



Parque Nacional de Garajonay
Director, *Ángel B. Fernández López*
38830 La Palmita
Santa Cruz de Tenerife
Spain

To: afelop@gobiernodecanarias.org
Cc: cfagggar@gobiernodecanarias.org ; rarmas1@tragsa.es

12th October 2018

Dear Mr. *Ángel B. Fernández López*,

**Parque Nacional de Garajonay
Re-Award of European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas**

Following the official verification in your protected area of the work under the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, I am pleased to inform you that the Evaluation Committee, at its recent meeting, examined carefully the thorough report which the appointed verifier prepared as a result of her visit to the Charter area.

Decision and recommendations:

It was unanimously agreed to re-award the Charter certificate to your protected area for a five-year period from 2018 to 2022.

The Evaluation Committee congratulates the Park for the excellent re-evaluation application, which was timely submitted ensuring the requested continuity of the Charter process. Both the Committee and the verifier have very much appreciated the submission of a strong, clear sustainable tourism strategy and action plan, from which emerges one of the best examples in Spain and in Europe of the successful application of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas.

The Committee congratulates all the staff involved for their professional and enthusiastic implementation of the Charter. Your Park provides excellent examples of good practice in many areas, such as participation processes, stakeholders involvement, monitoring of the implementation of the Charter (progress and impact), as well as nature conservation, control of invasive species, preservation and interpretation of local culture (e.g., whistling language) and many more.

Since the first application, involvement of all the town councils has been significant and now even further increased in their commitment. The implementation of Charter Part 2 is now an example of good practice, both for the quality of the action and for the promotion of Networking. The Garajonay National Park is demonstrating that when the Charter is so well implemented by the Park, this can also inspire work in other fields, including the development of other plans on the island.

The Committee suggests that further effort is made to strengthen the involvement of regional government, increase practices of waste management, strengthen relations with the Cabildo and with the Biosphere Reserve, and establish a visitor payback scheme for the one day visitors to Garajonay.



We draw your attention to the other recommendations the verifier makes in her report which the Committee fully endorses.

The next five years

As you know, the award recognizes an on-going process of sustainable tourism development in cooperation with a wide range of local partners and stakeholders. It is awarded for an initial period of five years.

Because the award is part of that on-going process, the Evaluation Committee particularly emphasizes the need for networking with other protected areas over the next few years. This will be one of the aspects which verifiers evaluate at the time of the re-evaluation in 2023.

The Committee also strongly recommends the following:

- Please make sure that all the actions in the strategy and action plan are monitored on an annual basis.
- You need to ensure that the necessary funds for the re-evaluation in five years are included in your budget plans well before 2022, should you wish to continue as a Charter area.
- Towards the end of the current five-year period you will need to check that all the recommendations contained in the evaluation report have been considered and acted upon.

This year's Charter Awards will be celebrated in the European Parliament of Brussels on 29th November 2018. You are especially invited to be present to receive your award. Due to the security requirements of the parliament, registration for the Charter Awards will be essential. For the moment - Save the Date! We will send you specific details of how to register very soon. We look forward to celebrate this achievement with you on 29th November in Brussels.

We should like to congratulate you once again on being awarded the Charter and hope that you will continue to work closely with other Charter areas.

With all good wishes for every success in your future activities.

Yours sincerely,

Ignace Schops
President
EUROPARC Federation