



Intensive (Ecosystem) Monitoring & Long-term Ecosystem Research (LTER)

...building a European Network of Excellence


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



LTER

LTER (Long-term Ecosystem Research): Research dedicated to multidisciplinary long-term and large spatial scale research and monitoring in ecological science including the human dimension (<http://www.ilternet.edu/>). For Long-term Socio-Ecological Research the term **LTSER** has been introduced to stress the focus on the human dimension.

NoE: Networks of Excellence

- Funding instrument of Framework Programme 6 of EU (FP6, 2002-2008)
- **Overcome fragmentation** of European research
- **Strengthen scientific excellence** on particular research topics **by networking the critical mass**
- **Tool** for implementing key research issues of FP6
- **INTEGRATION**










ALTER-Net

"A long-term biodiversity, ecosystem and awareness research network"

Three Topic Aims:

- To create an European network for **long-term** terrestrial and fresh-water **biodiversity and ecosystem** research;
- To **assess and forecast** changes in biodiversity, structure, functions and dynamics of ecosystems and their services;
- Considering **socio-economic** implications and **public attitudes**.


Example for traditional "LTER"

Integrated Monitoring of Ecosystems (UN-ECE)



Input **Ecosystem Change** **Output**





Core Areas of 20 yrs LTER

- Pattern & control of **primary production**
- Spatial and temporal distribution of **populations** selected to represent trophic structures
- Patterns and control of **organic matter** accumulation and decomposition in surface layers and sediments
- Patterns of **inorganic inputs** and movements of nutrients through soils, groundwater and surface waters
- Patterns and frequency of **disturbances**
- **Biodiversity** (implicitly)

