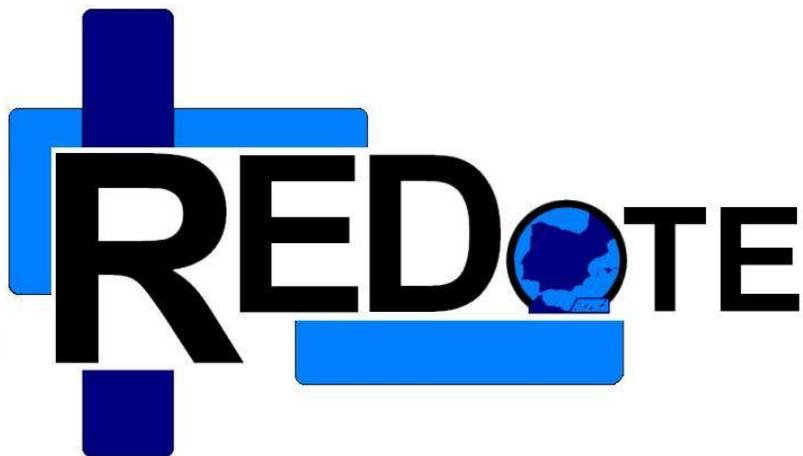




REDOTE
The Spanish Long Term
Ecological Research Network



¿WHAT IS REDOTE?

REDOTE (**R**ed **E**spañola **D**e **O**bservaciones **T**emporales de **E**cosistemas) is an initiative to arrange a Spanish LTER Network based on monitoring stations located in selected terrestrial, fluvial, coastal and marine ecosystems. The main objective of **REDOTE** is to gather and analyse information to detect trends and effects of global change.

BENEFITS OF REDOTE

The benefits from the **REDOTE** activity will be:

- To obtain a solid scientific infrastructure to study the effects of global change in the different Spanish ecosystems. At the same time, **REDOTE** will manage to optimise the resources and the funding assigned to global change research.
- To contribute with scientific and technical elements to defend a national policy in an international framework of global change.
- To improve the techniques of evaluation, prediction and adaptation to the climatic variability.
- To establish a real base to develop modelling adapted to the Spanish ecosystems conditions and to design preventive actions and management plans for those areas that are sensitive to desertification.
- To improve the ecosystems protection and biodiversity conservation.
- To improve the capacity of prediction and reaction in case of natural disasters.
- To study environmental factors that affect human health as air or water quality.

REDOTE PHASES

After some discussions during 2001-2003, the IGBP-Spain committee, with the help of its subcommittees, established a proposal to implement a Spanish monitoring network to observe the variations in the climate-biogeochemistry-biodiversity system in the long term. This proposal was composed by the following phases:

- 1.- Theoretical-conceptual stage. Definition of the objectives and general criteria to select the monitoring stations.
- 2.- Information gathering. Creation of a metadata base of existing long-term monitoring activities in Spain by means of a questionnaire collecting the main information about these series (type of observations, place, type of data access, etc.)
- 3.- Groups of experts. Final definition of the characteristics, variables and infra-structures required for the different monitoring stations in the network.
- 4.- Selection of the monitoring stations and final definition of the Spanish LTER network.

An ad hoc working group was established to develop these initiatives. This group has met four times (29th October 2002, 20th February 2003, 2nd June 2004 and 9th June 2005). During 2002-2005 the first and the second stages have been accomplished.

REDOTE STRUCTURE

REDOTE proposes to coordinate a group of monitoring stations located in the main type of Spanish ecosystems: terrestrial, fluvial, coastal and marine ecosystems. These stations will be selected according to some general criteria defined by the working group of **REDOTE**:

- To involve optimization of already available resources.
- To have ongoing monitoring activities and/or to have human resources and facilities to make possible this kind of research.
- To be representative of important ecosystems or ecosystems threatened by global change.
- To be or contain an interphase.
- To be prone to interdisciplinary work.
- To have an extension in space and time appropriate for the system and the processes of interest.
- To include zones under different levels of conservation and/or protection.

In these stations, the main parameters of the ecosystems functioning will be monitored and the drivers of global change that have affected them at different temporal scales will be studied. At the same time, these parameters will be calibrated with indicators of environmental changes of the recent past and modelling of the ecosystems dynamics in different global change scenarios will be developed.

REDOTE stations will have an interdisciplinary character with an identical equipment in all the stations and other specific equipment depending on the particular characteristics of each ecosystem. **REDOTE** stations will have, moreover, some unique experimental instruments.

These infrastructures will be opened to all the scientific community (national and international), both the access to data (available in Internet) and the access to the facilities.

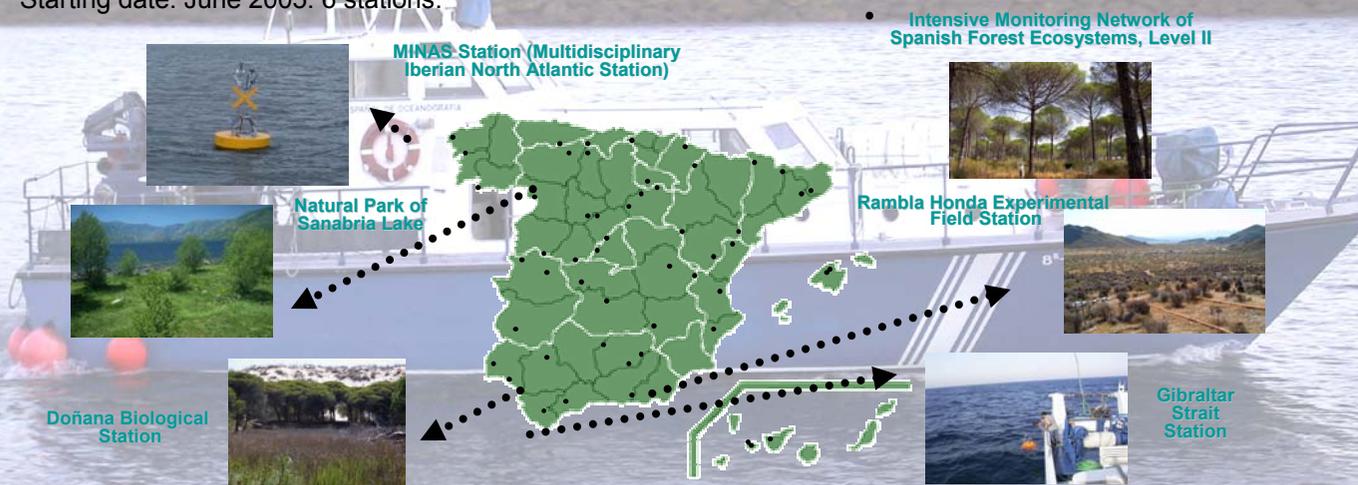
REDOTE ACTIVITIES

• Link of long-term ecological research activities in Spain

Metada base available in www.redote.org (public access).

• REDOTE Pilot Network

Starting date: June 2005. 6 stations.



Current stage of exhaustive evaluation of the selected stations to know all details about their ongoing activities, their data bases and their facilities.

• Participation in ALTER-Net (A Long-Term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network)

“Network of Excellence” funded by the EU’s 6th Framework Programme.

Starting date: April 2004.

Partnership of 24 organisations from 17 European countries.

MISSION: Create a network for European long-term terrestrial and fresh-water biodiversity and ecosystem research.



www.alter-net.info

FUNDING

Current funding: Acción Complementaria of the Ministry of Education and Sciences (End: December 2006).

WORKING GROUP

REDOTE working group is composed of scientists and technicians who belong to different institutions and universities (CSIC, IEO, Universidad de Cádiz, MMA, Junta de Castilla y León and Universidad de Málaga).

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