



## Creation of RECIDA Network Project

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**Abstract:** *RECIDA (Red de Centros de Información y Documentación Ambiental/ Network of Environment Documentation and Information Centres) is a network of more than 100 Environment Documentation Centres and Libraries, belonging to Protected Natural Areas or Research Institutions, whose specialisation is Environment, Sustainable Development, Ecology and Natural resources protection. RECIDA's project has been created in cooperation during the annual meetings hosted by the CENEAM, (Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs).*

**Key words:** *Network, environmental information centres, protected natural areas, environment.*

## SUMMARY

- A) Aims and scope
- B) Background
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### A) AIMS AND SCOPE

RECIDA is a network of Environment Documentation Centres belonging to Protected Natural Areas or Research Institutions from Spain. Its aims are promoting cooperation and collaboration between its members and improve services to users.

#### Aims and scope

- Encouraging cooperation in projects and promoting the exchange of information and experiences concerning Sustainable Development and Environmental Awareness
- Promote cooperation and collaboration to optimise results
- Training experts in Environment Information Management, following UICN directives



### B) BACKGROUND

The cooperation efforts between Environment Documentation Centres exist since 1986 in Spain ([Centro de Documentación Ambiental y Biblioteca General del MARM](#)).

Cooperation and collaboration concerning Natural Protected Areas Documentation Centres, has been scarced until 2001, with the notable exception of Catalunya, with an extensive experience since 1994 of joint efforts, including annual training Seminars and the production of interesting works such as; [Documento marco de funcionamiento](#), a [Manual de uso y funcionamiento de los centros del DMAV](#), un [folleto de difusión conjunta de centros de documentación de espacios naturales protegidos de Cataluña](#), etc.

Catalunya in collaboration with EUROPARC-España, first started the launching of a Project of creation of a network of information and documentation between Documentation Centres of Natural Protected Areas in Spain and Europe in 1998. The aims of the project were; establish, coordinate, consolidate and disseminate a net of information and documentation exchange between the Spanish and European Protected Natural Areas, by means of EUROPARC.

During the same year, the idea of starting a Seminar arose, after the results of a CENEAM's questionnaire to all the Spanish centres of this area, aiming to create a Directory of Environment Documentation Centres, to facilitate the work of technicians and users. The results made clear:

- The lack of coordination between centres.
- Poor information regarding holdings and services
- The increasing amount of environmental information with a difficult access, due to its distribution through non commercial channels.

The Directory, updated annually with the data provided by all the centres, can be reached at this web site:

[http://www.mma.es/portal/secciones/formacion\\_educacion/centro\\_documentacion/catalogos\\_doc\\_ceneam/centros\\_mapa.htm](http://www.mma.es/portal/secciones/formacion_educacion/centro_documentacion/catalogos_doc_ceneam/centros_mapa.htm)

RECIDA has been created during the annual [Seminars of Environment Documentation Centres from Natural Protected Areas](#) hosted by CENEAM, Environmental Education National Centre, belonging to the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs, with the collaboration of the Generalitat de Catalunya, since 2002. Other Institutions such as Navarra, Galicia and Canarias have collaborate in several editions of the Seminar.



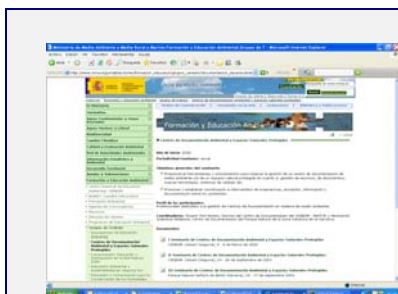
[IV Seminar of Environment Documentation Centres and Natural Protected Areas. Olot-Arbúcies \(Catalunya\), 2005](#)

Currently (May, 2009), RECIDA network has more than **100 institutional members** from 15 different Autonomous Regions.

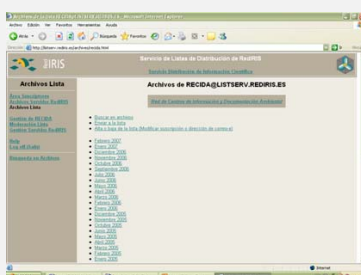


## C) PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The annual Seminars have allowed the Network members to gather and work together since 2002, towards achieving our different goals in collaboration. We have succeeded until now with:



[CENEAM web page](#) where the Proceedings and papers from all Seminars can be found



[RECIDA distribution list](#) with file exchange

Disseminate and exchange Environmental information from the different geographic areas.

The network members access to Environmental information has been multiplied with the help of;

- The annual [Seminars](#) hosted by CENEAM that allow the members to get to know new Documentation Centres, an share new experiences,
- A [Distribution list](#) owned by the network, called RECIDA, belonging to the net Red Iris from the Research Council, CSIC. Europarc-España, one of our members is in charge of its maintenance.
- The Centres web pages, with an increasing number of digital libraries and electronic access to the information.
- The emails,



service



[Portal](#) RECIDA.

- Person to person contact,
- Our own web [Portal](#) belonging to the network of Environment Documentation Centres from Protected Natural Areas (RECIDA).

The starting of the web Portal was launched in the Seminar of 2007. In 2008 started running as a prototype ([www.recida.infonautica.net](http://www.recida.infonautica.net)). We expect it will be fully in operation by the end of 2009 at [www.recida.net](http://www.recida.net). This will require technical adjustments and the collaboration from all network members. The Portal uses a free Dutch software tool, DRUPAL. It is hosted and maintained, as part of its academic activities, by the University of Zaragoza, its research group about Information Resources within Organizations, from the Department of Documentation Sciences, with the help of several others members of the network. EUROPARC-España supports the cost of the domain.



[III Seminar of Environment Documentation Centres and Protected Natural Areas](#)  
. Parque Natural Señorío de Bértiz (Navarra), 2004



[VI Seminar of Environment Documentation Centres and Protected Natural Areas](#)  
CEIDA. Olerios (A Coruña), 6 – 8th of June 2007

The Seminars have provided specialized **training** to more than a **100** professionals from Environment Documentation Centres and/or Natural Protected Areas.

The subjects covered during the joint training Seminars have been proposals and have been chosen by the member's themselves.

Subjects dealt until now such as:

- Knowledge and Information management and organization
- Spanish and International grants and financial support for documentation centres
- Quality Systems



*VII Seminar of Environment Documentation Centres and Protected Natural Areas*  
CENEAM. Valsain (Segovia), 7 – 9th of May 2008

- Documentation centres functions, management and services
- Marketing and dissemination
- Environmental information resources
- Web positioning
- Thesaurus
- Web 2.0
- Environmental information search and guides
- Intellectual Property



*Poster presenting the collaboration and cooperation between centres*

We are succeeding in improving a collective **dissemination of our centres** by means of:

- Publishing articles in specialized magazines,
- Giving Lectures and presenting posters in Documentation and Environment Seminars and Congresses.
- Our [Distribution list](#) RECIDA
- Our own web [Portal](#) RECIDA.



*Manuals to catalogue, classify and organised the holdings*

We are also **optimising our resources** thanks to the exchange of working systems and standards used at the different centres that could be adapted to different realities and used as a base to start.

The current situation of the Documentation Centres members of RECIDA varies, not only because the affiliation to different administrations, but also due to the different budgets, libraries holdings, documentalists training, functions, etc. An experts assessment commission has been created to allow us to give support to such diversity. These experts have a considerable background, experience, good contacts, belong to the main documentation centres, etc.

The centres are diverse but all share a common concern about the environment, that arises not only from our documents and libraries holdings, but as much in how our centres work. Due to this reason several centres have undertaken becoming certified whether under Environmental Management or Quality Systems Standards, such as ISO 9001:2008, EMAS, integrated management systems (ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 18001, EMAS) etc. , thus being a garanty that our centres work under quality systems in an environmentally sustainable way, and under a constant trend towards improvement.

Many of our centres work with the aim of designing a Centre Environmental Policy, towards identifying the environmental concerns whether direct or indirect, affecting our centres, establishing an environmental management programme and measure the environmental behaviour or the level of compliance regarding the law.

#### ❖ **Budgets and financing**

RECIDA costs varies. CENEAM is the main financial supporter and organizes most part of the annual Seminars. CENEAM budget depends from the Autonomous Organisation of National Parks (OAPN).

It is also important the support not only financial but of personnel given by the different autonomic Administrations and Institutions, that collaborate with organizing the Seminars, materials elaboration, leaflets edition, the starting of the new web Portal, etc.



## **D) FUTURE AND CONCLUSIONS**

The tasks planned in the short run are as follows:

- Editing a leaflet about RECIDA.
- Actualised and create documents to disseminate RECIDA.
- Write an annual Memory of the tasks performed.
- Expand RECIDA to a greater number of centres
- Work in cooperation in the web Portal RECIDA.

In the medium and long term:

- Make contacts and promote exchanges with other environmental centres at a European level.
- Collaborate in European projects.
- Develop an annual working programme.
- Develop a Working Manual for the centres.
- Transform RECIDA network into an association.
- Create an electronic resources directory.
- Get financial support for RECIDA projects.

- Participate in projects of Bibliotecari@s sin fronteras.

The Environmental information management has been stated as very necessary since many years, but has not been treated in depth. Neither defining the profile of the environment information documentalist, it's training, nor the importance of cooperation and collaboration in networks, to optimise resources, improve documentation management, increase dissemination and dynamism.

There are several methods of collaboration and cooperation between centres: Joint dissemination in Seminars and workshops, planning of initiatives of collective collaboration, exploiting the results at State level of the successful cooperation experiences, organising specialized training courses...

As a conclusion, we can say that this project will facilitate the access to the environmental information, so we will be able to fulfil more adequately the Aarhus Agreement about the access of the citizens to the environment information <sup>1</sup> and with the European Community Directives<sup>2</sup> and the Spanish Law<sup>3</sup> besides improving the use of the resources of personnel and materials of each centre member of the network.

Although there are certain weaknesses, strengths, opportunities...about RECIDA project, we are currently in a phase of increasing collaboration between its members with a bright future ahead.

Our best result until now are the contacts between members, the training and the exchange of information in approximately 100 libraries and environment documentation centres, having wide differences but all sharing an aim; increase and improve the services to our users.

The main motive beneath the project is the collaboration and active participation of all its members, without defined hierarchies, making this project a very satisfying experience for everybody, thus facilitating the "collective intelligence" for its development.



## **E) KNOWING MORE ABOUT RECIDA**

- **RECIDA Portal**  
<http://recida.infonautica.net/> (prototype) <http://www.recida.net>
- **Training Seminars: web page of the National Centre of Environmental Education (CENEAM)**

<sup>1</sup> Convenio sobre el Acceso a la Información, la Participación del Público en la Toma de Decisiones y el Acceso a la Justicia en Materia de Medio Ambiente, Dinamarca, 25 de junio de 1998

<sup>2</sup> Directiva 2003/4 relativa al acceso del público a la información ambiental y por la que se deroga la Directiva 90/313 del Consejo de 28 de enero de 2003 (DOCE 14.2.2003).  
Directiva 2003/35/CE, por la que se establecen medidas para la participación del público en determinados planes y programas relacionados con el medio ambiente

<sup>3</sup> Ley 27/2006, de 18 de julio, por la que se regulan los derechos de acceso a la información, de participación pública y de acceso a la justicia en materia de medio ambiente





[http://www.mma.es/portal/secciones/formacion\\_educacion/grupos\\_ceneam/documentacion\\_espacios/index.htm](http://www.mma.es/portal/secciones/formacion_educacion/grupos_ceneam/documentacion_espacios/index.htm)


- **RECIDA distribution list**  
<http://listserv.rediris.es/archives/recida.html>



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Spanish version:

[http://www.mma.es/secciones/formacion\\_educacion/grupos\\_ceneam/documentacion\\_espacios/pdf/montse.pdf](http://www.mma.es/secciones/formacion_educacion/grupos_ceneam/documentacion_espacios/pdf/montse.pdf)

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