

Maro-Cerro Gordo

Legal status	Natural Area
Foundation year	1989
Foundation text	Act 2/1989
Management body	Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Superficie	1814.685 ha



Territory



Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo Natural Place is located at the Southern border between the provinces of Málaga and Granada. It is a narrow strip of 12 Km length along the coastline, extended 1 nautical mile from coast into the Alborán Sea.



Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo has been a SPAMI since 2003 thanks to the singularity of its coastal landscape and great environmental importance worthy of the highest degree of protection.



Physical features

Strong swell causes a recurrent marine erosion, and that has sculpted the current cliffs and coves landscape. Cliffs contain by a strip of rocky materials from erosion and collapse, and it is formed a narrow strip extended along the shore to 10 m depth. Beaches are limited to the less exposed areas, or in the case they are embedded by all sides; this kind of beach is characterised by pebbles and coarse sand as well as by steep slopes. The most important geological features in the formation of landscape have been caused by the sea effect and superficial waters, as well as the type of material.

Specificities and Importance



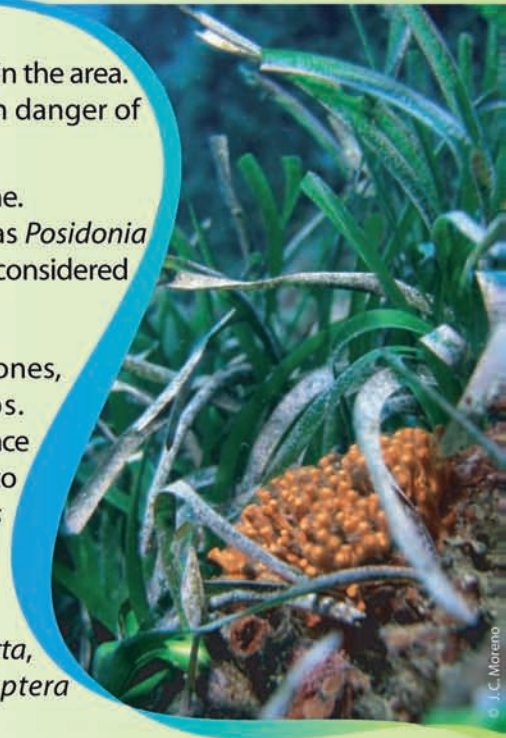
The terrestrial flora of the area is diverse.

As fauna is concerned, there is a high number of seasonal and resident species in the area. The most relevant group is the marine birds, many species are considered as in danger of extinction or vulnerable in Andalusia.

The maritime area presents a higher biological diversity than the terrestrial one. Many species are resident of the marine floor, with the flora, species such as *Posidonia oceanica*, *Zostera marina* and *Cymodocea nodosa*, develop complex meadows considered as priority habitats.

There is a wide number of invertebrates, specially Cnidaria, Corals, Anemones, Echinodermata and Mollusca and Crustacea are very relevant groups. Within fish group, diversity is related to the habitat heterogeneity due to the existence of marine phanerogam meadows and rocky beds. As main species, it needs to highlight *Gobius niger* and Blenidae, *Scorpaena porcus*, moray eel and *Epinephelus guaza*.

Other groups of special interest are Sparidae, Serranidae or Labridae. In addition, there are some protected species in the area such as *Caretta caretta*, *Delphinus delphis*, *Stenella coeruleoalba*, *Tursiops truncatus* and *Balaenoptera physalus*.



Threats and pressures

Ocasionalmente ilegal fishing activities take place, which could affect the Posidonia meadows.

The increase of visitors, specially in summer, can be considered a pressure indicators on coastal habitats, although this situation has been minimized in the last years through more control and surveillance in the zone.

Agriculture activities can not cause serious problems of erosion and pollution because of the current local regulations.

The improvement of touristic infrastructures in the neighbouring towns is adding to an increase of visitors, and sailing crafts.



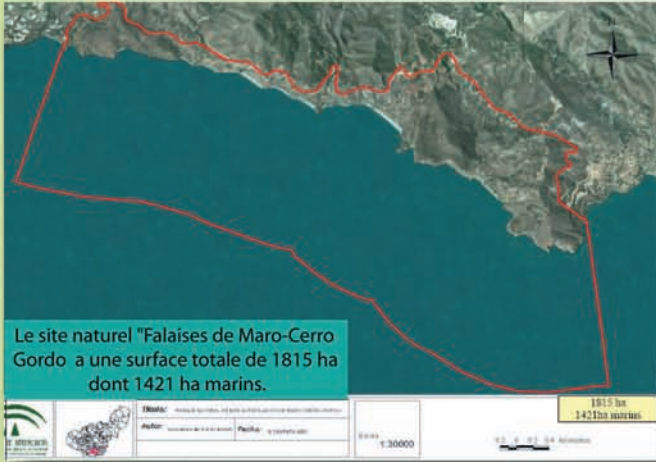
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Management

There is not a mangement plan so far but the Department for the Environment of the Andalusian Regional Government is currently developing a Management Plan, which will regulate the use and planning of the natural resources in the area. It is developing by a multidisciplinary group of experts in several fields.

The existing staff of the Department for the Environment of the Andalusian Regional Government are located in Granada and Málaga, is adequate for the objectives of protection and conservation of the area. The core funding is provided by the Department for the Environment of the Andalusian Regional Government.



Regional Catalogue of Flora and Regional Catalogue of Fauna of the terrestrial zone have been developed, and one of the marine environment is being elaborated.

There are basic studies of the flora and fauna, although it should be review and update all the information of the whole area, specially the endangered species.



There is an adequate co-ordination between the different competent bodies for the natural resources protection in the area.

The co-ordination is achieved by the Provincial Council of Environment, and the research by agreements between the Regional or Central Government and the University.