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FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT INCLUDING ALL ASPECTS OF
HYDROLOGY, ECOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT,
FLOOD PLAINS AND WETLANDS

RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT IV

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Preface

River Basin Management 2007 is the fourth of a successful series of International Conferences. It took place in May 2007, on the Greek island of Kos, birthplace of Hippocrates, the father of Medicine. The papers presented there, are included in this volume. The conference was organised by the Wessex Institute of Technology, UK and was sponsored by the WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment and the Prince Sultan Research Center for Environment, Water and Desert of Saudi Arabia

River basin management is a complex and interdisciplinary issue. It essentially deals with river and groundwater flows, quantity and quality of water resources, water and soil interaction, droughts and floods; all these, in a frame of increasing and competing human demands, deterioration of natural resources, climate change, changing public views, attitudes and awareness of environmental problems, new national and international legislation and ever increasing scientific knowledge. Its importance is clearly described in the European Water Framework Directive, which established the river or hydrologic basin as the appropriate unit for water resources management.

The complexity of river basin management is reflected in the content of this volume. It includes papers on: water resources management, river and watershed management, hydraulics and hydrology, hydrological modelling, flood studies, sediment transport, stream bank erosion and protection measures, ecological and environmental impacts and water quality issues.

Diversity extends to methods and tools, too. Papers dealing in GIS, genetic algorithms and neural networks are mentioned simply as examples. Dealing with engineering details or offering broad views, focusing on smaller or larger parts of the total picture, all these papers contribute to an integrated approach to river basin management.

The editors would like to thank the members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee for reviewing the submitted papers and the authors for sharing their valuable expertise with the conference delegates and the readers of this volume.

The Editors
Kos, Greece
2007

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