

Field sites as tools for outreach and education

F. Gómez (1), R. Amils (1, 2) and D. C. Fernández-Remolar (1)
(1) Centro de Astrobiología (CSIC-INTA), Crtera. Ajalvir Km 4, Torrejon de Ardoz 28850 Madrid, Spain, (gomezgf@inta.es). (2) Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Campus de Cantoblanco, 28049 Madrid, Spain.

Abstract

This talk will merge outreach with the analogues field site campaigns both of them with a tremendous interest in the Europlanet RI framework. Studies for validation of field locations as Earth analogues, using them for comprehension of life at its limits and space mission's tools testing in natural environments are gaining interest as tools for outreach and education. We are taking advantage of these campaigns for providing news and information to be distributed in the Europlanet RI outreach activity. This talk will be focused on outreach and divulgation activities for general public and journalist in natural extreme field sites campaigns, as well as for university courses students training on site with description of a recently developed university campaign at rio Tinto extreme field site.

1. Introduction

Outreach and divulgation is becoming more necessary for integration of public knowledge and scientific porpoises. Also master and university courses are necessary for new vocations and young people being involved in science for the future.

With these objectives in mind Madrid Astrobiology Center (CAB) are bring together divulgation and master and university international courses on rio Tinto extreme field site. One of these courses was hold during May 2010 in collaboration with Penn State University.

2. An additional section

The campaign was focused on the study of open mind pond (fig. 1) by the students. It was simulated a real geochemical and microbiological study campaign to be followed by the group of students.



Figure 1: Olla station where the training course was developed.

The development of the campaign in such difficult to access location will be explained during the talk. Small ship was used for samples uptake.

Chott El Jerid campaign (JRA2 Europlanet RI framework) will me mentioned as an example of science for journalist.

