



STINAPA INFORMATION

NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN

The nice part of writing these columns for the “NOS TA BIBA DI NATURELESA” campaign is that you learn a lot yourself as well. Take the columns about reforestation that I have written. Nowadays I ‘see’ so much more when I drive around the island. I see things I never noticed before. To be able to write the columns I had to do research and talk to people who knew a lot about the subjects. That’s how come I now know how important indigenous trees are. With the flora-booklet “Nos Matanan” in hand I try to recognize the local trees. I thought it was fun to realize that the tree that I always found to have such a beautiful bark was called the Palu di Sia Korá. But there is another side to knowledge. I also know now that all those freely wandering goats are a menace to young trees. It is hard to understand that there are almost no young indigenous trees because we’ve let goats roam freely. Something should really be done about that. For the columns about reforestation I really dove into the subject. The same happened while preparing for the next project: bats! Trees you can see in the landscape, but bats are another story. I had never seen them – at least, that’s what I believed. But that was a mistake. Because those little animals that fly through the garden and sometimes your house after dusk, are no birds at all. They’ve turned out to be bats. I had seen those long ago in the Blijdorp Zoo in Rotterdam. When you would walk through the so-called ‘night-habitat’, they would zoom right by my head. So scary! Strange animals to see too. They look like mice or gerbils with wings. But thanks to everything Fernando Simal, manager of the Washington Slagbaai National Park, told me, I now know that the bat is the only indigenous mammal of Bonaire. But I also know that, just like indigenous trees, bats are indispensable to our ecosystem. They consume up to 500 mosquitoes per night. That is a nice quality, isn’t it? Without bats Bonaire would have even more mosquitoes. Whether it is trees or bats, for both it is true: “We live of nature”.

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Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Bonelru