



STINAPA INFORMATION

EXOTIC SPECIES IN BONAIREAN CULTURE (part I)

3rd article on the exotic species eradication and control at Washington Slagbaai National Park. Let us start by saying that without exotic species there would be no culture at all on Bonaire since humans are one of the exotic species on the island and the only one that can create culture. Humans have a reputation to be able to adapt and survive all environments on this planet. From the extreme cold of the poles to the hottest and driest deserts. This is true in principle, but contrary to other species of plants and animals, which make “adjustments” to their physiology and morphology in order to adapt to different environments, humans adapt mostly by making changes in the environment around them usually without taking in consideration the long term effects. This was perfectly understandable a few hundred years ago, when making these changes was a matter of survival. Bonaireans were no exception. Few species could adapt to this environment and thrive. The first native communities of humans that arrived on Bonaire a couple of thousand years ago, brought some plants and animals with them. These peoples main goal was survival, therefore they did not bring or grow more than they used for their daily needs. As a result the impact of exotic species on the natives was practically insignificant. European colonizers, on the other hand, with their thirst for richness, accumulation of goods, and development of towns needed a lot more resources than the natives did. The main problem with the exotic species brought by Europeans is not only the species themselves, but the lack of environmental responsibility by humans on the handling of these species. Both were used or abandoned when they were not needed anymore. Now, it is only fair to remark that this lack of responsibility was most likely based on pure ignorance and not on negligence. This is not the case today. Now we do have the information and the knowledge of the consequences, so no more excuses to ignore our responsibility. In our next column, you will learn more about this.

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NOS TA BIBA DI NATURALESA



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Bonelru