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## Cuba's Story

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## MAPA VERDE CUBA: Rural and Urban Green Mapping in Diverse Provinces Across Cuba

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Cuba, home to 11 million people, is located in the Caribbean. Cuba and its small surrounding islands are known for their beautiful scenery, appreciation for science, and great diversity of natural resources. Cuba's greatest richness is in its people, who are a magical mix of native people, Spanish, African and Chinese--which is reflected in the country's culture and character. Today, Cuba has rural and urban Green Map projects throughout 11 of its 14 provinces.



### Participating Mapa Verde Communities

**Havana** - Mariel  
**Pinar del Rio** - San Diego, Sandino, Mil Cumbres, La Guira  
**City of Havana** - Arroyo Naranjo Boyeros, Lisa, San Miguel del Padrón, Marianao, Playa, Plaza, Centro Habana, Diez de Octubre, Habana del Este, Campo Florido, Cerro

**Sancti Spiritus** - Sancti Spiritus, Topes de Collantes  
**Ciego de Avila** - Ciego de Avila, Venezuela, Bolivia.  
**Camagüey** - Camagüey  
**Holguin** - Holguin, Moa  
**Granma** - Manzanillo  
**Santiago de Cuba** - Santiago de Cuba,

Matanzas - Matanzas

Contramaestre, Mella  
Guantanamo - Guantanamo

## Getting Started

In 1999 Mapa Verde Cuba (Green Map Cuba) was initiated simultaneously in the cities of Holguin and Havana by city environmental educators. At the end of 2000, the Mapa Verde Cuba national network took shape. **There are now 75 different projects underway!**

### Current Activities

The Mapa Verde Cuba network gives structure to the island's various participating teams and has helped create exchanges, document different experiences, and provide videos, manuals and training. Their primary function is to run Mapa Verde workshops, linking mapmakers, students, and community leaders from 26 municipalities in 11 participating provinces.



Green Map Workshops

Student Presentations

Youth made Green Map

## Mapa Verde Cuba Projects

2 Mapa Verde documentaries  
 Mapa Verde mural  
 Mapa Verde manual  
 Popular education cross-country workshops  
 New Cuban Icon poster  
 Website & annual newsletter

## Documentaries

### 2 Cuban Mapa Verde Video Documentaries

have been produced by Centro Félix Varela and filmed by Ana Margarita Moreno:

#### "A Mapear un Sueño" (To Map a Dream)

Introduces the Green Map methodology & techniques.

#### "Gotica a Gotica" (Drop by Drop)

Highlights community action with stories of mapping experiences & transformations.

Cuban Green Map Film  
Maker with Students

New Manual

**The Mapa Verde Cuba Manual** is for teachers and rural and urban Mapmakers. It includes Green Map methodology, history and background, along with educational activities for groups, site criteria and design ideas for informative, engaging Green Maps.

## Participants

Children, young people, adults and elder participants range in age from 5 to 85. Projects are based at elementary and secondary schools, universities, neighborhood and popular councils, community revitalization workshops, elders' groups and ecology centers. Each of the 75 teams of Mapmakers has its own coordinating group and system. Over 750 students from across the island have taken part.



Mapa Verde projects help young people revitalize, reclaim and restore their community assets. The experience helps reinforce community and environmental values through sustainable development as participants develop skills and gain a sense of lasting ownership.

Mapa Verde projects are very much participatory. The methodology and mapping process maintain a sense of cultural diversity and promote a movement focused on solving environmental issues. Its use of poetry, songs, rap, theater and dance with environmental themes celebrates the different people and talents involved in the project.

The participation of people from different generations and professions provides great richness. The groups take field trips, create contests and share their experiences as they interact with people from other parts of the island and the global Green Map network.

### New Examples of Local Green Map Icons

				
<b>Spiders</b>	<b>Cuban bulk food rations store</b>	<b>Arts Center</b>	<b>Environmental Youth Center</b>	<b>Cemetery</b>
				
<b>Ecosystems recovered from damage</b>	<b>Neighborhood Family Doctor</b>	<b>Murals</b>	<b>Community Project</b>	<b>Public Transportation</b>

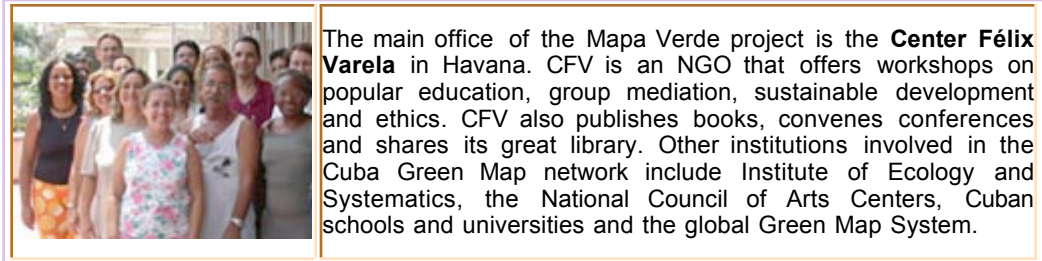
### Thematic Mapa Verde Cuba Maps



- Project Muraleando Elders' Map: In the municipality "10th of October", a poor district of

Lawton, community elders have charted hazardous places for pedestrians, places where elders live alone and need help, parks for exercise and other places of interest to seniors.

- Cultural Personalities Map: In the popular council of Prince, municipality "Plaza of the Revolution", this map highlights local people doing cultural work or art who share their work with the community.
- Biodiversity Maps: several maps have charted places with special natural resources and protected lands, showing forests and rivers. These have been created in Mil Cumbres (Pinar del Rio) and Topes de Collantes (Sancti Spiritus).
- Disabled Access: In Manzanillo, province Granma, this map charts places with good access and places that present risks for disabled people.



Mapa Verde Cuba attributes the success of the project to the strong environmental and social values of the Cuban people. The outstanding work of Mapa Verde Cuba is made possible by project leaders who have shared their work over the years, leading to new initiatives across the island all the time. Mapa Verde Cuba would like to continue creating exchanges with other countries to share and develop their work.

## Articles and Related Green Map Links

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"Revitalizing Streetscapes via Green Maps" In Business Magazine, Nov/Dec 2004, by [Mapa Verde Americas Network](#).

**Websites** (For a historical look. The Cuban pages have not been updated since 2000)

[www.felixvarela.org](http://www.felixvarela.org)

[www.felixvarela.org/mverde2.htm](http://www.felixvarela.org/mverde2.htm)

[www.revistafuturos.info](http://www.revistafuturos.info)

[www.revistafuturos.info/futuros\\_3/mapa\\_verde1.htm](http://www.revistafuturos.info/futuros_3/mapa_verde1.htm)

[www.gworks.ca](http://www.gworks.ca)

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