



# “Life on Lava” Painting Exhibition and Publication of Book

Inaugural Speech by Ana Carrasco, Head of the  
Lanzarote Cabildo Biosphere Reserve Committee

**Photos: Ulrike Strecker & Hort Wilkens, Kepa Herrero and Liz**

It is an honour for me to present Dr Ulrike Strecker and Professor Dr Horst Wilkens, creators of one of the most beautiful and extraordinary exhibitions and publications of Lanzarote's nature that have ever been seen on the Island. The book of photographs and the exhibition of 'Vida Sobre Lava' - Life on Lava - is of exceptional and unbelievable beauty because it depicts living matter thriving in such inhospitable natural surroundings. The exhibit

truly captures the singularity of our volcanic ecosystem, drawing attention to its unique and fragile biodiversity, fruit of the luxuriant evolution of such a stark landscape. Ulrike and Horst have presented Lanzarote residents and visitors with the best possible calling card of our Natural History. They have faithfully reproduced the true essence and identity of Lanzarote as seen through their retinas and consciences.

I have been aware of Horst



and his bibliographical references for around 20 years, before the Cabildo had an office for the environment and permits to conduct research at Jameos del Agua and the Atlantida Tunnel were handled by the Culture Department. Several years later we also met Molecular Biologist Ulrike through her research papers and outstanding book “Lanzarote, Blind Crabs, Hoopoes and Volcanoes.”

Ulrike and Horst are Doctors of Biology at Hamburg University Zoological Museum. They have dedicated a large part of their



*Teguise Mayor Juan Pedro Hernández, Professor Dr Horst Wilkens and Dr Ulrike Strecker of Hamburg University Zoological Museum, the book's authors and Ana Carrasco, head of the Lanzarote Cabildo Island Biosphere Reserve Committee*

*The book's authors with architectural designer Luis Ibañez, a friend for over twenty-five years and with whom they have collaborated in scientific research in the underwater lagoon at Jameos del Agua on many occasions*



working life to the evolution of species, specialising in shellfish and crustaceans. During their careers they have participated in numerous scientific explorations and published hundreds of scientific papers. They follow in the footsteps of Ernst Haeckel the father of ecology, biology and philosophy, Christian Smith, Proust, Berthelot, Von Buch and others. They are also responsible for the creation of the River Elbe Biosphere Reserve in Germany to protect the ecosystem of one of Europe's most important rivers.

Thank you Ulrike Strecker, Thank you Horst Wilkens, for

enhancing our Island Biosphere Reserve, for making us understand that the protection of nature, this living world with which we share our space, is indispensable for the conservation of the world's ecosystems and our own survival.



Long term residents of the Island will be amazed at the array of vivid colours displayed in this wonderful book, of the island's singular landscape fauna, flora and marine life. Many of us would never believe that some of Ulrike Strecker's photographs were taken at habitats on the Island. The countryside, the desert sands of the 'Jable', butterflies, exotic birds, plants, poppies, grass, daffodils, caterpillars, desert orchids, lobsters, crabs, rare flies and spiders the underwater sand mound in the Atlantida Tunnel.

Besides the brilliant photography, the captions and descriptions are so full of interesting information that they could be published on their own as a text book of Lanzarote's Natural History. Horst and Ulrike have been long-time champions for the conservation of Lanzarote's fragile eco-system and their concern for the Island's environment manifests itself on every page. This publication is arguably the best possible souvenir of Lanzarote and belongs on the coffee tables of all who love the Island as well as for visitors. Available at the bookshops of the Tourist Centres and international booksellers in the resorts.