

New map of La Palma: the Grafcan collects the effects of the volcano eruption

CANARY ISLANDS7 The Gran Canarian palms

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The Ministry of Ecological Transition, Fight against Climate Change and Territorial Planning of the Government of the Canary Islands, through the public company Cartografía de Canarias (Grafcan), has published the update of the vegetation maps of the islands of Lanzarote and La Palma

in the web viewer of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Canary Islands (IDECanarias).

The work includes the effects of the volcanic eruption as a novelty and it has also been possible to identify a new plant unit that had not been previously mapped: plantations with species from Monteverde, in the Laguna de Barlovento area.

The councilor responsible for the area,

Jose Antonio Valbuena, explained that it has been based on the map completed in 2006 and its subsequent specific modifications. This update, he highlights, "has been undertaken through the recognition of plant units on digital spatial data sets available in the Canary Islands Territorial Information System (SITCAN) and different field work".

Methodologically, the same phytosociological criteria that were used in the previous map have been applied:

the Braun-Blanquet-Tüxen system, mapping woody vegetation (shrubs and trees) at association range and herbaceous vegetation at higher range. "In this way, the coherence of the whole of the **Canary Islands Vegetation Map** and coordination with the **Map of Natural Habitats of Community Interest (2016)**", stressed the counselor.

The work has had a phase supported by GIS tools and spatial data sets from SITCAN and a complementary field campaign aimed at clarifying and selectively verifying photo-interpretations. All the information has been organized in a spatial database whose design and quality control have been supervised by Grafcan.