

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910392716103321
Titolo	Water Resources of Italy : Protection, Use and Control / / edited by Giuseppe Rossi, Marcello Benedini
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2020
ISBN	3-030-36460-7
Edizione	[1st ed. 2020.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (367 pages)
Collana	World Water Resources, , 2509-7385 ; ; 5
Disciplina	333.9100945
Soggetti	Hydrogeology Environmental management Water - Pollution Hydrology Environmental sciences Sustainable development Water Policy/Water Governance/Water Management Waste Water Technology / Water Pollution Control / Water Management / Aquatic Pollution Hydrology/Water Resources Environmental Science and Engineering Sustainable Development
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
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Sommario/riassunto

This book offers a comprehensive framework of the current state of water resources in Italy and of the main stages of the evolutionary way in the last decades for achieving an integrated, sustainable and equitable water resources management. The main paradigms of water resources development are identified as: i) engineering and economic approach to water resources exploitation, ii) focus on pollution control and water-excess management, iii) a comprehensive approach toward a sustainable and equitable distribution of resources and effective risk reduction of water-related disasters. After a section devoted to the analysis of some historic stages in the legislation framework and the governance of water and soil, with particular reference to planning, design, building and operation of water systems, two sections deal with the estimation of water resources availability on national territory and estimation of water demands in municipal, agricultural, industrial, ecosystem sectors. The complex problems that the Italian society has to solve in the water field and the main challenges of a changing world are discussed in the fourth section of the volume. The book will not only be useful for water professionals, but also for citizen who like to discern the key factors which delay the recognition of water as a resource for life. The description of the problems and adopted solutions could also serve as a guideline for similar situations encountered in other countries, improving the preparation of the responsible people.
