

GEOMORPHOLOGY

There are several volcanic elements:

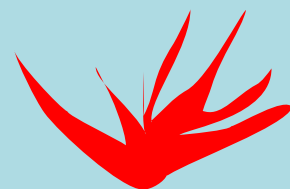
Volcano: It is locally called Volcán de la Arena, and is situated in the centre of the Natural Monument. It has a double crater and several mouths.

Volcanic cone: It has pyroclastic and scoriaceous walls and its base is strewn with rock waste and spatter.

Lava flows (Malpaís): They surround the main volcano. There are two types: scoriaceous lavas with loose blocks and smooth pahoehoe lavas with relatively flat surfaces; it is the only volcano of the island to have these features.

There are also singular volcanic tubes and openings as a result of an eruption in which you can appreciate hornitos or lava openings similar to spatter cones where gases were released; for instance: Cuevas del Diablo, the hornito of Los Picos and that of Las Burras.

Altered lava flow: In the south east of the crater, there is an alteration because of the union of two lava flows.



View from Lajares



View onto a track



View from Lajares



PERMITTED USES:

- Hiking on authorised tracks created for that purpose, except when there are temporary limitations in the breeding season.
- Recreational or educational uses which are compatible with the conservation of natural and cultural resources of the area.
- Taking photos of animals and plants from the tracks without altering their wellbeing.

FORBIDDEN USES:

- Introduction of species that do not belong to the protected natural area.
- Creation of new paths and tracks.
- Use of any motorised vehicle outside the authorised tracks.
- Any action which could cause degradation or loss of the heritage.
- Destruction or alteration of signs in the area.
- Lighting fires.
- Leaving litter on the monument.
- Any other activity which goes against the protected natural area.

USES REQUIRING AUTHORISATION:

- Scientific activities or activities for the conservation of the environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE VISIT

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



Natural Monument
MALPAIS DE LA ARENA




CORE
ZONE

FUERTEVENTURA



MALPAIS DE LA ARENA

 928 53 36 02

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION:

The Natural Monument of Malpaís de la Arena extends over 870.8 ha and is situated in the northern part of the island, close to the towns of La Oliva, Villaverde and Lajares.

PROTECTION REGULATIONS:

The Malpaís de la Arena was declared Natural Site of National Interest by the Spanish law no. 12/1987, of 19th June, on Natural Areas in the Canaries, and reclassified to its current category as Natural Monument 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.

The monument is an ecologically-sensitive area, for the purposes of the law no. 11/1990, of 13th July on Environmental Impact Prevention. It was also declared a Special Protection Area according to Decree no. 174/2009.

The management of this natural area is regimented by conservation regulations according to the Canarian Official Gazette no. 39 of 22th February 2007.

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



BIOSPHERE RESERVE

FLORA:

The vegetation is not very developed in this area because of the lack of substratum. You will mostly see lichens: ramalinas (tiny greenish non-vascular plants that stick to rocks or to other plants), xanthorias (orangy patches on rocks) and archil lichens (*Roccella*) (small, dark-coloured twiggy lichens from which a natural colouring is extracted).

Some species have developed in cracks and small cavities such as 'dog tooth' (*Caralluma burchardii*) which are locally known as 'dog tooth', cactus-like plants found in the Canaries and Morocco, the plant locally known as "tajame" (*Ruteheosis herbanica*), wild spurges (*Regis-jubae*), verodes (*Kleinia neriifolia*), "tasaigos" (*Rubia fruticosa*), an endemic shrublike plant and European teatrees (*Licium intricatum*).

There are light-coloured, disperse halophilic shrubs scattered over the sandy area.

Last but not least, there are other noteworthy species in the area: henequens (*Agave fourcydes*), wild tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), gorse (*Launaea arborescens*) and prickly pears (*Opuntia sp.*).



'Dog tooth'
(*Caralluma burchardii*)



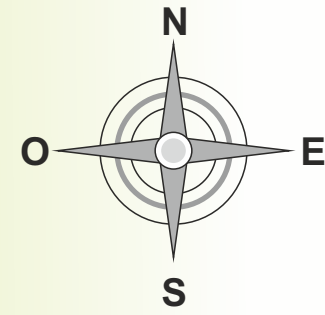
European teatree
(*Lycium intricatum*)







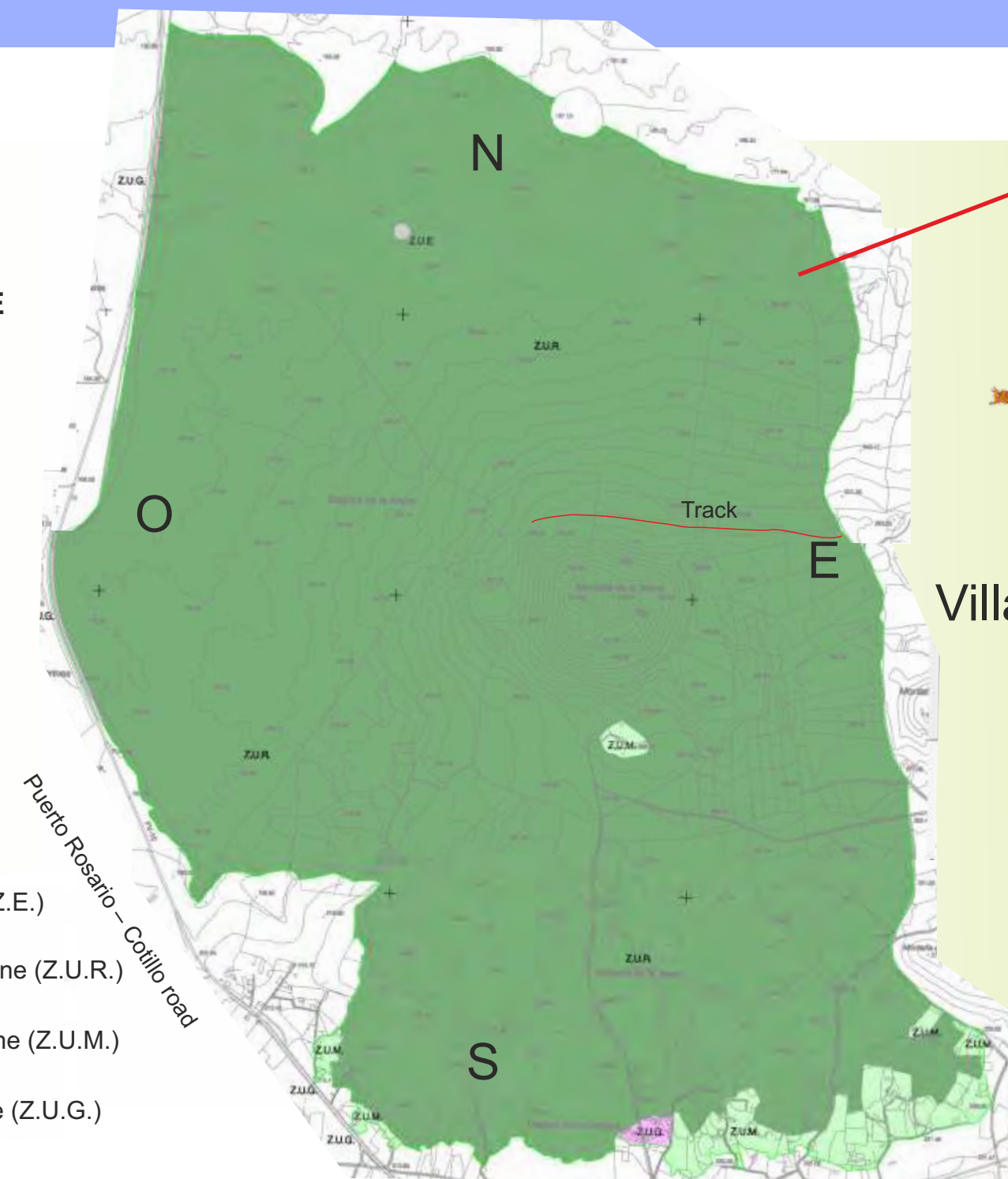
Ramalina



Xantoria



-  Exclusion zone (Z.E.)
-  Restricted use zone (Z.U.R.)
-  Moderate use zone (Z.U.M.)
-  General use zone (Z.U.G.)



Villaverde



"Chuchanga"
(*Theba geminata*)



Fuerteventura Rock Grasshopper
(*Arminia fuerteventurae*)



Harvestman
(*Maioresus randoi*)



Cream-coloured courser
(*Cursorius cursor*)

FAUNA:

Among reptiles, you may see Atlantic lizards (*Gallotia atlantica*), East Canary geckoes (*Tarentola angustimentalis*), and "lisnejas" (*Chalcides simponyi*).

The most noteworthy birds of the area are common buzzards (*Buteo buteo insularum*), Canarian Egyptian vultures (*Neophron pecnopterus majorensis*), an endemic subspecies of Fuerteventura, Barbary falcons (*Falco pelegrinoides*), cream-coloured coursers (*Cursorius cursor*), and cory's shearwaters (*Calonectris diomedea*), which nest here in breeding season, trumpeter finches el (*Bucanetes githagineus*).

Among the mammals there are Kuhl's pipistrelles (*Pipistellus kuhli*) and Canarian shrews (*Crocidura canariensis*).

It is also important to mention the presence of some invertebrates: land snails locally known as "chuchangas" (*Theba geminata*) and purpurarian stone grasshoppers (*Purpuraria erna*).