

BAN OIL PROSPECTING

The Fundación César Manrique (FCM) radically opposes the oil prospecting endeavour planned by REPSOL and supported by the Spanish Government **just 25 kilometres off the coasts** of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura. The FCM opposes this proposed operation, among others, because **the economic model on which these islands have placed their stakes is wholly incompatible with the oil industry**. Tourism is widely known to be sensitive to any deterioration in the surrounding environment. A substantial share of these two eastern islands' livelihood is linked to the sun and beach tourist industry, which attracts four million visitors a year, accounts for 75 % of island GDP and provides 30 000 direct jobs, about as many as REPSOL has created world-wide.



Moreover, the Canary Islands are associated not only with globally significant fish resources, but also with **extraordinarily valuable fauna and flora and a unique landscape**. The islands' geography and natural heritage render them particularly vulnerable to oil spill-related hazards and the resulting pollution.

Oil drilling generates major concern in Lanzarote and Fuerteventura and jeopardises their economic model, along with their marine and coastal ecosystems, their fisheries and even **seawater potabilisation**. **A slick would spell ruin for both islands. Reasonable precaution**, then, would oblige the Canaries to bar oil prospecting initiatives from the outset, while pursuing energy self-sufficiency based on renewables.

Irrespective of the decision adopted by Morocco in connection with drilling for oil in its waters, the **Spanish Government should not add to the risk**. Rather, it should earmark economic and technical resources to minimise any possible disaster that this activity might have for our archipelago and contribute to protecting our major industry, exceptional landscapes and the ecological wealth of our coastal waters.

Renewables, NOT oil!

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