



Maximizing volunteer contributions



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Our story

- Started in 2015.
- Dutch Government funded.
- In 2019 we adopted our nickname: Mangrove Maniacs.
- in 2021 we became a foundation.





Our group

- A core group of about 30 volunteers mixed with paid staff.
- On average about 20 volunteers working every week.
- A diverse mix with different backgrounds.
- Ad hoc help of returning or one time visitors (voluntourism).
- Over 150 people have joined us into the forest.



Character

- A bit of a wild bunch.
- Hands on, can do mentality.
- Trial & error. Try again.
- If it looks stupid and it works... it ain't stupid.
- All manual work. No machines or heavy equipment.
- “We love mud!”

What do we do?

- Opening channels
- Manage nurseries
- Reforestation
- Supporting scientists and research
- Emergency response (sargassum)
- Outreach & education
- Support others (Junior Rangers, Echo, STINAPA)
- Communications (social media channels)










**MANGROVE
MANIACS**
LAC RESTORATION PROJECT









Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image © 2021 CNES / Airbus














**MANGROVE
MANIACS**
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Some data

- Clearing 1 m channel takes about 17 hours of work.
- So far 2 km out of 6,5 km has been cleared and dug out.
- We planted over 1,000 mangrove saplings.
- Thousands of plants in our nurseries.

Monthly hours

- Staff: 70 hours, - will soon be 140 hours
- Field volunteers: 258 + muddy sunday 40 = 298 hours
- Additional volunteers: 40 hours



Community awareness

- Social media.
- Local, national and international media.
- Local activities.
- Showing presence.
- Inviting groups to join us, including the military.



Trouw
de duurzame
100

Imagine conservation
efforts without volunteers...

Why you need volunteers



- You will need the hands.
- They work for free... so they are very cost effective.
- Many different skills sets.
- Engagement with the local community.
- They are your best ambassadors within the community.
- Goodwill

Why you need volunteers

- They are extremely passionate and dedicated.
- Volunteers are inventive and pragmatic.
- And they are great fun

Our organization

- Foundation (2021).
- Work on structure.
- Combine volunteers with professionals.



What worked for us.

- You have to be a bit positively mad... a maniac.









What worked for us.

- You have to be a bit of mad... a maniac.
- Hard work makes a strong team.
- Proud to wear the shirt, proud ambassadors.
- Help others.
- Educate. Tell our story.
- Open policy. Everybody can join.
- Involve everybody. Use the experience and skills.

What worked for us.

- Have fun!



