

STENAPA Update

Lisa is Missing!!

The satellite transmitter that was fitted to Hawksbill turtle Lisa transmitted for the last time on February 1st, 2007.

Lisa last transmitted from an area just to the north of St. Barths in the location of some uninhabited islets.

It is not known whether she has lost the transmitter, if the battery has died or if some harm has come to her. The expected battery lifetime is up to 6 months.

Lisa was fitted with her transmitter in September of last year after laying 143 eggs on Zeelandia. It is suspected that while in Anguilla's waters she also came ashore and laid some eggs. This was based on the change in the strength of her satellite signal and could not be verified.

It is possible that she also nested on St. Croix but again this cannot be verified.

From the time of her nesting on Zeelandia beach until the time of her last transmission, Lisa had traveled 2870 kilometers.

To get a better picture of her overall travels, you can visit our website and click on the projects tab for more information.

A link to www.seaturtles.org, gives an interactive map of her journey.

Lisa was the first Hawksbill of the 2006 turtle season to be spotted on Zeelandia Beach by one of our patrols. Her name was chosen by Evan Hassell, a 4th grade student of the Governor de Graaf school. He was the winner of an arts & craft competition held in 2005.

Grace, a green turtle, also tagged with a transmitter just two weeks after Lisa, is still transmitting. She has traveled a total of 3009 kilometers and is still happily swimming around between St. Kitts and Nevis.

Grace deposited 129 eggs on Zeelandia beach before she was tagged and released.

National Parks Fees to Change?

A willingness to pay study was conducted in the two National Parks over a four month period late last year.

The reasons for this survey were the outdated user fee structure and the fact that these fees still do not cover the operational costs for the parks.

The results of this survey clearly showed that visitors to the parks are more than willing to pay a higher fee to make use of these natural resources.

The only user group that may not see a change will be the yachts as there was insufficient data to be able to make a determination about those fees.

STENAPA is presently awaiting Government's decision on the matter concerning the increasing of park fees.

The recommended fees as compared to the existing ones are as follows:

Single Dive tags \$3 → \$4

Annual Dive tag \$15 → \$20

Trail pass \$3 → \$6

Multi-pass (diving/hiking) \$25

These tags and passes are for tourists/nonresidents and visitors to the island only.



Inside this Publication

Lisa is Missing!!	1
National Parks user Fees	1
Junior Rangers visit to Quill National Park	2
New Staff Member	2
The whales are back!!	2
Snorkel Club Graduates!	3
Objectives for 2007	3
Corallita Research Final Results	4

Don't forget....

Use your Eco-bags as much as possible!!

Tip: Keep them in your glove compartment and you'll always have them handy!!



Botanical Garden

Guided tours are available for school or church groups.



Close-up of a hawksbill turtle.

Junior Rangers visit the Quill National Park

On Monday, February 19th, the Junior Rangers visited the Quill accompanied by Hannah Leslie (leader), Lauren Maloney (intern) and Vincent Kleinekorte (intern).



Photo break on the trail.

The group met at 8:00am at the visitor center and set out for the trailhead. This trip was organized to get the kids out of the house and into nature during their free week from school. Junior rangers are kept busy with projects in both the National Parks, the Botanical Garden, the turtle program and with beach cleanups. They must complete all projects in their activity book in order to graduate.



Everyone takes a break at the top.



Not too tired to have fun in the crater.

The Whales are Back

The whales are passing by the island of St. Eustatius once again. They have already been spotted from the lookout area at the Botanical Garden. This is your opportunity to see them breaching, as in the photo below, in real life and not just on a television screen.

Humpback whales traditionally pass the island from December to April. If you are lucky to see them, it is quite an experience. Take the kids out to the Botanical Garden for a picnic and the possibility of getting a glimpse at one of these giants.



New Staff Member — Jessica Berkel

STENAPA is pleased to welcome Jessica Berkel, who has been transferred to the National Parks Foundation as an Office Administrator. Here follows a short interview:

What is your background?

I have a diploma in Graphic Design and have worked free lance in that field for 10 years. Since coming to Statia, I have worked for the Island Government in the tower at the FDR Airport. After waiting some years for a transfer, I finally got the good news this year.

Is it very different from your previous job?

Oh, very much so. This work is more challenging and there is nothing routine about it at all. Almost every day when you get to the office, outside of your normal work, there is something else that comes up. Sometimes its hard to complete something in the time that you set yourself to do it, because most of the time you are doing three things or more at once.

What does your job at STENAPA entail?

It is very varied, I do a bit of everything. Writing reports for funding agencies, giving information to visitors, answering email queries, banking, coordinating activities, scheduling, seeing that the web site is kept updated, souvenir sales, etc. When one of the funders is visiting, you have to take them to see what their money is being spent on, so that can be on the 'to-do' list for the day as well.



Give an example of 'something coming up'?

Well, the other day I was working on a report and a call came in that there was a mega-yacht anchored in the Southern reserve. So I tried calling them on the radio but got no answer. Then a dive operator came in to report them. Eventually I had to go out to the yacht with the Marine Park ranger to explain to them where they were and why they had to move. They were very cooperative.

Any difficulties so far?

Not really. I helped out a lot when the previous manager was here, so sales and information etc. I had done before. Making reports is new to me but I am enjoying the challenge. Sometimes some yachts people are a bit difficult about paying their fees but you just explain to them why they have to pay it and they pretty much are happy to pay in the end. They almost always come back so I guess they are really not all that put off by fees.

STENAPA Objectives for 2007

The National Parks Foundation has achieved most of the goals that it set itself in 2006 as you may have read in December's newsletter.

Apart from the ongoing projects, here follows a condensed view of what we expect to achieve this year.

Building expansion project

Complete the finishing touches including the garden landscaping, an information sign and a brochure about our services and fees.

Education Program

Continue the visits to the schools and search for funding for this program to continue in the 2007/2008 school year.

Plastic Bag Campaign

Continue public awareness via media and discuss and ensure further action with the Executive Council.

Public Awareness

Continue monthly radio program, quarterly newsletters, newspaper articles and arrange annual meeting.

Marine Park

Complete management plan. Complete replacement of 12 yacht moorings.

Zeelandia Beach Protection

Plant sea grapes to restore area, arrange study to investigate impact of sand mining and place boulders to prevent vehicle access to the beach proper.

Quill National Park

Complete the management plan for the Quill, produce information signs for trail network. Carry out inventory of all signs. Conduct land crab survey. Complete bird survey. Improve Round the Mountain trail and its signage. Carry out impact study on and control of the roaming animals in the crater.

Botanical Gardens

Continue to organize school visits for each class during the year and also visits for church groups and senior citizens. Prepare and start planting out the Fruit garden and the Children's garden.

Organize local volunteers for weekends with the focus on Corallita clearing. The vine is invading the garden property.

Turtle Program

Carry out habitat mapping of the Marine Park (to map sea-grass beds etc.), begin in-water monitoring of juvenile and resident turtles and follow the same monitoring habits as used in 2006.

Tanker Impact Survey

Continue with consultation of Marine Department of Statia Terminal. Finalise and distribute this study and produce report for the funders, KNAP.

Corallita Problem

Follow up on recommendations given to Government and the general public. Monitor hot spots that were discovered during the research phase of this project. Monitor encroachment into the Quill.

Beach Restoration Project

Manage ReefBall project when funding is assigned.

Future Development

Plan development of remaining areas and volunteer facilities.

With the above outlined list of things to do and everything else that could not be published here due to lack of space, this year promises to be a busy one for management and staff.

Plant Sale



Pass by the Visitor Center at Gallows Bay any day of the week during opening hours.

Prices from Fls 5,- to Fls 50,-
Open during the lunchtime !!

Snorkel Club Graduates



After 5 months of lessons and a lot of smiles and laughter, Snorkel Club 2006 came to an end. Because all the participants were successful in passing their exams, it was a very happy ending to the program. This particular group's program began in September 2006 and was completed in January of this year. The course was made up of one two hour session per week with practical as well as theoretical lessons.

Ten children completed their snorkeling course and became PADI certified skin divers. The graduates are:

Monique and Marissa Balelo, Bradley van Putten, Kendro and Lisandro Redan, Dean Marion, Martijn de Jong, Terieke Anthony, Francesca Dembrook and Eslainy Windefelde.

STENAPA congratulates them and for those moving on to Junior rangers, we wish you much success.



St Eustatius: National and Marine Parks and Botanical Gardens



National Parks Office
Gallows Bay
St. Eustatius, Netherlands Antilles
Phone/Fax 599-318-2884
Email: semp@goldenrocknet.com
info@statiapark.org

www.statiapark.org

STENAPA is an environmental not-for-profit foundation on St Eustatius and was established in 1988. The objectives of STENAPA are to upkeep the natural environment, to preserve and protect endangered or endemic species (flora and fauna) and to educate the community about the importance of the protection of the natural environment.

Areas of responsibility include management of the marine park, the national parks and the Miriam C. Schmidt Botanical Gardens. STENAPA is legally delegated by the Island Council to manage these protected areas.

President: Irving Brown
Vice President: Ronnie Courtar
Treasurer: Jana Mason
Secretary: Vacant

Next edition of STENAPA Update available soon with articles on:

- New turtle nesting season starts
- Survey of the rarest plant in the Kingdom - Statia Morning Glory
- Volunteer program - latest activities
- Rangers complete Tour Guiding Training
- First Trees planted in new Fruit Garden

Check our web site for previous editions of this quarterly newsletter!

Final Corallita Research Results...Is there a solution for this problem?

In January, the one-year pilot project on Corallita (Mexican Creeper) came to an end. The researchers, Dr. Pieter Ketner and Ing. Joris Ernst returned to the island to present their findings to the general public and to the Island Government.

STENAPA staff had assisted with the monitoring of the test areas and with various other aspects of the research such as collecting rainfall data in the test areas, making of photographical journals, observation of roaming animals and controlled experiments.

What we now know:

Through area mapping and reconnaissance, it is now known that around 15-20% of the island is covered with this invasive vine. Doesn't sound like a large figure but that constitutes a fifth of our tiny little island.

Flowering and fruiting takes place almost the whole year and seeds taken from the plant show an average germination rate of almost 50%. This should not come as a surprise as we all know that it is quite a hardy plant.

The plant spreads mainly through stem and root cutting and tubers (potato like growths on the roots). In heavily infested

areas, you can find on average up to 280 tubers per m².

It is not very likely that animals are helping to spread the vine because practically no animal considers Corallita as a part of their diet. Only pigs have been seen on occasion to be rooting out the tubers for a snack. Also no seeds were found in the stools or dung of any animals.

Threats to the environment:

This vine poses many threats to our environment. Not the least of which is the potential loss of our native fruit and vegetable trees and shrubs. A short ride in the country is all it takes to find sugar apple, sour-sop and cherry trees blanketed by Corallita.

Also the plant is slowly making its way up the mountain and will, unless tightly controlled, eventually find its way into the National Park. Anyone who has descended into the crater in the past few years, will have noticed that the vegetation has already been devastated by roaming goats. The added strain of an invasive vine suffocating the rare and amazing plants

Containing and Controlling Corallita:

Repeated cutting down of the plant only weakens it and eventually re-growth occurs. But cutting in combination with the application of a herbicide, such as 'Round up', causes serious damage to the plant and tubers.

Once you have cleared, for instance your yard, using this method, sow grass and mow it regularly, to keep the vine under control. Remember, not every tuber will be destroyed by this method. Most importantly, keep up the maintenance, or the hard work would have been for nothing. We might not be able to clear all the land of this pest but let us all at least start in our own gardens.

