

# PARQUE NACIONAL DE GARAJONAY

World Heritage Site.

*Gomera- Islas Canarias.*

**SPAIN.**

**RICARDO DORTA CRUZ.**

**Técnico en Actividades Ambientales.**



# A group of seven Islands:

- Born from the volcanoes.
- Situated at the edge of the largest desert of the world.

... or the biggest oven!!

**BUT...**



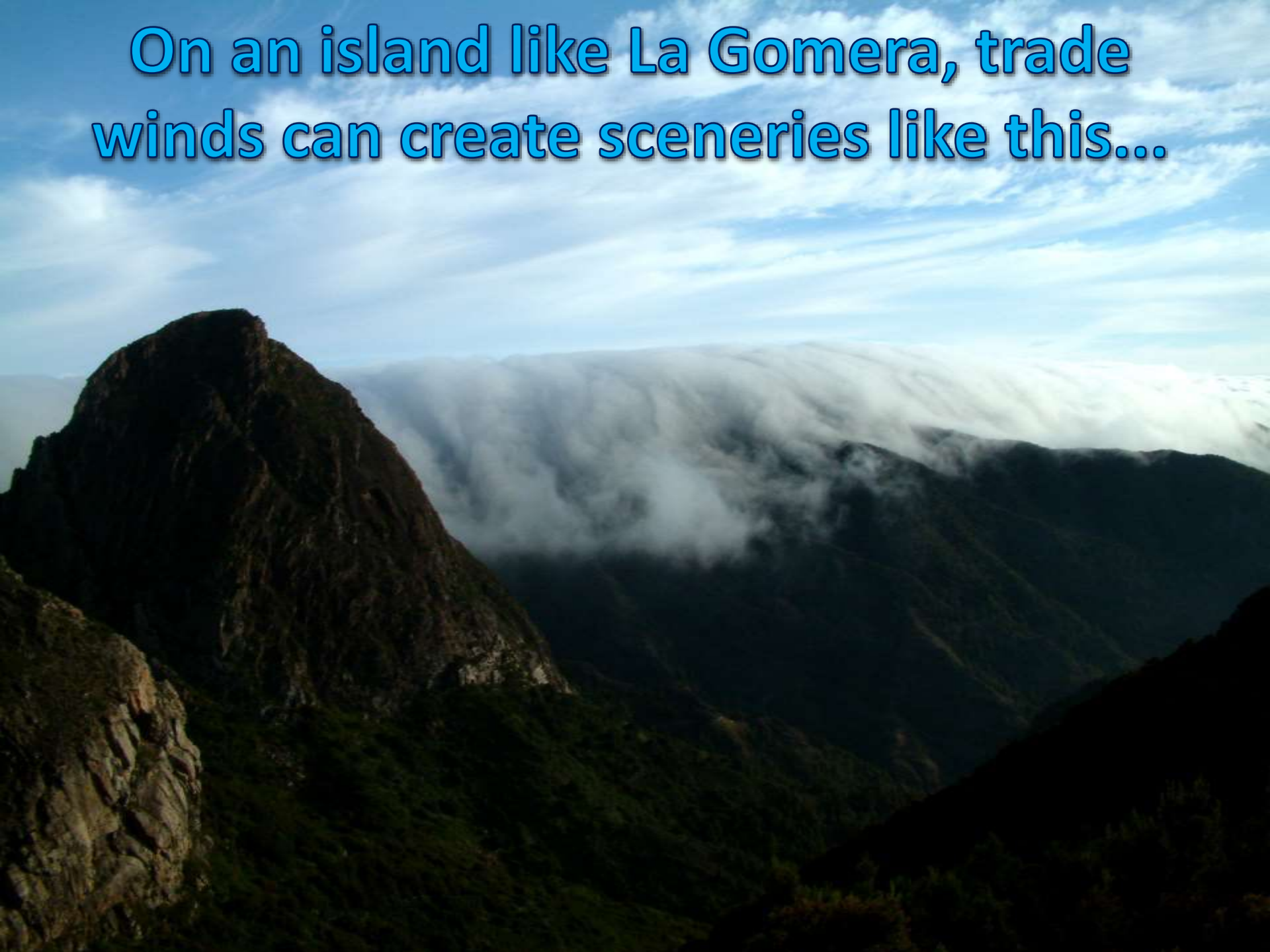


**TRADE WINDS MAKE IT HAPPEN.**  
The air conditioning system of the  
Canaries.





On an island like La Gomera, trade winds can create sceneries like this...





Favouring the existence of lush forests like...

the laurisilva of the  
Garajonay National Park

A RELICT OF ANCIENT  
TIMES



# How large is this island?



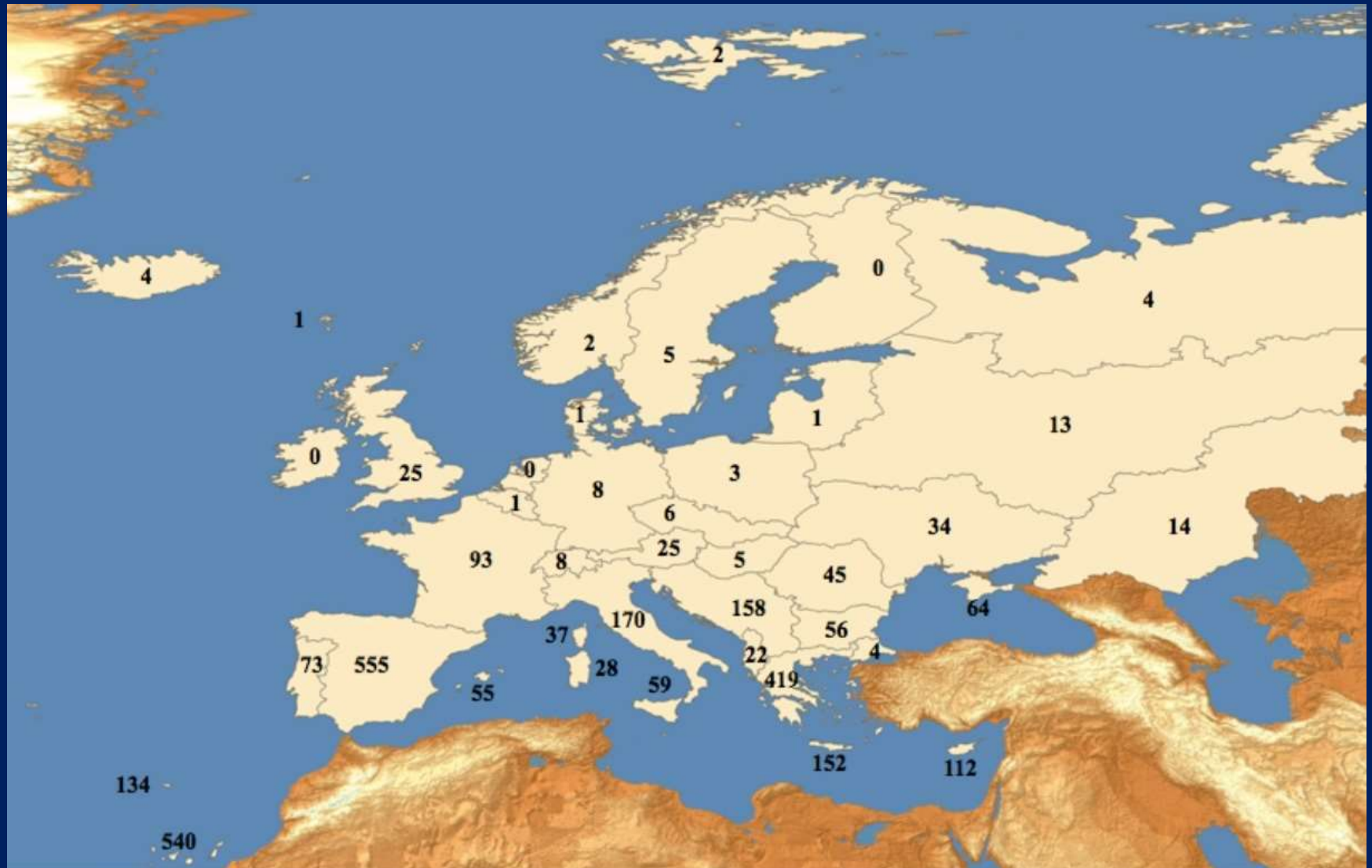
Germany 357.376 km<sup>2</sup>

Gomera 370 km<sup>2</sup>



966 times larger than  
Gomera

# Islands are laboratories of evolution





264 gomeran endemic species.  
25% of the terrestrial species of the island.



including one of the most endangered lizards of the planet



**.....a mosaic of landscapes and ecosystems in 370 km<sup>2</sup>, half of the hamburg surface.**





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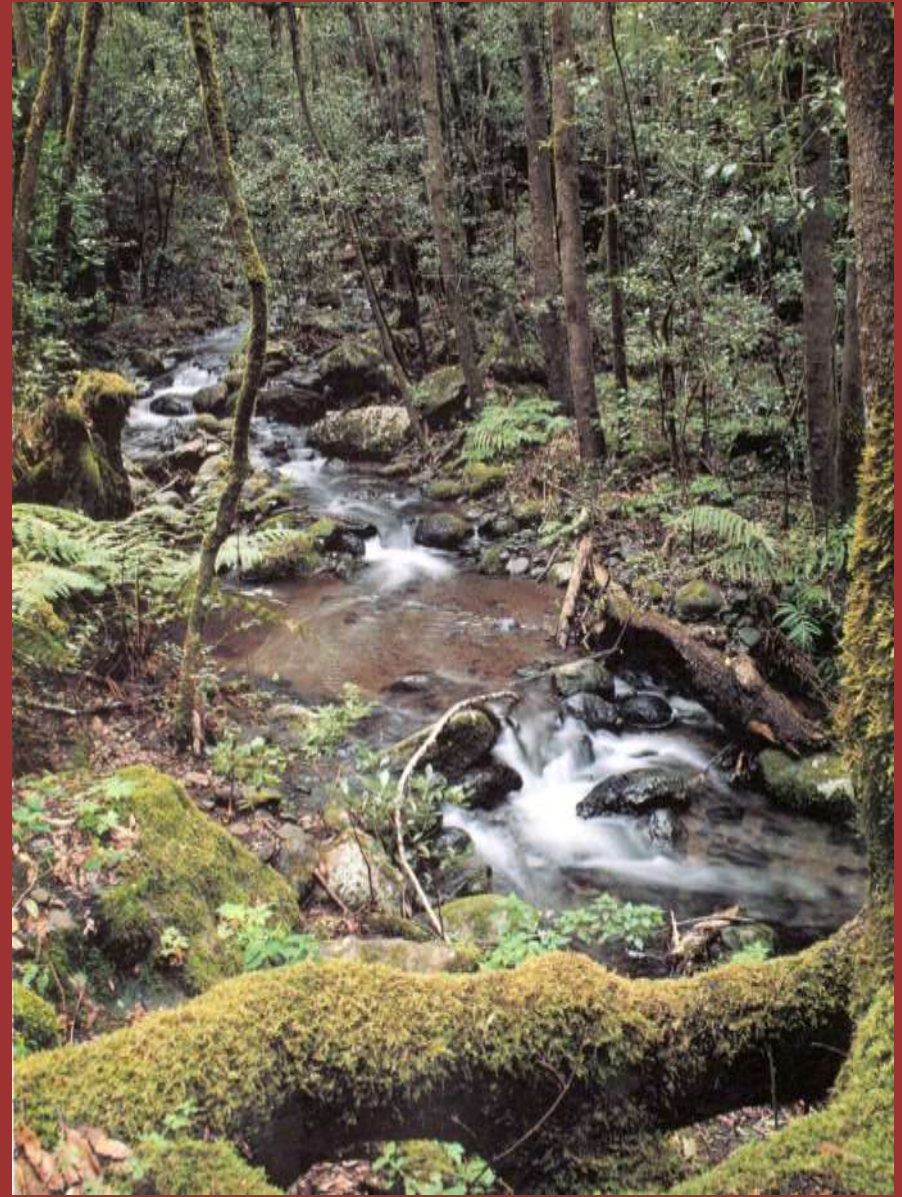


**.....a mosaic of landscapes and ecosystems in 370 km<sup>2</sup>, half of the Hamburg surface.**





# Different ecosystems in 4.000 hectares of the National Park area.





# A variety of settlements....





# A variety of settlements...





# A variety of settlements...





**A heritage which is the result of human adaptation to the environment.**





... singular ways of communication:



El silbo gomero, the whistling language.



A sustainable way to extract the sap from the palm tree.



**MIEL DE PALMA - PALM HONEY**





...a world heritage site crowning the summits of the island:  
the Garajonay National Park.





# INTERPRETATION: A tool to manage Garajonay...



**Attending visitors**



## **INTERPRETATION: A tool to manage Garajonay...**



**Approaching the park values to the visitors.**



# INTERPRETATION: A tool to manage Garajonay...


**Forest fires are the greatest threat to the conservation of Garajonay National Park**

In 1864, Garajonay suffered one of the most tragic forest fires in the Canary Islands. Twenty people lost their lives in this very area, when they were surprised by a fire raging over this hill. The nearby monument is a reminder of that tragedy and still acts to warn us that fire is the main danger to the conservation of Garajonay National Park.

The humidity of the Garajonay National Park evergreen forests may give the impression that the risk of forest fire is minimal, but this is not the case, as the forests of the National Park are surrounded by degraded areas, with some highly inflammable species like the tree heath. Furthermore, the terrain can act as an ally to the fire as there are many places in the park that are very difficult to get to for the available fire fighting resources. Human activity in the hamlets close to the Park is another risk factor.

Our behaviour in the Park should help to prevent fires. Lighting fires is prohibited, except in specially designated areas. Do not smoke or leave fires - especially glass or metal that could start a fire - in forested areas.

**The prevention of the forest fires is a task of all**



Las Escalas area at the end of 1984  
Las Escalas after the fire of 1984

La misma zona en proceso de recuperación  
The same area in process of recovery

**A stairway to take you from arid lands to moisture (Where the mists don't go, neither does the forest)**

Here you can see the influence of the change of slope on the atmosphere we find and on the vegetation around us. As you climb the steps, you will notice that a change in temperature as it gets cooler and a facing of damp.

This is because we are in a place that allows us to see, feel and understand the importance of the orientation of the terrain for the vegetation of the Park.

The way that the moisture reaches most to the park is via a mist that fills the valleys of the west. The penetration of the more humid continental precipitation, is usually greater than the normal rainfall and is constant, it keeps the moisture here through the lack of rainfall.

You only have to go up a few steps to enter a humid bank land, with their rounded trunks completely covered with epiphytes, which are species that grow on the trees to harness the moisture of the atmosphere. As they have the Trunk "knees", they rise with the moisture of the mist and create this rain forest. But next to the park, the air is dry, in the west there are not this far so often, and the vegetation is much less dense than here. So, although it is not a popular ground, you could say that "where the mist don't go, neither does the forest".




La misma composición de árboles cubiertos de epifitas en una zona húmeda.

Desde un refugio, gracias a la humedad derivada de mistic. Por medio del epifitas, gracias a la humedad derivada de mistic.

**GUÍA DE VISITA**

El Parque Nacional de

# Garajonay La Gomera



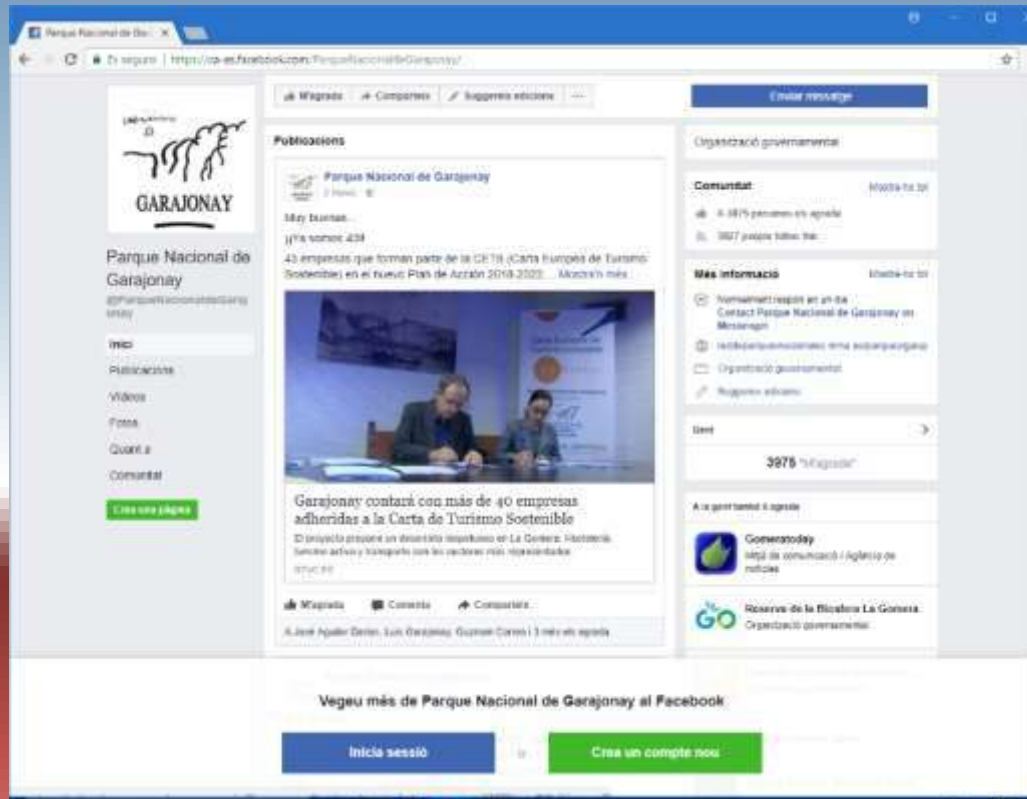
El Parque Nacional de Garajonay - La Gomera

**GARAJONAY**  
PARQUE NACIONAL

printed material and audioguides which reveal meanings and involve visitors in the preservation of the National Park



# INTERPRETATION: A tool to manage Garajonay...



The screenshot shows the Facebook profile page for 'Parque Nacional de Garajonay'. The page features a cover photo of a landscape and a profile picture with the park's logo. The main content area displays a post titled 'Garajonay contará con más de 40 empresas adheridas a la Carta de Turismo Sostenible', which includes a video thumbnail showing two people at a table. The right-hand sidebar provides organizational details, including the number of members (3,887) and a list of related pages like 'Governotoday' and 'Reserva de la Biosfera La Gomera'.



FINDING NEW WAYS OF COMMUNICATION



## **INTERPRETATION: A tool to manage Garajonay...**



**a way to encourage new generations to preserve nature.**



## INTERPRETATION: A tool to manage Garajonay...



Approaching the park to the local people.

## INTERPRETATION: A tool to manage Garajonay...



Finding new ways to approach Garajonay to people with special needs.



## INTERPRETATION: A tool to manage Garajonay...



Giving formation to entrepreneurs and touristic guides of the art of interpreting the patrimony of the park. .

## INTERPRETATION: A tool to manage Garajonay...

### *La viña vertical. Cuando la montaña se convierte en vino*

*Producir vinos en La Gomera es una tarea de héroes. Una viticultura de montaña, vertical, hecha a mano, en armonía con una naturaleza exigente a la vez que generosa. Un paisaje único de terrazas imposibles que debemos salvaguardar.*

*Beber de manera responsable vino de La Gomera crea empleo en el medio rural y preserva un paisaje sublime que ayuda a proteger la isla y el monte de la erosión y los incendios. Los viñedos son magníficos cortafuegos.*



### *Vertical vines. When mountains turn to wine*

*Producing wine on La Gomera is a heroic task. Mountainous, vertical viticulture, done by hand, in harmony with nature is both demanding and generous. It is a unique landscape of unbelievable terraces that must be protected.*

*Responsibly consuming La Gomera's wines creates employment in rural areas and preserves a sublime landscape that helps protect the island and the mountainside from erosion and fires. Grapevines are excellent firewalls.*



Encouraging the consumption of local products, like wine to maintain cultivated areas avoiding wild fires.



# CARTA EUROPEA DE TURISMO SOSTENIBLE

Parque Nacional de Garajonay e Isla de La Gomera

## GARAJONAY NATIONAL PARK

Since 2008.

### *European Charter for Sustainable Tourism*

- New spaces for communication and compromise. 19 Public Institutions , 6 associations and 43 private entrepreneurs working together for the sustainability of the island.*
- Third Action Plan 2018 – 2022 . More than 41 actions focusing on sustainability.*
- ... and of course new areas, where INTERPRETATION become a helpful tool.*

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### SOME EXAMPLES.

- Each entrepreneur acquires skills to inform clients about the patrimony of the whole island as well as the National Park.*
- Interpretative materials and trails are developed by the entrepreneurs in order to approach island patrimony to the visitor.*
- Museums and exhibitions are created by private investors.*
- Some investors are working out environmental educational programs.*



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**SOME ACTIONS WILL BE DEVELOPED BY THE NATIONAL PARK, LIKE...**

- Design of new path ways including interpretative materials, some in the area of the National Park and some in the surrounding areas.*
- Exhibitions in visitor center will be renewed.*
- Formation in the creation of eco- touristic prouducts.*

# CARTA EUROPEA DE TURISMO SOSTENIBLE

Parque Nacional de Garajonay e Isla de La Gomera

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**MORE INFORMATION :**

**<http://turismososteniblelagomera.com/>**

**<http://www.gobiernodecanarias.org/parquesnacionalesdecanarias/es/Garajonay>**

**¡MUCHAS GRACIAS! – THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**