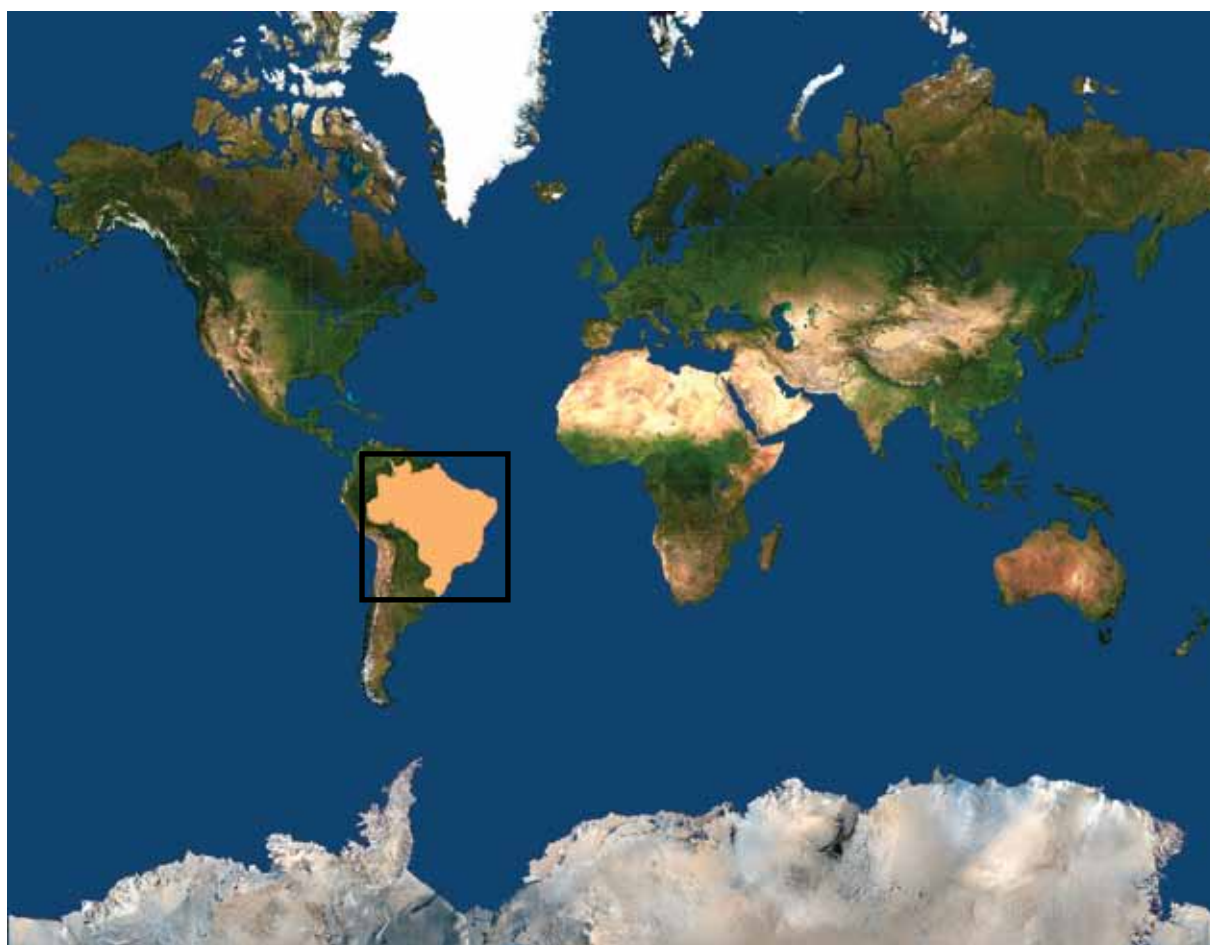


# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1. STATE PARTY

Brazil



*Fig. 002 – Brazil located on the World map*

PREVIOUS PAGE

*Fig. 001 – Eucalyptus deglupta*



Fig. 003 – Location of the State of Rio de Janeiro within Brazil

## 2. STATE

Rio de Janeiro

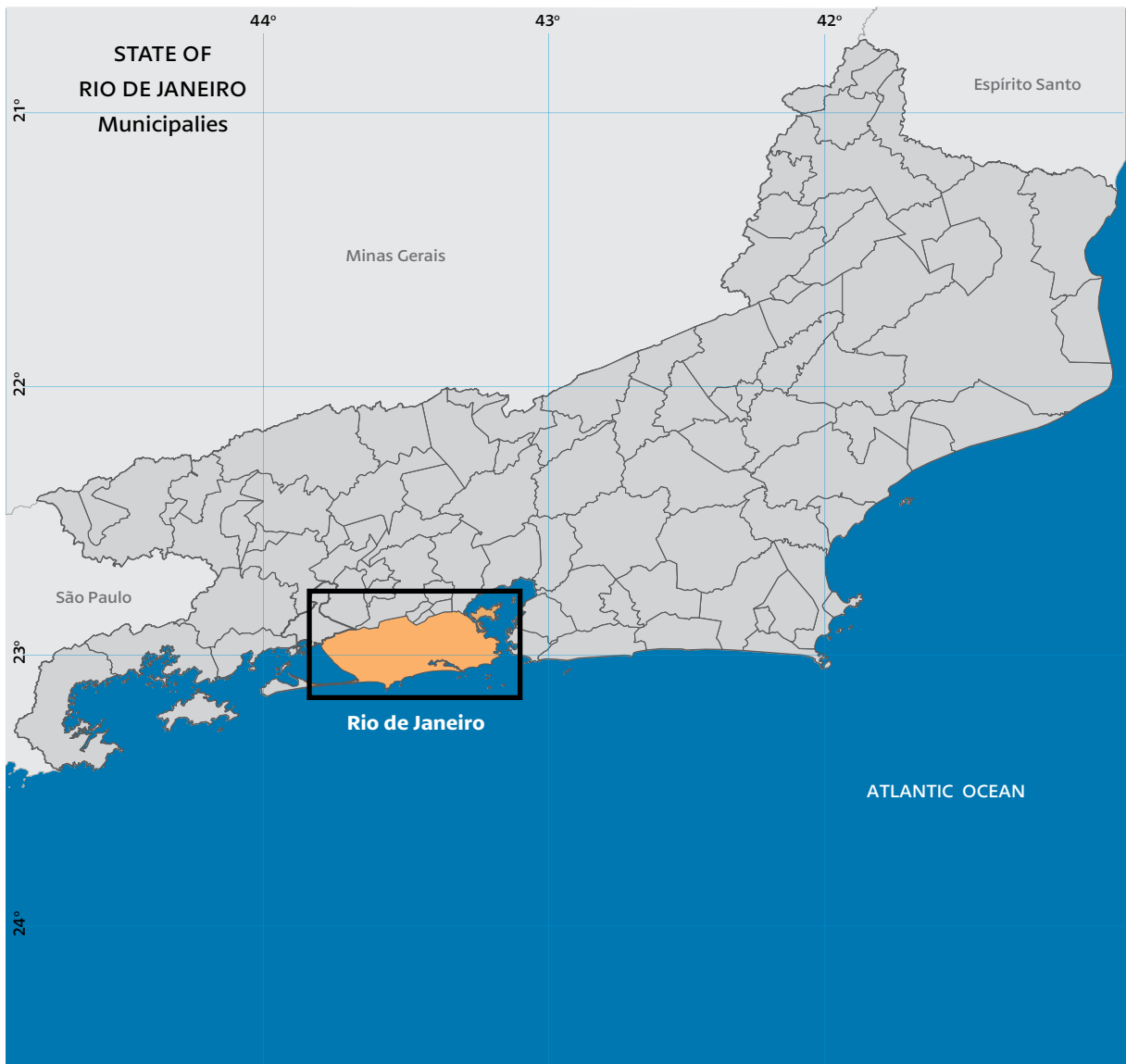


Fig. 004 – Location of the city of Rio de Janeiro within the state of Rio de Janeiro

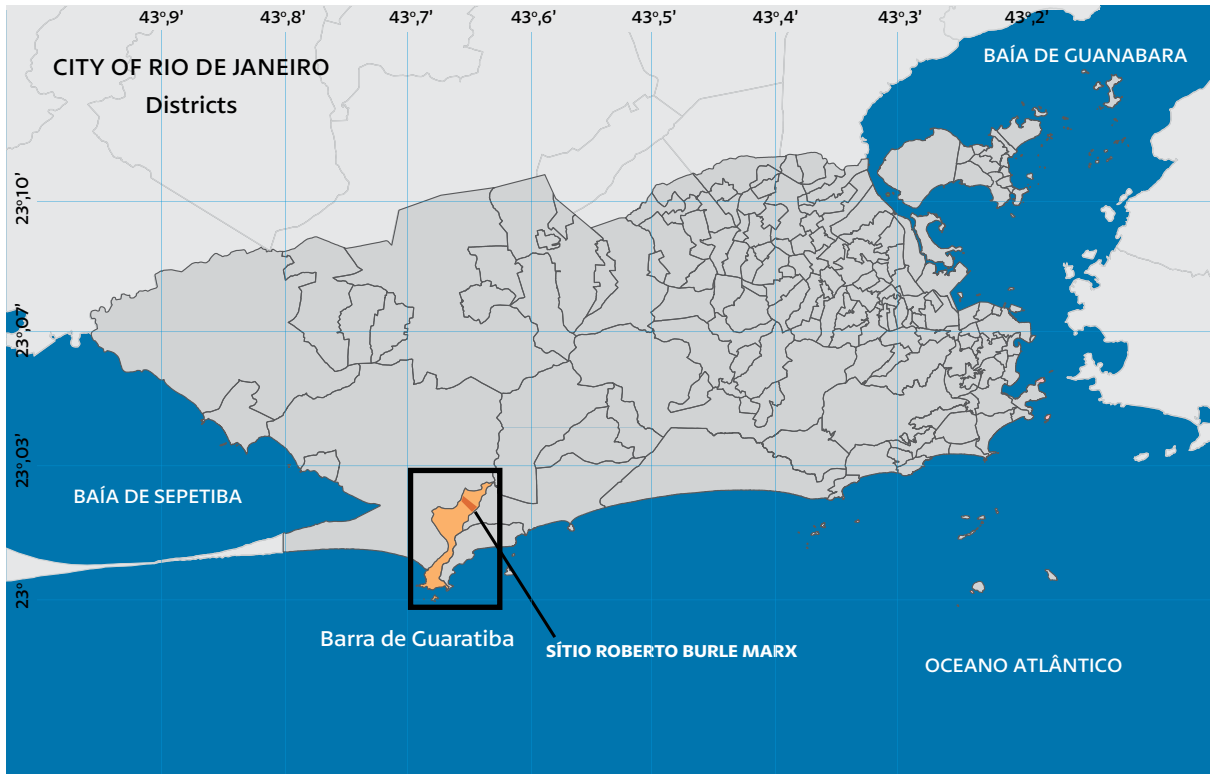


Fig. 005 – Location of the districts of Barra de Guaratiba within the city of Rio de Janeiro

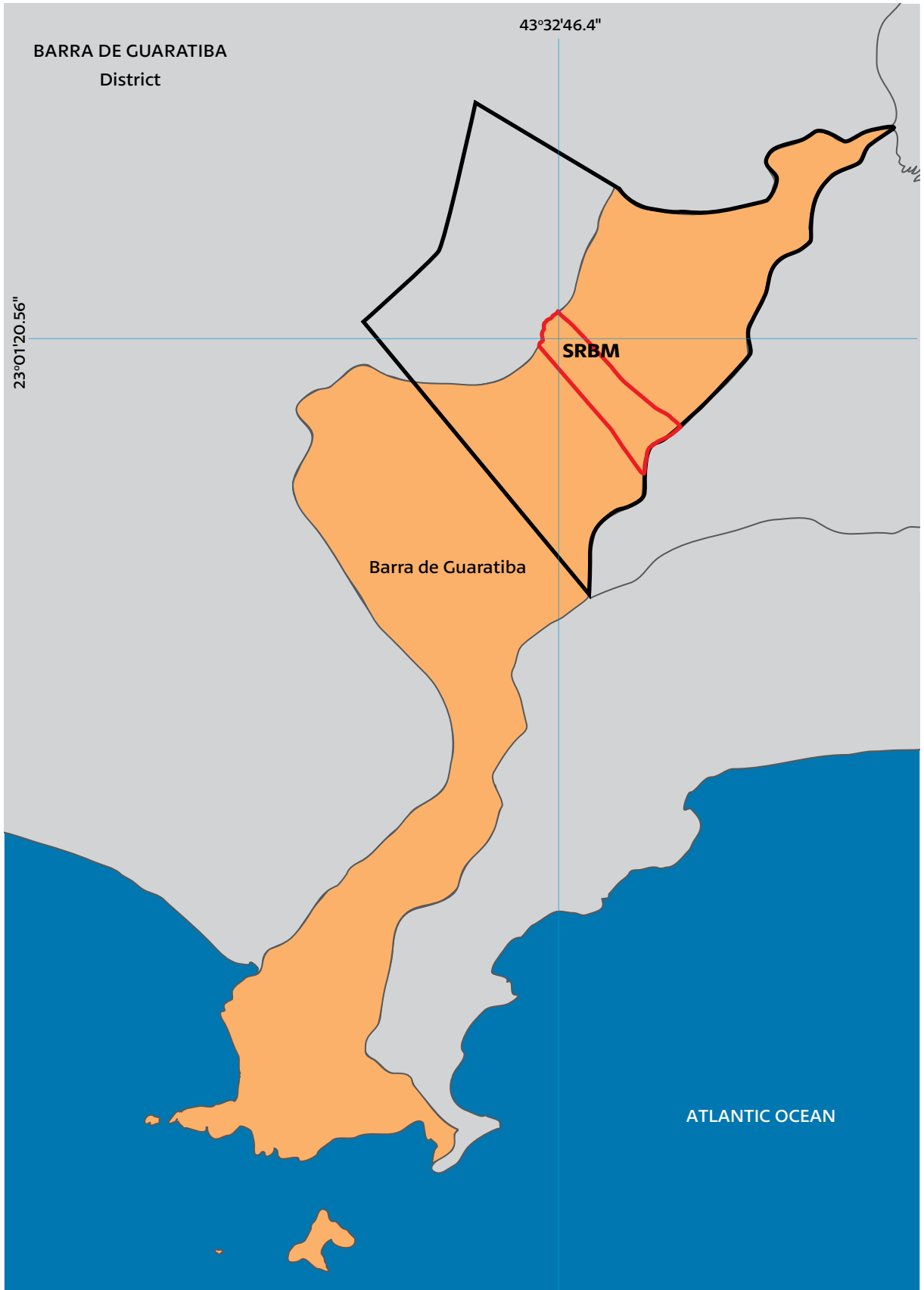


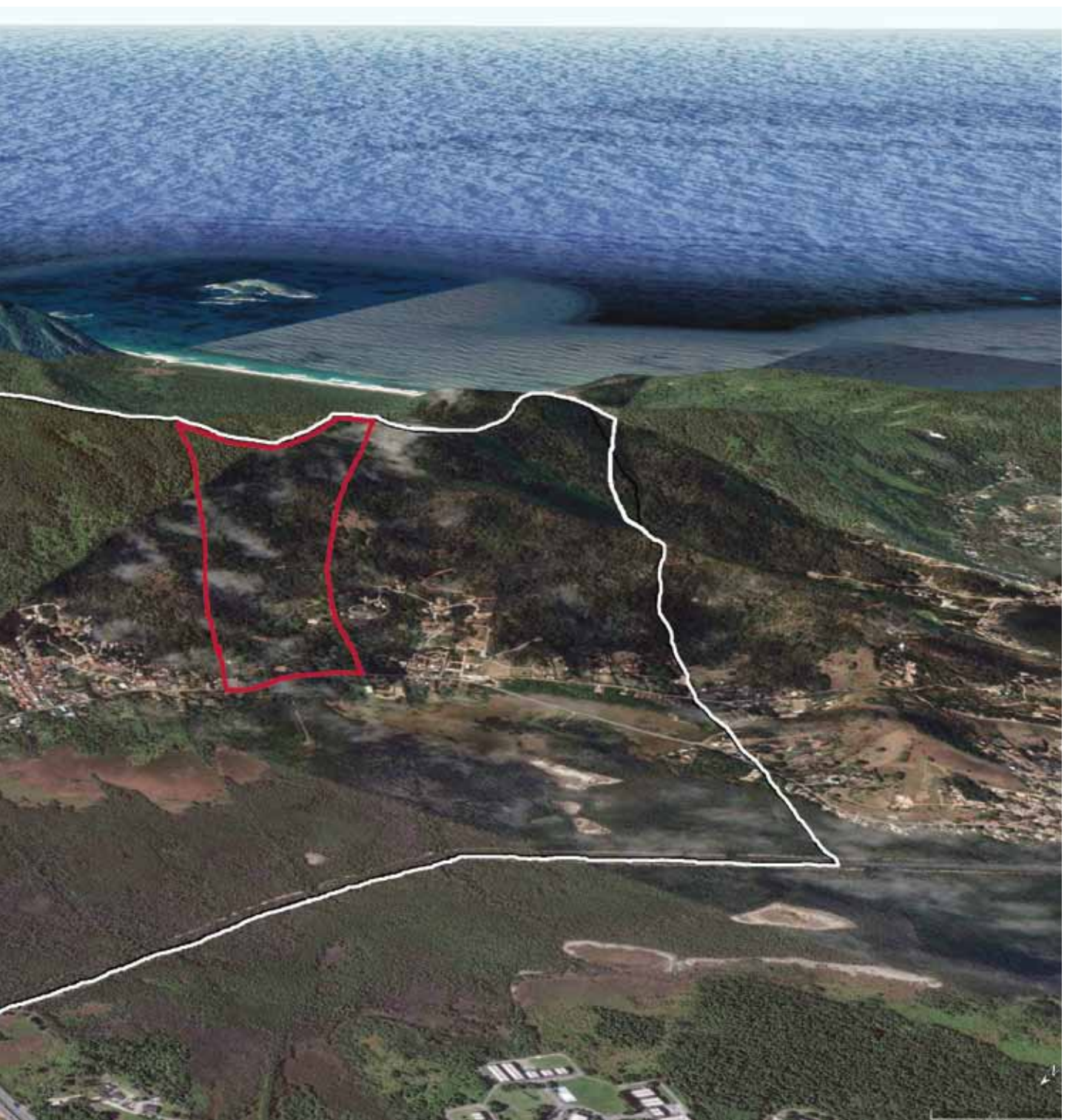
Fig. 006 – Location of the property within the district of Barra de Guaratiba

### 3. NAME OF PROPERTY

Sítio Roberto Burle Marx



*Fig. 007 – Aerial view of the Guaratiba lowland, with emphasis to the buffer zone and the property limits. Atlantic Ocean on the top view*





*Fig. 008 – Panoramic view from the buffer zone with the Atlantic Ocean in the background. SRBM landscape and native forest in the foreground*



#### **4. GEOGRAPHICAL AND UTM COORDINATES**

Geographical coordinates to the nearest second:  
S 23° 01'20.56" W 43° 32'46.4" – DATUM: SIRGAS2000

UTM coordinates to the nearest 10 metres:  
-23.023314, -43.546882 – UTM Zone23K

#### **5. TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY**

Sítio Roberto Burle Marx (SRBM) covers 40.53 ha and is located on the west face of Morro Santo Antônio da Bica (Santo Antônio da Bica Hill), in the drainage basin of Sepetiba Bay, 50 km south of downtown Rio de Janeiro. The boundaries of the property correspond to the estate formerly owned by the artist and landscape designer Roberto Burle Marx. SRBM is delimited on the southeast by the ridgeline of Morro Santo Antônio da Bica, on the northwest by Roberto Burle Marx Road and on the northeast and southwest by two roughly parallel lines following the slope of the hill. The buffer zone covers 575 ha extending from the ridgeline of Morro Santo Antônio da Bica in the east to the Portinho mangrove river channel in the west, and from Morro do Xavier in the south to Avenida das Américas in the north. It aims to protect the surrounding environmental and ambience aspects which support the property.

#### **6. MAPS**

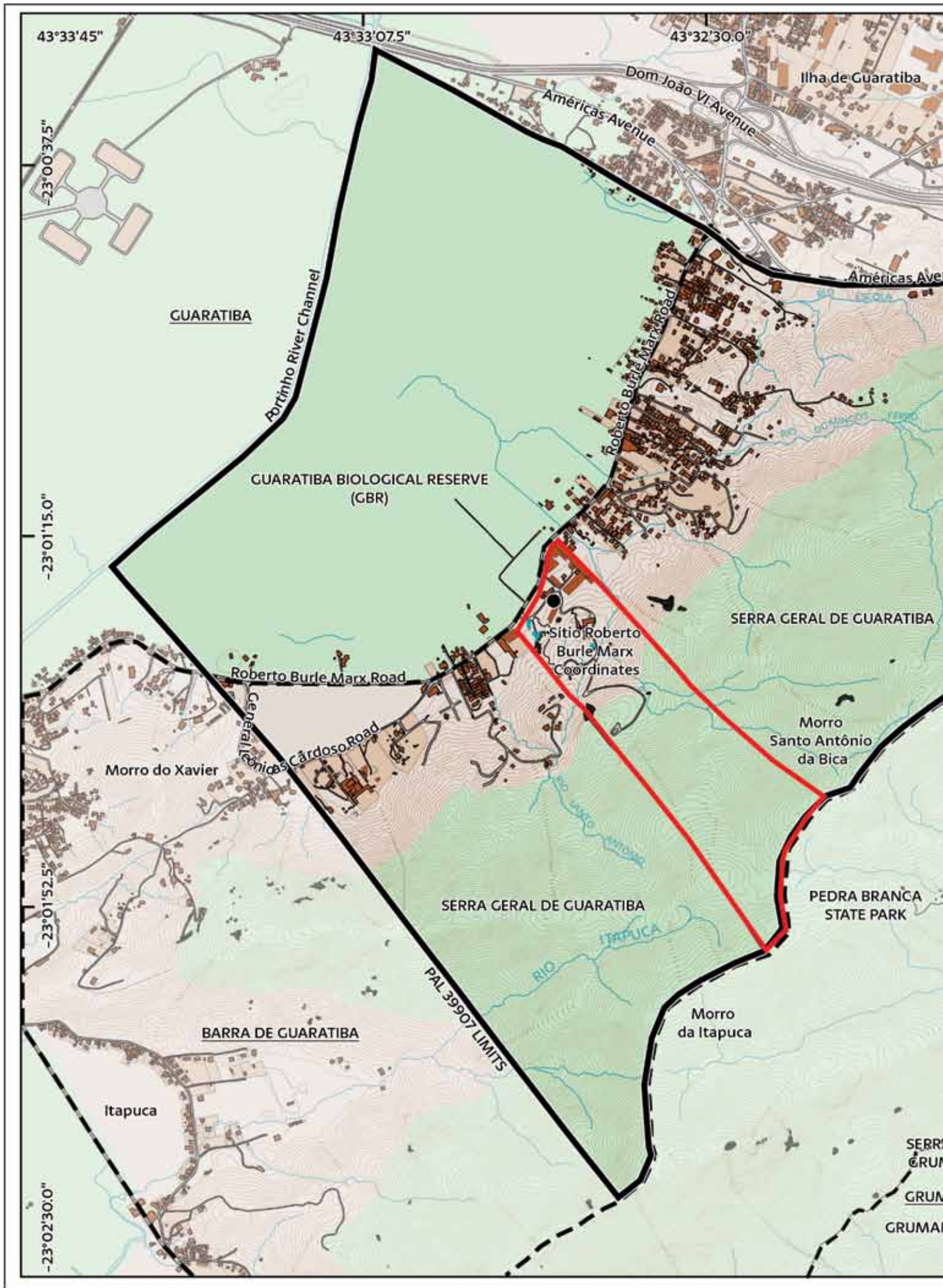
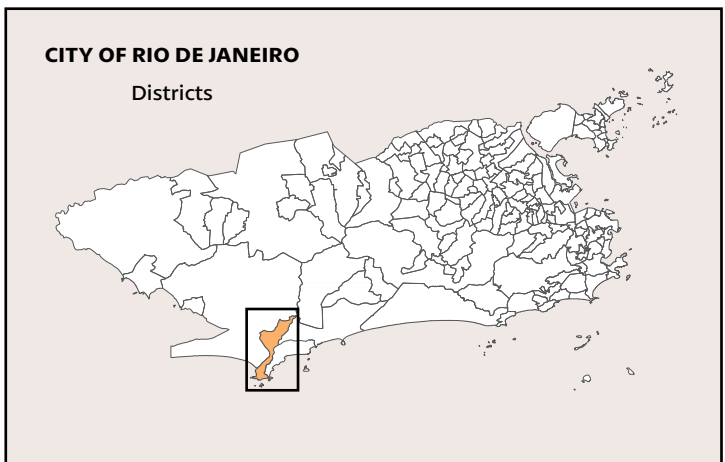
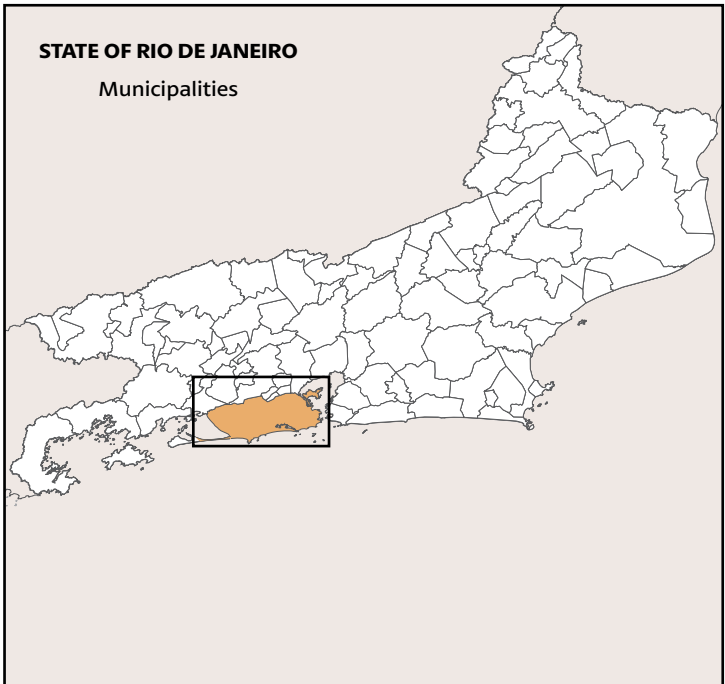
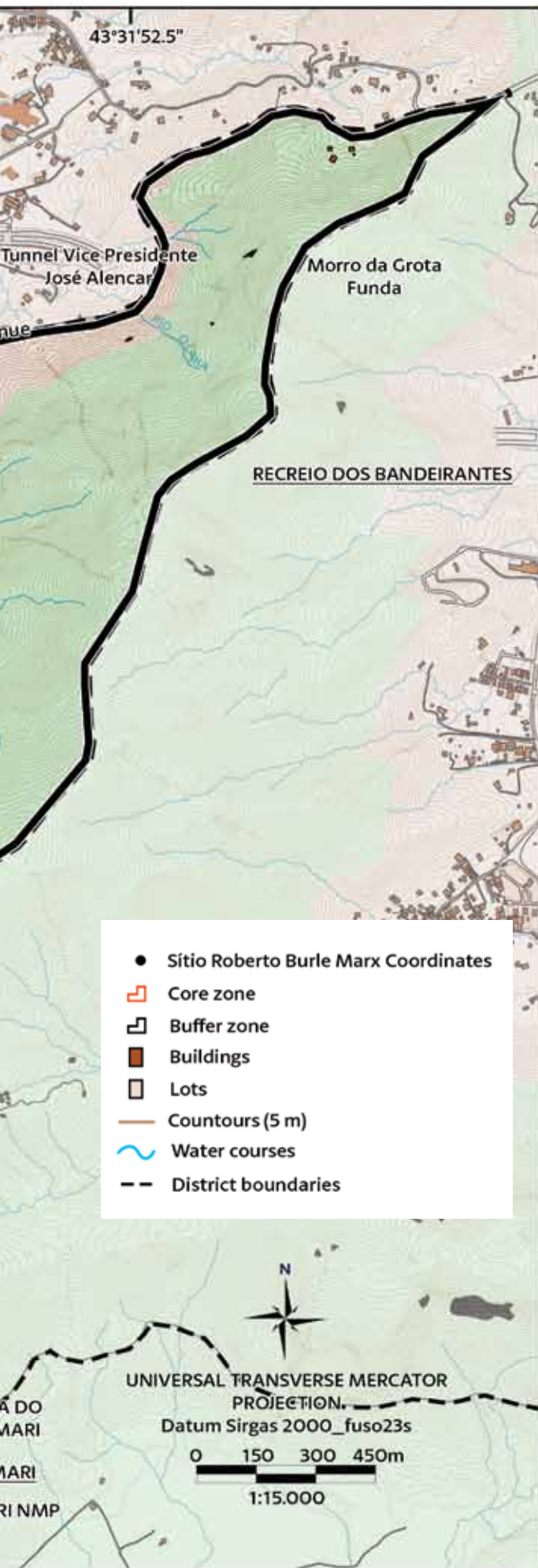


Fig. 009 – Cadastral map showing the buffer zone and the property



43°32'46.4"

-23°01'15"

-23°01'20.5"

Roberto-Burle-Marx Road

5m

5m

100m



UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR  
PROJECTION  
Datum Sirgas 2000\_fuso23s



1:2.500



- SRBM Coordinates
- ▭ Core zone
- ▭ Gardens
- ▭ Botanic collection
- ▭ Paved access
- ▭ Lakes
- ▭ Granite stair and steps
- ▭ Spring and water courses
- ▭ Buildings
- ▭ Rocky outcrop
- ▭ Plant nurseries
- ▭ Native forest

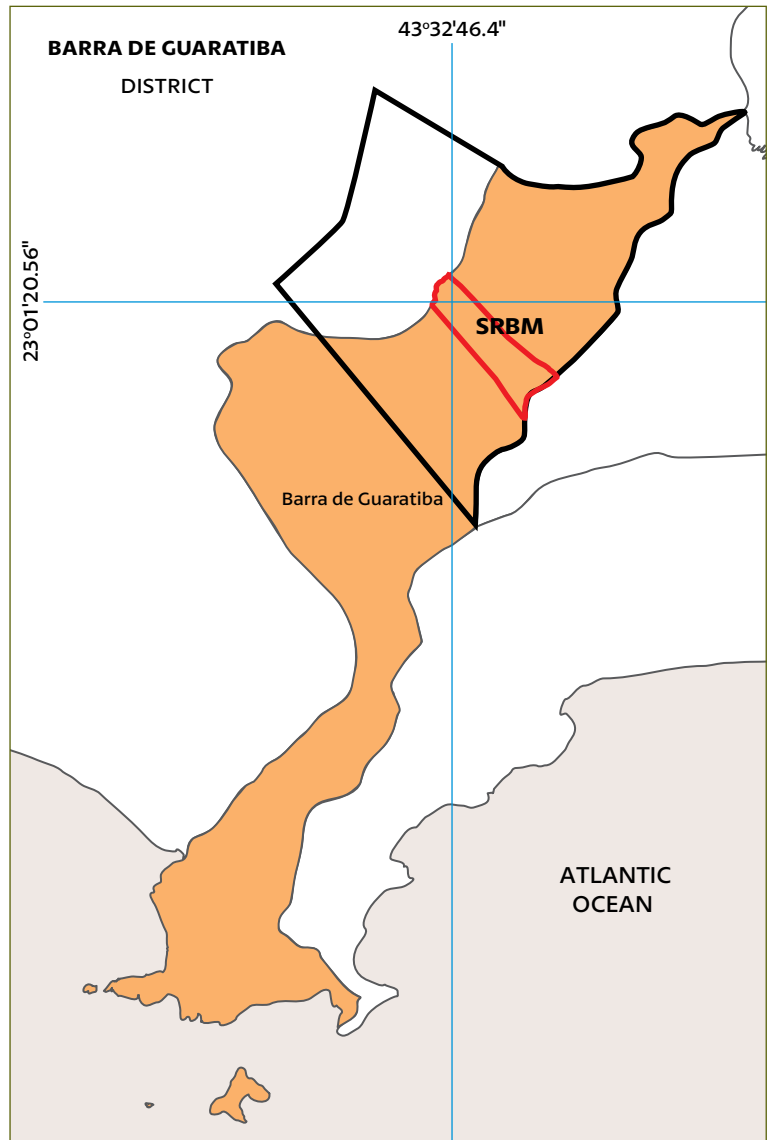


Fig. 010 – Plan of the property showing the components of the ensemble



## **7. CRITERIA UNDER WHICH PROPERTY IS NOMINATED**

**(ii)** Sítio Roberto Burle Marx is an outstanding example throughout the world of a place where an important interchange of human values developed around the study of and the landscaping experimentation with the tropical flora. The property was the pivot of a breakthrough perspective and a new language of landscape design which has largely influenced the shaping of parklands and gardens since the mid-20th century, in Brazil and worldwide.

**(iv)** In its configuration as a landscaping laboratory and art studio, Sítio Roberto Burle Marx shaped itself out of a productive dialogue with different strands of Brazilian, Latin-American and international practice and thought of modernity. It is not only the unique result of the convergence of these different perspectives, but also the place for testing and developing one of the most undisputed expressions of the Modern Movement in the field of landscape design.

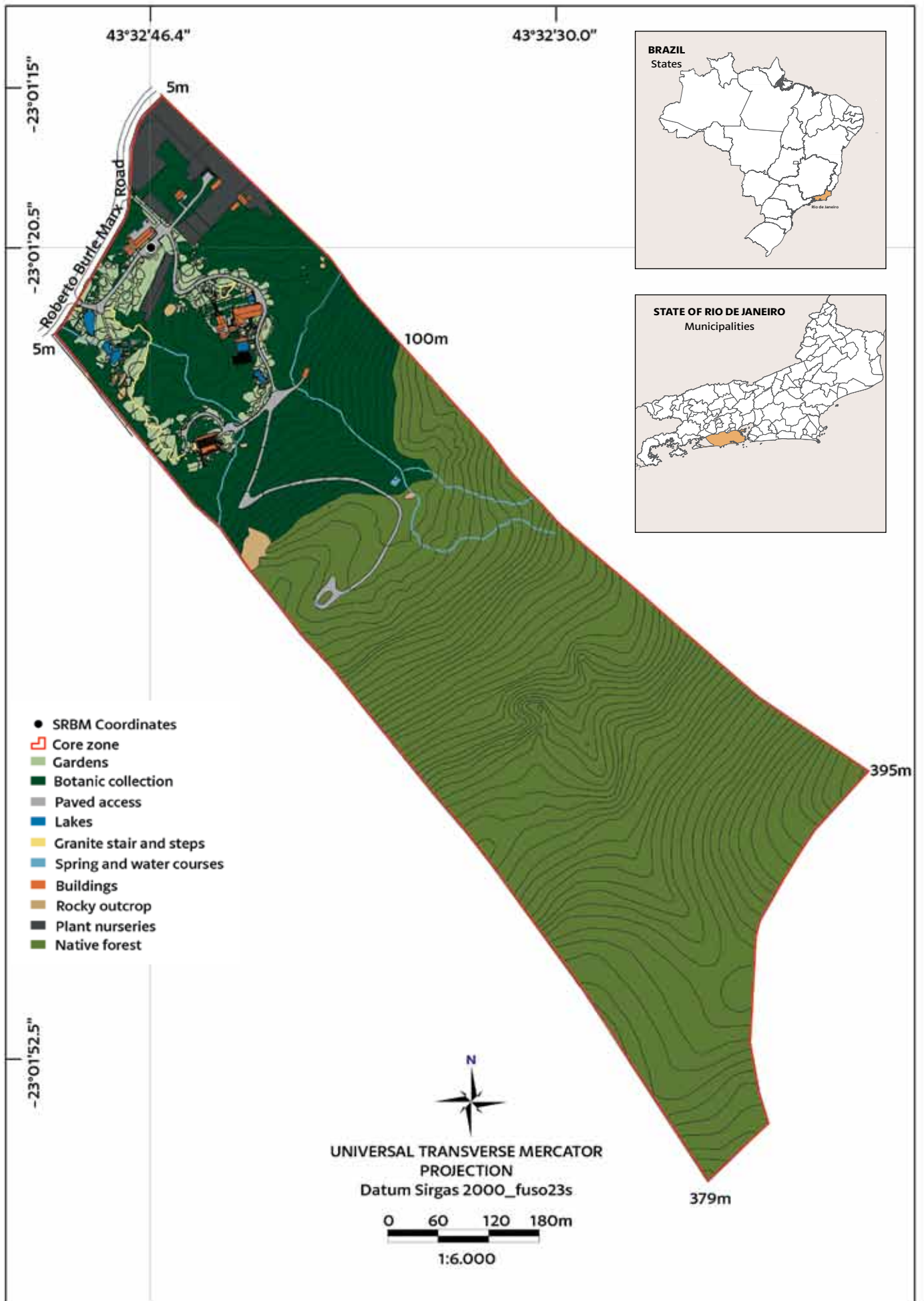


Fig. O11 – Plan of the property

## **8. DRAFT STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE**

### **BRIEF SYNTHESIS**

Sítio Roberto Burle Marx (SRBM), located 50 km from downtown Rio de Janeiro, is a unique cultural landscape created intentionally by man, which combines an artificial ecosystem and a cultural system in harmonious dialogue with its surroundings. It is formed by an ensemble of native forest, gardens, plant nurseries and beds, historical and modern buildings, a botanical collection of about 3,500 tropical and subtropical species and art collections. The property was the epicentre of a revolution in the field of landscape design which took place in the mid-20th century: it was the laboratory for testing and developing the 'modern tropical garden', created by Roberto Burle Marx, which is visually defined by the rapprochement of modern abstract form with the exuberance of the tropical flora.

Since the purchase of its first plot in 1949, SRBM became the landscaping laboratory of Roberto Burle Marx, the place of creation and development of the 'modern tropical garden' and for the production of inputs for use in his landscape projects around the world. This transformative landscaping perspective, tested and refined in SRBM and disseminated globally was innovative in conciliating the exuberance of tropical species and the modern abstract forms both in the design of plant beds and in the way it explores the aesthetic qualities of the plants themselves. It was innovative also in its underlying ecological ideas: the respect for topology, the use of native or ecologically compatible species, the refusal of artistic pruning, the construction of a fluid and changing landscape formed by the very direct experience, the aesthetic use of the atmospheric conditions and the physical qualities of nature to convert them into experiences of light, color, volume and texture.

The modern tropical garden had great influence in the field of architecture, since it conceives landscaping as open-air architecture, capable of formulating a new synthesis between constructed and natural landscape. Based on the abstract form, it offers the modern building the possibility of significantly expanding outdoors its tailoring of space, maintaining the integrity of its rational form while creating the natural and cultural surroundings for it. The modern tropical garden also influenced the direction of Brazilian and international modernity, by using the native flora as a sign of cultural identity, building up a new, non-mimetic, abstract vision of tropical nature.

The spatial and formal configuration of Sítio Roberto Burle Marx took shape over time, between the 1950s and 1990s. This process resulted from the daily and direct experimentation with the plant species brought from different regions of Brazil and abroad and sheltered in the beds, nurseries and in the stretch of native forest on the uphill portion of the



Sítio. It also emerged from the renovations and extensions of the buildings in the SRBM, the construction of new structures, the uses that were being devised for them and the constant additions to the art collections. The property's unique configuration combines art and flora, culture and nature, and it was the result of bringing an ecological perspective to the conformation of intentionally created cultural landscapes, based on of collecting, recycling and conservation practices.

Among the features of Sítio Roberto Burle Marx is one of the most extensive and rare collections of ornamental plants from Brazil and the world's tropical and subtropical belt, intended for study, acclimatization, protection and reproduction, aimed at supporting the development of the modern tropical garden. The collection is organized in the nurseries, but also in gardens with innovative design, inventive both in the outline of plant beds and in the ecological and morphological articulation of plant species. Such gardens create the setting for a series of buildings, including historic and contemporary structures, whose renovation or restoration core guiding principle was the confluence of preservation and vitality. An outstanding example is the Santo Antônio da Bica Chapel, an 18th-century church that was definitively restored in the 1970s to be used by the local community. SRBM, as a Cultural Centre, also holds an important art collection, comprising works by Roberto Burle Marx (some of them integrated into architecture) and art pieces he has assembled, with emphasis on modern art and Brazilian and Latin American popular art.

Accordingly, the Outstanding Universal Value of Sítio Roberto Burle Marx is defined by the way it both testifies for the development and expresses the full maturity of the 'modern tropical garden', an artistic and scientific endeavour which was, at the same time, the first fully structured language of landscape design based on the use of the tropical flora and one of the most innovative and undisputed expressions of the Modern Movement in the field of landscaping.

## **JUSTIFICATION FOR CRITERIA**

**Criterion (ii)** Sítio Roberto Burle Marx is an outstanding example throughout the world of a place where an important interchange of human values developed around the study of, and the landscaping experimentation with, the tropical flora. The property was the pivot of a breakthrough perspective and a new language of landscape design which has largely influenced the shaping of parks and gardens since the mid 20th century, in Brazil and worldwide. Sítio Roberto Burle Marx was a laboratory for the modern tropical garden, a place for fostering landscaping, artistic and botanical knowledge and for the development of the ecological approach that articulates preservation and vitality, nature and culture. It provides a unique experience, in both educational and aesthetic terms, of tropical flora and of Brazilian and Latin American culture, voicing an important message in defence of the environment and cultural heritage.

**Criterion (iv)** Sítio Roberto Burle Marx reached its final configuration through an experimental process, revealing an ecological conception of form: the form is, actually, a formation, a process including the social collaboration which is at the basis of the struggle for environmental and cultural preservation. SRBM was a lively gathering place for scholars and artists from a wide variety of fields and origins. Understood as a landscaping laboratory, it was shaped out of a productive dialogue with different strands of Brazilian, Latin-American and international modernity practice and thought of. It is the unique result of the convergence of these different perspectives: the modern abstract form, the exuberance of the tropical flora, local and international landscape traditions, the traditional Portuguese-Brazilian constructive typology, various European and Latin-American classical and popular art expressions. Drawing from all these sources, Sítio Roberto Burle Marx became the place for testing and developing the modern tropical garden, one of the most undisputed expressions of the Modern Movement in the field of landscape design.

#### **STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY**

Sítio Roberto Burle Marx is an integral cultural landscape. It maintains the original qualities of all the elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value. Its delimited area corresponds to the original property that belonged to artist and landscape designer Roberto Burle Marx. The surrounding area preserves its rural and suburban character combined with stretches of native forest and mangroves. The property preserves the design of plant beds and gardens as conceived and built by Burle Marx almost fifty years ago. It encompasses the conservation of the botanical collection formed by the 3,500 species of tropical plants brought into the property and by those from the native forest located above elevation 100 m, together with key elements of the ecosystem, such as the water spring and streams. It also maintains in its original configuration the buildings that form the architectural-landscape complex, as well as the art collections displayed as originally arranged. These elements are complementary to each other and form a cohesive and indivisible whole, also ensuring the preservation of intangible values associated to the property, of educational, scientific, ecological, and aesthetic nature.

The integrity of the SRBM landscape is guaranteed not only by the status of protected cultural heritage it enjoys at national, state and municipal level, but also due to the fact that since 1985 it is owned and directly managed by the National Historic and Artistic Heritage Institute (Iphan), the Brazilian federal agency responsible for the protection and promotion of the country's national cultural heritage. SRBM has also benefited from the establishment, in the 1970's, of the State Park of Pedra Branca, an integral conservation unit which overlaps with the property's area above elevation 100 m, and also from the proximity of two other conservation units – the State Biological Reserve of Guaratiba and The Municipal Natural Park of Grumari. SRBM surroundings have been spared from real

state expansion due to the distance from downtown Rio de Janeiro and because they integrate into the urban fabric in a very particular way, as a production cluster of ornamental plants and an outdoor leisure hub in a low density suburban and semi-rural neighborhood of detached houses, homesteads, orchards and small businesses, implying that it does not suffer from significant threats to its integrity.

## **STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY**

Sítio Roberto Burle Marx has remained virtually unchanged since the death of its creator, in 1994. It has been the subject of study of several academics from Brazil and abroad in the fields of architecture, landscaping, botany, art and museum studies, resulting that documentation on the property is plentiful. Comparing recent studies with older sources available in different collections shows that the natural environment, the architecture, the botanical collection, the spatial organization of the elements of the landscape, the plant beds in the gardens, the arrangement of the art collections, the driveways, as well as the original water system are just as they were when they were created. This ensemble of elements communicates, with clarity and eloquence, the function of landscaping and artistic laboratory that SRBM had until the death of its creator.

Garden and plant nursery care has been carried out by a staff of gardeners whose practices and knowledge have been handed down from one generation to the next since the time of Burle Marx. Thus, the ongoing maintenance work of the property has ensured the preservation of its configuration as an artificial ecosystem integrated to a cultural system, connected to the surrounding natural landscape in a peculiar symbiosis between culture and nature.

SRBM thus preserves the attributes that support its Exceptional Universal Value, which are expressed: (1) on the location and geography of the property, with uphill native forest located above the 100 m elevation and gardens located on the half slope of the hillside; (2) on the design of plant beds and gardens, as conceived by Burle Marx and in the way they have evolved to their present configuration, as well as in the elements of SRBM's built landscape – ponds, paths, driveways, tracks, buildings, plant nurseries – and in the resulting experience they convey in terms of light, color, volume and texture; (3) in the healthy botanical collection and its conservation and continued reproduction; (4) in Roberto Burle Marx's artistic works – paintings, sculptures, drawings, engravings, tapestries, decorative objects and tile and ceramic panels integrated into the buildings – as well as his art collections, organized into sets of pieces kept in the original arrangement made by Burle Marx himself, which contributed to the creative process translated into the gardens through an approach to design that combines modern and popular features, noticeable in the relationship between the modernity of the gardens and the native flora as well as in the eclecticism of the art collections and in the architectural heritage of SRBM, both of which articulate pieces of popular or vernacular

tradition with modern objects; (5) in the preservation, through use, of traditional materials, skills and techniques as examples of an ecological vision based on recycling and conservation; (6) in the continuous use that the community of Barra de Guaratiba makes of the Chapel of Santo Antônio da Bica for religious celebrations – Sunday masses, weddings, baptisms and the Feast of Saint Anthony – maintaining a century-old connection with the local population, as well as in the way SRBM serves as a Cultural Centre conceived as a centre of the thought and practice of modern landscaping, open to public visitation; (7) in the research still carried out today in the property by botanists, agronomists, architects, landscape designers and art historians, among others.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

SRBM is listed as cultural heritage at the federal, state and municipal level, which ensures the maximum level of protection under Brazilian law. At the federal level, the SRBM has been protected as national heritage since 2003 (Iphan – Enlisting Process No. 1,131-T-1984), at the state level since 1983 (Inepac – Resolution No. 039) and municipal level since 2009 (Rio de Janeiro, Municipal Decree nº 30.936).

In addition to the legal means for the guardianship of cultural heritage, Sítio Roberto Burle Marx is subject to additional layers of protection resulting from environmental and urban policy measures. Regarding environmental protection, SRBM directly benefits from the constraints placed by two adjoining conservation units. The State Park of Pedra Branca partially overlaps SRBM, and the remaining area of the property lies in the buffer zone of both the Park and the Biological Reserve of Guaratiba (RBG). In addition, the urban zoning laws place restrictions on urban expansion and densification in the vicinity of the property. Moreover, the *Urban and Sustainable Development Master Plan of the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro* designates the SRBM as a site of outstanding environmental and landscape interest for the city, thus adding an additional layer of protection at the municipal level.

Sítio Roberto Burle Marx is owned and managed by the National Historical and Artistic Heritage Institute (Iphan), the public federal agency responsible for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage in Brazil, which ensures a management approach committed to its protection. SRBM is a Cultural Centre and, from the administrative point of view, a special management unit with its own staff and budget, which guarantees its autonomy for the management of the property.

Currently, the main management instrument for SRBM is its Strategic Plan, which is structured in five lines of action: preservation and management of cultural heritage; identification, registration and dissemination of the work of Roberto Burle Marx; promotion and communication; education and research; and institutional strengthening. In the context of the nomination to the World Heritage List, a new governance structure will be established,

with increased participation of local government, the community and outside experts. This new governance will be responsible for drawing up a new management plan from the Strategic Plan, embodying the principles and concepts from the World Heritage Convention.

**9. NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF OFFICIAL  
LOCAL INSTITUTION/AGENCY**

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