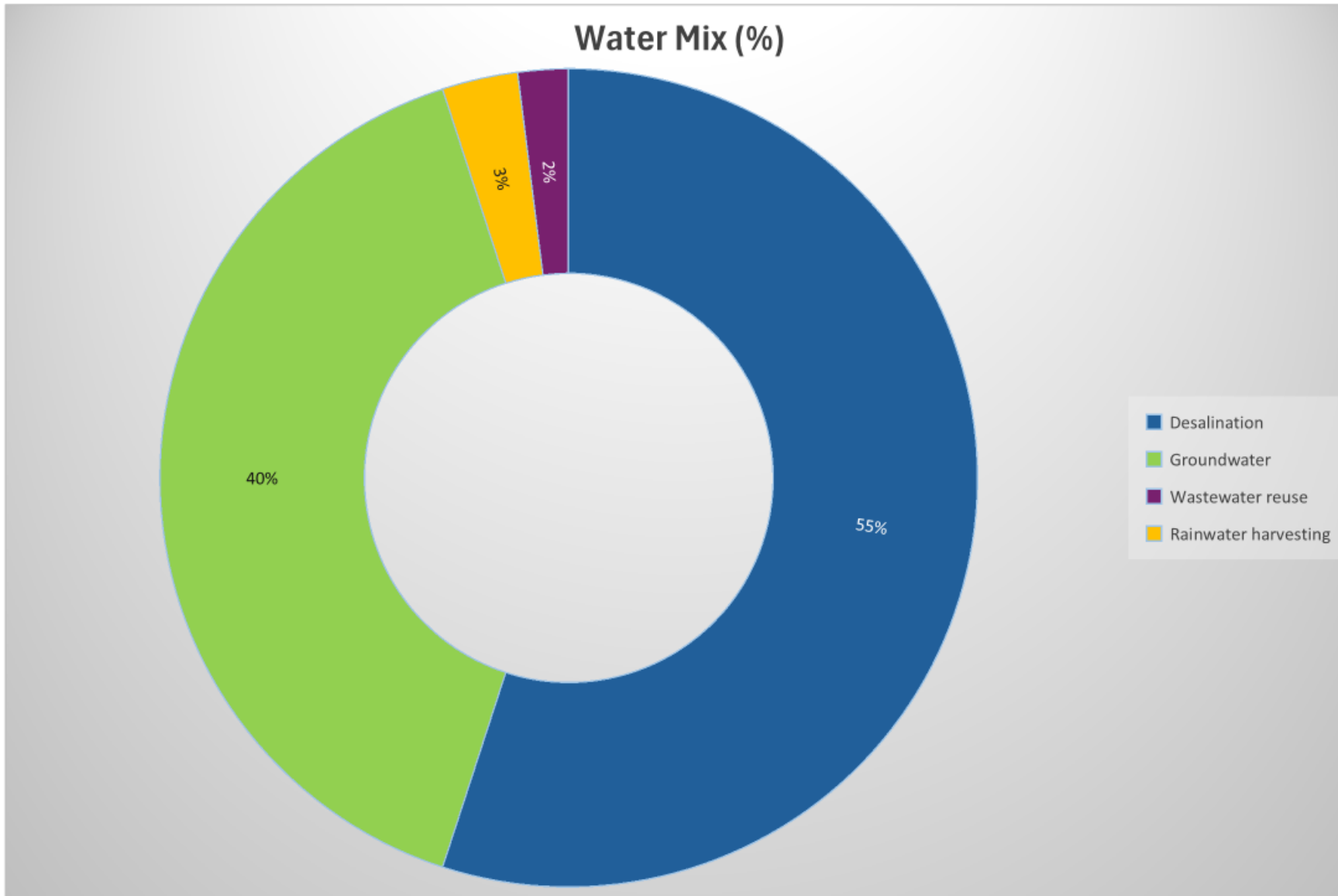
Renewable
Energy

Dessalination Weaknesses & Challenges



- External Tech Dependency
- Brine Environmental Impact
- Remineralization for chemical stabilization

Desalination in the Integrated Water Mix



True water security means combining it with groundwater protection, security water reuse, and efficiency

- Integration with renewable energies (solar and wind)
- Technological improvements in reverse osmosis
- Integrated coastal zone planning
- Remineralization for chemical stabilization
- Expansion of water reuse

Ongoing Projects

Project	Location	Capacity	Energy Source	Financing	Conclusion
Agricultural Desalination	São Domingos	883.300 m ³ /year	Solar	Cooperation with Hungary (€42M total program)	2024 (1st phase)
Agricultural Desalination	Santa Cruz	Under implementation	Solar	Cooperation with Hungary	"Soon"
New Palmarejo Plant	Santiago (south)	5.000 m ³ /day	Conventional	Japan Cooperation (Toyota Tsusho)	2028
New Calheta Plant	Santiago (north)	10.000 m ³ /day	Conventional	Japan Cooperation (Toyota Tsusho)	2028
100% Solar Unit	Brava	250–300 m ³ /day	Solar (100%)	Luxembourg (Cooperation)	Ongoing



~**95%** of urban supply (several islands)



>**42,000 m³/day** installed → +15,000 m³/day by 2028



Cost: €2.42–3.50/m³ (high but essential)



Innovation: 1st 100% solar (Brava) + 1st agricultural (S. Domingos)



Critical challenge: Supply continuity (e.g., Brava)



Way Forward: Integrate renewables • Reduce costs • Expand reuse • Protect aquifers



Vera.garcia@anas.gov.cv

Thank You for Your Attention!