



BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Carl's Hill shallows was once populated with countless Elk Horn corals.
Photo 2026 Julie Morgan

Researchers say Bonaire's coral reef is declining

In the last week several news outlets have reported, "Only about five percent of the seabed around Bonaire is still covered with coral." (NOS News August 3, 2026)

Hearing this is like a stab in the heart even though we are all aware our coral reefs on Bonaire and worldwide are suffering due to climate change along with the higher temperatures fueling the bacteria from polluted runoff and causing disease in the corals.

Coral researcher for Wageningen University Eric Meesters has been working on the reefs of Bonaire and Curaçao since 1987 and he's seen the tremendous change.

Erik said, "A question that the press often asks is if coral reefs will survive but should be whether humanity will survive...They will survive with or without humanity (corals are on earth already 240 million years, while we are here only a meager 200 thousand years), but it is on us to decide whether we will be there to see it. If we don't decrease our impacts on our environment, we are unlikely to become as old as corals (another 239.8 million years!)."

In 2010 Bonaire became a Netherlands municipality drawing an influx of Dutch resulting in a population increase from 12 to 24 thousand with everyone living on the leeward side of the island. A limited number of houses are on the sewer system and most waste ends up in cesspits which leeches into the sea. During the rainy season the cesspits overflow and empty into the sea. The result is a

threat to biodiversity of the coral reefs.

Meesters said, "A variety of fish and other animals use the coral reef for shelter and to hunt and scavenge for food. Their habitat is decreasing. On top of this, the deterioration of the coral also poses risks to the human population...If those structures disappear, the waves have no obstruction."

Greenpeace won their lawsuit against the Dutch government citing discrimination against Bonaire

for failing to protect the island from sea-level rise, extreme heat and climate change. But to date the government failed to meet the set deadline for an emissions budget. (see page 6).

STINAPA CEO Melissa van Hoorn said, "Following the court ruling in the Greenpeace climate case, one would expect the central government to prioritize its legal obligations and duty of care toward its former colonies...Bonaire needs more than just recognition on paper; it requires an ac-

tionable adaptation plan featuring clear ownership, structural funding and local implementation capacity." (see page 6)

Van Hoorn explained, Wageningen Marine Research recent report disclosed alarming levels of pollution including carcinogenic and endocrine disrupting substances in the water posing a direct threat to not only fish and other marine life but to everything and everyone exposed.

Meesters said, "Because we perform far more measurements than before, we can point out pollution hotspots."

Meesters says, the coral reef on the west side of Bonaire won't completely disappear. Several types of coral can still thrive even in current circumstances. Reef Renewal Bonaire Foundation (RRFB) has been cultivating these corals for many years.

"These are bold attempts, but I still worry, coral restoration alone is not enough if the surroundings don't change. Nature will recuperate, as long as we improve its circumstance. Too little is being done in this regard," said Meesters. (Wageningen University & Research, June 29, 2025)

Sources: Wageningen University & Research, Dr. Erik Meesters; Wageningen University & Research; Can the tide be turned for coral reefs in the Caribbean Netherlands? 6-29-2025; NOS News: Bonaire's coral threatens to disappear, less than 10 percent remains, Thomas Spekschoor, 8-3-202; STINAPA, The National Climate Adaptation Strategy, Melissa van Hoorn

Julie Morgan



Even this large colony of fire coral, considered to be more tolerant than stony corals, was vulnerable to bleaching from high ocean temperatures and disease. 2026 Photo Julie Morgan

Government coalition dissolves

UPB faction leader Benito Dirksz sent Acting Governor Wong Loi Sing a letter announcing he was “immediately terminating confidence in MPB.” The fall of the coalition, which had existed for only four months and was built on mutual distrust, comes as no surprise. The UPB considered the MPB uncooperative, and the MPB and the Serberie faction considered the UPB arrogant. *DMR*

MPB (Blue party) surges on Bonaire

Major developments have occurred on Bonaire in the last few days. Comments have ranged from “politically significant” to “a political earthquake.” Amidst the disruptions and fragmentations in the Island and Executive Councils that followed the collapse of the Abraham government, the Movementu di Pueblo Boneriano (MPB or Blue party) has experienced a resurgence.

Hennyson Thielman, the MPB party leader, is an influential heavyweight in Bonaire politics.

In April Thielman vacated his seat on the Island Council and Elvis Tjin Asjoe, the founder of MPB, replaced him. Asjoe has been a councilman before.

Retired Bonairean general practitioner Esther Bernabela announced she has joined the MPB. Bernabela played a prominent role for many years as a member of the Union Patriótiko Boneriano (UPB), for whom she served on the Island Council during the coalition period between the MPB and UPB.

Norbert Tadema also announced he is joining the MPB. Tadema ran in previous elections as a candidate for Movement 21 (M21). He was still on the M21 candidate list in the last election. Tadema has been committed to improving animal welfare — and dog welfare in particular — for many years, emphasizes that a clear relationship exists between poverty and animal welfare. *DMR*

Island Council blocks blatant attempt to seize aloë farm

Since 2008 Jaap Ensing has been growing aloë on ten hectares of agricultural land he leases from the Bonaire Public Body (OLB). His operation, Onima Aloë NV, has roughly 15,000 plants in production and makes about ten products from the gel. Those products are sold locally. The property abuts the Judicial Institution Caribbean Netherlands (JICN) in Plantage Aruba.

Easing says he recently was met at his gate by a baliff. The baliff informed him that the OLB had appropriated the property and immediately denied him access. He was told the Ministry of Defense wants the land to accommodate the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee.

That was the first Easing had heard of the matter. He estimates the termination of the lease will cost him millions in damages. The public response to news of the seizure has been, well, negative. Sincerely negative and deeply felt. The OLB has been schooled about such issues as *Bonairean tradition, agricultural heritage, sustainable agricultural activity, and diversifying the economy*, not to mention *governmental overreach and not the way to treat people*.

The Island Council unanimously adopted a motion instructing the Executive Board to suspend the intended termination of the lease for six months and seek a proper solution. A Defense spokesman told Bonaire.nu that actually their plans “are still in the investigation phase.” They are wondering whether perhaps maybe the OLB can arrange for Easing to share some of his land with them. *DMR*

OLB says full government services will continue despite collapse of coalition

Press release: On Thursday afternoon, July 30, 2026, the UPB withdrew confidence in the cooperation with the MPB. As a result, the current governing coalition currently no longer has a majority in the Island Council.

This development does not mean that the Executive Council will immediately cease to exist or that the day-to-day administrative activities will come to a standstill. The further handling of the situation will take place in accordance with the applicable laws and procedures. The Island Council determines how the administrative process will be continued.

For residents, entrepreneurs and visitors, it is important to know that the services of the Public Entity Bonaire will continue as usual. The civil service organisation will continue to carry out its work and all public services will remain available. Applications, permits, civil affairs, ongoing projects and other work will continue according to the usual procedures.

The Public Entity Bonaire remains committed to providing reliable, professional and careful services. The organization works every day to provide good services to society, in which continuity, stability and the public interest are paramount.

If there are official administrative developments that have consequences for society, the Public Entity Bonaire informs residents about this through the official communication channels.

OLB press release.

Dennis Martinus joins the Executive Council

On July 21, 2026, Dennis Martinus was officially sworn in as Island Council member on behalf of MPB, replacing former MPB Executive Council member Joselito Statia. Martinus directs the Spatial Planning & Development Directorate, responsible for policy areas: Animal welfare; Spatial Planning; Infrastructure & Water Management; Agricultural Affairs, Fisheries & Food Security; and Nature, Environment & Ecological Restoration. Photo OLB



Let's not repeat our mistakes Pro Lagun says

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management decided to proceed with the construction of a new landfill compartment at the Selibon Lagun waste center without first conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Its reasons make sense. The new waste center will be a temporary facility, work needs to proceed immediately because deadlines are looming, and the current location has already been environmentally impacted beyond saving.

Stichting Pro Lagun has officially objected to the decision and insists an EIA should be required. Its reasons make sense too. Pro Lagun argues that the seriousness of the situation is precisely a reason to carry out a full environmental impact assessment. An EIA maps the consequences for people, nature and the environment, investigates alternatives and offers residents and civil society organizations the opportunity to submit their views.

Other problems need to be addressed too Pro Lagun says. For years the Landfill has been emitting harmful substances and contaminating groundwater and surface water. Many years of shortcomings in management, supervision, business operations, and financing have plagued the operation.

Pro Lagun says let's do the job right this time.

A third-party suggestion might be: Now that we know what a thorough EIS for a landfill project requires, let's build the temporary facility now and get the next one right. That's the one that's the one we need to get right. *DMR*

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Aisha Van Haute opens the door

Aisha Van Haute

Although Bonaire still doesn't have an official girls' basketball team or even a girl's league, a true girls' basketball movement has begun with the Aisha Van Haute. The Bonaire Basketball Federation (BBF) has appointed her Bonaire's first ambassador to She Got Game, an international platform for girls' basketball.

This fall, Aisha will join Winston-Salem Christian School in North Carolina, USA, where she will continue her education while competing in one of the country's respected student-athlete programs. It is a remarkable achievement and a testament to years of hard work, perseverance and dedication to basketball.



Aisha trained alongside the boys because there simply was no other pathway. Her determination inspired BBF to ask: "What if the next talented girl didn't have to face the same obstacles?" That question inspired BBF to create Bonaire's version of She Got Game.

Coach Eddy Carrillo said, "Today, we celebrate an incredible achievement. Earning the opportunity to study and play basketball in the United States is something Aisha has worked tirelessly for, and everyone at BBF is immensely proud of her. Her success will not end with her own journey. Her determination inspired us to create She Got Game so future generations of girls would have opportunities that simply did not exist before. Aisha helped make that possible, and she will always be our first She Got Game Ambassador."

As Aisha begins this exciting new chapter in the United States, BBF celebrates not only the success of one exceptional young athlete, but also the beginning of a brighter future for girls basketball on Bonaire.

One girl's dream has opened a door. Now, an entire generation of girls is beginning to walk through it.

BBF - JM



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POLICE REPORT

From June 29 to August 3 the KPCN reported ...

Property crimes

One fat bike was stolen from the living room of a house.
Twenty-three sheep were stolen from a kunuku.
Three boat engines were stolen from Kaya Electron.
One car was stolen from Kaya Mandolin.
One pickup (V-179) was stolen from Kaminda Sorobon.
Two catering establishments were burgled. Cash and alcohol was taken from one; TVs, smart phone, and alcohol stolen from the other.
One company was burgled. Two credit cards and a cash box with contents stolen. Later, the money box including its contents was recovered.
Theft from mini-market. A person took various items without paying.
Two thefts on the south coast. Bags with contents were stolen from a vehicle at Red Slaves dive site and also from a golf cart parked on the south coast.
Armed robbery Sunday, July 19, 11:00 pm. Three robbers, dressed completely in black and with their faces covered, robbed a bar on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot. They threatened the employees with firearms, assaulted one of them, tied them up and taped their mouths shut. The suspects then made off with cash, merchandise and personal documents. They left the building around 00:45 and took off in the direction of the Kaya Dialma.

Arrests (22) / House searches (5)

One house was searched and an arrest made: seized goods included a firearm, narcotics and two vehicles
Three houses were searched: firearms and a stabbing weapon were seized.
One house was searched with arrest under Opium Act
One arrest for threatening with a machete and public drunkenness
Two arrests for vandalism - one for destroying car tires; one for destroying a display case in a catering establishment and assaulting a police officer
One arrest under Opium Act BES
Five arrests under Firearms Act
Three property arrests: for stealing a gas cylinder from an apartment complex; for stealing a solar lamp and destroying a security camera at a supermarket; and for possessing a stolen fat bike. Six arrests for assault: two involving threats and two vandalism/ destruction.
One arrest for death threats.
Three arrests after a car chase that began in the parking lot of a supermarket on the Kaya Industria and ended with police finding an airgun and narcotics in the car, and a driver driving under the influence.
A man was arrested in connection with the Admission and Deportation Act / in the context of immigration control.

Driving under the influence

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. Drivers are legally required to submit to a breath test.

Police reported that 24 drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Seven drivers were given driving bans from two to six hours. Nine driving licenses were confiscated. Two scooters and a car were confiscated.

Six drivers were seen driving recklessly; one was stopped for a routine check: 13 collided with other vehicles, lamp posts or fences. One driver was written up for refusing to take the breath analysis at the police station. One driver was arrested for the third time; one for the second time. One driver was driving without a driver's licence.

Traffic accidents (breathalyzer test negative)

A minor driving without a license crashed into a lamp post while transporting a baby without a suitable car seat and driving without a seat belt.
A car overturned on Kaya Randolph Statius of Eps ending upside down in the bushes and injuring the driver.
A car and a pickup collided. The car driver was fined for driving without a license.
A car collided with a pickup; then the pickup collided with a lamp post.
A pickup collided with a fat bike.
A car crashed into lamp post.

A car crashed into fence of a company on Kaya Industria.
Hit and run: A scooter was hit and the driver injured by vehicle that drove on.
A car and a moped collided head-on.
In two cases driver injury prevented alcohol testing.

Traffic, Parking and Speed Control

Speed limit is 40 km/h in built-up areas and 60 km/h outside. Traffic fines range from \$30 to \$225.

In traffic checks held on Kaya Internashonal, E.E.G. Boulevard and Kaya Internashonal 29 vehicles were checked. Five fines were issued for driving without a valid driver's license, valid insurance; a seat belt, and without a helmet.

Speed check. On Kaminda Tras di Montaña five drivers were fined for exceeding the maximum permitted speed.

Police have impounded two scooters and three cars because the drivers have been stopped several times for driving recklessly and/or without a license, insurance and a helmet.

Police and Customs searched 10 vehicles on Kaya Amsterdam and Kaya Neerlandia for the transport of prohibited substances and objects. Two knives, a machete and a small amount of narcotics were seized.

Fire / Arson

A car was set on fire at a home in Mamparia Kutu.

Public order

Young people were reported: • hiding in the bushes and throwing stones at several passing vehicles on the road between the roundabout at Kaya Industria and the airport.
• causing a nuisance riding bicycles in traffic: making wheelies (riding on the rear wheel), riding in large groups in the middle of the road, and driving without lights or cycling through crowds. If a bicycle rider is causing nuisance the bicycle can be taken away and taken to the police station.

A kayak with two people capsized in the sea near Sorobon. Bystanders managed to bring the victim to the coast. An ambulance took both victims to the hospital for a check-up and medical treatment.

The owner of an abandoned car was given seven days to remove the car from the T-junction that connects the Kaya Noorwega and the Kaya Inglatera in Playa Pariba.

Police were called to **a possible shooting incident** on Kaya De La Plata, but found no abnormalities when they investigated the area and checked several vehicles.

Police were called to **a stabbing** near a bar on Kaya Korona.

Contact the police via 715 8000, 911 or the anonymous tip line 9310.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,

I recently bought a property on Bonaire and we are waiting for the transfer at the notary. The seller is quite elderly, and it made me wonder: what happens if the seller passes away before the closing date? Will the sale still go through?

Regards, Linda

Hi Linda,

This situation is not very common, but it can happen.

If the purchase agreement has been signed by both parties, it remains valid. The death of the seller does not automatically cancel the sale. The rights and obligations of the seller become part of the estate and are generally transferred to the heirs, who will usually have to cooperate with the sale.

The process may be delayed because the notary must first determine who the legal heirs are and who is authorized to act on behalf of the estate. Additional documents may also be required.

A properly signed purchase agreement provides important protection for both parties. It is also a good reminder for property owners to keep their records in order. Having a clear last will and testament can make things much easier for your family members and help avoid unnecessary complications.

As with many real estate matters, every situation is different. The exact outcome depends on the circumstances and the agreements that were made. The notary handling the transfer will be able to advise the parties about the next steps.

Kind regards,

Bob

Bob Bartikoski,
Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner

If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire, or if you have a real estate question for Bob, email him at info@bonairehomes.com.

Bonaire: +599-717-7362. Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362

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Bill increasing island council members and commissioners passed

The Dutch House of Representatives and the Dutch Senate have adopted the 'Expansion Act' proposed by Eric van der Burg, State secretary for Kingdom Relations. The bill will increase the number of island council members and island commissioners on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

The bill will achieve more effective governance and broader representation of residents on the island councils.

The number of Island Council members will be gradually increased at the next elections on March 17, 2027. Each island will be allocated two additional Island Council members. The number of commissioners will also increase from three to a maximum of four on Bonaire and from two to three on St. Eustatius and Saba.

The number of council members and commissioners has not been adjusted to reflect population growth since 2010. The islands also report they have too few commissioners to cope with the heavy workload. Increasing the number of administrators will enhance the governance capacity.

As State Secretary Van der Burg explains, "This is a good example of the 'comply or explain' principle. Our intention is to make the same arrangements as we have done for the municipal councils in the European part of the Netherlands. At the same time, we are taking account of the specific situation on the islands and are adopting a step-by-step approach. I am pleased that the Dutch Senate treated the bill as a priority. By increasing the number of Island Council members and Commissioners, we will be strengthening both democracy and the islands' ability to take decisive action."

The Expansion Act has now become official and will come into effect in time for the Island Council elections in March 2027. *DMR*

Waste disposal will cost lots and lots accounting firm KPMG says

A fully cost-covering system for waste collection and processing on Bonaire could double what the island is paying now a KPMG report warns. The capital investment for infrastructure will be substantial, and the operating costs will balloon. Households and businesses currently pay approximately 2.4 million dollars per year in waste levies combined. For the household and business waste streams alone, however, a cost-covering operating budget of around 4.9 million dollars will be required. That does not include the costs of other waste streams that also need to be financed.

KPMG says the way the costs are financed is a matter of administrative choice. A combination of waste levies, subsidies, contributions from the Public Entity Bonaire, or other financing arrangements are options. External financing, an adjustment of existing levies, and even import or tourist levies are also mentioned in the report.

KPMG, one of the Big Four accounting firms, acknowledges that its estimates are tentative and subject to change.

DMR (Reported by BES-REPORTER.com)

Dutch may underwrite BES air service

The House of Representatives has approved a motion that will allow cabinet to impose a public service obligation (PSO) on air connections to and from Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. Under a PSO the government can, in return for subsidies, require airlines that serve routes that are less commercially attractive but are considered essential to limit fares and assure sufficient flights.

In the islands, residents are often entirely dependent on air travel for medical care, education, work and family visits. Minister Vincent Karremans of Infrastructure and Water Management wants to begin preparations after the summer recess if sufficient funding is available.

DMR (Reported by Bonaire.nu)

Get buses running, perfect the service later — Van der Burg

Buses are easy, State Secretary Eric van der Burg says. During his recent visit he reminded the Bonaire Public Body (OLB) that in the Governance Agreement 2024-2027 both parties agreed Bonaire would get public transport. Since 2024 600,000 euros in startup funds for public transport have been waiting to be spent. Since 2025 a further 400,000 euros a year have been available to help cover operating costs. All the while the price of gasoline has been steadily increasing and now is surging. Van der Burg pointed out that the day public transport hits the streets of Bonaire the cost of living will start tapering off. He wants the OLB to tell him what that date will be, then make it happen.

Van der Burg did not say the Dutch would take their money back if the island doesn't spend it. But he did mention the possibility. *DMR (Reported by Bonaire.nu)*

Cabinet wants to improve BES Notaris service

Bottlenecks have been reported in the notarial services on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. Long waiting times have delayed land transfers. There have been suggestions that some clients may be getting preferential service. The State Secretary of Justice and Security confirms that the described experiences "have the cabinet's attention" and that work is underway to improve notarial services in the islands.

Notaris firms have a mandatory service obligation. They may not make distinctions between clients or the types of cases they handle and can refuse service only for legal reasons.

People are reporting long waiting times. The heavy workloads being experienced are one cause. The Notaris firms also have difficulty accessing the Land Registry, the Chamber of Commerce the population register, and other sources of information. Many of the complaints heard in BES are also familiar in the European Netherlands. *DMR (Reported by Bonaire.nu)*

Bonaire has safe fuel storage now says ILT

Curoil has met the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) deadline for bringing the fuel storage facility at Hato up to statutory safety requirements on time. In April the ILT had imposed a penalty payment because the work was progressing too slowly. The penalty will now be waived. The storage facility's fire safety plan revealed a number points that still need attention. They will be dealt with in more detail during the upcoming inspection in October. *DMR*



DT&H starts repair and evacuation process for Stadion di Playa car park

Since Kralendijk Stadium was deconstructed over a year ago, the parking area has been used as a bay for temporary, and not so temporary, containers, heavy equipment, trailers, boats and other stuff. The Directorate of Supervision & Enforcement (DT&H) is starting a restoration project in several phases to clean up this area saying it has security risks. The focus of the project is to return the land for what it was intended.

Anyone who has been using the former stadium parking lot as an equipment storage site is requested to contact (DT&H) at +599-790-0707 three days before they wish to remove their items.

We reached out to OLB for more information regarding the different phases, a timeline and specifics as to the intended use of for the land, but received no response. *JM*

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.

The national climate adaptation strategy: an overdue and incomplete document for Bonaire



At the moment, the 'National Climate Adaptation Strategy' is available for public consultation in short: NAS. The next step is to develop it into concrete implementation programmes.

And although STINAPA Bonaire is positive that this NAS now includes a chapter on the Caribbean Netherlands for the first time, the approach to climate adaptation for this region is overdue and incomplete. Because after the court's ruling on the Greenpeace climate case, it can be expected that the government would treat its legal and duty of care for the former colonies with priority. At present, these areas are still treated as second-class territories. Bonaire does not need recognition on paper alone, but needs a feasible adaptation plan with clear ownership, structural financing and local implementation capacity.

When it comes to climate adaptation (read: making the vulnerable parts of the country more resilient to climate change), Bonaire should be at the top of the list of detailed plans with budgets. Because Bonaire is extremely vulnerable to the consequences of climate change and at the same time highly dependent on healthy nature. It is facing increasing heat and drought, extreme precipitation, sea level rise, and coral reefs that are under increasing pressure. Whereas in the European Netherlands the concepts of safe, sufficient and clean have guided the management of these for years, comparable structural facilities, responsibilities and resources are lacking on Bonaire. This requires cooperation between the national government and the region, which regulates ownership and gives a local implementing organization the implementation assignment.

Safe

In the European Netherlands, for example, there is the Flood Protection Programme, which tackles dikes, for example. This program is 50% financed by the government. Security is also lacking on Bonaire. Protected coral reefs

are dying. With rising sea levels and more intense weather conditions (cluster showers and prolonged drought), the question of how Bonaire is protected is more urgent than ever. Nevertheless, the government first starts with a brief chapter in the NAS for the Caribbean Netherlands.

Sufficient

Climate adaptation is not only about protection against water, but also about its availability. Bonaire has prolonged dry periods, while large amounts of water fall in a short period of time during heavy rainfall. By retaining water during those rainy periods, nature benefits from a better availability of water in dry periods. The retained water can also be used for many applications, such as irrigation. So that the expensive purified seawater does not have to be used for that.

Clean

Clean water is vital and a source of life. But recent research by Wageningen Marine Research, to which STINAPA contributed, shows that the pollution is alarming. These include carcinogenic and endocrinoid disruptors. These not only pose a direct threat to fish and other life in the Bonaire National Marine Park. Everything and everyone in the park and on the island is exposed to these substances. Source approach (for example of the landfill or the oil transshipment site) is easy to identify and tackle. Although it again costs money, implementation power and good organization. But it is possible and the government has a very great (co-)responsibility in this.

In this context, it is inexplicable that the government has still not ratified the United Nations' Cartagena convention. In doing so, she indicates that she does not prioritize the protection of coral reefs and the health of residents. And that while the coral reefs are the most important habitat for a large part of the biodiversity within the kingdom.

In short, the three central tasks for climate adaptation and water management on Bonaire are clear: safe, sufficient and clean. But the implementation is lagging behind.



Melissa van Hoorn
Photo credit STINAPA

There is only an incomplete and brief national strategy, but **no** ownership or implementation plan.

Bonaire cannot afford new years of postponement. The knowledge is available, the urgency is clear and many of the necessary measures are known. Let's hope that it will not be silenced again, without funding, without capacity, without urgency and without ambition by politicians in The Hague. What is needed now is implementation.

STINAPA release



Cabinet misses deadline in Climate Affair Bonaire Risk that timely setting of climate goals is compromised

Greenpeace
Laura Polderman

Amsterdam, July 28 - Today is exactly 6 months after the historic verdict in the Bonaire Climate Case. The court ruled that 6 months is a reasonable deadline to set the Dutch emissions budget, but the Cabinet has let this deadline pass. To meet the sentence, it is necessary that new climate goals are legally established by July 2027.

Her Majesty the Crown, climate justice expert at Greenpeace Netherlands:

'We are extremely disappointed that this cabinet does not take the execution of the sentence seriously, because the climate crisis is not a future scenario, but a daily reality - on Bonaire and in the European Netherlands. The terrible forest fires in Europe are a case in point. With each day that emissions remain too high, the risks to all of us rise. The Netherlands is violating human rights with this climate policy. Procrastinating or waiting is socially and

legally unacceptable.

We call on Minister of Veldhoven not to wait until Princess Day to make public how much CO2 the Netherlands is still allowed to emit. This is the basis for a new Climate Bill, which must be considered by the Second Chamber as soon as possible. Minister, stick to the sentence and now focus on reversing the dire consequences of the climate crisis!'

Letters & Opinions, continued



BONHATA calls for a broader measurement of tourism value. Not the number of stayover arrivals, but the economic contribution per visitor.

Bonaire has set itself a clear tourism ambition: no mass tourism, but high-value visitors who add greater economic value. That ambition is under pressure, and the June 2026 figures make that concrete.

What Bonaire set out to achieve

The comparison with its own policy is telling. The island-wide Strategic Tourism Master Plan 2017-2027 explicitly chooses high-value tourism. Not the maximum number of visitors, but visitors who add greater economic value. Higher spending, strengthening the hotel sector, and further development of the North American market.

The Economic Bureau Amsterdam (EBA) confirms this direction in its 2025 impact study. Tourism now accounts for approximately 50% of Bonaire's GDP, 53% of employment (approximately 7,200 jobs) and 44% of local tax revenues. At the same time, EBA concludes that further economic growth does not depend on more rooms or more volume, but on higher occupancy of existing hotels, more high-spending visitors and a stronger North American market. That is precisely the market now showing the sharpest decline.

Signals from the sector

Hotels report lower occupancy rates. Restaurants are seeing quieter evenings. Dive schools are experiencing fewer guests. Car rental companies are renting out fewer vehicles. Suppliers to the hospitality sector report noticeably lower turnover. And international sales and distribution partners report that their bookings to Bonaire are currently running approximately ten percent behind compared to the same period last year.

Bonaire risks deviating from its own tourism ambition

It is not one industry or a few individual businesses sending this signal. It is virtually every link in the tourism chain at the same time.

BONHATA therefore asks the question: do the official arrival figures still provide sufficient insight into the actual economic performance of the tourism sector?

What the figures show

The June figures tell more than total arrivals alone. The American market, historically Bonaire's highest-spending market, declined by 12%. The US market share fell from 35% to 31%.

At the same time, hotel occupancy fell to 51% in June, nine percentage points below last year's level. The average room rate (ADR) held at \$252, but RevPAR, the revenue per available room, dropped from \$150 to \$128. A decline of 15%.

The second quarter confirms the same pattern: occupancy came in at 57% compared to 61% in 2025. ADR rose to \$274, but the higher room rate only partially offset the lower occupancy. RevPAR at \$157 remained almost flat compared to last year (\$156).

The outlook is the most concerning. November 2026 is currently running approximately 15% behind November 2025 and December approximately 10% behind. The sector is heading into the second half of 2026 with a significant gap in bookings, precisely in the months that form the run-up to peak season.

BONHATA's call to action

BONHATA is not calling for the official stayover arrival figures to be questioned. They remain a useful indicator, but are insufficient for understanding how the tourism economy is actually developing. The association calls on the government (OLB), TCB and all relevant parties

KEY FIGURES JUNE 2026 (PRELIMINARY)

Stayover visitors: 13,387 (-1.6% vs June 2025) |
US market: 4,163 (-12%)
Hotel occupancy: 51% (vs 60% last year)
ADR: \$252 (vs \$248) | RevPAR: \$128 (vs \$150)
OTB Nov. 2026: -15 percentage points vs Nov. 2025

to broaden the discussion. Not only looking at how many visitors reach Bonaire, but also how much they spend, in what type of accommodation they stay, which market they come from, how long they stay and what economic value they add to the island's economy.

The real question is not whether Bonaire is growing. The real question is whether Bonaire is growing in the way it set out to. Because ultimately, the number of tourists is not the benchmark. The real benchmark is whether tourism is making the Bonairean economy stronger, and whether prosperity is actually reaching the people for whom the Tourism Master Plan was once written.

At the same time, BONHATA is advocating for the restoration of North American air connections, transparency on the use of the visitor entry tax, and structured cooperation with TCB and the government on marketing and market data.

About BONHATA

BONHATA, the Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association, represents the private tourism sector on Bonaire, including hotels, resorts, dive schools, restaurants, car rental companies, tour operators and related businesses. BONHATA advocates for the interests of the sector and actively engages with government and partners.

BONHATA release

Make Bonaire Accessible Times were when..... by Ria Dokter



It is not my intention to rain on somebody else's parade, but when I read all about Special Olympics Bonaire these days, I cannot help to remember our first time participating.

I did not know a lot about accessibility, but the more I saw and learned, I understood that it was ALL about accessibility.

The first Special Olympics World Games were organized in New Haven, Connecticut in 1995 from July 1-9. Bonaire had just started their chapter and was invited with four athletes, all swimmers. I do not know how fast the organizing committee got the money and tickets organized, but they did an awesome job doing so.

The four athletes participating were: Cheryl Cecil-ia, Lucille Pikerie, Boysy Keller and Wendell Gumbs. Boy Frans was our coach. Me, myself was the delegation-leader.

Connecticut's had set up a "host-town-program" and Special Olympics Bonaire was a guest in Woodbridge. I remember the team from Cayman Islands was also invited there.

When the Games started, we were moved to the Olympic Village. Here we also met up with Team Aruba and Curaçao, which was awesome, because we all spoke the same language.

The pledge all teams were supposed to do, we translated into Papiamentu, so our athletes had no problems with that:

"Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me try with courage".

Lage mi gana, pero si mi no por gana, laga mi purba ku kurashi".

The calling of the athlete when their turn was up was a small problem, because the Americans could not pronounce our names as we were used to. This caused funny problems sometimes.

Our athletes did well, and they made us very proud. They all did their best and every effort was rewarded. I saw many athletes wearing a white ribbon. That meant they were disqualified. But, Special Olympics rewards every effort and that did so much for their self-esteem.

It was amazing to see, to feel and to believe. Special Olympics has made sports and games very accessible, so EVERY athlete can participate. I have seen parents cry their hearts out, because their child that was predicted to be unable to function, won a medal or a ribbon.

And THAT is what Special Olympics is: EVERY child with mental retardation must be able to participate. So every sport and every step is made accessible for them. There should be NO EXCLUSION. And, Special Olympics means accessible sports-programs for every athlete, NOT participating in only world games.

What many people do not remember: Special Olympics was set up for one of the American Kennedy family's children: Rose, who could never participate when activities and sports were organized after school time. So her Mom and sister Eunice organized simple games and sports activities at home for her with her friends and classmates.

A very, very proud Team Bonaire came home with lots of medals and ribbons and made their parents and family members very proud. And I know they also made Bonaire very proud. Thank you all!



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.

Miss Supranational 2026 beauty contest

The story behind the costume chosen by Bonaire

I-Shilah Benita was welcomed home to Bonaire on August 2 after competing in the 17th Annual Miss Supranational 2026 beauty contest held in Nowy Sacz, Poland. And although she didn't place in the evening or swimsuit competitions, the national costume she wore received high marks from the judges, fans and voters.

The striking costume was a living narrative of the island's history of slavery and heartfelt tribute to Bonaire ancestors who lost their lives working the salt pans.

The creation, by Venezuelan designer Carlos Hernandez stands as an unwavering testament to the resilience of the people of Bonaire in the face of adversity. Woven into its seams is a story of profound sorrow as the seamstress responsible lost her life during the tragic earthquake of June 24 in Venezuela. The

original dress was buried alongside her in the rubble.

Collaborator with the Miss Bonaire organization, Julio Mora, recreated the dress in record time.

National costumes tell a story of the contestant's home country, but this one not only speaks of Bonaire's slave history but also the pain and grief experienced by the island's many Venezuelan residents and the neighboring country of Venezuela itself.

I-Shilah Benita was named Miss Supranatural Bonaire 2026 by the Miss Bonaire Organization after winning first runner up in the Miss Universe Bonaire contest in 2025.



Tekibon announces Boneiru

In honor of Bonaire Day, Raja Daou, owner and manufacturer of Tekibon tequila, rum and liquors has produced a new locally made rum, Boneiru. Just like his other 29 handcrafted spirits, Boneiru, Papiamentu for Bonaire, is made from the Yatu cactus, a living part of Bonaire nature.

While living in Venezuela, Lebanese born Raja first visited Bonaire back in 1969 and created one of the first films about the island. Years later he moved to Bonaire and created the first Tekibon liquors from Bonaire's Yatu cactus in 2006. This new rum expresses Raja's deep love for Bonaire.

To announce Boneiru rum to the island, Raja presented one of the first bottles to CEO

Elesier Angel of Tourism Corporation Bonaire.

Boneiru rum comes in a signature bag with the flag of beautiful Bonaire. Tekibon alcohol is more than a drink, it's a piece of the island.

Boneiru and other handmade Tekibon spirits may be purchased at the Tekibon kiosk in the cruise market on cruise ship days, Van den Tweel, The Place and Tambo.

Email: tekibonbonaire.info@gmail.com or contact Raj at +599-787-7348 / +599-786-2686.
Julie Morgan / Photo by Leanne Pinkerton

Photo: L-R: Raja Daou, Helen Thode Mercera of TCB, Esperanza Daou and Elesier Angel, TCB director



NAPA Bonaire gives back \$19,000+ to the community during 40th Anniversary celebration

During 40th Anniversary Celebration During NAPA Bonaire's 40th anniversary party, on August 1st, 2026, Managing Director, Mr. Andre Lendering, took the opportunity to shift focus from the company's achievements to giving back to the community. The evening highlighted the company's four decades of service to the people of Bonaire in every possible way.

Mr. Lendering started by highlighting the company's ongoing contribution of complimentary parts and services to Fundashon Kuido Persona Disabilta (\$3,200 value). Mr. Lendering made the commitment to keep doing so in the years to come.

He then followed up by making a full commitment to Shaedra Baromeo, who works with underprivileged children in the community, to cover all food and drink expenses on top of his time and resources for the group's annual trip to Washington Slaagbaai (\$3,000 value). This trip allows the children to enjoy a fun-filled, worry-free weekend.

NAPA's support for the community did not stop there. Mr. Lendering then gave away \$2000 each to Fundashon Alzheimer Bonaire and Kas Flamboyant for them to use wherever they see fit. The last organization of the evening, Ambulance di Deseo, received free fuel for their ambulance for a full year (up to \$1,200 in value).

"I stand by the fact that a company that does business in Bonaire and makes money on the island, should find a way to invest back into the community it serves. I personally choose to invest back into the people that I know cannot do it themselves, depending on organizations to aid them. That is the reason I chose to give organizations like Fundashon Alzheimer Bonaire, Kas Flamboyant, Ambulance di Deseo and Shaedra's vision of helping the less fortunate kids of the community," said Andre Lendering, Managing Director of NAPA Bonaire.

The giving was not over at the end of the speech.

Mr. Lendering finished by encouraging attendees interested in taking home any NAPA toy cars to donate an amount they deemed fit. The proceeds of the sale are also being donated back into the community. The small act of kindness of attendees generated a whopping \$3,072. That money will be split between several of the organizations listed above. In addition, Ambulance di Deseo will receive a set of four new tires and an oil change.

The following day, representatives from NAPA Miami Distribution Center, Gearwrench, Valspar Paints, and Topdon announced they would be collectively matching donations made by Mr. Lendering, providing an additional \$5,200 donation. The complete donation being distributed throughout the community totaled \$19,672.

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed with us.

NAPA Auto Parts Bonaire

Six Caribbean Islands represented at WorldPride Amsterdam 2026

On the initiative of EQ Bonaire, a delegation of ten representatives from six Caribbean islands traveled to Amsterdam on July 30 to participate in WorldPride 2026. The main theme is Unity – together we are stronger through mutual understanding, respect, and a shared commitment to equality.

The delegation will participate in the Canal Pride August 1 and the Human Rights Conference August 5, 6, and 7. In addition, they will meet with, among others, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW), the National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism (NCDR), and COC Netherlands.

A special part of the program is an inspiring session with psychiatrist and therapist Glenn Helberg, who will

speak about the impact colonialism has had on identity, inclusion, and the position of the queer community in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The trip gives participants the opportunity to learn, gain inspiration, and share their own experiences. During the program, they will speak about the challenges that LGBTQIA+ communities on the different islands still face, but also about the important steps that have been taken to improve visibility, acceptance, and equal rights.

Through this joint participation, the six Caribbean islands give shape to the theme Unity. By learning from one another, strengthening relationships, and making their voices heard internationally, they continue work-

ing toward a future in which everyone can live as themselves, in safety, respect, and with equal opportunities, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or background.

Judith Brekelmans, Fundashon EQ



Dive Pirates – Bringing the Entire Scuba Industry Together

By Jeff Cinciripino, A Dive Pirates Volunteer and SDI Adaptive Dive Buddy



Photo Hendrik Wuyts

This June, 77 divers, instructors, volunteers and supporters arrived at Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino in Bonaire for a week that demonstrated what can happen when the scuba industry comes together. The group was part

of the Dive Pirates Foundation's annual trip, bringing adaptive divers with physical disabilities into the broader dive community through training, equipment, dedicated buddies and, ultimately, the opportunity to simply enjoy being divers.

Each year, Dive Pirates selects individuals with physical disabilities to become certified scuba divers, funding training for both the recipient and their buddy through participating Dive Pirates chapters. The annual trip is the culmination of that journey, bringing together dive centers, independent instructors, training agencies, manufacturers, resorts, sponsors and volunteers from across the United States.

For Bonaire 2026, Divi Flamingo and Divi Dive Bonaire played a major role in making that possible. The resort worked closely with the group to accommodate its needs, while Divi Dive, led by Sarah Cann, dedicated its diving operation to Dive Pirates for the week. Four boats supported the group, allowing the dive team to focus on providing a safe, efficient and enjoyable experience for adaptive divers and their buddies.

Dive pirates ...to page 16



Dive Pirate dives assisted by her buddy. Screenshot from video by Hendrik Wuyts



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Coconut filled with Caribbean Tabbouleh Salad

by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide



For two people:

1 coconut, chopped in half, scrape out the flesh and cut 75 g (3/4 C) into cubes • 200 g (1 C) bulgur (whole wheat), cooked according to package instructions • 2 tomatoes, seeded, diced • 10 sprigs of parsley, chopped • 1/2 (local) cucumber, seeded, diced • 3 sprigs of mint, finely chopped • 1 red onion, chopped • 1 jalapeno pepper, cut into small cubes • 1/2 Mango, diced • 1/2 avocado, diced • 200 g (1 C) cooked black beans • 4 fried shrimp tails • 1 dl (1/2 C) Olive oil • 1/2 dl (1/4 C) lime juice • 1 teaspoon cumin powder • 1/2 teaspoon chili powder

Mix all ingredients and season further with pepper and Bonaire sea salt. Optionally, cook the bulgur in water with a bouillon cube and some sambal for extra flavor. Serve the Caribbean bulgur salad in the half coconut for an extra Caribbean atmosphere. Optionally serve with a refreshing sauce of full-fat yogurt, mint, and lime zest.

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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Nominate researchers in the Caribbean now!



NWO (Dutch Research Council) has opened the door for pioneering researchers in Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius and Sint Maarten to be rewarded for their work and to go even farther. Four new awards are now available to fund and illustrate work being done in and for the Caribbean region.

The new Dutch funded awards with four themes are: **Arete Award** - A healthy research culture; **Atlas Award** - Societal impact; **Agora Award** – Collaboration; **Leo Waaijers Open Science Award** - Open science (deadline has passed)

These awards spotlight the people and teams driving real change from how science is practiced to how it connects with society. Anyone can nominate; even the researchers and colleagues, support staff, societal partners and people outside of academia.

Nominate an initiative that increases the impact of research. NWO designed the awards for both individuals and teams. The awards were built to recognise teamwork and collaboration.

President of the NOW Executive Board Marcel Levi said, “Science has initiatives that we do not highlight enough. With the NWO Awards, we want to change that. We recognise the people and teams who make science more open, more collaborative and more socially relevant, and we invite everyone, everywhere in the Kingdom to put forward exceptional initiatives.

Deadline for nominations is September 10. The nomination form is available at www.nwo.nl/en/nwo-awards.

RCN release

Nominate someone for Honorary Citizenship

Do you know of that special person on Bonaire that deserves an Honorary Citizenship from the government? This is the moment from now to August 17, where you can nominate that individual and they will be awarded and thanked for their contributions to the island on Bonaire Day, September 6.

What does it take to receive this honor?

- Special dedication to Bonaire: Honorary citizenship is awarded to persons who have dedicated themselves to Bonaire in an exceptional, innovative and lasting way.
- Influence on Bonaire: The achievements must have had a real influence on the welfare, prosperity or reputation of Bonaire. This can be in the governmental, social, sports, cultural, charitable, economic or scientific fields.
- Residents and non-residents: Honorary citizenship can be granted to current and former residents of Bonaire, but also to non-residents who meet the conditions.

Criteria for the Honorary Citizen

- At least 10 years living in Bonaire without interruption.
- The nominee must be above 45 years of age.
- The nominee must have exemplary behavior.
- Contribution to the community: In addition to his work the nominee must occupy himself with activities that are good for our community.
- Impact evidence: There must be evidence of the positive effects of these activities on our community.
- Non posthumous: The nominee must be alive.

If a special person comes to mind then fill out the form on this link: <https://bonairegov.com/nl-ereburger>. Please include the person’s special merits or achievements including the length of time. If you cannot fill out the form digitally send your nomination to SKAL: Attn: Maria -guanela Rosinda -sluis, Kaya Grandi #34 and deliver it in an envelope at the SKAL counter.

For information: email: maria-guanela.sluis@bonairegov.com

OLB release

“Changes of the Guard”



Jeaninne Wong-Loi-Sing has been appointed and sworn in as Acting Island Governor of Bonaire by Acting Kingdom Representative Mr. Jan Helmond, effective July 21, 2026. As Acting Island Governor, she will assume office in the absence of Island Governor Soliano, with all the statutory powers associated with the office of Island Governor.

The current Acting Island Governor, Ms. Ingrid Sealy, asked to step down because the position could no longer be combined with her role as Head of Department at SSO CN.

Ms. Jeaninne Wong-Loi-Sing was raised on Bonaire and has dedicated many years to promoting integrity within the public sector. In 2024, her efforts in the European Netherlands were recognised with the prestigious Ien Dales Integrity Award. Through her strong commitment to the community, she knows the island well and is aware of the issues affecting the island.

Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK)



Jocelyn Levenstone was sworn in as Island Governor of Saba by Acting Kingdom Representative (wRv) Jan Helmond on July 9. With this appointment, Saba gets a new Island Governor for the first time in 18 years.

wRv Jan Helmond said, “During the interviews with Jocelyn, he impressed me. He considers integrity and purity of conduct to be important characteristics of his professional and personal demeanor. These characteristics will certainly come in handy in the exercise of the function of Island Governor.”

Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK)

Thammy Albertsz will assume office as General Commander of the Caribbean Netherlands Fire Department 6 August 16, 2026. She succeeds Thijs Verheul whose term expires on August 15, 2026.

Albertsz (35) was born in Bonaire and has been working at the Caribbean Netherlands Fire Department since 2018, serving as the Local Commander for Bonaire since 2022. In this position, her responsibilities include the day-to-day management of the fire department organization on the island.

Albertsz: “Behind every emergency response stands a team that is committed to the safety of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba with pride, respect, and dedication. It is an honor for me to lead this team as General Commander. Collaboration, connection, and safety are central to this.”

Brandweerkorps CN release



Siphonophores (Might Be More Helpfully Called Weltmakers)



Here's a good look at a Man O' War that's been thrown onto shore. The dark blue line is a tentacle, the blue mass contains shrunk tentacles, and the stingers will still fire on contact. The gas bladder keeps it all afloat, and has no stingers. Photo Adobe stock.

I was a little girl, my parents would take me to a beach where there was a large area that was enclosed to keep sea creatures away from swimmers. My strongest memory from there is that of a woman screaming, and people running to help her, and eventually an ambulance taking her away. She had swum outside the enclosed area and run into the stinging tentacles of a Portuguese Man O' War.

Maybe that memory is why I was so successful in avoiding Man O' War stings for the next few decades.

Then, while snorkeling in the Sea of Cortez, I got zapped around my shoulder. I wasn't even 50' (14.24m) away from the boat but getting back to it seemed to take forever, and boyohboy did that sting ever hurt. I had a red weltline around my upper arm, so we blamed a Man O' War; we looked all around for the float but we never did see one. That might have been because Man O' War tentacles can extend up to 165' (50m) away from the

sting would have left multiple welts from multiple tentacles. What else has a sting that nasty?

Of course: a siphonophore (pronounced sigh-FOHN-uh-fore [there's a word that just rolls off the tongue])! This almost-invisible, occasional visitor to Bonaire's waters was ignored by most identification books published before the 1990's. Back then, all we knew was that we'd be swimming along and suddenly there would be intense pain on our upper lip, or an ear, or the back of a hand. We couldn't see the thing that might have caused it, although we often blamed it on loose pieces of Man O' War tentacles. A quarter of a century later, we finally realize that it was probably some kind of siphonophore.

Actually, even if the stinger was a Man O' War, it was a siphonophore, because a Man O' War is a siphonophore. The Man O' War is, by the way, the only siphonophore that has a common name that's ordinary English rather

corals, jellyfish, and hydroids. All Cnidarians possess stingers, called nematocysts, which sting mechanically on contact. Stingers provide both defense and nutrition.

But why in the world would the siphonophore's nematocysts need to be so powerful?

One answer makes sense: siphonophores are open-ocean dwellers. The Man O' War drifts along with its float above the surface of the water and its tentacles trailing down; other siphonophores, including the ones we usually encounter here, drift in mid-water. They're all carnivores, but they don't chase down their prey or ambush it; they get their prey by simply -- passively -- drifting into it.

Since siphonophores are pretty fragile, they'd be injured if they had to struggle with strong prey animals such as jacks or humans. That's where their numerous extra-powerful stings provide a perfect solution by subduing their prey so quickly that it has little time to struggle. The Man O' War has multiple tentacles to deliver those stings.

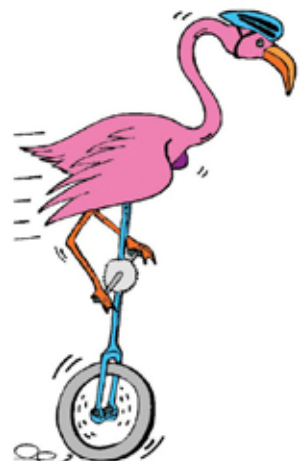
With new techniques for identification, scientists are learning that Man O' Wars seem to be more than the colonies they were always thought to be, but not quite single organisms. They might require the creation of a completely new category; quite a challenge for biologists.

Our challenge? Spotting these creatures before they drift into us, so we can avoid their stings, and also so we have a chance to watch them -- and admire them -- from afar (or far enough).

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



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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

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).

Apertivo evening from 5 – 8 p.m. Fridays Rosa Cafe. Stop in for a drink & free Italian appetizers.

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

Becoming Movement Club Free monthly event for runners and walkers. Sorobon five-kilometer route Sunday 7.15 a.m. Check [Facebook](#).

Bridgeclub Bonaire organizes a bridge evening Wed. 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All levels welcome. Info: 795-0128 (Whatsapp text), 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).

Cultural activities for the elderly at Hòfi Kultur Tues., Wed. and Fri. at Cultural Garden, Antriol Pabou, Skandelchi Street z/n Info: manon@culturalplatform.com or call +599 7708437

Diver Safety. Jason Buttenshaw third Sunday of the month 6:30 p.m. at Sugar Thief, 8 Kaya Inglaterra.

Field Hockey. Kids 6-12. Thurs. free training in May & June. Adults train twice weekly. <https://www.facebook.com/people/Bonaire-Hockey-Foundation/61576259612469/>

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

JEU De BOULES CLUB Bonaire. ALL WELCOME. We play **PETANQUE** (the French version). Wed. & Sun. 2.30-6 p.m. Kunuku Allee, Kaminda Lac 38. We have spare boules (balls) for newcomers. jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com or Peter Overman, 00599 7964037

Live Music Yhannis Arepas (Kaya Neerlandia, behind Budget Marine) Every Sunday 1 - 5 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/yhannisarepas/>

Museum Night, Terramar museum. Free access to galleries last Wednesday of the month. From 6 to 8 p.m., visitors are welcomed into a relaxed, friendly atmosphere where they can enjoy the galleries after hours and join a themed workshop (pay what you can).

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. Social play and beginners from 8 – 10 a.m. Advanced Competitive play from 10 a.m. - Noon.Members play free, non-members pay \$ 5.00 pp

Radio program “Krese” Bonaire’s development over the past 70 years.- Last Tuesday of the month, 6 - 7 p.m. on Bon FM 102.7 FM. In Papiamentu; A recap is planned in Dutch and English on <https://www.facebook.com/share/1HPK6YY3Gm/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Radio program “Ban Lesa 2.0” Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. on Bon FM 102.7 FM. Multilingual; Guests in a warm and personal conversation, talk about a book that has moved them.

Rosicrucian Order, AMORC in Bonaire Michiel Bijkerk 796 2650, 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 or app 599 782 4569. <https://bonairetennisassociation.com/events/> Mixed competition matches play Saturdays 4 to 10 p.m. on Eddie’s courts.



Manta Monday Free presentations Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. 7:30 p.m. No presentation July 6th. Back mid-July. Email: nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](#)



Reef Renewal Bonaire. Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Learn about coral reef restoration. Questions? email: info@reefrenewalbonaire.org



Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free presentations at Kaya Aruba 4E on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. . <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/> Nesting season patrol starts in May. Reserve your spots reservating on: <https://www.bonaireturtles.org/wp/nest-monitoring-patrols/>

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Cleanup Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Sat. 9 – 10 a.m. Location on FB: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, August 9	Clean Coast Bonaire clean up surveys second Sunday every month. 4-6 p.m. Pietra Pretu. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
Saturday, August 29	The Beach Boost collects trash washing up on Bonaire’s shores in Marine Park the last Saturday of the month. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Join via WhatsApp groups +5997003749, +5997003748.

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

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. 1-5; Tues. & Thurs. 8-7; Wed & Fri. 8-5;; Sat. 10-2. 715 5344. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents 0 to 18 years. Adults \$10 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. www.onlinebibliotheek.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/terrarmuseumbonaire/>
*Each month: **Family Saturday**, March 7* Pay a “family” fee of \$10 to enjoy our exhibitions and activities. Family is who you decide; **Kids Workshop** \$10 per child. March 21. 10 - 12 noon. We will be making piggybanks. Register via terrarmuseum@gmail.com or phone. **Museum at Night** Free entrance. 5 to 6:30 p.m. to explore and shop; also **Sisterhood Circle** by Vibra Foundation 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 25. Pay what you can. Info. +599 785 4399

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

STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Thur 8-4. Fri 8-12 noon. Sat & Sun Closed +599 717 8444. After hours: +599 777 8444.

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

Tuesdays, 24 weeks starting June 2	Ban Lesa 2.0 at 5:30 p.m. BonFM 102.7 The series celebrates the diversity, and power of Caribbean books. Multilingual.
Aug. 8 - Dec. 1 see page 15	Tene Pia Seku, Terramar Museum. Opening 7:30 p.m. Aug. 8. Exhibit brings together international documentary photography and research with our local contemporary art, historical perspectives and community knowledge.
Sunday, Aug 23	Washington Trail Run & Walk 10 km & 24 km Free. Maximum of 790 participants. Register by Aug. 22. https://patrishisports.com/events/2nd-Washington-Trail-Run-2026
Saturday, Aug. 29	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event - 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink
Sunday, Sept. 6	Bonaire Day - Legal holiday. Much is closed.
Sunday, Sept. 20	Next Step KLM Nature Walk & Hike Bonaire, 3rd edition.
Sept. 24 - Oct. 8	Bonaire Culinary Week – Fall Edition

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

2026 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. August 5	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Wed. August 12	0800-1600	CARNIVAL VISTA 4683 guests	South
Wed. August 19	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Wed. August 26	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Wed. September 2	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Tues. September 8	0600-1700	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS 2440 guests	South
Wed. September 9	0600-1800	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	South
Wed. September 16	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. September 17	0600-1800	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	North
Wed. September 23	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Thurs. September 24	0800-1600	CARNIVAL GLORY 3540 guests	South
Wed. September 30	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. October 1	0600-1800	CARNIVAL REFLECTION 3046 guests	South

Register for school transport by Aug. 12



Parents and guardians on Bonaire can register their child for school transport for the 2026–2027 school year, reports the Public Body Bonaire (OLB).

Registration is possible until Wednesday, August 12 at the Directorate of Society and Care.

The transport company picks up pupils at a drop-off point close to home and takes them to school and back. A parental contribution applies to the transport, payable online or in cash at Burgerzaken. Stepchildren are also eligible. Late applications will still be processed, but the OLB does not guarantee that the child can attend from the first day of school.

Special transport needs. Children with special transport needs, such as wheelchair users, can also be registered. This allows the OLB to organize appropriate facilities.

FUNDING

NEW

A new interdisciplinary grant for artists and cultural organizations has been published on rijkscultuurfondsen.org.

The rijkscultuurfondsen are jointly launching the Interdisciplinary grant: a new funding programme for professional artists and cultural organisations that integrate multiple artistic disciplines in their work. Are you an artist whose practice is not confined to a single discipline, and would you like to further develop your interdisciplinary practice? Or are you an organisation seeking funding for a project that integrates different disciplines? You may be eligible for the Interdisciplinary grant. The submission deadline is October 1, 2026.

Renovation of private historic residences. From Sept. 1st to 30th private owners can apply for a subsidy for the restoration of their monumental residences. The preservation costs eligible for subsidy must exceed US\$ 25,000 and are subsidised up to US\$100,000. Monuments (historical buildings older than 50 years) without protected status are also eligible for subsidy. Eligible are buildings that are of general importance due to their beauty, artistic value, or historical meaning. It is only possible to apply for subsidy during September. The National Agency for Cultural Heritage (RCE) handles the grant application. The latest information is available on the website:

<https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/s/subsidieregeling-monumenten-caribisch-nederland>



Inspired by the exhibition 'Rising Tide' by photographer Kadir van Lohuizen (originally created with Het Scheepvaartmuseum in Amsterdam), the exhibition pairs international documentary photography with original work by local Bonairian artists Ghislaine Monte, Kenny Ranking and Marieke Knol. It also includes works from the Miss Universe Bonaire and inhabitants who share personal stories and lived experiences.

From shore life and youth perspectives to deep cultural reflection, this exhibition looks at environmental change through the lens of community resilience and care.

WEB BONAIRE introduces new customer invoice

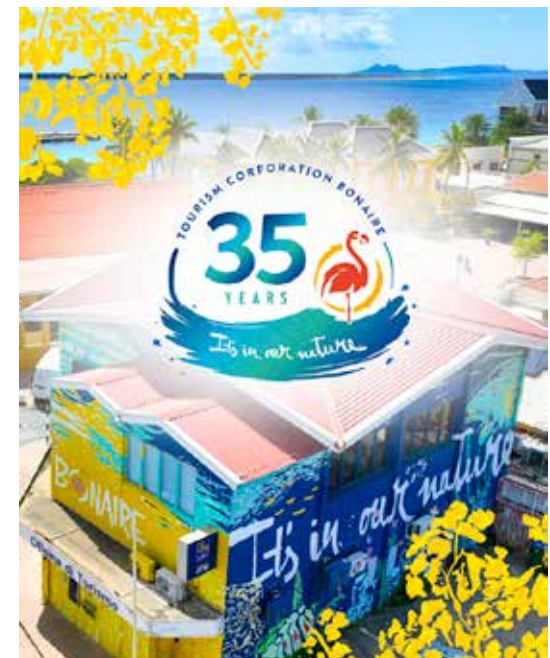
Water and Energy Company Bonaire (WEB) has introduced a new customer bill. Customers who receive their invoice digitally can view the new format now. Customers who receive paper invoice will begin receiving the new invoice starting Saturday, August 1.

Clearer and more user friendly The new invoice features a clearer, more user-friendly layout, giving customers a better overall view of their water and electricity consumption and charges. One of the new features is a six-month consumption overview, allowing customers to more easily monitor and compare their water and energy usage over time. For more

information and a detailed explanation of the new invoice, visit our website at www.webbonaire.com/your-invoice.

You can also see the invoice on page 24 of our online Reporter. <https://bonairereporter.com>

Coming Soon: MI WEB Customer Portal In addition, WEB Bonaire is preparing to launch a new customer portal, MI WEB. Once the portal becomes available, customers will be able to access their bills digitally through a personal online account.



RCN receives innovation budget for better customer contact

The 'Accessible Customer Contact' project of RCN has been selected for an innovation budget of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK). Of the 68 entries, 15 projects were selected.

A project for better services. The project was developed with the municipality of The Hague and the Public Entity Bonaire. Good contact with the government often starts with a phone call. Services must be accessible and employees must assist BES residents in multiple languages, in Dutch, English, Spanish or Papiamentu.

Smart telephony helps employees and residents

With a new telephony solution, an employee is immediately shown the correct customer information during a telephone conversation. A report of the contact is also started automatically. As a result, the employee does not always need to retrieve information, and the resident can be assisted faster.

In addition, RCN is examining the secure use of AI to automatically convert conversations into text in Dutch, English, Spanish, and Papiamentu. This solution should ensure that information is recorded better and can more easily be shared with colleagues. Moreover, residents will need to repeat the same story less often. The employee always remains responsible for the contact. AI only supports and does not take over the work. *RCN Communications*

FTPKB compares prices of construction materials

In June 2026 Bonaire's consumer group, FTPKB, compared prices of construction materials sold on the Island. If consumers buy the lowest rather than the highest priced construction item, they can save \$3,420.82. The average price difference between the least expensive and the most expensive construction materials was 34.36%. The following three hardware stores account for 89% of the maximum possible savings across the complete construction materials list.

First place: Kooyman Megastore Bonaire.

Consumers can save \$1,738.29 on 53 lower-priced items, including lumber, ceiling materials, and electrical supplies.

Second place: Playa Trading Bonaire BV.

Consumers can save \$899.78 on 78 lower-priced items, including cement, concrete and mortar, lumber, and ceiling materials.

Third place: Lucky Megastore.

Consumers can save \$415.75 on 9 lower-priced items, including PVC, plumbing and sanitary supplies, as well as concrete and mortar.

For a complete overview of all prices, visit our website: www.tiendapakonsumido.com



Dive Pirates ... from page 10

This year's group included six new Dive Pirates recipients from Nebraska, Nevada, Texas, Michigan and Virginia, along with seven returning adaptive divers. Behind each new diver was a Dive Pirates chapter and instructors who had spent months preparing them.

Participating chapters included Diventures Omaha, where Dave Dietze has trained adaptive divers since 2013; Dive Masters of San Antonio, led by retired Air Force Colonel Dr. Dan Murray; Capital City Scuba in Lansing, Michigan; Las Vegas Scuba Academy; Davy Jones Explores in Houston; and Patriot Diving in Virginia. On Bonaire, Dive Pirates instructors Carl Fago, Hellen Armstrong and Gregg Wentworth also worked with the newest divers.

The Foundation's commitment does not end after a recipient's first trip. Scholarships, including the Suzy Fago Memorial Scholarship, Brandes Family Scholarship and Bert and Ann Shearer Family Scholarship,

help past recipients return and continue diving. That ongoing connection is an important part of the Dive Pirates mission: creating divers, not simply providing a one-time experience.

Industry and community sponsors also helped make the week possible. Lita's All Natural and Just Add Water Solutions supplied products for participant trip bags, while Bob and Nettie Evans sponsored event lanyards. Police Fire Dive, PlayScapes, Team BS and 9 Little Piggies BBQ supported the trip's long-sleeve UV shirts.

Perhaps most importantly, volunteer dive buddies and shore-support teams gave their time throughout the week. Adaptive diving requires teamwork, but the goal is remarkably simple: provide the support necessary for everyone to safely experience the freedom, adventure, and camaraderie that draw all of us underwater.

The scuba community regularly talks about being one big family. Dive Pirates puts that idea into practice.

In Bonaire, dive professionals, businesses, volunteers, and adaptive divers came together around one shared belief: underwater, the focus is not on disability. It is on possibility, and on being a diver.



A Garden? Just Do It! -How did you find your garden?- by Angliet, Nature Lover

Welcome home to anyone returning from vacation. In my experience, on my homecoming, there is a lot of work to do immediately, even though I have had a caretaker for the garden.

I immediately start watering the plants as needed and cutting off dead branches, pieces, and leaves. Dead pieces and old yellow leaves on the plant hinder its growth because they consume a significant amount of the plant's energy just to stay alive. So, I immediately begin ridding the plants of all unnecessary parts, as well as young shoots that are essentially of no value to the plant or the garden.

Since we are now in August, and closer to the upcoming rainy season at the end of the year, it is also important to prepare the garden for the plants that will be planted there later. By this I mean preparing beds and mixing the soil with compost, animal manure, dry leaves, shredded dry coconut fibers and eco-friendly charcoal and ash. So no factory-made BBQ charcoal, as that is full of environmentally unfriendly substances that poison the soil, the vegetables and fruit in your garden, and ultimately your body.

Sometimes adding some stones helps to aerate the soil, and a little coffee residue helps keep ants away. Ants love loose soil with dry leaves and coconut fibers; it is the best habitat for nesting. Furthermore, such a mix has a very high nutritional value for the plants, and you should start doing this now.

However, we do not know what the coming period will look like, as El Niño is approaching and appears to be the largest El Niño of all time, with extreme climate consequences. For Bonaire, this likely means we can expect severe drought. Prepare for this as well. For example, provide extra water storage, such as many empty buckets or large water containers, so that you can collect water for the plants with every rain shower. If possible, also install gutters connected to the water storage containers. Create borders around the plants and place dry leaves in them so that water can collect around the plants, while the wet, dry leaves around the awnings ensure the water does not evaporate quickly and the top layer remains cool. If you make trenches along the plant beds, water will collect in them, which is also ideal for the garden.



So, there is work to be done. To ensure the collected water does not become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, pour water over the plants after a maximum of four days to prevent the growth of mosquito larvae.

Start sowing in seed trays. Some seeds, from fruit trees, take time to germinate. And with some vegetable varieties, the seeds might be old, leaving you with hardly any seedlings and forcing you to start over. Young plants need a soft environment to develop further, so keep them out of the scorching sun, out of strong winds and also out of sight of iguanas and lizards. And do you know where you want them in your garden? The spot in your garden can determine the success of the plant's growth. So I say: know your garden and know the plant. This prevents disappointment. There is plenty of work to do in the garden, so enjoy it if you haven't been able to garden for a while.

In my garden, I have mangoes and two beautiful large papayas on the tree. There were more young papayas that all fell off due to the drought. But one held on (and hasn't been eaten by the birds yet), and I am very happy about that. I had put paper bags around the then-young

mangoes on the lower branches that I could reach. The mangoes have grown very large and soon I will be able to feast on them. Of course, the birds helped themselves to the mangoes that were high up in the tree. Every day there were green mangoes lying on the ground, sometimes to my great frustration. But I was also able to enjoy those mangoes by making chutneys, jam, and pickles from them. I don't throw them away.

And so now I will soon have delicious ripe mangoes that are still ripening in the bags. You can also make chutney, jam, and pickles with papaya. In fact, you can do that with most unripe fruits. And taste how delicious stewed green papaya is as a vegetable. Finely grated or diced and stewed with onion, garlic, ginger, curry, black pepper, salt and bay leaves, and you will feast.



So, get to work in your garden and with the fruit that is already there or the wild vegetables that have grown spontaneously during your absence. Vegetables such as kalaloe, bembé, and purslane are valuable vegetables that taste delicious and are good for your health.

So start with nature in your garden today. Just do it.

Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, where she trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. Returning to the Caribbean, she taught in St Eustatius and Bonaire. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.



Pebble in Motion sails into second



truly make a difference. My journey would not have been possible without the people who stood behind me every step of the way.”

Beyond competition, the teen’s platform is to promote his island, raise awareness of the sport of sailing and inspire more young people to get involved. Follow Rocqui’s sailing journey on Facebook and Instagram under Pebble in Motion.

Photos:

Left. Winning second at Aruba’s international Regatta, 2026.

Below: Rocqui with his trophy.



Paxienrocque “Rocqui” Martis, competing under the name Pebble in Motion, has achieved a major milestone by finishing second overall at the Aruba International Regatta 2026, marking a significant leap forward in his Sunfish sailing career.

Reflecting on coming in near the bottom at the Aruba Regatta last year, 17 year old Rocqui said, “This result is more than a trophy or a podium finish. It shows me how far I’ve come in just one year. It’s proof that hard work, persistence and believing in the process

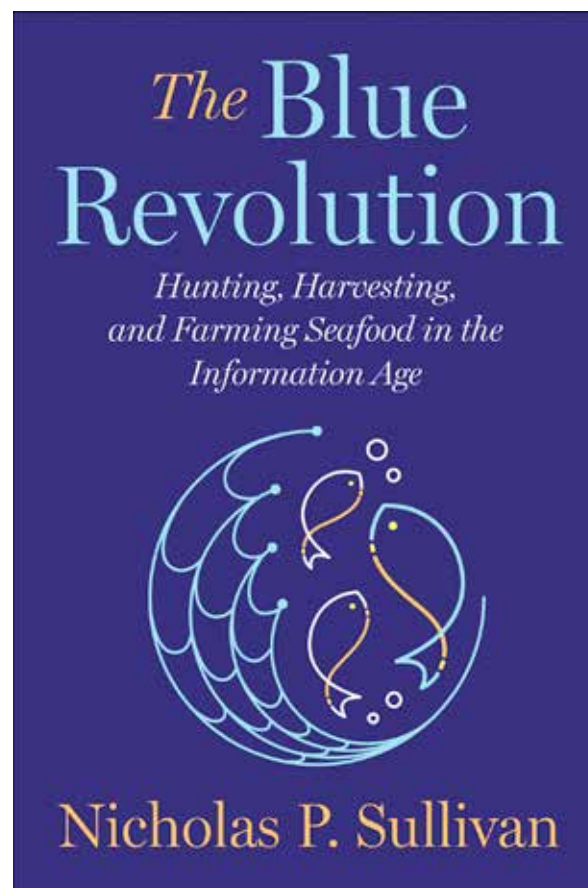
Buckley’s Books

by George Buckley

The Blue Revolution by Nicholas Sullivan

Seafood has been a globally harvested, strongly renewable, healthy and heavily community based product that continues to feed many millions of people; It also has had to deal with increasing corporate and factory fishing enterprises. *The Blue Revolution* by Nicholas Sullivan is an engaging look at the past, present and future of this critical industry, told in an expansive Introduction and over a dozen definitive chapters. Each chapter opens with a Gyotaku fish print by artist Stephanie Mason of Gloucester, Massachusetts, one of the oldest and most historic fishing towns in the United States.

With numerous examples and vignettes, Sullivan documents the fisheries journey of seeking Maximum Volume to that of Maximum Value and how the industry faced the tragedy of the fishing commons caused by over fishing, lack of sound regulations and coastal pollution and development. He tells of the transition and transformation from purely wild fisheries to a mix of wild caught and maricultured fisheries (aquaculture in salt water). It is a multifaceted story of multiple stakeholders coming to agreements after many long meetings advised by improved science and innovative business models as well as no small measure of finding common ground. This has led to what is has been a 25 year Blue Revolution of improved fisheries methods, environmental protection, fisheries harvest management and safer product as well as a safer industry for fishers. The Fishing Industry includes finfish, shelled and unshelled invertebrates as well as sea greens, sea vegetables etc., also known as seaweeds. (Note: “all seaweeds are algae, but



not all algae are seaweeds”, as some algae are found in freshwater and even on land.). All told, thousands of different species of finfish, snails, clams, squid, octopus, crabs, shrimp, other invertebrates and seaweeds are harvested globally. A veritable Noah’s Ark of the oceans!

In a wide ranging fisheries discussion spanning over a dozen chapters, Sullivan discusses “Sacred Cod and sustainable scallops,” “Changing rules and changing ecosystems,” “Ocean Cowboys fade away,” “Eating through the ecosystem,” “Silicon Valley meets the ocean: fisheries innovation,” “Herring, vital herring,” several chapters on “Farming the Sea,” including Finfish, Shellfish and Seaweeds, “Big data, technology and the pernicious Sea Pirates,” and a fine thought provoking final essay on “Conservation, Climate, Adaptation and Resiliency.”

With its diverse look at the past, present and future of seafood, coupled with a comprehensive set of references to peruse and a detailed index, Blue Revolution is a very fine read. It will enlighten and educate you while giving you a lot to think about as well as the fuel for many conversations.



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 and educational projects and films. He has led over 100 study groups to Bonaire with many of his students returning often. Semiretired from

decades of teaching Environmental Management and leading an active graduate program in Sustainability, he now works with many environmental groups and as an environmental consultant.

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The Reporter

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Pets of the Week

Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call/What's App 701-4989 animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



Miep

This is Miep. Miep is a black and white beauty and we think she is around five years old. Miep was brought to the Shelter in May with her sibling Mopke. Unfortunately, their owner had died a year prior, and since then the two cats were living on the streets. They looked for a home, but were shooed away. Miep is very gentle, but cautious. She wants attention but is still afraid of rejection. She will flop down on her side for some pets, but sometimes runs away when she thinks she could get hurt again. We are looking for a home for her where she feels wanted again, with the attention and love she deserves. *Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt*

My name is Ken. I'm a senior resident at Animal Shelter Bonaire and I'm 6 years old. I've been at the Shelter for over one year now. My former family made future plans and forgot to include me, so I was brought to the shelter, with the hope of being someone else's future.

I'm very gentle and sometimes a little shy, but I really like to sit next to you and cuddle. I'm good with other dogs, but better with the girls and I'm also very good with children. I like to go for a walk or have some fun at the beach. I'm house trained, but I'm also happy to be an outside dog.

Come and visit me, and hopefully we can build on a future together. *Story / Photo: Sanne Attevelt*



Ken

Inside the Shelter premiers

Animal Shelter Bonaire (ASB) is celebrating its 43rd Anniversary this year with an a series of films all about the Shelter. You'll learn what actually goes on behind the gates where these furry friends live, cared for and by who every day of the week.

Carlos Lopez, ASB's new board president introduced the premier first installment of the 10 episode series to a group of Animal Shelter supporters on August 3 at the Bonaire Public Library.

Lopez said, "We are celebrating 43 years of the Shelter with these films. It's a hard job for the people who work there. Many are unpaid and they do it because of all the animals. We need to show these films to the community and change their mentality about the animals."

Inside the Shelter is the first episode and it takes the viewer through the daily chores the volunteers and staff perform to care for the many dogs and cats. The camera follows the staff and

volunteers as they prepare the bowls, the food, the water, the litter boxes and of course clean. The dogs are walked twice daily to prepare them for a potential adoption. But it's not all about the work. You'll witness the joy and smiles between the caretakers and dogs and cats as they enjoy special pets and cuddles.

The 10 episodes will go from the introductory Inside the Shelter to: Sterilization; two to three episodes on Healthcare; Adoption: Volunteering; Sponsors; People that make it all happen-the staff; Pakus di Pruga and Cruise market; Challenges and Victories and Partners.

ASB currently houses 140 elderly, adult dogs and puppies and 80 cats and kittens, but the numbers change daily. The animals were surrendered, lost and found homeless on the street. Almost every week, the Shelter receives a call about a mommy dog and puppies that are unwanted. Some of the animals have been so abused it is unlikely they will ever be adopted but



they have a home at the Shelter.

The series was filmed and produced by Energia TV. The 15-20 minute episodes will be shown on Energia TV every Tuesday and on

Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Check the ASB Facebook page Energia TV schedule for the exact times.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan

Creating Optimal Health by Irene da Cunda Costa

Guilt: A useful emotion, when it doesn't take over

Most of us have experienced guilt at some point in our lives. It is one of the most common human emotions, yet it is often misunderstood. While guilt is usually unpleasant, it is not necessarily a negative emotion. In fact, healthy guilt serves an important purpose: it helps us recognize when our actions have harmed someone else or violated our own values, motivating us to make things right and become better people.

Guilt is the emotional discomfort we feel when we believe we are responsible for hurting another person, making a mistake, or acting in a way that conflicts with our moral principles. In its healthiest form, guilt is accompanied by remorse, a sincere regret for causing harm. It acts as an internal moral compass, encouraging empathy, responsibility and personal growth.

It is important to distinguish guilt from regret. Both involve feeling bad about something that happened, but they are not the same. Regret is simply wishing you had made a different decision, even if no one was harmed. Remorse, on the other hand, involves recognizing that your actions hurt someone else and feeling a genuine desire to repair the damage. Healthy guilt is closely linked to remorse.

Psychologists generally describe three forms of guilt. The first is healthy or natural guilt, which arises when we genuinely make a mistake or fail to act when we should have. This type of guilt often leads to positive change because it motivates us to apologize, correct our behavior, and avoid repeating the same mistake.

The second is toxic guilt, an excessive and persistent feeling of being a bad person, even when there is little or no objective reason for it. People experiencing toxic guilt often blame themselves for circumstances beyond their control or carry responsibility for other people's emotions and choices. Left unchecked, this form of guilt can contribute to anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and perfectionism.

One of the hidden dangers of toxic guilt is that it can make a person more vulnerable to manipulation. Individuals who feel responsible for everyone else's happiness or who constantly believe they have done something wrong are often easier to control. Manipulative people may consciously, or unconsciously, use guilt as a tool to influence others. Phrases such as "After everything I've done for you," "If you really loved me, you would..." or "You're so selfish" are common examples of guilt-inducing tactics. Learning to distinguish between healthy guilt, which encourages responsibility, and manufactured guilt, which is used to control behavior, is an important part of develop-

ing emotional resilience and establishing healthy boundaries.

The third is existential guilt, which stems from an awareness of life's unfairness. We may feel guilty for having opportunities, health, safety, or financial security that others lack. While this type of guilt can inspire generosity and social responsibility, it becomes unhealthy if it turns into chronic self-punishment.

So, how can we deal with guilt in a healthy way?

Start by acknowledging the feeling rather than trying to suppress it. Ask yourself whether your guilt is based on a real mistake or on unrealistic expectations. If you have hurt someone, take responsibility, apologize sincerely, and, if possible, make amends. At the same time, avoid harsh self-criticism. Everyone makes mistakes, and growth comes from learning—not from endlessly punishing yourself.

It is also helpful to challenge negative self-talk. Instead of saying, "I'm a terrible person," try saying, "I made a mistake, but I can learn from it." Remember that having your own needs, setting healthy boundaries, and saying "no" when necessary are not selfish acts. Many people feel guilty simply because they prioritize their own well-being, even when they have done nothing wrong.

Scientific research supports the adaptive role of guilt. In a study published in Psychological Science, researchers found that guilt motivates people to repair damaged relationships and engage in prosocial behavior. Rather than serving merely as emotional punishment, guilt can encourage positive action and strengthen social bonds.

Interestingly, people with certain personality disorders, such as antisocial personality disorder, often experience very little guilt or remorse, even after harming others. This highlights the important role guilt plays in maintaining empathy, conscience, and healthy interpersonal relationships.

The goal, therefore, is not to eliminate guilt from our lives but to use it wisely. Healthy guilt helps us become more compassionate, responsible, and authentic. Toxic guilt, however, keeps us trapped in self-blame and emotional suffering. Learning to recognize the difference, and practicing self-forgiveness when appropriate, is a step toward emotional well-being and healthier relationships.



Irene is passionate about health, neurosciences and personal growth. From Uruguay, she is an Integrative Psychotherapist (PNIE), Life Coach (ICF), Master in Nutrition(IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.

Rotary Club Bonaire has had a busy summer



Paul Ruijs and board member Soraida Mensché

Reading & Writing Foundation Bonaire (RCB), founded 10 years ago by the Rotary Club of Bonaire, has retired its worn-out Mediabus which served the community well in assisting with literacy.

In a presentation to the Rotary Club, project leader Paul Ruijs and board member Soraida Mensché gave an update. For years, the foundation used the Mediabus to visit schools and encourage children to read books, but now schools

are establishing their own libraries and the bus is no longer needed.

Low literacy in more than a quarter of Bonaire's population is still a problem. The Reading & Writing foundation is working to help by offering language classes for adults. For children, there is the Summer School program, in which children are readied for the new school year with two weeks of intensive Dutch lessons at the end of summer vacation.

With funding from the Dutch Foundation for Literature, books are available in Papiamentu and Dutch. And for some time, the foundation has organized "read-aloud days" at schools and in childcare centers. As the contact for bBiblionet.nl, the foundation has arranged for containers of books to be made available on Bonaire. And together with the FORMA Foundation, a digital skills course is offered focusing on online banking in combination with budgeting. Independently, RCB is deeply committed to combating low literacy on Bonaire.

Annual Family Day

Rotary Club of Bonaire members gathered at Tera Barra's native garden on June 27 for a successful annual family day. Tera Barra founder Johan van Blerk enthusiastically described updates to the natural garden since the Rotary's last visit. Two Rotary members planted trees and the kids had a great time even without their phones. The grounds of Tera Barra were perfect for soccer and other creative games.

President Barbara Griot made the family day extra special by inducting Andrea Goitia as a new member of the club. To top it all off, Jonathan Croes and John Flipse were inducted as members of the 2026-2027 board. Jonathan will be the

incoming president and John will be the club's treasurer.



Planting a tree on Family Day.

After the customary congratulations, the festive atmosphere lingered for a long time at Tera Barra, thanks in no small part to the excellent catering provided by Wines & More.

JM / Rotary release



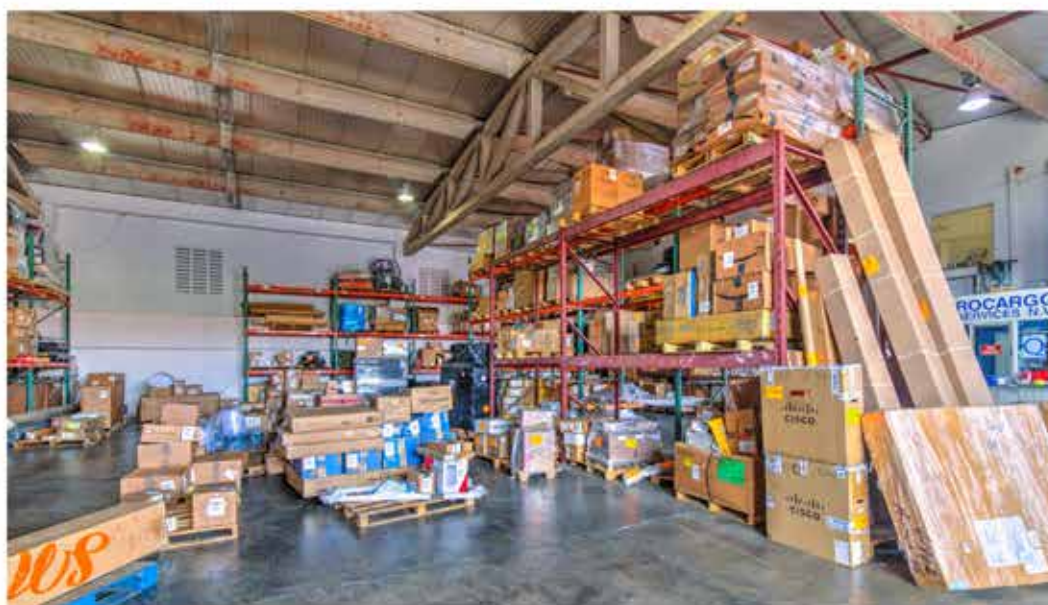
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TASTE OF BONAIRE

SUMMER EDITION



SATURDAY
8 AUGUSTUS 2026



TIME
18:00 - 22:00



LOCATION
ISIDEL PARK

Come experience local & international food, music, handcraft and much more!

TAKE
PICTURES
WITH THE
KIDS

FAVORITE
MASCOT
FRIENDS!



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



STEEL BAND
SIVER BULLET



DJ
MARV



OCEAN
BAND



NEW OPENING HOURS

Headquarters

Monday - Thursday:

8AM - 4PM

Friday:

8AM - 12PM

Saturday - Sunday:

CLOSED

Washington Slagbaai National Park

Monday:

CLOSED

Tuesday - Sunday:

8AM - 5PM

Entry allowed till 2:30PM

WASHINGTON PARK TRAIL RUN



24KM WALK & RUN

10KM WALK & RUN

THE SECOND EDITION OF WASHINGTON PARK TRAIL RACE

**23 AUG
2026**



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER
TRAILRUNBONAIRE.COM

 **24 KM**
START AT 5:30 AM

 **BUS LEAVES AT**
STADION DI PLAYA - 04:30 AM
STADION DI ANTONIO TREINBAAD (BONCON) - 04:45 AM

 **10 KM**
START AT 6:30 AM

 **BUS LEAVES AT**
STADION DI PLAYA - 05:30 AM
STADION DI ANTONIO TREINBAAD (BONCON) - 05:45 AM



PICK UP YOUR RACE NUMBER ON:
Friday AUG 21 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Saturday AUG 22 10:00 AM - 2:00 pm

LOCATION :

Sporthal Jorge Nicolaas at Kaya Amsterdam

**DISCOVER THE PEACE OF NATURE.
CHALLENGE YOURSELF.**



PARKING:
Stadion Antonio Trinidad
Stadion Di Playa





WATER- EN
ENERGIEBEDRIJF
BONAIRE

ELECTRICITY STATEMENT



A: Kaminda Djabou 35
E: info@webbonaire.com
T: +599 7158422
KVK: 884
CRIB: 303000806

Customer A
Kaya Blank 1
PO Box 23
Route: 929 - 123

A. Customer Number: 123456
B. Invoice No: 98765432
C. Invoice Date: 30-JUL-2026
D. Payment Amount: USD 100.24

Account Information

A. Deposit Amount USD 150.00

Meter Information

B. Meter Number E12345678
C. Read Date 11-Jul-26
D. Prior Read 66212
E. Current Read 66392
F. Usage (kWh) 180
G. Days 30

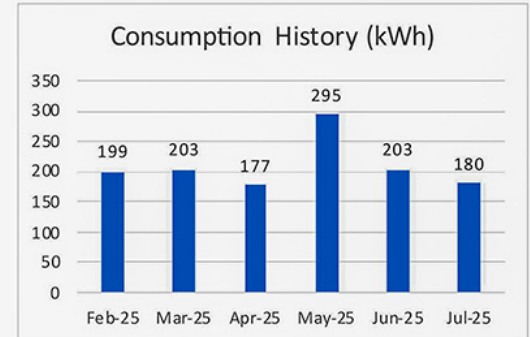
YOUR ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Since your previous invoice

A. Previous balance	USD	100.00
B. Last payment received on 30-JUN-2026	USD	100.00
C. Outstanding Balance with DUE date 30-JUL-2026	USD	0.00
D. New Invoice		
E. Variable Usage Rate Electric 180 kWh x \$ 0.3868	USD	69.62
F. Fixed Usage Rate 3x35A	USD	43.79
G. Total Charges with DUE date 30-AUG-2026	USD	113.41

Total Open Balance USD 113.41

State customer number by payment
Reduce CO2 emission. Send request for digital invoices to info@webbonaire.com.
Delivery subject to Terms & Conditions 2024, available at www.webbonaire.com.



Bank Information

RBC: 8400.0000.2305.7557 MCB: 915.041.02
Orco: 7600730195 BDC: 60348502

COMING SOON:
YOUR ELECTRICITY
AND WATER BILL
THROUGH MI WEB

MI WEB

WEB will soon launch a new digital customer portal that makes it easy to view and manage your bill.

let's do it together





Rank	Store	Number of cheapest items	Savings	
1	Kooyman Megastore Bonaire	53	\$1,738.29	51%
2	Playa Trading Bonaire BV	78	\$899.78	26%
3	Lucky Megastore	9	\$415.75	12%
4	Building Depot Bonaire	12	\$155.35	5%
5	Boomerang Hardware	4	\$147.73	4%
6	Dijtham	6	\$63.92	2%
			\$3,420.82	100%

Working at STINAPA:

COMMUNICATION OFFICER/ COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT

(m/f) fulltime (36 hours a week)



HELP US TELL THE STORY OF STINAPA'S CONSERVATION EFFORTS!

Are you creative, strong in communication, and do you know how to inspire people? Do you want to use your talent for one of the most beautiful nature organizations in the Caribbean? Then we are looking for you.

STINAPA Bonaire is strengthening its Education & Communication department. That's why we are looking for an enthusiastic communication professional. Depending on your education, work experience, and knowledge, you will be appointed as either **Communication Officer** or **Communication Assistant**. In both roles, you play an important part in making STINAPA's work visible. You help inform residents, visitors, and partners about nature conservation on Bonaire and ensure that our message is communicated professionally and attractively.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

Depending on your experience and job level, you'll be involved in tasks such as:

- Developing and carrying out communication and marketing activities.
- Managing the website and social media channels.
- Creating engaging content for online and offline communication.
- Writing press releases, news articles, and other communication materials.
- Developing brochures, advertisements, presentations, and promotional materials.
- Monitoring STINAPA's corporate identity.
- Organizing and supporting events, campaigns, and educational activities.
- Maintaining contacts with colleagues, media, and external partners.
- Contributing to internal communication within the organization.

AS A COMMUNICATION OFFICER, YOU ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Creating and executing the annual communication and marketing plan.
- Advising management on communication issues.
- Coordinating communication projects and campaigns.
- Leading and guiding the Communication Assistant.
- Spotting developments and turning them into new communication opportunities.
- Focusing on the strategic and external positioning of STINAPA and supporting management and the board with communication on socially relevant, sensitive, or complex topics.
- Making STINAPA's daily work visible and understandable, and translating input from the field into engaging, accessible, and reliable content.
- You strengthen the connection within STINAPA and between STINAPA and the Bonaire community. You listen, build relationships, and ensure communication fits the local context.
- You translate organizational goals into integrated campaigns and professionally organized, strategic events. In the process, you monitor planning, budget, responsibilities, and results.

WHO ARE YOU?

You are creative, independent, and know how to reach different target groups. You write easily, have an eye for design, and enjoy collaborating on social goals. Besides that, you also have:

FOR THE POSITION OF COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT

- A completed MBO+ education in Marketing, Communication, or similar.
- At least 2 years of relevant work experience.
- Experience with social media, content creation, and graphic design.
- Good command of Dutch, English, and Papiamentu.

FOR THE COMMUNICATION OFFICER POSITION

- A completed HBO degree in Marketing, Communication, or a similar field.
- At least 5 years of relevant work experience.
- Experience in developing communication plans and campaigns.
- Experience with project coordination and advising.
- Excellent writing skills.
- Good command of Dutch, English, and Papiamentu.

YOU CAN COUNT ON

A versatile role where you contribute daily to the protection of Bonaire's unique nature. You will have plenty of room for your own initiatives and work together with enthusiastic colleagues who share the same passion. STINAPA offers attractive employment conditions in accordance with the applicable collective labor agreement, including:

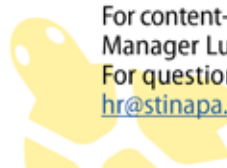
- An employment contract for 36 hours per week.
- Salary depends on education and experience.
 - o **Communication Assistant:** scale 7 (\$2,671 - \$3,319 gross).
 - o **Communication Officer:** scale 10 (\$3,699 - \$4,852 gross).
- 8.33% holiday allowance.
- 166 vacation hours per year based on a full-time position.
- Sports allowance up to 2/3 of a membership at a recognized sports facility.
- Opportunities for personal development.
- An inspiring work environment in the middle of nature.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT STINAPA BONAIRE

STINAPA Bonaire is a non-profit organization responsible for managing the Bonaire National Marine Park, Washington Slagbaai Park, Lac Bay, and Klein Bonaire. Together with a dedicated team, we work every day to protect, preserve, and restore Bonaire's unique nature. Our employees make a difference for nature and society every single day.

READY TO MAKE AN IMPACT?

Send your motivation letter and CV to vacature@stinapa.org with the reference **Communication Officer/ Communication Assistant before August 17**. For content-related questions, you can contact the Education & Communication Manager Luc Hameleers at educom@stinapa.org or call +599 777 3324. For questions about the application process, you can contact HR at hr@stinapa.org.





BONAIRE
CULINARY WEEK

FALL EDITION 2026

Save the date!

Bonaire Culinary Week

FALL EDITION 2026

September 24 – October 8

BONAIRE MONTHLY TOURISM PERFORMANCE

JUNE 2026

THE FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

These data are preliminary figures.

NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR
13,387 2026

All non-residents are registered as visitors

NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR
13,606 2025

2026 COMPARED TO 2025

1.6%

Decrease in non-resident arrivals



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



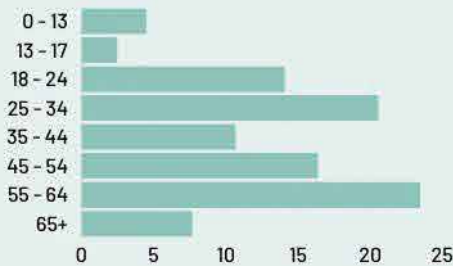
TOP STATES & REGION

US Florida, Texas, California, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina.

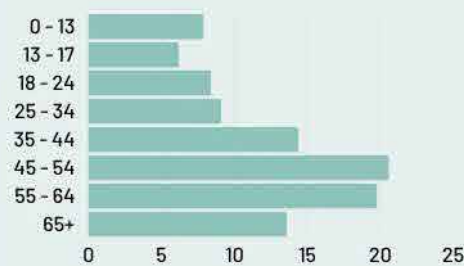
NL South Holland, North Holland, North Brabant, Gelderland, and Utrecht.

DEMOGRAPHICS

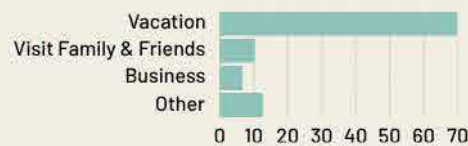
AGE | DUTCH



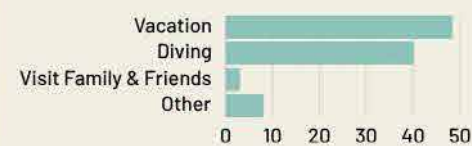
AGE | AMERICAN



REASON TO VISIT | DUTCH



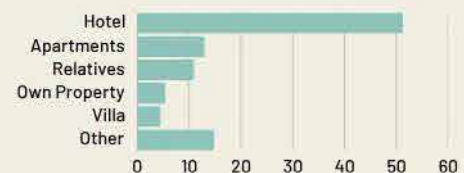
REASON TO VISIT | AMERICAN



VISITOR BEHAVIOR

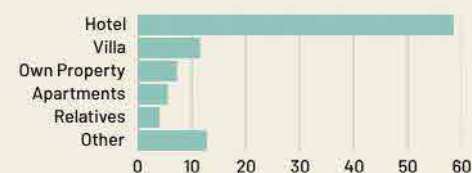
ACCOMMODATION TYPE

DUTCH

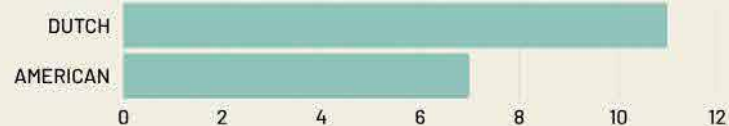


ACCOMMODATION TYPE

AMERICAN



LENGHT OF STAY



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- www.bonaireisland.com
- info@bonaireisland.com
- bonaire.portcall.com

WHAT IS 'BAN LESA 2.0'?

A new radio series about Caribbean books with a new episode every week!

Starting Tuesday, June 2, the new radio series Ban Lesa 2.0 begins on BonFM. Every week at 5:30 PM, listeners will dive into the richness of Caribbean literature for half an hour. The series consists of 24 episodes of 30 minutes, divided across three languages: eight in Papiamentu, eight in English, and eight in Dutch. In this way, the versatility of the Caribbean language area will be made accessible to a broad audience.



BAN LESA 2.0





FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Winter 2025/2026
starting October 1st

DESTINATION	AIRLINE	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	DETAILS
NEW YORK JFK	jetBlue						✓		Last flight on January 3, 2026
MIAMI	American Airlines	✓		✓		✓	✓*		DAILY Dec. 17, 2025 - Jan. 5, 2026 *Saturdays 2 daily flights (seasonal)
ATLANTA	DELTA			✓*			✓	✓*	*Starting Dec. 20th, seasonal flights
NEW YORK NEWARK	UNITED						✓		Starting Nov. 1st
HOUSTON	UNITED							✓	Arrival on Saturdays
TORONTO	WESTJET			✓					Starting Dec. 9th - Arrivals on Tue.
AMSTERDAM	KLM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓*	*Fri. & Sun. 2 daily flights - Dec. 19, 2025 - Mar. 15 2026
AMSTERDAM	TUI	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		Wed Thu Fri direct from AMS
AMSTERDAM	corendon.		✓*					✓	*Starting Oct. 14th - till Oct. 8 on Wednesdays
SANTO DOMINGO SDQ	SKYhigh Dominicana					✓			
CURACAO SINT MAARTEN	WINAIR	✓		✓		✓			Arrivals on Sun Tue Thu
CURACAO ARUBA	DIVIDIVI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CURACAO ARUBA	ZAir	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Please note this schedule is subject to change without prior notice.

 2026 Clean Coast Bonaire Schedule 2nd Sunday of each month		
January 11th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
February 8th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
March 8th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
April 12th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
May 10th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
June 14th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
July 12th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
August 9th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
September 13th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
October 11th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
November 8th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
December 13th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM

No dogs on beaches

STINAPA POST:

We adore our four-legged friends, yet it's crucial we respect our delicate ecosystems.

Please adhere to these guidelines to maintain the beauty of our beaches and protect the wildlife.

Nesting Area Respect: No dog walking in sea turtle nesting zones. Fines of up to \$170 may apply.

It is permitted to walk dogs between Punt Vierkant and the Salt Pier and between the Willemstoren and Sorobon, but only along the coast.

Off-Limits Shores: Dogs are not permitted on these specific beaches. View the map for details.

Playa Lechi (Sunset Beach)
Playa Lechi Suit (Boulevard)
Playa Chachacha
Playa pal'i mangel (Donkey's Beach)
Fòrn'i kalki (Bachelor's Beach)
From Saliña (salt pier) to Lacre Punt (Willemstoren)
Sorobon and Cai
Piedra haltu (Thousand Steps)
Tolo
Klein Bonaire





BONAIRE FRIENDS

CELEBRATING THE BEST PART OF BONAIRE

DID YOU MAKE A FRIEND DURING
YOUR STAY ON BONAIRE?

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US

We're celebrating the wonderful people of Bonaire and want to hear your stories! Have you met a local who made your visit unforgettable, maybe by showing you a hidden gem, helping you try something new, or simply lending a kind hand?

Share your experience and tell us about your Bonaire Friend, they could be recognized with a special prize!



FILL IT IN HERE!



BONAIRE
It's in our nature.

WWW.BONAIREISLAND.COM