



## STINAPA INFORMATION

A NURSE WITH CONSCIOUS CHOICES

There's a good chance you have seen her while she's walking along the side of the road or on Bonaire's many walking trails. That's because walking is a major pastime for Ariola Miranda-Marchena, just like reading. She's a mother of 2 and has worked most of her life in the mental health sector. At this moment she is employed at the Dienst Gezondheid en Hygiëne (DGH / Health and Hygiene Department). There are several aspects of our nature that make Ariola proud of Bonaire; our clear and pure air, our beautiful sea. And also the fact that WE keep our island clean. "We have to be proud of what we have" Ariola emphasizes. "Hato, my own neighborhood!" is her answer when asked what her favorite spot on the island is. That's because of the close proximity of the sea, the many high trees and plants and the peace and quiet. Besides Hato, Ariola loves all the beaches of Bonaire. "Each one of them is beautiful in its own way". "Isn't it amazing how clear the waters around Bonaire are?" According to Ariola our economy depends in many ways on our nature. The protected waters provide healthy fish for consumption or sale. And meanwhile tourists come to the island to enjoy our well-protected nature. It's good that we keep our nature healthy so we don't get many diseases. That's a benefit to us and the economy, as sick people can't work. Ariola is conscious of the fact that her economic well-being is dependent upon nature. The more tourists we get the more income the government gets to be able to pay her well. Her message is clear; "We have to take care of nature not only for the tourists, but also for ourselves. Let's make sure not to throw our trash just anywhere. "The government should give out more information or start with campaigns just like STINAPA does. There should be more protective measures. But Ariola also believes that the local population should be asked for advice on how to protect nature. That's why she's impressed with STINAPA that they went to St. Lucia to investigate how the local fishermen help protect their fish population. In Bonaire we could learn the same way. *Written by Natalie Wanga, translated by Marcel Nahr.*

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## NOS TA BIBA DI NATURELSA



**Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Bonelru**