

The Water framework directive marks a turning point for European legislation in the field of water preservation and pollution control by shifting from a set of required means to goals and required results. It is in this context that economics have become a decision-aid tool for public policy and taken on an important role in formulating management policies for water and aquatic environments.

Whether the goal is to characterise in social-economic terms how water is used in a given area or to assess the costs and environmental impacts of a programme of measures or a project, economic analysis is now an integral part of the preparatory and formulation processes of public policy.

Whatever the size of the project, cost-recovery analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis and cost-benefit analysis are all assessment techniques that water specialists must use to comply with regulations and implement water-management policy in their area.

This book in the *Knowledge for action* series takes an in-depth look at the main theoretical and practical aspects of using economic analysis for management of water and aquatic environments.

Maria Salvetti has worked as an economist at the Seine-Normandie Water agency, at the Environment Agency in the U.K., at the Water board for the Paris region and at the National agency for water and aquatic environments.

Economic analysis for management of water and aquatic environments

Maria Salvetti

The French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments

Onema is a public agency operating under the supervision of the Ecology ministry. It was created by the 2006 Water law and launched in April 2007.

Onema is the main technical organisation in France in charge of developing knowledge on the ecology of aquatic environments and monitoring water status. Its mission is to contribute to comprehensive and sustainable management of water resources and aquatic ecosystems. The agency contributes to restoring water quality and attaining the goal of good chemical and ecological status, the objective set by the European Water framework directive. Onema, with a workforce of 900, is present throughout continental France as well as in the overseas territories in the framework of the national interbasin solidarity policy.

In carrying out its mission, Onema works closely with all stakeholders in the water sector.

This book was written with the valuable contribution of the Economics work group managed by the Water planning and economics office at the Water and biodiversity directorate of the Ecology ministry. The work group comprises economists from the Water agencies and personnel from the Sustainable-development division of the ministry. The work produced by the Water-agency economists constituted the starting point for this *Knowledge for action* book that we then filled out, developed and enhanced.

The Water-agency economists also drafted in 2013 an operational manual intended for people using social-economic data and analyses for sub-basin management plans (SBMP) and river contracts.

This book continues the *Knowledge for action* series of books that provides professionals in the water and aquatic-environment sector (scientists, engineers, managers, instructors, students, etc.) with information on recent research and science-advice work.

The book is available on the Onema site (www.onema.fr), in the Resources section, and at the national portal for « Water technical documents » (www.documentation.eaufrance.fr).

ISBN: 979-10-91047-39-5
Printed in France by CFI in October 2013. This document was produced using plant-based inks and printed on 100% PEFC paper from sustainably managed forests and verified sources, by a printer compliant with all environmental standards.

