

**Deforestation**  
**Bonaire in Europe**  
**Art sales for flamingos**  
**40 years Bonaire National Marine Park**



# Should Bolivia be developed?

Imagine a solar panel field surrounding Spelunk lighthouse and landhuis

Photo and story: Julie Morgan

For sometime, Bonaire’s east coast or ‘wild side’ has pretty much escaped the eye of developers, but that may change with a new development plan known as Plantage Bolivia. For most people, Bolivia is an area of Bonaire that doesn’t lend itself to high traffic from locals or tourists even though it takes up a big chunk of the island geography. The area is rough and roads are more suitable for mountain bikes than anything else. It’s almost like going back in time to what Bonaire might have looked like before any of us were here.

The dry tropical forest reigns here along with various types of cactus and the inhabitants either walk on four legs or fly.

Plantage Bolivia is a plan to transform the area into a recreational, agricultural development and build up to 1500 homes. The area itself is 7,052 acres (2,854 ha) and extends from the iron shore clad coast to the cliffs and beyond.

The historical Spelunk Lighthouse from 1910 and crumbling landhuis rise prominently along the craggy coastline. In the proposed plan, a solar panel field would surround these remnants of Bonaire history.

The proposal includes a plan for independence of foreign products through food production and growing algae for biofuel. These efforts would also provide jobs. All of this sounds pretty good.

But, ongoing studies since 1998 have declared how vital Bolivia is for the survival of the Lora, bats, cactus and hermit and land crabs.

And the beautiful and unique dry tropical forest has been declared endangered throughout the Caribbean. In the early years of Bonaire the island was stripped of its dry forest in the name of development and by the introduction of donkeys and goats. We are now working to reforest the dry forest and we embrace the animals as unique to Bonaire.

The experts maintain that Bolivia is vulnerable and needs to be conserved.

“The wildlands of Bolivia serve the crucial role as a natural corridor for much of the native flora and fauna between the northern and southern halves of the island.” \*

Bolivia’s cave system supports different types of rare bats that are essential to the ecosystems. And on the cave walls an-

cient inscriptions provide a record of Bonaire history. The prevalent Candelabra and Kadushi cacti are a main food source for bats, parrots and parakeets in the dry season. Bolivia is also the most important breeding area for the endangered yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot.

In regard to our reefs, research findings confirm what we all know, that local hu-

man action has a major influence on our reefs and marine life. Studies show in areas where a lot of human activity takes place, such as around Kralendijk, the salt pans and oil storage tanks the reef hardly grows.

***Bolivia development, continued on page 5***



Bolivia caves have ancient Indian inscriptions and are home to two rare bats necessary to the ecosystem of Bonaire. Photo Julie Morgan



October 17, 2019, in Brussels, an agreement was signed by deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe, on behalf of the public entity Bonaire, and director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the EU, Jolita Butkeviciene. The money will be spent on a large number concrete projects to help Bonaire's young people build a promising future. Butkeviciene stressed that, as far as she is concerned, the agreement goes well beyond a financial contribution. She is primarily seeking a partnership with Bonaire.

Nina den Heyer is primarily responsible for Bonaire's youth policy. "The funds will increase the chances for children and young people to develop positively, for example by expanding pre-school and after-school care, improving recreational sports facilities and paying attention to health and safety. Part of the contribution relates to the improvement of infrastructure facilities and therefore falls under the portfolio of James Kroon," said Tjin Asjoe.

## Bonaire receives 3.95 million from European Union for youth initiative



Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe and Director for Latin America and the EU Caribbean Jolita Butkeviciene sign the agreement as Governor Edison Rijna looks on.

## Bonaire in The Hague



Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe in conversation with vice-chairman of the Council of State Thom de Graaf, State Council Jan Franssen and secretary Rob Visser (Photo: Nico van der Ven).

Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe and Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna paid a working visit to Europe mid-October, 2019.

### The Council of State,

Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe met with the vice-chairman of the Council of State, Mr. Thom de Graaf, and the State Council Mr. Jan Franssen. Tjin Asjoe expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Executive Council for the Council of State's advice

on how to make cooperation between the ministries and the public entity Bonaire more effective.

"We agree with the Council of State's analysis of why cooperation in some areas, such as the level of facilities and roads, has turned out to be less clear than, for example, in the areas of public health and education," said deputy Tjin Asjoe.

### The House of Representatives (Tweede Kamer).

"Good things are happening on Bonaire," State Secretary of the Interior and Kingdom Relations Raymond Knops emphasized during October's debate in the House of Representatives on the budgets for Kingdom Relations and the BES Fund. The debate was attended by Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe.

Knops responded to a suggestion from MP Machiel de Graaf (PVV) that he intervene on Bonaire after St. Eustatius: "That is not an issue at all. Mr. Tjin Asjoe can safely go home; we are not going to intervene on Bonaire. Why not? Because good things happen there. [A year ago] I did worry about the situation and the fact that too little happened, but a lot is happening now. There is progress in the area of financial management. The organization is being reorganized and new people are being added. That will produce results; I'm really convinced of that ... because we agree on the priorities... From this place I want to thank the Executive Council, but also the program manager and all other stakeholders for their efforts."

(L-R) Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe, MEP Samira Rafaela, Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna.

European parliamentarian Samira Rafaela met Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna and Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe at European Parliament in Brussels. They toured the building where 751 MEPs hold offices and meet.

Samira Rafaela is working to get and keep the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom on the European agenda. In the elections of May this year, Rafaela obtained - partly thanks to the voters on Bonaire - enough personal votes to get a seat in the European Parliament.



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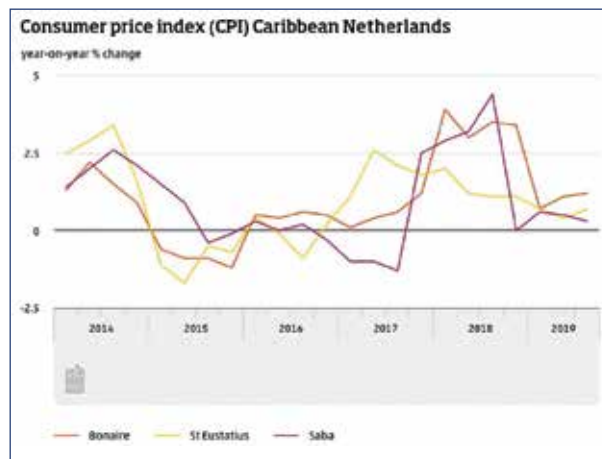


## Bonaire signs international policy to protect oceans

## —Prices on Bonaire up 1.2 percent—

In Q3 2019, consumer prices on Bonaire were 1.2 percent higher than one year previously. Prices also rose on St Eustatius and Saba, by 0.7 percent and 0.3 percent year-on-year respectively, according to consumer price index used by Statistics Netherlands (CBS).

On Bonaire, the year-on-year price increase was caused by price increases for clothing and footwear, food and transport. Clothing and footwear were 6.6 percent and food 4.2 percent more expensive. Prices of fresh fruit and vegetables hardly changed in the past quarter but were still higher than one year previously, by 33.4 percent and 15.6 percent respectively. Petrol was 4.1 percent and diesel 5.0 percent more expensive.



Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe signed in Brussels on behalf of Bonaire the 'Declaration on Oceans' October 16, 2019. (Left) Prime Minister of Curaçao Eugene Rhuggenaath, who will be chairing the OCTA this year.

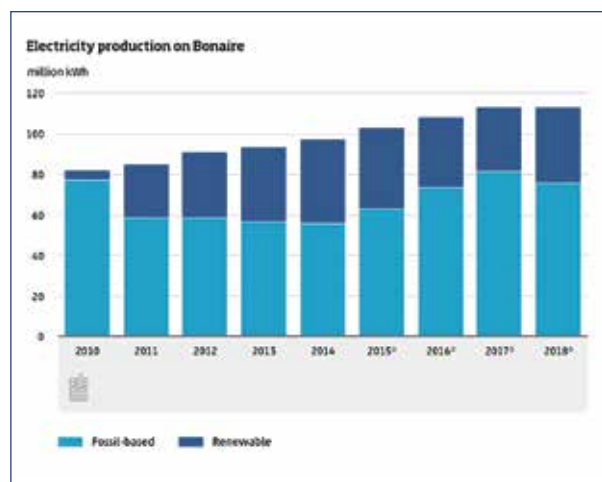
## One-third of electricity is renewable in BES islands

Bonaire participated in the Oceans conference of the Association of Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union (OCTA) held October 16-17, 2019 in Brussels. By signing the 'Declaration on Oceans' the international community recognizes the economic and social value of the oceans and the need to better protect them, according to deputy Tjin Asjoe.

"The steps we take as Bonaire [such as the ban on disposable plastic] are important and must be there..., but the impact of what we as a small island do on the global scale is of course low. By far the most plastic that washes ashore on our coast comes from other countries. That's why today a large number of other countries ... jointly engage with us to make the oceans healthier," said Tjin Asjoe.

In 2018, the Caribbean Netherlands produced 136 million kWh of electricity. Of this amount, 45.1 million kWh came from renewable sources, equivalent to 33 percent of total electricity production. Production levels on the three islands were just as high as in 2017, but a larger part has been produced sustainably, according to new figures on electricity production in the Caribbean Netherlands.

Bonaire's sustainable energy is mainly wind energy. Electricity production on Bonaire amounted to 113.1 million kWh in 2018. 37.1 million kWh (32.8 percent) was generated in a sustainable way. Wind turbines produce 99 percent of renewable energy while 1 percent is generated by solar panels. In 2014, the share of renewable electricity was still 42.3 percent, but it seems to have stabilised around 30 percent since then. *Statistics Netherlands (CBS)*



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# Bonaire honors the Roosendaal Sisters (Súrnan di Roosendaal)

► **Requests for permits** during the period from Dec. 20, 2019 to Jan. 12, 2020 must be submitted no later than Nov. 22, 2019 .

All requests, permits and notifications should be submitted to the Legal and General Affairs Department at J.A. Abraham Boulevard 27. You must apply for a license to organize public entertainment, an activity accessible to the public and / or making music, for example in the case of gaita, aguinaldo, bari and tambu groups. You must also request a buffet license.

► **The Medical Disciplinary Court of the Dutch Caribbean (MTCN) completed its first cases October 2019.** It heard disciplinary complaints against two doctors and a dentist. One of the complaints was partially upheld and a warning was issued. The other two complaints were declared unfounded. The task of the disciplinary court is to monitor and promote good healthcare. The Commission cannot grant damages or determine the liability of a care provider. Damages and liability are awarded through normal case law.

► **A 55 year old female experienced, certified Australian technical diver and diving physician diving solo died on October 17 off of Buddy Dive Resort.** Using an AP closed system re-breather she had descended to a depth of 90 meters (270 ft). She was later found unconscious at a depth of 25 meters (75 ft). Following the accident her rebreather equipment was thoroughly inspected by technical diving specialist Walter Stark who declared the system was working perfectly.

From a diving forum, a post said she was diving with two cylinders: a full (untouched) 80 EANx and a 20/20 Trimix (20%oxygen, 20% helium, 60% nitrogen). The rebreather diluent was 21%.

Spokesman for Buddy Dive, Paul Coolen said that she was a well trained technical diver and well known in the technical diving community.

“She was diving within the boundaries of her training,” Coolen said, “The combination of air and depth in regard to safety were not rational.”

She most likely died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Ninety percent of all dive accidents are not gear related, but human error.

► **Community centers are closed due to renovations.** The following community centers: Nort Saliña, Tera Cora, Nikiboko, and Antriol, will be renovated as part of the administrative agreement signed by the public entity Bonaire (OLB) in October 2018. Renovation of Rincon’s community center will take time. An interim solution to Rincon’s closure is being sought.

The Amboina community center has been refurbished and is in use.

► **The Ministry of Justice and Security organized a work group on “Prevention of human trafficking and labor exploitation: what can we do together,” on Oct. 18.** Present were representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (Kmar), the Labor Inspection, Bonaire Public Entity and trade associations such as the Bonaire Hospitality Group. Internationally human trafficking is defined as a modern form of slavery. The work group discussed bottlenecks to action, and how to strengthen cooperation in tackling human trafficking and labor exploitation. October 18th is the international day against human trafficking.

► **Free beach tennis lessons for children.** One day a week students from six different primary schools are taken to the fields at Coco Beach for beach tennis lessons. The lessons are organized by Beach Tennis Bonaire and Contour Global Bonaire B.V. in cooperation with the Department of Movement. The project lasts one school year and is organized by volunteers.

A monument to the Roosendaal sisters was unveiled October 18, 2019 at the Súrnan di Roosendaal roundabout in Playa. On October 18, 1855 the church received a permit from the local government for the first Catholic school on Bonaire. In January 1856 the first sisters arrived on the island and the school was opened. Over time, around thirty Bonaireans have entered the Roosendaal order on Bonaire. Eleuteria de Palm was the first local sister of the order. She and her mother, Feliciana di Emerenciana, were both slaves. Eleuteria was bought free by Father Basilio. After she became a nun, she changed her name to Súr Marie Lucie.

Bonaire paid tribute to the Roosendaal sisters in gratitude for their unwavering commitment to education, healthcare and spiritual care.

In his speech at the dedication ceremony, deputy James Kroon thanked the many people contributed to the monument: “The people who know our history and have researched it: Messrs Valdemar Marcha and Bòi Antoin. Architect Wally Martina from Curaçao who designed this monument completely free of charge. The employees of the Directorate of Space and Development, namely Messrs Etienne van der Horst and Eric Soleana. Loeki Nicolaas and Robert Sances from the Communication department. The dynamic team of the department that facilitates us every day. And also our master of ceremonies Mr. Raphael Statie and our island secretary Mrs. Nereida Gonzalez.”



## Letters and Opinions

**To: Bonaire Reporter**

Why don't we use drones to hunt for missing persons instead of Curacao helicopter? *Don Lockhart*

**From: <director@stinapa.org>**

**Subject: Drones on Bonaire**

Please note that the airspace above the BES islands (Dutch Caribbean: airspace above the islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) is prohibited airspace or controlled airspace (control zone – CTR or aerodrome traffic zone – ATZ). It is not allowed to fly there with aircraft including remotely piloted aircraft/model aircraft without the permission of ATC or AFIS. At this moment ATC and AFIS are not able to grant any permission. So please leave your ‘drone’ at home or keep it stored in your suitcase during your stay.

So all and all; it is overall forbidden for Drones on our island. In the parks and Ramsar sites Stinapa can do something about it. At other areas (Cargill) OLB can / should act. This is often not the case and often people look at Stinapa... And we can not act there...  
*Peter Jager, Interim Director, STINAPA*

**To the Editor and all it concerns:**

I am writing this after Caren Eckrich, a Biologist at Stinapa so accommodatingly stepped up and spoke when the designated presenters at the 24.10.2019 Stinapa event were ‘late’. During that time she spoke about plans for the goat reduction planned for the Park and stated that only two people “already” were selected as the only hunters.

I hope that this is viewed as constructive advice as

I only wish success although I find it absurd that only two ‘hunters’ are planned. The fact that two people were ‘already selected’ smacks of bad politics. Untrained and inexperienced hunters are more likely to injure, cause pain and suffering rather than kill humanely.

First, there are many on the island with firearms training who would be happy to assist including but not limited to: 1. security personnel already with firearms permits on this island; Police; farmers (who are permitted to shoot dogs that attack their goats); and those who have been permitted to carry firearms in other locales (myself included).

Two shooters can hardly be relied upon to make any kind of reasonable result over such a large area in any kind of reasonable time frame. 10-20 hunters would be minimal and more would be better. If you were wise you would create a ‘lionfish derby’ type of event and coordinate it with the goat festival so that the meat would be guaranteed useful. Another reasonable solution would be to coordinate with the Netherlands Marines or Army to use the event as practice with live rounds as I have been informed that a problem exists where the soldiers are not properly trained with live ammo. Two platoons could start from different sections of the park and channel the goats into a section where you can either distribute them to farmers or properly slaughter them. You might only need a day or two to close the park rather than weeks with just two hunters.

Again, I only wish a good result and hope that Stinapa and the powers that be will take appropriate actions to see that goats do not needlessly suffer and the environment is safe and protected.

*Charles Baltayan*

# Law Enforcement

## Police Report for October 9 - 18, 2019

### Robberies

During the day of Oct. 9 thieves forcing a side door in a house on the Kaya Tintorero. Among other things, a black HP laptop, a Samsung S5, prescription glasses (Caron Miller brand) and cash were stolen.

On the same day between 11:45am and 12:05pm two people took food without paying from a shop on the Kaya Industria.

Between 6:30 & 8am Oct. 11, thieves forced the sliding door of a house in Amboina to steal among other things, a bottle of whiskey.

During early evening Oct. 12 thieves stole items from a house in Kaya Sabalo. They took, among other things: a Samsung Galaxy J6, a Lenovo tablet, two E-readers (Sony & Kobo), various jewelry, a wallet with contents, sunglasses, and a hair clipper.

On Oct. 14, around 1:20am thieves entered a house in Sabadeco through the toilet. It is not yet known what has been removed.

On Oct. 15 thieves entered a house on Kaya Esther through the back door. They stole, among other things, a gold chain.

In the evening hours of Oct. 15, a masked man fired at the employee at a snack on the Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia. The man then ran away. No one was injured.

In the night of Oct. 16 diving gear was stolen from a terrace of a tourist accommodation on the Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot.

In the night of Oct. 17, a car in the yard of a house on Kaya Korona was broken. Thieves broke the small left-hand side window and removed various items.

In the night of Oct. 16, thieves destroyed a door to enter a company on the Kaminda Sorobon. They stole a large number of bottles of alcohol.

### Dive site robberies

Theft was reported on Oct. 11. Between 11:30 & 11:45am backpacks were stolen from the beach at 1000 Steps. The bags contained two Samsung S8 mobile phones, a blue and a silver rose and cash.

### On the roads

On Oct. 10, two cars collided at Kaya Macario Cai Sint Jago. The driver of one of the cars was taken to the hospital by ambulance and was subsequently arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

In the afternoon of Oct. 11, the driver of a scooter fell because the handlebars vibrated. The driver sustained several grazes and a deep head wound. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

On Oct. 14, around 11 pm on Hanchi Amboina a car hit a cyclist and drove away. The cyclist fell. He had a wound above his eyebrow and complained of pain in his arm and shoulder. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

In the late afternoon hours of Oct. 15, on Kaya Ir. R. Statius of Eps, the driver of the moped fell when he suddenly had to brake for a donkey. The driver was taken by ambulance to the hospital.

In the late evening of Oct. 21, two cars collided on Kaya Korona. The 69 year-old driver of one of the cars was taken to the police station for a breath test, and was arrested for driving under the influence. He was allowed to go home the next morning.

### Confiscated vehicles

On Oct. 10, the police were informed that mopeds were playing in Antriol. The patrol encountered a moped at Kaya Rafaela and gave a stop sign, but the moped did not respond until Kaya Baracuda. The driver did not have a valid driver's license and insurance. The moped was confiscated.

On Oct. 11, a scooter was also seized on Kaya Industria South. The driver was unable to show a valid driver's license and insurance papers. **KPCN would like to emphasize once again that if a driver of a vehicle can not show valid documents, the vehicle is seized immediately.**

### Two accidents at sea

During Regatta, Oct 12, in the early evening hours, a cigarette boat flipped over between Klein Bonaire and the harbor. All three passengers were taken to the hospital. Also taken to the hospital was the driver of a "Seadoo" that flipped over.

### Arrests

On Oct. 17, a 21-year-old man was arrested at a company located on Kaya Industria for destruction, threat, insult to police, and non-compliance with a police order.

When the man resisted arrest fiercely, the police used appropriate force to bring the suspect under control. This arrest has been recorded and is being distributed on social media.

### Fire

On Oct. 21, the police station was notified of a fire in a shed near Punta Blanku. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. No one was injured. The cause of the fire is unknown. *Communicatie KPCN*

### How to contact the Dutch Caribbean Police Force

If every second counts:  
emergency number 911 (free)

If you want to give an (anonymous) tip,  
phone (+599) 717 7251

If there is no emergency,  
phone (+599) 715 8000 or 717 8000



## Ask Kate

### Bonaire real estate advice

**Question: You mentioned an inspection contingency in a recent column, how does that work if the inspector finds something wrong? Jan**

Hi Jan,

Thanks for asking for clarification, since inspections can be different in other countries. In some countries Buyers expect the Seller to repair anything listed on an inspection report, or to lower the selling price to cover repairs.

On Bonaire, the terms of the inspection are agreed upon in the purchase agreement in advance of the inspection so that there is no misunderstanding between buyer and seller. An inspection contingency might have wording similar to "This offer contingent upon a technical inspection that does not identify more than \$X,XXX in required repairs as determined by the inspector." The Buyer and Seller agree upon the dollar amount. Let's use \$3,000 for our example.

If the inspection identifies structural, technical or invisible deficiencies of \$3,000 or less that require repair, the purchase agreement is still valid and the seller has no obligation to fix the deficiency or renegotiate the price. If the amount of required repairs is higher

than the agreed upon amount, the buyer has the option to void the purchase agreement. In some cases, the Seller will offer to pay for repair of deficiencies above the agreed upon amount to continue with the sale. If the inspection indicated \$3,500 in required repairs, using our example of a \$3,000 contingency, the Seller might offer \$500, which is the amount over the agreed upon \$3,000.

The inspector will note what repairs are required and a general estimate of what they would cost. The report may also list items that may need attention eventually, but are not required (for example, an older airco unit which is nearing the end of its usable life, but is still in working order and does not require repair or replacement at this time.) Remember that only the items noted as required on the report count towards the dollar amount of the contingency, not cosmetic repairs or suggestions for future maintenance or upgrading older items.

*All the best, Kate Butler, GRI, Agent, RE/MAX Bonaire*

If you have a real estate question for Kate,  
email her at [kate@bonairehomes.com](mailto:kate@bonairehomes.com)  
Tollfree from US: 1-866-611-7362

## Disaster exercise Tuesday, October 29



**In the morning of Tuesday, October 29, a large-scale disaster exercise will take place at the Bonaire airport (BIA).**

BIA will be temporarily closed to the public between 9.30am and 12pm, and a number of roads between BIA and the hospital may be closed during this time. The communication department of the OLB (public entity Bonaire) will be closed between 9am and 12pm.

During the disaster exercise, Bonaire's emergency response team will react as if a crashed aircraft is on fire. The exercise will be realistic because it will include smoke generators.

The exercise is organized by Cuijpers Consultancy on behalf of the public entity Bonaire. Every year the disaster team of the OLB organizes a large-scale disaster exercise.



## Bolivia development, continued from page 1

"At the same time, the reef in the marine reserves, where access is strictly prohibited, are relatively healthy."\*

Of course there is no development in the marine reserves.

The Plantage Bolivia website lists an email address for more information but no one has responded even after multiple emails by several concerned people.

The property is for sale by former Bonaire Governor Richard Hart through Bonaire Properties NV for 12 million dollars.

Bolivia is zoned as "Open Landscape" presently and needs to be reclassified as "Housing and Recreation". In order for this to happen, an environmental impact report has to be written by the developer. Bonaire

Nature Management committee will advise upon this report and the island council will decide. At that point, the developers would need to apply for various permits, including one for building all those houses.

\* *Scientific quotes and other information are from Biological Inventory of Bolivia, Bonaire, Carmabi, 1998; State of Nature of the Caribbean Netherland 2017, Wageningen University & Research Report C086/17 and Sixth National Report of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Convention on Biological Diversity, Wageningen University) Parliament document July 12, 2019; Wageningen Marine Research, Global Change Biology, Erik Meesters Fleur van Duyl and Chris Perry and Henk and Wilma Nijland.*



# 1979-2019: Celebrating 40 years Bonaire National Marine Park.



## In the schools

STINAPA gave away 750 books to school kids in celebration of the Bonaire National Marine Park's 40th anniversary. STINAPA rangers and author Denise de Jongh-Rekwest distributed the books to 5th and 6th graders of all the elementary schools on Bonaire, October 22, 2019.

The kids were given the books to take home, and each school received a number of copies for their libraries. The book, "Come and follow my submarine/ Bin, bin sigui mi supmarin," is set in the ABC islands. It tells of the consequences of throwing garbage away on the land and in the sea. The story teaches kids the importance of recycling.

plastic cups and cutlery, 283 glass bottles, 113 aluminum cans and 31 bottle caps and lids.

This was the second cleanup in a two week period in the area. Dive Friends staff hit the water around Karels Bar for a post Regatta cleanup the week before. The DF divers reclaimed 207 bottle caps, 25 glass fragments, 112 glass bottles, 12 aluminum cans, 30 meters of fishing line and five meters of rope.

Dive Friends and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire sponsor regular cleanups at various locations along the waterfront year round. If you are interested in helping lighten the trash from the ocean or beaches, we announce cleanups both above and below on our event calendar in each issue.

## On the beach

On Saturday October 19, STINAPA celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP). Established in 1979, BNMP is the oldest marine reserve in the world, and is a pioneer in nature conservation.

The marine park held its party at Sorobon. Enthusiastic athletes played beach tennis, volley ball and bolas criollas. The kids were kept busy with face painting, rope pulling and a water bouncer.

Earlier, on Oct 12th and 13th, BNMP ran a Lionfish Derby. Fourteen 'two-man' teams competed. A total of 202 lionfish were caught which were then used to feed the guests at BNMP's party. The largest lionfish caught by the Kilo Knallers was 38.9 cm and Private Divers Bon wrangled the smallest measuring only 9.1cm. Team Honeybee, Rich Schwerdtfeger and Bas Tol, captured 108 lionfish making them the big winners of the derby. Rich and Bas received calypso regulators which they immediately gifted to the Junior Rangers program.

The food was delicious. Many thought the meal to be the highlight of the festivities. Local chefs served a mouthwatering variety of lionfish dishes, goat, chicken, and various sides. Everyone who brought their own plate got their meal completely free.

DJ Marv, Kara Kora and Tessa Fessa entertained the crowd till 4pm. It was a joyous occasion. STINAPA celebrated with the community of Bonaire to thank them for the continuous support in nature conservation. A special congratulations to the whole team of STINAPA who for years have been working hard to preserve, protect, and manage the Bonaire National Marine Park. *Story thanks to Xenah Cicilia, STINAPA communications.*



The Mangrove Maniacs exhibited a tank with a few habitats of the mangrove – a starfish, conch and black mangrove seedlings. Photo Julie Morgan



A special congratulations to the whole team of STINAPA who for years have been working hard to preserve, protect, and manage the Bonaire National Marine Park. Photo Julie Morgan



Photo Julie Morgan

## In the sea

Eighty-seven volunteer divers donned tanks to dive for trash on Bonaire's waterfront October 19 at Dive Friends quarterly cleanup. The divers came out of the water with big smiles and bags full of refuse.

The tally revealed that 350 kg (the weight of a Caribbean manatee) of garbage was removed from our beautiful waters.

Divers retrieved 550 meters of fishing line, 259

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# Kroes donates art to support flamingos



Anne Marie Kroes working on her most recent mural for a private commission in Bonaire.

Dutch artist Anna Marie Kroes has teamed up with Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab to provide an artistic and charitable avenue to support the island's beloved and iconic flamingo.

Kroes is known for her paintings of Bonaire's nature and historic sites and land houses such as Washikemba plantation. Some of her paintings capture the beauty of the Antillean landscape; some delight viewers with fantasy marine life. Kroes

lived on Bonaire from 1993 – 2001. Her work reflects her deep love for the island. Indeed, she returns every year to paint and appreciate Bonaire's nature.

After hearing of the plight of Bonaire's flamingos and the Wild Bird Rehab's struggle to save them, Kroes knew she had to help. She contacted her longtime friend Elly Albers, founder and owner of the rehab, to ask how she could best contribute. The perfect solution was, of course, through her art.

Inspired by some recycled wood she was given, Kroes found that the blocks of wood were the perfect natural canvas for mini oil paintings of flamingos. She produced 25 different flamingo paintings that are only available through the rehab. Sale of the little works of art will support the efforts of Wild Bird Rehab by providing food and care for the birds. Each purchase of Kroes' flamingo art sponsors one of the flamingos at the rehab. She hopes to complete 500 flamingo portraits and possibly a few paintings of other distinctive birds such as the migrant osprey or Bonaire's own Lora.

"My hope is that my flamingos will help Elly. I wanted to make something exclusive for the rehab. Something different that you can only buy there," said Kroes.

On her most recent return to Bonaire, Kroes completed a commissioned mural of her favorite marine subject, the seahorse. Painting murals is nothing new to the Dutch artist. Since the 90's her mural work has been displayed at Rumba Café, Dive Inn and Belmar Resort as well as the now defunct Sunset Beach Resort.

Tourist Corporation Bonaire (TCB) has exhibited her work for many months.

Kroes studied art in Holland at Kunstacademie Minerva Groningen. One of her paintings was a part of a long running exhibit at the Municipal Museum in The Hague. Kroes lives with her husband

and daughter in Holland. She works as a professional artist and teaches painting and drawing at schools for all age groups. Visit Kroes Art on Facebook or [www.kroesart.nl](http://www.kroesart.nl) for examples of her work and for more information. *Photos & story J. M.*

Since April, Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab received more than 400 baby and juvenile flamingos that were malnourished and sick. Elly and her volunteers fed and cared for these birds for months until they could be released into the wild. The rehab runs entirely on donations. For more information and insight into the work done there visit Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab Facebook page.



Elly Albers displays Kroes flamingo art for sale to support the flamingos. The little works of art are \$65.

## Picture Yourself with The Reporter

# Praha, Bohemia.



**Stanislav and Eliška KrTil** are standing in the heart of Europe: Praha, Bohemia.

They write: We are a father-daughter duo who loves to travel. We were both born in the Czech Republic. We have travelled in Canada, Europe, Central America, and we fell in love with Bonaire to such an extent that we decided to stay for the maximum amount of three months. We look forward to returning, as well. In playful harmony with life and respectfully yours, *Stanislav and Eliška KrTil*

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# Are we known for our reforestation or deforestation ?

Recently STINAPA cleared out trees to build a road on or near a reforestation exclusion area managed by Echo. For the last 20 years, STINAPA has planned to remove goats from Washington Park, and they are now moving to do so. Recently workers in the park cleared a 1.6 km area for a patrol road to run along a fence line where goats are known to enter the park. The road was made wide enough for a vehicle. Land was cleared so that if trees or cactus fell, they would not fall on the fence.

Peter Jarno, interim director for STINAPA said, "There was a mistake made, as we made the road too broad. The stake holders needed to be informed. We didn't inform Echo as there wasn't enough time... We hope to move on and see how we can make things better. We see [Echo] as one of our most important partners. STINAPA plays a big part in supporting reforestation."



Palu di Sia Blanku felled at Washington Park

road) and in downtown Kralendijk. These are just some of the areas that have been deforested while Echo and the community was trying to reforest areas like Jankok in the national park. What Echo has accomplished in three years is nothing compared to the destruction that has been done in these places.

We don't know what Bonaire's original vegetation looked like 500 years ago. But we all know how green it was in 2015

when Echo started growing native trees and reintroducing them to where they might have been. With funding from the Dutch ministry, Echo undertook to grow 20,000 native trees for reforestation. Such projects are the last resource for conserving our precious dry forest.

The Protected trees information sheet of the Ordinance Nature Management Bonaire outlines our challenges:

Centuries ago, Bonaire must have looked very different than it is today. It was much greener, with many more old and larger trees. Many of those trees have been cut down over time. This large-scale logging has never been all over the island. In the present time, trees and cacti have a hard time with the ever present "cleaning" of sites with bulldozers and caterpillars. In addition, they suffer a lot from the ravages of stray donkeys and goats. Saplings do not get the chance to grow up. And the bark of old cacti is eaten, causing them to die. It is high time to be more careful with our trees and cacti. The Island Ordinance Nature Management Bonaire has set rules for felling trees and cacti.

Still the laws are not effectively enforced. So we need you, island lover and conservationist. Working together we can prevent people from cutting down our

forest. It's already a part of our island legalization.

First of all it is forbidden, without a permit from the Executive Council, to fell trees or cacti with a trunk circumference 65 cm or more when measured at 1.30 meters above ground.

It is also forbidden, without a permit, to fell cacti that were planted in connection with either the obligation to replant or other contractual commitments.

Last it is forbidden to fell trees or cacti listed on the list of 'valuable trees' of the Bonaire Island Territory.

The Executive Council is authorized to grant a permit when the permit applicant pays a fee for reforestation purposes.

- The reforestation fees imposed:
- a. \$85.00 for a trunk circumference of 65 to 79 cm
  - b. \$140.00 for a trunk circumference of 80 to 94 cm
  - c. \$195.00 for a trunk circumference of 95 cm or greater.

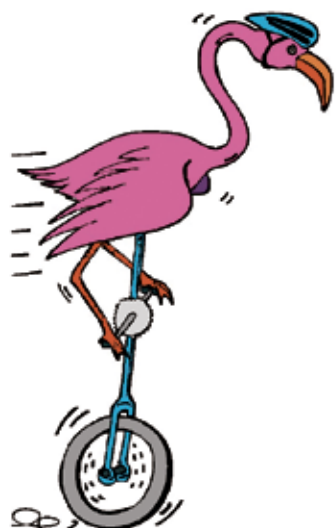
This fee is paid to STINAPA.

Echo needs more help, not with planting, but to communicate and raise awareness about our dry forest and protected species. We are never too old to learn and what we learn should never be too old to exercise. *Julianka Clarendra*



A bulldozer's destruction of more than one hectare of forest - equal to the normal size of Echo's exclusion areas.

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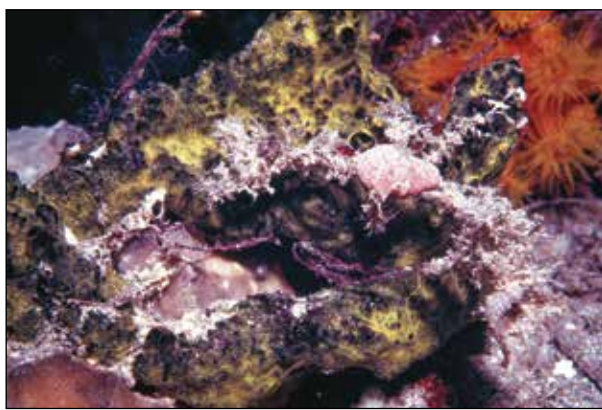




# Reef Glimpses

## Costume Experts for Halloween

When I first began diving, identifying Caribbean reef animals wasn't always easy. The REEF series didn't exist yet. Fish identification works consisted of photos of dead fish with information about stomach contents (from scientists), or live fish in aquaria with information about feeding requirements (from aquarium publishers). Jerry Greenberg was the first to publish ID guides for snorkelers and divers; they were great, but included only the most common critters, and used drawings rather than photos.



**Traditional (natural) decoration:** This crab's carapace (except for its eyes) is decorated with living sponge, probably peach encrusting sponge. The growth on the crab's arms and legs is different, which breaks up its outline and makes it more difficult to recognize.

Eric Newton, our first Marine Park Manager, and Roberto Hensen of the Carco Project. The stuff was soft in texture (softer than marshmallows), by the way, and they identified it as sponge with a lot of commensal algae.

The crab? I've seen a few similar ones over the years. This individual with the encrusting sponge appeared from a tangle of fishing line that had been underwater long enough to have some algae and sponge growth. I shook the tangled line vigorously to dislodge as much as possible, and off popped the crab! We placed the crab under a ledge, and took the line with us.

Under the North Pier more than twenty years ago, I found a crab who chose to decorate its entire body, including legs, claws, and even eyes, with the same sub-

stance, let's call it "tissue". The crab's instinct was to camouflage itself, but it covered up so neatly that its crab-shape was easy to recognize once it left the source of the camouflage.

My best ID book in the 1980's, at the time I found the frilled crab, was Dr. Patrick L. Colin's *Marine Invertebrates and Plants of the Living Reef* (©1978). This was the most relevant sentence: "Various species of spider crabs, particularly of the family Majidae, are 'decorator crabs,' attaching bits of sponges, algae, and other material to their bodies." So although we didn't know what the crab was, it was nice to know that Dr. Colin didn't know, either!

Today I checked the best current ID book, Humann, DeLoach, and Wilk's *Reef Creature Identification* (©2013), and found the crabs are called neck crabs; the genus is known (*Podochela*, "claw-footed"). Turns out, though, that they can't identify the species from photos, because their camouflage makes it "difficult to identify genus members to species." One of their photos shows a crab with the exact same frilly green stuff that was on the crab I first found, although our Bonaire green frilly stuff is much more lush than the growth in the photo.

So we have a 1980's crab with no photo and no ID, and a 2013 photo of the crab with the same decoration as the 1980's crab, and still no ID. Who is inside these costumes, anyway? *Dee Scarr*

*Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, Touch the Sea, The Gentle Sea, and Coral's Reef (for children); in Dive Training Magazine from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in the Bonaire Reporter, and now with "Reef Glimpses". The Bonaire Reporter is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge. Dee's books are available for purchase at the Carib Inn on Bonaire or through touchthesea.com.*

## Working together to reduce coastal litter



the OLB and WWF-NL recognize that solving the plastic problem for Bonaire itself and for the wider region of the Caribbean requires support from the Dutch government.

State Secretary Van Veldhoven will therefore actively discuss further steps to be taken to tackle the regional problem of 'marine litter.' For example, a regional marine litter monitoring program may be set up in the Caribbean in line with the objectives of UNEP (The United Nations Environment Programme) and the Cartagena convention. In addition, the Executive Council believes agreements must be made with the state secretary about a long-term nature policy plan for Bonaire.

Like other islands in the Caribbean, Bonaire is struggling with washed-up plastic from destinations further afield over which Bonaire itself can exert little influence. Cleaning up this "maritime stray plastic" requires an enormous effort from both local government services and citizen initiatives. That is why a year ago the WWF-NL

and Clean Coast Bonaire started mapping plastic litter on Bonaire. They use a standardized monitoring program based on the OSPAR method. In Europe, the OSPAR method has led to a ban on certain disposable items.

Now Clean Coast Bonaire wants to share its methods with other Caribbean islands. "The public entity wholeheartedly supports this initiative," said deputy James Kroon.

In July of this year, State Secretary Stientje van Veldhoven and deputy James Kroon signed a letter of intent to introduce a ban on single use plastic. WWF-NL wants to collaborate with OLB on the ban and has suggested the initiative be called: "beyond plastics." Consultations are currently being held with the private sector and local government agencies on the island and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management on solutions and alternatives to plastics. The input from the private sector is important to arrive at widely supported and feasible plans for the phasing out of disposable plastic.

WWF-NL (World Wildlife Fund- Netherlands) and OLB (public entity Bonaire) have been discussing how to tackle the problem of plastics pollution in the seas. Both

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# Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Our wheelchair challenges # 22

## Senior-friendly surroundings.

Every day I ride past the hospital and it seems that the renovation is almost complete. The entrance however, needs some more attention. Although not quite finished yet, it looks beautiful, grand and inviting. It really makes you want to walk in and enjoy your visit to the hospital and that is how it should be.

When you are elderly and/or disabled and need to go to the hospital for a doctor's appointment or a stay, you may feel scared and insecure. But adapting the surroundings may help you cope. The elderly are becoming a large group to be reckoned with.

When the hallways are broad, there is enough space and access for scooter mobiles, walkers and other walking aids. The rooms at the first aid should also be large enough to move around in.

There should be golf carts available to help transport elderly to the departments and doctors offices.

In the waiting-sections benches to sit on and wait are best and safest. Chairs tend to slip away easily, which is not good for safety.

Having big clocks on the walls is helpful in case of disorientation and large calendar pages that indicate day, date and time.

All beds should be lower than normal, for easy accessibility in every department on the wards and in the first aid section. This will prevent falling incidents.

Recently the National ombudsman Reinier van Zutphen has asked for an investigation of the elderly on Bonaire, and it seems that they are a group in dire need. There are times when these elderly must be admitted to the hospital, mostly because their bodies are weak and debilitated. These are the very poor who avoid going to the doctor and oftentimes go to bed hungry. They sometimes have to choose between buying food or paying rent! They are insecure, afraid and sometimes not able to get dressed without help.

Therefore it is important that there is a specialist available in geriatrics. Staff needs to be trained to be able

to work and deal with risk factors for patients that are 70-plus.

All wards should have large terraces available for the patients to enjoy fresh air and to be able to move around and exercise some, for recreation. But space also needs to be provided so people can sit down and share life-stories.

For all those elderly patients who need an operation, considerations should be shown for pre-operative appointments and screenings with the geriatric staff. They need not only focus on the patient's complaint, the heart, knees, etc., but all the patient's needs should be attended.

And after every screening, test, scan, etc. is completed, there needs to be a general consultation. Everyone involved will decide what to do and what is best for that specific patient.

Let us all pay more attention to the elderly. They deserve it. They deserve the best! After all... they paved the way for us. *Ria Evers-Dokter.*



# A Garden? Just Do It!

## Passion fruit

Passion fruit is one of the most delicious fruits that grow very easily on Bonaire. I'm crazy about this fruit. I have planted it many times in my garden, but often I get no fruit. The iguanas eat the leaves, and it's not easy to protect the plant since it's a vine.

But I didn't give up, and when my mango tree was rather big, I planted the passionflora plants in two big containers and put the containers under the mango tree. Quickly the passion fruit started growing in the tree. I was now waiting for flowers but ... saw nothing until the first rain showers. Soon the plant started blooming, happily with the sweet healthy rain. How surprised and happy was I when one day I noticed among the bushy mango stems the first beautiful passion fruit flower. And no iguanas around; that was mysterious. But I think it's difficult to eat the passionflora leaves without getting some bites of the mango leaves which they don't like.

If no iguanas are around, in one to three years the passion plant bears fruit. It's good to prune the plant once a year after about two to three years.

Passionflora edulis is a vine species of passion flower that is native to South America. It's an avid climber. It can grow in different soils and does well on Bonaire.

It grows usually from seeds that you should dry for about two weeks. You can plant the seeds in well drained



passion fruit

plastic cups filled with black dirt. When the plant seeds itself directly in beds, the lizards will eat the young plants. Seedlings may be transplanted when about 20 cm high. They need good moisture to flourish.

If you prefer cuttings, they should be well rooted in well drained soil. They should be ready to transplant in 90 days. Vines need support by wire trellises at least 2.5m high. But on Bonaire locals let the vines grow in trees, just like I did.

The most well known passion fruit are the yellow and purple ones, but there are over 500 cultivars. In countries like Surinam there is also a type with very sweet grey pulp inside with a dark orange skin. The yellow passion fruit we know on Bonaire are larger than the purple ones, but the pulp of the purple fruit is less acid, richer in aro-

ma and flavor, and has a higher proportion of juicy pulp. When ripe they are wrinkled on the outside and sweeter. When the skin looks smooth, they are not ripe. They can be picked from the vines, but they are even better when fallen on the ground.

One of the most intensely scented of all fruits, the passion fruit is also healthy. It's good for diabetes. A low glycemic index-high fiber content helps maintain insulin levels.

High antioxidants like Vitamin A and C, riboflavin and carotene help the skin look young. High Vitamin C boosts immunity. Its iron increases hemoglobin in red blood cells. It fights osteoporosis because it is rich in minerals like magnesium, calcium, iron, phosphorus, potassium and sodium. These minerals maintain bone density. The riboflavin (Vitamin B6) and niacin (Vitamin B3) keeps your heart healthy. The leaves and flowers are very good against anxiety when used as a tea.

Passion fruit can be used in different ways but is popular as an ingredient in smoothies, juices, syrups, yogurt, desserts, salads, ice creams, jams and jellies. When eating it plain, slice it in half and use a spoon to scoop out the fruit. Hmm!

Make use of the rain these days on Bonaire. Start to decorate a tree, garden house or porch with passion fruit plants, and soon you will enjoy its amazing flowers and delicious fruits. Just do it, start now.. *Angliet, Nature lover.*

## Are you in the food industry?

# Let's make Bonaire a culinary destination.

BONHATA invites all those in Bonaire's food industry to work together to make Bonaire a known food destination. Culinary vacations are more popular now than ever before. Foodies fly around the world, searching for amazing restaurants, food tours, and cooking classes. Bonhata and the Bonaire Restaurant Association have decided the island should start sending visitors home with great gastronomic memories as well as super diving and windsurfing experiences.

As BONHATA says, "Why just serve a meal, when you can serve a memory."

BONHATA organizers have revived the Bonaire Restaurant Association (BRA) to bring members of the food industry together. They are offering anyone involved in the food industry an amazing membership price of only \$75 for two years (regular price is \$75 per year).

Anyone in the food industry is welcome to join BRA: chefs, farmers, suppliers, wholesalers, bars, hoteliers, restaurants, food trucks and more.

Speaking with one voice will bring benefits to all, states BONHATA. If say, 30 culinary companies band together to buy from the wholesalers then prices will be

lower, there will be more accessibility and better quality. It's a win-win situation. The wholesalers get more organized buying; the food outlets get better ingredients.

Membership will help with networking, marketing, as well as the supply chain, always a problem on Bonaire.

If you have questions or would like to join, contact Eric Gietman, Board of Directors member of BONHATA and owner of Cadushy Distillery, [ericgietman@gmail.com](mailto:ericgietman@gmail.com) or Floris van Loo, President of Bonaire Restaurant Association and Rum Runners, [info@rumrunnersbonaire.com](mailto:info@rumrunnersbonaire.com).



# Did You Know! That STINAPA has been doing waterbird counts as part of a regional monitoring scheme in and around Washington Slagbaai National Park for the past 5 years? You could participate too!



Do you know of a pond, mangrove, swamp or marsh nearby with waterbirds in it? If yes, we invite you to participate in the Caribbean Waterbird Census (CWC). We could use your help to monitor more sites and conduct more frequent counts! The CWC is designed so that at the basic level anyone—from professional biologists to citizen scientist volunteers—can execute the counts. You could contribute to our knowledge of waterbirds on Bonaire and help conservation efforts. STINAPA conducts CWC four times a year; this is done in January, April, July, and October.

Waterbirds are any birds that live on or around water. Many of these birds have special features that allow them to live an aquatic lifestyle. These adaptations include things like the webbed feet that flamingoes and ducks have, but also the ability to dive from the air to catch fish. Waterbirds use many different kinds of wetland habitats. So CWC counts can be conducted in any wetland area you can access safely and legally. Wetlands are more than just freshwater swamps and marshes. They include mangroves, salt ponds, lagoons, bays, sandy or rocky beaches, coastal areas, mud flats, tidal flats, rivers, estuaries, canals, water treatment plants and many other places. No matter how big or small, CWC counts from any wetland area used by waterbirds are valuable.

There are very large gaps in our knowledge of waterbirds and the sites they use for migration, breeding, nesting, and wintering in the Caribbean. While STINAPA

does conduct observations four times a year in various sites that are very valuable, there are many other areas that waterbirds use we have no information on. We can use all the help we can get, so we strongly encourage you to carry out additional CWC counts at other times of the year and in as many wetland sites as possible. If you can carry out two or more, or monthly counts, that's even better! It is the best way to gather information at the local and regional level about what species are migrating to and through the islands and when, their numbers, and the sites they are using—all vitally important information for conservation and management. As more and more people participate we will be able to provide detailed information on waterbird migration and distributions in the region during all parts of the year.

The CWC protocol is designed so that everyone can participate. To make this possible, the protocol has been divided into several levels of increasing difficulty. Each person can choose for themselves the level of difficulty they want to attempt and to what extent they want to participate in the program. This way you can tailor it to suit your skill level and available resources. Level 1 counts are the simplest and can be done by anyone. If you are interested in attempting Level 2 or Level 3 counts, the more difficult levels, you can review the protocols and manual available at [www.birdscaribbean.org](http://www.birdscaribbean.org). It's perfectly fine if you are just getting to know your site. You should visit and count birds as often as



STINAPA Ranger Nashantra Mercera monitoring salina Bartol for CWC. Photo by Roxanne-Liana Francisca.

possible, train your counters and refine your protocol to suit the site within the general guidelines. Of course the higher the level of difficulty, (point counts or area searches with some measure of detection probability), the more detailed information we can get. Once you have gathered your data, you can upload it to [ebird.org](http://ebird.org). On the website you can also see what birds have been sighted on Bonaire and where. But beware, once you start birding it can become very addictive!

Written by Brent Hoogervorst. STINAPA connecting people with nature.



## And the winner is....Serenity by OrigiOne.

As announced in the last issue of *The Reporter*, the weekend of

October 4-6 offered an exciting challenge to Bonaire's film makers. Nine teams competed in the 48Hour Film project. Each team drew a film genre, then three common elements—a character, a prop, and a line of dialogue. With that start, they had 48 hours to write, shoot, and edit an original film.

The local winners were announced at the awards ceremony Sunday night, October 27, BYOF Theater (Trans World Radio). A film named Serenity, created by OrigiOne, was awarded Best Film 2019. Serenity has earned the right to compete in the world competition, Filmapalooza 2020, in Rotterdam, March 3 - 7, 2020.

The films were judged by three seasoned filmmakers who have many years of experience plus experience

with 48HFP:

- Sharelly Emanuelson, a Curaçao filmmaker, artist and the founder of Uniarte Foundation. Second-time judge of 48Hour films.
- Ike Nnaebue, a highly celebrated Nigerian Film Director/Screenwriter/Producer.
- Hans Groenendijk, City Producer of the biggest Dutch 48HFP, Rotterdam.

The award ceremony's MCs were Aimed Ayubi and Mr. Delno Tromp of TCB (Tourist Board Bonaire). Deputy Elvis Tijn-Asjoe presented the awards to the winners. And stay-at-homes could share in the suspense by watching the ceremony streamed on Facebook.

### Winners determined by the judges:

1st Place: Best Film of 2019 - Serenity by OrigiOne

2nd Place: - Top Secret by Kabritu Team

3rd Place: - Weekend Vibes by We Were Born Read

**Best Actor:** Ovier Maduro, Weekend Vibes by We Were Born Ready

**Best Actress:** Nathania Velasquez, Serenity by OrigiOne

**Best Cinematography:** Erick Alvarez, Top Secret by Kabritu Team

**Best Directing:** Jeanvier Janga, Serenity by OrigiOne

**Best Editing:** Marie Sint Jago, Jeremy Pikerie & Jorge González, Weekend Vibes by We Were Born Ready

**Best Sound Design:** Denzel Martis, Libertat by 599 Empire

**Best Writing:** Giovanni Gijsbertha, Libertat by 599 Empire

**Best Use of Character:** Sara by MBO MEDIA

**Best Use of Line:** Libertat by 599 Empire

**Best Use of Prop:** Top Secret by Kabritu Team

**Best Use of Genre:** The Perfect Breakfast by Mega D Youth Foundation / MSTAR Media

### List of all films:

1. Libertat by 599 Empire (Period Piece)
2. My Lovely Friend by JMH Studio (Silent Film)
3. The Perfect Breakfast by Mega D Youth Foundation / MSTAR Media (Detective/Cop)
4. Sara by MBO Media (Drama)
5. Serenity by OrigiOne (Dark Comedy/Climate Film)
6. The Experiment by Your Vision Production (Comedy)
7. The Seer by Ray Production (Detective/Cop)
8. Top Secret by Kabritu Team (Road Movie)
9. Weekend Vibes by We Were Born Ready (Vacation / Holiday Film)



Kabritu Team shooting their film, Top Secret, which won 2nd place Best Film 2019; Best Cinematography: Erick Alvarez; and Best Use of Prop.

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# What's Happening

**Influence the future of Bonaire. Public meeting:  
Nov. 6, 7, & 8, 2019.** See calendar on this page for details.

Monday, October 28	<b>Public Lecture on Coral Reefs</b> For anyone who is interested and committed to the status of the coral reefs on Bonaire and would like to meet the regional experts in person, there is a public lecture by dr. Erik Meesters of Wageningen University & Research on Monday October 28 from 7:30 to 8:30pm at Captain Don's Habitat.
Saturday, November 2	<b>Mashe Rincon Krioyo</b> Street market in Rincon, 1st & last Saturday each month  <b>Taste of Bonaire Wellness Edition</b> , 6pm-11pm, Wilhelmina Park. Sample local and international food from fine restaurants, yoga, meditation, massage techniques and other wellness incentives.
Sunday, November 3	<b>Animal Shelter Book Market</b> 10am to 2pm. Animal Shelter, Kamindu Lagun 26. Books \$1 each; 6 for \$5; 12 for \$10. See page 14.
November 6, 7, 8	<b>Bonaire Master Plan 2030.</b> The three-day public meeting will be held at the Courtyard at Marriott hotel. Day 1: local and international guest speakers. Days 2&3: Workshops to discuss, the main themes of the governments current program: social-economic development, education, sustainable development, infrastructure, good government and finances.
Saturday, November 9	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey</b> Piedra Pretu. 4pm Clean Coast Bonaire recruits volunteers and trains local residents and visiting eco-tourists to complete monthly surveys of marine litter.
Sunday, November 17	<b>Waterfront Event.</b> Two levels of triathlons. Sailing & Fishing. See pages 8 & 14.

2019 Cruise Ships						
DAY	DATE	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY & LINE	
Tuesday	10-29	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Thursday	10-31	Summit	0800-1800	S.pier	2450	CEL
Sunday	11-3	Crown Princess	1200-1900	N.pier	3150	PCL
Wednesday	11-6	Volendam	0800-2300	N.pier	1432	HAL
Tuesday	11-12	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Tuesday	11-12	Britannia	0700-1700	S.pier	3600	P&O
Wednesday	11-13	Adventure of the Seas	0800-1700	S.pier	3141	RCCL
Thursday	11-14	Seven Seas Navigator	1300-2000	N.pier	490	Regen 7 Seas

## REGULAR EVENTS

**“Reef Renewal Bonaire.”** A free educational presentation every Sunday at 6:30pm at Blennies at Buddy Dive. For questions, email [info@reefnewalbonaire.org](mailto:info@reefnewalbonaire.org).

**“Sea Turtles of Bonaire”** is a free public presentation about Bonaire’s endangered sea turtles—topics such as where to see sea turtles, how they live, what they eat, how they reproduce and how you can help! Where: Yellow Sub, Dive Friends Bonaire (on the front porch) 8:00pm, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

**Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours**—\$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

**Soldachi Tours.** See the Real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.

**Nature Organization, STINAPA,** has frequent events—bird watching, sunset hikes, lectures, etc. Go to their website for information of events for the rest of 2019: [stinapabonaire.org/events](http://stinapabonaire.org/events), Tel. 717-8444

**Bonaire Goat Farm Tour.** Monday, Wednesday & Friday. 9 am. Meet the goats, see milking, and more. \$10 includes tea. Kids \$5. 786-6950.

**Echo.** See Bonaire’s parrots. Wednesday at 5pm \$10 per person. Public Conservation Tour. No reservation needed. For optimal birding, book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or email [info@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.org). We need at least one day’s notice. Private tours \$25/person 2 person minimum.

### SATURDAYS

• **Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)** Every Saturday, 8am-1pm, near Warehouse Bonaire, locally made and grown products.

• **Marshe di Kunukero (Farmers’ Market)** At Kriabon the first Saturday of the Month. Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon.

• **Monthly Cultural Event ‘Nos Zjilea’ at**

**Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei** - Every last Saturday of the month. See the calendar above.

• **Marshe Rincon Krioyo** 1st & last Saturdays. Street market in Rincon, crafts, local food, sweets, noon—6pm.

• **Bonaire Animal Shelter’s Garage Sale (Pakus di Pruga)**—every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989.

• **Food Bank (Stichting voedselbank Bonaire)** Last Saturday of the month. Donate foods & household items 9:30am-2pm at Van den Tweel Supermarket.

• **Petanque–Jeu de Boules**, 2:30-6pm, Bolascentre GOLDFINCH (next to baseball centre on Kaminda Sorobon) 786-0150.

## CLUBS and MEETINGS

**NEW—Bridge club** meets Wednesday to play. Start at 19.30 at Jasmin Garden. To join: call 7174052 or mail to: [tonsailing@gmail.com](mailto:tonsailing@gmail.com)

• **Rotary** lunch meetings **Wednesdays**, 12:15-2 pm - Marriott Courtyard Hotel, Piet B meeting room. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

• **General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc.)** -Every **Wednesday** at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Starts at 19.15, ends at 20.30, walk in from 19.00. For more information, email: [12stepbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12stepbonaire@gmail.com)

• **Chess Club** meets **Wednesday** to play starting at 6 pm at Tera Cora Ranch.

• **Lions Club** meets every 2nd and 4th **Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

• **Toastmasters Club** every two weeks. For more info. call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

## CHURCH SERVICES

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.** Kaya Sabana 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/Espanol 9am to 12

noon Add’l Info (599) 701-9522 Dutch/English 1pm to 3pm. Add’l Info (599) 701-2892

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire (VPGB)**, Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday-10am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday 8:30am in Papiamentu/Dutch.

**Children’s Club** Saturday 4:30-6pm in Kralendijk, (church annex) Marytjin@gmail.com or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto:Daisycoffie@hotmail.com)

**Dutch service** Sunday at 7pm, Hanchi Amboina 37. Kralendijk. Pastor Oppeneer. Info call+599 787-0646

**International Bible Church.** Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob.N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 or ride [bonaireibc@gmail.com](mailto:bonaireibc@gmail.com).

**Catholic.** San Bernardus in Kralendijk. Services, Sunday at 8am & 7pm in Papiamentu.

**Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol.** Saturday at 6pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9am and 6pm. 717-4211.

**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios).** Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10am. Wednesday- Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

**Casa de Oracion para todas las naciones.** Hanchi Amboina 37 Kralendijk, Spanish service: every Sunday morning at 9 am.

**Prayer Walk at Rooi Lamoenchi** every first Sunday of the Month (or on request) for all followers of Christ. 4.30pm-7.30

pm. Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at [ellenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca](mailto:ellenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca) or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800. English/Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish.

## MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

**Terramar Museum** at Terramar Shopping Mall, on the waterfront. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm. Sunday, closed. Cruise ship days 9am-6pm, \$10, \$5 for residents, children free. *Coral Restoration exhibit.* 717-0423, 780-4327

• **Museo Bonaire** on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte, Kaya Kachi Craane #34. 717-8868. Monday-Friday 9am-noon, 2-4pm. *Salute to the Sailors exhibit*—Free

• **Chichi i Tan Museum.** Step into the past in an old Bonairean home and garden. Open Thurs.- Sun. Reserve 717-3183 or 795-2021 Donations appreciated. Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon.

• **Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors’ Center.** Open daily 8 am-5 pm. 788-9015 or 796-5681

• **Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum.** Site of WWII American soldiers’ camp. Self-guided tour. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to on the right. Entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

• **Yana’s Fine Art Museum** at Lagoen Hill 19- Call: 599 785-5002. Free entry. Also exhibited at Bon Bida Spa and Gym.

• **Bonaire Museum of National History** Kaya Julio C. van der Ree #7, open Wednesday through Saturday, and cruise-ship days, 9am–3pm. Free.

Tues.-Fri. 9-6 pm  
Sat. 9-2 pm



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The Bonaire Reporter Oct.28 - Nov. 11, 2019



# Ask a Geek

by Brian Niessen

## How do I pay for online purchases from Bonaire?

Unfortunately, Bonaire is one of those places that really don't exist to the "powers that be" who run the internet (Yes Google, you know who you are).

Sometimes you see on the "Country" menu on a website "Bonaire, Statia and Saba" but in most cases, it's still the "Netherlands Antilles" or just doesn't exist.

But the biggest issue is trying to use your local debit card to buy things, OR your USA/Canada/Europe credit card.

The issue with a local debit card is that it is just that

– LOCAL! Only used in Bonaire, and maybe Curaçao and Aruba. So that doesn't help.

Your US/CAN/EU credit card usually won't help either – because the IP address you are using shows "Curaçao" (not Bonaire, right?) and the online store anti-fraud software flags it as "Those criminals in the Caribbean again!" One way around this issue is to phone the company and make your order by voice. (We do this frequently).

Another way which works is to get a prepaid "Travel Money VISA Card" at RBC Bonaire (You must be a client), or a Prepaid Card at MCB (You don't need to be a client).

Now, when you purchase online, the coding on the card doesn't say it is US/CAN/EU so the IP check (and address check) usually doesn't happen and you can buy things easily (and have them sent to Miami as mentioned

in a previous article.)

The last way which seems to work when others don't, as long as the merchant accepts it, is to get the Prepaid card (RBC/MCB) and attach it to your PayPal account. (PayPal doesn't recognize Bonaire banks, so you can't connect it to your local bank account.)

Now, when you pay using PayPal (on Ebay usually, or other merchants), PayPal just takes the money from your card to make the payment.

Christmas is coming, so I hope this helps.

Do you have a question about using computers and computer technology on Bonaire?  
Email it to the editor, and we'll get an answer for you next issue.



## BONAIRE SKY PARK Identified flying objects

Have you ever seen a mysterious light in the sky? Something that makes you pause, makes you wonder, makes you think an alien invasion is coming? Star gazers out there see mysterious lights in the sky. Sometimes they are blinking. Sometimes they are fast-moving and bright. And other times they slowly creep from one side of the sky to the other.

We're going to share our tips for solving the mystery, and turn these U.F.O.s into identified flying objects.

We have our sky set for any night this week facing southwest just after sunset. We're looking for extra-terrestrial objects, and there is one of the most commonly-seen U.F.O.s just above the horizon. It is suspiciously bright. It may not move across the sky in an alien way, but its brightness is so dazzling that people wonder about it all the time. It is actually the planet Venus and when people see it for the first time, they are startled.

Often if I'm driving in a car and I see it, I think, 'Whoa, what is that?' Especially when you drive on a curvy road, Venus can give you the impression that it is following you.

If you live in a city you'll probably see a lot of blinking lights in the sky: tops of buildings, radio towers and

more. But if you see a blinking light that is moving at a steady rate, it's probably just a plane. Sometimes when planes are flying right at you they can give the impression of a U.F.O. But keep watching, and when they go past you, you will see the telltale blinking red and blue lights.

Now planes might move slowly across the sky but what if you're outside and you see a quick flash out of the corner of your eye, or streaking quickly across the sky? If it moves super-fast and only lasts a second or two, that's a meteor, or what most people call a shooting star. Meteors are tiny pieces of ice, rock, and dust that fall from space into our atmosphere. The brighter ones can even turn green in color, break up into pieces and even leave visible smoke-trails behind.

But what if you see a slow-moving, non-blinking light steadily crossing the night sky? Most likely it's a satellite. There are thousands of these man-made objects circling the earth.

One of the brightest satellites is the international space station, or ISS. The ISS is 239 feet wide, 356 feet long, and 66 feet tall, so it can often look brighter than the brightest stars in the sky. Six crew members can live there at a time, so if you see the ISS going overhead, be sure to wave!

You can see the ISS and other satellites because, while

you're in the dark, the sun is still shining on them. They are about 200 to 300 miles up and so it's still daytime there. The sunlight reflects off them and lets you see them just after sunset or right before sunrise.

You can use apps like Satellite Tracker and Sputnik to see when bright satellites will fly overhead. And the website heavens-dash-above.com will tell you when and where to look for them.

Whether you see dazzling Venus after sunset, blinking planes, streaking meteors, or steadily-moving satellites, these objects can make your star gazing experience even better. And who knows, maybe you'll see an alien someday. Keep looking up! *Dean Regas & James Albury*  
<http://www.stargazersonline.org/index.html>

*Global Event: Mercury Transit*

*Local Type: Mercury Transit, in Kralendijk*

*Begins: Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 8:36 am*

*Midpoint: Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 11:20 am*

*Ends: Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 2:04 pm*

*Duration: 5 hours, 28 minutes*

<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/netherlands/kralendijk-bonaire?iso=20191111>

## Practicing yoga on Bonaire

by Micaela Purdy



### Inviting relaxation...

Are your shoulders hunched right now; are you folding forward reading this? Is your jaw clenched and are your eyebrows furrowed? What about your breath? Can you feel it? Is it deep or shallow? Are you breathing through your mouth or nose?

Noticing all of these small observances in the body is a part of the practice of yoga. Getting curious about the habitual patterns of your body and mind and observing them all through the eyes of kindness is one of the greatest challenges of yoga. But also, one of the most rewarding.

You can practice this awareness anytime and any-

where. Yoga doesn't just stay on the mat. It is most useful when we apply it to our daily life and relationships. And when you practice the art of self-study, you'll notice precious moments when you drop into the sensations of your body, and immediately tension in your muscles and mind will begin to release.

A large part of my work involves inviting people to relax. Not as simple as it sounds. I guide practices that help people decompress and awaken to their own softness and strength.

I started practicing yoga eight years ago in Canada and began teaching six years ago. I first taught corporate yoga – dealing with immobility, stress in the mind and body, shallow breathing and more. In this first job I practiced a therapeutic approach to yoga that has stayed with me through the years. I began to travel and teach: from Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, Spain and many more places around the world. I also began to study other forms of bodywork & healing including somatics, myofascial release, yoga Thai massage, and other various styles of yoga & meditation.

I moved to Bonaire a year ago and am now the owner of Smiling Buddha Yoga Studio. We're a community of teachers & students with varying backgrounds, lifestyles, cultures and experiences. I now have five teachers leading classes at the studio in any given week. We have Beginner, Senior, Yin, Vinyasa, Ashtanga, Iyengar

& Pre & Post Natal classes and more taught in English, Papiamentu & Dutch.

At Smiling Buddha, our main purpose is healing from within. And we know healing comes in different forms for everyone. From sweating it out to sitting in stillness. We strive to create a safe and welcoming space for everyone to explore the practice of yoga and what it means to them. We understand that when we heal and empower ourselves through yoga, we are doing it not only for ourselves but for our friends, family and community.

### Why is yoga so important to me?

I am committed to this work because it is my passion and connecting with my community is important to me. I want to serve and empower communities by providing the healing gifts of yoga through authentic teaching and a supportive space.

For more information about classes, services and more: [Smilingbuddhayoga.org](http://Smilingbuddhayoga.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/smilingbuddhayoga/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/smilingbuddhayogastudio/>  
[smilingbuddhayogabonaire@gmail.com](mailto:smilingbuddhayogabonaire@gmail.com)  
+599 700 8880



Bonaire has a strong and diverse yoga community. We have invited each of the Island's teachers to write about the type of yoga they teach.



# It's That Time Again ...



Sunday, 3 November  
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26

Hundreds of books for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00  
or 12 for \$10.00

Books in many languages and many different  
subject matters!

Cold beverages too!

## Time to train!

Budget Marine Bonaire and Indebon (government sports support center) have teamed up to present a fun-filled waterfront event with Triathlons, sailing and fishing.

**Triathlons.** The event kicks off on Sunday November 17th with the two Triathlons. The longer challenge is a ¼ triathlon that requires swimming 750 meters, biking 20km and running 5km. An elite athlete may finish this in an hour; others may claim victory to survive it in two!

The shorter version, often called a mini sprint, is half the distance and is great for the kids, beginners, sprinters and those who are simply not ready for the longer routes. Each segment is long enough to give you a taste, but short enough for most participants to succeed.

Either event can be done individually or as a team. As we are out for fun, the rules are simple. A team can be two or three people. As long as someone in the team completes the three segments, the other team member(s) may complete only two portions.

**Sailing.** Sailing is a fun and challenging sport. You can never go wrong getting out on the water and enjoying the Bonaire waterfront. There will be a variety of events, including Yachts, Optimist, Sunfish, micro boats and a challenge between the kite and wind surf sailors! There will be charter boats available for sailors who would like to use a sunfish.

**Fishing.** A Playa Pabou event would not be complete without fishing! Besides tasting great, fish is a heart healthy protein, helping us all stay fit. In an effort to promote environmentally sustainable practices, this event is challenges the fishermen to catch the largest fish rather than the most. Once you have that big one, you are not rewarded for catching every fish there is! Catch is also limited to specific target species. Prizes will be given for the largest Dorado, Wahoo and Tuna. All are welcome to join!

If you are not up for competing, come out and watch one of the events! We will have a bar, snacks and shade available. For more information please go to [www.bonairewaterfrontevents.com](http://www.bonairewaterfrontevents.com) Pam Teitel



## Pets of the Week: All our shelter dogs



### Dear dog lovers,

My name is Grannie. Many of you know me already, I am a permanent Shelter resident and I watch over all the animals. So I'm not writing this story for myself but for all my friends at Animal Shelter Bonaire. This month is Adopt a Shelter Dog month. So all our dogs are "pet of the week"! The photos shows just a few of our many wonderful dogs. They come in all sizes, shapes and ages from three months up to 10 years, all with their own personality. They each have their own story to tell you! Let me give you a tour and introduce all my beautiful and sweet friends to you, and maybe you will find your best friend. Come visit and spread the love by adopting one of us. My tour is available at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Monday-Friday from 9am-12 pm and 3-5 pm and Saturday from 9 am-3 pm. non stop or call the Animal Shelter at 701-4989 or 717-4989 *Story and photos by Sanne Attevelt*



## Help Wanted!



## New Position!

Do you love animals? Not afraid of hard work?  
Animal Shelter Bonaire needs you!

**Animal Caregiver 1:** 15 hours per week (incl. some weekend work) Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
\$6.25-\$6.50 per hour depending on qualifications.

Requirements:

- Love of animals
- Physically able
- Good people skills
- Speak and read basic English
- Bonaire sedula
- Minimum 21 years old
- Clear conduct record
- Basic Papiamentu, Spanish and/or Dutch are pluses

If you are interested in this position, please email [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com) with your CV for an interview appointment. DO NOT APPLY VIA FACEBOOK OR MESSENGER.



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Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez (near Botica Korona)



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Next Cleanup November 9th, at  
Piedra Pretu 4-6 pm

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3/31



# Santa Barbara, Kaya Krisolito 992

## Highlights:

- spacious building lot
- beautiful views
- no building obligations
- half way up the hill of Santa Barbara
- popular and serene neighbourhood
- 7 minutes from Kralendijk
- freehold land (registered 4-A-992)
- lot size: 10,333 sq.ft / 960 m2

**Asking price**  
**US\$ 70,000**

**Buyers cost**



Kaya Grandi 41, Kralendijk  
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