

**GUIDELINES ON  
LAKE MANAGEMENT**

Volume 2

**Socio-Economic Aspects  
of Lake Reservoir Management**

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International Lake Environment Committee  
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## FOREWORD

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Natural lakes and artificial reservoirs are fundamentally important in that they provide drinking water for millions, fishing grounds for numerous communities, water for agriculture and industrial development, and unique recreational opportunities.

The rapid rate of socio-economic development in lake/reservoir basins has come to be recognized increasingly as a major threat to the quality of the lake environment. Agricultural growth, the demands for more irrigation and drainage systems, the use of fertilizers and pesticides, the clearing of forests, the building of factories and release of untreated domestic and industrial wastes into the lake - all may cause environmental damage to lakes and lake basins. Since, once they reach an advanced stage, problems like eutrophication are virtually irreversible such problems need to be tackled at the earliest stage possible.

The environmentally sound management of lakes should be considered as a key part of sustainable development in almost every country. This requires that all uses and functions of water resources should be considered simultaneously and all interactions between environmental conditions, ecosystems and human activities need to be reviewed and tackled on a basin- wide approach.

The second guideline book on "Lake Management" entitled "Socio-Economic Aspects of Lake/Reservoir Management" should appeal to a wide range of readers from administrators to NGOs, practitioners to academics. It is hoped that all concerned readers will find this guideline book, which was prepared under a joint UNEP/ILEC program, useful in their daily activities.

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