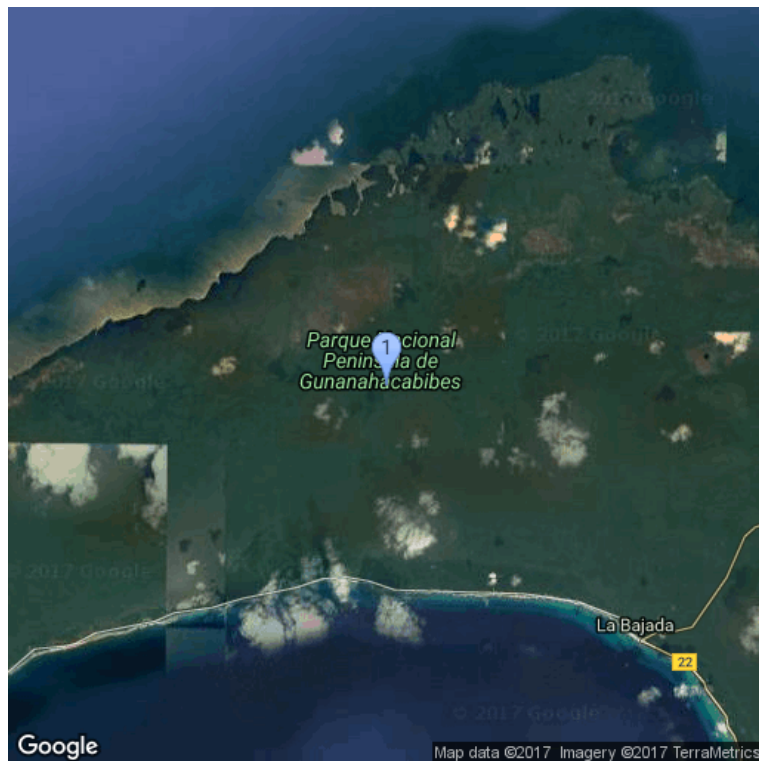




CaMPAM

Network and Forum

Parque Nacional Guanahacabibes

**Short Name**

Guanahacabibes

Country

Cuba

Description**Ecoregion location**

GreaterAntilles

Boundaries

The park is the core area of the Guanahacabibes Biosphere Reserve and is located between 84° 57' 22" W 21° 43' 35" N, and 84° 23' 26" W, 22° 1' 49" N. The southern boundary of the park is the limit of the insular shelf. The terrestrial part of t

Total Surface area

398 sq. km

Land Surface area

179 sq. km

Sea Surface area

16243

Shoreline area

94.5

Site national category

National Park

Site international designation

SPAW, Part of Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO)

IUCN category

II

Designation

Legally Designated

Date established

2001/12/14

Legal citation

Act 4262/2001 of the Ministers Cabinet of Cuba

Primary responsible institution

Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA), Centro Nacional de Areas Protegidas

Primary contact

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Climate

Annual average temperature = 25.3^o (average minimum=21.5^oC and average maximum=29.3^oC). Average annual rainfall = 1 333.7 mm. Average air humidity = 81%.

Terrestrial habitats

Semideciduous forest (dominant); evergreen forest, swamp forest, mangrove forest, coastal shrubs and grass wetlands

Terrestrial flora and fauna species

16 species of amphibians, 35 of reptiles, 192 of birds, 18 species of mammals and 86 butterfly species. Plants: 703 species (108 families and 384 genus). Endemism: 20%, 14 species are strict local endemics. 125 timber species, 146 medicinal and 132 melliferous.

Marine habitats

Sandy bottoms, coral reefs, seagrass beds, and one the most conserved coral reefs of the country. The coral reefs are outstanding for its impressive and beautiful seascapes, coral,

sponge and gorgonian diversity, and for the high coral cover mostly at reefs deeper than 15 m and at the drop-off. Fish abundance declined years ago because of illegal fishing, rather than affected by the frequent hurricanes passing through this region probably due to its sheltered position.

Marine flora

109 species of Algae, 46 Chlorophyceae (21 genus), 38 Rhodophyceae (28 genus) and 25 Phaeophyceae (9 genus). Isolated patches of seagrass beds with *Thalassia testudinum*

Marine invertebrates and fishes

90% of species of the stony corals recorded in Cuba (38 species) including black coral (*Anthypates* sp.). High diversity of reef fishes (135 species). 27 species of sea fans (*Gorgonia*), 39 sponges, 576 mollusks. High diversity of sponges, gorgonians and corals, some displaying impressive sizes because of longevity.

Marine mammals, birds and sea turtles

Mammals: Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*); sea Turtles: *Caretta caretta*, *Eretmochelys imbricata* and *Chelonia mydas*.

Endangered species

queen conch (*Strombus gigas*), *Livona pica*, *Epinephelus striatus* and *E. itajara* (Nassau and goliath grouper), *Panulirus argus* (spiny lobster). Sea turtles: *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas*, *Eretmochelys imbricata*,

Special aggregation sites

Two spawning sites of Serranidae and Lutjanidae fishes (*Lutjanus analis*, *L. cyanopterus*, *L. jocu*, *Epinephelus striatus*, *Mycteroperca bonaci*, *M. tigris*) in Cabo Corrientes and Cabo de San Antonio. Several nesting sites of sea turtles: *Caretta caretta*, *Ere*

Primary management institution

Ministry of Science Technology and Environment

Other institutions that participate in management

Forest Rangers and State Forest Service. There is a unit of the Coast Guard in the park.

Personnel

Director, 5 specialists, 22 park rangers, 2 research technicians.

Management objectives

species protection, ecosystem protection, user conflict resolution

Management framework

Yes

Date of establishment of management framework

2008/01/01

Last update of management framework

2013/12/31

Funding sources

Government funding, GEF-UNDP project

Cultural resources

42 sites with pre-columbian archeological remains and pictograms

Fisheries resources

Snappers (*Lutjanidae*), groupers (*Serranidae*), spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*), queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

Fisheries regulations

No commercial extraction allowed within the park limits. Only subsistence fishery is allowed for local communities.

Coastal development

Construction restricted in the park. Nevertheless, a new road is under development crossing the park to communicate remote communities. There are coastal developments near but out of the park.

Areas of special expertise for knowledge transfer