

Annual Report 2006

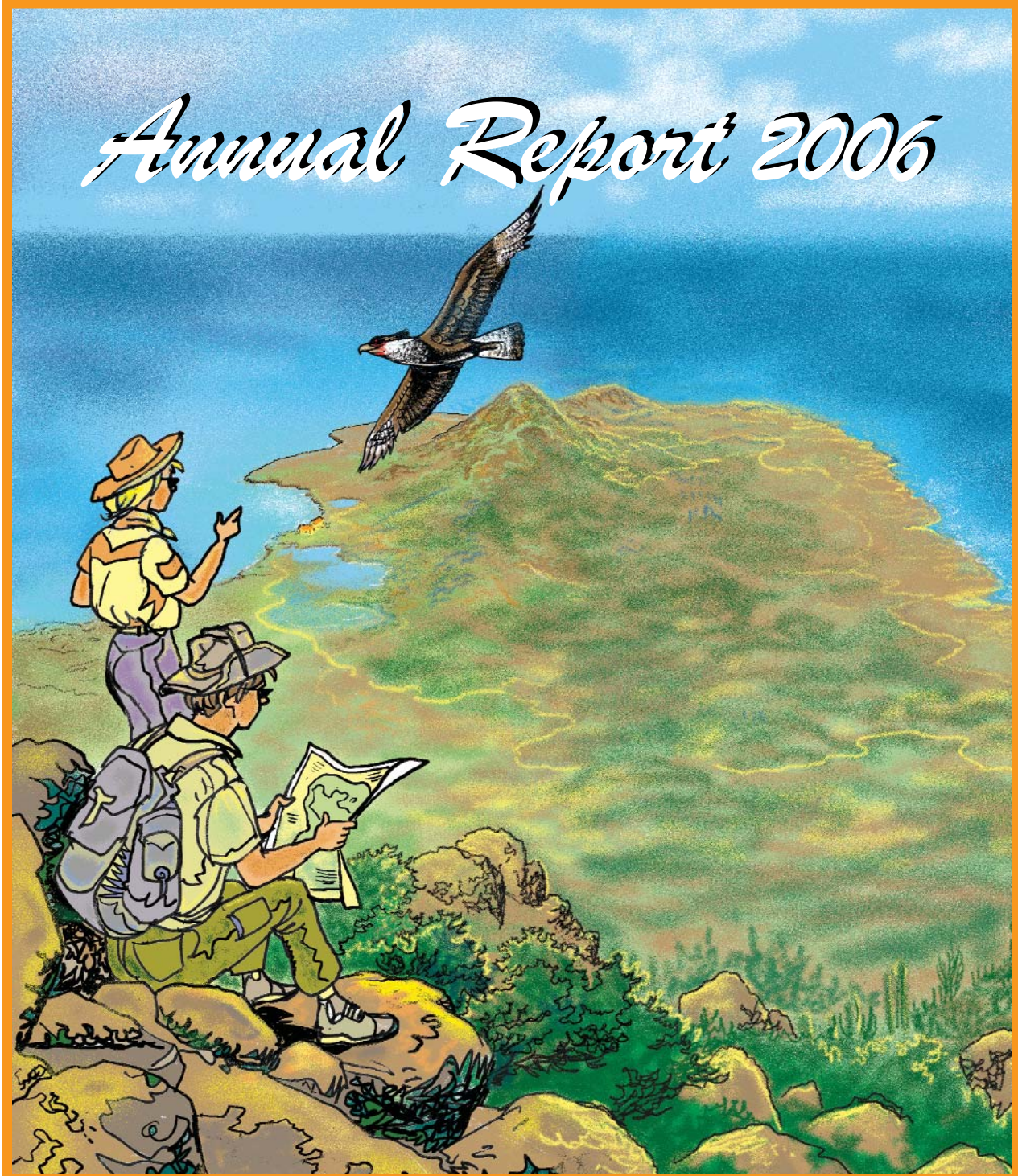


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INTRODUCTION

Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire (STINAPA Bonaire) is a non-governmental, not for profit foundation commissioned by the island government to manage the two protected areas of Bonaire: the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) and the Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP).

Mission

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It was a busy year for STINAPA and a great deal was accomplished in 2006.

The many improvements in park facilities and staffing gave rise to increased paid public usage of both the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) and Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP). The BNMP received 44,395 visitors this year and the WSNP 22,852* visitors. This is an increase in attendance of 3,521 over the previous year. A total renovation of the roads is expected to increase the number of visitors, especially local visitors.

We developed new public education materials and ongoing initiatives to improve public appreciation and conservation of Bonaire's many environmental resources

We made improvements in resource planning and management through the completion of the BNMP management plan. Together with the completion of the Nature Ordinance for Bonaire and its submission to the Island Council we will soon have more tools to protect the islands fragile ecosystem for future generations.

(* NOTE: 11.740 of these visitors entered both the BNMP and the WSNP).



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STINAPA continues to give advice and render support to government agencies and resource users on issues related to conservation of Bonaire's fragile reef and ecosystems and at the same time goes forth with staff development, and improvements in administrative services.

Many of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the technical and financial support of many governmental and non-governmental organizations, both here and abroad, as well as help from volunteers, interns and scientists from Europe, the Caribbean and the United States. Many STINAPA 2006 projects, such as establishment of no fishing zones, relied on input from a broad base of Bonairean stakeholders.

While there were many accomplishments in 2006, land use issues raised the biggest challenges for the future. Agreements made at the Ramsar convention were ignored however, we are in the process of resolving this issue.

As Bonaire seeks to find a balance between growth and development and conservation of the very environmental resources that make the island unique, STINAPA must support and provide leadership in the development of land use policies consistent with international agreements and its mission to "conserve Bonaire's natural and historical heritage through the sustainable use of its resources" for all of Bonaire's people.

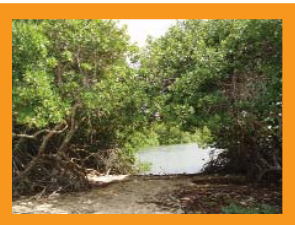
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- * *Visit of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix*
- * *The Nature Ordinance is finished and is awaiting government approval*
- * *The European Union agreed to the addition of a tertiary treatment to the Bonaire Sewage Treatment Project.*
- * *Visit of Dr. Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General of the Ramsar convention.*
- * *The STINAPA communication strategy and plan have been written.*

ISSUES

The government gave land in long lease for construction of bungalows and resorts in, or in proximity to, Ramsar sites Lac and Pekelmeer.

Acting through Aliansa Naturalesa Bonaire, the nature organizations, using local laws, initiated legal proceedings against the local government to halt the construction of the Mangrove Village project. This led the Governor of the Netherlands Antilles to order the island government to postpone the rights of the lease land and the building permit, and to stop the construction in the protected area. The local government did not agree with the decision of the Governor and they appealed to the Council of State. At the time of printing this annual report, April 2007, there is still no ruling from the Council of State.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- * *That the Executive Council of the Island Territory of Bonaire meaningfully involve its citizens in a process that leads to the creation of a zoning plan for Bonaire, which has the support of the general public.*
- * *That the Executive Council of the island territory of Bonaire follows through on its decision to have a strategic environmental impact assessment conducted for the area of Lac.*
- * *That the Executive Council of the island territory of Bonaire respects its protected areas as indicated in the Nature Policy plan approved by the Island Council.*
- * *That funding is secured to repair the roads in the Washington Slagbaai National Park.*

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER NGO'S (NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS):

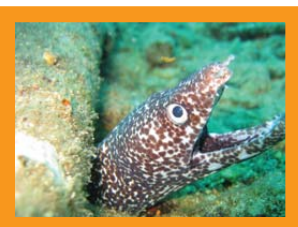
DCNA (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance) - This NGO is established to safeguard the biodiversity of the islands of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. All the NGOs of the Netherlands Antilles islands and Aruba that manage protected areas for their government are members of DCNA. The Managing Director of STINAPA holds the seat of treasurer on the Executive Board of DCNA. Through the DCNA, we now have a relationship with a group of nature protection NGOs in the Netherlands who are members of the Support Group of DCNA in the Netherlands. They assist us with advice and technical assistance.

IUCN NL (International Union for Conservation of Nature) - The Ministry of Kingdom Relations gave its approval for 1 million euro's to be passed yearly, for the next ten years, through IUCN NL to DCNA. The condition is that DCNA must build a trust fund, with the intention that the interest generated from the trust fund by the year 2017 be sufficient to cover the basic operation of each of the member parks of DCNA.

WWF-NL (World Wildlife Fund Netherlands) - Our relationship with WWF goes way back to the start-up of the Bonaire Marine Park. As one of the co-founders of the park they have contributed with over one million guilders in grant money to STINAPA/Bonaire National Marine Park over the past 25 years. We often turn to the WWF for advice and support. On their part they are very proud of us and use Bonaire as an example of a well-managed underwater park in all their presentations and campaigns. WWF-NL is a member of the DCNA Support Group in the Netherlands.

Stichting DOEN - Stichting DOEN, a NGO from the Netherlands granted us funds to construct the housing facilities and to replace the fence in the Washington Slagbaai National Park.

PBCF - (Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds van Aruba en de Nederlandse Antillen) has supported the Washington Slagbaai National Park very well over the last years. They provided funds for informational materials where visitors are able to receive information and education about different aspects of the park.



RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER NGO'S (NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS):

Aliansa Naturalesa Bonaire - All the nature protection NGOs of Bonaire, including STINAPA Bonaire, are members of this organization. The voice of Aliansa is mostly heard when there is a threat to nature on Bonaire.

STCB (Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire) - STCB monitors sea turtles in Bonaire's waters and on its beaches and we cooperate with them on many different levels.

CURO (Counsel of Underwater Resort Operators) - The members of this organization and their employees are our eyes underwater. The success of the Marine Park is greatly due to the good relationship we have with CURO and its members. It is a tradition that the manager of the BNMP attends the monthly meetings of CURO. The goal is to keep the members informed of the innovations of the park. CURO has a seat on the board of STINAPA Bonaire.

BONHATA (Bonaire Hospitality and Tourism Association) - Bonhata has a seat on the board of STINAPA Bonaire. Through the BONHATA office we keep contact with the hotel members of the organization.

TCB (Tourism Corporation Bonaire) - TCB has a seat on the board of STINAPA Bonaire. The TCB office in Bonaire and the overseas representatives support us by distributing our collateral materials and distributing information about the parks to potential visitors.

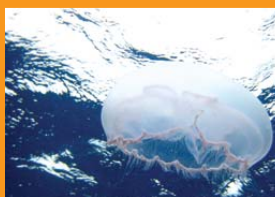
Jong Bonaire - Since the establishment of Jong Bonaire, an after school program for teenagers, we have had a great relationship with this organization. Each year they allow us to bring nature conservation and preservation education programs to these youngsters.

CARMABI - (Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity) - CARMABI has many years of research experience in the islands of the Netherlands Antilles. CARMABI has been assisting us in the project of reforestation and has been giving us advice on different nature related issues.

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS AND OTHERS:

DROB/MNB (Dienst Ruimtelijke Ontwikkeling en Beheer/Milieu en Natuurbeheer) - We have an ongoing relationship with the Department of Environment and Nature Management of the Island Government. In our meetings we share information about the activities and progress of the projects in the parks and discuss policy.

SEK (Servisio di Edukashon i Kultura) - Our relationship with the education department of the Island Government is very important to the planning and execution of our education projects for youth. This relationship also serves to remind education decision makers to include the subject of Nature Protection and Conservation when it comes to the development of school curriculum.



RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS AND OTHERS:

JAZ (Juridische en Algemene Zaken) - We had good contact with the legal department of the island government this year. We worked jointly with them and the Department of Environment and Nature Management on the new Nature Ordinance for Bonaire.

CMM (Commissie Marien Milieu) - This committee was formed in 1991 when the Island Council approved the Marine Ordinance. It is an independent committee that gives advice, solicited or unsolicited, to the government on all issues related to the marine environment. The Bonaire National Marine Park is an advisor to this committee and its manager attends the monthly meetings.

VOMIL (Ministry of Public Health and Social Development/Department of Environment & Nature Conservation) - This Central Government department assist us with advice and counseling regarding nature conservation issues. They also manage two (2) small grant funds; MINA (Milieu Fonds Nederlandse Antillen) and KNAP (Kleine Natuur Projecten). We have several projects that were funded by these grants. Through this department Bonaire received technical assistance in order to finish the Nature Ordinance for Bonaire.

Schools - Our relationship with the principals and teachers of the schools at all levels is very good. The schools are our vehicle to reach the children to provide education on nature protection and conservation.

Kustwacht van de Nederlandse Antillen & Aruba -The Coast Guard of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba have assisted us for the past years during the Bonaire International Sailing Regatta. This yearly event is the biggest event in the Marine Park with the largest number of people in attendance.

Public Prosecutor - The public prosecutor assists us in all legal issues and is our advisor whenever we are in doubt with a case. We seek advice from him when items need to be confiscated.

The police and the security service of the government (SSV) - We participate with these two governmental departments in the monthly patrols. On an ad hoc basis we call them for assistance whenever the rangers feel this is needed.

Selibon (Servisio di Limpiesa di Boneiru) - The local hygiene company. Together we participate in the yearly beach clean ups.



THE MANAGEMENT BODY

The STINAPA Board of Directors has a supervisory role over the Management Team and their activities. All Board members are volunteers and receive no financial compensation for their time and effort. The Board met 9 times in this reporting period. The Board has a maximum of eleven (11) seats with nine being filled during this reporting period:

Seven seats are reserved for groups that have a vested interest in the park systems:

- 1) Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB)
- 2) Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (Bonhata)
- 3) Council of Underwater Resort Operators (CURO)
- 4) Koperativa di Kriadonan di Bestia Boneiriano (KRIABON-representing the farmers)
- 5) The fishermen
- 6) & 7) The government of the Island Territory of Bonaire has two (2) seats.

At the end of December 2006 the Board of Directors consists of the following members:

Mr. Evo Cicilia	President (Government member)
Mrs. Ronella Croes	Secretary (TCB member)
Mrs. Jeannette Nolen	Vice President (Independent member)
Mr. Herbert Piar	Treasurer (Independent member)
Mrs. Diana Sint Jago	Independent member
Mr. Bruce Bowker	CURO member
Mrs. Corine Gerharts	Bonhata member
Mr. Jack Chalk	Independent member
Mr. Felix (Papy) Cicilia	Government member

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.

In 2006, 30.465 persons paid the entrance fee to the BNMP to SCUBA dive and 13.930 paid for other activities. For SCUBA divers this is an increase of 1.450 divers from the previous year. There were an additional 5.905 users other than SCUBA divers.

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.



THE FOUNDATION CONSISTS OF FOUR UNITS:

3) Education and Communication

The education program was initiated by STINAPA and the other environmental NGOs of Bonaire with funding from World Wildlife Funds- Netherlands (WWF-NL) to develop school materials, train teachers in their use, and offer a variety of educational programs about Bonaire's natural environment. World Wildlife Funds- Netherlands (WWF-NL) agreed with STINAPA that the public older than 18 years should also receive nature and environment related information and they funded a long term awareness campaign called "Nos ta biba di Naturalesa". "We live from nature". The focus of the campaign is to make the public aware that the economy of Bonaire is driven by its nature and environment. Therefore it is important to conserve, protect and preserve it.

4) Management, accounting and administration

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

The Management Team manages the units of the Foundation. It is comprised of:

The STINAPA Director, the Manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park, the Manager of the Washington Slagbaai National Park, the Nature Environment Education Coordinator, the Communication Coordinator and the Accounting Manager.

An Administrative Assistant and an Interior Maintenance Person support the Foundation. Each park has its own Rangers.

The Director represents the Board of Directors on the work-floor and presides over the Management Team's weekly meetings. The team met 38 times in this reporting period. These meetings are to keep the members informed about the activities in each unit and to reach consensus on strategic and tactical decisions.

The Management Team manages according to the approved operational budget and work plans for the year.

Any policy-related suggestion is presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

A general meeting is held once a month to keep all employees informed about the activities of the Foundation. Management Team members report to their colleagues about what is happening at the executive level. Other employees react to happenings in their areas and bring forward questions, concerns or suggestions. The staff attended 10 general meetings in this reporting period.

The Board of Directors is kept informed through the minutes of the Management Team meetings, the minutes of the general meetings and the quarterly financial reports.



STAFF

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Ranger



Nestor Janga
Ranger



Jerrel Martis
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Ruthsel Paula
Assistant Ranger



George Saragoza
Maintenance Person



Henry Beaumont
Maintenance Person



Jonathan Pourier
Maintenance Person

OBJECTIVES 2006

Objectives 2006	Status	Remarks (more can be found in the report)
Administration - Human Resources	DONE=√	
Promote 3 out of 4 Assistant Rangers to Rangers		The rangers did not finish their courses yet.
Hire 2 new employees for WSNP	√	
Hire Communications Officer	√	
STINAPA Ranger graduations		The rangers did not finish their courses yet.
Equipment and Infrastructure		
Set up a long term plan for the realization of a STINAPA Research Center		Not done
Purchase one pickup truck for the WSNP and 2 for the BNMP	√	
2 nd floor in the storage room at WSNP	√	
Create a better working area for maintenance of the BNMP		Not done
Have three functional boats suitable to our needs		The Delta RIB (rubber inflatable boat) needs to be replaced and the Nouvorania RIB has many leaks.
Monitoring and Research		
Lora count for WSNP by STINAPA employees	√	
Study possible protocols for the monitoring program		
Create five fully functional groups of volunteers Coral survey team (AGRRA) Fish survey team Carrying capacity survey team Nutrients monitoring team Data handling team	√ √ √ √	Not enough data yet to put the team to work
Finish implementation of the Monitoring Program	√	
Law Enforcement- policy – legal issues		
Insure that government approves the Construction Guidelines		Not done
Set priorities for research together with the Environment Department of the government		Not done
Approval of the WSNP Management Plan by the STINAPA board and government		Approved by the STINAPA board but not by the government
Define situation on Labra and Brasil		Not discussed with the government
Continue discussing with the governor, in his capacity as chief of Police, to have an Environment Police officer in the department of DROB- Environment and Nature Management	√	One employee of the department passed the course of police powers but has not been sworn in as yet.
Acquire ownership of Slagbaai		Not done
Sign contract with the kayak operators and graduation ceremony for guides	√	
Education information and outreach		
Continue the existing education projects and implement new projects	√	An education box for the WSNP was produced

OBJECTIVES 2006

Projects	Status	Goal
Management Plan for BNMP	It is finished and the implementation has started	To finalize and implement the BNMP Management Plan including Klein Bonaire and Lac
Fish Protected Areas	Advice is at the government	To establish at least one Fish Protected Area
New educational box	Done	To create at least one new educational box. Topic - Washington Slagbaai National Park.
Awareness campaign	Did not start	To organize an educational and awareness campaign. Topic - Conch.
Education to teenagers	Done	To run a Junior Rangers program
Education for elementary school students	Not done	To establish the snorkel club 'Turtuganan di Boneiru'.
Information for the general public	Done	To design a STINAPA Newsletter
Information to the general public	Not done	To hold an Open house/Job fair
Control of exotic species	Halfway	To restore the fence of Slagbaai
Improve infrastructure	Not done	To renovate the roads of the WSNP
Control of exotic species	Not finished	To draft a plan for control of exotic species in the WSNP and reforestation of the park
Information to the general public	Done	To launch the new STINAPA website
Information to the general public	Done	To print new brochures for the parks and their activities.
Information to the general public	Done	To make poster to inform the public about the Nature Fee
Information to the general public	Done	To get funding to support the communications projects
Information and awareness top the general public	In progress	To create and implement the communications plan
Relocated the STINAPA headquarters	In progress	To acquire land in town to relocate the STINAPA headquarters
Purchase of private land for nature protection purposes	In progress	To acquire funding to purchase land at Bolivia
To safeguard the coral reefs	In progress	To participate actively in the progress of the wastewater treatment project for Bonaire
Protection of natural resources	Framework is done	To participate actively in the development of the Nature Ordinance and the updating of the Marine Ordinance
Information to the general public	Not done	To create an Information video/DVD.
Management Success	Done	This is a DCNA project and data is collected yearly

HUMAN RESOURCES



A Communication Coordinator was hired for the Education & Communication unit.

A Maintenance person was hired for the WSNP unit.

Two trainees from the Antillean Military service did 6 weeks of internship with the BNMP.

Two second year interns from the Van Halle Institute of the Netherlands, Mathijs Winters and Johan Vissers, students of study Coastal Zone management, made a map of all the developments along the coast, classifying them by their threat to the marine environment.

Fred Fisher, from James Madison University in the USA, did his senior year internship with the BNMP. His field of study is Marine Recreation Management. The objective of his internship was to observe and /or assist the department leaders and staff of the BNMP and the WSNP in order to acquire a background understanding of the management of the parks.



We celebrated the 25th anniversary of George Thodé, Chief Ranger, working for STINAPA/WSNP and the 10th anniversary of July-Ann Frans, receptionist. July was promoted to Administrative Assistant. Our Accounting Manager, Kerenza Rannou, celebrated 10 years working for STINAPA..

Two volunteers from the UK, Lisa Mc Laren and Claire Martin did 5 months of work for the WSNP. They wrote text for exhibits of the museum of the WSNP and assisted in maintenance of the signs in the park.

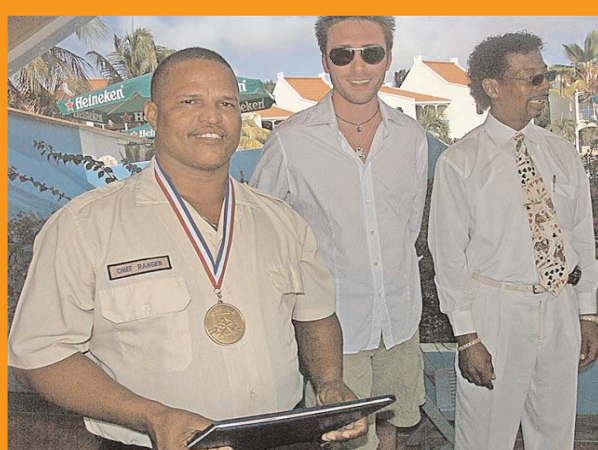
Edwin Domacasse, the Chief Ranger of the BNMP received the Accolade award for his dedication to marine preservation from the Accolade Foundation.

The manager of the WSNP held a 'retreat' with his employees to go over the management plan with them and how it will influence their work.

The management plan of the WSNP was presented and explained to the entire staff.

2 Rangers and the Assistant Manager from the St. Eustatius Marine Park served an internship with the BNMP.

3 interns from the local high school SGB (Scholen Gemeenschap Bonaire) did their work practice with us.



HUMAN RESOURCES



All staff members participated in a RSI (Repetitive Strain Injury) training given by Bonfisisio, a local physical therapy company. All the work stations were evaluated, the employees received tips on how to work behind a PC and avoid getting RSI.

All employees, together with the Marshe di Rincon, participated in the 37th anniversary of the WSNP. This now recurring festivity has become a tradition.

EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Two of the older pick-up trucks were replaced by new ones.



The construction on the 'Kas di Trahadó' finished. The building contains the locker room, cantina and storage for all maintenance equipment. A small party was organized to celebrate the official opening of these new structures: The 'Kas di Trahadó' and the 'Kas di Sientifiko' (accommodation for students and interns).

The work to replace the fence between Slagbaai and Washington has started. By this reporting period they have finished 5 kilometers of this 10 kilometers long fence.

With a grant from U-sona, the agency through which all grants from the government of the Netherlands to the Netherlands Antilles are channeled, we hired a consultant to write the project request for renovation of the roads in the WSNP. We are still awaiting approval



We built two wooden shade huts and two concrete barbeque pits on Klein Bonaire. This was done in cooperation with STCB (Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire) and the Rotterdam Zoo who donated the materials.

Concrete barbeque pits were placed at Slagbaai and at Playa Funchi in the WSNP.

YSI multiparameter sensors were purchased to read temperature, salinity and conductivity of the seawater.

Lab materials for the nutrient monitoring program were purchased.

MONITORING



Almost all the employees of STINAPA and volunteers participated in the annual count of our Lora, the Yellow shouldered parrot.

The STINAPA volunteer- Coral Team did several coral transects for AGRRA.

The STINAPA volunteer- Fish Team did surveys in 10 sites and also the annual fish count in the Karpata reserve. The # 10.000 fish survey for Bonaire was completed in January 7, 2006. A new fish survey protocol has been developed to estimate the amount of fish (bio-mass) in the proposed Fish Protected Areas.

The third nutrient study was done.

Kristopher Kats from Progressive Environmental Solutions wrote a monitoring plan for Lac on the physical chemical parameters.

A reforestation project was started. It was coordinated by Dr. Dolfi Debrot of Carmabi Curaçao. Seedlings were taken and potted. The nursery of Captain Don, Island Growers nursed the plants.

Long-term monitoring and research programs have been jointly planned with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE).



RESEARCH

Geologist Michaela Spiske, from Germany conducted research on tsunami created deposits in the WSNP.

Professor Dr. Rolf Bak and Gerard Nieuwland, from the University of Amsterdam and NIOZ (Netherland Institute for Sea Research) gave a presentation on the 'Acute and chronic changes on the coral reefs of Bonaire.'

Maria Calvo and Alison Perry from University of East Anglia in the UK did the following: She made photo transects (4500 photos) of all the dive sites around Klein Bonaire and around Bonaire at 10 meters and at 20 meters depth. She surveyed tourists regarding which dive site they preferred and also surveyed the conditions of the coral reef and the fish population.



RESEARCH



Altera Wageningen UR from the Netherlands studied the amount of nutrients that the soil in the zone close (sensitive zone) to the shore can absorb. This related to the sewage treatment project. The results proved the environmental organizations right; the sewage water cannot go back to the zone unless it has been treated through a tertiary process.

Dr. Diana Littler and her crew from the Smithsonian Institute, U.S.A. conducted an algae survey. It was financed by the Conservation International.

Susie Arnold and Curtis Brown from the University of Maine, U.S.A. returned to Bonaire to monitor the underside of coral settlement tiles for growth of succession of fouling species. They also checked for newly settled corals and the growth and survivorship of corals previously settled on the tiles.

LAW ENFORCEMENT



40 incidents of some type of violation of the Marine Ordinance have been recorded on the logbook. Out of these 40 incidents, 10 citations were written for violations of the Marine Ordinance. These citations were: 3 for spear fishing, 2 for construction without a permit, 4 for collecting of Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) without a permit, 1 for import of Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) without a permit. All these citations were prosecuted.

In all three cases of spear fishing the offenders attacked the rangers and threatened them. The threats were reported to the police. The offenders received an additional penalty for threatening an officer on duty, besides the penalty for breaking the Marine Ordinance.



The environment police unit consisting of one person of each of the following departments: the Police, the Environmental Police department of the sanitation organization, the government security department and STINAPA, started its work. All the representatives meet once a month and carry out patrols enforcing environmental and marine laws on that day.

POLICY



The Board of Directors approved the WSNP management plan.

The management plan of the BNMP is finished: It was created in close consultation with the stakeholders of the BNMP, STINAPA BOD, STINAPA employees and volunteers, under the guidance of the consultant Duncan Mc Rae of Coastal Zone Management. These consultations were needed to receive input from the stakeholders, the STINAPA BOD, STINAPA employees and volunteers on their points of view regarding the tasks for management of the Marine Park. Maria Calvo, an intern doing work practice with the BNMP, as part of her PhD studies, conducted interviews with the users of the Marine Park to get their input on the management of the Park. The management plan is in draft form. It will be presented to all who participated in its creation for their reactions and comments.



The department of Nature and Environment of the Central Government is conducting research about environmental standards for waste, water quality, wastewater and air with the intention to develop a policy regarding these matters.

Meetings, discussing issues of concern, have been initiated with the commissioner of Nature and Environment.

Advice to the government

We advised the government against its intention to allow the building of bungalows at the Red Slave. The site is too close to the flamingo sanctuary, the breeding grounds of the flamingos. Besides it is in close proximity to a Ramsar site and requires an environmental impact study to determine if such development can take place and, if permitted, under which conditions. We were informed that there is no plan for commercial activity.

We petitioned the government to place the caves of Urizjan Blanku under management of STINAPA and not to allow construction in the vicinity of the caves. No reply yet on this.

The government requested our advice on the need for Fish Protected Areas. The draft legislation has been made.





POLICY

We made the government aware of the damage that the feral pigs roaming in the area of Rincon and in the vicinity of WSNP can cause to nature and the crops of the farmers. The same alert was made regarding the dogs in the area of Sorobon. No actions have been taken to date. STINAPA is member of Aliansa Naturalesa Bonaire, the umbrella organization of all the nature and environment foundations of Bonaire. When it became known that a sign went up announcing development of the Mangrove Village, a tourist development in close proximity to the waters of Lac at Sorobon, we immediately notified the governor of Bonaire and asked for the environment impact assessment as required by the Ramsar Convention. It became known that the developer did not have an environment impact assessment made according to the Ramsar criteria. We petitioned the governor of the Netherlands Antilles to instruct the Island Council of Bonaire to reverse the decision taken to give land to this developer.



LEGAL ISSUES

The Nature Ordinance is written. We received legal assistance from Mr. Ferdinand von den Assen. This was made possible through the commitment between the Department of Nature of the Netherlands and the Department of Nature and Environmental issues of the Central Government. The lawyer, Mr. F. von den Assen was on Bonaire for three weeks. Bert Nijland from the legal department, Peter Montanus from the Department of Environment and Nature Management, and the Director of STINAPA worked together with Mr. von den Assen to finish the ordinance. This is a process that started in 2000 and Mr. von den Assen is the second legal assistant to work on the ordinance. To create buy-in to the ordinance, presentations were given to different organizations to solicit their comments on its content. In December of this reporting year a presentation was given to the local government. They had no objections to the legislation advised and will take it to the Island Council meeting for discussion and approval.



EDUCATION



The Snorkel program 'Turtuganan di Boneiru': 105 youngsters of ages 10-13 years, received a certificate for having participated in the 5 weeks snorkeling program. 7 primary schools participated in this program which is offered in cooperation with STCB.

2177 school children ages 4-13 years from 7 primary schools participated in outdoor activities.

Boxes, containing educational materials on 14 different nature related topics were circulated among the 7 primary schools. 2177 school children between the ages of 4-13 years benefited from the use of these educational boxes in their classrooms.



The Junior Ranger program was offered to the teenagers of the after school program of Jong Bonaire and also to the high-school drop out participants of the Stichting Project. The program covers most of the subjects of the course manuals provided for the STINAPA Assistant Rangers. A total of 8 teenagers enrolled in this program. Buddy Dive gave free SCUBA lessons to these youngsters.

An advanced snorkel program for youth was organized in cooperation with Jong Bonaire. 80 teenagers received a certificate.

On Earth Day volunteers assisted the STINAPA employees to do a clean up at Boka Chikitu and at Playa Chikitu in the WSNP. Two Junior Rangers, on their own initiative, organized a clean up with their families at Lagun.



A clean up was done on Klein Bonaire on the International clean up day, Clean up the World. M/S Freewinds crew members and some passengers, STINAPA and STCB volunteers, participated in this clean up.

The cave training for guides was repeated and 18 new guides were certified.

The kayak training was given and 21 guides were certified.

The tree-planting project is new this reporting year. 20 school children from three primary schools participated in this project. They received lectures about the different plants and they went into the bush to collect seeds which they planted at the agriculture department of the government. Over the course of time they went back and re-potted the seedlings and cared for the plants.

INFORMATION



The sad news was received that Carel Steensma, one of the co-founders of the Bonaire National Marine Park, passed away at his home in the Netherlands. He was 92 years old.

Dr. Anja Scheffers from the University of Esser, Germany gave a presentation on the findings about the tsunamis and hurricanes that have hit Bonaire over the past 100 years.

The Assistant Manager of the St. Eustatius National Park systems, Gershon Lopez, gave a presentation to the staff on the protected areas of St. Eustatius.

The reporter Noël van Bommel from the Dutch newspaper De Volkskrant, on initiative of WWF-Netherlands, visited Bonaire and published a two-page article on the Marine Park. In the table of contents of the newspaper the article was announced under the heading of 'Bonaire nergens zoveel respect voor natuur'. (Bonaire, nowhere so much respect for nature).

A film crew, who shot footage for the new KLM in-flight video, filmed Bonairean school children, while they were engaged in one of our outdoor activities.

TCB Netherlands uses well-known celebrities from the Netherlands to promote Bonaire. On Bonaire they shot short films to be published on the website www.bonairevisitstv.nl. Katja Schuurman participated along with some school children in one of our outdoor activities and Peer Massini participated with the Ranger Clifford Cicilia in a search for 'tree chickens' in the Washington Slagbaai National Park.

STINAPA staff made two presentations at the Bonaire Dive into Adventure event.

Annual celebration: 37 years of the WSNP in cooperation with Marshe di Rincon. Marshe participants served local food and treats while a folkloric band played. It was an open house; all cars entered for free that day and guided activities were offered to the general public.

The governor of the Netherlands Antilles Mr. Frits Goedgedrag and the Governor of Aruba, Mr. Freddie Refinjol both visited the BNMP and the WSNP.

The Secretary General of Ramsar, Dr. Peter Bridgewater visited Bonaire.



INFORMATION



Minister Atzo Nicolai of Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands went bird watching in the WSNP.

The weekly television program produced by Boy Antoin, 'Herensia', showed a program about Lac. Locals were interviewed about how they used the bay in the past and what the value of the bay is today. They were also asked how they felt about potential tourist development around the bay. Eric Newton, the Ramsar representative of the Central government and Dr. Peter Bridgewater were also interviewed. The locals all said that development in the area would harm the eco system.

At the start of the nutrient monitoring program that was conducted on Curaçao and Bonaire Dr. Brian Lapointe gave a presentation in Bonaire. The title of the presentation was; "Nutrient Pollution and Macroalgal Blooms on Caribbean Coral Reefs: Lessons from Jamaica"



New brochures were created for the protected areas: BNMP, Lac, WSNP and the Visitor Center at the WSNP. The illustrations in the brochures were hand painted by the artist Dominique Serafini.

Commissioner of tourism, Mr. Emerencia, visited the STINAPA Headquarters. The management team members were presented to him and each explained his/her tasks and responsibilities.

Signs were placed at Klein Bonaire. They were sponsored by STCB and Rotterdam Zoo of the Netherlands. The signs have information about the history of the island, the code of conduct and information on the importance of the island for the sea turtles.

The implementation of the communication plan that carries the slogan "Nos ta biba di Naturalesa" (Nature is our Livelyhood) began. Meetings were held with the stakeholders to inform them of the objective of the campaign and to get their buy-in. The nature NGOs committed to participate in the campaign and several businesses pledged their sponsorship.

We participated once more in the annual "Jobs Fair" organized by the local high school.

We gave several interviews on the radio and local television stations regarding activities that happened throughout the year.

NOS TA BIBA DI NATURALES



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Boneiru

INFORMATION



Our records show that 233 references or articles related to STINAPA activities, or issues related to nature conservation and awareness on Bonaire, were published in the local and international press.

The director of STINAPA, Elsmarie Beukenboom, was the official host of her Majesty Queen Beatrix on her visit to Klein Bonaire. During the boat trip to Klein Bonaire the Queen was thanked for her participation in the purchase of the island. She complimented us on our nature protection efforts and suggested that we be more proactive in our work. Later, at the reception at the governor's house, she once more encouraged the director to remain strong in the struggle for nature protection and to seek support whenever needed.

TRAVEL



The Director, as a board member of DCNA, and the Accounting Manager, as the replacement of the Director on the board, attended DCNA board meeting in Curaçao.

Felix (Papy) Cilia represented STINAPA in St. Maarten at a workshop held by NAAM (National Archeologisch en Anthropologisch Museum).

The BNMP manager and the Education Officer attended the International Tropical Marine Ecology Management Symposium (ITMEMS) in Cozumel.

SPECIAL THANKS

Donors:

Captain Don's Habitat
Support Bonaire
Bonaire Petroleum Corporation
Mr. Ree & Mrs. Beverly Jordan
Arntz Family
Buddy Dive Resort
Fundashon Kas Boneriano

Mrs. Helen Sargant
Mr. Scott Barlass
Mr. James Platz
Mr. De Zoet
Mangrove Info Center
Chat 'N Browse
STINAPA Volunteers

Subsidies:

Knap Fonds
Government of the Island Territory of Bonaire
Stichting DOEN
Binnenlandse Zaken Koninkrijksrelaties (BZK)
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds



OBJECTIVES 2007

Staffing
Reinforce the management of the parks
Have enough rangers to do the job
Trainings
Upgrading of staff
Exploit the STINAPA Rangers training manual
Attend relevant seminars and conferences
Train the staff of the WSNP in data collection and exotic species removal
Train the volunteers to assist in monitoring
Equipment – Infrastructure
Create a better working area for maintenance of the BNMP
Have proper functioning equipment to do the job
Have sufficient equipment to do the job
Ensure the park is properly fenced in
Have the roads of the WSNP renovated
Monitoring – Research
Run reef monitoring programs for fish, conch, nutrients, sea grass and mangroves
Develop a re-forestation plan for WSNP and Klein Bonaire
Develop a plan for eradication of exotic species of fauna in the WSNP and on Klein Bonaire
Law Enforcement- policy – legal issues:
Introduce new legislation where there is a threat
Have a Nature Ordinance for the entire island
Have a development (zoning) plan for the entire island
Have a strategic environmental impact assessment for the Lac area
Education - information – outreach – PR:
Spread scientific knowledge to residents of all ages
Create awareness of the benefits of sustainable use
Design awareness campaigns
Provide basic information for all users
Ensure that nature education materials are produced
Raise awareness of the marine park rules and legislation in the staff of the dive industry
Survey the knowledge of the users of the protected areas of the island
Projects:
Communication campaign, "Nos ta biba di naturalesa"
Production of education materials
Monitoring of physical and chemical parameters in Lac
Biological monitoring in Lac
Nutrients monitoring program
Fish protected areas
Guides to the WSNP and the BNMP
Management Success
Finance
Administer the foundation applying proper accounting principles

NOTE: Some of these objectives and projects are not carried by the 2007 operational budget and are grant pending.

FINANCE

All figures are in N.A. guilders

BALANCE SHEET as at December 31, 2006

ASSETS

FIXED ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets		848.174
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FINANCIAL FIXED ASSESTS		417.000
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CURRENT ASSETS

Project subsidies receivable	3.680	
Other current assets	152.143	
Cash at banks	<u>657.719</u>	
		813.542

Total assets		<u>2.078.716</u>
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EQUITY AND LIABILITES

EQUITY

Foundation's capital	100	
Fixed assets funds	526.217	
Accumulated results previous years	796.533	
Result current year	434.349	
	-----	1.757.199

APPROPRIATED SUBSIDIES		183.289
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SHORT TERM LIABILITIES AND ACCRUALS

Social premiums and taxes	31.873	
Accruals	106.355	
	-----	138.228

<u>Total equity and liabilities</u>		<u>2.078.716</u>
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FINANCE

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR 2006

INCOME

Project subsidies	374.374	
Project expenses	(120.324)	
Investments in tangible fixed assets	<u>(259.453)</u>	
Project (surplus)/deficit	<u>(5.403)</u>	
Project Result		
Donations received		
Operating revenue	1.779.251	
Subsidy BZK	267.000	
Government grants	47.469	
Donations received	<u>20.237</u>	
	<u>2.113.957</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		2.108.554

EXPENSES

Personnel expenses	942.233	
Operational expenses BNMP	39.312	
Operational expenses WSNP	54.444	
Transportation expenses	73.622	
Housing expenses	73.261	
Information and education	5.709	
General expenses	164.832	
Depreciation	130.991	
Donation Trustfund DCNA	267.000	
Release of fixed assets funds	(68.210)	
Addition to provision doubtful receivables	<u>4.500</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>1.687.694</u>
<u>Operational result</u>		<u>420.860</u>
Interest		(1.911)
Extraordinary gain/(loss)		<u>15.400</u>
Net result		<u>434.349</u>