



STINAPA  
B O N A I R E

NATIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2015



All the texts and photographic material used in this annual report are protected by copyright. Any change in content requires the prior consent of STINAPA Bonaire.

**Text**

Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance  
STINAPA Bonaire

**Design**

Georgie Rigault

**Editors**

Anouschka van de Ven  
Janet Koek-Ziekenoppasser

**Photo credits**

Hannah Rempel  
Rudy van Geldere  
Jannie Koning  
Janet Koek-Ziekenoppasser  
Henkjan Kievit (SHAPE Photography)  
Christian König (SHAPE Photography)  
Marjolijn Lopes Cardozo (SHAPE Photography)  
Miro Zumrik (SHAPE Photography)  
Rostislav Stach (SHAPE Photography)  
STINAPA Bonaire

Special thanks to:



Table of Contents

Introduction	5	Bonaire National Marine Park	26
The Island of Bonaire	5	Threats to Bonaire National Marine Park	28
The Protected Areas of Bonaire	7	Field Administration and Maintenance	29
Washington Slagbaai National Park	7	Law enforcement	31
Bonaire National Marine Park	7	Highlights	32
STINAPA Bonaire	9		
Management body National Parks	9	Washington Slagbaai National Park	34
Staff	10	Threats to Washington Slagbaai National Park	36
Committees	13	Field Administration and Maintenance	37
Volunteers and Interns	13	Law enforcement	39
Relationship to other organisations	13	Highlights	39
Strategic Plan	16		
Vision	16	Education & Outreach	40
Mission	16	Education	42
Goals	18	Outreach	43
Highlights	20	Highlights	46
Financial Reporting	22	Research & Monitoring	48
Audit	25	Special Projects	50
		2015 in Review	52
		Acronyms	56



## Introduction

### The Island of Bonaire

Bonaire is situated in the southern Caribbean (12°10'N, 68°15'W) approximately 100km north of Venezuela. It is one of the six Caribbean islands which are part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands: Aruba, Curaçao, and St Maarten – which have 'status aparte' – and Bonaire, Saba and St Eustatius – which are special municipalities within the Netherlands.

Bonaire is a crescent shaped island, oriented NW-SE, approximately 40km long by 11km at its widest point, with a land area of 28,800ha. The small, undeveloped satellite island of Klein Bonaire is located some 750m off the western shore of Bonaire and has a land area of about 600ha.

The centrally located main town is called Kralendijk (locally know as 'Playa'). It has become the focus of the islands tourism industry with the majority of hotels, dive and water sports centres and restaurants located in the vicinity. The first settlement and older town of Rincon lies to the north and it has become the focus of the island's historical and cultural activities and has seen a significant revival in the last 10 years.

In 2012 the "Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Netherlands" (TEEB NL) study estimated the total economic value of the ecosystem services provided by the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of Bonaire to be \$105 million per year. The study also found that with the current threats unmanaged, the value of Bonairean nature is likely to decrease from a value of \$105 million today to around \$60 million in ten years time and to less than \$40 million in 30 years.

The island's terrestrial protected area, Washington Slagbaai National Park, protects approximately 17% of the total land area of Bonaire and was established in May 1969. STINAPA Bonaire manages both the Bonaire National Marine Park, which surrounds Bonaire and Klein Bonaire, and the Washington Slagbaai National Park.

Klein Bonaire, along with Pekelmeer, Saliña Slagbaai, Gotomeer and Lac Bay, are Ramsar sites and as such are internationally recognised as wetlands of global significance by the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands.

Bonaire is home to a number of species that are of particular importance to the island, known as Flagship species. In 2012 the management and staff of STINAPA identified these to be;

### Plants

- Yellow poui
- Brazilwood tree
- Divi-divi tree
- Columnar cacti
- Lignum Vitae tree

### Animals

- Caribbean flamingo
- Yellow-shouldered Parrot
- Bonaire Brown-throated Parakeet
- Bonaire Whiptail Lizard
- Iguanas
- Lesser Long-nosed Bat
- Spinner Dolphin
- Queen Conch
- Frogfish
- Sea horses
- Hawksbill, Green and Loggerhead turtles



## The Protected Areas of Bonaire

### Washington Slagbaai National Park

Located in the Northwest part of Bonaire, Washington Slagbaai National Park is the first and the largest terrestrial protected area in the Dutch Caribbean. It provides a safe habitat for the island's native species such as the endemic parrot (Lora), flamingos, parakeets and iguana. Additionally, many species of migratory birds from North America find shelter in the protected area during their annual migrations and some species have become residents as well.

The park's 15km of shoreline form part of the Bonaire National Marine Park and its beaches are important nesting sites for Caribbean sea turtles. Originally inhabited by native Indians and later comprising two of the largest and more productive plantations during the colony times, the park is rich in cultural and historical heritage.

### Bonaire National Marine Park

The marine environment of Bonaire is unique as the island is a true oceanic island, which is separated from the South American mainland by a deep-water trench. The Marine Park was established in 1979 and has been under

continuous active management since 1991. It was recognised as a National Park by the Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles in 1999 and has been designated as a Demonstration Site by UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and ICRAN (International Coral Reef Action Network).

The Bonaire National Marine Park, which encircles the island and Klein Bonaire, includes 2,700 hectares of globally threatened coral reef, seagrass beds and mangrove ecosystems. Bonaire's reefs are considered the healthiest in the Caribbean according to data from the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) protocol. Bonaire's marine environments are home to 111 globally endangered species including six which are on the IUCN Red list, 11 species on CITES Appendix I and 94 on CITES Appendix II.

Lac Bay is unique in the Dutch Caribbean. Located on the windward shore of Bonaire it is the largest semi-enclosed bay in the Dutch Caribbean and contains examples of all three threatened marine ecosystems: coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves. A fringing barrier reef with stands of rare Elkhorn coral protects the bay from the high seas that routinely pound Bonaire's windward shore. Magnificent frigate

birds nest here and the mangroves provide a safe haven and roosting place for herons, egrets, stilts, terns, flamingos, ospreys and pelicans. The seagrass beds are extensive and together with the adjacent mangroves they form a critical nursery ground for countless species of coral reef fish and invertebrates and a foraging ground for green sea turtles. Cushion stars and conch can still be found amongst the seagrasses as well as fields of pulsating upside-down jellyfish 'Cassiopeia'.

The entire uninhabited island of Klein Bonaire is managed by the Bonaire National Marine Park and the sandy beach of No Name is particularly important, not only as a tourism attraction but also as it is the most important turtle-nesting site on Bonaire. Popular dive sites are located all around Klein Bonaire but access to the island itself is limited and the only provisions for tourism are two open huts that provide shade, BBQ pits and bins. Over-nighting is usually not permitted in order to safeguard the unspoilt natural beauty of the island.

## STINAPA Bonaire

Management body National Parks  
STINAPA Bonaire is the organization, mandated by the local government, responsible for the management of the Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP), Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP), and the island of Klein Bonaire. STINAPA is dedicated to the conservation of Bonaire's natural and historical heritage through the sustainable use of its resources.

STINAPA Bonaire is governed by a Board of up to 11 Directors, which oversees BNMP and

WSNP activities and directs overall strategy for STINAPA. Elected Board members have additional responsibilities in accordance with respective positions. Board meetings are held monthly and minutes of the meetings are taken and circulated amongst members. Jeannete Nolen was elected President of the Board from Vice President, Susan Davis became Vice President from being a Member. Ethsel Pieterella retired from the Board In January 2015. The former Director (Elsmarie Beukenboom) acts as a consultant to the Board. Board members are volunteers and receive no financial compensation for their time and effort.

## The Board of STINAPA 2015

Position	Name	Representing
Chair	Jeannette Nolen	Independent
Vice Chair	Susan Davis	Independent
Secretary	Charles Vos	BONHATA
Treasurer	Herbert Piar	Independent
Member	Bruce Bowker	CURO
Member	Felix Cicilia	Government
Member	Ethsel Pieterella	TCB
Member	Agnes Joosten	Independent

The Management Team meets bi-weekly to discuss and plan the work of the foundation and to make any necessary management decisions. The day to day management of the protected areas was carried out in 2015 by a staff of 29 different individuals, 11 of whom worked part of the year, amounting to 24.3 full time positions.

In 2015 STINAPA had 29 members of staff with 270 years of service between them. Eighteen members worked a full year and eleven worked part of the year.



Royal Tern

### Staff 2015

Position	% of year worked	Start year	Academic qualification
Consultant to board EB	100	2002	Bachelors
Interim Director JA	100	2014	Masters
Accounting manager KR	100	1996	Bachelors
Communication Officer AvdV	100	2013	Bachelors
Wildlife biologist PB	50	2012	Masters
Education officer DC	100	2009	Professional Qualification
Assistant NME / Outreach DSJ	100	2010	Professional Qualification
Rare pride coordinator/wildlife biologist CE - as consultant	30	2015	Masters
Receptionist JAF	100	1996	Professional Qualification
Cleaner ST	50	1996	None
TPA interim manager MB	50	2014	Professional Qualification
WSNP manager PB	50	2012	Masters
TPA Chief ranger GT	100	1981	Professional Qualification
TPA Ranger CC	100	1995	Professional Qualification
TPA Ranger NJ	15	1998	Professional Qualification

Position	% of year worked	Start year	Professional Qualification
TPA Ranger RP	100	2006	Professional Qualification
TPA Maintenance Person HB	100	2003	None
TPA Maintenance Person GS	100	1992	None
TPA Maintenance Person JP	100	2006	None
TPA Ranger RF	50	2015	None
MPA Manager RdL	15	2004	Masters
Interim MPA manager SE - as consultant	50	2015	Masters
MPA Chief Ranger DD	100	1994	Professional Qualification
MPA Ranger LE	100	2014	Professional Qualification
MPA Ranger MM	100	2009	Professional Qualification
MPA Ranger SM	100	2009	Professional Qualification
MPA Ranger KR	95	2015	Professional Qualification
MPA ranger CA	100	2011	Professional Qualification
MPA ranger JM	100	2012	Professional Qualification
MPA ranger EW	75	2012	Professional Qualification

Staff in pale type left the organisation in 2015

The staff of STINAPA represented the organisation at a number of events throughout 2015:

### Representation by STINAPA staff members

Event	Attendee(s)	Location	Total Time
DCNA Board Meetings	Accounts Manager	St Maarten	4 days
DCNA Save our Sharks project meeting	Communication Officer, Education officer	St Maarten	3 days
Birds Caribbean	TPA Manager	Jamaica	1 week in July
Carmabi staff exchange	Accounts manager	Curaçao	1 day
GCFI	TPA Manager	Panama	November



Birds Caribbean Jamaica



Boat Patrol by BNMP Ranger

### Committees

There was one active committee within STINAPA in 2015:

The Strategic committee

The role of this committee was to support the writing of the strategic plan, working with consultants and giving feedback.

### Volunteers and Interns

More than 40 dive professionals and 300+ STINAPA certified hunters assisted with the collection of Lionfish in the marine park. One volunteer worked on Architectural plans for a new office building, ten local volunteers helped with research and clean ups and three locals helped with the water bird census when it took place.

Ninety pupils and staff provided three weeks of assistance working on clean ups whilst on Bonaire. These included schools from Oregon in the USA and the Netherlands. Ten more volunteers assisted with setting up cameras in BNMP for monitoring. Seven Interns worked with STINAPA in 2015: two who worked for 10 weeks each researching the seagrass and brine shrimp in Goto and five who spent 12 weeks each researching mosquitoes and goat density/feeding preferences.

### Relationship to other organisations

STINAPA is a founding member of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance and is represented on the Board by the Director or the Administrator, Kerenza Frans.

STINAPA continues to work with more than 40 stakeholders and partners including the Tourism Department, dive operators, other NGOs, schools, as well as international NGOs such as WNF and universities. Staff also spent time working with new stakeholders such as cruise tour operators. As well as maintaining relationships and Ad-Hoc meetings, staff of STINAPA were involved in:

- EZ meeting of NGO's on Bonaire to talk about nature coordination of efforts
- Receiving a donation via WNF from 'Felipe' a very successful teenage fundraiser from the Netherlands. The funds raised were donated to 4 organisations, and Felipe became the ambassador for shark project on Bonaire.
- Interpretation and integration of new legislation with Holland. This has been labour intensive as there are some contrasts between Dutch and local permit procedures: mostly for water related construction and infrastructure.

- To address user conflicts, Rangers were involved in advising users on the correct use of traditional nets.
- Development of legislation: an old case on poaching was reviewed to develop new legislation. This streamlined how citations are written and removed scope for human error.
- The education Officer worked with a Grenada based NGO that visited Bonaire to find out about the Junior Ranger program.

#### Stakeholders that STINAPA works with

##### Local:

Environmental Service, Education Department, Building and Zoning Department, Other Environment NGOs, Dive Operators, Legal Department, Police, Fisherfolk, Harbour Office, Prosecutor's Office, Agriculture Department, Coast Guard, Hoteliers, Schools, Tourism Association, Volunteer Groups, Neighborhood Groups, Tourism Department, Youth Groups, Customs Marine Park, Retailers, Wholesalers (Dive gear, etc.), DTH (law enforcement).

##### Regional:

DCNA, Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, CAMPAM, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Other parks, SPAW-RAC, Dutch government child protection agency, Florida State Wildlife Division, Coral Restoration Foundation Bonaire, Dutch Military, IMARES, Alterra.

##### International:

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), CORAL, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), Universities and Academic Centres.



Donation Sea and Land Wonders from 'Felipe'





STINAPA BONAIRE

## Strategic Plan

In 2015 STINAPA Bonaire went through a significant strategic planning process where the Vision, Mission and Goals of the organisation have been re-defined.

### **Vision**

The vision statement describes the long-term ambition of STINAPA. It is inspirational. It is clear and memorable. It is concise. It describes a desired future.

### **Mission**

The mission statement describes the reason for STINAPA to exist, its identity and added value to its internal and external stakeholders. It is clear and simple. It can be easily explained to others. It is recognizably STINAPA. It describes an intended reality.

### ***Vision:***

***Nature is recognized and treasured as the main resource of Bonaire's existence and sustainable development.***

### ***Mission:***

***STINAPA is dedicated to manage and share, protect and restore, promote and educate the resources, biodiversity and values of Bonaire's nature.***

## Goals

The goals of STINAPA are defined in the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan and encompass aspects of:

- Park Management
- Nature Conservation
- Education and Awareness
- Nature and Economy
- Finance
- Governance and organisation
- Team goals
- Marketing goals

### STINAPA's park management goals of 2015-2020:

- Significant improvement of effectiveness and efficiency of ranger operations.
- Transparent and effective procedures of (dis) approval of permits.
- Formalization of management contracts and expansions of parks.
- Significant improvement of effectiveness and efficiency of maintenance operations.
- Review and update of park management plans.

### STINAPA's nature conservation goals for 2015-2020:

- Evaluation of plans and management of running projects.
- Increasing the number of land parks.
- Startup of an informal network of institutes, nature organizations and professionals.
- Disclosure and publication of all reports and information for public and professionals.
- Development of a widely adopted set of priorities and standards for nature projects.
- Establishment of a multiyear program of research, monitoring and intervention projects.

### STINAPA's education and awareness goals of 2015-2020:

- Significant improvement of effectiveness and efficiency of education operations.
- Junior Ranger program brought to second phase of growth and professionalism.
- Significant improvement of volunteer involvement and organization.
- Multiyear program of lectures, information sessions and media for public and professionals.
- Multiyear program of awareness campaigns and events.

### STINAPA's nature and economy goals of 2015-2020:

- Improving STINAPA's portfolio of nature related visitor products.
- Closer involvement with tourism branch by becoming board member in branch organizations.
- Responsibility for maintenance of nature related tourism products and facilities.
- Involved and cooperative partner in matching the interests of nature and development.
- Responsibility for quality of information and guiding for nature related tourism products.

### STINAPA's finance goals for 2015-2020:

- Solid balance with an adequate operational resistance reserve.
- Significant improvement on efficiency and effectiveness of income processes.
- Significant increase and indexation of income for operational tasks.
- Significant funded project income on top of yearly operational income.
- Improvement on efficiency and effectiveness of administration and planning & control processes.

### STINAPA's governance and organization goals for 2015-2020:

- Renewal of the statutes and bylaws towards a board-management model.
- Adjustment of management profiles towards new structure and responsibilities.
- Alignment of profiles of board members with the renewed statutes.
- Redesign of reporting and communication structure of board and management.

#### **STINAPA's team goals for 2015-2020:**

1. Development and implementation of a structured program for team building.
2. Execution of a testing program for all employees in key positions.
3. Development and implementation of a training program on personal and professional skills.
4. Investigation and implementation of staff exchange options.

#### **STINAPA's marketing instruments goals for 2015-2020:**

1. Improvement of STINAPA's image and authority in local and international communities.
2. Evaluation and improvement of website and functioning and impact of social media.
3. Marketing of STINAPA's successes and marketing to enable successes.
4. Investigation and implementation of a membership program.

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### **BavPol**

Four STINAPA rangers attended courses by KPCN to become BavPol (Buitengewoon Agent van Politie) certified. This status allows them to write citations for nature related offences, which will subsequently be processed by the prosecutor's office.

#### **Workshop Wet maritiem Beheer BES 'Train the trainers'**

Desiree Croes (Education department) participated in a week long workshop on Wet Maritiem BES management, together with other enforcement agencies from Bonaire. In September the workshop was continued in the Netherlands, this is a project from Rijkswaterstaat and it supports collaboration between on-island organizations that deal with law enforcement.

#### **Two BNMP rangers and Two Junior Rangers Certified Eco Divers AAUS**

Two STINAPA rangers participated in a CIEE Research Station sponsored Scientific Diving program and earned AAUS Scientific Diver certification.

The marine park rangers participated in the full time program for 4 weeks, and passed two college-level courses: Advanced SCUBA and Marine Ecology Field Research Methods. STINAPA Bonaire staff supervises and assists scientists that come to Bonaire to conduct field research. Two STINAPA junior rangers enrolled in a similar scientific summer school program to get AAUS certified, also sponsored by CIEE Research Station.

Collaboration with other organizations to improve staff skills is an important way forward for STINAPA.



*Junior Ranger Beach Clean up*

## FINANCIAL REPORTING

### Balance Sheet

As of December 31st 2015-Currency is USD

Numbers According to Approved Financial Statement 2015

	Dec 31, 15	Dec 31,14
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible Fixed Assets	243,606	226,090
Financial Fixed Assets	500,000	500,000
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>743,606</b>	<b>726,090</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Project Subsidies Receivable	781,395	464,933
Other Current Assets	86,707	51,827
Stock	34,614	43,378
Cash at Banks	520,953	650,049
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,423,669</b>	<b>1,210,187</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,167,275</b>	<b>1,936,277</b>

	Dec 31, 15	Dec 31,14
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Equity</b>		
Foundation's Capital	56	56
Accumulated Results Previous Years	982,396	1,075,763
Result Current Year	51,131	93,367-
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>1,033,583</b>	<b>982,452</b>
<b>Fixed Assets Funds</b>		
Fixed Assets Funds	118,460	85,004
<b>Short Term Liabilities and Accruals</b>		
Deferred Income Project Subsidy	744,385	533,110
Deferred Income Bomenfonds	8,453	10,630
Social Premiums And Taxes	111,824	137,827
Accruals	150,570	187,254
<b>Total Short Term Liabilities and Accruals</b>	<b>1,015,232</b>	<b>868,821</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,167,275</b>	<b>1,936,277</b>

## Profit And Loss

As of December 31st 2015-Currency is USD

Numbers According to Approved Financial Statement 2015

	Dec 31, 15	Dec 31,14
<b>INCOME</b>		
Project Subsidies	226,068	219,638
Project Expenses	226,068-	219,638-
Operating Revenue	1,433,311	1,337,946
Government Grant	73,503	63,672
Donations Received	8,295	9,895
Other Subsidy	2,178	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,517,287</b>	<b>1,411,513</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Personnel Expenses	910,279	989,027
Operational Expenses Bonaire National Marine Park	56,288	52,891
Operational Expenses Washington Slagbaai	3,126	1,914
Transportation Expenses	62,534	67,937
Housing Expenses	71,424	40,063
Information and Education	92,386	78,843
Nature Management	87,607	13,129
General Expenses	122,690	173,885
Depreciation	76,591	111,002
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,482,925</b>	<b>1,528,691</b>

	Dec 31, 15	Dec 31,14
Operational Result	34,362	117,178-
Release of Fixed Assets Funds	21,124	25,152
Addition to Provision Doubtful Receivables	4,355-	1,341-
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>51,131</b>	<b>93,367-</b>

## AUDIT

Available on request.



BONAIRE NATIONAL  
MARINE PARK

## *Bonaire National Marine Park*





### Threats to Bonaire National Marine Park

Threat	Detail
Invasive; Marine predatory species	Lionfish are not native to the Caribbean and seem to have no natural predators in the Caribbean. They are prolific feeders and effective predators. They also reproduce and grow quickly and are resistant to many parasites. The effect their rapidly increasing population will have on the reefs of Bonaire is not yet fully understood.
Waste water - Sewage	Sewage makes its way onto Bonaire’s coral reefs through inadequate waste water treatment and use. Sewage is a cocktail of substances, a number of which are dangerous to coral reef ecosystems and those who use them. Sewage is a source of major damage to Bonaire’s coral reefs and a cause of human illness.
Waster Water; run-off	Domestic and urban waste water runs freely into the marine environment from poorly maintained septic tanks, during and after rainfall. As well as nutrient rich sewage, run-off contains a number of other pollutants such as oil and heavy metals. Terrestrial sediments are also found in runoff, which turn the water cloudy and settle on marine organisms, smothering and killing them.
Development; Housing and urban areas	Building developments for tourism are often carried out near to the waters edge. This presents particular problems for pollutants entering the marine park through bad practice. When it is windy or it rains, cement, bags and other site rubbish can be blown or washed into the sea if preventative steps are not taken.
Other ecosystem modifications	Artificial beach maintenance disturbs habitats, artificial beaches are no longer created on the island. The construction of a pier in the Marine Park has recently removed some habitat.

### Field Administration and Maintenance

As in previous years, land and boat patrols for BNMP took up approximately 5460 hours of staff time. There were ten formal patrols a week, five a week on land for seven hours involving at least two staff members, and five a week at sea for four hours involving at least two people on the boat. Marine Patrols also include checking moorings, inspecting cruise ships and emptying bins on Klein Bonaire.

Throughout 2015 there was a considerable amount of work patrolling Lac Ramsar site, enforcing user fees and maintaining channel openings by cutting roots that block the flow of water to the back of the bay. BNMP Staff spent approximately 1200 hours on maintenance. This includes; 720 hours on maintaining five vehicles and 100 hours maintaining boats, one of which sank in 2015. Staff also spent 380 hours on mooring maintenance, including planning, there are also further incidental repairs on an ad hoc basis. As in previous years, maintenance of moorings also constitutes some surveillance and patrolling work.



Collecting trash at Klein Bonaire



Nature Tag control by Marine Park Rangers



Due to increasing use of the marine park by additional tour operators, patrolling and maintenance hours are on the increase. Public events taking place in the parks also required supervision by staff. These included:

- Regatta: help set out moorings, solving problems with boats in the wrong places and diver collisions.
- Lac Windsurf competitions for one weekend, Prokids 2015, boat support, surveillance.
- Virgin of the Valley fishermen's parade of boats in Lac.
- Lion fish hunts in the marine reserves.



Virgin of the Valley parade

#### Law enforcement

In BNMP staff give an average of four verbal warnings per week for illegal fishing, speeding in shallow water and poaching. Warnings are also given for:

- Divers wearing gloves without a permit.
- Divers disturbing corals.
- Illegal fishing in the WSNP.
- Breaking WSNP rules – overnight mooring.

An incident of conch poaching was prosecuted and illegal fishing gear was confiscated on one occasion.

IN BNMP 10 permits were issued by for the wearing of gloves whilst diving for medical reasons. Thirty new permits were issued for the use of the ELF lionfish removal tool in 2015.

No-take lobster season was enforced May 1st – October 31st 2015.

The Director spent a considerable amount of time lobbying and working with stakeholders against the illegal pier development in Kralendijk. This included the building of the pier, which the Island zoning plan didn't allow. The government plan and STINAPA went to court. There were 3-4 cases incorporating different aspects: Dutch government permitting, local government permitting, nature laws, zoning permitting. The outcome was that the Government has to enforce the removal of the pillars.

The Director also worked on the enforcement of legislation when a floating dock was constructed to a length in excess of it's planned size (42 meters instead of 30 meters). STINAPA worked closely with Rijkswaterstaat.



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Lac Project

Another Groene Gelden project, financed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, was approved in 2015. The Ecological Restoration Lac Bay, an international Ramsar site, aims at improving the watercirculation in the mangrove area of Lac Bay. These mangrove areas with adjacent seagrassbeds are an important nursery habitat for fish and other fauna. The central bay will benefit from this too through an increase in the tidal prism of the whole area, reducing sedimentation. Infrastructural interventions (executed by OLB) will diminish the influx of sediments whilst STINAPA will work on improvement of watercirculation by maintenance of the natural channels in the mangrove area. This recurring maintenance needs structural annual funding, for which the Groene Gelden are a good start but longterm financing needs to be implemented.

### Coral reef monitoring

Dr. Robert Steneck from the University of Maine and his team of researchers visited Bonaire in March of 2015. Since 2005, his team has conducted research on Bonaire's coral reefs every other year, resulting in a series of comprehensive reports.

### No-anchoring policy and management

The no-anchoring policy and management of the marine park bears fruits. Bonaire is considered one of the top 10 dive sites in the Caribbean, and the number 1 dive location for shore diving. Over 100 moorings have been installed and maintained over the years to cater to the divers, private yacht owners and visiting cruisers.

### Reforestation of Klein Bonaire

The reforestation of Klein Bonaire proceeded successfully. A new boat was acquired, mainly to be used for the reforestation on Klein Bonaire and for research purposes.

### Search and rescue actions

Marine Park rangers have assisted in several 'search and rescue' actions. This work is not the core business of a nature organization, but as STINAPA is very active on the water, it is one of the first to receive a call when there is an incident in the marine park. Protocol needs to be set and training is required in order to better facilitate these rescue missions.



### Lionfish eradication programme

The lionfish eradication programme is also proving successful. Three lionfish hunts were organized in 2015 in the marine reserves and the WSNP after closing hours. The catches were low which suggests a stabilization of the lionfish population growth.





WASHINGTON SLAGBAAI  
NATIONAL PARK

*Washington Slagbaai National Park*





### Threats to Bonaire National Marine Park

Threat	Detail
Extreme rain	Vegetation effected by over grazing and runoff removes top soil. Erosion of the roads and trails also threatens the value of the PA as a tourist attraction as the roads become impassable to most vehicles.
Small holder grazing, ranching or farming; Invasive; Terrestrial fauna	Goats grazed by land owners neighbouring and within the Washington plantation area of the PA roam the park freely, grazing on low and young plants, reducing ground cover, leading to erosion.
Invasive; Terrestrial predatory fauna species	Cats, rats and dogs effecting the bird and reptile population by feeding on juveniles and in some cases adults of some species.

### Field Administration and Maintenance

There were seven patrols a week each for two hours involving three members of staff in the WSNP (a total of 672 hours through the year). Field staff of WSNP spent all of their remaining hours on maintenance in 2015, other staff members of joined with the field staff and spent considerable amounts of time on other essential maintenance tasks, including:

- Maintenance of tools and other equipment.
- Mending fences, control of vegetation, care of woodwork.
- Refurbishment of the museum.
- Cleaning up after fires on beaches.
- Buildings at Slangbaai and the entrance - all painted and Slangbaai roof repaired consultants for roof. 4 months painting for three people.
- Construction of a shaded apiary inside the Fundashon Kas Boneiriano Educational park - to be maintained by the STINAPA Junior Rangers.
- 2 days were spent on new signage for parking lots.

Public events taking place in the parks also required supervision by staff. These included:

- Duo Extreme Bike race in WSNP.
- Full moon dinner WSNP.
- Extreme biking event in WSNP.
- Open House WSNP .
- Guided hiking events.



View from Brandaris, the highest point of Bonaire (241m)



### Law enforcement

There were no further interventions in WSNP during 2015, although some illegal hunting of goats took place along the boundary of the park. In WSNP no permits were issued, but one memorandum of understanding was issued to allow Lora research within the park.

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Malmok

An archeological survey of the most northern part of Bonaire, at Malmok in Washington Slagbaai National Park, was finalized and resulted in an on- and offline virtual tour made available to the public at the Park entrance and on the website. <http://stinapabonaire.org>

#### Maintenance

In 2015 the entire fence between Washington and Slagbaai was repaired where necessary. The ceiling at Slagbaai was repaired. All the historic buildings in the park were painted. Two rooms at the museum were updated to showcase the STINAPA organization. Two park attractions were made better accessible to visitors with decreased mobility.

*Sunrise Hike Brandaris*



*Open House Celebrations*



*Duo Extreme*





EDUCATION &  
OUTREACH

***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”***

***– Nelson Mandela –***



**Education**

In 2015 NME reached in excess of 1835 elementary children through eight schools on Bonaire. Some of them have participated in more than one activity and or presentation. Total reach including SGB and afterschool programs is estimated to be 2500 students. Staff also continued to work with the 150 of the 1350 High School children who attend the one High School on Bonaire in 2015. The main education activities in 2015 were;

- Educational boxes on 11 different topics with the introduction of a new Sharks box.
- Outdoor activities; 10 different outdoor activities including Festival di Planta Palu, Lora Pad and Bird Watching.
- Snorkel program (Turtuganan di Boneiru), 100 children over five weeks with a curriculum and specific material.
- Lectures and workshops on request on topics as varied as migratory birds, sharks and bats , to over 600 students.
- Wild for Life program: Outdoor activities in the morning February - July 9-12 am with elementary schools.
- Bon Kwido program: this includes presentations on different species, taking the children to the Jardin di Frater for NME outdoor activities and taking the children to

the Washington Park to the kids trail and the outdoor museum.

- Junior Ranger Program with 45 participants through 2015. This is a very well established course, feeding back into itself, and is regionally recognised for it's success. The course includes dive courses, history, bee keeping, bird dissection, reef ecology, reef restoration courses (PADI certification paid for by STINAPA).

Staff also spent time developing a Water Sewage Education package. This involved the production of a Grade 8 movie along with books and plans for delivery. It is due in 2016.



**Outreach**

The STINAPA website is active and a full review of the website was carried out in 2014, continuing into 2015, with changes due to be published in 2016. Staff maintained the STINAPA Bonaire Facebook, Youtube and Vimeo pages and the NME maintained the NME STINAPA Bonaire and Junior Rangers Facebook pages, with a total of 12800+ likes between them. Tumblr and Twitter are also used to promote press releases and Facebook posts.

A total of 10 new radio broadcasts were written and recorded for three local radio stations on various topics, with a further four commercials in preparation. Radio broadcasts were made five

times a day over the three stations throughout the year. There were also 40 press releases through 2015, covering events and the Lobster season closure from May 1st to October 31st. Duiken magazine published about a STINAPA lionfish hunt in Washington Park.

Staff were particularly busy developing new movies focused on a wide range of park activities:

- Movies produced for: Bonaire National Marine Park , Coral Reefs in the MPA, Creatures in Lac Bay, Sea Turtles, Migratory Birds, This is Bonaire, Open house Washington Park, Lagun clean up, Rules and regulations, Anchoring and Navigation, Beach Rules and more.
- WSNP Manager worked on TV interviews about research and park operations.
- 4 STINAPA junior ranger movies were produced in two languages (English and Papiamentu).
- movie about Junior Rangers trip to Saba in 2014 broadcast on NOSTv through 2015.
- program about archeological work at Malmok - news item aired in 2015.
- "we share Bonaire" new STINAPA movie - explaining all the things STINAPA does.



As well as being frequently aired on social media, all 4 junior ranger movies are broadcast once a week, and the rules and regulations movie is broadcast daily on Tourist TV station.

New outreach materials were produced in 2015 including: 3 signs for Klein Bonaire - turtles nesting, Klein rules and regulations, and one about the reforestation project. The Save Our Sharks program included the development of posters, T shirts, flyers, information for public events, design for the website. A new coral bleaching poster was also designed as well as regular event posters.

The Museum rooms at WSNP were also re-designed, one film room with a monitor playing movies, one room with an introduction to STINAPA. A virtual tour was produced of the WSNP – with the idea to develop an APP in 2016. Signs were also installed on Malmok about the archaeological project.

**Events**

Washington Park Open Day 2015 was a full day event for families including 200 children. In 2015 this included radio and press releases, banners, posters, guided hikes, mountain bike race, local market, local food, handicraft, live local music, face painting, free transport to Slagbaai and children’s activities. Most of the STINAPA staff were involved with the event. Other events and outreach that took place during 2015 included;

- Lora count: staff and volunteers monitor Lora populations along with junior rangers.
- Caribbean Endemic Bird festival, bird walk Dos Pos for 20 people.
- Clean up at Lagun where 35 truck loads, 155 tonnes of rubbish were transported to landfill.
- International day for biodiversity, including press releases, radio and TV programmes.
- Caribbean Migratory birds walk: 40 people,

Dos Pos in Rincon, walk around a hill, views of lagoons, raising awareness. Also a presentation about migratory birds.

- Brandaris hikes: monthly public walk for 22 people.
- Full moon walk WSNP: 110 people WSNP walk on the Lagadishi trail
- Festival di Planta Palu for all Grade 5 children, drawing competition and songs, 200 trees planted, 250 children involved including special care children.
- Sunset walk on the last Saturday of the year.
- Bon Doet: Creating the volunteer mentality, 250 children one morning clean up one day a year. 3 schools: Kolegio Kristobon Wardador, Kolegio Reina Beatrix and Pelikaan school, 200 children picked up 60+ bags of rubbish in one morning.
- Three public guided hikes, each attended by 20+ people.
- Lionfish cull in the Marine Park reserve – 116 fish caught.
- Lionfish derby in August with 288 fish caught.
- Regatta: Save our Sharks outreach stand.
- Shark week : a week of events including a Launch with food, music and information a presentation, Sharks of Bonaire. Movie night; Shark Water a shark extravaganza, games, prizes, face painting, information and presentations. 150 portions of soup were served, 250 surveys about sharks completed.



Making of Turtle Movie



Kids exploring during Bon Kwido Nature Week



Festival di Planta Palu



Save Our Sharks Campaign



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Save Our Sharks Campaign

All six islands of the Dutch Caribbean benefitted from new funding provided by the Dutch Postcode Lottery aimed at an essential conservation effort—saving shark species. The fund provides €1.6 million over 3 years to the Dutch Caribbean islands and the Netherlands to assist with the effort. The Save Our Sharks campaign commenced mid-2015 and aims to protect Dutch Caribbean sharks. In cooperation with the island communities, divers, and local fishermen, fitting solutions will be sought that can lead to effective protection. Last August on Bonaire an intense Shark Week was held, in addition to other awareness activities conducted by STINAPA staff for fishermen, local communities and visitors. The Yarari marine mammal and shark sanctuary was declared in September 2015 by State Secretary Dijksma.

<http://stinapabonaire.org/categories/projects/>

### Educational video series & park instructional movies

2015 saw the finalization of a series of four educational and 7 instructional movies about the 2 national parks of Bonaire, and consequent

broadcast of these videos on the 2 local television stations. The movies, produced in both Papiamentu and English, were shared widely on social media and two were entered in the GCFI film competition. All are featured on the STINAPA website.

<https://vimeo.com/stinapa>

### Nature Month Kresh Bon Kwido

Daycare 'Kresh Bon Kwido' requested STINAPA to give nature presentations to children two years and older. This is outside the normal school curriculum for STINAPA education department and an opportunity for teaching the teachers. Powerpoint presentations, book readings and excursions to Washington Park were organized for this group of young children. To close the program, STINAPA donated 3 Shimaruku trees to the Kresh, which were planted by the kids and STINAPA staff in the garden of the Kresh Bon Kwido. The education programs need to be expanded upon in order to reach not only the primary school children through their school curriculum but all youths on Bonaire.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLbbBla74Kk>



Save Our Sharks Week Presentation at Jong Bonaire



RESEARCH &  
MONITORING





Multiple monitoring programmes continue to be implemented by STINAPA staff, consultants and volunteers.

- Annual Lora count 2015; staff counted Lora at 12 locations in Washington Slagbaai National Park.
- Land bird monitoring for 9 species, two surveys in the year.
- Caribbean waterbird census at eight salinas: Bartol, Matijs, Funchi, Wayaka, Slagbaai, Gotomeer, Tam, and Frans.
- Monitoring monthly rubbish build up with fixed photos at Boca Grandi.
- Mangroves and Hydrology of Lac.
- Coral Bleaching: public monitoring requests.
- Reforestation Klein Bonaire project
- Status and Trends of Bonaire's Coral Reefs publication (Bob Steneck)

Planning for Seagrass monitoring in 2016 was also carried out.



Caribbean Waterbird Census Gotomeer

### Special Projects in 2015

#### Malmok Archaeology Project:

The aim of this project is to find out about the area and report the findings. Work was carried out in 2015 including signage, purchase of a theodolite, and the development of the virtual reality tour. This project was made possible with \$15,000 funding from Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds Caribisch Gebied, applied for in 2014.

#### Rapid Reef Restoration:

Background work has been done to develop the project. A need to train a team of restorers was identified. This is will be looked into so volunteers, junior rangers and staff can replace corals after storms; a rapid reef response.

#### Lac Intervention:

STINAPA Bonaire's project for the Ecological Restoration of Lac has been approved. The project aims to reduce sedimentation and salinity, increase water circulation and depth. Seagrass monitoring and monitoring of Conch populations and other species will also form part of the project.



2015 in Review





## ACRONYMS

AIS	Automatic Identification System (for identifying the status and movements of registered marine vessels)
AMFO	Antilliaanse MedeFinancierings Organisatie
AGOA	French Antilles Marine Mammal Sanctuary
BZK	Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
BNMP	Bonaire National Marine Park
CARMABI	Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity Foundation
CI	Conservation International
CIEE	Council of International Education and Exchange
CITES	Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species
CMM	Commissie Marien Milieu
CTB	Curaçao Tourism Board
DCNA	Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance
DROB/DROV	Island Spatial Planning Department
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EZ	Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs
FPNA	Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
IMARES	Dutch research institute connected to Wageningen University
IAC	Inter American Convention for the Conservation of Sea Turtles
IUCN NL	International Union for Nature Conservation, Netherlands
JAZ	Island Legal Department
KPCN	Korps Politie Caribisch Nederland - Dutch Caribbean Police Force
LVV	Island Agriculture and Fisheries Department
MPA	Marine protected area
NFSXM	Nature Foundation St. Maarten
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, USA based funding organisation

NIOZ	Nederlands Instituut voor Onderzoek der Zee, research institute in the Netherlands
NME	Natuur Milieu Educatie - Nature & Environmental Education
NPL	Nationale Postcode Loterij – Dutch Postcode Lottery
OLB	Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire - Public Entity
PA	Protected area
PBCF	Prince Bernhard Culture Funds
PBNF	Prince Bernhard Nature Funds
PMO	Park Management Organisation
SCF	Saba Conservation Foundation
SCSCB	Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
SEMP	St. Eustatius National Marine Park
SSV	Special Security Service
STCB	Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire
STENAPA	St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation
STINAPA	Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire - National Parks Foundation Bonaire
TCB	Tourism Corporation Bonaire
TNC	The Nature Conservancy USA
TPA	Terrestrial protected area
UNA	University of the Netherlands Antilles, based on Curaçao
UNEP CAR	United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Regional Office
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Network
WTT	World Turtle Trust, Hawaii USA
WNF	Wereld Natuur Fonds – World Wildlife Fund, Netherlands
WSNP	Washington Slagbaai National Park
WWF	World Wildlife Fund



STINAPA BONAIRE

STINAPA Bonaire  
P.O. BOX 368, Bonaire,  
Dutch Caribbean

Headquarter visitor's address:  
Barcadera 10, Bonaire,  
Dutch Caribbean

Phone + 599 717 8444  
Fax + 599 717 7318  
Info@stinapa.org

<http://stinapabonaire.org>

Opening Hours:  
Washington Park: 8 am - 5 pm  
STINAPA Headquarters: 8 am - 4 pm