

THE *AD HOC* DATA REPORT EL REPORTE DE DATOS *AD HOC*

FOR THE COUNTRY OF
POR EL PAIS DE

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES
ANTILLAS HOLANDEASAS

PREPARED BY/ PREPARADO POR

GERARD VAN BUURT

Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium
Simposio de Tortugas del Atlantico Occidental



17-22 July / Julio 1983

San José, Costa Rica

Netherlands Antilles National Report (Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire)

WATS I Vol 3, pages 329-333



**WESTERN ATLANTIC TURTLE SYMPOSIUM
San José, Costa Rica, July 1983**

***AD HOC* DATA REPORT FOR THE COUNTRY OF**

**NETHERLANDS ANTILLES
Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire**

AD HOC DATA REPORT PREPARED BY

Gerard Van Buurt

DATE SUBMITTED: 3 February 1981

Please submit this NATIONAL REPORT no later than 1 December 1982 to:

IOC Assistant Secretary for IOCARIBE
% UNDP, Apartado 4540
San José, Costa Rica

With a grant from the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, WIDECAST has digitized the databases and proceedings of the **Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium (WATS)** with the hope that the revitalized documents might provide a useful historical context for contemporary sea turtle management and conservation efforts in the Western Atlantic Region.

With the stated objective of serving “as a starting point for the identification of critical areas where it will be necessary to concentrate all efforts in the future”, the first Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium convened in Costa Rica (17-22 July 1983), and the second in Puerto Rico four years later (12-16 October 1987). WATS I featured National Reports from 43 political jurisdictions; 37 presented at WATS II.

WATS I opened with these words: “The talks which we started today have the multiple purpose of bringing our knowledge up to date about the biological peculiarities of the marine turtle populations of the western Atlantic; to know and analyse the scope of the National Reports prepared by the scientific and technical personnel of more than thirty nations of the region; to consider options for the orderly management of marine turtle populations; and in general to provide an adequate forum for the exchange of experiences among scientists, administrators, and individuals interested in making contributions for the preservation of this important natural resource.”

A quarter-century has passed, and the results of these historic meetings have been lost to science and to a new generation of managers and conservationists. Their unique importance in providing baseline data remains unrecognized, and their potential as a “starting point” is neither known nor appreciated.

The proceedings document what was known at the time concerning the status and distribution of nesting and foraging habitat, population size and trend, mortality factors, official statistics on exploitation and trade, estimated incidental catch, employment dependent on turtles, mariculture operations, public and private institutions concerned with conservation and use, legal aspects (e.g. regulations, enforcement, protected areas), and active research projects. In most cases it was the first time a national sea turtle assessment had been conducted.

Despite the potential value of this information to agencies responsible for conducting stock assessments, monitoring recovery trends, and safeguarding critical habitat in the 21st century, the hand-written National Reports, largely illegible in the published proceedings, have slipped into obscurity. To help ensure the legacy of these symposia, we have digitized the entire proceedings, including the National Reports, plenary presentations and panels, and annotated bibliographies of both meetings, and posted them online at <http://www.widecast.org/What/RegionalPrograms.html>.

Each article has been scanned from the original document. Errors in the scan have been corrected; however, to be true to the original content (as closely as we can discern it), potential errors of content have not been corrected. This article should be cited:

van Buurt, G. 1984. Ad Hoc Data Report for the Country of the Netherlands Antilles (Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire), pp.329-333. *In*: Bacon, P., F. Berry, K. Bjorndal, H. Hirth, L. Ogren and M. Weber (Editors), Proceedings of the First Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium, 17-22 July 1983, San José, Costa Rica. Volume III: The National Reports. RSMAS Printing, Miami.

Karen L. Eckert
WIDECAST Executive Director
June 2009

COUNTRY: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES (southern islands)

Length of Coastline*	
Aruba	66 Km
Curaçao	150 Km
Bonaire	114 Km
Total	330 Km
Km² of Continental Shelf Area (0-200 m depth)	
Aruba	2,700 Km
Curaçao	230 Km
Bonaire	170 Km
Total	3,100 Km
Seaward Extent of Jurisdictions	
Territorial Sea	5.4 Km
Extended Economic Zone**	
Fisheries Jurisdiction**	
Other (Describe)	
<p>* Coastline length is the measurement of the national seaward boundary of a country; i.e., the distance from border to border for a coastal country and the distance around an island country.</p> <p>** Has not yet been declared but border with Venezuela exists.</p>	

List beaches in geographic sequence. Provide additional information on following page.			
Name of Beach	Length In Km	Species Nesting (use abbreviations)*	Months of Recorded Nesting
Bonaire			
1. Klein Bonaire (a)	0.5	Cc; E	June-September
2. Washikemba (b)	0.2	Cc ?; E	June-July/ September
3. Sorobon (c)	0.4	Cc ?; Cm ?; E	June-July/ September
4. Saliña (d)	1	Cc ?; Cm ?; E	June-July/ September
5. Playa Grandi (e)	0.5	Cc ?; Cm ?; E	June-July/ September
Curaçao			
6. Klein Curaçao (a)	1	Cc; E ?	July-September Cc ? July-November E ?
7. North side East Point Bay (b)	0.1	Cc ?; Cm ?; E ?	
Aruba			
8. Various beaches on north coast		E	No information
Species*		Abbreviation	
<i>Caretta caretta</i>		Cc	
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>		Cm	
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>		D	
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>		E	
<i>Lepidochelys kempi</i>		Lk	
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>		Lo	

TABLE 3A. NESTING BEACH INVENTORY (supplementary page) *

Please give additional information about each nesting beach identified in Table 3. Include information on color of sand, particle size, beach profile, backbeach vegetation, artificial lighting, etc.

Bonaire

Klein Bonaire (a)

7 Km² uninhabited island. White coral sand beach on the northeastern side. Some backbeach vegetation (shrubs). No artificial lighting except for lighthouse on SW point. The sand is very fine.

Washikemba (b)

(Sometimes called Washikemoa). A small beach on the rough eastern side of the island. The beach is a cove in a limestone plateau which is 5-7 m in this area. The sandy parts of the beach are very difficult and dangerous to reach. Coral sand and rocks. No artificial lighting.

Sorobon (c)

S.E. part of the island. Fine coral sand beach on the inside of the barrier reef. No lighting.

Saliña (d)

S.W. part of the island. Fine coral sand. No artificial lighting. Little backbeach vegetation, just a few shrubs.

Playa Grandi (e)

Near Washington National Park entrance. Fine coral sand. No artificial lighting.

Curaçao

Klein Curaçao (a)

A small (1.2 Km²) limestone island with a white coral sand beach on the western side of the island. The island is uninhabited except for the lighthouse and a few fishermen who stay over for a few days. The beach profile is shallow. There is backbeach vegetation and very little artificial lighting. The sand is very fine.

North side East Point Lagoon (b)

A small beach (\pm 0.1 Km). No artificial lighting except for lighthouse nearby. Medium grain size coral sand, not very fine with shell fragments, etc. Uninhabited area. Shallow beach profile. Some but very little backbeach vegetation. Turtle nesting tracks were reported, species unknown.

(b), (c)

Recently a nesting turtle (hawksbill) was caught on Knip Beach in the western part of Curaçao. The beaches in this part of the island are very busy bathing beaches. Any nesting in this area would be incidental and it is doubtful that any hatchlings could survive.

Aruba

On the northern side of the island several small sandy beaches exist, such as Boca Grandi, Boca Prins, Andicuri, and Druif. Most of these are surrounded by a limestone plateau. Some have a backbeach vegetation with some *Suriana maritima*. There is no artificial lighting along the beach except for a restaurant at Andicuri (on the plateau). Nesting turtles are hawksbills. I have not been able to obtain information on the exact beaches where these were observed or when. Possibly such information can be provided in the future. Turtles do not nest on the southern and western beaches. I do not know whether they were used to nest in these areas formerly and have been displaced by tourist development. One would expect these beaches to be ideal turtle nesting areas.

* *Editor's note (2009)*: The order in which these 3 territories are listed here (TABLE 3A) differs from the original National Report. Editor changed the order to reflect the order presented in TABLE 3.

Name of Area (or give coordinates)	Approx. Area (Km ²)	Species Foraging (use abbreviations & approx. numbers)	Nature of Evidence (observation, fishery, incidental catch)
1. North Coast of Curaçao	30 Km ² (0.50 M)	Cc; Cm; E	Sargassum Fields: turtles (E) observed by divers looking for food. between sargassum
2. North Coast of Aruba	15 Km ² (0.50 M)	Cc; Cm; E	Sargassum Fields: turtles (E) observed by divers looking for food. between sargassum
3. North and East Coasts of Bonaire	30 Km ² (0.50 M)	Cc; Cm; E	Sargassum Fields: turtles (E) observed by divers looking for food. between sargassum
4. Lac Bay, Bonaire	6 Km ²	Cc; Cm; E	Caught with nets. Turtle grass vegetation in the bay.
5. East Point Bay, Curaçao	0.6 Km ²	Cc; Cm; E	Turtle grass vegetation.
Turtle Grass Fields South Coast, W of Aruba			No information
Species		Abbreviation	
<i>Caretta caretta</i>		Cc	
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>		Cm	
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>		D	
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>		E	
<i>Lepidochelys kempfi</i>		Lk	
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>		Lo	

Location (Give Lat. & Long. Coordinates)	Date	Species and Est. Nos. (Abbreviations)	Comments
Cm, Cc, and E in offshore waters. D does occur sometimes but it is very rare. There are no confirmed reports on ridleys.			
Species		Abbreviation	
<i>Caretta caretta</i>		Cc	
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>		Cm	
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>		D	
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>		E	
<i>Lepidochelys kempfi</i>		Lk	
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>		Lo	

Name of Port or Site	Species Landed (use abbrev)	Fishing Gear Used	Months of Landings	Numbers & Weights (estimate)
Bonaire Lac Bay + Kralendijk	Cm; Cc; E	In Lac Beach, seine; outside spears		200/yr; most Cm; some of these come from Aves Islands and Los Roques
Curaçao	Cm; Cc; E	Turtles at Curaçao abattoir; most of these were brought in by Venezuelan vessels (Las Aves & Los Roques) 1977 - 16; 1978 - 31; 1979 - 13 1980 - 14; 1981 - 7		40/yr max.; local catch
Aruba				No information
Species		Abbreviation		
<i>Caretta caretta</i>		Cc		
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>		Cm		
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>		D		
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>		E		
<i>Lepidochelys kempfi</i>		Lk		
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>		Lo		

TABLE 13A. ESTIMATED TURTLE CATCH BY FOREIGN FISHERMEN (supplementary page)

Please describe the type of foreign fishing in your waters and provide estimates for:

1. Number of foreign vessels catching turtles
2. Number of foreign fishermen catching turtles
3. Year of estimate.

Almost no foreign fishing in Antillean waters. Occasionally Venezuelan tuna purse seiners enter; these do not catch turtles.

Institution or Organization Name And Address	No. of Active Members	Activities in Progress
STINAPA P/A Carmabi P.O. Box 2090 Curaçao Netherlands Antilles.		STINAPA is the Antillean nat'l park foundation. (Stichting Nationale Parken Ned Antillen). STINAPA is working on underwater nat'l park in Bonaire and Curaçao.
The Depts of Agriculture and Fisheries on the three islands: LVV - Curaçao LVV - Aruba LVV - Bonaire		Have to advise Island Governments on STINAPA proposals and formulate proposals for regulations together with Department for Juridical Affairs.

TABLE 19. SANCTUARIES AND REFUGES			
Name and Location	Area Km ²	Reason(s) for Protection	Type and effectiveness of Enforcement
Washington Nat'l. Park (STINAPA) Bonaire	Land area 60; shoreline approximately 21 Km	Nat'l Park	Effective

TABLE 20A. REGULATORY AUTHORITY (supplementary page)

Please list National, regional, and local legislation concerning turtle management and conservation. List title, date, and stated purpose.

Aruba

Eilandsverordening tot beheer van het marine milieu in Aruba (Marien Milieuverordening Aruba) 1980.

These island regulations (marine environment Aruba) prohibit spearfishing. Article 4: protects sea turtle nests and eggs. The turtles as such are not protected.

Bonaire

Eilandsverordening 29^e Juni 1961 tot bescherming van de zeeschildpadden en kreeften (protection of turtles and lobsters).

Article 1: protects sea turtle nests and eggs.

Visspeerverordening 1971: this regulation prohibits all spearfishing. Turtles as such are not protected. A new regulation which protects these is in preparation.

Curaçao

Eilandsverordening tot beheer van het marine milieu in de wateren van het Eilandgebied Curaçao, 22 Sept 1976. (management of the maritime environment)

Spearfishing is prohibited. No special protection of either turtle nests and eggs or turtles themselves.

TABLE 20A. REGULATORY AUTHORITY (supplementary page, continued)

According to the E.R.N.A. Eilandenregeling the central government has jurisdiction over all the waters within the 3 mile zone, including the inner bays, while the responsibility for the development of agriculture and fisheries has been relegated to the island governments. E.R.N.A. does not mention resource management. This has resulted in some legal confusion. Some lawyers contend that all these island regulations are in conflict with E.R.N.A. and that they could be challenged in the courts on constitutional grounds (e.g., jurisdiction of island vs. central government). For these reasons, the Curaçao Justice department has been very reluctant to amend and extend the marine environment management regulations. No central government laws exist. The Netherlands Antilles have not yet decided to join the Washington Convention 1973. Adequate national legislation would have to be enacted first.

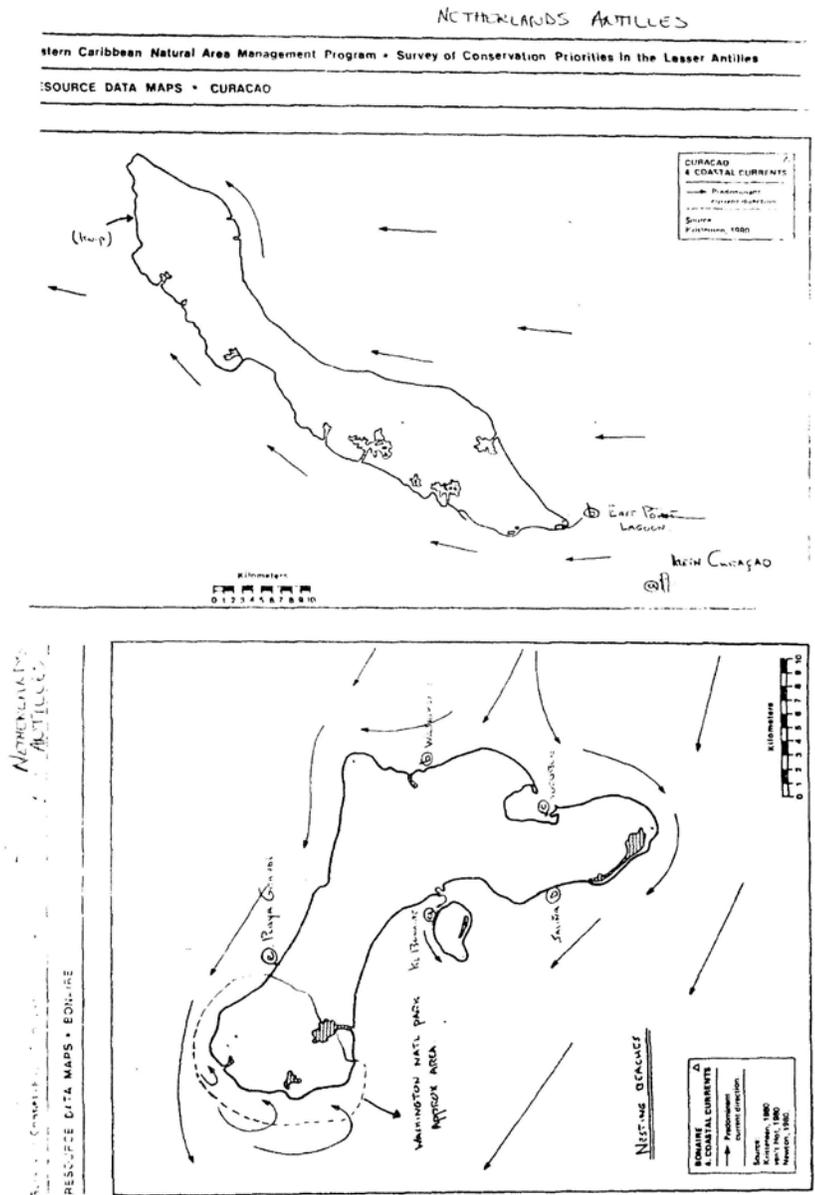
All legislation is in Dutch; no English translation exists. For this reason I have not included copies of the original legislation. All the legislation has been summarized in the STINAPA booklet (document series No. 6, 1979). Wetgeving Natuurbeheer op de Nederlandse Antillen in 1978 (Nature Conservation Management Legislation in the Netherlands Antilles in 1978) by W.W. Timmers. Since 1978 there have been no major additions to these laws and regulations. (As a result of the legal problems mentioned above).

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of the major reports and publications concerned with national turtle resources (list author, date, title, and publisher).

Hermans, I.J. 1961. Schildpadden en hun Betekenis voor de Nederlandse Antillen. Mimeographed report. 71 pp.

Figure 1. Netherlands Antilles (Curaçao and Bonaire) – W.A.T.S. National Report Study Area.¹



¹ Editor's note (2009): Maps and figures are reprinted exactly as they appear in the original WATS I Proceedings (Bacon et al. 1984); we regret the poor quality exhibited in some cases.



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ANTILLAS HOLANDEAS

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WESTERN ATLANTIC TURTLE SYMPOSIUM

San Jose, Costa Rica
July 1983

AD HOC DATA REPORT FOR THE COUNTRY OF

Netherlands Antilles - Aruba - Curacao, Bonaire
(Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Martin in separate report)

AD HOC DATA
REPORT PREPARED BY

Gerald van Buurt

Department of Agriculture & Fisheries

Klein Kwartier 33, CURACAO

DATE SUBMITTED: 2 February 83

Please submit AD HOC DATA REPORT no later than 1 December 1982
to: IDC Assistant Secretary for IOD/IMS, S UNF, Apartado 4540,
San Jose, Costa Rica.

LOCATION (Give Lat. & Long. coordinates)	DATE	EST. NO. (Abbreviations)	COMMENTS
C ₁ , C ₂ , C ₃ , E			
SE. OFFSHORE WATERS.			
D BOES BECAUSE JUNKY WATERS BUT IT IS VERY RARE.			
THERE ARE NO COMPILED REPORTS ON BIRDS.			

Species Abbreviations:
 Cc Cretia caretta
 Cm Chelonia mydas
 D Dermochelys coriacea
 E Eretmochelys imbricata
 Lb Lepidochelys kempi
 Lo Lepidochelys olivacea

TABLE 9. NON-FORAGING TURTLES AT SEA. Please provide any information available on the incidence of turtles in offshore areas.

NAME OF AREA (or give coordinates)	APPROX. AREA (Sq. mi.)	SPECIES FRAGMENTS (Use abbreviations & approx. numbers)	NATURE OF EVIDENCE (Observation, fishery, incidental catch)
North Coast of CANGARAO	20 km ² (0-20N)	E, C ₁ , C ₂ , Cm	SARGASSUM FIELDS - TURTLES (E) OBSERVED BY BIRDS USING THE FOOD BETWEEN SARGASSUM.
North Coast of ANAON	15 km ² (0-20N)	E, C ₁ , C ₂ , Cm	
North and East Coast of BANGOR	20 km ² (0-20N)	E, C ₁ , C ₂ , Cm	
Lac Bay Bannar	6 km ²	C ₁ , C ₂ , C ₃ , E	CRABBY WITH NETS TURTLES FEED VEGETATION IN THE BAY.
East Point Bay CANGARAO	0.6 km ²	C ₁ , C ₂ , C ₃ , E	TURTLES GRASS VEGETATION NO INFORMATION.

Species Abbreviations:
 Cc Cretia caretta
 Cm Chelonia mydas
 D Dermochelys coriacea
 E Eretmochelys imbricata
 Lb Lepidochelys kempi
 Lo Lepidochelys olivacea

TABLE 7. FRAGGING AREAS INVENTORY

NAME OF PORT OR SITE	SPECIES LANDED (Use abbrev.)	FISHING GEAR USED	NUMBER OF LANDING	NUMBERS ESTIMATED
1. Bannar 1. Lac Bay + Bannar	C ₁ , C ₂ , E	in Lac beach seine; outside gages		100/yr most Cm
2.				
3.				
4. CANGARAO	C ₁ , C ₂ , E	Turtles in CANGARAO APPROX 10/78 - 6 10/79 - 21 10/80 - 13 10/81 - 14 10/82 - 7		10/yr most Cm
5. ANAON				NO INFORMATION
6.				

Species Abbreviations:
 Cc Cretia caretta
 Cm Chelonia mydas
 D Dermochelys coriacea
 E Eretmochelys imbricata
 Lb Lepidochelys kempi
 Lo Lepidochelys olivacea

TABLE 11. LANDING SITES FOR TURTLES & TURTLE PRODUCTS

TABLE 10. ESTIMATED TURTLE CATCH BY FOREIGN FISHERMEN (Supplementary page)

Please describe the type of foreign fishing in your waters and provide estimates for:
 1. Number of foreign vessels catching turtles.
 2. Number of foreign fishermen catching turtles.
 3. Year of estimate.

ALMOST NO FOREIGN FISHING IN ANAON WATERS OCCASIONALLY VIETNAMESE TOUR BOATS CATCH SPEC. THESE DO NOT CATCH TURTLES

INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS	ACTIVE MEMBERS	ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS
<p>Stamps MA Canada PO Box 1040 Winnipeg, Man. R2S 1A8</p> <p>The Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries on the three islands L.V.V. Canada L.V.V. Agria L.V.V. Bance</p>		<p>Stamps of the American Nail Pile Foundation (Stamps of the American Nail Pile Foundation) Stamps of the American Nail Pile Foundation in Bance and Curing</p> <p>Have to make Island Grants on Stamps program and purchase proposals for regulations together with Dept for judicial review</p>

TABLE 18. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH TURTLE CONSERVATION/MANAGEMENT/UTILIZATION

TABLE 20. REGULATORY AUTHORITY (Supplementary info)

Please list National, regional, and local legislation concerning turtle management and conservation. List title, date, and stated purpose.

AGRIA - Environmentalists for Green and Wet
 Marine Mammals in Agria (Marine Mammals of the Agria)

These islands regulations for Green and Wet
 Marine Mammals in Agria (Marine Mammals of the Agria)

BOHATS - Environmentalists for Green and Wet
 Marine Mammals in Bohats (Marine Mammals of the Bohats)

CHERNO - Environmentalists for Green and Wet
 Marine Mammals in Chernov (Marine Mammals of the Chernov)

According to the ERNA Environmentalists for Green and Wet
 Marine Mammals in Chernov (Marine Mammals of the Chernov)

NAME AND LOCATION	AREA NO.	REASON (S) FOR PROTECTION	TYPE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ENFORCEMENT
<p>Washington Nail Pile Foundation (Stamps)</p>	<p>Area No. 60 Stamps Agria</p>	<p>Nail Pile</p>	<p>Effective</p>

TABLE 19. STRUCTURES AND REPAIRS

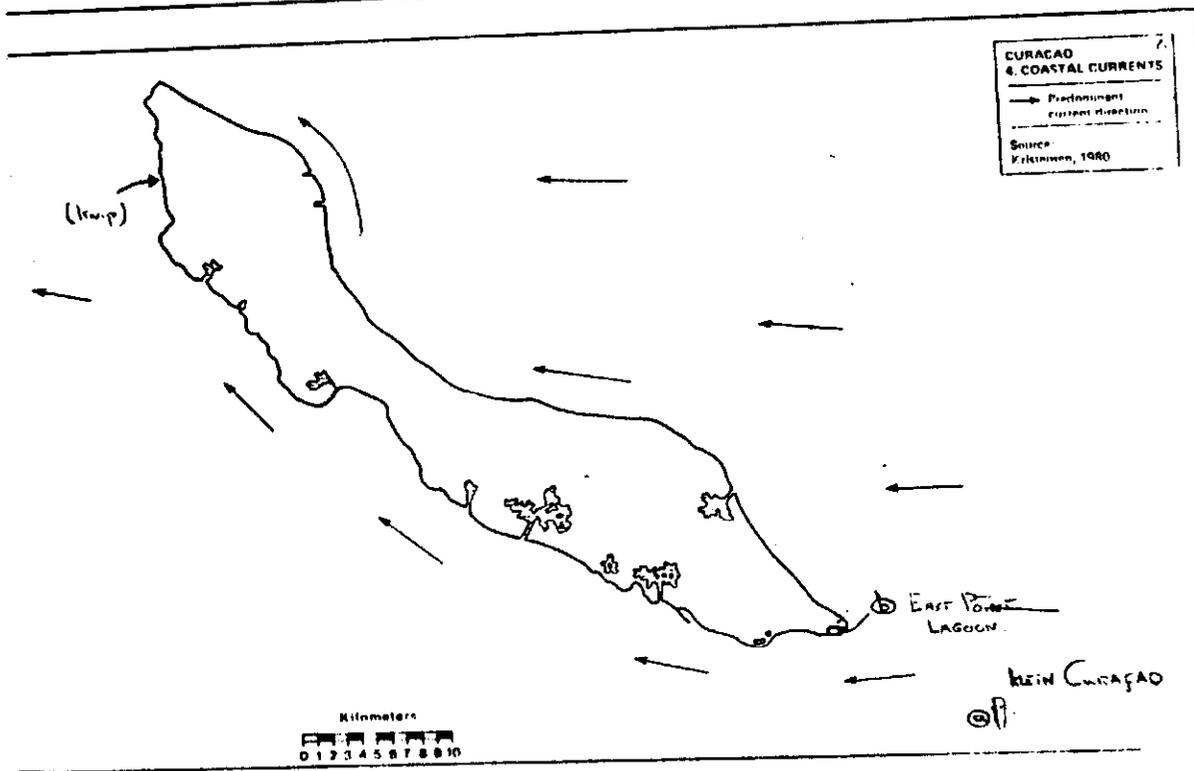
All legislation is in Dutch - no English translation exist.
 For this reason I have not included copy of the original legislation.
 All the legislation has been summarized in the Stamp report (Documentation Series 16, 1979)
 (National Conservation of Marine Mammals Act in 1978)
 Netherlands Act in 1978 by W.V. Timmer
 Since 1978 there have been no major additions to the law and regulations (in a sense of the legal provisions mentioned above)

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of the major reports and publications concerned with national turtle resources (list author, date, title, and publisher).

1. Schuytman et al. Wetlands - 1961. Microscopic Report 717
2. A. van der Vliet - 1961. Microscopic Report 717
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

RESOURCE DATA MAPS • CURACAO



RESOURCE DATA MAPS • BONAIRE

