



STINAPA INFORMATION

WHAT ARE?...

NATIVE, ENDEMIC, EXOTIC and INTRODUCED SPECIES

1st article on the exotic species eradication and control at Washington Slagbaai National Park. In this article we will not give the scientific definition, instead we will try to explain in simple words and with the aid of examples the meaning of these terms.

- **Native:** A plant or animal species that appeared, survived, adapted and evolved in a certain area or ecosystem until it has reached a state of balance with other species in the area and its surrounding environment. The species can naturally occur in the area or can be brought naturally from somewhere else (this is the case of most native species of Bonaire). Now, you have to be careful, not all species you see around you are native, not even the ones your grandparents and their grandparents saw. In biological time a few hundred years or even a few thousands means literally nothing, the fact that a species have been around in an area for a few hundred years does not mean the species is native or in balance with its environment.

- **Endemic:** A plant or animal species that can be found ONLY in a certain area. A species can be endemic to an island, or to a country, or to a state, or a National Park, or in certain sad cases only in captivity. On Bonaire we have some endemic birds and reptiles.

- **Exotic:** A plant or animal species that belongs somewhere else, but somehow managed to appear in a new habitat or environment. In other words, does not belong in the environment that is surrounding it. Once introduced, an exotic species with the passing of time can disappear (if it can not adapt), can become native (if after thousands of years finds balance with the surrounding environment), can become invasive (it causes damage to native populations by using their resources or directly attacking them), or it can become a pest (if it causes a lot of nuisance to local populations to the point of threatening them with extinction or disrupts the balance of the ecosystem).

- **Introduced:** An animal or plant that has been brought by humans to an area it otherwise could not reach naturally. The introduction can be intentional or non intentional. For example, the rats that came in ships from Europe are an example of a non intentional introduction of a species; donkeys on the other hand, are an example of an intentional introduction. Humans have many different reasons to introduce species of plants and animals wherever they go: food supply (goats, pigs, chicken), hard labor and transport (donkeys, horses), pets (dogs, cats), materials (certain type of trees for wood), products (aloe, rubber vine), pest control (cats to control rats), abandoned pets (snakes, birds), ornamental (trupials), etc.

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NOS TA BIBA DI NATURELESA



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Bonelru