



STINAPA INFORMATION

A PILE OF MUD WITH AN EGG ON TOP

The Caribbean flamingo is a real beauty not only because of its beautiful feathers and its typical head with the yellow eye but also because of its behavior. They move slowly and gracefully and can stand for hours on only one leg, but God forbid if any human comes near they do not appreciate it! Flamingos are very fond of their peace and quiet. That's exactly what they find on Bonaire and that is why our flamingo reservation is the most important breeding ground for this bird in the southern Caribbean region. For that matter; there are only four of these breeding grounds in the world. Breeding takes place between the salt ponds. Both the flamingo and its living area are protected on Bonaire. The reservation between the salt ponds is carefully monitored by Cargill. As such Cargill makes sure that the water level does not rise too much in the rainy season. The surplus water is pumped into the ocean preventing the nests from flooding. I once took a tour through the reservation from an associate of Cargill. From a great distance I was allowed to see that one of these breeding areas looks like a bunch of mud piles. Those are the nests and each has exactly one egg. Mom and dad flamingo take turns to sit on the egg for 28 to 32 days. And once the baby crawls out of the nest, they both take their responsibility for feeding it. After approximately 3 months the chick is strong enough to participate in a longer journey, for instance to Venezuela. Usually the flamingos undertake this 80 km. long journey when food becomes scarce here. What is very important is that the majority of the flamingos you see here were probably born on our island as well, but also the flamingos you encounter in Venezuela, Surinam, Colombia, and Guyana or another of the Caribbean islands were probably born here. Bonaire without flamingos is unimaginable. The flamingo has become the most important symbol for our island. Besides, these birds have already been coming here for centuries. Therefore we have the responsibility to maintain the population. Let's make sure these birds will keep nesting, breeding, and foraging here. That can only happen by protecting their living areas and especially by not disturbing them.

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NOS TA BIBA DI NATURALES



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Bonelru