



## Renewable natural fresh water resources

**Renewable natural fresh water resources** (of surface and underground), expressed in km<sup>3</sup>/year, represent the maximum potential of water resources "offered by nature" on average. They are the sum of the product from surface and underground flows forming the **internal resources** and those generated by **external resources** (surface or underground flows coming from other countries). Renewable natural fresh water resources can be exploited more or less intensely without affecting the rights of the future generations, since they are renewed each year thanks to rainfall, as long as they are not deteriorated by the climate change.

The renewable water resources consist of flows and not of stocks, like for other raw materials, and these fresh water flows are naturally maintained by the water cycle with its continental influences.

The average values of renewable natural fresh water resources, calculated over a long period, characterize the hydrology of the basin.

A part only of these natural resources is exploitable because of various technical-economic and environmental constraints.