



SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION
CURAÇAO

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

SEA TURTLE
CONSERVATION
CURAÇAO

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CONSERVATION
CURAÇAO

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FOREWORD

FOREWORD

The sea connects us all. This rings especially true for us islanders. But we are in trouble! In this time of massive consumption, there is also massive pollution. The earth - including the ocean - is warming, sea levels are rising, plastic is taking over the ocean, corals and other species are disappearing. This effects every one of us. Conservation therefore, is a personal matter.

Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao (STCC) aims to protect sea turtles and their habitats. This is important not only because sea turtles are indispensable for a healthy ecosystem, but also because sea turtles are a sentinel species; animals who act as an indicator of potent danger to human life by providing advance warning of danger. Let's work together to stave of danger.

It is with great pride that I present the efforts that Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao

undertook in 2018 in terms of RESEARCH, CONSERVATION and EDUCATION.

With immense satisfaction I look back on a very busy, but amazing year. A year of major accomplishments and great strides forward. None of which would have been possible without the tireless effort of our many volunteers, sponsors and other supporters. I therefore, want to thank every single person that has contributed in any way, shape or form to STCC and -more importantly- to protecting sea turtles and their habitat: un danki di kurason.

A special word of thanks goes out to the motors behind Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao, **Ard Vreugdenhil and Sabine Berendse**: guys, without you there would be no STCC, masha masha danki i sigi dal bai.



Image: Research, Conservation and Education

2018 was an exciting year, it was the first full calendar year that STCC operated as an NGO. Although the organization has been active since 2014, we only became an NGO a year and a half ago. The benefits of being an independent organization are countless, but so are the challenges. The biggest challenge being to secure long term and sustainable funding. In trying to do so, STCC has become quite creative and innovative. But mostly we continue to focus on our core business of protecting sea turtles and their habitats, below is a short overview of our biggest accomplishments of 2018.

STCC conducted a lot of research in 2018 and this yielded valuable, but also alarming information. In the beginning of 2018 we found a significant number of sea turtles with Fibropapillomatosis, a tumour disease of sea turtles. This is an enormous concern, because sea turtles, as mentioned before, are among the most important indicators of health of marine and coastal ecosystems. STCC worked hard to engage researchers, other NGOs and politicians to extend the research into this troublesome finding.

This resulted in valuable partnerships with Artemis One Health Research Institute, a nonprofit organization devoted to advancing knowledge on infectious diseases affecting humans and animals; and Terry Work, an internationally acknowledged wildlife disease specialist.

However, most of our time is spent helping entangled and hooked turtles. The situation of some turtles was so dire that they had to be placed under the care of veterinary Odette Doest. Such treatments are an enormous strain on the limited finances of STCC. In fact, the increasing number of turtle hookings pose an immediate threat to the continuance of STCC.

A definite highlight was our participation in the International Sea Turtle Symposium in Japan, where STCC gave two workshops. In addition, with great delight, we also look back on a successful WIDECAST annual meeting in Trinidad.

Another major accomplishment at the start of the year was the release of STCC's music video "Can You See". It was an effective and creative way to create extra awareness. Furthermore, STCC participated in 'Present Your Startup', a pitch competition, that garnered quite some international exposure. Another extraordinary achievement was winning the Haarlem2Harlem pitch competition in New York. This was the catalyst for the development of the social enterprise Green Phenix, which aims to transform the plastic pollution problem into social, environmental and economic opportunities and in doing so will create additional funding for STCC, to ultimately make the organization financially sustainable.

2018 was a great year with lots of activities and many proud moments. Our visibility increased, the group of volunteers expanded and our expertise strengthened even further. STCC is on a roll! However STCC's financial situation is precarious. In the future, as we continue to reach higher heights, we cannot forget our challenges in securing sustainable funding. We should strive to make the same headway in this area, as in our community engagement, media presence, research, volunteer involvement and innovative thinking.

Once again, the board of STCC is extremely grateful for all the support from our volunteers and sponsors and we hope that we can keep counting on your support in the future.



Denise Vijber
President of the Board of Sea Turtle
Conservation Curaçao

STCC TEAM



STCC TEAM

Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao aims to protect sea turtles and their habitat through research, conservation and education. **Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao is a volunteer based organization.** There are hundreds of people that help out every now and then, with clean ups, special projects or whatever help they feel comfortable giving.

STCC is part of WIDECAST (the Caribbean network of sea turtle experts) and the ISTS (the international network of sea turtle experts).

STAFF

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Ard Vreugdenhil *field coordinator*

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Tjerk Nooitgedacht
Linde van Vlijmen
Babette van Ravenswaaij
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Glenn Statia
Esterelle vd Linden
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Omar Sling
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Joop Olthof
Nana Bouwens









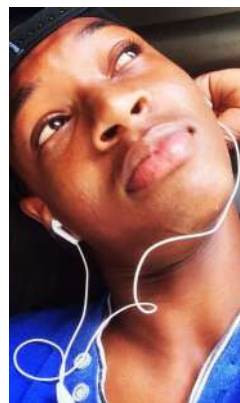








"CAN YOU SEE" VIDEO MUSICIANS



RESEARCH & MONITORING

RESEARCH & MONITORING ACTIVITIES

The overall objective of the monitoring program is to determine the status and trends of nesting and in-water sea turtles. The distinct monitoring of nesting and in-water sea turtles is required due to the difference in habitat use of these two groups. The turtles nesting on Curaçao spend most of their life on foraging grounds outside of Curaçao and come to Curaçao only for reproductive purposes. The majority

of in-water sea turtles can be expected to be resident sea turtles with foraging grounds on Curaçao but with nesting grounds elsewhere to which mature individuals will travel for reproductive purposes. It is currently unknown whether any turtles nesting on Curaçao also have their foraging grounds on Curaçao. Five sea turtle species protected under the IAC have been found around Curaçao and Klein Curaçao.

OCCURRENCE IN CURAÇAO

Caretta Caretta (Loggerhead)

Nesting females

Chelonia Mydas (Green)

Juveniles and nesting females

Dermochelys Coriacea (Leatherback)

Last nesting female seen in 2006

Eretmochelys Imbricate (Hawksbill)

Juveniles and nesting females

Lepidochelys olivacea (Olive Ridley)

Some specimens were found stranded

Nest Monitoring

In 2014 STCC started with nest monitoring in Shete Boka. In that year the government of Curaçao acknowledged the importance of monitoring and protecting sea turtle populations by the ratification of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC). In 2015 Klein Curaçao was included in the standard monitoring, because a relatively high number of nesting activity was found on that island. In 2017 routes in Banda Abou and Band'riba were included, because there had been several nesting activities reported since the start of STCC.



Three sea turtle species have been found to nest on Curaçao and Klein Curaçao: the green turtle, the hawksbill and the loggerhead. All of these nesting sea turtles are either endangered or critically endangered according to the IUCN red list.

Each sea turtle species plays an important role in the ecosystems they inhabit. Humans also depend on these ecosystems. To protect sea turtles and their habitat as best as we can, serves a much broader purpose. The survival rate of sea turtles is low. Only 1 in a 1000 sea turtles born reach adulthood.

Nest success is dependent upon many factors. Sex ratio's and overall nest success are influenced by temperature. Other factors that threaten nest success are poaching, predation, moisture, extreme weather, compression and plastic pollution hidden under the sand on top of nests.

The prime reason for nest monitoring is to gather information about the number of nests, distribution and seasonality. Such information is essential to build effective conservation strategies. This being said, nest monitoring also offers protection from some of the immediate threats to nests.

From the 15th of May until the end of December, five routes are monitored 3 times a week. These beaches were checked for turtle tracks, by a minimum of two volunteers. When tracks were discovered, the beach patrollers established the activity type and registered it. Three types of activity are possible, namely: a dry run, an attempt or a nest.

A Dry run is when a turtle crawled over the beach but did not make a body pit

An Attempt is when a turtle made one or more body pits, but does not lay eggs

A Nest is when a turtle actually lays eggs, recognizable by a covering

The routes that were monitored:

1. **Klein Curaçao** – the entire sandy coastline of the island.
2. **Banda Ariba** – Caracasbaai, Baya Beach, Tugboat Beach and Directorsbay
3. **Banda' Bou** – Portomari, Daaibooi, Cas Abou, Santa Martha, Santa Cruz, Santu Pretu
4. **Westpunt** – Un Boka, Dos Boka, Boka Djegu, Boka Mansalina, Playa Kalki, Playa Piskado, Playa Forti, Kleine Knip, Grote Knip, Jeremi, Lagun
5. **San Pedro**

One inlet beach in the Wacawa area was checked weekly. Checking more often was not possible due to the fact that it is located in a military practice area.



Beaches monitored



Turtle rescue



Turtle location density

When a volunteer discovers a suspected nest, an experienced staff member is dispatched to check and confirm the activity. Confirming a nest requires the location to be carefully excavated until the first egg is reached. After confirmation, the nest is recovered making sure that there are no obstructions to impede hatchling births. If a nest is not confirmed, it is recorded as a suspected nest. This means no eggs were sighted but the tracks show an obvious covering, suggesting that a nest was laid.

A data form is filled out. The location of the nest is registered and after 45 days the location is checked during each monitoring for signs of a hatching nest. Only when there are obvious signs of hatching will the nest be excavated. All the empty egg shells and the remaining dead eggs are counted to establish the nest success rate. All the information is recorded on the data form.

Four of the recorded nests were outside of the standard monitoring routes. For these type of reports STCC is dependent on good samaritans to inform us about their observations. Since there are sea turtle nests outside the current monitoring routes, it is likely that there is more turtle activity than we were able to record. This is a good reason to further expand the monitoring.

In 2018 68 nests were registered of three different species: Loggerhead, Hawksill and Green Turtle. 13 nests were laid on Curaçao and 55 on Klein Curaçao. On Curaçao the first nest was registered on the 5th of March and the last one at November 23rd. The first registered nest on Klein Curaçao was laid on July 8th and the last one on November 6th.

In-Water Project

In collaboration with Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RUG) and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, STCC started an in-water project in 2015 to study the sea turtles at Ascencion, Wacawa and Klein Curaçao. Anecdotal accounts suggested these locations were important foraging grounds for sea turtles, but these seemingly important inlets and areas had never before been studied by sea turtle researchers. Estimating sea turtle population structure on foraging grounds is critical to measuring long-term trends, understanding the use of benthic habitats and managing areas. The data collection is repeated annually.

The inlets of Ascencion and Wacawa on the windward side of Curaçao contain sea grass beds which are known to be important foraging grounds for green turtles as well as developmental habitats for many other marine species. The leeward side of Klein Curaçao is characterized by a sandy sea floor with little seagrass cover, coral reef and coral rubble habitat. Sea turtles are often seen here, which is the main reason this site was included in the research project from the start.



In 2017 STCC added two activities to the in-water project with the goals of describing the distribution of juvenile hawksbills and green turtles along the coastline of Curaçao. Modelling the environmental factors that characterize high abundance sites increased the information we have about green turtle and hawksbill diet and their movement patterns. The catch and release method that was initiated in 2015 and the 2017 snorkel surveys were continued to further identify sea turtles by means of photo identification.



The combination of the three in-water activities will help identify previously unknown areas of sea turtle abundance around Curaçao, which will give policy makers the ability to make informed conservation decisions and provide a baseline for future work. All surveys will be repeatable and allow comparisons across years and seasons. The identification of specific areas with higher abundance will help piece together a framework of critical habitat for use in future management plans.

Catch & Release

In 2018 we had two catch and release sessions instead of one. This was the result of the finding a large portion of sea turtles with tumour growth in January. Based on the results and advise of internationally acknowledged scientists, we asked permission for extra survey sessions in 2018 to gather more data allowing us to assess the severity of infected sea turtle populations.

In October 2018 an extra catch and release session was conducted. A new custom made net was made in Cartagena, Colombia. Safety protocols were upgraded and a collaboration was also formed with Artemis. Total amount of turtles checked in the catch and release survey in 2018 were 167. Of these 68 were caught in January and 99 in October and November.



Prevalence and Severity of Fibropapillomatosis



Fibropapillomatosis turtle

In January 2018, for the third consecutive year, STCC conducted a catch and release survey. Many captured sea turtles from the North side of the island showed varying degrees of tumor growth. In previous catch and release studies no tumor growth was reported, which make this the first reported cases for Curaçao. Most likely these tumors are related to fibropapillomatosis (FP). FP was first described in the 1940 , and is now considered pandemic.

To get more information about the severity of the infected sea turtles, Maarten Looijenga, a student Landscape and Environment Management from Delft The Netherlands, conducted a research concerning the subject from August 2018 till January 2019. In this study, prevalence and gradations of FP was linked with water quality on five locations around Curaçao. (1 Boka Bartol, 2 Boka Grandi, 3 Boka Ascencion, 4 Playa Piskado, 5 Klein Curaçao)



Study areas; 1 Boka Bartol, 2 Boka Grandi, 3 Boka Ascencion, 4 Playa Piskado, 5 Klein Curaçao

In some of the world's regions infection rates of FP go up to 70%. Within the last decades, reaching a prevalence of 92% in some green turtle populations. FP is a tumor forming viral disease, mainly affecting green turtles, where tumors manifest internally as well as externally. Externally, development of the tumors is characterized by epidermal and dermal growth on the eyes, oral cavity, cloaca, skin carapace and plastron or internal organs. The severity of FP varies per turtle, some having several large tumors which limit dexterity, motion, buoyancy and eyesight affecting the ability to forage. Others only have a limited amount and size of tumors seemingly to have little effect of the disease. FP is closely associated with 6 herpes virus variants.

The nature of the distribution and transmission of the virus is still unknown. Turtles with FP have a higher number of parasites, are immunosuppressed and are bacteraemic, meaning bacteria have entered the blood.

To determine the water quality of the locations, the "Ecological Evaluation Index", also known as EEI, is used. The EEI has been introduced to identify benthic macrophytes, or seaweed and sea grass. These macrophytes are identified and used as bio-indicators for changes in the ecosystem. In particular, changes of anthropological origin. The water quality is translated from percentages of certain macroalgae to a bad = 2, low = 4, moderate = 6, good = 8 and high = 10.

To determine the prevalence of FP tumors, the turtles were graded per tumor. Each individual is

divided on the basis of four measures. Size A, with tumors smaller than 1 cm, size B, tumors between 1 and 4 cm, size C, greater than 4 to 10 cm and as final measure D, greater than 10 cm. Afterwards, the turtles are classified in a global tumor grade of 0 to 3. This is based on the number of tumors within the tumor size class mentioned above. The score reflects the spectrum of severity classified as non-infected (0), mildly infected (1), moderate (2) and severe (3).

To support the visual classification tumor score, a Body Condition Index (BCI), the "ratio index" $[(\text{mass}/\text{CCL}^3) \cdot 10^3]$ is used to give a further look into the physiological status of the measured turtle. This formula will give a BCI, >1.20 is very good, 1.11-1.20 is robust, 1.00-1.10 is normal and <1.00 is emaciated state.

While the study is ongoing, thus far the conclusions state: (Table 1: Results of water quality, gradations and prevalence and body condition)

- There is no significant correlation between body condition and tumour score found
- Prevalence of FP continues to manifest, so far, solely on the North shore
- Boka Bartol, with the highest prevalence of FP (86,7) has the lowest water quality (4)
- Recapture rate during the study was 2.1%
- Further research is required to increase the recapture rate and to assess the prevalence and gradations of locations around Curaçao which are not included in this study. Also, further investigation into the long term effect of FP on the infected populations around Curaçao is needed.

LOCATION	WATER QUALITY	PREVALENCE (%)	BODY CONDITION
Boka Bartol	4	86,7	Robust
Boka Grandi	8	50	Very good
Boka Ascension	6	3,7	Normal
Playa Piskado	6	0	Very good
Klein Curaçao	8	0	Normal

Snorkel Surveys

Green turtles are endangered species and hawksbills are critically endangered species. In the beginning of 2017, STCC started to conduct snorkel surveys along the South coast. In-water abundance estimates and information on the poorly understood juvenile neritic stage helps to improve protection of turtles and their habitat.

Sea turtle populations have been depleted historically. In Curaçao, we lack basic information on the quality of the habitat, seasonal movements and foraging behavior. Effective management also requires quantifying the direct and indirect threats to this life stage, including recreational fishing, boat strikes and disease.



Photo Identification

Photo identification started at Playa Piskado where there are many sea turtles which are regularly filmed and photographed. STCC started to collect and use footage for identification purposes.

Due to high abundance in specific locations, like Playa Piskado and Klein Curaçao, it is interesting to look at habitat factors that affect abundance compared to others. Quantifying these relationships can lead to a greater understanding of habitat requirements, which is a particularly important task in the management and recovery of threatened and endangered species.

ATTENTION SEA TURTLE HOT SPOT

WELCOME TO CURAÇAO'S MOST IMPORTANT SEA TURTLE NESTING AREA

ENG

WELKOM OP HET BELANGRIJKSTE NESTGEBIED VAN ZEESCHILD-PADDEN VAN CURAÇAO

PLEASE HELP PROTECT SEA TURTLES:

- Don't touch or disturb sea turtles
- Pick up marine debris
- Don't make a campfire on the beach
- Stay away at least a meters from a marked nest
- Notify a STCC volunteer when you see a turtle in trouble

ABOUT SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION CURAÇAO (STCC)

STCC is a volunteer based program initiated by Carmala. The program works to ensure the future of the sea turtles around Curaçao.

DUTCH

WELKOM OP HET BELANGRIJKSTE NESTGEBIED VAN ZEESCHILD-PADDEN VAN CURAÇAO

Het prachtige eiland Klein Curaçao is een belangrijk nestgebied voor verschillende bedreigde zeeschildpadden soorten. De laatste jaren zijn er veel zeeschildpadden geboren op het eiland Klein Curaçao.

De zeeschildpadden rond Curaçao en Klein Curaçao zijn vaak bedreigd. Het is belangrijk om ze te beschermen. Dit betekent dat we ze niet aanraken en dat we niet dicht bij hun nesten komen. Het is ook belangrijk om de zeeschildpadden te helpen door afval op te ruimen en brandstapels te vermijden.

HELP DOEK MEE OM ZEESCHILD-PADDEN TE BESCHERMEN

- Raak schildpadden niet aan en stuur ze niet
- Neem afval mee en gooi het in een daarvoor bestemd vuilnisbak
- Help met het opruimen van aangespoeld afval
- Maak geen kampvuur op het strand
- Laat het een STCC vrijwilliger weten als je een schildpad hebt gezien

DIVER 'SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION CURAÇAO' (STCC)

STCC is een vrijwilligers programma geïnitieerd door Carmala. Het richt zich op het verbeteren van de zeeschildpadden rustomstandigheden.

Om de toekomst van Klein Curaçao veilig te stellen, wordt de zee constant bewaakt. Het is belangrijk om de zeeschildpadden te beschermen. Dit betekent dat we ze niet aanraken en dat we niet dicht bij hun nesten komen. Het is ook belangrijk om de zeeschildpadden te helpen door afval op te ruimen en brandstapels te vermijden.

Aan de kust van Klein Curaçao speelt een rol in het behoud van potentiële nestplaatsen en het beschermen van de zeeschildpadden. Het is belangrijk om de zeeschildpadden te beschermen. Dit betekent dat we ze niet aanraken en dat we niet dicht bij hun nesten komen. Het is ook belangrijk om de zeeschildpadden te helpen door afval op te ruimen en brandstapels te vermijden.

Help ons op Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/SeaTurtleCuraçao](#) en Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/SeaTurtleCuraçao](#)

www.seaturtle

CONSERVATION

A wide-angle photograph of a beach at sunset or sunrise. The sky is a gradient of soft pinks, purples, and blues. The ocean is calm with gentle waves lapping at the shore. The foreground is a sandy beach with some sparse, low-lying vegetation. The word "CONSERVATION" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

CONSERVATION



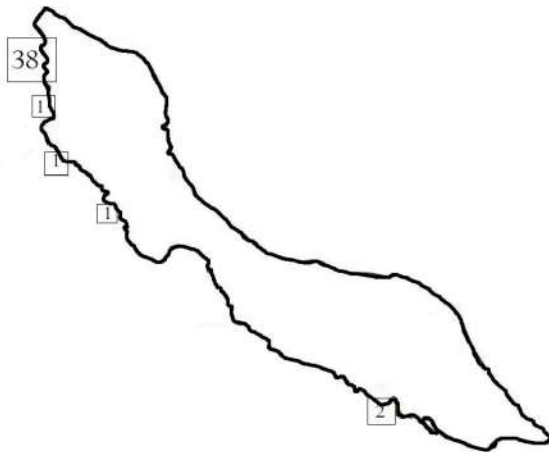
Sea Turtle Rescues

In 2018 hooking and entanglements were the main reasons sea turtles needed our assistance. The majority of these hooking and entanglement incidents were at Playa Piskado and Klein Curaçao. This is not very surprising since these are traditional fishing areas which have seen a rise in the number of sea turtles living there. Fishermen throw fish scraps in the sea at Playa Piskado providing the sea turtle with an abundance of food. On Klein Curaçao tour operators throw leftover food into the water, which the green sea turtles have seemed to include in their daily diet.

51
rescues

In 2018 STCC performed 51 sea turtle rescues, which is took about 816 manhours. Rescues can have different reasons. Disorientation of hatchlings and nesting females, hooking's, entanglement, poaching, predation, diseases and boat strikes.

Unfortunately, the sea turtles cannot see the difference between fish scrap, leftover food and a piece of bait that contains a nasty hook. Therefore, the number of incidents is higher in these locations where turtles seem to have non-traditional diets. Not only hooking incidents are more prone to happen, there also were several boat strikes. The turtles that eat fish scraps seem to spend more time on the surface and reside in areas with more boat traffic placing them at higher risk from boat strikes.



TURTLE RESCUES 2018

80

Most of the turtles fortunately could be helped directly on the spot. Occasionally the hook was too deep to reach or the wounds were too severe, so medical attention from a veterinarian was required. Unfortunately, not all the turtles could be rescued.

So far we were able to cover the medical costs with the donations that we received. The costs for medical care for a turtle are up to Ang 2000,- (+/- USD 1100,-) which might become an issue for STCC.

Beach & Underwater Clean Ups

Pollution and habitat degradation is one of the most important threats to sea turtles on Curaçao. Marine debris on the nesting beaches cause varied problems for adult females needing to come up to nest and also for the hatchlings trying to find their way to the ocean. Ocean plastic forms a major threat to sea turtles and other wildlife as it is easily mistaken for food. Animals ingest quite a lot of plastic which leads to horrible consequences. In addition,

entanglement in plastic items and ghost gear is often observed.

As it is better to prevent incidents than to try and fix them, volunteers of STCC clean nesting beaches and coastlines on every monitoring check. Furthermore, STCC organizes a monthly clean up either on the beaches and/or underwater, to at least try and keep the amount of plastic and ghost gear as limited as possible.

*115.000 gallons
of marine debris collected*

In total STCC cleaned around 35.000 gallons of marine debris during the nesting season of 2018. Together with the 80.000 gallons that was collected up until May 2018. The total amount of debris collected is now 115.000 gallons.

Promotion of a Single-Use Plastic Ban

Cleaning beaches and underwater sites helps to reduce risks of entanglement and plastic ingestion in sea turtle prime habitat. However, cleaning beaches is a necessary reaction to symptoms of a faulty system. Plastic is filling up the oceans and if we do not change our consumption behavior we will have more plastic in the sea than fish by 2050. This is a major threat to sea turtles as well. Therefore, it is very important that the use of single use plastic is avoided as much as possible.

In 2017 over 5000 signatures were collected and presented to the government, resulting in an interest to ban single use plastic. Unfortunately, so far the legislation has not yet been implemented. Therefore, STCC is targeting consumers making them more conscious about the choices they make with regards to their consumptive behaviors.



Plastic washed ashore from the sea at San Pedro beach



Poaching Reports

Poaching is still a direct threat to sea turtles on Curaçao. We know of 1 nest (with a nest containing an average of 100 eggs) and 5 juvenile green turtles being poached. These incidents show there is still work to do in creating awareness. Poaching reports were for Sint Joris and Santa Cruz.

These numbers are not a good indication of the scale of the poaching problem because poachers do not always leave evidence behind and even if they do, we will not always be able to record them.

Incident Reports

The Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao team sometimes discovers turtles in distress and in worst case scenarios, fatalities. For each incident a report is made. Besides rescues and poaching reports there can be a variety of reasons why sea turtles encounter difficulties. The overview of the incidents give an indication of which activities should be given priority for effective conservation. The incidents encountered in 2018 were:

- A disoriented adult Green Turtle female on Klein Curaçao
- Disoriented hatchlings by lights from Kokomo beach - during two separate hatchings
- Stranded hatchling at Boka Barthol
- Stranded hatchling at Klein Curaçao
- Dead female Hawksbill at Bapor Kibra
- Playa Piskado - drowning of juvenile Green Turtle in masbangu net
- 2x Strandings due to unknown reasons at Boka Grandi (Wakawa)
- 2x Fatal strandings at Boka Grandi (Wakawa) due to fibropapilomatosis
- 2x Fatal strandings at Boka Barthol due to fibropapilomatosis
- 2x Injured Green Turtles at Playa Piskado caused by striking incidents (boat or other fast moving object)

Strategic Partnership with NUCapital

In 2018 Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao started a collaboration with NUCapital for the monitoring and cleanup of the San Pedro shoreline. In total 125 checks were performed in which on average 4 people participated.

In partnership with other organizations 4 large clean ups were organized:

- Brandsimex
- Dutch defense
- Smith & Nephew
- Klein College
- Miss Earth Curaçao

The organizations supported these clean ups, in which a total of 5965 kg of plastic was removed from the shoreline, of which 110 kg (1.8%) was suited and used for local recycling.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

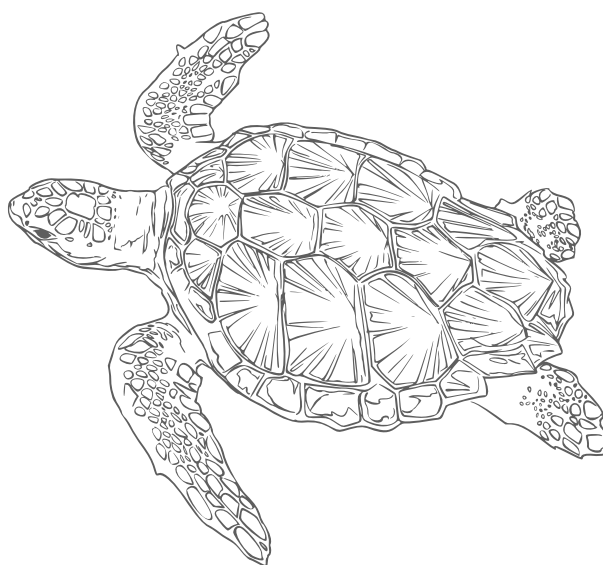
EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Sea turtles around the world are endangered or even critically endangered. This is mostly caused by human behavior. That implies that the solution to better protection of sea turtles and their habitats is also in the hands of people. To make a change it is important that we work together and engage as many people as possible. Change needs all kinds of people. Collaboration and action are key to reducing threats to sea turtles.

This is why STCC works to educate and engage different groups of people. Everybody is good at something and when a lot of different people contribute a little in what they are good at, the results can be enormous. STCC has a lot of volunteers out in the field to do nest monitoring, in-water surveys and rescues. We also have volunteers that make designs, animations, write texts, do administrative tasks, lobbying, and fundraising. Whatever somebody has to offer, there is always a result that helps in the ultimate goal to better protect sea turtles and their habitat.

Each year, STCC engages with over 25,000 tourists on Klein Curaçao and at Playa Piskado. The goal is to educate the general public about endangered sea turtles and their marine environments. An essential aspect of endangered species conservation is simply to help people understand the species and their importance not only to their habitat, but to our lives as well. Additionally, we provide age-appropriate custom made presentations for school groups and other groups upon request.

Sea turtle education helps people of all ages understand and appreciate these amazing animals and their habitats. It enables people to realize how their behavior affects ecosystems and how resources can be used wisely. Through sea turtle education, people develop the critical thinking skills they need to understand the complexities of conservation problems. Furthermore, it also encourages people to act on their own to conserve natural resources and use them in a responsible manner by making informed decisions.



Community Building

The STCC community is growing. More and more, people are joining our activities. People from all ages and different backgrounds join our beach clean ups, in water surveys and presentations. They all want to do their part. People from the islands, as well as tourists contact us because they want to join along. Some companies contact us to offer services for free. With more people engaged in our activities, we also have more ambassadors accelerating our growth.



Signage on Klein Curaçao



A large billboard with text and images about sea turtles was installed on Klein Curaçao to educate locals and tourists. The information on the signs explains some knowledge on sea turtles, as well as their conservation. The aim of the billboard is to educate the public, provide awareness on the conservation needs and explain behaviours which should be followed when encountering turtles in the sea.

Old boards and signs were renewed and update, and extra "Do Not Touch" signs installed at Klein Curaçao, Lagun, Daaibooi and Playa Piskado beaches.

Social & Traditional Media

In 2018 we were able to increase our social media following on Facebook as well as on Instagram.



On Instagram our followers base increased from 26,400 to 30,100. The Instagram algorithms seem to have changed, dropping the engagement on that platform.



On Facebook the follower numbers increased from 3582 to 5841. In comparison to 2017 the engagement on Facebook has increased.



Furthermore, we now have a Twitter account which we do not actively use yet, focusing on increasing the following on other social media channels.



We also have a LinkedIn account with 500+ connections. This was setup as a private account instead of a business account, which may have to be changed in this following year. The LinkedIn target audience differs a lot from the other social media platforms and we believe that LinkedIn might be a good medium to get connected with potential sponsors.

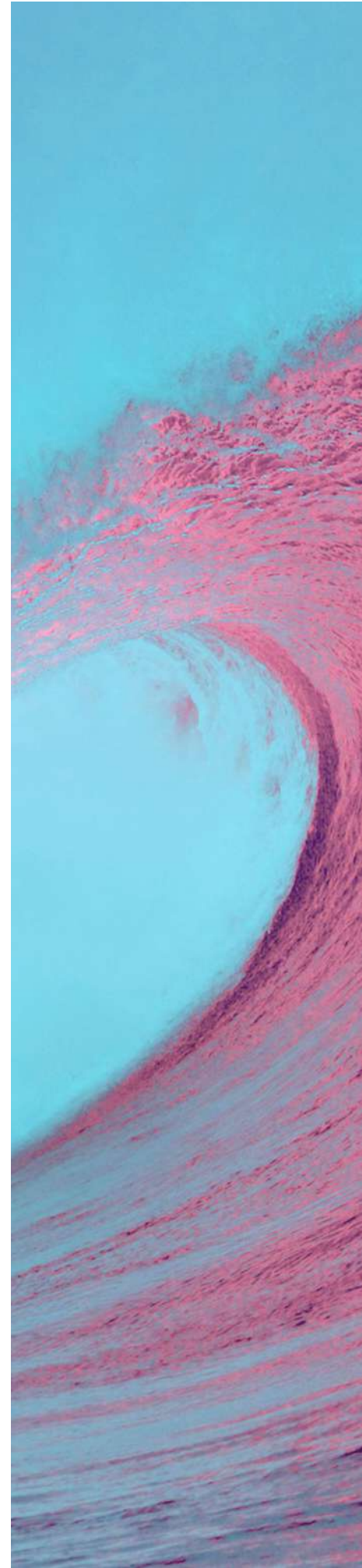


We have our own YouTube channel, which we started due to the music video. That channel has 106 subscriptions and 12K have watched the music video so far.

STCC in Media

The actions of STCC do not go unnoticed by the media. STCC is involved in many happenings revolving around the sea and the environment.

Next are presented some extracts and articles published about STCC in 2018 in multiple sources.



Caribisch Netwerk article about the Sargassum seaweed

Full article: <https://caribischnetwerk.ntr.nl/2018/08/06/sargassumwier-groeiend-probleem-voor-de-eilanden>



CURAÇAO

Sargassumwier groeiend probleem voor de eilanden



6 augustus 2018 | Poter Eikolenboom

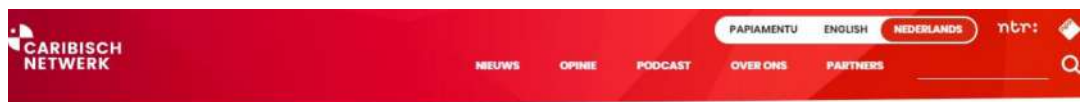
WILLEMSTAD - Het Sargassumwier, de nachtmerrie van natuurorganisaties als Stichting Uniek Curaçao en de Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao, is hier gekomen om te blijven. Die conclusie trekt Dr. Mark Vermeij, wetenschappelijk directeur van de stichting Caribbean Research & Management of Biodiversity (Carmabi).

Tekst gaat verder na de video.



Caribisch Netwerk article about our volunteers

Full article: <https://caribischnetwerk.ntr.nl/2018/12/30/gewonde-schildpadden-redden-tijdens-je-schoolvakantie>



CURAÇAO

Gewonde schildpadden redden tijdens je schoolvakantie

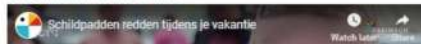


30 december 2018 | Roelie van Boek

WILLEMSTAD - De schildpadden die rond de Curaçaose stranden leven, krijgen het soms zwaar te verduren. Vooral als ze bij een vissersbaai zoals Playa Piskadó wonen. De dieren kunnen verstrikt raken in een vislijn, worden geraakt door een vissersboot of bijten in aas dat bedoeld is om vissen mee te vangen en krijgen op die manier een vishaak in hun bek.

Broer en zus Thijs en Ellen zijn in de schoolvakanties op Curaçao. Zij helpen hun vader, Ard Vreugdenhil van de Sea Turtle Conservation, met het redden van schildpadden. "De vissers gebruiken soms veel te grote haken, met veel vlees eraan en weinig lood. Een schildpad haakt daar in en krijgt de haak in zijn bek", vertelt Thijs.

Tekst gaat verder onder de video



Full article: <https://antilliaansdagblad.com/nieuws-menu/17598-stcc-start-crowdfunding>

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STCC START CROWDFUNDING

- zeeschildpadden,
- crowdfunding
- STCC
- fibropapillomatosis

Van een onzer verslaggevers

Willemstad - Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao (STCC) wil op negen verschillende plaatsen in de Curaçaose wateren onderzoek doen naar de schildpaddenziekte die in januari werd ontdekt. Om dit te kunnen doen heeft de instantie snel geld nodig.

STCC is daarom een crowdfundingcampagne gestart met als doel 50.000 dollar op te halen. Een tiende daarvan zal allereerst worden gebruikt voor de aanschaf van de benodigde materialen voor de onderzoeken. Vervolgens



WEEK TOPPERS

- 
Camelia-Römer slaat terug - 30-07-2019
Gelezen: 3344
- 
MCB-directeur steunt actie tegen maatregelen - 29-07-2019 Gelezen: 2885
- 
Isla hoeft niet te betalen - 31-07-2019 Gelezen: 2838
- 
Curaçaos feestje op NK atletiek - 28-07-2019 Gelezen: 2346
- 
Onderzoek Jamaloodin afgesloten - 28-07-2019 Gelezen: 2147

Wilt u op ruim 8.000 kilometer van Nederland Nederlandse ochtendkrant bij het ontbijt niet missen? Lees dan de Caribische editie van DE TELEGRAAF

Full article: <https://antilliaansdagblad.com/nieuws-menu/17577-finalisten-present-your-startup>

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FINALISTEN 'PRESENT YOUR STARTUP'


- Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao
- startup
- Present Your Startup
- Fresh Habits

Twee Curaçaose organisaties in de prijzen






Van een onzer verslaggevers

Willemstad - Sea Turtle Conservation en Fresh Habits van Curaçao zijn twee van de vijf organisaties uit het Caribisch gebied die doorgaan naar de finale van 'Present Your Startup' op 29 augustus dit jaar op Curaçao.


Zij worden nu klaargestoomd om helemaal voorbereid te zijn op het binnenhalen van een mogelijke investeerder. De stichting Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao zet zich in voor het behoud van zeeschildpadden en Fresh Habits is een biologisch landbouwbedrijf. Zij werden



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Full article: <https://antilliaansdagblad.com/nieuws-menu/17286-sargassum-ook-probleem-curaçao>

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SARGASSUM OOK PROBLEEM CURAÇAO

- [Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao](#)
- [Sargassowier](#)
- [Stichting Uniek Curaçao](#)


Monitoring van grote hoeveelheden sargassowier in baaien gestart
Van een onzer verslaggevers


Willemstad - Stichting Uniek Curaçao en Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao (STCC) zijn van start gegaan met een het monitoren van de grote hoeveelheden sargassum in de baaien van Curaçao.


Bonaire heeft al een aantal dagen te kampen met sargassowier aan de oostkust van het eiland, maar ook op Curaçao is het een groeiend probleem. Dat is zorgwekkend, omdat dieren erin verstrikt kunnen raken. Bij zeeschildpadden kan dat er bijvoorbeeld voor zorgen





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Full article: <https://antilliaansdagblad.com/nieuws-menu/17102-zorgen-om-de-schildpadden>

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ZORGEN OM DE SCHILDPADDEN

Van een onzer verslaggevers

Willemstad - De helft van de zeeschildpadden bij Wacawa, aan de noordkust van het eiland, is besmet met fibropapillomatosis (FP). Zo blijkt uit onderzoek dat de afgelopen dagen is uitgevoerd door Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao (STCC). „Reden tot zorg”, aldus directeur Sabine Berendse.

FP is een soort herpesvirus onder schildpadden dat zich uit in de vorm van ‘bloemkoolachtige tumoren’, legt Berendse uit. Deze ontstaan voornamelijk in de oksels, in de nek, rondom de ogen en soms ook op de achterste flippers van de dieren. „De tumoren kunnen heel groot worden en dat belemmert de schildpadden in het zicht en bij het zwemmen.”



WEEK TOPPERS

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Full article: <https://antilliaansdagblad.com/nieuws-menu/18001-playa-piskado-steeds-populairder>

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PLAYA PISKADÓ STEEDS POPULAIRDER

- zeeschildpadden.
- Playa Piskadó


Recreatie op vissersstrand zet zeeschildpadden onder druk
Van een onzer verslaggevers

Willemstad - Playa Grandi, het vissersstrandje op Westpunt dat tegenwoordig vooral bekend is onder de naam Playa Piskadó, wordt steeds populairder onder toeristen en recreanten. Aan dat succes zit voor de populatie schildpadden die er leeft echter een keerzijde. Dat zegt directeur van de Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao (STCC), Sabine Berendse.


Wie in het weekend een bezoek brengt aan het strand, valt het onmiddellijk op dat het er drukker is dan pakweg een jaar geleden. De Curaçao Tourist Board (CTB) bevestigt dat. „We zien op social media inderdaad dat Playa Piskadó vooral de laatste tijd populairder is geworden onder toeristen en denken dat dit komt door





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Gelezen: 2886
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Isla hoeft niet te betalen - 31-07-2019
Gelezen: 2835
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Curaçaos feestje op NK atletiek - 28-07-2019
Gelezen: 2345
- 

Onderzoek: Jamaaloodin afgesloten - 28-07-2019
Gelezen: 2146

Full article: <https://antilliaansdagblad.com/nieuws-menu/17026-cleanup-voor-videoclip>

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CLEANUP VOOR VIDEOCLIP

- Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao
- Sabine Berendse
- Dolf van Stapele
- videoclip


Van een onzer verslaggevers

Willemstad - Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao verwacht morgenochtend tussen de 100 en 200 vrijwilligers voor de grote schoonmaakactie op de Vlakte van Hato. De dag wordt vastgelegd op video om het bewustzijn te vergroten over de manier waarop menselijk handelen zeeschildpadden bedreigt.


Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao (STCC) organiseert elke maand een grote cleanup, maar dit keer is regisseur Dolf van Stapele aanwezig om te filmen voor de videoclip bij het muziknummer 'Can you see STCC'. In versnelde beelden, een time-lapse, is dan te zien hoe het





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Curaçaos feestje op NK atletiek - 28-07-2019
Gelezen: 2346
- 

Onderzoek: Jamaaloodin afgesloten - 28-07-2019
Gelezen: 2147

Article in Amigoe about Klein Curaçao monitorings

Leerlingen ruimen op voor eierleggende schildpadden



SAN PEDRO — In samenwerking met Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao (STCC) hebben leerlingen van de International School of Curaçao vanmorgen vuil opgeruimd bij de inham van de vlakte van San Pedro. Dit werd gedaan in het belang van de zeeschildpadden die daar hun eieren komen leggen. De leerlingen, die graag hun bijdrage aan de samenleving willen leveren, hebben ervoor gekozen om deze organisatie een helpende hand te bieden.

Foto: Sabrina Berendse-Van der BEEK



Article in AD Westland Krant

Sabine denkt aan medemens

Sabina Berendse (links) is even terug in Westland om een jurk te showen, die is gemaakt van plastic afval. Op Curaçao zet ze zich al tien jaar in voor een beter milieu. **WEEKE**

WESTLAND WEEKEND DICHTBIJ

4. Sabina Berendse is bij met meer een eierschildpadden op het strand van Curaçao.

4. Jong en oud op Curaçao wil alles te maken kunnen om het leven van de zeeschildpadden.

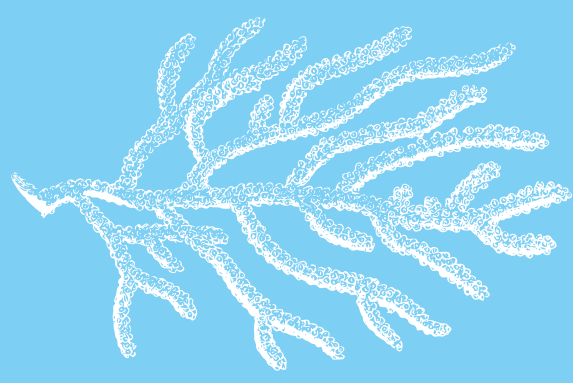
Voor een betere wereld

Om de aarde een klein beetje mooier te maken, zet Sabine Berendse zich al jaren op Curaçao in voor het milieu. Doel: minder plastic afval en meer zeeschildpadden.

Proef Vermeer
Westland

Sabina Berendse (26) ging in 2006 naar Curaçao voor een stage van tien weken. Die twee maanden is ze in die tijd heeft ze aan het schoonmaken van stranden en het maken van schildpadden haar levenswijze gemaakt. "Ik kan er echt een verschil maken."

Arten met die andere. Berendse deed excursies en wandelingen met mensen, maar opzette ook veel schoonmaakacties. Wat de langdurigste was op de stranden was Curaçao, een wereldwijd bekend op Curaçao dat ook aan het schoonmaken is. "Ik was altijd bezig met het maken van de wereld. Het is belangrijk dat we met ons samenwerken om de wereld te verbeteren. De bereikbaarheid dat ging met ons mee. Maar ja, ik wil ook een schuld."



“Can You See” Music Video

In January, the music video of “Can you see” was released. This music video is intended to raise awareness about sea turtles and the threats they face as a result of human behavior. One of the goals that Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao has set itself, is to reach out and make aware as many people as possible. It is only when everybody comes together we can change the current perturbing situation in the ocean. We need to change our current behavior to prevent the increasing plastic pollution in our oceans. Reaching many people with limited funding is a big challenge for conservation organizations.



<https://youtu.be/zRrpntVnOLw>

This project is a combination of conservation and art to send the message. By using music and visual art, Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao hopes to reach a larger group of people than it already does. To realize this project, a collaboration was made with various local musicians. The song is written by Gino James and produced by Reuben van Lierop - both young Curaçao musicians. A total of 13 local musicians sang along in the song, namely Gino James, Reuben van Lierop, Shanuska Schoop (Shuga mama), Deborah Gomez, Gidguidemely Gomez, Jeniffer Grant, Sheldon Angelister, Roshane Daley, Yanique Suydon, Eric Jan van Leeuwen and Roxan van Leeuwen.

Lucas van Twillert and Kim Russel. Zion has mixed and mastered the song. The production of the video clip for the song was made partly with financial support from Prind Bernhard Cultuurfonds. Fisheye media has produced the video clip and several filmmakers have provided visual material, both locally (Stitch Factor, Curaçao Drone Services, Turtle & Ray, Naturepics, BLEND creative imaging, David de Bruijne, Koral, Pedro Amaya & Yuri Kneppers) and internationally (Chris Figgener, Sean Williamson, Hung-Chang Liu and Celine Gamble). Many thanks to everybody that helped us realize this project!



Presentations

Education is vital in effective protection of sea turtles and their habitat. That's the reason STCC gives many presentations about sea turtles, protection of the marine environment and related issues. Also included are presentations for school classes, groups, and companies. The presentations are conducted in indoor settings as well as out in the field, where hands on activities are implemented for educational training.

In 2018 STCC gave numerous presentations, educating children and adults. Besides presenting at schools and corporate meetings, STCC also gave presentations to the Brittanica Club, the Round Table 40+ and to regional colleagues in the WIDECAST meeting.

Presentations conducted during 2018:

WIDECAST meeting in Trinidad

Japan – poster presentation & workshop

Belgium, the Netherlands & Germany - presentations at schools

Amersfoort - 2 schools, 4 classes Special O & BO, 58 pupils

Amersfoort - repeat visit, 2 classes Special O, 24 pupils

Heerde - 3 classes BO, 86 pupils

Utrecht - 4 classes BO, 120 pupils

Dieren - 5 classes VO, 124 pupils

Hilversum - 3 classes VO gymnasium, 67 pupils

Zwijndrecht - 2 classes BO, 59 pupils

Cologne - 5 presentations, 7 classes, 240 pupils

Curaçao schools

International School bij Carmabi

VSBO Curaçao via Carmabi - 5 classes, 120 pupils

Pipita school - 4 classes, 80 pupils

Pensionado group

Smith & Nephew

100 Women Who Care

Present Your Startup

Brittanica club

Penshonados



"Present Your Startup"

Present Your Startup is an accelerator program and pitch event which aims to connect startups, businesses and investors by organizing events and training programs in order to get startups funded. Although STCC wasn't a startup in the traditional sense there is a strong need for training,

exposure and making the financial situation of STCC more sustainable. STCC applied and was chosen to participate. After 2 days of training STCC was one of the participants chosen to pitch in the semifinals. Here STCC won the public choice award and was selected as one of the 5 finalists.



Present Your Startup was also the organizer of the Harlem2Harlem pitch event in New York and to get some extra practice Sabine Berendse joined this event. There she was one of the six people who were able to pitch their concept on stage at the Columbia University. STCC won this competition which generated international exposure and gave Sabine a place in the international finals in November in Haarlem, the Netherlands.



During the trip to New York Sabine met numerous interesting people from various industries who showed her new perspectives on the activities of STCC. Valuable advice she received included was to separate the activities made with waste plastic and the sea turtle conservation. A separate business, which will have a for-profit focus, giving part of the proceeds to STCC to keep it financially strong, should be started. This would also make the concept more attractive to investors. This advice was taken to heart and that is how Green Phenix was born. Out of the ocean plastic raises the turtle with a business opportunity that can create employment possibilities and additional funding for STCC.



In the Caribbean finals of Present Your Startup, Green Phenix was first introduced to the public as the social enterprise that transforms and upcycles 'plastic waste' into new products that promote the blue circular economy. The goal of this social enterprise is to reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in nature and the environment and to generate financial means that can also make Sea Turtle Conservation Curacao more sustainable. With this presentation we won the public choice award.



In the international finals of Present Your Startup there were five contestants left, from 125 participants from 9 different countries. It was a great honor to be able to present on the stage at Philharmonie. This pitch focused on Green Phenix and the three activities that Green Phenix undertakes to prevent plastic pollution: the promotion of producers that use waste plastic as a resource to produce new products; sustainability assessments to help companies establish and reach their SDG's; the production of Phenix bins, which are small recycling bins made from waste plastic especially meant for the tourism industry.

The call for action was a contribution to crowdfunding with which people could preorder a Phenix bin so that we can realize a pilot project where 8 people from Curaçao and 12 people from the Caribbean tackle the Caribbean plastic pollution problem. This will help create a very needed circular revolution in the Caribbean. Unfortunately we did not win and the response to the call for action failed to come. However, the experience was very educational.



Innovation Awards Curaçao

The Curaçao Innovation Award is an annual event developed by Curaçao Innovation & Technology Institute (CITI) and powered by the Ministry of Economic Development. Each year an organization with a recent innovation can be given an award in a specific category if they successfully translate an idea or invention into an added value good or service.

In 2018 Green Phenix was nominated for 3 different awards:

- the sustainable innovation award
- the social innovation award
- and the public's choice award.
-

Green Phenix won the public's choice award.





FUNDS

FUNDS

Sea Turtle Conservation Curacao is a Non-Profit Organization (NGO) that operates independently of the government of Curacao. Therefore, it is reliant upon donations and merchandise sales to cover operational costs. The Foundation has two part time operational staff members which are the biggest cost components for 2018. Further expenses include costs for a pickup truck for field work and the expenses for various projects. STCC is very fortunate to have great financial support from an anonymous benefactor, CMTC and numerous smaller donors.

Global Giving

A large part of the donations that Sea Turtle Conservation Curacao receives come through the international platform of Global Giving. This is a large crowdfunding community that connects nonprofits, donors and companies worldwide. Besides connecting us to donors and companies, Global Giving also provides tools, training and support. Sea Turtle Conservation Curacao is vetted by global giving, which means donors can make safe and easy US tax deductible donations. UK taxpayers can give in GBP and claim an extra 25% if gift aid.

People that have donated through the Global Giving network receive regular updates about the progress of the project. Sea Turtle Conservation Curacao can be found on the platform through the following link:

www.globalgiving.org/projects/help-protect-endangered-sea-turtles-in-curacao

Direct Donations

Sea Turtle Conservation Curacao receives donations while being active in the field quite often as well, especially when a sea turtle is rescued from a line entanglement or other threat, people feel that they want to help and so they give the volunteers or the staff members some money, which is used for daily operations of STCC. Sometimes they visit the headquarters to give the donation personally.



Adoption Programs

One way for companies and individuals to get involved is to adopt a sea turtle nest or a juvenile sea turtle. The nest adoptions are meant for companies. Companies will receive a certificate stating the location of the nest they have adopted. The 600 USD that a nest adoption costs help us patrol the location a minimum of 3 times a week with 2 people and take protective measures if needed.

In 2018 nests were adopted by:

- *De Broederschool Handel*
- *Do Good Foundation*
- *CX Pay*
- *Present Your Startup*
- *Dana Bernardo*
- *Curinjo Apartments*
- *Harish Rao*
- *Harriet Luiten*
- *International School*

Sea Turtle adoptions are meant for people interested in helping our juvenile population stay safe. We have some well known resident turtles at specific sea turtle hotspots around the island. Unfortunately, these turtles sometimes get stuck in fishing lines, hooks or they ingest the hooks with lines attached. Therefore we perform regular health checks.

Project Financing

A lot of time and effort was put in writing and preparing grant proposals. Unfortunately, there are many other organizations and individuals applying for grants. Most of the time the grant proposals do not result in actual funding.



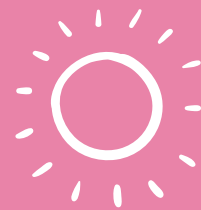


**PREVIEW INTO
2019**

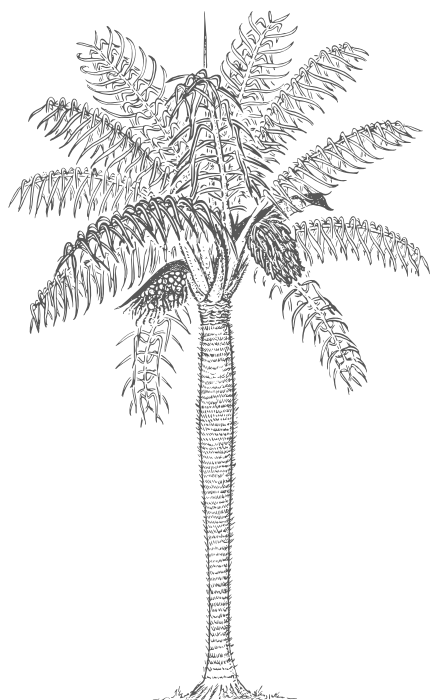
PREVIEW INTO 2019



The objectives for 2019 are again quite ambitious. Most of the objectives fall within the 3 pillars of STCC: **research, conservation and education**. Next to that there are also some important fundraising targets.



Research



The research program for 2019 has the following objectives:

1. Continue the nest monitoring on the four monitoring routes. This is necessary to collect data to understand long term trends.
2. Continue the in-water project for a better understanding of the juvenile populations around Curaçao. Regarding populations in the North Shore inlets, we will collaborate with Artemis and other potential partners to increase our understanding of the high fibropapillomatosis prevalence.
4. Professionalize the citizen scientist data collection for pictures of resident turtles increase the database and discover more about turtle behavior and food preferences in specific locations.
5. Continue collecting data on pressures affecting sea turtles, such as the occurrence of hooking and entanglement, the amount of ghost gear present, the amount of marine debris, the effects of coastal development and others.
6. Present our 2018 results during the International Sea Turtle Symposium in Charleston

Conservation '19

The conservation activities planned for 2019 include:

1. The continuation of beach cleanup activities in order to improve the quality of nesting sites.
2. Organize monthly (underwater) cleanups in collaboration with dive operators.
3. Preventing entanglements and hooking events rather than rescuing sea turtles. This can only be accomplished if an affective collaboration is set up with GMN and local fishermen and it should mainly focus on Playa Piskado, where most of the hooking incidents occur.
4. Continue with rescues of entangled and hooked or otherwise injured turtles and make stranding reports to stay up to date for effective threat assessment.
5. Repurpose a minimum of 1000 kg of waste plastic during the “Waste No More” pilot and make it economically feasible. This project should include 8 locals and 12 people from the Caribbean region. This project is done to prevent marine pollution and comes from the basic principle that without waste there is no pollution.

Education & Outreach '19

The education and awareness objectives for 2019 are:

1. Set up a store/office/visitor center.
2. Make a documentary about STCC and the blue circular revolution with the help of local companies and PBCCG. We already have support confirmed from Botica Zuikertuin, MCB, de Centrale Bank van Sint Maarten en Curaçao en CMTC.
3. Give presentations to at least 3000 people in Curaçao. We will also give presentations in America, during the International Sea Turtle Symposium and in Surinam, during the annual WIDECAST meeting.
4. We will take at least 120 people on a turtle tour. Giving the participants an opportunity to see sea turtles from relatively close by and teaching them about the important roles sea turtles play in keeping the ecosystems they inhabit healthy.
5. STCC will start “STCC 4 kids” in collaboration with Klein College.
6. STCC will make an #artforawareness piece in Sambil.
7. STCC activities should reach at least 100K people in 2019. This includes the number of people reached through social and traditional media.
8. Automate the volunteering application in the website.

Fundraising '19

In 2019 the fundraising bar needs to be raised to secure a future for STCC. The most important target for 2019 will be to grow the STCC staff. Activities that are needed for effective protection of sea turtles and their habitat exceed that which can be done by 2 part-time staff members and the current volunteer base. Sea turtle conservation is a long term effort, which deserves dedicated advocates that can focus on protecting sea turtles. A diverse, steady income stream is very important to guarantee the sustainability of STCC.

1. Increase the number and amount of donations to 150.000 USD
2. Increase international fundraising efforts
3. Merchandise sales – revenue 50.000 USD
4. 30 nest adoptions – a 600 USD per nest – 18.000 USD
5. 30 sea turtle adoptions – a 300 USD per turtle – 9.000 USD
6. Mutually beneficial strategic partnerships – sponsorship agreements
7. Apply for research and project grants and other external sources of funding
8. Waste No More project – 300.000 USD or materials and services that represent that value





SEA TURTLE
CONSERVATION
CURAÇAO