



Bonaire National Marine Park

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF A MPA

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Bonaire National Marine Park


The Users Fee System

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- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ How is the park financed
- ✓ Advantages
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Description of the area

- Bonaire is situated in the southern Caribbean (12°10'N, 68°15'W) approximately 100 km north of Venezuela.
- 40 km long by 11 km wide
- Total area 28.100 ha
- Total population 14.000 inhab.
- 60.000 tourist per year




Introduction

- ✓ STINAPA Bonaire is NGO commanded by the island Government to manage the WSNP and the BNMP
- ✓ The Bonaire National Marine Park was established in 1979 and has been under active management since 1991
- ✓ Protect the waters around Bonaire and Klein Bonaire from the high water mark until the 60 m (200 ft) depth contour
- ✓ 2700 ha of protected area that include mangroves, sea grass beds, coral reef, salt flats and beaches
- ✓ The WSNP was establish in 1969 and covers 4700 ha in the northern territory

HOW IS THE PARK FINANCED?

- ✓ On January 1st, 1992 the Bonaire National Marine Park sold the first tag.
- ✓ Despite some initial constraints the system has been universally well received.
- ✓ Divers Admission Fee has allowed the BNMP with the help of the Dive Industry to be self financed since that time.



HOW IS THE PARK FINANCED?

ALL THE USERS PAY A YEARLY FEE:

- ✓ To enter and to use - \$10
- ✓ To Scuba dive - \$25
- ✓ To do business - \$840
- ✓ To have a structure - \$280
- ✓ To have an industrial pier of jetty - \$560
- ✓ To overnight on a buoy - \$10/night



Advantages

- ✓ Divers are the ones that have been charged the longest, since 1992. They have developed a vested interest in the BNMP management and consider the fee a contribution toward nature conservation
- ✓ The yachters pay per night and do not have a choice since it is against the law to anchor
- ✓ The revenue comes directly to the Park
- ✓ The system is reliable and accountable
- ✓ It is mandated by law.



Disadvantages

- ✓ Other users than the divers are not used to the system yet and level of compliance is not as high.
- ✓ Other operators than dive schools are not used to having to control if their clients have paid the users fee yet.
- ✓ The income collection is not always easy.
- ✓ The system is funded by tourism.
- ✓ The administration can be time consuming.
- ✓ Some water sports operators see the fee as an increase in their rates.

Critical Factors

- ✓ A strong outreach campaign to promote the fee system is necessary;
- ✓ Law enforcement is the key.



Critical Factors

- ✓ Involvement a of large number of stakeholders in the initial set up and proposed changes; tourists, locals and the water-sport operators.
- ✓ This makes the system more reliable and raises their credibility.



Critical Factors

- ✓ The results of the income have to be visible: Rangers have to be around, dive sites marked, buoys well maintained, rapid response, etc.



Critical Factors

- ✓ Law enforcement at the dive sites increases the reliability of the system and it is appreciated by the tourists.
- ✓ It has become an invaluable opportunity to interact with the tourists and "gauge" their perception of the Park.



Legislation

The legislation sets the stage for enforcement:

- ✓ The price is set by law and it defines the users.
- ✓ Everyone who conducts business in the BNMP is responsible by law to control and charge the fee.
- ✓ STINAPA is mandated to enforce the law.
- ✓ The income can only be used to manage the parks.

Accountability

- ✓ Clear and accessible accountability gives transparency to the process.
- ✓ Information about budget as well as annual financial statements make stakeholders aware of the expenditures.



THANK YOU