



Water in Celtic Countries: Quantity, Quality and Climate Variability

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Since 1996, when the First InterCeltic Colloquium on Hydrology and Water Resources Development was held in Brittany (France), hydrologists and other professionals concerned with water have come together in a series of meetings designed to highlight the commonality of the Celtic fringe of western Europe.

Apart from language, these include: similar climatic, geological and hydrological characteristics, which are manifested by a mild climate, dense and fast flowing river networks, scarce groundwater resources and a vulnerable coastal zone. These are features found from the Highlands of Scotland in the north, to the northwestern parts of Spain and Portugal in the south. However the different regimes have been subject to pollution from mining and from agriculture, including fish farming, and to the demands made on water services arising from the large influx of tourists. Now the likely impacts of climate change are causing more concern.

This volume contains the papers presented at the Fourth InterCeltic Colloquium, held in Portugal in July 2006, some 34 in all. They are divided between six themes:

- Climate Variability
- Water Quality
- Groundwater
- Hydrology
- Modelling
- Management and Environmental Impact Assessment

The papers reflect the complex nature of the Celtic environment and point the way for the future development and management of the precious resource, water.

The abstracts of the papers in this volume can be seen at: www.iahs.info (click on Publications) with information about other IAHS publications and IAHS activities.

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