

Addressing Uncertainties in Water Resources Projects: The Decision Tree Framework – Its history



WORLD BANK GROUP
Water

RESILIENT 
WATER DECISIONS

A thinking process that started in 2008

- A review of Selected Hydrology Topics to Support Bank Operations
- – Workshop HQ November 2008 + BNWPP/HEF Publication
 - Climate variability and change one of the topics discussed
 - Its implications in WR systems management
 - One more factor to consider or different criteria needed? (non-stationarity)
- Uncertainty and Climate Variability in the Design and Operation of Water Resources Projects – WPP/WET publication November 2011
 - Many uncertainties, not only from CC
 - Including those from models and data
 - And also from GCMs

To respond to a practice that was not giving us elements for decision making in investments

To design a reservoir or a spillway for example, what could we do?

- Literature abounds with papers that discuss the outputs from **GCMs**,
- With approaches to **downscale** this climate information to regional scale hydrology, and
- With applications of various physically based and statistical **models** for estimating the hydrologic quantities needed for decision making.
- Was **downscaling GCM outputs** becoming the “norm”?



From risk to addressing vulnerabilities

IDENTIFYING AND MANAGING CLIMATE RISKS

THE CLIMATE CHANGE DECISION TREE

- A scientifically defensible, flexible, cost-efficient tool on climate risks
- A bottom-up approach taking into account local realities and climate sensitivity

PHASE 4 CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT



YES

HIGH

YES

YES

PHASE 3 CLIMATE STRESS TEST

What is the plausible climate risk?

PHASE 2 DESKTOP ANALYSIS

Is climate a dominant factor?

PHASE 1 PROJECT SCREENING

Is the proposed project climate sensitive?

Confronting Climate Uncertainty in Water Resources Planning and Project Design *The Decision Tree Framework*

Patrick A. Ray and Casey M. Brown



worldbank.org/water



water.worldbank.org/wpp

Climate sensitivity screening for all Bank projects:
Is climate a factor to take into account?



NO Worksheet

The Opportunity:

Cities, World Bank and Water Resilience:

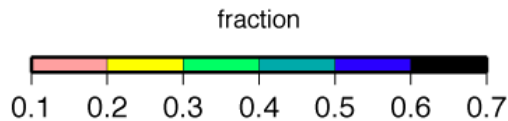
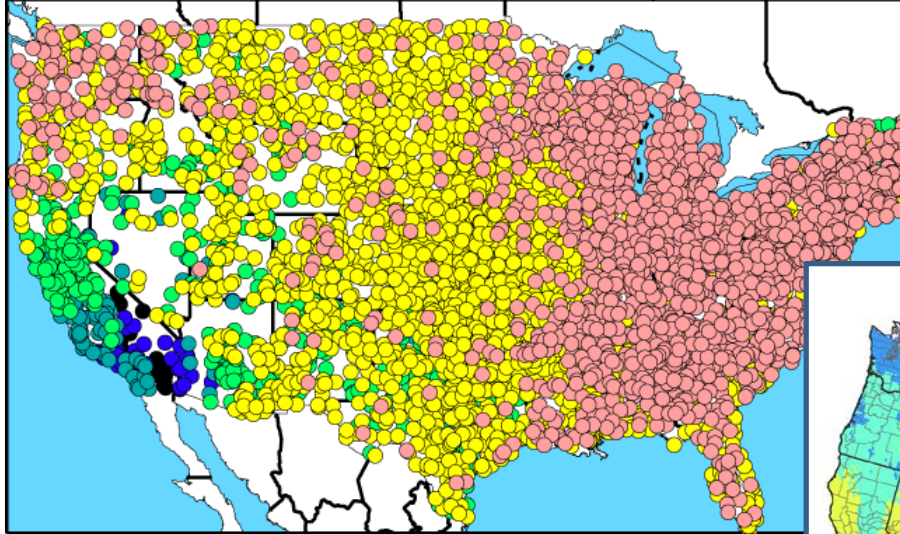
- 65% of Resilient Cities face water related risks
- World Bank water investment portfolio of \$6B
- Can we leverage WB investing and Resilience Strategies to ***transform water infrastructure?***



California's Climate Uncertainties are Unique

Natural Inter-Annual Variability

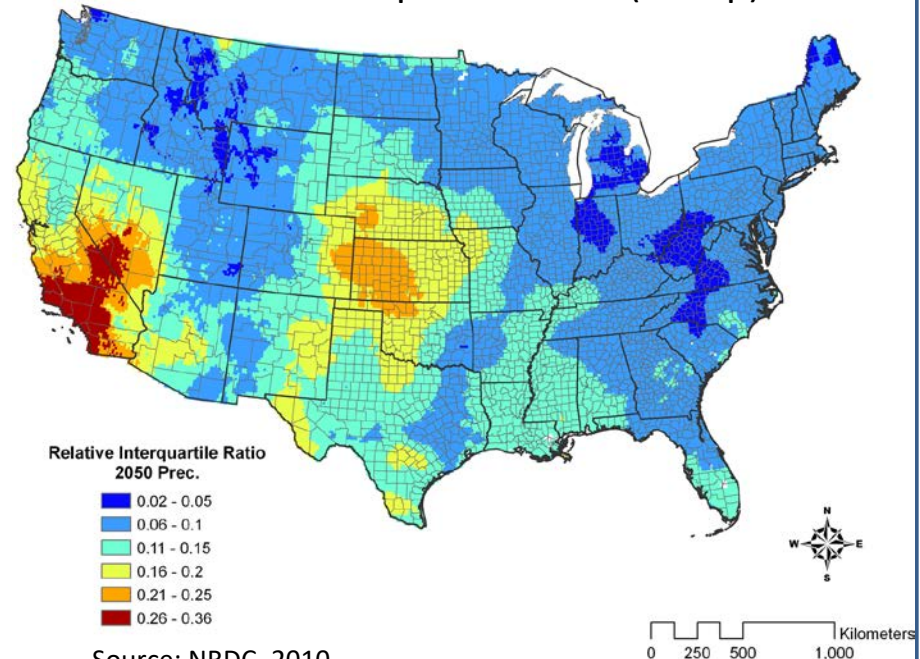
Co-efficient of variation of total Precipitation



Source: Dettinger, 2011

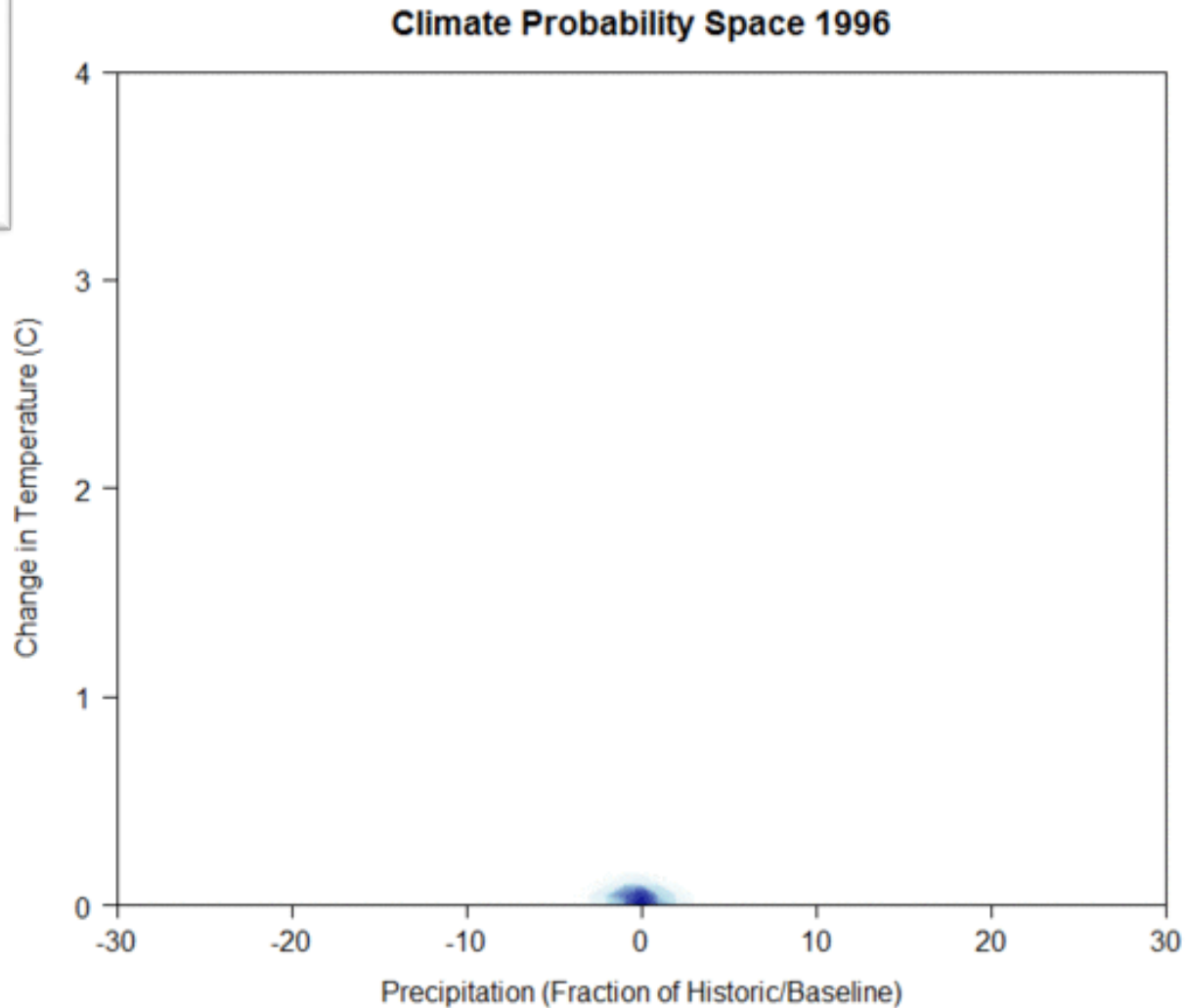
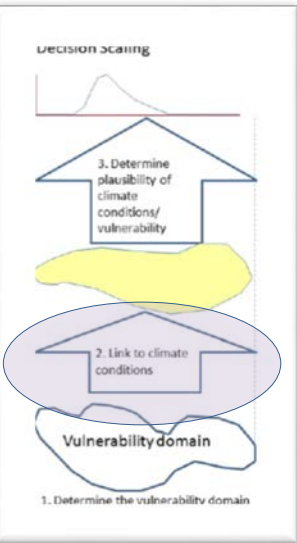
Climate Model Disagreement

Relative Inter-quartile Ratio (Precip)



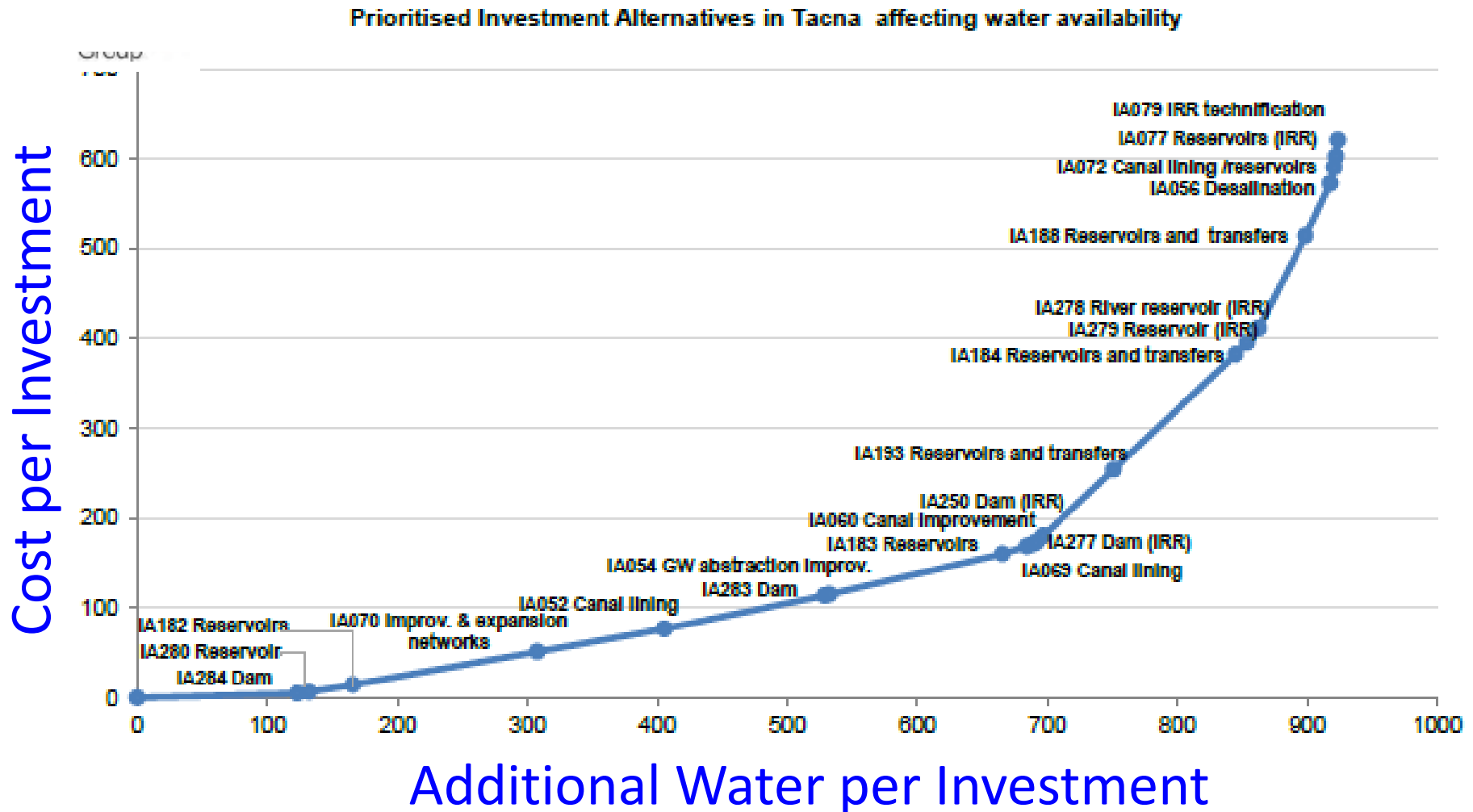
Source: NRDC, 2010

An Uncertain Future Climate



Supply Cost Curve – One Future

Figure 5-20: Cost curve for investment alternatives in Tacna catchment



Resilience by Design

Current Practice

Single objective

the **risk** in current practice

Focus on Cost Minimization
misses potential resilience
benefits, creating fragile
systems

Single future

Overconfidence in our
expected future leads to

Single project

Considering the best design for
a single project misses
opportunities for integration
and diversification

Our Approach

Multiple objectives

Resilience of:

- **Economic/Service objectives**
- **Social/Equity objectives**
- **Environmental objectives**

Multiple futures

Future Climates

Population Growth and Demographic Change

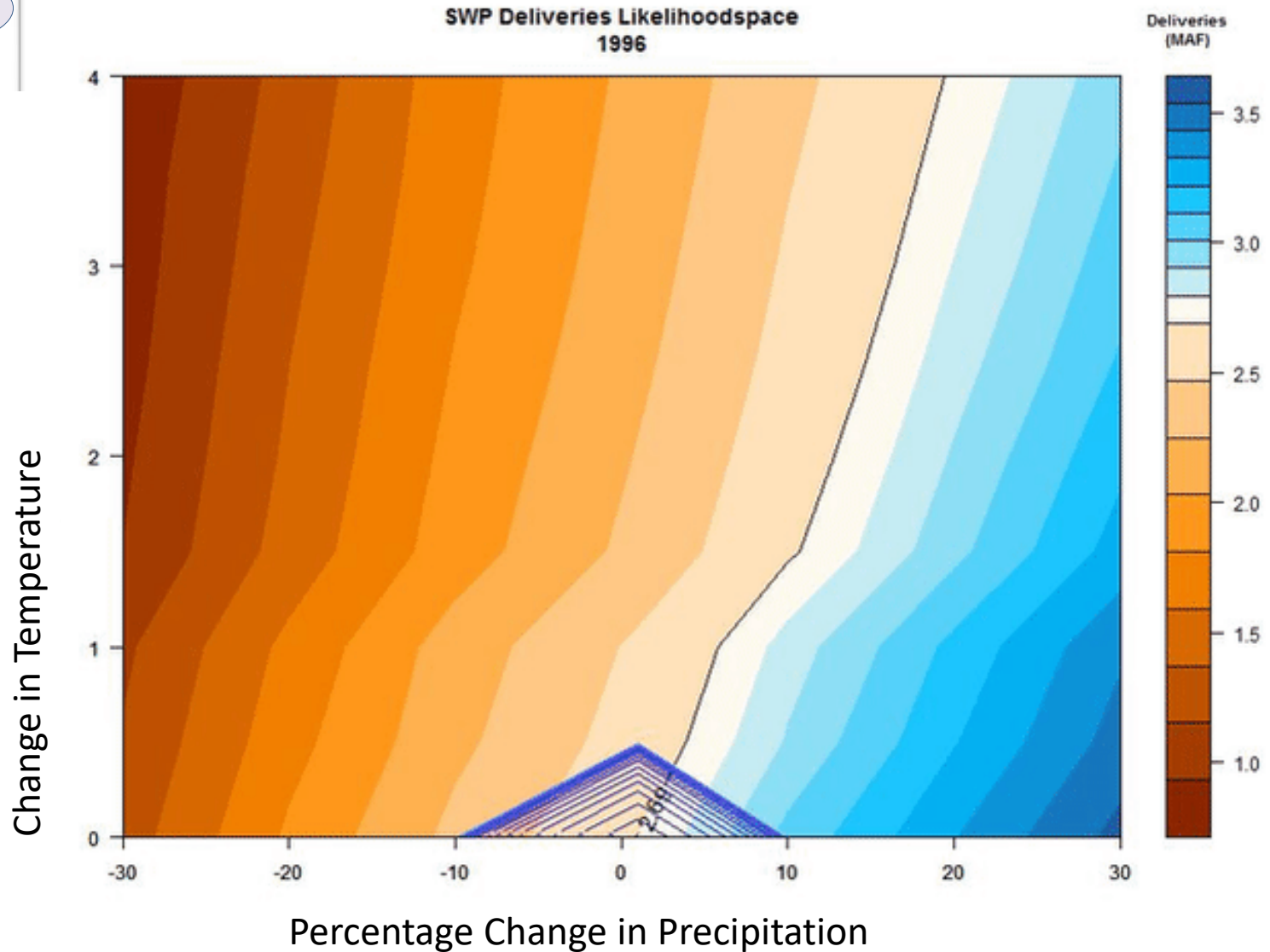
Economic Growth and Change

Changing Societal Preferences

Multiple projects

Link urban investment program and policies with
investments and policies in the connected river basins,
and the evaluation of benefits and costs in each
location

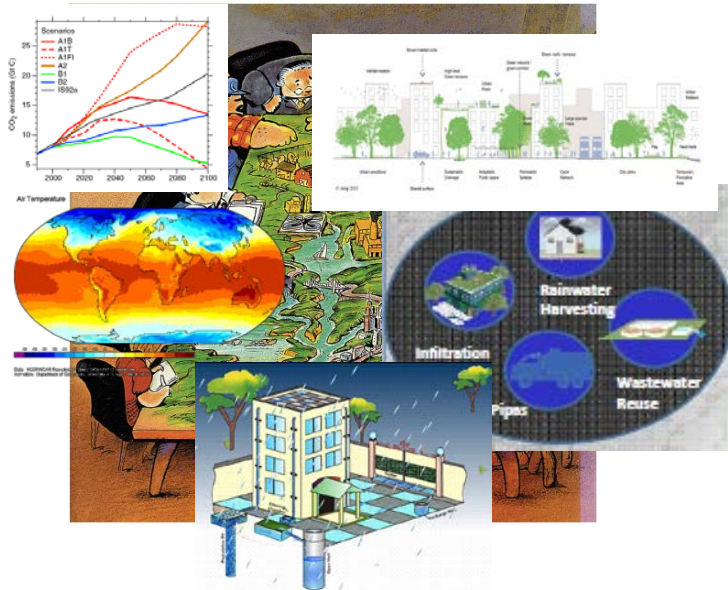
California Water Supply



Resilience by Design

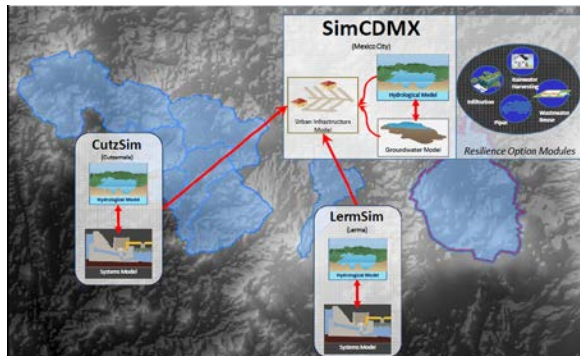
1

Define Resilience and Scope



2

Collaborative Modeling

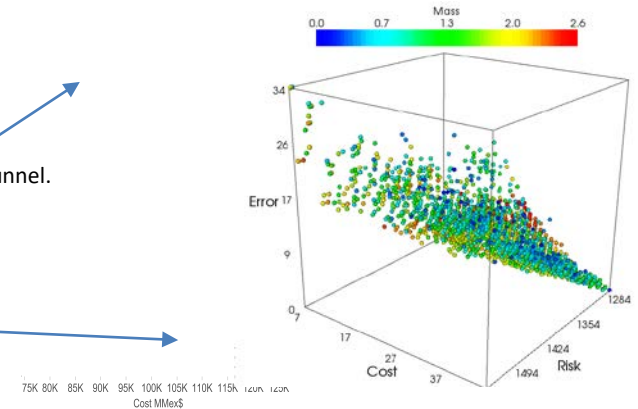


3

Data Analytics discovers optimal resilience investment portfolio

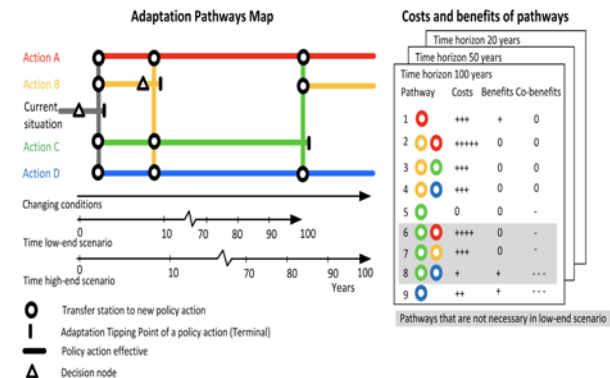
Enlargement of the Bosque-Colorines tunnel.

Construction of Temascaltepec



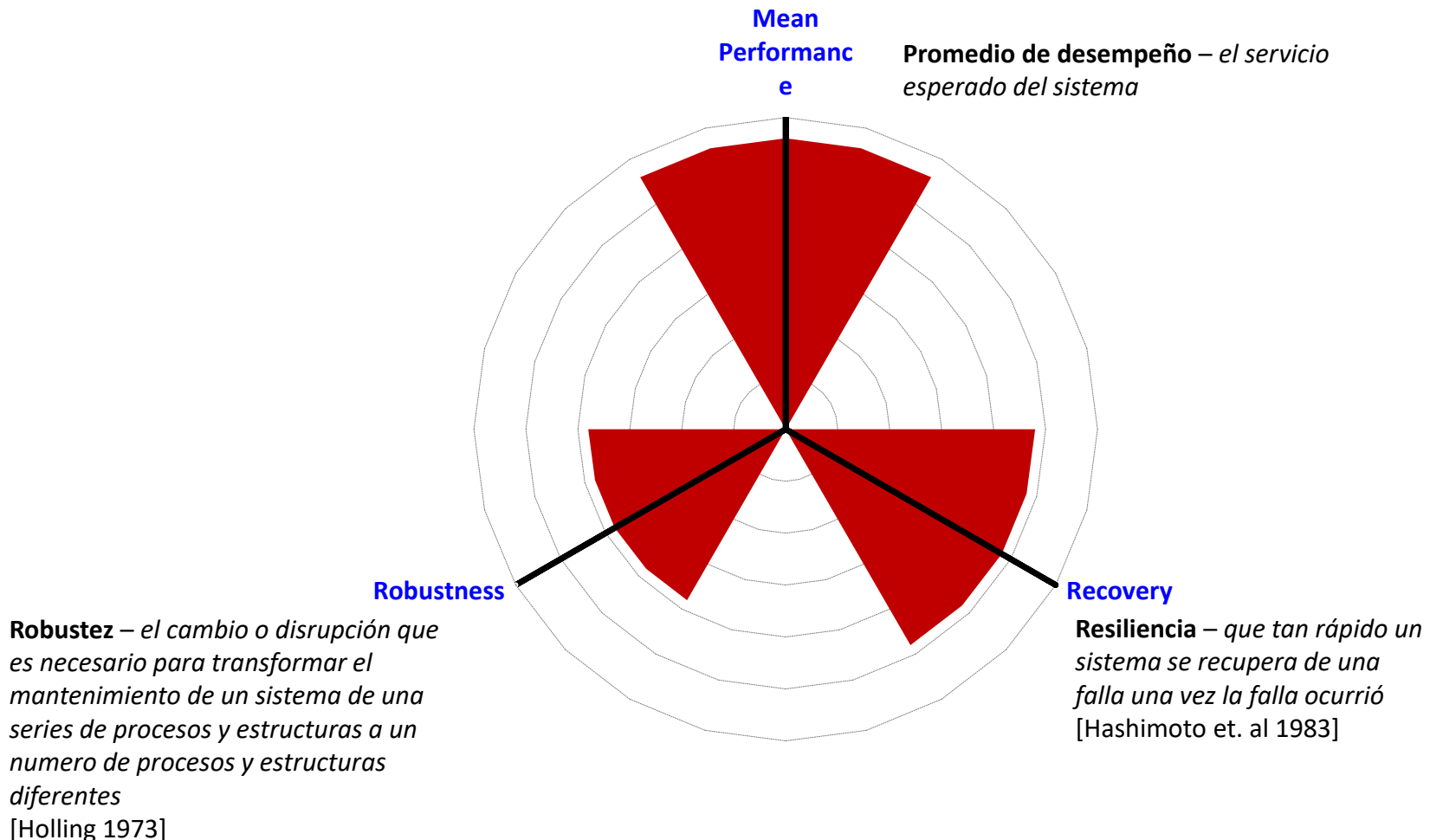
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Design Water Security and Resilience Plan Implementation



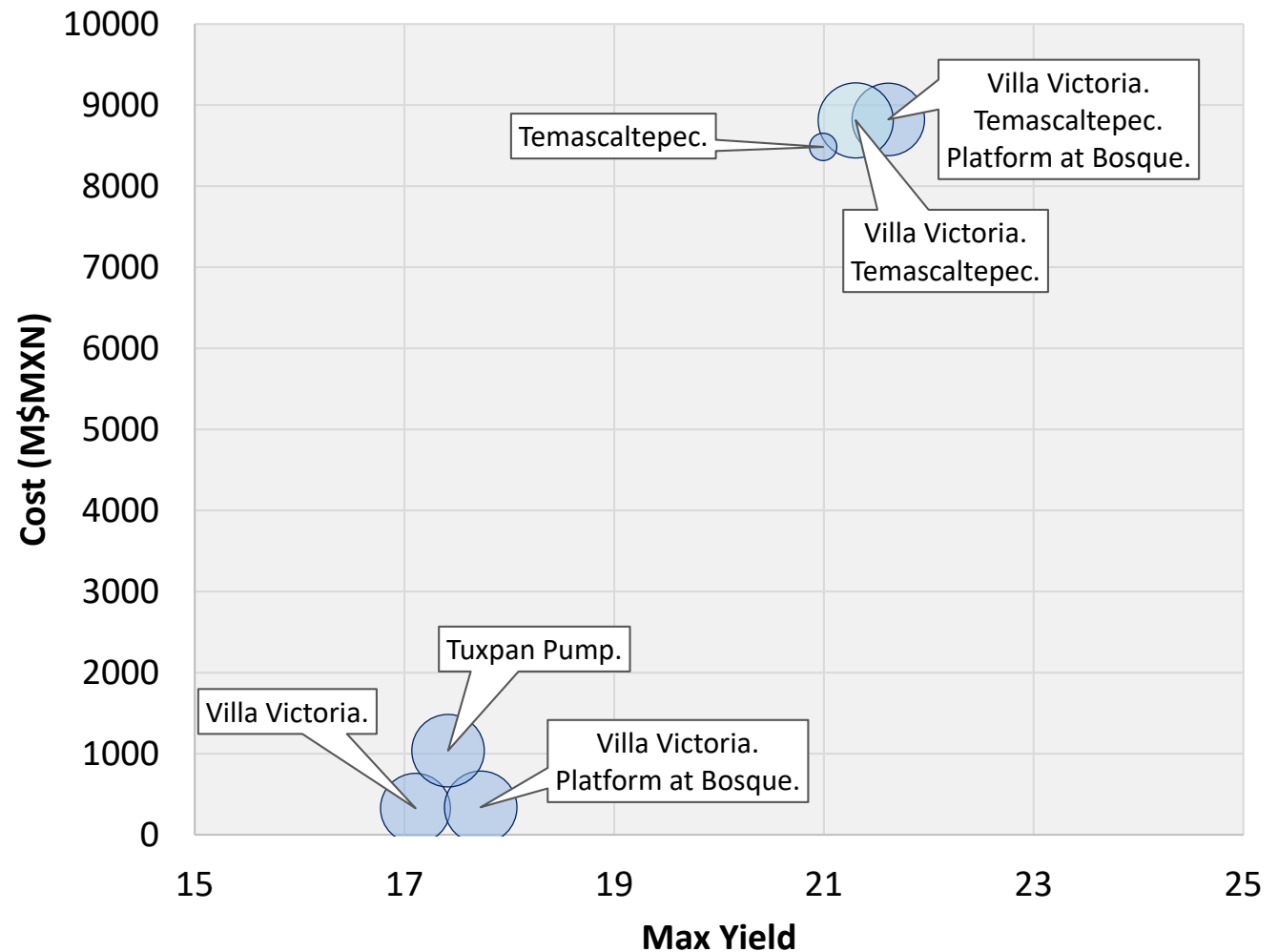
Resilience Evaluation

Opciones que mejoren el desempeño, robustez y resiliencia



Resilience Evaluation

Circle Size =
Resilience



Conclusion

- Cities are key players in Basin Freshwater Resilience, and City resilience is dependent on Basin Resilience
- There's a significant and important opportunity to re-engineer water investment
- Performance-based resilience as basis of optimized investment design