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## **"sun21" reaches the Canary Islands**

On 18 December, "sun21" reached Lanzarote (Canary Islands) and cast anchor for a day in Arrecife before continuing for Puerto Calero. In Puerto Calero yesterday, WWF Spain introduced the Canary media to the boat aiming to become the first-ever vessel to cross the Atlantic powered exclusively by solar energy.

José Trujillo, Head of WWF on the Canary Islands, highlighted the pioneering element of this project, comparing it to the achievements of the first seafarers who harnessed the wind to power their boats.

"sun21" covered the distance from Casablanca (Morocco) to Lanzarote in six days. After the stop-over in Casablanca for safety reasons, the solar boat was able to continue its voyage at level speed thanks to ideal weather conditions.

The mood on board is excellent. The crew report encounters with dolphins and sea turtles as well as an astounding phenomenon from the world of atmospheric optics: One morning, for a few seconds during sunrise, they were able to observe a "green ray", a green band on the edge of the horizon above the rising sun.

On a less enthralling note, the crew also came across a lot of drifting debris, especially from fishing activities. Twice already, crew members had to dive down to the boat's propeller to untangle pieces of cords and nets.

The next port of call will be the Cape Verde Islands. After that, in January 2007, "sun21" is setting out on the longest leg of its trans-Atlantic journey, lasting around 30 days until they reach the Caribbean. The arrival in New York is scheduled for May 8, 2007.

Further information and visual material:

[www.transatlantic21.org/media-relations/](http://www.transatlantic21.org/media-relations/)

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