



Participatory evaluation of water policies related to drought in Mediterranean countries

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Drought is the natural hazard that affects more people in the Mediterranean region. Effective drought management plans are a key component of sustainable water management in those countries and therefore an important component of water policies. This paper presents an interdisciplinary methodology for the evaluation of sustainability of implemented water policies. A critical component of the methodology is the multi-stakeholder participation in open forums in order to: (a) define sustainability objectives for the management of water resources; and (b) develop indicators for policy evaluation. The results of the forums show that the incorporation of different views and backgrounds in the discussion broaden the ideas and perspectives about the policy subject to the evaluation and moreover highlights the need to integrate the social perspective not only in the designation of policy but also in the data collection in order to fill the gap between social concerns and priorities and researchers ones. A comparison of three case studies is presented. The research is part of the SWAP project of the EU FP6 (Mediterranean dialogue on framing sustainability in water policy evaluation).