



Marine Park Aruba

Targeted territory: Aruba

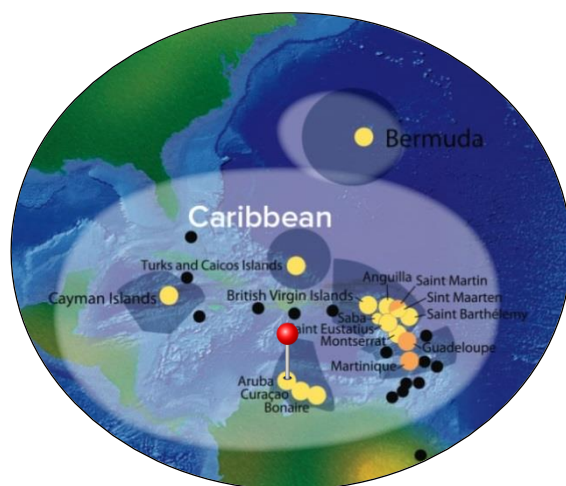
Total project budget: 355,354 Euros

BEST 2.0 grant awarded: 297,985 Euros

Duration: May 2016 – April 2019 (36 months)

Lead organisation: The Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)

Partner organisation: Aruba Government, Directorate on Nature and Environment



Background:

Marine parks can provide a range of benefits for fisheries, local economies and the marine environment by conserving and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems including critical breeding, nursery and feeding habitats for fish populations, and increasing opportunities for marine tourism. Coastal ecosystems also play an important role in adaptation to climate change e.g. mangroves serve as a buffer zone between land and sea providing natural coastal protection and along with sea grasses trap sediment and pollutant runoff from the land.

Aruba's marine environment faces increasing pressure from invasive species, climate change, overfishing, shipping traffic, land-based sources of pollution and extensive usage for recreation and tourism.

In May 2009 Aruba adopted a Zoning (policy) Plan for the Island (Ruimtelijk Ontwikkelingsplan Aruba) which provides direction for the management of its coastal zone and the establishment of Marine Protected Areas.

Description of the Project:

The project will establish a multi-use marine park for Aruba by enacting the necessary legislation for its creation put in place the structures for its long-term management by setting-up a management organisation and developing a management plan with stakeholder input to promote non-destructive activities.

The park will encompass four Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): Parke Nacional Arikok; Spaans Lagoen (Spanish Lagoon) and Sero Colorado and Mangel Halto – Isla di Oro. A management plan for each of these KBAs will be developed to guide the maintenance and restoration of their ecosystems, biological diversity and ecological processes along with climate adaptation project plans. A communications plan to build awareness and, most importantly, ownership of the KBAs will form a crucial part of the management and project plans



Intended results:

- Legislation establishing the marine park in Aruba is enacted.
- The Management Organisation for the marine park is established and is operational.
- A management plan for the marine park is adopted by the designated responsible agency.
- Development of up to four ecosystem restoration and climate resilience projects targeting the four KBAs within the marine park, including budget estimates, proposed funding plan and project partners.

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