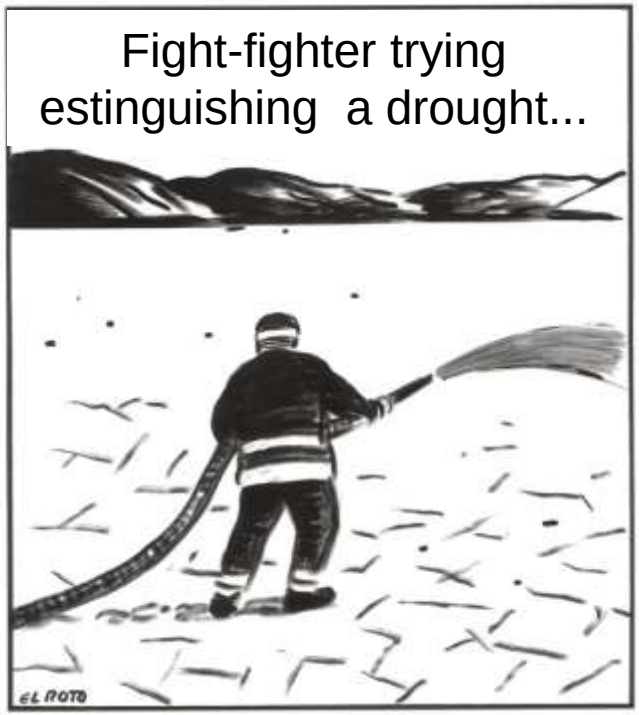
Can we learn from the past?

Evaluating past drought policies to better face the future



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Drakensberg, 6th November 2012

TEM evaluation

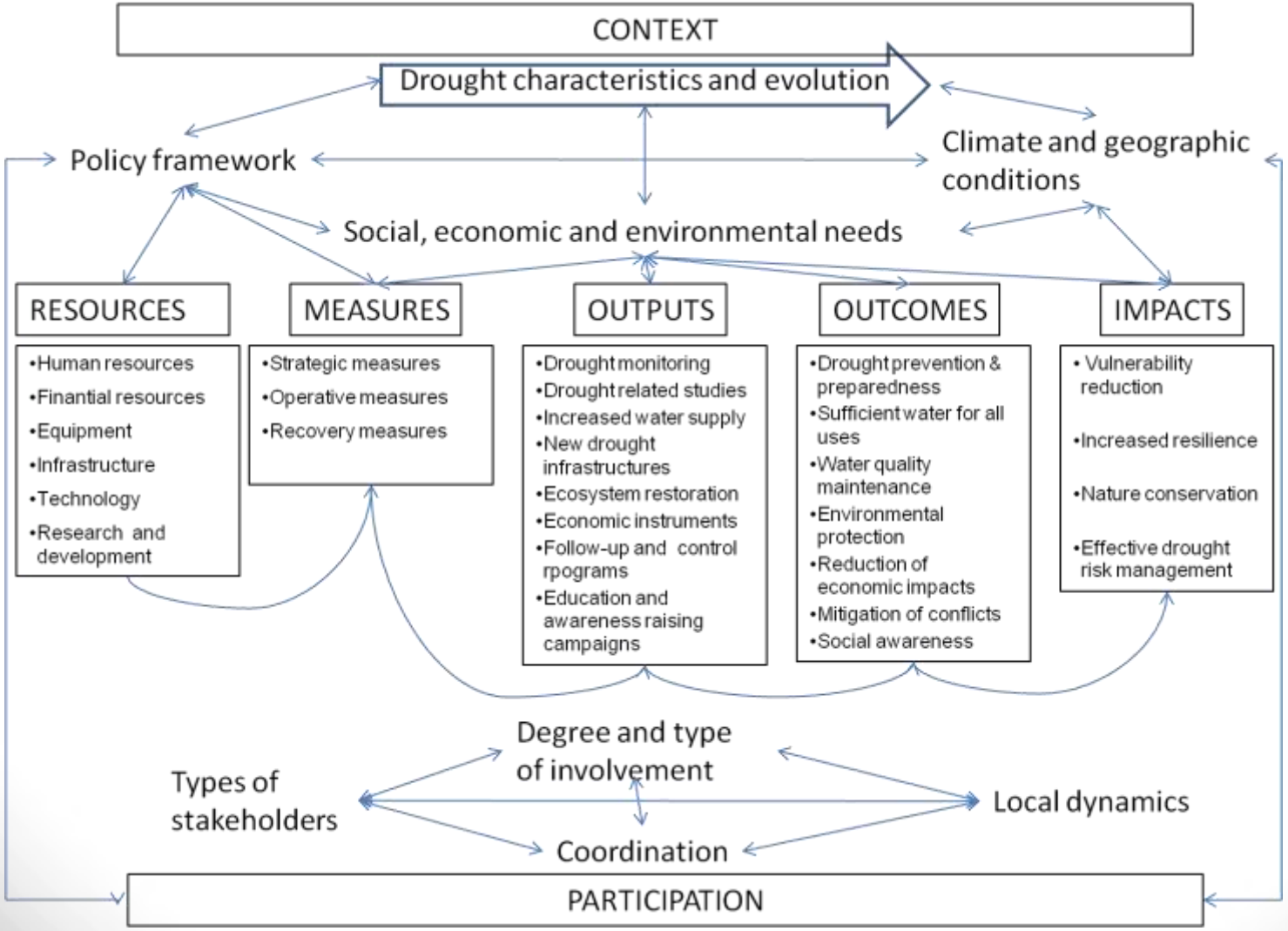
Definition:

A **Theory-driven Evaluation Model** (TEM) describes how the policy is intended to be implemented and to function, so that it can be used as an instrument guiding the evaluation process (Mickwitz, 2003).

Objectives:

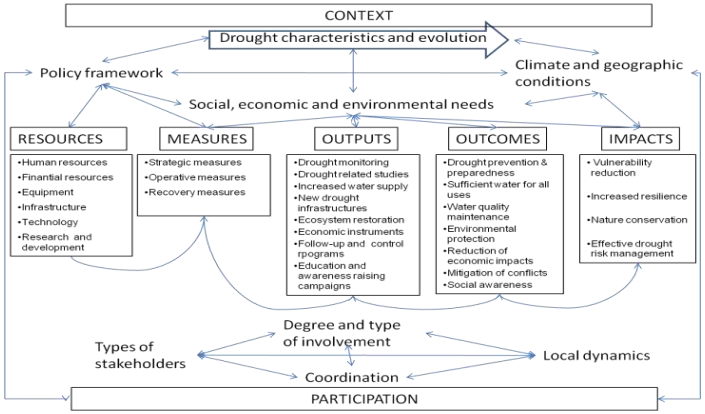
Enhance the understanding and knowledge of past drought responses in order to improve future responses and policy options for drought risk mitigation.

Diagram of the intervention scheme



TEM: Design of the framework

DESIGN OF THE THEORY MODEL



INFORMATION NEEDS OF THE EVALUATION

86 Questions of inquiry

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

12 evaluation questions

What do we really want to know?

TEM: Evaluation Matrix & Tools

•**Evaluation Matrix** elaboration: evaluation questions and sub-questions, indicators, methods and sources of data

Proposed Core Evaluation Questions	Criteria	Indicators	Methods & techniques Likely sources of data

TOOLS

•**Techniques & Tools for data collection**:

1. Data collection form
2. Questionnaire (survey)
3. Interviews
4. Group discussion
5. Best practices form

Case Studies

Country

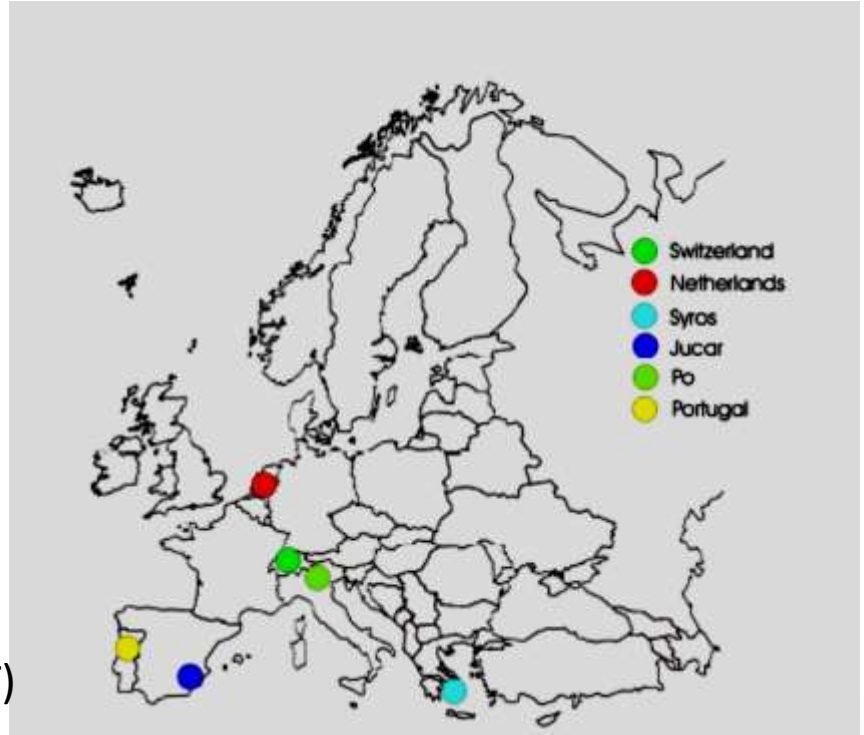
- Portugal
- The Netherlands
- Switzerland

River basin

- Po river (IT)
- Jucar river (ES)

Local

- Syros island (GR)



TEM: examples of findings

- Need for **mechanisms that solve possible disputes among the involved authorities** and **to speed up decision-making processes during the drought emergency phase**.
- A **systematic and comprehensive evaluation of responses to drought** should be undertaken at the end of each drought episode.
- Advisable **to have a clear definition of drought** and a **typology of droughts** (e.g. meteorological, agricultural, hydrological and socio-economic droughts)
- Need for mechanisms **to ensure a more even distribution of funds among the affected sectors**
- Need **to foster staff continuity**

Frame analysis: methodology

Hypothesis: Drought emergency laws at times are used to pursue goals that are not directly related to drought.

1. Textual analysis:

Construction of the discourse

- How is drought defined?
- How is the problem defined?
- Which are the actors affected by the problem and involved in the solution?
- …

Coherence of the discourse

- Is there coherence between the problem and the objectives of the law?
- Is there coherence between the objectives and the measures?
- Are there clear absences of drought-related issues (problems or solutions) that are not meant or dealt with?

2. Interpretation of the policy frame:

Explaination of discrepancies based on socio-economic and political context.

Frame analysis: criteria

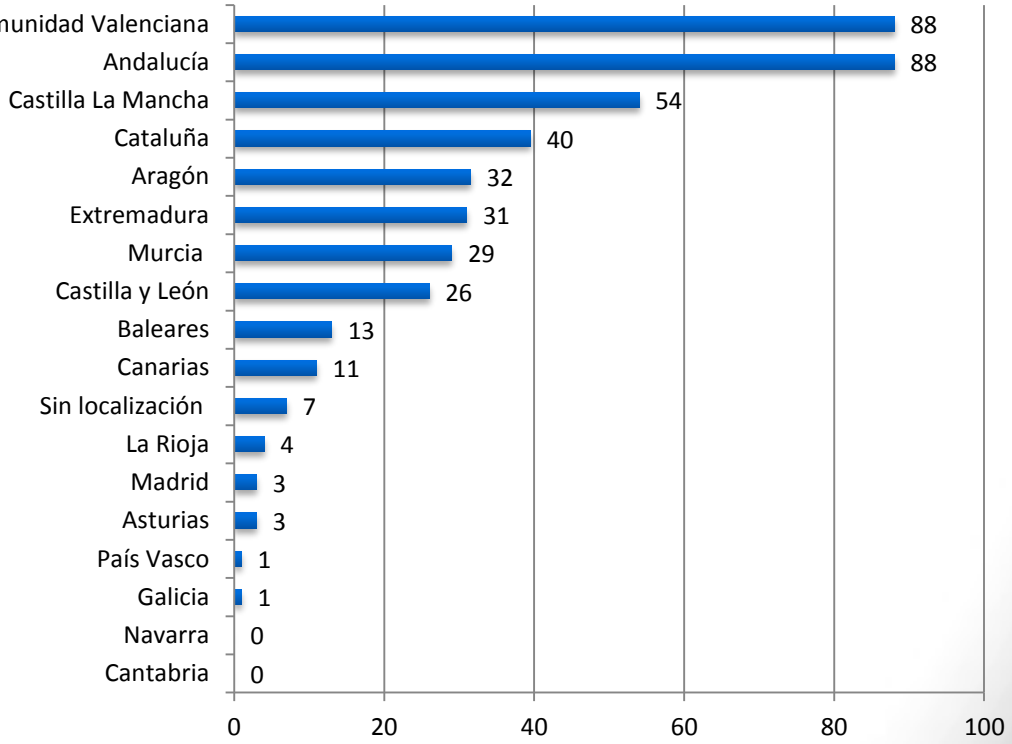
- Geographical distibution
- Time frame
- Level of detail
- Contradicting measures
- Temporary vs. permanent legal changes
- Budget allocated (not binding)
- Sectors affected vs sectors addressed
- …

Frame analysis: findings

Geographical distribution of measures: why measures where there is no drought?

Budget: 35,5% of the measures doesn't have a budget assigned

Level of detail: "desalination"



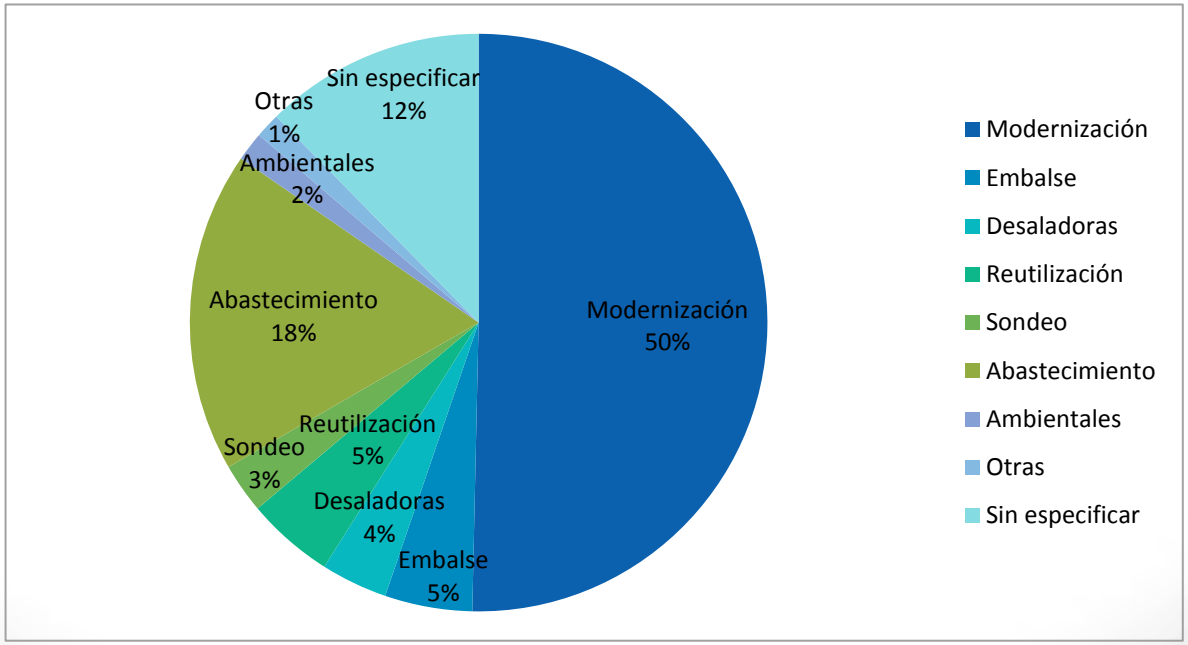
Frame analysis: findings

Time frame:

- Over 60% of the measures will be completed several years after the end of the drought
- Royal Decree extending validity of some measures till the end of 2010 even if "drought has come to an end"

Duration of changes:

- Drought as a reason for modifying fundamental aspects of the law?



Differences and Commonalities

TEM to make a diagnostic of the whole response functioning

- Ex-post
- It considers the entire response to drought as a system
- To improve future quality of response (design, implementation, evaluation)
- Tested in six different settings

FA to *read between the lines* and/or understand the logic behind decisions

- Ex-post
- Considers only the content of documentary sources
- To focus of response on the real problem
- To enhance public policy accountability
- Tested on drought emergency laws but easily adaptable

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