



# BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Malin Kaisjer rockin' Playa Chikitu  
Photo Julie Morgan



## Discovering more about Bonaire

This little island of Bonaire 24 miles long (38.6km) x 3-5 miles wide (4.8 -8km) is chocked full of amazing natural and historical spots that are often overlooked. A quick look at a map of the island will reveal marked sites that aren't that well known and rarely visited. But they are on the map, so we are guessing that they must be important historically. And then there are some extraordinary places that aren't on the map but should be.

A few months ago, we published an article on the site Karpata, not the dive site but the plantation, that loaned its name to the dive site. We love diving there but the history and beauty of the place itself was compelling.

And there are so many more sites just like Karpata, so *The Bonaire Reporter* and friend Malin Kaisjer are going to delve into some of the lesser-known spots on the Bonaire map, and maybe some that aren't.

We will begin this journey with Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP) that is a haven of flora, fauna and history. The park was two designated Ramsar Sites, WSNP and Gotomeer but in 2021 the two sites were joined to create one. The park includes six salinas, several freshwater springs and ponds, beach and dune areas, small patches of mangroves, pristine coral reefs, and tropical dry forests. And always when we talk about the park, we will ask WSNP Chief Ranger George "Kultura" Thode for the history. The story of the park dates back to its first inhabitants in 470 until November 18 with a

memorable visit from Princess Beatrix. (see page 12)

WSNP is one of the only large areas of land on the island that has maintained the look and feel of the old Bonaire thanks to STINAPA. The majority of buildings that exist are original and date back to the early days before WSNP was officially opened as a park on May 8, 1968. The buildings at Slagbaai have been rejuvenated a bit and the park entrance has been upgraded with improved

walkways, painting and better signage for guests.

But once you are past the entrance everything is pretty wild. Reforestation by the rangers is ongoing and with the removal of goats the vegetation in the park is thriving.

Just past the entrance to the park on the right is the easy 2.7 mile (4.34 km) Lagadishi (lizard) Walking Trail. The majority of the walk is over a limestone plateau with areas

of sharp coral that were once underwater. The trail winds its way to Playa Chikitu and an amazing ocean view. In the Saliña Matije there are often flamingos and other birds.

There is a blowhole, an old stone wall and at the mouth of Chikitu is a small sandy beach that used to extend 50 yards farther before Hurricane Ivan's wave surges minimized it in 2004. At one time there were even palapas along the edge. You can see evidence of the base stones in the shallows at the mouth of Chikitu.

The next spot in WSNP will be Kasikunda Trail. It's a steep but short .86 mile (1.4 km) hill that begins just past the entrance with the reward of a spectacular view of the island at the top.

Other sites we plan to visit are: Malmok with its 1906 lighthouse, Brandaris and Playa Frans. Outside the park we are looking forward to discovering more about Washikimba, Sterka Yerke, Playa Grandi and more.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan

STINAPA is currently looking to fill the roles of WSNP manager and Bonaire Marine Park manager. Check pages 21 and 22 of the online Reporter for the job descriptions.

<https://bonairereporter.com>



## ILT says OLB still not getting it done

Recent ILT reports on critical safety issues on the island — and the Executive Council’s responses to the criticism — confirm two of life’s lessons: activity is not accomplishment, and thinking about it is not getting it done.

Wherever the Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) found improvements it acknowledged them. Nevertheless, the ILT reports that the OLB:

- Is not fulfilling its licensing, supervision and enforcement responsibilities.
- Is ignoring the problems at the Lagun landfill, where the mountain of waste is continuing to grow and spread. “A decisive approach with sufficient funding is lacking.”

- Is ignoring the fact that various agreements under which ministries provide the OLB with help and funding will expire at the end of December.
- Is ignoring the fact that various declarations of tolerance are also scheduled to expire. They have allowed operations that constitute known dangers to continue despite violating environmental regulations.
- Is ignoring the critical threat to the island posed by the deteriorating fuel tanks at Flamingo International and Hato.
- Is failing to issue the permits Contour Global needs to increase the output of the power plant as well as the wind and solar farms in order to provide Bonaire with a stable energy supply. *DMR*

## Executive Council responds to the ILT reports

The Executive Council announced it has read the ILT report and will continue to implement improvements. It said that:

- The OLB has taken steps in the right direction in carrying out its permitting, supervision, and enforcement tasks related to the BES Act.
- It organized an environmental expo in September to inform companies about the new environmental regulations. “The OLB trusts that companies will take responsibility.”
- It believes the environmental tasks resulting from the Establishments and Activities Decree (IAB) should be carried out locally — and that takes time for government employees to master.
- Local civil servants already employed are being educated

and trained, and new ones are being recruited. Improvements are being worked on step by step.

- A significant portion of backlogged building applications has been processed. Building permits are increasingly being processed on time, and monitoring of unpermitted construction has been intensified.
- One administrative enforcement order has been imposed, and resources and materials are being made available to Selibon to implement the necessary measures.
- The landfill at Lagun is “a case where improvement is needed” and that the Executive Council’s steps in the right direction will continue until the end of next year.
- Says it will receive a report early in 2026, then base its 2026 Implementation Program on that report. *DMR*

## Executive Council accused of not funding Bonaire’s history

In 2023 the Bonaire Public Body (OLB) paid \$3.4 million to acquire Plantage Fontein. The money came from government funds plus contributions. Initially the Executive Council announced intentions to recreate Fontein as a historic site. Last April it conducted a survey to find out how people thought Fontein should be used. According to blogger Auke van der Berg, however, the results of the survey have never been reported and no funding for Fontein appears in the budget the OLB approved for 2026. Despite its historic value and ecological attractions, Fontein is neglected and deteriorating.

Critics are also accusing the government of not supporting Fundashon Históriko Kultural Boneriano (FuHiKuBo) adequately. In 1998 F.D. (Bòi) Antoin founded FuHiKuBo as a knowledge institute that would collect and preserve written, audio and visual materials, plus objects, that give insight into Bonaire’s cultural and historical past.

Over the years FuHiKuBo has received meager subsidies. Out of his own pocket Antoin has collected, housed, and protected the various kinds of artifacts. He even funded the production of Herensia, his own program that records the oral history of the

island. The program is highly popular not only on Bonaire, but also on the sister islands of Aruba and Curaçao. Herensia has been included on the ‘Memory of the World’ list by the Dutch UNESCO Committee as an important documentary heritage.

When the opposition proposed to grant the foundation \$122,000, the Executive Council and the coalition parties in the Island Council voted No.

FuHiKuBo will receive \$596,408 from the Action Agenda on Slavery Past (commonly known as “slavery funds”). However, that amount will be distributed over four years (2025-2029) and cannot be used to cover operating costs. FuHiKuBo needs sufficient systemic funding to survive as Bonaire’s archives. *DMR*



## Galileo soon to be fired up

The sensors for the Galileo Sensor Station (GSS) on Bonaire were installed this month, exactly a year after the station was handed over to The EU Agency for the Space Program (EUSPA). The station will begin operating soon. The EUSPA’s global navigation satellite system (GNSS) provides highly accurate location-determining services for various sectors, including transport, emergency relief and environmental monitoring.

The GSS network consists of several antennas placed in remote locations around the world. A spokesperson said the new site on Bonaire will improve the accuracy of the Galileo signals and the overall robustness of the services.

*DMR (Antilliaans Dagblad)*

### This Issue’s Stories

Discovering more about Bonaire	1
Kaminda di Arte coming up	3
Van der Lende head of Basic Police Care	4
Bonaire votes 2nd Chamber 2025	5
Rangers clean Isla Fogon	5
Columbia donates books to BES libraries	6
<i>Tree Kumba</i> book distributed	7
<i>No Kere Mes</i> Book launch	8
Terramar at ICOM, Dubai	9
ACE song online	9
Chefs to competition	10
Princess Beatrix on Bonaire,	12, 14
TCB October statistics	15
SCUBA awards	15
TCB invites partners for calendar & winter campaign	15
WWL-NL funds nature projects	16
Excavation Saliña di Vlijt	16
Big Live Nature Quiz for kids	16
GALA of Gratitude for caregivers	16
Miss Universe 2025	16
Integrity Part 1 of 3	17

**Our Facebook page** brings you news that arrives between issues

### Columns

Who’s Who in <i>The Reporter</i>	2
Island News:	
• ILT inspection report; Bonaire’s history not funded; Galileo	2
• Santa Clara land purchase; Digital litigation; Government drawing staff; BES funds energy poverty	7
Police	4
Ask Bob: Home solar systems	5
Letters: Santa Clara purchase	6
Buckley visits DEMA	6
Foodies’ Dining Guide	11
Optimal Health: Walking the dog	12
Corjan recipe: Bounty Ice Latte	13
Reef Glimpses: Sperm Whales	13
What’s Happening: Events; Cleanups	
• Cruise ships; Church services	14
Public Service events	15
Garden: hiring; hoba fruit	17
Business Directory	18
Pets of the Week:	
• Cat- Jan. Dog - Yeila	19
Animal Shelter News: Christmas Market	19
Accessibility: A list for your home	19

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**Island news**

**...to page 7**

# Celebrating art and community together

Kaminda di Arte (Road to Art) November 29-30 is a tradition on Bonaire, and since 2024 it has been proudly hosted by Sobremesa Gallery & Art Center. All over the island, artists open their studios and museums, and galleries are transformed into pop-up creative spaces. Everyone is welcome to explore the wide range of artistic styles on Bonaire, meet the creators and purchase original pieces.

see where the magic happens and learn the stories behind their work. Many artists have asked me if it could make a comeback, and that encouragement inspired me to bring it back.”

Kaminda di Arte aligns perfectly with Sobremesa’s mission of creating an open space for creativity as everyone is welcome from pros to hobbyist. The event is totally diverse with work from serious painters and muralist to sculptors and furniture decorators.

**Here is how it works:** Before you set out on the road to art go to [www.sobremesa-bonaire.com](http://www.sobremesa-bonaire.com) to browse the many participating artists to select who and where you would like to visit and note what day(s) they are showing. Access the interactive map to find all the artists’ addresses. Paper maps are also available to pick up at Sobremesa.

**The artists participating are:** Liduine Ebbers, Louise vd Zwaag, Leslie van Valkenberg, Suzanne Domenech (Studio Nice), Loes Praagman (Aloha Bonaire), Mimi Lichtenberg, Babs Negelen, Lize van de Ven, Jose Smit, Yves Abbink, Hedy Voets, Marthina Hernandez, Vibra, Omula, Saskia Vermeer, Merel Bal, Laurie Smith (InsPOURation Art), Felicia Schutte, Hendrik Wuyts, Brenda Bultema (Kazoorose Glass), Babette Loos, Carlos Orras Orozco, Eric Cremers, LiekStyles fashion, Judmar Emerenciana (Marz), Joeldrich Muzo, Mr Jackson (Change Boring Walls, Ilanos, Shai Cicilia, Morloes Poots, Artie de Vries, Josephine Ebing, Adrie van de Ven, Sharon Bol (Meh Goatware), Nochi Coffie, Emma Groeneveldt, Jozee Tjoa, Genevieve Gougou, Vanessa Peralta, Andrea Villegas, Geraldine Ellis, Mariela Domacasse-Winklaar, Tiffany Leyba and Maria Arboleda.



Artist, Joeldrich Muzo

Karine de Wit, owner of Sobremesa said, “Years ago, Bonaire hosted a smaller version of this event, and I absolutely loved it. Visiting artists in their own creative spaces feels so much more personal than walking through a gallery – you get to talk directly with them,



Artist, Studio Nice

**Museums and galleries participating are:** SACA, Ter-ramar Museum Bonaire, Sobremesa and Museo Chich’i Tan (Rincon). Artists and galleries will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information: [www.sobremesa-bonaire.com](http://www.sobremesa-bonaire.com).

### Our dream?

We hope Kaminda di Arte becomes a beloved annual celebration—known across Bonaire—with at least half the island jumping into their cars to visit artists, explore new places, and discover local talent. We’d love to welcome tourists and newcomers (it’s such a fun way to get to know the island and meet locals!), but more than anything, we want the community of Bonaire to show up for its artists: by visiting, listening, connecting, and—when inspired—taking home a unique piece of art.

*Sobremesa*

## FOR SALE Crown Shores 10 Well Maintained Villa with Ocean Access



- Location: Sabadeco, walking distance to the ocean
- Lot size: 2,103 m<sup>2</sup> / 22,634 sq. ft. owned land
- 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, 1 bedroom apartment

- Ocean views and deeded ocean access
- Pool, tropical garden, parking, storage

Virtual 3D Tour



Asking price \$ 1,450,000 US Dollar

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# POLICE REPORT

You can contact the police via 715 8000, 911 or via the anonymous tip line 9310.

## Property crimes

**Nov. 13.** While the occupants were diving, a dry bag, keys, sunglasses, towels, and clothing were stolen from a pickup truck parked at the dive site "Weber's Joy."

**Nov. 13.** While the occupants were snorkeling, two mobile phones, a bank card, and cash were stolen from a car parked between the dive sites "Invisibles (51)" and "Maui Beach."

**Nov. 12.** Around 10:20 p.m. a burglary was reported at a business located on Kaya General Manuel Piar. Upon arrival police found a suspect in the act and immediately proceeded to arrest him. A man, 30, was arrested for burglary.

**Nov. 12.** Unknown persons gained access to a dive shop located at a tourist accommodation on Kaya Internashonal stole a safe containing cash.

**Nov. 11.** Unknown persons gained access to a diving school on E.E.G. Boulevard twice in the same evening and stole several items, including diving equipment.

**Nov. 11.** Unknown persons gained access to tourist accommodation on E.E.G. Boulevard and stole sunglasses, prescription glasses, passports, cash, snorkeling gear, a watch, jewelry, clothing, and books.

**Nov. 10.** A black Herschel bag containing several towels and a T-shirt was stolen from Te Amo Beach.

**Nov. 10.** Tools were stolen from two containers at a property near a house under construction on Kaya Palladium. The stolen items included a hammer drill, an angle grinder, a mixer, and a saw.

**Nov. 8.** Around 6:30 p.m. a police patrol on Kaya Internashonal spotted a scooter with two occupants who were not wearing helmets. The scooter did not have a license plate, and investigation revealed that it had been reported stolen October 31. Both suspects, two minors aged 14 and 17 were arrested for receiving stolen goods and theft. The same suspects had previously hidden a scooter on E.E.G. Boulevard that was also likely stolen.

**Nov. 7.** In the evening police received a report of an scooter parked in the yard of a house on Kaya Korona that did not belong to the residents. Investigation revealed that this scooter had been reported stolen the day before.

**Nov. 5.** Around 7:40 a.m. a break-in was reported at a business on E.E.G. Boulevard. Unknown persons entered the premises, but as far as we know, nothing was taken.

**Nov. 4/5.** A blue-purple Hyundai Accent, hatchback model, with license plate B-6414, was stolen between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. while parked locked in the yard of a house on Kaya Andres A. Emerenciana.

**Nov. 4.** Around 1:15 a.m. a police patrol encountered two young men on two fat bikes on Julio A. Abraham Boulevard. The men were wearing hoodies and balaclavas, and one of them was carrying an angle grinder. The situation immediately raised suspicion among the officers of possible criminal activity, so the patrol decided to turn around to check on the individuals. However, the suspects quickly fled. The officers immediately searched the area and found the fat bikes. Shortly thereafter, the two suspects, aged 17 and 19 were found in the area and immediately arrested on suspicion of theft. The fat bikes the suspects were previously seen riding had been stolen from a tourist accommodation on Kaya Inglaterra.

**Nov. 3.** At approximately 4:30 p.m. police received a report of theft from a rented car on Toeristenweg. The complainant stated that after diving, he discovered that unknown persons had entered his vehicle and taken his backpack and its contents. The backpack contained, among other things, the key to his pickup truck.

**Nov. 3.** Around 3 p.m. a theft at a tourist accommodation on Kaya Inglaterra was reported. Items stolen included a telephone, a laptop, and several cards.

**Nov. 2.** A sum of money was stolen from a facility. The money was stored in an envelope in a locked cabinet.

**Nov. 1/2.** On Sunday, a fat bike was stolen while parked behind a residence on Kaya Pos di Watapana. It had been secured with a chain lock. It was a black fat bike, a Bikers Choice Helmet.

**Nov. 1/2.** Gasoline was stolen from the tank of a fishing boat at a slipway located on Bulevar J.A. Abraham. The

complainant stated that he had moored his boat in good condition and padlocked it on Saturday. When he returned Sunday morning, the lock was broken and the gasoline had been taken from the tank.

## Arrests

**Nov. 8.** A man, 37, was arrested on Kaya Rosaura for threats and assault. Investigation showed that the suspect was on the island illegally. He has been transferred to the Immigration Control Department of the KPCN and is awaiting deportation to his country of origin.

**Nov. 6.** A man, 25, was arrested for violating the BES Firearms Act. The arrest is part of an ongoing investigation.

**Nov. 4.** Around 5:30 a.m. police, with the support of the Special Assignments Group (GBO), searched a home on Kaya Gramel. A quantity of suspected narcotics was found. A man, 44, was arrested.

**Nov. 3.** Police received a report of an assault that allegedly took place on Kaya Kobat around 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 1st. The victim stated that she had been assaulted and injured by three people.

**Nov. 3.** A man, 19, was arrested for violating the BES Firearms Act.

## Traffic accidents / DUIs

*Under the policy 'botsen is blazen' ('to collide is to blow') a breath test is given drivers who have accidents.*

**Nov. 11.** Around 6:30 a.m. a car hit a pedestrian on Kaminda Lagun. The ambulance then took the victim to the hospital for medical treatment. In accordance with the "crash is blow" policy, the driver of the car was given a breathalyzer test. The blood alcohol content showed that the driver had consumed alcohol, but not more than the legal limit. However, the driver was unable to produce a driver's license and was ticketed for this.

**Nov. 7.** Around 1:25 p.m. a scooter and a pickup truck collided at the intersection of Kaya Internashonal and Bulevar Julio A. Abraham. When the pickup truck attempted to turn left, the scooter collided with the back of it. The scooter driver was taken to the hospital by ambulance r.

**Nov. 5.** Around 9:30 p.m. across from the airport on Kaya Internashonal, a car hit a pedestrian. The driver of the car was driving south and did not see the pedestrian crossing the road. The victim was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

**From Nov. 5 to Nov. 13** police reported that seven drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Drivers who register a positive result on a breath test given at their vehicles are arrested and taken to the police station for a breath analysis.

One of the drivers was involved in a two-car collision on Kaya Tintorero. One crashed into the stone wall of a house, and then drove away. One driver was obstructing traffic at Plasa Reina Wilhelmina because he had a flat tire, and one was stopped on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham for driving without working tail lights. Police stopped one driver for a routine check, another for driving without lights and weaving in the road. The driver of the scooter was stopped because her passenger was not wearing a helmet.

Four drivers were driving without a driving license, and one without proof of insurance. One driver was given a three-hour driving ban, another a five-hour driving ban, and three driver's licenses were confiscated.

## Speed checks

*The speed limit in built-up areas is 40 km/h and 60 km/h outside of them.*

**Nov. 3.** Between 6 and 7 a.m. police measured speed with a laser gun on E.E.G. Boulevard, near Kaya Ir. Randolph Statius van Eps where the speed limit is 40 km/h. The highest recorded speed was 82 km/h. Seven tickets were issued: exceeding the speed limit x4; failing to produce a valid driver's license x1; driving without valid insurance x1; not displaying a license plate on both the front and rear x1.

**Nov. 9 & 10.** In the early evening hours a laser gun was

used to measure the speed of approaching vehicles on a section of E.E.G. Boulevard where the speed limit is 40 km/h. One ticket was issued for exceeding the speed limit. The measured speeds ranged between 40 and 80 km/h.

## Fire

**Nov. 9.** Around 5:30 a.m. a fire on Kaya Maria Carmen Hellmund-Boom was reported. A stove was on fire at an apartment complex. The resident managed to extinguish the fire, but an explosion occurred, burning his hand. He was taken to the hospital. The fire department inspected the house and disconnected the gas bottles.

**Nov. 2.** A fire was reported at a house on Washikemba. Construction workers and neighbors had already largely extinguished the fire before the police and fire department arrived. The fire originated from a tool battery that caught fire while charging.

## Public Order

**Nov. 12.** Around 11:45 a.m. the emergency dispatch center received a report of a snorkeler experiencing difficulties in the water at a beach on E.E.G. Boulevard near the salt pier. When the police and ambulance arrived, the person had been brought to shore and bystanders were performing resuscitation. The ambulance crew immediately took over and continued resuscitation efforts, but unfortunately, they were unsuccessful. The deceased was a 58-year-old man with the initials M.J.J.V., born on August 11, 1967, in the Netherlands.

**Nov. 6.** Counterfeit banknotes may be in circulation. A US\$20 bill thought to be counterfeit was turned into the police station.

**Nov. 6.** Several pepper sprays sold by a supermarket were seized, and police made it clear that the supermarket employee responsible must no longer purchase or sell pepper spray. Some of this product has already been sold to consumers. Possession of pepper spray is dangerous and illegal, and can lead to legal problems, fines, or even arrests. The KPCN therefore urgently calls on anyone in possession of pepper spray to voluntarily surrender it to the Playa police station. This can be done at any time, without further consequences. Anyone unable to come to the station can call the police so they can collect the items.

**Nov. 5.** Around 2:40 a.m. a police patrol stopped a car for a check on E.E.G. Boulevard. Two minors were in the vehicle: a 16-year-old driver and a 14-year-old passenger. The driver was fined for driving without a license. Both young people were taken to the police station, where their parents later picked them up.

**Nov. 1.** In the evening police received a report of a public assault on Kaya Vibrafon. At the scene, officers found a man who said he had been assaulted by two other men. The victim sustained injuries and was assessed at the scene by paramedics.

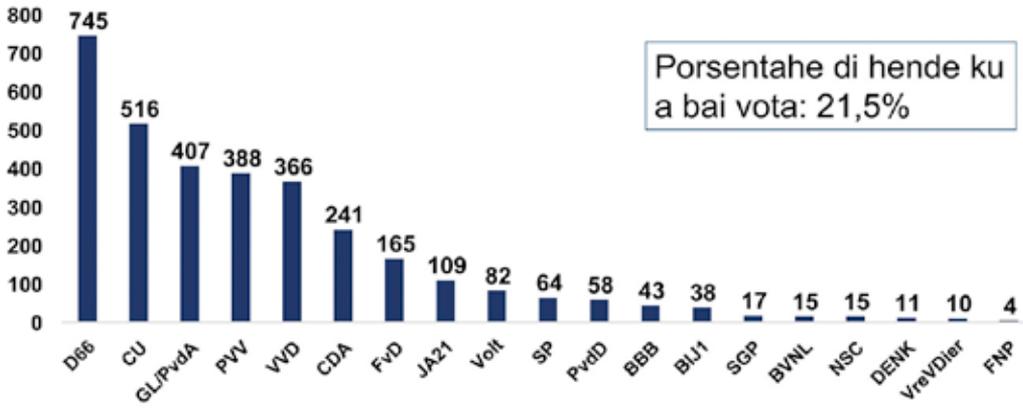


The Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) welcomes Frank van der Lende as its new Head of Basic Police Care (BPZ). Van der Lende joins from the Police Force of Aruba (KPA) and brings with him more than thirty years of police experience, most of which was gained in the Caribbean part of the Dutch Kingdom.

KPCN



## Resultado di eleksjon na Boneiru pa Parlamento Hulandes 2025



Bonaire residents once again were able to exercise their right to vote in the Second Chamber elections that took place on October 29, 2025. On Bonaire, 15,578 people were eligible to vote, and 3,294 residents cast their ballots, a turnout of 21.5%. 2025's numbers show a slight decline from 2023 when 4,037 residents voted. The ballots cast on Bonaire mirrored the European results with D66 leading the 2025 House of Representatives elections.

## STINAPA Rangers clean up Isla Fogon



The STINAPA rangers entered the water off Punta Kalbas and were now wading for 20 minutes to reach Isla Fogon. They could have taken a boat to the island. But the walk in the water is the perfect warm-up for the task on the island. At Isla di Kalki, they would go ashore, where fellow rangers from Washington Marine Park are awaiting them in a boat playing cheerful reggaeton music. "Is it safe here? Is there a crocodile nearby?" a ranger is asking the group with a smile.

The hard work is yet to begin. The group walks along the side of a muddy, swampy gully. The rangers place their feet on the slippery roots that lie crisscrossed at uneven distances heights. With their feet they balance on the roots, their hands gripping thick, low-hanging branches. After a while, the landscape changes, and they emerge onto a barren plain with charred patches.

"Here they used to burn limestone to produce lime for house construction. Boi Antoin from FUHIKUBO showed us around once. Wouldn't it be a good idea to have him show us around again?" a ranger remarked. About half an hour after they left Punta Kalbas, the cleanup operation in a mangrove forest began.

The assignment is to clean up all the trash brought in by the sea. Gloves are put on, and the large blue garbage bags are distributed. The trash is often buried under roots or at difficult-to-reach places. One ranger has discovered

a large number of bottles and trash in a hole. He lowers himself into the hole and passes the bottles one by one to a colleague.

The only lady in the group spotted a bottle just beneath some low-hanging branches. It's difficult to reach. She stretches out on the branches, lowers her arm, and bingo. The air is humid and uncomfortably hot. But the rangers work hard. "We are soldiers. "We do what's necessary to do, out of love for nature," is how one ranger describes the work.

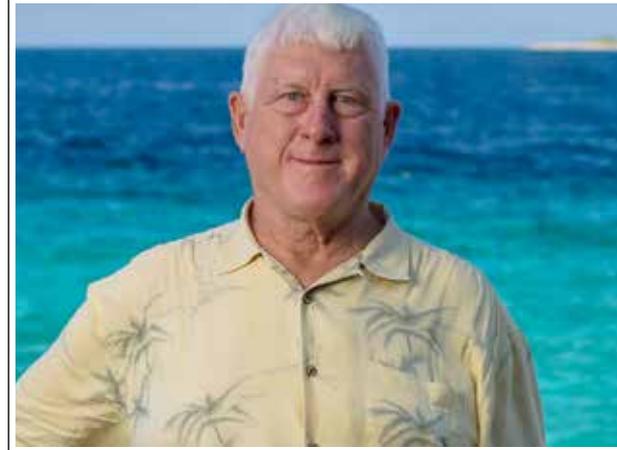
The cleanup operation yields a colorful collection of items including bottles of liquor and soda, deodorant, a car motor hood, a brightly colored ball, toothpaste, bottles of motor oil, small plastic shot glasses, and cans of chewing gum. Once the garbage bags are filled, the group walks back to the boat, where the bags are loaded.

"It does stink near the mangroves," one ranger notes. "Definitely," replies another. "But we're used to it, though. Last year, we worked for two and a half months in the unbearable stench of sargassum to clean up that mess. People have no idea what our job entails." The rangers wade through the water toward Punta Kalbas. It's another 20-minute trek, this time under the blazing sun. But a real soldier wouldn't walk away from that.

*STINAPA press release*

## Ask Bob

*Bonaire real estate advice*



Hi Bob,

I am considering putting a solar system on my house. Is it worth putting solar panels on my house on Bonaire, and if I install them, how will that affect the value of my house? Pieter C., Bonaire

Hi Pieter,

That's a really good question! I recently installed a solar system on my house which has both solar panels and back up batteries. The cost of both solar panels and batteries continue to go down so the systems are getting more affordable all the time. The system I installed has solar panels for power during the day and batteries to provide power on cloudy days or at night. After all of my costs for the system, I estimate that the system will pay for itself in less than four years by reducing my electrical costs. My system is also connected to WEB so I still have power if there are a few rainy days and my batteries run low. My system does not sell power back to WEB as the extra costs required to sell back to WEB are not justified by the low amount of credit you get from selling it to WEB.

A good solar system does add to the value of your house because more buyers are concerned about reducing their impact on the environment and keeping their costs of living on Bonaire low. A well designed solar power system provides a good selling point for your house when you decide to sell it.

There are a number of really good solar power providers on Bonaire, so don't be afraid to get a couple of quotes to see the cost to convert your house into a solar powered house. The best part is, even when the WEB power goes out, you will still have power for your house.

All the best, Bob

**Bob Bartikoski,**  
*Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner*

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# Letters & 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.

## Call for Immediate Resignations

Secretary Marum, Gov. J. Soliano and all it concerns:

It is clear that the only proper recourse is to demand the immediate resignations of Clark Abraham, Peter Silbertie, Anthony Weber and Christopher Frans as they are all clearly implicit in the inexplicable, inexcusable actions surrounding the government purchase of the Abraham Santa Clara land and the likelihood that the actions could only occur with the unexplained resignations of N. den Heyer and A. Cicilia.

That the sale was not initially in any government planned purchase scheme, was above advertised market price, the minutes of the meetings were conveniently not available and occurred after the two deputies left is sufficient reason to demand the resignations as a clear betrayal of public interest and trust.

The unfortunate issue is if the resignations are not demanded, the question remains as to the foreknowledge and condoning of the actions by the you, the Governor and State Secretary.

Please act for the benefit of the Bonairean population and restore some semblance of public trust and demand the resignations.

Charles M. Baltayan

# Library receives book collection from Colombian authors



(L-R) Commissioner Peter Silberie, Jennifer Pocomie-Maris, Edison Rijna and Colombian representative. Photo Julie Morgan

To mark 200 years of diplomatic relations with Colombia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Colombian Embassy presented a 20-book collection by Colombian women authors to each BES Island library.

Special Envoy Edison Rijna received the books and he and commissioner Peter Silberie delivered the books in a small ceremony to Jennifer Pocomie-Martis of Public Library Bonaire on November 13.

Rijna said, "On behalf of the government of the Republic of Colombia, I am presenting twenty books by Colombian female authors to the Library of Bonaire. This cultural gift highlights the long-standing and close diplomatic relation-

ship between Colombia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and strengthens the warm ties with the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. This gesture takes place in the context of celebrating nearly two hundred years of diplomatic relations between Colombia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. These books also serve as a valuable contribution to inspiration, knowledge, and cultural exchange on our islands. I wish everyone much reading pleasure."

The books are an assortment of biographies, poetry, anthology, slavery history, fiction and even a play. Colombia's Minister of Culture, Pilar Quintana, was responsible for the selection of women authors for the collection.

Julie Morgan

## Buckley visits DEMA by George Buckley

I have been at the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA) convention in Orlando, Florida at the huge Orange County Convention Center for their annual industry-wide convention November 11 – 14.

DEMA began in 1977 and has grown to be one of the largest gatherings of manufacturers of diving equipment, dive resorts and hotels, tourism marketing groups, dive organizations, environmental and safety groups and more. The event is geared towards industry professionals and manufacturers, sellers and buyers of gear and travel, not the general public. It attracts thousands of attendees, several hundred exhibitors and dozens of presentations and workshops on the latest equipment, training and safety updates, environmental issues and dive related travel. The show location now alternates yearly between Orlando, Las Vegas and New Orleans.

Amongst the most interesting presentations was one on a new regulator from Mares, an Italian dive equipment manufacturer founded in Rapallo, Italy by Ludovico Mares in 1949 which acquired the US manufacturer, Dacor in 1999. The new regulator, called 'the future of natural breathing', the PLANET 88x regulator uses what is being called Airmatic Technology and replaces mechanical springs with a pneumatic valve. Having been a confirmed 'piston regulator' user for decades before becoming a 'high pressure seat' reg user, I look forward to testing this creation. Other new equipment on display included masks, fins, underwater lights and associated gear and gauges that featured advanced technologies that improved use and/or function. Of note was the increasing use of AI in both dive gear and training. It was interesting to try to discern the functional uses and to ponder future uses (as with the demonstration of an AI



controlled dive trimming and propulsion device that is in development)

Many presentations and exhibits featured topics or equipment that would relate or appeal to both snorkelers and SCUBA divers. Other programs appealed specifically to dive and resort operators and included updates on the emerging Coast Guard and soon international standards related to liveaboard dive vessels and operators that have been developed since the tragic Channel

Islands dive boat loss in 2019. One of the safety programs focused on the newer full face snorkel masks and incidents of sometimes lethal carbon dioxide build up from incomplete clearing due to total mask volume and hard to clear areas. Another workshop focused on various diving industry liability issues .

Many environmental topics and issues were well covered at the DEMA show: the impacts and prevention of marine plastic pollution, manta ray, shark and whale conservation and protection efforts and lion fish control.

The underwater publishing groups are working hard to provide a range of online and print offerings and identification guides are ever improving. Underwater photography had a number of exhibitors with ever improving gear. The field has come a very long way from flash bulbs, 35 mm film, manual exposure calculations and the venerable Nikonos that introduced legions to the art, craft and science of underwater imaging. Global dive travel and tourism appeared to be strong with a wide range of displays by region. Bonaire was very well represented, with a large banner indicating the location of their exhibits.



George Buckley has been coming to Bonaire since 1976, working with Captain Don ( who called him CLAM for his work with mollusks), Hendrik Wuyts and others on environmental projects and films. He has led over 100 study groups to Bonaire. Semiretired from decades of teaching at Harvard, he now works as an environmental consultant.

## Thielman blows whistle on land sale, Abraham says he'll sue

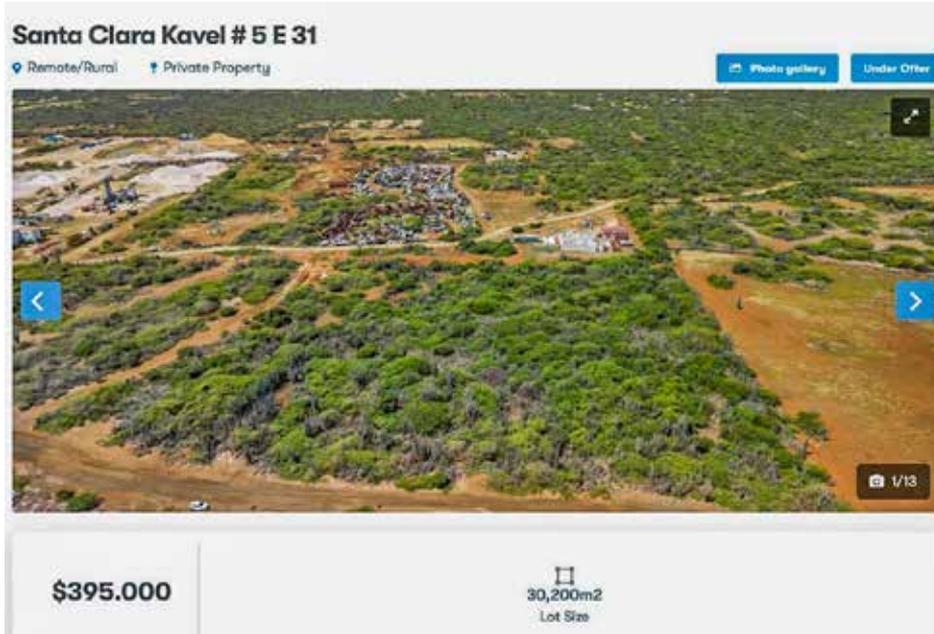
Well here's what happened, according to reports coming in from all directions.

The OLB purchased 30,200 square meters of land in the Santa Clara area. The land had been offered on the market for \$395,000. The Executive Board happened to pay \$450,000 for it. The seller happened to be a relative of Island Executive Deputy Clark Abraham.

Council Member Hennyson Thielman (MPB) complained to Island Governor John Soliano.

Governor Soliano said he will launch a fact-finding investigation. "An independent external research agency will conduct the investigation in collaboration with the Integrity Bureau of the Public Entity of Bonaire. The investigation will examine when the Santa Clara process began, which decisions were made and by whom, which parties were involved, and how the administrative processes unfolded.

Abraham did not take the news well. He immediately denied all impropriety. He later released documents "that un-



equivocally confirm that he was consistently and voluntarily excused from the deliberations and decision-making within the Executive Council (BC) regarding the purchase of the Heavy Industry property in Santa Clara."

Further, a November 17 press release

declared, "[Abraham] expresses his disappointment at the tactics used by some council members to tarnish his good name and reputation. He emphasizes that these actions not only amount to unfounded personal attacks, but also violate the code of conduct and gentle agreement that should apply within the

Island Council...Commissioner Abraham calls for a return to administrative stability and a respectful political culture, with a focus on serving the public interest of Bonaire."

Abraham called his lawyer too. Subsequently Attorney Winkel accused the MPB of negligence and demanded the MPB publish an immediate and broadly distributed retraction no later than 8 p.m. on November 11, 2025, then mailed the letter on November 12. "The MPB must also "offer the Bonairean community a sincere and unconditional apology for the damage caused and the broken trust," Winkel said.

According to a statement from The Hague, Acting Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond has spoken with the Governor and will be informed of the findings of the investigation. Helmond will await the conclusions "before we make any statements about how this matter relates to the principles of good governance."

DMR

## Government disrupting labor market, study shows

The island government is drawing staff away from the private sector, according to a study carried out by the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. The government is offering much better working conditions and pay. Employers in sectors such as hospitality, retail, construction and recreation cannot compete for employees.

The ministry blames the lack of collective labor agreements (CLAs) in the private sector. Mostly only government workers are protected by CLAs. In the European Netherlands almost all workers are protected by a CLA. The agreements not only assure fair wages, they promote standardized secondary benefits and more job security. Once signed, most CLAs are legally binding on the employer.

Support for CLAs is growing though. Healthcare institutions are aligning their working conditions within the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom. Trade unions are becoming more visible. Recently an employer started a Cost-benefit analysis (CBA) process. DMR (BESreporter)

STINAPA is currently looking to fill the roles of WSNP manager and Bonaire Marine Park manager.

Check pages 21 and 22 of the online Reporter for the job descriptions.

<https://bonairereporter.com>.

## Lawyers can litigate digitally at the Supreme Court

Lawyers and citizens in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom will be able to log in and litigate at the Supreme Court, effective December 1. In criminal cases only lawyers and designated members of the Public Prosecutor's office will have access to the service. Suspects will not be able to litigate digitally themselves.

In tax cases, citizens can choose whether to litigate digitally. Companies, governments, lawyers and tax advisors will be required to. Those who do not have a Dutch digital ID can get help from the front office. DMR (Curaçao Chronicle)

## BES gets more money to combat energy poverty

Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba have been awarded €1 million from the Temporary Emergency Energy Fund. The islands can decide how they want to spend the money, as long as it is used to combat energy poverty. The 2025 and 2026 budgets already provide €4 million each year to cover the energy allowance for low-income households. The new cabinet will decide whether the energy surcharge for the Caribbean Netherlands continues after 2026. DMR

## Tree Kumba - Another book for the Island's children



Angliet Baidjoe, author, and Paul Ruiz, managing director of Kas di Futuro.

Angliet Baidjoe, columnist for The Bonaire Reporter "A Garden – Just do it", introduced her book *The Story of Tree Kumba* to a crowd of about 50 at Kas di Futuro on November 15.

The book, written in Papiamentu, Dutch and English, is a tale about climate crisis told from the viewpoint of a tree from the Amazon forest. The story is based on one of the many tales Angliet has told her students over the years. The book can be read and explained to younger children and the older ones can read it themselves.

***Tree Kumba: I am the wind, the water, the earth. I breathe, move, grow, feel. I am nature, I am Tree Kumba.***

Kumba is derived from the Afro Surinamese word Koemba and means navel. Angliet is Surinamese and has developed many stories from her home coun-

try. With the word "navel" in her story, she puts the tree at the center of Mother Earth. Angliet is the author of several children's books: Little Donkey Bibi, Bonnie the Fish and Kaki the Cactus. The stories have been made into cartoons in Tales of Angliet on YouTube.

Guests at the event enjoyed local music from a few members of the Hofi Kultural Band playing the Quatro, symphonia and Banduria, a type of mandolin.

*Kas di Futuro is a renovated home converted into a part time summer school, tutoring and transition classes for international school kids, Dutch lessons for Latinos at night and digital learning on computers in collaboration with FORMA. Organizations may rent the building for meetings. Paul Ruiz is the managing director.*

Story / Photo Julie Morgan

# Don't even think about it

As part of Children's Book Week, author and bird photographer Denise de Jongh-Rekwest introduced her latest children's book, *Don't even think about it (No Kere Mes)*, on November 11 at Rancho Acapulco.



Denise de Jongh



Writers participating in Children's Book Week attended the book presentation: Kati Qui, Denise de Jongh, Lia Booi, Popchi Soli, Jakeema Henriquez, Jackie Bernabela, Michael Reefs, Miloushka Meulens and Tito Ansano.

Of the passionate writer's 25 books, this is the first about her other passion – birds. Her photos are used along with illustrations by Gairo Tromp to tell the story of two children walking in the countryside in search of identifying and photographing birds found on Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba. The kids talk, the birds talk, and the children learn a valuable lesson about nature and caring for wildlife.

Denise explained the reason behind the book is to help children identify, name and learn the characteristics of island birds and secondly underline the importance of protecting them.

*Don't even think about it to page 9*

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# Terramar Museum team participates at ICOM in Dubai

It was a remarkable moment for the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at the ICOM (International Council of Museums General Conference 2025, November 10 - 14. Museum professionals, policymakers, and cultural leaders from all over the world gathered to learn, exchange ideas, and shape the future of museums together.

The Dutch delegation from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom, including the Terramar Museum of Bonaire were Museum Director Jude Finies and her management team. They participated in various programs and sessions which Finies described as “both an honor and a responsibility.”



Jude Finies

## Caribbean perspectives in a global dialogue

“Museums play a crucial role in how societies understand and present themselves,” Finies shares. “Our Caribbean stories, our heritage, and our communities are deeply intertwined with world history. It is essential that these perspectives are embedded in the international dialogue on museums, identity, and the future.”

During the conference, Finies delivered two presentations:

- Together with her management team, on collaboration, sustainability, and the strength of local communities;
- A solo presentation, on museums as places of connection, awareness, and resilience in the Caribbean region.

The Dutch delegation was also welcomed at a reception hosted by the Dutch Consul General, H.E. Paul Ymkers, an evening dedicated to culture, diplomacy, and meaningful exchange. To add to the excitement, the Netherlands has officially been shortlisted to host the ICOM General Conference in 2028.

## Ethical dilemmas and museum decolonization: a powerful contribution

The Terramar Museum team presented during the session “From Talk to Action with a Global Perspective: What Does Museum Decolonization Really Look Like?”, organized by the International Committee on Ethical Dilemmas. Their contribution was structured around three interlinked themes:

- Silence and Confrontation - addressing the importance of breaking silences and centering community voices;
- A Performance or a Transformation? - exploring what meaningful decolonization looks like in museum practice;
- Libertat, Igualdat i Fraternidat - a call for freedom, equality, and brotherhood that continues to resonate deeply within the Caribbean consciousness.

The Bonaire team found it particularly enlightening to learn how institutions in China, Japan, and Norway curate and engage with stories, artifacts, and histories related to decolonization. This international exchange reaffirmed that the island is on the right path by opening up these conversations and making them accessible to a wider audience.

## Step by step: from representation to transformation

The Terramar Museum continues to strengthen the ethical foundations of its work. “We are growing step by step,” Finies says. “Not out of ambition alone, but because this work is essential to our broader emancipation as a community. We are moving from reflection to renewal - from representation to genuine transformation.”

## Strategic representation from the Dutch Caribbean

On November 15, Finies took the stage for a second time at the BC-15 (INTERCOM, ICOMON) at the Expo Centre in Dubai. She presented her paper “Leadership and Strategic Advocacy: Strategic Representation and Cultural Diplomacy in Practice in the Dutch Caribbean.”



Newly elected ICOM Antonio Rodrigues, Terramar Museum manager and coordinator Maya Narvaes, Terramar director Jude Finies and Terramar fundraiser Erik Post.

This paper highlights her recent work as a sector representative for arts and culture on Bonaire, focusing on strengthening the island’s cultural and museum infrastructure through strategic advocacy, cross-sector collaboration, and targeted fundraising. These efforts have significantly increased national recognition and resource mobilization for the protection and promotion of Bonaire’s cultural heritage. Her approach aligns closely with Dubai’s own strategy for cultural diplomacy.

Finies said, “This trip and work has been so successful for us from Bonaire because:

1. Caribbean (Barbados Museum has won the museum world award) - it gives us so much boost to continuing working on the programs we have.
2. Rotterdam has won as the city to organize the next general conference in 2028.
3. The new president, Antonio Rodriguez is from Venezuela and represents the LAC museums (Latin America and Caribbean).

In terms of diplomacy our attendance has therefore positioned Bonaire with a great asset for collaboration!”

The Terramar Museum also expresses deep gratitude to the local government of Bonaire, the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW), and ICOM Netherlands for their continuous support and commitment to advancing this work.

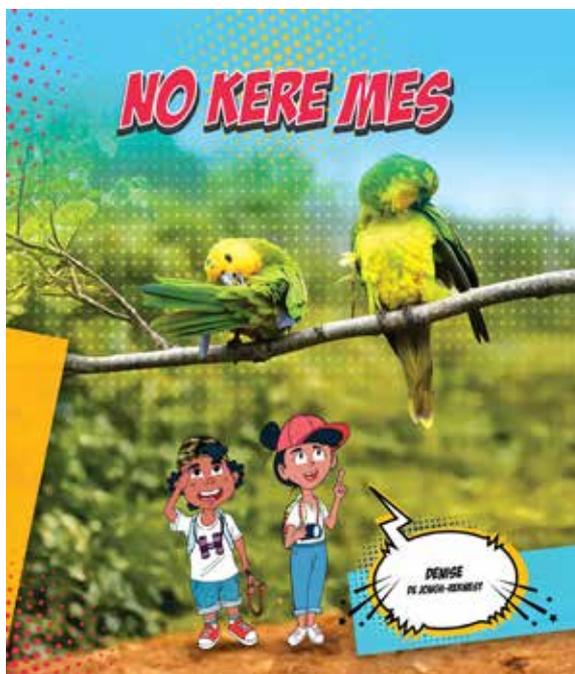
Jude Finies, Terramar Museum

## Don't even think about it from page 8

Father Mark from La Birgin di Coromoto spoke and blessed the new book and Popchi Soli from Curaçao, a participant in Children’s Book Week entertained the adults and children. Denise and Daniel Deanda of Cargill, who helped finance the publishing, handed out several copies of the book in Papiamentu to representatives from 10 schools: Raya di Solo, Strea Briante, Skol Amplio Papa Caornes, Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador, Kolegio San Bernardo, Kolegio San Luis Beltran, Pelikaan School, Aquamarin School Het Koraal and Emma Schermer School.

In attendance were colleague writers participating in Children’s Book Week and the school representatives.

The book is available for sale in English at local bookstores. To learn more about Denise’s books visit Denise Rekwest on Facebook. Story / photos Julie Morgan



## See the video - ACE kids perform a song inspired by Book Week



ACE Club proudly presents “Bòshi Aventura met ACE,” a new song sung by three young people: Juliendra Janga, Keithley, and Eithrich Torregrosa. The song is inspired by the theme of Children’s Book Week 2025: “Full of Adventure,” and takes children into a world of fantasy, friendship, and adventure.

The young people of ACE Club collaborated with their coach on the song and the music video during a creative session. The music video reflects their own imagination, in which they brought every word to life through color, movement, and rhythm.

ACE invites you to visit YouTube and search for: ACE - BÒSHI AVENTURA FEAT. JULIENDRA, KEITHLEY & EITHRICH, to enjoy the music video, produced by ACE Foundation leaders Zoe Bernardina and Xechell Jacobs.

# Bonaire Culinary Team heads to Taste of the Caribbean

Bonaire's Culinary Team 2025 headed to Barbados on November 14 to compete in the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA) Taste of Caribbean. This is the Caribbean's premier culinary and mixologist showcase and the Bonaire team is sure to bring home the gold as they have in past years.

The competition runs from November 16-18 at the Wyndham Grand Barbados, Sam Lord's Castle Resort & Spa, located at Long Bay Saint Philip, in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Bonaire's team this year consists of Bart Tholen, team manager, owner of Joes' Restaurant; Jake Kelkboom, senior chef, head chef at Rum Runners; Elise Weerstand, pastry chef, owner of Sweeti Bakery and Blue Lagun Café; Akeesha Cicilia, junior chef; Christiaan Silva Aparicio, F & B manager at Delfins and Chelsie Trinidad, second senior chef, chef at Plaza Resort.

After the opening and welcome reception on Sunday the team got to work on Monday with workshops, chef competitions and bartending contest for non-alcoholic and rum. Tuesday was the big day with junior and pastry chef competitions, a bartender mystery basket and the award ceremony in the evening.

. Story / photos Julie Morgan



Bonaire Culinary Team 2025 L-R: Akeesha Cicilia, Chelsie Trinidal, Christian Silva, Bart Tholen, Elise Weerstand, Jake Kelkboom. Kneeling in front is Flavio Maestroni, team photographer. Photo Julie Morgan

(Results of the winners were unavailable at press time but look on our Facebook page for the results.)

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NOVEMBER 27, 2025

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*Sauteed Broccoflower, Broccoli, Carrot - Green Veggie Casserole with bacon bits & red onions  
Spicy Cranberry & Apple Relish - Cranberry Sauce - House Style Gravy  
Mashed Potatoes with fresh garlic and parsley - Bourbon Candied Yams*

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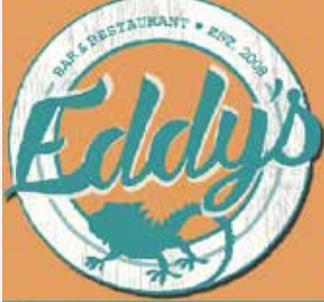
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# Creating Optimal Health

## Walking the dog works better than many weight loss plans

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Some people see walking as an obligation or as something boring. They need extra motivation to do it, not only to get started, but to keep on doing it and making it a regular habit.

At the University of Missouri-Columbia, a research team conducted a study evaluating a weight-loss program that incorporated dog walking. Participants initiated the program by walking for 10 minutes per day, three times weekly, and progressively increased to 20 minutes per day, five times per week. Over the one-year duration of the program, participants recorded an average weight loss of 14 pounds. Many reported that their motivation stemmed not only from the health benefits but also from the positive impact on the animals involved. Notably, some participants chose to adopt dogs from the local animal shelter. The study aimed to identify methods to enhance typical exercise routines and concluded that pet ownership responsibilities, such as regular dog walking, effectively encouraged individuals to walk with greater frequency and duration.

A 2004 study at the University of Missouri-Columbia examined how interacting with dogs affects serotonin levels, the “feel good” hormone, in humans. The research involved 50 dog owners and 50 people without dogs. Dog owners spend time with their own pet, an unfamiliar dog and a robotic dog, while non-dog owners interacted with an unfamiliar dog and a robotic dog. Results showed that human serotonin levels increased noticeably after playing with a live dog but decreased following interactions with robotic dogs.

According to research at City Hospital in New York, heart attack survivors who have pets tend to live longer. The study showed that heart patients with pets were much more likely to be alive a year after leaving the hospital than those without pets. Only 6 percent of pet owners died within a year, compared to 28 percent of non-pet owners. Interestingly, having a pet boosted survival rates even more than having a spouse or friends. So, think carefully about your choices.

In general, it was found that dog owners required much less medical care for stress-induced aches and pains than non-dog owners. Pet ownership may affect people physiologically through the soothing and relaxing effect of touch. Dogs and cats provide unconditional, nonjudgmental love and affection. Pets can shift our narrow focus beyond ourselves, helping us to feel connected to a larger world. The experience of caring for the animal imparts a sense of belonging, bringing out our nurturing instincts. They also provide us with opportunities for play and amusement. Pet owners often feel needed, which may stimulate survival incentive. Many cancer patients feel the need to survive to take care of their pets. Relationships with animals are largely free of the threats and responsibilities inherent in human relationships. Dogs are also useful to people protection, barking dogs are a stronger deterrent for burglars than a burglar alarm.

For some people a pet can also be a source of stress. Having one is not the cure all remedy, so before you decide to adopt one make sure you and your family members are aligned.

On Bonaire we have two very good sources of these “wellness boosting products”, the Animal Shelter Bonaire and FKK Animal Rescue, where we can adopt well adapted dogs and cats. If you cannot have a pet at home or are not yet fully decided to make an adoption, you can volunteer and be part of a win-win situation by giving and receiving affection and getting all the benefits mentioned in this article. Listen to science...



*Irene is passionate about health, neurosciences and personal growth. Originally from Uruguay, she is an Integrative Psychotherapist (PNIE), Life Coach (ICF),*

*Master in Nutrition(IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.*



The Animal Shelter's Paws and Foot Prints bi-weekly dog walking group. Every other Wed. 8 a.m. for an hour at Seru Largu. Signup by sending a WhatsApp message to 599-701-4989 no later than 2 p.m. the day before the walk (so we know how many dogs to bring)

## HRH Princess Beatrix helps the kids plant a kibrahachi



Princess Beatrix and children tamping down the dirt around the newly planted Kibrahachi tree.

As Protector of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix is visiting Bonaire and Sint Eustatius November 18 to 21 to bring more exposure to environmental restoration and social projects that connect people with nature.

On her first day of the tour Princess Beatrix visited Washington Slagbaai National Park and joined eight-year-old children from Papa Cornes in STINAPA'S yearly Planti di Palo (Tree Planting Festival). Before planting the tree, the Princess enjoyed some songs and dances from the kids and a presentation from DCNA. Princess Beatrix traveled

through the park with Chief Ranger George “Kultura” Thode who provided historical information along the way.

Princess Beatrix's visit will touch on five important habitats: coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves, tropical dry forest and tropical wet forests. DCNA recently launched the Critical Habitat Conservation and Restoration Program throughout the Dutch Caribbean region.

(Visit our events page 14 for Princess Beatrix's Bonaire schedule- all events are closed to the public.)

Story / photo Julie Morgan

The online version of our story  
“Let us carry your weight”  
in issue 20 of  
Bonaire's favorite English language  
newspaper has received

58,426 hits

# Reef Glimpses - Sperm Whales by Dee Scarr

There I was, stuck off-island. I couldn't go diving, and boy did I need something to read. Then I found *Moby-Dick*, the actual book I'd read in college, footnoted, annotated, and selling for \$1.95. It seemed a good time to read it again and really get my money's worth.

In college, I'd gotten two things out of *Moby-Dick*: first, the plot (Ahab going after the whale), and second, the opening sentence ("Call me Ishmael."), which is surprisingly useful in trivia contests.

This time, with no papers due or other deadlines, I could appreciate the information about whales and whaling packed into Melville's "novel," and it motivated me to learn more.

**Why were whales hunted?** American hunting for sperm whales peaked in the early 1800's. A typical cruise lasted three years, with men living on a ship and going after whales in relatively small boats with harpoons and even knives, primarily to collect spermaceti.

**What's spermaceti and why is it valuable?** Spermaceti was useful as a lubricant for fine mechanisms including timepieces. When used for candles, it burned brightly and odor-free; a spermaceti candle was used for the English legal definition of "one candlepower." A single whale could contain as much as 500 gallons (almost two thousand liters) of spermaceti, and it required little or no processing.

While the value of spermaceti to human beings is well-known, its value to the whale is not yet fully understood. The meaning of "spermaceti" is "whale sperm," but – no surprise -- that's not what spermaceti is.

The main prey of sperm whales is squid. Whales use echolocation to find squid, and spermaceti is believed to help amplify sounds, thus facilitating their hunting. It's also believed that the spermaceti acts as a cushion when two bull whales are fighting it out.

**Are sperm whales really that big?** At birth sperm whales are only about 13' (4m) long; they may stay with their mothers as long as ten years, and live as long



A curious young sperm whale. iStock Photo

as 70 years. Females can grow up to 40' (12m) in length, males ("bulls") possibly up to 85' (26m). A ship of that length, the Essex, was attacked and sunk by a sperm whale in 1820; survivors reported that the whale was as long as the vessel.

**What is the sperm whale's social behavior?** Adult female sperm whales live in groups with their calves, sharing babysitting duties so everyone has a chance to hunt. When the whales were hunted, the females would often circle to protect the calves, making entire groups vulnerable to a single hunt. Adult male sperm whales are mostly solitary, but occasionally one will stay near a group of females and calves, and, at least in the whaling days, help to protect them (as Moby Dick did).

**Sperm whales have teeth, right?** Yes,

they're the largest toothed predators on our planet. What's strange is that they only have teeth in their lower jaws -- but that's still up to 50 teeth or more! Each tooth can weigh over two pounds (one kilo), and each fit into a socket in the whale's upper jaw. Whalers had plenty of material to practice their scrimshaw on when hunting was slow! Strangely, the teeth apparently aren't required for getting food: otherwise, healthy whales have been found with no teeth at all.

**What about ambergris?** Best known as an ingredient in fine perfumes, ambergris begins with squid beaks, which whales can't digest – one autopsied whale had 18,000 squid beaks in its stomach! Whales usually vomit the beaks away, but if an errant beak gets farther along in the digestive

tract, it irritates the whale's system and ambergris is formed. Like a pearl, the ambergris grows around the irritant; unlike a pearl, the ambergris is pooped out and can be found washed up on beaches.

**How deep do sperm whales dive?** They can get to 7000 feet, but are more likely to dive less than half that depth.

**Do sperm whales visit the Caribbean?** Yes, but around Bonaire they'd probably be on the East side, where the deepest water is.

More information is available online, including about the sperm whale's "phonic lips". For a more personal perspective, there's always *Moby-Dick*.

Scarr's accomplishments were recognized in 2000 by her inaugural membership in the Women Divers Hall of Fame (along with another Bonaire sea protector, Kalli DeMeyer). Her other honors include Captain Don's Accolade Award, as well as a NOGI Award ("the Emmy of the diving world") in the category of Distinguished Service, and the SeaSpace/PADI Environmental Diver of the Year Award in 1991. Dee was the Beneath the Sea and Boston Sea Rovers Diver of the Year in 1991 and 1993.



## Bonaire Bounty Ice Latte by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

1 espresso from Guatemala Bonchi Boneiru coffee beans • 1 dl (3.38 oz) coconut milk • Dash of Malibu liqueur • Dash of chocolate liqueur, e.g. liqueur 43 • Chocolate • 20 g (1.5 T) dark chocolate • Crushed ice • Whipped sweetened cream • Browned coconut flakes • Chocolate chips

Make an espresso coffee and stir the chocolate into it until it has dissolved. Pour into a cocktail shaker together with the 2 liqueurs and coconut milk, add some crushed ice and shake until the "latte" is well mixed and ice cold. Now pour this into

a long drink glass with some crushed ice and serve with a rosette of whipped cream and some coconut flakes and chocolate chips..

Each issue Chef Corjan Hoogerheide shares a recipe for a personal dish created from Bonaire's fresh ingredients. Corjan works as a Sous Chef at "The Reef Bar" at Sorobon luxury beach resort Bonaire.



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DUSHI  
STYLE & SPORTSWEAR

## Mega Closing Sale

Dushi Style & Sportswear is starting Black Friday early!

In anticipation of our brand-new store, we're hosting a closing sale starting today and lasting until November 28!

Come get your favorites while stock lasts. First come, first served!

Score your favorite items for a great price at Hato Shopping Mall.

\$3

\$5

\$25

\$10

\$15

# Events, Meetings, Sports

**12 steps meeting:** Wednesdays at Kaya Cacique, Centro di bario Nort 'i Saliña, Meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. Info: [12stepsbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12stepsbonaire@gmail.com)

**Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting** Every Thursday, 7 - 8 p.m. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments). All welcome, regardless of primary addiction or no addiction at all.

**Animal Shelter's Paws and Foot Prints bi-weekly dog walking group.** Every other Wednesday 8 a.m. for an hour at Seru Largu. Signup by sending a WhatsApp message to 599-701-4989 no later than 2 p.m. the day before the walk (so we know how many dogs to bring).

**Beach Tennis Bonaire** Free. Everyone welcome. Sportpark Rudy Boezem. Open 7 a.m.-9 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/beachtennisbonaire/>

**Bridgeclub Bonaire** organizes a bridge evening Wed. 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All levels are welcome. Info: 795-0128 (whatsapp text), [bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com). <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeclubbonaire>

**Consultancy open to all immigrants and/or refugees** every Saturday 4 to 6 p.m. at Bijkerk's law office in Antriol. Call 796 2650 (abog. Bijkerk) or 787 2373 (FUIB - Union of Bonairean Immigrants).

**Diver Safety.** Hosted by Jason Buttenshaw who holds presentations the third Sunday of the month 6:30 p.m. at Sugar Thief, 8 Kaya Inglaterra.

**Fish ID course. Free.** 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio (TWR) led by Carmen Toanchina. All welcome. Held last Tuesday of the month. Check: <https://www.reef.org/events/month>

**JEU De BOULES CLUB Bonaire.** ALL WELCOME to this very social sport. We play **PETANQUE** (the French version). Wed. & Sun. 2.30-6 p.m. Happy's Food & Drinks (road to Sorobon). We have spare boules (balls) for newcomers. [jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com](mailto:jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com) or Peter Overman, 00599 7964037

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Bonaire. GET RID OF YOUR DRUG ADDICTION** Monday 19:00-20:00. Kaya Tanki Matrimonio 30. Dutch & Papiamentu. Call Wensley 700 7289 or Remco 784 1782.

**Pickleball. • Chinese Assoc. Kaminda Lac, Blue Building:** Tues. & Thurs 6-8 p.m. Sat. 3 to 5 p.m. • **Sports Hall Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam:** Sun. 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Members play free, non-members pay \$ 5.00 per person per day.

**Rosicrucian Order, AMORC in Bonaire** Contact Michiel Bijkerk, tel: 796 2650, e-mail: abogado.bijkerk@gmail.com

**Sunfish Race Days:** Barring inclement weather: BSSA Bonaire Sailing School Association Facebook.

**Tennis** Eddie's courts. Everyone (18+) is welcome. **Free Kid's Clinics at Sentro di Bario Nikiboko Tue & Fri 4-6 p.m. Sentro di Bario Nort'i Saliña, Mon & Thu 4-6 p.m.** Register: email [info@bonairetennisassociation.com](mailto:info@bonairetennisassociation.com) or app 599 782 4569. <https://bonairetennisassociation.com/events/> **Tennis Mixed Competitions.** Mixed competition matches play Saturdays 4 to 10 p.m. on Eddie's courts. Match days are Sept. 28, Oct. 4, 18, 25, and Nov. 1.



**Echo Conservation Tours** - Weekdays at 8 a.m. or 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. To reserve email at [info@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.org)



**Manta Monday at 7:30 p.m.** Presentations: Nov 24th - TBC; Dec 1st - Toucan Diving at Plaza Resort; Dec 8th - Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden; Dec 15th - TBC  
Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation.

Email: [nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org](mailto:nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org) ; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanIslandsMantaConservation)



**Reef Renewal Bonaire.** Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire. Questions? email: [info@reefrenwalbonaire.org](mailto:info@reefrenwalbonaire.org)



**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB).** Free presentations at Kaya Aruba 4E on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. See facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/>  
**2025 sea turtle nesting season** May to December. Join a nest monitoring patrol on Klein Bonaire. M, W or F. \$40 donation for adults and \$20 for children under 12 (and residents). <https://www.bonaireturtles.org/wp/monitoring-patrols/>

You can watch episodes of Waya Bo Man on the [Youtube channel of Public Body Bonaire.](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

## 2025 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. November 19	7000-2000	AIDASOL 2686 guests	North
Thurs. November 20	0830-1700	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE 2886 guests	South
Fri. November 21	5000-1400	ALLURA 1200 guests	North
Sun. November 23	1200-2200	WIND SPIRIT 148 guests	North
Mon. November 24	0600-1800	MSC DIVINA 4345 guests	South
	0830-1500	ROYAL CLIPPER 246 guests	North
Wed. November 26	0700-2300	SILVER SHADOW 388 guests	North
	8000-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Fri. November 28	0800-1700	MAJESTIC PRINCESS 4450 guests	South
	0800-1800	RENAISSANCE 1623 guests	North
Sat. November 29	0700-1800	EUROPA 2 544 guests	North
Sun. November 30	0700-1800	ROTTERDAM 2668 guests	South
	1200-2100	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2 2076 guests	North
Mon. December 1	0500-1500	SEVEN SEAS SPLENDOR 754 guests	South
	0630-1800	STAR PRIDE 312 guests	North
Tues. December 2	0700-1800	SERENADE OF THE SEAS 2500 guests	North
	1430-2200	CARNIVAL VISTA 4683 guests	South
Wed. December 3	7000-2000	AIDAMAR 2686 guests	North
	0830-1700	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE 2886 guests	South

# What's Happening

**Animal Shelter:** Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. phone/whatsapp: 701 4989 or 717 4989. Email: [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)

**Arts & Crafts Market in Wilhelmina Plaza. NEW open Friday 9am till 4pm** as well as for the cruise ships (schedule can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/BonaireArtsandCraftsCruiseMarket/>)

**Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei in Rincon:** Tues.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. 8-noon

**Library:** Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. 715 5344. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents 0 to 18 years. Adults \$10 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. [www.onlinebibliothek.nl](http://www.onlinebibliothek.nl)

**Marshe di Playa** Local market Sat. 9-1. Kaya Industria, by Warehouse Supermarket.

**Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market. ):** Kaya Gilberto F Croes, just past Caribbean Laundry. Saturdays 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pakus raises funds for the Animal Shelter by selling recycled and affordable clothes, furniture, books, music, housewares and more.

**Terramar Museum** Mon-Fri 9-2. Kaya J.N.E. Isla Riba 3. Admission \$10. Residents \$5. Tours \$20. Children under 12 free. +599 701 4700 <https://www.facebook.com/terramarmuseumbonaire/>

**SACA Art Center** Free entrance. Kaya Korona 74. During the day the garden is open to the public.

**STINAPA headquarters:** Mon-Fri 8-4. +599 717 8444. After hours: +599 777 8444.

**Washington Slagbaai Park:** Open Tues. - Sun. 8-5 (entry to 2:30 p.m.) \$40 (Free with Nature tag)

Nov. 17 to 23	Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW).
Wed. November 19	<b>Princess Beatrix visit. All events closed to public.</b> <b>Wed. a.m.</b> Mangroves with Mangrove Maniacs and STINAPA Junior Rangers. • Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB). <b>Wed. p.m.</b> Public Library. Two UNICEF topics with young people: Research on climate change and "Raising Our Future" campaign for safe homes.
Sat. November 22	<b>Sinterklaas arrives by boat.</b> Festival at town pier 4 to 9 p.m. with arrival of Sinterklaas at 5.30 p.m.
Fri., Sat., Sun. Nov. 21, 22, 23	<b>3-Day Tennis Tournament: Carl's 50 Doubles Open Cup Bonaire</b> On courts at Sabedeco & Eddy's. Register <a href="mailto:carlstenniservices@gmail.com">carlstenniservices@gmail.com</a> / +599790 3777 +31641772707
Wed. November 26	<b>Divers Drink &amp; Dance Date</b> 5 - 9 p.m. Yhannis Arepas (Kaya Neerlandia, behind Budget Marine)
Sat. November 29 Sun. November 30	<b>Kaminda di Arte.</b> Art studios, galleries and museums will open their doors and over 30 artists will present their work and illustrate their individual creative process. Updated info: <a href="http://www.sobremesa-bonaire.com">www.sobremesa-bonaire.com</a> See page 3.
Sat. November 29	<b>Nos Zjilea Cultural Event</b> 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei/">https://www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei/</a>
Sun. November 30	<b>Christmas Market at Animal Shelter Bonaire.</b> 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kaminda Lagun 26. Gifts. Food stands. Kids'bouncy castle, face painting and grab bags. See page 19.
Weekends Nov 29 & 30 Dec 6 & 7	<b>Tennis Federation Championship, singles and doubles:</b> Information and registration until Nov. 22 via <a href="mailto:info@bonairetennisassociation.com">info@bonairetennisassociation.com</a> or WhatsApp 599 782 4569, Eva, Astrid, Peter, and Paul

## You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	<b>One Hour Cleanup Power.</b> Weekly coastal clean up every Sat. 9 – 10 a.m. Location on FB: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanupPower/">https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanupPower/</a>
Sunday, Dec. 14	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 8-10 a.m. Te Amo Beach. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire">https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire</a>



**Kas di Arte** View or buy art from Bonaire's local artists. Tue-Fri 2 - 5 p.m. Sat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Abraham Boulevard 10. **For those who love to make art themselves:**  
• Every Sat 11 - 2. Open Art Studio. \$5 to use our space and materials but no guidance. 12+  
• Every Wed 7 - 9 p.m. Art Club. \$20 for all materials and professional help is available! Work on your own art project (2D). 16+ Whatsapp +599 700 7115 • email: [sobremesabonaire@gmail.com](mailto:sobremesabonaire@gmail.com)

## Church Services

### Roman Catholic Churches Bonaire

- **Parish La Birgen di Coromoto (ANTRIOL):** Holy Masses: Mon-6:30 a.m.; Tues & Thur -7:30 p.m. Sat-6 p.m. (English) / 7:30 p.m.; Sun-7 a.m. / 10 a.m. / 6 p.m.
- **Parish San Bernardo (PLAYA):** Holy Masses: M. W. F. Sat-7 p.m. Sun-9 a.m./7 p.m.
- **Parish Luis Beltran (RINCON):** Holy Masses: Tu. W.Th. Sat-7 p.m. Sun-7 a.m./10 a.m.

**International Bible Church of Bonaire (HATO):** Kaya Papago 104. Sun: Worship Service & Children's Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Services in English.

### United Protestant Congregation

- **(KRALENDIJK),** Plaza Wilhelmina: Sun 10 a.m. (Services in Dutch)
- **(RINCON)** Kaya C. D. Crestian: Sun 8 a.m. Services in Papiamentu/Dutch

**Corona and flu shots** Patients of Rincon Medical Center can get their flu and COVID vaccinations at that practice without an appointment until November 21. At other GPs only the flu vaccination is available. Patients do not need an appointment. For questions about the flu or COVID vaccination, call +599 777 6102 during office hours, or an email to [izb@bonaigov.com](mailto:izb@bonaigov.com). For information visit [www.bonaigov.com/prikken](http://www.bonaigov.com/prikken)



**BSN pick-up weeks, Nov. 11 to Dec. 4** The BSN is your unique, personal number. You're getting it now so you can take care of government business online in the future. Pick up your BSN letter from Monday to Thursday at: • Office Directorate of Community and Care, Kaya Neerlandia 41 Mon. to Thurs. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. **OR** • Sociedad San Antonio de Padua, Kaya Rincon 66 Mon. to Thurs. 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Proof of identity required (ID card, passport or driving licence.) Parents and guardians of a child under the age of 16 can pick up the child's BSN letter. After the pick-up weeks, the BSN can always be requested from the Census Office. For more information about the pick-up weeks on Bonaire, please visit Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire: BSN Pick up weeks.

**Sexual Health Clinic** By appointment. This clinic is accessible and anonymous. Held at various locations on the island Mon. through Fri. .8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The nurses can be reached by phone and WhatsApp at +599 790-7373. This clinic is for anyone with questions about love, sex, relationships, contraception, or STIs (sexually transmitted infections). You can also get a free and anonymous STI test.

Condom vending machines on the island can be used anonymously, and a condom costs just \$0.50 each. The full list of locations can be found on the Public Entity Bonaire website via this link (<https://bonaigov.com/inwoners/condoom-automaat>).

**KvK Information Session: Cyber Resilience in the Age of Digitalization and AI** Language: Dutch. Wed. Nov. 26. Increasing digitalization, including the proliferation of AI, offers many benefits, both personally and professionally. However, it also poses risks unless handled responsibly. More info: <https://bonairechamber.com/en/events/information-session-cyber-resilience-in-the-age-of-digitalization-and-ai/>

**You can claim impounded two-wheel vehicles by Nov. 26.** Police will clean out the KPCN impoundment area Dec. 4 and any vehicles left there will be destroyed. KPCN urges owners of two-wheeled vehicles taken into custody to claim them by Wed. Nov. 26 via [ketenbeslag@politiecn.com](mailto:ketenbeslag@politiecn.com). Owners must report with proof of purchase, a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. In cases where the required documents are missing, the KPCN will assess on a case-by-case basis whether ownership can be transferred. (In addition, vehicles subject to a court order for destruction or vehicles that must be removed from circulation will also be destroyed. These vehicles are not eligible for collection.)

**SKAL meeting Fri. Nov. 21**  
**Help shape the future of culture in Bonaire.** SKAL (Sekshon di Kultura, Arte i Literatura) is asking residents, artists, cultural organizations and other stakeholders about the future of cultural policy on Bonaire. The department is working on a multi-year plan for 2026–2030 and wants to ensure it aligns with the thoughts and needs of the community. At Bonaire Library from 7-9 p.m. **Schedule:** 6:30 p.m. – Doors open • 7 p.m. – Kickoff • 8:30 p.m.– Some drinks and discussion • 9 p.m.– End Registration is required and can be done via [skal@bonaigov.com](mailto:skal@bonaigov.com).



**1** As we prepare for the new year, Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is compiling the **2026 Events Calendar** and invites all local organizations, businesses, and event coordinators to share their planned event dates for the upcoming year.

The annual events calendar serves as a central overview of Bonaire's vibrant community and cultural life. TCB encourages all stakeholders to submit details of their events to ensure the calendar represents the full range of activities taking place across the island. Your contribution will help us feature your events

early and ensure they are included in our island-wide event calendar.

If you have events for the remainder of 2025 that you would like to be featured on our Events Calendar on our website, you can include them as well.

**Submit your event via this link:**  
[https://bonaigov.com/jfe/form/SV\\_d07671xtAoen2rY](https://bonaigov.com/jfe/form/SV_d07671xtAoen2rY)

For questions, please send an email to [crystal.pourier@bonaigov.com](mailto:crystal.pourier@bonaigov.com).

**2 Bonaire Winter Escape Campaign** Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) has launched the "Bonaire Winter Escape Campaign," a digital marketing initiative aimed at attracting travelers from colder regions to trade their cold, gray winters for Bonaire's year-round warm climate, turquoise waters, and peaceful island charm during the winter months.

Running from November 2025 through April 2026, the targeted digital campaign will focus on key source markets across the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, and surrounding regions, using data-driven digital advertising, captivating visuals, and emo-

tional storytelling to reach potential travelers where they are most active online.

By inspiring early travel planning and encouraging longer stays, the campaign is designed to generate meaningful benefits for local businesses throughout the busy winter travel season.

A partnership opportunity for local partners will soon be announced. Those interested in joining the initiative can reach out to [marketing@bonaigov.com](mailto:marketing@bonaigov.com) for more information.



**Scuba Diving Magazine's results are in for their 2026 Reader's Choice Awards and Bonaire once again came out on top, recognized in 11 categories.** Some 8,566 readers voted for their favorite destinations, resorts, operators and liveboards and a variety of other diving categories. For the 33rd consecutive year Bonaire received the nod for first place as the number one shore diving destination in the Caribbean and Atlantic. Bonaire came in fourth for Best Overall.

**Dive operators and resorts** captured awards for quality of dive boats, rental gear, facilities, staff and safety: Buddy Dive, Dive Friends, Divi Dive, VIP Divers, Wannadive Bonaire at Eden Beach Resort and Toucan Divers. Three resorts were listed as Best Resorts: Divi Resort, Grand Windsock and Plaza Resort.

**Other awards:**  
 First – beginner diving; First – snorkeling; Second – underwater photography; Second – macro photography; Third – advanced diving; Top 10 – health of marine environment; Top Five – best overall; Top 10 – best value; One of the Best – wall diving and One of the Best – wreck diving. To read the full list go to [www.Scubadiving.com](http://www.Scubadiving.com) under Reader's Choice Awards in the November 2025 issue.

Elesier Angel, CEO of Tourism Corporation Bonaire said, "These honors reflect not only our pristine reefs but also the passion of our community to protect and share the island's underwater treasures." *J.M.*



According to the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) the number of stayover visitors increased 9.1% in October of 2025 compared to 2024.

Demographic profiles remain consistent. Visitors from the Netherlands form the largest group, 49.8% of arrivals. U.S. visitors are the second-largest group, 18.5%. Bonaire attracts inter-island visitors from Curaçao (16.9%) and Aruba (2.3%). Europeans come from: Belgium (2.2%), and Germany (1.8%). Switzerland, Canada, Columbia, Brazil and the United Kingdom each account for less than 1% of the stayover visitors.

Close to half of Dutch and U.S. visitors stay in a hotel (46% - 48%). Others stay in apartments, a villa, or with a relative. 6.3% U.S. and 5% Dutch stayed in their own property.

Dutch visitors come for vacation, to visit friends and family, and on business. Most U.S. visitors come to dive. The Dutch stay longer on the island, and visitors from the Netherlands and the U.S. are older rather than younger.

TCB has not reported the number of cruise visitors.

Press Release TCB

# €10.000 is available for new nature projects



The World Wide Fund for Nature - Netherlands (WWF-NL) supports international nature conservation by making financial resources available for innovative projects in and outside the Netherlands. WWF-NL's INNO-Fund is available for projects on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Maarten and St. Eustatius. The maximum subsidy is 10.000 euros per project.

The INNO-Fund aims to support small organizations in nature conservation projects. The fund is intended as start-up money for all kinds of projects, for example for education, research, capacity building etc. Applications can be submitted no later than December 31, 2025 via the web page <https://www.wwf.nl/wat-we-doen/actueel/inno-fonds/aanvraag>

## Biggest Big Live Nature Quiz ever held

DCNA's (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance) 2025 Big Live Nature Quiz - Kids Edition had the best turnout ever with 850 students from primary schools across the Dutch Caribbean. In November kids from Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten tested their knowledge on this year's theme "Marine Habitats" in a fun online quiz game.

Curaçao's Eco Detectives Curacao from Curaçao American Preparatory School came out on top as the winning team. Their impressive knowledge won the team a sailing and snorkeling trip with their teacher for some in and on the water experience.

Local island winners will receive a prize too. In Bonaire the Sea Lions (IKC Kristu Bon Wardador); Each of these team members will be awarded a Big Live Nature Quiz rashguard to inspire them to keep learning and love the ocean.

*DCNA release*

## Caregivers honored during GALA of Gratitude

On Sunday, November 9, Stichting Mantelzorg Bonaire hosted a heartfelt GALA of Gratitude at Plaza, celebrating and thanking all caregivers on the island for their vital contribution.

One of the highlights of the evening was the unveiling of a dedicated website for all the informal caregivers on Bonaire. [www.mantelzorgbonaire.com](http://www.mantelzorgbonaire.com). Written in three languages, Papiamentu, English and Dutch, the website provides clear information on available support, practical assistance, guidance, and care options.

Guest speaker Siagnée Evertsz delivered a powerful and emotional keynote on self-care and setting personal boundaries. Under the theme "Mi Merese – I deserve it," she invited caregivers to reflect on their own value and emotional wellbeing.

Sharing deeply personal stories — including her own heart surgery — she illustrated the importance of prioritizing one's own health. "You cannot give what you do not have," she emphasized that self-care is a necessity, not a luxury. She closed with a powerful affirmation: I deserve rest. I deserve care. I deserve love. I deserve myself.



**Guest speaker Siagnée Evertsz**

Stichting Mantelzorg Bonaire has been advocating for recognition, support, and visibility for caregivers for many years. With one in five residents identifying as a caregiver — including many young people — their contribution is essential to maintaining the island's care system. The foundation collaborates closely with OLB and care partners to strengthen the position of caregivers and prevent overburdening.

*Stichting Mantelzorg Bonaire press release*

## Digging out Saliña di Vlijt



On November 5, the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) began excavating the upper reaches of Saliña di Vlijt, east of Kaya Korona, in order to restore the area's natural water flow and strengthen its ecological functions.

Maintenance was last carried out in Saliña di Vlijt in 2019. The area is now filled with more with sediment. To prevent this sediment from flowing out to sea and damaging the coral reef sediment will be excavated, some from the old ditches near Mentor. Excavation will allow the saliña to absorb new sediment, increasing its water storage capacity.

Saliñas are natural water retention areas that fill with seawater and rainwater. They are important habitats for waterfowl and resting places for migratory birds between North and South America. Furthermore, the saliña contributes to the reef's quality by serving as a nursery for various fish and other marine life.

The resulting sediment will be transported to the Selibon landfill, where it will be used as a cover for residual waste. *OLB press release*

## Nicole represents Bonaire at Miss Universe 2025



on November 21 the world will know the results.

Beginning in 1952 in California, the Miss Universe pageant has evolved with the times from allowing only single women to married, and no children to children. The contest no longer sets an upper age limit, and even trans women are now allowed.

In the 2025 pageant Bonaire's beautiful Nicole is the oldest at 42, married and has four children, but she is beautiful, poised and has all the values that embody the work required of Miss Universe. She has a bachelor degree in business and an associate degree in fashion merchandising. Nicole was diagnosed with MS two years ago and has made it her life work to bring awareness to people through social media. This is one of the reasons she decided to join Miss Bonaire Universe because now she is ready to connect with the universe.

Miss Universe is the global ambassador for the Miss Universe Organization, traveling the world to support humanitarian causes and promote positive change. A key part of the role involves advocating for charitable initiatives, speaking at events, appearing in media, and serving as a role model for women.

*Julie Morgan*

You can download this Miss Universe App to vote for Bonaire <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/miss-universe/id1557255641>

Miss Universe Bonaire, Nicole Peiliker left the island October 28 for Thailand to compete with 122 women from countries around the world in the 74th Miss Universe pageant. The competition began November 2 and

# Integrity is something we build – together

by George Bernabela

Government integrity has been getting a lot of attention for some years now. And that's great. But at its core, integrity is not something to enforce with rules. It's something we build – together.

It shows up in how we work, how we treat each other, and how we organize work our systems, and even ourselves, so that trust becomes natural. If we want people to trust us, we have to start by making how we work clear, honest, and human.

## Why it often goes wrong – even with good intentions

On Bonaire, as in many small communities, most integrity problems don't come from bad people. They come from unclear roles, shifting expectations, and informal decisions often made under pressure.

Someone wants to do the right thing but isn't sure what their responsibility is exactly. Someone else acts on personal loyalty instead of shared agreements. And suddenly there's confusion, tension, or unfair outcomes.

That's not corruption. It's drift. And drift is normal when the system isn't clear or strong enough.

## A new way: building integrity into how the system works

What if we could build integrity into the way our government works, from the inside out?

That starts by distinguishing moral integrity (living by personal values, which differ across people and cultures), from functional integrity, which is what an organization requires to do what it is meant to, in the way it is meant to.



Bernabela was an integrity coordinator at the Public Entity Bonaire, where he discovered his roots as an island child. He then founded Governments & People in Integrity to strengthen integrity with a people-oriented, practice-based approach.

Functional integrity uses simple, everyday language to clarify roles:

- What are the objectives for your role?
- How do you know if it's going well?
- What is your role's "playing field" – your space to act, decide and learn?
- What behavior supports the work, and what hinders it?

## Trust

In small communities like Bonaire, trust flows through personal relationships. It helps people get things done quickly and directly.

But trust based on who you know or who feels familiar creates blind spots. When decisions depend too much on personal networks, the common good loses out and the community becomes fragmented and vulnerable.

Because relationships are always personal, the way to widen that trust is by building trust in how the system works.

Not to replace relationships, but to strengthen them. So that even when we disagree on something or don't know each other, we know the process will be fair and the system will treat us right.

That's the kind of trust only a clear, functional and human government can create.

Because in the end integrity is not about systems. It's about people. People make the system, together. A trustworthy system grows from individuals choosing to do their part, in service of the whole.

## Why this matters — especially on Bonaire

Bonaire is small, relationships run deep. But the island is growing fast, becoming more diverse, and more unequal. That creates pressure, but also potential.

If we want to grow into who we can be together, we need to build integrity not through rules but in how we work, live, and lead. Together.

# A Garden? Just Do It! -

by Angliet, Nature Lover

With all the rain a few weeks ago the grass and weeds have grown really fast and need to be cut. If you wait too long, the grass will produce seeds and you will have a bushy yard, not to mention hay fever. So trim the grass before it flowers.

If you are in need of a gardener, ask for references. Be selective in finding the right one as I have heard from people who have had bad experiences. They hired gardeners who did less work for more money. These gardeners gave an acceptable price after evaluating the client's yard, but when they began the work, they found other things that needed to be done but were not included in the original price. The problem was the yardwork had begun but only partly done and the client wanted it finished. Discussions began and the gardeners explained that the cost to move the waste to the landfill and the government tax wasn't added. The clients thought that was included in the price, and the workers said the clients didn't understand them or they didn't understand the clients. Some workers wanted to use client tools: a ladder, chapi, cutter or rake and they disappeared with the workers.

If you aren't present when the gardening is done you may come home to find trees that only needed a small trim now are almost gone while other plants you wanted to have removed with their roots have roots still in the soil and in just a few days you see the first sprouts growing from the roots again. If you are lucky, your yard is done properly. If not you now have some work to do.

So be home and walk behind the garden team while



Fruit from the hoba tree Photo Angliet Baidjoe

they are working. They often leave gates open and goats, donkeys and dogs wander into the yard. Let them know to keep the gates closed and clean the street if they drop waste. Make it clear the weed killer Round Up should not be used. It's a chemical milieu killer that kills everything concerned with the soil; not only weeds, but birds, animals, and in the end it kills us as well. Cancer,

Parkinsons disease and other serious sicknesses are consequences of this chemical poison.

These bad experiences were brought to my attention so be aware if you hire gardeners. Ask for references. The best thing to do is write it down on paper and explain clearly what you want and how you want it done before you settle on a price and sign.

I'm happy to tell you a lot of fruit is around. Trees in high production: mango, pomegranate, papaya, mispel, cherries, golden apple, hoba, appel dam, djamu and young water coco. The fruit that is ready to make great recipes for Thanksgiving are hoba (yellow mombin) and cherries. Pick the ripe prunes as they are so healthy and perfect to eat fresh or for jams, marmalades, juices or stew with brown sugar and cinnamon. The trees are there in the mondi, at kunukus and in some yards.

If you are looking for a huge tree that gives shade and fruits all the time, then the hoba tree is a good one. Find the seeds and plant them and after 10 years you will enjoy all the goodies from this tree.



Angliet Baidjoe grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, and trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.

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# Pets of the Week

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A.

Open Monday - Friday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

You can call 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment via whatsapp, facebook messenger, or email [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)



Yeila

## Meet Yeila - 2,235 Days and Still Waiting

Yeila was left behind in a rental home, and with the owner's help, we rescued her when she was just 9 months old. She is now seven and spent 2,235 days (six years) in our shelter, patiently waiting for someone to give her the home she's always dreamed of. Yeila is our longest resident at the shelter.

Yeila gets along well with other dogs and adores cuddles. She might bark at strangers at first and need to get to know you, but once she trusts you, she is your girl!

Yeila deserves to finally know what it feels like to have a family of her own. Could you be the one to make Yeila's

dream come true after 2,235 days of waiting? Come meet our Yeila!

Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers

## This beautiful orange loaf is Jan.

Jan was brought to the Shelter in January 2023, when he was around a year old. He tried to find his forever home himself, but was not very welcomed by the other cats that lived there. So unfortunately they had to bring him to us. As you can see by the picture Jan just likes to lay like a pizza and watch everything around him. He is very calm, gentle and loves to get chin rubs and snacks. Jan is now 3 years and 9 months old. We think it's really time he found his own home where he can watch the birds and just be a happy pizza cat!

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt



Jan

## Make Bonaire Accessible

What exactly is accessibility? by Ria Dokter

When you have a disability, it is very important that your life can go on as normal as possible. **And accessibility begins in your own home.**

• **Your bed:** is it high enough; can you get into and out of your bed? The bathroom: is the toilet high enough for you to sit down and get up again without problems? The shower/bath: can you get in and out easily? Is the bathroom floor slippery when wet?

• **The kitchen:** can you reach the sink with ease and open/close the faucets? Can you prepare all the food you used to cook and then serve it? Can you reach into your storage and cupboards? What about opening cans, bottles and packages? Can you get food on the table, wash the dishes and put them back where they belong all by yourself?

• **The living-room:** can you sit down with ease in all your chairs? Can you easily get out of your recliner?

• **Can you reach all sockets** and access all electronic apparatus in the house? Are they high enough or low enough?

• **Do you use a rollator or wheelchair?** Is it easy to get in and out of your house, rooms and bathroom?

• **Let's go outside:** can you walk all by yourself or do you need to use a rollator? Are there thresholds to pass? Is it easy to water your plants in the garden?

**If your answer to all those questions is NO, you need help, because your house is not really accessible.**

To help you, there are professionals that are specialized in accessibility, ergo-therapist. These special physio-therapists are there to help you every step of the way and make your surroundings as accessible as possible. You can visit your doctor and ask her/him to refer you and get you "on your way."

### Now for "the outside-world":

If you can walk a bit, but need help, a rollator is perfect, but sometimes a wheelchair is needed. Depending on your physical problem, can you drive the wheelchair yourself or do you need help?

To get you to the hospital, physio-therapist or pharmacy you can ask the doctor for a reference. With this reference you can contact AKSESO and they will organize your specific form of transportation; with help/guidance or without. If you are not able to drive a wheelchair, you may apply for a special wheelchair. For this procedure you need the help of a special physio-therapist (ergo-therapeut).

Once you use a wheelchair or a rollator you will notice that the outside world is not accessible at all: high sidewalks, little room to drive in the shops, no access at all...

If you are trying to board an airplane you will need help which usually means being lifted by strong men! Airport Bonaire however has a special kind of lift to get you into and out of an aircraft. For this help you must designate the need when booking a ticket and ask for this lift. We have come a long way, but are not there yet.



Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she used to work as a director at FKPD and started Special Olympics Bonaire. She took care of her husband (R.I.P) for many years and feels that accessibility is the most important issue on our island.

## Christmas Market at Animal Shelter Bonaire November 30



Animal Shelter Bonaire invites everyone to a Christmas Market on Sunday, November 30, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kaminda Lagun 26.

### What you can expect:

Regina (secondhand clothing & Christmas items), Bonaire Dushi Yu (colorful products), Siermarmoza and Lionfish Jewelry, Pakus di Pruga, the Shelter (pet supplies), Sylvia (baby & kids items), Eve Bohlin (jewelry & clothing), Yannie and Joy (local art) and Blaf Bonaire (dog accessories).

**Food stands** include Mama Anneke's Kitchen and sweet treats from Avory and Elena (waffles, hot chocolate & cakes).

**Kids can enjoy** a bouncy castle, face

painting and grab bags.

**There is also a coloring contest.** Coloring pages are available at Van den Tweel, Something Sweet and the library. Entries and must be handed in on November 30 at the market.

**Visitors are welcome to stop by the kennels and cat palace** to come meet the dogs and cats, and who knows, you might even find your new best friend.

Parking is available at Klinika Veterinario Bonaire, next to the shelter.

Everyone is welcome, come by on November 30 for a fun day that supports the animals of Bonaire.

Marissa Lamers

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Working at STINAPA:

# MANAGER WASHINGTON SLAGBAAI PARK

(m/f) fulltime



Leadership needed to preserve Bonaire's unique land-based nature! STINAPA Bonaire is seeking for a driven Washington Slagbaai Park Manager who can connect nature, people, and policy. Do you want to make an impact on a sustainable future and biodiversity? Apply now via [vacature@stinapa.org](mailto:vacature@stinapa.org) – together we will protect the most beautiful park under the sun.

## LEADING AMIDST BONAIRE'S NATURE

Does working in an environment where nature, culture, and history converge, make you enthusiastic? As Manager of Washington Slagbaai National Park, you will be responsible for the sustainable management of one of the Caribbean's most beautiful nature reserves. You will lead herein, a team of rangers who work daily on conservation, education, and nature experiences. You will develop policy, implement projects and knowledge development, and ensure that the park remains safe, clean, and accessible for visitors and future generations. At STINAPA Bonaire, you'll be working on more than just nature management - you'll help build a future in which nature, people, and the economy are in harmony.

## WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING?

- You will develop and implement policies that contribute to the sustainable management of Washington Slagbaai Park.
- You will manage a team of Rangers, staff, and volunteers, ensuring that they can perform their daily tasks in the park - from nature management to maintenance - safely and effectively. You will encourage growth and teamwork.
- You will develop and implement policies and annual plans.
- You will collaborate with government entities, local communities, businesses, knowledge institutions, and NGOs.
- You will initiate projects and raise funds for sustainable nature management.
- You will promote education and awareness among visitors and residents.

## WHO ARE YOU?

- You are a decisive and committed manager with a passion for nature and people.
- You combine strategic insight with a practical approach, and know how to inspire and connect.

## YOU HAVE

- A completed academic degree (e.g., Nature Conservation, Environmental Science, or Tourism).
- At least 5 years of experience in management or nature conservation.
- Knowledge of local laws and regulations.
- Excellent communication skills in Dutch, English, and Papiamentu.
- A valid category B driver's license and a first aid certificate.

## WHAT WE OFFER

A unique opportunity to contribute to the conservation of Bonaire's nature and to work in one of the island's most inspiring locations.

## YOU CAN COUNT ON

- A 36-hour workweek.
- Salary according to scale 13 (USD 5,047 - USD 6,802 gross).
  - If you don't yet meet the full profile, you may start in scale 12 (USD 4,447 - USD 5,993 gross).
- 13th month and 8.33% holiday allowance.
- 166 vacation hours.
- After 1 year of employment, pension plan with employer contribution.
- Private use of a company car.
- Training and development opportunities with a training bonus.
- Sports allowance up to 2/3 of the costs (max. \$60/month).
- Care leave and special leave for important life events.

And of course: plenty of outdoor work in one of the most beautiful places in the world. You'll join a dedicated team that combines a passion for nature with professionalism and teamwork.

## MORE INFO ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

STINAPA Bonaire is a non-governmental, non-profit organization responsible for the management of Bonaire's protected natural areas: the Bonaire National Marine Park and the Washington Slagbaai National Park. We are committed to the protection, conservation, and restoration of Bonaire's unique biodiversity. STINAPA strives to ensure that nature is recognized and cherished as the island's most important source of livelihood and sustainable development. You will join a newly formed management team with a fresh start. With a multicultural, diverse workforce, in which you too will be unique, STINAPA Bonaire is the island's nature management authority.

## READY TO MAKE AN IMPACT?

Send your cover letter and resume within two weeks of the publication date to [vacature@stinapa.org](mailto:vacature@stinapa.org), with the subject line "Manager Washington Slagbaai Park." Please submit your application no later than **November 28, 2025**. STINAPA will be happy to extend the vacancy if necessary. For questions about the content of the position, please contact Director Melissa van Hoorn: [ceo@stinapa.org](mailto:ceo@stinapa.org) or +599 777 3369. For questions about the procedure, please contact HR: [hr@stinapa.org](mailto:hr@stinapa.org) or +599 777 3355.



# Working at STINAPA: MARINE PARK MANAGER

(m/f) fulltime



Leadership needed to preserve Bonaire's unique underwater world! STINAPA Bonaire is seeking for a driven Marine Park Manager who connects nature, people, and policy. Do you want to make an impact on a sustainable future and biodiversity? Apply now via [vacature@stinapa.org](mailto:vacature@stinapa.org) – together we protect the most beautiful park under the sun.

## WILL YOU ENSURE THAT BONAIRE'S NATURE REMAINS PROTECTED – BOTH ABOVE AND UNDER THE WATER?

The Bonaire National Marine Park is world-renowned for its crystal-clear water, colorful coral reefs, and rich biodiversity. As Marine Park Manager, you'll have the unique opportunity to protect and sustainably manage these treasures. You'll lead the STINAPA Bonaire team who ensure the protection of the Marine Park every day. At STINAPA Bonaire, you'll work on more than just nature management – you'll help build a future in which nature, people, and the economy are in balance.

## WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING?

- You will develop and implement policies that contribute to the sustainable management of the Marine Park.
- You will manage a team of rangers, staff, and volunteers, ensuring they can do their work safely and effectively. You will encourage growth and teamwork.
- You will be the point of contact for the government, businesses, fishermen, and nature organizations.
- You will develop and implement policies and annual plans.
- You will lead projects and fundraising efforts that strengthen the park's protection.
- You will contribute to education, communication, and awareness-raising about nature conservation.
- You will ensure compliance with laws and regulations within the park.

## WHO ARE YOU?

A natural leader with a passion for nature and a keen eye for organization and collaboration. You know how to inspire people, translate policy into action, and achieve results.

## YOU HAVE

- A completed academic degree (e.g., Nature Conservation, Environmental Science, or Tourism).
- At least 5 years' experience as a leader in management or nature conservation or related sectors.
- Knowledge of local laws and regulations.
- Strong communication skills in Dutch, English, and Papiamentu.
- A valid category B driver's license, a first aid certificate and a SCUBA diver license.

## YOU CAN COUNT ON

A meaningful and versatile job in a unique work environment where nature and leadership converge. You'll work in a dynamic team committed to preserving one of the world's most beautiful marine ecosystems. At STINAPA, you'll contribute to the preservation of Bonaire's unique natural environment, and you'll receive a great deal in return. Because STINAPA offers attractive employment conditions in accordance with the applicable collective labor agreement, including:

- A 36-hour workweek.
- Salary according to scale 13 (USD 5,047 - USD 6,802 gross).  
If you don't yet meet the full profile, you may start in scale 12 (USD 4,447 - USD 5,993 gross).
- 13<sup>th</sup> month and 8.33% holiday allowance.
- 166 vacation hours.
- After 1 year of employment, pension plan with employer contribution.
- Private use of a company car.
- Training and development budget with a training bonus up to \$500 for finishing function related courses.
- Sports allowance up to 2/3 of the costs of a season ticket at a recognized sport business.
- Care leave and special leave for important life events.

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