



# Co-producing meaningful, useful and legitimate information in a large-scale participatory decision process in Tunisia

E. HASSENFORDER

Meaningful, Useful and Legitimate Information in Decision Making

4-5 Déc 2023, Paris-Dauphine

# Context

National strategy for the development and conservation of agricultural land (2017-2030)



Climate Change Adaptation Program for Vulnerable Rural Territories (PACTE)

Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture  
2018-2023

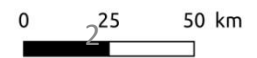
Funding (56 million €): Tunisian Government, AFD, FFEM



Participatory decision processes for co-constructing  
**6 integrated territorial development and action plans**



**6**  
**intervention**  
**areas**



# Which decision process ?

149 workshops  
Over 5000 direct participants

WITH THE POPULATION

Constitution of  
territorial  
committees

WITH THE TERRITORIAL COMMITTEE

2018-19

2019-20

2021

2022

expertise

2023

2023-27

DIAGNOSIS

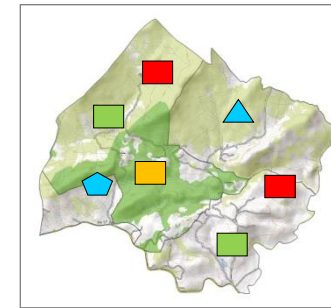
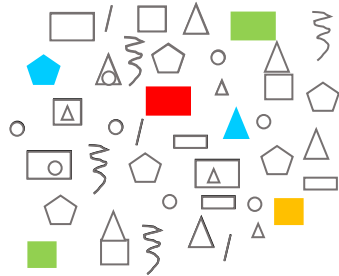
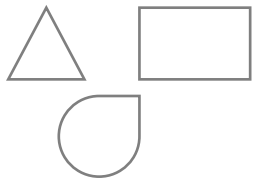
ACTION  
PROPOSALS

VISION

ACTION CLUSTERS  
& PRELIMINARY  
PLANS

INTEGRATED  
PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION



Training-action / Monitoring & evaluation / Communication

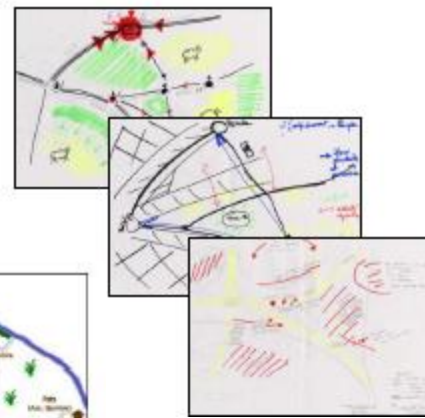
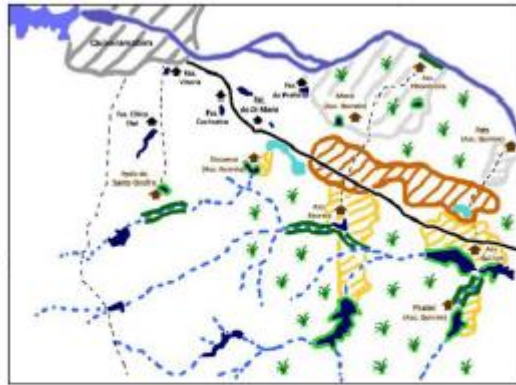


# DIAGNOSIS

Oct. 2018 – Oct. 2019

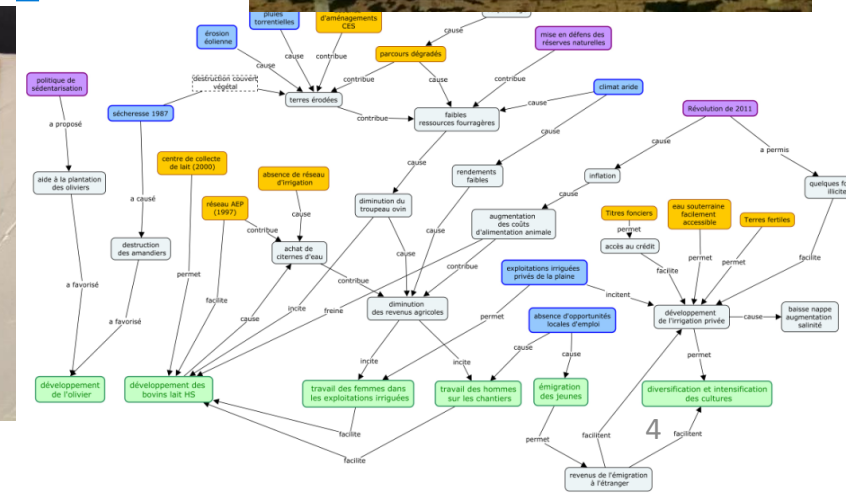
## METHODS

- Individual & group interviews
- Spoken maps
- Transect walks
- Life stories
- Field visits
- Feedback workshops
- Vote on priority issues



## RESULTS

- Diagnosis reports
- Issues in each area
- Territorial dynamics models
- 3D models
- Mapping of governance networks



# BEGINNING OF THE PLANNING PROCESS WITH THE POPULATION

Oct 2019 – Feb 2021

1

Restitution of the diagnosis using territorial dynamics models



2

Vote on the main issues at stake



نتائج التصويت النهائية  
لمنطقة الحياة الحمراء

المشروع	التصويت		الترتبة	الرهانات
	رجال	نساء		
تعبير النزوح بملابس القربى والري	44	1	43	1
التصايد من الأغواش والأزلاقات الأثرية	24	0	24	3
تعزيز استثمار قطاع السياحة من خلال الفعاليات السياحية (تقسيم الأراضي، إنتاج الحرف)	10	1	9	5
فك عذلة	35	1	34	2
خلق أنشطة مدرة الدخل	13	1	12	4
السرورية الرفوات العقارية	6	1	5	6

3

Group discussions on main issues and initial action proposals



4

Action proposals

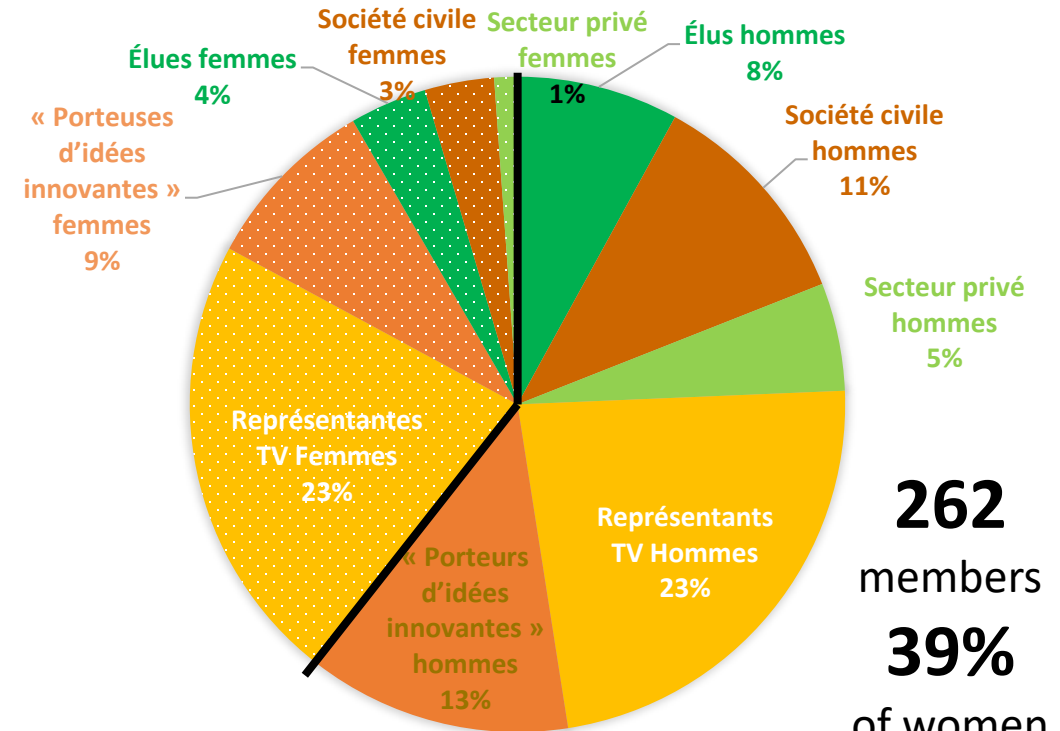


# CONSTITUTION OF THE TERRITORIAL COMMITTEES

Aug 20 – march 21

College	Mode of constitution
Representatives of the territories	Information in all territories Collection of applications Votes Information about results
Elected representatives (municipalities)	All invited
Civil society	Designate their own representatives
Private sector	All invited
Young people	Call for applications Jury

## Composition of territorial committees



**262** members  
**39%** of women  
**68%** representatives of the population



# FOLLOW-UP OF THE PLANNING PROCESS WITH THE TERRITORIAL COMMITTEE

March 2021 – Sep 2023



EXPERTISE OF THE PLANS

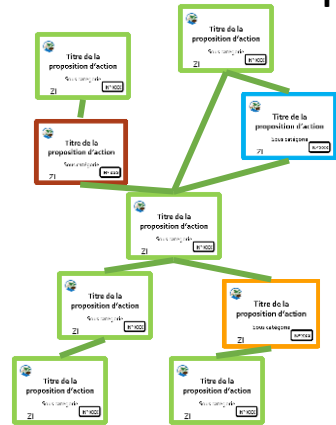


Get to know each other

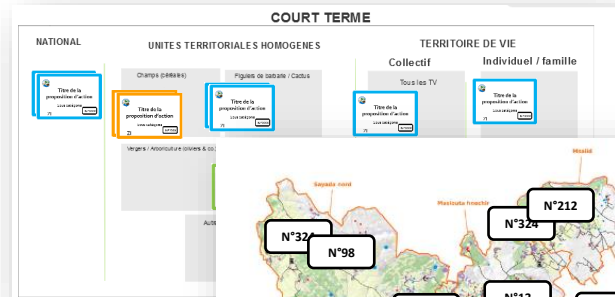


Issues	Vision	Principles

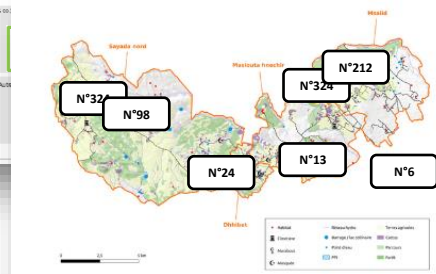
Action clusters



Priorisation of actions in time and based on resources available



Geographical localisation of actions



Impacts

	Impact positif	Impact négatif	Actions pour éviter / réduire / compenser
Economique	Quelles actions vont avoir un impact économique positif sur votre territoire en 2030?	Quelles actions vont avoir un impact économique négatif sur votre territoire en 2030?	Evaluer Réaliser Compenser
Social	Quelles actions vont avoir un impact social positif sur votre territoire en 2030?	Quelles actions vont avoir un impact social négatif sur votre territoire en 2030?	Evaluer Réaliser Compenser
Environnemental	Quelles actions vont avoir un impact environnemental positif sur votre territoire en 2030?	Quelles actions vont avoir un impact environnemental négatif sur votre territoire en 2030?	Evaluer Réaliser Compenser
Climatique	Quelles actions vont avoir un impact climatique positif sur votre territoire en 2030?	Quelles actions vont avoir un impact climatique négatif sur votre territoire en 2030?	Evaluer Réaliser Compenser

PADIT



# Which information produced?

Which information?	For what?	For whom? (mainly)	Produced by whom?	How?	In what format?
Characterisation of participants, events, contents of the workshops, atmosphere, allocation of speaking time, conflicts, use of specific participatory methods, etc.	Piloting the process	Pilot team	Researchers, observers, M&E officers	Attendance lists & participant cards Observation of workshops KoBo collect Pictures Videos	M&E synthesis after each decision stage
Socio-environmental characteristics of the territory, participants' preferences, votes, action proposals, plans, etc.	Planning	Participants (inhabitants, territorial committee)	Participants (supported by facilitators and the pilot team)	Interviews, spoken maps, transect walks, field visits, group work, Vote on priority issues, action proposal template, etc.	Diagnosis reports, territorial dynamics models,
expenditure and procurement monitoring	To be accountable to the donor and the government	The ministry, donors, partners	Agents of the ministry at the regional and central levels	Local data collection	Computer system (Injeez)
Impacts of the process in terms of learning, changes in power relationships, resilience, territorial equity, postures, etc.	Advancing research (and saving the world 😊 )	Researchers, practitioners	Researchers, observers, students, M&E officers	Interviews, focus groups, Observation of workshops,	Scientific papers Reports



# Ex.1. Meaningful, useful and legitimate information leading to useless decisions?

Plan de Travail

Activité\*: comp2 - Désignation comp2

Coût Activité (TND): 950 000.00

Année\*: Année 2008

Financements Extérieurs (TND)

Période	Financements Extérieurs (TND)				Autres Financements	
	refb1progsam05 (50 000.000)		refb3progsam05 (50 000.000)		aut1FT (15 000.000)	
	Engagement	Paiement	Engagement	Paiement	Engagement	Paiement
Reste (TND):	50 000.000	50 000.000	50 000.000	50 000.000	15 000.000	15 000.000
Trimestres 01/2008						
Trimestres 02/2008						
Trimestres 03/2008						
Trimestres 04/2008						
Total	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Buttons: Valider, Annuler



Source: CNI - Guide Utilisateur Systeme Suivi Et Evaluation Des Projets Publics - 2000

**“ 241 tanks completed  
309 tanks under construction”**  
(source: program operational monitoring committee, 09/03/2023)

# Ex.2. Meaningful but not legitimate information ?



**Carte de participant au programme PACTE**



Nom : ..... N° de participant : KE0001  
 Prénom : .....  
 Douar : .....

Genre :  Femme  Homme  
 Âge :  < 20 ans  20-29 ans  
 30-59 ans  > 60 ans

**Qualité, fonction :**

Chômeur  Ouvrier  
 Etudiant / élève  Agriculteur  
 Agent de l'administration  Enseignant - chercheur  
 Femme au foyer

Autre : .....

Elu municipal :  oui  non

**Téléphone :**

J'accepte que les informations saisies dans ce formulaire ainsi que les photos de moi soient utilisées, exploitées et traitées pour le suivi-évaluation du projet PACTE

**Carte de participant au programme PACTE**



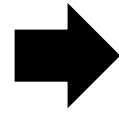
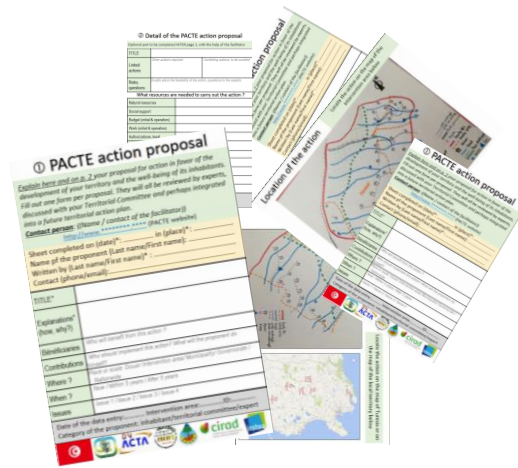
Nom : ..... N° de participant : KE0001  
 Prénom : .....  
 Douar : .....



# Ex.3. Useful but not meaningful information ?

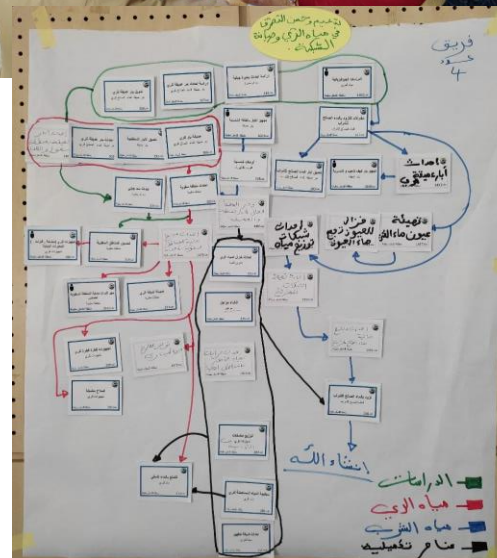
Using action clusters

Using CoOPLAN matrices



**11 583**

action proposals in the 6  
intervention areas



[2022] Braiki et al. « Large-scale participation in policy design: citizen proposals for rural development in Tunisia »  
EURO Journal on Decision Processes [Lien](#)

Siliana  
24/11/21

Kef 28/03/22

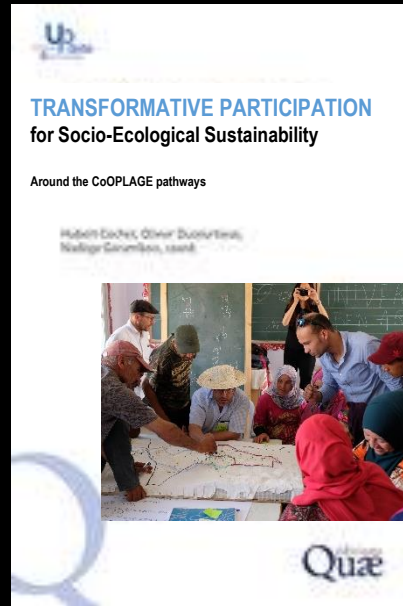
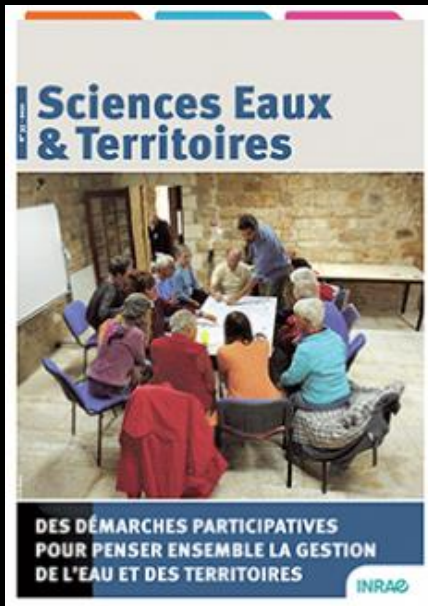
# Questions for discussion

## Specificities of our case:

- A decision process including multiple decisions taken by multiple actors
- Little up-to-date information on the territory
- Information co-constructed « on the way »

- Ex.1. Expenditure monitoring:
  - When should information not be used? (in this ex. would it be preferable not to monitor expenditures?)
- Ex.2. RGPD:
  - are some criteria more important than others (in this ex. usefulness > legitimacy) ?
  - are some legitimacies more important than others (in this ex. importance for muslims to help others vs. importance for europeans to respect personal data)?
- Ex.3. Action proposals:
  - Does co-constructing information increase meaningfulness / usefulness / legitimacy?
- More generally for action-research:
  - How to co-construct information that is as meaningful / useful and legitimate as possible to stkh involved in the decision?
  - Is a unified decision support system a dream ?





N° spécial  
 Sciences Eaux & territoires (N°35)  
<https://revue-set.fr/issue/view/705>

**Book (2024)**  
 Transformative Participation for  
 Socio-Ecological Sustainability  
 Around the CoOPLAGE pathways

**THANK YOU !**

[emeline.hassenforder@cirad.fr](mailto:emeline.hassenforder@cirad.fr)

