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

FOR THE COUNTRY OF POR EL PAIS DE

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES ANTILLAS HOLANDESAS

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: <u>3 February 1981</u>

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. <u>Ad Hoc Data Report for the Country of the Netherlands Antilles (Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire)</u>, 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)

TABLE 1. GEOGRAPHIC INVENTORY		
Length of Coastline*		
Aruba	66 Km	
Curaçao	150 Km	
Bonaire	114 Km	
Total	330 Km	
Km ² 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)		
· · ·		

* 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.

** Has not yet been declared but border with Venezuela exists.

TABLE 3. NESTING BEACH INVENTORY

List beaches in geographic sequence. Provide additional information on following page.

Nam	ne of Beach	Length In Km	Species Nesting (use abbreviations)*	Months of Recorded Nesting			
Bon	aire						
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			
Cura	açao						
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 ?				
Aru	ba						
8.	Various beaches on north coast		E	No information			
	Species*	Abbreviation					
Care	etta caretta	Сс					
Che	lonia mydas	Cm					
Deri	mochelys coriacea	D					
Eret	mochelys imbricata	E					
Lep	idochelys kempi	Lk					
Lep	idochelys olivacea	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.

TABLE 7. FORAGING AREAS INVENTORY

Name of Area	Approx.	Species Foraging	Nature of Evidence
(or give coordinates)	Area	(use abbreviations &	(observation, fishery,
	(Km²)	approx. numbers)	incidental catch)
 North Coast of Curaçao 	30 Km ²	Cc; Cm; E	Sargassum Fields: turtles (E)
	(0.50 M)		observed by divers looking for
			food. between sargassum
2. North Coast of Aruba	15 Km ²	Cc; Cm; E	Sargassum Fields: turtles (E)
	(0.50 M)		observed by divers looking for
	2 2 2		food. between sargassum
3. North and East Coasts of	30 Km ²	Cc; Cm; E	Sargassum Fields: turtles (E)
Bonaire	(0.50 M)		observed by divers looking for
	0.16 2		food. between sargassum
4. Lac Bay, Bonaire	6 Km²	Cc; Cm; E	Caught with nets. Turtle grass
	2		vegetation in the bay.
5. East Point Bay, Curaçao	0.6 Km ²	Cc; Cm; E	Turtle grass vegetation.
Turtle Grass Fields			No information
South Coast, W of Aruba			
Species	Abbreviatio	n	
Caretta caretta	Сс		
Chelonia mydas	Cm		
Dermochelys coriacea	D		
Eretmochelys imbricata	E		
Lepidochelys kempi	Lk		
Lepidochelys olivacea	Lo		

TABLE 9. NON-FORAGING TURTLES AT SEA.

Please provide any information available on the incidence of turtles in offshore areas.								
Location		Date	Species and Est. Nos.	Comments				
(Give Lat. & Long. Coo	rdinates)		(Abbreviations)					
Cm, Cc, and E in offshore wa	ters.							
D does occur sometimes but	it is very rare.							
There are no confirmed repor	ts on ridleys.							
Species	Abbreviation							
Caretta caretta	Сс							
Chelonia mydas	Cm							
Dermochelys coriacea	D							
Eretmochelys imbricata	E							
Lepidochelys kempi	Lk							
Lepidochelys olivacea	Lo							

TABLE 11. LANDING SITES FOR TURTLES AND TURTLE PRODUCTS

Name of Port or Site	Species Landed (use abbrev)	Fishing Gear Used	Fishing Gear Used Months of Landings				
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			
Sp	ecies	Abbreviation					
Caretta caret	tta	Сс					
Chelonia my	das	Cm					
Dermochelys	coriacea	D					
Eretmochely	s imbricata	E					
Lepidochelys	s kempi	Lk					
Lepidochelys	s olivacea	Lo	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.

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

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	Type and effectiveness of
		Protection	Enforcement
Washington Nat'l. Park	Land area 60; shoreline	Nat'l Park	Effective
(STINAPA)	approximately 21 Km		
Bonaire			

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 <u>Curaçao</u>, 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 Antilen. 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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 Year of estimate.

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TABLE 19. SANCTURNESS AND REPURES

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REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

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