

# *St Eustatius National Parks Foundation*



## *2017 Year Report*

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## ***I. INTRODUCTION***

### **1. Sint Eustatius: An island of the Dutch Caribbean**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands comprises the constituent countries of Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten, and the Dutch special municipalities of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

Together they make up the Dutch Caribbean. Their natural heritage is rich and diverse, making them a ‘hot spot’ for biodiversity. The Dutch Caribbean boasts a range of unique, threatened and endangered habitats and species ranging from primary rain forest to magnificent coral reefs. The Dutch Caribbean islands form two distinct groups which are separated by more than 900 km of open water, but are also linguistically, culturally, geologically and ecologically divided.

The Windward Islands include St Eustatius and Saba as well as St Maarten. These are of volcanic origin with lush vegetation ranging from dry coastal regions with cacti, sea grapes and aloe to tropical climates around the mountains where ferns and mountain mahogany trees grow. There are coral reefs, pinnacles, patch reefs and fringing reefs around the islands due to old lava flow covering the sea bottom. On St Maarten salinas (salt ponds) and mangrove stands cover some of the coastline.

By contrast the vegetation of the Leeward Islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao consists almost exclusively of cacti, acacia and other dry loving trees and plants. Bonaire and Curaçao are unique in being islands formed from the ocean crust, as they are separated from the South American continent by a deep-water trench.

St. Eustatius, also known widely as ‘Statia’, lies at the Northern end of a continuous submarine bank, called the St. Kitts Bank, which also encompasses the islands of St. Kitts and Nevis. It is a relatively shallow bank reaching at maximum depths of 180 m.

<p>The year 2017 was a challenging year for STENAPA and Sint Eustatius, because two hurricanes hit the island on 6 (Irma) and 19 September (Maria). Therefore, in this year report much attention goes to the damages and how they have been dealt with.</p>
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## ***II. STENAPA***

### **2.1. Mandate**

Sint Eustatius National Parks (STENAPA) is a non-governmental organization charged with the management of the St. Eustatius Marine Park and the Quill and Boven National Parks. Besides these, STENAPA maintains the Miriam Schmidt Botanical Garden. STENAPA was founded in 1985 and officially registered on St. Eustatius in 1995. The foundation is governed by a volunteer board of local representatives. The day-to-day management of the Foundation is carried out by staff alongside various part time consultants, interns and volunteers. The St Eustatius Marine Environment Ordinance of 1996 appointed STENAPA as the marine park manager, giving it the responsibility of placing and maintaining mooring buoys and allowing it to collect tanker fees. The mandate for the management of the terrestrial park was granted in 1998.

The National Park Visitor Centre and head offices of STENAPA are located at Gallows Bay on the West coast close to the harbor and main hotels, facilitating access of information to the tourists.

### **2.2 Board**

The Foundation has a permanent board, which oversees activities (Marine Park, National Park, Botanical Garden, and others) and directs overall annual strategies. Elected board members have additional responsibilities in accordance with respective positions. To facilitate these duties, monthly meetings take place every first Monday of the month.

The board started discussions in 2016 to renew the Statutes and make them more up to date with a clear division between the tasks of the board and the tasks of the staff. This process was finalized in 2017 and the board approved the adjustments. Next step is to sign the deed with the notary. Due to the fact that there is no notary on Statia, the signing could not take place in 2017.

STENAPA continued addressing the need for closing a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the government of Sint Eustatius. This agreement is a condition, requested by the Dutch ministry of Economic Affairs, to transfer the funds for the project ‘Strengthening Management of Nature’. STENAPA has been waiting for these funds since 2014. Unfortunately, no agreement has been reached about the wording of the text due to differences between the local government and STENAPA about the mandate and the boundaries of the marine park.

### 2.3 Staff

STENAPA had eight full time staff members working in 2017. The new education and outreach officer resigned in December and went back to the UK, her home country. Apart from this there were no changes in the staff. Staff meetings and team meetings (staff including interns and volunteers) were held monthly and weekly respectively throughout 2017.

Table 1. STENAPA board members in 2017

Name	Position
Teresa Leslie	President
Kay Boyd	Secretary
Mike Harterink	Treasurer
Gilberto Maduro	Board member
Marjolein Berkel	Board member
Rignaldo Merkman	Board member

Table 2. STENAPA staff and their position in 2017

Staff	Position
Clarisse Buma	Director
Jessica Berkel	Marine Park manager
Violet Busby	Office and Financial manager
Erik Houtepen	Marine Park ranger
Mervina Redan	Marine Park ranger
Hannah Fairley	Education and Outreach manager (resigned in December 2017)
Rupnor Redan	Terrestrial Parks ranger
Nadio Spanner	Botanical Garden ranger



Photo: Nadio Spanner and Violet Busby 12 ½ working at STENAPA

## ***2.4 INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS***

### Intern and Volunteer Program

Internships and volunteerships are possible for the marine and terrestrial parks as well as the Botanical Garden. The interns work full time, the volunteers usually from 7 to 12. Terrestrial interns help the park ranger to maintain the hiking trails and signs. They are additionally involved in iguana patrols. Together with the marine rangers, the marine interns clean the mooring lines, perform coral reef monitoring and coral restoration, lion fish control and ensure the ‘no fishing rule’ is respected in the reserves. Finally, the botanical garden interns are responsible for the maintenance and beautification of the garden. All interns and volunteers are involved in sea turtle patrols and beach clean ups.

More than twelve international interns and volunteers assisted STENAPA in 2017 on land and around nine in the marine park. Some of them finished a bachelors or master’s thesis with the supervision and/or help of STENAPA.

It is not necessary that volunteers have relevant qualifications or experience in these fields. It is the ambition and drive that counts. Working Abroad, a UK based volunteer organization, has supported Sint Eustatius since 2003 with connecting new volunteers with STENAPA.

## **2.5 STENAPA financial statement**

The foundation’s 2017 financial statement can be found in the yearly financial report 2017, which is a separate document. It is prepared by an independent company. Financial reporting included the budget for 2017, the balance sheet and an annual overview of the profit and loss statement.

In general, one can conclude that the yearly subsidy from the public entity Sint Eustatius is not enough to cover the costs. It is not even enough to cover the salary costs, let alone the costs for equipment, vehicles and patrol boat. STENAPA is therefore heavily dependent on external funding from institutional and private donors. The lack of funds puts a significant pressure on board and staff.

Table 3, 4 and 5. Sales fees

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total number of divers</b>	<b>Annual dive passes</b>	<b>Single passes</b>
<b>2005</b>	1782	824	958
<b>2006</b>	2130	1410	720
<b>2007</b>	2130	1202	928
<b>2008</b>	2250	1315	935
<b>2009</b>	1604	851	753
<b>2010</b>	1096	656	440
<b>2011</b>	984	484	500
<b>2012</b>	962	422	540
<b>2013</b>	675	380	295
<b>2014</b>	911	567	344
<b>2015</b>	969	577	392
<b>2016</b>	1058	586	472
<b>2017</b>	1061	551	520

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total number of trail tags</b>
<b>2005</b>	841
<b>2006</b>	1029
<b>2007</b>	1031
<b>2008</b>	915
<b>2009</b>	713
<b>2010</b>	840
<b>2011</b>	740
<b>2012</b>	548
<b>2013</b>	433
<b>2014</b>	701
<b>2015</b>	1119
<b>2016</b>	693
<b>2017</b>	909

*Total number of yachts*

Year	Total number of yachts
<b>2014</b>	246
<b>2015</b>	253
<b>2016</b>	225
<b>2017</b>	142

Our marine and terrestrial parks were busy year-round, until hurricane Irma and Maria hit the island in the early morning of 6 September and 19 September 2017.

The hurricanes caused a lot of damages in the national parks, both land and marine. Tourists could not access the island because the airport in Sint Maarten was destroyed and all flights were canceled. It took until end of the year before the first big airlines started flying again.

### **III. CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION**

The first terrestrial protected area in the Dutch Caribbean was established in 1969 on Bonaire, followed in 1978 with the Christoffel Park on Curaçao and in 1979 by the creation of the very first marine protected area in the Dutch Caribbean, the Bonaire Marine Park. Other islands quickly followed and have tried to create at least one terrestrial and one marine protected area (PA) with the goal of protecting and preserving the island's natural heritage whilst allowing the sustainable use of these resources, particularly by tourism. Common constraints for the PA's in the Dutch Caribbean include sometimes limited government support, lack of funding and lack of effective spatial planning on the islands. The main threats include development pressure, particularly in the coastal zone, invasive species such as lion fish and roaming animals. There are entrenched local issues over land tenure and persistent over harvesting of marine resources such as grouper, lobster and conch.

#### **3.1 Protected Area Management Organizations**

Each of the protected areas of the Dutch Caribbean is managed by a not for profit nongovernmental organization or foundation which has in certain cases a co-management arrangement with local stakeholders. The following map gives an overview of the established PA's on Sint Eustatius.

#### **3.2. STENAPA's parks**

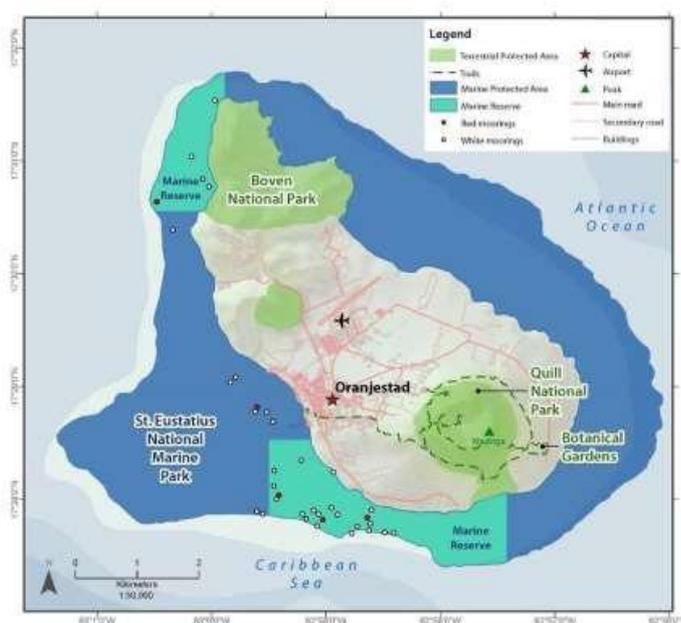


Figure 2. St Eustatius and its protected areas (PA's).

## **Terrestrial Park**

The Quill and Boven National Parks were established in 1997. They are spatially separated: the Northern park area is known locally as Boven and the Southern park area is known as The Quill. Adjacent to the Quill is the Botanical Garden, which is also managed by STENAPA.

Being located at opposite sides of the island, both parks have different climates and corresponding biomes. Dominating the landscape on Statia is the Quill, a dormant volcano. It is located on the Southeast of the island and is separated from the mountainous North-Western pit by the ‘Cultuurvlakte’ – a central low lying plain where the majority of the population lives. The Quill is surrounded by a dry tropical forest, while its crater is considered an evergreen forest, wetter than at the edge of the volcano. With the adjacent White Wall and Sugar Loaf limestone formations, the surface area is 220 ha.

On the Northern side of the island is the Boven Park. There is an oil transshipment facility to the Northwest (NuStar NV), which is located amidst the protected area, which includes Boven, the highest of the older Northern volcanoes, Signal Hill to its South, in addition to Bergje, Venus and Gilboa Hills. Its total surface area is approximately of 320 ha. The Boven Park has a drier biome, with shrubs and cacti as only vegetation.

## **Marine Park**

St. Eustatius National Marine Park was established in 1996. It encompasses the entire coastline of St. Eustatius from the high-water mark to the 30m depth contour, covering an area of 27,500ha. The distance of the Marine Park boundary from shore varies between one to three kilometers depending on the slope of the sea bottom. Within the Marine Park are two well defined and actively managed reserves in which no fishing or anchoring are permitted. The reserves were established to conserve marine biodiversity, restore fish stocks and promote sustainable tourism.

### **3.2.1 Hurricane Irma and Maria**

Sint Eustatius has been hit by two hurricanes in a period of two weeks in September 2017. In the early morning of 6 September Irma, coming from the Northeast, passed the island.

On 19 September hurricane Maria struck the island. Nature has been heavily affected by both hurricanes. Most visible are the effects on land, but there was damage under water as well. The overall picture after two hurricanes is that there was major damage on The Quill. 80 to 90% of the trees dropped their leaves and many trees and branches were down, even in de crater. At the same time STENAPA found already after a few weeks the first proof of recovery. Branches and trees started to produce new leaves.



Photo: Inner slope of the Quill after hurricane Irma.

The vegetation in the Boven area is much dryer then in The Quill and you find here fewer trees. However, there was damage too. Thorny bushes and fallen branches blocked the trails. The majority of the gum trees in the higher elevations lost limbs and their leaves. Many cacti were snapped half way. Outside the National Park STENAPA counted 217 visible trees down or snapped with a diameter of at least 1 meter. Of all the districts Oranjestad itself showed the most damage.

In de National Marine Park the most important dive sites have weathered the storm relatively well with minor damage on the reef. The corals retained their cover, except for damage to mostly medium sized barrel sponges. Unfortunately the coral gardens at Crooks Castle and Jenkins Bay were gone, with in total 10 trees where we grew Elkhorn and Staghorn coral fragments.

Oranje Beach in Lower town was destroyed during Irma, all sand was gone. Only rocks remained. Conversely during Irma a large volume of sand was deposited on Zeelandia Beach on the Atlantic side. Hurricane Maria caused a storm surge which brought the sea right up to the cliffs. All 25 sea turtle nests were inundated and lost.

In the botanical garden the shadehouse was destroyed and there was major damage in phase 1 and 2. Many trees down. The STENAPA office did not have any damages, but the operations were slow during several weeks, because the boat was out. It took time to start up because office supplies were packed and stored for safety reasons.

STENAPA did a nature damage assessment after both hurricanes and submitted the report to the local government as well as to the Netherlands authorities. Financial help came in from the Dutch ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ), Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA), the Prince Bernhard Fund Caribisch Gebied and others. At the end of 2017 the STENAPA team was still working on clearing the trails.

### 3.2.2 Field operations Landpark

Table 6. List of the trails maintained by STENAPA in 2017

Quill park :	Boven park :
Main Quill trail	Bergje trail
Around the Mountain trail North and South	Signal Hill trail
Crater trail	Venus – Jenkins bay trail
Couchars Mountain trail	Venus bay coastal trail
Mazinga	Gilboa butterfly trail
Panorama point trail	Gilboa 1, 2, 3 trails
Bird trail and botanical garden trail	Boven trail

Trail maintenance is scheduled three mornings per week. The terrestrial Park Ranger is responsible for leading groups to carry out regular maintenance with interns and volunteers. Regular maintenance was carried out on all hiking trails. Most attention is given to maintaining the main Quill trail and crater trail, because they have the most visitors. In addition to trail maintenance, guided hikes to the Quill/Boven National Parks were given to residents, tourists and school groups, and field assistance was provided to researchers throughout the year. Thanks to extra funding from DCNA and the ministry of EZ STENAPA could hire temporarily extra local capacity to help out on the trails and clear them from debris after the hurricanes.

## Terrestrial Research /Monitoring

### Iguana population assessment

The monitoring program of the Lesser Antillean Iguana received also in 2017 help of Tim van Wagenveld from RAVON and MsC student Thijs van den Burg. Native Iguanas are caught, measured, get a bead code and are released again. Research and monitoring is crucial to be able to develop the right conservation measures. The biggest land animal of St Eustatius is heavily under threat.

In 2017 weekly iguana patrols were held to look for invasive Green Iguanas. STENAPA also searched for hybrids, because both species can interbreed with each other. In 2016 a green and a few hybrids were caught which shows that the future of the native Lesser Antillean Iguana is very critical.

Unfortunately, also in 2017 caught a hybrid and a young Green Iguana in the harbor. It was thanks to harbor staff that STENAPA was called and able to catch the Green Iguana.



Photo: STENAPA, interns and harbor staff with the young green iguana

Per 1 January 2017 a subregional Best 2.0 project started with the Anguilla National Trust (ANT) and St Barths Territorial Environmental Agency (ATE) to develop a subregional recovery plan. One of the topics is to start also PIT-tagging the iguanas with a Passive Integrated Transponder. The first animals were PIT-tagged in 2016. But we went full swing ahead in 2017. Under this project Tim van Wagenveld did a population assessment of iguanas. End of 2017

the report was not ready yet. Due to the hurricanes, the planned workshop on Anguilla with the three participating islands had to be postponed. Also Anguilla and St Barths were heavily affected by the hurricanes.

STENAPA built a 5 x 5m holding facility in the Botanical Garden - behind the visitor center - to keep iguanas temporarily, when necessary. Such is the case for the two males and two females that will be sent in 2018 to Blijdorp Zoo to take part in a captive breeding program.

### **Invasive species workshop**

The STENAPA team participated in December in an invasive species workshop funded by the Nature Awareness Program run by CNSI. Other participants were staff from LVV, Public Health and the harbor. With the knowledge STENAPA staff is better equipped to recognize the risks of invasive species and the sources of risk, such as imports via harbor and airport.

### **Red-billed tropicbird reproductive ecology**

Former Terrestrial park manager Hannah Madden continued her monitoring work of the red-billed tropic birds. The outcome and results will be published in a paper. Madden also executed a re-assessment of the bridled Quill Dove.

### **3.2.3. Botanical Garden**

The Miriam C. Schmidt Botanical Garden is located to the Southeast of the island. It extends for 5.3ha across the Southern slopes of the Quill. This land was granted as a lease from the Island Government to STENAPA in 1999 and is subject to regulations controlling development and access. In addition to maintenance, garden tours are offered, and it may be used for camping or other activities. The number of visitors to the garden remains low, in part due to the poor condition of the main access road.

Maintenance of the garden is carried out daily by a dedicated Botanical Garden Ranger. Interns and volunteers assist. Thanks to funding from Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied STENAPA will be able to purchase a new shadehouse after the hurricane destroyed the old one. Given the size of the garden and the limited capacity, there is a growing need to focus on the lower part of the garden. The fence deteriorated after the storms and the problems with roaming animals became bigger. Pigs, goats and cows are now permanently in the garden. The ranger sees his work destroyed.

### 3.2.4. Field operations Marine Park

The marine team cleaned numerous mooring lines, performed lion fish control and ensured the no fishing rule is respected in the reserves.

Table 7. List of the dive sites maintained by STENAPA in 2017

<b>Southern Reserve :</b>	Blair's reef
Drop-off East	Crooks castle
Drop- off West	<b>Caribbean Sea side :</b>
Grand Canyon	Aquarium
The Cliffs/Down South	STENAPA reef
Coral Gardens	Chien Tong
Mushroom gardens	Triple Wreck
The Humps	Double Wreck
Valley of Sponges	Stingray city
Five fingers N	Blue Bead Hole
Five fingers S	The Charles L. Brown (North and South)
The Ledges	<b>Northern Reserve :</b>
Anchor Reef	Doobie's Crack
The Blocks	Outer Jenkins Bay
Hangover	Twin sisters
Anchor point N	Gibraltar
Anchor point W	<b>Atlantic side :</b>
Anchor point S	North Man
Twin peaks/ castle rock	Five Canyons
Barracuda reef	The Cave
Nursing station	English quarter

There was one oil spill recorded in 2017. Mr Brissett, acting harbormaster, informed STENAPA of an oil spill in the outer harbor which occurred around 11pm on Tuesday evening April 25<sup>th</sup>. This notification came the next afternoon approximately 14 hours after the incident occurred. Marine Park staff went to the site and did not see any discharge around the ship. After the fact it was noted that the wrong ship name was given by the harbor master. Oil from this spill ended up near Saba.

In March, the Marine Park was asked by Rijkswaterstaat to monitor the cleanup activity of the salvage of the MV Sirena which had run aground at Gibraltar in late 2016. We made a final inspection at the end of March and signed off on the cleanup.

## **Marine Research and Monitoring**

### **Project: coral reef restoration (RESCQ)**

In July 2016 STENAPA started with the coral reef restoration project. This is a European Union funded project, a part of the BEST initiative to support conservation work in the Caribbean overseas territories. This project is carried out on Saba, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius and on Turks and Caicos. The aim is to restore Elkhorn and Staghorn corals which can grow 12 cm a year. The work consists of growing coral fragments on trees/ladders in a nursery, cleaning and measuring the fragments and checking them for diseases regularly and later planting them out on suitable areas around the islands. The project is run by IMARES under an agreement with IUCN.

St Eustatius had more trees completed than the other partners which means additional work and maintenance. IMARES supplies students who assist with the project and also help out with other duties in the Marine Park. Since the start of the project, in an effort to keep the community informed, ranger Erik Houtepen has done several public talks on the progress of the work.

The project had reached the point where fragments had already been planted out and were thriving. Unfortunately, due to the hurricanes all the trees got lost. No more work was carried out on this project after these storms for the remainder of 2017. Discussions were opened with IMARES and other participating islands about conditions and financial possibilities to start u the program.



Photo: Building a coral ladder

### **Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)**

The goal of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), an operational network of ICRI, the International Coral Reef Initiative, is to improve data collection, information sharing and regional cooperation. GCRMN was conducted twice in 2017. First in the month of June which was the regular monitoring session albeit a bit late to due circumstances beyond our control. Then again in November due to the passing of two major hurricanes which affected the island in early September. It was thought it would be interesting to compare the observations before and after the storms to see if any affects from the storm could be noted. We are awaiting the reports from both surveys which will be written by the island's Data Monitoring Officer. STENAPA opened discussion with the ministry of EZ about financial compensation for executing this research, but up to now without success.



Photo: corals in the Marine Park

## **Sea Turtle Conservation program**

The start of the 2017 nesting season came in March when a track and a probable green nest was spotted during a beach clean-up. The nesting season was slightly below average in 2017. As is the trend over the past years, there was only 1 recorded leatherback activity. This was a very late visit in the month of June and did not result in a nesting activity. There were 70 activities for the Green turtle species whose nesting season began in the middle of July and ended in the first week of November with the last nest being deposited on that date. There were very few hawksbill activities in 2017 with only 6 activities. The bulk of green turtle activities were recorded in August and October. Strangely there was only 1 hawksbill activity on the Caribbean side of the island whereas usually most hawksbill activity occurs on the part of Oranjebaai called Dive Statia beach. In the previous year there were 8 nests on that beach. In April and May there were numerous sightings of a leatherback turtle in the near shore water at Baby beach near the harbor and at Gallows Bay, the swimming area in Lower Town.

Hurricane Irma on September 5th deposited 1 -2 meters of sand at Zeelandia and removed all sand from the west coast. Hurricane Jose on September 9 (passed to the North) and did not have much effect on the beach. Hurricane Maria on September 19 and 20 dumped sand higher on the beach so on top of the nests. Surge came all the way up to the cliff and all nests were lost. There was only 1 stranded turtle after Irma. A large green female with a fatal shark (or equivalent) bite on the rear right of her carapace. She was recorded on Sept 27, 2017.

## **Lion Fish Control Program**

The Marine team continued with the lion fish control program, which is the recording, culling and dissection of an invasive species in the coral reef ecosystem that can disrupt the food chain by predated on smaller fish species and being hard to predate on.

## **Beach Mapping**

In 2017 beach mapping was done in May and September. Beach mapping surveys are conducted by mainly Marine Park staff with assistance from an intern or volunteer if necessary.

The beach mapping exercises ideally consist of 4 persons and is a very time consuming job. Measurements and photographs must be taken at all 70 stakes, The theodolite must be set up and utilized at every 5<sup>th</sup> stake. Total beach mapping hours: 15 hours

## **Lobbying issues**

- **Reduction of the Marine Park**

In May 2017 the island Council adopted a resolution to put back the boundaries in place for the National Marine Park. In 2015 the public entity had reduced the Marine Park in favor of a harbor area. The reduction resulted at that time in a number of protest letters from national and international NGO's including letters from the Dutch government. The May decision was a huge lobby success for STENAPA.

In the new ordinance a new harbor area was appointed within the Marine Park. This was acceptable for STENAPA. Unfortunately, the government removed STENAPA's mandate to maintain the Marine Park in the harbor. STENAPA decided to keep on working there, because the government doesn't have a boat nor the expertise. We will continue lobbying for putting back in place the mandate.

- **Roaming animals**

On several occasions STENAPA addressed the situation of the roaming animals with the government. Cows, goats, sheep and pigs roam freely over the island and in the parks. This doesn't not only have a negative effect on nature, there is also a safety issue. The cliff in the back of the STENAPA office is disintegrating due to erosion partly caused by overgrazing of goats.

- **Nustar Agreement**

STENAPA was also actively involved in the discussion about the Nustar Agreement. This agreement sets tariffs for the tanker fees. In July 2017 the Public Entity closed the agreement with NuStar/Seven Seas. The agreement was closed with retrospective effect until 1 November 2016. On page 5 of the agreement the text mentions that a certain share of the tanker fees will be distributed to STENAPA. However, until end of the year 2017 there was no clarity about how much this income would be for STENAPA. The only direction came from the government draft budget 2018 where the NuStar tankerfees seem to have replaced the island subsidy. STENAPA will continue lobbying for a fair pay for its activities.

## ***IV EDUCATION AND OUTREACH***

### **4.1 Education**

STENAPA continued in 2017 the close corporation with two youth clubs on the island - Mega D and Daughters of the King (DOTK) – regarding the STENAPA Junior rangers club. The last couple of years the number of kids joining the Junior Rangers Club had dropped to only a few kids per week. So now, the STENAPA education and outreach officer goes to the youth clubs, instead of the kids coming all the way to the STENAPA office after school. The new approach has led to a visit to both clubs once per month. On the program are outings, talks, crafts and more. Working with these partners gives STENAPA the advantage that we can make use of their communication channels. Whereas they have the guarantee of a continuous and attractive nature program, it therefore is seen as a mutually beneficial program by all sides. With the new approach STENAPA can reach out to more kids and at the same time make better use of the time of the education and outreach officer.

During summer holidays schoolkids enjoyed summer club at STENAPA, a varied week full of activities on land and in the water, including a festive closing with a barbeque on the beach.

Photo: poster



In 2017 every first week of the month STENAPA's education and outreach officer went to the primary schools to give a class about nature and the conservation work of STENAPA. This program engages 370 pupils every month.

## 4.2 Outreach

In 2017 STENAPA continued participating in the Nature Awareness Project in corporation with the ministry of Economic Affairs and the Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute (CNSI). Within the framework of this program STENAPA developed in 2017 a multi annual communication campaign with PR agency Winkelman and Van Hessen. Execution is expected to start in 2018, depending on the funding.

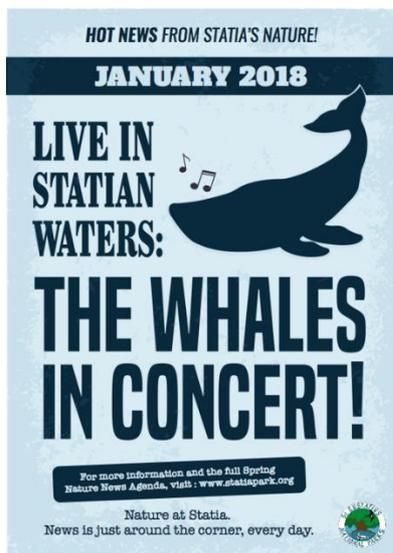


Photo: one of the first designs

All year round, STENAPA organized guided hikes, presentations, and tours for tourists, but also for the Broadreach programs. Broadreach is a summer program for teenagers. They provide sailing trips that stop on Statia for a couple of days. In addition to that, regular beach cleanups are done with schools or youth nature clubs to sensitize younger generations to pollution.

In 2017, STENAPA held its third Shark week in cooperation with DCNA and funded by the National Postcode Lottery. The aim is to raise awareness on the importance of sharks and rays in the marine ecosystems. The week generated a lot of free publicity. 2018 will probably be the last Shark Week.

The number of followers on Facebook and Twitter is slowly rising to 2000 end of the year, compared to around 1400 in December 2016. End of the year we had 200 followers on Twitter compared to 125 end of 2016.

The development of the new website started in the second half of 2017 with developer Carib Webservices on Sint Maarten.

In 2017 STENAPA was featured at least 70 times by the newspaper, mostly the Daily Herald of Sint Maarten, but also papers from the ABC-islands.

### **4.3 Thank you partners**

STENAPA wishes to express its gratitude for the many funders and donors who have supported our organization through the years financially: governmental and institutional donors as well as private funders, NGO's, scientific institutes and more. Without our partners it would not be possible to do all the important work that STENAPA carries out. These types of cooperation bring a new perspective and inspiration to STENAPA's everyday work and we are very grateful for that.