

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

2ND MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AC2)

AND

2ND WORKSHOP OF THE CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP (CWG2)

OF THE SHARKS MOU

Bonaire, Netherlands

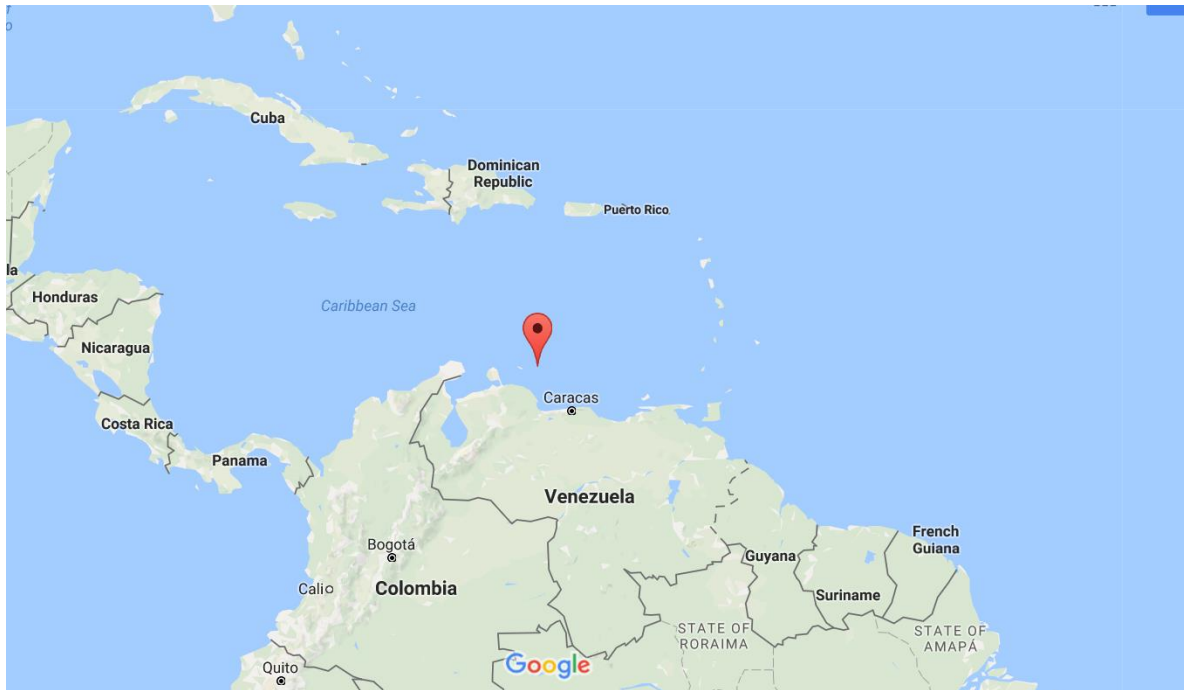
20-24 November 2017

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1. ABOUT BONAIRE

Bonaire is an island in the Leeward Antilles in the Caribbean Sea, less than a hundred miles off the north coast of Venezuela. Bonaire was part of the Netherlands Antilles until the country's dissolution in 2010, when the island became a special municipality within the country of the Netherlands. The island has a permanent population of 18,905 and an area of 294 km² (together with nearby uninhabited Klein Bonaire). Kralendijk is the capitol of the island.



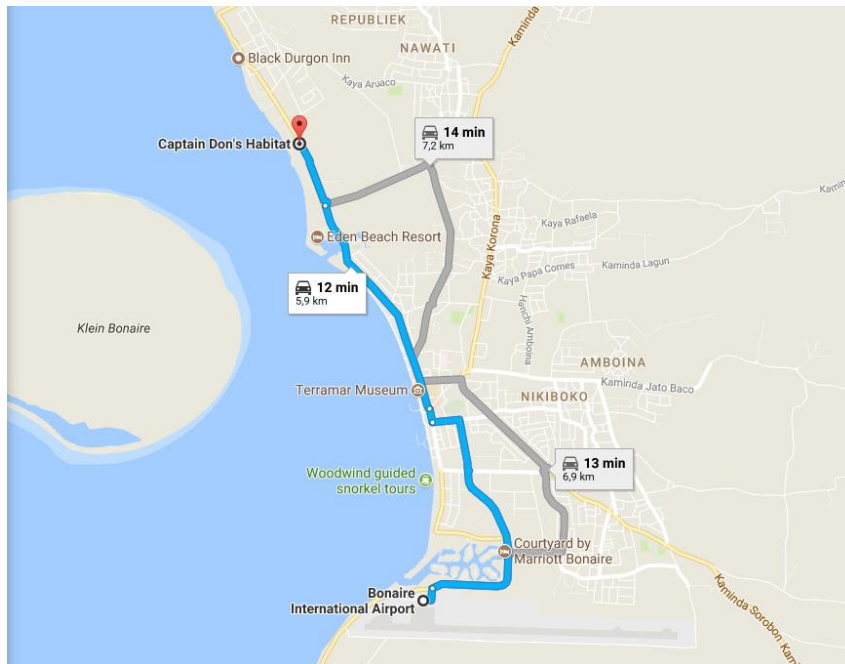
This tropical island is popular amongst divers, being one of the Caribbean's top destinations due to its marine resources protected within a Marine Park, and its reefs steps away from the beach. Being an arid island, warm and sunny weather can be expected, and this island is host to a multitude of interesting species of animals, such as their famous flamingos and diverse fish communities.

Bonaire's inhabitants are proud of their rich history and diverse culture, which began in 1000 AD when it was first inhabited by the Caquetio Indians. African cultural influences merge with Caribbean traditions to create a varied culture of dance and song, along with elements of European architecture and cuisine. Within the Bonairean culture, there is a strong respect for nature and the environment, meaning that tourism and eco-tourism serve as some of the primary economic industries of Bonaire, with its residents dedicating their time to preserving Bonaire's cultural and natural heritage.

Bonaire is one of the leaders in nature conservation, creating one of the first marine parks in the Caribbean in 1979, and actively protecting their populations of flamingos and mangroves through the establishment of Ramsar Sites. The Marine Park covers the entirety of the Bonaire coastline, with certain areas designated as marine reserves and no-take zones. The northern part of the island has been designated as a national park, serving as habitat for many endemic species.

2. VENUE

The Sharks AC2 and CWG2 meetings will be held at Captain Don's Habitat from 20 to 24 November 2017. The venue is located 6km from the Airport and can be reached by taxi for around USD\$10-15. The venue also offers an airport transfer service for guests with room bookings for USD\$30.



Captain Don's Habitat

Address: Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot 103, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Tel: +599 717 8290

Email: book@habitatbonaire.com

Web: <https://www.habitatbonaire.com/>

3. MEETING REGISTRATION

Online registration:

Please register online as soon as possible but latest by **30 August 2017** at:

<http://bit.ly/2fEf87S>

Should you encounter any technical difficulties, please refer directly to the Secretariat:

cms.secretariat@cms.int (Cc: Andrea.pauly@cms.int)

On-site registration:

Registration will start at 08.00hrs on Monday 20 November 2017.

4. MEETING DOCUMENTS

All Documents will be made available on the meeting website as soon as they become available.

Please refer to: http://www.cms.int/sharks/en/AC2_CWG2

5. TRAVEL SUPPORT

Members of the Advisory Committee and approved members of the Working Group are eligible to receive funding for their travel expenses from the Secretariat. Those delegates who require financial support, are requested to indicate this in the online registration form.

Funding aims to cover costs for travel, accommodation, transport and meals. All flight travel arrangements for funded delegates will be undertaken by the Secretariat, and delegates will be contacted by the Secretariat upon registration. Please note, that participants cannot be reimbursed for self-ticketing. To cover other costs, such as for accommodation, meals and transport, funded delegates will receive a Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) upon arrival.

6. ACCOMODATION

All delegates are required to make their own booking arrangements.

The host government has made block-bookings in the venue hotel. The participants who wish to take advantage of this bookings will have to make their own reservation out of the block-booking by guaranteeing their reservation with their own credit card and paying directly to the hotel. Please use the code word "**Shark workshop**" to access the block-booking. It is advisable to make use of the room blockings or try to book any preferred hotel as soon as possible.

Venue Hotel:

Captain Don's Habitat

Address: Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot 103, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Tel: +599 717 8290

Email: book@habitatbonaire.com

Web: <https://www.habitatbonaire.com/>

Special rate per night from US\$103.

Code word "**Shark workshop**"

Deluxe Ocean View: \$103.00 single occupancy
Deluxe Ocean View: \$136.00 double occupancy

Deluxe Junior Suite: \$141.00 single occupancy
Deluxe Junior Suite: \$159.00 double occupancy

Habitat 1/1 Bungalow: \$114.00 single occupancy
Habitat 1/1 Bungalow: \$148.00 double occupancy

Habitat 2/2 Bungalow: \$188.00 double occupancy
Habitat 2/2 Bungalow: \$213.00 triple occupancy
Habitat 2/2 Bungalow: \$230.00 quad occupancy

Further hotels in the vicinity of the venue are:

Bridanda Apartments

Address: Kaya Papago 100, Kaya Papago, Kralendijk, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Tel: +599 786 6463 / +599 786 1155

Web: <http://www.bridanda.com/en/>

This hotel is a 7-minute walk from the venue (600m away).

Estimated rate per night from US\$110.

Eden Beach Resort

Address: Bulevar Gob. N. Debrot # 73, Kralendijk, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Tel: +599 717 6720

Email: info@edenbeach.com

Web: <http://www.edenbeach.com/>

This hotel is a 13-minute walk from the venue (1km away).

Rate per night from US\$124.

7. TRAVEL

Getting to Bonaire:

All flights arrive at Bonaire International Airport (Sometimes called Flamingo Airport), which lies just two miles south of Kralendijk.

Bonaire is accessible from North America, Latin America, Europe, and the Caribbean. Direct flights from the USA are available from Newark and Houston with United Airlines, as well as from Atlanta with Delta Airlines. It is also possible to fly via Aruba or Curacao with American Airlines, United Airlines, and Jet Blue from various US cities.

There are no direct flights from South America, but it is possible to fly from Mexico via Houston with United Airlines, or connect via Aruba or Curacao with a number of different airlines (e.g. Avianca, Lan Colombia, Aserca Airlines...). Inter-island carriers Insel Air and Divi Divi Air provide service to Bonaire via Aruba or Curacao.

If you are coming from Europe, direct flights are available with TUI or KLM from Amsterdam, which also serves as the connecting points for other European Countries.

Travelers coming from Africa will need to connect at one of the major hubs listed above, generally via Amsterdam.

There is a USD \$35 departure airport tax which must be paid by all passengers departing Bonaire. The tax for all international destinations is included in all tickets purchased for travel to Bonaire. Departure tax to domestic destinations, such as Curacao, Sint Maarten, Saba, St. Eustatius or Aruba, is \$9 per person. The international tax FROM these locations may already be included in the ticket price for flights originating at those airports, so the tax should only be paid once if connecting via a different airline in those locations.

There is also an Airport Improvement Fee in effects for all tickets of \$5 for all passengers with international destinations, and \$4 for domestic destinations beginning November 1, 2017.

Getting around on Bonaire:

Bonaire is a small island and distances are relatively short.

Taxis are the only form of public transport available, and services are available at the airport, as well as by phone. Taxis have fixed rates set to various destinations, but it is a good idea to verify with your driver the price list as rates can change depending on the time of day.

There are many taxi services available, with one of the most popular being Bonaire Taxi ((00599) 7173964). Hotels will also assist with hailing a taxi for you if required.

Renting a car is a popular option to get around with Bonaire. Many reliable companies are available at the airport, such as Avis, Hertz, and Budget Car Rental. It is a good idea to reserve in advance, especially if requiring a car with automatic transmission. Travelers from the US, Canada and Europe can use their home country license, otherwise an International Driving Permit is required. Rentals can range between USD\$ 29-75, depending on the company and size of the vehicle.

8. PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

Some visitors to the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom do not need a visa. This includes Dutch and US nationals, as well as nationals of the countries listed below. In most cases, you do not need a visa to transit through the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom.

Travelling without a visa:

Citizens of many countries may travel to the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St Eustatius and St Maarten) without a visa.

You do not need a visa if you are a national of one of the following countries:

- A-C: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus
- D- H: Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Grenada, Greece, Guyana (visa required for St Maarten), Honduras, Hong Kong (holders of a British National (Overseas) passport), Hong Kong (holders of a Special Administrative Region passport), Hungary
- I-L: Ireland, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica (Curaçao only. Visa required for Aruba, Bonaire, Saba, St Eustatius and St Maarten), Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg
- M-N: Macao (holders of a Special Administrative Region passport), Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Norway
- P-S: Panama, Paraguay, Peru (visa required for Curaçao and St Maarten), Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovenia, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland
- T-V: Taiwan (holders of a passport bearing their identity card number), Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vatican City, Venezuela

Please note the [rules on travelling to the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom without a visa](#).

For more specific requirements and exemptions, please visit:

<https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/travel-and-residence/caribbean-visas/do-i-need-a-visa-for-the-caribbean-parts-of-the-kingdom>.

Applying for a visa:

If you need a visa for the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom, you may [apply for a short-stay visa](#) (stay of 90 days or less).

9. HEALTH AND VACCINATIONS

No vaccinations are required to enter Bonaire.

There is no risk of yellow fever in Bonaire. The government of Bonaire *requires* proof of yellow fever vaccination **only** if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever and for travelers ≥ 6 months of age.

The zones considered at risk are:

- Africa: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Republic of the Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial

Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Uganda

- South America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombian Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela

Local transmission of Zika virus infection has been reported, so travelers should strictly follow steps to prevent mosquito bites. Pregnant women are advised to not travel to Bonaire. You should take steps to prevent mosquito bites for 3 weeks after your trip, even if you don't feel sick, so that you don't spread Zika to uninfected mosquitoes that can spread the virus to other people.

10. TRAVEL AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

All participants traveling are recommended to have valid travel and medical insurance covering the period of stay in Bonaire. The full cost of medical attention at any of these public or private institutions is the responsibility of the patient.

11. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language of Bonaire is Dutch. However, Papiamentu is also commonly used by the locals, as well as English and Spanish. The meeting will be conducted in English.

12. WEATHER

November is one of the wettest months, with an average of 90mm of rain. Temperatures average around 28°C, with an average daily high of 30°C and an average daily low of 26°C. It is recommended to bring summer cloths and light shoes.

13. TIME ZONE

Atlantic Standard Time (AST), one hour ahead of Eastern Standard Time and the same as Eastern Daylight Time.

14. CURRENCY

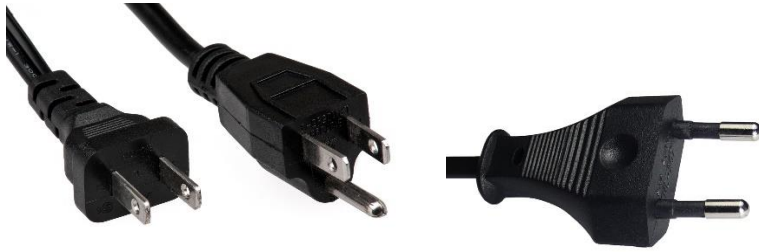
The official currency of Bonaire is the US dollar (USD, \$).

Upon arrival in the country, visitors may exchange currency at Bonaire International Airport, which has an international currency exchange center. Visitors may also make use of ATMs to withdraw cash with their credit and debit cards throughout the country. Credit cards are also widely accepted in stores and hotels.

15. VOLTAGE AND TYPE OF PINS

The country's voltage is at 127/120 volts with a standard frequency of 50 Hertz. 220V is also available at most properties.

Common outlets used in the country:



These are the standard two prong plugs used in United States of America and in Europe. Participants are responsible for bringing any specific adapter needed to meet their equipment requirements. Be wary of the power requirements of your equipment, as these are not the same as European or American requirements. Most outlets offer very little surge protection. If you will be using your computer, consider bringing a surge protector.

16. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Dial 911 for immediate assistance.

San Francisco Hospital is fully equipped to respond to any emergency. There are a number of medical doctors on the island and air ambulance service is available.

Bonaire has a reputation for being one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, however visitors should take normal precautions and keep personal properties secure.

- Use only accredited taxi services with radio communication.
- Take precautions if walking after dark from the venue to nearby hotels and shopping centers.
- Be aware of the city's geography and do not go to risk areas.

Hotel Security:

Hotels for delegates have been carefully selected. However, delegates are advised:

- Never give out your room number or invite strangers to your room.
- Never leave valuable property unattended in your rooms, meeting rooms, restaurants, swimming pool area, etc.
- Always use safety lock on the door, even during the daytime.
- Always use room safe for valuables, or use lockable storage for valuables at the front desk, but make sure they issue a receipt for your items.