



# Assessing the **ecological services** of aquatic environments : **Scientific, political** and **operational issues**

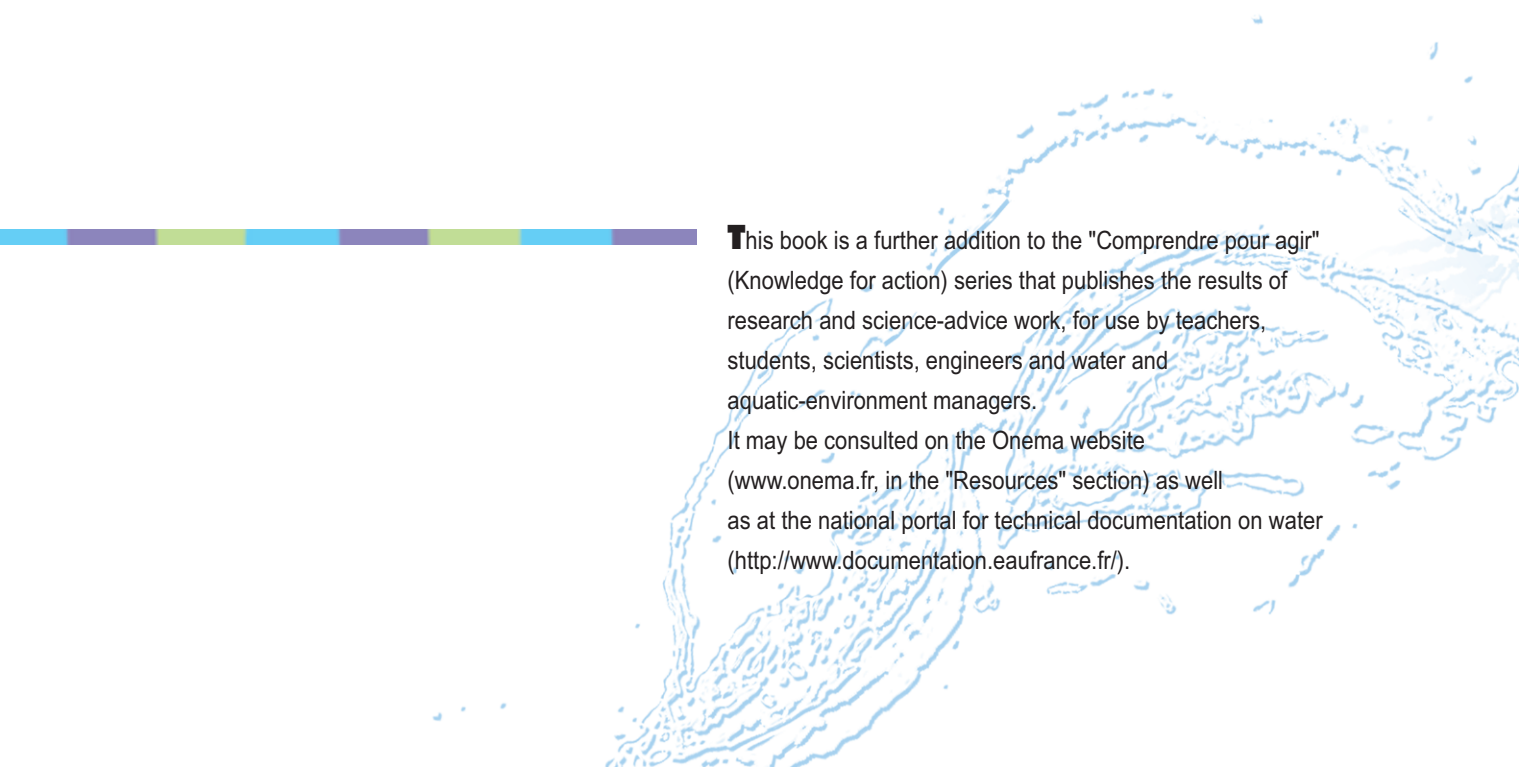
Jean-Pierre Amigues  
& Bernard Chevassus-au-Louis

**T**he National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments (Onema) Established in April 2007 by the 2006 Water law, Onema is a public institution that reports to the Ecology ministry. As the leading technical organisation in France for knowledge and monitoring of water status and the operation of aquatic environments, its mission is to foster comprehensive, sustainable management of water resources and aquatic ecosystems.

It participates in restoring water quality and achieving good status by 2015, the objective set by the European Water framework directive. The 900 people working at Onema are based throughout mainland France, as well as in Corsica and the overseas territories in application of the principle of solidarity between river basins. To ensure the best results in its work, Onema works closely and synergistically with all stakeholders in the water sector.

The Scientific council on water and aquatic environments managed by Onema for the water sector as a whole is a strategic group for discussions and proposals on scientific policy and evaluation work. Made up of twenty-four experts, it is chaired by Luc Abbadie, Professor at P.&M. Curie University and Director of the Laboratory for Biogeochemistry and the Ecology of Continental Environments in Paris. The heads of basin-committee scientific councils, top officials from the Ecology and Health ministries, as well as representatives of Onema regional and local offices are also invited to participate. The work is carried out in working groups and plenary sessions.

This book was produced by the Scientific council working group on "quantitative and qualitative assessment of ecosystem services provided by water and aquatic environments", headed by Bernard Chevassus-au-Louis.



**T**his book is a further addition to the "Comprendre pour agir" (Knowledge for action) series that publishes the results of research and science-advice work, for use by teachers, students, scientists, engineers and water and aquatic-environment managers.

It may be consulted on the Onema website ([www.onema.fr](http://www.onema.fr), in the "Resources" section) as well as at the national portal for technical documentation on water (<http://www.documentation.eaufrance.fr/>).



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