

Ciudad de Mar undertakes a plan to guarantee the naturalization and social sustainability of Las Canteras Beach

By CDM

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Noticias



The City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria has begun to implement an action plan that favors the re-naturalization process of Las Canteras Beach with the aim of guaranteeing environmental sustainability in the coming years and consolidating coexistence with citizens. Among the actions announced by the Councilor of Ciudad de Mar, José Eduardo Ramírez, is the planning of an agenda of sustainable events adapted to the carrying capacity of this space and a detailed study of the state of health of the seabed.

The mayor explained that the main beach in the city "requires adopting measures that guarantee their social and environmental quality in the future." The first actions have already begun to be implemented with the aim of reconciling the urban space with the natural one.

Among these measures is the study of the quality of the sand, the reordering of the hammock service, the start-up of a process of improvement of the Forum of participation of the Micro area and the drafting of the new ordinance on which pivot issues such as the prohibition of smoking on the beach, the regulation of aquatic activities, the updating of the sanctioning regime or the monitoring of the correct use of the terraces and the activities not allowed, such as fishing.

But the process to protect the natural, economic and citizen conservation of Las Canteras also has two scientific studies. The first, directed by the Chair of Physical Geography of the ULPGC, Emma Pérez-Chacón, a study on the social and ecological impact of the events that take place on the beach. The second one is a detailed cartography of the geological, biogenic and anthropic structure of the seabed of Las Canteras that will be carried out by the environmental consultant specializing in coastal engineering, E Littoral.

"These two research projects will make it possible to establish corrective measures and anticipate the natural, social and economic changes that are taking place," said Ramírez. The studies of the impact of events and the seabed will be complemented with the creation of new spaces for debate and citizen reflection in the decision of public policies that affect the beach and its surroundings.

But also, Ciudad de Mar, has asked Costas to prepare the comprehensive study of the dynamics in the sand in both the dry area and the dock and works with the Canary Islands Government to expand the surveillance service against illegal fishing.

Impact study of the events in Las Canteras

The technical report that will make a diagnosis about the environmental effects that occur on the beach due to the celebration of events will be prepared by a team from the "Physical Geography and Environment" research group of the Institute of Oceanography and Global Change of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

The director of the study, the professor of Physical Geography Emma Pérez-Chacón, explained that through this analysis it is intended to determine which areas of the beach have a capacity for each type of event, and to estimate how many, and of what type, They can celebrate a year. "In turn, we will elaborate a self-evaluation guide that allows us to plan an agenda of sustainable events, which will be adapted to the beach's capabilities; as well as a manual of good practices to minimize the negative impacts, both of an environmental nature, such as the collection of waste, and social, safety or noise, among others ".

Detailed x-ray of the seafloor

On the other hand, the company ELittoral will execute the mapping of the bottom of the beach of Las Canteras with three innovative techniques that will be used in combination for the first time in Spain. "We will have as a result one of the highest accuracy and spatial resolution works known in the Spanish coastal marine environment," said researcher Sara García.

The study, financed by the Biodiversity Service of the Government of the Canary Islands in collaboration with the City of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, will cover the entire space from the coastline to 200 meters around La Barra.

Through a multi-beam probe, a bottom prospecting is carried out by acoustic methods. "With this tool we will obtain information on: depth data with precision, identification of the type of substrate, location of anthropic and natural objects such as cracks and hollows of the bar, presence and coverage of marine habitats.

The second novel technique is the use of a hyperspectral camera attached to a drone that will make an aerial photograph of the beach of Las Canteras. "This camera is able to obtain an image of 5 cm to 10 cm resolution and more than 280 color channels with which we will have the unique footprint of all marine plant species found in Las Canteras," explained García. The third technique, the most traditional, will be with direct immersion methods,