

Kick-off of the volunteer program for the environmental recovery of the Parque de Las Mesas

- **With the participation of fifteen volunteers from the Nivaria Mountaineering Club, AFES Mental Health, and the Tenerife Mountaineering Federation**
- **The first activity focused on the removal of fountain grass**

As part of the project for the environmental recovery of the Parque de Las Mesas, currently managed by the Council of Tenerife, the City Council of Santa Cruz, and Fundación Cepsa, the first environmental volunteer event was carried out with the focus for this occasion on the removal of fountain grass (*Cenchrus setaceus*).

The event, held with the support of the Environmental Participation and Volunteer Office of the Island Council, was supported by the Nivaria Mountaineering Club, the Tenerife Mountaineering Federation (FIMT), and AFES Mental Health.

With about 15 people in attendance, the event began with an initial educational talk on the serious problem of invasive foreign species, which can negatively affect the biological diversity of an ecosystem, and how to properly remove them, given by Victoria Eugenia Martín and Alberto de la Rosa, representing the Wolfredo Wildpret Botanical Garden Department. After this, several specimens of this invasive species were removed, always complying with the technical management, control, and removal guidelines set out in the Order of June 13, 2014 (BOC No. 120, June 24, 2014).

Over the next year, the environmental volunteer program will continue at this site, open to the participation of other local organizations and all interested persons, with initiatives such as removing invasive species, collecting seeds, and planting native plant species, among others.

These initiatives seek to provide participants with opportunities to acquire knowledge, values, attitudes, commitment, and skills to protect and improve the environment in this location, which is strategic for the creation of a green corridor between the natural setting of the Anaga Biosphere Reserve and the urban area of Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

For more information and to participate as an environmental volunteer in Tenerife, contact the Office of Environmental Participation and Volunteering by calling 922 310 578 and emailing voluntariadoambiental@idecogestion.net.

This collaboration for the environmental recovery of Las Mesas Park was announced recently with the visit to the iconic site by the president of the Island Corporation, Rosa Dávila, the mayor of the municipality, José Manuel Bermúdez, and the head of Fundación Cepsa, Belén Machado, accompanied by the Councilor for Natural Environment, Sustainability and Safety and Emergencies, Blanca Pérez; the island director of Natural Environment, Pedro Millán and the first deputy mayor and head of Public Services, Environment and European Projects, Carlos Tarife.

Researchers from the Wolfredo Wildpret Botanical Garden Department of the University of La Laguna will prepare a detailed geobotanical and bioclimatic study to determine the potential vegetation of this environment and the subsequent planting of plant species.

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