Spain
Lanzarote

**Declaration date:** 7 October 1993
**Surface area:** 122,610 ha (84,610 ha on land) (core: 11 per cent; buffer: 36 per cent; transition: 53 per cent)
**Administrative division:** 7 Municipalities have territory in the Biosphere Reserve

**Human activities:**

The primary sector has gradually lost importance vis-à-vis the tourist sector that has a network of centres designed by the Lanzarotan artist César Manrique. These blend perfectly with the natural environment. The Cabildo limits urban excess through the Insular Land Plan, adopted in 2001 by the Government of the Canaries. The Biosphere Reserve Council undertakes defence in general interests.

**Ecological characteristics:**

The Island is relatively flat (maximum altitude 670 m), of volcanic origin, with vast lava fields, known as malpais, and a profusion of craters in the Timanfaya National Park. There are also shallow sea beds harbouring a great wealth of biodiversity. The climate is dry sub-tropical, with trade winds and a mean annual rainfall of 115 mm, and no permanent water courses. The vegetation is xerophyllus adapted to storing and retaining humidity. There is a high number of endemic species. The island culture developed a series of adaptations to trap and use the scant and unpredictable rainfall. This is the case of agricultural techniques for sowing under ash and volcanic sheet flows under inverted cones forming unique landscapes such as those of the Geria valley.

**Protection classifications:**

- National Park
- Natural Park (2)
- Comprehensive Natural Reserve
- Specially Protected Bird Area (SPBA) (5)
- Natural Monument (5)
- Site of Scientific Interest (2)
- Protected Landscape (2)
- Marine Reserve
- Site of Community Interest (SCI) (11)

**Contact information:**

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![Cliffs at Famara](Gerardo García-Casanova)

![Crops growing in volcanic sand](L. Perea)