

The Visitor's Centre in the Fuencaliente lighthouse is a window opened to the sea, to its universal essences and current problems and also to possible solutions.

The marine reserve of the island of La Palma offers its image and unique characteristics to sustain a backdrop representing the fragility of the submarine world that exists at the foot of any cliff. It is a creative proposal offering strong visual solutions designed to make us think about the commitment needed for conservation and sustainable uses of the sea.

But the sea itself doesn't talk, it whispers; and this is why written information has been reduced to a minimum in the Centre. What is left to us is sight, touch and sound to express a twin reality, the opposite ends of the same phenomenon: the suffering sea and the joyful sea.

The beam of this lighthouse penetrates our unconscious rather than our reason. The visitor is confronted with parallel feelings of relaxation and repulsion through the contemplation of contrasting images: the abused beauty of the trapped dolphin, fossilized fishes, the bitter-sweet touch of bronze and lava rock, the fragile harmony of the submarine world littered with rubbish and waste... and all this through the amazing vision of a diver, in a atmosphere of music where the breathing of a submerged human being is set against an unreal world of whale song and dolphin squeaks. A proposal of silence: a reflection on the fragility of the submarine world and the beauty of regenerated life.

Design of the centre and sculptures Miguel Mansanet © 2006
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The marine reserve

The marine reserve aims to be a space where human beings and the sea can meet hand in hand, where its inhabitants, marine organisms and fishermen have to continue living in harmony.

Its main aim is to protect and enhance the marine resources of fishing interest, preserving sustainable areas where local fishermen can maintain their traditional way of life.

It is an educational tool for the environment and the fisheries. It raises awareness of the need to conserve the marine environment and to use the species of interest to humans in a responsible way.

The marine reserve is the heritage of all of us.
Help us to preserve it.

La Palma Island Marine Reserve Information Centre

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Fuencaliente Lighthouse

Marine Reserve

Visitor Centre

La Palma Island





Each year 6.4 million tons of waste are dumped into the sea.

Of this waste, 70% ends up on the sea bed, 15% on the beaches, and the remaining 15% floats.

Thousands of whales, dolphins, turtles and marine birds die every year asphyxiated by plastic bags.

Sharks living at depths of more than 700 metres have been found with cigarette butts in their stomachs, in the Canary Islands.

The calculated ratio of plastic in the sea goes up to 13,000 pieces per km².



About 600,000 tons of oil are spilt into the oceans every year.

Most of the crude oil spills occur in routine operations when loading, unloading, cleaning, etc. and usually in ports or oil terminals.

But there are also accidents... in Spain alone, there have been more than 20 oil slicks caused by oil tankers that have sunk, making a total of more than 300,000 tons of spills on our coastline since 1969.

A high percentage of global tanker traffic passes by the coasts of the Canary Islands.

Since the Prestige catastrophe maritime oil traffic has increased by 12%...



Some 75% of the pollutants that reach the sea come from land activities, through rivers, gullies, waste pipes...

In 1994, 2,114 million people, or 37% of the world's population, lived less than 60 km from the sea.

In 2006 3,300 million people were living in this situation... and they dumped 300,000 m³ of waste liquid into the sea, 70% of it completely untreated.

In 2050, around 7,200 million people will be living in coastal areas.

In the Canary Islands more than 90% of the population lives less than 30 km from the coast.

**"I am only one.
I can only do what one can do.
But what one can do I will
do!"**

John Seymour

**"In nature
There are no rewards or
punishments;
there are consequences."**

Horace A. Vachell

**"Whoever wants to move a
mountain
starts by moving
the small stones."**

**"A journey of a thousand
miles
begins with a single step."**
Chinese sayings

