



## ANNEX IV

# Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria Cultural Landscape

## **Integrated Management Plan**

November 2017



**CABILDO DE GRAN CANARIA**



Figure 1. Roque Nublo © Daniel López / IAC

## Index

- 1. Introduction - 5
- 2. Vision - 6
- 3. Objectives - 7
- 4. Integrated Management Plan:  
areas, measures and actions - 8
  - 4.1. Protection and conservation - 9
  - 4.2. Research and monitoring - 11
  - 4.3. Education and capacity building - 14
  - 4.5. Public use system and knowledge-based sustainable tourism - 18
  - 4.6. Dissemination and outreach - 21
  - 4.7. Planning instruments and by-laws - 22
  - 4.8. Participation, co-ordination and management - 24
- 5. Integrated Management Plan perspectives for 2018 - 28





Figure 2. Risco Caído almogaren © Tarek Ode

# 1. Introduction

The Integrated Management Plan (IMP) is the general management tool that will help conserve and enhance the outstanding universal value of “Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria Cultural Landscape”. The IMP establishes the framework for looking after the nominated property in a sustainable manner and in compliance with UNESCO’s World Heritage Convention.

The IMP is conceived as a tool to be used by all players and stakeholders interested in protecting and promoting the Cultural Landscape of Risco Caído and the sacred mountains of Gran Canaria in a sustainable and participative fashion. The IMP aims to provide a holistic vision for managing the nominated property, with a special relationship with the unique values of this space, including the attributes that underpin its designation as World Heritage. Thus, it sets a vision, objectives and goals, which in turn, form a foundation for the raft of measures to be implemented in different areas. Against this backdrop, the IMP presents a set of actions, measures and initiatives that have either already been launched or which are scheduled to be rolled out in the next few years.

When drawing up the Integrated Management Plan, the central focus has been sustainability, particularly against the benchmark of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is reflected in the spirit of the Plan. The final aim of these measures is to protect and conserve the nominated area for future generations while, at the same time, contributing to the welfare of the local residents, as the main guarantors of the cultural landscape and its associated heritage. The IMP also envisages the need to establish the necessary measures to be able to offer visitors the best possible opportunities to experience and value the heritage and the quality of the different components of the cultural landscape responsibly and with knowledge-based criteria. Another objective of the IMP however, is to make this space a benchmark, not just to discover and appreciate the legacy of the ancient Canarians, but also as a space that helps people to reflect on the relationship that these people had with nature, including the skyline, and how this set of beliefs and know-how can inspire new perspectives today for the sustainable and resource-friendly use of the territory.

Conserving the cultural landscape and the associated cultural and natural properties, sustainability, reinforcing the local identity and cultural diversity, and developing the local economy, underpinned by its heritage, are the transversal strands of this Integrated Management Plan and of the management model adopted. Grass-roots participation in defining the objectives and the terms of the IMP has constituted a fundamental cornerstone of the philosophy right from the very beginning of the nomination process, and it will continue to do so going forward.

Ever since the first draft in 2015, the Integrated Management Plan has taken decisive steps towards a new, sustainable management strategy for the nominated property. But the work does not stop there. Managing the area is an on-going process that has to constantly consider the changes that occur and guarantee that the values and attributes remain intact over the long term. For this reason, the Management Plan will be constantly up-dated with adjustments and new initiatives, using an up-stream process that includes all the stakeholders. In fact, the IMP is revised every year, so this is the 2017 version.

## 2. Vision

We believe that protecting, conserving and enhancing the Outstanding Universal Value of the Risco Caído and Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria candidacy for World Heritage Status will act as a catalyst and flagship for conserving and protecting a far more ample heritage related to the Amazigh culture and with ancient, isolated island cultures such as those that have evolved in the Canary Islands.

We believe that the values contained in this space can act as the driving force for the sustainable, economic diversification of this rural area, including responsible tourism, and become the cornerstone for teaching history, archaeology, cultural astronomy, natural history and heritage on all levels. Given the size and territorial uniformity of the highlands of Gran Canaria, which allow a rapid dissemination of information and the participation of the local community on all levels, we consider that the project could become an exemplary model for integrated heritage and territory management, including the skyscape.

We acknowledge the fact that the universal importance of the site has emerged as the direct result of scientific research over recent decades, including archaeological excavations. In this context, we consider that permanent research on the site constitutes the foundation for understanding it and to be able to conserve and interpret it fully.



Figure 3. The conservation and appraisal of the cultural, ethnographic and scenic resources is one of the basic objectives of managing the nominated property © Julio Cuenca

### 3. Objectives

The main objective for Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria Cultural Landscape is to ensure protection, scientific studies and communication of the values that form the basis for the nomination of the area to be inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The overall aims of the Integrated Management Plan are:

- Ensuring effective protection and safeguarding the cultural landscape's attributes and components.
- Fostering and rolling out the scientific and research work that will enhance our knowledge of the cultural, archaeological, ethnographic, natural and scenic values to be found there.
- Guaranteeing the continued participation of the local population in the process of managing the nominated property, ensuring interest, respect and pride in the values of the space.
- Defining and describing the different players' tasks in relation to managing, protecting, preserving, developing and presenting the nominated property.
- Ensuring an instrument that allows the responsibilities and tasks of all the actors concerned, both public and private, to be clearly delimited.
- Unifying management criteria and lines of action of all the administrations with competences in the area.
- Offering a tool that can guarantee co-ordination and co-operation among the different stakeholders in conserving and promoting the nominated property.
- Accounting for challenges and describing measures that have already been completed or will be initiated to protect the area's integrity.
- Reinforcing the promotion, appreciation and responsible use of heritage in the area by addressing education, research and knowledge tourism.
- Providing a management instrument capable of offering incentives for innovation, promoting quality economies and the creation of a space committed to the United Nations' SDGs, maintaining the values that comprise the cultural landscape.
- Fostering sustainable and intelligent heritage-based tourism and the development of responsible tourism products anchored by the unique properties of the resources and attributes of the Cultural Landscape.
- Keeping alive the traditions, techniques and useful know-how that comprise the identity of this territory, as an expression of a model in harmony with nature and cultural heritage that inspires present and future generations on the island.
- Recovering the skyscape of the ancient Canarians as an expression of the cultural alliance between the past and the future.

## 4. Integrated Management Plan: areas, measures and actions

The Integrated Management Plan includes the general framework of measures and lines of action for managing the Cultural Landscape, together with the specific actions and projects to be implemented, distributed in eight management areas:

- Protection and conservation
- Research and monitoring
- Education and capacity-building
- Sustainable local development and brand
- Public use system and knowledge-based sustainable tourism
- Dissemination and outreach
- Planning instruments and by-laws
- Participation, co-ordination and management

PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and conservation measures concerning the cultural, material and immaterial properties, physical interventions and regulations</li> <li>• Protection, refurbishment and conservation measures concerning the landscape, territory, geo-diversity and biodiversity and traditional activities</li> </ul>
RESEARCH AND MONITORING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme of archaeological and archaeoastronomical research, scientific studies and technical studies / Other environmental, ethnographic and scenic / Activity of the Scientific Committee and agreements with scientific institutions.</li> <li>• K.P.I.s, monitoring, inventories and Geographic Information System - GIS</li> </ul>
PARTICIPATION AND COORDINATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process of participation: public entities, private entities, civic society and local population</li> <li>• Participation System / Co-ordination Structure / inter-administrative co-operation</li> </ul>
EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme of educational actions: local population, schools, society in general</li> <li>• Training and skill-building programmes and actions: conservation, interpretation, sustainable tourism, Starlight guides</li> </ul>
LOCAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BRAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fostering economies of quality and local activities based on promoting landscape resources and cultural heritage</li> <li>• Development of RCMGC Brand</li> </ul>
PUBLIC USE SYSTEM AND TOURISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Use system for the space and the archaeological properties / Carrying Capacity / Infrastructures, museums, interpretation centres and signage</li> <li>• Develop sustainable, responsible tourist products based on the values of the space</li> </ul>
DISSEMINATION AND OUTREACH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissemination and communication strategy based on the values of the nominated property: Educational activity</li> <li>• Meetings, Workshops, Publications, Multi-media, Web Site, Digital Information Systems and Social Media</li> </ul>
PLANNING INSTRUMENTS AND RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fitting the Management Plan in with general and sectoral planning, Structure of Competences and Steering Committee and Board of Governors.</li> <li>• Financial resources / Human resources</li> </ul>

Figure 4. Structure of the Cultural Landscape of Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria Integrated Management Plan and its different thematic areas © Cabildo de Gran Canaria

## 4.1. Protection and conservation

The efficient protection of the outstanding universal values of Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria consists of guaranteeing that the designated area can be passed on from the present to future generations in the best possible conditions. It is therefore of decisive importance to safeguard the values and the integrity of the nominated area.

This section addresses the set of protection and conservation measures that deal with the cultural heritage, encompassing restoration actions, maintenance and regulations for use. It also includes the protection, rehabilitation and conservation measures for the landscape, skyline, geodiversity and biodiversity.

Notwithstanding new provisions, the actions and interventions carried out, started or scheduled in the IMP cover:

### **a) Protection, conservation, maintenance and stability projects and actions for the archaeological and ethnographic sites in the Cultural Landscape.**

In the first phase, these actions affect the sites of Risco Caído, Risco Chapín, Bentayga-Cuevas del Rey, Mesa de Acusa and Barranco Hondo-La Poza. On top of this, there is also the conservation work on the rock art manifestations.

Apart from the actions that have been taken in recent years, addressing the fitting out, restoration and stabilisation of the Rico Caído y Cuevas de la Paja complex, an ambitious package of measures is scheduled to start in 2017 that includes:

- The works scheduled in the “Plan for Adapting, Refurbishing and Showcasing the Risco Caído Cultural Property” that include fitting out the arrival and parking area, the plans and execution of the exterior treatment of the complex.
- Conservation actions and restoration work on the set of caves: C8, C5, C10, C11 and C12.
- Restoration of walls and the elimination of exotic and invasive vegetation from the area.
- Recovery and restoration of the caves with paleontological remains.
- Conservation projects in Cueva Candiles, Cueva Caballero and Cueva del Cagarutal, to apply the measures proposed in the study “State of conservation of the artificial caves with rock art manifestations of the ancestral Canarians”, drawn up by PROPAC, contemplating conservation, restoration and protection measures for the site as part of the archaeological intervention.
- Restoration work and the enclosure of the main sites in Mesa de Acusa.
- Specific action plan for fitting out the peripheral areas of the archaeological sites, including landscaping and specific signage for the whole area.

## **b) Public acquisition policy**

Culminate the acquisitions policy to complete the acquisition of the main sensitive sites that form part of the main attributes of the nominated property. In recent years, the acquisitions policy has bought properties such as the troglodyte complex of Risco Caído, Cueva Candiles, Cueva de la Paja and certain Acusa caves and lands in the Bentayga Highlands. One of the acquisitions established in the Integrated Management Plan for the next period is the set of painted caves, granaries and cave dwellings of the Cuevas del Rey site. By way of indication, Cabildo has allocated a line in the 2017 budget for this as part of the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan.

## **c) Actions to recover the surrounding scenery and eliminate impacts**

The immediate actions in this area of management include the “Scenic recovery and refurbishment of the settlement and surroundings of Roque – Cuevas del Rey (Tejeda) Project” and the recovery and treatment of the aboriginal trails providing access to the archaeological sites, including the nominated Cultural Landscape in the Cabildo of Gran Canaria Trail network programme in co-ordination with the other competent areas.

The impact elimination and reduction programme includes actions to blend in infrastructures like electricity and telephone lines at the most sensitive points and treatment of the surroundings around historic or recent troglodyte houses, especially in the buffer zone of Barranco Hondo.

The quality of the night sky also forms part of this raft of measures. After the Council of Artenara started the process of replacing the lightbulbs in the street lighting, the inventory of the current lighting system will be completed in the course of 2018 in order to roll out the substitution programme in order to create a light pollution-free space.

## **d) Environmental protection and restoration measures**

These actions include continuing to reforest and restore critical ecosystems and habitats in a co-ordinated fashion in the Integrated Management Plan. It also addresses protection measures for species and their habitats that have been put in place in the area in question.

With respect to the dimension of environmental protection and conservation of the landscape and biodiversity, the IMP is underpinned by the action and management plans arising from the fact that this space is a protected area and the competences of the Department of the Environment of the Cabildo of Gran Canaria. This includes the habitat and species recovery programmes, reforestation programmes and fire prevention and control programmes.

The spending to be made this year on the Integrated Management Plan is estimated at nearly €7m, basically on archaeological heritage and cultural properties, without taking ordinary conservation and environmental actions into consideration.

## 4.2. Research and monitoring

This includes all actions and programmes concerning archaeological and archaeoastronomical research, ethnographic heritage, biodiversity, state-of-the-art knowledge about the heritage and culture of the ancient Canarians or the new trends in science that bring innovative visions to bear to the attributes of the property, with a view to better understanding its value, importance, how representative it is and suitable conservation criteria.

The research process that has been rolled out in the Integrated Management Plan, which will be under constant, multi-disciplinary review, will therefore be aimed at discovering, analysing, recording and documenting the archaeological heritage and at proposing preventative conservation and restoration measures for the rich cultural and natural heritage legacy to be found in the property by guaranteeing the integrity of the cultural landscape.

The IMP considers that one important aspect of the research is that knowledge communicated to the general public about the values of the nominated property be based on scientific research. In this context, important tasks include securing new research into the main attributes of the cultural landscape and to make the research results meaningful to the different groups of visitors – whether they are schoolchildren, residents of the island, tourists or others.

The following lines of action are envisaged in this area:

### a) New scientific studies and trends

Carry out scientific work and studies on the main sites in the area of the property, in consonance with the consolidation and restoration work, and reinforce the scientific work applied to all fields of knowledge relating to the main attributes and components of the property.

Research actions are envisaged for the following fields:

- A study of the settlement model and its evolution over time (datings)
- Temples and astronomical markers. Extension of the specific studies of the astronomical relations of the main archaeoastronomical attributes
- Fortified granaries. Comparative studies, including studies of the seeds and an approach to the aboriginal economy
- Funeral practises
- The symbolic world: objects of worship, paintings, engravings
- Habitat in caves and above-ground: patterns and techniques; hierarchical organisation and function
- The transversal role of women, the gender dimension in the property and its diachronic vision
- Comparative analysis of troglodyte architecture and its temples on the ground
- The distinctiveness of agricultural practises, farmlands, terraces, including new stud-

ies of the agricultural biodiversity

- Livestock: enhance knowledge of pastoral routes; grazing pastures and livestock infrastructure; genetic studies of native livestock species
- Study of paleontological resources and paleo-landscapes
- Specific research projects on potential biodiversity and landscapes
- Specific geological studies of the area
- Ethnographic studies: the world of beliefs, experiences, trades and other expressions of endangered immaterial heritage
- Historical study and documentary analysis
- Inventory and digital classification of the ethnographic collection
- New comparative studies with the manifestations of the Berber culture relating to the attributes of the property

The following areas are defined for technical studies and monitoring:

- Up-dating archaeological, ethnographic and paleontological inventories of the environment. Revision and up-dating of Archaeological and Ethnographic Maps
- Dedicated inventories
- Diagnosis of pathologies and measures to be taken, with special emphasis on the troglodyte attributes of the property
- Micro-climatic studies and monitoring environmental parameters
- Seismic studies and monitoring
- Graphic surveys, photogrammetric studies, laser scan surveys
- Time-elapse photographic series to monitor hierophanies and manifestations of the astronomical culture, as has been done for Risco Caído in the campaigns of recent years
- New conservation techniques and methodologies (rocks, pigments, etc.)
- Application of new conservation technologies
- Maintain the Geographic Information System developed specifically for monitoring the property permanently
- Archaeological surveys
- Campaigns to monitor sky quality parameters as a tool to prevent the effects of light pollution

By way of example, the actions carried out, as part of the Integrated Management Plan, in-

clude works such as photogrammetric surveys and geo-radar work at the troglodyte complex of Risco Caído and in the Risco Chapín sanctuary (Cueva Candiles and Cueva Caballeros). Monitoring systems have also been put in place for microclimatic parameters (temperature and relative humidity) by installing HOBO Data Loggers and other measuring equipment in the caves for a period of two years. In fact, the actions and work done in the area of Risco Caído have become a reference laboratory for all the other future actions to be carried out in implementing the Integrated Management Plan.

### **b) Consolidating the work of the Scientific Committee**

Extension and consolidation of the nomination's Scientific Committee, which will help to give the studies greater rigour, as well as setting medium and long-term guidelines, in line with scientifically enriching the nominated property, orienting the IMP actions in general, in line with the history, island culture, its environment and landscape.

The Scientific Committee was set up in 2015, and it is currently comprised of 45 local, national and international experts. It has been key for orienting many of the actions and objectives set in the Integrated Management Plan, and also for setting priorities for managing the property properly.

### **c) Enhancing co-operation with other scientific institutions**

Draw up new co-operations agreements with scientific institutions who join those already aboard, such as the Royal Institute of Amazigh Culture, the CSIC, the ULPGC, the University of Malta, or the World Tourism Organisation's Knowledge Network.



Figure 5. Partial view of the troglodyte settlement of Cueva de la Paja, one of the attributes included in the Integrated Management Plan acquisition programme © Cabildo de Gran Canaria

### 4.3. Education and capacity building

This area includes actions aimed at education and training, which are important issues associated with the values of the space in order to ensure proper attitudes among the population in the long term.

As far as education goes, the participative process put in place has highlighted some of the top-priority lines of action in this area of management, such as:

- Fostering and rescuing the contents of the culture and heritage of the ancient Canarians from being forgotten altogether in schools by promoting a stringent and worthy approach to how they are considered, reinforcing, disseminating and valuing the wealth and diversity of their natural and cultural heritage. The good state of conservation of landscapes and heritage is closely linked to the awareness that local citizens have of them;
- Promoting the creation and/or reinforcing centres and workshops to research and recover culture, ethnographic traditions, architecture and traditional trades;
- Overcoming the cliché that suggests that popular culture and traditions belong to the past and associate and link them to contemporary culture as they are an essential source for making contemporary culture genuine, profound and with its own content, roots and sensitivity.

In this context, the Integrated Management Plan envisages maintaining or creating new training courses or workshops for the local population in areas such as:

- Training courses for young researchers into values and matters associated with the nominated property, especially those relating to new archaeological research methods.
- Training courses for guides about the cultural, archaeological and ethnographic heritage, including aspects relating to the landscape, as a continuation of the experience developed over recent years.
- Courses for Starlight guides that will provide them with rigorous and appropriate training to consolidate tourism activities associated with the skyscape, based on astronomy and the archaeoastronomical values of the space. The Action Plan for the area as a Starlight destination envisages rolling out these first training actions in 2018.
- Training workshops aimed at maintaining the process of recovering aboriginal pottery and its techniques.
- Training actions and support measures for maintaining transhumance, including the creation of a Shepherd School for training young people with a view to guaranteeing replacements for current herdsmen and the long-term survival of the activity in the area.
- Practical training courses aimed at recovering the use of native species such as pre-

historic barley and its use in local quality products.

- Training courses aimed at improving and guaranteeing the authenticity of local quality products like artisanal cheeses.
- Training workshops for working in stone, in order to recover the trade of “piquero” or cave digger.

The Management Centre that is scheduled to be opened in the heart of the nominated property in the next few years will make a significant contribution to unifying and driving these activities in a co-ordinated manner.



Figure 6. Mesa de Acusa © Cabildo de Gran Canaria

## 4.4. Sustainable local development and brand

This is the area that affects the economic activities of the territory and its buffer zone. It addresses development aspects like farming, livestock, crafts, services and trade. The basic aim of the actions listed in this area is to drive change, make improvements and position local produce and support alternative activities that contribute economic resources that can lead directly or indirectly to the protection and recovery of the landscape and an improvement in the quality of life of the local community, based on the fact that a large proportion of the area is living farmland. It also addresses key environmental aspects for sustainable development in the mountains, such as sustainable transport and mobility. The starting point for all this is that these areas of action are interrelated and have their own processes.

### a) Agriculture and livestock

The broad-reaching participative process put in place has brought to light several priority lines of action in this area of management, which have been included in the IMP, such as:

- Prioritising support and aid for organic, transgenic-free produce and for livestock rearing that ensures animal welfare, backed by quality certificates to distinguish the produce
- Making improvements to local produce marketing systems, such as fostering proximity or Km0, agreements with hotels and restaurants to supply them with local produce, based on the extreme distinctness of agricultural produce from the sacred mountains
- Defence, dissemination and reinforcement of agricultural and livestock biodiversity, local genetic resources, native breeds and seeds
- Setting up a Land Bank, aimed at recovering abandoned holdings for young farmers and support for family farms and small-holdings
- Fostering extensive livestock rearing, maintaining the exceptional nature of transhumance (nomadic pastoralism), with low volumes of livestock and free-range grazing, promoting the planting of native forage plant species.
- Promoting innovative actions with respect to agricultural production, such as using local, prehistoric barley in the production of unique local beers, for example.
- Developing innovative distribution channels and responsible marketing actions to foster local products.

### b) Sustainable mobility and energy

In coherence with the cultural and natural values of the area, the district aspires to becoming an emissions-free territory. This involves applying energy-sustainability measures, including fostering energy self-sufficiency with renewables, and a decisive push for sustainable mobility. One priority objective is to attain energy self-sufficiency for the area, based on renewable energies and on enhancing energy efficiency, especially in sectors such as lighting. This line of action is underpinned by classifying the area as a 100% Renewable district as part of the

island energy self-sufficiency strategy launched by the Cabildo of Gran Canaria.

The pressure of private vehicles could become a vector for altering the landscape and deteriorating the experience in the area, which in fact, has already been seen in the crowds of people that arrive on certain weekends. The measures to be rolled out opt for promoting and improving public transport for both locals and visitors, and for fostering alternative mobility systems. Despite the rugged terrain, current, zero-emissions transport like bicycles or electric vehicles could become a differential quality factor for the area as a model of sustainability. Thus, the Sustainable Mobility Plan for the area becomes one of the key sustainability elements of the IMP that sets the property apart. Support will initially be provided for demonstration pilot projects, such as the combination of rambling and public transport, or creating charging points for zero-emissions vehicles.

### a) Branding

Consolidating a “brand” associated with the Cultural Landscape of Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria is one of the objectives set in the Integrated Management Plan, in the understanding that this could be a decisive instrument for promoting economies of quality and productive activities that are coherent with the values of the space. The Steering Committee will approve the requisites with the support of the Participation Council and will ensure that they are properly applied.



Figure 7. Promoting local produce and generating economies of quality based on the values of the nominated property are an essential strand of the sustainability strategy for the nominayted property © Javier Gil León

## 4.5. Public use system and knowledge-based sustainable tourism

This area covers the proper integration of the public use system for the space and the archaeological and natural properties. It includes aspects such as the reception infrastructure, camping areas, mountain refuges, museums, interpretation centres, networks of trails and improving the signage.

The area also encompasses the promotion of responsible tourism in the nominated property; a system of tourism governance and the generation of sustainable tourist products that are adapted to cultural heritage and landscape values. It also deals specifically with managing visitors to the area, including an assessment of the carrying capacity of each site, with a view to organising and regulating the impact of visitors, to guarantee the conservation of the attributes and the quality of the experience for visitors from the island and from abroad. This includes several kinds of management measures: such as alternatives for the more fragile zones; preventative measures to prevent over-crowding; access regulation and signage; diversifying the offer and smart measures, using advanced digital resources to reduce the pressure on critical areas without affecting the experience.

The players involved in the nominated property wish to promote the discovery of the nominated area through sustainable tourism in order to provide eventful experiences for visitors without compromising the protection of archaeological values and the area's other natural and cultural values. This converges with UNESCO's view that sustainable tourism based on the local communities is the only way to guarantee that the world's natural and cultural heritage will be safeguarded.

The most significant management actions envisaged for this area of management include:

### a) Museums and Network of interpretation centres

The public interpretation centres associated with the Cultural Landscape are the windows of excellence through which both locals and visitors alike can appreciate the attributes of the property and its cultural, natural and ethnographic values. Opening the new Artenara centre, adding to the centres at Roque Bentayga and Degollada Bercerra, completes the thematic dimension of the nominated property. These are joined by the small public and private visitors' centres scattered throughout the area, such as the Artenara Council's Ethnographic Centre or the Tejeda Medicinal Plant Interpretation Centre.

From a management standpoint, one of the great challenges is striking the right thematic balance between these public centres and avoiding duplications that erode their quality. This involves dedicating the Bentayga Centre to the meaning of the Bentayga Highland archaeological complex itself. The Degollada de Becerra Centre will specialise in the environmental and scenic values of the property and of the whole area of the Biosphere Reserve, and finally, the Museum of Artenara will be devoted to the general contents relating to the property and its attributes. Its exclusive vocation is to interpret the Cultural Landscape and its archaeological, archaeoastronomical, ethnographic and immaterial attributes. Adding the "neo-cave" to the offer gives people the chance to visit the site without compromising the real sanctuary,

given its fragile state and the limited access capacity.

The objective is to integrate all these centres under a single area of management and to make them key elements in catalysing the economy of the zone, aimed primarily at responsible, selective rather than mass, knowledge tourism. One of the leading aspects of managing the main centres is that their activity and function must also complement the work of other existing information and interpretation centres or future ones, such as those we have already mentioned and others such as wineries and farms that can be visited. It is a question of establishing appropriate co-ordination measures to avoid redundancy or contradiction of the contents of the centres open for visits by creating a complementary, rigorous discourse.

In light of the new trends in museum presentation, especially in spectacular areas with enormous cultural wealth, these centres, especially the Artenara and Degollada Becerra centres, are conceived as shuttle centres, taking visitors to other cultural attractions within the area of the nominated property.

#### **b) Managing and promoting a sustainable tourism offer and responsible tourism products.**

On an island where the driving force of the economy is mass tourism, it is surprising that the first locally-based, sustainable tourism project is being developed against this backdrop using participative processes. This project, which also extends to the whole area of the Biosphere Reserve, has been on-going since 2016, under the umbrella of the Integrated Management Plan of the nominated property and the Biosphere Reserve, and has already brought to light the first promising results and proposals. The major management challenge lies in the capability to support and promote these new, creative, smart responsible tourism products, in line with the singularity of the zone and its attributes.

The implementation of the IMP in this area is based fundamentally on providing the best logistical, institutional and administrative support for the proposals that arise from the participative process driven by the local population.

Many of these initiatives will be reinforced by the actions scheduled by the Cabildo of Gran Canaria in combination with other public agencies such as the municipal authorities in sustainable tourism, such as launching self-guided thematic routes on digital support for the entire area nominated, for example.

#### **c) Starlight Tourism Destination**

Another major management opportunity and challenge is based on the fact that the area has recently obtained Starlight certification (2017); an initiative associated with the UNESCO-MaB programme. This is an opportunity to create a smart tourism product, based on science as a resource that is associated with the skyline: the archaeoastronomical attributes of the property and the quality of the night sky in the area. From a management standpoint, this form of tourism under the stars requires large doses of local skill-building, a level of specialist information and the theming of some of the existing components and infrastructures, such as look-out spots, the accommodation sector and even the interpretation centres themselves.

Certifying the area as a Starlight Tourism Destination adds another dimension to the value of the skyscape and the cultural, scientific and natural resources associated with observing the night sky. With the leadership of the Gran Canaria Cabildo's Department of Tourism, the process has been started to develop new sustainable, locally-based tourism products based on observing the night sky. This is one of the key aspects envisaged by the Integrated Management Plan.

Developing the Starlight Tourism destination entails a set of measures and actions in its Action Plan, which are fully incorporated in the IMP (see Appendix IX). These include some multi-functional measures, such as theming and adapting the network of look-out spots around the nominated property, which is currently undergoing a process of improvement and blending it in to the surroundings.

### c) Network of Trails and mountain refuges

One of the leading actions in the area in question is the creation and theming of the networks of trails with the support of mountain refuges for visiting the archaeological sites and natural spaces included in the property. This is one of the most important activities to be managed by the Integrated Management Plan, insofar as it articulates and connects the territory with the Cultural Landscape. It is also one of the main resources for galvanising the area economically. The impact will be a combination of the properties themselves, the perception of the territory, the combination of properties of different kinds, the local inhabitants of the area, the interpretative signage and certain public services.



Figure 8. Bentayga interpretation Center © GAIA

## 4.6. Dissemination and outreach

This area of the IMP encompasses the management objectives concerning the dissemination, promotion and awareness-raising aspects of the nominated property and the foundation of the toolkit and activities that it rests on.

Many of the grounds of public interest in historical heritage that justify the administration's actions rest on the perception, use and enjoyment that society makes of its heritage. It is a known fact that any protection and promotion policy that does not enjoy the appreciation and esteem of the population is condemned to failure in the long-run, as soon as the heritage property comes into conflict with other interests. This reflection is what has led us to plan our actions and to manage the dissemination programme with the greatest possible care.

The objectives of the Dissemination Plan set out for Risco Caído and the sacred mountains of Gran Canaria, as part of the IMP, seek to understand and appraise the different elements that make the nominated area singular and outstanding, following the maxim of conservation as a substantive and sustainability as a prerogative, as a conceptual axis.

- Convince society in general, and the local population in particular, of the importance of the archaeological, ethnographic and scenic heritage of the nominated area
- Foster knowledge and understanding of management and conservation problems affecting the property
- Stimulate a feeling of respect and protection among the population, promoting the development of attitudes and values. Get emotion to propitiate the intellect
- Foster decision-making and attitudes of commitment and action on this fragile, valuable legacy, by promoting spaces for meeting, discussion and training
- Show society that environmental conservation and sustainability are compatible. Responsible and sustainable economy/quality of life
- Compare experiences among heritage managers and establish forums for debate about the current and future state of the cultural properties that comprise the area

The Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria Dissemination Plan, as part of the IMP, is organised around the different activities, programmes and phases, depending on the technical management, the conservation and research work being carried out in the area; inter-administration, horizontal co-ordination and direct relations with the municipal districts and the local population. That is why each action has a cooling off, or reflection period, to ensure that it is timely pursuant to requirements. It will, therefore, be a short, medium and long-term dissemination project that bears in mind the results of several studies that the Cabildo of Gran Canaria has commissioned for the area nominated as World Heritage.

The activities, tools and actions concerning the promotion of the property and raising public awareness about its importance and value encompass a broad range of actions: web sites, multi-media resources, educational publications and activities. The maintenance, improvement and innovation of these instruments is one of the key lines of the Integrated Plan, which

will be managed by the Island Cabildo Heritage Service. This area of intervention includes maintaining and improving consolidated activities such as guided tours of the sites for school children and the local population and the “Yacimientos Estrella”, or “Star Sites” programme aimed at disseminating and raising awareness of the achaeoastronomical values of the site.

It is essential to highlight that an idea that inspires the entire communications strategy of the Dissemination Plan is underpinned by the demonstrative value of the nominated property, considering that the perception of the ancient Canarians, the living traditions and the know-how that comprises the identity of this territory are benchmarks of a model that is in harmony with nature and its cultural expressions, capable of inspiring present and future generations on the island, against the other intensive, predatory development model of recent decades.

## 4.7. Planning instruments and by-laws

This area of management includes all aspects regarding regional planning and adapting it in full to the spatial, environment requisites and the objectives set for the nominated property. It also includes managing the financial resources for implementing the Integrated Management Plan.

The important management actions envisaged in this section include the following:

### **a) Reinforcing the process of legal protection of cultural heritage**

Understanding that the natural and landscape values and attributes of the Cultural Landscape already enjoy sufficient protection guarantees, one of the objectives of this Integrated Management Plan is to culminate and up-date the protection status of any attributes to be found on the nominated property. More specifically, to culminate the process of having all manifestations in the core zone, or other properties worthy of maximum protection for other archaeological and paleontological sites or ethnographic properties situated in the buffer zone, declared Properties of Cultural Interest (BIC from the Spanish).

In the context and implementation of the Cultural Landscape of Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria Integrated Management Plan, new applications have been filed with the Canary Island Government for delimiting the Risco Caído Archaeological Zone, a property that has already been declared a BIC, and Risco Chapín, together with new delimitations of the Bentayga, Roque de las Cuevas and Roque Narices Archaeological Zone. This line of action will affect other sites, such as Cuevas de Visvique, El Solapón, Mesa del Junquillo, Montaña del Humo, el Carrizal de Tejeda, Taguy and in general, the whole set of rock art manifestations.

This protection process is something new among Canary Island districts, and indeed, in Spain. The process was started early in 2016 and is scheduled to be completed in 2019.

### **b) Adapting the main regional and island planning instruments to the new specificities of the nominated property.**

Although the protection of the attributes and values of the nominated Cultural Landscape is duly recognised in municipal and island planning regulations, the specificities of this space as a unit have to be recognised (including the buffer zone), envisaging the interrelations of the attributes and the new requisites arising from their eventual inscription in the World Heritage List. This process would affect the Gran Canaria Masterplan (PIO, as it is known in Gran Canaria), the elaboration of its special plans and planning instruments, municipal planning and especially, the use regimes envisaged in the planning and zoning instruments for Protected Natural Areas (Plans for Governing Use and Management, Special Plan and Master Plan), which would have to be gradually adapted to the new requirements of the unique management requirements of this space. One of the pillars that will support the planning and management system of the space in the context of the Island Plan, will be the development and adaptation of the ARIPs (Areas of Important Heritage Interest) that affect the nominated property.

### **c) By-laws**

These are the raft of new municipal by-laws that can be developed for the purpose of guaranteeing the preservation of the attributes and components of the cultural landscape and their perception. These include developing municipal by-laws addressing scenic and aesthetic aspects of settlements and buildings, with special emphasis on the troglodyte settlements. Other by-laws being drawn up deal with outdoor lighting or infrastructures like overhead telephone and electricity cables.

### **d) Transparency and responsible resource management policy**

In transparency matters, there will have to be a set of procedures in place that allow public access to information, through the media and suitable supports, available for all stakeholders involved in managing the property and the public in general, as a basic criterion in the management model. This also affects up-dated and comparable information on the sources and economic and financial resources drawn on, along with the associated decision-making processes and processes for monitoring milestones achieved. The instruments aimed at enhancing governance include drawing up Grass-Roots Participation Regulations.

## 4.8. Participation, co-ordination and management

This encompasses the whole process of local participation that includes public entities (local councils), private entities, civil society and local population. It also addresses co-ordination and management needs in this area.

The Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention urges "... to ensure the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders, including site managers, local and regional governments, local communities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other interested parties and partners in the identification, nomination and protection of World Heritage properties". And this has become a basic strand of the Integrated Management Plan, in the understanding that the participation of the local population in the nomination process is essential to share part of the responsibility for maintaining the property with the state party. This vision is in consonance with the European Landscape Convention, another historic benchmark in this initiative, as it considers that landscape only makes sense when it is perceived, accepted and ownership is taken by its stakeholders and protagonists: the local population.

### a) Citizens Involvement

In the course of the nomination process, a broad-reaching, ambitious participative process has been put in place that involves all the stakeholders from the local community: citizens, associations, land owners, companies, NGOs and civil society in general. The process itself has managed to consolidate the Participation Council which has become a key piece in co-ordinating and implementing the Integrated Management Plan.

The Participative Process of Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria has been supported and driven by the Cabildo of Gran Canaria Department of Equality and Grass Roots Participation, in co-operation with municipal authorities and other stakeholders. Indeed, a substantial part of the measures and actions that comprise the IMP have arisen from this process, particularly aspects relating to sustainability, responsible tourism and local economies. The report on the process and the results of the final phase are included in Appendix XI.

In order not to duplicate our efforts, and for reasons of territorial coherence of objectives, the participation process is organised in consonance with the Gran Canaria Biosphere Reserve and its renewed participative processes. The Biosphere Reserve wraps around the designated area of the nominated property and everything that is of interest for the Reserve, is of interest for the specific areas of the Cultural Landscape. The methodology used in the participative process include the following aspects:

- Meetings with Local Development Agents and members of local councils (Grass-Roots Participation, Environment, Heritage and Agriculture). In some cases, such as Artenara and Tejeda, the mayors also play an active part. One important aspect is that all elected councillors participate, irrespective of whether or not they form part of the municipal government.

- Calls to all the population (young, middle-aged, adults and retired people) with posters in the main meeting places (supermarkets, gymnasiums, residents' associations, baker's, chemist's, etc.); Council web sites; Council and Cabildo Facebook pages; communiqués released by the local police (Tejeda); local television (La Aldea); emails and phone calls to all the chairpersons of residents' associations and individual telephone calls to recommended individuals. We work on a given content with the attending population and then they are asked to fill in a brief questionnaire that provides us with information to draw up an inventory of needs and proposals.
- The people who attend the initial meetings are invited to another meeting and inhabitants identified as leaders in the group are invited to individual meetings.
- The minutes of each of these meetings, assemblies, formal and informal interviews, working sessions, workshops, etc. include a transcription of recordings (with informed consent) and testimonies, demands, suggestions and initiatives that come up at each of these working sessions with the community.

The contributions emerging from the participative process have focused mainly on the following contents that are attached in Appendix XI:

- Definition of guidelines for a different and creative sustainable tourism model for the area, built on a local foundation
- Ideas or projects in matters of responsible tourism that create local jobs and local development
- How to continue making biosphere, landscape and heritage
- What is missing in the role of the public administrations
- What is the value of inscribing the property on the World Heritage List for the people of the area
- Description of the activities and/or experiences that the local population can offer
- SWOT analysis of each of the activities and/or experiences identified
- Description and analysis of top priority needs of the local population
- Write up priority actions to be implemented
- From the standpoint of traditional agricultural and pastoral activities, highlight the needs for reactivating or driving them.

## **b) Co-ordination and management system**

Co-ordination among all the parties involved is essential for developing and implementing the Integrated Management Plan. This co-ordination is guaranteed and organised through the RCSMGC Steering Committee. Figure 10 shows the scheme of management of the Steering Committee.

This committee, chaired by the Cabildo of Gran Canaria, includes representatives of:

- a) The Participation Council, which represents the interests and aspirations of the local communities.
- b) The different departments of the Cabildo of Gran Canaria with competences in the area in all matters that affect the nominated cultural landscape, from the conservation and protection of the cultural heritage, conservation of the landscapes and the biodiversity, to all aspects that have an impact on the sustainable development of the area.
- c) The municipal districts of the proposed area. The difference here is that participation of municipal representatives is not limited to those who form part of the municipal government; it includes all elected councillors. This is an unprecedented exercise in participative democracy and a commitment to the nomination in Spain.
- d) The Scientific Committee, which provides the vision of experts and of academe when formulating actions and priorities in matters of protection, conservation and research.

The channels of communication and co-ordination with the Canary Island Government are regulated for all purposes, depending on the area and competence in question.

Finally, the management and governance organisational chart for the nominated property is completed with the creation of the “Risco Caído and the sacred mountains of Gran Canaria” Foundation, currently in the process of being set up. This is public foundation promoted by the Cabildo of Gran Canaria, which will make a significant contribution to consolidating the participative management model proposed for the nominated property.

Setting up the Management Centre, scheduled for the medium term, in the heart of the nominated property, will make it possible to increase the level of co-ordination among all parties involved, and enhance security, monitoring and research into all the components and attributes that comprise the nominated property.



Figure 9. Informative panels in one of the meetings of the participative process in Artenara (2017) © Cabildo de Gran Canaria

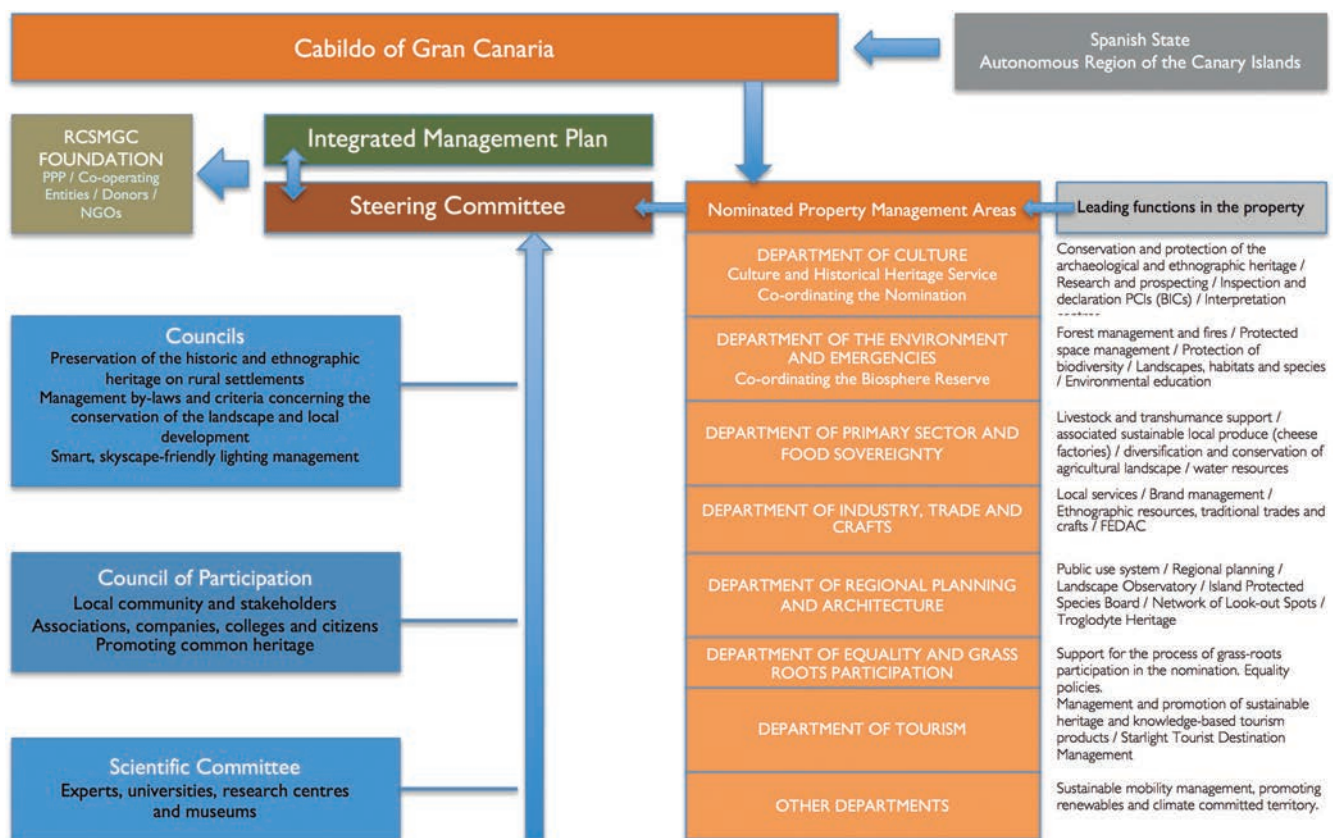


Figure 10. Management and governance organisational chart for the nominated property. The graph shows the different entities and departments involved in the management of the proposed property, their relationship and the way they cooperate.



Figure 11. Snap shot of one of the meetings of the Grass Roots Participation Process held in Barranco Hondo. © Cabildo de Gran Canaria

## 5. Integrated Management Plan perspectives for 2018

As explained in previous chapters, priorities are set once a year for the measures and actions considered in the IMP, depending on the availability of funding and human resources, from both the Cabildo of Gran Canaria and from the other municipal authorities involved and other players associated with the initiative.

By way of reference, the table below shows the actions that the Cabildo of Gran Canaria have committed to for 2018 and the funding established for them. These actions basically cover work to be done on the archaeological sites and their surrounding areas, protection and stabilisation work, restoration and excavations, work on interpretation centres, research projects and dissemination tools. The table only includes the budget items related to cultural heritage without considering other budgetary items that have already been consolidated in the different administrations, areas and departments, such as, for example, protecting the natural environment and the landscape, fighting fires, programmes aimed at the primary sector, the improvement of infrastructures like the look-out spots or the inventory that is currently being drawn up of the lighting systems in the area.

IMP ACTIONS / MEASURES 2018	
Project/Action	Investment €
Project to fit out and improve the Cuevas del Rey site and surroundings	568,005
Stabilisation and safety works on El Solapón de Barranco Hiondo	75,000
Archaeological diggings	100,000
Restoration works on archaeological sites	200,000
Construction of the neo-cave or virtual cave in the Artenara Interpretation Centre	200,000
Stabilisation work on slopes in Acusa	74,617
Landscape recovery project of Risco Caído and its surroundings	461,000
Reinforcement and safety action in Acusa Seca	50,000
Sampling and restoration work in Tirma (buffer zone)	50,000
Interventions in Cuava Candiles and Cueva Caballero (funding approval process)	70,000
Restoration work and excavations in Barranco Hondo (funding approval process)	300,000
Restoration of Acusa perimeter track and signage	400,000
Photogrammetry rock caves phase two	45,000
Studies of public triangle engravings in caves	50,000
Studies and microclimatic / geological controls of micrisismicity and ground deformation	85,000
Integral study of Mesa del Junquillo	30,000
Update of the archaeological and ethnographic inventory and implementation of a new public GIS (Geographical Information System)	50,000
Generating new Time-elapse series	30,000
Guides, leaflets, logistics of meetings and other dissemination actions	193,000



