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PREFACE

Water resources are under extreme pressure today all over the world. The resulting problems have given rise to many activities which reflect the growing concern about them and the importance accorded to their sustainable management.

Following the objectives included in its Millennium Declaration, The United Nations has declared the period from 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action “Water for Life”. It began on the World Water Day, 22 March 2005. The European Union after several years of discussions has approved a common strategy for Community action in the field of water policy. This will be achieved through the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The objective is to adapt an integrated approach to water problems and “good water status” for all water bodies must be achieved by 2015. The aims of the WFD are very challenging and it is expected that many different methodological tools will evolve as a result of its implementation.

These problems provided the context within which the third International Conference on Water Resources Management was launched. The Meeting organized by the Wessex Institute of Technology and the University of Coimbra, took place in the Algarve in Southern Portugal and brought together researchers and professionals involved in the development of technical and scientific skills that contribute to achieving water resources sustainability.

The Conference covered a wide variety of subjects in the field of water resources as follows:

- Water management and planning
- Waste water treatment and management
- Residential water management
- Water quality
- Pollution control
- Irrigation problems
- Reservoirs and lakes
- River basin management
- Hydrological modeling
- Flood risk
- Decision support systems
- Groundwater flow and remediation
- Arid region problems
- Coastal and estuarial problems
- Sustainable water use
- Risk analysis

The editors would like to express their appreciation of the valuable advice they received from the members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee and thank the contributors for the quality of their papers.

The Editors, Algarve, 2005

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