



renisla²⁰¹⁴

THE
RENEWABLE
ENERGY
ISLANDS

JUNE 2014, EL HIERRO - SPAIN





© El Hierro BR. Sustainable mobility and electric cars.



© Menorca Biosphere Reserve.

Paving the way for a renewable energy future

Energy lies at the heart of all human, social, economic and environmental endeavours and is also the main challenge of sustainable development.

On the path towards sustainable energy, some regions and projects have shown that a renewable future is possible. These are the new renewable energy islands that are beginning to emerge the world over.

Today we know that it is possible to move towards energy independence based on renewable sources of energy. To face this great challenge, UNESCO sites like the El Hierro Biosphere Reserve can play a key role by acting as global points of reference as communities run on sustainable energy.

RENISLA2014 will be held to celebrate the inauguration of the "Gorona del Viento" Wind-hydro Power Plant, which will make El Hierro the first energy-isolated territory in the world able to power itself entirely from renewable energy sources.

RENISLA2014 objectives

The main objective of the RENISLA2014 Forum is to create a space for cooperation and to facilitate the transfer of knowledge, technology and experiences to sites moving towards energy self-sufficiency based on renewables.

In recent years, many places, from remote areas and islands to cities, have been developing innovative initiatives towards this goal that can be shared. What was a dream some years ago, has today become a technologically advanced, socially beneficial, environmentally friendly and economically viable reality.

UNESCO sites are real examples of places of excellence where 100% renewable solutions have been developed with the participation of local communities. The biosphere reserves of El Hierro, Jeju, the Galapagos Islands, Grosses Walsertal, Pellworm, Altaiisky and the Lakshadweep Islands and initiatives at World Heritage sites like Edinburgh and Aldabra Atoll are just some of the many illustrative cases.



© KIER. Jeju 100% RES and smart grid.

RENISLA2014 is one of the actions in partnership with the RENFORUS Initiative (Renewable Energy Futures for UNESCO Sites) initiated by UNESCO and aiming at promoting the use of UNESCO Sites (Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites) as field observatories on the sustainable use of renewable energy sources to mitigate climate change and for enhancing and applying the climate change knowledge base for building green societies.



RENISLA FORUM in action

- to create a platform where authorities and those responsible for biosphere reserves, world heritage sites and other places of interest can collaborate so as to foster projects related to 100% renewable energy supply;
- to disseminate about the opportunities, advantages and practical applications of new technologies linked to renewable energy in isolated areas;
- to identify 100% RES good practices and projects of reference that can be used as case studies and can be replicated in other UNESCO sites and similar regions that are interested;
- to promote interested associations and agreements with parties like international organisations, the renewable energy industry, NGOs and interested governments to develop 100% RES projects;
- to foster capacity building and awareness about the use and applications of renewable energy systems aimed at local self-sufficiency in insular or isolated communities themselves;
- to promote innovative forms of local sustainable energy governance and ensuring better integration of the same in the natural surroundings as also social and cultural setting;
- to mobilise biosphere reserves as areas of demonstration for the development of self-sufficiency initiatives based on renewable sources while committing to the efficient use of energy.

The 24th Session of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme highlighted the key role of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (WNICBR) for using biosphere reserves as places for promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy driven development alternatives, and in this way, contributing to climate change mitigation and sustainable development. El Hierro is a member of this network that was founded at the 21st Session of the ICC held at Jeju in 2009 and launched in Minorca island in 2012.



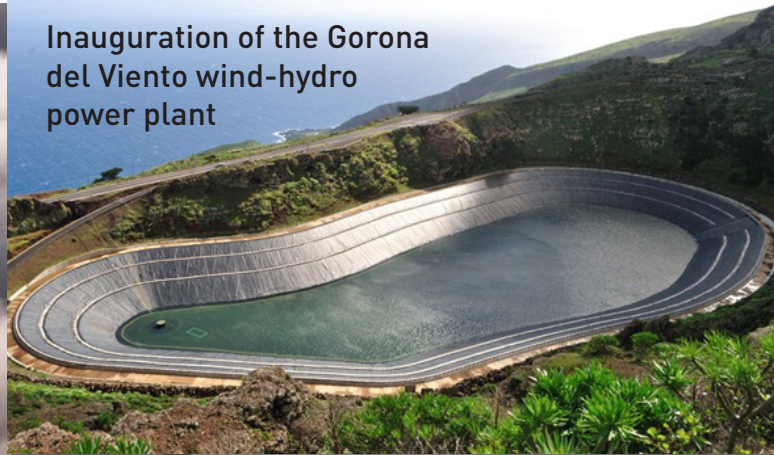
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Inauguration of the Gorona del Viento wind-hydro power plant



EL HIERRO BIOSPHERE RESERVE



100% Renewable Energy The Only Way Forward

International Forum promoted by:



with the support of:



Images: Gorona del Viento.
The Wind-Hydro pumped storage power plant. Wind farm and upper reservoir.