

I LIKE THE
DESIGN BUT
NOT THE
IDEA!

Would of never
thought a golf
court would look
So amazing at
this location.
love it.

Mooi plan
wel kip-ei story:
Eerst toeristen trekken
of eerst investeren in
een golf baan.
prachtige lokatie.
Het plan is er al lang!

No golf please!
Not green enough
and not environmental
friendly

Very Nice

A Mini course may
be feasible

Envisioning Tourism Development on St. Eustatius

By Mart Reiling

12-2014

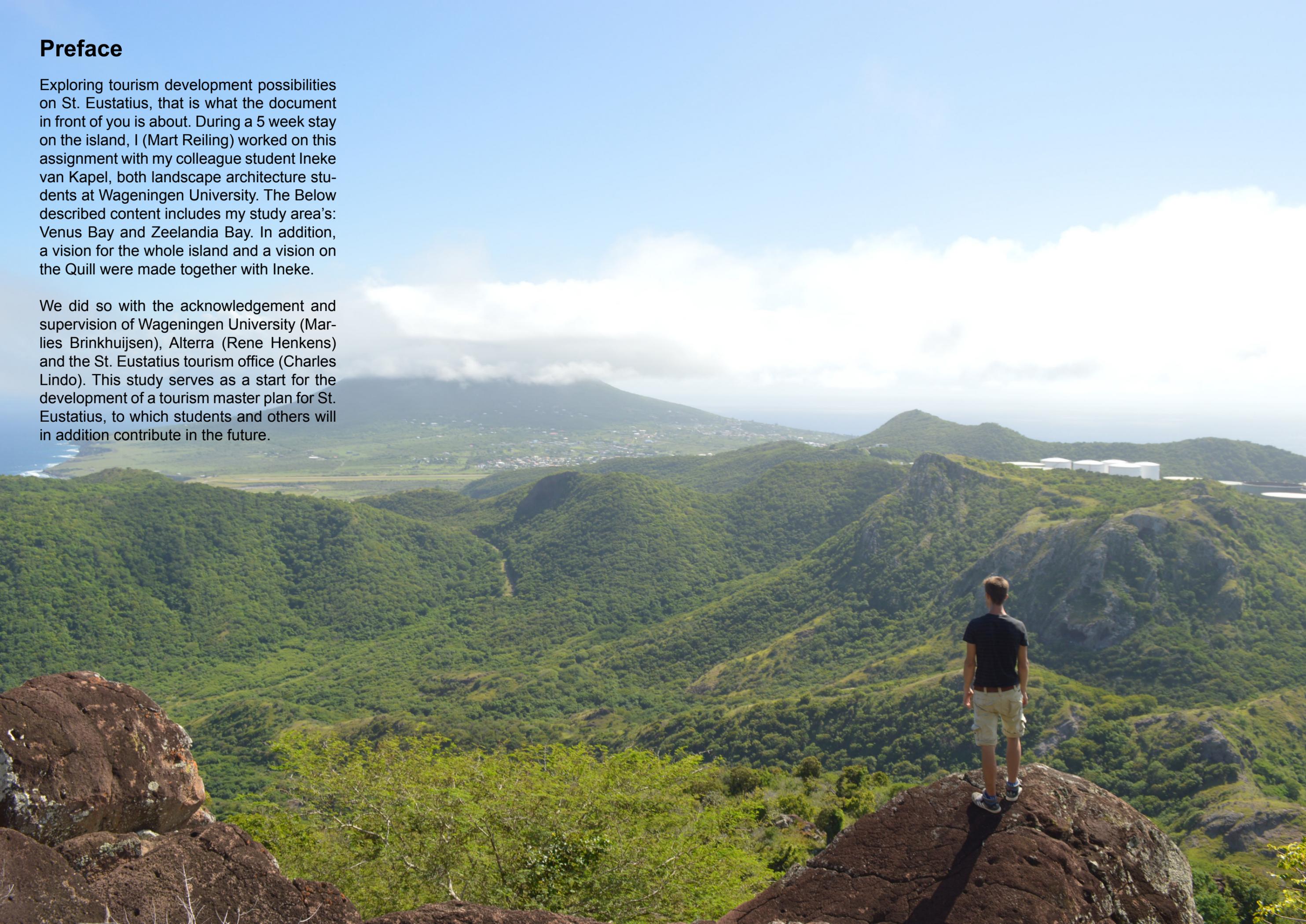
Wageningen University and research



Preface

Exploring tourism development possibilities on St. Eustatius, that is what the document in front of you is about. During a 5 week stay on the island, I (Mart Reiling) worked on this assignment with my colleague student Ineke van Kapel, both landscape architecture students at Wageningen University. The Below described content includes my study area's: Venus Bay and Zeelandia Bay. In addition, a vision for the whole island and a vision on the Quill were made together with Ineke.

We did so with the acknowledgement and supervision of Wageningen University (Marlies Brinkhuijsen), Alterra (Rene Henkens) and the St. Eustatius tourism office (Charles Lindo). This study serves as a start for the development of a tourism master plan for St. Eustatius, to which students and others will in addition contribute in the future.



Intro

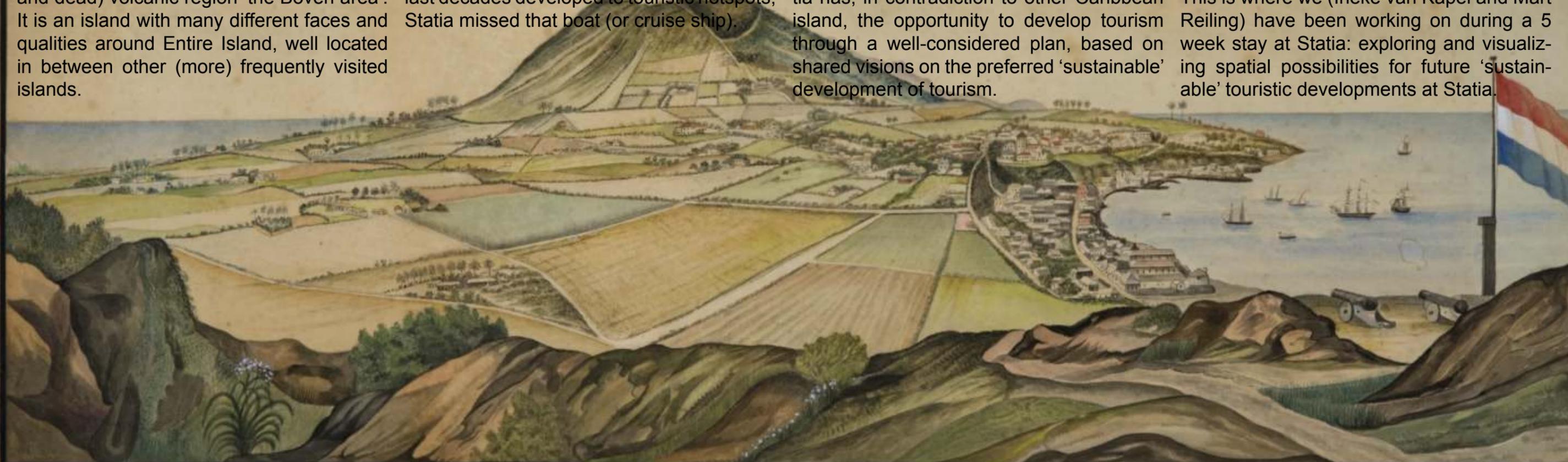
St. Eustatius (better known as Statia), is a 21 km² Caribbean Island in between Saba and St. Kitts. The volcanic Island contains 4000 inhabitants, mainly living in the (only) village: Oranjestad. Oranjestad is located in between the two volcanic parts of the island: the southern (younger and sleeping) volcano 'the Quill', and the Northern (older and dead) volcanic region 'the Boven area'. It is an island with many different faces and qualities around Entire Island, well located in between other (more) frequently visited islands.

For centuries it has been an economic center in the Caribbean, as tax-free trade island for the West India Company (WIC). As turbulent its history is, as calm it seems to be today. Today, the oil-trade company 'NuStar' sets the main economic pillar of the island, hidden and isolated in the Boven area. And where most Caribbean islands have in the last decades developed to touristic hotspots, Statia missed that boat (or cruise ship).

That simultaneously is a problem and a quality. Statia depends on one unstable economic pillar, making its economic system vulnerable. Therefore; the government of Statia is aiming on developing tourism; to guarantee the economic stability of the Island. Simultaneously, the unspoiltness of the Island is maybe its best touristic quality. Statia has, in contradiction to other Caribbean island, the opportunity to develop tourism through a well-considered plan, based on shared visions on the preferred 'sustainable' development of tourism.

This leads to an assignment that has an important spatial and visual dimension. Because before one can consider what developments he/she prefers, one must first be able to consider what developments could have what visual, spatial, social and economic impacts.

This is where we (Ineke van Kapel and Mart Reiling) have been working on during a 5 week stay at Statia: exploring and visualizing spatial possibilities for future 'sustainable' touristic developments at Statia.



VUE

DE L'ILE S'EUSTACHE

Dediee à son Excellence

P.R. CANTZLAAR.

*Chevalier de l'Ordre du Lion Belgique, Contre-Amiral et Gouverneur Général des Possessions Occidentales de Sa Majesté le Roi des Pays-Bas.
Dessiné par son très-humble Secrétaire Samuel Pothoy*

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'Sustainable' tourism development

Not many people dislike 'sustainable' development. Though, this does not mean we will all agree upon preferred developments, as the criteria for something to be 'sustainable' can be different for any person.

In the spatial development plan of Statia, developing tourism in a sustainable way is mentioned as an important requirement. In here, the following (tourism) sustainability guidelines are mentioned:

- Authenticity and identity as point of departure.

- Strengthen and protect the unique identities/ qualities of the island: cultural heritage sites, beautiful natural landscapes, excellent diving sites, the local culture, the peacefulness and the small scale.

These principles fit well in our understanding of sustainable tourism development criteria, to which we would like to add some criteria in addition:

- Nature, culture and spatial qualities as starting point: Protect it, make use of it and make it accessible!

- Environmental: Diminish pollution (water, energy, CO2).

- Social: support and involvement of local community.

- Context: Make developments fits with other developments.

- Way of developing: Step by step, flexible, develop by demand.

Even though having these criteria is a nice point of departure for spatial developments, they are only abstract guidelines, which are still very open for multiple interpretations. It does not tell us what concrete development fits within them. This for example becomes clear when we look at the two most important government documents for spatial development of Statia: The spatial development plan (SDP) and the investment guide (IG). The spatial development ambitions mentioned in here; differentiate rather much at certain points.

In general, the government of Statia mentions three locations as potential development sites; each with different characteristics and ambitions: **Lower Town, Zeelandia Bay and Venus Bay.**

Lower town: Ineke

The largest tourism development ambitions are focusing on Lower town, bordering Oranjestad. For lower town, a large list of possible developments is mentioned. Though there is no substantial difference between ambitions of the two documents, the possible developments are very broad and sometimes rather vague. For example; what do we see as 'eco developments' or 'other aquatic activities'? When is a cruise ship small? 100 people, 1000 people?

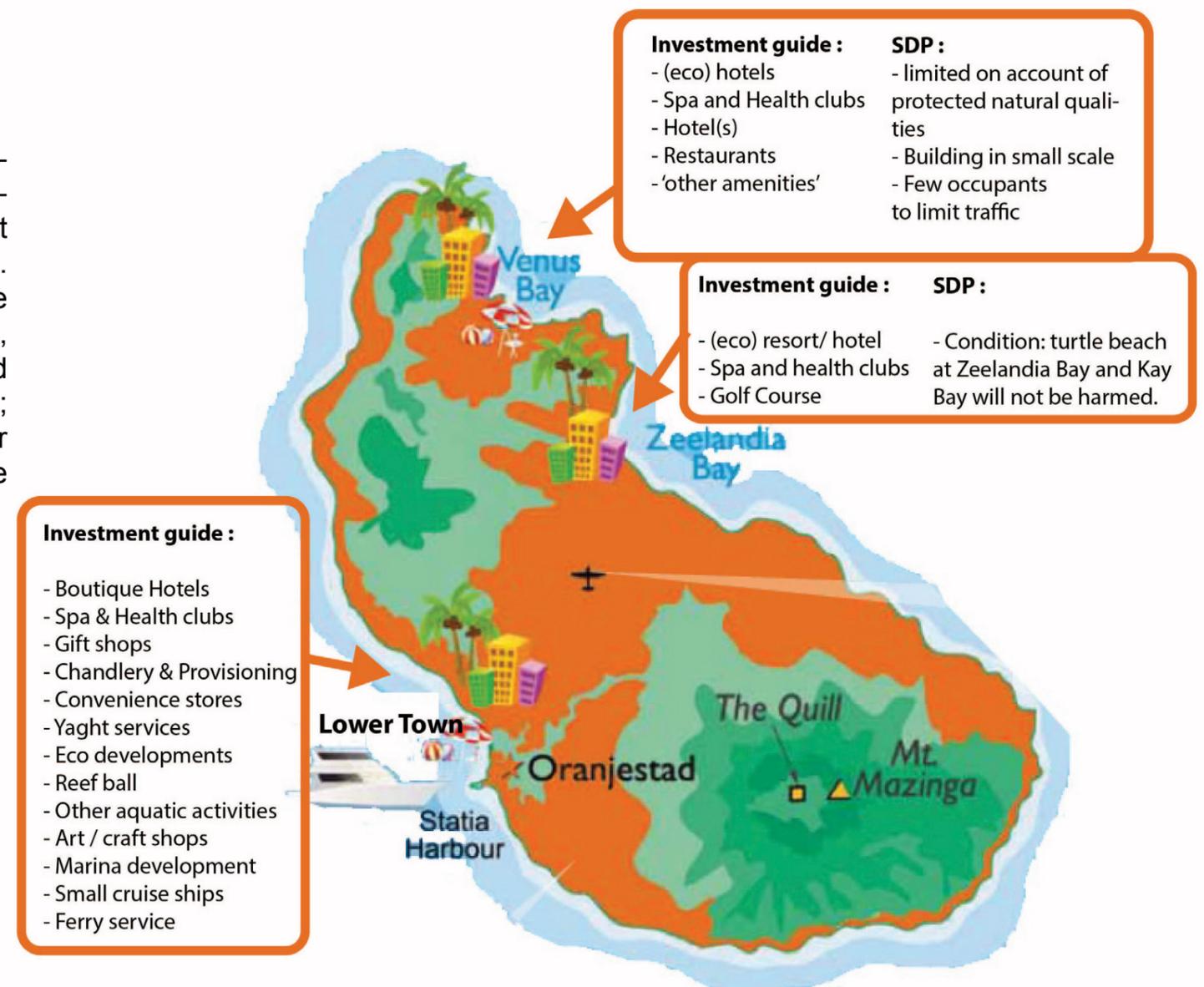
Zeelandia Bay: Mart

Another location that is mentioned as a potential tourism development site is Zeelandia Bay. The SDP and IG show a differentiating ambition here. The IG mentions the possibility for developing Spa's, health Clubs and even a golf course, while the SDP mentions the protection of the turtle beach as highly important. These two ambitions do not exclude each other completely, but there are different aspects that could become conflicting (turtles get confused by light for example).

Venus Bay: Mart

The last site where there are development ambitions is Venus Bay. The ambitions from the SDP and IG are rather conflicting here. The IG mentions comparable developments possible as in Zeelandia Bay, while the SDP mentions to prefer 'few occupants to limit traffic'. Though, running well a restaurant or Spa becomes very hard in an area of it is not well accessible for its potential visitors.

In addition to all of these three sites, there are many different ways of executing such ambitions spatially, having very different spatial impacts, visually and functionally. Whether one of these ambitions is a preferred one also depends on these aspects.



Research objective and method

Therefore the objective of our 5 week stay has been to make the mentioned ambitions real and concrete, by exploring ways to spatially implement them and showing their visual and spatial impacts. Ineke did this for Lower town, I did this for Venus and Zealandia Bay. In addition, we developed a spatial touristic vision for Statia as a whole and gave suggestions on another touristic quality; the Quill.

To reflect upon these developments, a walk-in exhibition was organized on the last day of our stay. Through local television, newspaper, radio and advertisements, everyone on Statia was invited to visit the exhibition. At the exhibition, people were given the opportunity to write their comments to every visual on yellow papers. This could argue whether they liked a certain development relating to the image, whether it would be realistic on Statia or how it could be achieved. A total of 25-30 people visited the exhibition during the day.

In the evening, we presented our visions on tourism development on Statia in the same hall as the exhibition. Also this was open for anyone. A total of 35 people came to hear this. 20 of them were from a UNESCO training course, owners of dive shops were present and a hand full of local people.

In addition, the results were posted on the 'Statia Community facebook, which resulted in a flow of valuable reactions and comments.



Tourism on Statia: what would you like to see?

What: Students present different scenario's for tourism on Statia - we would like to know your opinion!

When: December 9th

- Walk-in exhibition: 1pm-5pm
- Plan presentations: 5.30pm- 8pm

Where: Sint Eustatius Public Library

Drinks and bites included

Presentations by Mart Reiling & Ineke van Kapel and Unesco

Teena Lopes ▶ **Statia Community Development**
9 december · 📍

Vind ik leuk · Reageren · Meldingen ontvangen · Delen

👍 5 personen vinden dit leuk.

Alida Francis Wish I could attend. Thanks for sharing. One Love!
9 december om 21:33 · Vind ik leuk

Schrijf een reactie... 📷 😊

Suggesties voor groepen Alles weergeven

Rooms/ Kamer/ Zimmer in Utrecht
Nine de Jonge is lid geworden
[+ Lid worden](#)

Tourism development vision: The whole Island

In the previous chapter, a development criteria was mentioned for sustainable development of tourism: develop with demand, flexible and step by step. As a start; we think there are two things that should be done before thinking about large developments as expanding infrastructure and accommodations.

1. Broaden the (one-day) activity possibilities for divers tourists aside of the diving activity.
2. Increase the touristic program; use the qualities of the entire island.

Currently, scuba diving is by far the largest touristic activity on Statia. Most, some say almost all, tourists visiting Statia come for the underwater attractions that the surrounding marine parks offer. Being told, Statia has world class scuba diving sites. Touristic activity is mainly limited to this activity and is mainly located around the diving shops in lower town, where also some restaurants and small beaches can be found. The (upper-water) landscape of Statia, is in contradiction, hardly functioning as a touristic 'attraction'.

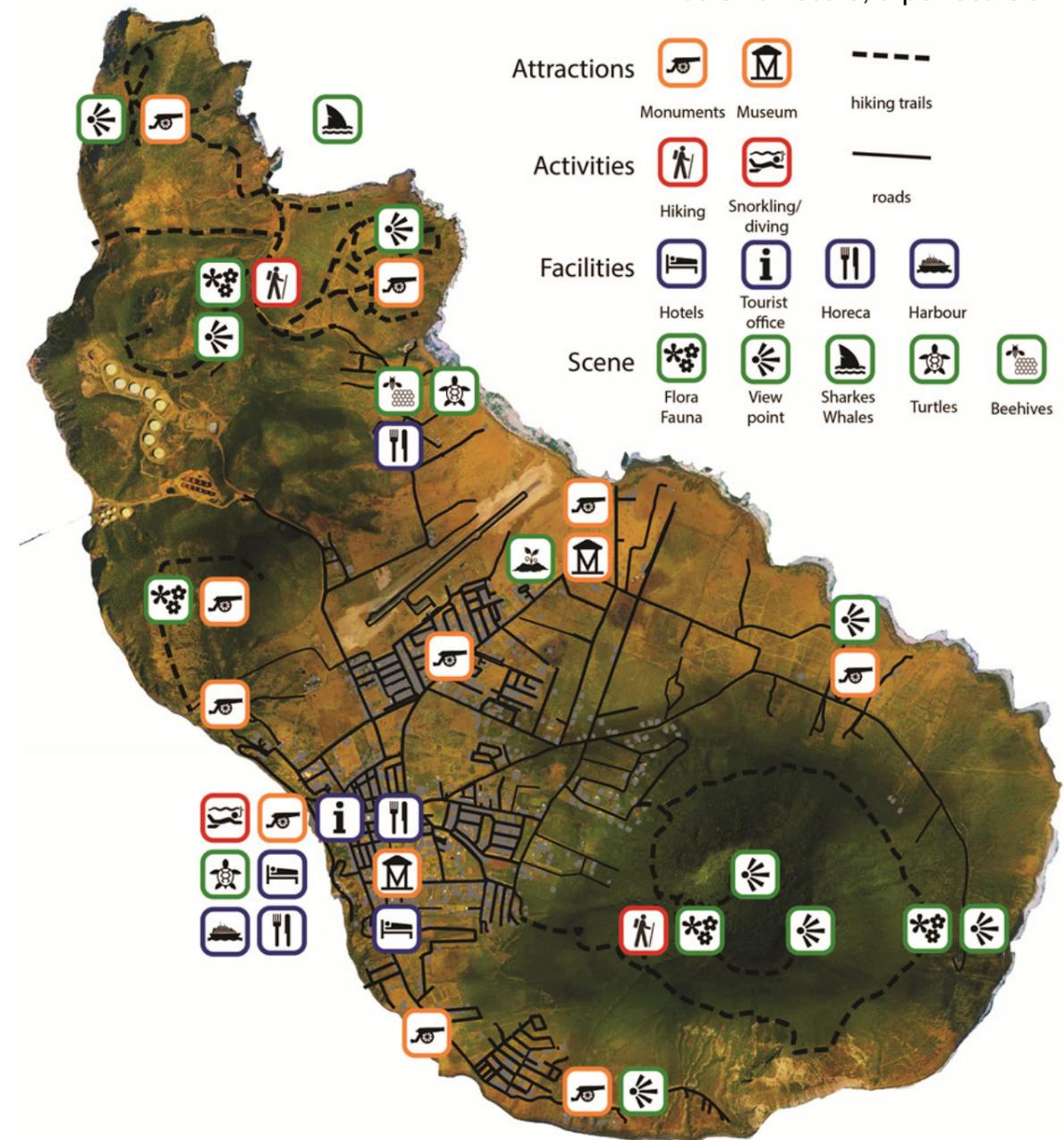
The divers or the few other tourists do not often take the effort to explore Statia beyond lower town. In addition only two airplanes fly to the island daily, which is the only (and very expensive and inflexible) way of reaching the island. Therefore, hardly any tourists visit the island aside of diving.

We believe, this is not the result from a lack of touristic quality that can be found here, as the island has many interesting and beautiful places to see for different niches of tourists (including divers).

Touristic qualities: active exploration

To start with, the island has different natural qualities. The Quill has a large diversity of Flora and Fauna, with an accessible volcanic crater with a tropical forest in it as a main natural attraction. The edges of the Quill then offer magnificent views over the cliffs, to the ocean around it and the surrounding islands. On the opposite side of the island, the Boven area is beautiful for hiking, offering differentiating scenes, views and landscapes. On top of that; the turbulent history of the island has left it's traces around the entire island, it is scattered with ruins and monuments worth visiting.

To put it simple; we think Statia is, also due to it's small scale, a perfect Island to **explore**.



Problem: unconnected

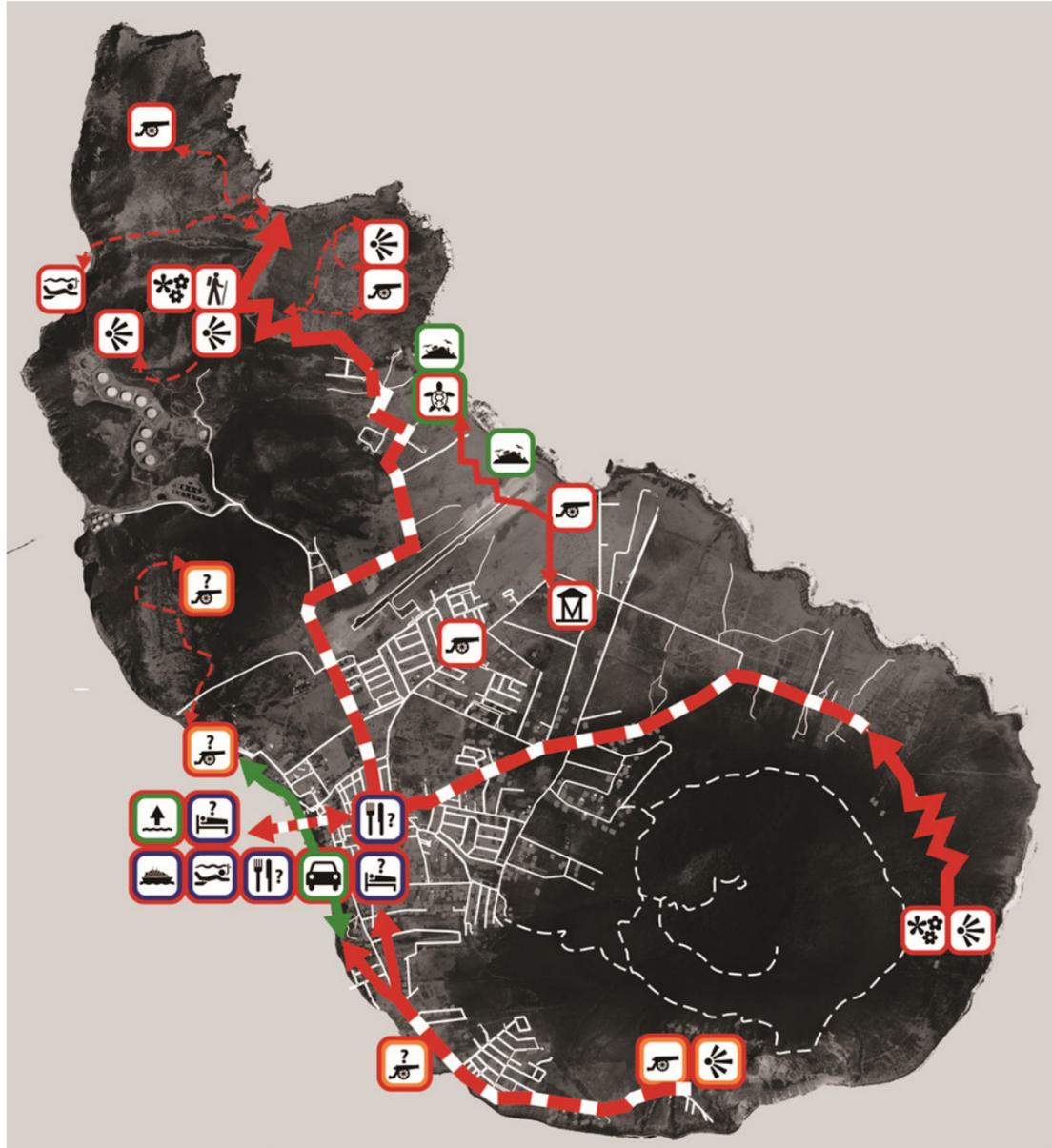
A colleague student at Statia was working on making a profile of the divers visiting the Island. Almost all of them had very high incomes, and were very interested in seeing and learning more of the island (and were capable and willing to spend money on it). Though, they did not see where and how to do that. We believe, the lack of easy accessibility of all these qualities is a large part of the problem in this. Public transport does not really exist on the island; neither can you order a taxi properly.

As tourists do not have access to cars either themselves at Statia, their only mode of transport is walking. Then, walking to the botanical gardens takes you upto 1,5 hours (through the heat) and 1,5 hours back. No one does that. Walking in the Boven area, means you have to walk more than an hour (through unshaded and rather boring land) to get to the starting point of the walking trails. No one takes that effort. Going to white wall and Fort the Wind is also an hour walking easily. The ruins that could be found on your way to there are unfindable in addition.

In addition the possibilities to reach the island would have to be expanded and cheapened, either through more flights, water ferries or (small?) cruise ships. Though, that is a chicken-egg story. The touristic program is underdeveloped because not many tourists visit the island, but no-one might also visit the island because there is no touristic program. As landscape architects, we cannot directly influence the amount of planes flying to Statia, not the amount of cruise ships. What we can do is think about ways to increase the touristic function of all these qualities, increasing the attractiveness as tourism destination, enlarging the demand to reach the island.

Vision: make it explorable

In this, we think there is already so much to gain if the qualities on the island would become better accessible. This could be done very simple; by for example starting to hire some All Terrain Bike's (ATB), a StatiATB. Getting to the botanical garden then only takes you 30 minutes instead 1,5 hours. Also White Wall and the Boven area would become reachable in 20 minutes.



Proposed Routes

I explored possibly interesting touristic routes for this way of transport (on a bike that I hired at CNSI), and would propose three marked routes.

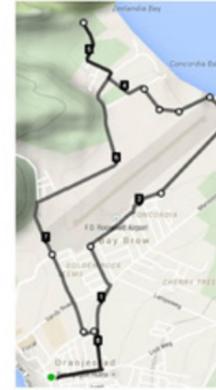
These three different routes would take you to all the qualities of the island within very short times. The slopes are often not steeper than 7/8 %, all very doable for an average (active) tourist. The three routes are doable on one day, but if you take it easy, you would be able to explore the island for three days in an easy pace.

In addition, the bike could become a touristic icon for the island, setting the character of the touristic character of the island (active and explorative). The fact that Statia is an Island could make it extra doable, stealing the bikes is rather useless (where do you take it?).

Zeelandia Route

8,6 km
35 min. riding time
188 meters up

Oranjestad - Sugar Mill -
Plantation House -
Concordia Battery - Zeelandia



Battery Route

7,2 km
40 min. riding time
250 meters up

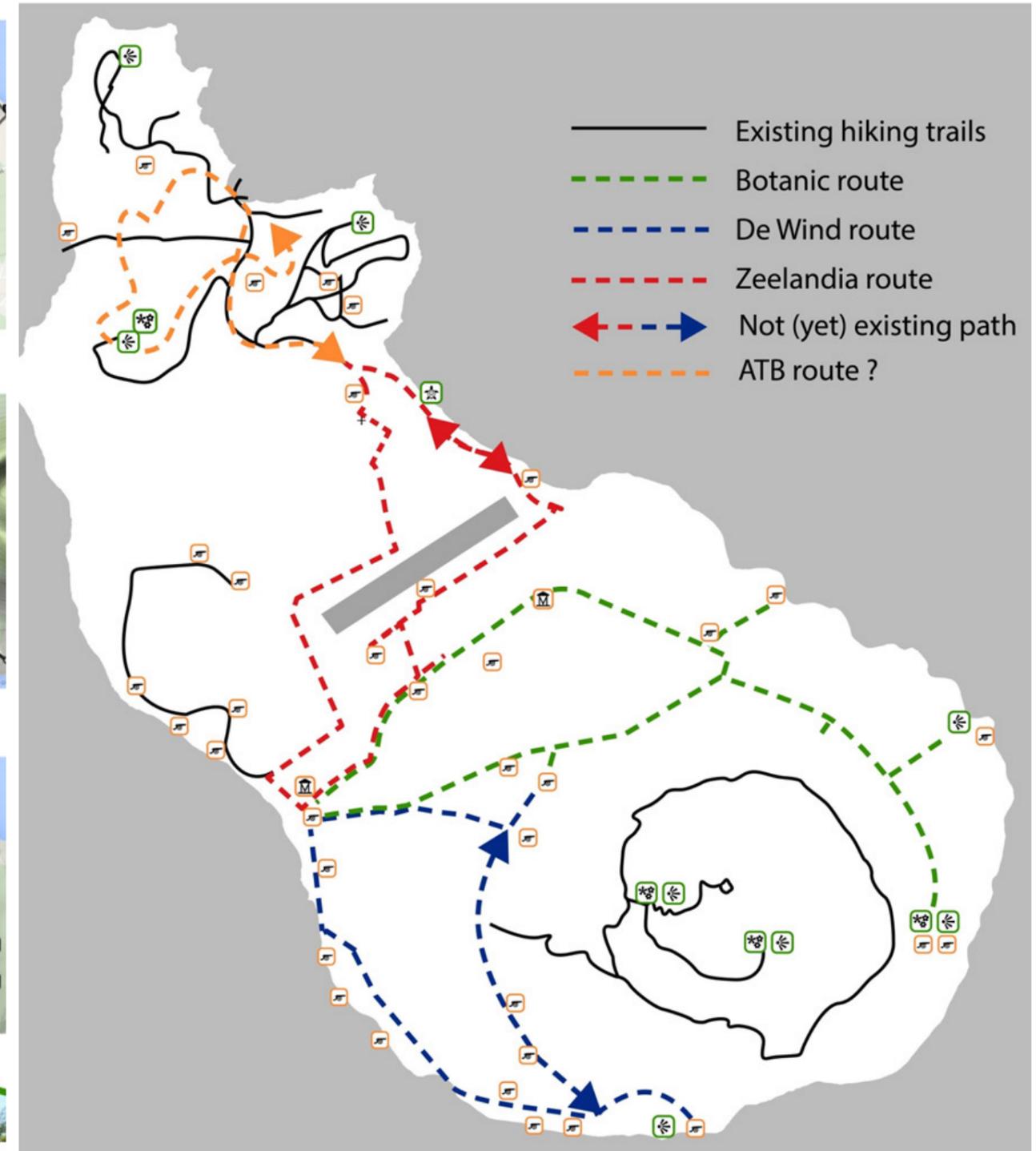
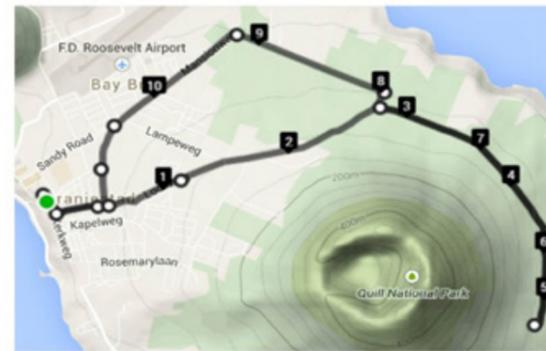
Oranjestad - Nassau's Battery -
Federick's Battery - De Windt Battery -
ruins - Oranjestad



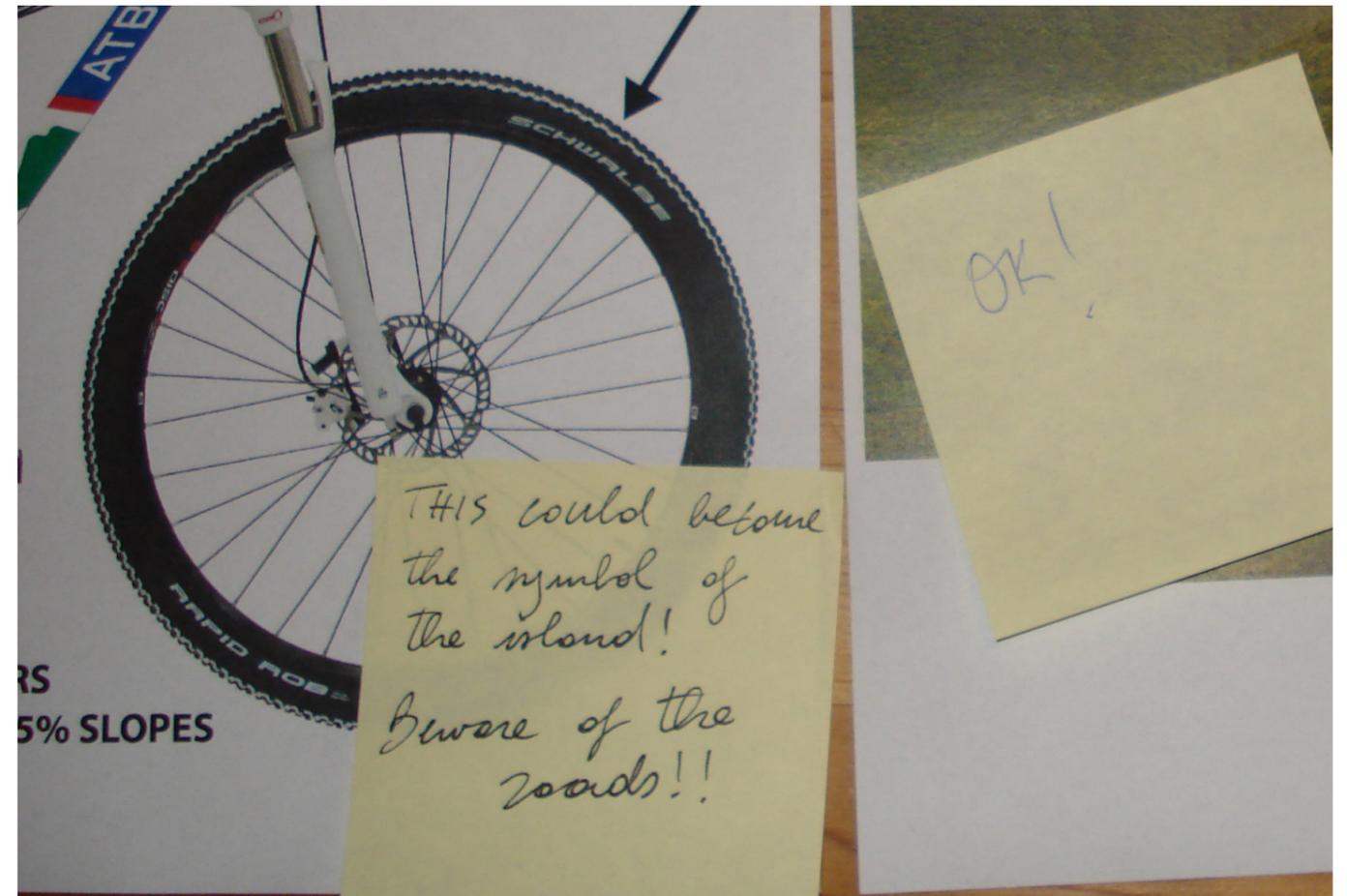
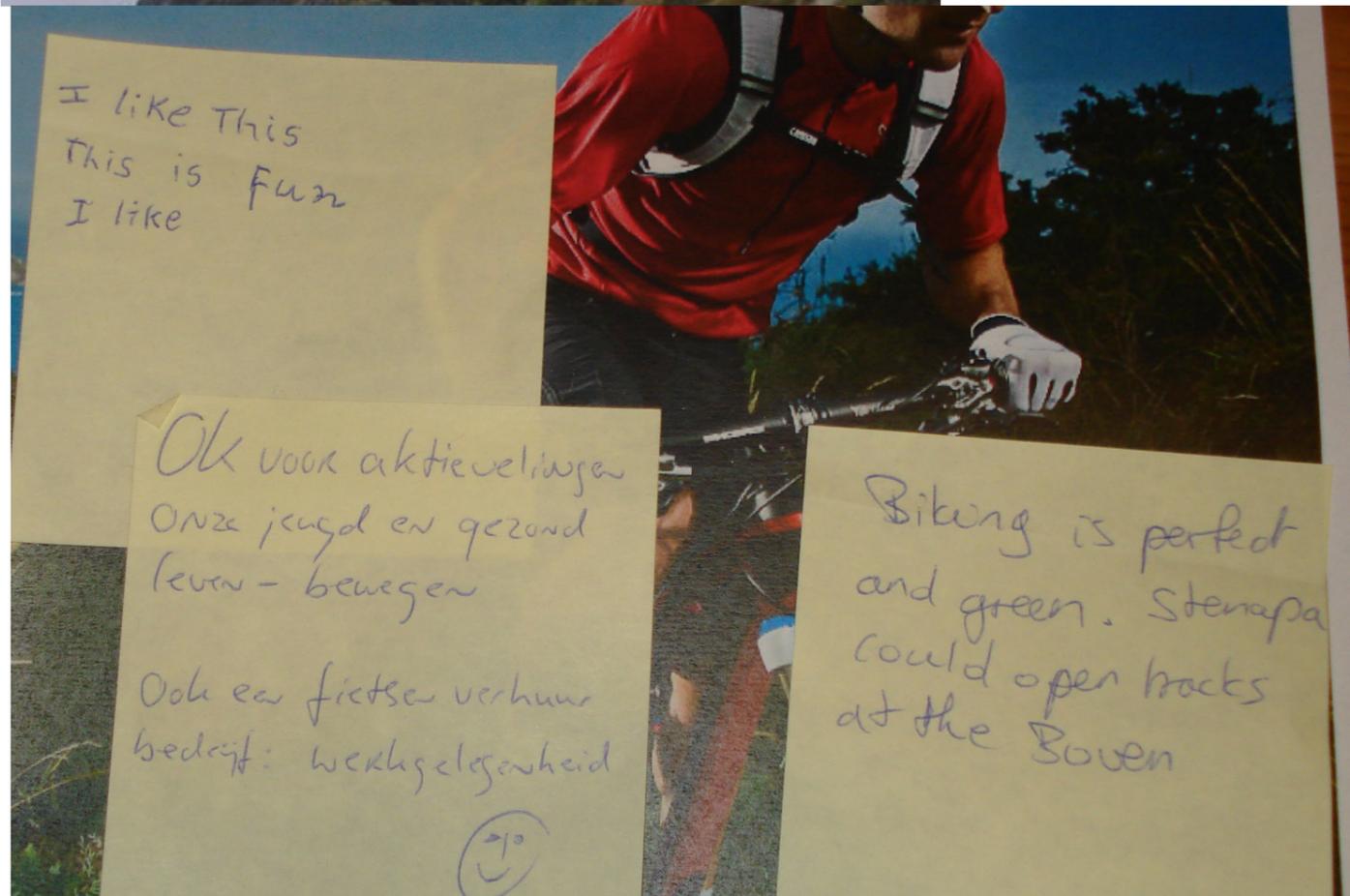
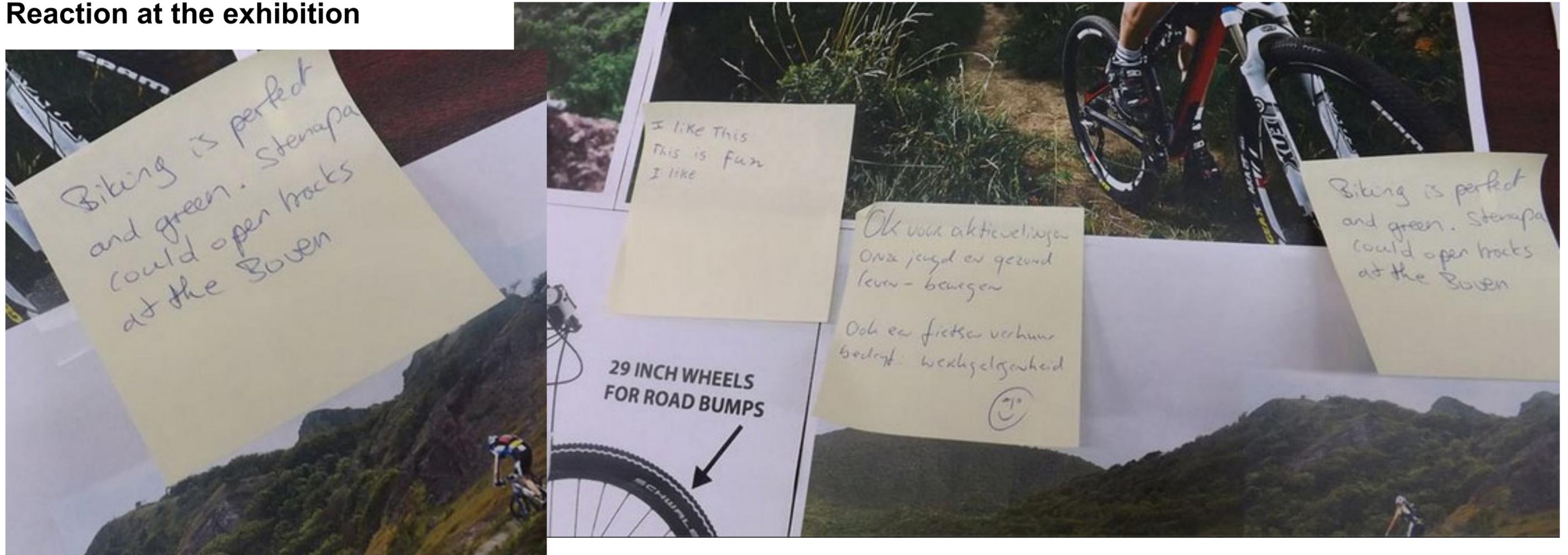
Botanic garden Route

11,7 km
45 min. riding time
197 meters up

Oranjestad - Botanical gardens -
Plantation Ruins - Museum -
Sugar Mill ruins - Oranjestad



Reaction at the exhibition



**Tourism development
vision: Zeelandia Bay**



The area

Zeelandia Bay has the only real large beach at Statia, although swimming is not recommended here due to strong currents. The beach is now and then used for seaturtles to lay eggs, for Stenapa and Statia people, the ecologic value of this area is highly important and to be protected. Zeelandia offers a great view over the ocean towards St Kitts and the volcano of Statia. In addition, the northern part of the bay borders the entrance point of the Boven area. At the same time, the climate is (extremely) windy (including salt spray) and is located rather remote from any facilities in Oranjestad.

The important question is then; what developments would threaten these ecologic values? In a conversation with Hannah Meddan, CEO of Stenapa, this matter was discussed. For sea turtles, presence of too much light is first of all a concern. They regard these as the moon, which disorients and distracts them. Second, presence of too much human activity can be a potential threat. Future developments should take this into account, and will have to research how much light and how much human activity could be allowed if not harming sea turtle breeding is regarded as a starting point.

Developments

Previously, the area has been home to a hotel that included a restaurant with (being told) high quality meals (which are rear at Statia) on a nice location. Storms have destroyed the hotel some 20 years ago, leaving it ruined in place. The area of the former hotel is still available for developments. The government owns basically the whole area (see figure 4.1) a plot of 55.000 m², which is for sale at very reduced rates. One that buys this property is obliged to develop a hotel or comparable amenities. In the investments guide, a whole range of possible future developments is mentioned; including (eco) hotels, restaurants, spa's, health clubs and even a golf resort. The strategic development plan seems to have a slightly different tendency. Here, the ecologic value of the turtle beach is mentioned as starting point and possible limitation for developments.



Figure 4.1 Property map



Available for touristic developments (55.000m²)

The spatial plan



**Problems:
littered and unconnected**

As said, the area has been for sale for quite some time. Though in the last decade, no developer has yet bought the property and started developments. The strong wind and remote location might have not helped in this, though I see an additional problem that potentially discourages developers. In the middle of the 3 km long bay, right next to the airport, the garbage dump is located. Of all possible garbage dump locations, this location was concerned as the worst. Still, this location got destined as the garbage dump location. It does not only result in environmental damage, it also effects the (mental) image of its surrounding areas. In addition, the area around the former hotel is nowadays filled with broken down containers, garbage and ruins, scattered over the land. In general, it results in a unappealing environments, that contrast with the beauty of the scenery's. As long is the area characterized by this mess, waiting for an investor that sees quality in the area could become a disappointing approach.

In addition, the barbage dump also splits the Bay up into two parts, as crossing it is not possible anymore. As a result, hiking from the southside of the bay to the north side, takes an hour instead of 10 minutes.



Qualities: divers!

At the same time, the area is also characterized by different activities taking place, which might offer interesting possibilities.

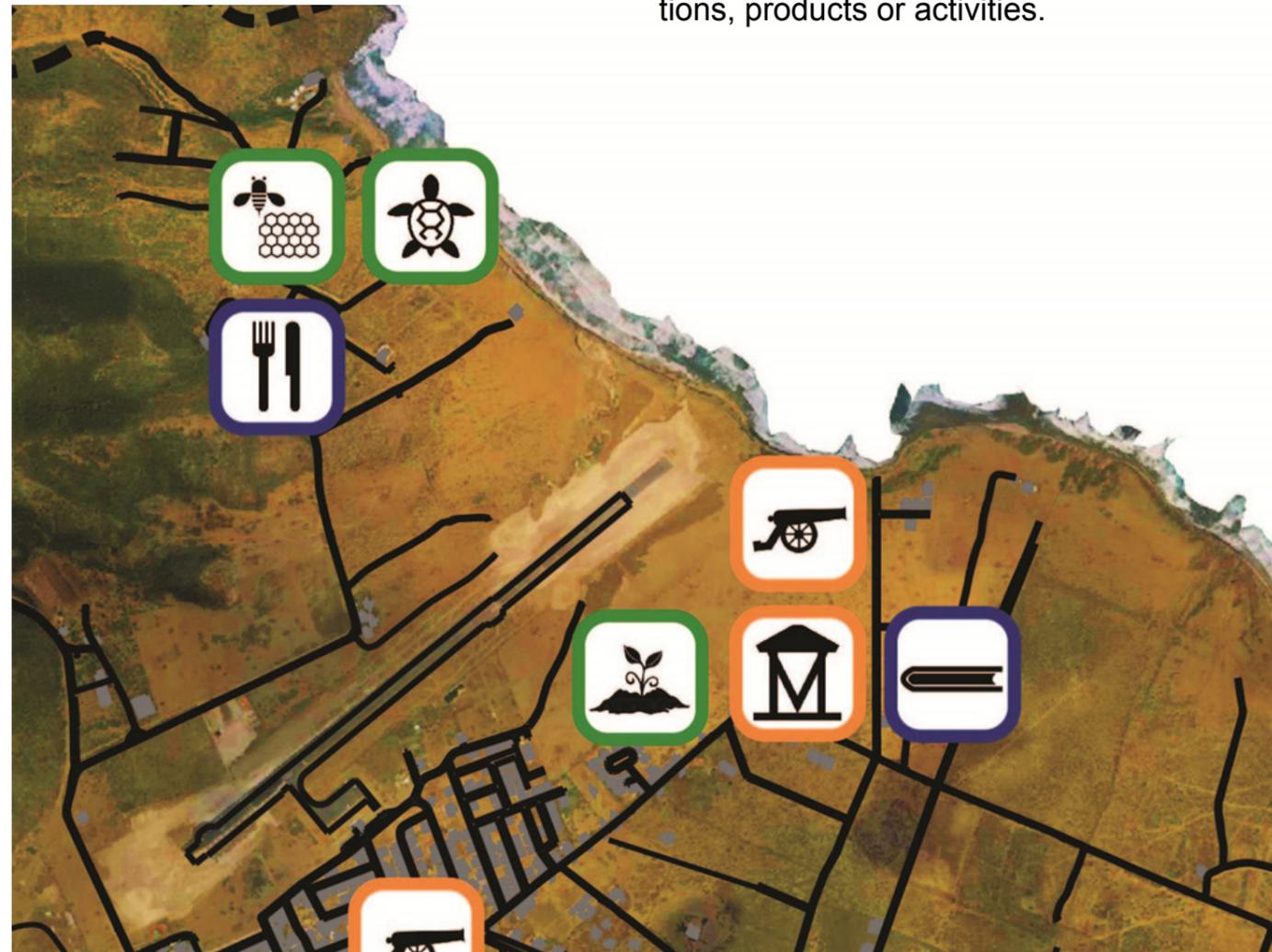
First of all, Stenapa would see the presence of (eco) tourists as valuable, as they could contribute in patrolling the beaches for sea turtles. A potentially nice touristic product/activity.

In addition, the area is home to the largest school of Statia and LVV (agricultural organisation), which are planning to start educational gardens where children could grow vegetables and learn about these activities. They also see possibilities in selling these products. Also CNSI (Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute) is located rather close to this area.

Then, the former hotel (ruins) is home to a large amount of beehives. The invasive plant Coralita is a disaster for the island, it does attract a lot of bees to Statia. I spoke to an imker, making kilos of (delicious!) honey from the beehives and would love to sell it as an Island product.

In addition, the area is home to several interesting monuments (plantation ruins, sugar mill, Concordia battery) and a museum, which is planning to start a distillery producing Statian rum.

And if that did not yet make the area interesting enough, the northern part is the entrance to the best hiking area of Statia; the Boven area. So; the area is home to many potentially touristically interesting organisations, products or activities.



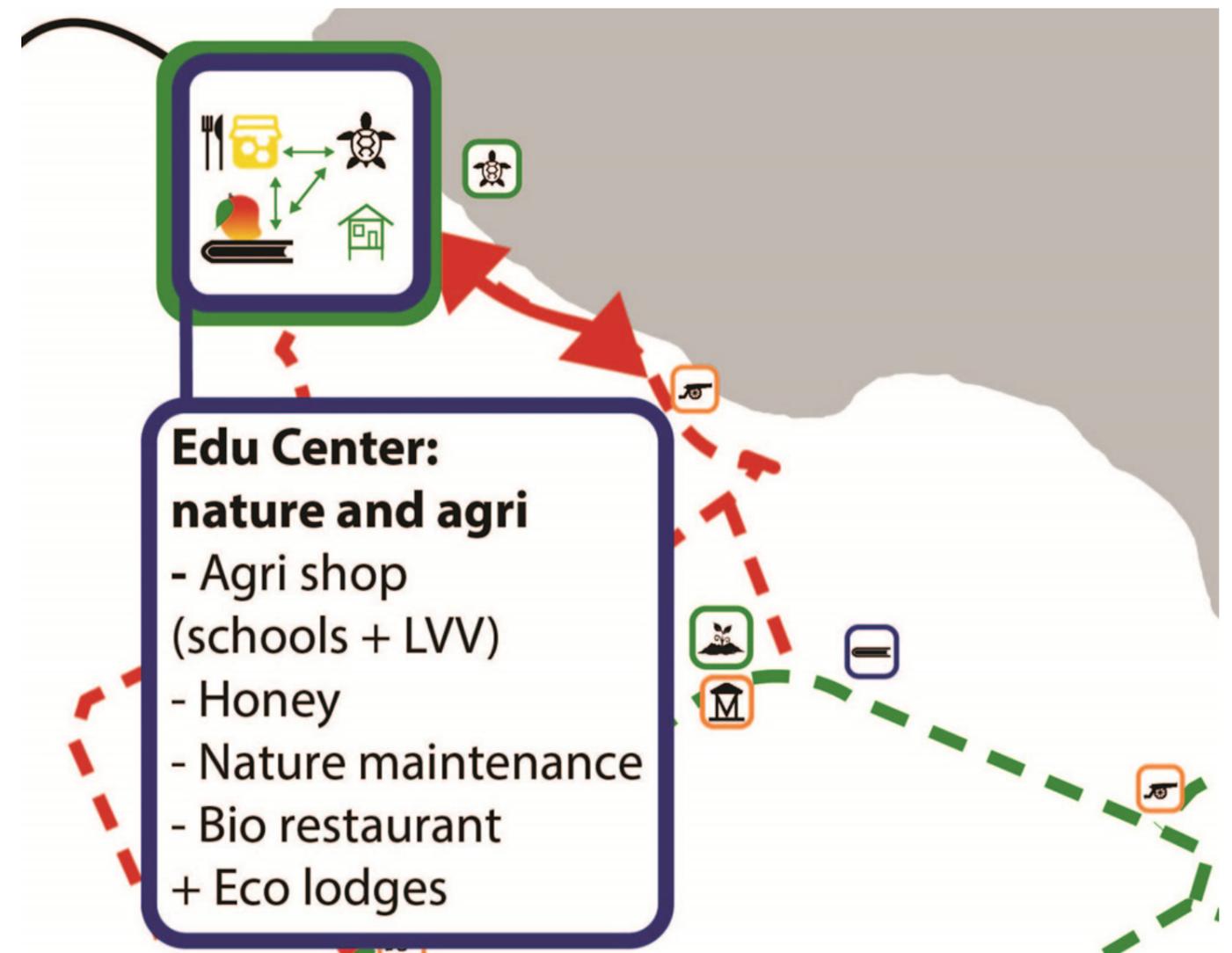
Vision: take initiative

Use the current presence of all these qualities in the area to start a new development; a combined facility/ visitor center. For example, think of a visitor center including other activities such as:

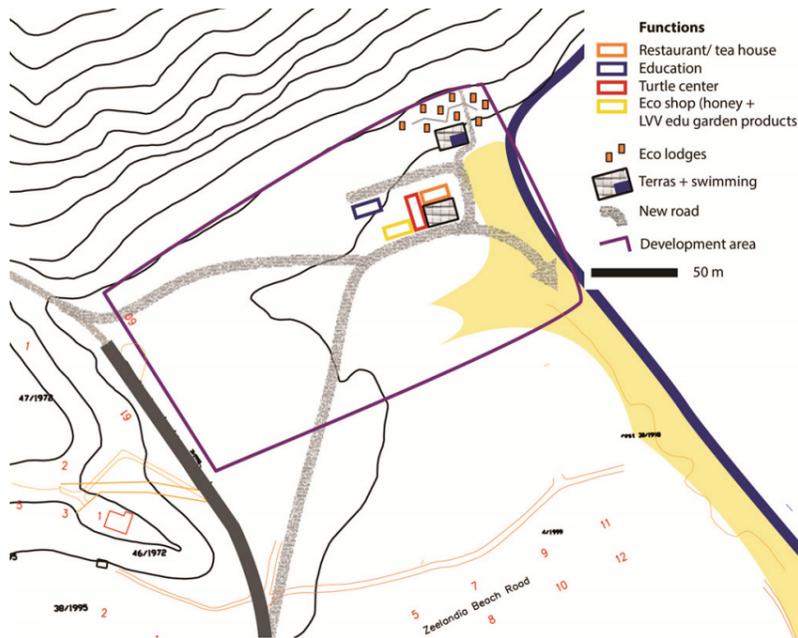
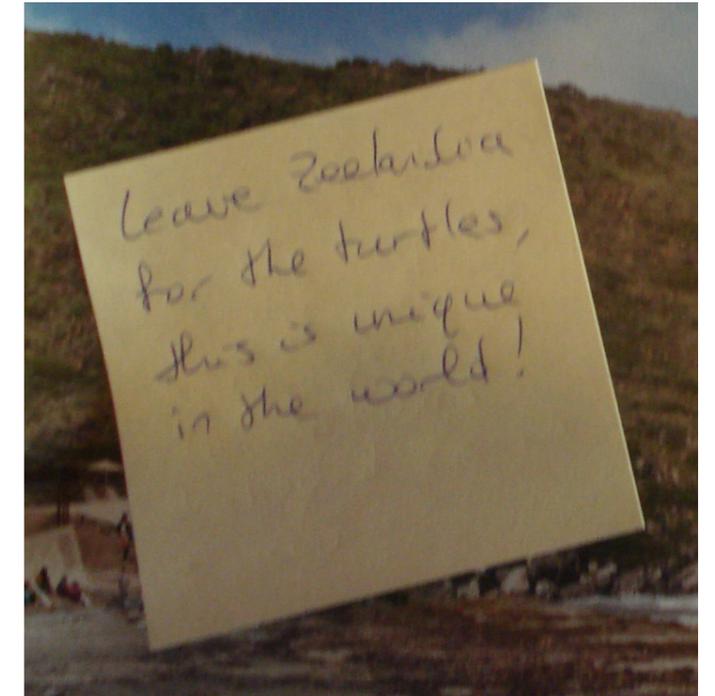
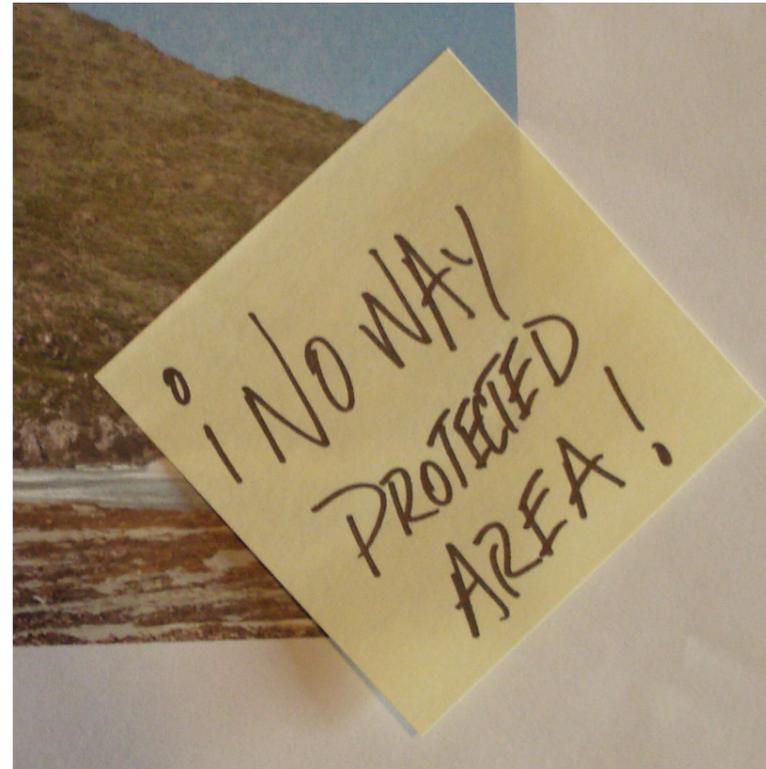
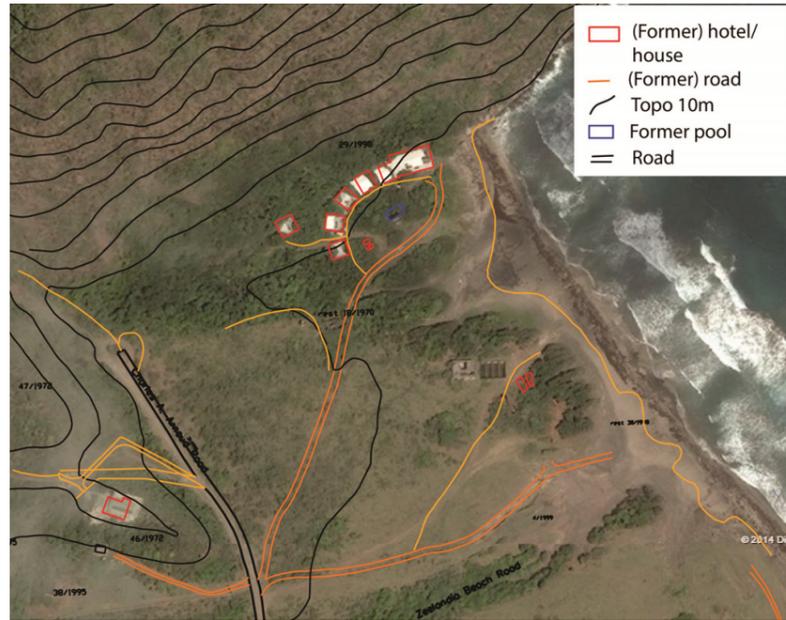
- Eco-market/ store, selling vegetables (from edu-gardens), Statian Honey and Statian rum and other Statian fruits and vegetables (mango's and countless other fruits/ vegetables grow perfectly on surrounding lands).
- (Eco) restaurant/ tea house as an addition to this store.
- Maintenance center/ Information center for Stenapa for the boven area and turtle beach.

Then, the area could finally get the quality it needs to become attractive for investors to make (eco) lodges/ hotel as an addition to this program.

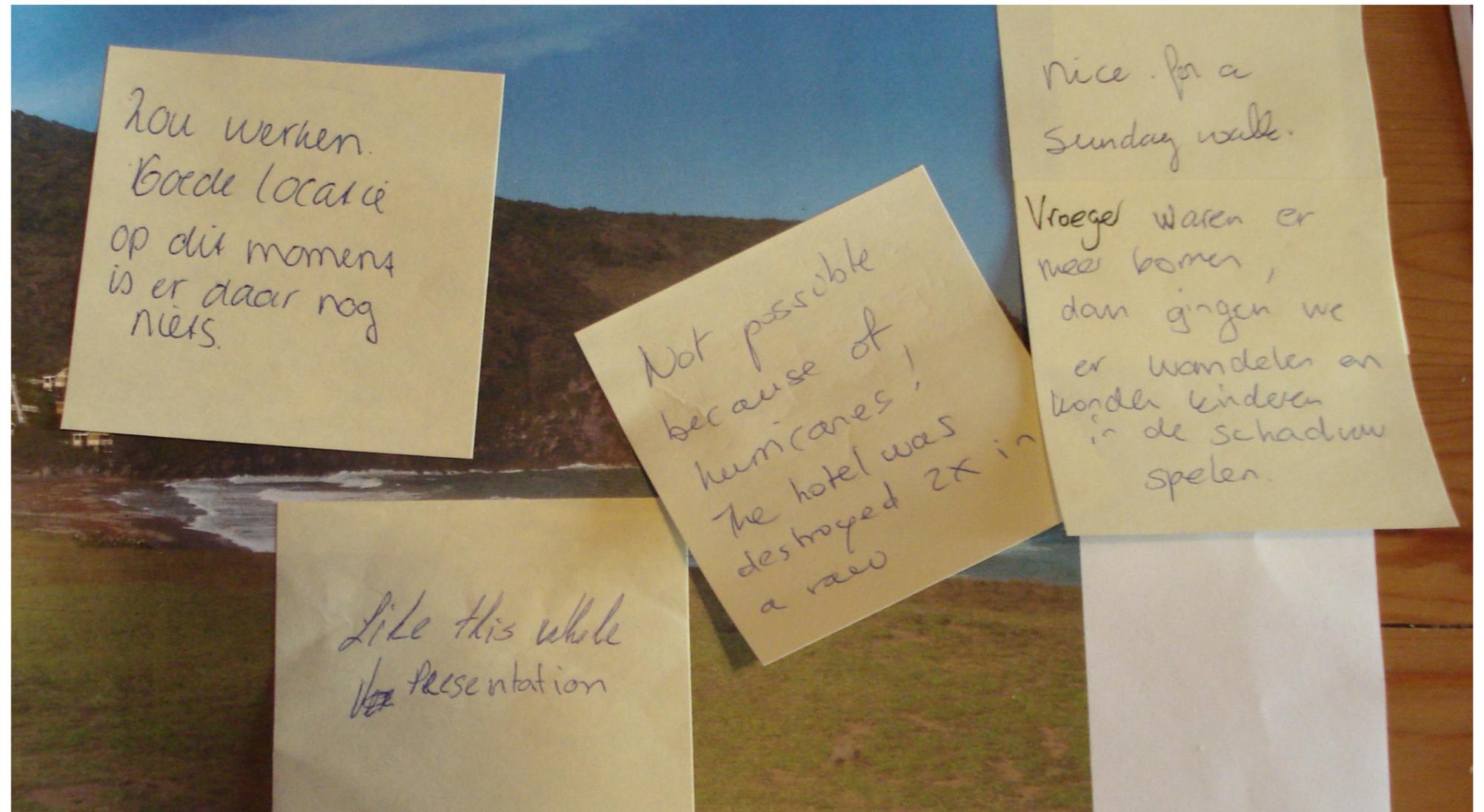
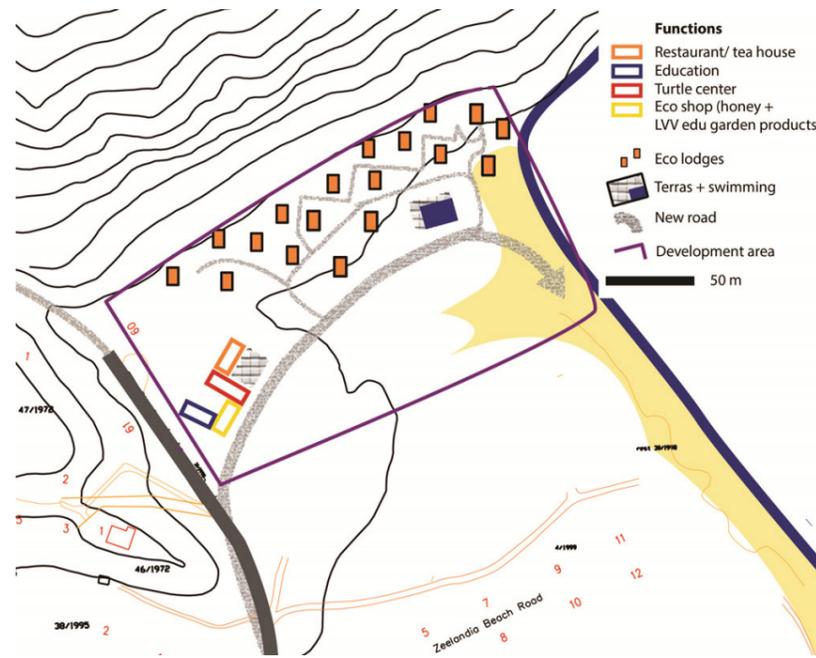
A necessary intervention would be to rebuild a connection/path behind the airport, to make all the qualities connected. To do so, the garbage dump will have to be removed, which is already on the planning.



Small scale eco-facilities + small scale lodges



Same idea on a larger scale



Or luxury and golf..



Teena Lopes ▶ Stacia Community Development
9 december · 🗨️

Vind ik leuk · Reageren · Meldingen ontvangen · Delen

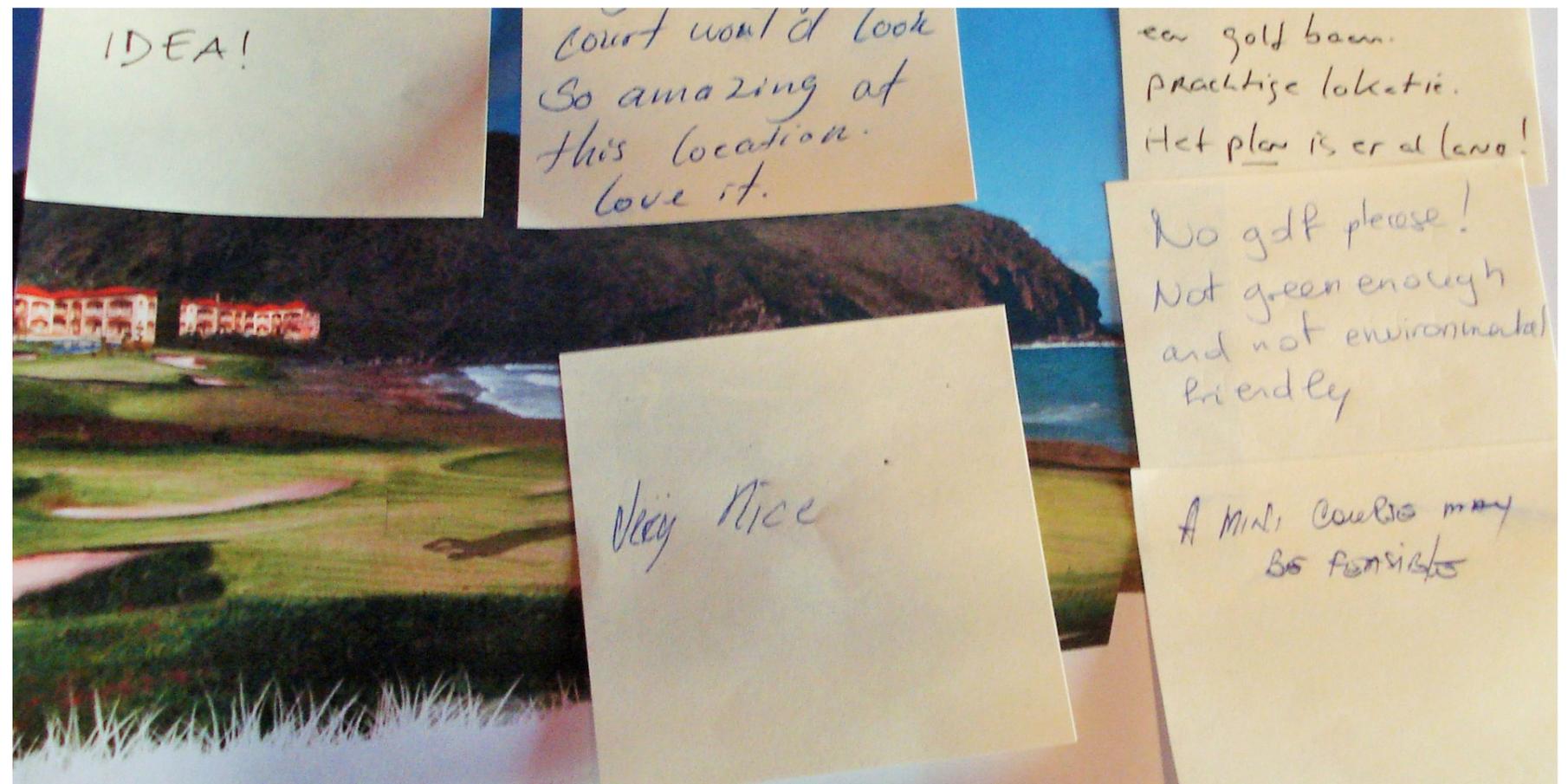
👍 10 personen vinden dit leuk.



Daniela Richardson Love the golf course idea.
9 december om 22:39 · Vind ik leuk · 🔄 1



Germaine M. Maduro Aahh golfcourt. Wonderful idea
10 december om 0:04 · Vind ik leuk · 🔄 1



**Tourism development
vision: Venus Bay**

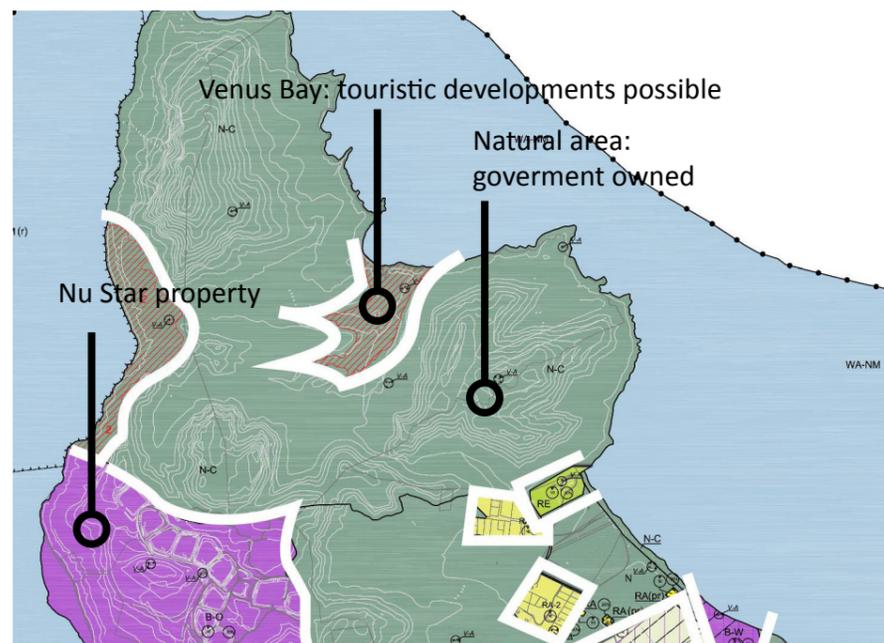


The area

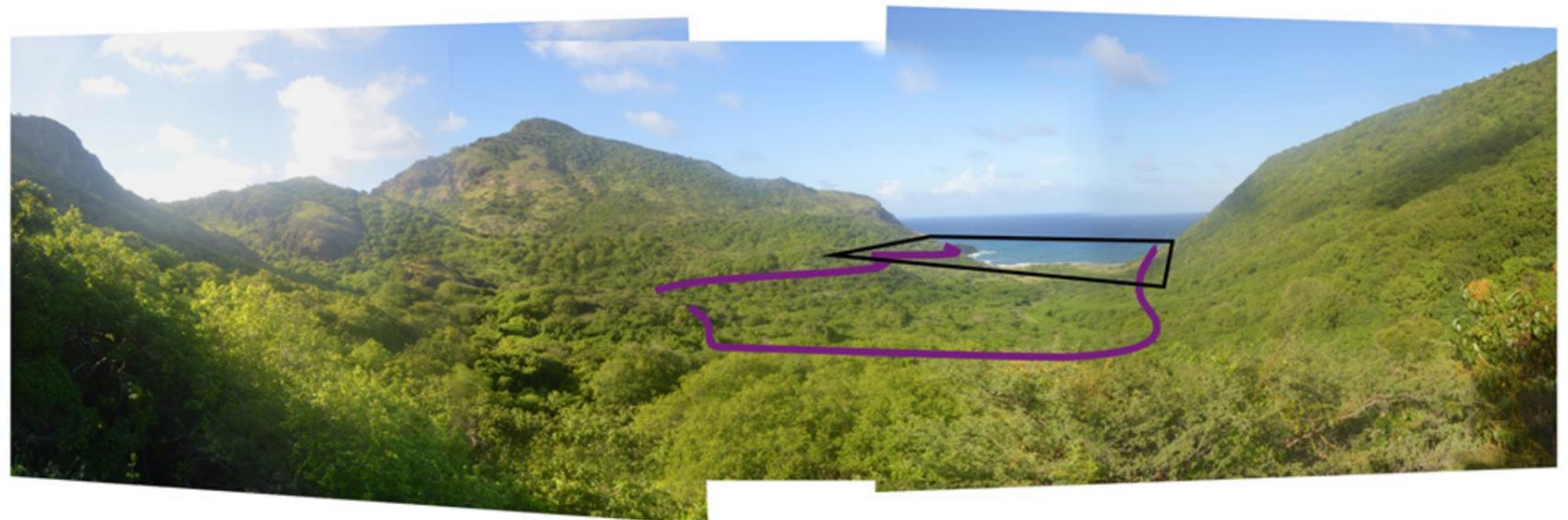
Venus Bay is the most prominent bay of the Boven Natural area. It is a protected nature area where buildings are absent. The government of Statia has assigned Venus Bay where touristic developments could take place, under the line of approximately 20 meters.



The spatial plan



— development area



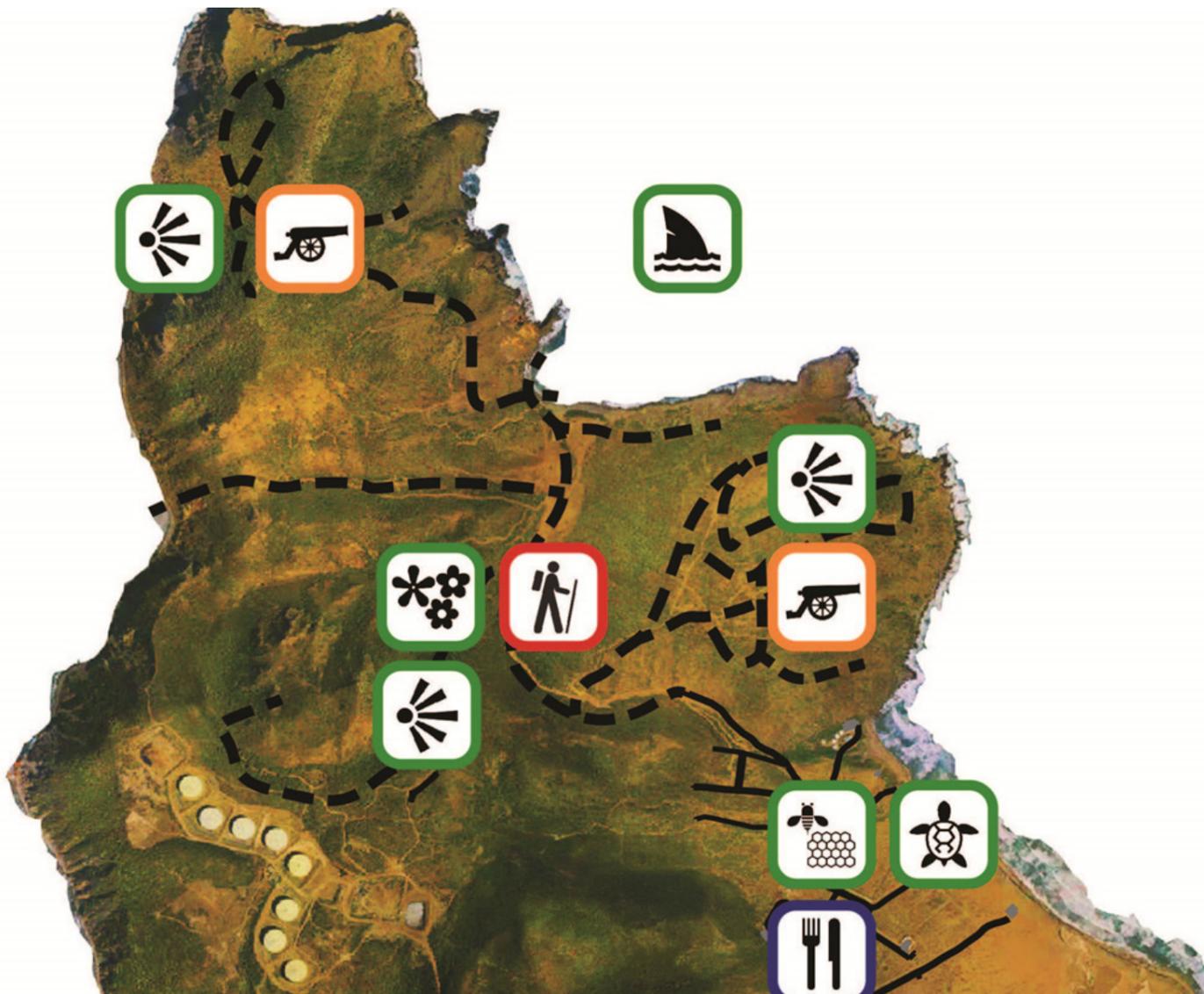
Qualities (B/H)ikers paradise

The boven area provides a large diversity of beautiful hiking routes. Although not maintained very well (not many tourists come there currently), there is enough hiking routes for 3 days of hiking. The hikes take you to three different hill tops, each visiting different monuments and ruins.

The routes are (half) open and scenic, with a large diversity of rock formations and flora and fauna. Venus Bay forms the most beautiful and best accessible Bay in the area, although swimming is not recommended. There is a risk of strong currents, but also large amounts of sharks can be spotted from the beach. I enjoyed hiking here most of Statia, I would have definitely stayed over some nights in Venus Bay if that would have been possible. Venus Bay could in my vision rather easily function as such.

Problem: unconnected

Though, there is one big problem in developing here; it very hard to get there. As mentioned before, getting to the start of the Boven routes already takes you an hour walking or more. Getting to Venus bay is another 45 minutes by foot, there is only one route going in there. Though not so long ago, Venus Bay was accessible by car. A recent storm then destroyed parts of the road. Therefore, thinking about developing restaurants, spa's and hotels in this location is rather unrealistic. No one will walk two hours for a restaurant.

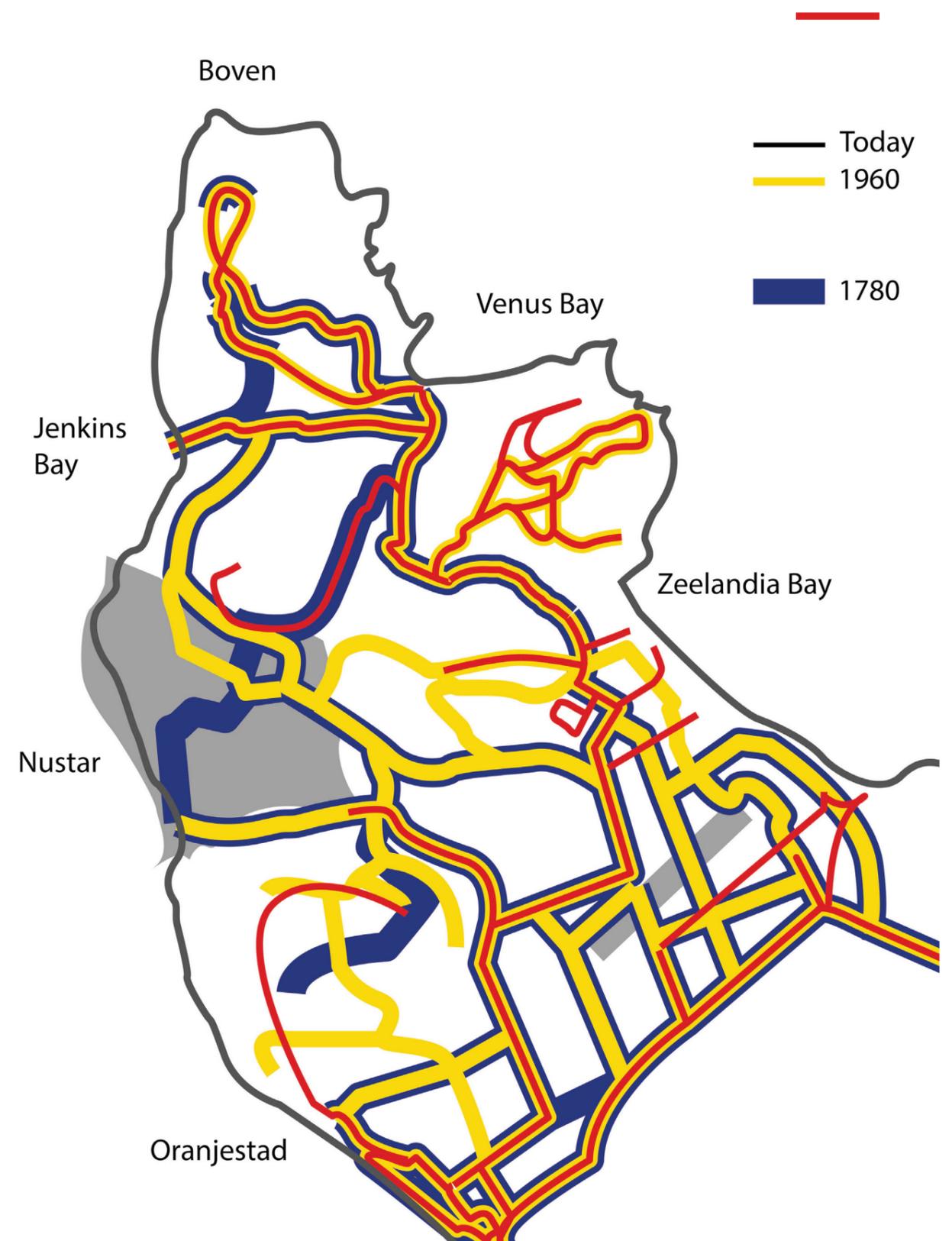


Historic accessibility

This made me raise the question; was the area always so hard to access? Studying historical maps, shows that this was not the

case. The whole Boven area has in between 1780 and 1960 always been full of pathways, Venus bay was accessible through more than one path only.

All maps between 1780 and 1960, for example show that Venus Bay always used to be connected to Oranjestad, through the western Valleys. But since the emergence of NuStar, this part of the Boven area is not accessible anymore.



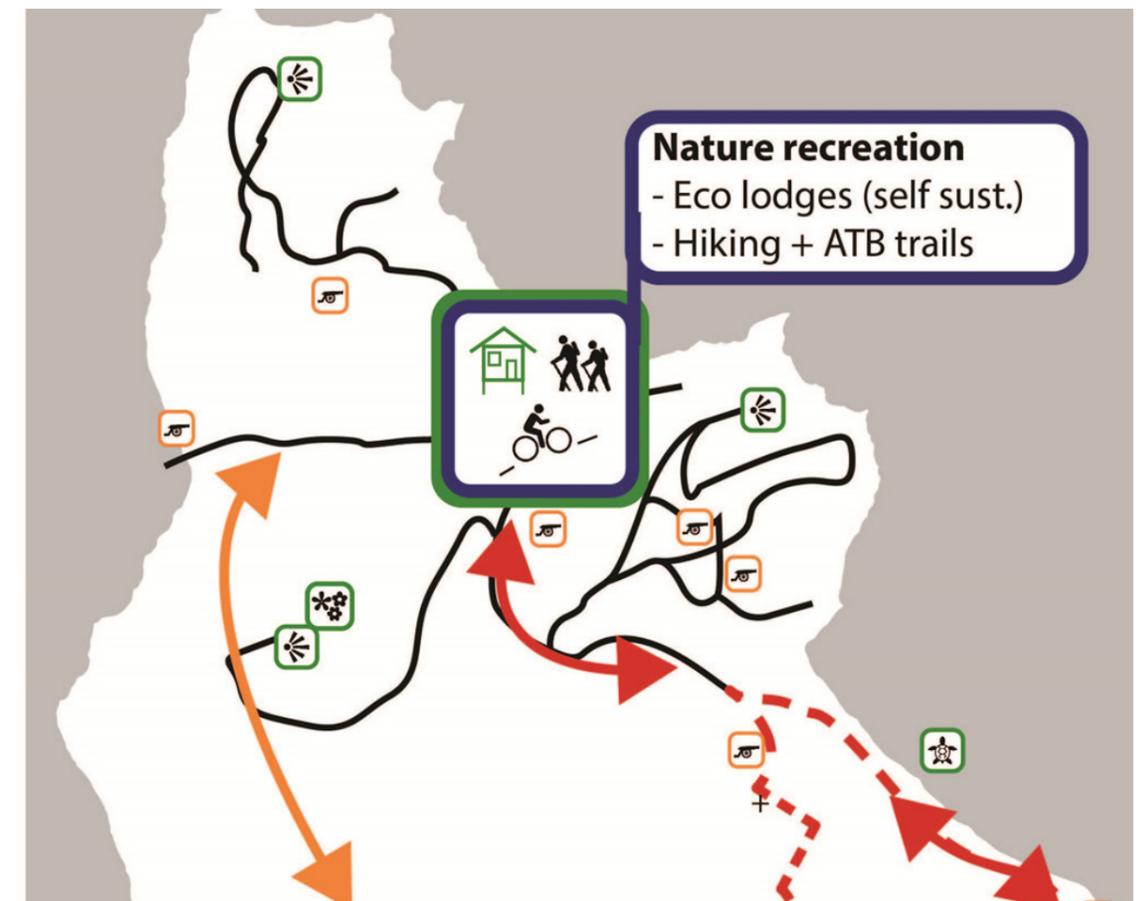
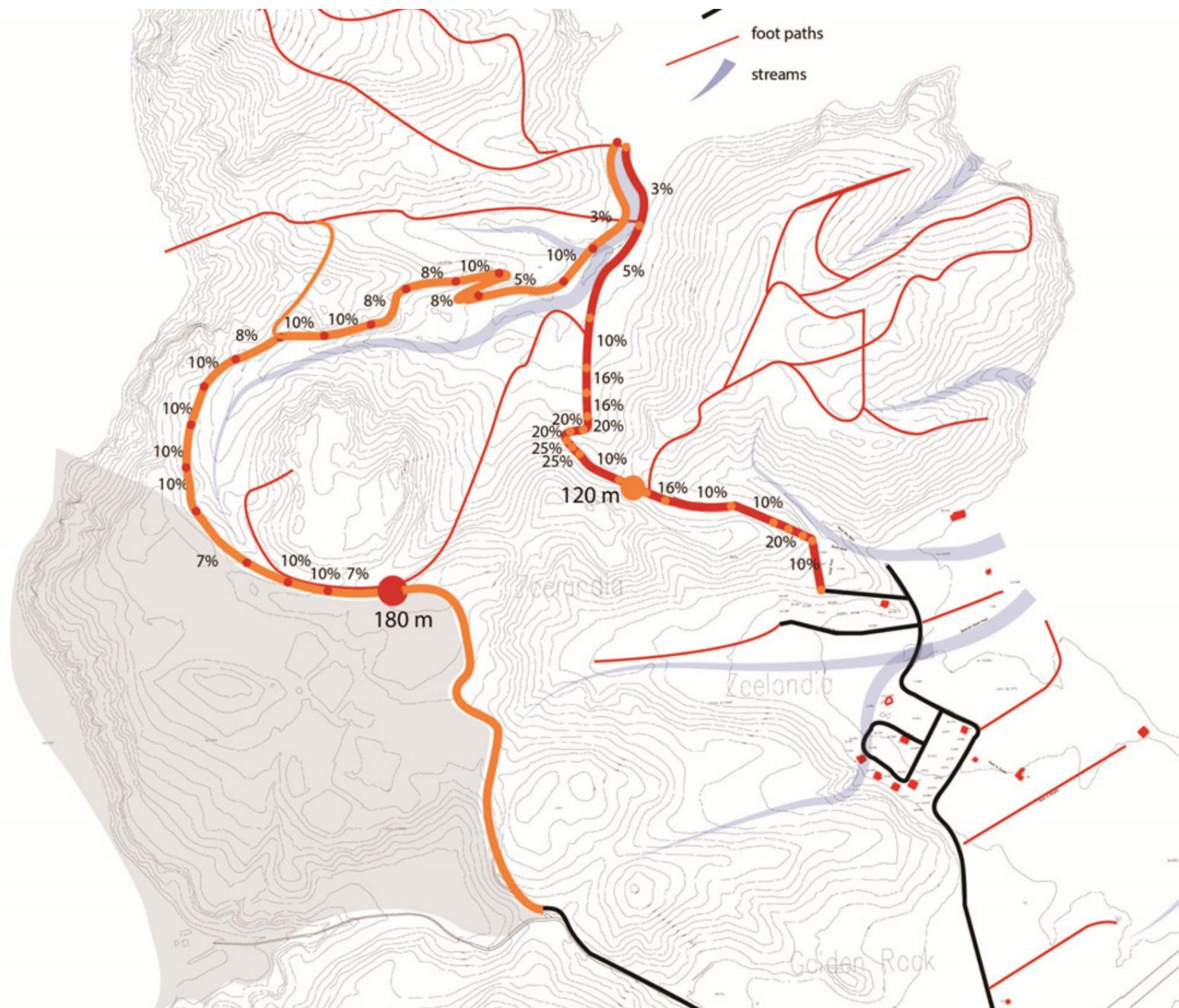
For the Boven area, that is a rather important fact. The slopes of the western Valley, does not get steeper than 10%. In contrast, the eastern Valley has slopes upto 25%, making it only accessible by strong 4 wheel drive cars if it would be restored.

Vision: development based on connectivity

Currently, some small, self-sustainable lodges could be developed at Venus Bay, for people that wish to hike for 2-3 days in the area. They would only be accessible by foot, and would not be linked to electricity networks.

Water would have to be collected at site; small solar panels could provide electricity. Larger developments can in addition only take place if the area becomes better accessible. Restoring the eastern road could help, but it would still only make Venus Bay accessible by four wheel drive cars or foot.

Restoring the much gentler western route though, would make the area possibly accessible for any car driver, mountain biker or hiker. It would in addition be a valuable extra route, linked to other hiking routes. These routes would then become round trips, instead of one-way routes. Though, this would only be possible after NuStar leaves this area. Although that might not happen in the near future, it is not unrealistic. The motivation of developing tourism is also partly to decrease the dependence on NuStar, as they might suddenly leave one day.



An activity base camp

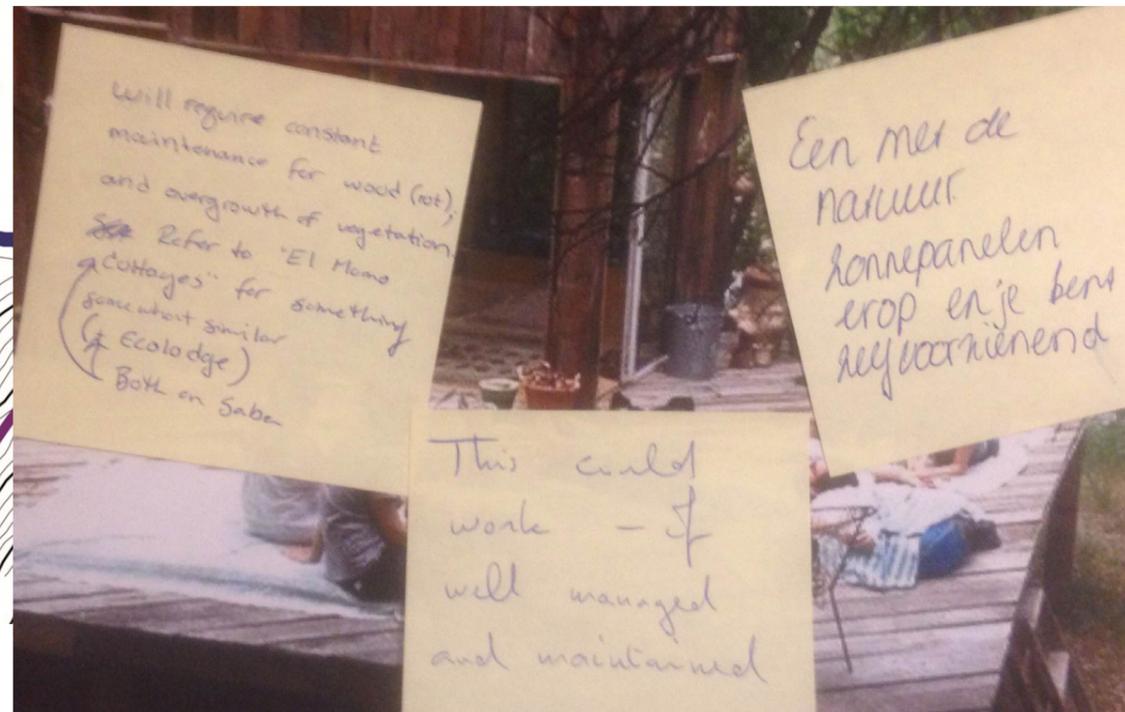
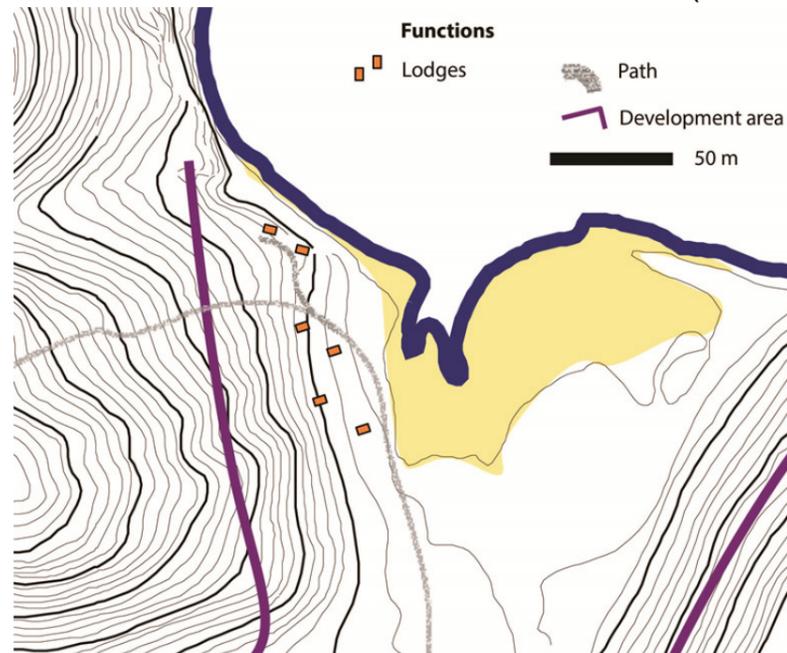
Self sustainable lodges in Venus Bay which could already be developed without the existence of a car connection. (active) Nature lovers could stay here for one or a few nights, relying on the resources at the site or brought in (food for example).

At an height of 3-10 meters, the lodges will not be effected by river floods, stand on relatively gentle slopes and will provide a great view on the surroundings.

The lodges are then lifted from the topography, reducing their footprint and ecologic damage. A roof is hanging loosely above the lodge; to let the wind blow under it and take the heat out. Airconditioning would then not be necessary.

The lodges could be built from wood, available on the Island. Metal and concrete would only be used to enforce the structure for a storm proof lodge.

(Reference: Endomico, Mexico)



Further development?

Based upon whether this concepts will succeed, it is possible to think of further developing Venus Bay. A new car, bike and walking connection to Venus Bay could stimulate this. Connecting Venus Bay through the western valley would then most improve the accessibility, which could make larger developments more realistic. The lodge area could expand with for example natural spa's/pools or a restaurant/bar.

Further research could answer questions on how a water or electricity system could be engineered and designed at this location.



Vind ik niet meer leuk · Reageren · Meldingen stopzetten · Delen

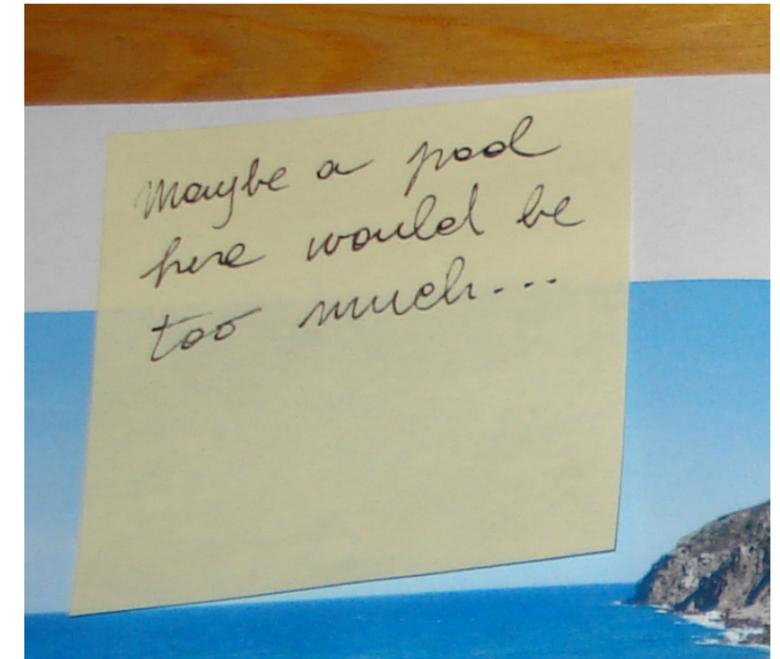
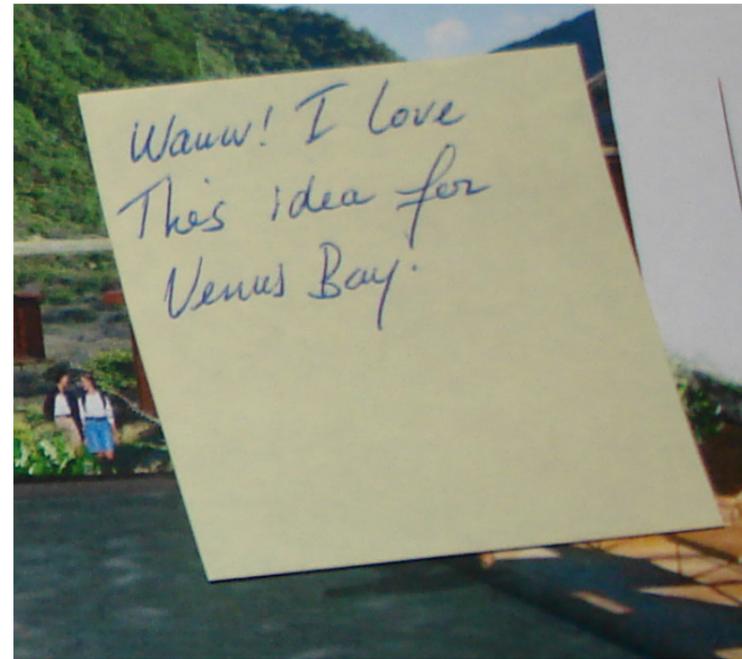
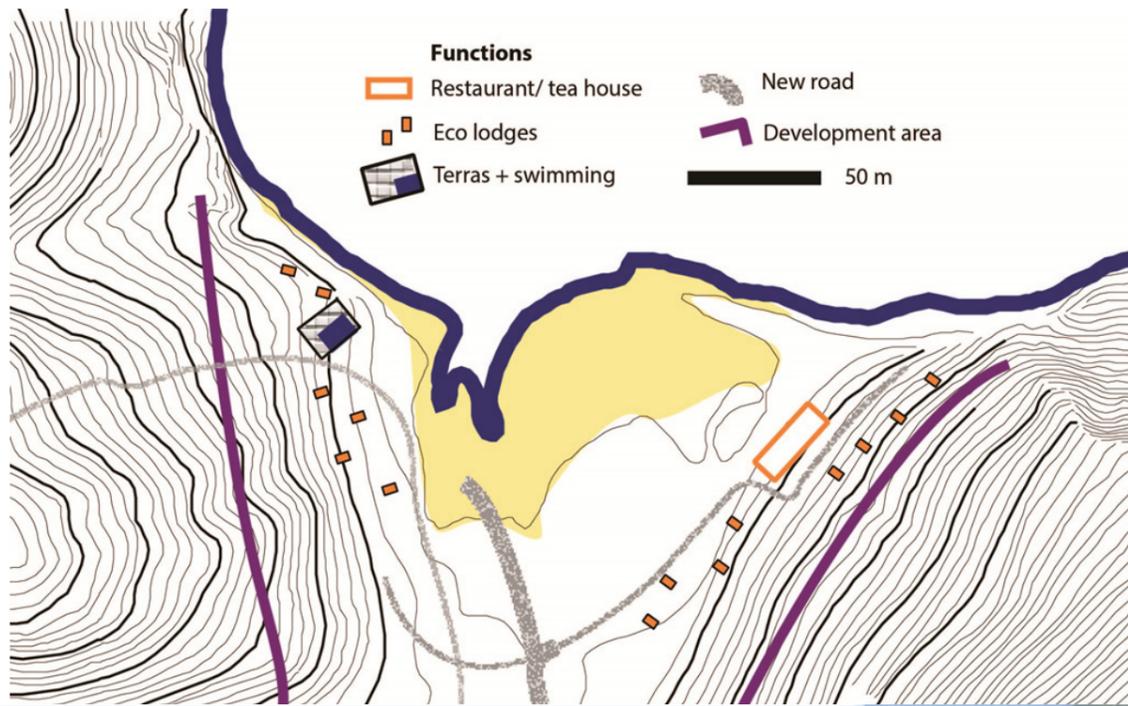
Jijzelf, Thomas van den Berg en 5 anderen vinden dit leuk.

Alida Francis I see most of these designs are offering a diversity in new products and services that currently nonexistent on the island. Where there were limitations before, this plan is offering creative possibilities. This is what I call thinking outside the box. The only advice I have is to make sure there is a sound management plan is place for the upkeep. One Love!
 9 december om 20:50 · Vind ik leuk · 2

Teena Lopes Ineke van Kapel and Mart Reiling notes..
 9 december om 20:53 · Vind ik leuk

Teena Lopes Area's include Venus Bay, Ruins at the Bay, Zeelandia etc
 9 december om 21:06 · Vind ik leuk

Schrijf een reactie...  



Teena Lopes ▶ Statia Community Development
9 december · 🗨️

Vind ik leuk · Reageren · Meldingen ontvangen · Delen

👍 8 personen vinden dit leuk.

Alida Francis This looks like Venus Bay. I don't know the feasibility of building on this side. The designs do look ECO friendly and fits well into the Stq'tian way of life. Bring on the investors and show them the potential. One Love!

9 december om 20:57 · Vind ik leuk · 🔄 2

Schrijf een reactie... 📷 😊

Suggesties voor groepen

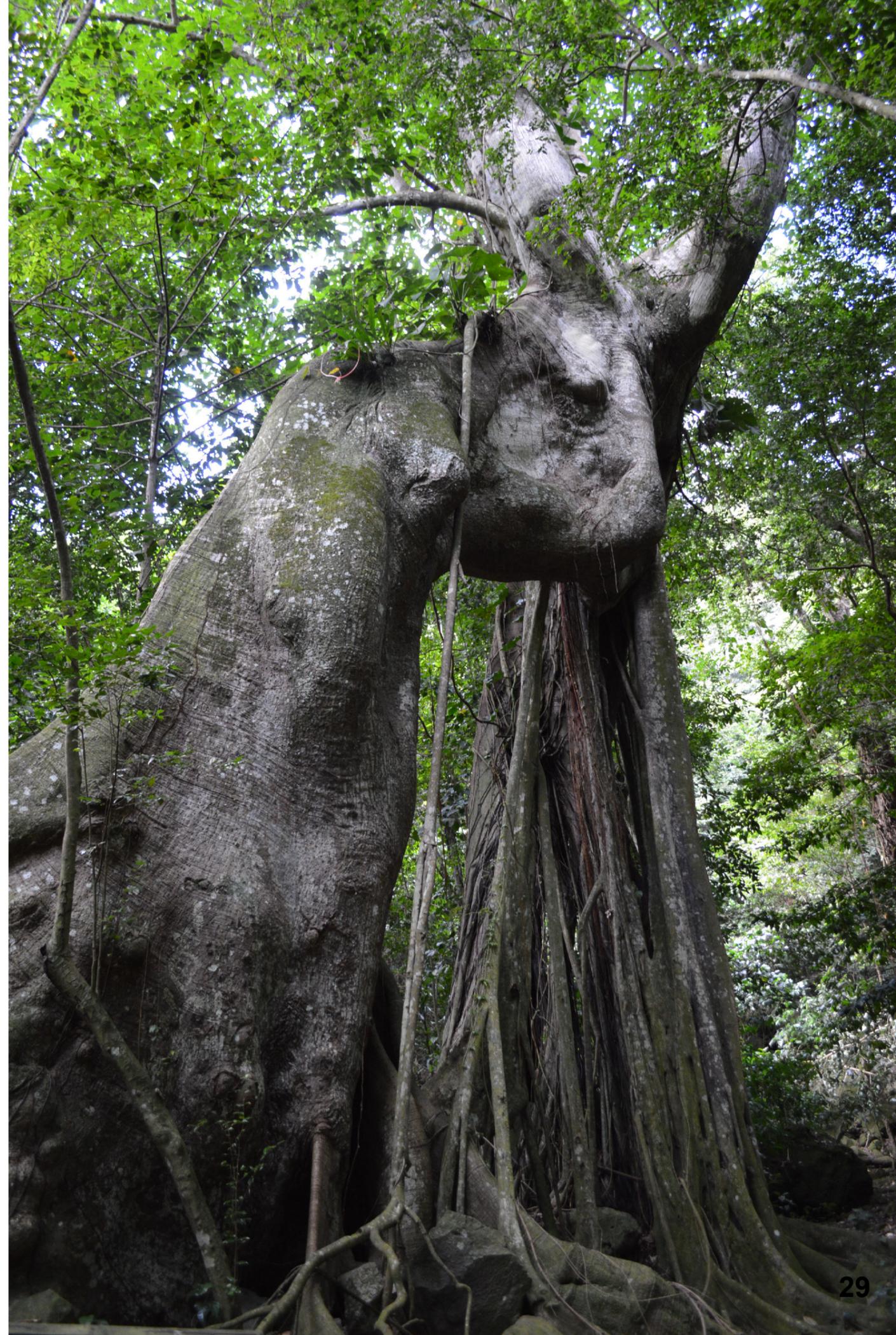
Alles weergeven

Autos Te Koop in Nederland
(Cars for sale in Nethe...)
955 leden

+ Lid worden



**Tourism development
vision: The Quill**



The area

Currently, the Quill is the largest natural attraction of Stata. The protected natural park area starts at the altitude of 250 meters, and facilitates a habitat for numerous protected flora and fauna species.



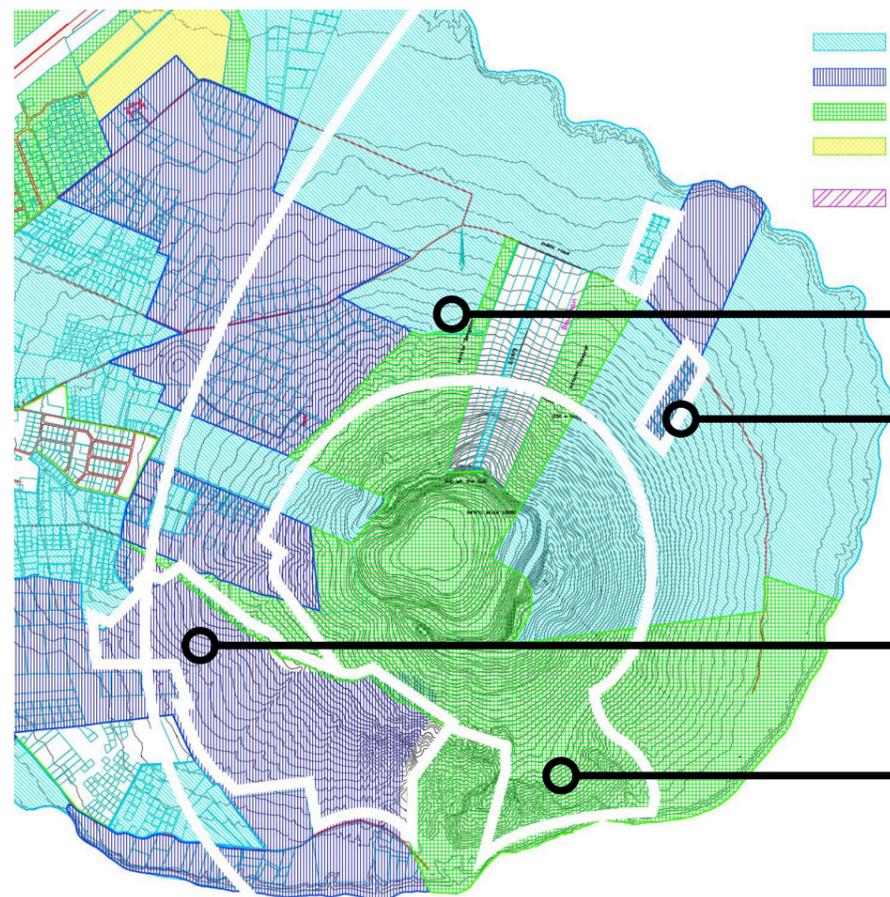
The spatial plan

Aside of the nature area's, the slopes of the Quill is partly being developed for residential purposes, mostly on privately owned property. Kipenga is a residential area that is currently being built, plans for Joremi has just been proposed by the developers. In part 1, we elaborate on sustainable ingredients that could be considered in these developments.

In part 2, we propose different options for recreational development at the Quill, aiming for a better experience of the natural landscape, as opposed in the opportunity vision.

- 1. Quil slopes: natural area**
- Kipenga residential developments
- Upper statia, existing residential area's (villa's)
- Joremi residential developments
- Joremi nature + recreation developments
- 2. Quil > 250m : Protected natural area**

Property map



- Particulier (lokale eigenaars)
- Particulier (buitenlandse eigenaars)
- Overheid
- Overheid/gereserveerd voor landruil
- Stata Terminals

- Quil slopes:**
- Mix of private and government
- Kipenga residential developments:**
- private property (foreign)
- Joremi residential developments**
- private property (foreign)
- Quil > 250m :**
- Government (70%) and private (Statians)

Part 1: Residential development on the Quill slopes Kipenga

Looking at the current developments at Kipenga, we oppose certain ingredients that should be considered at the Jeromi development site (which is 10 times bigger) if these developments aim to be sustainable from a spatial point of view. These ingredients would not only serve for Jeromi, they could be used in other future residential developments on the Quill slopes.

Visual quality: Urban density and green structures

Kipenga is developed in a relatively high urban density. The image of this place shifts from a green image to a fully urban image. Green structures do not intervene in the urban tissue, private gardens are relatively small.

Other already existing residential areas along the Quill slopes (upper Statia), have been set up with much lower densities. Here, the neighborhoods still contain a very green character, mixing natural landscape structures with large private gardens.

Ingredient: Letting green structures intervene in areas that are yet to be developed for residential purposes.

Natural system: water retention

Residential development results in an increased amount of hard/semi-hard surface, increasing the speed of water going down the Quill slopes. This is likely to increase water-floods in Oranjestad and erosion of the Quill slopes and cliffs at lower Statia. As a consequence, sea water becomes less clear, and for example diving possibilities and marine life are threatened.

Ingredient: Use water basins/ catchments to slow down and retain water runoff. Retention ponds or levadas could for example be implemented in urban developments.

Social structures: Let in and go out

One of the most fundamental qualities of Statia is that as a visitor, you are immediately embedded in the community. Tourist accommodations and facilities are well spread over town, no inhabitant will pass you without saying hello. Resort-like neighborhoods can easily become self-dependent, separated from Oranjestad.

Ingredients:

- Make the residential area's open for any public, structure infrastructure along with public routes up and around the Quill.
- Make shopping/ horeca facilities open and attractive for general public of Statia (both tourists and locals)

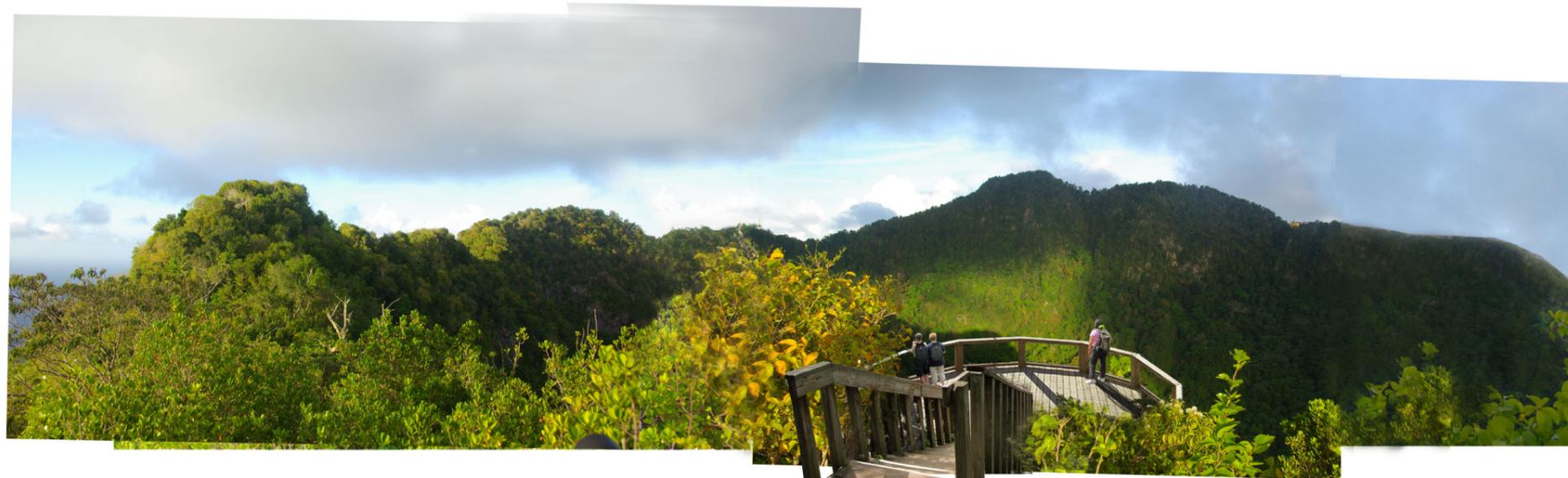
Landscape experience

Hiking on the quill is already a unique attraction without any additional structures or activities.

Though, the experience of the big hole, the 'Quill' (referring to the Dutch word 'kuil'), could be experienced stronger, as you can now only stand on the edge, often incapable of looking all the way down, or go inside the enclosed setting of the crater forest.

By creating a platform that extends over the vegetation of the Quill crater edge, the experience of emptiness could be intensified, standing on top of nothing, looking upto 300 meters down..

Such relatively small interventions, have the potential to become touristic attractors as for example is the case in Norway. Here, similar platforms at the edges of valleys have become iconic tourism products, and strengthen experiences that make people want to visit these places.



Hannah Madden: *When not causing too much ecological damage, a structure that would enrich the Quill experience would be valuable. Attracting more hikers for us also means more income through entrance fees.*

I really miss
this kind of
things!
There is no spot
for relaxing
while looking the
panorama!

Great idea but
has to be well
managed for
safety reasons

A Real tourist
getter. Also for
exchanging students
of other islands
+
tourist

Nice ideas!
The structures anyway
should be not
too massive to
for preserving the
"natural" feeling of
being in the Quill

Active attraction

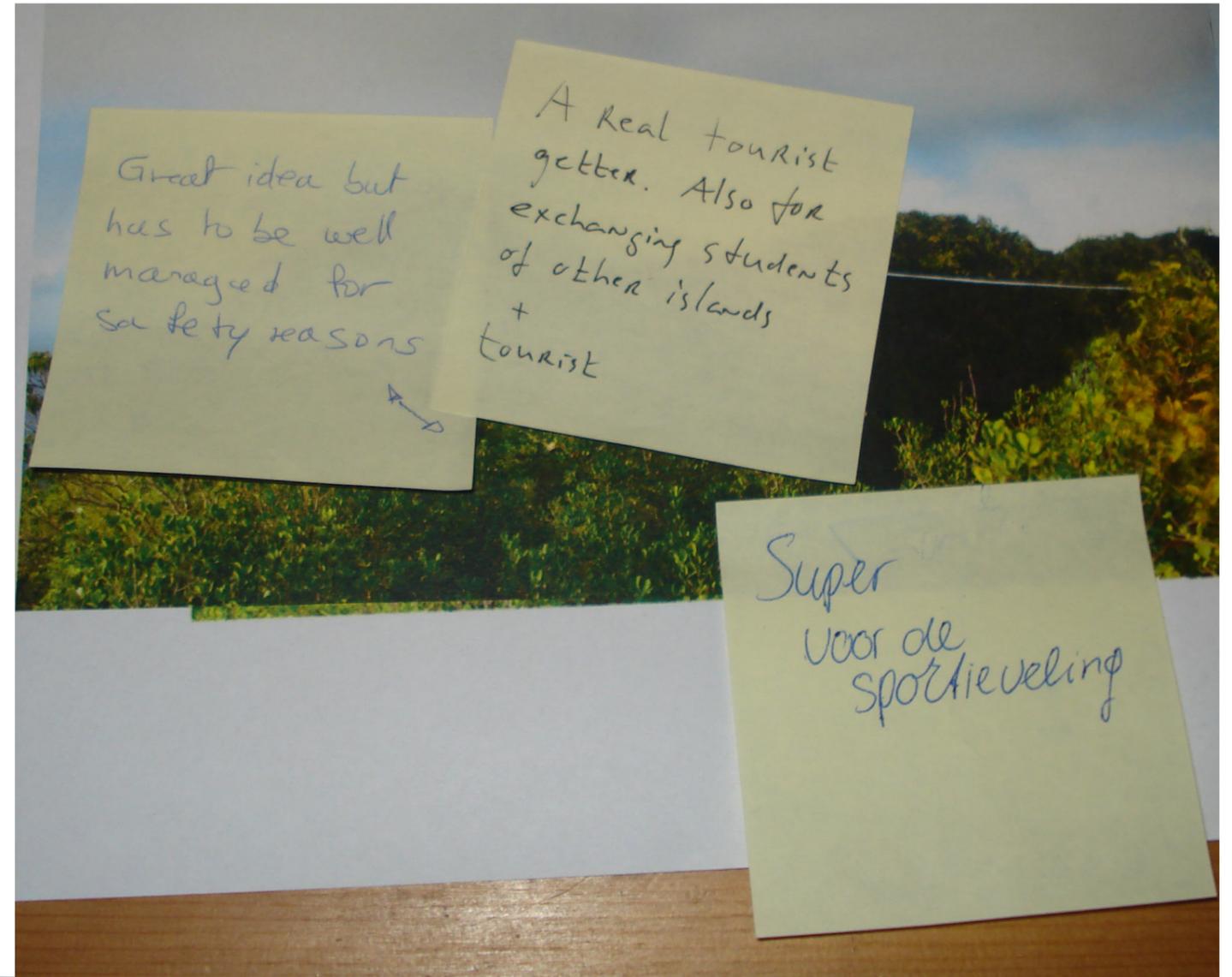
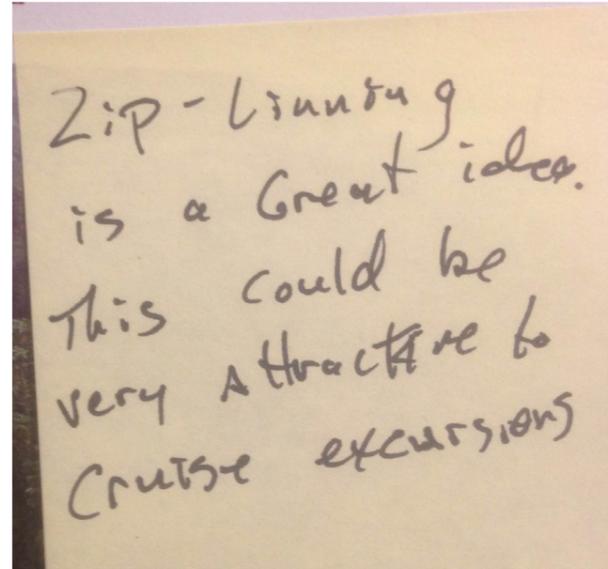
Commodifying the Quill could for example be done by creating an activity that is based on the extreme Quill landscape.

An activity as ziplining could for example be thought between the edges of the crater. It would add a thrilling new way of experiencing the Quill crater.

Though, it would have a certain impact on the natural and untouched character of the Quill and possibly also have an ecologic impact. In addition, it might attract a different type of tourists than currently present.

Hannah Madden:

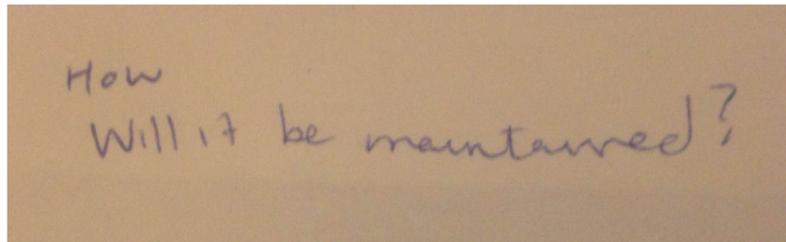
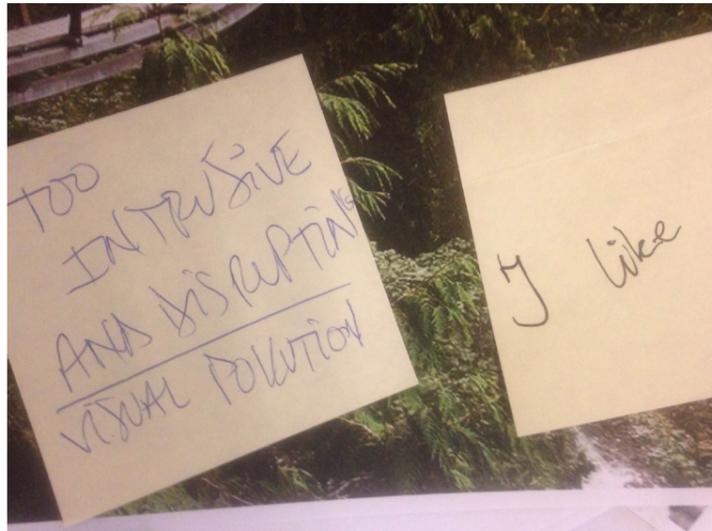
Ziplining is not an activity that we would like to see in the Quill, it could result in ecologic damage, and attracts a kind of tourist that we do not aim to attract.



Active nature experience

Another well known activity in rain forests are treetop trails. Through creating pathways in the tree tops, one can experience a forest on different level.

Visual impacts of these trails could be relatively small, though it might attract an additional type of tourist.



Hannah Madden:

Tree top trails would be a welcome additional way of experiencing our nature, ecologic impact would be relatively small, it could attract more nature-focussed tourists. But, we don't have the money or staff to build and maintain something like this. In addition, the current amount of tourists that visits Statia currently, would be too small to create such an activity for.

Recommendations

General

- Broaden and expand touristic activities. The qualities are there, just make them visible, accessible and experienceable. Provide information to tourists all around the island.

- Use the qualities all around the island, work on ways to make these easier accessible for tourists.

- Do not judge too easily on what is 'sustainable' and what is not. The Statian population is very open to any kind of development, try to find ways to make proposed/possible developments 'sustainable' instead of rejecting 'unsustainable' developments immediately.

Zeelandia

- A golf course would for many people be a welcome development, research how it can be made sustainable in terms of water and ecology, instead of rejecting it immediately.

- Zeelandia Bay used to be a more pleasant place with more vegetation and shade. Clean up the mess and make it beautiful again before thinking of developments.

- If you develop, make it storm proof..

- Ecologic research should point out if tourism could be included within the turtle protection programme or not.

Venus

- Start small, and see if small lodges work or not. Things can expand once there is more demand.

- Further research could elaborate on how such eco-lodges could work self-sustainable.

Quill

- A view platform was positively received by most. Statia does not yet have enough tourism industry to make zipp lines and tree top walks possible.

- Zipp lines resulted in different responses. Nature lovers generally did not like the idea, locals or action seekers were more positive.

- The Joremi developments could have very positive effects for Statia. Future research could contribute in developing it in a sustainable way.