



Balsam spurge
(*Euphorbia balsamifera*)



Verode (*Kleinia neriifolia*)



Wild tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*)



European teatree (*Lycium intricatum*)

FLORA

The vegetation is quite homogenous, the original plants having mainly been replaced by others due to livestock pressure.

It is mostly composed of:

Balsam spurges: (*Euphorbia balsamifera*) in the south-west, south and east of the caldera, the southern part being the most degraded due to livestock pressure.

Wild spurges: (*Euphorbia regis-lubae*) occupy the north and west of the caldera alongside verodes (*Kleinia neriifolia*) and the plant locally known as 'white thorn' (*Aparagus pastorianus*).

Arid nitrophilic shrubland: this type of vegetation is the most extensively found throughout the Natural Monument. You will mostly see algohueras (*Chenoleoides tomentosa*), European teatrees (*Lycium intricatum*) and Mediterranean saltworts (*Salsola vermiculata*).

Nitrophilic wild tobacco shrublands: the dominant species being *Nicotiana glauca*.

PERMITTED USES

- Hiking on authorised tracks.

FORBIDDEN USES

- Introducing any exotic or non-indigenous animal or plant in the natural environment.
- Leaving solid or liquid waste on site.
- Damaging or extracting elements of patrimonial, geological and/or biological value.
- The destruction or alteration of Natural Protected Spaces signs.
- Carrying out any activity which goes against the conservation of natural and cultural resources in this area.
- Driving motorised vehicles anywhere in the Monument.

USES REQUIRING AUTHORISATION

- Activities related to scientific and educational purposes.
- Access to the volcanic cone by the authorised track for educational and scientific purposes, except during the Canarian Egyptian vulture nesting season, between 1st March and 15th July (according to the Decree no. 183/2006 of 12th December).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE VISIT

- Respect the regulations and signs of the Natural Monument.
- Do not leave litter on site.
- Wear comfortable and adequate shoes and do not forget to bring sunscreen, food and water with you.
- Keep to the authorised tracks.

REMEMBER
The natural richness of the
island is a value to be
preserved: YOUR
COLLABORATION IS
IMPORTANT



Natural Monument
CALDERA DE GAIRÍA



CORE
ZONE

FUERTEVENTURA



 928 53 36 02
www.cabildofuer.es

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION

It is located in the north east of Tiscamanita and covers both the municipalities of Antigua and Tuineje; It extends over 240.9 ha.



PROTECTION REGULATIONS

The Caldera de Gairía was declared Site of National Natural Interest by the Spanish law no. 12/1987, of 19th June on Natural Areas in the Canaries, and reclassified to its current category by the law no. 12/1994, of 19th December, on Protected Natural Areas. This classification is described in the Spanish Legislative Decree no. 1/2000, which led to the approval of the revised legal text on Town and Country Planning in the Canaries and Natural Areas.

It is considered an ecologically-sensitive area, for the purposes of the law no. 11/1990, of 13th July, on Environmental Impact Prevention.

It was declared a Special Protection Area for Wild Birds by the Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) and a Special Area of Conservation by the European Union Decree no. 174/2009.

The management of this natural area is regimented by conservation regulations according to the Canarian Official Gazette no. 2005/084 of 29th April 2005.

In May 2009, UNESCO declared the area part of the Biosphere Reserve of Fuerteventura.

BIOSPHERE RESERVE

ETHNO-HISTORICAL VALUES:

Related to shepherding:

There are different types of stone walls, locally known as “zocos”, “gambuesas” and “cotos” used to keep livestock from straying.

Related to agriculture:

“Rozas” and “gavias” (croplands with traditional irrigation systems) can be observed in the caldera.

Related to other economic activities:

Extraction of sand and gravel for construction, agricultural (“enarenados” or “arenados”- placement of a layer of lapilli on grounds to be cultivated) and ornamental purposes. This activity is now forbidden.



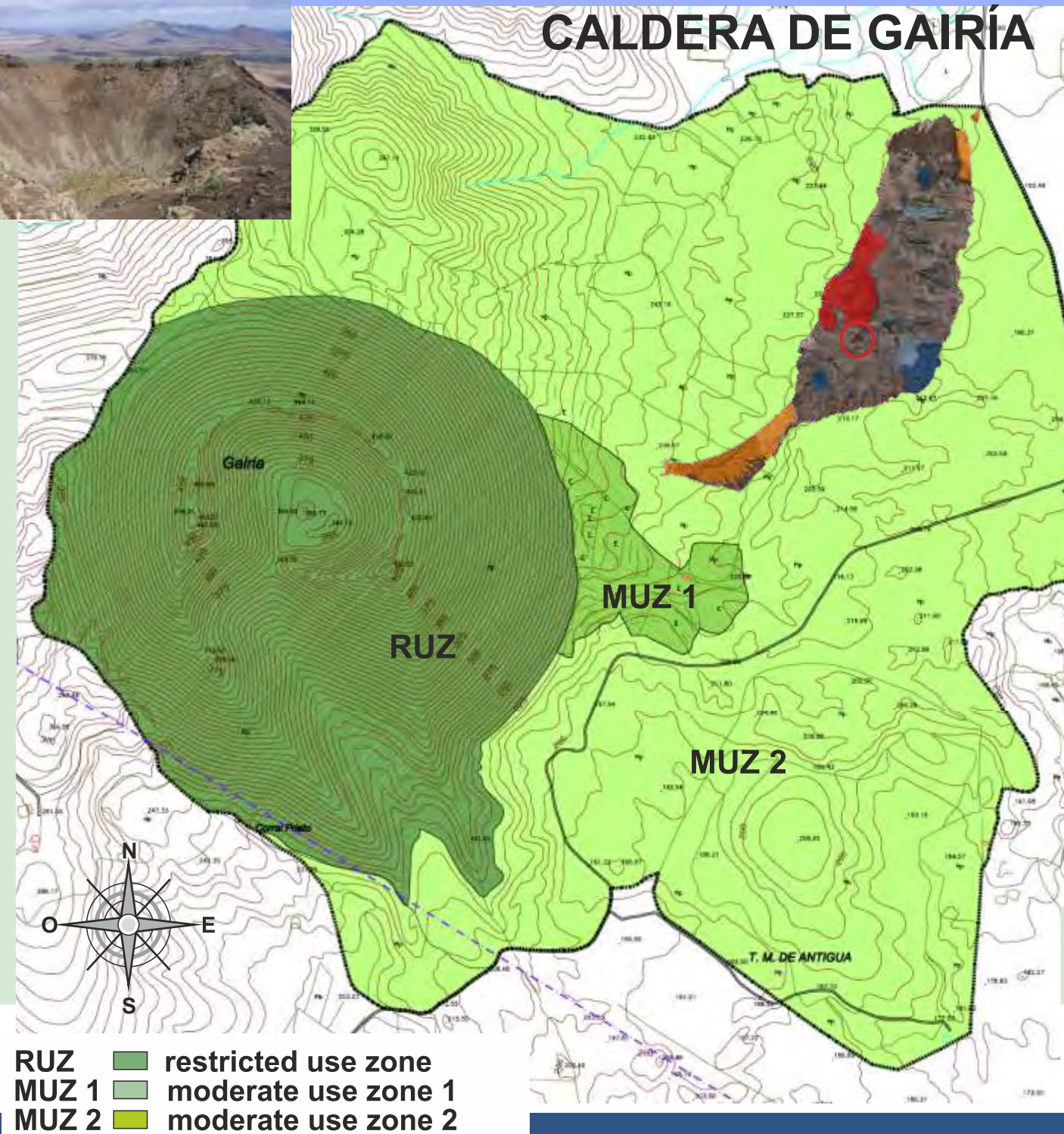
Shepherding



Agriculture



Sand and gravel extraction



GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The Caldera de Gairía (461 m above sea level) is situated in the central plain of Fuerteventura. The landscape is characterised by direct volcanic shapes (cones, craters, lava flows, hornitos, etc.). These features are well conserved as they are geologically young and benefit from a semi-arid climate which has contributed to slowing down the degradation process.



The Caldera de Gairía is constituted with lapilli, scoria and basalt, it is well-stratified and dark-coloured. It stands on the lava of a basalt complex siding other volcano calderas in the south east: Caldera de La Laguna, Caldera de Liria, La Calderita and Caldera de Arrabales. Together, they created extensive lava fields known as Malpaís Chico and Malpaís Grande. The first was left by Caldera de Gairía whereas the second was created by the other four calderas mentioned above. These volcanoes are estimated to be around 100,000 years old. The Caldera de Gairía is the largest and oldest.



Hoopoe
(*Upupa epops*)



East Canary gecko
(*Tarentola angustimentalis*)



“Lisneja”
(*Chalcides simonyi*)



Barn owl
(*Tyto alba*)



Canarian Egyptian vulture
(*Neophron percnopterus maj.*)

FAUNA

• **Reptiles** are represented by: Atlantic lizards (*Gallotia atlantica mahoratae*), East Canary geckoes (*Tarentola angustimentalis*), and “lisnejas” (*Chalcides simonyi*), endemic species of the eastern islands.

• The **mammals** found in this area were all brought to the island. You will see: rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), house mice (*Mus domesticus*), house rats (*Rattus rattus*), Barbary ground squirrels (*Atlantoxerus getulus*), North African hedgehogs (*Atelerix algirus*), goats (*Capra hircus*) and sheep (*Ovis aries*). There is also a particularly outstanding animal in this area as it can only be found on the eastern islands: the Kuhl's pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus kuhlii*).

• **Birds:** Birds of prey such as common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*), Barbary falcons (*Falco tinnunculus*), the threatening Canarian Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus majorensis*) and barn owls (*Tyto alba*) nest in the caldera.

• There are also **steppe birds** such as the stone curlew (*Burhinus oediconemus insularum*) and black-bellied sandgrouse (*Pterocles orientalis orientalis*).

There can see passerine birds as well, such as the hoopoe (*Upupa epops*), the lesser short-toed lark (*Calandrella rufescens polatzeki*), the Berthelot's pipit (*Anthus berthelotii berthelotii*), the trumpeter finch (*Bucanetes githagineus amantum*), the common raven (*Corvus corax canariensis*) and the endemic Canary Island stonechat (*Saxicola dacotiae dacotiae*).