

# **Environmental and social impacts of dams in India**

P. WILLIAMS, Halcrow UK

I. DRABU, Halcrow India

---

**SYNOPSIS** It is reported that over the past 60 years the construction of some 4,300 large dams in India has displaced over 40 million people. India is now facing a severe shortage of water for agriculture, industrial and domestic use and this is largely brought about due to a lack of storage and poor water management. Recent trends in reduced reservoir capacity appear to have come as a result of environmental and social objection to projects and the need to limit resettlement. In order to ensure that the lessons of the past are learnt and mistakes avoided, or mitigated, the regulatory authorities are improving the processes to ensure that environmental and social impacts are properly evaluated and managed, whilst being designed to encourage growth.