



## **Conservation of the coastal and thermophilous forests of Tenerife**

**By Lotte Baten**

**In partnership with Rubén Barone Tosco,  
José García Casanova, Jaime Coello Bravo**

**Report 2 of 3**



## Report 2

There are not yet so many examples of current conservation efforts of the cardonal-tabaibal vegetation and the thermophilous forest. There is one concrete example of a pilot reforestation project, the LIFE project, that is taking place in the rural park of Teno, in the north west of the island. In an area of 50 ha there were 4000 *Juniperus Turbinata Canariensis* planted in 2006 on an abandoned cereal farm. Nowadays, only 400 of the trees are still alive, due to dry summers, not enough watering and farmers who let their goats graze in the area. The project was 75% funded by the EU and 25% by the Council of Tenerife. After 3 years the money was gone, and the area started to be neglected. This time frame is not nearly enough to see the results of reforestation.

The MUNA, the natural history museum in Santa Cruz, has an Association of Friends that is offering conferences, lectures and a few nature excursions. The activities that the Association of Friends are offering is another example of conservation, this time through educating people about the ecosystems on the island. The president of this association is José García Casanova is a passionate conservationist.

Moreover, 48% of the surface of Tenerife is protected within the network of protected areas of the Canary Islands. There are different forms of protection in place, most areas I visited during my field work were rural parks. Rural parks have rules that are protecting biodiversity whilst at the same time also giving space to human settlements and human land usages. According to Rubén Barone Tosco, it is difficult to combine these two interests, but it is not impossible. He considers the rural park of Anaga, in the northeast of the island, to be a good example of a successful combination.



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