



Photos: Julie Morgan

Boat Yard Bonaire is a good thing

Cruisers buy a boat and sail away searching for adventure. Few realize they will be searching for boat yards too. Thanks to the specialists at Boat Yard Bonaire, located next to WEB on the waterfront, cruisers no longer have to go to Curacao, Aruba or Venezuela to have their boats refitted. They can get the work done right here on Bonaire, as can local boat owners.

The boat yard was started by Jan Blonk in 1999 and then owned by Ruud Koornstra. Four years ago Willem van Dijk and Mark ten Hoopen bought the two acre property and made major upgrades. The new yard draws cruisers to Bonaire and contributes significantly to the economy. According to van Dijk, the yard currently employs 12-15 people and expects to need 50 employees once they are fully operational.

Boat Yard Bonaire provides total refitting and more. The travel lift can handle boats up to 40 tons, and the yard will hold 60-70 boats. The yard can perform exterior work such as rigging, sand blasting, painting, and fiberglass repairs. Engines and transmissions can be repaired, as can

refrigeration, and electronics, and other boat systems.

Captain Don's Habitat dive manager Roger Haug just brought in their second boat for major repairs. His own crew does most of the work at the boatyard.

Roger said, "This is something good for Bonaire. We need this. These guys aren't afraid to spend the money to get things done right."

Other boat service companies have set up shop on the premises: IMIX from Curacao, Mercury Outboards, Boston Whalers Retail, Battery Solutions, a car rental, a sail shop and Go4Clean, and yachtbroker.caribbean.com operated by Serge Dauvelier from Curacao.

The new owners have innovative plans for expansion. Within the newly fenced and paved area, they will build a three level boat storage structure, a 20 x 40 meter two level warehouse, and a cleaning/washing area with environmental oil and grease separators. They plan to widen the boat ramp sufficiently to load catamarans and sink a small mooring grid next to the existing ramp. Neither project will require dredging, and both have been approved

by Leonel Martijn of STINAPA.

The yard is still waiting for government permits for other projects.

Van Dijk explained that initially the government was very cooperative and promised the permits in six to eight weeks, but that was eight months ago. Harbor master Gunther Flanigen said that the government has yet to decide where the planned container port will be located. Because the Hato location next to WEB is under consideration, permits for the boatyard are being held up.

"We're still having a lot of fun with what we're doing. What we do here is so important because the boats don't come to Bonaire because there is no place for maintenance," said van Dijk.

The boat yard welcomes everyone from the local fisher guys and dive resorts to high end yachts. To date there are over 30 boats in storage with more coming. Several dozen have come in for maintenance.

Willem van Dijk, former restaurant and café owner in Holland, has been on Bonaire since 2008. Mark ten Hoopen arrived in Bonaire in 2008 and worked at Remax, Harbourtown and later Avis. The

Boat Yard Bonaire is located at Kaya Rotterdam 72, Hato. For more information visit: www.boatyardbonaire.com. *DMR Photos Julie Morgan*



Boat Yard Bonaire owners Mark ten Hoopen and Willem van Dijk are doing a good thing for Bonaire.

Government extends the emergency package

Due to the coronavirus crisis the government has extended the emergency package for residents and businesses on Bonaire, Sint-Eustatius and Saba for four months until the 12th of October. The support for residents and businesses in the Dutch Caribbean will continue to be comparable to the measures taken in the European Netherlands.

The coronavirus crisis is having a huge impact on society in the Caribbean Netherlands. Although the islands have largely escaped the coronavirus in terms of health up to now, the tourist sector, which drives a large part of the economy, has ground to a halt.

State Secretary Raymond Knops announced, on behalf of the government: "There are troubled tough times ahead, and huge demands are going to be made on society. At the same time the government is convinced that once again during this crisis the resilience of the islands will ensure that we, the government and society together, will pull through. With this extension we are protecting jobs and incomes in the coming period by supporting affected companies and sole traders."

The central government has added a number of new measures to the extended package. For example, a temporary income support scheme has been introduced, the temporary reimbursement of fixed costs has been extended (up to a maximum of 50,000 euros for businesses), and a bridging loan for small businesses has been added. The central government is also making 1.3 million euros available to the public entities. *DMR*

Get your money back

KLM has confirmed that passengers booked on the many flights that were canceled because of the corona crisis no longer have to settle for vouchers. They can choose cash refunds instead. The EU reminded airlines in March that refunds must be given for canceled services. But airlines, including KLM, offered only vouchers while their countries appealed to the EU for a different ruling. The EU has confirmed that the voucher requirement is illegal, and that it will take offending member countries to court if they failed to offer cash refunds. *DMR*

Tax relief extended

The Government has announced an extension of tax relief measures that will be valid until October 1, 2020, for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Three examples are: Entrepreneurs who temporarily encounter liquidity problems due to the corona crisis can apply for deferment of payment. The current 6% interest rate will be reduced to 0.0 for those who request it and qualify. Default payments have been canceled.

For complete information, refer to the full decision of June 16, 2020 published in Government Gazette on June 18, 2020. <https://www.belastingdienst- cn.nl/documenten/publicaties/staatscourant- DMR>

Cell fine is \$225

KPCN (Korps Politie Caribisch Nederland / Police Corps Caribbean Netherlands) reports that many motorists still use their mobile phones while driving. This violation will incur a fine of \$225.

US citizens can fly home

The United States Consulate has announced that a brief window: July 1 to July 10 may be opening for U.S citizens and legal permanent residents to return to the U.S. via Aruba or Sint Maarten on commercial flights. The consulate warns that U.S. citizens and residents in Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, and Sint Eustatius should take advantage of these flights immediately or be prepared to remain abroad indefinitely. People can contact the air carriers for flight schedules. The U.S. Consulate maintains an updated website of the latest travel restrictions and requirements*. Thanks to Robert Bartikoski for passing on this information. *DMR*

*<https://cw.usconsulate.gov/news-events/covid-19-information/>

Europeans can now fly to Bonaire, but . . .

Beginning July 1, planes will be allowed to fly to the Caribbean Netherlands from the European Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, and France.

In order to board a plane for Bonaire, European passengers must meet three criteria. They must fill in and sign a health declaration. They must have tested negative for COVID-19 within the preceding 72 hours. And they must have remained for 14 days in the area of their departure.

The required COVID-19 test is expensive, around 190 euros. TUI has announced that they will be offering their passengers to the ABC islands a complimentary PCR-test until August 31st, 2020. *DMR* (See page 12 for OLB's roadmap for re-opening Bonaire)

Residential and eco-tourism favored

Bonaire's main economic assets are nature, space, tranquility and authenticity, features which contribute to the prosperity and well-being of the population and attract visitors to the island as well. The Executive Council has decided to rebuild a post-corona tourist industry that will attract fewer but more affluent visitors who are looking for high quality vacation time.

Already committed to the Blue Destination concept in the Strategic Tourism Plan, the public entity Bonaire (OLB) is moving toward "green destination" development too. It will investigate the feasibility, in consultation with stakeholders, of exploiting the unused wild lands available on a number of former plantations, such as Bolivia and Fontaine. These areas could be developed for sustainable tourism by making them accessible in an ecologically responsible manner.

Areas selected for preservation would be placed under legal protection, fenced, and cleared of goats and donkeys. Then walking and cycling trails would be developed. Energy self-sufficient Eco-lodges would be constructed to provide accommodation for visitors.

The information released by the OLB also favors the expansion of "residential tourism," also referred to as "second homes." Residential tourism has long been established on Bonaire. Visitors purchase second homes on the island and visit them intermittently, sometimes renting them out as well.

Bonaire's traditional residential tourists are primarily interested in diving; therefore their homes are concentrated along the coastal strip. The OLB anticipates the construction of visitor homes inland, drawn by recreational opportunities provided in the new eco-tourism centers to be created at the old plantation sites. *DMR*

This Week's Stories

Boat Yard Bonaire	1
Sabedeco clean-up	3
Favell Maduro appointment	3
Workers demonstrate on Curaçao	4
Loans without permits illegal	5
Two cruise ships off Klein	5
International Yoga Day	6
Selibon neighborhood clean-ups	6
Chess club graduates	8
Street Colors Bonaire	8
DCNA advises Schouten	8
WEB maintains water tanks	8
Bolivia nature reports	11
COVID-19 road map for reopening	12
Gifted kids present projects	15
Justice triangle tackles violence	15
ZUK medical travel insurance	15

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam (Emergency package strengthened; Ten-days to fly to U.S; Restrictions on travel from Europe; Eco-tourism & residential tourism; Travel cancellation refunds; Tax relief; Fine for Phoning while driving; electrical bills increase; half-year vehicle tax; hospital "sues" ZVK; Pullmantur bankrupt)		2
Who's Who in <i>The Reporter</i>		2
Ask Kate (stay healthy till next time)		4
Letter (Swiss ophthalmologist)		4
Opinion: Bolivia preservation		4
Police Report (Burglaries solved)		5
Picture Yourself (Yale University; Petrich)		6
Did You Know: (Conch)		10
Reef Glimpses: (Snook)		10
What's Happening		12
Sky Park (stars or planets; Luna eclipse)		12
Making Bonaire "Accessible": Is it a real problem?		13
A Garden? Mispel/Naseberry		13
Ask a Geek: (Plane spotting)		13
Business Directory		14
Pet Of The Week: Mauricio - cat		15
Shelter News: (Terrific teenagers)		15
22 Nature Reports on Bolivia		17-22

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Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 7
COVID-19 road map for re-opening on page 12

Volunteers clean Sabedeco road



In June 2020, Favell Maduro was been appointed head of the communications department of the public entity Bonaire (OLB).

As a journalist, Favell Maduro has reported in Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. In the Netherlands he helped Antilleans write and tell about their past. Maduro re-emigrated to his native island of Curaçao after living in the Netherlands for nearly 30 years. As a freelance reporter and presenter, he has worked for various media. At the same time, because he's interested in human development, he also worked as an intervention assistant, guiding young people in their development toward adulthood.

Source: Writers Unlimited; <https://www.writersunlimited.nl/en/participant/favell-maduro>

The first of two major cleanups of Sabedeco road heading to Queen's highway was held June 27. Area residents Sara Matera and Rhonda Lockhart organized the cleanup of the litter filled road. This road receives litter from locals, tourists and construction crews traveling north. They carelessly toss out their trash or it blows out of the back of the truck and ultimately it will eventually reach the ocean.

Some 35 people from Villa, Terrace, Keys, Ridges, Shores, Court and even some FORSA students lent a hand in the cleanup. They brought gloves, bags and even rakes to pick up the trash. Se-libon graciously agreed to pick up all the bags set along the side of the road.

Sara said, "This was a great community effort! Now if only we can keep it clean. Please contractors and all the public of Bonaire, help us keep Bonaire Clean."

The next Sabadeco area cleanup will be held Saturday July 11.

Top photo: Residents of Sabadeco cleanup volunteers

Bottom photos: Forsa kids lend a hand

*Top photo and story : Julie Morgan
Bottom photos: Sara Matera and Rhonda Lockhart*

More Sabadeco cleanup photos on our FB page



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Letters

Dear Sirs,

I am doctor Marco Fantozzi, an Italian ophthalmology surgeon resident in Switzerland.

Since 2013 I have been spending my holidays together with my family in your beautiful island. Two years ago I bought a villa there as we thought it would be our retirement in Bonaire.

Of course I love Bonaire and Bonarian people and in order to help people with my great experience in cornea surgery last February I decided to operate your citizen Zarzinio Josephia, a young fisherman from Bonaire. I met him and his lovely family last summer and we talked about his huge problem with his eye which neither in Colombia nor in Holland could be solved.

I checked him and I organized for February a delicate operation of cornea transplant with stem cells implant for complete leucoma and limbus disease. The eye was completely blind and only in this way we could try to help him.

The operation was going to be very expensive; for this reason, I decided not to charge anything to him and to provide an accommodation and the flight tickets to

him and his mother, Luvia. In February they stayed in my clinic, Casa Di Cura San Rossore, in Pisa for 15 day.

The operation went well; However, this kind of surgery requires the surgeon to regulate the sutures. I was supposed to check on him during Easter holidays in Bonaire as it is not possible for him to come back Europe, but unfortunately my flight was canceled due to the COVID-19. I agreed with him to check on him as soon as Bonaire would open the airspace from Europe; therefore, I rebooked the flight for the 5th of July as KLM allowed me to do so.

I live in Switzerland together with my family. I read that Switzerland visitors are not yet accepted in Bonaire even though the COVID-19 cases have been very low.

In short, I am concerned not to have the possibility to check on him, and this could cause failure of the graft. I am kindly asking to have the possibility to come to Bonaire with my family in order to check him and see if he needs some suture regulation or removal.

Hope in a prompt reply and thanks a lot for everything

Best regards,
Marco Fantozzi M.D

Workers demonstrate on Curaçao

On June 24, angry demonstrators stormed the cabinet building on Curaçao to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Rhuggenaat and new elections. They were eventually joined by looters who broke into shops. Rhuggenaat's car and a police car were vandalized. The ME (mobile riot unit) were pelted with stones and fired warning shots. Several officers were injured and an unknown number of people were arrested. The police chief resigned, the U.S. consulate warned Americans to take precautions, and Punda and Otrobanda were closed for three days

Worker frustrations have been building on Curaçao. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic wiped out hundreds of jobs, the economy was already in decline. The Isla refinery laid off 400 people, for example. Then, when the island government turned to the Netherlands for financial help because of the coronavirus, the Netherlands responded with an offer of loans rather than cash grants and required strict conditions, including downsizing of the island government.

The demonstration began when workers from Seliklor, the garbage collection service, occupied Fort Amsterdam. Lon Mutueel, a person with a history of la-

bor agitation on the island, was one of the leaders. He demanded Rhuggenaat speak to the protesters on the government square in Fort Amsterdam. Rhuggenaat offered to meet with a few leaders indoors. That offer was refused. On Wednesday evening Miutueel was arrested by the police. Subsequently a group of demonstrators gathered in front of the police headquarters in Rio Canario and threatened more action if he was not released immediately.

Minister Girigorie of Justice announced that police chief Mauricio Sambo has resigned in response to the situation. According to the minister, the demonstrators should never have entered Fort Amsterdam and Sambo made mistakes.

The chairman of one of the unions that has been opposing virtually all government policies for years, Frensley Sillié of BTG, declared the protest was also meant on behalf of other civil servants, such as the people in education. However, those groups do not seem to have participated. *DMR*

Sources: *Bonaire Now*, *The Curaçao Chronicle*



Ask Kate

Bonaire real estate advice

Dear Friends,

We hope you all stay healthy during this crisis, and we look forward to seeing you again on Bonaire. Please send your real estate questions to Kate and Jean at kate@bonaire-homes.com

Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of *The Bonaire Reporter*.



The new view on tourism in the tourist recovery plan as recently announced by Mr Elvis Tjin Asjoe is encouraging. Mass tourism and over development can destroy the unique strengths of the island and should be stopped. The transition to sustainable tourism could actually be a renewed focus on what we already have instead of inventing new concepts. After all, most current tourists already are pretty aware of the uniqueness of Bonaire.

However, nature is not like a product that needs to be developed and adapted to tourists. Tourists should integrate themselves into nature. That is ecotourism. Not the other way around. Education, commitment and respect should be at the core. If we fail, the risk of just another area exploited is real, and it will have the opposite effect on eco and nature loving visitors. So before coming up with ideas and plans, let's start with proper protection.

Bolivia is already visited by tourists and residents. It is already there and 'used'. It is a unique wilderness with dry tropical forests, 700 year old trees and full of life. Vast and of stunning beauty, untouched and with unspoiled views. The tranquility, its biodiversity, the survival in harsh conditions, the purity, these are almost symbolic for what Bonaire is. And way more than just a piece of unused land. Saving it for the people of Bonaire and future generations is the right thing to do. That is the reason. Protecting it can be the cornerstone of Bonaire's vision, setting a global example and becoming an authority in the world. Such credibility is what more and more tourists want. The real thing. Authenticity.

This is about how we deal with nature, the way of living, culture and the island. The only way to safeguard it is to look at the bigger picture. And then you have to acknowledge that Bolivia needs to be protected, not altered, not developed into nature or have 1,500 houses and cliff villas on important birding areas.

There are many other reasons to preserve Bolivia other than tourism. We believe the importance of Bolivia is so great that anything happening there will affect the rest of the island. It reaches way beyond this former plantation. We need broad support to address more issues than just the nature of Bolivia. There are the matters of economy, conservation and ecology, culture, archeology, history, recreation, infra, education, tourism but also social issues like jobs, housing and income to be considered.

We also think we should set right what should have been done in the past, return this land to the people of Bonaire. We support Elvis' ideas of protecting and obtaining the land. His stance on this takes courage. But now it all depends on actually being able to protect it, and exactly how Bonaire wants to do this.

Recently we published a kick off video about Plantation Bolivia. You can find it at facebook.com/fivemonumentsbonaire/ And if you would like to get involved or make a donation, contact us info@fivemonumentsbonaire.com

Arno Verhoeven
Fondashon Preservashon di Herensia Boneiru

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Permit required to loan money

The Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) has launched an investigation into the illegal provision of loans / credits. Information from the Criminal Intelligence Unit (KPCN) suggested a large-scale and unlicensed lending at very high interest rates, so-called usury rates.

In this investigation, among other things, several witnesses were heard and in last January a search took place in a house / business on Kaminda Djabou. The investigation showed that loans / credits were indeed provided on a large scale at an interest rate of 10 to 20% per month (which is actually 214% to 792% per year).

An official report has been made against a 39-year-old and a 65-year-old man, both of Dominican descent. The case will soon be heard by the Common Court of Justice.

The provision of loans / credits is subject to various rules laid down in the BES Financial Markets Act. This stipu-

lates, among other things, that a license is required, that irresponsible credit may not be granted and that a maximum interest rate may be requested (max. 22% per year).

The rules have been created to protect consumers, despite the fact that it is common practice in some cultures to obtain loans or credit elsewhere. Intentional failure to comply with the rules laid down in the BES Financial Markets Act is a criminal offense. Deliberate lending / unlicensed loans is punishable by a maximum prison term of four years or a fine of USD 56,000.

The Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM) and De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB) jointly supervise financial companies in the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba). For more information, visit the website of the Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets or De Nederlandsche Bank: www.afm.nl or www.dnb.nl
Source: BES news, June 26, 2020



Cruise ships seen off Klein

The morning of June 25, 2020 Bonaire's residents were surprised to see a cruise ship close to Bonaire, first near the wharf in Playa, then behind Klein Bonaire. The ship, Caribbean Princess, was in Bonaire's waters to test its evacuation procedures and life-saving equipment, as required by law. After the ship left Bonaire in the afternoon, it returned to Curaçao.

Harbourmaster Gunther Flanegin explained that the cruise ship first wanted to test its emergency procedures in the sea in front of the airport, BIA, but he sent them elsewhere as a safety precau-

tion. He also gave them a time limit, which they exceeded.

The ship, *Caribbean Princess*, has been in Curaçao since June 10. The ship has a capacity of 3600 passengers but currently has only crew on board. Shipping company rules do not allow the crew to disembark.

A second cruise ship, *Seaborn Odyssey*, arrived north of Klein Monday morning, June 29 and stayed into the night. The ship also had permission to carry out the drill known as Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) in Bonaire's waters.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no cruise ship with tourists will dock in Bonaire until November, according to the government.

POLICE REPORT

Property crime

On Monday, June 15, a burglary was reported in a house on the Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez. Thieves entered the house by forcing a bedroom window and took away a television, a laptop, a camera and cash, among other things.

Theft and destruction were reported on June 16. Thieves destroyed a car's right rear window between 6:30 and 9pm and stole some tools. The car was parked in a parking lot at the Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar.

On Tuesday, June 23 between 8:30 and 5:30 pm, thieves took away an orange Poulan chainsaw, a drill and two black Samsung phones, one Note and one Galaxy S5 from a house on Kaya Bulado.

Arrests

On Saturday, June 20, a check-up took place in a house in the barrio Santa Rosa. Based on information that suggested that theft had been committed. No one was found at the location, but the officers learned that a bag had been given to a minor by a group of men who were sitting together under a tree. The officers stopped the boy and examined the bag. In the bag they found several ready-to-sell bags, presumably of marijuana. The father of the minor child reported on the spot that the bag with contents was his. The 37-year-old suspect was immediately arrested.

In the late afternoon hours of Tuesday, June 23, two men, 30 and 38 years, were arrested for stealing a cool box from a car in the Center area on May 16.

In the night hours of Thursday June 25, around 00:15am a man, 22, was detained for assault and destruction. Later the same day, around 6pm, a man, 26, was detained for assault.

In the night hours of Saturday, June 27, a

man, 24, was arrested on Kaya Princess Marie for disturbing public order, not following an order, and opposition to an official in office.

Traffic accidents & violations

Police issued various official reports on Tuesday, June 16, between 6 - 7:30 pm for non-compliance with the road traffic regulations. During inspections, various fines were written for driving without insurance, a driving license, and a driving plate. Fines were also issued for driving without a helmet, dark-tinted car windows, and not wearing the seat belt. Fines of \$225 were issued for having a mobile phone in hand while driving. During one of the checks, a scooter was seized as the driver did not have a driving license, insurance or a license plate. The scooter has been taken for further investigation.

At around 3:10 pm on Friday June 19, two cars collided near EEC Bulevar. One of the drivers had a cut wound and was taken to hospital for further treatment.

In the afternoon of Saturday, June 20 a drunk driver ran his car into a fence. After checking the ambulance employees, the man was asked to cooperate for a respiratory analysis in the office. The analysis indicated a UGL of 955UGL (220 UGL is allowed). The driver was banned from driving for several hours and fined.

At around 7:30pm on Thursday, June 25, a car and a cyclist collided on Kaya Nikiboko South. When the driver of the car wanted to drive onto the Kaya Karko, he overlooked the cyclist and was hit by the cyclist. The bicycle had no lighting. The cyclist had abrasions on his right arm and was treated on site by the ambulance personnel. The driver of the car was quite shocked. The car had minor damage to the front.

Saturday, June 27, on Kaya Grandi the driver of a car was distracted by something that fell on the floor in the car, so she could not see the car stopping to turn. As a result, she crashed into the back of the car. The fellow passenger of the car that had been bumped into complained of back pain, and was checked on site by the ambulance personnel.

A unilateral collision took place on Kaminda Turistiko at around 2pm on Sunday, June 28. At the dive site Tolo, the driver of a buggy lost control of the steering wheel causing the buggy to tip over and lie on its side. The fellow passenger suffered abrasions and was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Sunday, June 28, a moped collided with a donkey at Kaya Nikiboko South around 8:45pm. The driver and passenger of the moped both complained about pain in different places on their body. They were taken to hospital by ambulance.

Public safety

On Sunday, June 21, around 11:55 in the morning, news came of a fishing boat in distress. The steering wheel was broken and it was impossible to steer the ship. The boat was located at Boka di Lagun. Eventually police managed to sail the boat in the "boka di lagun" after which the customs and KMar together did the other rescue work.

Around 3 o'clock on Sunday night, an argument was reported that threatened to become a brawl. On arrival of the officers, three men were found arguing and running back and forth. When the men did not respond to the police, the officers used pepper spray. A man was taken to the police station for questioning. Later in the evening, the man was sent home.

KPCN reports eight burglaries solved

Burglary house on the Kaya Haarlem, between 9 and 10 March 2020

A suspect, 32, arrested for burglary and fencing, is linked to the burglary in a house on Kaya Haarlem. Police seized jewelry during a search. A second suspect, 34, was summoned and questioned for fencing.

Burglary Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot, between March 20 and 21, 2020

A suspect, 27, detained for burglary and fencing, is linked to the burglary in a house on Bulevar Nicolaas Debrot. Police seized stolen goods during a search. A second suspect, 41, was interrogated for housebreaking and fencing.

Burglary Kaya Mazurka and Kaya Mendelsson

In the period between April 4 and 16, 2020, a group was busy breaking into several homes on Kaya Mazurka and Kaya Mendelsson. Six people were arrested, two of whom are minors. In addition, two suspects, one of whom was a minor, were summoned for burglaries and fencing.

In the Netherlands, persons under the age of 18 years are considered minors by law. The minors in the group were aged: 14, 15, and 16 years. Two of the adults in the group were aged 18, two 19, and one was 31 years of age.

Four suspects in this case were released on the condition that they not have contact after school and be at home between 9pm and 6am. All four suspects were arrested again during the investigation for violating the suspension conditions.

(See online archives: "New laws coming for dealing with juvenile offenders," *The Bonaire Reporter*, Issue 11, June 3, 2020; pg. 5).

Picture Yourself Commuting to Yale University in New Haven, CT from Bonaire



Petrich in Hartsdale, NY, stopping by fire headquarters to take his first photo,



Petrich in front of Sterling Memorial Library at Yale New Haven Library

Louis Petrich of Severna Park, MD, who has been visiting Bonaire since 2006 and owns a condo at Sand Dollar, had an interesting summer in 2019. He commuted from Bonaire, twice, where he was vacationing with his family, to a summer lecture series he was teaching on *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare and *The Bacchae* by Euripides, at Yale University in New Haven, CT via Hartsdale, NY.

Even though the commuting back and forth from Bonaire to New Haven, CT and back to Bonaire could be hectic, Louis took the time to pose with *The Bonaire Reporter* in two locations! He spent the night, during his commute, in Hartsdale, NY, stopping by fire headquarters to take his first photo, and then in front of the Sterling Memorial Library at Yale New Haven Library for the second picture. Hartsdale Photo by Alan Zale, New Haven Photo by Lise von Boxel.

Petrich and his family are past winners of the Picture Yourself feature. Louis and his family were living in Iraq in 2011 while he was teaching at the American University of Iraq in Sulaimani, Iraqi Kurdistan.

WIN A PRIZE! Are you elsewhere? We'd love to see you in *The Reporter*. Hold up the printed cover, or go digital and pose with *The Reporter* on your tablet, computer, or phone. Please identify everybody in your photo, and tell us about yourselves. All the 2019 submissions that we were unable to run will be published in 2020. All photos run in 2020 photos are eligible for the annual prize.

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International Yoga Day, 2020



Approximately 30 yoga mats were spread in a circle in celebration of International Yoga Day at Wilhelmina park on May 21. Yoga instructors Sarah Sati and Daphne Nossels led the group of yoga enthusiasts through a meditation and then 108 sun salutations.

The International Day of Yoga was proposed in 2014 and has been observed yearly since 2015 as a day to celebrate global health, har-

mony and peace.

Yoga is an important source of exercise and spiritual practice. On Bonaire, several yoga studios offer different types of yoga, so students can find the style of yoga they prefer.

This was the second year for International Yoga Day to be celebrated on Bonaire. Story and photo Julie Morgan

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Selibon-OLB partner for cleanups

Selibon kicked off a neighborhood cleanup plan in a meeting at Parke den Stashi in Antriol on June 25.

The cleanup project for residents to get their barrio in order began June 29 in the Antriol neighborhood. Residents are asked to clean up their yards, houses and the trashy areas where litter and refuse have accumulated. Residents can bring everything to the curb for pickup. This includes big items, like cars, sofas, unwanted furniture, etc. If there is an overflow of large items, Selibon will set up large trash collection containers.

Deputy Nina den Heyer explained, we are trying to bring back the neighborhood. Cleaning up is only part of this as we are hoping to bring back the idea

of taking care of your neighbor.

Shareholders and other officials spoke including: Rudsel Leito (director Selibon NV); James Kroon (deputy), Nina den Heyer (deputy); Elvis Tjissn Ajoë (deputy); Derchlien Vrolijk (Blue Destination representative); Pierre Perigault Monte (Integral neighborhood development and Lupe Martis (Fundashon Avanti neighborhood foundation).

Shanelca Martha of Selibon said the cleanups will extend to the end of the year. They have mapped out a three month schedule so far, that includes: Antriol, den Stashi, den Tuna and surroundings, June/July; Tera Kora, August and Noord Salinja, September. *Story and photo by Julie Morgan.*

1863 Slavery abolition observed



The Team (L-R): David Martinus, Beverly Martis, Jendric Janga, Angelo Alberto and Jose Martis

On July 1, 1863, slavery was made illegal in Surinam and the Antilles. The Dutch were among the last to abolish slavery. After Denmark abolished slavery in 1803, Britain in 1834 and France in 1848, the many thousands who worked on the plantations in the Dutch West Indies were finally released.

The awareness campaign “Don’t Let Your Past Determine Your Future,” an initiative of Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation (BYOF) and Mangazina di Rei Cultural Park, sets the stage for an annual commemoration of the Abolition of slavery on July 1. For this project the young adults from BYOF did research by talking to several local historians, like Boi Antoin, Athur Sealy and Sidney Maarten.

A team that consists of David Martinus (Film Director), Angelo Alberto (Production Manager), Jose “Ito” Martis (Music Composer and Producer), Jendric Janga (camera man, editor and researcher) and Beverly Martis (researcher) wanted to make a symbolic film combined with local music. To this end, they worked with several local musicians and singers. The result can be seen on YouTube via <https://youtu.be/cw7saIuoMak>. The project is financed by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture & Science and the Public Entity of Bonaire.

Film musicians: Robert “Rob” Felisa, Juelmer Janga (Foyan Boyz) Juelston “kabuya” Janga, Raigil Molina (JC & Friends), Jonathan Clarendra, Mikaël Janga, Rignald Mercera and Richmare A Rosaria.

Singers were: Jurnick “JC” Clarendra, Magrinda Clarendra-Francisca, Wesley Sint Jago (Tuti Fruti), Luiginio “MOKA” Molina, Emma Sint Jago (Tuti Fruti), Zahid Frans (JC & Friends), Magindra Clarendra, Mikael Janga (Tuti Fruti) and Hermenegilda Anthony.

Dancers were: Monique Winklaar (Duo Mirasol) and Marcelino “Donny” Winklaar (Duo Mirasol)

On Wednesday July 1st 2020, from 8pm to 9pm there will be a special



Dancers of Duo Mirasol, Monique Winklaar; Marcelino “Donny” Winklaar



Luiginio “Moka” Molina

event where the whole community can reflect on the abolishment of slavery and also come up with suggestions on how we as a community can work together toward the future development of Bonaire. The event will be streamed online on the Facebook pages of Live 99.9FM and DCTV. DTV will also broadcast the event on all its TV channels.

Dennis Martinus

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued from page 7

Electrical bills to go up

The variable usage rate for electricity is adjusted twice a year on July 1st and January 1st. This July the electrical consumption of an average household on Bonaire will increase by approximately USD 1.50 per month.

WEB explains: “The fuel costs incurred by ContourGlobal Bonaire (CGB) for the production of electricity are passed one on one to the customers of WEB. WEB emphasizes that no margin is charged on these fuel costs. Due to unforeseen circumstances, CGB has had to switch temporarily from the usual fuel to an alternative (more expensive) fuel.”

The fixed usage rate is completely subsidized due to the emergency COVID-19 measures. It is set at zero until the end of December 2020.

The full electricity tariff valid from July 1st 2020 can be found on www.webbonaire.com

Driving license exams begin

Now that the COVID-19 measures have been relaxed, starting July 6 people can take the practical exams to qualify for driving licenses B, C, D and E.

If you were scheduled to take a theory exam in March, and it was canceled, you can re-schedule your exam from July 13, 2020.

People who wish to register for both the theory and practical exam for a driving license can do so from August 3. To take these exams, a person must be registered with the Civil Affairs Department.

Vehicle tax is past due

If you elected to pay your 2020 vehicle tax in two parts, you should have made your second payment by now. The deadline was June 30th. You can pay with internet banking or at your bank’s counter. Put your CRIB number and plate number under “payment reference”. Your bank statement is proof that you have paid.

If you own a car or motorcycle, but did not receive an assessment letter in January 2020, then you can collect your assessment from the Finance Department of the public entity Bonaire (OLB) at

Bulevar J.A. Abraham 17. The Finance Department reminds us that we must report all changes in ownership of our car or license plate to them. *(To see how much you have to pay, you can go to the online archives for The Bonaire Reporter, Issue 2, Jan. 22, 2020, pg. 4)*

Government not paying hospital health insurance

According to Fundashon Mariadal, it has taken legal action because it has not been paid for medical care delivered to government-insured patients. On 10 June, 2020, the hospital asked the Court of First Instance BES to require the ZVK (Zorgverzekeringskantoor BES), an implementing agency of the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, to appear before the court and justify, with documentation, why it has stopped meeting its financial obligations to the hospital. The court hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

The hospital says in the past it successfully negotiated such issues with ZVK but has been forced to appeal to the court this time. Fundashon Mariadal assures that patients will continue to receive government-insured medical care while the case is being settled, and that it will continue to meet its own financial obligations. *DMR*

Pullmantur bankrupt

The Spanish cruise company, Pullmantur, has filed for bankruptcy. Partly owned by Royal Caribbean Cruises in Miami, Pullmantur had previously canceled cruises until November 15 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Officials will now see whether a reorganization is feasible. Pullmantur’s fleet consists of three ships: the Horizon, the Monarch and the Sovereign. They regularly visited Bonaire and Curaçao. *Source. The Curaçao Chronicle*

Chess club honors graduates



BYCC: Charles Lont (club secretary) Jaedan Crestian, Emanuel Lont, Serapio Pop (club president and coach), Rudsela Coffie (club treasurer) Kneeling: Frederic Simonis and Ralph Salimin

Bonaire Youth Chess Club (BYCC) honored their two graduating student players with tournaments and an award dinner on June 20 at Between 2 Buns.

The tournaments were named for Emanuel Lont and Jaedan Crestian. Each tournament yielded medals for the winning players, and gifts for the graduates. Frederick Simonis received a trophy for the overall winner.

Emanuel, 18, will be heading to Delft University of Technology in the fall to study systems engineering policy management. Jaedan will be attending the University of Groningen, pursuing a degree in spatial planning.

Educator Serapio Pop, president and coach for the club chess, began the club in May 1988. Pop has taught math and science for over 33 years in the Bonaire school system.

Pop, an avid chess player, realized

many years ago how advantageous playing chess is to learning, especially in math and science. He has had several students who have excelled in these subjects once they began playing chess.

During the coronavirus threat the chess club members continued playing online. Some Zoom chess games had up to 40 players at a time.

BYCC will resume the regular club games in August and are looking for new members and sponsors. The players often take part in chess events in locations other than Bonaire and need sponsorship for the travel.

In addition, the club will be holding a kids and adult chess workshop in July. Anyone interested in supporting the chess club or attending the chess workshop contact Sergio Pop at 796-9660 or Charles Lont at 701-8000. *Story and photo by Julie Morgan*



Water and Energy Company Bonaire (WEB) is on schedule with maintenance work of Hato's water storage and distribution tanks. One of the water tanks has been completed and is fully operational. It has a special paint job that can be seen from far away. The design was painted by hand, in a period of four weeks by the artist Loes Praagman. Maintenance work started in July 2019. Periodic maintenance is necessary in order to comply with the Electricity and Drinking Water Act BES and to guarantee security of supply.

Nort'i Salina is first street color project



Street Colors Bonaire is a year long neighborhood heritage awareness, art and beautification program of Hofi Kultural. Under the guidance of artist Karine de Wit the artists are expected to finish up their first wall mural painting at the Centro di Bario of Nort di Salina on July 4.

Karine said, "We work with a group of about 15 talented young people from the island, five coaches and me running the project."

Painted in bright colors, the Nort'i Salina mural depicts a native Indian portrait and a village of earlier times on Bonaire. The mural is supported by the people from Nort'i Salina.

At the end of the summer the group will work with 'Rewriters Rotterdam', a street art collective of artists. The visiting European artists will bring their talents to the various projects planned for the neighborhoods.

Each mural painted throughout Bonaire will have a different theme.

According to Karine, www.streetcolorsbonaire.com, a new website, will go live in about week. More information is available at www.hofikultural.com/street-colors-bonaire.

The project is supported by OLB. S *Story and photo by Julie Morgan*

DCNA tells Schouten resources needed



Caribbean nature organizations do not have the financial or structural support needed to implement the Nature and Environment Policy Plan for Caribbean Netherlands. That was the message given to Minister Schouten of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality by both the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF-NL).

Island governments have mandated the management of designated protected areas to NGOs. The lack of structured funding (funding especially vulnerable to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic) has resulted in the real possibility of parks having to scale back or cease operations.

The Nature and Environment Policy Plan for the Caribbean Netherlands spe-

cifically mentions that nature and ecology conservation stands at the basis for the sustainable economic development of the Caribbean Netherlands. The plan similarly identifies the individual park management organizations as one of the main responsible entities to ensure this sustainability. However, the plan lists no firm financial considerations necessary to ensure its proper implementation.

The Dutch Caribbean is, according to the Convention of Biological Diversity, the most bio-diverse area of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The designated park management organizations play a central role in the economic development of the islands, including the support for the islands' critical, yet fragile, tourism sector.

Photo credit: Naturepics: Y.+T. Kühnast

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY
1 JULY 1863

Despite the slave past,
we can make something
beautiful **together.**



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Reef Glimpses

A miracle snook and understanding lateral lines

The explanation I hope is correct is that a fisherman had caught this snook and was using the screwdriver-like device to hold the fish in place with one hand, while maybe trying to remove the hook with the other hand. Maybe the fish suddenly wriggled, maybe its movement thrust the tool right through the fish and also yanked it out of the person's hand. The fish was impaled by the tool, not good. But it was also back in the water, which was good, and it was able to swim away, which was very good, and its body actually healed around the tool, which was ultra-good. For at least two years, whenever a group of snook hung out under the dive dock at Captain Don's Habitat, this individual – let's call it Miracle -- was with them.

Miracle looked just as healthy as the other members of its school, and its behavior was the same as that of the other snook, with one exception: Miracle was much more cautious around people. It's easy to imagine that many of the divers and snorkelers who saw Miracle's situation would want to help, and their instinct would be to grab the device. Miracle's spookiness, and the fish's ability to elude potential "helpers" probably saved its life, because removal of the healed-in device would surely have been more dangerous than its insertion turned out to be. As it is, Miracle displayed a wonderful ability to get on with life.

The main reason Miracle, and any other fish, so easily



Miracle with her piercing.

evade divers is their lateral line system, which is particularly easy to see in snook: it's the dark line that runs along each side of the fish, below and parallel to the spine. The lateral line consists of specialized cells that enable the fish to sense pressure – but not the pressure we divers usually think about, not the effects of depth on gas pockets.

The pressure that the lateral line detects is water pressure, including pressure waves set off by other fish in the school, or pressure waves created by an approaching predator, or any other such water movement. It's the lat-

eral line sense that enables fish like scad (mas bangu and moulo) or anchovies, who travel in shoals of uncountable individuals, to move together as a single organism.

You've noticed that the divers who get closest to the fish are divers with good buoyancy control who swim smoothly and economically, right? Divers who fin with their hands or otherwise move unnecessarily create pressure signals that alarm fish, so the fish don't stick around. Economically-moving divers send few water-pressure messages and the ones they send are calm; as a consequence, fish are much more comfortable around them.

Were you ever part of a closely-packed group of divers? Descending with a group on a boat dive, maybe, or when gathering to look at a rare critter? It's almost impossible not to get crashed into.

Wouldn't it be nice if we *Homo sapiens aquaticus* could develop lateral lines?

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. Dee's books are available for purchase at Bonaire's Carib Inn or through touchthesea.com.

Did You Know?

conch shells were used in a study at MIT to develop helmets and body armor?

Queen conch shells are made up of three flexible, criss-crossing layers that make the shell really difficult for a predator to penetrate. To crack the shell, a predator has to use a lot of force and may instead choose to just give up and go look for an easier snack. For this reason, MIT has used the structure of conch shells to design light, durable material that can be used in the military for body protection. Conch need such a tough shell because they have many natural predators! Not only do humans find them a tasty treat, but so do loggerhead turtles, spiny lobsters and nurse sharks!

As Dee Scarr pointed out in her Reef Glimpses article in the last issue, Queen conch are well known in the Caribbean for their use in many tasty seafood dishes. They are an important part of this island's cultural heritage and, historically, were an important source of protein. However, for years their populations have been falling dangerously low. We have many types of conch in Bonaire, including queen conch, fighting conch, milk conch and helmet conch. Queen conch have an estimated lifespan of 40 years and can grow up to five pounds! Now, we rarely ever see conch anywhere near that size. The size of the shell and the thickness of the lip at the edge of their shell is the most accurate measurement of age in conch. In the 1970s and 80s in the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, it was common to find 1000-3000 conch per hectare! In 2017, a STINAPA conch monitoring study in Lac Bay surveyed 49 sites and found only 15 conch per hectare! AND they were all juveniles and therefore not able to reproduce! Furthermore, when STINAPA rangers and police intercept conch poachers inside and outside of Lac Bay, almost all of the conch poached are juveniles. These are signs of extreme overfishing.

As discussed earlier, shell size and shell lip thickness



Queen conch shells at Lac Cai - important fishery still at risk

are used to determine sexual maturity in conch. However, climate change affects how conch grow, making it harder to determine their age. Snail shells, including conch shells, are made up of a compound called calcium carbonate that they are able to take from seawater and use to make their shells. With increasing ocean acidification, it becomes more and more difficult for some reef creatures to build their shells - some may actually begin to dissolve! This is just one reason why it is really important for us to reduce our carbon footprint (use of fossil fuels) so we do not lose our marine invertebrates that have shells like conch, lobsters, crabs and many oth-



ers! Reducing the amount of gasoline and electricity we consume is a great place to start!

Conch are also really interesting because of their mass migrations and mating aggregations. In the past, these migration and mating aggregations would include hundreds to thousands of individuals! Now it is rare to see even one conch, let alone an aggregation. This is a problem because it's much harder for conch to find each other and successfully reproduce when there are fewer individuals. The few aggregations that remain are extremely important for reproduction and the survival of the species. Additionally, female Queen conch are slightly bigger than male conch. This means that if only the largest conch are removed from the water, this could drastically decrease the number of females in the water, making it even harder for their populations to recover.

To help this important species to recover from overfishing, many countries, including Bonaire, protect Queen conch. Plus, the trade of conch is restricted by an international trade agreement, CITES, which means that a permit is necessary to import conch. No CITES import permits have been issued for Queen conch in Bonaire for many years. You can help restore Queen conch populations in Bonaire by choosing seafood options other than conch. If you're lucky enough to see a Queen conch in the water, and if you stay back and wait a bit, you may see its eye stalks sticking out and its little hopping step - then please let it be so it can go on to replenish the population!

Article written by STINAPA intern Mackenzie Stoeltje and STINAPA biologist Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Bonaire. Connecting People With Nature.

Reports on Bolivia 1998 - 2020

Over the past 20 years numerous studies have reported on the condition of Bolivia's natural environment and how that environment is threatened. The earliest of the 22 reports on Bolivia is presented below, and the remainder can be found in the online Reporter*. The reports mention that the health of Bolivia's ecosystems and its iconic species is rated, without exception, as "moderately unfavorable" to "very unfavorable," and that without environmental protection the economic and natural consequences are grave. *Go to <https://bonairereporter.com>.



4. The terrace edge area along the length of the coastline: this area is "ecologically quite important" as it provides shelter and water for birds, insects and plants, many of which are threatened or endangered. In addition, it is important to protect the subterranean cavern water from pollution.

5. The coastal rubble vegetation between Spelonk and Boven Bolivia: this area is principally important as a protective covering for migrating species of land crabs which are important to the terrestrial ecology as detritivores and scavengers.

6. The Brasia terrace woodlands on the plateau above Beneden Bolivia and extending to Midden Bolivia: "We suggest that this vegetation may be rare on Bonaire and recommend conservation of significant tracts of this vegetation."

7. The Washikemba woodlands in the southern part of Bolivia: which represent some of the best wooded areas of Bolivia. Conservation of "significant portions" of this region is recommended.

From their observations, the authors of the draft have concluded that the "wildlands of Bolivia serve the crucial ecological role (emphasis added) of natural corridor for much of the native fauna between the northern and southern halves of Bonaire. Therefore, to avoid ecological fragmentation at the island level, significant sections of Bolivia will need to be conserved to fulfill this longterm function.

When some might argue that with Washington-Slagbaai Park in the north and Lac Bay in the south, Bonaire has sufficient land set aside for preservation. The CARMABI Report argues otherwise:

- Washington-Slagbaai Park is currently overgrazed out of necessity to use much of the land as a "goat park" to raise operating funds, as the report states, while Bolivia has also been heavily grazed. "Bolivia appears to possess greater vitality at this point. In the future the wildlands of Bolivia may prove vital to survival of the flora and fauna of Bonaire in general."

- Most of the caves outside Bolivia, including the cave of Seru Grandi in Washington- Slagbaai Park are quite small and the only relatively large caves outside Bolivia (Barcadera and Onima) are threatened by tourism and, in the case of Barcadera, pollution.

*Published compliments of
Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia*

To read the 22 summarized reports on Bolivia please visit the Bonaire Reporter online at bonairereporter.com



The three species of large columnar cacti *Subpilocereus repandus*, *Stenocereus griseus* and *Pilosocereus lanuginosus* are ubiquitous elements of arid vegetation on Bonaire. These species are listed in Appendix II of CITES and protected according to Island Legislation. See Report 11, on-line Reporter, page 19. Photo Julie Morgan

1-2. Carmabi Foundation, Feb 1998 and update March 1998

The inventory was conducted by Carmabi researchers in November 1997. It is clear from this report that there are compelling reasons to preserve as much of Bolivia as possible. Some of the preservation priorities as noted in the report are:

1. Nesting habitat of the endangered Lora: the rock cliffs and overhangs bordering the coastal plain have been documented to be "the most important breeding area for the endangered Lora."

2. Ecologically important food sources for native species: the large stands of kadushi and datu cactus are considered "a keystone species (and a) key food source for the terrestrial fauna including the vulnerable endemic subspecies of West Indian parakeet, the endangered endemic sub species of Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot and various endangered bats."

3. The cave systems of Spelonk and Roshikiri: these "play a critical ecological role as shelter for the endangered bats and other rare species such as the endangered Barn Owl." "Without these bats the terrestrial ecology of the Leeward Islands would literally collapse." Bolivia harbors the most important concentration of (undisturbed) caves on Bonaire." The report makes special note that preserving the caves without a concomitant effort to preserve "significant surrounding habitat" would be a "crucial mistake" as was made in Barcadera. "Conservation of an individual cave is meaningless unless its ecological connectedness to the surrounding areas is also recognized in the form of conservation of sufficient surrounding wilderness areas."

Moreover, the presence of known and, perhaps, yet undiscovered pre-Columbian Amerindian petroglyphs make this area important to the Netherlands Antilles for both cultural and scientific reasons.

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What's Happening



Wednesday July 1	Community event marking the abolishment of slavery 8 to 9pm. Tune in to the debate at Magazina di Rei. The event will be streamed online on the Facebook pages of Live 99.9FM and DCTV. DTV will also broadcast the event on all its TV channels. A special event for the whole community to reflect on the abolishment of slavery, and to suggest how we as a community can work together toward the future development of Bonaire. See page 7.
Sunday July 5	Hike the Lagadishi Trail under the full moon 5:30-7:30pm \$10 The four km walk is guided by George "Kultura" Thode, and takes about two hours. As you walk the sun sets and the full moon rises above you. Phone to reserve your spot: STINAPA +599 717 8444. Space is limited
Saturday to Sunday, July 4-5	Penumbral Lunar Eclipse July 4 from 11:07pm till July 5 1:52am Bonaire will have good viewing for the July 2020 Penumbra Lunar Eclipse. See Sky Park, this page.
Sunday July 12	Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey. Boka Onima 4pm Clean Coast Bonaire recruits volunteers and trains local residents and visiting eco-tourists to complete monthly surveys of marine litter.

Every Saturday

Pakus di Pruga- Flea Market store sponsored by the Animal Shelter from 8am till 4pm
Open but with "social distancing" requirements

Saturday, July 4th - July 5th Penumbral lunar eclipse

Hey star gazers! Trace here, to help you glimpse the penumbral lunar eclipse passing over North America and the Caribbean this week.

This will be a penumbral lunar eclipse, meaning the moon will slide into the earth's shadow. Here's what you'll see from the eastern seaboard. Around 11:30pm the moon will start to fall into earth's shadow, and it will peak by 12:30am.

The penumbral eclipse means the moon is only getting hit by earth's lighter outer shadow, so it won't be totally covered, but we're looking up at our own shadow! Isn't that cool?!

Every six months, earth is treated to both solar and lunar eclipses. But timing and location is everything. In May of next year we'll have a total lunar eclipse, but North America and the Caribbean will get another penumbral eclipse in November, so don't miss it, and keep lookin' up!

Penumbral Eclipse begins: Jul 4 at 11:07:23 pm and ends: Jul 5 at 1:52:21 am

June / July What's that bright dot?

Hey sky spotters! Sometimes you're looking up at the sky and your friend is like... What is that bright thing? Now you'll be able to tell right away whether it's a planet or a star!

Let's use this week as an example. Here we are at about 4am looking south. There are two planets visible right now Jupiter and Saturn.

First planets are way closer than stars, so they'll be extra bright, often brighter than even the brightest stars. Second, planets don't twinkle, shimmer or blink. Third it will be on the ecliptic, maybe you remember, that's the path the moon, sun and other planets take across the sky.

If a bright object fits these, it's probably a planet and not a star! Try it yourself, and bring binoculars for a great video while y'all keep lookin' up!

Source: <https://www.stargazersonline.org>
Hosts: Trace Dominguez & Ata Sarajedini.

Bonaire COVID-19 Road map — The path to responsible opening and restarting economic activities

State of play as of 26 June 2020, by communications department OLB

Phases	1A. June 15, 2020	1B. June 15, 2020	2. July 1, 2020	3. As soon as possible	4. As soon as possible
Air space (phases 1 to 4) Seaspace (phases 3&4)	Air traffic open to travelers from CN*-AUA-CUR-SXM (*Saba & St. Eustatius)	Entering permission for new residents and students living away from home	opening for passengers traveling in from NL-BE-DE-LX-FR	opening to additional country / area	remove all entry restrictions

Preconditions These elements affect the progress or decline of the above road map.

1. Control by Public Health Department upon entry	2. Pressure on Bonaire's healthcare capacity.	4. Hygiene regulations that must be followed by everyone who lives on or visits Bonaire	Protocols protocols have been drawn up on the basis of these measures for: • Bonaire International Airport (BIA) • Harbor and pilotage • Agreements with KLM and Schiphol • Bonaire Tourism Protocols	Individual company / organization protocols
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All travelers must fill in and sign a health declaration Travelers must be tested for COVID-19 72 hours before departure to protect the health of Bonaire's residents Travelers traveling into Bonaire have stayed for at least 14 days in the area of departure immediately prior to their trip 	<p>Bonaire has sufficient capacities for testing, care, and research (of source and contacts)</p> <p>3. Epidemiological data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of confirmed active COVID-19 infections remains manageable in the area or country of departure Number of confirmed active COVID-19 infections remains manageable on Bonaire 	<p>General hygiene measures. Stay at home or stay in at your holiday address if you suffer from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> nose colds • running nose • sneezing • sore throat cough • stuffiness • elevated fever sudden loss of smell or taste you have had a positive Covid-19 test in the past 7 days your housemate has a positive Covid-19 and you have had contact in the past 14 days while he / she had complaints if the Public Health Service has told you quarantine yourself <p>Keep 1.5 meters away from anyone who is not your roommate. If it is not possible to keep a distance of 1.5 meters, use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> plastic or glass screens a self-made mouth and nose mask or surgical mask <p>At risk groups including the elderly should practice all above hygiene regulations and distancing. If they have a need for special equipment (masks, gloves) or other help, contact Mariadol for the items or service. (Added to original chart: this note added to chart after The Reporter talked to crisis manager Chris de Vogel)</p>		



Wash Hands Often



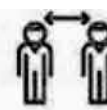
Cough Into Elbow



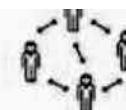
Do Not Touch Face



If You Feel Sick Stay at Home



Stay More Than 6 feet apart



Practice Social Distancing



Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Accessibility is a real problem

Recently I had a visitor who works in real estate. I was asked why I advocate for persons with handicaps and write about it. Was it really such a problem?

And here it was again, in my face; people do not know, they have no idea.

I started explaining and asked if she remembered how big the pool of water always is in front of our house. And how long it takes to disappear. That meant that we could never leave the house, until it was dry or if we had some kind of transportation.

Leaving our compound also provided problems, since at the gate there is a huge "goat-grating" which is hard to cross in a wheelchair, with a walker or using a cane. Once on the road one has to walk through the dirt, since there is no curb.

Planning a morning downtown? Come prepared with diapers on, bring a urinal, or hurry to the handicapped toilet. Better yet, run to the hospital to find an able body person to help in using the special toilet.

Wanting to eat out or enjoy a drink somewhere on the boulevard? One has to haul table and chairs to get you in your wheelchair seated at the table. After enjoying this cold drink you need to use the bathroom? Did you bring your urinal? Bad luck, because the bathroom is too small for a wheelchair.

Needing something from a shop on the main street? Be prepared to sit in the burning sun outside and let your partner go inside alone.

My visitor told me she had never thought about these facts. She even

came up with more things that needed to change: make the sidewalks free from chairs and tables of restaurants and free from advertising boards and flags.

Could not the government help here, she wondered. I told her about this project that just finished; houses that needed a ramp for the occupants to get out of the house in a safe way. The people could even get help fixing things in the house to make it more accessible.

She also told me that some shops, recently renovated, have built ramps for a better entrance.

And then we started suggesting: every house and shop that is built now should be completely accessible, inside and outside. All bathrooms in hotels and restaurants should be large and spacey, have tall toilets and no thresholds.

Every restaurant should have room for wheelchairs at every table.

But one also needs to think ahead. Not everybody uses a wheelchair, but many use a cane and they still need to get around. People stay at home when they should not. More people need a scooter-mobile. Our population is getting older, so Bonaire needs to be prepared.

In this planning for a new Bonaire, a lot of people with different handicaps and the elderly need to be invited to take part and taken very seriously. Bonaire is changing and we all need to be prepared.

I am glad to have a neighbor who thinks and wants to be involved.

Ria Evers-Dokter.



A Garden? Just Do It!

Mispel (Naseberry)



I often get the questions: what kind of fruit are the brown apples on the huge trees, and can you eat them? The fruit is called Mispel and in English, Naseberry. It's also known in the area as sapota or sapodilla. Other names are nispero, chikoo and manilkara zapota. It's a tropical plant native to Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and Asia. It grows easily in warm climates and can become a big tree. On Bonaire you see it in many yards because of its delicious sweet fruit and its shade.

The fruit is a large berry about 4-8 cm. The unripe fruit has a firm outer skin and when picked, releases a white chicle or gum from its stem.

A fully ripened fruit has a saggy skin and does not release chicle when picked. Its succulent flesh is pale yellow to a brown color with a grainy texture akin, to a well-ripened pear.

Within the fruit, there are one to six hard black seeds like beans. Be careful not to swallow a seed when consuming the fruit. It's possible to eat the fruit with the skin, but you can also peel the skin off and serve it in parts. The ripened fruit

is soft with a malty flavor or some say it is a unique flavor combination of cinnamon, apple and pear. It's because of this great fragrant aroma and delicious taste, locals make the popular homemade mispel ice cream called "mispel lee". This is blended fruit flesh with powdered milk and sugar. It is poured in cups and then frozen. Instead of powdered milk and sugar, some people use sweetened milk and/or vanilla extract. During festivals like Dia di Rincon you might find mispel ice cream among the homemade ice creams. I'm sure that you will love it.

Naseberry is also a very healthy fruit. It contains Vitamin C, Vitamin B6, B2, B3, B5 and B9. Minerals are: Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sodium and Zinc along with protein, fiber and fat.

Look at its benefits:

The fruit has a high fiber content which is very good for the digestive system helping the body in the absorption of nutrients.

The fruit adds energy due to the amount of high carbohydrates present.

It's rich in antioxidants which eliminate

the effects of free radicals and it's a great immune booster with its high content of Vitamin C.

If you want a tree you have to plant the seeds. They don't grow easily, so plant many seeds at the same time and after a while replant in a bigger container until it's large enough to go in the yard. The tree takes five to eight years to bear fruit, twice a year. And you get a lot of fruit for sure. Unripe fruit is hard to touch and contains high amounts of saponin which has an astringent effect in the mouth. Plant the tree in your yard where there is space for a huge tree and not too close to your house because of the strong roots.

Remember iguanas and the birds are crazy for this fruit so you need to protect the fruit with paper bags tied around them. Or you can pick them green and let them ripen in a paper bag. As the tree bears so much fruit, there will always be enough for you and other creatures to consume. So try one of Bonaire's beloved fruit trees in your yard, just do it now.

Angliet, Nature lover

Ask a Geek

By Brian Niessen

Who, what, where?

Sitting here on an island, especially during this downtime, one becomes curious as to the comings and goings of boats and airplanes.

From my personal vantage point, I can see the glide-slope of the airport, as well as a wide panorama of the waterfront, so naturally when a plane or boat arrives, I want to know who it belongs to, where it's from and where it's going.

So when a plane lands while Bonairean airspace is

supposedly closed, naturally my interest is piqued and the two go-to sites I use are:

www.FlightRadar24.com - This site provides real-time flight information for just about every airplane, helicopter, weather balloon and even ground traffic at airports worldwide.

www.RadarBox.com - This site doesn't seem to have everything in the sky, but it does give information about flights that FlightRadar24 deems "blocked." In addition, you can see the pilot's view in a lot of cases. Amazing to be in the cockpit when landing in Bonaire.

Once you have the tail number of the plane, usually starting with "N" for US flights, you can google that to see who owns the plane.

In addition to airplanes, the same functionality can be found for boats which have transponders at **www.Marine-Traffic.com** Not only can you see photos of the boats, you can also see where they came from and where they are going. If it is a yacht you are interested in, Google the name of the yacht plus the "owner" to see who owns it.

I hope you will spend as much time snooping on our local air and marine traffic as I do. It's fun and educational.

Until next, issue, bon voyage.

At Your Service

The following businesses have been recommended by Bonaire residents.
Introductory rate - call or email for availability - 796-4055 - BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com

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CLEAN COAST BONAIRE

Sunday, July 12 at 4pm
Boka Onima

Echo
PARROTS AND PEOPLE





Terrific



Teenagers



L-R top row: Bing, Tac; L-R bottom row: Buster, Snowy, Venita

Everyone falls in love with puppies and usually they are adopted quickly. Statistically, “adopt-ability” drops as puppies become “teenagers” due to misconceptions and myths about adopting an older dog. A “teenage” dog is about seven months to 18 months old and still has all the adorableness, energy and silliness as a puppy. There are so many benefits to adopting a teenage dog. They’re likely out of the chewing stage, potty training goes a lot faster since their organs hold a lot more than puppies so the need to go is reduced. They are also a little more independent than young puppies and can be left alone for short periods if necessary. Teenage dogs are also more focused and easier to train since they have already learned a bit

about the world and are less distracted. Most importantly, their personalities are already fairly well defined so you know exactly what’s in store with your new fur-ever companion.

The Shelter currently has a number of terrific teenagers in all shapes, sizes and colors! Pictured are just a sample of our teenage pups ready for a new home. Please come by Animal Shelter Bonaire and have an up close and personal visit with these great kids in our new Meet and Greet area. Monday through Friday 9 am-12 pm and 3-5 pm, Saturday 9 am-3 pm nonstop.

Story by Jane Disko. Photos by Amy Weir.

Pet of the Week: Mauricio

Hello!

I am Mauricio a very gentlemanly two year old, neutered male tabby cat. I have beautiful grey tabby markings, nice white socks on my paws and big, beautiful eyes that will make you want to give me lots of attention. I very much enjoy having my head and ears scratched and I will let you know when I’m satisfied. My meow is very sweet and soft, almost like a kitten, and it will get your attention when I need you. I have been at the shelter for about one month, after I was left here one night with a note that had my name on it. Things are still a little bit new to me but I am adjusting just fine. But, I would really like to have my very own home and family again. Please come and visit me to see if we are a match. You can also meet all my new friends here as well! Animal



Shelter Bonaire is located at Kaminda Lagún 26. You can visit during normal hours, Mon-Fri 9-12 & 3-5 and on Sat 9-3. You are also welcome to call the shelter with any questions about Mauricio, or any other dog or cat, at 701-4989 or 717-4989. Story by Travis Sullins. Photos by Jane Disko.

L-R, Jane Disko
Sanne Atteve
Travis Sullins
Amy Weir



Presenting their project are (L-R) Christoffer Marcera, Anna Korevaar, Jahlen Kops and Daniel Mauricio.

Thursday, June 25 was the last day of the pilot Gifted Class (“the Enrichment Class or Plus Class”) for this school year.

The students closed the program with a presentation of their project on the last day of school. The pupils (aged 9-11 years) were divided into two groups. Each group developed a proposal for combating the plastic on the island.

Their proud parents were an attentive audience during the presentation of the plans. After the presentation everyone attended a festive closing on the beach of Donkey Beach.

The pilot for gifted children started in January 2020. Its aim: to give students of groups 6, 7 and 8 in the upper years of primary education an opportunity to further develop their talents. One day a week the students received enrichment teaching that was designed to boost the students’ talents. The program emphasized learning to cooperate, taking initiative and respon-

sibility, and how to conduct research for oneself.

Ten students from the various primary schools participated in this pilot. The pilot’s evaluation confirmed that these alternative teaching methods - in addition to the regular school - worked very well for many children in the pilot group. Parents and children were enthusiastic about the lessons, and were convinced of their added value. As a measure of its success in coordinating with the school teachers and cooperating with the internal supervisors, the schools also expressed their satisfaction with the gifted program.

The Expertise Center for Education and Care (EOZ) is consulting with the school boards and the Youth and Future Foundation about continuing the gifted program next school year.

For more information: Paul Ruijs
Youth and Future Foundation,
Phone 782 4569

Actions needed against violence

The justice triangle - consisting of the OLB, the police, and the public prosecutor - is considering ways to combat the recent increase downtown of noisy, rowdy behavior and violence against the public and law enforcement officers at night.

Nuisance behaviors fueled by alcohol and presumably narcotics include noise and street racing, fights, and interfering with, even attacking, the police. Guns seem to be showing up more often as well.

The triangle is considering increased policing in the area, and perhaps strict-

er measures such as preventive body searches, camera surveillance, a glass ban, an area ban, even closing entertainment places. The triangle also calls on entrepreneurs to help out.

The triangle insists that the police must be allowed to perform their duties, and that residents, entrepreneurs and visitors must be able to enjoy the downtown area safely around the clock. The triangle appeals to everyone who participates in Bonaire’s nightlife to comply with the laws and regulations and to let the police do their work. DMR

ZVK medical insurance abroad- what’s not covered

The ZVK Health Insurance office reminds Bonaire’s residents that when we are travelling abroad, the ZVK medical insurance does not cover:

- Visits to a general practitioner
- Pharmacy expenses
- Return trip in case of illness
- Repatriation of mortal remains

• Luggage or valuables.

Furthermore, Curaçao, Aruba, St Maarten and the European Netherlands are considered to be abroad.

ZVK suggests that people buy private travel insurance to cover these categories.

1 JULY 1863
**ABOLISHMENT OF
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Slaves were seen as a property.
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 they were freed and no longer seen as a property.
 They were seen as a **human being**.



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22 Reports on Bolivia 1998 - 2020



Plantation Bolivia- A Wilderness Area of Exceptional Conservation Value Requiring Protection
(Digest of more than 20 reports, Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia, W.J. Nijland-van Kooten, June 2020)

"Bolivia serves as an important 'land bridge' connecting the northern and southern halves of the island. If this 'bridge' is severed, as would happen if the area is developed, native species of both flora and fauna would be fragmented and be at even greater risk of extinction."

(CARMABI Report- February 1998)

Much like protected areas of Klein Bonaire and Washington-Slagbaai National Park, the unspoiled natural area along Bonaire's rugged east coast known as Bolivia is a kingdom treasure that deserves protection and preservation. Home to flora and fauna not found elsewhere, this natural landscape houses a diverse and fragile ecosystem. Just as the marine park defines and protects an irreplaceable part of Bonaire's

natural landscape, the same protection should be granted to Bolivia to preserve this one-of-a-kind area.

It isn't just eco-minded island residents who understand the environmental importance of protecting Bolivia from development. Attached are 22 environmental reports (1998 to present), that all attest to the uniqueness of the ecosystem found at Bolivia on Bonaire.

The protection of Bolivia requires kingdom-level intervention. The time is now to declare Bolivia a special place worth saving. The time is now to begin the process to make this area a national park that is revered and protected like Washington-Slagbaai and Klein Bonaire. We are the environmental stewards for future generations. As such, we must take a stand against the greed and corruption that often accompanies development projects of the scope proposed for this historic and revered area. We owe it to Bonaire to take a stand and put long-term environmental protection for everyone's enjoyment over short-term profit for a few.

Published compliments of
Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia
(For the unabridged version of this introduction, go to
The Bonaire Reporter, Issue 12, June 17- July 1, 2020;
Opinions, page 4.)

Executive Summary

Over the past 20 years numerous studies have reported on the condition and threats to Bonaire's natural environment. The conclusions of these 22 reports are summarized below. The reports mention that the health of the ecosystems and iconic species, is without exception, already in a moderately unfavorable to very unfavorable state and that without environmental protection there will be grave economic and natural consequences.

Preservation of the environment is most important for the island as the relatively unspoiled nature of Bonaire is the magnet that draws tourists to the island and is the competitive edge the island holds over similar Caribbean destinations. Tourism is the overwhelming economic factor and source of employment for Bonaire.

Currently there is little or no legislated governmental protection for the natural environment of Bonaire. Foremost among the areas requiring protection is the former Bolivia Plantation. Plantation Bolivia is a wilderness area of about 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres) of mostly undeveloped land located in the northeast corner (the elbow) in the middle of the island of Bonaire. It is about 10% of the island's land area with a coastline facing the prevailing wind. (see map) Its central location provides a land bridge connecting the hilly north and flat southern parts that supports critical biodiversity necessary for the survival of the native flora and fauna of the entire island.

Bolivia provides the habitat for numerous important protect species of birds, plants, cactus, trees, coral, and fish as well as elements of cultural and historical importance. Two environments are most critical.

The first is Bolivia's dry tropical forest. The dry tropical forest is the world's most endangered forest ecosystem. The forest supports the island's keystone cactuses that bloom during dry seasons and provide an important food source for native species of lizards, bats and birds. Among these are endangered species like the Yellow shouldered Amazon Parrot, the Barn Owl and nine indigenous bat species. Bolivia is one of the six Bonaire Important Bird Areas listed in the BirdLife International protocol in the Caribbean. The area is important for six bird trigger species. Additionally, a healthy resilient dry tropical forest is better able to absorb the consequences of climate change.

The second is the system of dry and wet caves that provide homes and breeding grounds for birds, bats and different endemic freshwater crustaceans. Tranquility is of paramount importance for the protection and preservation of the cave fauna. These caves cannot be isolated

from the surrounding ecosystems and their conservation requires integration into the protection of the whole area. Moreover, the presence of known and, perhaps, yet un-discovered pre-Columbian Amerindian petroglyphs make this area important for both cultural and scientific reasons.

According to recent studies the total economic value (TEV) of the ecosystem services provided by the island's marine and terrestrial ecosystems, including Bolivia Plantation, is \$105 million per year. With the current threats unmanaged, the TEV will decrease from \$105 million today to around \$60 million in 10 years' time and to less than \$40 million in 30 years.

Measures must be put in place to protect Bolivia to preserve the economic and environmental health of Bonaire. Currently most of the land is zoned as "open landscape," a designation that provides little or no environmental protection. Moreover, it is within the power of the local government to protect or grant exemptions for any environmental regulations not enforced by national or international laws.



1-2. Carmabi Foundation, Feb 1998 and update March 1998

The inventory was conducted by Carmabi researchers in November 1997. It is clear from this report that there are compelling reasons to preserve as much of Bolivia as possible. Some of the preservation priorities as noted in the report are:

1. Nesting habitat of the endangered Lora: the rock cliffs and overhangs bordering the coastal plain have been documented to be "the most important breeding

area for the endangered Lora."

2. Ecologically important food sources for native species: the large stands of kadushi and datu cactus are considered "a keystone species (and a) key food source for the terrestrial fauna including the vulnerable endemic subspecies of West Indian parakeet, the endangered endemic sub species of Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot and various endangered bats."

3. The cave systems of Spelonk and Roshikiri: these "play a critical ecological role as shelter for the endangered bats and other rare species such as the endangered Barn Owl." "Without these bats the terrestrial ecology of the Leeward Islands would literally collapse." Bolivia harbors the most important concentration of (undisturbed) caves on Bonaire." The report makes special note that preserving the caves without a concomitant effort to preserve "significant surrounding habitat" would be a "crucial mistake" as was made in Barcadera. "Conservation of an individual cave is meaningless unless its ecological connectedness to the surrounding areas is also recognized in the form of conservation of sufficient surrounding wilderness areas."

Moreover, the presence of known and, perhaps, yet un-discovered pre-Columbian Amerindian petroglyphs make this area important to the Netherlands Antilles for both cultural and scientific reasons.

4. The terrace edge area along the length of the coastline: this area is "ecologically quite important" as it provides shelter and water for birds, insects and plants, many of which are threatened or endangered. In addition, it is important to protect the subterranean cavern water from pollution.

5. The coastal rubble vegetation between Spelonk and Boven Bolivia: this area is principally important as a protective covering for migrating species of land crabs which are important to the terrestrial ecology as detritivores and scavengers.

6. The Brasia terrace woodlands on the plateau above Beneden Bolivia and extending to Midden Bolivia: "We suggest that this vegetation may be rare on Bonaire and recommend conservation of significant tracts of this vegetation."

7. The Washikemba woodlands in the southern part of Bolivia: which represent some of the best wooded areas of Bolivia. Conservation of "significant portions" of this region is recommended.

Bolivia, continued on page 18



of the Middle Terrace of Bolivia has been designated as a conservation area in the BNMP. Considering the presence of important cave areas (Royer, in prep.; Wagenaar Hummelinck 1992), the very rare Bonaire Barn Owl (Prins et al., 2003) and the potential of the vegetation to develop into a more valuable vegetation type (e.g. 'Dry evergreen woodland' in Stoffers 1956), a broad area of the Middle Terrace of Bolivia should be added. This will help ensure the protection of a broader zone of the (north-south) combination of (depositional) Middle Terrace and the important Higher Terrace and Plateau land areas. This expansion area should minimally receive the status of "Island Park," the same status as the limestone terraces of the nearby "Terrace landscape of central Bonaire."

From their observations, the authors of the draft have concluded that the "wildlands of Bolivia serve the **crucial ecological role** (emphasis added) of natural corridor for much of the native fauna between the northern and southern halves of Bonaire. Therefore, to avoid ecological fragmentation at the island level, significant sections of Bolivia will need to be conserved to fulfill this longterm function.

When some might argue that with Washington-Slagbaai Park in the north and Lac Bay in the south, Bonaire has sufficient land set aside for preservation. The CARM-ABI Report argues otherwise:

- Washington-Slagbaai Park is currently overgrazed out of necessity to use much of the land as a "goat park" to raise operating funds, as the report states, while Bolivia has also been heavily grazed. "Bolivia appears to possess greater vitality at this point. In the future the wildlands of Bolivia may prove vital to survival of the flora and fauna of Bonaire in general."

- Most of the caves outside Bolivia, including the cave of Seru Grandi in Washington- Slagbaai Park are quite small and the only relatively large caves outside Bolivia (Barcadera and Onima) are threatened by tourism and, in the case of Barcadera, pollution.

3. Bonaire Nature Management Plan 1999-2004 (Natuurbeleidsplan 1999-2004) (BNMP)

Natural monuments (in the report mentioned as Category III, for example caves), smaller areas with visiting possibilities, where it concerns the protection of a single special natural or cultural-historical element.

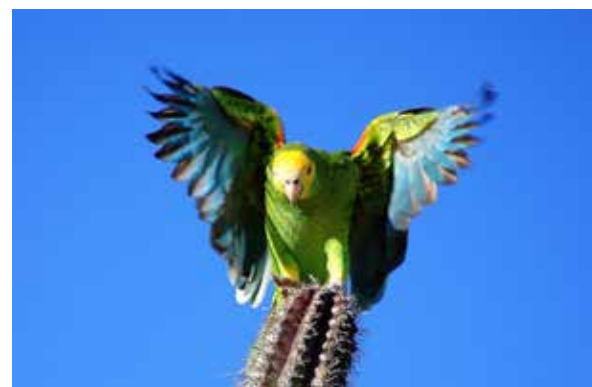
Caves

Bonaire has a number of caves that are of special significance for various reasons. As a geological appearance, they provide a picture of the oldest history of the island. In several places, caves are provided with petroglyphs made by the original Indian inhabitants of Bonaire: among others at Onima, Spelonk and Kueba di Roshikiri. Some offer accommodation for bats or for special aquatic species, such as the blind Typhlatia shrimp. The significance of caves for the conservation of bats is particularly important. This group, which represents the majority of native mammals on land, has an important function in the ecosystem.

Status: The caves are not protected and are not managed

4. Landscape ecological vegetation map of the island of Bonaire, 2005

The Bonaire Nature Management Plan 1999-2004 (BNMP) has categorized and mapped a number of areas of the island according to the (varying) degree of protection they should receive. In the present publication a number of areas are presented that are not yet afforded adequate protection in the BNMP or that should be upgraded to a category that gives more protection. No part



5. Environmental report for the wind / diesel power plant of Ecopower Bonaire

(Milieu rapport voor de wind/diesel energiecentrale van Ecopower Bonaire, 19 Feb, 2008)

The Barn Owl is the only owl species present on Bonaire; in addition, a small number of resident and migrant birds of prey occur (Nijman et al. 2005).

With a rich food supply Barn Owls need a hunting area with a radius of about 500 meters around the breeding ground and with a small food supply sometimes up to 5000 meters (website Barn Owl Trust). In Bolivia two breeding grounds have been found close to each other, so the owls are occupying a relatively small territory. When the probable breeding grounds are also taken into account, it seems that generally relatively small territories are occupied.).

6. Evaluation report Bonaire Nature Management Plan 1999-2004

(Evaluatierapport natuurbeleidsplan Bonaire 1999-2004, Jan. 2010).

Natural monuments: smaller areas with visiting possibilities, where it concerns the protection of a single special natural or cultural-historical element.

Caves.

Caves are part of the heritage and have great ecological, geological, archaeological and cultural value. Since 2003, caves have been concluded between the government and a number of interested parties, in which a code of conduct for excursions to caves has been established. On the basis of the new Island Ordinance on Nature Management, it is possible to legally protect caves. The Bat census of 2007 (Vleermuizencensus, Carmabi 2008) shows the great importance of caves in preserving the small and vulnerable bat population.).

Status: The caves are (still) not protected presenting a significant threat to the bat population.).

7. Strategic environmental assessment

(Strategische Milieu Beoordeling (SMB), June 2010)

In the SMB, based on the available data, two scenarios have been outlined, with the expected growth being translated into a spatial picture.

The first scenario assumes growth in the form of housing companies and recreational facilities through further densification (expansion) within the existing urban contours and by expansion in several contiguous areas that border (existing) areas (West Coast). The second scenario is more extreme and involves developing much of the west coast from the boundary of the national park including undeveloped land inland to the south of Kralendijk. Growth, while retaining the quality of nature, cultural identity must be sustainable and balanced. The report indicates five locations where the desired growth can be achieved, which have no significant effects on landscape and nature.

According to the SMB, it would not even be necessary to use all five locations to meet the need. A total of 3,980 houses can be built at those five locations. Three of the residential expansion locations with a have been included in the spatial development plan. The other two locations have been assigned a nature or open landscape designation. The intended growth for residents and tourists can easily be accommodated within the three residential locations.

Important natural values on land include the Important Bird Areas (IBA), caves with endangered bat species and endemic invertebrates. Spatial development should be avoided as much as possible in ecologically valuable areas. The creation of corridor and buffer zones is desirable for adequate protection.



8. Zoning Plan Bonaire 2010 (Ruimtelijk ontwikkelingsplan Bonaire 2010).

Bolivia's designation mentioned in this zoning plan is open landscape "open landschap". Land with the designation "open landscape" is intended for the preservation of open terrain and natural scientific values; parts of Bolivia have the dual designation of Archeological and Environmental. For example, the pre-Colombian painted kueba (caves) and/or and the ruins of an original plantation house. .

Dual destination Archeology, category 60: .

1. The grounds with the destination "Value - Archeology" are, in addition to the other destinations, intended for the preservation, restoration and development of the archaeological values. This function overrides the functions of the other designation.
2. Although building possibilities may have been given in the other destinations, building on the grounds to which this destination relates is not permitted on the basis of this double destination.
3. The Executive Council may grant exemption

from the aforementioned building ban and permit construction in accordance with the other designation, if research has shown that the buildings or structures in question do not affect the archaeological values.

Dual designation Kueba, category 62:

1. Areas with the designation “Value – Kueba” are an addition to the other designation, intended for the preservation, restoration and development of the quality of caves. This function overrides the functions of the other designation.

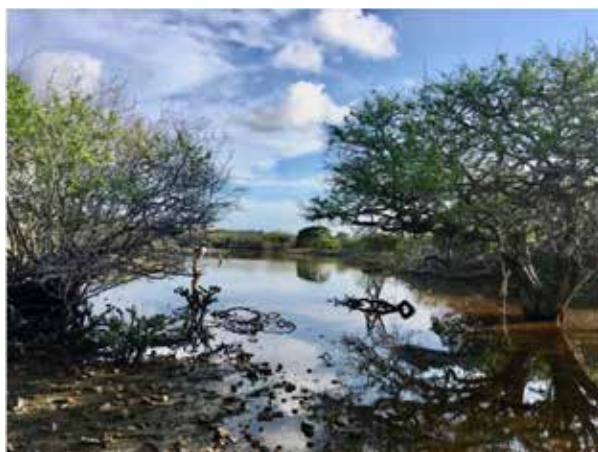
2. Although building possibilities may have been given in the other designation, building on the land to which this destination relates is not permitted on the basis of this double designation.

3. The Executive Council can grant exemption from the aforementioned building ban and permit construction in accordance with the other designation, if research has shown that the buildings or structures are not buildings that do not affect the quality and preservation of the caves.

Throughout the zoning plan it is mentioned that the “Executive Council can grant exemption” or that exceptions are possible with a permit.

mangroves which are of great importance for fishing, but also as a barrier against tidal waves. .

The national government has an important task to create opportunities for local government to be able to pursue a good nature and environment policy. .



11. Preliminary inventory of key terrestrial nature values of Bonaire, 2012

Bolivia Plantation is designated as “open landscape.” The inventory shows that several nature values important to the environment are found within this area. Found within the Middle Terraces of Bolivia caves are several bat species (Rojer, 2000). The Barn Owl (*Tyto alba sp.*) nests on the rocky escarpment within this area. The presence of Crested Caracara and White-tailed Hawk have also been documented in the Middle Terraces of this area. The Lower Terraces of Bolivia are popular nesting areas for the Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) and the preferred hunting grounds of the Peregrine Falcon. Other birds such as the Bananaquit, the Brown Throated Parakeet, the Pearly-eyed Thrasher and the Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot are found within this area of Bolivia as well. .

The three species of large columnar cacti *Subpilocereus repandus*, *Stenocereus griseus* and *Pilosocereus lanuginosus* are ubiquitous elements of arid vegetation on Bonaire. These species are listed in Appendix II of CITES and protected according to Island Legislation. *Subpilocereus repandus* and *Stenocereus griseus* provide food for several species of animals during the dry season, when many other plant species are non-productive. They constitute a critically important group of plants to the island ecosystem (Petit, 2001). Therefore, the cacti species *Subpilocereus repandus* and *Stenocereus griseus* are an example of a keystone species. The *Melocactus macracanthus* is often found on surfaces with a high percentage of surface stoniness (De Freitas et al., 2005). Such surfaces can be found on the Lower, Middle and Higher Terraces of Bonaire. This species is listed in Appendix II of CITES and is protected according to Island Legislation. .

The large “open landscape” areas of Bolivia may harbor a few rare plant species and an important population large area of cacti, which are crucial for species such as birds and bats. Hence the “nature” and “open land” areas outside national parks do possess unique and critical nature values. .

The entire open terrain of Bolivia is essential as a corridor along the northern coast that provides ecological connectivity between Lima and Lac Bay to the rest of Bonaire. The Strategic environmental assessment (SMB, 2010) also states: Important natural values on land include the Important Bird Areas (IBA), caves with endangered bat species and endemic invertebrates. Spatial development should be avoided as much as possible in ecologically valuable areas. The creation of corridor and buffer zones is desirable for adequate protection.

Recommendations:

- For future research it is recommended to execute a complete and extensive inventory of Bonaire, through fieldwork to implement the necessary protective measures to ensure the conservation of these nature values. The present study shows that the area of Bolivia may be of priority as this area seem to harbor a concentration of unique and critical plants.

- It is necessary to identify areas with a high potential for the concentration of natural values, rare species or scarce vegetation species in order to secure the survival of these species to be able to implement the necessary protective measurements. The open areas of Bolivia meet these requirements.

- For future research it is recommended to define areas with high corridor values to create and maintain ecological corridors and buffer zones on Bonaire like the Bolivia Plantation.

12. The total economic value of nature on Bonaire, TVU Feb. 2013

The total economic value (TEV) of the ecosystem services provided by the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of Bonaire is \$105 million per year. This TEV and its underlying components can be used to build a strategy for effective conservation measures on Bonaire. After extensively analyzing different scenarios for future ecosystem services values, one result becomes very clear: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In other words, it is more efficient to prevent extensive environmental damage than revitalizing the environment while there are still threats at hand. With the current threats unmanaged, the TEV of Bonairean nature will decrease from \$105 million today to around \$60 million in 10 years’ time and to less than \$40 million in 30 years.



13. Nature Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands 2013-2017, April 2013 (Natuurbeleidsplan Caribisch Nederland 2013-2017, April 2013)

The Caribbean Netherlands is part of the “Biodiversity Hotspot Protocol” of the Caribbean Islands (Conservation International, 2004), areas of exceptionally varied ecosystems, rich in plant and animal species.

The varied nature in the Dutch Caribbean is not only important at the local level but also from a regional and global perspective.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is party to treaties that are important for nature conservation in the Caribbean, namely: The Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD), the Agreement on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), the Cartagena Convention with the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW protocol), the Convention for Migrants



9. Biodiversity for the BES islands: Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. IMARES 2010 (Biodiversiteit voor de BES-eilanden: Bonaire, St. Eustatius en Saba. IMARES 2010)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SMB) shows that an increase in population and tourism leads to increasing pressure and an increasing environmental impact on the surrounding area. An increase in the population and the number of tourists leads to an increasing burden on nature, including an increase in visits to nature reserves, which can lead to a decrease in bird species and biodiversity and greater fragmentation and disturbance. Wastewater can also cause eutrophication and negative effects on groundwater and coral reefs.

10. Nature reconnaissance 2010-2040, views on the development of nature and landscape (Natuurverkenning 2010-2040, visies op de ontwikkeling van natuur en landschap, 2012)

Administratively, a major responsibility for nature policy rests with the local government on the islands, but the ultimate responsibility for the policy lies with the Dutch government. This has increased the responsibility of the Dutch government for internationally mandated environmental policy. In the Caribbean coral reefs, dry tropical forests, mangroves and other biotopes, many species are found that are threatened on a global scale. The nature of Bonaire also has an important economic function, mainly because of the tourist significance, and nature offers many ecosystem services, for example, coral reefs and

Species (CMS, oror Bonn Convention), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and the Sea Turtle conservation (IAC). The obligations under international treaties are anchored in national legislation. For the Caribbean Netherlands, this is the BES Nature Management and Protection Fundamentals Act.



14. Important Bird Area in the Caribbean Netherlands, IMARES May 2013

Washikemba-Fontein-Onima (of which Bolivia is a part), one of the six Bonaire Important Bird Areas (IBA) under the BirdLife International protocol of important bird areas in the Caribbean, is the only one of the six that is not environmentally protected. The area has been designated as IBA AN011. The IBA AN011 is important for six bird trigger species (Caribbean Coot, Least Tern, Bare-eyed Pigeon, Yellow-shoulder Amazon, Caribbean Elaenia, Pearly-eyed Thrasher. One species is restricted to the breeding season, one species is wintering, four species are year-round residents. Apart from the trigger species Bolivia is a breeding site for the Bonaire Barn Owl (Prins et al, 2003). In this coastline area many wading birds are also found.

Additionally five endemic land-snails, two endemic lizards and six endemic arthropods comprise the fauna of this IBA.

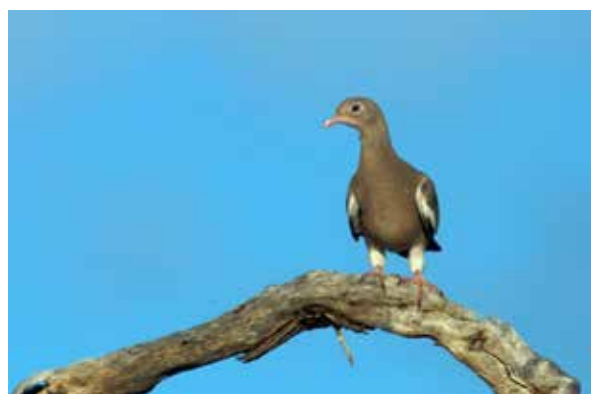
15. Policy Vision 2014-2029 Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Bonaire, March 2014 (Beleidsvisie 2014-2029 Landbouw, Veeteelt en Visserij Bonaire, March 2014)

Traditionally, goats and sheep are kept on the kunuku. Until the 1960s, there were forest rangers to ensure that the herbivores did not roam free. In addition, there was still social control. This supervision respected the property of other people's land and did not damage nature. Good management is essential for successful goat and sheep farming. This management is based on keeping goats and sheep in kunuku (farm) enclosures. This strategy must also apply to Bonaire's many donkeys. For example, when the OLB (local island government) ensures that donkeys are kept inside the Donkey Sanctuary, the importance of preserving nature and enforcing existing rules is emphasized.

According to policy framework, the protection of the island's nature and the environment is important for maintaining the attractiveness of Bonaire for the local population and tourists. Sustainable agriculture, livestock and fisheries will enhance the biodiversity of nature and thereby protect the environment and nature. Environmental problems such as erosion, water and dust nuisance will decrease.

16. Population estimate goats on Bonaire (populatieschatting geiten op Bonaire, IMARES Aug. 2015)

The island has a calculated population of 32,200 goats. The total economic value (TEV) of the ecosystem services provided by the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of Bonaire is \$105 million per year. Economic calculations have shown for Bonaire that nature is just about the most important natural resource for the island and that if no action is taken (also) in the field of extensive livestock farming, the economic value of nature as a motive for tourism in the coming years will seriously decrease (Van der Lely et al. 20012; Schep et al. 20013). The recently completed TEEB study calculates that the "do nothing" option (for goats and lionfish) means that within 10 years the total economic value (TEV) nature will decrease from \$105 million today to around \$60 million in 10 years and to less than \$40 million in 30 years. Based on results in nearby and comparable Curaçao, it appears that livestock densities of one goat per 10 hectares are sufficiently low to allow rapid ecological recovery, including the recovery of many rare species. The estimates yield densities of an average of 1.41 /ha (minimum 0.86 and maximum 2.30). This is much higher than what is sustainably possible for extensive livestock farming. A new form of livestock farming is therefore recommended not only to offer real opportunities to the sector but also to reduce the negative environmental and economic consequences of the current system.



17. State of nature of the Caribbean Netherlands, WUR 2017 (Staat van de natuur van Caribisch Nederland, WUR 2017)

Dry tropical forest

Dry tropical forest is the most endangered type of forest in the Caribbean. An indication of international protection status can be derived from the classification within the WWF Neotropical Ecoregion. The dry tropical forests of Bonaire have the status: critical / threatened (WWF, 2017a).

The Bonairean dry forests are largely dominated by cacti up to 6 m high with dominant species such as *Stenocereus griseus*, *Cereus repandus*, and *Pilosocereus lanuginosus* (Petit & Pors, 1996). These species bloom and produce fruit during the dry season and are therefore of great ecological value for the various fauna species, including bats and birds. Healthy dry tropical forests provide important ecosystem services, such as:

- sediment retention and coastal erosion prevention;
- retention of fresh water;
- capture of CO₂ in soil and plants;
- favorable effect on the local climate.

The surface loss of dry tropical forest, mainly due to increasing urbanization, is substantial. The quality is also strongly affected by the grazing and invasive exotics. An end to this problem does not seem to be in sight. What the effects of climate change will be, such as longer dry periods and more and more severe tropical storms, will show in the future. A healthy resilient dry tropical forest will be better able to absorb the effects of climate change

than the current degraded habitat. Overall, the future outlook is judged to be very unfavorable.

What actions should be taken by the government to ensure ecological corridors and improve the quality of the dry tropical forest to reduce local threats such as development in order to realize the most vital and resilient dry tropical forest, which is better able to absorb the consequences of climate change, protection of so-called bat caves?

Caves

Caves are a protected habitat type under the European Habitats Directive of the EU, mainly because of the presence of bats and other often unique fauna. Unlike many habitats in Europe, Caribbean caves do not have international protected status as habitats.

Bonaire has hundreds of limestone caves. These are especially important for bats which they use as a resting place and nursery. In addition, shrimp and many different endemic freshwater crustaceans are also found in the aquatic caves.

Nine species of bats are known from Bonaire. They are the only animal species that can pollinate night-blooming columnar cacti (*Cereus repandus*, *Stenocereus griseus* and probably *Pilosocereus lanuginosus*; Nassar et al., 2003) on Bonaire. These flowers and fruits of the columnar cacti are a very important food source for the fauna of Bonaire during the dry period. Ensuring tranquility is of paramount importance for the protection and preservation of the cave fauna. The future perspective is currently assessed as moderately unfavorable.

What actions should be taken by the government/ law enforcement to prevent habitat loss (e.g. in relation to building permits and changing land use)?

Lora, Yellow-shoulder Amazon (*Amazona barbadensis*)

Habitat loss for these parrots, especially because of urbanization, is substantial. Much of the remaining habitat inside and outside the urbanized area has been degraded, mainly due to overgrazing by stray goats, donkeys and pigs. After restoration, this degraded habitat has potentially great ecological value for the species. For the time being, the habitat is assessed as very unfavorable. The future prospects associated with the decline of rural areas due to development into a residential area are considered moderately unfavorable.

What actions should be taken by the government? The main objectives are awareness, law enforcement, preservation of habitat, restoration of habitat by reforestation of rural areas, as well as the removal of free-living non-native grazers.

On the plus side, several recent reforestation experiments indicate that recovery can be very rapid and extensive once livestock is banned from an area (Debrot 2013, 2015).

Climate change

The rising sea level and the increase in the intensity of tropical storms are a direct threat to all human structures on the coast (Min. HEN, 2014). In addition, these infrastructures disrupt the proper functioning of natural coastal protection such as reefs and mangroves and destroy the coast as a green-blue connection zone on which a large number of animals depend on for their survival, such as crayfish, hermit crabs and shrimp. A spatial policy aimed at coastal development at a distance from the coast (setback policy) has many economic and ecological advantages (IUCN, 2007; Debrot and Bugter, 2010).

Healthy ecosystems have a higher resilience to the pressure of climate change. An ecosystem includes all habitats necessary for communities of organisms in all their life stages. In addition, those habitats must be large enough and interconnected (corridors) to function (Soule and Simberloff, 1986). A coherent system of nature areas, with connecting zones (corridors), contributes to

greater resilience, robustness of systems (van der Sluis et al., 2004) and allows species to adapt their acreage to changing climatic conditions and vegetation zoning (Cormont, 2011; Vonk et al., 2010).

The authors conclude that the Caribbean Netherlands' biodiversity, health of the ecosystems and iconic species, is without exception already in a *moderately unfavorable to very unfavorable state*. The existing approach addressing threats and pressures in the Caribbean Netherlands is inadequate. The predominantly negative trends will most likely continue, as there is no reason to assume that the rate of biodiversity loss will decline or stop. In general, many threats and pressures have been identified and too little is being done to stop or decrease the impact of these threats and pressures. The report states that continued inaction regarding the most significant threats and pressures will result in the state of nature becoming 100% *moderately unfavorably or even very unfavorable*. Moreover, the ecosystems that have been observed in an unfavorable state are also not sufficiently resilient to mitigate current and future effects of climate change.



18. Convention on Biological Diversity

(CBD), sixth national report of the kingdom of the Netherlands, WUR 2019.

The recent sixth national report of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, September 2019) describes a very unfavorable state of affairs of nature, concluding that only four of the 20 Aichi Targets of the CBD have been achieved in the Caribbean Netherlands and *highlighting the increased need for conservation management actions*.

The report also states the wildlands of Bolivia serve the crucial role of natural corridor for much of the native flora and fauna between northern and southern halves of the island. Therefore, to avoid ecological fragmentation at island level, significant sections of Bolivia will need to be conserved to fulfill this long-term function.

19. Human disturbance impedes growth of coral reefs around Bonaire, Oct. 2019

The coral reef around Bonaire is known to be one of the healthiest in the Caribbean. However, new research by Wageningen Marine Research shows that a large part of these reefs is not in good shape. Most of the shallow parts are hardly growing and in some cases they are even eroding away. The researchers found a negative correlation between local human activity and the growth capacity of the reef.

In locations with considerable human activity, the reef appears to hardly grow and even erode. At the same time, the reefs in the marine reserves, to which access is strictly prohibited, are relatively healthy. This wide variation in growth rate within one reef system has not previously been so accurately linked to human land-bound activity.



20. Natureplan Bonaire 2020-2024 (Natuurplan Bonaire 2018-2022), Feb. 2020

(Concept natureplan Bonaire (2018-2022) Ontwerp natuurplan Bonaire 2018-2022, Sept. 2019)

Both the risks of increasing pressure on nature and the importance of nature for economic development have been common on the island since the publication of the Pourier report in 1992. The report concludes that when nature is successfully protected, the value of nature reserves will increase due to the degradation of nature in the greater region and worldwide. The total economic value (TEV) of the ecosystem services provided by the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of Bonaire is \$105 million per year.

Economic calculations have shown for Bonaire that nature is just about the most important natural resource for the island and that if no action is taken (also) in the field of extensive livestock farming, the economic value of nature as a motive for tourism in the coming years will seriously decrease (Van der Lely et al. 2012; Schep et al. 2013). The recently completed TEEB study calculates that the "do nothing" option (for goats and Lionfish) means that within 10 years the total economic value (TEV) nature will decrease from \$105 million today to around \$60 million in ten years' time and to less than \$40 million in 30 years.

Objectives with a high priority:

- Sustainable use and protection of the special environments of Bonaire.
- Protection through legal anchoring and active marine management.
- Protecting landscape in Bolivia.
- Protecting and enhancing native biodiversity



21. Nature and Environmental Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands 2020-2030, Feb 2020

The contribution of nature to the Caribbean island economies and the well-being of its residents is profoundly clear for Bonaire. It is understood that a lack of investment in the local ecosystems will have negative impacts on the well-being of current and future generations on the island. Providing support through an integrated framework is essential to ensure that the provision of ser-

vices from the natural environment continues to support society and the local economy.

The economy of the island is highly dependent on tourism and fisheries, and thus on the natural environment. On average, the direct and indirect added value of tourism to the local economy of Bonaire represents approximately 30% of its gross domestic product (GDP), while roughly 23% of employment within the local community is related to tourism.

Bonaire is heavily dependent on repeat visitors who come for the underwater natural environment: 55% of the tourists on Bonaire are repeat visitors, and only 10% of those visitors would still be willing to return if the coral reefs became degraded. In the growing market of eco-tourism, Bonaire has a significant competitive advantage considering its intact natural environment. In other regions of the Caribbean mass tourism has already taken place and affected the coral reefs and ecosystems. In short, prosperous sustainable economy on Bonaire is not possible without healthy ecosystems. As indicated in the Staat van de Natuur 2017 Caribisch Nederland the health of the ecosystems and iconic species on the islands is in a poor state.

The island government decides which areas should be protected. Their decision-making must be led by criteria described in international treaties and conventions such as SPAW, Ramsar and the CBD. It is important that a comprehensive system of protected areas is put in place, with specific types of management to ensure conservation of biological diversity, taking into account size and connectivity (corridors) to avoid the isolation of species in areas that are too small to ensure their survival. The responsibility for the decision-making, funding, monitoring, and promotion lies with both the national and local government.

On Bonaire, building resilient and healthy coral reefs is a crucial topic. Healthy coral reefs result in the increased well-being of island residents and support their cultural identity, contributing to public health and enhancing sustainable economic development. Erosion control is a key challenge that must be addressed to achieve this sustainable development. The negative effects of construction in the coastal zone need to be addressed through a revision of spatial planning, including the delineation of a buffer zone from the shoreline in which construction activities are not allowed. To conserve the key habitats for current and future generations, increased protection and restoration of degraded habitats is required. In addition, keystone and flagship species need to be targeted to ensure healthy populations.

Most of the important habitats in the Caribbean Netherlands are currently officially designated as protected areas. There are still some that are not, such as Bolivia.

Cave systems and important breeding areas for sea and shorebirds need to be protected by local regulation and management.

The current system of protected areas will be reviewed to ensure the protection of key habitat functions, such as migratory corridors, nursery and foraging areas in the context of the second State of Nature Caribbean Netherlands 2024. Finally, eligible protected areas that are of national interest should be designated as National Parks.

- The Ministry of ANF will work together with local partners to support restoration efforts in dry and tropical forest ecosystems and mangroves to stimulate the regeneration of endemic vegetation. It is crucial that the problem of roaming livestock is resolved before any large-scale restoration efforts take place. All livestock must be kept within fenced-off properties by 2024.

Strategic goal- Restore and conserve the unique habitats and species on Bonaire: Effective conservation of key habitat functions (e.g. migratory corridors, nursery areas, foraging areas), designate currently unprotected

key habitats as protected areas, protect caves and other key bat habitats, structural reforestation of dry forest by 2030.



22. STINAPA year reports, 2005-2015, Strategic Plan STINAPA 2015-2020

Over the years from 2005 to 2015, (after 2015 there were no more yearly reports published) the annual Stinapa report listed a project whose aim was to buy Bolivia: *Bonaire Bolivia Park; funding pending, in progress, protect this natural corridor between the north and south and also the evidence of tsunamis and hurricanes that have hit the island in the past.*

In the strategic Plan 2015-2020 STINAPA stated an important aim will be to increase the number of land parks with (parts of) Bolivia and the caves. .

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