TERRITORIAL RE-APPROPRIATION OF THE “OVEREXPLOITATION” ISSUE IN MOROCCO

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Presentation outline

1. Introduction
2. A “quiet” public issue?
3. Example of local redefinitions
4. Scientific controversies
5. Local sectorial competitions
Introduction

- 1995 Water Act and IWRM model
- Policy transfer and “complex hybridization” (Fontaine & Hassenteufel, 2002)
- The “aquifer contract” tool (Gaudin, 2007)
- Local re-appropriations

Processes of (re)definition of the groundwater “overexploitation” public issue
Introduction

Public issue construction

Issue → Public Issue → Public Policy

Objectification → Construction of knowledge → Rules, actions

A process of definition that continues during implementation processes
A “quiet” public issue?

Classification of public issue construction processes

(Garraud, 1990)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance of mediatisation</th>
<th>Participation (mobilisation, event production)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Political offer (political discourses)</td>
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<td>Mediatisation (particular events)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Quiet issue</th>
<th>Anticipation (leading role of the administration)</th>
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<td>Corporatism (organised group)</td>
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A national vision of the issue

1° priorité: Nappes fortement surexploitées dans des bassins déficitaires

2° priorité: Nappes surexploitées dans des bassins déficitaires

3° priorité: Nappes fortement surexploitées dans des bassins excédentaires

= 50 Mm³
d’eau perdu

Source : Secrétariat d’État chargé de l’Eau
### Examples of local redefinitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Issue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saiss</td>
<td>Problem seen as a lack of resources, a lack of equipment</td>
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<td>Creation of a new irrigated perimeter, transfer of surface water</td>
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<td>Tadla</td>
<td>Lack of coordination with local authorities to enforce control</td>
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<td>Historical presence of the stage through the “irrigation office”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Souss</td>
<td>Lack of resource, supply-side and demand-side management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Export-oriented agriculture, possibility of high water prices</td>
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<td>Berrechid</td>
<td>Problem of organization of the farmers, lack of coordination</td>
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<td>No surface water available in the region</td>
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Examples of local redefinitions

- The issue redefinitions within the territories are strongly connected to the “solutions”
- Political specificities of the various territories, historical state intervention
Scientific controversies

- “Overexploitation” definition
  - “Drastic decrease of the groundwater table”
  - “Exploitation of the non-renewable part of the resource”
- Irrigation development
  - Example of Berrechid: only 10% of irrigated farmland
- Communication of the aquifer information
  - Piezometer measures
Local sectorial competitions

- Conciliation of different policy objectives
- “Quiet” agreements VS aquifer contracts?
- Bypassing the issue?
- Examples of local “mediatisation”?
- An issue that will stay “quiet”?
Thanks for your attention

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