

HELP OUT, OR SEA TURTLES MISS OUT



Report on Sea Turtle Pride Campaign, November 2004 till December 2005

'HELP OUT OR SEA TURTLES MISS OUT', is a joint program on sea turtles from The Nature Foundation St. Maarten, The Saba Conservation Foundation and STENAPA St. Eustatius, sponsored by the Truus and Gerrit van Riemsdijk Foundation and the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA).

Educational program 2004-2005

Final evaluation of the RARE Program on sea turtles.

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Educational program 2004-2005

Final evaluation of the RARE Program on sea turtles.

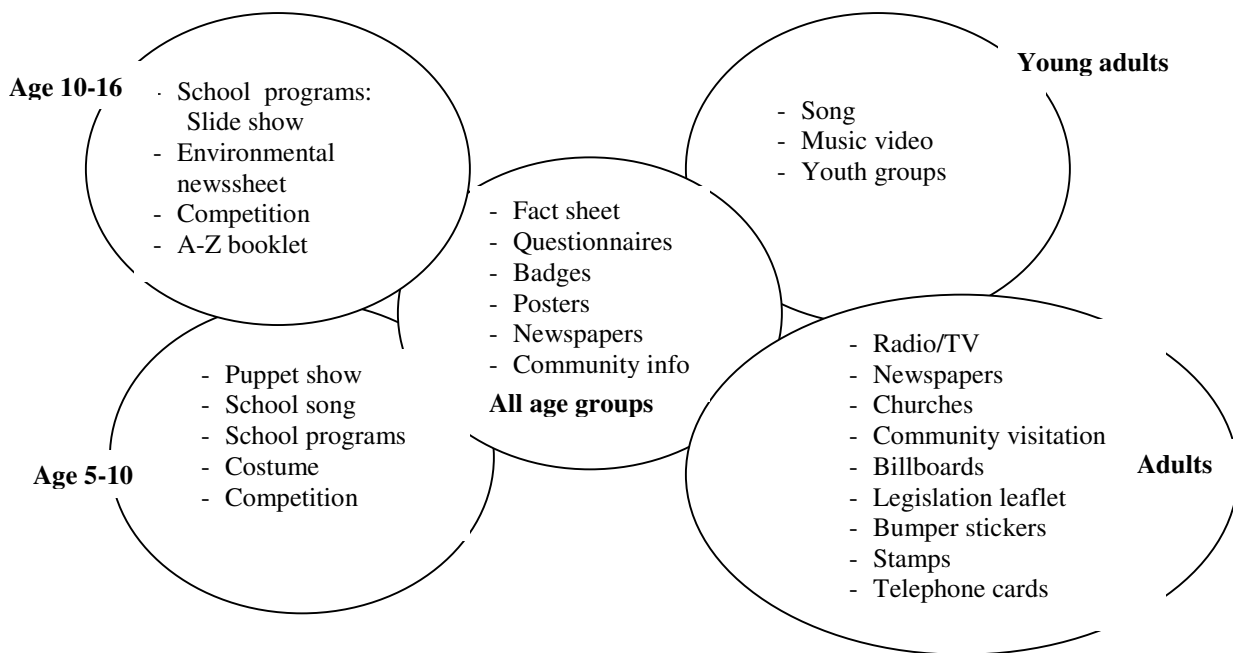
The Saba Conservation Foundation, STENAPA in St. Eustatius and The Nature Foundation St. Maarten united this year to launch a comprehensive education and conservation program on sea turtles, entitled "HELP OUT OR SEA TURTLES MISS OUT". This program is made possible by funding through the Truus and Gerrit van Riemsdijk Foundation and Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance Foundation.

Goals:

The major goal of this project is to increase national pride that we still have sea turtles on our islands, to create awareness that they need protection and to identify concrete ways in which the public can help to save sea turtles from extinction.

Next to that this project serves as a case study, to raise general environmental awareness and care and to build a foundation for Nature and Environmental Education on the Windward Islands.

Target Groups of the three Windward Islands, Saba St. Eustatius and St. Maarten and organized activities:



The activities and results will be described per age group. As attachment 1 you can find the annual planning per month. All activities are executed on the three participating islands. Working schedule: 3 days pm on Saba, 3 days pm on St. Eustatius and rest of the time on St. Maarten.

Demographic information of the three Windward Islands

St. Maarten:

Population: 38.000

Number of public primary schools: 19

Number of private primary schools: 4

Number of public secondary schools: 10
Number of private secondary schools: 2
Number of unregistered schools: 7 (Estimated number of classes unregistered schools: 20)

Registered schools:

Total number of students: 6675

Total number of secondary school students: 2721

Total number of primary school students: 3954

Total number of primary school students older than 10: 1268 (for environmental newsheet)

Total number of students on unregistered schools: 378, certainly 305 older than 10 years.

Total number of classes: 274

Secondary school classes: 106

About 150 classes fall in the puppet show range.

Saba:

Population: 1600 people

Schools: 1 primary with 150 students: Sacred Heart School

1 sec. school with 150 students: Saba Comprehensive School

1 comprehensive school (art craft etc) with 150 students

St. Eustatius:

Population: 3200

-Primary: 4 schools: Golden Rock School, Governor De Graff, Lynch Plantation School and Statia Terminal School

-Secondary: 1 Gwendolyn Van Putten

The different target groups.

- 1. Target group:* All age groups.
- Activities and materials:*
- a. Fact sheet
 - b. Questionnaires and survey
 - c. Design logo
 - d. Posters
 - e. Badges
 - f. Newspaper publications
 - g. Community information

The following materials have been produced and used to reach out to the communities of St. Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius:

a. Fact sheet

A fact sheet, or flyer with information on the species can help generate interest and support for the sea turtle project and sea turtles in general. In cooperation with NME of Bonaire, the same design for the flyer was used, to generate a similar 'look' (green print, folded A4 to A5).

The information given in the flyer contained general information on sea turtles, research on the Windward Islands, the four species and what people can do to help them.

The work on the fact sheet started in December 2004 and continued till May 2004 when it was printed. In total 10.000,00 flyers have been printed, distributed over the three islands and used at public meetings and school visits.

Total costs for 10.000 pcs., on 80# paper: US\$ 1.475,--.

The final fact sheet can be viewed in *attachment 2*.

b. Questionnaires and survey

To set up a good strategy and have the right content for the presentations, it is important to know what people already know about sea turtles. Therefore a survey was held on all three Windward Islands.

This survey gave an inventory on:

- Have people ever seen sea turtles or come to places where they can see them?
- Where do people get their information on sea turtles?
- Knowledge questions: What do people already know about sea turtles?
- How much do people care about sea turtles?
- Are there different groups of people with specific attitudes?
- Pr involved questions: where do we go to spread messages?

The questionnaire can be viewed in attachment 3.

Distribution of the questionnaires:

The questionnaires were distributed in January and recollected in February 2005. They were distributed in different ways:

*Through schools, with a few questionnaires filled out by students and the others took them home to be filled out by the parents.

NB: on St Maarten different schools were contacted, but only the following schools responded: St. Dominic secondary and primary school, Learning unlimited primary school, Sr Borgia school and Sr. Marie Laurence school; on Saba and Statia the questionnaire got distributed through all schools. *On St Maarten also through the library, shops, organizations like the Rotary clubs, Daily Herald journalists, and on the streets on different locations.

Total of distributed questionnaires:

In total about a 1000 questionnaires have been distributed, and 461 good questionnaires got returned. NB: approximately 600 got returned, but 150 were not taken into account because they were either not correctly filled out (only the front or back page), or obviously not seriously filled out. Over time when the questionnaires were recollected on St. Maarten, it appeared that a very low percentage got returned. Therefore at the last school, an explanatory letter was put in with the questionnaire for the parents. The number of returned questionnaires was much higher that time.

Results:

Of the 461 questionnaires, 260 were filled out on St. Maarten (57%), 109 on Saba (24%) and 87 on St. Eustatius (19%).

The fact that only 50% of the originally handed out questionnaires good be analyzed, learns I need a better strategy for the next survey.

The results are analyzed and used to fit the educational sea turtle program to these islands. Most important outcome was, that it showed that schools are an important target group, and the newspaper a good instrument to inform people, especially through the Herald. The exact findings of the survey are a separate publication, to be viewed at the office of the 3 Nature Conservation Organizations. In October 2005 a second survey is held (attachment 3b), to compare the sea turtle knowledge of the beginning and after ending of this project and to view the result of this project. The end survey showed that 75% of the persons interviewed had heard about the sea turtle project. 45% of them mentioned they had actively taken part or knew somebody that had taken part in a 'sea turtle activity' related to this project. School visits and newspaper articles appeared to be the most effective approach to reach the community. 36% of the persons interviewed mentioned that the program got them more interested in sea turtles and 42% mentioned to be proud that sea turtles are still on our islands. When comparing the initial survey to the evaluation survey, it showed that persons appeared to have better knowledge of sea turtle facts and therefore answered more questions correctly. In general, the project showed much positive feedback from the community on all three islands, and offered a great deal of encouragement to continue the work to prolong its success in sea turtle conservation and environmental education in general.

c. logo

For this project it was necessary to have a mascot and logo, so people would be able to recognize publications and materials.

Loic Bryan, a local artist on St. Maarten, designed the Logo. The idea was to get a sea turtle mascot that both looked human as sea turtle, so people and especially kids could relate to him and would get attached to him. The looks of the mascot are chosen like this, to relate to the target group, mainly the Antillean community of the Windward Islands.

The logo and mascot can be viewed in attachment 4.

The mascot and/or logo are used in all publications of this project, to get people to recognize the product as being part of this project.

To give the mascot a name, the three foundations held a naming contest mid January. The announcement of this contest was in the local newspapers Daily Herald and the Today, and announced in schools; everybody could send in a name. 6 schools and approximately 15 solo entries came in and the kindergarten class of Learning Unlimited delivered the best entry, Scout. The name was chosen because Scouts are nature aware kids, and the name rhymes on "Help out", which is part of the slogan.

In June, the mascot and logo evolved slightly; Scout got a plastron, to make him look more like a sea turtle.

d. Posters

To draw attention to sea turtles, a poster is an easy instrument to distribute in public places and to use and leave behind in schools.

The idea was to design and print the poster at the start of the project and just like the flyer, Bonaire and the Windward islands wanted to have a similar 'look'. When the poster from Bonaire finally arrived on St. Maarten, it appeared we couldn't share it, since their poster was mainly focused on tracking, one topic we didn't plan to do at that time.

It took some time to find the right design, but in the meantime another Caribbean Sea turtle protection poster was used in the schools.

Total costs:

SIZE	: 17" X 24"
QTY	: 2000 pc = 1 Imprint
IMPRINT	: full color on 1-Side
PRICE	: \$1.029,--

The posters were distributed in shops, public buildings, hotels, beach restaurants and schools. The design of the poster can be viewed in attachment 5.

e. Badges

Beautiful buttons with the projects' logo would help advertise sea turtles and remind people of the fact we have sea turtles. Since the badges were produced in large quantities, they were used as hand out for example during school activities (like presentations, the art/essay contest etc). So when viewing the badge, children would remember they attended an activity around sea turtles.

In total 5000 Badges have been designed in September 2005 of the logo of Scout.

Total costs: 5.000 pcs. , PRICE : \$ 0,29/ea total: US\$ 1.450,--.

f. Newspaper

In the survey, the newspaper came out as a good instrument to reach both adults as children (especially due to the kids pages).

On St. Maarten, two local newspapers cover the islands news: The Daily Herald and The Today. The Daily Herald is also distributed on Saba and St. Eustatius.

In total 65 articles were published in the Daily Herald or Today till November 2005. The publications came out under the following categories:

- Sea turtle ABC (two weekly series on sea turtles for kids): 27
- The installation of the educational coordinator: 3

- The surveys: 2
- Announcements or reviews of lectures: 3
- Different contests: 9
- The school program (puppetshow and song): 9
- The turtle tracking program: 6
- Nesting activities: 5

A few of these publications on this project can be found in attachment 17. All publications can be viewed at the Nature Foundation.

G. Community Information

On the three islands, different activities were organized to motivate people to join and get informed on sea turtle protection.

Sea turtle information boards:

On Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten information on turtles has been displayed on different public places.

On Saba, 8 information panels have been made on different sea turtle topics like evolution, species, biology, etc.

On Statia and St. Maarten the same boards were used with games and information on species, nesting, adaptation etc. (see attachment 7). To motivate and help them when watching these boards, activity sheets for the participating children were available and kids who filled it out received a little present (badge, sticker or key chain).

Sea turtle boards displayed in public places on Saba:

- In the hospital (July 2005- September 2005)
- In the library (September 2005- November 2005)
- In the Government building (November 2005- ??)
- Sea turtle Contest products (underwater theatre and animal statues) in the Government building (November 2005 - ??)

Sea turtle boards displayed in public places on St. Eustatius:

- In the library (July 2005- mid August 2005). Radio announcements were made to inform students about it.
- Sea turtle Contest products (sea turtle tracking program) in the library (September 2005 - ??)

Sea turtle displays in public places on St. Maarten:

- in the library (June 2005- September 2005)
- in the zoo (September 2005- ??)
- Sea turtle Contest products in the library (October 2005)

Next to the distribution of sea turtle information boards, also community activities, lectures and excursions were organized. These will be mentioned in Target Group nr 5: adults, although youth was also invited.

2. *Target group:* age 5 - 10
- Activities and materials:*
- a. Puppet shows and
 - b. School song
 - c. School programs
 - d. Costume
 - e. Competitions

a. The puppet show.

A puppet show is an important component of the school program. The puppets will illustrate the many problems that sea turtles face, and will explain what the children can do to help sea turtles, through a good script. Unlike described in the manual, the coordinator decided to write and perform the puppetshows herself. This was more time consuming, but way more effective. The puppetshow was designed to go to kindergarten classes and grades 1-6 of the primary school.

In January, schools were contacted to make the puppets and theatre during crafts and arts lessons, but schools were too busy and already had their year program full at this time of the year. Local supply stores were contacted with the request to donate materials, but only the fabrics were partly donated. The script, theatre and puppets were made at The Nature Foundation. An art teacher of St. Dominic helped painting the backgrounds for the theatre.

With the puppet show, a turtle school song was developed. The schools received a copy of the song 2 weeks before the visit so the students could learn the song in advance and sing along with the puppets in the end. The text of the script and the song can be viewed in attachment nr. 6.

To complete the school activity, an outside activity was added to the program for grades 2 to 6. This was a portable exhibition of 6 panels on the topic of sea turtles (the different kinds, where do they live, how do they reproduce, the difference between land and sea turtles and the structure in the animal kingdom), with text, games and other activities. Pictures of these activities can be found in attachment nr. 7.

During the summer holiday, the exhibition was displayed in the Library and the Zoo of St. Maarten and the library of St. Eustatius, with worksheets for the visiting children (attachment 9). A different exhibition, developed by a volunteer on Saba, was displayed in the hospital and library of Saba. On St. Maarten, also 2 summer camps were visited with the puppet show and an additional beach clean up was organized with these shows.

b. The School Song

To reach a broad audience, a song was written, with the purpose to broadcast on the radio and to use in school.

The 'Scout King Turtle' song has been composed, sung and recorded (twice) on St Maarten in February 2005. The song is written by Keith Rhea, sung by Percy Rankin, the performing band is 'Bonfire', and Connis Vanterpool of Jingle House recorded the song, all for free. In attachment 2, the lyrics of the song can be viewed.

c. School programs

After making a list of contact persons and numbers of all schools, all schools on Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten were notified about the possibility of having a school presentation on sea turtles, in December. In March, a following letter was send with information on the puppet show program.

The schools on Saba, St. Eustatius and part of the schools of St. Maarten were visited with the Sea turtle educational puppet show program between April and July 2005 and again in August and September 2005. The list of the participating schools can be found in attachments nr. 8.

Total number of visits Primary schools: 19 different schools (some double visits, to different classes or sometimes a return visit to the same class), with a total of 116 classes visited.

d. Costume

For the school program the RARE program advised to have a turtle suit. Some turtle suit designers were contacted, but in the end the coordinator rejected the idea of having a turtle suit, feeling more comfortable to inform students without it. As a replacement, the schools will receive something else that will remind them a longer time on this program, for example a copy of the turtle books (turtle ABC).

e. Competitions

To enhance the school program, two (three on St. Eustatius) competitions were held for the students during the year:

1. The mascot naming competition
2. The art and essay competition in the turtle tracking project
3. The guess where she went-competition on St. Eustatius in the turtle tracking project.

First contest: To give the mascot a name, the three foundations held a naming contest mid January. The announcement of this contest was in the Daily Herald and the Today; everybody could send in a name. 6 schools and approximately 15 solo entries came in and the kindergarten class of Learning Unlimited delivered the best entry, Scout. The name was chosen because Scouts are nature aware kids, and the name rhymes on "Help out", which is part of the slogan.

The *second contest* was held to get names for the turtles in the turtle-tracking program, September 2005. This project was done on St. Eustatius and St. Maarten, and started with patrolling the beaches to look for tracks. Since nesting turtles return app. 5 times to the same area to make a nest, two weekly tracks would indicate a pattern and then we would know when to set up night patrols on St. Maarten (St. Eustatius had night patrols every night).

One female green turtle was traced on St. Eustatius on September 21st 2005 and one female hawksbill was found on St. Maarten on October 10th.

Both on St. Maarten en St. Eustatius, all participating schools have been visited with a presentation on the turtle tracking (why and how) and the explanation around the contest. All the primary schools on St. Maarten that took part in last years' educational sea turtle program are invited. These schools have been given notice about the contest. Regulation and the letter of invitation can be viewed in attachment 15.

Participating schools were Sr. Magda, Sr. Regina, Learning Unlimited, Sophia's Camp and Defiance Learning Center. The deadline for entries was September 30th, and the winning entries were announced on October 4th. The entries were displayed for three weeks at the Jubilee Library (pictures, see attachment 16).

On St. Eustatius, Golden Rock School, Governor De Graff, Gwendolyn Van Putten, Lynch Plantation School and Statia Terminal School took part in the contest. The deadline was September 19th. The entries were displayed for three weeks at the St. Eustatius Library.

St Eustatius was also running a *third competition* once the turtles had started to send information. Students had to guess where the turtle will finish her journey and how far she will swim to get there. This competition started in October and will run until the turtles reached their feeding grounds, so no fixed end date is set. All the schools had been revisited to give them an update and details of this competition in early October.

Due to the rocky formation of the island, Saba has less sea turtle nesting activity than the other two Dutch Windward Islands, which called for an *alternative second contest* and prize. Since the Sacred Heart School is the only primary school on Saba, we held a collaborate contest, where every class contributes to the final product, which is an underwater puppet theatre. The deadline for all entries was October 7th. A performance of the winning play was part of the Sea and Learn activities. All the students that made entries that are displayed in the theatre were taken on a boat- and snorkeling trip. All artwork was displayed at the governmental building at the Bottom and were permanently placed afterwards at the trail shop in Windwardside. Pictures of this contest can also be viewed in attachment 16b.

3. *Target group:* age 10 - 16
Activities and materials:
- a. School programs: Slide show
 - b. Environmental newsheet
 - c. Competition
 - d. A-Z booklet

a. School programs

After making a list of contact persons and numbers of all schools, all secondary schools on Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten were notified about the possibility of having a school presentation on sea turtles, in December.

The schools on Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten were visited with the Sea turtle educational program between December and July 2005 and again in August and September 2005. All secondary schools on Saba and St. Eustatius have been visited with a turtle PowerPoint presentation. All schools on St. Maarten were invited and a list of the participating schools can be found in attachments nr. 8.

Total number of visits Secondary schools: 5 different schools (some double visits, to different classes or sometimes a return visit to the same class), with a total of 23 classes visited.

b. Environmental newsheet

The idea in the RARE program was to make an environmental newsheet and distribute it under all the schools of the Windward Islands.

The demographic information of the three Windward Islands show, that the number of students that fall under this category (age 10-16) is approximately 4500. Due to the printing costs, the schools have been contacted with the question whether it would be possible to send a digital environmental newsheet, so they could print it out and distribute it among their students.

The costs per newsheet would be:

NEWS SHEET: a 2 sheet booklet, 1 Vertical Fold + staples in middle

Flat SIZE	: 8.5" x 11" ; 8.5" X 5.5" = Finished size
QTY	: 3000pc 5000pc 7500 pcs
PRICE	: \$ 1.680,-- \$ 2.109,-- \$ 2.657,--

The costs to have a monthly, or even a bi-monthly newsheet, didn't fall within the budget for this project. It might have been possible to find extra funding, like they did on Bonaire. Still it appeared that the goal of distributing an educational newsheet was too high for now, it is better to have something like it per organization. St. Eustatius already has an environmental newsheet and the Nature Foundation is going to have an electronic newsletter from November 2005 on.

As an alternative for the educational news, the local newspapers had two weekly articles on sea turtles in their Kids Editions (on Wednesdays in The Daily Herald and on Saturdays in The Today), in which we also made announcements on activities regarding this project.

c. Competition

To enhance the school program, competitions were held for the students during the year: An art and/or essay competition for secondary schools has been held on Saba and St. Eustatius.

The Saba Comprehensive School participated in the Saba Conservation Foundation Contest. 25 students from grades 1 to 5 made creatures out of papier-mâché. To complete the work of art for

their final exhibition moment, the student added a display card with some facts and figures about their animal: where does it live, what does it feed on and some final fun facts. All artwork were displayed at the governmental building at the Bottom. After that, the winning entries were placed at the trail shop in Windwardside. The Art Gallery is asked to help with auctioning the artwork after displaying it. The raised money will go to the art class, to buy new materials.

On St. Eustatius, The Gwendolyn Van Putten took part in the contest (next to the primary schools) to get names for the turtle tracking turtles. The deadline was September 19.

St Eustatius was also running a second competition for all the students on the island, once the turtles had started to send information. Students had to guess where the turtle will finish her journey and how far she will swim to get there. This competition started in October and ran until the turtles reached their feeding grounds, so no fixed end date was set. All the schools had been revisited to give them an update and details of this competition in early October.

On St. Maarten no contest was organized for secondary schools, due to a lack of time on the side of the organization and a lack of interest during this year of most secondary schools to participate in the turtle program (of 10 secondary schools, only Milton Peters College has been frequently visited). Until now, no alternative has been given, but probably after November these secondary schools will be contacted again about the new program.

d. A-Z booklet

Since February 2005 a sea turtle ABC has been published every two weeks in the Kids' Editions of the local newspapers. A list of 23 interesting or biological facts on sea turtles (A is for.., B is for ..) was made (see attachment 10) and per letter a story was written and published in the newspaper with an illustrations per article. An example can be viewed in attachment 17.

Printing costs for the A-Z booklet, when it is 100 pages:

Pages	: 100 pagina's
Quantity	: 500 stuks
Price	: Euro 4.335,--
Meerprijs	: Euro 108,-- per 100 stuks meer
Transportation	: app. 1.000\$

Additional funding came from the three Rotary Clubs of St. Maarten, but up to December the exact amount isn't mentioned yet. The educational officers will look for additional other funders and publication possibilities.

4. *Target group:* young adults
Activities and materials: a. Song
b. Music video
c. Youth groups

a. *The song*

To reach a broad audience, a song was written, with the purpose to broadcast on the radio and to use in school.

The 'Scout King Turtle' song has been composed, sung and recorded on St Maarten in February 2005. The song is written by Keith Rhea, sung by Percy Rankin, the performing band is 'Bonfire', and Connis Vanterpool of Jingle House recorded the song.

After that the song was first only used during school visits, in August and September it was distributed to some radio stations, launched during an interview and broadcasted a few times after that.

Radio interviews with the song:

- August 9th : radio interview with Carl Remprashed (Casey) of Mix FM 94.7.
- August 10th : radio interview laser 101 at 7:45. Fundraising for project attached.
- August 18-24: radio announcements about presentation lions club St. Eustatius on the 24th.
- August 24th : radio interview in the morning on Statia / saba radio, repeated in the afternoon

b. *Music Video*

To take the song a step further, the plan was to make a music video with the song and to have it broadcasted at the local television.

Keith Rhea, the writer of the song, is contacted to make the video. He has a film crew available. Footage would be available of sea turtles on Saba. The idea is to make this video before the next nesting season (may 2006)

c. *Youth groups*

These age groups are hard to reach, since they don't attend many youth clubs.

- On Saba and St. Eustatius, a lecture on Sea turtles was given to the snorkel club and Scouts.
- During the summer holiday that the information boards were placed in the Library on St Eustatius, every Wednesday volunteers actively guided visiting children around the sea turtle exhibition.
- On St. Maarten, youth groups were twice visited in the Library (age 5-9 and 9-16). Here fore, the puppet show and an age related after program was organized: for younger age color plates and puzzles (see attachment nr 9) and for the older ones we had the portable exhibition on turtles (see attachment nr 7).
- A few summer camps were visited on St. Maarten with the puppet show. With the sailing camp also a beach cleanup was organized afterwards on Explorer Island.

5. *Target group:* Adults
- Activities and materials:*
- a. Radio/TV
 - b. Newspapers
 - c. Churches
 - d. Community visitation
 - e. Billboards
 - f. Legislation leaflet
 - g. Bumper stickers
 - h. Stamps
 - i. Telephone cards

a. Radio/TV

To reach a large audience, radio interviews have been done to announce activities or to explain about the program.

Radio interviews with the song:

- August 9th : radio interview with Carl Remprashed (Casey) of Mix FM 94.7.
- August 10th : radio interview laser 101 at 7:45. Fundraising for project attached.
- August 18-24: radio announcements about presentation lions club St. Eustatius on the 24th.
- August 24th : radio interview in the morning on Statia / saba radio, repeated in the afternoon

The song, Scout King turtle, is broadcasted several times on the radio.

Television wasn't used as media. Some video footage on turtles is gathered but not yet organized to make a video for the song.

b. Newspapers

As mentioned under target group 1, up to November in total 65 articles were published in the Daily Herald or Today till November 2005. The publications came out under the following categories:

- Sea turtle ABC (two weekly series on sea turtles for kids): 27
- The installation of the educational coordinator: 3
- The surveys: 2
- Announcements or reviews of lectures: 3
- Different contests: 9
- The school program (puppet show and song): 9
- The turtle tracking program: 6
- Nesting activities: 5

Some example of these publications on the project can be viewed in Attachment 17.

c. Churches

Because many people in the Caribbean attend church services, the church is an ideal instrument for sending a message to a large part of the community. Also, the fathers or ministers of the churches are people that the community listens to.

Churches on the three islands have been contacted, first by fax or e-mail and later followed up by phone call, to see if the churches wanted to get involved in the project by publication in their periodical or by sermon).

The different religions all have some basic conservation ethic (quotes from religious texts) that was drawn upon to support the ideas of the conservation campaign. The chosen angle was "creation", that

God created all animals and other life on earth, and that we as co-creatures should follow His wish to protect what He made.

On St. Maarten, 12 churches or the boards of organized churches were contacted (see attachment 11 for the list of churches on the Windward Islands) in July 2005. By the end of July, 3 churches or boards on St. Maarten reacted positively (Morian Church / Roman Catholic and the Evangelische Broedergemeenschap sxm), but after their board meeting in September they mentioned they didn't have time for the project.

On Saba all 4 contacted churches have done a sermon on environmental care and sea turtle protection. They received information and materials in August and sermons were done in August and September. The Anglican Church responded back that it had gone well.

On St. Eustatius 4 out of 8 churches had been reached in August and September. The Catholic Church requested a written sermon, which they received in August. The Methodist church and SDA requested a presentation in October. The Methodist Church has been visited with a presentation in Church on October 23rd. The SDA cancelled it due to internal affairs. The Anglican Church did its own sermon with the information it received.

D. Community visitation: lectures, excursions and activities

To get support and generate enthusiasm for the program, different target groups like the media, public service organizations, divers, fishermen, artists and musicians were contacted and invited for a lecture.

Open activities and lectures have been given on all three islands, to promote sea turtle awareness. These activities had been announced in the newspaper, by radio or by poster.

-Saba:

*Two open lectures on sea turtles were organized on August 15th and 16th. Announcements were made in the local newspaper and on posters all over the island and people were also invited personally.

App. 35 people, mainly divers and dive schools who were invited personally attended the first one on August 15th 2005. Their response was very positive and they agreed to hand out the turtle flyers to their customers.

On August 16th 2005 the Lions Club held an open presentation / meeting for all interested people who had missed the other day. App. 50 people attended that meeting.

* The fishermen community will be visited in November or December and will receive a fishermen guide for sea turtles. It explains what to do when a sea turtle is entangled in a net.

-St. Eustatius:

* The lions Club organized an open lecture on sea turtles on August 24th. Announcements were made in the local newspaper and by radio announcement a whole week prior to the meeting. People from the Churches were invited personally, so they could see why I wanted their churches' involvement. About 45 people attended that lecture.

* During the whole nesting season, interested people were invited to join the night patrols with Emma Harrison. These announcements were done in different newspaper articles and by poster and flyers. The satellite-tracking program was set up in September and also invited many people to participate in night patrols.

* During the summer holiday that the information boards were placed in the Library, every Wednesday volunteers actively guided visiting children around the sea turtle exhibition.

*On August 24th and 25th, the local fishermen were visited to talk about their way of fishing and if they had any trouble with sea turtles in their nets. The fishermen council president Renaldo Redan explained that since '94 nobody is catching sea turtles anymore. The places they catch fish now aren't areas where turtles hang out, and they also never leave their nets unattended, so if in case a turtle would get stuck, they would have time to take it out.

* The St. Eustatius auxiliary home was visited on July 6th. App. 10 elderly presented a lecture on sea turtles and all talked in the end on their old beliefs on sea turtles and how sea turtles were viewed when they were younger.

*A divers lecture is planned in December, since in September-October many dive centers were closed.

-St. Maarten:

In the beginning of the year, different community groups were contacted to have a meeting with: the media, the arts community and the Lions Club and Rotaries of St. Maarten.

*The local media on St. Maarten contain two newspapers, the Daily Herald and the Today. Media representatives from both newspapers were visited and they became contact persons to send in articles on the sea turtle program. Both were very concerned with environmental care and they saved a two weekly place in the kids' pages for the sea turtle ABC and published every article on sea turtles that was sent in.

*The arts and musicians community was contacted, to ask for their contribution (the program needed a mascot and a song). Due to these contacts, Loic Bryan and Keith Rhea were contacted and both volunteered to contribute to the program.

*Lions Club and Rotaries were contacted. The Rotaries invited the educational coordinator to do a presentation on sea turtles on their meeting on February 2nd and 15th. On March 6th the educational coordinator helped the Rotary by assisting in painting the local swimming pool. Children were asked to paint underwater scenery and on forehand they were instructed what kind of animals they could make and about the use of colors etc. The Rotaries of St. Maarten jointly agreed to co-finance the publication of the sea turtle ABC lesson book.

*On June 5, Environmental day was celebrated with a beach clean up and puppet show on the beach.

*During the sea turtle tracking program that started in August, beaches were monitored to look for tracks. People living in the nesting areas, were visited and asked to help in the monitoring. 4 people in Guana Bay area participated.

Since nesting turtles return app. 5 times to the same area to make a nest, two weekly tracks would indicate a pattern and then we would know when to set up night patrols on St. Maarten (St. Eustatius had night patrols every night).

When the tracks indicated in September that one turtle would return in around October 8th, night patrols were set up and executed with the help of these volunteers. Night patrols ran from October 7th till October 9th.

One female green turtle was found on St. Eustatius on September 21st 2005 and one female hawksbill was found on St. Maarten on the night of October 9th-10th.

Weekly updates were published in the newspaper to show where these turtles had traveled to on their journey to their feeding grounds. More information on the satellite-tracking program can be found in the second section for young adults, topic "contests".

In November 2005, interested people from the whole community were invited to join a night excursion to watch the nest hatch.

*The fishermen community were visited in November and handed a fishermen guide for sea turtles. It explains what to do when a sea turtle is entangled in a net.

*Bumper stickers and badges have been handed out during the whole year to schoolchildren and also to adults during the survey in November 2005.

E. Informative signs

All three islands have nesting beaches. To inform people on the beach (residents and tourist) what they can do to increase the survival and hatching rate of the nests, it is planned to construct informative signs on those beaches. The signs should convey a strong message about the need to protect sea turtles.

On St. Maarten a total of 11 signs would be placed on following beaches:

Location of the signs	Total number of signs
Dawn Beach	2
Guana Bay	2
Gibbs Bay	1
Simpson Bay	3
Mullet Bay	2
Cupecoy Beach	1

On St. Eustatius, a total of 6 signs would be placed on following beaches:

Location of the signs	Total number of signs
Zeelandia Beach	2
Oranjestad Bay	1
Kay Bay	1
Lynch Beach	1
Crooks Castle	1

On Saba, one sign would be placed on Cove Bay.

In May, the process around placing signs on the nesting beaches started.

Quotations: Traxx design, Graphitty works and Pannier in America (since they also produced other signs for Saba and Statia).

The best quotation received was from Pannier:

08/12/05

Marine Parks
Windward Islands
Netherlands
Dutch West Indies

ATTN: Dominique Vissenberg
Phone: 599-542-0267 Fax: 599-542-0268
PROJECT: Windward Turtle Project

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Total Cost
18	36"w x 48"h x .090 Fiberglass-Embedded Panels. Single-faced. Matte finish. Square cut. No holes. One each of nineteen different.	\$365.00	\$6,570.00
18	Upright Exhibit Base for 36"w x 48"h Panel. Visual area will be 35"w x 47"h. Twelve foot legs. Note: Freight not included in above prices	\$490.00	\$8,820.00

To cut the costs, it is decided to make the legs ourselves and to order the boards by Pannier, who would be able to send the boards to St. Eustatius for minimum costs.

The SHTA was contacted for co-funding but after a few meetings, end October, that request was turned down. A new co-funder hasn't been contacted when writing this final report.

On St. Maarten official permits needed to be requested for. Since these would cost app. 200 guilders per sign, also a request for remission of permit fees was sent to the executive council and VROM in August. On November 14th, the VROM Department and Nature Foundation visited all beaches to locate exactly where the signs would go. Attachment 13 shows the request to the SHTA, all information sent to the executive council and the text for the signs.
Process from 14th on: Still waiting for permits and since budget is unclear.

F. Legislation leaflet

Since many wildlife conservation laws in the Caribbean region are outdated or not well registered, the goal of this topic was to update our laws on sea turtles and to make a readable booklet about all regulations of the three islands, to distribute to people who work with wildlife regulations (police, coastguard, executive council etc) and in schools and libraries etc. But this is an opportunity to make a leaflet on all different environmental topics, not only sea turtles.

Therefore, in June, all legislation is gathered from Saba, St. Eustatius and St Maarten and a volunteering Canadian law student in Saba started working on it. Unfortunately most laws are written in Dutch, so he hadn't been able to do much work on it. Up to now it has all been collected but isn't completed.

If the laws need to be updated and reviewed, it is recommendable that the three managers of the Conservation Foundations to work on that with somebody of the Executive Council or another legal representative.

G. Bumper stickers

Bumper stickers are a good way to send out a message for everybody to read. The Nature Foundation still had about 10000 bumper stickers with a sea turtle, so these are used on St. Maarten. Since these bumper stickers have The Nature Foundations name on it, these couldn't be used on the other islands. Because these bumper stickers didn't do very well in the community and budget-wise, it is decided not to make new ones, but to save the money for other gadgets (posters and badges).

The Nature Foundation bumper stickers have been handed out on St. Maarten in schools and during activities.

H. Stamps

The 10th of December 2004 the Netherlands Antilles postal service (Nieuwe Post Nederlandse Antillen N.V.) issued a set of six postage stamps featuring marine turtles. The stamps were available at all Netherlands Antilles post offices; their total nominal value is 16.50 Neth. Ant. Guilders, which is equivalent to about US\$ 9.27.

I. Telephone cards

Cheryl Rismay from Telem was contacted in July, to discuss the possibility to produce prepaid sea turtle cards, so every Tel cell prepaid phone owner would be informed on sea turtle protection. At first the idea was to produce 500,000 prepaid cards in January 2006. Later they made another offer instead of the prepaid cards: sea turtle sim cards are produced, so new Tel Cell owners would be informed. An image of this card can be viewed in attachment nr 14. From beginning of December 2005 the cards have been handed out to customers. Mid December a press release was send out.

Extra activities:

Educating the public and government about the problems sea turtles are facing is one step in saving sea turtles from extinction. Other important steps included the strengthening current legislation (still under construction), establishing protected reserves and managing these protected areas. Data on the viability of the sea turtle population is essential to achieve these goals. Therefore, we need to do more research on the sea turtle population.

The sea turtle tracking program

On all three islands the three different Conservation Foundations have done a count for nesting turtles. Since 2000, all three islands monitor sea turtles.

This nesting season, Emma Harrison on St. Eustatius organized and conducted beach patrols: all nesting activities are recorded.

On St. Maarten, beach monitoring or data collection hasn't been done consistently or actively, but was depending mostly on volunteers who gave data on nests.

In collaboration with the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA), The Nature Foundation Sint Maarten and St Eustatius National Parks (STENAPA) have initiated a satellite tracking study of its nesting green and hawksbill turtles in August 2005.

To date, nothing is known about where these animals go once they leave the islands; this project aims to track the turtles as they migrate from the nesting beach to their foraging grounds. Learning their movement patterns gives us a clearer picture of their geographical range and so allows us to improve protection and conservation efforts, not just on the nesting beaches, but also in other vital habitats. Satellite tracking also identifies migration pathways; by knowing these we can determine any potential threats, such as fisheries interactions, turtles may face en route between foraging and nesting areas.

On St. Eustatius, the beaches were already monitored the whole nesting season. In August this project started on St. Maarten with the monitoring of Guana and Gibbs Bay beaches in the morning, looking for signs that turtles had come to land. Sea turtles in their nesting season return to nest approximately 4 to 5 times with a certain interval. Finding their tracks provides information about whether the turtle has nested or not and the dates when the tracks were found are used to predict when she might return to the beach.

The original plan was to attach five transmitters in total, to three females on St Eustatius and two individuals on Sint Maarten, under the supervision of Dr Robert Van Dam, a physicist with many years of experience using satellite telemetry to track turtles in the Caribbean. On St. Maarten, the first Hawksbill nest on Guana Bay was reported on September 19th, and was estimated to be about a week old. On September 24th, the first track was reported on Gibbs Bay. The Nature Foundation concluded it had to be the same Hawksbill and estimated her return at either of these two beaches around Saturday Oct 8th.

To promote public involvement, STENAPA and The Nature Foundation organized an art- and essay contest around this tracking project. The winners named the 5 turtles that are planned to be equipped with the transmitters. The first turtle on St. Maarten was released under the name 'Archy' and the first Green turtle of St. Eustatius, which was released on September 20th, is called 'Miss Shellie'. Weekly updates are published in the Daily Herald, to inform people on their whereabouts.

On St. Maarten, the nesting file is updated with information on all found tracks, information on nesting activity or false crawls (the sea turtle returned to the sea without making a nest), and the hatching success.

Sea turtle symposium

This year the 26th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation will take place for first time in the Mediterranean Sea, in Greece, from April 3rd to 8th 2006. The symposium allows researchers from around the world to share their latest work with fellow sea turtle biologists. "Help Out or Sea Turtles Miss Out", featuring "Scout" the mascot will be presented at this symposium.

Educational volunteers

The whole year volunteers were requested to help with the sea turtle project. This could be in helping with the puppet show and educational program (always two volunteers were needed to perform the puppet show and to help with the exhibition), or people could help out with beach monitoring. Advertisements have been in the newspaper the whole year, but most response was from parents who had children in the visited schools and were willing to help out. Still, volunteers are difficult to get on St. Maarten.

For the booklet, a teachers 'response group' is asked to pre-read the booklet before printing.

Attachment 7. Pictures school program and outside activity



acting like turtles



working in a group



land- and sea turtle race



working in a group



different boards



the end game: the turtle of fortune



the puppet show

Attachment 8. The list of participating schools in the turtle program 2005

Schools visited on Saba, Statia and St. maarten

school visits statia

-march 10/11: all the 5 and second graders of 4 schools (7 class presentations) and class 1 and 2 of secondary school

-13, 14, 15 june:

Goldenrock school: cycle one (3 classes), grade 2, grade 3, grade 4

Govenor the graaf school: cycle one, grade 2, grade 3, grade 4.

SDA and plantation school: cycle one, grade 2,3,4,5 and 6.

-sept and October school visits primary schools on contest (7 presentations in 4 schools)

School visits Saba

- March 17/18: primary school grades 2, 4, 5 (2 classes) and 6; secondary school Mavo grades 1 and 2 (2 classes)

- June 1 and 2: visit Saba for schools: 8 classes (2x kindergarten, grades 1-6.)

- 14-16 sept and 18-20 October school visits secondary and 6 grades primary school on contest

School visits St maarten:

- Feb 16: Sr Regina school: presentation sea turtles for grade 5
- Feb 18: School visit Academy, 2 classes
- Feb 21: schoolvisit MPC sea turtle presentation to 3 classes of Havo 3, and 1 VWO3 and 1 VWO 6.
- april 18 and 19: Puppetshow visit primary school St. Dominic: 2x2 groups {classes 1, 2 (2x)} and 3 and kindergarten 2 classes.
- May 4th MACIII school: puppetshow for 4 classes: kindergarten (2) and grade 1 and 2.
- may 3rd Sr regina forms 1, 2 and 3
- 10th of may international school, age 11-14, 1 class
- May 13th: 3 classes montessorischool
- May 12: library visit with the puppetshow
- may 16, 17 and 20: MPC, 10 classes Havo and VWO
- may 23 Sofia's camp, 4 classes
- may 23, 24: Learning unlimited, 5 grades
- may 30: sr regina, classes 4,5,6
- Juni 6,9,10 and 17: Sr Magda school, 10 classes in total
- June 20: Sr Marie Laurence: kindergarten class (2), grade 1, 2, 3 and 4 (6 classes in total)
- June 21: Defiance Road, ages 3-12, 4 classes
- June 27,28,29 Ace foundation, grade 1-5 (5 classes)
- September 8: sofias camp, 4 classes (new classes)
- Oktober 5: sr borgia grades 5 and 6
- November 8: Sr. Regina 8 grades (kindergarten and grades 1-6) about sea turtle tracking program and hatching success
- November 9 follow up sr borgia

Total number of visits Primary schools: 19 different schools (some double visits, to different classes or sometimes a return visit to the same class), with a total of 120 classes visited.

Total number of visits Secondary schools: 5 different schools (some double visits, to different classes or sometimes a return visit to the same class), with a total of 23 classes visited.

Students learn about sea turtles from puppet show

PHILIPSBURG--The first puppet show to educate children about sea turtles and why it is important to protect and preserve them was performed at St. Dominic School earlier this week. The show is a part of the "Help Out or Sea Turtles Miss Out" programme being carried out in the Windward Islands.

The show's three characters – a fisherman, a tourist and a sea turtle – were performed by Nature Foundation staff and their volunteer Marieke van den Pol. The plot of the puppet show deals with the three characters meeting at sea and having a conversation about sea turtles and how rare they are. The negative things that affect sea turtles are also discussed.

At the end of the show, the children and puppets sang the "Scout, King Turtle" song together.

After the show, the class was divided into groups and the children were encouraged to learn more about sea turtles in outdoor activities. Information boards with illustrations, instructions and fun educational games about the different kinds of sea turtles and their behaviour on them were spread over the playground.

Nature Foundation Educational Coordinator Dominique Vissenberg said, "There was a lot of information to be consumed during the activities, but



The puppet show backdrop

the guides of each group helped the children in accordance with their level of understanding. These activities are all about experiencing nature."

She added that she had been pleasantly surprised by the knowledge the students already had about sea turtles. "However, if the children just had fun play-

ing the educational games and they start to appreciate sea turtles as incredible creatures as a result of this project, then in my opinion this activity was a big success."

The Nature Foundation puppet show will also visit other schools in the Windward Islands in the coming months. Schools interested

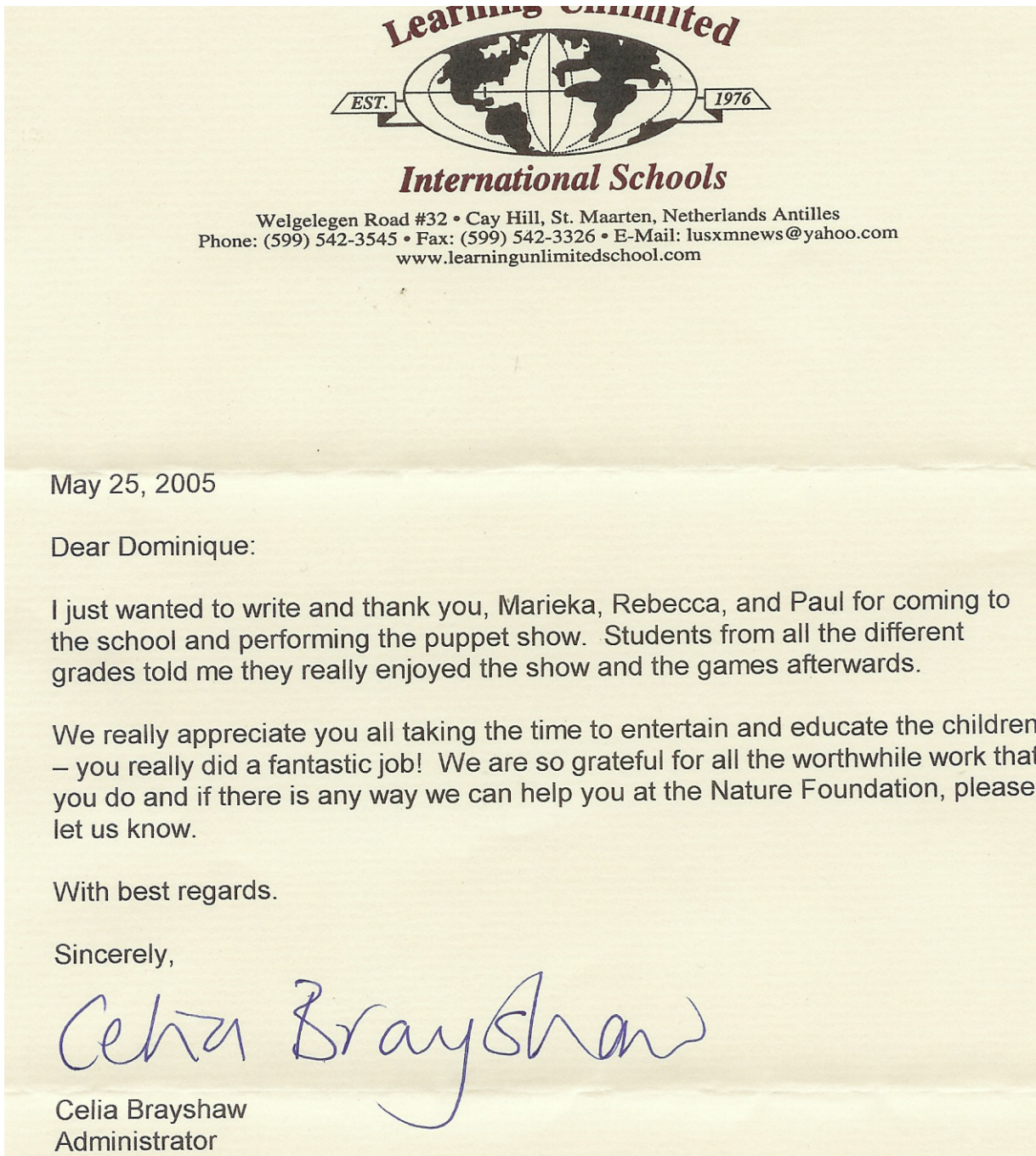
in the programme that haven't yet signed up and/or would like more information can call Dominique Vissenberg, tel. 542-0267.

"Help Out or Sea Turtles Miss Out" is a joint programme on sea turtles of Nature Foundation St. Maarten, Saba Conservation Foundation and St. Eustatius.

One announcement on the educational project.

Some responses from the schools

Letter from Learning Unlimited, after the school was visited with the puppetshow and the portable exhibition



Email from Ingrid, teacher of the Sr. Regina School, after an organized beach clean up of a sea turtle nesting beach:

Date: Wed, 2 Nov 2005 14:52:32 -0800 (PST)
From: "ingrid cheng" <icheng23@yahoo.com> [Add to Address Book](#) [Add Mobile Alert](#)
Yahoo! DomainKeys has confirmed that this message was sent by yahoo.com. [Learn more](#)
Subject: Re: email
To: "domi vis" <domiwerk@yahoo.com>

Beste Dominique,

Namens de leerlingen nogmaals bedankt voor de uitnodiging.

De kinderen hebben genoten van de trip en er direkt wat bijgeleerd. Voor mij moesten ze een verslag maken over de trip. Hun reactie was dat ze het leuk vonden om te helpen het eiland schoon te houden. ook hebben velen de foto's en artikelen in de krant gebruikt.

Vanmorgen kwamen ze trots met het artikel waar de eieren waren uitgekomen. Ze waren trots dat zij hadden meegeholpen om de beach schoon te maken voor de schildpadjes.

Dominique ook nog bedankt voor de leuke foto's.

Nogmaals hartelijk dan en we blijven contact met je houden.

Als er weer iets is,waarbij je onze hulp nodig hebben,laat dat gerust weten.

Groetjes,

Ingrid

Sophia's Camp



Foundation

May 24, 2005

Nature Foundation
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Dear Ms. Vissenberg,

By means of this communication, we would like to sincerely thank you for your presentation at our school with the puppet show, which was exciting. It was a good way to teach kids about sea turtles and the importance of preserving and protecting them.

The presentation was fun and the students enjoyed themselves they were delighted with the information received. After the show the students did a little of their own research about sea turtles and had lots of fun doing it. Enclosed you will find some of the information that was discovered by them.

Thanks again for the puppet show and I do hope that you will continue to call on us with other projects.

Yours in Education,

Sophia's Camp
Foundation

Margriet Solomons
Educator / Director

Responses from other target groups (divers on Saba):

Date: Fri, 9 Dec 2005 21:58:54 +0100 (MET)
From: "Uwe Vogel" <Uwevog@gmx.de> [Add to Address Book](#) [Add Mobile Alert](#)
To: domiviss@yahoo.com
Subject: Turtleknowledge

To who it may concern,

I had the pleasure to attend a seminar about the turtles living around Saba. It was held by Miss Dominique, who is working for the Nature Foundation St. Maarten. It was a very interesting evening and I learned a lot about the Seaturtles that I see more or less every day, doing my job as a diving Instructor.

Kind regards and a friendly finkick by

Uwe

To: domiviss@yahoo.com
From: "Bradley Wilson" <yasuredive@mail15.com> [Add to Address Book](#) [Add Mobile Alert](#)
Subject: Turtle Seminar
Date: Thu, 8 Dec 2005 23:09:29 -0400

To Whom it may Concern.

A few months ago, I attended a "Protect Our Sea Turtles" seminar presented by Miss Dominica of the Nature Foundation, St Maarten in conjunction with the Saba Conservation Foundation and Saba Marine Park.

In addition to finding the Seminar highly informative, I was pleased to be able to increase my own knowledge of sea turtles for professional reasons. Working as a Diving Instructor on Saba, I am constantly confronted with questions about the undersea world and its inhabitants. The seminar provided me with a good understanding of the sea turtles which visit the Saban reefs and the dangers which exist for them. Information which I can now share with the many divers who visit Saba each year.

Thank you for offering this program.

Sincerely,

Bradley R. Wilson

PADI OWSI