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Book of abstracts

J. Jaime Gómez-Hernández
James J. Butler Jr.
Editors

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J. Jaime Gómez-Hernández
James J. Butler Jr.

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SustainValencia2022 builds on the success of the 2019 Chapman conference "Quest for Sustainability of Heavily Stressed Aquifers at Regional to Global Scales" held in Valencia and the well-attended 2021 AGU annual meeting hybrid session "Prospects for Sustainability of Heavily Stressed Aquifers: Impediments and Opportunities." The conference has attracted close to 100 participants from all over the world with an important presence of USA, Germany, Spain and Italy. It has been organized around eleven topical sessions, touching groundwater sustainability from many different angles.

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Multi-stakeholder participation in the diagnosis and measures of the Requena-Utiel groundwater body towards sustainability transition, Valencia, Spain

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Keywords: Sustainability transitions, Groundwater management, Requena-Utiel

Abstract. The academic community focused on water governance is claiming that greater innovation is needed towards sustainability transition. Several participatory processes and methodological frameworks have been implemented under different approaches. There have also been highly appreciated adaptation approaches based on coproduction of knowledge, alternative scenarios and bottom-up formulas. In particular, groundwater management and governance measures related to top-down policies have been identified as a key issue. Recognising the global overexploitation of aquifers, the academia blames these inefficient top-down policies, both in the World and in the case of Spain. To improve the scientific evidence on this matter, this piece of research work has the aim to analyse the Requena-Utiel groundwater body through the lens of a plurality of actors involved in this aquifer of the Júcar River Basin in the province of Valencia in Spain.

The main focus has been paid to develop participatory diagnosis and measures in this case study. The methodology was based on multi-stakeholder workshop and participatory methods. Furthermore, this research work has been developed within the framework of the PRIMA European project eGROUNDWATER (H2020,

PRIMA Section 1). The project has the aim of better understanding of groundwater bodies by providing participatory approaches that include multi-stakeholder coproduction of knowledge and citizen science to reduce uncertainty related to the lack of information.

That way, the research results showed that innovation and participatory approaches are crucial elements for comprehensive learning about the aquifers. Additionally, it guarantees the presence of plurality and the despised points of view to address the water management problems in the groundwater body due mainly to path dependencies. Thus, improving environmental education, dissemination of information and transparency, as well as the info multidirectionality among stakeholders have been identified as key pillars in this case study.

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