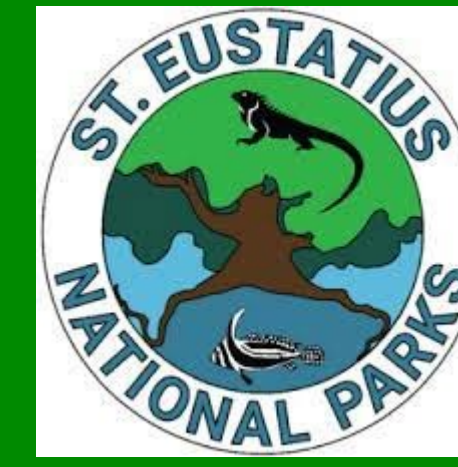




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Healthy Dutch Caribbean Islands. Nature conservation, business improvement and a resilient community

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Background

Nature is crucial for the Dutch Caribbean society, offering a liveable environment to those living on the different islands (e.g. preventing erosion and water provision) and attracting tourists from across the globe. Sustainable nature conservation is necessary to ensure that the economy will be healthy in the future. The concept of nature-inclusiveness emphasizes that nature conservation and economic development can go hand-in-hand.

Objective

The goal of the project and its stakeholders is to develop a nature-inclusive economy on St Eustatius. This entails combining nature recovery, business recovery and the development of a healthy, resilient community by utilising an integral approach on St Eustatius. Our ambition is to initiate the development of new nature-inclusive business activities to increase the annual nature conservation budget.

Approach

All parties involved work on

- 1) developing a business cases for nature inclusive solutions;
- 2) implementing it and
- 3) securing it for long term through training of local entrepreneurs (scaling-up of results).

This project will be implemented in very close collaboration with local staff, with local authorities and the broader community. The project group is coupled to business at St Eustatius with an interest to continue implementation after project end.



Figure 1. Local non-governmental organizations are involved from the start.



Figure 2. Small scale agricultural production.

The hospitality sector (e.g. diving and ecotourism without mass-tourism) which is partly responsible for the pressure on the environment, occupies an intermediate position in terms of employment. Agriculture (e.g. overgrazing) and fisheries (overfishing) which are associated with significant pressures for the ecosystem are relatively unimportant to the economy of St. Eustatius.

Opportunities for nature-inclusiveness

Based on the review of available data, interviews and workshops with the local community, the study identifies the following opportunities for enhancing nature-inclusiveness:

- Establishment of a care farm
- Develop a heritage walk
- Organise a civil dialogue.
- Nature awareness festival
- Bird watching tours
- Water Treatment plan
- Debt prevention and poverty alleviation
- Nature, culture, ecology education



Figure 3. Free roaming animals.

Next steps

In 2023 the opportunities will be further developed including evaluation of the business potential of selected solutions. Using the CANVAS business model approach, it assesses the potential for new nature-inclusive economic businesses pilots.



Figure 4. Irrigated food production



Figure 5. Nature walks

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