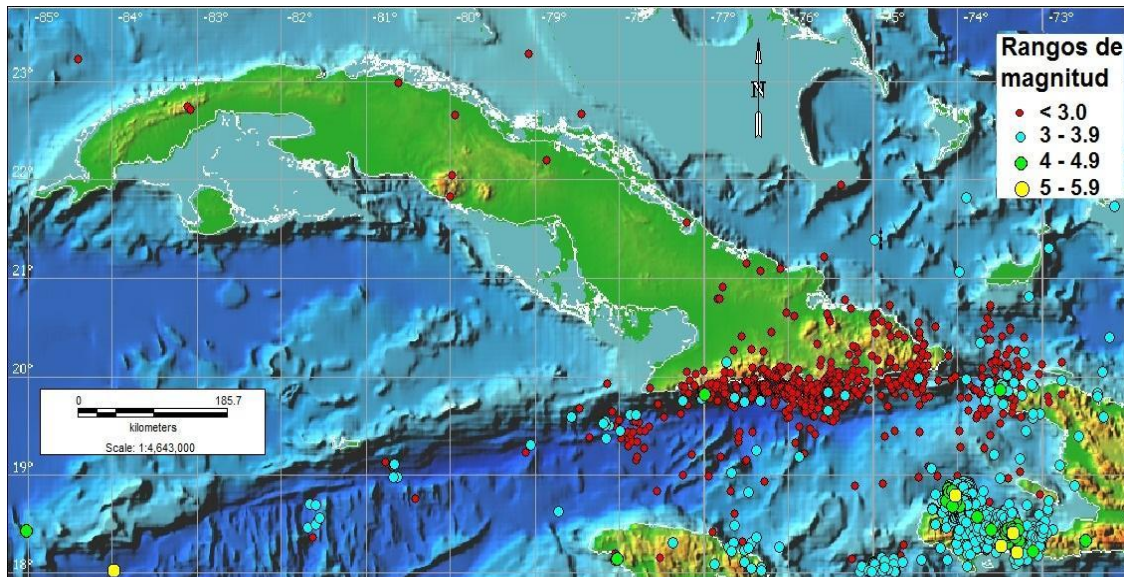


Cuba records second noticeable earthquake of the year

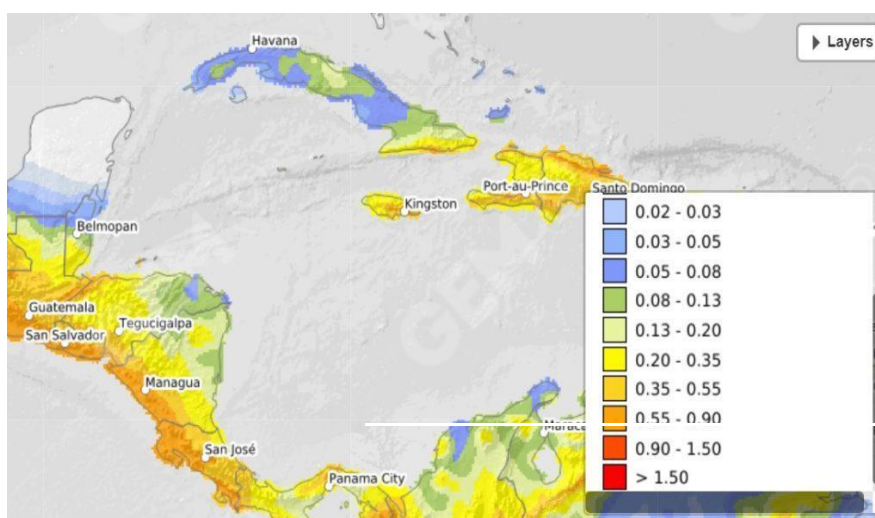
16.02.2023



Seismic activity and earthquakes in the first quarter of 2022 in Cuba and part of the neighboring island of Hispaniola (Source: [CENAI/Cuba.cu](https://cenais.cuba.cu)).

The seismological service station network in Cuba registered an earthquake of magnitude 5.5 today, Thursday. As reported by local media, the tectonic event began at 01:50 in the morning. The epicenter was located 79.3 km southeast of the town of Maisí (Guantánamo province) at a depth of 10 kilometers on the seabed.

Residents confirmed the occurrence of an earthquake in Cuba to authorities, and there are no reports of property damage or personal injuries. Last Wednesday, the first quake of this year occurred in Cuba. It also occurred with a magnitude of 5.5 on the Island of Youth. Again, no property damage or personal injuries were reported.



Earthquake risk in Cuba and the Caribbean region from blue (low) to red (high), source: Seismic Hazard Map.

Last year, 13 noticeable earthquakes were reported in Cuba. Almost all of them occurred in the east of the island, the area with the greatest seismic activity. The Caribbean island lies in a seismically

active zone that stretches from the Dominican Republic to Mexico, where the Caribbean plate meets the North American plate. Earthquakes are therefore more frequent, especially in the four easternmost provinces, yet Cuba is considered safe in this regard, as severe quakes very rarely reach Cuba due to the plate boundary extending farther south.

The last major earthquake on the island occurred in Santiago de Cuba on February 3, 1932. At that time, a quake with a value of 6.7 on the Richter scale destroyed about half of the city's buildings, and 13 people were killed. Prior to that, the only recorded major earthquakes occurred in 1852 and 1766, both also in Santiago de Cuba.

Earthquake activity in Cuba is permanently monitored by the National Center for Seismological Research (CENAI). The network includes 36 seismographs, 27 of which are located in the eastern part of the island. CENAI maintains a constantly updated overview map on its homepage with the measurements of the past week. In addition, a tsunami early warning system has existed for several years.