

Protection Categories

National Parks

Generally large or well preserved areas, representative of one of Spain's main natural ecosystems, which have been declared of general interest to the nation by an act issued by the Spanish parliament. These areas contain natural or cultural values of scientific, educational, recreational or aesthetic interest.

Natural Parks

Areas that have been largely unspoilt by farming or human occupation and that constitute an important part of the natural heritage of the Canary Islands. Declaring such areas as natural parks aims to preserve their natural resources, facilitate public enjoyment, education and scientific research.

Regional Parks

Areas in which farming and stockbreeding or fishing activities coexist, involving ecologically important processes, which give rise to a landscape of great interest. The main objective is to preserve the area in its entirety by harmoniously managing local populations and improving their living conditions.

Integral Natural Reserves

Areas dedicated to the exclusive preservation of all their elements and natural processes. Human occupation other than for scientific purposes is not compatible.

Special Natural Reserves

The preservation of singular habitats, specific species, geological formations or natural processes of special interest. Human occupation is only permitted for scientific, educational and, in exceptional cases, recreational or traditional purposes.

Natural Monuments

Natural areas or elements whose evident singularity, rarity or beauty make them targets for special protection.

Protected Landscapes

Areas whose aesthetic and cultural values make them worthy of special protection.

Sites of Scientific Interest

Generally small, isolated enclaves that harbour natural elements of scientific interest, species of animals or plants that are endangered or worthy of specific temporary conservation measures.