



Sampling soil quality

## AGROBIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN CUBA: BRIDGING MANAGED AND NATURAL LANDSCAPES

### Objective:

- To conserve the diversity within and around protected areas through mainstreaming agrobiodiversity into the management of Cuban Man and Biosphere Reserve system;
- To increase agricultural biodiversity in the buffer and transition zones of the Sierra del Rosario and Cuchillas del Toa MAB Reserves;
- To improve management of Cuban MAB Reserve system through enhanced leadership and decision-making capacity of all stakeholders;
- To improve livelihoods of communities living in and around the project MAB Reserves through benefit-sharing mechanisms that support sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.

### Contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals

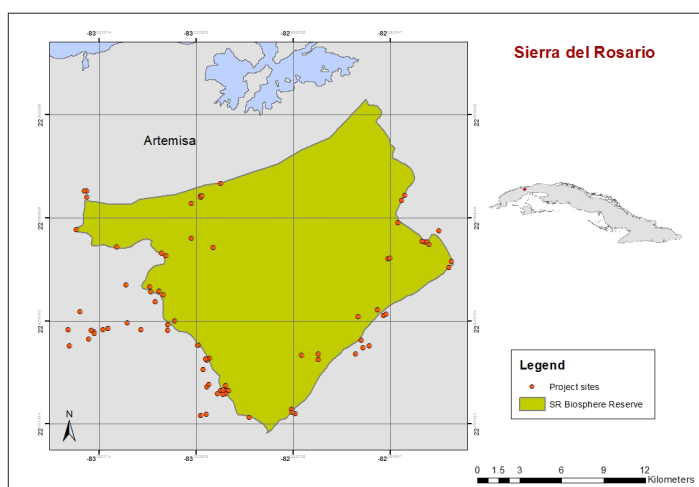
- **Goal 1 (1.4 and 1.5):** The project seeks to improve livelihoods of small holder farmers living in Man and Biosphere reserves through increased benefit flow within protected areas
- **Goal 2 (2.1 and 2.4):** By enhancing and improving the conservation of traditional varieties within protected areas the project seeks to mainstream diversity into the diets of urban and sub-urban citizens, thus improving their health.
- **Goal 12 (12.2):** The project is promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

### Contribution towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

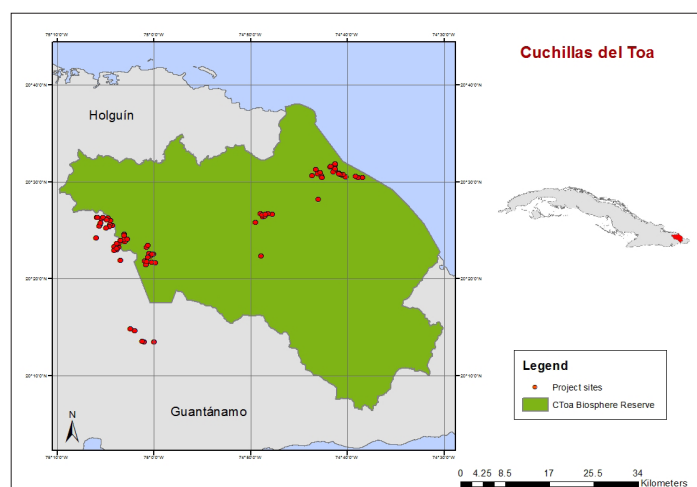
- **Target 2** MaB Reserves of Cuba have included the conservation of Agrobiodiversity into their management plans
- **Target 7 and Target 11** Increased areas under protection by the inclusion of agricultural and managed landscapes. Crop diversity mainstreamed into the National Urban and Sub-Urban and Family farming Programme.
- **Target 13** Crop and fruit tree diversity maintained on farm through value-added products, targeted markets, improved access to quality material conserved ex-situ and establishment of community seed banks.

## Project results

- Socio-ecological characterization of 270 farms in two Man and the Biosphere reserves of Cuba has been completed which included identification of crop and livestock diversity, main agro-ecological conditions and social issues.
- Inclusion of Agrobiodiversity in the 5-years management plans of the two Biosphere reserves.
- Socio-ecological resilience assessment of farms in the face of climate change and participatory development of resilience enhancing strategies has been undertaken.
- Four traditional crop varieties from the reserves have been included in the official registry of varieties.
- A methodology was developed to measure farm contribution to biodiversity conservation and understand the role of farms in providing landscape connectivity;
- Over 800 people participated in capacity to deliver tools and methodologies for the conservation and management of agrobiodiversity and the improvement of agricultural productivity (integrated management of pests and organic matter, agroecological integration, local seed systems, marketing and commercialization of agricultural products, value chains and participatory guarantee system certification, cultural identity and gender approach, biodiversity and ecological theories).



Sierra del Rosario



Cuchillas del Toa

### Further Information:

<http://www.fao.org/family-farming/details/es/c/342704>

<https://www.biodiversityinternational.org/research-portfolio/agricultural-ecosystems/landscapes/>

<https://www.biodiversityinternational.org/news/detail/can-the-coexistence-of-nature-and-agriculture-lead-to-the-conservation-of-biodiverse-landscapes/>

<http://www.cobarb.co.cu>

