



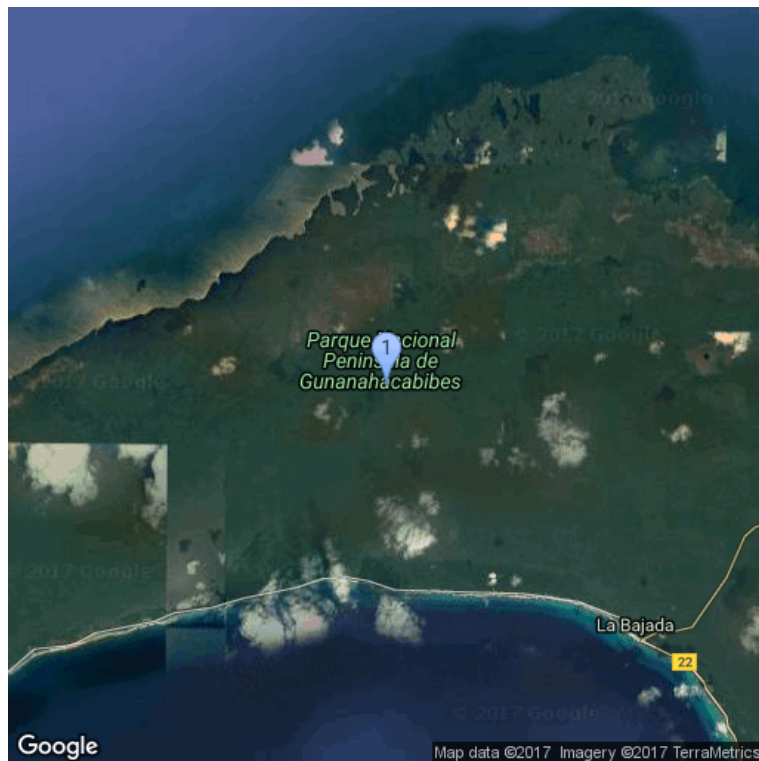
# CaMPAM

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## Network and Forum

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### 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

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**Climate**

Annual average temperature = 25.3Â° (average minimum=21.5Â°C and average maximum=29.3Â°C). 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**