

Title of the paper:	Economic analyses for supporting policy decisions for sustainable water management
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Surface and geographical or administrative level	Sebou river basin in Morocco
Description of the paper: (initial problems, history and project partners, achievements, results obtained)	As part of the EU Water Initiative in the Mediterranean region, a project has been launched by WWF Mediterranean Programme and the Sebou River Basin Agency for testing economic methods and tools to support policy decision towards more sustainable water management. Inspired by the EU Water Framework Directive, the project will test economic methods such as cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis to support the selection of measures for improving the quality of the water environment in this river basin. Some of the measures considered will be demand management measures, e.g. a change in water pricing policy. Thus, comparison between demand management and more traditional supply-side measures will be made on socio-economic and distributional grounds. Also, the cost-recovery implications of the proposed programme of measures will be analysed – focusing in particular on the relative contribution from different economic sectors and water users to the costs of proposed measures.
Types of tools for water demand management and for integrated water resources used management	The application of cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analyses will help <i>inter alia</i> in comparing demand management measures versus other (more traditional supply-sided) measures taking into account a wide range of socio-economic aspects/impacts.
Lessons:	As the project has just been initiated, lessons are not yet available – preliminary lessons will be presented at the workshop.
Justification of the importance of the paper	Discussions on demand management often give much importance to the role of economic instruments (pricing/tariffs, charges and taxes) for achieving sustainable water use in a cost-effective manner. However, less discussed but probably as important from a policy point of view are the economic methods applied and presented in this paper that can help identifying the most promising measures and projects including demand management measures. These economic assessments are key to successful integrated water resources management.
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