



STINAPA INFORMATION

“WATER TREATMENT” PLANTS IN LAC

You don't hear much about it, but in fact Lac is one of the busiest places on the island. There are in fact tens of thousands of “water treatment” plants that do their work ever so quietly: you may know them better as the ‘Mangroves’! They work to ensure that all kinds of harmful organisms and nutrients are filtered out of the water. There are four different kinds of mangroves in and around the bay, each in their own area. The red mangrove gets its name from the red colored bark. This kind is mostly found in the parts of Lac that are close to sea. With their conspicuous air-roots, the red mangroves retain silt and slime and remains of plants. This way land is formed in a natural way. They also form barriers that protect Bonaire from the influence of the sea. Even though waves crash against the mangroves, the sand between the roots safely remains in place. More inland we find the black mangrove. This is a kind that is very resistant against extremely salt conditions. The soil in which it thrives hardly contains any oxygen. Thanks to the air-roots that stick out like a snorkel, the black mangrove can still breathe. The White Mangrove lives in totally dry land. It is appropriately named because of its white flowers. This mangrove lives like any other plant or tree on land. The same goes for the Gray Mangrove; it also lives on dry land. The seeds of the red and black mangrove fall directly into the water once they are released by the mother plant. They will float away and sprout once they've found a suitable spot and develop into a new tree. The seeds of the red mangrove are the fastest growers especially during their first year. Typical for all mangroves is the thickness of their leaves. They are very succulent, just like the leaves of plants in desert areas. The thick wax coating on each prevents it from evaporating too much water that is necessary to their survival in the salty conditions of Lac. Apart from their importance for water treatment and land gain, mangroves also serve as a supplier of space for wildlife to live. The branches, protected by the foliage, birds find safe sleeping or breeding spots. Also the lower ‘floors’ are in use. On the trunk and roots many plants and animals find a home. Those all live – both above and below water- in perfect harmony with each other and with nature.

Written by Marcel Carpay, translated by Marcel Nahr.

For more information or comments: STINAPA, telephone 717 - 8444, info@stinapa.org

NOS TA BIBA DI NATURALESA



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Bonaire