

Socio-environmental monitoring and co-management strategies to favor groundwater recharge and sustainable use in southern metropolises: Toward a co-managed aquifer recharge model?

Guillaume Bertrand, Paul Cary, Lise Cary, Ricardo Hirata, Emmanuelle Petelet-Giraud, Marc Steinmann, Victor Coelho, Suzana Montenegro, Anderson Paiva, Cristiano Almeida

▶ To cite this version:

Guillaume Bertrand, Paul Cary, Lise Cary, Ricardo Hirata, Emmanuelle Petelet-Giraud, et al.. Socioenvironmental monitoring and co-management strategies to favor groundwater recharge and sustainable use in southern metropolises: Toward a co-managed aquifer recharge model?. Current Opinion in Environmental Science & Health, 2022, 27, pp.100350. 10.1016/j.coesh.2022.100350 . hal-03665762

HAL Id: hal-03665762 https://brgm.hal.science/hal-03665762v1

Submitted on 22 Jul 2024

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial 4.0 International License

Version of Record: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468584422000253 Manuscript_6fc6075edf4bc86012763ff6ca0c172c

1 Socio-environmental monitoring and co-management strategies to favor

2 groundwater recharge and sustainable use in southern metropoles: toward a

3 co-Managed Aquifer Recharge model?

- ⁴ ^aGuillaume Bertrand, ^bPaul Cary, ^cLise Cary, ^dRicardo Hirata, ^cEmmanuelle Petelet-Giraud, ^aMarc
- 5 Steinmann, ^eVictor Coelho, ^fSuzana Montenegro, ^fAnderson Paiva, ^gCristiano Almeida
- 6 ^aUniversity of Bourgogne Franche-Comté, UMR 6249 UFC CNRS Chrono-Environnement, 4 place Tharradin,
- 7 Montbéliard ;16 route de Gray, Besançon, France
- 8 ^bUniversity of Lille, ULR 3589 CeRIES Centre de recherche « Individus Épreuves Sociétés », F-59000 Lille,
- 9 France
- 10 ^cBRGM, French Geological Survey, 3 Av. C. Guillemin, 45060 Orléans, France
- 11 ^dUniversity of São Paulo, CEPAS, Institute of Geosciences, 05508-080 São Paulo, Brazil
- 12 ^eFederal University of Paraíba, Department of Geosciences, João Pessoa, PB 58051-900, Brazil
- 13 ^fFederal University of Pernambuco, Civil Engineering Department, UFPE, 50740 Recife, Brazil
- 14 ^gFederal University of Paraíba, Water Resources and Environmental Engineering Laboratory, João Pessoa, PB
- 15 58051-900, Brazil

16

17 Abstract

In rapidly growing Southern metropoles, climatic, anthropogenic and demographic pressures, combined with centralized network deficiencies, favor individual initiatives to access freshwater *e.g.*, illegal well settlements, pirate connection to the distribution network, rain harvesting and storage in tanks. These strategies are amplified by extreme meteorological events (e.g., droughts) that also trigger cognitive mechanisms, such as denial, opportunism or a kind of "myopic" competition to access the resource without considering (knowing) collateral impacts. From these environmental and social dimensions, this review first evaluates the arguments for the integration of Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) in socio-environmental observatories (SEO). SEO are structures concurrently monitoring natural, anthropogenic, and engineered processes but also relationships between stakeholders/managers and end-users. Second, in order to take advantage from the current private (and illegal) strategies, MAR implementation accompanied with a SEO structure is discussed to show how it promotes cognitive, social, economic, and governance conditions required for successful comanagement.

31 Keywords: Contamination; Water resource management; Critical Zone; Aquifer Storage and

32 Recovery; Common-Pool Resources

33

Introduction: Multidimensional patterns of water resources and Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) interests in Southern densely populated areas

36 By 2050, the population living in urban areas will reach 68 % of the global population (9,7 37 billions), with up to 90% of this increase concentrated in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, where urban 38 areas reach great population densities due to compact urbanization schemes [1] [2] [3]. In such hot-39 spots of climatic, demographic, and anthropogenic pressures, groundwater recharge is threatened by 40 soil impermeabilization, combined with heat island effects, further amplified by extreme events 41 (droughts/floods) combined with fragmentation/disappearance of green areas [4] [5]. Concurrently, 42 groundwater pumping is known to enhance groundwater pollution and saline intrusion risks for 43 coastal cities [6] [7] [8] [9]. Therefore, major management plans are required to mitigate the impact 44 of these changes on water supply in southern metropolises [10]. This makes Integrated River Basin 45 Management and the so-called Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) very challenging, 46 given that it must "promote the coordinated development and management of water, land and 47 related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare equitably without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems" [11]. This implies that IUWM policies should 48

49 account for both intrinsic (hydrological and biogeochemical aquifer functions) and extrinsic (climate 50 change, overexploitation, network management, contamination, and salinization) control 51 parameters, and articulate the "little water cycle" (i.e., the urban water cycle) with the "great water 52 cycle" occurring at the regional (catchment) scale. In addition, IUWM also requires to integrate 53 complex management strategies distributed throughout multilayer governance structures (from 54 municipality to supra-national scales) as well as the multilayer social dimension of consumers [12] (Figure 1). Such a nested multi-level dimension is challenging to be addressed by geoscientists, 55 56 researchers in human sciences, and water managers, and raises the need for tight co-investigations 57 and collaborations between these communities [13].

58 Over the short term, a possible way to (unsustainably) secure the human demand is to limit 59 water consumption by ecosystems, which is often unintentionally accomplished by the increasing 60 urbanized land use. In Southern countries featuring tropical and semi-arid climate, various studies 61 demonstrated that deforestation and the reduction of crop surfaces first lead to the increasing 62 availability of living space and water for human purposes [14]. Nevertheless, deforestation 63 deteriorates in most cases the quality of the groundwater resource, leading to higher costs for drinking water treatment. This imposes a severe constraint to the installation and maintenance of 64 65 water supply systems, in particular for local communities [15] with often lacking or deficient sewage water treatment facilities or even effluent collection networks. These deficiencies may partially 66 67 contribute to an unmanaged artificial recharge of urban aquifers through leakages, that by definition 68 are difficult to valorize for sustainable uses. In Southern metropoles, this weakness of centralized networks to face population needs is amplified by overurbanization, here defined as the land 69 70 consumption rate (surface change of an urbanized land during a period of time - usually one year -71 and expressed as a percentage of the land occupied by the city/urban area at the start of that time), 72 being higher than the population growth rate. For instance, for Abidjan (Ivory Coast), this rate from 73 1960-2014 is 1.33, confirming a much faster surface than population growth [16]. Similar trends are 74 observed in coastal Chinese megacities [17].

75 Over a longer time scale, another way to mitigate water access difficulties is to adopt 76 opportunistic approaches. In cities of developing countries, an increasing use of private, often 77 illegally, drilled wells, is observed. For instance, Conicelli et al. [18] reported that about 88% of the 78 2.5 million tubular wells in Brazil, mostly located in metropoles, are illegal. A direct consequence of 79 such personal initiatives is a range of conflicts with public authorities, because users are also well 80 owners and claim the ownership of the territory where the resource is located, justifying the exploitation of the aquifer with minimum control [18]. Meanwhile, Bertrand et al. [19] showed that 81 82 contamination hazards in Recife (Brazil) preferentially occur where population density is greater and 83 where opportunistic water uses through well drilling are more frequent.

84 In this context, Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) strategies are mitigating techniques 85 helping to control the impacts of contamination and overexploitation, assisting other water resource planning and management levers [20] [21]. Implementing MAR is highly dependent on site-specific 86 87 parameters such as the quality and the availability of the groundwater resource, water to be 88 recharged, local hydrogeology, operation and implementation costs, as well as the availability and 89 the comparative feasibility of various MAR alternatives. In densely populated cities, new 90 opportunities and challenges may be identified for areas suffering from impermeabilization of large 91 soil surfaces, saline intrusion risks, and high potentiality for recharge by precipitation, e.g. through 92 Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells, Aquifer Storage and Transfer Recovery (ASTR) systems, or 93 River Bank Filtration (RBF) facilities [22] [23]. Although these approaches are technically affordable, 94 their success over the long term will mainly depend on how production managers and end-95 consumers adopt their sustainable use and governance [20]. Hence, the successful management of water resources mainly depends on human behavior and education, and not primarily on 96 97 environmental processes.

98

99 The "Critical" need to transform (sometimes illegal) flaws into legal strengths or why implementing 100 MAR in socio-environmental observatories?

101 Groundwater systems are part of the so-called "Critical Zone" (CZ), which is the 102 biogeochemical reactive layer of the Earth's surface exposed to the increasing pressure of 103 anthropogenic activities [24]. As stated by the philosopher Latour [25], however, this physical 104 definition may be completed by a more philosophical and challenging perspective: "To study, to live, 105 to own, to survey or to police a critical zone is not at all the same thing as a piece of land or a territory", as the territory could not suddenly disappear under stress, while the critical zone could 106 107 malfunction and "be ruined". Groundwater managers and consumers unfortunately often adopt 108 denial of reality (and of the risk of disappearance of freshwater) as a cognitive strategy, which can 109 partly be explained by the apparent abundance of water in some tropical urban areas (vicinity of the 110 sea and large rivers, intense rainfall, etc.) [12]. Demonstration of socio-institutional denial about 111 ecological issues is a major result in environmental sociology (e.g., [26]).

112 Although it is counterintuitive at first sight, these denials are concurrent with the previously 113 mentioned opportunism to access alternative resources, such as illegal wells, because the recovery of 114 drinking water is a daily challenge especially where the public investments for the installation and 115 the maintenance of water distribution are insufficient. Asprilla- Echieverra [27] pointed out that this 116 "heterogenous property scheme of groundwater" exists, especially where alternative strategies for 117 groundwater access are found: water distributors who request permits for groundwater pumping, 118 consider the resource as a centrally-managed resource, while "illegal" appropriators perceive the 119 groundwater as an open access resource, without any coordinated management. This dimension can 120 be related to the economic theory framing common-pool resources (CPR): the impacts of pumping 121 and external costs are generally unknown or difficult to establish and benefits in conserving the 122 resource will only occur in the future. This promotes unsustainable use and the so-called "myopic" behavior or "business as usual". However, there is evidences that many individuals benefit from CPR
not by real necessity, but by egoism and selfishness [27] [28] [29].

125 Therefore, people and stakeholders must realize, in a quantitative manner, that management 126 decisions and resource use impact directly (either positively or negatively) natural processes. 127 However, in case of repeated freshwater scarcity (contamination, restrictions), one can observe 128 defiance within the population that loses confidence in public policies and stakeholders [13], and 129 reciprocally some kind of contempt of the stakeholders for end-users [30] [31]. Furthermore, when 130 community-driven networks exist, the population is strongly reluctant to adopt public or private solutions [30]. Thus, the intense fragmentation of networks in southern metropolises complexifies 131 top-down solutions, partly because territory reflects intense power issues [32], strengthening the 132 133 need to transform the local "territory" into a "critical zone" as proposed by Latour.

134 The twofold definition of the CZ introduced above has two consequences. At first, there is a need to document precisely pollution (anthropogenic contamination, salinization) and flux dynamics at low 135 136 and high temporal resolution because these processes are impacted by long-term inertial (e.g., climate, seawater level) and "catastrophic" processes (e.g., depression due to intense pumping, 137 major tides, floods) [9]. Combining high and low-frequency hydrogeological monitoring is a key 138 139 competence of CZ researchers [33]. To prepare this contribution, we reviewed the literature to 140 evaluate the temporal and geographical density of such monitoring facilities. Surprisingly, while short-term hydrogeological case studies are widely documented due to the extensive range of 141 142 hydrogeological situations found in urban areas, we identified only a few references for long-term 143 monitoring in a management perspective [34] [22]. In addition, most of these studies did not 144 combine high and low-frequency monitoring, include parameters essential for the understanding of salinization, contamination mechanisms [35] or drivers of water-table variations [22] nor discuss 145 146 alternative management policies. Of course, some authors quoted the existence of long-term 147 databases, mainly from manager monitoring programs. However, these datasets are often

148 fragmented, whereas complete and regularly updated data are scarce. Therefore a very tight 149 collaboration between researchers and managers is necessary to valorize better existing databases 150 and to use them in a scientifically validated way [36].

151 Second, accounting for the "geopolitical" dimension of the groundwater resource in the CZ is not only a matter of hydrogeological monitoring but also a question of "socio-environmental" or "social-152 153 ecological" observation (SEO), an approach that has emerged in the 90's especially in Northern 154 countries [37]. SEO's are research structures focusing on a specific area or over a range of sites 155 illustrating a given socio-environmental challenge (and therefore including stakeholders) faced by the 156 society. They aim to concurrently document sociological, anthropological, and ecological (largo sensu) dimensions together with long-term monitoring of environmental processes, as it is currently 157 158 ongoing throughout, e.g., the International Long-Term Ecosystem Research (ILTER) network [38] or 159 the upcoming European eLTER research infrastructure (https://elter-ri.eu/). Despite ILTER is not an 160 exhaustive consortium of socio-environmental observatories (SEOs), the only observatories focusing 161 on urbanized areas and observing groundwater referenced in the related Dynamic Ecological 162 Information Management System (DEIMS) [39] database are located in Europe (3 sites over 1237 sites), thus far away from Southern metropolises. 163

164 Therefore, the key question is how to combine the scientific need to characterize socio-165 environmental dynamics, the need of public authorities to better control and manage groundwater 166 resources, and the owner perspective aiming at mitigate the restrictions in water uses? A potential 167 solution must consider the great extent of private (and often illegal) wells, the territorial 168 fragmentation due to individual strategic choices and community self-help initiatives, and the growing scarcity of freshwater resources. In this context, a form of "public/private opportunism" to 169 implement MAR in SEOs might be a promising way. Implementing MAR using a part of the private 170 171 wells would allow to fill the gap between decentralized private/opportunistic and centralized 172 public/sharing water supply strategies (Fig. 2), and at least partially bring back the "open access 173 resource" to the "managed field". Similarly, Foster et al. [40], focusing on African urban 174 development, argue for "decentralized closed-loop water-service systems" to rapidly account for 175 accelerating water demand and limit dependence on more expensive centralized linear water-service 176 systems.

177

178 The interest of hybrid top-down and bottom-up co-governance or how implementing MAR 179 in SEOs?

180 Centralized public water supply systems have established boundaries between stakeholders/managers and end-users, in contrast to decentralized local systems (street, allotment) 181 182 [41]. This review recalls that individual or community strategies, including illegal ones, are common 183 in Southern cities, often making these boundaries irrelevant in the everyday life of many consumers. 184 Strategic partnerships could replace or improve inefficient centralized top-down organizations [29] 185 and consistently, co-management structures have in the past essentially been tested in agricultural areas where large amounts of groundwater are required (e.g., [42] [29] [43] [44]). Dobbin and Smith 186 187 [43] stated recently that there is still little feedback on how to implement the acquired experiences 188 and theoretical knowledge into an organizational strategy. Concurrently, a so-called "Public Private People Partnership" (PPPP) applied to MAR, was recently experimented in an agricultural region in 189 190 Castilla y Leon (Spain) [45] and reveals that, to be operational, the cooperation scheme must allow to 191 easily access good quality data (at a fine spatio-temporal resolution) [36] and limit the transaction 192 costs for users and managers [42], especially the monitoring and enforcement costs. These costs 193 corresponds to what interests SEO's, and on this basis, we review which are the cognitive, social, 194 environmental, economic, and governance conditions to favor co-management and illustrate their implementation through ASR and/or ASTR. These techniques are the likely most affordable (despite 195 196 being more expensive in an absolute cost evaluation compared to other techniques such as

infiltration basins), see [46]) and easy to implement in (over)urbanized areas to evaluate how thesefavorable conditions could be met.

199 From a cognitive perspective, i.e., at the individual scale, co-management implies that a 200 common objective among end-users is targeted; in the framework of groundwater resources, this 201 means that common threats are perceived credibly and transparently by users and testify the bad 202 exploitation of the resource and its consequences [42]. These common threats may be of 203 environmental (water table decrease, well salinization or contamination) or legal/social nature 204 (temporal water restrictions, closing of wells) [42] [29]. Here the SEO scientists may provide 205 scientifically constrained data and subsequent modeling to show the trends over the resource, what 206 is recognized be highly necessary for MAR [20]. Nowadays, the Internet of Things together with 207 smart sensors installed at neuralgic points of the water management system (water level, electrical 208 conductivity, turbidity meters, pluviometry) allow to visualize online the state of the groundwater 209 resource in a simple web page or smartphone application, as recently proposed in the SMART-210 Control project for MAR facilities, which implement ASR and ASTR in NE Brazil. This is expected to 211 favor the "linking social capital", i.e., the bi-directional top-down and bottom-up relationships 212 between end-users, stakeholders, and the scientific community, but also the so-called "citizen 213 involvement"[36].

214 From a social point of view, this civic participation might be supported by the community-based 215 social marketing applied to water resources, provided that some populations are more influenced by 216 social norms than by a real perception of environmental risks . Consistently, Dobbie and Smith [43] 217 illustrated in a rural area in Honduras that more uniform social norms favor the more efficient 218 management of water treatment plants. This latter strategy is therefore conditioned to a somewhat 219 "social homogeneity" favoring trust and the "bonding social capital", i.e., the sharing and reciprocity 220 of social values among the users [42], promoting a form of "hydro-solidarity" [47] [48] that may 221 improve coordinated water management. In contrast, where groundwater users have unequal means and power, and divergent interests, it is hard to reconcile their objectives [42]. In the case of a SEO
for MAR, this aspect can relatively easily be checked previously to the implementation and further
monitored, due to the somehow restricted perimeter of influence of MAR.

225 Cognitive and social related levers mentioned above, to be operational, require also economic 226 and institutional models that are supportable and acceptable by each part of the co-management 227 consortium. At first sight, the economic feasibility of MAR remains a complex subject as one may 228 have difficulties in evaluating economic benefits and risks, particularly the effect of possible system 229 under-performance [49]. However Gao et al. [50] simulated for the city of Perth (Australia) that 230 water injection in aquifers in order to implement a "strategic storage" (helping in facing drought or 231 network shortage) can provide a relatively low-cost insurance for cities with suitable aquifers. The 232 cost savings depend on the aquifer loss (through lateral flows [51]) but the authors stated that the 233 solution is still attractive compared to solutions that exclude water banking, e.g., desalinization. 234 Consistently, Ross [52] stated that evaluating benefits may be performed from the costs of the next 235 best alternative solution and the value of production using recharged water. Other methods such as 236 the "willing-to-pay" may be performed and require information's from the end-users [49]. Therefore, 237 although Cost-Benefit analysis of MAR systems is site specific, we argue that in densely populated 238 areas suffering water shortages, MAR is expected to be likely economically viable provided that high-239 value uses (and even economically inestimable in case of catastrophic events as a total water 240 network shortage) such as potable and some industrial water supplies, are performed [49]. Beyond, a 241 major economic argument to implement MAR in a SEO in densely drilled area is that existing wells 242 can be transformed into ASR or ASTR injection wells. In some cases, the original well owners would 243 already cover a part of the capital costs for well constructions (Table 1). It would be however dampened by lower energy costs related to easier pumping thanks to shallower groundwater level 244 245 after MAR implementation [45]. In parallel, integrating MAR in SEO may also positively influence the 246 cost-benefit analysis equation for the stakeholders in term of information acquisition through 247 hydrogeological and socio-environmental monitoring by the research community. Recently, based on the proposed approach by Ross and Hasnain [46], the evaluation of levelized costs has been performed for a range of MAR sites mainly localized in Northern countries [52]. Levelized cost of MAR is the constant level of revenue necessary each year to recover all the expenses over the life of the project (assumed to be 30 years by Ross [52]) divided by the annual volume of water supply and allow a direct comparison with other water access alternatives.

253 These socio-economic boundary conditions must be translated into a governance framework 254 (Fig. 3). In this perspective, the pressure-state-response (PSR) model has been broadly used in 255 various SEO and shown to be efficient in producing indicators for socio-ecosystem management [53]. 256 The same institutional actors as the centralized and multi-layered governance (Fig. 1) may be 257 integrated (white squares). The international and national scale managers (e.g., UN representative's 258 group such as IPCC) provide global or regional information about future climatic and demographic 259 trends, and international strategies remain rather external to the observatory itself. Secondly, the 260 state/regional water/urbanization/health agencies are expected to supply hydrological, land use and 261 health screenings for the regional groundwater catchment. Local (metropole scale) authorities manage/monitor the local water resource and define the duties and right in water injection and 262 263 pumping. This approach is largely inspired by feedbacks from regions that have already earlier 264 experimented with MAR institutionalization. For example, since 1986 the Arizona state (USA) delivers 265 a range of permits, mainly to public and industrial actors, to perform MAR, provided that the 266 recipient demonstrates its technical, hydrogeological, and environmental feasibility. This leads to a 267 permitted storage volume that can be transparently consulted online [54]. In this framework, the 268 "recovery well permits" impose an equilibrium between the injected and extracted water volumes. In 269 contrast to the multi-layered and centralized institutional organization, the end-consumers which are 270 in this scheme considered as critical components and no longer as "unengaged and silent observers" 271 [53] have representative in the management structure.

272 Finally, Critical Zone and human science researchers must consider the interfaces between 273 regional, local, and the SEO scales as well as the interactions between stakeholders and consumers 274 (linking social capital), between each end user (bonding social capital) and potentially with the users 275 outside the SEO perimeter (bridging social capital). This role is quite often endorsed by non-276 governmental organizations in developing countries, especially in rural areas but we argue that a 277 greater scientific implication would also benefit to the research communities (consolidated data acquisition), as it was suggested by Foster [55]. Here their missions are to ensure data operation 278 279 (collection, concatenation, organization) in a recoverable way with and for each actor, e.g., usable for 280 building adapted indicators to evaluate the hydrogeological, environmental, and sociological impacts 281 on the MAR implementation over the long-term. Consistently, for each arrow in Fig. 3, representing 282 socio-environmental and water flux drivers, or resource responses to MAR operations, indicators 283 should be delineated. Zheng et al. [56] recently proposed specific indicators for MAR regarding 284 groundwater quantity (long-term water table change, annual ratio of recovered vs infiltrated water), 285 quality (temporal exceedance rate of recovered/ambient water or source water), ecology (e.g., 286 changes in ecological flow in adjacent ecosystems), energetic stress (energy requirement for each 287 recovered cubic meter) and social sustainability (e.g., related to governance transparency).

This institutional organization should favor research –action programs and is expected to lead to a renewed approach for interdisciplinary programs. As mentioned by Flyvbjerg [57], social science matters when it defends a perspective that Aristoteles called "phronesis", meaning that the presence of social scientists is not only tied to the measure of social acceptability, but mainly to the democratic and pedagogical dimensions of socio-technical projects, in order to increase the reflexivity of the partners.

294

295 Conclusion and perspectives

296 This paper aimed to review two dimensions appearing as promising to face long-term 297 groundwater-related challenges in southern densely populated areas by implementing MAR 298 (Managed Aquifer Recharge). The first one is the role of SEOs (Socio-Environmental Observatories). 299 To be operational over the long-term, SEOs must be as interactive as possible by integrating the 300 three above-mentioned communities (managers/stakeholders, end-users, scientists), mainly because 301 MAR strategies require public acceptance and trust, which has decreased a lot in cities with repeated domestic water shortages [12]), as well as dialog triggered by experts. The implementation of SEO is 302 303 part of the perspective of institutional recognition of a problematic situation and its originality comes 304 from the effective (and not just formal) inclusion of users in their management. In this sense, it is a 305 question of recognizing the errors of a centralized management of water, and of considering that 306 various mechanisms of participation and/or deliberation prove to be essential if it is a question of 307 modifying the social practices. Informal alternative water access strategies in Southern metropoles, 308 often illegal, demonstrate that non-coordinated decentralization already exists in order to mitigate centralized system failures. Decentralized but co-governed structures constitute therefore a third 309 way to better manage urban water cycles. Such structures are easier to implement than centralized 310 311 and expensive management systems and should favor water user's security by providing services like 312 resource monitoring and analysis [58].

This co-management scheme for MAR in SEO, however, could still evolve by integrating a new institutional actor, the water resource itself (Fig.3). Legal recognition of ecological elements such as rivers or mountains already exists [59]. Groundwater - whose invisibility is one of its significant characteristics - should similarly achieve legal recognition to benefit from institutional innovations such as hybrid forums or spokespersons that would have the responsibility to defend "their client" with institutional autonomy. As defended by the Actor-Network Theory, it would also highlight the agency of so-called natural elements.

320

321 REFERENCES

322 1. United Nations: World Urbanization Prospects 2018. 2018,

323 2. World Bank: Urban population. 2021,

Marcotullio PJ, Keßler C, Quintero Gonzalez R, Schmeltz M: Urban Growth and Heat in
 Tropical Climates. Front Ecol Evol 2021, 9:616626.

Green TR, Taniguchi M, Kooi H, Gurdak JJ, Allen DM, Hiscock KM, Treidel H, Aureli A: Beneath
 the surface of global change: Impacts of climate change on groundwater. Journal of Hydrology
 2011, 405:532–560.

Lu D, Li L, Li G, Fan P, Ouyang Z, Moran E: Examining Spatial Patterns of Urban Distribution
 and Impacts of Physical Conditions on Urbanization in Coastal and Inland Metropoles. Remote
 Sensing 2018, 10:1101.

Bertrand G, Hirata R, Pauwels H, Cary L, Petelet-Giraud E, Chatton E, Aquilina L, Labasque T,
 Martins V, Montenegro S, et al.: Groundwater contamination in coastal urban areas: Anthropogenic
 pressure and natural attenuation processes. Example of Recife (PE State, NE Brazil). Journal of
 Contaminant Hydrology 2016, 192:165–180.

Cary L, Petelet-Giraud E, Bertrand G, Kloppmann W, Aquilina L, Martins V, Hirata R,
 Montenegro S, Pauwels H, Chatton E, et al.: Origins and processes of groundwater salinization in the
 urban coastal aquifers of Recife (Pernambuco, Brazil): A multi-isotope approach. Science of The
 Total Environment 2015, 530–531:411–429.

Chatton E, Aquilina L, Pételet-Giraud E, Cary L, Bertrand G, Labasque T, Hirata R, Martins V,
 Montenegro S, Vergnaud V, et al.: Glacial recharge, salinisation and anthropogenic contamination
 in the coastal aquifers of Recife (Brazil). Science of The Total Environment 2016, 569–570:1114–
 1125.

Han D, Currell MJ: Review of drivers and threats to coastal groundwater quality in China.
Science of The Total Environment 2022, 806:150913.

Foster SSD: The interdependence of groundwater and urbanisation in rapidly developing
 cities. Urban Water 2001, 3:185–192.

Jonch-Clausen T, Global Water Partnership, Technical Committee: "--Integrated water
 resources management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans by 2005": why, what and how? Global
 Water Partnership; 2004.

12. 351 Petelet-Giraud E, Cary L, Cary P, Bertrand G, Giglio-Jacquemot A, Hirata R, Aquilina L, Alves 352 LM, Martins V, Melo AM, et al.: Multi-layered water resources, management, and uses under the 353 impacts of global changes in a southern coastal metropolis: When will it be already too late? 354 Crossed analysis in Recife, NE Brazil. Science of The Total Environment 2018, 618:645–657. **This 355 work illustrates the interest in combining sociological/anthropoligical and hydrogeological 356 approaches to conceptualize southern metropoles water transfers and uses as an imbricated multi-357 layered system: a multi-layered water resource, managed by a multi-layered governance system and 358 used by a multi-layered social population. This allows identifying processes of quantitative, 359 qualitative, and sanitary conflicts between governance and population strategies regarding water 360 supply, as well as the institutional and individual denials of these conflicts.

13. Cary P, Giglio A, Maria Melo A (Eds): Affronter le manque d'eau dans une métropole: Le cas
 de Recife – Brésil. Presses universitaires du Septentrion; 2018.

363 14. Owuor SO, Butterbach-Bahl K, Guzha AC, Rufino MC, Pelster DE, Díaz-Pinés E, Breuer L:
 364 Groundwater recharge rates and surface runoff response to land use and land cover changes in
 365 semi-arid environments. Ecol Process 2016, 5:16.

366 15. Mapulanga AM, Naito H: Effect of deforestation on access to clean drinking water. Proc Natl
 367 Acad Sci USA 2019, 116:8249–8254.

368 16. Nlend B, Celle-Jeanton H, Huneau F, Ketchemen-Tandia B, Fantong WY, Boum-Nkot SN,

Etame J: The impact of urban development on aquifers in large coastal cities of West Africa:
Present status and future challenges. Land Use Policy 2018, 75:352–363.

Wang Y, Huang C, Feng Y, Zhao M, Gu J: Using Earth Observation for Monitoring SDG 11.3.1-**Ratio of Land Consumption Rate to Population Growth Rate in Mainland China**. Remote Sensing
2020, 12:357.

18. Conicelli B, Hirata R, Galvão P, Aranda N, Terada R, Gutiérrez OJG: Groundwater governance:
The illegality of exploitation and ways to minimize the problem. An Acad Bras Ciênc 2021,
93:e20200623.

Bertrand G, Petelet-Giraud E, Cary L, Hirata R, Montenegro S, Paiva A, Mahlknecht J, Coelho
V, Almeida C: Delineating groundwater contamination risks in southern coastal metropoles through
implementation of geochemical and socio-environmental data in decision-tree and geographical
information system. Water Research 2022, 209:117877.

381 20. Dillon P, Stuyfzand P, Grischek T, Lluria M, Pyne RDG, Jain RC, Bear J, Schwarz J, Wang W,
382 Fernandez E, et al.: Sixty years of global progress in managed aquifer recharge. Hydrogeol J 2019,
383 27:1–30. ** This paper provides a comprehensive overview of MAR techniques and strategies.

Casanova J, Devau N, Pettenati M: Managed Aquifer Recharge: An Overview of Issues and
 Options. In Integrated Groundwater Management. Edited by Jakeman AJ, Barreteau O, Hunt RJ,
 Rinaudo J-D, Ross A. Springer International Publishing; 2016:413–434.

22. Coelho VHR, Bertrand GF, Montenegro SMGL, Paiva ALR, Almeida CN, Galvão CO, Barbosa LR,
Batista LFDR, Ferreira ELGA: Piezometric level and electrical conductivity spatiotemporal
monitoring as an instrument to design further managed aquifer recharge strategies in a complex
estuarial system under anthropogenic pressure. Journal of Environmental Management 2018,
209:426–439. * This work shows the added value in using long-term "simple" data such as water
level and conductivity to understand salinization dynamics and evaluate the potentiality for MAR
(ASR or ASTR) implementations.

Bertrand GF, de Paiva ALR, de Araújo Freitas JB, da Silva Pereira Cabral JJ, Veras Albuquerque
 TB, de Carvalho Filho JAA: River bank filtration in tropical metropoles: integrated evaluation of
 physical, geochemical and biochemical interactions in Recife, NE Brazil. Int J Environ Sci Technol
 2021, doi:10.1007/s13762-021-03558-x.

Anderson SP, Bales RC, Duffy CJ: Critical Zone Observatories: Building a network to advance
 interdisciplinary study of Earth surface processes. Mineral mag 2008, 72:7–10.

Latour B: Some Advantages of the Notion of "Critical Zone" for Geopolitics. Procedia Earth
and Planetary Science 2014, 10:3–6. ** This contribution provides a political vision of the "critical"

zone that allows delineating not only monitoring strategies but highlight the interest in integratingchallenges regarding populations, stakeholders and scientists stakes.

404 26. Dunlap RE, McCright AM: Challenging Climate Change: The Denial Countermovement. In
405 Climate Change and Society: Sociological Perspectives. Edited by Dunlap RE, Brulle RJ. Oxford
406 University Press; 2015:300–332.

407 27. Asprilla-Echeverria J: The social drivers of cooperation in groundwater management and
 408 implications for sustainability. Groundwater for Sustainable Development 2021, 15:100668.

409 28. Ostrom E: Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action.

410 Cambridge University Press; 1990. ** This book proposes a detailed analysis of how the design of

- 411 durable cooperative institutions that are organized and governed by the resource users themselves
- 412 can be an alternative to centralized governmental management or privatization of natural resources413 such as water.

414 29. Edwards EC, Guilfoos T: The Economics of Groundwater Governance Institutions across the
415 Globe. Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy 2021, 43:1571–1594.

416 30. Voulvoulis N: Water reuse from a circular economy perspective and potential risks from an
417 unregulated approach. Current Opinion in Environmental Science & Health 2018, 2:32–45.

418 31. Dolnicar S, Hurlimann A, Grün B: What affects public acceptance of recycled and desalinated
419 water? Water Research 2011, 45:933–943.

420 32. Jaglin S, Zérah M-H: Eau des villes : repenser des services en mutation. Introduction. Revue
421 Tiers Monde 2010, 203:7.

Gaillardet J, Braud I, Hankard F, Anquetin S, Bour O, Dorfliger N, de Dreuzy JR, Galle S, Galy C,
Gogo S, et al.: OZCAR: The French Network of Critical Zone Observatories. Vadose Zone Journal
2018, 17:180067.

34. Da Lio C, Tosi L, Zambon G, Vianello A, Baldin G, Lorenzetti G, Manfè G, Teatini P: Long-term
groundwater dynamics in the coastal confined aquifers of Venice (Italy). Estuarine, Coastal and
Shelf Science 2013, 135:248–259.

428 35. Arfib B, Charlier J-B: Insights into saline intrusion and freshwater resources in coastal
429 karstic aquifers using a lumped Rainfall–Discharge–Salinity model (the Port-Miou brackish spring,
430 SE France). Journal of Hydrology 2016, 540:148–161.

431 36. Bixler RP, Lieberknecht K, Leite F, Felkner J, Oden M, Richter SM, Atshan S, Zilveti A, Thomas

432 R: An Observatory Framework for Metropolitan Change: Understanding Urban Social–Ecological–

433 **Technical Systems in Texas and Beyond**. Sustainability 2019, **11**:3611. * This study conceptualizes

and illustrates the functioning of a metropolitan observatory by integrating ecological, socio-

demographical and technical dimensions .The authors discusses as well the continuum "data information-knowledge-actionable knowledge "and the way to efficiently implement this tool for all

437 the partners".

438 37. Bourgeron P, Kliskey A, Alessa L, Loescher H, Krauze K, Virapongse A, Griffith DL:

439 Understanding large-scale, complex, human-environmental processes: a framework for social-

440 ecological observatories. Front Ecol Environ 2018, 16.

38. Wohner C, Ohnemus T, Zacharias S, Mollenhauer H, Ellis EC, Klug H, Shibata H, Mirtl M:
Assessing the biogeographical and socio-ecological representativeness of the ILTER site network.
Ecological Indicators 2021, 127:107785.

444 39. Dynamic Ecological Information Management System - Site and dataset registry: Dynamic
445 Ecological Information Management System. 2021,

446 40. Foster S, Eichholz M, Nlend B, Gathu J: Securing the critical role of groundwater for the

resilient water-supply of urban Africa. Water Policy 2020, 22:121–132. ** This work illustrate how

448 strategies like enhanced groundwater recharge to improve resource sustainability, using

groundwater in "decentralised closed-loop water-service systems" may help to meet the demands of
new outer urban districts in Africa , and implementing a consistent policy response to the 'boom' in
private self-supply from waterwells.

41. Yu C, Brown R, Morison P: Co-governing decentralised water systems: an analytical
framework. Water Science and Technology 2012, 66:2731–2736.

454 42. Molle F, Closas A: **Comanagement of groundwater: A review**. WIREs Water 2020, **7**.

43. Dobbin KB, Smith DW: Bridging social capital theory and practice: Evidence from
456 community-managed water treatment plants in Honduras. Journal of Rural Studies 2021, 88:181–
457 191.

44. Kelly E, Lee K, Shields KF, Cronk R, Behnke N, Klug T, Bartram J: The role of social capital and
sense of ownership in rural community-managed water systems: Qualitative evidence from Ghana,
Kenya, and Zambia. Journal of Rural Studies 2017, 56:156–166.

45. Fernández-Escalante E, López Gunn E: Co-managed Aquifer Recharge: Case Studies from
Castilla y León (Spain). In The Role of Sound Groundwater Resources Management and Governance
to Achieve Water Security, 2021.

464 46. Ross A, Hasnain S: Factors affecting the cost of managed aquifer recharge (MAR) schemes.
465 Sustain Water Resour Manag 2018, 4:179–190.

466 47. Gerlak AK, Varady RG, Petit O, Haverland AC: Hydrosolidarity and beyond: can ethics and
467 equity find a place in today's water resource management? Water International 2011, 36:251–265.

468 48. Varady R, Zuniga-Teran A, Gerlak A, Megdal S: Modes and Approaches of Groundwater
469 Governance: A Survey of Lessons Learned from Selected Cases across the Globe. Water 2016, 8:417.

470 49. Maliva R: Economics of Managed Aquifer Recharge. Water 2014, 6:1257–1279.

471 50. Gao L, Connor J, Dillon P: The Economics of Groundwater Replenishment for Reliable Urban
472 Water Supply. Water 2014, 6:1662–1670.

473 51. Ward JD, Simmons CT, Dillon PJ, Pavelic P: Integrated assessment of lateral flow, density
474 effects and dispersion in aquifer storage and recovery. Journal of Hydrology 2009, 370:83–99.

475 52. Ross A: Economic costs and benefts of Managed Aquifer Recharge Case Studies. In

476 Managing Aquifer Recharge: A Showcase for Resilience and Sustainability. Edited by Zheng Y, Ross A,

477 Villholt KG, Dillon P. UNESCO; 2021:366. * This work presents a critical analysis of the means to

478 evaluate the costs and benefits of MAR and apply it in a range of system worldwide

479 53. Levrel H, Kerbiriou C, Couvet D, Weber J: OECD pressure-state-response indicators for
480 managing biodiversity: a realistic perspective for a French biosphere reserve. Biodivers Conserv
481 2009, 18:1719–1732.

482 54. Arizona Department of Water Resources: Underground water storage, savings, and

483 **replenishment**. 2021, 2004. Available on

484 https://new.azwater.gov/sites/default/files/media/WS%20Permit%20App%20GUIDE_11-2017.pdf

Foster S: Hard-rock aquifers in tropical regions: using science to inform development and
 management policy. Hydrogeol J 2012, 20:659–672.

487 56. Zheng Y, Artimo A, Puurunen O, Saraperä S: Assessment of environmental and social
488 sustainability of Managed Aquifer Recharge schemes. In Managing Aquifer Recharge: A Showcase
489 for Resilience and Sustainability. Edited by Zheng Y, Ross A, Villholt KG, Dillon P. UNESCO; 2021:366.

Flyvbjerg B: Making social science matter: why social inquiry fails and how it can succeed
again. Cambridge University Press; 2001.

492 58. Foster S, Hirata R, Eichholz M, Alam M-F: Urban Self-Supply from Groundwater—An
493 Analysis of Management Aspects and Policy Needs. Water 2022, 14:575.

494 59. O'Donnell EL, Talbot-Jones J: Creating legal rights for rivers: lessons from Australia, New
495 Zealand, and India. E&S 2018, 23:art7.

496

497

498 Acknowledgements

499 This work benefited from the experiences and discussions during the project COQUEIRAL (ANR 500 CEP&S (ANR-11-CEPL-012) / FACEPE (APQ-0077-3.07/11) / FAPESP (2011/50553-0)) accredited by the 501 French competitiveness cluster DREAM, the project BRAMAR (BRAzil Managed Aquifer Recharge, grant 557/2013 by Brazilian Innovation Agency (FINEP), the project SMART-CONTROL (funded by 502 503 Water JPI throughout BMBF (Germany), ANR (France), RPF (Cyprus), FACEPE and FAPESQPB (Brazil)) and the project Filtração em margens (CNPq grants 461366_2014-2 and. 421155/2018-3). The 504 505 authors thanks the two anonymous reviewers for their constructive remarks that permitted to 506 significantly improve the final manuscript.

507

508 FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1: Conceptual scheme of the imbricated multilayer water system in Recife (Brazil). The water resource is located in 3 geological layers; is managed by a multilayer governance system and may be consumed/used through various decentralized strategies, related to the contrasted socioenvironmental integrations of the population. Under global climate forcing and local demographic pressures, this may lead to conflicts i.e. risks from quantitative, qualitative and social (e.g., sanitary) points of views, which face some institutional and individual denials.

515

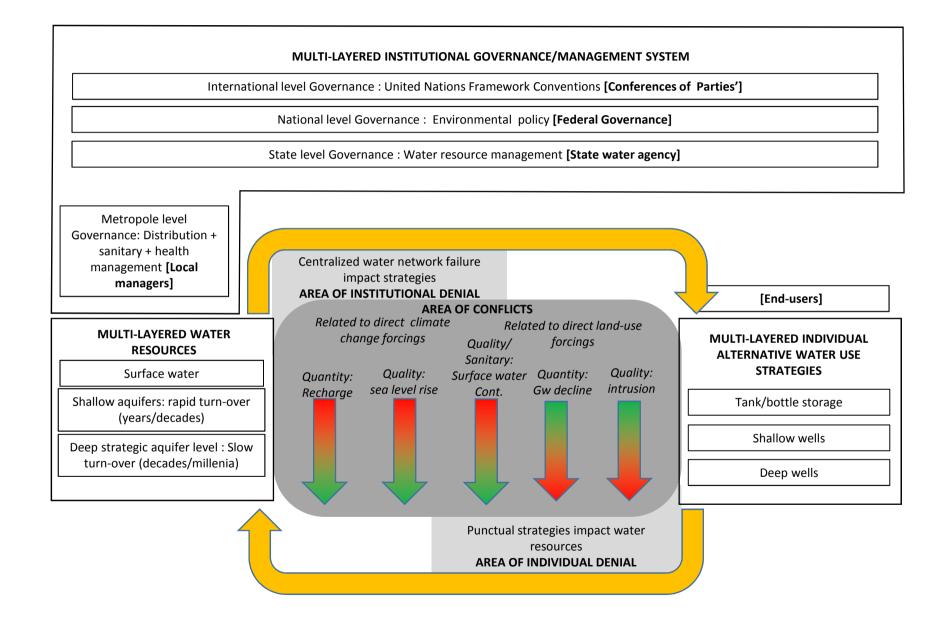
Figure 2. Range of individual strategies in Recife (Brazil) to face water resource shortage in poorly managed and/or under catastrophic conditions (i.e., droughts, floods, general domestic water network contamination). Pictures from Cary et al. (2018) or from G. Bertrand.

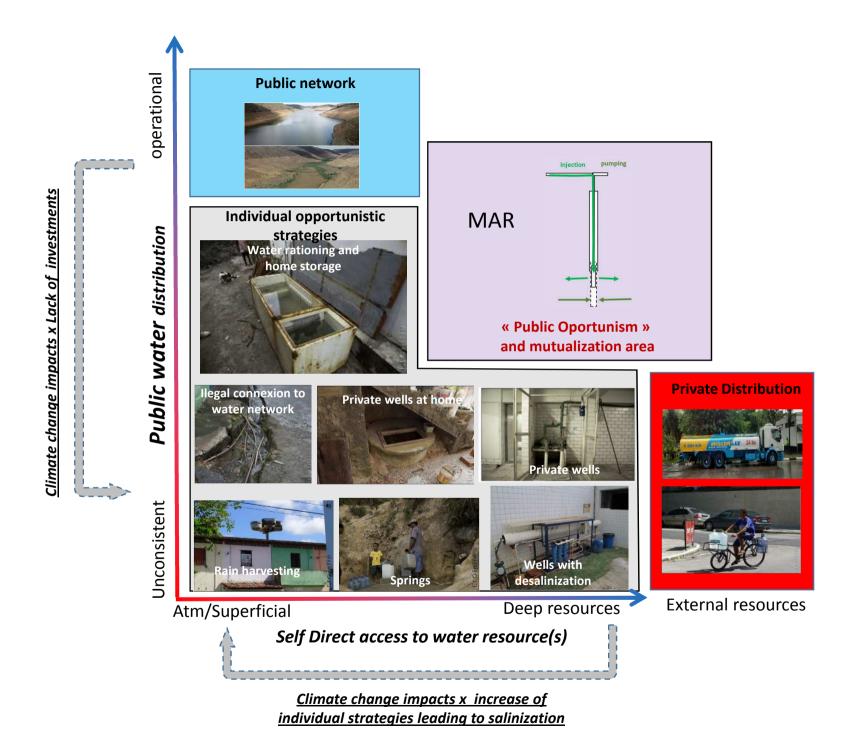
519

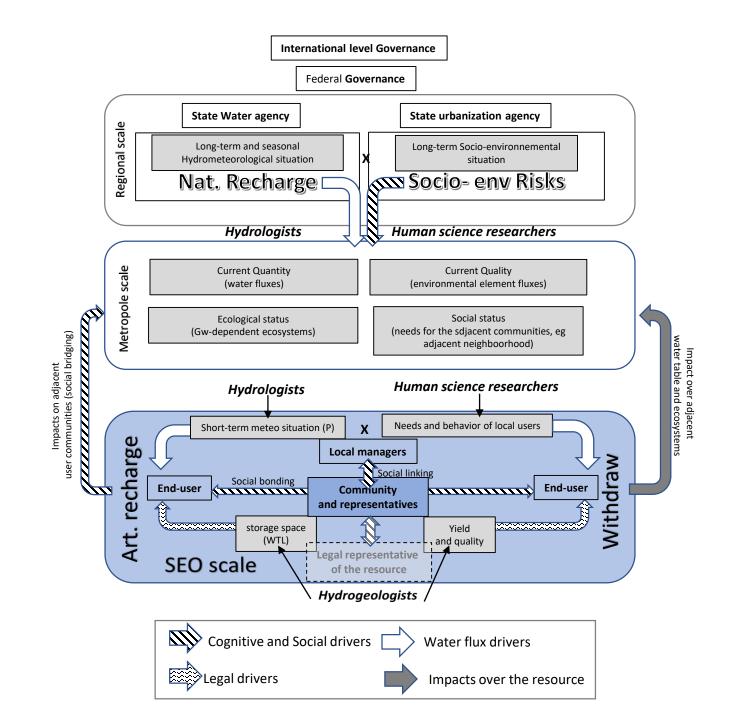
Figure 3. General structural pattern of a socio-environmental observatory focusing over MAR 520 521 implementation in urban environment. The same actors as in Fig. 1 are found (white squares). 522 Researchers community works at the interfaces between regional and local scales as well as at the interface between large scale or local managers and end-users. For each arrow representing socio-523 524 environmental or water flux drivers or resource responses to MAR operations, indicators should be 525 delineated making the hydrological and socio-environmental processes accessible to users and 526 managers. The water resource itself might be integrated as a management consortium member, if 527 its recognition as a juridical person is processed.

528

529 **Table 1: Cost distributions of MAR implementation in a SEO.**







	Costs for the owner	Costs for stakeholders	Costs for SEO structure	Surrounding users	Remarks
Capital and financial costs (considered as sunk costs)	-Feasibility study (hydrogeological investigation) Drilling and well installation Pump acquisition/installation - Building used for Rain harvesting	 Feasibility study for Rain harvesting, Roof pipes and filtering unity before injection well 	- Sensors and telecommunication - Visualization platform (software + hardware)	N.a.	In case of handmade wells, additional costs for well evaluation prior MAR scheme implementation is required (potentially partially covered by stakeholders) Debt service payment are not indicated but should be included in case loans were taken.
Opportunity costs (considered as sunk costs)	In the case of existing priv common model in densely land selling or for building consume a large surface, t	urbanized area, the oppo are neglected considering	rtunity costs related to that ASR does not	N.a.	N.a.
Operation and Maintenance costs	 Electricity for Pumping Injection Well maintenance Operational labor costs (injection survey) 	-Filter and pipes maintenance services - Administrative labor costs - Communication and valorization actions to public	 Consulting service labor costs (water quality and quantity monitoring, analyzing and reporting, sociological analyses Sensor maintenance Communication and valorization actions Formation 	N.a.	Injection well maintenance costs could be divided between owners and managers as an incentive for ownersFixed costs (electricity, offices) are not indicated as they correspond to the functioning of the institutions but should be formally included in the economic plan
Social (non financial) costs/capital	-Participation to the co-governance or election of a representative - Social mobilization through participative communication				Participation of surroundings users (in the same neighborhoods or under influence of recharge strategy) could be proposed as they benefit from the MAR. This can strengthen the bridging dimension of the social capital since bounding social capital is assumed to exist prior the project and linking social capital dimension is developed through the co-management functioning.