

**DESTRUCTION**

**AT ALL**

**CO(A)STS**



**REPORT ABOUT THE SPANISH  
COAST SITUATION**

**JUNE 2007**

**GREENPEACE**

## **DESTRUCTION AT ALL CO(A)STS**

Greenpeace report about the spanish coast situation

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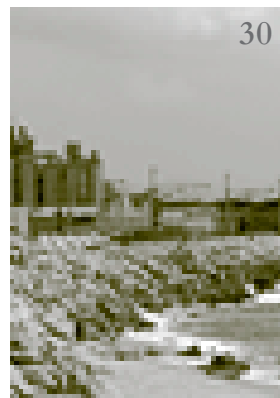
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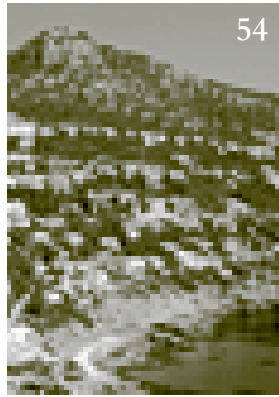
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# INTRODUCTION

Coastline management should answer to the public interest. However, in the past decade we have witnessed an inexorable deterioration of our coasts exemplified by the poor use of land through ill-fated urban planning policies accompanied by resource planning and development schemes that have shown little concern for safeguarding ecological values and natural resources.

**Construction** has become a powerful driving force for the economy and has forgotten its social purpose. Even as it propels the Spanish economy, each day construction steals from us territory equivalent to 140 soccer fields<sup>1</sup>, three of them on the coast. While in 2005 800,000 projects for building new homes were approved, in 2006 this number increased to 920,000. The conversion of millions of square meters into developable land has brought with it the construction of hundreds of thousands of residences throughout the territory, particularly on the coast. At times, the land in question had been zoned for residential development, but more and more often we are faced with the destruction of agricultural land and natural areas of a high ecological value, including, in some cases, nature reserves.

The urban model imposed on our territory is based on three pillars: supply, a product that generates enormous capital gains since those responsible for its management have allowed agricultural land to be bought by promoters as if it were developable land even before being reclassified; demand, composed of a very wide range of people who have often used housing more as an

investment than as a response to their genuine need for shelter; and, lastly, a restricted market, which is growing more and more monopolistic and opaque and which offers few alternatives. With the mix of these three ingredients coming to a boil before the complete negligence of the Autonomous Communities who have been charged with the guardianship of the territory, results in revealing the current situation.

Faced with the current situation, voices of alarm are coming from very diverse fields. The European Commission condemns our urban planning practices while the United Nations blames promoters and city governments for the housing crisis in Spain and emphasizes that while speculation is generalized throughout Europe, in Spain it is extreme.

The area currently reclassified for use as developable land is three times that which has already been built on the strip of coastline in Andalusia and the Mediterranean region. Once the land has been reclassified for construction use, it is practically impossible to revert the situation.

Greenpeace has compiled a list of measures that would help achieve a sustainable urban planning, one conceived to improve the population's quality of life and to increase respect for the land on which we build and the natural resources we use. Knowing full well that it is impossible to apply a magic formula, we propose a change in urban management which would start by protecting all land that has not yet been zoned as developable

## PART-TIME REAL ESTATE AGENTS

A research<sup>2</sup> of the Spanish real-estate market states that the practice of buying residential property off-plan and selling it before the title deed has been signed can generate capital gains of over 846% in under a year.

This research points out that the upper socio-economic class is more inclined to speculate and that there is a significant presence of foreign investors involved in these processes, which dismisses the widespread notion that foreigners buy homes in Spain attracted only by the fair weather and the quality of our beaches.

The paper states that the purchase of residential property with speculative aims has been so common in the past few years (particularly in certain areas such as the Costa del Sol) that the market is becoming saturated, which could explain the halt in the rise of prices.

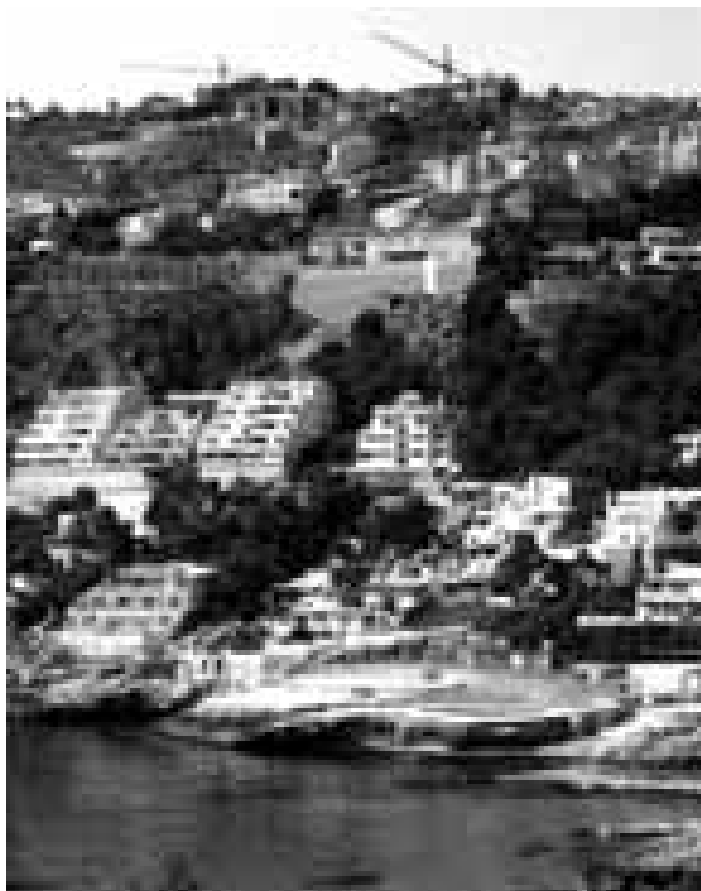
Spain has already accumulated four million empty residences.

<sup>1</sup> According to data from the Observatory for Sustainability in Spain, between 2000 and 2005 an average of 52,000 hectares have been lost yearly due to construction. An hectare is approximately equivalent to the area covered by a soccer field.

<sup>2</sup> Deconstructing the Bubble: Expected Appreciation and the Price of Housing in Spain. Jose Garcia-Montalvo. Pompeu Fabra University and IVE. November 2006.

and in which the growth of urban areas would not exceed 10% of the existing area for each city or town. All urban planning must identify basic resources, such as energy and water, and establish sustainable means of managing them. In order to regenerate urban planning, it is imperative that the practice of signing planning agreements, that is, private contracts between construction companies and town councils, disappears. We consider that the effective participation of citizens in the design of cities and in overseeing urban planning is essential.

The measures applied against an irrational, speculative and corrupt urban planning are positive, but they do not seem to suffice to put an end to the model that has spread far and wide throughout our territory. Norms such as the new **Land Law**<sup>3</sup> attempt to solve a series of problems that are due more to the null or scarce enforcement of existing legislation than to a lack of regulation on the subject. The new law allows for numerous exceptions that could possibly become standard operating procedures for town councils, just as the exception of planning agreements is now so widely used that it constitutes the rule in our urban planning.



CALA LLAMP, ANDRATX (MALLORCA)

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Other measures, such as the changes introduced by the **Water Law**, which requires reports on the availability of water resources before approving new real estate developments and the **Law of Access to Information and Justice** offer signs of hope. Now it is just a matter of these laws being effectively enforced.

The plot that hides behind urban planning activity is so complex that it is necessary to put measures into place that would be geared towards restoring legality and include dissuasive procedures such as the demolition of buildings that have been illegally constructed. However, arrests, convictions and demolitions cause a considerable social impact. The political class does not decisively choose the right course of action and thus it consolidates illegality and harm done to the environment.

Those limitations imposed by national or regional legislation are interpreted by promoters as attacks and are contested in court. Their main argument lies in that these sorts of measures “drive up the cost of housing.” They seem to have forgotten that in the past decade housing has experienced exorbitant price increases and that all experts agree that these increases have been due to the greed of promoters and builders rather than to the amount of land available. Since the entry into force of the Land Law of 1998, the price of land has increased 500% and the price of housing has risen 200%. Few city councils have been able to stand the pressure of promoters, who have purchased large tracts of agricultural land at very low prices for which they have later obtained millions in capital gains and benefits that are not obtainable from any other entrepreneurial activity.

Spain keeps climbing notches on the scale of perceived corruption elaborated yearly by the NGO Transparency International. In the past year, the effects of **corruption in urban planning** have dominated current affairs. Corruption is no longer exclusively the heritage of big city governments. Close relationships and cooperation are prerequisites necessary for corruption to take root, so it is no longer credible to point fingers at a handful of guilty people when it is increasingly becoming more evident that many have taken part, whether actively or passively, in this phenomenon.

The corruption scandals that have come to light are closely linked to the management and finance of city councils that use the sale of municipal land as a supposed formula for social and economic progress, a use that is obviously unsustainable.

<sup>3</sup> The new Land Law will come into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.



*“There is no greater threat to the rule of law than corruption, whatever its source, but particularly, when civil servants are its protagonists.”*

*María Teresa Fernández de la Vega. Vice-president of the Government*

Public prosecutor, Antonio Vercher, who is in charge of coordinating Environmental and Urban Planning issues, has established a correlation between unrestrained construction and organized crime's money laundering. He relates corruption among urban planners in Spain to the system's lack of transparency and to the tolerance of authorities, which has served to encourage international criminal organizations to establish themselves in our territory where they may easily launder their money in construction and create their own networks. Antonio Salinas, public prosecutor in charge of fighting corruption, points out that these mafias are organized with the collaboration of Spanish front men and confidence men, thus creating huge networks of front organizations that allow them to calmly hide themselves. More than twenty drug traffickers arrested in Spain in recent years had their own real-estate agencies, a model that is already well known in Cancun, Miami and Naples.

Construction is eating up a tourism industry that is still hooked on the obsolete model of “sun and surf” which implies the construction of more and more hotels and secondary residences as if demand were unlimited.

Mass **tourism** is destroying the sole tourist aim: the environmental and cultural heritage of the areas they choose to visit on vacation. Meanwhile, neither politicians nor public administrators responsible for these issues are doing anything to detain the relentless deterioration of the Spanish tourism industry.

The data is relevant: in 2006, revenue from tourism dropped 2,8% despite a rise of 4,5% in the total number of tourists with respect to the previous year, with a record 58,5 million visitors. This is the sixth consecutive decline. Estimates for 2007 are not optimistic, being fundamentally marked by the greater debt load that families will bare due to rising interest rates as well as the expected slow down in consumption for families all over Europe.

Managers in the tourism industry would do well to consider the need to attract and keep the tourist's attention so that he may become more than just a sporadic visitor. In order to do this, it is imperative to analyze the state of our 10.000 kilometers

coastline and to plan out the territory so as to ensure that brick does not become the sole decorative element. Protecting our coasts is intimately linked with a satisfactory evolution of our tourism industry.

Urban planning and **climate change** are the two biggest threats we are facing. Due to its geographical location and characteristics, Spain is especially sensitive to the adverse effects resulting from climate change. These conditions would affect practically all sectors of the economy: the tourism industry, the fishing industry, the agricultural industry, and forest-based industry...

The coastal regions are among those areas that will suffer the consequences of a rise in sea level and in sea temperatures, the greater frequency of extreme weather phenomenons and changes in rainfall patterns. Experts have concurred in pointing out that those coasts under greater urban and tourist pressure will be more vulnerable to these adverse effects.

On the coast, the main problem we will have to face will be the rise in sea level. Estimates indicate that every centimeter sea level rise will push the coastline back a meter in average.

The areas under the greatest threat are: the Bay of Biskaia, the Ebro and Llobregat deltas, the salt marshes at Doñana, the coast of La Manga del Mar Menor and the Gulf of Cadiz.

On Spanish beaches, overall, predictions indicate that there will be a variation in flood levels and the coastline will tend to recede. The areas that will be most affected by the rising sea level, which is expected to be as high as 35 centimeters, are the coast of Galicia and the northern areas of the Canary Islands. On the Mediterranean, estimates indicate that the average rise in sea level will be about 20 centimeters.

It is imperative that we implement policies and strategies for interventions affecting the coastline that will take these warnings and predictions into account. Along with these specific recommendations for the coast, it is necessary to undertake a veritable revolution in our use of energy that will wean us off of our dependence on fossil fuels and will allow us to reduce emission of



**UP. GOLF COURSE  
IN SUCINA (MURCIA)**

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**DOWN.  
THREATENED  
*Posidonia oceanica*  
MEADOW IN  
MAZARRON  
(MURCIA)**

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greenhouse gases, and thus, reduce the impact of climate change.

Greenpeace has published a series of reports demonstrating that renewable energy sources would be sufficient to cover energy needs in Spain. The results of these researchs show that our capacity to generate electricity from clean sources by far exceeds current demand. In addition, non-polluting resources are so widely distributed throughout the peninsula that every Autonomous Community is fully capable of fulfilling its own demand for electricity. Of course, realizing the potential of this proposal would require a political commitment.

However, urban sprawl and climate change are not the only threats present on the Spanish coast. **Desalination** plants are another source of negative impact on the environment. The Ministry of Environment is immersed in a runaway race whose

only objective is to offer water to all the real Estate developments, which are especially concentrated on the Mediterranean coast. In its efforts, the Ministry has completely forgotten to do its main job, which should be to protect the coastal and marine environments.

One way in which desalination plants cause the greatest harm is through the dumping of residues, the so-called brine, derived from the desalination process. The high concentration of salt and chemical compounds in brine has a disastrous effect on the already threatened *Posidonia oceanica* bed whose benefits are a key contribution to sustaining the Mediterranean ecosystem. Chief among these benefits is the fact that thousands of plant and animal species choose it as a place to reproduce and feed, thus absorbing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), one of the gases responsible for climate change, liberating oxygen into the atmosphere and acting as an essential element to slowing-down the erosion of the coastline.

**The plans made for the coast by the Ministry of Environment** are not fully convincing. Good intentions and "programs" that are never fully specified and with ridiculously low budgets compared to interventions costing millions such as boardwalks or hardcore engineering projects. The fifteen docks under construction in front of Barcelona's beaches, the new marine zoological park in Barcelona built partly on land reclaimed from the sea, and the permit to construct an industrial port at Granadilla on the southeast coast of Tenerife, are just some of the more extreme examples of an unsustainable model.

The Ministry of Environment's plans to buy coastal properties with the sole objective of protecting the coastline will have very little impact compared to the real-estate development plans that are being undertaken at a frenetic pace all along the coast. In most cases, the Ministry has been looking into properties that are already protected and on which it is not possible to build, which only shows that the measure, though positive, is ineffective. As propaganda, however, it is very effective.

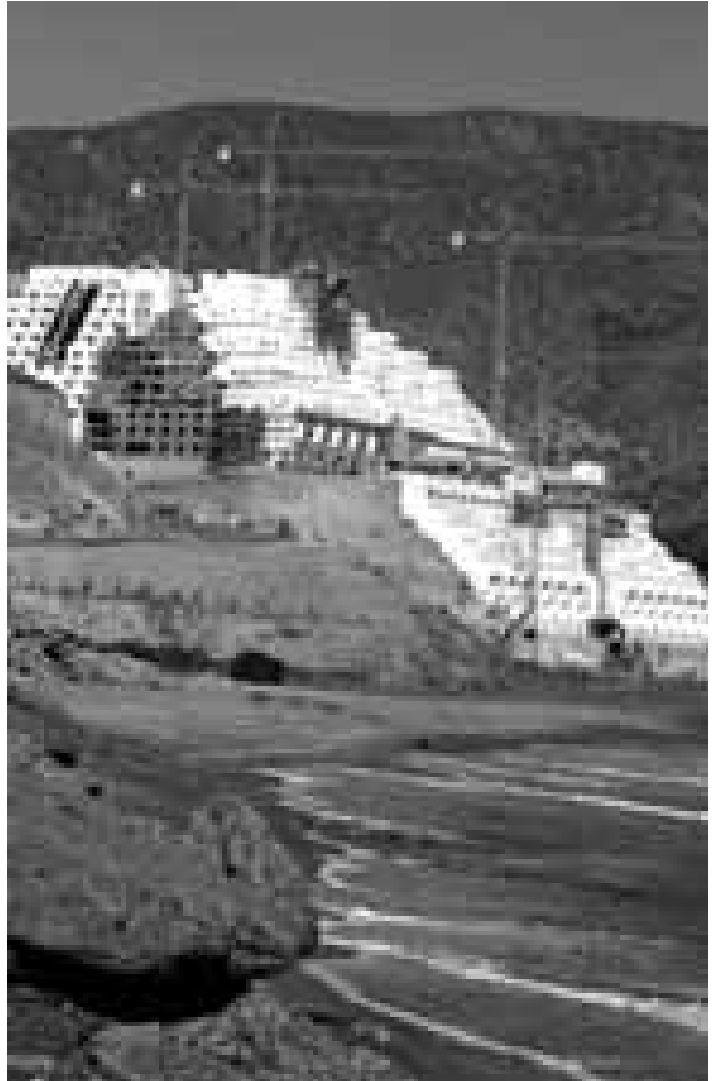
It would be much more honest and brave for the Ministry to focus its efforts on land that is actually threatened by construction and to thus demonstrate its sincere interest in safeguarding the coast. It would still be in time to do this.

Almost twenty years after the Coast Law of 1988 decreed the demarcation of terrestrial marine public domain, this directive is still to be executed. Now, the Ministry of Environment faces the challenge of having to revise this demarcation in order to incorporate the predictions of experts in climate change hired by the Ministry itself who recommend a revision of the strip of public coast as a security measure.

Another issue yet to be resolved is the construction of berths along the coastline. In 2005, Spain had 321 **marinas**, 201 on the Mediterranean and 120 on the Atlantic-Cantabrian coasts, with a total capacity of 106,795 boats, a large number but not enough for the Autonomous Communities' port managers. All the Autonomous Communities, without exception, want more marinas. According to a paper published by TurSpain, the nautical activity of tourists from abroad generates only 2% of total revenue derived from tourism. This percentage pales in comparison to the revenues generated by diving (49,3%) or transportation crafts (20,7%).

It is therefore important to evaluate the need for more marinas using objective data and to bare in mind the negative effects stemming from privatizing the coastline, contamination and erosion.

The last great threat present on the coast that this report will assess is **contamination**. Seventy-five percent of the contamination found at sea originates on land, and the cities along the coast of Spain know quite a bit about this. The delays in implementing sanitation and sewage treatment plans on the coast are alarming and to date there are still cities of considerable size, such as Corunna or Algeciras, that do not have adequate treatment of their wastewater.



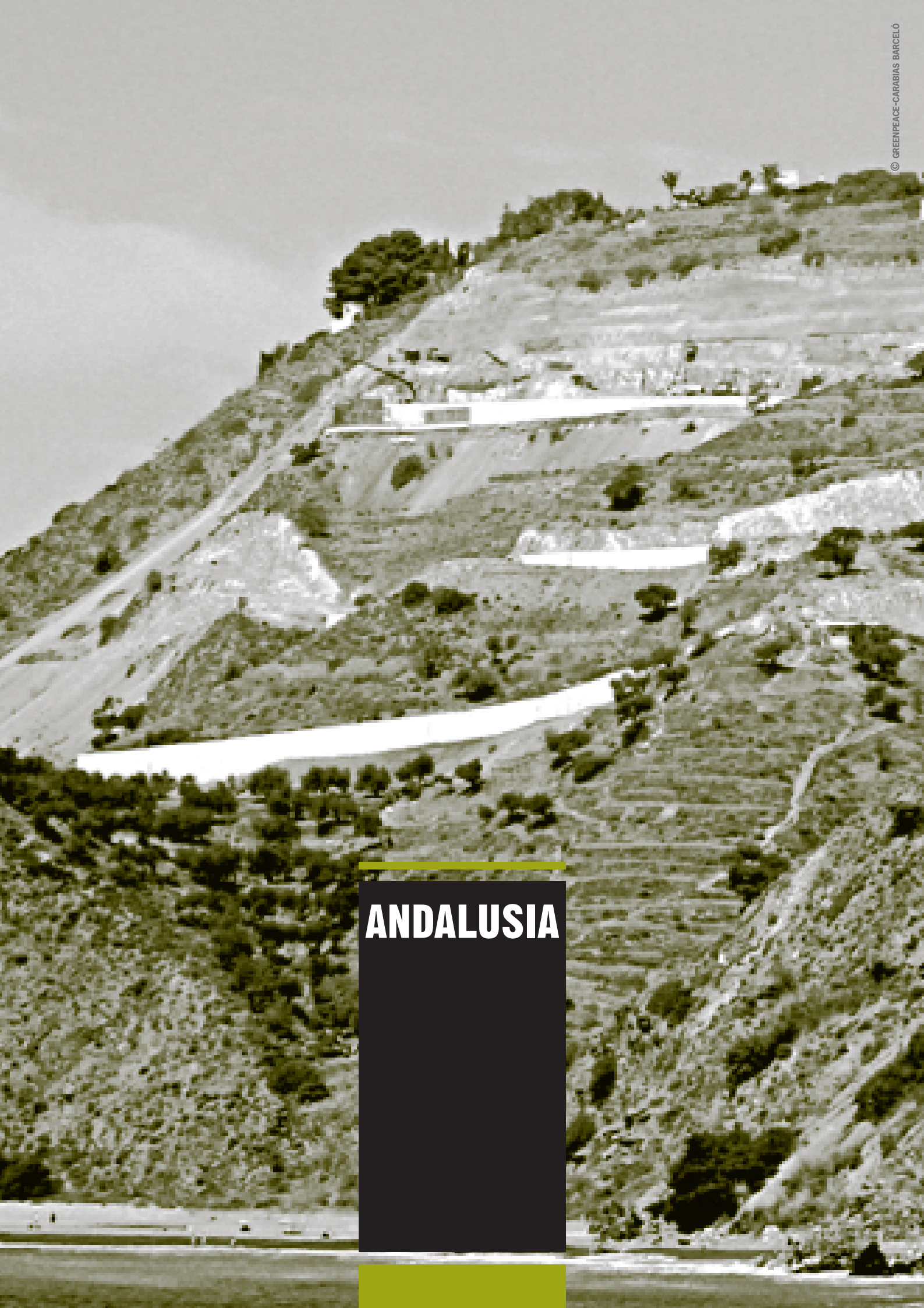
Andalusia, Galicia and the Canary Islands have won the dubious honor of being last in the fight against pollution. In all, 800 Spanish cities and towns fail to comply with current regulation regarding wastewater treatment and waste disposal, a situation that is forcing the Spanish government to negotiate with Brussels to obtain moratoriums on the enforcement of sanctions and to stop procedures against the daily dumping of pollutants into the sea.

In short, the situation on the coast is not good. But it is in our reach to stop allowing its destruction and to appeal to authorities to enforce regulation that protects the coastline. We must be conscious of our own responsibility and strongly demand a new future for our coasts.

**HOTEL BUILT  
WITHIN THE CABO  
DE GATA NATURAL  
PARK (ALMERIA)**

© GREENPEACE-ARMESTRE

# AUTONOMOUS REGIONS ANALYSIS



# ANDALUSIA

**ALTHOUGH IT ACCOUNTS FOR ONLY 10% OF THE WHOLE TERRITORY, THE ANDALUSIAN COAST GATHERS A THIRD OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY. IN THE REGION AS A WHOLE, URBANIZED SURFACE ACCOUNTS FOR 2.43% OF LAND, WHILE ON THE COAST THE OCCUPIED AREA IS 29.5%.**

The trend among Andalusia's inhabitants to gather on the coastal strip is unstoppable. Sixty-two per cent of the growth in population in the Autonomous Community between 2003 and 2005 is located in cities and towns on the coast.

Andalusia consumes an average of 12.81 hectares of land a day, of which 9.23 (72%) correspond to the provinces on the coast. Brick is one of the main driving forces of the Andalusian economy.

only 9% of Andalusia's towns have achieved) and also limits land development to 40% of the current urban territory. However, it leaves sustainability aside.

More than 90% of Andalusia's towns will have to adapt their urban development plans to meet the new criteria established by the regional government. Some towns on the coast will have to make reductions that are more than drastic:

**Urban planning corruption** is present on the coast of Andalusia. Courts demand more staff in order to handle all the cases. To date, about twenty town councils, the most notorious of them being Marbella, are facing investigations and legal procedures for offences against land management, urban planning and environmental laws. In each of these cases, the projects brought to trial had been approved by the Council of Andalusia, which is in great measure responsible for the situation of its coastline.

**Almeria** is suffering the unprecedented harassment of construction. This is particularly serious in the case of the Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Reserve, where the regional government wants to allow building on 200 hectares of protected land.

**PERCENTAGE OF DEVELOPED LAND IN**

PROVINCE	DEVELOPED LAND IN THE 500 METER STRIP
Malaga	59,5%
Cadiz	32,5%
<b>Average for Andalusia</b>	<b>22,2%</b>
Granada	22%
Almeria	20%
Huelva	12%

Last June, the Andalusian government approved the Land Management Plan for Andalusia (POTA). The Plan limits the growth of cities in the next eight years to 30% of their current population (which

TOWN	CURRENT POPULATION	EXPECTED GROWTH (THE POTA PLAN ALLOWS ONLY 30% OVER THE CURRENT POPULATION) <sup>4</sup>
Cuevas del Almanzora. Almeria	11,484	Procedure underway to approve the General Urban Development Plan (GUDP). Nearly 148,000 residences for a total population growth of up to 414,000 people (a <b>3,608%</b> increase)
Vera. Almeria	11,159	Procedure underway to approve the GUDP. 118,000 new residences will occupy 75% of municipal land, an area of 58 km <sup>2</sup> , which amounts to 330,400 new inhabitants, an increase of <b>2,961%</b>
Mojacar. Almeria	6,092	GUDP under revision. 10,000 new residences (equivalent to 28,000 new inhabitants, an increase of <b>460%</b> )
Almuñecar. Granada	24,713	GUDP tentatively approved pending pronouncement by the Andalusia Council. 35,000 new residences (equivalent to 98,000 new inhabitants, an increase of <b>397%</b> )
Estepona. Malaga	58,603	82,000 new residences (equivalent to 229,600 new inhabitants, an increase of <b>392%</b> )
Nijar. Almeria	24,435	GUDP draft presented. 20,000 new residences (equivalent to 56,000 new inhabitants, an increase of <b>230%</b> )
Carboneras. Almeria	7,267	GUDP under public review. 4,000 new residences (equivalent to 11,200 new inhabitants, an increase of <b>154%</b> )
Roquetas de Mar. Almeria	65,886	GUDP under public review. 20,000 new residences (equivalent to 56,000 new inhabitants, an increase of <b>85%</b> )

Sources: National Institute of Statistics (INE), El Pais, Wikipedia

<sup>4</sup> This estimate has been done assuming that there are 2.8 people per residence (which is the average between the current family composition and the predicted composition ten years from now).



**Cadiz** is the part of the Andalusian coast that suffers the most urban planning infringements in the area of coastal land easement it possesses (306 between 2005 and the first half of 2006).

The Cadiz Courts report for the year 2006 emphasizes that the phenomenon of illegal construction is out of control and is currently unstoppable. The report points directly at the town councils as the main culprits responsible for this situation for not executing their function of safeguarding discipline in urban planning.

On the coast of **Granada**, the number of residences at **Costa Tropical** has doubled in the last 30 years. This real-estate development has not been accompanied by a parallel growth in population. Almuñecar, Salobreña and Motril have increased their number of residences excessively without worrying about the necessary public services and infrastructure.

The number of residences in **Huelva** has increased 60% in the period between 1991 and 2002. Relentlessly, albeit at a somewhat slower pace than the rest of the Andalusian coast, Huelva's shore has caught up with the construction fever that is deforming its coastline. The plans of Huelva's town councils will add 160,000 new hotel rooms and residences.

In the province of Malaga, 59.5% of the first 500 meters of coastline is occupied urban land, a figure that reaches 85% in towns such as Mijas, or 82% in Marbella. Between 500 and 1,000

meters, the percentage of land that has been built on is 47.8%, compared to an average of 22.2% for the entire coast of Andalusia.

And just as worrisome as what has already been built is the amount of land that has already been classified as developable. The urbanized area of Malaga increased an 18% between the years 2002 and 2005. The Provincial Environmental Committee estimates that one million new residences will be constructed in Malaga in the next decade, a growth that is clearly unsustainable.

The urban planning corruption plot unraveled in **Marbella**, the biggest known to date in Spain, is still being investigated. The so-called Operation Malaya has tainted the names of thirteen promoters and construction companies suspected, according to the investigation, of paying bribes amounting to at least 22.5 million euros in order to obtain favors in the form of contracts or to bring down less-than-friendly local governments. To date, 104 people have been involved, of which four remain in prison. The latest, the singer Isabel Pantoja, is accused of money laundering.

The investigation has also revealed that the 16 ex-Marbella town-councilors that have been arrested would share out amongst themselves between 6,000 and 84,000 euros for each urban planning agreement they approved, while Juan Antonio Roca, supposedly the brains behind this fraud and theft operation, would cash in up to 100,000 euros a pop.

CALA DEL  
INVENCIBLE, PULPI  
(ALMERIA)

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And, while the plot continues to thicken, in the past three years, the Andalusian Supreme Court has issued over 30 judgments canceling construction licenses handed out by the Marbella town council that affect 2,800 residences. The Council of Andalusia has called for the demolition of 334 of these residences located on land that had been set aside for urban infrastructure.

With nearly 24 million tourists visiting a year, Andalusia is facing a serious dilemma with respect to the model of tourism it wants to have: nature or cement. The data indicates that, though politicians talk constantly about respecting nature, what prevails is brick and concrete.

Researchs show that tourists opt for more recently developed and less crowded coastal areas, and this is what Andalusia offers. The last stretches of virgin coastline in Andalusia have already been auctioned off with the Council's blessing. Each year the "sun and surf" is closer to "sun and cement" and it does not seem that the Andalusian government will be changing its approach before the situation is irreversible.

It seems inevitable that Andalusia will run out of land and natural resources. The average consumption of water per inhabitant in the region is 180 litres a day, the second highest in Spain, a figure that in the Costa del Sol and Almeria is as high as 400 litres per person per day.

The **construction projects undertaken on the coast of Andalusia** are in great measure responsible for the precarious situation of the region's beaches. The various barriers, in the form of dry

MACENAS BEACH,  
MOJACAR (ALMERIA)  
© GREENPEACE-GL ALMERIA



docks, jetties and ports, have caused long-stretches of coastline to stop receiving sand. Another source of conflict is construction in areas that are protected or in danger of flooding.

The regional and central governments have conceded to destroying a strip of the marshland in Puerto Real, an action that goes against the Coast Law and is difficult to classify.

As for ports, the local administration's plans propose doubling the number of berths currently existing. Andalusia already has 43 marinas with capacity for approximately 17,000 berths. Even so, the Public Works Division has proposed building up to 32,000 docks by expanding already existing ports (57 interventions) and building six new ones.

Lastly, there's the topic on **pollution on the coastline**. According to official data made available to Greenpeace, each year, Andalusia dumps 3,273 million cubic meters of industrial, agricultural and municipal wastewater through 1,182 final discharge points authorized by the Council. Two points are especially contaminated: the Bay of Algeciras and Huelva's chemical industry area.

#### AUTHORIZED DUMPING ON THE COAST OF ANDALUSIA

Cadiz	402
Seville (Guadalquivir estuary)	230
Huelva	174
Almeria	157
Malaga	128
Granada	91
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.182</b>

On the coast of Andalusia, there are 63 wastewater treatment plants (including those already in existence, those under construction and those that are projected) that will attend to 5.6 million people. Not all of these treatment plants comply with European regulation, which requires a secondary wastewater treatment plant for wastewater generated by towns with more than 10,000 inhabitants.

The worst situation is in those towns where there is still no sewage treatment plant and where the population multiplies during the summer months:

The **Bay of Algeciras** is still a veritable time bomb due to the great number of ships that travel through its waters. This year, the refrigerated cargo ship "Sierra Nava", which conveniently travels under the flag of Panama, suffered the most



## TOWNS WITHOUT SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS

TOWN / NUMBER OF INHABITANTS	PURIFICATION STATUS
Algeciras (111,283 inhabitants)	Contract for projected wastewater treatment plant has been awarded
Tarifa (17,199 inhabitants)	Contract for projected wastewater treatment plant plant is on auction
Nerja (19,496 inhabitants)	Wastewater treatment plant projected
Torrox coast (16,000 inhabitants)	Wastewater treatment plant under construction
Chipiona (17,952 inhabitants)	Wastewater treatment plant under construction

Source: Department of the Environment. INE. Wikipedia

serious accident, running aground on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January in an area that is part of the Estrecho Nature Park. The disaster caused an oil spill that affected various kilometers of the coastline.

Bunkering services supplied by floating gas stations that are illegally docked in the waters of Gibraltar pose another great threat as far as pollution goes. Estimates indicate that 6 million tons of fuel are transferred each year by three companies: Aegean Bunkering Gibraltar Ltd, Cepsa (Gibraltar) Ltd. and Vemaoil Company Ltd.

Greenpeace has been warning for years about the danger of contamination in the Bay of Algeciras, where each year some 20 million tons of petrochemical products are transported.'



UP. OIL ON THE ROCKS IN ALGECIRAS (CADIZ)

© GREENPEACE-RIVERA

DOWN. ODIEL MARSHES (HUELVA)

© GREENPEACE-BUENDÍA



## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF ANDALUSIA. Huelva

**1. Ayamonte.** Foresees a growth of 62,000 tourist accommodations in the next few years, two golf courses and a river marina. A formal complaint about the macro-development Costa Esuri (with 20,000 tourist apartments) has been admitted for investigation. On Isla Canela 43,000 new tourist apartments are to be built, as well as a new golf course and a marina.

**2. Isla Cristina.** Construction of 6,400 new tourist apartments. Expansion of the marina. Inadequate treatment of wastewater.

**3. Lepe.** Proposes to build 20,000 tourist apartments, two new golf courses and a new marina. La Antilla: inadequate treatment of wastewater.

**4. El Rompido (Cartaya).** Projected construction of a marina that will cause severe damage. Inadequate treatment of wastewater.

**5. Cartaya.** Four macro-projects to build 20,000 tourist apartments, five golf courses and four marinas.

**6. Punta Umbria.** Foresees building 7,000 new tourist apartments. Inadequate treatment of wastewater.

**7. Palos de la Frontera.** Inadequate treatment of wastewater.

**8. Huelva.** Construction of 3,500 residences contested by the Council of Andalusia and called off by the Andalusian Supreme Court. Radioactive contamination of Fertiberia's phosphogypsum barges, in the chemical plant.

**9. Mazagon (Moguer).** 10,000 new tourist apartments. Expansion of the marina. Inadequate treatment of wastewater.

**10. Matalascañas.** Inadequate treatment of wastewater, which is dumped without authorization.



## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF ANDALUSIA. Cadiz

**11. Sanlúcar de Barrameda.** Unauthorized dumping of municipal wastewater.

**12. Chipiona.** Ex-mayor and another three ex-councilors charged with giving out construction licences for non-developable land. 200 proceedings underway involving irregularities in urban planning. Expansion of the marina will destroy Micaela beach. Unauthorized dumping of municipal wastewater.

**13. El Puerto de Santa Maria.** Urban development foresees 28,000 new residences and the legalization of another 3,500 residences. Pinar de Coig: ex-mayor, councilor in charge of urban development and a promoter charged with illegal construction. The Lagunas Nature Reserve: ex-mayor and ex-councilors in charge of urban development accused of offenses against land-use planning. The Prosecutor is investigating the sale of municipal land. Partial Plan for Bahía Blanca: planning agreement for 200 residences and a hotel atop a cliff without an environmental impact assessment.

**14. Puerto Real.** Agreement to build an industrial plant in the Aletas marshland, protected by the Coast Law.

**15. San Fernando.** Complaints against the construction of three 16-floor towers on the La Caseria beach have been brought before the courts.

**16. Chiclana.** The Prosecutor has initiated an investigation into various urban planning offenses. Urban development goes against various pronouncements issued by the Andalusia Supreme Court. 40,000 illegal residences. Planning agreement to build Pinar de Hierro.

**17. Conil.** Construction on the Roche beach and cliff has effectively privatized the first strip of beachfront.

**18. Vejer.** El Palmar. El Palmar Gran Resort: 1,800 residences, three hotels and a golf course.

**19. Barbate.** The town hall has failed to carry out a court mandate to demolish the Montenmedio complex. Authorization to build two hotels on Cabo de Trafalgar. Inadequate treatment of wastewater.

**20. Tarifa.** The man who was mayor at that time has been charged for building a restaurant inside the Castle of Santa Catalina. There is no wastewater treatment plant or permit for dumping wastewater.

**21. Algeciras.** Has no wastewater treatment plant. Los Barrios: industrial complex next to the Palmones River is in an area that is danger of flooding.

**22. La Línea de la Concepción.** Town council charged with the sale of four municipal lots. Unauthorized dumping of municipal wastewater. Inadequate treatment of wastewater.

**23. San Roque.** Unauthorized dumping of wastewater in Sotogrande.



## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF ANDALUSIA. Malaga and Granada

### Malaga

**24. Manilva.** Complaint filed against the building permits awarded for two self-catered hotels to be constructed at Aldea Beach on land set aside for urban infrastructure and green area under the protection of coastline land easement.

**25. Estepona.** Malaga. Urban development proposes the construction of 82,000 residences.

**26. Marbella.** Operation Malaya: a hundred people have been charged in the investigation of corruption in urban development. Marina de La Bjadilla.

**27. Benalmadena.** 290 apartments on the beach at La Perla, less than a hundred meters from the sea. Expansion of the marina.

**28. Malaga.** Rezoning from the Gibralfaro mount to Aifos of an Estate that has a demolition sentence pending execution.

**29. Rincon de la Victoria.** Unauthorized dumping of wastewater.

**30. Velez – Malaga.** Urban development includes construction of 32,000 new residences. Unauthorized dumping of wastewater.

**31. Torrox.** Urban development includes construction 13.000 new residences. Unauthorized dumping of wastewater.

**32. Nerja.** Has no wastewater treatment plant and dumps these waters without authorization.

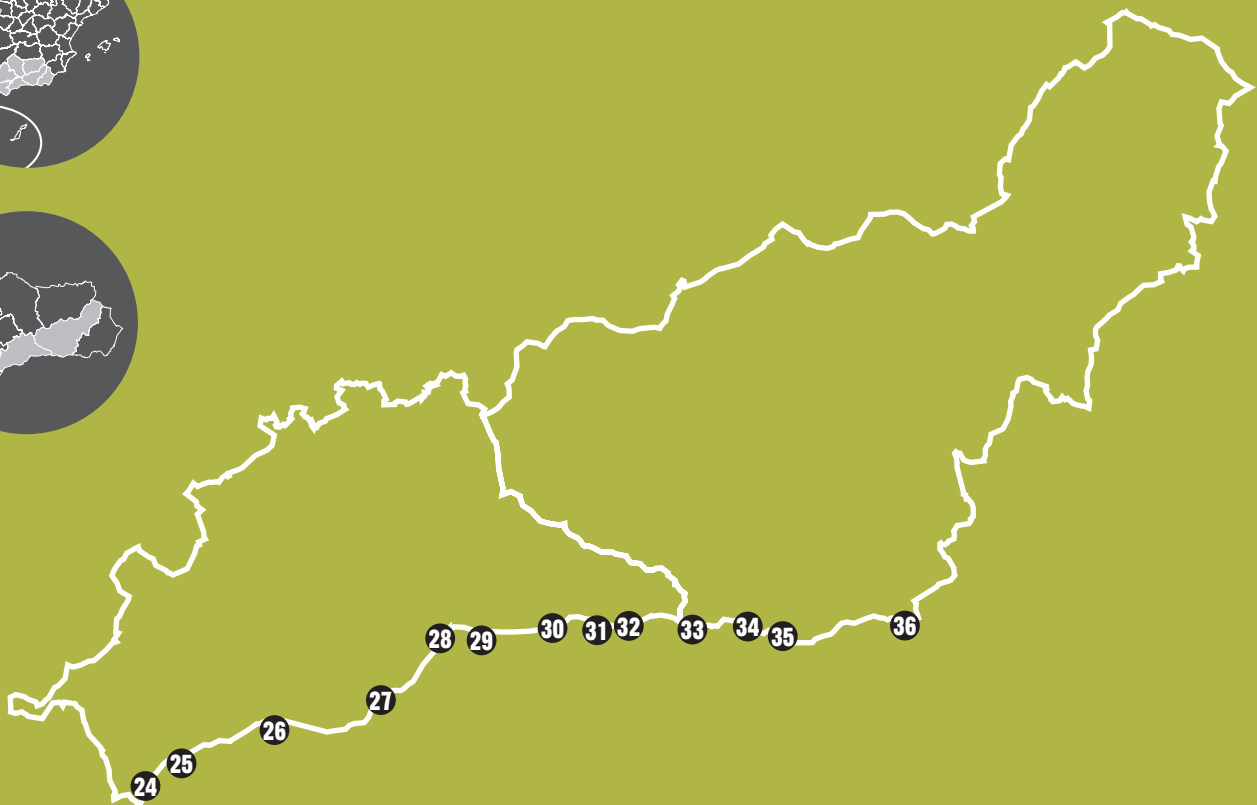
### Granada

**33. Almuñecar.** Urban development includes the construction of 35,000 residences, four golf courses and two new marinas.

**34. Salobreña.** Urban development includes 16,500 new residences, a golf course and a marina. Unauthorized dumping of industrial wastewater.

**35. Motril.** "Beach Granada Golf Resort" Project: 2,500 residences, 900 hotel rooms and a golf course.

**36. Sorvilan.** Unauthorized dumping of wastewater.



## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF ANDALUSIA. Almeria

**37. Adra.** Three underwater outlets with unauthorized dumping of wastewater.

**38. El Ejido.** Unauthorized underwater outlet of sewage water.

**39. Roquetas de Mar.** Town-planning map proposes the construction of 20,000 residences. Aguadulce Cliffs: 440 residences. Four unauthorized underwater outlets of sewage water. Expansion of the marina.

**40. Parque Natural Cabo de Gata-Nijar.** Threat of construction covering 200 hectares.

**41. Nijar.** Town-planning map proposes the construction of 20,000 residences. Agua Amarga: the mayor and councilor in charge of urban development at the time have been charged with a planning offense. Marinas de Agua Amarga: development covering 48 hectares of the Cabo de Gata-Nijar Nature Park.

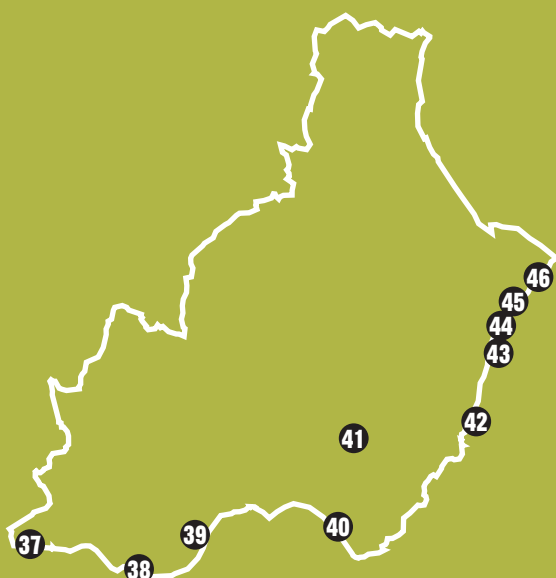
**42. Carboneras.** Illegal hotel at the Algarrobico pending demolition. Estates of La Loma de La Cañada and Torre del Rayo: sold by the town council and reclassified for use as developable land seven months later. Expansion of the marina.

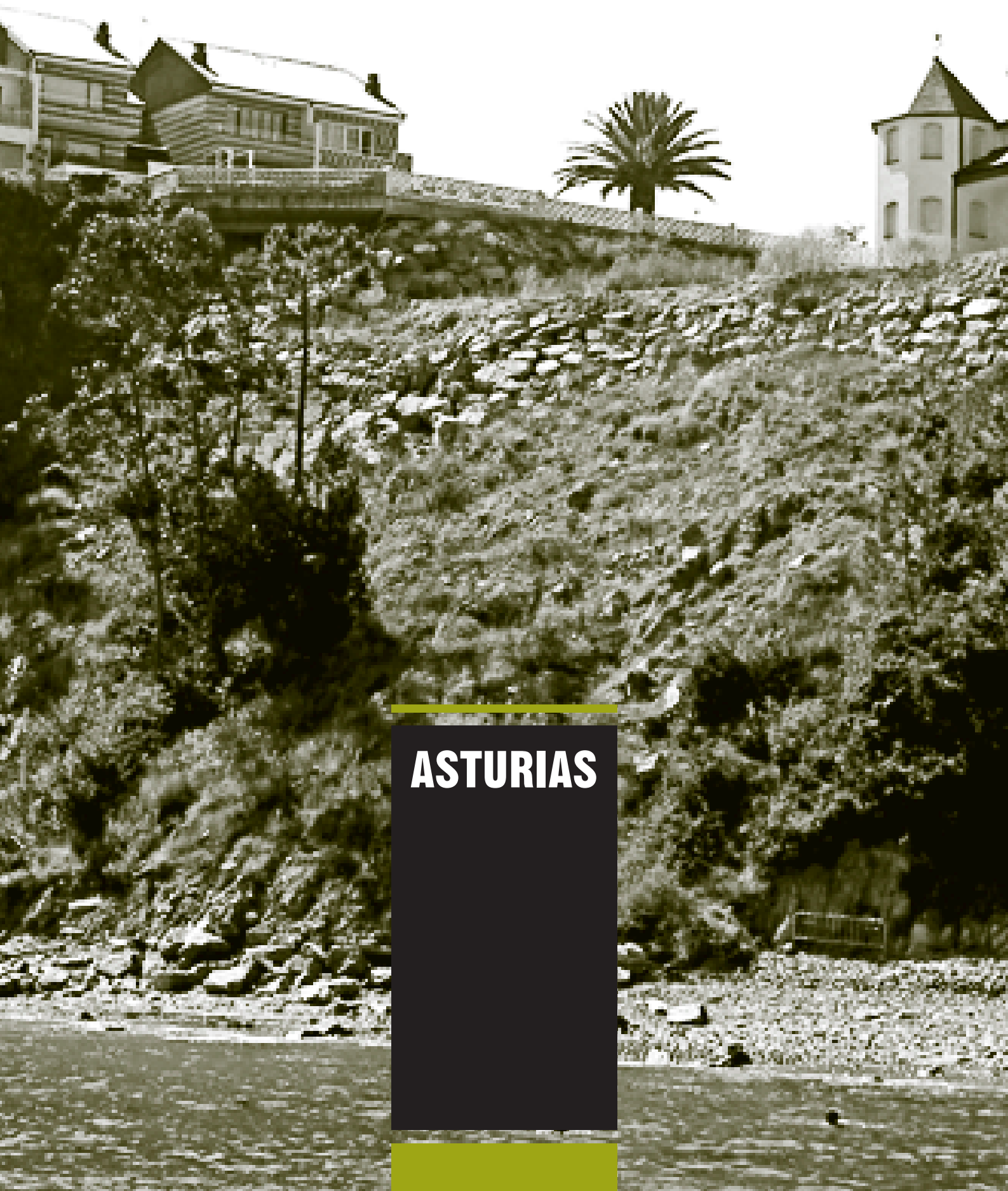
**43. Mojacar.** 10,000 new residences. Macenas Beach: The watercourse is being destroyed in order to make room for 1,400 residences, a hotel and a golf course. The town council has requested removing protection of three sites of Community interest.

**44. Garrucha.** Expansion of the marina. Unauthorized dumping of sewage water at the pumping station.

**45. Vera.** Town-planning map proposes the construction of 118,000 residences.

**46. Cuevas del Almanzora.** Town-planning map proposes the construction of 148,000 residences.





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# ASTURIAS

**THE PROGRESS BEING MADE ON THE CANTABRIAN SEA HIGHWAY GIVES WAY TO URBAN PLANNERS IN ASTURIAS. VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE TOWNS ON THE COAST HAVE GENERAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLANS WITH HIGH GROWTH RATES THAT ARE NOT JUSTIFIED BY ANY REAL GROWTH IN POPULATION, WHICH IN MOST TOWNS IS ACTUALLY NONEXISTENT.**

The regional government uses the mere existence of a Coastline Management Plan for Asturias (POLA) as an excuse to avoid taking measures to prevent saturation and real-estate speculation.

Tourism is on the rise in Asturias. Official figures show that it already accounts for 10.4% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its weight in asturian economy is expected to reach the national average of 12%. Last year, almost two million tourists visited Asturias. It is worth noting that the sector that has most benefited from this increase has been rural tourism, a tool for preserving social, cultural and environmental riches, which has grown 76% in the past two years.

This data should itself suffice to detain the relentless rise in construction of secondary residences on the coast of Asturias that, in many cases, is linked to the construction of golf courses that act as mere elements of real-estate speculation, since they appreciate the value of housing by up to 30%.

Asturia's Coastline Management Plan (POLA) allows the construction of golf courses within the first 500 meter strip from the coastline. This

measure has become a powerful ally for speculation. Asturias has already got eleven golf courses, but projects have been presented to build 17 more, many of them surrounded by housing. Promoters themselves acknowledge that in their projects golf courses are not profitable without the housing.

The Ministry of Environment has announced the purchase of about twenty estates on the Asturian coast to ensure its conservation. This measure is positive but hides the fact that practically all of the places the Ministry is looking into are already protected. Therefore it would be much more effective if the Ministry directs its efforts at freeing coastal areas of cement which are currently in serious risk of succumbing to brick.

As far as port facility infrastructure, it's worth mentioning the severe environmental threat posed by the construction of the Musel Port, in Gijón. The dredging work to reclaim the land necessary for this gargantuan project will have an irreversible impact on the fish population and may cause a serious case of contamination since the sediments to be dredged up contain mercury.

LA TALA, LLANES  
(ASTURIAS)

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## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF ASTURIAS

**1. Ribadedeva.** Plan Especial La Mata Vieja-Noriega: a golf course, 140 single-family dwellings and 10 apartments.

**2. Llanes.** The Asturian Supreme Court has repealed the town-planning map. Construction of the La Tala development less than 500 meters from the coastline on protected land.

**3. Ribadesella.** Development plan proposes building 5,000 residences.

**4. Selorio.** A golf course and a hotel complex in a municipal forest.

**5. Villaviciosa.** Samartin del Mar: The company ACS plans to build 390 single-family dwellings and a hotel complex in an area protected under the POLA. Dredging of the tidal reach to make room for extending the marina.

**6. Gijon.** El Musel Port: serious environmental damage.





## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF ASTURIAS

**7. Carreño.** Les Huelgues beach: bad quality of its bathing waters.

**8. Gozon.** Twenty-seven hole golf course at Verdicio, within Cabo de Peñas Protected Landscape and Cabo Busto Luanco site of Community interest.

**9. Aviles.** Expansion of port.

**10. Soto del Barco.** Project to build a golf course, a shopping mall, two hotels and a housing complex with single-family dwellings.

**11. Cudillero.** A golf course with 125 residences and two hotels.

**12. Valdes.** Town-planning map foresees interventions less than 500 meters from the coastline.

**13. Tapia de Casariego.** Serantes: 2,000 residences in forest and on agricultural land.

**14. Castropol.** Town-planning map foresees interventions less than 500 meters from the coastline.





# CANTABRIA

## THERE ARE CURRENTLY 425,000 PEOPLE, 79% OF THE REGION'S POPULATION, LIVING ON THE COAST OF CANTABRIA. ACCORDING TO DATA FROM THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, 20% OF THE CANTABRIAN COAST HAS ALREADY BEEN DEVELOPED.

Predictions regarding the rise of sea levels as a result of climate change are by no means encouraging. It is estimated that one out of five beaches will disappear.

In terms of extension, this loss would add up to 12.15 kilometers, more than 46% of the 23.37 kilometers that currently exist. As far as total surface area, the loss would affect 79 square kilometers in the region.

This data should cause all departments of the regional government to reflect on the interventions that they are allowing to be undertaken, if not directly promoting, on the coast.

The deterioration of the Cantabrian coast has been slowed thanks to the Courts. A great number of rulings made both by the Cantabrian High Court of Justice and by the region's highest jurisdiction, the Supreme Court, have banned construction of nearly half a thousand residences, all of them located on the coast.

### RULINGS AGAINST ILLEGAL REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENTS IN CANTABRIA

TOWN	RESIDENCES WITH PENDING DEMOLITION ORDERS
Arnuero	144 residences
Argoños	247 single-family dwellings and 10 development
Escalante	One block of 32 apartments
Miengo	One block of 20 apartments
Pielagos	88 single-family dwellings in four developments
Pielagos (Alto del Cuco)	398 residences <sup>5</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>929 illegal residences</b>

The town councils that approved these constructions, despite the existence of conclusive negative reports from the Regional Land-use Planning Committee and the regional government, will now have to take responsibility for the cost of their demolition. They should all have to make a public statement explaining why they authorized the construction of illegal buildings whose demolition will have to be paid local taxpayers.

Some of the interventions of the Directorate-General for Coasts on the Cantabrian coastline are

diametrically opposed to its job description. Since the Coastline Demarcation, old projects have been dusted off or new interventions have been undertaken whose sole objective is to fill long stretches of coastline with cement and concrete, a goal that is far from the spirit of conservation that the Coast Law embodies.

But the real black spot in the Cantabrian government's coastline management policy are its plans to build marinas without the least sensitivity to environmental concerns. The legality of the interventions proposed in its Port Plan is questionable when the administration itself is bidding on and has begun procedures for these facilities even before concluding the process of evaluating the environmental impact, a process that is required by current national legislation.

### NEW MARINAS PLANNED FOR THE CANTABRIAN COAST

TOWN	NUMBER OF TIE-UPS PLANNED
Castro Urdiales	637 berths
Laredo	580 berths at sea, 200 on dry land
Suances	1,135 berths
San Vicente de la Barquera	700 berths

Lastly, we must mention **pollution** as the last negative impact affecting the coastline.

Several towns in Cantabria fail to comply with the European Directive with regards to the treatment of municipal wastewater. According to data made available by the Ministry of Environment, Medio Cudeyo, Santillana del Mar and Santoña are three towns that, as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2005, did not have an adequate municipal wastewater treatment system in place, although the regional government of Cantabria has put a plan in motion to improve sewage treatment in these towns.

Up to a total of 24 towns on the coast do not have an adequate system for wastewater treatment. Noja, Cobreces, Vedreña, Laredo, Miengo, Ajo, Pechon and Premezzo have tiny wastewater treatment plants on their land that are totally insufficient compared to the population they serve.

<sup>5</sup> A ruling issued by the Superior Court of Justice of Cantabria declared the Partial Plan illegal. Confirmation on its demolition is pending the Supreme Courts order.

## BLACK SPOTS ON THE CANTABRIAN COAST

**1. Castro Urdiales.** Oriñon Beach: very negative restoration plan. New marina.

**2. Laredo.** Urban development has a negative environmental impact report. New marina.

**3. Noja.** The town council permits parking on dunes and beaches.

**4. Arnuero.** El Encinar housing development has a confirmed demolition order.

**5. Santander.** Urban development foresees disproportionate growth.

**6. Pielagos.** Costa Verde housing development has been ruled illegal.



## BLACK SPOTS ON THE CANTABRIAN COAST

**7. Miengo.** Very negative intervention planned at Usgo beach.

**8. Suances.** New marina. La Concha beach: bad quality of its bathing waters.

**9. Valdliga.** Golf course on the Oyambre dunes in an area that is coastal easement and within the Oyambre Nature Park.

**10. San Vicente de la Barquera.** La Argolla: construction of residences without a permit within the Oyambre Nature Park. New marina.





**CATALONIA**

**GENERAL PLANS FOR LAND-USE MANAGEMENT ON THE COAST OF CATALONIA CALL FOR 100,000 NEW RESIDENCES TO BE BUILT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. IT IS WORTH MENTIONING THAT 39% OF THE FIRST KILOMETER-WIDE STRIP ON THE CATALONIAN COAST HAS ALREADY BEEN DEVELOPED AND THAT A COASTLINE FILLED WITH BRICKS AND CEMENT WILL BE GREATLY WEAKENED WHEN FACED WITH THE THREATS THAT ARE AFFECTING THE COAST.**

General plans for land-use management on the coast of Catalonia call for 100,000 new residences to be built in the next few years. It is worth mentioning that 39% of the first kilometer-wide strip on the Catalan coast has already been developed and that a coastline filled with bricks and cement will be greatly weakened when faced with the threats that are affecting the coast.

For years, the tourism industry experts have been offering a clear recommendation: the combination of crowded coastal towns and tourism is becoming less and less viable. It is useless to protect just a few stretches of coast when the starting point is already so alarming and, especially, when the plans currently in place for the future are so discouraging.

Greenpeace has confirmed that seaside towns in Catalonia continue to plan the rezoning of undevelopable land into developable land and that very few towns have effectively reduced the area considered suitable for building in their revision of general plans. A clear example of something that should not be tolerated is the town-planning map of the town of Castello de Empuries, which proposes a significant increase in the area of developable land, as well as the construction of a marina which was not included in the Plan for Ports of the Generalitat. All these developments are close to all the dels Aiguamolls de l'Emporda Nature Park.

As for the issue of construction projects on the coast, Barcelona is home to some of the worst examples of interventions by the Ministry of Environment. The **project to "stabilize" the beaches of Barcelona** stands out as being especially harmful. The project consists of building a 2.5 kilometer-long wall in front of five urban beaches in the city of Barcelona. The jetties, one after the other with almost no space between them, will measure between eight and ten meters in depth. The cost of the project is 30 million euros<sup>6</sup>, which is half the amount that the Ministry of Environment has set aside for the purchase of land along the entire Spanish coastline.

This year has marked the completion of the construction of the 8.5 hectares platform built on land reclaimed from the sea, where the **Barcelona marine zoological park** will be located. The 300 million kilograms of rock and concrete, in the form of blocks sunken in the water, will take a year to settle on the Barcelona coast. This project, which

goes against the Coast Law, shows the worst side of the Ministry of Environment.

In the year that has passed since publishing our last report, one of the most negative projected interventions to emerge on the coastline, has been the approval of the Port Plan for all of the coast of Catalonia. This plan considers incorporating 6,000 new berths from here to the year 2015, an addition that will cause the degradation of the coastal area and of the seabed.

New berths according to location:

**Tarragona: 2,278 new berths**

- New sporting dock at the port of Sant Carles de la Rapita. Under construction
- Roda de Bara. Work on the marina is being finalized
- Expansion of l'Ampolla's port
- Expansion of Coma-ruga's port
- New sporting dock at Tarragona's port

**Barcelona: 534 new berths**

- New port at Cubelles (Termica de Foix)
- Expansion of Port Ginesta
- Second stage of the Badalona port
- Remodeling of Premià de Mar's port

**Girona: 433 new berths**

- Expansion of l'Estartit's port
- Expansion of Ampuriabrava's port
- Expansion of Port d'Aro
- Expansion of Palamos' marina

Another cause of the bad state of health of Catalonia's coastline is **pollution**. According to experts estimates, 75% of the contamination found at sea originates on land.

A total of 156 offshore sewage outfalls spill out municipal and industrial wastewater all along the coast of Catalonia. Of these, 138 are connected to public wastewater treatment systems, while the remaining 18 correspond to private sea outfalls coming from housing developments, campsites and industries.

About fifty towns have failed to comply with the European Directive 91/271/CEE that calls for all towns of more than 10,000 inhabitants to apply an adequate treatment of wastewater.<sup>6</sup> Of the towns that do not comply with this directive, six are located on the coast: **l'Ametlla de Mar, Arenys de Mar, Castello de Empuries, Lloret de Mar, Sant Carles de la Rapita and Torredembarra.**

<sup>6</sup> Council Directive 91/271/CEE, dated May 21<sup>st</sup> 1991, on the treatment of municipal wastewater that applies to a secondary treatment that includes biological treatment of secondary sedimentation.

## BLACK SPOTS ON THE CATALONIAN COAST. Girona and Barcelona

### Girona

**1. Roses.** Illegal enlargement of the Puig Rom housing development on land meant for municipal infrastructure. Plans to build 262 berths at Port Canadell next to the Aiguamolls de l'Emporda's Nature Park.

**2. Castello de Empuries.** Reclassification of 246 hectares as developable land. Lack of compliance with the new Directive on treatment of municipal wastewater. Ampuriabrava. Expansion of the marina.

**3. L'Estartit.** Expansion of the marina.

**4. Palamos.** Expansion of the marina.

**5. Castell-Beach d'Aro.** Port d'Aro. Expansion of the marina.

**6. Lloret de Mar.** Lack of compliance with the new Directive on treatment of municipal wastewater.

### Barcelona

**7. Arenys de Mar.** Lack of compliance with the new Directive on treatment of municipal wastewater.

**8. Premià de Mar.** Remodeling of the port to increase the number of berths.

**9. Badalona Port.** Entering the second phase of construction.

**10. Barcelona.** Projected construction of 15 submerged docks in front of the city's public beaches. Construction of a zoological park on land reclaimed from the sea that is considered maritime-terrestrial public domain. Attacks inflicted on the environment by construction work to expand Barcelona's port.

**11. Castelldefels.** Expansion of Port Ginesta.

**12. Cubelles.** New port at Termica de Foix.





## BLACK SPOTS ON THE CATALONIAN COAST. Tarragona

### Tarragona

**13. Calafell.** The Prosecutor is investigating a planning agreement that purports to build 1,384 homes.

**14. Coma-ruga.** Expansion of the marina.

**15. Roda de Bara.** Construction of the marina about to be finalized.

**16. Torredembarra.** The Ministry of Environment is not considering the purchase of land that is about to be developed at Els Muntanyans. Lack of compliance with the new Directive on treatment of municipal wastewater.

**17. Cap Salou.** New marina.

**18. Salou.** The Prosecutor is investigating the reclassification of land owned by the current mayor's son.

**19. L'Ampolla.** Expansion of the marina.

**20. Sant Carles de la Rapita.** New sporting dock being built. Lack of compliance with the new Directive on municipal wastewater treatment.





**COMUNIDAD  
OF VALENCIA**

## THE LATEST REPORT BY THE SPANISH OBSERVATORY FOR SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS THAT THE COMMUNITY OF VALENCIA IS AT THE HEAD OF UNSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN OUR TERRITORY. THE MAIN CAUSE OF THIS “LEADERSHIP” IS THE POOR USE AND DESTRUCTION OF ITS COAST.

The construction of secondary residences, the consumption of water and energy and the generation of waste and external costs, primarily in the form of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, push the Comunidad of Valencia away from the objective of territorial sustainability laid out by the Council of the European Union during the 2005 Summit held in Lisbon.

For the past several years, the European Parliament has been closely supervising Valencia's Urban Development, due to complaints by thousands of citizens and associations about the irregularities and illegalities contained in this Autonomous Community's urban development legislation. The last of the Parliament's reports is devastating. It elaborates on the same issues covered in the “Fourtoun Report”<sup>7</sup> about the abusive application of the Regulatory Law on Urban Development Activity (LRAU) that has since been revoked and replaced by the Valencian Urban Development Law (LUV) which, as Greenpeace already protested in last year's report, consolidated the same model of predatory Urban Develop-

ment that feeds off the special interests of landowners, off the land and off the environment.

Esteban Gonzalez Pons, member of the Governing Council in charge of Planning and Housing, compared the Parliament's visit to the work of “two citizens of the British Empire who decide to take a stroll through the Colonies to see how the good savages lived”. Furthermore, he pointed out that the Generalitat was “not going to do anything” after reading the report, which he described as “very harmful and insanely exaggerated”. He also questioned the existence of the 15,000 complaints filed by citizens who have been affected by Valencia's Urban Development.<sup>111</sup>

Moreover, the European Commission has announced that it will file a complaint before the Court of Justice of the European Community against Spain because the Urban Planning legislation in Valencia does not adhere to the directives that insist on transparency in public procurement processes. The legislation also fails to ensure competition in awarding urban planning.

### ILLEGAL RESIDENCES ON THE COAST IN THE COMUNIDAD OF VALENCIA

Almassora. Castellon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group of illegal homes near the mouth of the Mijares river</li> </ul>
Benidorm. Alicante	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The town council has passively allowed the expiration of more than a thousand cases involving offenses against disciplined urban planning</li> </ul>
Castellon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3,000 illegal residences in Marjaleria. An agreement between the town council and the Generalitat will legalize 2,000</li> <li>300 illegal constructions on the Serradal path</li> <li>500 illegal homes built on undevelopable land</li> </ul>
La Vila Joiosa. Alicante	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2,000 illegal homes built on undevelopable land</li> </ul>
Nules. Castellon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undetermined number of illegal homes</li> </ul>
Orihuela. Alicante	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 20,000 and 30,000 illegal homes. 8,000 are under investigation by Prosecutor</li> <li>The Anti-Corruption Prosecutor has charged the mayor, Jose Manuel Medina, in several cases of construction on especially protected undevelopable land</li> </ul>
Oropesa. Castellon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>600 illegal apartments built on land set aside for camping. The town council has proceedings underway to construct 300 more homes in that same area</li> </ul>
San Miguel de Salinas. Alicante	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The San Miguel Arcangel's Neighbor's Association has filed a complaint before the Alicante's Anti-corruption Prosecutor against eleven illegal development projects affecting more than 200 homes</li> <li>The project known as “Los Invernaderos” has taken over 30,000 square meters of municipal land, classified as public parkland, in order to build 250 homes more than the 1,582 initially projected</li> </ul>
Sueca. Valencia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current mayor, Salvador Gil, was trying to build 25 homes in the Albufera Nature Park. An architectural firm of which Gil is a partner had been responsible for the development's design. The Superior Court of Justice has ruled against its construction</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> Report on the abusive application of the LRAU and its repercussions on European citizens or Fourtoun Report. European Parliament. Notice to members CM/581277ES.doc. September 16<sup>th</sup> 2005.

## PEGO'S EX-MAYOR IS THE FIRST PUBLIC OFFICIAL TO BE IMPRISONED FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENSE

Carlos Pascual, mayor of Pego between 1995 and 2003, entered prison last May, having been convicted of an environmental crime for causing serious damage to the Pego-Oliva swamp between 1996 and 1998.

During those years the swamps vegetation was intentionally burned, the wetland's water level was reduced and roads and docks were built to facilitate access to vehicles.

The mayor was condemned to six years of prison for an ecological crime and for disobedience, in addition to being fined almost 8,000 euros plus having to pay 1.2 million euros in compensation for damages.

## THE OTHER AMERICA'S CUP

The America's Cup is much more than a boat race competition.

The Port Plan for the Community of Valencia saw the light following Valencia's designation as host of the America's Cup for 2007. The Plan approved construction of 10,000 new berths all along the Valencian coastline. The event's organizers have taken advantage of this opportunity to expand practically all of the existing marinas without taking the environmental impact of these projects into account.

Promoters of the event have also carried out a remodeling of Valencia's Port in order to create a navigable canal to connect the inland dock to the open sea. The most notable impact of this operation is its effect on **Malvarrosa beach**, which will suffer a regression of 20 meters provoked by the construction of the port's entry dock, which protrudes several hundred meters into the sea. The beaches situated south of the port, in **the Albufera Nature Park**, will also suffer negative consequences.

The need to finance the event and its construction projects, with a cost of some 900 million euros, has given rise to all sorts of speculative actions, some of which have been ruled out because of their illegality, such as the proposed construction of housing on the docks that would have raised a thousand million euros.

There is a proposed reclassification of the harbor that would allow the area surrounding the port, between the Poniente and del Turia docks, to be used as residential land. In total, the proposal includes 4,000 luxury homes, many of them with berths included.

The widening of Blasco Ibañez Avenue in of the Cabanyal-Canyamelar neighborhood, which has been declared as a Site of Cultural Interest, has been another cause of controversy. The project, which involves the demolition of 943 homes, has obtained a favorable ruling from the Community of Valencia's Superior Court of Justice.

The courts are flooded with complaints of urban development land-use planning offenses or against land-use planning. The Comunidad of Valencia's Superior Court of Justice is investigating close to 800 criminal cases and has already taken the precautionary measure of paralyzing three Programs of Integrated Interventions (urban development projects) in the towns of Parcent, Porxinos and Ador.

The tourism industry has its heart set on the successful celebration of the America's Cup. There are great expectations that this event will have positive repercussions for the Valencian coast as a whole. It is yet to be seen whether the sports competition will be enough to attract tourists who, according to specialized research, are looking for less crowded areas with good environmental quality, a model that is the opposite of what has been applied in this region.

Experts forecast that the coast of Valencia will be one of the areas that will most suffer the effects of climate change and erosion. To confront the ever more real threat that is coming closer, it is essential that we put concrete and effective solutions in place.

The estimates that have been done predict that the coastline may recede up to a hundred meters on the Mediterranean strip. In the case of the Comunidad of Valencia the negative effects provoked by urban development of the coast, which acts as a screen to augment the impact of storms and the increase in the sea level and also helps the sea to steal more and more space from the land, are worth noting.

The construction of new marinas constitutes a grave injury to the already eroded coast of Valencia. Even so, and camouflaged underneath the glamour of the America's Cup, there are new building projects settling on this coastline.



The only good news in this respect has been the suspension of work on the Luis Campomanes marina, in Altea, although this has not prevented the destruction of a sub aquatic prairie of *Posidonia oceanica* that measured 10,000 square meters.

Valencia's Port has proposed an additional expansion that will have serious repercussions. The project will continue to increase the erosion and the loss of sand on the beaches, particularly Pinedo and Saler, located to the south and Malvarrosa. Despite this, both Valencia's Port Authority and the Ministry of Environment are going ahead with the project.

Desalination plants are another source of negative impacts on the coast, due to the dumping of brine, which alters the marine environment, and also to the high levels of carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere. The Ministry of Environment promotes the installation of gigantic desalination plants that will propel the disproportionate urban development plans spread out over the Mediterranean coast.

The contamination produced by the waste disposal at sea is another of the great threats to the coast. The European Court of Justice has recently condemned Spain for failing to comply with the Directive on treatment of wastewater because of the dumping that takes place off the coasts of Valencia. The sentence applies to the Perello, Les Palmeres, Mareny de Barraquetes, Playa del Rey and Boga del Mar beaches. All of them have been receiving wastewater spillage for various years.

Nine coastal towns in the province of **Castellon** fail to comply with the European Directive on



UP. L'ALFAS DEL PI (ALICANTE)

© GREENPEACE-GL ALACANT

DOWN. EL SALER BEACH (VALENCIA)

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wastewater treatment: Vinaros, Benicarlo, Peñíscola, Alcossebre-Alcala, Cabanes, Oropesa, Benicassim, Moncofa and Xilxes. The first four of these don't even have a wastewater treatment plant, while the remaining five fail to comply with the requirements set forth in the directive.

The Consell has announced its intention of opposing this project by all means within its reach. The Ministry of Industry has already authorized eight concessions since 1996 to search for hydrocarbon deposits in front of the coast of Valencia.

## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF COMUNIDAD OF VALENCIA. Castellon

1. **Vinaros.** Has no wastewater treatment plant.
2. **Benicarlo.** Development plans for flood plains areas protected by the Coast Law. Has no wastewater treatment plant.
3. **Peñíscola.** Projected building of two golf courses. Has no wastewater treatment plant.
4. **Alcossebre-Alcala.** Has no wastewater treatment plant.
5. **Torreblanca.** 46,389 new homes.
6. **Cabanes.** 71 homes on land that is classified as maritime-terrestrial public domain. Inadequate treatment of wastewater. Construction of the Torre la Sal PAI with no guaranteed water resources.
7. **Oropesa.** 47,800 new homes, 7,500 hotel rooms and three new golf courses. Inadequate treatment of wastewater.
8. **Benicassim.** Benicassim Golf PAI: 2,500 homes and a golf course.
9. **Almassora.** 2,000 new homes. Expansion of the Serrallo complex on the beach. Illegal homes built near the mouth of the Mijares River.
10. **Burriana.** Pedrera Port PAI on the first strip of beachfront.
11. **Nules.** Projected building of a golf course. 42 illegal constructions built on marshland. 241 homes built on land classified as maritime-terrestrial public domain.
12. **Moncofa.** 91 homes built on land classified as maritime-terrestrial public domain. New marina projected. Inadequate wastewater treatment.
13. **Xilxes.** Projected building of two golf courses. 93 homes built on land classified as maritime-terrestrial public domain. Inadequate wastewater treatment.
14. **Almenara.** PAI Beach: 3,400 new homes. 97 homes built on land classified as maritime-terrestrial public domain.



## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF COMUNIDAD OF VALENCIA. Valencia

**15. El Puig.** 17,136 new homes.

**16. Alboraiá.** Shopping center moved to farmland. 800 homes and two hotels on the first strip of beachfront.

**17. Valencia.** Urban development operation involving the Mestalla soccer stadium. Expansion of the Port of Valencia, affecting the Malvarrosa, Saler and Albufera beaches.

**18. Catarroja.** Nou Mil.leni Project: 12,000 new homes.

**19. El Perellonet.** Construction of 208 homes.

**20. El Perello.** Expansion of the port to turn it into a marina.

**21. Sueca.** Charges have been brought against the mayor for allowing the construction of 25 homes in the Albufera Nature Park. Sentence against wastewater dumping on the coast.

**22. Cullera.** "Manhattan de Cullera": 4,880 homes in 33 towers each with 25 floors, two hotels each 40 –floors tall, a port with 700 berths on the mouth of the Jucar River.

**23. Tavernes de la Valldigna.** 5,500 homes, three golf courses and a marina.

**24. Gandia.** Expansion of the marina: will destroy Venus-clam banks and harm adjacent beaches.

**25. Piles.** Miramar Beach: development on the last stretch of virgin coastline.



## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF COMUNIDAD OF VALENCIA. Alicante

**26. Pego.** 1,400 homes and a golf course. Ex-mayor sentenced to six years in jail for committing an ecological crime.

**27. Denia.** General Land-use Plan increases area that may be developed. 2,500 homes without sewage systems.

**28. Xabia.** Playa del Tango: construction of an illegal jetty by the Ministry of Environment.

**29. Calpe.** Construction on the La Fossa beach of a hotel measuring 104 meters in height and six meters of coastline, despite its authorization having expired.

**30. Altea.** Plan Puentes del Rio Algar: 5,775 homes and a golf course next to the mouth of the river. Expansion of the Luis Campomanes marina: destruction of *Posidonia oceanica*.

**31. L'Alfas del Pi.** 2,200 new homes.

**32. Benidorm.** Terra Mitica. Reclassification in order to build 2,000 self-catered hotel spots and a hotel complex. Construction of two towers on the edge of the sea at Punta Llisera.

**33. La Vila Joiosa.** 2,000 illegal homes. Construction of 35,000 homes.

**34. El Campello.** Cala Lanuza: Constructions that invade the coastal land easement area. Mutxamel desalination plant will destroy the *Posidonia oceanica* prairie.

**35. Sant Joan.** Partial plan to reclassify 25% of the town's land area.

**36. La Albufereta (Alicante).** Projected construction of a marina on l'Almadrava beach.

**37. Alicante.** Plan Rabassa: 15,000 homes with no certified source of water. Alicante-Marina Baixa desalination plant. Projected installation of 11 fuel deposits in the port.

more in the following page





## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF COMUNIDAD OF VALENCIA. Alicante

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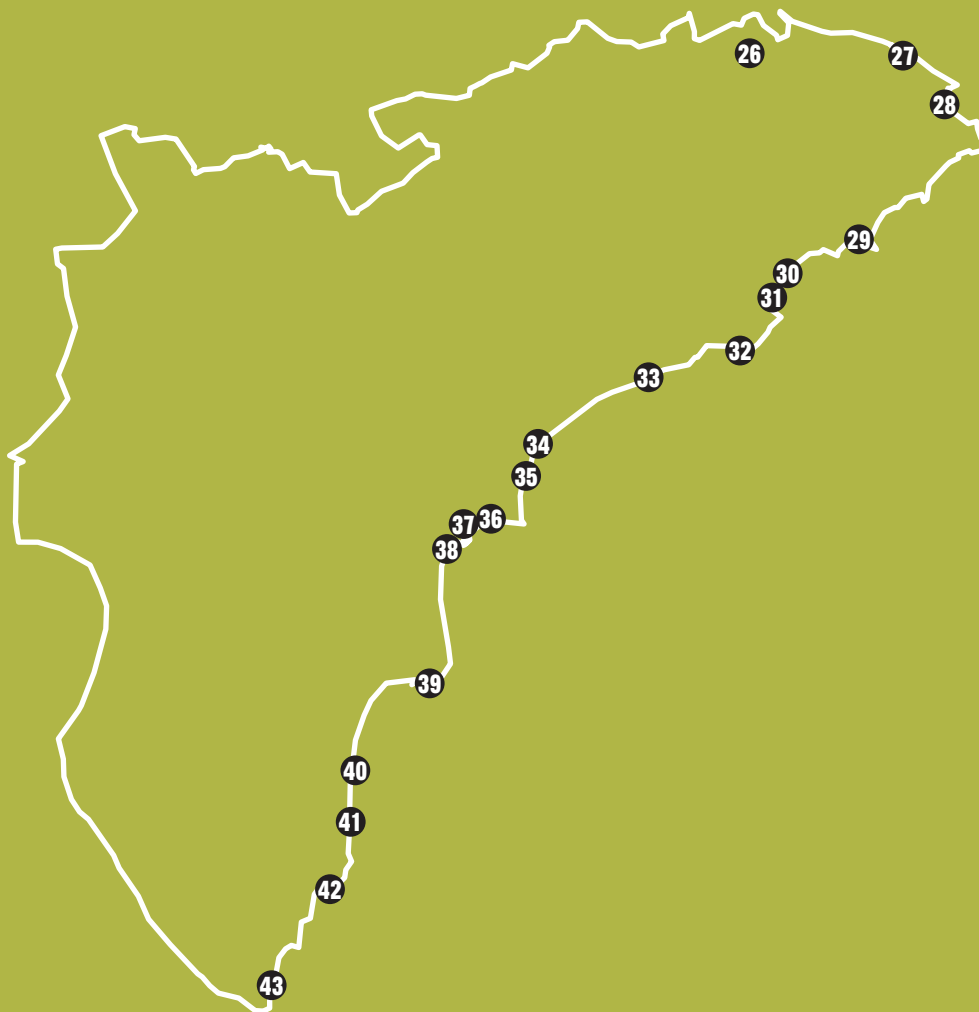
**38. Cala de los Borrachos (Alicante).** Projected construction of underwater film studios within the site of Community interest of Isla de Tabarca.

**39. Santa Pola.** Construction of 5,000 homes and a golf course next to a protected wetland.

**40. Guardamar del Segura.** 38,680 new homes in their new General Urban Development Plan.

**41. Orihuela.** 67,000 new homes. Alameda del Mar Partial Plan: 1,744 homes and a marina on the last remaining stretch of virgin coastline. **42. Torrevieja.** 92,000 new homes. Desalination plant will affect the *Posidonia oceanica* prairie.

**43. Pilar de la Horadada.** 21,000 homes. Illegal constructions on Sierra Escalona.





# BASQUE COUNTRY

**LAND-COVER IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY HAS SHOT UP IN THE LAST TWO DECADES, GROWING FROM 23,607 HECTARES IN 1987 TO 47,295 IN 2005, ACCORDING TO A REPORT ELABORATED BY THE RESEARCH AND STATISTICS SERVICE OF THE BASQUE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING. THAT IS, IN LESS THAN 20 YEARS THE SAME AREA OF LAND HAS BEEN ARTIFICIALLY COVERED IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY AS IN ITS ENTIRE PREVIOUS HISTORY.**

The development plans on the Basque coast are following a similar evolution to those on the rest of the coastline. Either through the municipal urban development plans or by means of plans designed by Basque Government, the proposed increase in the number of homes far exceeds the real needs of the population. The main prototype is the Governing Council of Biskaia's Partial Land-use Plan (PTP) that proposes building enough housing to increase the population in the greater Bilbao area by 300,000 people. Since the 1980's, this area has been losing 30,000 inhabitants a decade.

These data faithfully reflection the situation, we're constructing buildings that we don't really need, while the price of housing continues to reach record highs. The approval of a new Land Law in Euskadi arouses plenty of doubts about the benefits it will bring, since it imports roles such as that of the urban development agent, who is responsible for all sorts of abusive practices in the regions of Valencia and Galicia.

The Basque Government has recently presented the Coastal Land-use Plan whose aim is to protect the first 500-meter strip from the coastline. The Plan affects an area covering 1,100 kilometers, where 60% of the Basque population lives, and it establishes a series of categories of protection for the more vulnerable areas. This is undoubtedly good news, but now the challenge is to see whether the intended protection will be enforced beyond the written page.

Besides urban development, there are other threats that converge on the Basque coast. Special attention must be given to the effects that climate change will have on its beaches. According to the experts, it is possible that Biskaia may lose up to 45% of its confined beaches, that is, those that literally do not have space to recede because they are surrounded by cliffs or have an enclosed layout. This would mean losing 53,4% of the total extension of Biskaia's sand pits. In Gipuzkoa's case 70,6% of its confined beaches, representing 70% of the total length of its beaches, are at risk of disappearing.

Despite all this, the Basque Government continues to expand port infrastructures on its coast, in some cases, such as at Mutriku, with no clear purpose, aside from the economic profit for contractors. The



most aggressive project among these, the outer harbor of Pasaia, is proceeding, imitating the nation-wide fashion of building large outer harbors with null environmental viability and more than dubious economic profitability.

UP. BAKIO (BIZKAIA)

© GREENPEACE-GL BIZKAIA

DOWN. MUTRIKU (GIPUZKOA)

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Although Gipuzkoa and Biskaia already have more than 3,400 sports berths, the construction of marinas and industrial ports, continues to grow. In Hondarribia 200 more berthing jetties will be built and in Orio there are already 296 new berths.

	TOTALLY CONFINED BEACHES		UNCONFINED BEACHES	
	CURRENTLY	WITH A 50 CM RISE IN SEA LEVEL		
<b>Number of beaches</b>	39	22	56.4%	5
Gipuzkoa	17	12	70.6%	2
Biskaia	22	10	45.4%	3
<b>Expansion (km)</b>	18.62	11.6	62.3%	4.35
Gipuzkoa	9.42	6.6	70%	2.85
Biskaia	9.2	5	53.4%	1.5

## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF BASQUE COUNTRY. Gipuzkoa

1. **Hondarribia.** 200 new berths.
2. **Pasaia.** Projected construction of an outer harbor.
3. **San Sebastián.** Fail to comply with the European Directive with regards to the treatment of municipal wastewater.
4. **Orio.** New marina with 296 berths. Oribarzar beach: bad quality of its bathing waters.
5. **Mutriku.** Construction of a commercial port with no environmental impact assessment. Santurrarán beach: bad quality of its bathing waters.



## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF BASQUE COUNTRY. Biskaia

**6. Ondarroa.** Construction of 500 homes in the Aieri marsh (LIC).

**7. Mundaka.** Fail to comply with the Directive with regards to the treatment of municipal wastewater.

**8. Sukarrieta.** Toña beach: bad quality of its bathing waters.

**9. Bermeo.** Fail to comply with the Directive with regards to the treatment of municipal wastewater.

**10. Bakio.** Plans to build 1,900 homes. Ohija: golf course including 424 homes.

**11. Gorniz.** Plans to build 1,300 homes.

**12. Barrika.** Fail to comply with the Directive with regards to the treatment of municipal wastewater.

**13. Plentzia.** Plans to build 837 homes.

**14. Sopelana.** Plans to build between 5,000 and 8,000 homes.

**15. Berango.** Plans to build 2,000 homes.

**16. Getxo.** Plans to build 8,300 homes.

**17. Leioa.** Plans to build between 700 and 1,400 homes.





# GALICIA

**GALICIA HAS 1,885 KILOMETERS OF COAST, APPROXIMATELY 25% OF THE TOTAL LENGTH OF COASTLINE ON THE PENINSULA<sup>8</sup>. SIX-TEEN PERCENT OF GALICIA'S COASTAL AREA HAS BEEN DEVELOPED, WHICH IS MORE THAN TWO PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR ALL OF SPAIN.**

In the past few years, Galicia has experienced the greatest number of land reclassifications in its history, many of which have taken place on the coast. The 86 coastal towns have among them plans to build 800,000 new homes in the following years, a figure comparable to what has been built on the coasts of Galicia in all of its history (816,000 homes).

The passing of the Law of Urgent Land-Use Planning Measures will set measures in motion to fight against land speculation. This law attempts to put the brakes on uncontrolled urban growth but, due to pressure from the business sector, it has made only a half-hearted attempt to set limits to fight against the disfigurement of the Galician coast.

It is imperative that the Governing Council urgently puts the Guidelines on Land-Use Planning and the Coast into effect in order to protect the Galician coastline from private abuse and public neglect. These guidelines should focus on the sustainability of the coast of Galicia and should count on the general agreement of all sectors involved in its environmental, economic and urban development management.

A solid proof of the lack of control exercised by town councils and tolerated by the Governing Council is the high number of mayors and councilors charged with urban development and land-use planning offenses.

In the wave of fires that hit Galicia during the first two weeks of August 2006, there was no dearth of speculation surrounding the possible interests in changing the designated use of certain coastal areas. Given that the problem with fires in Galicia is somewhat more complex, and we are here obliged to make a reference to the multiplicity of causative and motivating factors, however it is true that in certain coastal towns the fires were associated with the pressure to develop. The Governing Council of Galicia committed to maintaining a record of the areas that were burned down in order to avoid reclassification a few years down the line.

But, urban development is not the only threat looming over the Galician shore. Climate change experts estimate that Galicia will suffer this phenomenon particularly intensively. The average rise in sea level is estimated at 35 centimeters by the

year 2050, which means an average loss of 35 meters of coast.

The damages will also be significant when the time comes to build new coastal infrastructures, since scientists' estimates point out that it will be necessary to increase the size of all structures built on a slope by approximately 50% (in the rest of Spain it will only be necessary to increase their size by 20%) by the year 2050.

However, these predictions don't seem to figure into the port policy of the regional government, who has yet to present a General Plan for Marinas that includes the environmental impact these structures will have.

#### NEW MARINAS

TOWN	CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT
A Coruña. Nautical-sports area of San Anton	New sports facility within A Coruña's port includes 700 berths
Baiona. Pontevedra	Expansion of the marina
Boiro. Cabo de la Cruz, Coruña	New marina
Brens. Cee, Coruña	Expansion of the marina
Bueu. Pontevedra	New marina at Pescadoira
Cangas. Pontevedra	New marina at Salgueiron.
Camariñas. Coruña	New marina with 265 berths
Canido. Vigo, Pontevedra.	New marina with 139 berths. The Director-General of Environmental Quality and Evaluation has rejected the project because of the damage it would cause to the environment
Cedeira. Coruña	New marina with 411 berths
Cee-Corcubion. Coruña	New sporting facilities split between the two towns. 300 berths
Cervo. Lugo	New marina
Fisterra. Coruña	New marina with 220 berths
Muxia. Coruña	New marina with 233 berths
Nigran. Pontevedra	New marina at Panxon with capacity for 305 crafts
O Grove. Pontevedra	The new town-planning map includes construction of a marina at O Corgo. Portos de Galicia has asked the town council to cancel the project
Portonovo. Pontevedra	Expansion of the marina
Razo. Carballo, Coruña.	New marina (extension). The Governing Council has rejected the project due to its high impact on the environment
Sada. Coruña	New marina with 270 berths. Will be the second marina in town

<sup>8</sup> According to the Ministry of Environment, peninsular Spain has a coastline 7,355 kilometers long. Including the Canarian and Balearic archipelagos, the length of coast is 10,100 kilometers.

The great number of existing ports on the Galician coast is a direct cause of the loss of sand on its beaches, whose artificial regeneration entails an expense of more than five million euros a year.

#### ARTIFICIAL REGENERATIONS

TOWN	PROJECT	COST
Barraña. Boiro. Coruña	Artificial regeneration and construction of docks	6.9 million euros
Corcubion. Coruña	Artificial regeneration of Corcubion beach using 80,000 m <sup>3</sup> of sand. The shell fisherwomen claim that the banks of shellfish will be buried underneath the sand	
Foz. Lugo	Artificial regeneration of the beach at Arealonga	2.5 million euros
Rianxo. Coruña	Regeneration of the beaches at Tanxil, As Cunchas and O Porron	9.8 million euros



PUNTA LANGOSTEIRA (A CORUÑA)

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Aquiculture plants are another source of environmental impacts on the coast. The Sectoral Plan for Food Processing Facilities is under revision by Galicia's regional government due to serious irregularities surrounding its approval in 2004. Pending announcement of the final results, for the time being we know that eleven of the facilities initially projected were located in protected areas included in the Natura 2000 Network.

Pollution originating on land is more than present on the Galician coasts. Delays in implementing sewage treatment plans have made Galicia accumulate dumping sites on its coast by the dozen. Some cases are especially severe, such as the contamination found in Vigo's tidal reach, a problem to which no solution has been given to date and that could be cause for a fine of up to 20 million euros every six months until the contamination disappears.

A judicial report<sup>9</sup> from the European Commission regarding the *Prestige* has been made public this year. This report considers that taking the tanker

#### WHO HASN'T EATEN SHELLFISH IN GALICIA?

This past month of March, the Department for Environment published a report that exposed the deterioration of Galicia's tidal reaches due to contamination.

The most contaminated spots are grouped around the more industrialized and most densely populated areas of the Galician coastline. Thus, Vigo's tidal reach has 190 dumping points, A Coruña has 110 and Arousa's tidal reach has 834.

Fecal wastewater and industrial spillage that seriously affect the water quality in the tidal reaches and, therefore, also the quality of shellfish and fish, an important source of economic income and tourist attraction, which makes it even harder to explain this situation.

<sup>9</sup> Organized Environmental Crime in the EU Member Provincials.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/crime/pdf/organised\\_member\\_Provincials.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/crime/pdf/organised_member_Provincials.pdf)





farther from the coast and onto high seas was an unjustified and negligent measure that contributed to aggravating the effects of the oil spill and turning its accident into an ecological catastrophe.

The most recent oil spill has already cost the State close to 1,000 million euros, of which 210 million have been used to clean up the coast affected by the fuel. At the end of last year, government sources confirmed that the *Prestige's* wreck was still spilling out fuel. According to research published in the magazine *Scientia Marina*<sup>10</sup>, the presence of a bacteria that is capable of destroying steel at a rate of two millimeters a year could be the cause of further leaks. And, what's even more serious, the authors estimate there are still between 16,000 and 23,000 tons of fuel inside the *Prestige*, a quantity 30 times greater than the Spanish Government had estimated.

#### CANGAS DO MORRAZO (PONTEVEDRA)

© GREENPEACE-GL A CORUÑA

#### MANAGING THE PRESTIGE

“The Spanish Government’s conduct has been questioned as a probable culprit responsible for the magnitude of the catastrophe, which could have been notably less significant had the solutions suggested by other experts been implemented, for instance, the suggestion made by the captain of the ship himself, rather than the solution that was finally executed. It is believed that that decision was adopted blindly, too quickly and without having consulted with experts in the subject, due to the fact that the Government did not consider the case important. This is an example of trickle-down decisions in which a chain of partial and erroneous measures taken by civil servants and members of the Government lead to an incorrect strategy that has aggravated the harmful affects of the ship’s wreck.”

*Report on Organized Environmental Crime  
in EU Member Provincials.  
European Commission*

<sup>10</sup> Assessment of the Behavior of Oil in the Tanks of the “Prestige” in the Atlantic Deep Sea. *Scientia Marina* vol. 68(3), 2004.

## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF GALICIA. Lugo

**1. Ribadeo.** Two fish factories dump waste without authorization (pending).

**2. Barreiros.** Urban development plan suspended. New boardwalk. Fish factory dumps waste without authorization (pending).

**3. Foz.** 1,350 illegal homes. New boardwalk. Artificial regeneration of Arealonga beach. Fish factory dumps waste without authorization (pending).

**4. Cervo.** New marina.

**5. Xove.** Fish factory dumps waste without authorization (pending).

**6. Viveiro.** Urban development plan suspended.

**7. O Vicedo.** Fish factory dumps waste without authorization (pending).



## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF GALICIA. A Coruña

**8. Cedeira.** New marina.

**9. Ferrol.** Expansion of outer harbor. New boardwalk between Fene and Neda.

**10. Neda.** Fish factory dumps waste without authorization (pending).

**11. Mugardos.** Construction of a regasification terminal.

**12. Cabanas.** Ex-mayor found guilty of urban planning corruption. 40% of its wastewater is poured out to sea untreated.

**13. Pontedeume.** Mayor has been accused of granting licenses to develop protected land. Fecal waters seeping into the tidal reach.

**14. Sada.** Urban development plan suspended. New marina.

**15. A Coruña.** Construction work on outer harbor.

**16. Arteixo.** The town council has three lawsuits pending in criminal court for allowing illegal building.

**17. Laxe.** New boardwalk.

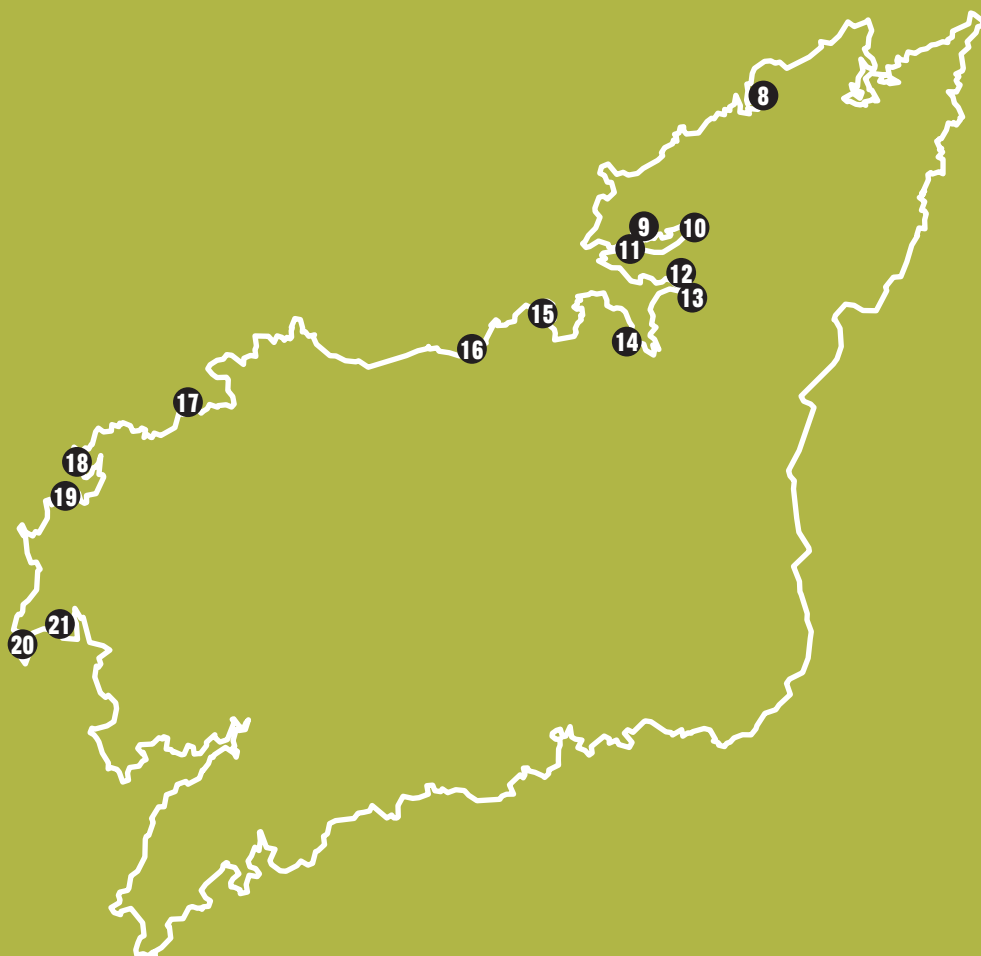
**18. Camariñas.** New boardwalk. Fish factory dumps waste without authorization (pending).

**19. Muxia.** New marina. Three fish factories dump waste without authorization (pending).

**20. Fisterra.** 342 illegal homes on prime beachfront property. New marina.

**21. Corcubion.** Artificial regeneration of Corcubion beach. Contaminated by fuel.

more in the following page



## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF GALICIA. A Coruña

comes from previous page

**22. Cee.** The mayor's son bought non-developable land and already has a license to build. Expansion of the marina. Fish factory dumps waste without authorization (pending).

**23. Carnota.** Quilmas. Project to expand a marine farm on a site of Community interest. Fish factory dumps waste without authorization (pending).

**24. Lira.** New boardwalk.

**25. Muros.** New boardwalk.

**26. Noia.** Expansion of the boardwalk.

**27. Porto do Son.** Councilor in charge of Urban Development has been accused of purchasing land to have it reclassified as developable. 500 illegal constructions within areas that are part of the Natura 2000 Network. Projected aquaculture plant.

**28. Ribeira.** Illegal constructions within the Corrubedo Nature Park.

**29. A Pobra do Caramiñal.** New boardwalk.

**30. Boiro.** New marina. New boardwalk. Artificial regeneration and construction of docks at Barraña beach.

**31. Rianxo.** Artificial regeneration of the beaches at Tanxil, As Cunchas and O Porron.



## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COAST OF GALICIA. Pontevedra

**32. Vilagarcía de Arousa.** Vilaxoan. Dumping of fecal wastewater at Canelas beach.

**33. Illa de Arousa.** Fish factory dumps waste without authorization (pending).

**34. Cambados.** Fish factory dumps waste without authorization (pending).

**35. O Grove.** Urban development plan, which includes, in addition to a new marina. 70 dumping points in the tidal reach, has been suspended.

**36. Portonovo.** Expansion of the marina.

**37. Sanxenxo.** The ex-mayor reclassified his own property in protected spaces designated as undevelopable.

**38. Bueu.** New marina.

**39. Cangas.** New marina.

**40. Moaña.** Fish factory dumps waste without authorization (pending).

**41. Vigo.** 2,000 illegal homes. Urban development rejected by the Governing Council. New marina at Canido. Refills at Bouzas. Contamination of Vigo's tidal reach.

**42. Nigrán.** Ex-mayor and five councilors charged with trading in influence for making privileged urban planning information available to promoters. New marina.

**43. Baiona.** Expansion of the marina. Dumping of wastewater.



An aerial photograph of a coastal town built on a hillside. The town consists of numerous white buildings with dark roofs, interspersed with green trees. In the background, a large, rugged mountain rises, its peak partially covered in vegetation. The foreground shows a rocky coastline meeting the sea. A dark rectangular box with white text is overlaid on the lower right portion of the image.

# BALEARIC ISLANDS

**THE SPANISH OBSERVATORY ON SUSTAINABILITY PRESENTED A REPORT LAST YEAR IN WHICH THE CONCLUSIONS DREW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT LAND-COVER ON THE BALEARIC ARCHIPELAGO HAS INCREASED BY 41.4% IN THE LAST DECADE. IT IS THE HIGHEST GROWTH RATE IN ALL OF SPAIN.**

This situation has been accompanied by the quickly and abundantly growing wealth of builders and hotel owners (and some politicians). The other side of the story is the destruction of a vulnerable landscape. All this in the name of tourism...

Two islands, Mallorca and Ibiza, stand out because of their plans to build new homes, roads and golf courses without regard for the fragility of the surrounding their environment.

Mallorca is the most representative island as far as policies based on cement, asphalt and brick. The data speaks for itself, in the past three years ten million square meters have been covered in asphalt, 16 golf courses have been projected (to be added to the 19 already in existence) and 12,159 homes have been built. And the estimates made by the conservationist group GOB (Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa) point out that in the next ten years, the Roads Agreement has projects pending that would require asphaltting some two more million square miles.

This year, urban planning scandals have found their place in Mallorca's history. One example is the Andratx case, in which the town's ex-mayor, Eugenio Hidalgo, had set up a network of companies along with the town council's building inspector in order to make a profit in exchange for granting an as-of-yet indefinite number of illegal building licenses. The Prosecutor has accused him of more than ten different offenses. The judge who is handling the case has declared that the officials in the Balearic regional government alerted the mayor to his impending arrest 72 hours before it was made.

This year, the Ministry of Environment declared its decision not to authorize the **sinking of a warship** in front of the coast of Calvia, next to a Marine Reserve in the Malgrats Islands. The town council had been backing a plan that involved sinking 4,000 tons of junk in order to create a submarine reef and promote scuba-diving based tourism. In February 2007, shortly before learning about the final decision, Greenpeace, who in 2005 had already presented allegations in writing against this project before the Ministry of Environment<sup>11</sup>, sent a new document expounding legal and environmental arguments, in which it recommended that the Ministry declare itself against the project.

There are other threats looming over the Balearic Islands' coasts. The effects of climate change will be especially noticeable on the archipelago, a fact that should make those responsible for managing the coastline reconsider the sort of interventions they authorize. This is the case of the projected marinas presented in Ibiza and Mallorca, which, if they are carried out will destroy huge submarine prairies of *Posidonia oceanica*, one of the best allies in the fight against the erosion of the coast.

Unfortunately, the Ministry of Environment has given the project for the expansion of the **Adriano Port**, in Calvia, the green light, despite the environmental impact it will have on the coast of El Toro. It is estimated that the construction work to build 85 new berths for large-sized sea vessels will destroy an area of more than 25,000 square meters of *Posidonia oceanica* and produce increased contamination in the area that will affect the beach artificially created once the port has been built.

**“INEXISTENT ACCOUNTING, 100% ANONYMITY FOR INVESTORS, 100% PROTECTION OF ASSETS AND 100% DISCRETION ON THE PART OF THE BANKER”**

The Detursa Company owned most of the property that was sold on various occasions in Andratx. According to the investigation, Detursa acted as a front for the Feliu Abogados law firm.

The law firm offered its professional services to foreign investors through the its web page, guaranteeing them a minimal tax rate.

Their claim was “inexistent accounting, 100% anonymity for investors, 100% protection of assets and 100% discretion on the part of the banker”

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.greenpeace.org/espana/reports/alegaciones-contra-el-hundimie>

## UNSPOILED NATURE THREATENED BY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Alcudia. Ca Na Lloreta	Service area in a natural and rural site
Andratx. Cala Blanca	One of the few virgin cove in this town where there are construction projects
Andratx. Camp de Mar	11 buildings threaten the conservation of the Camp de Mar system of dunes
Andratx. Montport	Rural area where more than 200 apartments have been built illegally.
Arta. Moli d'en Regalat	At Colonia de Sant Pere, the construction of homes on prime beachfront property has been projected.
Calvia. Can Vairet	Construction of a large theme park
Calvia. Magaluf	Real estate projects in the huge old Salobral salt marsh at Magaluf
Calvia. Sementer de Son Flor	Sports and shopping facility threatens the a Special Interest Natural Area (ANEI) at Rafaubeig
Calvia. Ses Algorfes.	Golf course
Calvia. Son Claret	Golf course and hotel in protected area.
Campos. Sa Font Santa	Projected building of a hotel complex in the ANEI es Trenc
Campos. Sa Rapita	Natural and rural area where the construction of a housing complex and a hotel complex is foreseen.
Campos. Sa Vinyola	Nature area where construction of a housing complex and a hotel area are foreseen.
Campos. Ses Covetes	Construction of 13 apartment buildings at es Trenc paralyzed.
Campos. Son Baco	Rural and forest area where the construction of golf courses and a hotel has been projected.
Felanitx. Cala Marçal	Forest area where the construction of a housing complex is foreseen.
Llucmajor. Es Llobets	Rural area threatened by the construction of a golf course and a hotel complex
Manacor. Ampliacion d'Es Rivet	Nature area where the construction of a housing complex is projected.
Manacor. Expansion of S'Estany d'en Mas	Nature area where the construction of a housing complex is projected.
Manacor. Cala Murada	Nature area where the construction of a housing complex is projected.
Manacor. Can Frasquet	Rural and forest area where the construction of golf courses and a hotel are foreseen
Muro. Son Bosc	Golf course next to the s'Albufera Nature Park
Palma. Can Tapera	Wooded area threatened by the construction of a road, and health care facilities and housing.
Palma. Es Carnatge	Coastal enclave threatened by different projects (gas pipeline and boardwalk)
Palma. Sa Cabana	Well-preserved rural area where the construction of a golf course and a hotel is projected
Palma. Ses Fontanelles	Only wetland area in Palma, threatened by the construction of a macro shopping center
Palma. Son Espases	Construction work on a hospital center
Palma. Son Quint.	Natural and rural area eliminated in the Law of Natural Spaces in 1992, where a golf course and a hotel are about to be built.
Pollença. Cala Cabo	Coastal area threatened by the construction of 50 single-family dwellings.
Pollença. Can Porquer	Projected housing project in woodland area
Pollença. L'Ullal	Wetland where a huge housing complex is projected
Santa Margalida. Santa Eulalia	Construction of a residential and health care complex on agricultural land
Santa Margalida. Son Real	Rural site threatened by the construction of two golf courses and a hotel complex
Sencelles. Ruberts	Construction of 14 town-houses in this small rural nucleus
Sencelles. Son Saletes	Golf course and accompanying offer.
Soller. Muleta	Area of great ecological value where development is in progress
Son Servera	The expansion of the Costa de Los Pinos golf course, located in a forest and rural area.
Son Servera. Son Corb	Construction of a golf course and a tourist complex

Source: GOB



## BLACK SPOTS OF THE BALEARIC COASTS. Ibiza and Mallorca

### Ibiza

- 1. San Joan.** Projected building of a golf course. Project to build a marina at Portinatx.
- 2. Eivissa.** Projected building of a marina at Es Viver. Dumping of wastewater at de Ses Figueretes and Calo des Moros beaches.
- 3. Sant Josep.** The town's ex-architect and the mayor have various cases pending against them. Projects to build two golf courses. Projected building of a marina at Punta Xinxo.
- 4. Sant Antoni.** 4. Sant Antoni. Projected building of two golf courses. Bad quality of its bathing waters.

### Mallorca

- 5. Pollença.** Projected expansion of a golf course and attempt to legalize another golf course built illegally. Cala Cabo: coast area threatened by the construction of 50 single-family homes. Housing development at L'Ullal. Albercuix beach: bad quality of its bathing waters.
- 6. Muro.** Projected building of a golf course next to the s'Albufera Nature Park.
- 7. Santa Margalida.** The mayor resigned due to urban planning corruption scandal. Projected construction of a golf course, a hotel complex and a shopping center.
- 8. Arta.** Residential construction on prime beachfront property at Colonia de Sant Pere.
- 9. Son Servera.** Projected expansion of a golf course covering a forest and rural area. Construction of a golf course and a tourist complex at Son Corb.
- 10. Manacor.** Urban development plan to multiply is population by 320%. Projected building of a hotel and a golf course at Can Frasquet.
- 11. Portocolom.** Urban development plan to multiply is population by four.

more in the following page



## PUNTOS NEGROS EN EL LITORAL BALEAR. Mallorca and Menorca

comes from previous page

**12. Campos.** Projected construction of two golf courses and accompanying tourist facilities.

**13. Lluçmajor.** Projected construction of two golf courses and a hotel complex .

**14. Palma.** Son Espases: construction of a hospital on agricultural land. Construction of two golf courses. Possible irregularities in awarding construction contracts for building the harbor's dry dock. Destruction of Ses Fontanelles in order to build a mall.

**15. Calvia.** Projected construction of two golf courses and a hotel in protected area. Approval of the expansion of Port Adriano.

**16. Andratx.** The Prosecutor has filed charges of urban planning corruption.

**17. Soller.** Muleta: residential development.

### Menorca

**18. Cuitadella.** Projected construction of Son Blanc dock.

**19. Fornells.** Expansion of the marina.

**20. Mao.** Fecal wastewater dumping by the harbor.

**21. Es Castell.** Cala Padera beach: bad quality of its bathing waters.





**CANARY  
ISLANDS**

**THE SHEER NUMBER OF URBAN PLANNING CORRUPTION SCANDALS UNCOVERED ON THE CANARY ISLANDS HAVE PLACED THE ARCHIPELAGO AT THE HEAD OF THE LIST OF PUBLIC CORRUPTION. OPERATION "GONDOLA", THE "FAYCAN" CASE, THE LAS TERESITAS SCANDAL, THE PAYMENTS SUPPOSEDLY MADE BY FORUM FILATELICO TO THE MAYOR AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PORT AUTHORITY OF SANTA CRUZ... ALL ARE BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE COURTS. ON A SIMILAR NOTE, THE AREA OF DEVELOPED LAND IN THE CANARIES HAS INCREASED MORE THAN 54% IN THE PAST YEARS, WHILE INFRASTRUCTURES KEEP GROWING AT A FRENETIC PACE.**

If we look at each individual case, we'll see that five towns in the Canaries have increased their developed surface area over 100% in the last years:

TOWN	INCREASE IN DEVELOPED AREA
Antigua (Fuerteventura)	270%
Pajara (Fuerteventura)	241%
Adeje (Tenerife)	194%
San Miguel de Abona (Tenerife)	172%
Tuineje (Fuerteventura)	109%



MESA DE MAR, TACORONTE (TENERIFE)

© GREENPEACE-GL TENERIFE

It is also important to note the role that tax incentives have played on the Canary Islands in propagating the growth of a tourism industry of big business tycoons who have forgotten any sort of reference to sustainable development and the quality of life of the people in the Canaries, many of whom are fighting indefatigably for a future free of bad practices, corruption and over-crowding. Experts concur in pointing out that the use of fiscal instruments, such as the Canary Islands Investment Reserve (RIC), has caused an increase in building that is not in line with the demands of the tourism industry, but instead is looking for a way to channel the investment, with the help of speculation.

With a moratorium on many of its islands which is adapted to the needs of the most powerful, or generous, and with a disproportionate growth of golf courses and marinas with no government body stepping in to try to solve the situation, the future of the Canaries seems further and further away from sustainability.

The Canaries' Government has approved four public interest requests for different projects, a process that was carried out quickly despite the complexity of all four projects, which, in this way, have been able to avoid the moratorium declared by the executive branch of the *regional* government.

#### PROJECTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CANARIES

##### Guía de Isora. Tenerife

Abama: project for a tourist complex of apartments with 700 beds

##### Adeje. Tenerife

Explotaciones Santonel: thematic family five-star hotel with 484 beds

##### San Bartolomé de Tirajana. Gran Canaria

Lopesan: tourism industry project for a hotel and villas with 2,631 beds

##### Mogan. Gran Canaria

Anfi Tauro/Grupo Anfi: approximately 1,700 beds  
Affects "Franja Marina de Mogan" protected area

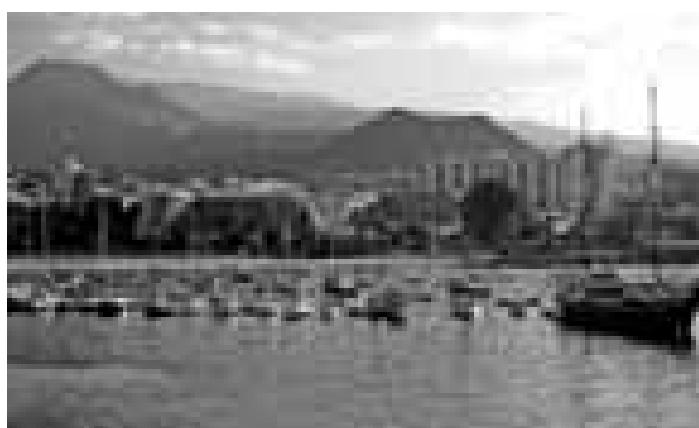
The construction of new marinas on all the islands, except La Gomera, exemplifies how the Government of Canaries is incapable of designing any sort of policy that is not based on the brick and cement invasion. The excuse that 60% the territory of the Canaries is protected land is no longer valid, since the planning and approval of projects in protected natural areas is an everyday occurrence.

The problems and irregularities are also linked to port infrastructures. One of the most prominent cases involving the Santa Cruz Port is the scandal uncovered during the Anti-corruption Prosecutor's investigation of the **Forum Filatelico case**. According to declarations made by one of the heads of the organization during the case's investigation, subsidiaries of Forum Filatelico had paid illegal commissions to the mayor of Santa Cruz, Miguel Zerolo, and to the president of the Port Authority, Luis Suarez Trenor, in order to ensure the concession of a construction contract to build the **San Andres Marina**, located in the middle of the port's northern dock.

The San Andres Marina is considered a top priority project within the Tenerife's Insular Land-use Plan. The facility's construction was awarded to Parque Maritimo de Anaga, S.A., whose principal stockholder is Forum Filatelico (a company that is being investigated by the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor accused of having swindled 350,000 private investors). The project proposes building 431 new berths. The construction of this marina would make it impossible to expand the port of the capital of Tenerife to the north and is the perfect alibi to claim for the need to build the **Industrial Port of Granadilla**, to the south of the island.

Although, to date it does not have European financing, the project to build the Granadilla Industrial Port is going ahead. The environmental damages it will cause, detailed in a multitude of scientific reports, have been acknowledged by the European Commission. Even so, this institution has decided not to take action against the project due to the supposed existence of a "compelling necessity", thus accepting as valid the arguments given by Government of the Canaries. There is also little notice being taken of the fact that the current port facilities in Santa Cruz de Tenerife are more than adequate to deal with the island's flow of traffic, as three ex-presidents of the Port Authority have demonstrated.

The entry into force of the Canaries' Specially Protected Marine Area (ZMES) is positive news for its coastal and marine environments. Now, it is up to



all the heads of the different public administrations involved to make sure effectively that these waters, which are daily affected by hundreds of episodes of dumping of wastewater originating on land (many of which are illegal), do not become polluted.

UP. INDUSTRIAL PARK IN GRANADILLA (TENERIFE)

© GREENPEACE-GL TENERIFE

But the dangers of contamination are not only in the seas. The Canaries is one of the regions with **the greatest problem as far as waste disposal** goes on its coasts thanks to governments' apathy when it comes to adapting wastewater treatment facilities to account for the growing population. The number of unauthorized dumpsites present on all the islands of the archipelago of the Canaries is alarming.

DOWN. LOS CRISTIANOS (TENERIFE)

© GREENPEACE-TIMÓN

ISLAND	NUMBER OF ILLEGAL DUMPS
El Hierro	7
Fuerteventura	41
Gran Canaria	51
La Gomera	6
La Palma	12
Lanzarote	32
Tenerife	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>

Source: Government of the Canaries

## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COASTS OF THE CANARY ISLANDS

### El Hierro

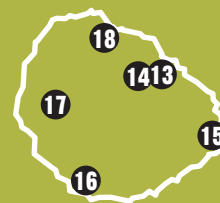
1. **Valverde.** Three points of illegal dumping.
2. **Beach La Caleta.** Seaside construction without a permit in a Site of Cultural Interest.
3. **La Estaca Port.** Extension.
4. **La Restinga Port.** Three points of illegal dumping.
5. **Sabinosa.** Illegal dumping.

### La Palma

6. **Barlovento.** New marina. Two points of illegal dumping.
7. **San Andres and Sauces.** Three points of illegal dumping.
8. **Santa Cruz de La Palma.** Construction of new sports facilities. Three points of illegal dumping.
9. **Breña Alta.** Unauthorized dumping in Bajamar.
10. **Breña Baja.** New marina. Unauthorized dumping from the wastewater treatment plant. Damaging works in Los Carcajos beach.
11. **Mazo.** Planning agreement to build a hotel and a marina. Unauthorized dumping from the airport's wastewater treatment plant.
12. **Tazacorte.** Unauthorized dumping from the sanitation grid and the wastewater treatment plant.

### La Gomera

13. **Beach Hermigua.** Receives illegal disposal of wastewater from the treatment plant.
14. **Parque Natural de Majona.** Construction of a hotel.
15. **Punta Avalos.** Dump site.
16. **Alajero.** Santiago beach receives illegal waste disposed of by the wastewater treatment plant.
17. **Valle Gran Rey.** Illegal constructions. Expansion of the Vueltas port. Unauthorized dumping from the wastewater treatment plant.
18. **Vallehermoso beach.** Receives illegal dumping disposed of by the wastewater treatment plant.



## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COASTS OF THE CANARY ISLANDS. Tenerife

**19. San Cristobal de La Laguna.** Four unauthorized dumping points.

**20. Santa Cruz de Tenerife.** Las Teresitas: The Anti-Corruption Prosecutor is investigating the purchase of land involving the mayor and another ten people. Valle Tahodio and San Andres Marina: Forum Filatelico paid commissions to the mayor and the president of the Port Authority. New marina at Las Caletillas. Ten unauthorized dumping points.

**21. El Rosario.** Unauthorized dumping from the wastewater treatment plant.

**22. Candelaria.** Five unauthorized dumping points.

**23. Güimar.** Two unauthorized dumping points.

**24. Fasnia.** Unauthorized dumping from the wastewater treatment plant.

**25. Poris.** New marina.

**26. Granadilla de Abona.** New industrial port. Four unauthorized dumping points.

**27. San Miguel de Abona.** Amarilla Golf: two unauthorized dumping points.

**28. Arona.** 200 urban development licenses under investigation. Las Galletas: unauthorized dumping of the offshore sewage outfall from the water-supply system.

**29. Adeje.** Illegal constructions in the last two years. Project for a new marina. Five illegal dumping points.

**30. Guia de Isora.** Hotel Abama: a multitud of irregularities, its desalinization plant dumps waste in a site of Community interest. Four unauthorized dumping points.

**31. Santiago del Teide.** Two unauthorized dumping points.

**32. Buenavista del Norte.** The wastewater treatment plant has an unauthorized filter well.

**33. Los Silos.** The filter well for the housing development's sanitation grid is unauthorized.

**34. Garachico.** New marina. Three unauthorized dumping points from wastewater treatment plants.

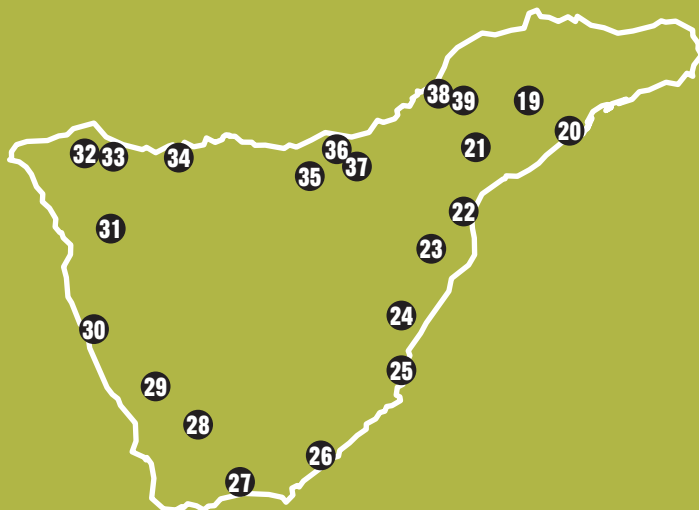
**35. Los Realejos.** Unauthorized offshore sewage outfall.

**36. Puerto de la Cruz.** New marina and fishing port. Seven unauthorized dumping points.

**37. La Orotava.** Mayor has been accused of corruption and trading in influence.

**38. El Sauzal.** Unauthorized dumping from the wastewater treatment plant.

**39. Tacoronte.** Projected new marina. Wastewater treatment plant with unauthorized drainage ducts.



## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COASTS OF THE CANARY ISLANDS. Gran Canaria

**40. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.** Carteras beach: Projected submerged docks and dumping in the ravine at La Ballena. Construction work by the Ministry of Environment at El Confital. Eight sites of illegal dumping.

**41. Santa Brigida.** The Prosecutor is investigation land-use planning offenses.

**42. Telde.** Investigation of land-use planning offenses (Operation Faycan). Twelve sites of unauthorized dumping.

**43. San Bartolome de Tirajana.** The Prosecutor is investigating land-use planning offenses. Seven sources of illegal dumping.

**44. Santa Lucia de Tirajana.** Unauthorized dumping from two desalination plants.

**45. Agüimes.** Dumping from desalination plant. Illegal industrial park.

**46. Meloneras beach.** New marina.

**47. Mogan.** Anfi-Tauro planning agreement for two hotels, homes, two golf courses and a marina in a site of Community interest investigated by the Prosecutor. Six sites of illegal dumping.

**48. San Nicolas de Tolentino.** Two unauthorized sites of dumping from the sanitation grid.

**49. La Aldea – Agaete.** Expressway with major environmental impact.

**50. Agaete.** Projected expansion of the Las Nieves marina. Unauthorized dumping from the sanitation grid.

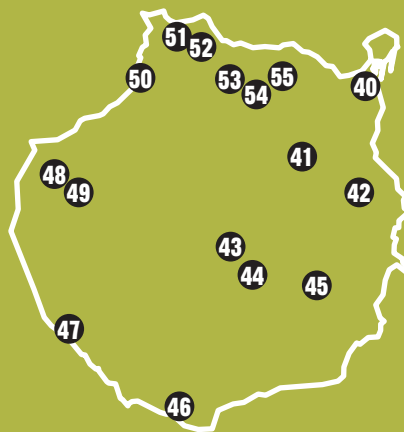
**51. Galdar.** Contamination of Bocabaranco beach. Two illegal dumping sites.

**52. Santa Maria de Guia de Gran Canaria.** Unauthorized dumping from the desalination plant.

**53. Moya.** Two unauthorized dumping points from the sanitation grid.

**54. Firgas.** Mayor investigated for land-use planning offenses.

**55. Arucas.** Three illegal dumping points.





## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COASTS OF THE CANARY ISLANDS

### Fuerteventura

**56. La Oliva.** Cancellation of the Partial Plan Casas de Majanicho with 748 homes already built. Dunas de Corralejo: "Oliva Beach" and "Tres Islas" Rui hotels have obtained a permit from Coasts. Four sites of illegal dumping.

**57. Puerto del Rosario.** Eight sources of illegal dumping.

**58. Antigua.** Three sources of illegal dumping.

**59. Tuineje.** Three sources of illegal dumping.

**60. Pajara.** Twelve sources of illegal dumping.

### Lanzarote

**61. Haria.** Ex-mayor has been accused of land-use planning offenses.

**62. Teguise.** Mayor has been accused of land-use planning offenses. Projected new marina. Six sources of unauthorized dumping.

**63. San Bartolome.** Honda beach: Two unauthorized dump sites from wastewater treatment plant.

**64. Arrecife.** Expansion of the port at Arrecife. Nine sources of unauthorized dumping.

**65. Tias.** Twelve sources of illegal dumping.

**66. Yaiza.** Blanca beach: construction of 1,000 homes. Mayor has been accused of land-use planning offenses. Two sources of illegal dumping.





**REGION  
OF MURCIA**

**DURING THE PROCESS OF APPROVING THE LAND LAW OF THE REGION OF MURCIA IN 2001, THE PARTIDO POPULAR (PP) INTRODUCED A LAST-MINUTE PROVISION, WHICH WAS TECHNICAL IN APPEARANCE, AND WHICH PROPOSED THAT: “THE LIMITS OF MURCIA’S NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS ARE UNDERSTOOD TO COINCIDE WITH THE LIMITS OF THE SITES OF COMMUNITY INTEREST”.**

With this simple maneuver, 14,000 hectares were deprived of their previous protected status. In much of this area there are already urban development projects underway. The PSOE contested this law before the Constitutional Court, which has yet to give a final ruling. The regional Government has warned the Constitutional Court in writing that construction will in any case proceed. Pending the ruling, urban development projects such as the Marina de Cope housing development (11,000 homes and 23,000 hotel beds) are in progress.

This masterful move shows perfectly well what little significance the Government of the Region of Murcia attributes to protecting and adequately planning the use of its land. An empty lot to build on surrounded by just enough natural areas and golf courses to help appreciate the homes. Little else.

In the whole of the Region of Murcia there are plans to build 800,000 homes in the next few years. The urban development projects of practically all of Murcia’s coastal towns foresee multiplying the current population several times over. Only a very few have fallen off the list due to criminal investigations to which they have been subjected.

Cases of corruption affect mayors and senior members of the regional Government accused of different offenses against land-use planning and urban development. They must now be held responsible for their actions after years of institutionalized permissiveness towards any project bearing the seal of the brick.

But development, although it is an exceptional case, is not the only threat looming over the coast of the Region of Murcia. One out of every three homes built or approved in the region is accompanied by a golf course, a fact that shoots the unsustainability index right up thanks to the huge quantities of water resources that these facilities consume.

Since the year 2005, the Segura Hydrographic Confederation (CHS) has issued 117 unfavorable reports regarding the availability of sufficient water resources to meet the new demand generated by these housing development projects<sup>12</sup>.

The Segura Hydrographic Confederation has written up six of the 19 golf courses in the region for

irrigating illegally. The CHS is studying 35 requests for new irrigation requirements for these facilities. In many cases, the golf courses begin operating before construction is finished on the homes that are supposed to provide the golf courses with recycled water. Overall, nobody seems to have bothered to check this tiny bit of nonsense, which allows the golf course to be illegally irrigated with groundwater that should be destined to other uses with a much higher priority.

Water in exchange for destruction. The Ministry of Environment is encouraging this policy with its offer of water through the building of desalination plants. The projects to build these facilities are plagued with errors and do not evaluate the environmental impact adequately, particularly the negative effects that will be caused by the dumping of brine on the sub-aquatic prairies of *Posidonia oceanica*, which are vital to help fight against the erosion of the coastline and are home to over a thousand species. Nevertheless, the Ministry, more concerned with the brownie points it can obtain from offering water, has not put adequate measures in place to avoid this situation.

The effects of climate change will be obvious and visible on the coasts of Murcia. Recent studies<sup>12</sup> reveal that by the year 2050, scientists consider it more than likely that the sea level will rise 20 centimeters. With the average ratios expected, this would mean that the coastline would recede by approximately 20 meters.

If there is a strip of the coast of Region of Murcia that is in danger, it is beyond a doubt the area of La Manga del Mar Menor. The frantic pace of development is threatening the last remaining unbuilt stretches of this strip of sand and the forecasts made by experts on climate change, who predict a 20 centimeter rise in the sea level for the area, which would mean a loss of approximately 20 meters of coastline. Despite all this, governments resist taking these predictions into account in their policies for this strip.

The construction of a marina at **Puerto Mayor**, in La Manga del Mar Menor, is still paralyzed for the time being by the courts following protest actions undertaken by ANSE and Greenpeace. In addition, the Ministry of Environment is going ahead with its complaint *against this project* that

<sup>12</sup> “Study of the Impacts on the Spanish Coast of the Effects of Climate Change” commissioned by the Ministry of Environment from the University of Cantabria.



### LA VENEZIOLA, LA MANGA (MURCIA)

© GREENPEACE-GL MURCIA

proposed building 950 berths, 2,155 homes, a golf course and an artificial beach on land reclaimed from the sea under the supervision of the company called Puertomayor. The Ministry of Environment is supporting the demolition of almost all of the construction work on the marina that is already being built next to the Estacio canal, since its impact on the environment is severe.

The coast of Murcia has about thirty unauthorized dumpsites and another 50 authorized sites. Undoubtedly, a very high number for such a fragile ecosystem.

#### UNAUTHORIZED WASTE DISPOSAL ON THE COAST OF MURCIA

TOWN	TYPE OF DUMP
Aguilas	Desalinization plant. Disposal of brine with pending authorization
Cartagena	Three unauthorized spillways
Cartagena	EDAR Mar Menor Sur. Municipal waste disposal with pending authorization
Los Urrutias (Mar Menor)	Novohogar, S.L. Rain water drainage with pending authorization at the housing complex
Mazarron	Polaris Water Management, S.L. Desalinization plant disposing of waste with pending authorization
San Javier	Three unauthorized spillways and three unauthorized offshore sewage outfalls (Urmento, Ecomenor and Veneziaola)
San Pedro del Pinatar	Marina de San Pedro Aquaculture Station (IMIDA). Industrial waste disposal with pending authorization
San Pedro del Pinatar	EDAR de San Pedro. Municipal waste disposal with pending authorization
Unknown	20 illegal dumping points spread along the coast of Murcia

Source: Department of Industry and Environment of the Region of Murcia

## BLACK SPOTS ON THE COASTS OF REGION OF MURCIA

**1. San Pedro del Pinatar.** La Puntica beach: illegal extraction of sand for use in regenerating beaches artificially. The desalination plant will provide water to 20,000 homes and five golf courses. Its construction has damaged the Sierra Escalona site of Community interest. Unauthorized dumping from the marine aquiculture facility and from the San Pedro wastewater treatment plant (both pending authorization).

**2. San Javier.** Increase in permitted height of buildings in La Veneciola (La Manga) from 10 to 24 stories. Mayor under investigation for presumed land-use planning corruption. Roda Golf Course fined for irrigating illegally. Unauthorized dumping from three spillways and three offshore sewage outfalls from housing developments.

**3. Los Alcazares.** Torre del Rame: 2,000 homes and a golf course. Suspicions of land-use planning corruption involving the mayor. Case filed against the Torre del Rame golf course for illegal irrigation.

**4. Los Urrutias.** 600 new homes and the Perla de Levante housing development with 400 tourist beds. Coliform bacterium contamination on the stretch of beaches from Las Urrutias – Punta Brava – the Carmoli. Unauthorized dumping of rainwater from the housing development (authorization pending).

**5. La Union.** The General Urban Development Plan foresees construction of 22,000 homes.

**6. Cartagena.** Lo Poyo housing development: possible involvement of Marbella's former urban development manager in the purchase of land. Novo Carthago: 6,000 homes and two golf courses in El Mar Menor. El Vivero housing development: 1,200 homes near El Mar Menor. La Loma de Mar de Cristal project: 800 homes. Projected construction of a harbor on the beach in Gorguel. Unauthorized dumping from three spillways. Unauthorized dumping from the wastewater treatment plant Mar Menor Sur (authorization pending).

**7. Mazarron.** Its urban development plan proposes tripling the population. Mayor investigated for embezzlement, corruption and bribery. Projected building of new marina at El Alamillo with 845 berths. Desalination plant at Valdelentisco: will provide new housing developments with water, it's built on a site of Community interest and its disposal of brine will affect the *P. oceanica* prairie. Unauthorized dumping from the Polaris World desalination plant (authorization pending).

**8. Lorca.** Plans to build more than 100,000 homes.

**9. Aguilas.** Construction of 144,000 homes, increasing population by 1,200%. The Prosecutor is investigating high officials in the regional government in connection to development in the La Zerrichera protected area. Marina de Cope project: 11,000 homes, 23,000 hotel beds, 5 golf courses and a marina with 1,500 berths. Unauthorized dumping of brine from the desalination plant (authorization pending).



# APPENDICES

## URBAN PLANNING CORRUPTION

## APPENDIX I

AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY PROVINCE	TOWN	CHARGES
<b>ANDALUSIA</b>		
Almeria	Mojacar	The Public Works Department has pressed charges against the town council asking that they review the permit granted to <b>La Solana de Mojacar, S.A.</b>
Almeria	Nijar	The mayor, Joaquin Garcia, and ex-councilor Jose Cayuela have been accused of land-use planning offenses for allowing construction on land designated for green areas and on public lots. Upon investigating these facts recently, Almeria's provincial Court of Appeals, has charged the mayor, councilor in charge of urban development, Manuel Rodriguez, and the Head of the Urban development Department, Federico Garcia with urban planning offenses.
Almeria	Roquetas de Mar	Andalusia's Superior Court of Justice has repealed businessman Tomas Olivo's license to open a shopping center. Olivo has had charges pressed against him in connection to Operation Malaya)
Cadiz	Barbate	Andalusia's Superior Court of Justice has ordered the demolition of the tourist and sports complex at <b>Montenmedio</b> . The Public Works Department gave the town council three months to execute the sentence, but the council has yet to comply.
Cadiz	Chipiona	The Prosecutor has charged ex-mayor Dolores Reyes and another three councilors with granting building permits to projects with unfavorable technical reports specifying that the land to be built upon was undevelopable.
Cadiz	El Puerto de Santa Maria	Ex-mayor Hernan Diaz Cortes, his councilor in charge of urban development, Juan Carlos Rodriguez, and a promoter have been charged with parceling off and constructing single-family dwellings in <b>Pinar de Coig</b> , a space that is part of the general network of open spaces of the bay of Cadiz. Diaz Cortes resigned after being disqualified from holding public office for seven years for breach of legal duty.
Cadiz	El Puerto de Santa Maria	By issuing a firm sentence, Andalusia's Superior Court of Justice forced the town council to repeal licenses that had been granted illegally to <b>Golf the Puerto</b> (a company that is represented by the Ramon Marrero, ex-council member in charge of the Labor Department, Ramon Marrero).
Cadiz	El Puerto de Santa Maria	Andalusia's Superior Court of Justice has declared the tourist and hotel complex Las Beatillas, which was approved by mayor Fernando Gago, illegal. The Council of Andalusia temporarily suspended the town's jurisdiction over urban planning due to its passive attitude with respect to the illegal construction of this tourist complex.
Cadiz	El Puerto de Santa Maria	Ex-mayor Hernan Diaz, and ex-councilors in charge of urban development Juan Carlos Rodriguez and Pedro Alamillos have been charged with offenses against land-use planning laws and breach of legal duty in connection with the illegal development at <b>the Lagunas Nature Reserve</b> .
Cadiz	El Puerto de Santa Maria	The Prosecutor in charge of Environment and Land Use Planning at the Cadiz Court of Appeals has ordered an investigation of the hook ups to the electric and water grids for single-family dwellings constructed illegally at <b>Pinar del Obispo</b> .
Cadiz	El Puerto de Santa Maria	The construction of single-family dwellings at the <b>Desmontados Estate</b> on land reserved in the GUDP for public parks and sports facilities is under investigation by the Cadiz's Prosecutor for the Environment.
Cadiz	El Puerto de Santa Maria	<b>Sale of municipal land</b> between 1995 and 2000 by city corporations Impulsa and Suvipuerto. The Prosecutor for Environment and Land Use Planning at the Cadiz Court of Appeals is investigating "the lack of use" made of the funds obtained following the sale of municipal land of public use.

AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY	PROVINCE	TOWN	CHARGES
	Cadiz	La Linea de La Concepcion	Mayor Juan Carlos Juarez; spokesman for the local branch of the PP, Juan Montero; councilors Francisco Muñiz and Maria de la Cruz Atienza; spokesman for the independents, Antonio Garcia Buendia; town manager in charge of urban development, Carlos Ruiz Calama; the general secretary of the town council and the members of the governing committee that approved the sale of four municipal lots to the Roseworld company have made declarations before the province's Anti-Corruption Prosecutor following a complaint about the supposed irregularities in the award process for the lots.
	Cadiz	Puerto Real	The Council of Andalusia has initiated contentious administrative proceedings against the mayor, Jose Antonio Barroso, for granting a license to construct his brother's home in a lot designated for educational facilities.
	Cadiz	San Fernando	The Public Works Department has denounced three 16-story towers under construction by Sandl 2000 (whose managing directors have had charges brought against them in connection to Operation Malaya) on the beach at <b>La Caseria</b> following the town council's refusal to revise the Partial Plan on urban planning.
	Cadiz	Tarifa	Mayor Miguel Manella has previous procedures pending against him for having built a restaurant in the <b>Santa Catalina castle</b> .
	Huelva	Ayamonte	A formal complaint has been accepted for consideration denouncing the damaged caused to flora and fauna by construction of <b>Costa Esuri</b> development.
	Huelva	Cartaya	Mayor Juan Antonio Millan has been charged with an alleged offense against land-use planning in connection with the illegal construction of housing on agricultural land.
	Huelva	Huelva	Council of Andalusia has contested construction of 3,500 homes and Andalusia's Superior Court of Justice has suspended building as a precautionary measure.
	Malaga	Benalmadena	The Council of Andalusia has denounced Mayor Enrique Bolin and the Prosecutor is investigating him in connection with a building license granted in December 2004 for the construction of an apartment building where only single-family dwellings could be built.
	Malaga	Manilva	Mayor Pedro Tirado was forced to resign in 2005 after being imprisoned under charges of urban planning corruption for having approved a construction project on undevelopable land, an offense for which the ten councilors who backed him up have also been charged. Royal Marbella Estates (whose owner was arrested in what is known as "White Whale," an operation against money laundering) bought the land for 9.6 million euros in 2003 and a year later, after signing various planning agreements with the town council, sold them for 101.6 million thanks to an illegal rezoning.
	Malaga	Manilva	Malaga's Prosecutor is investigating the ex-mayors of Manilva, Pedro Tirado and Emilio Lopez Berenguer, each on charges of having granted building permits for the construction of two self-catered hotels on Aldea Beach. Both lots had been set aside for urban infrastructure and green areas, they also happen to be within the coastal protection land easement zone.
	Malaga	Marbella	Operation Malaya. Over a hundred people have been charged and 26 have gone to prison of which four remain in jail. This case has so far generated the greatest number of inquiries in the history of the province's Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's office as well the greatest volume of fraud. There are 40 procedures pending involving ex-mayors and ex-councilors of the city of Marbella all in connection with urban planning irregularities and misappropriation of funds.



<b>AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY</b>	<b>PROVINCE</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>CHARGES</b>
<b>CANTABRIA</b>			
		Suances	In Suances, the mayor Francisco Javier Gómez Blanco has been accused of having committed supposedly prevarication and urban development crime for eluding the fulfillment of several firm judgments that declare the illegality and closing of the Great Hotel Suances.
<b>CATALONIA</b>			
	Tarragona	Salou	Tarragona's Prosecutor is investigating the purchase of an estate by a son of Salou's mayor in the year 2000 for 30,000 euros while his father was in office as councilor in charge of planning for this town. The estate's land-use designation was reclassified in 2004 and sold for 506,000 euros.
	Tarragona	Segur de Calafell	Tarragona's Prosecutor is investigating a planning agreement which had been subscribed to by the town council and promoter Gaudir and that had allocated the construction of 1,384 homes.
	Tarragona	Tarragona	The ex-councilor in charge of urban planning, his brother and a builder have been accused of offenses against land-use planning laws, corruption, bribery, plotting to fix prices, fraudulent misrepresentation and urban development fraud.
	Tarragona	Torredembarra	Tarragona's Prosecutor is investigating the approval of Torredembarra's town-planning map in the year 2001, the councilor in charge of Urban Development and Environment at the time, Josep Bargallo i Valls, would later go on to become <i>Conseller en Cap</i> of the Generalitat.
<b>COMUNIDAD OF VALENCIA</b>			
	Alicante	Alicante	Alicante's mayor, Luis Diaz Alperi, and another two councilors, Sonia Caste-do, in charge of Urban Development and Luis Concepcion, in charge of Traffic, have been accused by the province's Anti-Corruption Prosecutor of committing alleged offenses of corruption, trading in influence, fraudulent misrepresentation, misappropriation of funds and misappropriation in the allocation of three subterranean parking garages to the company Enrique Ortiz e Hijos, Contratistas de Obras S.A
	Alicante	Orihuela	The Prosecutor is investigating the construction of 8,000 illegal homes. The province's Anti-Corruption Prosecutor has charged the mayor, Jose Manuel Medina, of offenses against land-use planning in various cases of construction on specially protected undevelopable land.
	Alicante	San Miguel de Salinas	The province's Anti-Corruption Prosecutor is investigating eleven illegal urban development projects.
	Castellon	Burriana	The mayor, Alfonso Ferrada, another two councilors and a promoter are being investigated by the Prosecutor for offenses of corruption, trading in influence, misappropriation of funds, bribery, infringement of land-use planning laws, offenses against natural resources and the environment, de fraudulent record keeping, violation of secrets and negotiations, as well as illegal activities.
	Valencia	Sueca	The mayor had been attempting to build 25 homes designed by an architectural firm in which he is a partner inside the Albufera Nature Park. The Superior Court of Justice has ruled against its construction.

**AUTONOMOUS  
COMMUNITY**

**PROVINCE**

**TOWN**

**CHARGES**

**GALICIA**

A Coruña	Arteixo	The town council has three lawsuits pending in criminal court for granting permits to illegal construction projects.
A Coruña	Cabanas	Ex-mayor, Modesta Anca, has been disqualified from public office for eight years and charged a fine of 5,400 euros, having been found guilty of corruption in urban development in connection with the illegal granting of building permits for the construction of single-family dwellings near the coast.
A Coruña A Coruña	Cambre Fisterra	The Prosecutor is investigating the mayor's urban development businesses. The mayor granted a license to build 342 illegal homes in an area known as La Anchoa, on prime beachfront property. The Department of Territorial Policy has charged the town council for not heeding its orders to revise these licenses.
A Coruña	Mugardos	The mayor has been accused of using stalling tactics to avoid executing the Superior Court of Justice's 1999 ruling that ordered the demolition of and illegal construction he had authorized.
A Coruña	Oleiros	The Superior Court of Justice has charged Mayor Angel Garcia with corruption in connection with the purchase of real estate property for which the town council later authorized a change of land-use.
A Coruña	Pontedeume	The mayor has been accused of granting a building license on protected coastal agricultural land on which the edification of single-family dwellings is prohibited.
A Coruña	Porto do Son	The Prosecutor is investigating the councilor in charge of Urban Development, Manuel Vazquez, suspected of having acquired four non-developable estates between the years 2000 and 2006, with the intention of having them reclassified at a later date in the new Municipal Planning General Map.
Pontevedra	Bayona	A court ruling has ordered that the mayor demolish his own house.
Pontevedra	Gondomar	The Superior Court of Justice's Prosecutor charged Mayor Carlos Silva of alleged corruption in awarding 300 irregular licenses and building permits. The councilors in charge of Urban Development and of Culture, Alejandro Gomez and Jose Luis Mosquera, the architect Francisco Javier Borja Camilo and a fourth person were arrested for their alleged involvement in charging illegal commissions amounting to a total of 50,000 euros in exchange for granting urban development licenses.
Pontevedra	Nigran	The mayor, Alfredo Rodriguez, and another five councilors have been charged with allegedly trading in influence by revealing privileged information to various promoters about the General Urban Development Plan. The Prosecutor has asked that the assets of the six people involved be investigated.
Pontevedra	Tui	The Prosecutor is asking that Mayor Feliciano Fernandez be disqualified from holding public office for eight years for having incurred in the offense of corruption. Fernandez has already been sentenced to seven years of disqualification from public office for this same offense and has a third case pending in which the prosecution is asking for 20 years of disqualification.

<b>AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY</b>	<b>PROVINCE</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>CHARGES</b>
<b>BALEARIC ISLANDS</b>			
	Ibiza	Santa Eularia	Mayor Vicente Guash has been charged in the Ses Planes quarry case. The quarry has been functioning without a license for the past 30 years. The mayor has also been charged in connection with the building of six high-rises called Towers de Talamanca that were constructed on agricultural land.
	Ibiza	Sant Josep	The mayor is among those charged in two cases: one involving the asphalt-ing of one of his own businesses with materials coming from an illegal fac-tory that had been shut down by the town council; the other involving a house in Puig d' en Serra whose construction was authorized by the mayor despite the existence of negative reports specifying that the plot was on undevelopable land.
	Ibiza	Sant Josep	Sant Josep's former town architect, Antonio Huerta, is accused of building in a protected area of Cala Moli. There is also an investigation under course into construction work undertaken by one of his relatives with favorable reports prepared by Huerta.
	Mallorca	Calvia	Ex-mayor Margarita Najera is facing seven criminal procedures against her in connection with the granting of urban development licenses. She is also being investigated by the province's Anti-Corruption Prosecutor for corrup-tion offenses and for making threats, as well as for the sale of a vacant lot.
	Mallorca	Santa Margalida	The mayor has been accused of various urban development offenses, as well as of awarding beach services contracts to his own company.
	Mallorca	Andratx	The mayor had a network of companies in common with the town council's inspector of public works through which the profited illegally in exchange for granting an as of yet uncertain number of illegal urban development licenses. The Prosecutor is accusing him of more than a dozen offenses.
	Menorca	Ciutadella	The Prosecutor has filed a complaint against two councilors charging them with fraud, trading in influence, illegal negotiation and abuse of administra-tive power in the exchange of plots of land.
<b>CANARY ISLANDS</b>			
	Fuerteventura	La Oliva	La Oliva's former mayor and current president of Fuerteventura's chapter of the Partido Popular, Domingo Gonzalez Arroyo, was condemned in June 2005 by the Criminal Division of the Superior Court of Justice on a charge of uncertified professional practice for having hired his son-in-law at the time, Jose Maria Perez Palma, as the town's topographer from 1998 through 2003 knowing full well that he had no academic qualifications for that job. The same Court absolved the ex-mayor of charges of corruption in this case. In November 2006, the Prosecutor also charged Gonzalez Arroyo with granting a building license for constructing a home in a protect-ed area of unspoiled nature. Perez Palma was the project's promoter.
	Gran Canaria	Firgas	The mayor, Jose Ramon Henriquez, has been charged with a count of corrup-tion in urban development and another of damaging historical heritage. The former mayor, Sebastian Arencibia, and another seven people along with him have also been accused of granting licenses for building housing development after demolition a house that had been registered in the town's ethnographic atlas in the year 2002.
	Gran Canaria	San Bartolome de Tirajana	Investigation of the payment of commissions to public employees in exchange for receiving favorable treatment (bribery) by the local administration.
	Gran Canaria	Santa Brigida	Investigation of the payment of commissions to public employees in exchange for receiving favorable treatment (bribery) by the local administration.

<b>AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY PROVINCE</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>CHARGES</b>
Gran Canaria	Telde	Operation Faycan has entailed the arrest of the councilor in charge of Urban Development, Maria Antonia Towers, as well as another five civil servants charged with offenses of construction-related corruption. The investigation began in July 2005 and is yet to be concluded. In November 2006, further arrests were made, including the detention of the mayor, Francisco Valido, as well as another five of the town's councilors, all of them charged with allegedly charging illegal commissions. To date, a total of 18 people have been charged in connection with this case.
Gran Canaria	Mogan	The mayor, Jose Francisco Gonzalez, was arrested at the end of last January by the Anticorruption Prosecutor and has been accused of an alleged offense of corruption, bribery, misappropriation of funds, activities and negotiations that are illegal for civil servants, and trading in influence, all of these in connection to the town's urban development management, an area for which he was also responsible. Aside from him, the first lieutenant mayor, Onailia Bueno Garcia, the town council's general secretary, Angel Sutil Nesta, and the author of the Mogan's General Urban Development Plan, Marcelino Martin were also arrested in so-called "Operation Gondola".
Lanzarote	Haria	The Prosecutor has asked for two years of prison and 12 years of disqualification from holding public office for the ex-mayor and current councilor, Juan Ramirez Montero, charged with one offense of land-use planning corruption and another of fraudulent misrepresentation of records.
Lanzarote	Teguise	The Prosecutor has asked for two years of prison and 10 years of disqualification from holding public office for the current mayor, Juan Pedro Hernandez. He is accused of repeated offenses against land-use planning law in the form of urban development corruption in the granting of a license to build homes on agricultural land.
Tenerife	Santa Cruz de Tenerife	Tenerife's Anti-Corruption Prosecutor is investigating an urban development scheme carried out at Las <b>Teresitas</b> , in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, that allowed its promoters to win 119 million euros with huge losses for the town's treasury. The Anti-Corruption Prosecutor has charged 11 people in this cases, accusing them of corruption and misappropriation of funds: Antonio Messia de Yraola (town council comptroller); Antonio Ramon Plasencia (co-owner of the real estate promoter Inversiones Las Teresitas SL); Emilio Jose Fresco Rodriguez (Spokesperson for the PSOE); Ignacio Gonzalez Martin (coproprietor of the real estate promoter Inversiones Las Teresitas SL and advisor for Cajacanarias); Jose Emilio Garcia Gomez (Spokesperson for the PP); Jose Eugenio de Zarate Peraza de Ayala (town council's general secretary); Jose Luis Roca Girones (town council comptroller); Jose Tomas Martin Gonzalez (urban development manager); Juan Reyes Delgado (deputy secretary of the town's urban development department); Manuel Parejo Alfonso (councilor in charge of urban development) and Miguel Zerolo (mayor of Santa Cruz de Tenerife).
Tenerife	Santa Cruz de Tenerife	A ruling by National Court of Appeals judge Baltasar Garzon has found that the mayor of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Miguel Zerolo, the president of Tenerife's Port Authority, Luis Suarez Trenor, and another twelve people may be guilty of an offense of bribery in various real estate operations promoted by subsidiaries of the Forum Filatelico. The mayor's adviser, Herminia Gil, and the president of the San Andres and Anaga Neighborhood Association have also been implicated.

<b>AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY PROVINCE</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>CHARGES</b>
<b>REGION OF MURCIA</b>		
	Aguilas	Murcia's Head Prosecutor, Manuel Lopez Bernal, is investigating the regional government of Murcia in connection with the reclassification of the "La Zerrichera" estate, located in an protected area declared as a site of Community interest and a Special Area of Protection for Birds where they planned to construct some 4,100 homes, a hotel and a golf course. The Superior Court of Justice Prosecutor charged five of Murcia's regional government officials of offenses including corruption, trading in influence, bribery and falsification of official documents. The director general for Environmental Quality, Antonio Alvarado, the director general for Housing and Urban Development, Manuel Alfonso Guerrero, the ex-director general for Natural Assets, Encarna Muñoz, the subdirector general for Housing, Jose Maria Rodenas, and the head of Environmental Quality, Juan Ignacio Sanchez Gilabert, may have committed various offenses by signing reports allowing a development in this protected area and by approving the La Zerrichera development. The mayors of Aguilas, Juan Ramirez, and the ex-councilor Jose Lopez have also been charged since. It is yet to be seen whether the accusations will be extended to include Adviser for Public Works, Joaquin Bascuñana.
	Cartagena	The Prosecutor has begun investigative proceedings instigated by the construction of 5,000 homes and a golf course at Lo Poyo. The criminal investigation has found evidence of the payment of two million euros to an intermediary in the sale of the land by one of the companies owned by Juan Antonio Roca (imprisoned following Operation Malaya in Marbella).
	Los Alcazares	The mayor of the Alcazares, Jose Antonio Martinez Meca, was cited the Superior Court of Justice Prosecutor and called to declare regarding an alleged offense of trading in influence in connection to the purchase of plots of land located in the Torre del Rame development.
	Mazarron	The mayor, Francisco Blaya, is being investigated by Murcia's Superior Court of Justice Prosecutor for allegedly misappropriating funds, as well as for offenses of corruption and bribery.
	San Javier (La Manga del Mar Menor)	The regional government is responsible for allowing construction at Puerto Mayor, a marina with 1,000 berths. The Ministry of Environment on the one hand, and associations such as ANSE and Greenpeace on the other hand have brought this case before the courts. The judge has ordered the suspension of construction as a precautionary measure.

## EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE COASTLINE<sup>13</sup>

The increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere caused by human activity is causing serious changes in the global climate system.

Due to its geographical location and characteristics, Spain is especially vulnerable to the negative effects derived from climate change. The resulting damage will affect practically every sector of the economy: the tourism industry, the fishing industry, the agricultural industry, and forest-based industry. These harmful effects will also affect human health and disturb other species and natural areas.

Coastal regions are among those areas that will suffer the worst of these consequences due to the rise in sea level, the increase in sea temperature, the greater frequency of extreme weather phenomena and the change in rainfall patterns.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), approximately 50% of the world's population lives on the coast. In Spain, this percentage reaches 45%, even though the coastline comprises only 7% of the territory.

The main problem we will have to face on the coast is the rising sea level. Estimates indicate that for every centimeter the sea rises, the coastline will recede a meter in average.

On Spanish beaches in general, flood levels are expected to vary and the coastline will predictably recede. Those beaches with finer sand and those that have the biggest waves will experience a greater erosion of the coastline. The coastline of Galicia and northern areas of the Canary Islands will experience greater damage than the rest of the coast due to a greater increase in sea level, which may reach as much as 35 centimeters. In the Mediterranean, this increase is estimated to reach 20 centimeters. Currently, and according to reports published by IPCC in 2007, the rate of increase in sea level in the last 40 years has been 18 centimeters per century, and in the last 10 years this rate has risen to 31 centimeters per century.

The most vulnerable areas have already been located: the Bay of Biskaia, the Ebro and Llobregat deltas, the salt marshes of Doñana, the coast of La Manga del Mar Menor and the Gulf of Cadiz. Also in danger of disappearing are the so-called "confined" beaches, that is, those beaches that have no area to recede to due to the presence of cliffs. This type of beach is very common on the Cantabrian coast.

It's not just the coastline that will suffer this damage, the sea grass bed in the area closest to the coastline, which houses phanerogam prairies whose function is essential for the survival of many species and of the ecosystem itself, will be eroded due to the rise in sea level.

Maritime constructions will also suffer the effects of climate change, specially the stability of docks will be affected. On the Cantabrian coast, it is estimated that the size of these structures will need to be increased by 20%. In the case of Galicia's coastline, where the docks are very exposed to external waves, the increase in size will have to be closer to 50%.

It has also been predicted that there will be a decrease in the productivity of Spanish waters. The changes will affect many groups of organisms, ranging from phytoplankton and zooplankton to fish and algae. There will be changes in marine food chains, all of which will affect numerous species of commercial interest. There will also be changes in the distribution of fauna and we should consider a possible increase in the number of invasive, toxic, and parasitic species, whose propagation will be promoted by rising temperatures of waters near the coast. It is currently estimated that some marine species have already been displaced a thousand kilometers to the north. Experts recommend creating Marine Protected Areas in order to counteract these effects.

All this data and these predictions point us the need to take urgent measures, on local as well as on regional and national levels, aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change on the coasts of Spain and adapting ourselves to them.

<sup>13</sup> Information extracted from the book *Climate Change in Coastal Towns*. Spanish Federation of Towns and Provinces. 2006

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