

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



SDG Action Week of Curaçao from Monday September 28th – Friday October 2nd.

Webinar on SDG# 14
Life below water

Thursday October 1st
16.00 and finishing at 17.30

Faisal Dilrosun
Civil servant at Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature

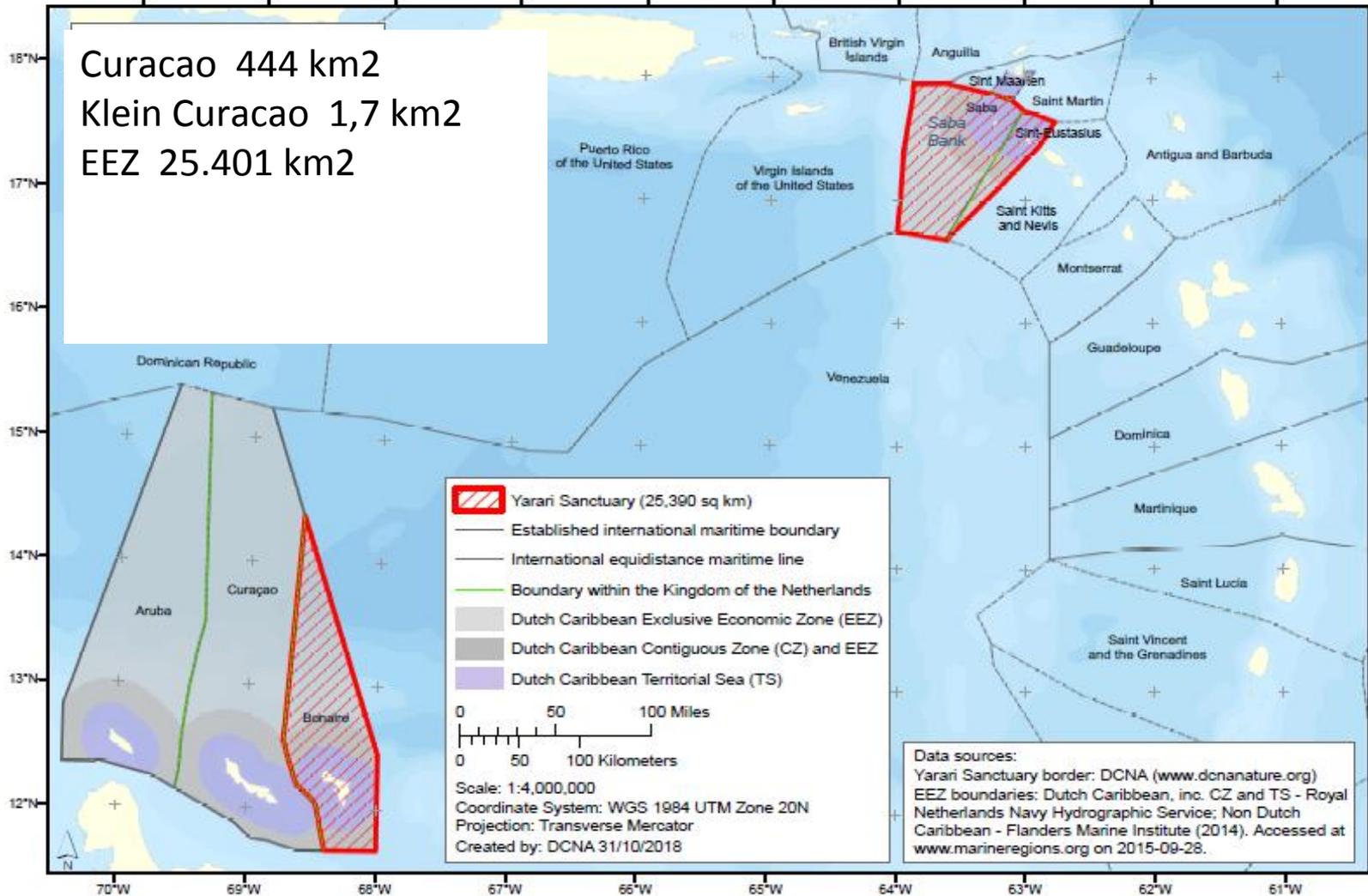


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Curacao 444 km²
Klein Curacao 1,7 km²
EEZ 25.401 km²



Curaçao is conscious that humanity and next generations rely on
Oceans.

Oceans are also drivers for the economy, growth and sustainable
people's welfare.

They are also the vector of social and cultural values.



Challenges



- Pollution;
- Overexploitation;
- Coastal degradation;
- And the effects of climate change.
 - Rising sea temperatures; increased storm intensity, a rising of sea levels; overfishing; loss of biodiversity; coral bleaching; diseases; invasive species; ocean acidification; eutrophication and new types of pollution such as plastics, all have an immense impact on not only our population's health but our marine life as well.
- Limited funding

International commitment

- In 2015, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the Sustainable Development Goal 14, which is to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources;
- In 2015, the Paris agreement signed in the COP 21 of the UNFCCC;



- Whilst looking forward to:
 - The 25th conference of the UNFCCC “BLUE COP” to be held this year in Chili and the specific focus wanted by the Host country on the link between climate change and Oceans;
 - The start in 2021 of the UN Decade for Ocean Science all of which will be coordinated by UNESCO

We recognise that an agenda for the Oceans is a crucial opportunity **to make commitments for a Healthy Ocean and sustainable blue growth**, it is also an opportunity to develop efficient collaborations for the benefits of Oceans.



In order to address the current challenges and threads Curaçao signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2015 with the Waitt Institute, with the goal to jointly draft and implement an Ocean policy plan, based on comprehensive scientific data.



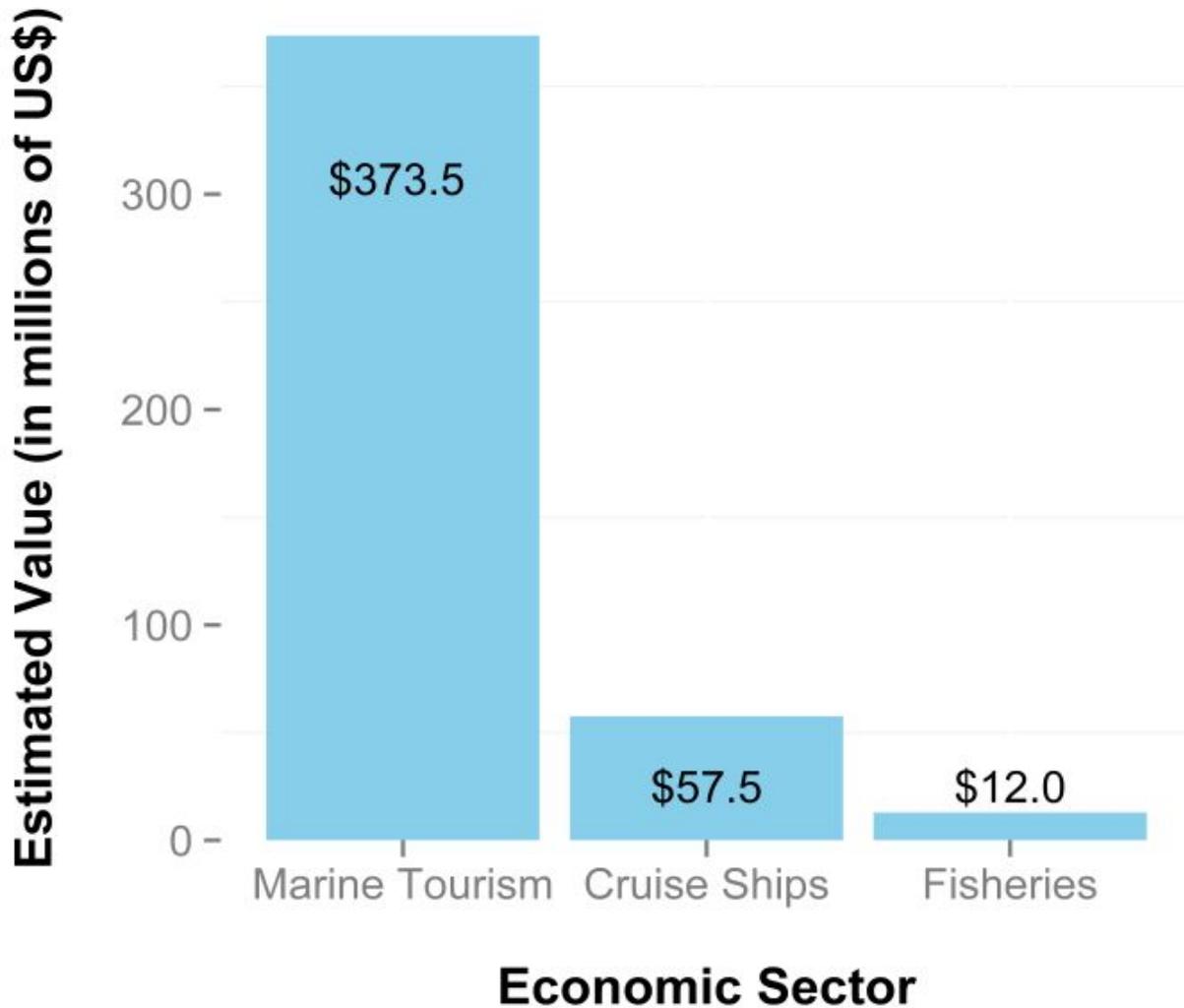
Scientific studies

- Economic Valuation of Curaçao's Marine Resources, 2016. University of Santa Barbara;
- Sustainable Fisheries & Coastal Zoning in Curaçao, a Legal & Institutional Assessment of Authorities & Approaches, 2016. Environmental Law Institute;
- Marine Scientific Assessment, State of Curacao's Coral Reefs, May 2017. Waitt Institute;
- Economic Valuation of Curaçao's Marine Resources, 2015. University of Santa Barbara;
- Coastal Development in Curaçao: Best Practices to Minimize Adverse Impacts to Curaçao's Marine Environment, 2018. Waitt Institute;



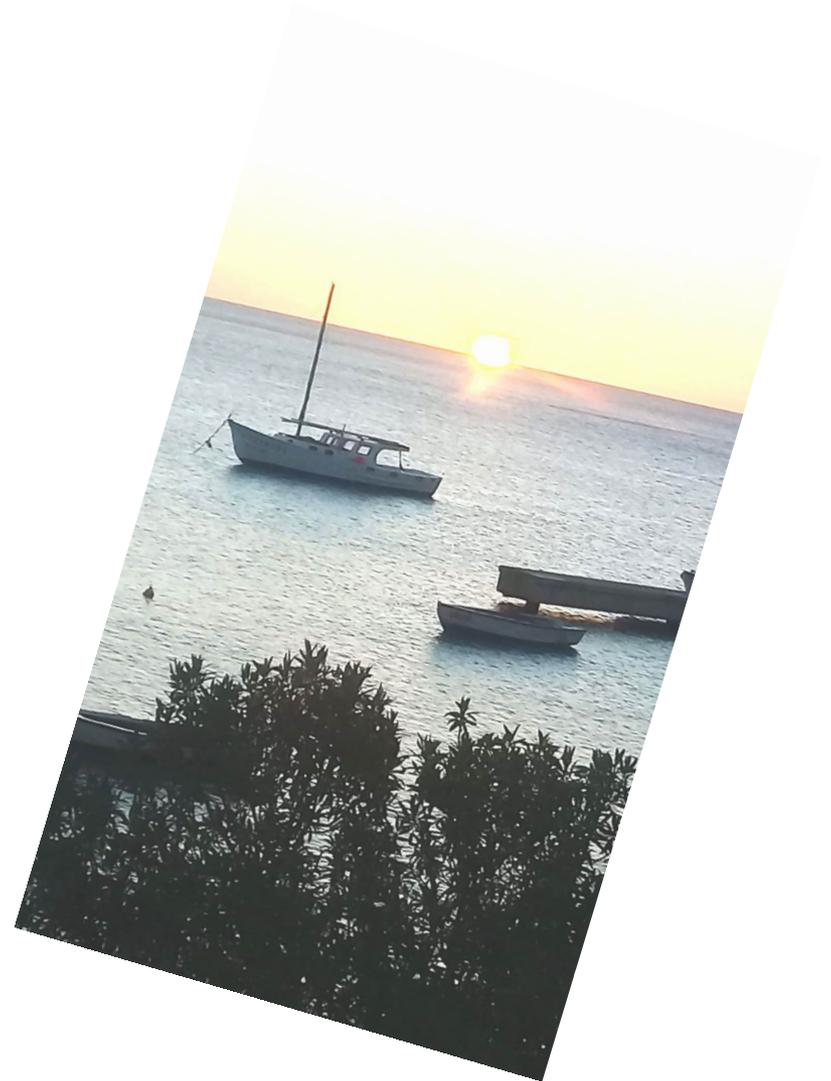
Scientific Studies continued

- A Listening Tour with key stakeholders on ocean issues and solutions, 2016. Waitt Institute;
- Ocean use mapping and surveys conducted with Fishing and Diving industries, 2016. Waitt Institute;
- Assessment of Ecological Value and Human Impact in Major Bays of Curacao, 2018. University of California Santa Barbara;
- Towards a new national Fisheries Ordinance for Curaçao, 2019. Blue Halo Initiative;
- A Review of the Ecology and Economics of Curaçao's Marine Resources, 2015. University of California Santa Barbara;
- Policy Memo: Curaçao Should Adopt Fish Reproduction Zones to Recover Reef Fish Stocks and Improve Coastal Resources, April 2018. Waitt Institute;



A key finding of the expert economic valuation by the University of Santa Barbara was the fact that Curaçao's marine resources contribute substantially to the island's economy (GDP total Curaçao US \$ 3 Bln).

November 18th 2017 the Council of Ministers approved the Ocean Policy Plan, which is summarized in the next slide



C H A L L E N G E S

S O L U T I O N S

P O L I C Y P A T H W A Y S

Habitat Loss

- REC 1. Designate 30% as no-take reserves
- REC 2. Restore & mitigate ecosystem damage

- 1.1 new mandate
- 1.2 Marine Park law
- 1.3 pass no-fishing zones
- 1.4 international designations

Overfishing

- REC 3. Improve domestic fisheries management

- 2.1 natural resource damage law
- 2.2 mitigation law
- 2.3 mooring program

Water Pollution

- REC 4. Improve coastal water quality & minimize marine debris

- 3.1 update spear fishing ban
- 3.2 update gill netting ban
- 3.3 designate fishing zones
- 3.4 establish new fisheries law

Species Decline

- REC 5. Protect threatened & endangered species

- 4.1 expand water quality laws
- 4.2 public ordinance implementation
- 4.3 coastal buffer zones

Cumulative Impacts

- REC 6. Improve government coordination
- REC 7. Adopt an enforceable marine spatial plan

- 5.1 protected sea turtle nesting beaches
- 5.2 marine mammal sanctuary
- 5.3 shark sanctuary

Participation & Access

- REC 8. Ensure public access to the coast
- REC 9. Promote research, participation & education

- 6.1 formalized Blue Ribbon Commission
- 7.1 laws as needed for MSP
- 7.2 comprehensive MSP law

Financing Ocean Management

- REC 10. Implement a sustainable finance system for ocean management

- 8.1 new development access law
- 8.2 past development access law

- 9.1 long-term monitoring
- 9.2 training for ocean officials
- 9.3 public participation

- 10.1 special fund
- 10.2 department funds
- 10.3 user fee & fine system
- 10.4 donor contributions

Addressing the overfishing on our coral reefs and reduce land based sources of pollution have been identified as being the main concerns for Curaçao.

The studies mentioned in slide 8 and the comprehensive Curaçao Ocean Policy Plan are all digitally available on www.waittinstitute.org

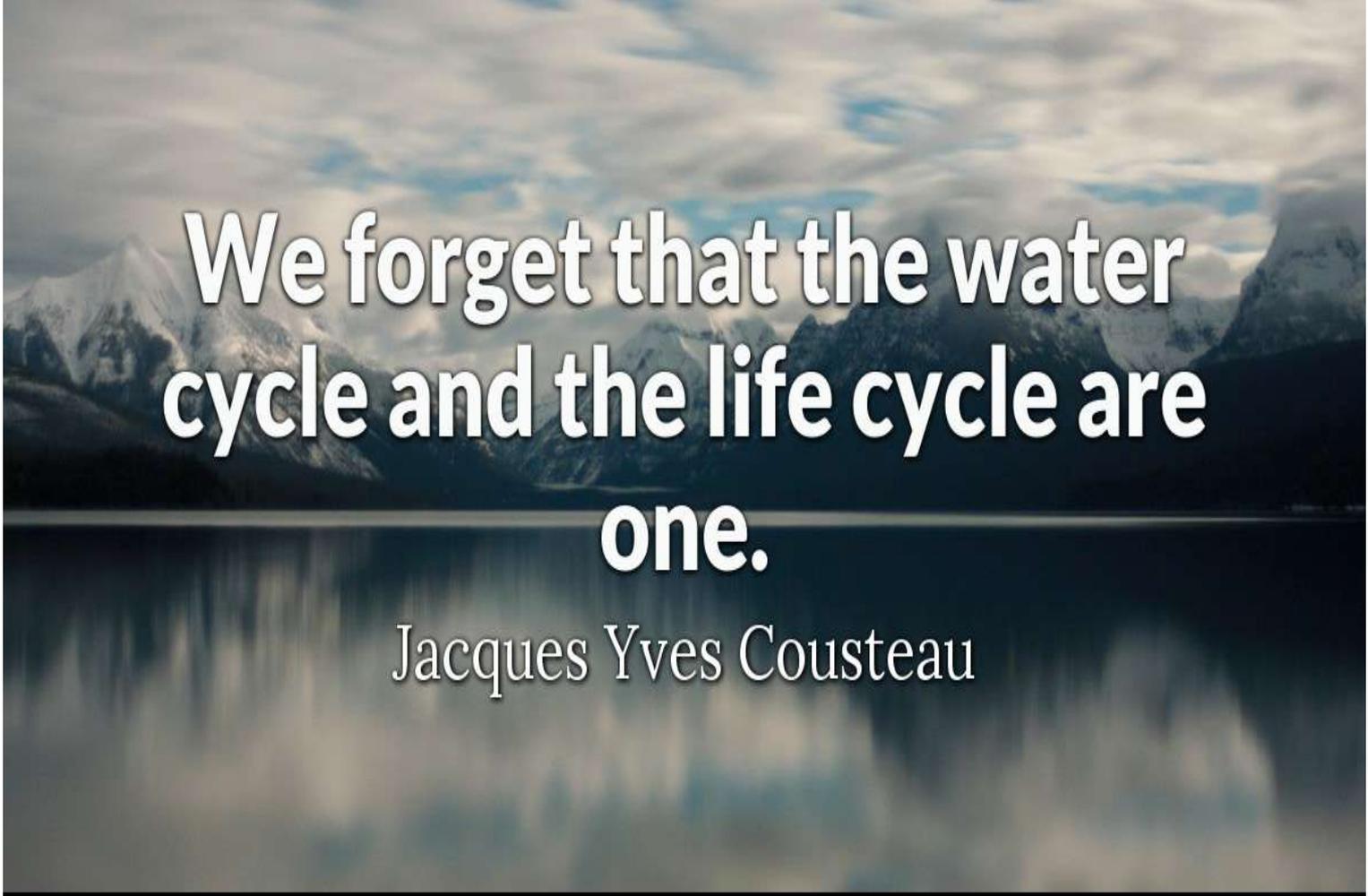


Achievements of our Policy Plan

- The Curaçao Marine Park has been established by National Decree and is in effect from March 1st 2019;
- A private donor has offered to sponsor the management of this Marine Park for 5 years;
- A management authority to manage this marine park has been identified;
- The Island of Little Curacao (*Klein Curaçao*) has been formally nominated as a RAMSAR site; a wetland of international importance;
- NO TAKE ZONES (Fish Reproduction Zones) have been established by Ministerial Decree, October 13th, 2019;
- Dossiers, which include important law proposals have been prepared for formalization by the Council of Ministers, the creation of a off share marine sanctuary and a new domestic fishery law to name a few;
- A financial mechanism has been proposed to generate funds for nature management.

The aforementioned will contribute to a more sustainable and responsible use of our Oceans thus ensuring the use of these resources by future generations.





**We forget that the water
cycle and the life cycle are
one.**

Jacques Yves Cousteau