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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**



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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**

Public issue construction



Objectification → Construction of knowledge → Rules, actions

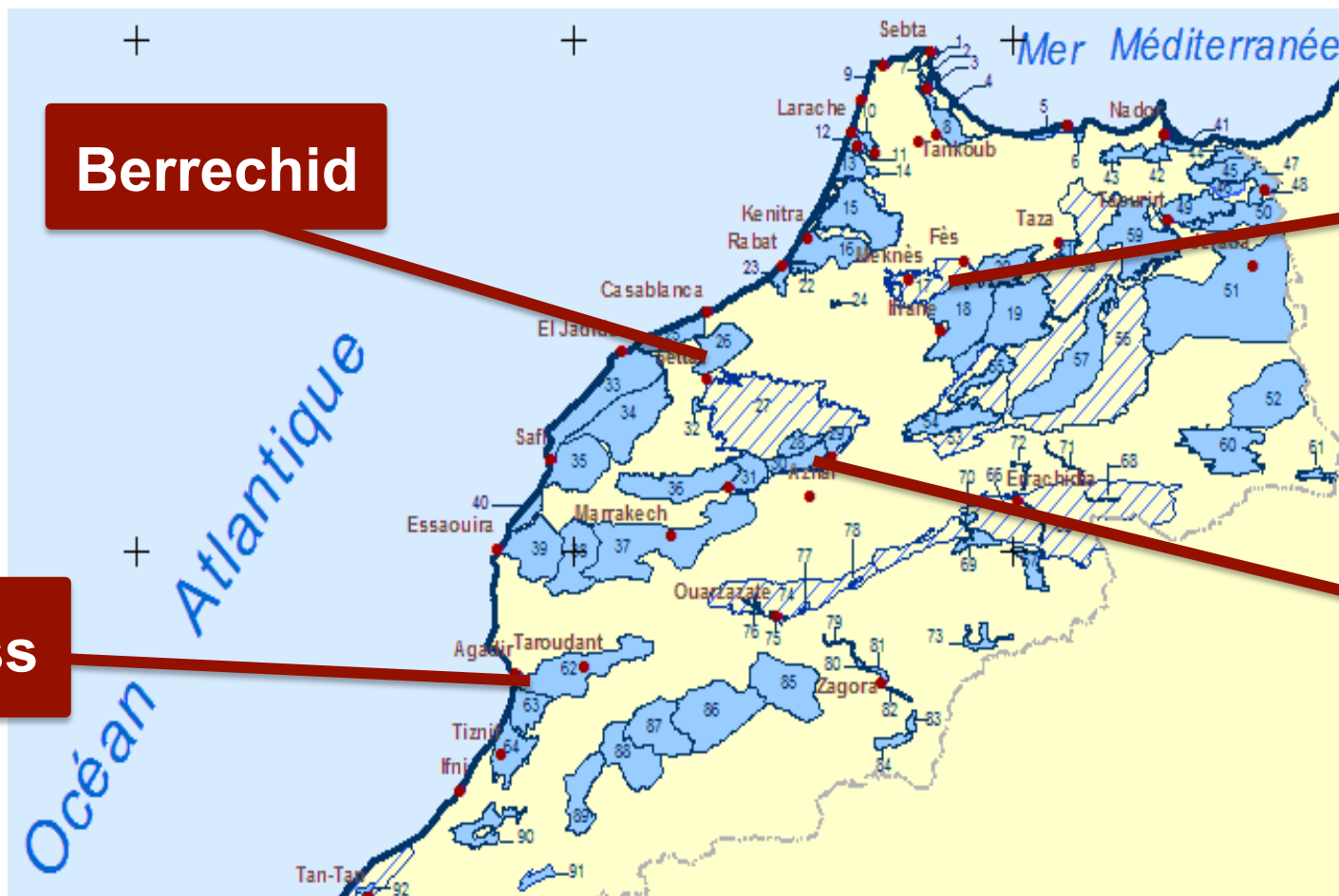
A process of definition that continues during implementation processes



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Research fields map



Berrechid

Saiss

Souss

Tadla

A “quiet” public issue?

- **Classification of public issue construction processes**
(Garraud, 1990)

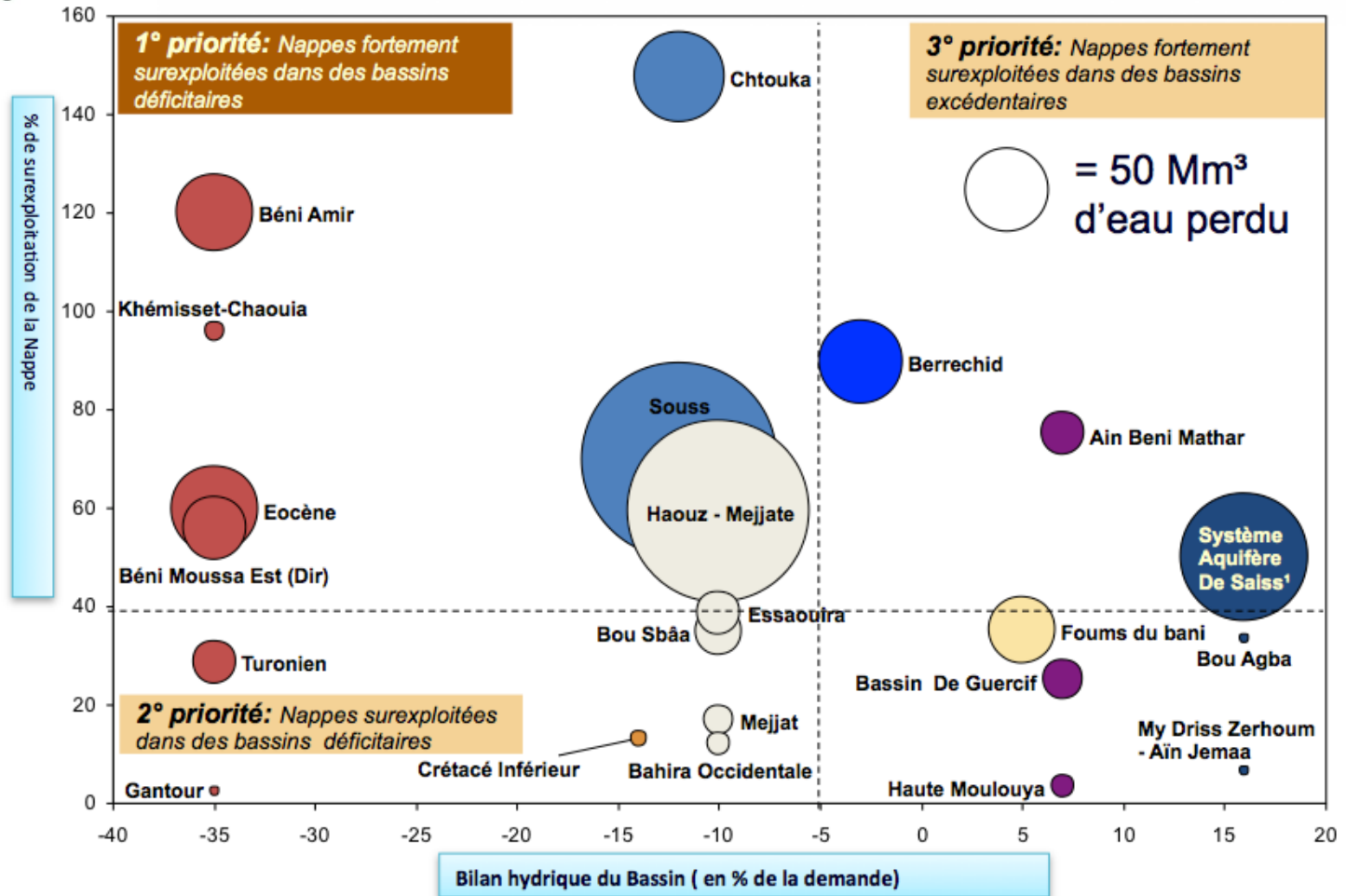
Importance of mediatisation	Participation (mobilisation, event production)
	Political offer (political discourses)
	Mediatisation (particular events)
Quiet issue	Anticipation (leading role of the administration)
	Corporatism (organised group)



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A national vision of the issue



Source : Secrétariat d'État chargé de l'Eau

Examples of local redefinitions

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

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” ?**



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Thanks for your attention

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