



YEAR REPORT 2004



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INTRODUCTION

Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire (STINAPA Bonaire) is a non-governmental foundation that manages the protected areas of Bonaire for the island government.

Mission Statement:

STINAPA Bonaire is dedicated to the conservation of Bonaire's natural and historical heritage through the sustainable use of its resources.

Goals:

- 1) To protect, conserve and restore all the natural resources, including but not limited to the native flora and fauna of Bonaire for future generations;
- 2) To ensure that the conservation of these natural resources is given the highest priority in all public decision making processes;
- 3) To ensure that the residents of and visitors to Bonaire receive quality education and information about the protection of nature and the environment;
- 4) To ensure that the natural and historical resources of Bonaire are used in a sustainable manner.

The foundation consists of four units:

1 Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP)

The BNMP was established in 1979 and encompasses all waters around the island of Bonaire and Klein Bonaire from the high water mark to a depth of 200 feet (60 m). The terrestrial area of the island of Klein Bonaire is also included in the park.

2 Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP)

The WSNP was established in 1969. At first it was only the Washington plantation that was proclaimed as a nature sanctuary. In 1979 the Slagbaai plantation was bought and the sanctuary was enlarged. It is the first protected area of the Netherlands Antilles.

3 Nature and Environment Education (NEE)

Natuur- en Milieu Educatie (NME) is Dutch for Nature and Environment Education (NEE). The NEE program was initiated by STINAPA and the other environmental NGOs of Bonaire with funding from World Wildlife Funds-The Netherlands (WWF-NL) to develop school materials, train teachers in their use, and offer a variety of educational programs about Bonaire's natural environment.



Flamingo's at Lac

4 Management, accounting and administration

This is the administrative unit of the foundation. The purpose of this department is to ensure that the mission of the foundation is being fulfilled; that the financial administration of the parks is being taken care of; that all contracts, agreements, policies and legislations are being respected and to administer and manage all personnel matters.

The BNMP and the WSNP each have a manager and rangers while the NEE has a program coordinator. The Director and the Accounting Manager together with the managers of the parks and the NEE Coordinator form the Management Team (MT). The MT concept was introduced in 2003 when a Director was hired. The Director presides over the MT's weekly meetings, the objectives of which are:

To keep the MT members informed on the activities in each unit and to reach consensus on strategic and tactical decisions. Any policy related suggestion is presented to the Board for approval.

A general meeting is held once a month to keep all employees informed about the activities of the foundation. The MT members inform their colleagues on what is happening at the executive level. The other employees react on happenings in their field and bring forward questions, concerns or suggestions.

The Board is kept informed through the minutes of the MT meetings and the minutes of the general meetings.

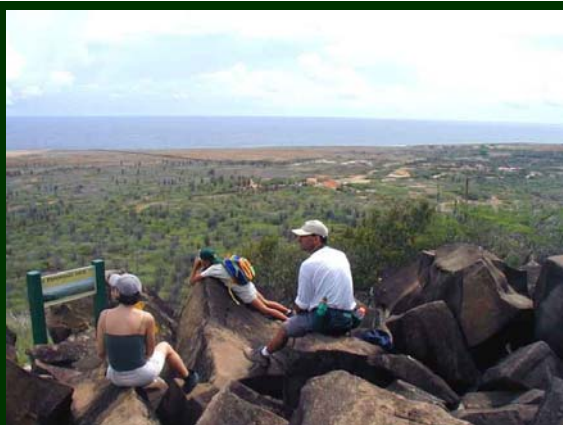
The Board of Directors has a maximum of eleven (11) seats. All Directors are volunteers and receive no financial compensation for their time and effort. The Board meets once a month.

Four (4) seats are reserved for organizations that have a vested interest in the park systems: Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (Bonhata), Counsel of Underwater Organizations (CURO), Koperativa di Kriadonan di Bestia Boneiriano (KRIABON). There is also a seat for the fishermen.

When the government of the Island Territory of Bonaire signed the subsidy contract with STINAPA in 2002, they proposed to have two (2) seats on the Board and the Board approved this. During this reporting period no government representative has taken the seats. There are four (4) independent seats of which three are filled.



Washington Slagbaai National Park



On top of Seru Kasikunda



Slagbaai building on VISA credit card

At the end of December 2003 the Board of Directors consisted of the following members:

- Mr. Jack Chalk - President
- Mrs. Jeannette Nolen - Vice President
- Mr. Herbert Piar - Treasurer
- Representative of CURO: Mr. Steve Jevon
- Representative of TCB: Mr. Delno Tromp
- Representative of BONHATA: Mrs. Diana Sint Jago

The Board held 11 meetings during this reporting period.

HIGHLIGHTS



- Research was started on the status of coral reefs in connection with the future establishment of Fish Protected Areas. Presentations were given in the community centers and to the government about Fish Protected Areas. Fishermen from St. Lucia visited Bonaire to share with local fishermen and the public their experiences regarding Fish Protected Areas on their island. The fishermen of Bonaire visited St. Lucia to see the consequences of St Lucia's Fish Protected Areas.



- The 35th anniversary of the WSNP and the 25th anniversary of the BNMP were grandly celebrated. Carel Steensma, one of the initiators of the marine park visit Bonaire and a dive site was named after him.
- On request of WWF-NL an expert opinion was asked from UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education from Leiden, The Netherlands, on the proposed Sewerage and Sanitation System for Bonaire.
- With a subsidy from AMFO, the Netherlands Antilles co-financing organization, a training institution was contracted to train employees in 'Special Police Powers' to commence early in 2005.
- A petition was sent to the government to increase the entrance fee to the BNMP for diving and to charge all users. Also, an increase of the fee for the use of the moorings in the bay of Kralendijk was petitioned for.
- Bonaire received legal technical assistance from the Netherlands to start writing the Nature Ordinance.
- Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) was officially established.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The foundation had seventeen (17) employees during this reporting period:

A Managing Director, an Accounting Manager, two (2) park managers, two (2) chief rangers, eight (8) rangers, a receptionist/administrative assistant, an education officer, and an interior maintenance person.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

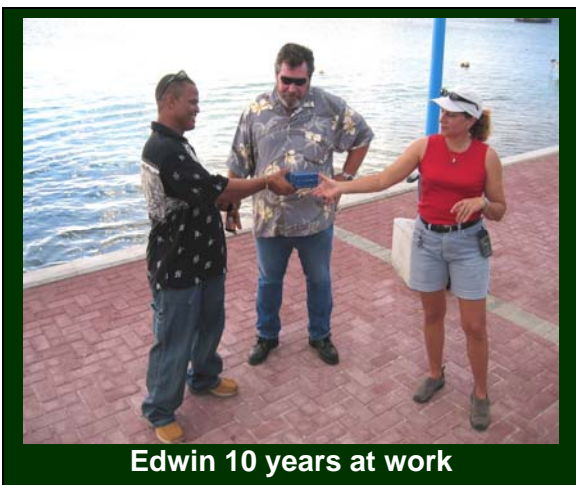
- A new manager for the BNMP was employed. The manager of the WSNP, who functioned as interim manager for both the parks for the past 8 months, trained him. The new manager also received training from Kalli de Meyer, the former marine park manager, through Coral Resource Management.
- With a subsidy from the government, STINAPA was able to hire an additional ranger for the BNMP.
- Two (2) additional rangers were hired for the BNMP to be paid from the operational budget.
- The traditional 'thank you' year-end gathering for STINAPA volunteers was organized.
- All employees were evaluated: The manager and the chief ranger of each unit evaluated the rangers, the President of the Board of Directors and the Managing Director evaluated the managers, and two (2) Board of Directors members evaluated the Managing Director. Employees who were positively evaluated receive additional financial compensation.
- A student of the Hogeschool van Breda, Kristi Nieuwenhuijse did a six-month senior school-year internship. She carried out a survey, interviewing locals and tourists on their perception of the WSNP. She also supervised another intern and made a marketing and communication plan for the park.
- Phillip Haak, a student of SGB, the local high school, completed a three-month internship. He worked in all departments and was supervised by Kristi as part of her training.
- We had a festive celebration for Chief Ranger Edwin Domacassé, who has been working for us for over ten years.

DIFFICULTIES AND CONSTRAINTS:

- The parks were understaffed; this inhibits us to do proper law enforcement and monitoring. Especially the WSNP is greatly understaffed.



Ramon de Leon, new BNMP manager



Edwin 10 years at work



On the job training



Slagbaai building reconstructed

EQUIPMENT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Safety equipment was purchased for all the BNMP boats.
- A new computer was purchased for NEE with funds received from DCNA.
- A laptop was purchased for the WSNP with monies received from a private donor.
- A wireless internet connection was installed with a grant from private donors as well as our own funds.

INFRASTRUCTURE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- A roof was constructed providing shade for the rangers when doing boat and car maintenance work.
- A committee called 'Komishon Kas di Naturalesa' was formed which meets regularly. This is a joint project of several nature NGOs. With the exception of the director of STINAPA, the members of this committee are all volunteers. A goal of the committee is to build a visitors' center in Kralendijk. The visitors' center will house the administrative offices of STINAPA and the offices of the management of the BNMP. It will have an exhibition area, a library, a souvenir store and an amphitheatre. There will be office space for other nature NGOs.
- An agreement to manage the facilities at Cai and Sorobon has been proposed. This agreement is between STINAPA, SELIBON, the sanitation department, and the government.
- There was an official opening of the Slagbaai buildings after their re-construction. The buildings were re-constructed with funding from the development funds of the Netherlands
- Fundashon Cas Boneriano donated architectural drawings of the three buildings to be constructed at the entrance of the Washington Slagbaai National Park and the necessary building permits have been requested. The permits are for the
 - a. expansion of the toilets facilities,
 - b. construction of a library,
 - c. construction of a housing facility for scientists, researchers, students and volunteers.

This construction project is to be financed with a grant received from Stichting DOEN

DIFFICULTIES AND CONSTRAINTS:



New bathrooms at Slagbaai



New patio at Slagbaai



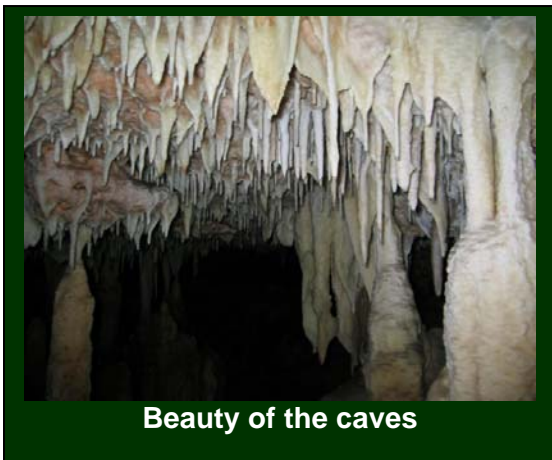
Cave Guide training

- The government has not yet responded to the request from the 'Komishon Kas di Naturalesa' for a lot to build the Visitors' Center.
- The management agreement between STINAPA, SELIBON and the government to manage the facilities at Cai and Sorobon has yet to be signed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The Law Enforcement committee, established in 2003, met regularly to discuss different nature and environment law enforcement issues. Committee members are the prosecutor, the BNMP manager, the STINAPA director, officials of the government from the Department of Nature and Environmental Affairs, the chief of police, the Harbor Master and the head of SSV, the government security department.
- A motor vessel called 'Our Confidence' sank in the marine park. Legal actions have been taken.
- Customs officers, the police, the BNMP rangers and the Coast Guard of the Netherlands and Aruba carried out joint law enforcement during the weekend of 'Dia di Rincon'. They checked boats for registration papers.
- The government, TCB and STINAPA signed an agreement with several members of the private sector who provide excursions into caves. The guides participated in a training session as part of this agreement.
- Meetings have been held with kayak trip operators, informing them of a future agreement that will govern their activities in the mangroves of Lac. Starting in 2005 all kayak guides will need to be certified and all companies that sell excursions to Lac will have to sign a contract, agreeing to obey the rules and regulations and the code of conduct of Lac.
- During routine car patrols along the shoreline, several trucks have been caught taking sand illegally. They were asked to leave the area and were given warnings.



Beauty of the caves

DIFFICULTIES AND CONSTRAINTS:

- Insufficient staffing prevents more efficient law enforcement.
- More back up is needed from the police and the government security service, SSV when asked.



First Aid training



Further study market for high school students



STINAPA crew

EDUCATION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- STINAPA continues to be involved in the after-school program for elementary school children, offering snorkel lessons and the use of the Educational Boxes.
- The wife of the Governor Domacassé, Maria Elena Domacassé Vis, volunteered to assist with the snorkel lessons. She gives the theory classes to the children in the after-school program.
- STINAPA and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) launched an island-wide education outreach and information campaign about the protection of sea turtles and their habitat. The campaign, given the slogan, 'Protehá Nos Turtuganan' was initiated by the DCNA with funding of Truus en Gerrit van Riemsdijk Foundation. The purpose of this campaign is to inform and educate the public and school-aged children about the importance of protecting sea turtles and their living grounds, in particular the nesting beaches on Bonaire. The campaign also addresses the role individuals can play as well as the Satellite Tracking Program of STCB. The campaign will run for a year.
- In the museum of the WSNP a skeleton of a flamingo and an iguana have been placed on exhibit
- STINAPA employees participated in first aid and radio operator courses. These courses are part of the Ranger Training Program. A group in the Netherlands called 'De vrienden van Bonaire' donated the first aid textbooks.
- The MT and chief rangers participated in stress management training. The director went to Stanford University for a course entitled 'Economic Value of Protected Areas', paid for by a sponsorship from the Baum Foundation.
- We participated at the further study market for high school students. The students got the chance to see what professions are on Bonaire and in the region and what are the required skills.
- Rangers of the BNMP were trained by STCB in water turtle research.
- A subsidy was received from AMFO. With this subsidy, 'Stichting voor Professionele Studies en Vorming in de Beveiliging', a training institution, was contracted to train STINAPA employees in 'Special Police Powers', starting early in 2005.
- The curriculum of our Ranger Training Program was used in the training of teenage school dropouts.
- An educational program, running the length of the school year, was developed and presented for



Donkey Sanctuary



Turtles coming out of nest



Life on the Coast

approval to all school principals, the school boards and to the government's Department of Education. In previous years there was no such program. This educational program gives a clear picture of what is offered throughout the year, bringing a sense of structure both to NEE and to the schools.

- During the entire school year, Educational Boxes were distributed amongst the primary schools and kindergarten. Each box is on loan to a school for a period of seven weeks, after which time, the box moves on to another school. Each box has a theme and is designed for specific education levels: Kindergarten school boxes are: In the Sea, On Land and In the Sky.

Primary school boxes are: Trees and Wood, Donkeys, Pets, Reptiles, Birds, Bats, Sea Turtles, Coral Reefs, Fishes, Plants and Lac.

- From January to June 2004, the following schools participated in the outdoor activities program offered by the NEE unit: Kolegio Reina Beatrix, San Bernardo, Papa Cornes, San Luis Bertran and Watapanaschool. Activities are held on the school grounds or when ever suitable in nature. The following activities programs were implemented:

- Kindergarten: Lora Pad & Meneer de pauw
- First grade: Dierenpad & Animal Shelter
- Second grade: Donkey Sanctuary
- Third grade: Rad van natuur (Wheel of nature)
- Fourth grade: Strandjuttten (Beach combing)
- Fifth grade: Rotskust (Rock coast)
- Sixth grade: Leven aan de kust (Life on the coast)

Approximately 1728 children participated.

- NEE was invited by SEBIKI (Sentro Boneriano di Informashon i Kuido Infantil) to give training sessions to the volunteers who will assist with their nature and environmental outings. SEBIKI has an educational and recreational program for children on their summer vacations.
- A 'Treasure Hunt' in Washington Park was developed by NEE to educate children about the museum and the park's outdoor exhibitions. The treasure hunt is for groups of five to six children and lasts about 90 minutes.
- The BNMP celebrated its 25th anniversary. To commemorate this milestone, NEE organized an exhibition for children by children. This exhibit took place at Wilhelmina Park during the 'Taste of Bonaire' event, which was part of the 2004 Bonaire Dive Festival. Five exhibits were created by a group



Weight the collected garbage



Register the collected garbage



Graduates of snorkel program

of youngsters and teenagers from a number of schools:

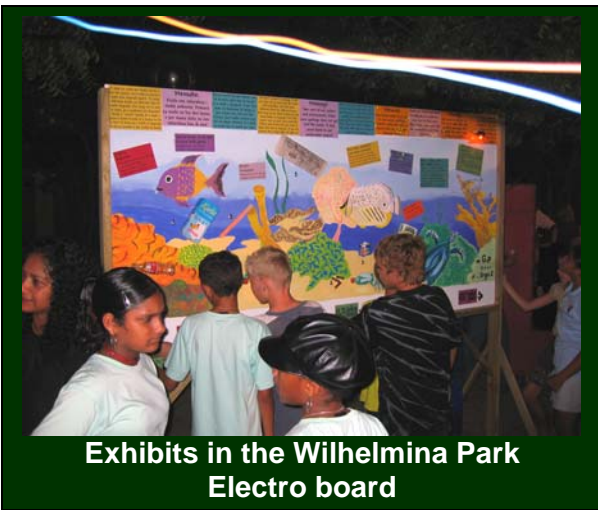
1. 'Color The Reef': Lead by local artist Nochi Coffie, children learned how to paint. On a big plywood board, Coffie drew an outline of a reef and the children 'colored the reef'. The coloring took place in Wilhelmina Park and the participants of the Dive Festival were spectators.
2. 'Nature and Environmental Education': A group of children, together with the NEE coordinator created an educational display. The children used colored paper cutouts of reef fish, reef creatures and coral, sticking them to a board, which served as a backdrop. Sea turtles, typical Bonairian reefs, the food pyramid and the marine park rules were all subjects of this display.
3. 'Underwater Aquarium': Lead by local artist Janice Huckaby, a group of teenagers (including teenagers from Jong Bonaire) made an exhibit portraying Bonaire's underwater world. Made from driftwood, they created an aquarium filled with colorful fish and other creatures.
4. 'Electro Board': This initiative came from Dee Scarr from 'Touch The Sea'. A giant electronic board was created with a time line of how long it takes for different types of garbage to degrade in the sea. The background was a reef, painted by two teenagers from Jong Bonaire. Garbage was stuck to the background. The garbage included a newspaper, a wooden paint stick, an aluminum can and a glass bottle. The time line showed a period ranging from three weeks to 600+ years, with the newspaper being the fastest item to degrade and the glass being the longest. The time line had buttons to push and each piece of garbage had a switch. Visitors could choose a piece of garbage and then guess the time it would take for it to degrade. If they guessed the correct time a bulb would light.
5. 'One Man's Trash Is Another Man's Treasure': The objective of this exhibit was to demonstrate that garbage can be recycled into art. The NEE coordinator, together with a group of schoolchildren collected items along the coastline that were washed on shore. All items collected were blue. With all these found goods, they created a giant work of art.
 - STINAPA was asked by FORMA (Fundashon Formashon pa Mayan) to join a group of teenagers on an educational/recreational trip to Klein Bonaire. The NEE coordinator gave a briefing on the work that STINAPA does, the parks it manages and the purpose of the NEE division.
 - The Snorkel program 'Turtuganan di Boneiru' was offered, just as in the past ten years, to all six primary



**Exhibits in the Wilhelmina Park;
Aquarium**



**Exhibits in the Wilhelmina Park;
Finding Nemo**



**Exhibits in the Wilhelmina Park
Electro board**

schools within the context of the “Skol di Bario” after-school program. Around 75 children participated in the program this year. The program is five weeks long and consists of one theory session and one practical session each week. In a typical week, one day is dedicated to theory and one day is out in the field, snorkeling and experiencing what was taught in the theory session. The program includes the following subjects:

- a. Week One: Introduction to the BNMP and explanation of the snorkeling program. “Turtuganan” (sea turtles) are discussed, using the BNMP Educational Box ‘TURTUGA’. During the first snorkel lesson, there is a swimming test and children learn how to use the snorkel equipment.
- b. Week Two: “Reef fish” are discussed and work is assigned from the teacher’s guide and the workbook “Turtuganan di Boneiru”. During the snorkel trip children see and learn about reef fish.
- c. Week Three: “Coral” is discussed; using the BNMP Educational Box ‘CORAL’ and work is assigned from the workbook. During the snorkel trip, children see and learn about coral.
- d. Week Four: “Lac, Mangroves and Conch” are discussed, using the BNMP Educational Box ‘KARKO’ (conch), the teacher’s guide and the workbook for assignments. The children are taken to the Mangrove Kayak & Info Center where they go on a kayak trip. They see and learn about the ecosystem of Lac.
- e. Week Five: Final week of the snorkel program with a boat trip to Klein Bonaire and a ceremony to award certificates.

- In 2004, a kayak trip and mangrove educational visit was added to the “Turtuganan di Boneiru” snorkel program in week four. Instead of snorkeling, the children are taken on an educational field trip in a kayak during which they see and learn about the importance of the mangroves, sea grass and the conch. The educational visit and kayak trip are provided compliments of Gerard van Erp of the Mangrove Kayak & Info Center.
- As a conclusion of the 2003-2004 snorkel programs, all children who were certified during this period visited the m/v Freewinds for an underwater documentary.
- A new volunteer helped with the snorkel program; the Governor’s wife, Mrs. Maria-Elena Domacassé Vis, introduced by volunteer Mrs. Elvia Piar. After sufficient training, Mrs. Domacassé took over the



Meeting with kayak operators

- program from Mrs. Elvia Piar and together with another volunteer they handled the snorkel program.
- The managers and director participated in a presentation given by Gerard van Buurt from LVV Curaçao on invasive species. Van Buurt explained that invasive species can do damage to the natural environment. He spoke about how to recognize their presence by identifying points of entry; harbors, containers, airplanes etc. The topic of invasive species became significant in Bonaire when suddenly a large number of the Cuban tree frogs were noted multiplying very quickly. We had heavy rains fall for several days this year.



Cuban Tree frog

DIFFICULTIES AND CONSTRAINTS:

- Not having a visitors' center in a more publicly accessible area is a burden. If the offices of STINAPA could be relocated in Kralendijk, more people and schools could be involved in our activities and participate in our awareness programs.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & PROMOTIONS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The director (sometimes accompanied by one or more members of the MT), met frequently with various stakeholders. Monthly meetings were held with Aliansa Naturalesa di Boneiru, CMM (Commissie Marien Milieu), CURO, NGO Plataforma (the organization that represents all non governmental organizations on Bonaire), Mr. Peter Montanus from DROB, (the Department of Nature and Environmental Affairs of the government), the World Heritage Nomination working group and the Law Enforcement committee. On an ad hoc basis, according to demand, STINAPA met with fishermen (both individually and as a group), island government officials, TCB, SELIBON, LVV, police and SSV. STINAPA met many individuals who wanted to start businesses, seeking advice on how to apply for permits.
- The quest to have the BNMP nominated as a World Heritage Site continued, although the effort moved along at a slow pace.
- STINAPA has moved forward with preparations for the Management Plan of the Marine Park and Klein Bonaire.
- The Management Plan of Lac was drafted but still needs to be finished. In preparation for the Management Plan for the Marine Park, we began



AVRO shooting a TV program featuring the marine park



'We are the pioneers of the last Fronteers'

- strategic planning, analyzing the potential management issues, threats and tasks.
- The WSNP received recognition in an article in the National Geographic Traveler Magazine.
- Several press releases were written and sent out to the press regarding NEE's activities. Some that received coverage in local newspapers and/or radio were:
 - Educational trips to Klein Bonaire to experience turtle hatchings;
 - Nature and Environmental Education (aired on Bon FM);
 - "Turtuganan di Boneiru" snorkel program and the newly certified school children;
 - NEE's outdoor activities program;
 - Bonaire National Marine Park 25th anniversary exposition in Wilhelmina Park;
 - Washington Slagbaai National Park 35th anniversary;
 - The launch of the "Proteha Nos Turtuganan" awareness campaign;
 - The joint press conference between the "Proteha Nos Turtuganan" campaign and POST NV.

- The WSNP celebrated its 35th anniversary. For this occasion, STINAPA organized a full day of events, including sports activities such as biking, hiking and kayaking. The event also featured, for the first time, the local market of Rincon (Marshe Rincon) at the entrance of the park. Marshe Rincon was present with a variety of stands with food and snacks, local crafts and live music. NEE organized activities for children at the entrance of the park, including the 'Treasure Hunt', the 'Wheel of Nature', a variety of craft projects as well as a project called 'Color Our Nature' with local artist Nochi Coffie. At least 300 people visited the park on that day. The radio station BonFM featured live coverage of the event with interviews and comments from visitors.

- The visionaries, Boy Herrera and L.D. Gerharts, were commemorated. They decided 35 years ago that the plantation Washington should become a protected area. Flowers were laid at their tombs.
- The producers of the Curaçao children's television show 'Nos Mundu' visited Bonaire to shoot some episodes here. For one episode, they visited Washington Park. After a briefing about the park, the children, who are also the hosts of the show, participated in the 'Treasure Hunt'.



Commemoration



Presentation in Havana



WSNP day; live radio coverage



Marshe di Rincon at WSNP

- Karen Bass, a television producer from the BBC visited Bonaire to make arrangements, in preparation for shooting a TV show in Bonaire that will air on BBC International. The WSNP and the BNMP will be featured on the program.
- STINAPA participated in a 'Beroepen Markt' (market of professions), organized by SGB, the local high school. STINAPA gave information on all possible professions and places that a student could get work after graduating.
- After the launch of the turtle campaign, STINAPA was approached by POST NV, the postal company from Curaçao, regarding a possible joint venture. POST NV was preparing to release a new stamp collection featuring sea turtles and read about our turtle campaign in one of our press releases. POST NV asked STINAPA to do a joint event—launching their new sea turtle stamp collection and highlighting our turtle awareness campaign. A press conference was organized with the participation of POST NV, DCNA, STINAPA and STCB.
- The director was a guest speaker at the Caribbean Tourism Organization's (CTO) sustainable tourism conference in Havana. The topic of the conference was 'Keeping the Right Balance—Land and Sea Encounters'. The director spoke about STINAPA, how it generates its income and how the marine protected areas are being managed.
- The director gave an interview to a reporter from the Dutch newspaper 'Financieel Dagblad'.
- The director gave an interview to a reporter from the Dutch magazine 'Recreatie en Toerisme'.
- The director gave an interview to a reporter from the American magazine 'Outdoor'.
- The director, the chief rangers of both parks and the NEE coordinator gave interviews to the producers of the television program 'Wilde Wereld Reizen' who are from AVRO television station in the Netherlands.
- The director gave a presentation on Coastal Zone Construction Guidelines at the Southern Caribbean Eco-Regional Initiative meetings in Aruba.
- The director participated in live radio interviews with all the FM radio stations of Bonaire. Topics included the anniversaries of the parks, visiting scientists, the visiting fishermen of St. Lucia who came to talk about the importance and the need for Fish Protected Areas.



Hurricane Ivan in town

- We have captured at least 121 times that the work of the foundation was published in local and international press.

DIFFICULTIES AND CONSTRAINTS:

- The website updates were not completed due to lack of time.
- The much needed STINAPA newsletter was not created due to lack of manpower.
- The World Heritage Nomination is progressing slowly.
- The Management Plan of Lac is still in draft format.
- The Management Plan of the Marine Park and Klein Bonaire are not finalized.
- Education for adults and teenagers is still pending; a Communication Officer needs to be hired to take the education to a higher level.



Lots of rain

NATURE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Very heavy rains fell for several days. The excess of water caused a lot of flooding. In Kralendijk and its vicinities, pumps were used to pump rainwater out of flooded areas into the ocean, which dumped a lot of silt on coral heads. The BNMP monitored the silt closely and noted that the current took the silt away into deeper waters within a couple of weeks. Although the excess of rain caused a lot of damage to the roads of the WSNP, the park was beautiful in full bloom with lots of birds.
- We had a near hit by hurricane Ivan. It did a lot of damage to piers of dive schools and in the area of Lac.
- Dr. Robert Steneck and his students from University of Maine came to Bonaire once again. His baseline study, done in 2003, was repeated. His visit was in preparation for the Fish Protected Areas project and for research on the status of coral reefs in Bonaire. Dr. Steneck gave several presentations to the government on why Bonaire should consider having Fish Protected Areas in the marine park. The lecture was understood and the government reacted positively to the idea. A similar presentation was given to fishermen at a local hangout. There were approximately 30 people present but the majority was not fishermen. The small group of fishermen present argued that the decrease in the reef fish population is not due to over fishing but to the increase number of divers, photographers using flashes and lights when



Rain run off



Dr. Steneck giving presentation



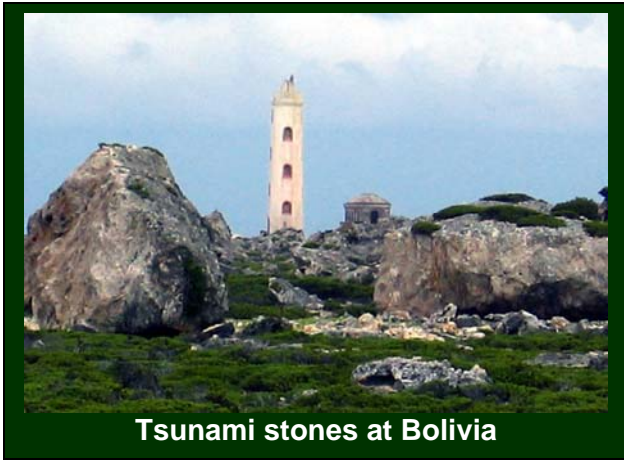
Fishermen from St. Lucia talking to local fishermen



Fish protected areas worked for St. Lucia

night diving. This has caused the reef fish to move to deeper waters where they will not be bothered.

- Dr. Tim McClanahan from Mombassa, Kenya returned to Bonaire to continue with Coral Reef Conservation's research project. Both Dr. Steneck and Dr. McClanahan are members of the PEW Fellows Society.
- Dr. Molenbeek of the University of Amsterdam gave a presentation to the entire STINAPA staff on double-valve shells. He showed us different members of this species, some endemic to Bonaire but scarce.
- STINAPA participated at several meetings of the Sewerage Treatment project. By request of WWF-NL, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education was asked their expert opinion on the proposed Sewerage and Sanitation System for Bonaire. Their expert opinion was asked because we wanted to be ascertained that the proposed system fulfills the objective; 'To safeguard the coral reefs.'
- Fishermen from St. Lucia accompanied by the manager of the Souffier Marine Protected Area, visited Bonaire to share with us their experiences with Fish Protected Areas. Several meetings were held in community centers and fishermen gathering places so that the St. Lucian's could explain to locals their experience and the results. The turnout of fishermen to the meetings was very low.
- We participated in Earth Day; a wire cable found in a cave was cut into pieces and removed. We also did an organized clean up effort at Playa Chiki, at the WSNP and around the headquarters at Barcadera.
- Aileen Morse a scientist from University of Santa Barbara repeated her research on coral recruitment.
- In connection with Clean up the World we did an organized clean up effort at Klein Bonaire. The high school students of SGB as well as the crew and passengers of the m/v Freewinds volunteered. Unfortunately, due to bad weather and a thunderstorm, we had to abort our mission.
- Professor Anja Scheffers from University of Essen, Germany gave a presentation of her research on tsunamis and hurricanes that have hit Bonaire in the past. She showed evidence; huge rocks on land that could have only been moved by massive forces such as tsunami waves; Dr. Scheffers spent a lot of time talking about sand mining on the east coast. She explained that by removing these stones, research evidence is being destroyed. Also, by removing stones, the island is more vulnerable to future hurricanes or tsunamis, since there would be nothing in the way to break the force of the waves. On her insistence STINAPA informed the government of



Tsunami stones at Bolivia



Sewage Treatment Project meeting



Cable removed from a cave

these dangers and intensified law enforcement against illegal sand mining.

- Bonaire received legal technical assistance from the Netherlands to start writing the Nature Ordinance. This was arranged through VOMIL/MINA, the nature and environment department of the Central Government.
- STINAPA participated in a Green Globe 21 presentation, organized by the environmental department of the government.
- Local fishermen went twice to St. Lucia. On their first trip, they were stopped in Puerto Rico due to hurricane activity and returned directly to Bonaire. A few months later they successfully reached St. Lucia. They returned with a lot of good information about the Fish Protected Areas and other fishing related issues.
- Researchers from the Acacia Institute of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam did a survey of the wells on Bonaire.

DIFFICULTIES AND CONSTRAINTS:

- Due to lack of time and resources the request of the fishermen of Lac—to open channels through the mangroves and to build a dike to improve water flow—was not addressed during this reporting period.
- As yet, the parks do not have a monitoring and research program due to lack of equipment and manpower.
- The Sewerage Treatment Plant for Bonaire is not yet in place.
- The writing of the Nature Ordinance is still pending.
- STINAPA has asked on several occasions for an appointment with the department of public works to talk about preventive flood management. We have not succeeded in meeting with this department as yet.
- Due to a lack of monitoring equipment, we have not quantified exactly how much damage was caused to coral heads on the reef due to excesses of rainwater being pumped into the marine park.
- The Fish Protected Areas legislation has not passed yet.

FINANCE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- A total of 18.718 visitors paid to enter the WSNP. This is a decrease over the previous years due to the bad road conditions. Heavy rainfall, making the roads



Receive check from CORAL



The WSNP is fully on solar power

inaccessible, caused the park to be closed for 17 days.

- A total of 28.922 BNMP tags were sold in this reporting period. It has taken five years for the number of tags sold annually to surpass the number sold in 1999. 1999 was the year that the waves, caused by hurricane Lenny, crashed on the coast of Bonaire, damaging the reefs in the shallow waters.
- A proposal was send to the island government to institute a new fee system for the BNMP where all users would be charged and the dive fee would be increased.
- A proposal was send to the government to raise the fee for mooring on the buoys in the bay of Kralendijk.
- A new contract was negotiated with Harbour Village Marina, the company that manages and maintains the mooring system in the bay of Kralendijk. If the government approves the request, their commission will increase from 25% to 35%.
- Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, DCNA, was established. Every Dutch Caribbean foundation that manages a marine and/or terrestrial protected area for the government is a member of DCNA. The Managing Director of STINAPA Bonaire is treasurer of DCNA. The objective of DCNA is to safeguard the biodiversity of the Dutch Caribbean islands. To accomplish this, a Trust Fund will be created.
- As a board member of DCNA, STINAPA received a grant for travel costs to attend meetings. During this reporting period one board meeting was held in St. Maarten.
- The director participated actively, as a board member, on the board of the NGO Plataforma Boneiru.
- We received donations, either in cash or in kind, from several local and or international organizations. They are listed on the Financial Summary page.

DIFFICULTIES AND CONSTRAINTS:

- The subsidy contract with the island government was received late. Consequently the government is behind with their payments and this puts a burden on the cash flow of STINAPA.
- The roads in the WSNP need to be fixed to attract more visitors.
- The buildings at Slagbaai should generate more income.
- The parks should generate more income to be able to staff them properly. By being short of staff several tasks, essential in nature conservation efforts, are not consistently attended to.

2004 Financial Summary

The main source of income of the Bonaire National Marine Park is the entrance to the park and the public yacht mooring fees. For the Washington Park it is the entrance to the park, the sale of souvenirs, books and consumption items sold in the shop at the entrance of the park. Projects for which we have received subsidy are administered separately from our operational budget.

All figures are in Antillean guilders.

2004 Revenue

Revenues	945,043
Donations	11,735
Subsidies	193,680
Total Revenue	1,150,458

2004 Expenditures

Personnel costs	735,054
Management costs BNMP	37,644
Management costs WSNP	49,971
Transportation costs	60,159
Housing costs	51,707
Information/education	30,694
General costs	105,473
Depreciation	88,841
Release of the fixed assts reserve	(41,599)
Total Expenses	1,117,944
Interest costs	(6,443)
Extraordinary gain(loss)	(7,349)
Operational Result	18,722

2004 SUBSIDIES AND DONATIONS

Subsidies: Stichting DOEN

- Wereld Natuur Fonds-NL small grant
- Island Government of Bonaire
- KNAP Funds
- MINA Funds
- Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds
- Prins Bernhard Natuur Fonds
- Wereld Natuur Fonds-NL

Donations: Adams Unlimited

- Bonaire Dive & Adventure
- Environics
- G. Heinen
- Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V.
- Mrs. Serena Black
- S/V Triumphant Lady
- Sandi Grant
- Support Bonaire
- The Baum Foundation
- Captain Don's Habitat
- Carib Inn
- Vrienden van Bonaire

CONCLUSION

Our list of accomplishments as outlined in the report has been lengthy although there is still much work to be done. We had a very busy 2004. Projects such as introduction of new fee system, charging every user and raising the dive fee is about to become reality. As well as the training for the Rangers to receive the 'Special Police Powers'

For 2005 our main objectives should be among others:

1. To inform and educate the population as to the necessities of preserving our environment. Progress in educating the children and the teenagers continues, and it is now our duty to bring our programs to the adult population as well.
2. To increase the communication with our stakeholders.
3. To take the lead in reducing the stress of over fishing of both the conch and the reef fish.
4. To address the issue of overgrazing by roaming goats and donkeys that damages the natural balance in the Slagbaai area.
5. To have the management plan of the WSNP and the BNMP completed and submitted for approval.
6. To redouble the efforts in seeking additional funding through traditional as well as new sources in order to reach financial sustainability.
7. To promote the historic buildings of Slagbaai in such a way that they generate income to pay for their maintenance as well as contributing to the park's operational cost.
8. To continue with the efforts of relocating our HQ.

This year was successful thanks to a very dedicated group of employees and board members.

For 2005 we challenge ourselves to meet but preferably to exceed our objectives.

