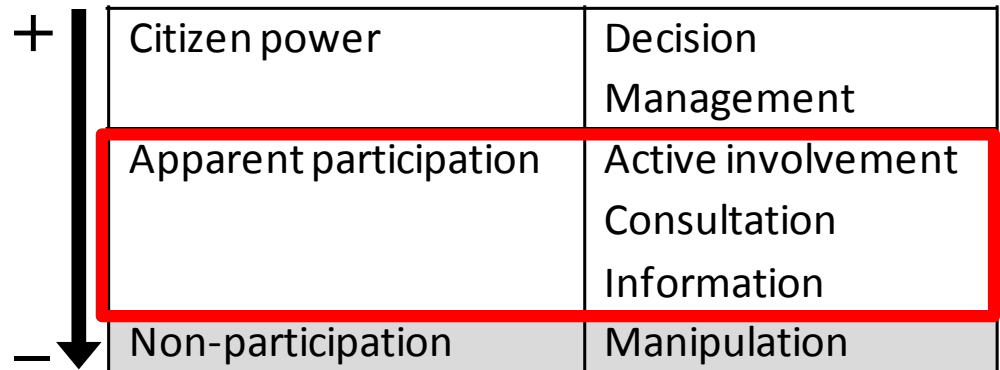


A comparative analysis of public participation in water management between Tucson basin (AZ) and Ebro basin (SP)

Alba Ballester & Kelly Mott-Lacroix

Public participation

Definition: Practices through the citizens seek to influence public issues...
 ...both institutional and non-institutional...
 ...and in different degrees of influence...



WFD, 2000

	Sub-degree	Relationship	Description	Examples
OCED 2001	Information	One-way	Government produces and delivers information for use by the public	Passive (upon demand) and Active (measures to disseminate)
	Consultation	Two-way	Government define the issues for consultation, set the questions, manage the process. Public contribute with their views and opinions	Public opinion surveys, draft comments, workshops,...
	Active involvement	Partnership with government	Public actively engaged in defining the process and content of policy-making, setting the agenda, proposing policy options, although the responsibility for the final decision rests with government	Consensus conferences, citizens' juries,...

Tucson basin

Location: Arizona, US

Area: 1700 mi²

Population: 811.307 hab.

Annual average flow:

Temporary river

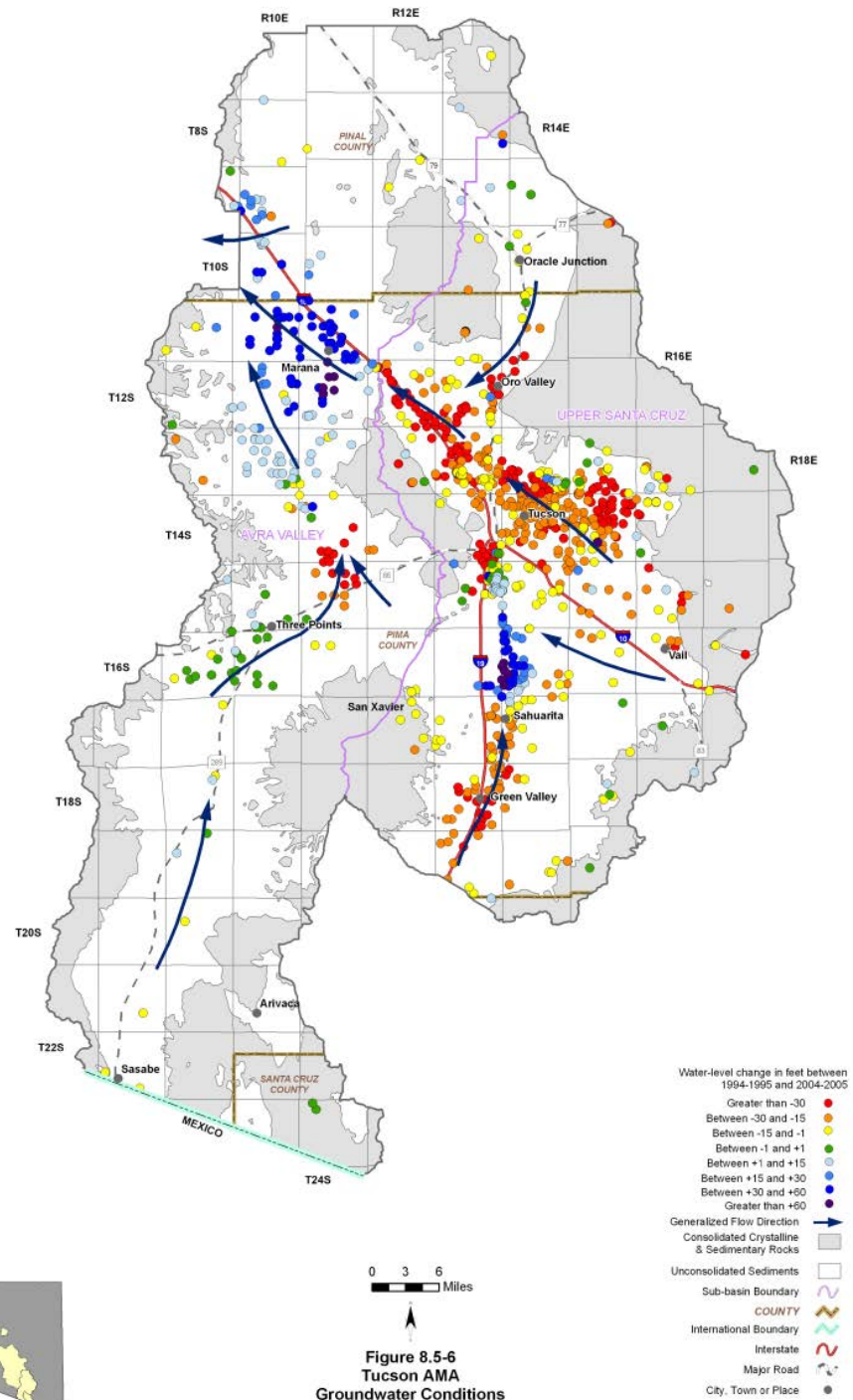
Groundwater status: Figure 1
(ADWR 2010)

Main social conflict: Water
quality

Water Authority: Arizona
Department of Water Resource

Condition: Recipient basin

History: The river has been
dried (effort to recover it)



Ebro basin

Location: Spain, EU

Area: 52337 mi²

Population: 2.767.103 hab.

Annual average flow: 14.623 Hm³

Ecological status (surface and groundwater): Figure 2 (CHE, 2014)

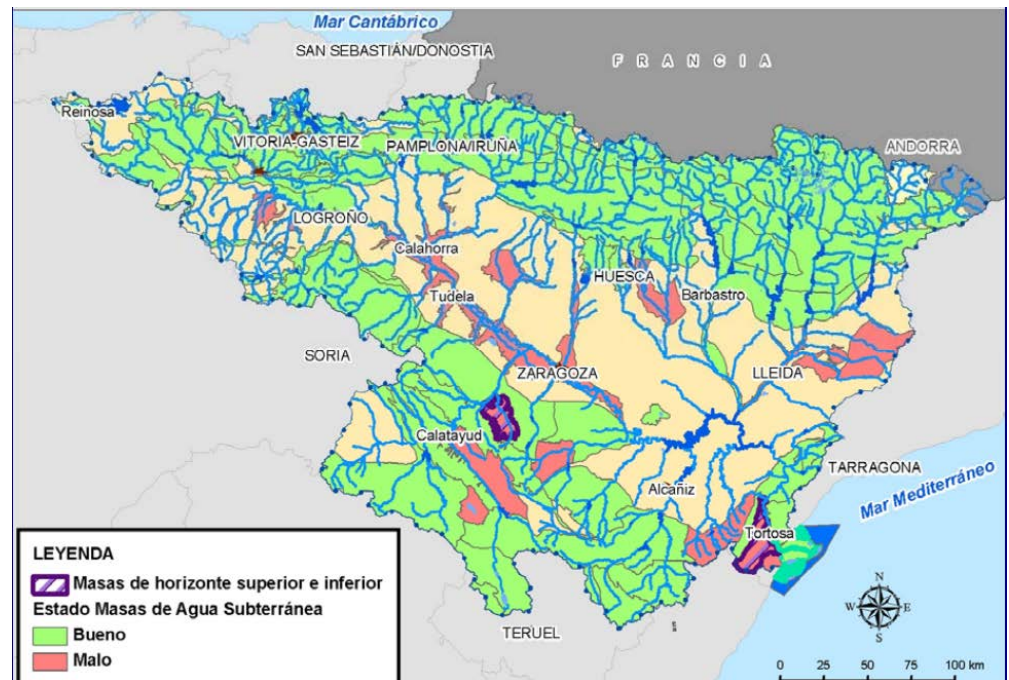
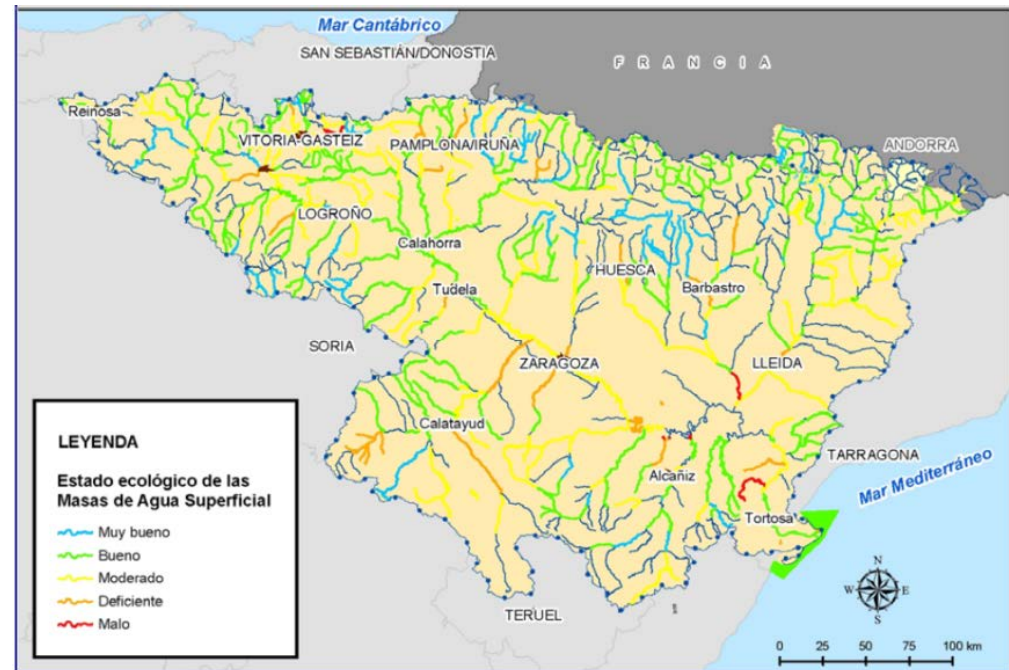
Main social conflict: Water quantity-water transfers

Water Authority:

Confederation of the Ebro basin
(State competences)

Condition: Transferor basin

History: Better water quality
(although it is improving)



General questions

- Why does social involvement differ in the two basins despite significant interest in water issues? What influences public involvement?
- What are the results of public participation?



Questions, actions and methods

- How does the institutional framework in each basin influence public participation?
 - Description of the institutional framework: **Literature review, legal review.**
- To what extent is water policy a public debate? What kind of social interest is there on water issues? What is the role of environmental organizations in water policy-making? What are the main conflicts on water issues?
 - Description of socio-political context on water management: **Map of actors (name, field, activities, of environmental organizations, networks, social movements...); literature review; press review (2 in each case, most widely-read newspapers); election campaign review.**

Questions, actions and methods

- Does public participation in water management influence decisions? Does it contribute to adaptive management?
 - Operationalization of adaptive management
 - Description of public participation processes on water management: Literature review (name, scale, goal, participants, degree of participation, time frame, general results)
 - Analysis of participation on water planning process: Interviews (10 in each case), comparison between the documents resulting from the participatory process and the approved plans.



Institutional framework

Institution: An organism that plays a role in the public interest

International
Background in public participation issues: Rio de Janeiro Declaration (1992)

United States

Clean Water Act (1972)
Administrative procedures Act (1946)
Environmental Protection Agency

Arizona

Groundwater Mgt. Act (1980)
Department of Water Resources
Department of Environmental Quality

Tucson basin

Groundwater users advisory council
Public agencies (6)

European Union

Water framework directive (2000)
Directive on public access to env. information and repealing (2003);
Directive on public participation in env. decisions (2003)
European Environment Agency

Spain

Spanish Constitution (1979)
Water Act (2001)
Access to information, public participation and access to justice Act (2007)
Ministry of Agriculture, food and environment—General Directorate of Water, General Directorate of Environmental Quality

Ebro basin

Basin Authority
Water council
Users Assembly
Reservoir Commissions
Exploitation Assembly
Competent Authority Committee
Local Councils
Public agencies (14: + 20.000 hab.)

Geography

Law

Institution

- Compulsory participation
- - - Not compulsory participation
- Information and consultation
- Information, consultation and active Participation

Participation processes

TUCSON

1. Tucson AMA 2nd management plan
2. Tucson AMA 3rd management plan
3. Pima County Water and Wastewater infrastructure, supply and planning study
4. Regional water assessment
5. Santa Cruz water authority
6. Tucson water plan 2000-2050
7. Assured water supply rule development
8. Issues with CAP delivery

EBRO

1. Ebro river management plan: Basin and sub-basins (Catalonia, Navarra, Vasque country)
2. Sustainable Commission of the Ebro delta
3. Matarraña river contract
4. Cidacos river contract
5. Issues with Ebro transfer
6. Issues with dam-building (Biscarrués, Yesa, Itoiz, Korrosparri etc.)

Sample of participatory processes in water management

Process Name	Goals	Participants	Time Frame	Results of process
Tucson AMA 3rd Management Plan	Safe-Yield by 2025	GUAC, 8 advisory committees with 88 different individuals and general public	1998-1999	Management Plan including significant regulations for water uses
Hydrological plan of the Ebro basin	Good ecological status, ensuring water supply	Water council, Committee of Competent Authorities, 27 sub-basins, 2131 people	2006-2008	Management Plan