



STINAPA INFORMATION

THE GREEN ENGINE

Bonaire is one of the least inhabited islands in the Caribbean. You can tell when you drive around. When you 'go around south' you hardly meet any people. To the north and east it's the same once you leave the paved roads. Where else can you still find that? Traffic indeed has gotten busier, but there are still no traffic lights. Bonaire is a quiet island, maybe boring and dull for some, but others love the tranquility. There are just a few islands in the Caribbean which breathe that same relaxed atmosphere as our beautiful island. (Or have such special spots for that matter.) Take Lac and Sorobon. Those places are unique: the quiet and the shades of blue of the water. Quite often you hear tourists that go there for the first time say that they did not know that such a beautiful place existed in the world. Every year 70,000 tourists set foot on Flamingo Airport. They don't come here for the beautiful white sand beaches, because those we don't really have here. No, many tourists are divers; Bonaire ranks high in the top dive locations in the world. That special reputation Bonaire got thanks to its advanced management of nature. Ever since 1979 the sea up to 60 meters of depth around Bonaire and Klein Bonaire is part of a nature reserve and serves as an example for the rest of the world. That is good to think about next time you go for a swim or go fishing. You are not just swimming in the sea, no; you are swimming in a nature reserve. Tourism is the engine that propels the Bonairean economy forward. Our most important trademark is the peace and untouched nature above water, and the unique nature under water. That's what the tourists come for, not for a mundane nightlife. The nature of Bonaire is the 'Green Engine' of our economy. Whatever affects that unique green engine negatively will lead to stalling of that engine. To prevent that, the motto for the development of Bonaire for years has been: "development while maintaining nature and culture." In practice that means that economic growth is important, especially development in the tourism sector. But not at any price; the unique nature and local culture may not suffer. If we lose the balance there, then Bonaire will kill the 'goose that lays the golden egg'. Let's take care of nature so that our children may enjoy their future. *Written by Trix van Bennekom, 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