



Foreword

The European water framework directive (WFD) adopted in the year 2000 boosted the use of economics for management of water resources and aquatic environments. The three main steps in WFD implementation, namely the river-basin characterisation reports on the status of water resources, the formulation of programmes of measures and analysis to justify exemptions to reaching good status in 2015, all call on economic assessments. Sub-basin management plans, prescribed by the Environmental code, also call heavily on economic analysis.

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. Cost-recovery analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis and cost-benefit analysis are all assessment techniques that water specialists must use, on both the local and national levels, to comply with regulations and implement water-management policy in their area.

It is with the goal of facilitating, informing and assisting the decisions of water stakeholders that the National agency for water and aquatic environments collected in this book definitions, knowledge and a discussion of the economic-analysis techniques used to manage water and aquatic environments. The goal of this book is to assist in the operational implementation of economic analysis in the fields of water and aquatic environments.

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