



STINAPA INFORMATION

ARE WE GOING TO GIVE OUR TRASH A WANDERER'S LIFE
ON OUR BEAUTIFUL ISLAND?
I WOULDN'T THINK SO?!?!

Bonaire is a relatively clean island as far as trash that is floating around is concerned. That used to be different. 15 Years ago there was much more trash lying around on the island. Floating trash is trash that has been dumped in places it does not belong, like in the street, in nature, or in the sea. An important part of floating trash consists of packaging material for food and beverages, like for instance cans, bottles or plastic bags. Thanks to the efforts of different organizations and people a lot of trash has been collected. But it is very important to keep remembering not to throw our trash just anywhere. Once it is in a certain place it will take a long time before it is gone or it will cost a lot of money to be removed. When we leave trash floating around it takes nature a long time to break it back down. Here are some time periods needed to break some materials down: paper and cardboard 6 months, a banana peel 1 to 3 years, cigarette butt, 1 to 5 years, plastic soft drink bottle 5 to 10 years, sturdy plastic bag 10 to 20 years, aluminum can 80 to 1 million years, Styrofoam food container 2000 years, glass bottle 1 million years. Selibon collects 7800m³ of floating trash yearly. That means 483.600 kg of material, of which the estimated division is; 60 % artificial (man-made) materials, 20% glass bottles, 15% paper/cardboard and 5% cans. Most floating trash is encountered near snack bars, along main roads, and in the Antriol district. Floating trash has a negative impact on how we experience our environment and nature. It is highly visible and causes aggravation. We would be able to enjoy nature more without that garbage. Furthermore floating trash is a menace for animals, as they mistake it for food and can be poisoned. (like the turtles that swallow shopping bags and suffocate). Closer to home floating trash can be dangerous for playing children. With respect to public health, we can think of the spread of disease (dengue fever) and waste material that can seep into the soil and endanger the quality of the subsoil waters. And finally, floating trash can be a menace for the most important source of income for the economy of Bonaire: Tourism. Although the collection and proper disposal of floating trash is very important, solving the problem starts earlier. Why would we throw our trash on the street or in the open nature anyway? It is a small effort to throw our trash in a trash can. Will you help? LETS KEEP BONAIRE CLEAN!
Written by Ellie Noij, translated by Marcel Nahr.

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

NOS TA BIBA DI NATURALES



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Boneiru