

### **Good Modelling Practise**

Proper, reliable use of models is a necessity for integrated water management. Due to the many choices to be made and the (increasing) complexity of nowadays model studies, errors are easily made: Examples of such errors are erroneous input data, poor calibration and validation or application of parameters with unrealistic values. Thus, the quality of model studies very much relies on the skills and knowledge of the modelling teams. It is easily realised that increasing accessibility and easy linking of models may increase improper use of models: studies become more complex and models are used by parties less familiar with the peculiarities of the models. As a result recommendations on good modelling practice (GMP) in water management have been developed. The recommendations support all aspects of model studies in a seven step procedure.

The handbook contains specific information including tests for various procedures. However, it is not designed as a straitjacket. If, for example, steps are not performed (e.g. due to lack of data, time or budget), this should not render a study useless: Applying the recommendations however does result in better insight in the ins and outs of the study and the uncertainties surrounding the results, which is very important for policy making.

The recommendations are also meant to be dynamic, that is they will be updated as new insights become available.