



Observatorio  
**Cambio Global**  
Sierra Nevada

## SIERRA NEVADA GLOBAL CHANGE OBSERVATORY



**Cairngorms Research Seminar**  
**21/22 October 2015**

**Rut Aspizua Cantón**

**Agencia de Medio Ambiente y Agua  
Sierra Nevada National and Nature Park  
& Biosphere Reserve**

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## **What will you find in this snapshot on SNGCO?**

- **INTRODUCTION TO SIERRA NEVADA GLOBAL CHANGE OBSERVATORY**
- **HOW COLLABORATION HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BETWEEN RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT. RANGE OF PARTNERS INVOLVED AND ASSIGNED TASKS**
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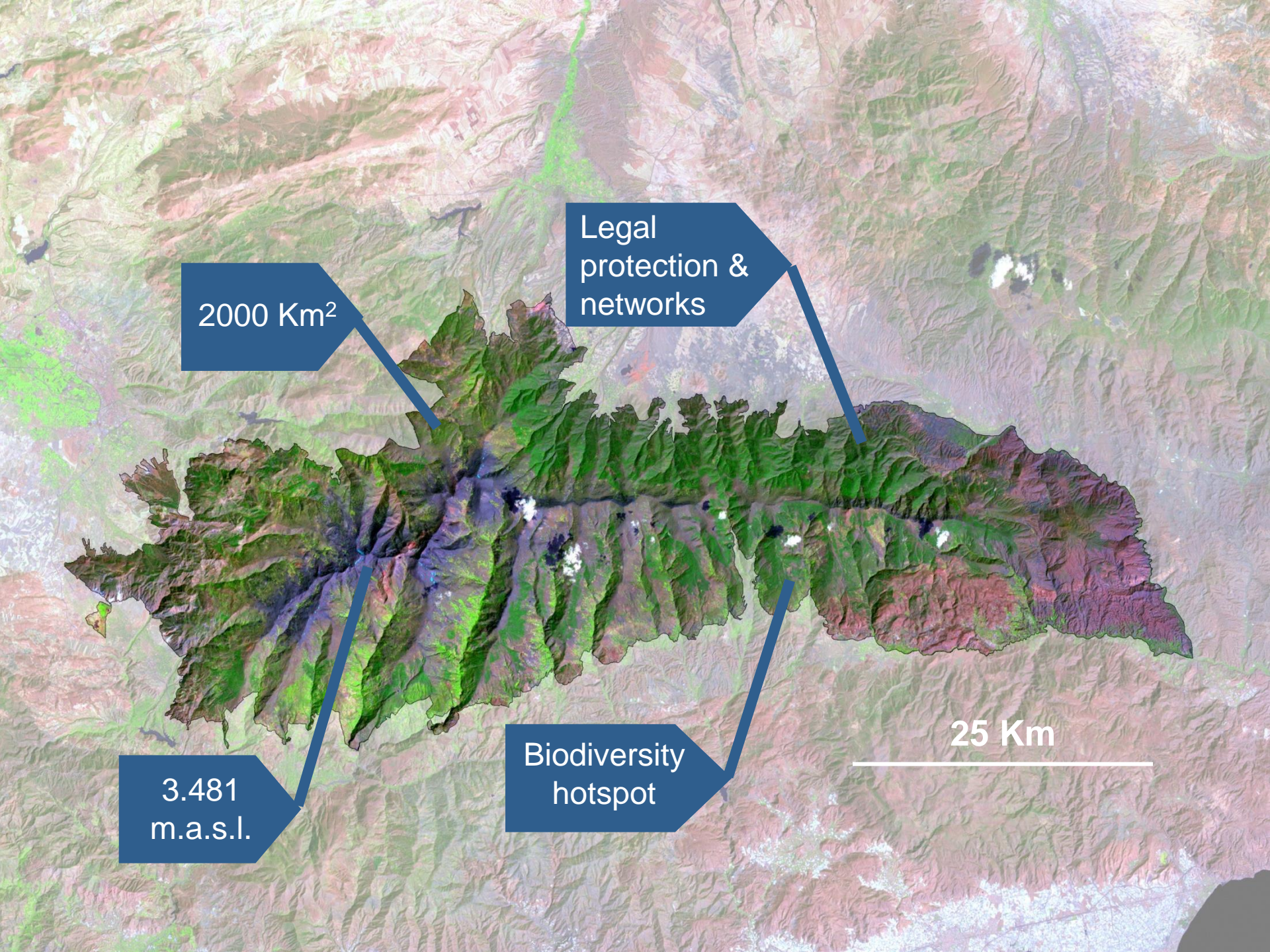






25 Km





2000 Km<sup>2</sup>

Legal protection & networks

3.481 m.a.s.l.

Biodiversity hotspot

25 Km



# Biodiversity hotspot



2100 sps. vascular plants (21% of European flora) 66 exclusive endemisms.  
10.000+ sps. of invertebrates, 200 sps of vertebrates. 26 habitat types from the H.D.  
National Park. BR, Natura 2000, LTER site, UICN green list, GLORIA site



## ¿What makes Sierra Nevada such an exceptional field laboratory to study Global Change ?

Wide altitudinal gradient (200 to 3.481 masl): it reproduces changes occurring along latitudinal gradients, faster and closer.

Mediterranean climate with a wide range of climatic variables:  
200 to more than 1.000 mm/año

Big contrast in ecological parameters

Located between Africa and Europe

Very sensitive to environmental changes and a refuge to many endemic species with distribution area restricted by altitude.















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Major projects and networks

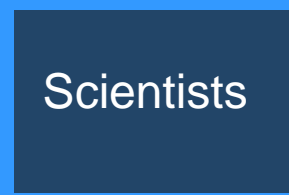


Local node



**\* To build the knowledge needed to promote resilience of Sierra Nevada ecosystems to face global change.**

Local actors



Park Direction

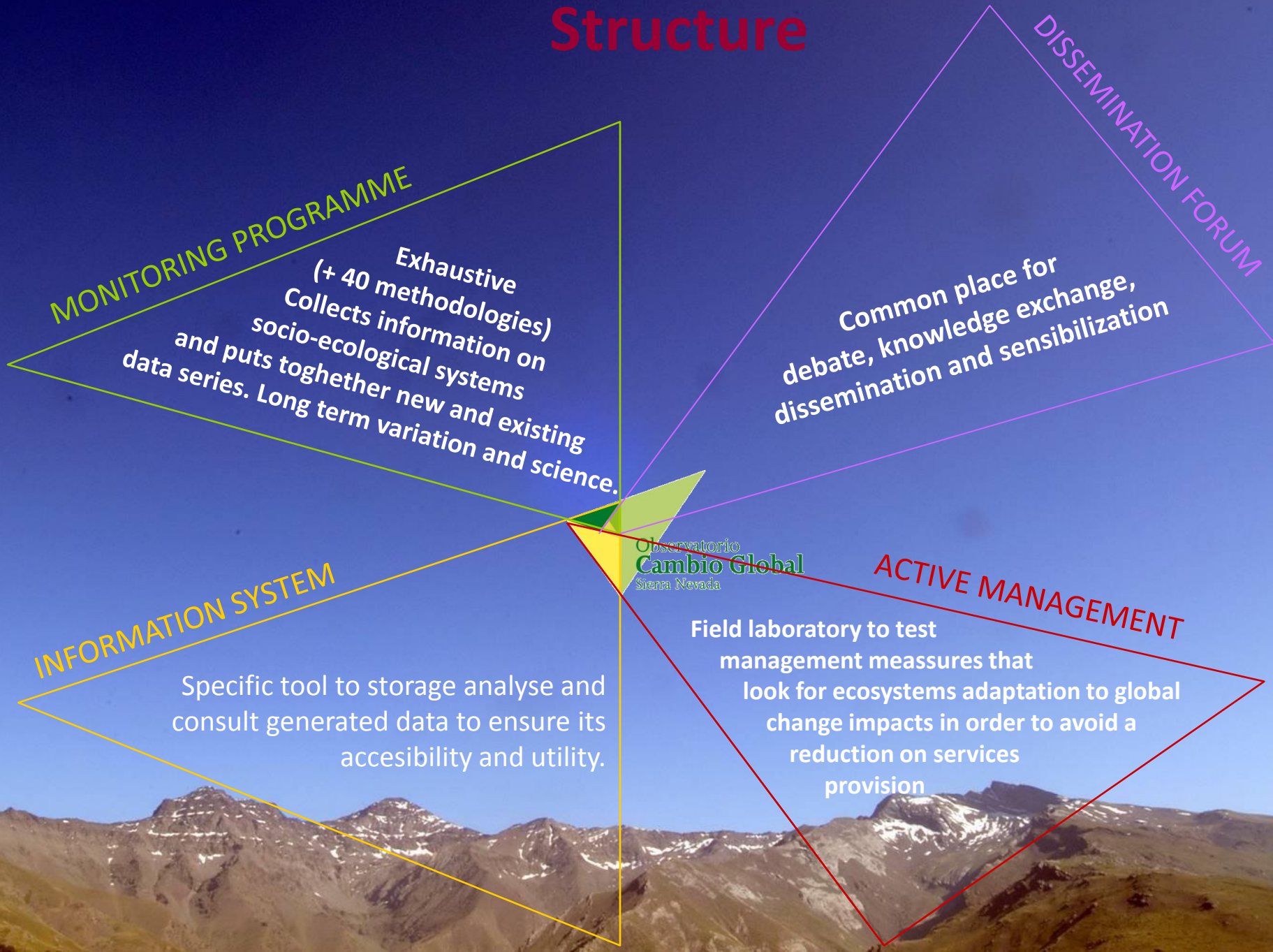
Strategy

Scientific coordination & assessment  
Information system development

Hire people for field monitoring,  
data storage & analysis



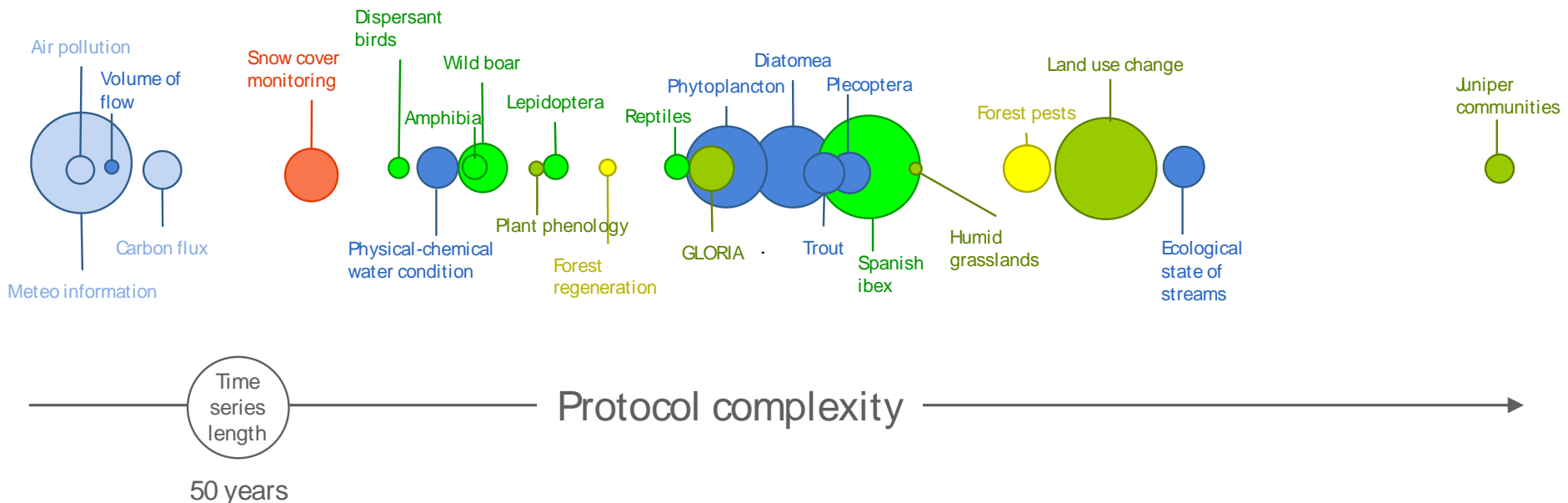
# Structure

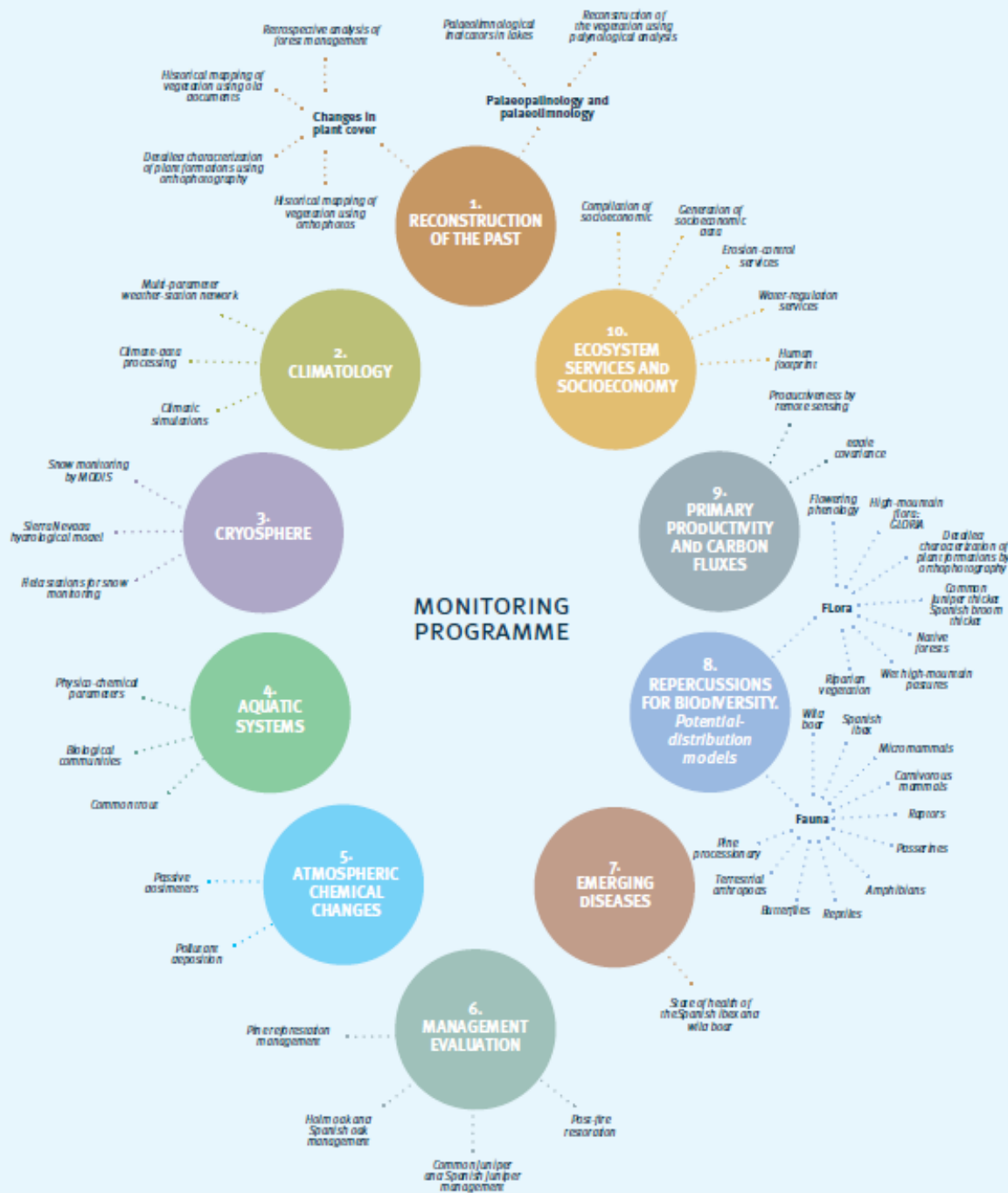




# Monitoring Programme

- The monitoring programme has aprox. 40 protocols scientifically validated
- They collect information for more than 100 environmental variables









## CMAyOT – Sierra Nevada

**Regino Zamora**  
(Scientific coordination)

+

4 people from his research group.  
(Scientific and information management committee)

**Javier Sánchez** (Dir. E.N.S.N), **Ignacio Henares** (Conservador), **Blanca Ramos** (Project Director) **Antonio Gómez** (Rangers Coordination), Jesús Vallejo y M.A. Mesa (Second Rangers coordinators)

8 rangers

*Climate & atmospheric pollution*



8 rangers

*Plants & forests*



8 rangers

*Animals*



8 rangers

*Rivers & lakes*



**Ignacio Maldonado** (Economical responsible)

11 technicians, 8 field workers

Dpto. Física de la Atmósfera – UGR,

Grupo Puertos y Costas CEAMA

Dto. Ecología (UGR),

Univ. RJC-Madrid,

Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología,

U. A. Barcelona,

Univ. Insbruk (Austria)

Other research Groups

AMAyA (public Agency)

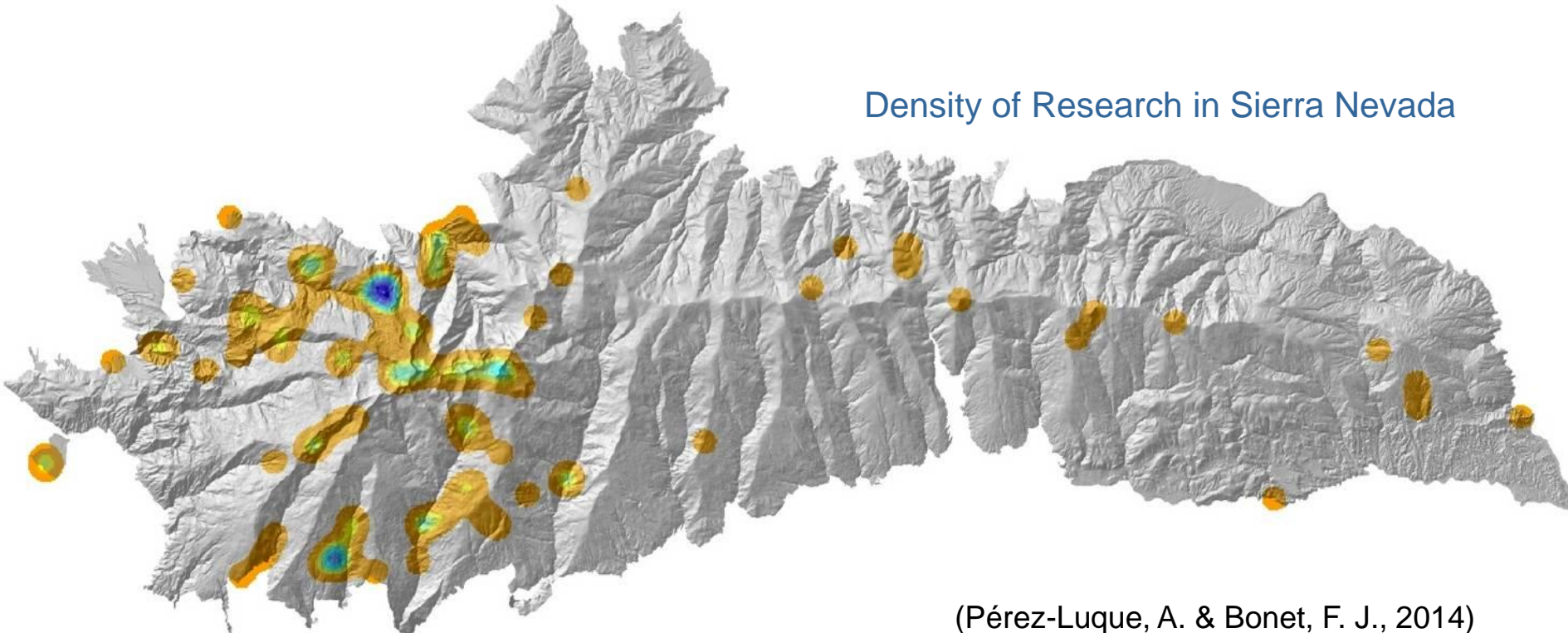
CEAMA – UGR (jecoLAB)



## **Scientific coordination of research in Sierra Nevada:**

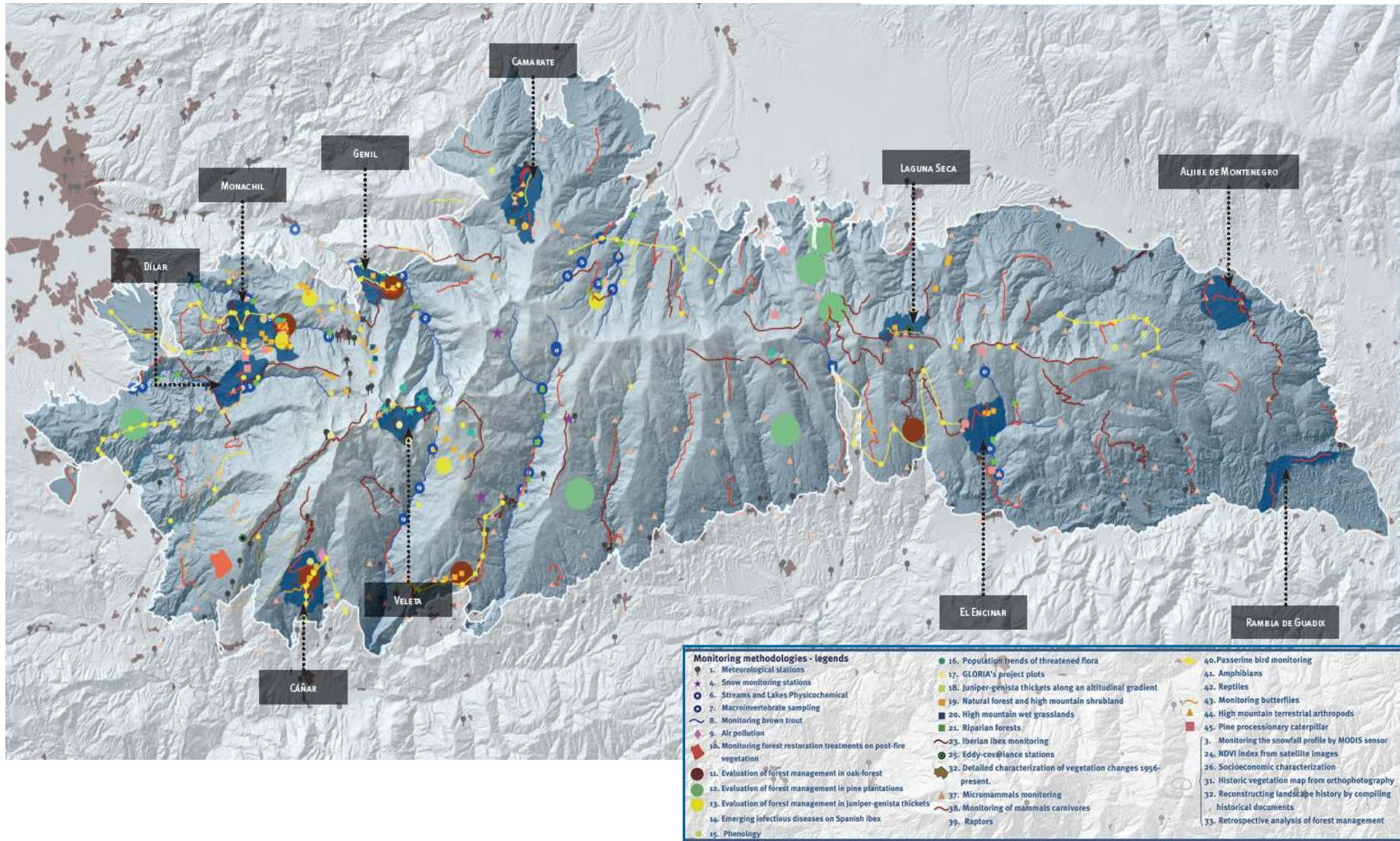
- Exchange of existing information (sharing databases of existing information that can be useful to scientists)
- Coordination of research to avoid overlaps and promote synergies

Density of Research in Sierra Nevada



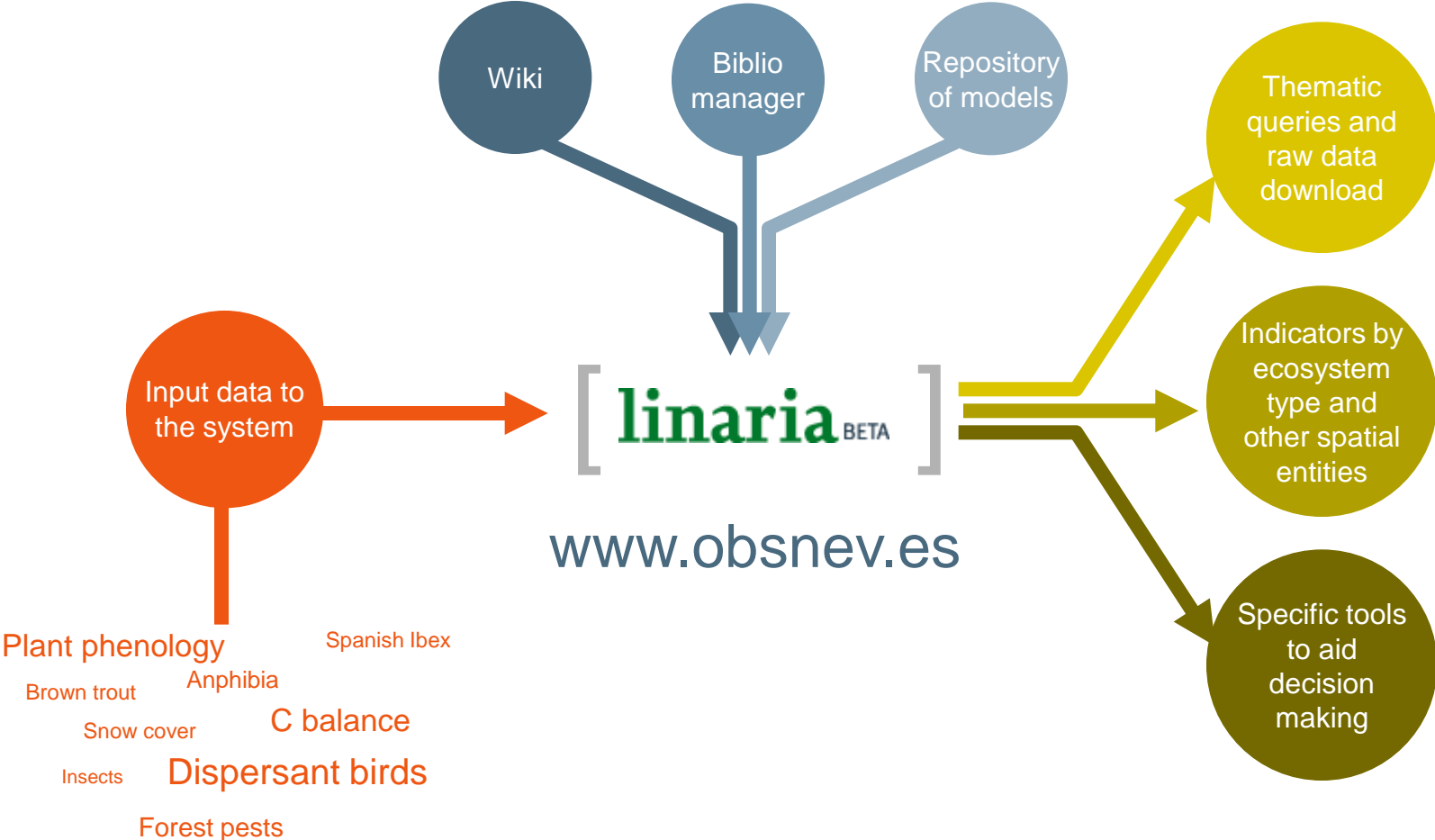
(Pérez-Luque, A. & Bonet, F. J., 2014)

Monitoring & research locations: Intensive Monitoring Stations (IMS)






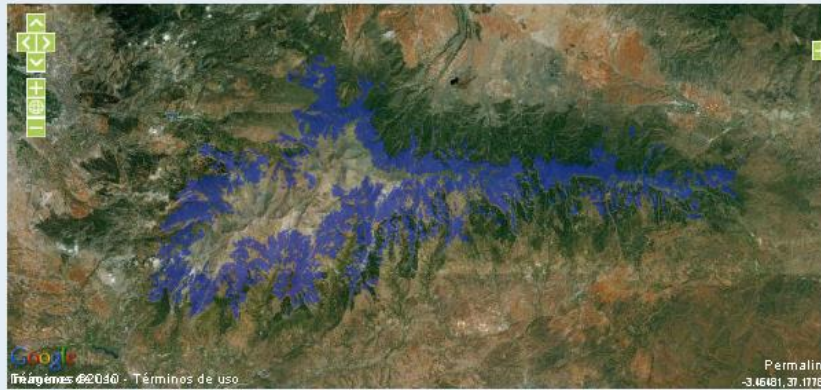
# Information System



> DISTRIBUCIÓN ESPACIAL

⬆ Ocultar

- Se localizan en la franja altitudinal  1800-3100 m.
- Formación vegetal mas extensa de Sierra Nevada.
- Caracterizada por las formas almohadilladas (pulvinulares) semiesféricas de sus componentes como respuesta a las condiciones ambientales.
- Su dinámica está condicionada por el patrón de innivación.
- Ha sufrido una escasa presión antrópica por lo que se ha mantenido su área de ocupación estable.
- Las proyecciones a futuro indican un declive potencial acusado con pérdida de área potencial.



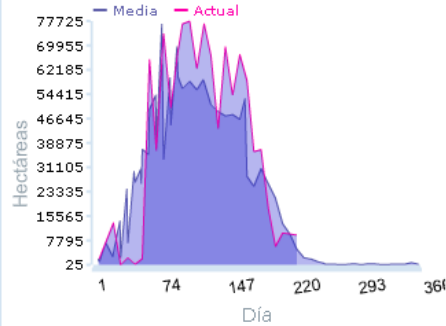
Permalink  
-3.46481, 37.17783

> INDICADORES

⬆ Ocultar

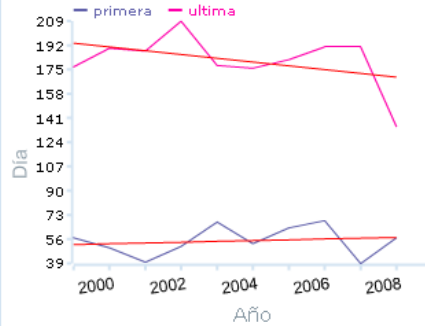
Perfil innivación

[CSV](#) [PNG](#) [METADATOS](#)



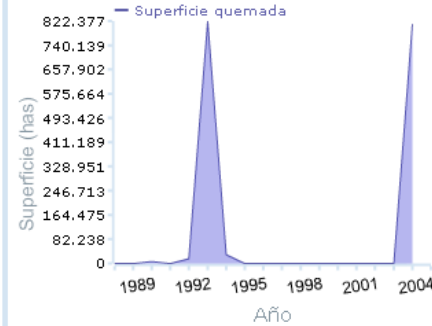
Primera - Última fecha con nieve

[CSV](#) [PNG](#) [METADATOS](#)



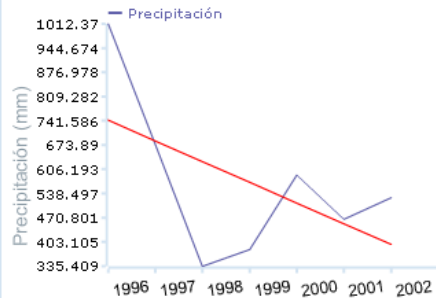
Area quemada por año

[CSV](#) [PNG](#) [METADATOS](#)



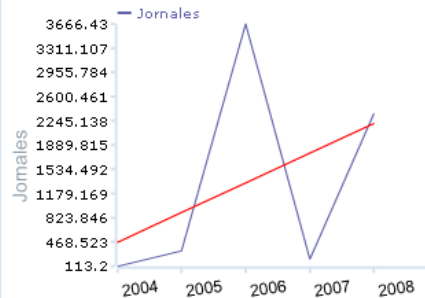
Precipitación anual

[CSV](#) [PNG](#) [METADATOS](#)



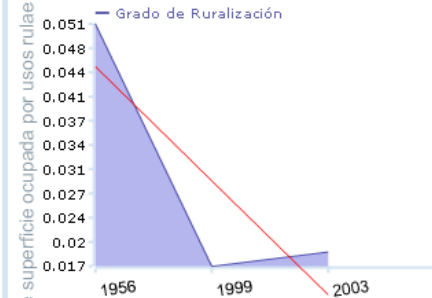
Inversión Forestal

[CSV](#) [PNG](#) [METADATOS](#)



Índice de Actividad Rural

[CSV](#) [PNG](#) [METADATOS](#)





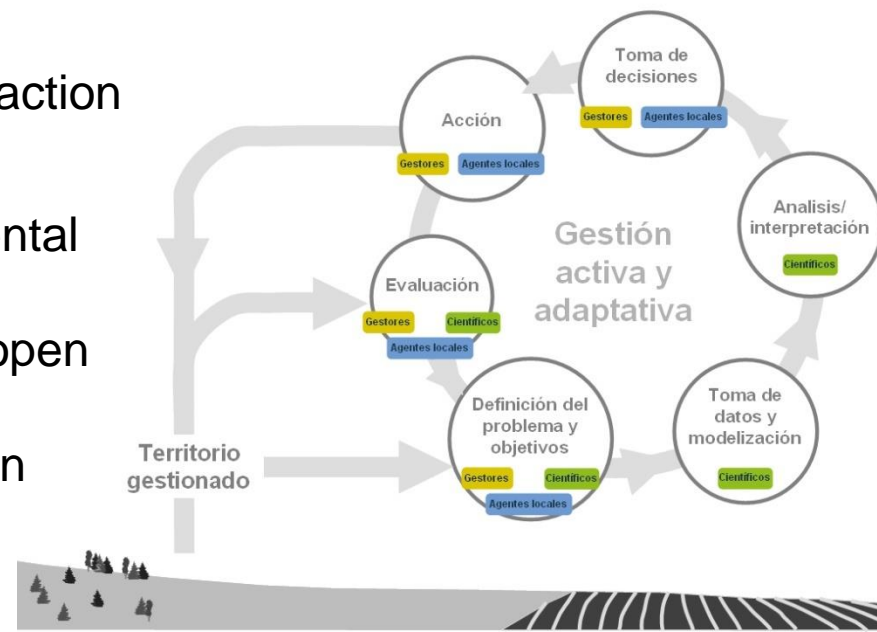
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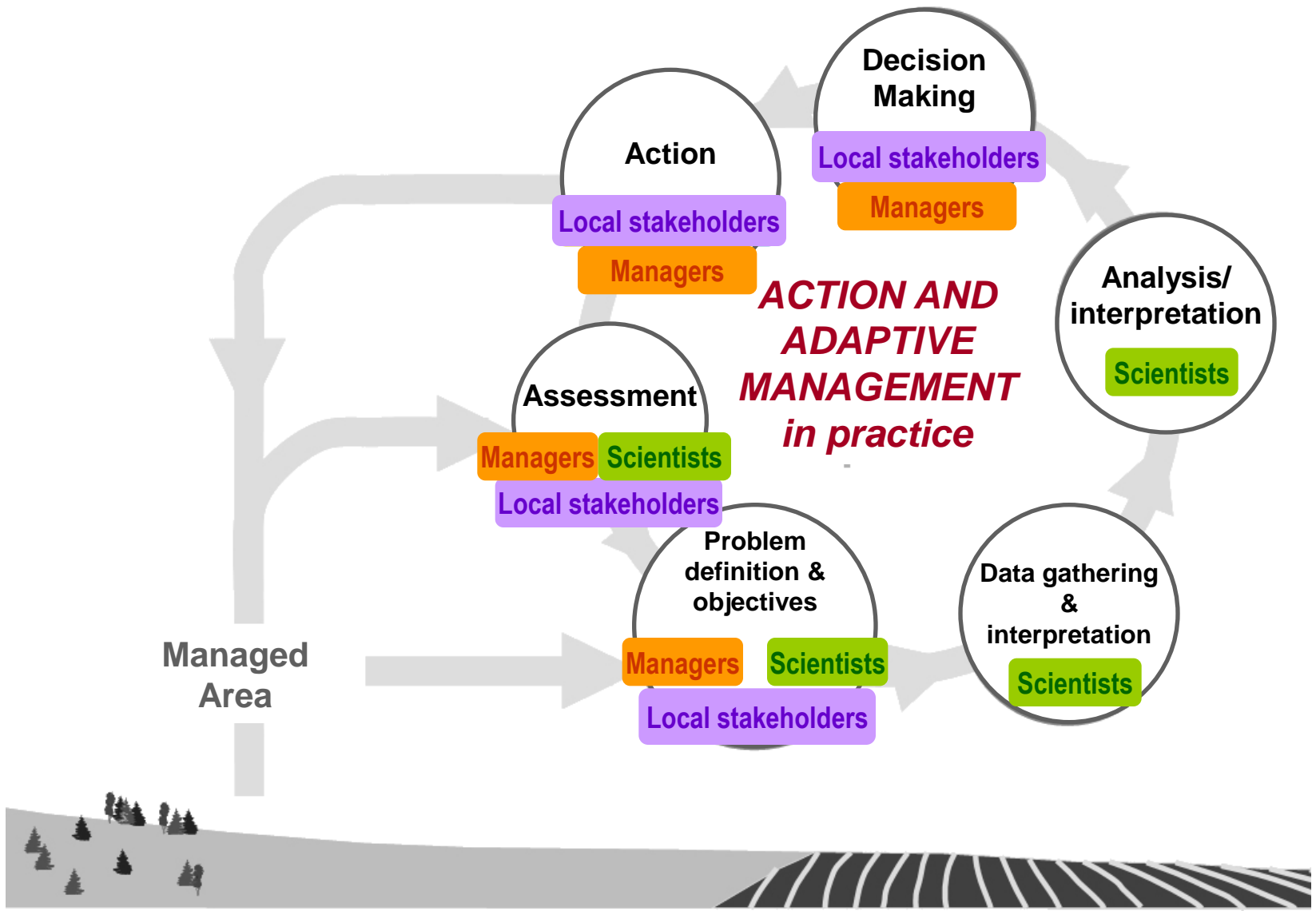
# From theory to practice in active and adaptive management

Turning information into useful knowledge for ecosystems management.  
Assesing the effects to learn from the experience

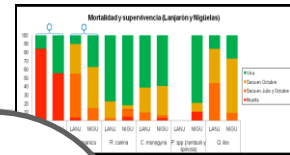
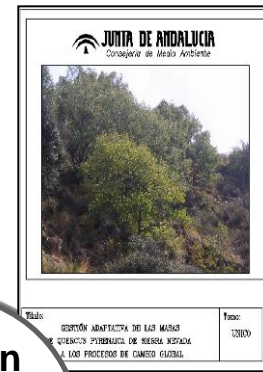
- It combines **scientific knowledge** on ecosystems functioning with **practical experience**.
- Assessing, almost **in real time**, the effects of management experimental practices to apply the newly acquired knowledge to the following decision making step
- **Uncertainty** is assumed in our interaction with live systems
- From problem definition to experimental design, data collection, analysis & interpretation → **Iterative process** open to continuous revision, leading to progressively more accurate decision making.



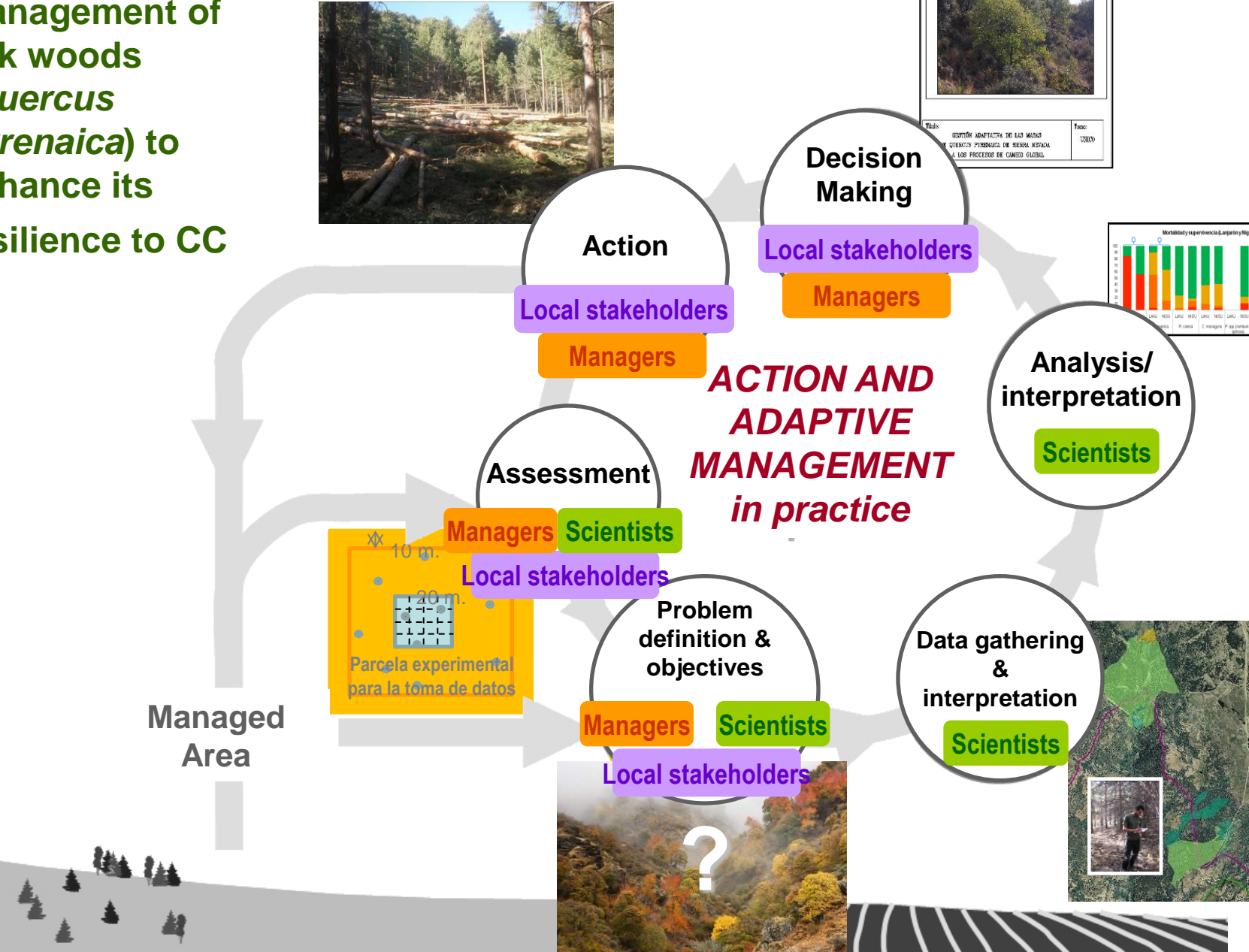




**Example:**  
management of oak woods  
(*Quercus pyrenaica*) to  
enhance its  
resilience to CC



**ACTION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT in practice**



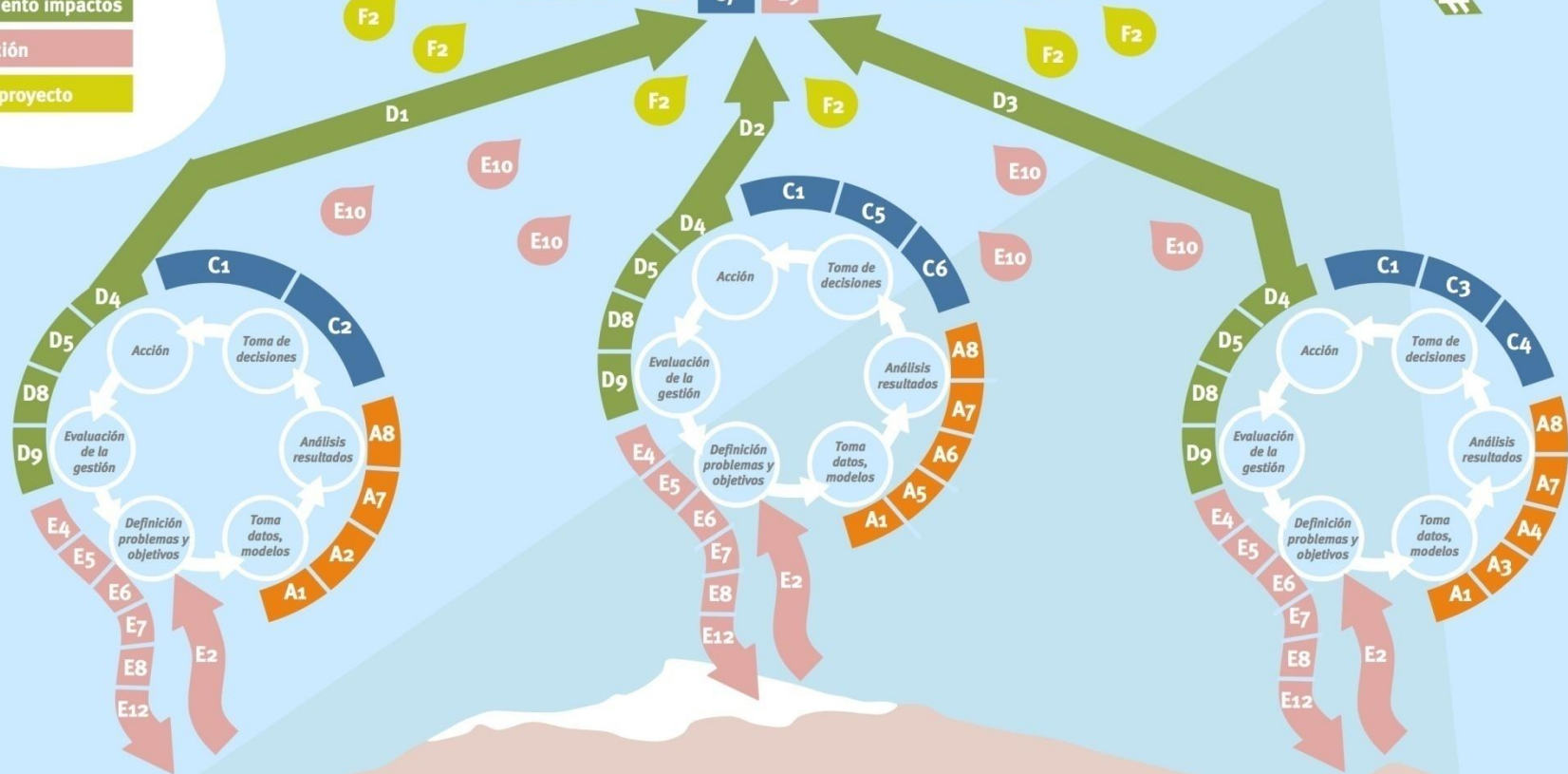


# LIFE14 CCA/ES/000612 ADAPTAMED (2015-2020)

**Acciones de LIFE ADAPTAMED**

- A:** Preparatorias
- C:** Implementación
- D:** Seguimiento impactos
- E:** Divulgación
- F:** Gestión proyecto

Life MAGRAMA LTER National & International scale UICN SER-Europe



Ambitious document recently published:



# *Global change footprint in Sierra Nevada: Challenges for conservation*



La huella del Cambio Global en Sierra Nevada:  
Retos para la conservación

Octubre 2015



Colaboran:



It includes detected changes in:

- **CC**: past trends and and future predictions
- **Snow cover** and permafrost
- **Land use** and vegetal cover
- Impacts in **rivers & lakes**
- **Population trends** in flora and fauna
- Plant & animal **phenology**
- **CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes** quantification in natural and disturbed habitats
- Knowledge for ecosystem adaptation arisen from **active management**
- Socioeconomic impact and **ecosystem services**
- **Atmosphere**: shumman resonances, pollutants & aerosols

*(English version coming soon...)*



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**Cambio Global**  
Sierra Nevada

Thank you very much for your attention!



Unión Europea

Fondo Europeo  
de Desarrollo Regional



GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO  
DE MEDIO AMBIENTE  
Y MEDIO RURAL Y MARINO



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