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W W W . S A B A P A R K . O R G



# **Annual Report Dutch Caribbean Parks and DCNA**

Saba Conservation Foundation, 2008

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## **1. Executive Summary**

### ***Highlights of the Year***

#### **1.1. *Saba Bank***

The Saba Bank Project concluded in 2008 with a final report recommending the establishment of a conch reserve, development of a management plan for fisheries resources and pursuit of protected status to limit tanker anchoring. The SCF has officially been designated as the organization responsible for on-going monitoring of vessels travelling over the Bank by the Saba Island Government and the Coast Guard of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

#### **1.2. *Research Collaborations***

The SCF made considerable progress during 2008 in initiating scientific projects in the Marine Park as well as on the island landscape. Researchers from the University of Puerto Rico, University of Rhode Island, University of the Virgin Islands and Conservation International either began new studies or actively continued projects initiated in earlier years.

#### **1.3. *Education***

A significant expansion of the youth education initiative was undertaken in 2008. Building upon the very successful Sea Scouts program over the past years, the SCF introduced the Snorkel Club to provide swimming lessons to younger children and Junior Rangers for those wishing to learn even more skills after graduating from Sea Scouts. All three activities have proven to be very popular with waiting lists to participate.

## 2. Overview of Achievements and Issues

### 2.1. *Monitoring and Research*

#### 2.1.1. Water Quality Monitoring



SCF continues to routinely collect and monitor various baseline water quality parameters within the Marine Park. Staff also conduct on-going reef and fish population studies using a wide variety of protocols. These data will be available to visiting researchers working on the local coral reef ecology.

#### 2.1.2. Coral Transplanting

In October, SCF staff and local and visiting volunteer divers collected Elkhorn coral fragments as a result of damage caused by Hurricane Omar. Under the direction of Graham Forrester (University of Rhode Island), these fragments were transplanted onto boulders along the south shore of Saba in order to increase coral density. As of the end of 2008, more than 90% of the fragments were still alive and exhibiting strong growth.



#### 2.1.3. Conservation International

During spring, three invertebrate specialists under the direction of Conservation International were on Saba to collect spider, ant and beetle specimens as part of an on-going biological inventory of the island's flora and fauna that began in 2006. Several insect traps were set in different bi-climatic zones and SCF staff continued to sample these traps after the researchers had left. Preliminary reports suggest that several new species of invertebrates were collected during the study.

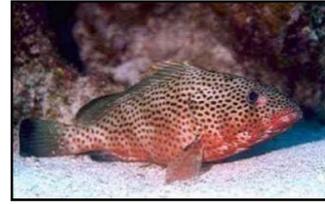


#### 2.1.4. University of Puerto Rico

During spring and fall, two researchers from the University of Puerto Rico were on Saba to collect freshwater invertebrates from Bromeliads. SCF staff assisted with these collections and this study will enhance the biodiversity information on the island as well as providing data to integrate into the Caribbean-wide database.

### 2.1.5. University of the Virgin Islands

In cooperation with the University of the Virgin Islands, the SCF worked closely with fisheries biologists and local fishermen to assess the population and distribution of Red Hind (locally valuable commercial fish) on the Saba Bank. This is an on-going project and SCF has assumed the collection of data that will be incorporated into future management plans.

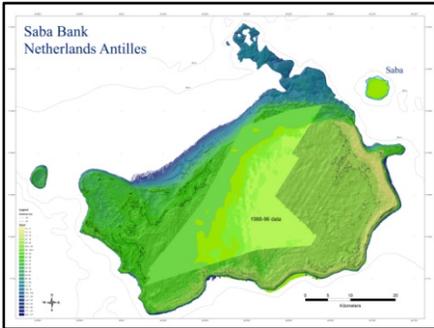


### 2.1.6. University of Rhode Island

During summer, six researchers from the University of Rhode Island visited Saba to conduct reef surveys of fish and corals as part of a Caribbean-wide study to assess the performance of Marine Protected Areas. “No fishing” and “Multi-purpose” zones were compared to determine the success of harvest restrictions within and between 35 separate Marine Parks. Final results are expected to be released in 2009.

### 2.1.7. Saba Bank

Early in 2008, the final report was issued for the Saba Bank study that began in 2006. This project was directed by the Department of Environment and Nature and administered by the SCF. The three overall recommendations of the report included the establishment of a conch reserve on the Bank with restrictions on harvesting; the development of a fishery management plan through stakeholder consultations to ensure protection of fish stocks for commercial fishing; and the pursuit of Particularly Sensitive Sea Area status through the International Maritime Organization to eliminate all tanker anchoring on the Saba Bank.



### 2.1.8. Research Collaborations

The SCF continues to promote our facilities as a “remote field station” for research institutions to facilitate complete environmental studies. Data from future projects will be used to develop and update resource management plans on Saba.

During September, SCF rangers attended a bird monitoring workshop on St. Eustatius that was organized and sponsored by DCNA. During the



course, staff were instructed in the procedures for establishing monitoring stations and collecting diversity data using a variety of techniques including transects, point-counts, and observation point sampling. All sampling was done by sight and sound identification.

In October, Marine Park rangers attended a sea turtle monitoring workshop on Bonaire.

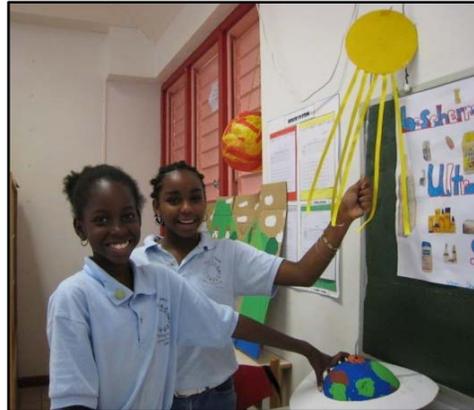


This course was organized by WIDECASST and sponsored by DCNA. Rangers worked with staff from the other five Dutch Caribbean Marine Parks to formalize nesting and tracking protocols and create an integrated monitoring program among the six Dutch islands.

## **2.2. Information, Education and Outreach**

### **2.2.1. In-School Education Program**

The SCF develops and implements an on-going environmental education program in an effort to expand the teaching curriculum in the local schools. This program is administered by the Education Officer and classes are held twice per month. During the winter/spring semester, "Global Warming Effects on a Caribbean Island" was the program theme. Classroom lectures concentrated on climatic (such as rising sea temperatures and levels, increased incidence and intensity of hurricanes, etc.) and ecological (such as invasive species, coral diseases, loss of rainforests, etc.) changes and their possible effects on Saba. During the summer/fall semester, "Know Your Island's Environment" was the program theme. This program focused on one element of the local environment each month. Topics included geology, marine biology, bird habitats, botany, etc. Each child attending public school on Saba attends these classes.



### **2.2.2. Snorkel Club**



This is a new program that was established in 2008 as a precursor to Sea Scouts. The core aim is to provide swimming and snorkelling lessons to children aged 8-10 years. Each group includes a maximum of 8 children and a minimum of 2 instructors and the program continues for 12 weeks. Classes are held every Tuesday afternoon either at one of the local hotel pools or at the Fort Bay Harbour.

### 2.2.3. Sea Scouts

This is an on-going program to introduce children (age 9-11 years) to the international scouting program. Acquired skills include kayaking, knot tying, sailing, camping and bush skills. Badges are awarded as each child becomes proficient with these skills. Meetings are held every other Thursday afternoon either at the Fort Bay Harbour or on one of the various hiking trails depending on the weather.



### 2.2.4. Junior Rangers

This is a new program that was established in 2008 as a follow-up to Sea Scouts. The core aim is to provide training with the SCF Marine Park and Trail Rangers to expose local children to potential career options in the area of environmental protection. This program also has an educational bias with lectures and field work in marine biology, administration of Marine Protected Areas, trail building, medicinal uses of plants, etc. Meetings are held every other Thursday afternoon either at the Fort Bay Harbour or on one of the various hiking trails depending on the weather.



### 2.2.5. Community Outreach

The SCF continues to coordinate island clean-up days both on land and underwater. During 2008, these occurred on Earth Day and Saba Day when a total of 70 people participated in the clean-up of the Fort Bay Road from The Bottom to the harbour, the shoreline between the stone crusher (east of Fort Bay) and Tent Bay and within the harbour using SCUBA equipment. This project removed almost 1,000 lbs of garbage that were sent to the dump. In appreciation of all of the hard work, a barbeque lunch was provided for all volunteers. During the summer, the American youth education program, Broadreach, provided several hundred hours of community support under the direction of SCF staff conducting clean-ups at various locations around the island. This project involved 13 participants and removed over 200lbs of garbage.



During the 2008 Ennia Hell's Gate Triathlon, staff again provided logistical support by setting the swimming course at Fort Bay and providing safety support to participants. For the running portion, staff marked the trails so that no wrong turns were taken and conducted a clean-up sweep after the final participant to ensure no one was left on the trail. Just prior to the triathlon, the contract trail cleaners did an exceptional job of clearing vegetation and reducing the potential for runners to slip on rocks and steps.

The SCF conducted public surveys to gauge the attitude of Sabans and visitors to the idea of banning plastic grocery bags and providing reusable bags to each household.



Other Caribbean islands were also contacted to determine plastic bag use throughout the region. It was determined that a number of islands already have legislation restricting plastic bags (including Bonaire, Aruba and St. Barths) and public opinion on Saba supports a ban here as well. As of the end of 2008, no

reply has been received from the island Government on the request for passing an ordinance to ban these bags.

Beginning in 2008, the SCF re-established the presentation of the annual report to the local community by way of an open house. Following a slide show review of the previous year's activities by the manager, a question and answer session generated a wide array of queries. Additionally, the SCF continues to publish and distribute a quarterly newsletter to locals, tourists and other environmental organizations throughout the Caribbean to provide updates on the activities within the Marine and Terrestrial Parks, on the hiking trails and in the education and outreach programs.

### **2.2.6. Visitors**

The SCF continues to provide on-boat briefings to divers with the three local shops, the weekly live-aboard and visiting cruise ships. All yacht captains receive a brief introduction to the Marine Park rules upon registration for using a mooring.



### **2.2.7. Dive Staff**

Starting 2008, the SCF initiated orientation sessions for all dive staff working at the three dive shops, visiting live-aboard vessels and in the Broadreach program. This orientation includes an overview of the history and objectives of the SCF and a description of the roles and responsibilities as set out in legislation and agreements with government. Each dive staff is asked to commit to understanding and adhering to the SCF regulations.

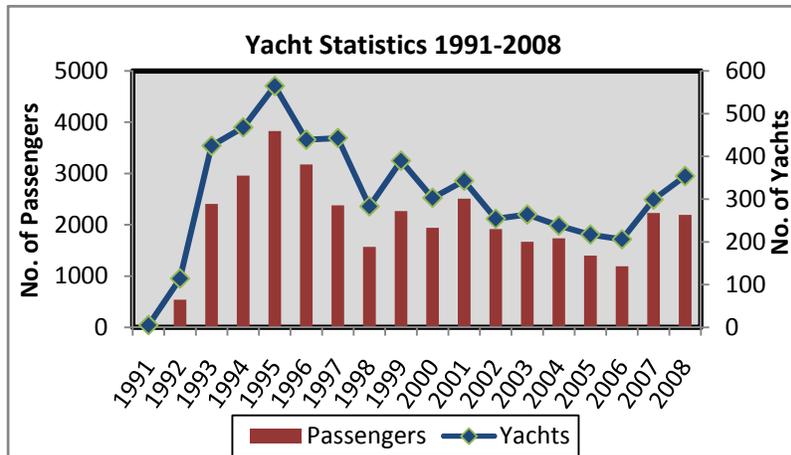
### 2.2.8. Government

Throughout 2008, the SCF met with various representatives of the Dutch Government including Prime Minister Balkenende, the Vice Council of State, senior civil servants and various parliamentarians to discuss nature, environment and eco-tourism on Saba. These meetings were primarily information sessions to discuss the role that the SCF will play in environmental protection once the constitutional reorganization is completed.

## 2.3. Marine Park

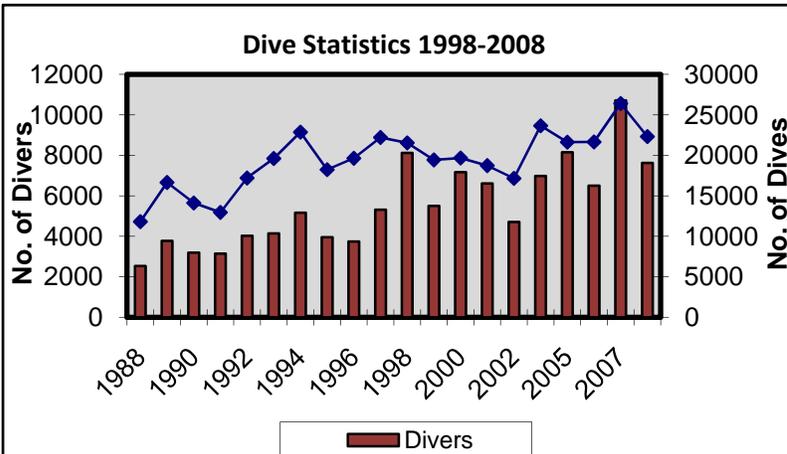
### 2.3.1. Yachts

This year showed an increase in the number of yachts (354) but a decrease in the number of passengers (2,193) visiting Saba over 2007. The SCF continues to provide information on the Marine Park rules and local attractions as well as providing weather information. Staff also provided assistance by towing several disabled vessels into the Fort Bay Harbour.



### 2.3.2. Divers

Both the number of divers (7,625) and the number of individual dives (22,316) decreased in 2008 from the record-breaking statistics the year before. The overall trend since 1988 is still upward; however, we remain apprehensive about the coming year due



to global financial concerns. This year, divers completed an average of 2.9 dives which is a 16% increase over 2008 indicating that fewer day-trippers came to dive in the Marine Park. Snorkelers totalled 344 persons – a 25% increase over last year.

The three most popular dive sites were Tent Reef (2,489 dives), Hot Springs (2,010) and Ladder Labyrinth (1,992). Usage at all sites remains below the 5,000 dives/year threshold established to prevent significant impacts from divers.

### **2.3.3. Moorings**

Continual maintenance of dive and yacht moorings is a core responsibility of SCF Marine Park staff. A total of 30 dive moorings were operational at the end of the year –



one less than in 2007. These failures are the result of anchoring pins that cannot be replaced until specialized drilling equipment becomes operational in 2009.

No additional yacht moorings were installed this year and the total remains to be 10 at the Ladder-Wells Bay anchorage and four east of the Fort Bay harbour. The Saba Island Government has committed to providing new, larger concrete blocks to reduce the risk of yachts dragging the moorings during high winds or large swells.

In March, a new Marine Park patrol boat, funded by USONA, arrived on Saba and was christened Lady Rebecca. This vessel is of a much more practical design than the previous boat being that it is wider, heavier and of more robust construction. USONA also provided funding to purchase mooring supplies such as rope, buoys, floats, anchoring pins and environment friendly epoxy.

### **2.3.4. Buildings**

With successful funding from Stichting DOEN, the SCF was able to initiate some long overdue building upgrades to the Marine Park office. This included, replacing several exterior doors, building a dive wet room, constructing a storage facility, painting the building exterior and repairing damage caused by Hurricane Omar.

## **2.4. Hyperbaric Chamber**

Facility equipment maintenance was performed in 2008 in accordance with the Divers Alert Network (DAN) specifications. In addition, operator and tender training continues to be an on-going procedure. The chamber continues to be fully functional 24 hours per day and 7 days per week for the safety of visiting and local SCUBA divers.



The manager attended a compressor maintenance course and the SCF is now able to repair this equipment without the cost of engaging outside contractors.

### **2.4.1. Hyperbaric Treatments**

In March, eight medical hyperbaric wound treatments were conducted under the direction of Dr. Buchanan. The medical reports state that the treatments were successful in accelerating the patient's recovery. During October and November five treatments were administered to three visiting divers diagnosed with decompression illness (DCI). All patients reported full recovery following the treatments.

In December, Dr. Blaauboer attended a specialized medical doctor training course to become certified in assessing DCI. Currently, all three doctors on Saba can provide diagnosis and treatment prescriptions for injured divers.

## **2.5. Terrestrial Park**

### **2.5.1. Trails**

Mount Scenery continues to be the most popular trail on Saba with 607 hikers registering with the Trail Shop. While this census clearly underestimates the actual trail usage, no comprehensive registration is currently in place (will be established in 2009).

While no major purchases were made to support the trail maintenance program, some hand tools were replaced. During spring, the Bud's Mountain Trail was extended so that it now connects with the Mt. Scenery Trail at the third rest shelter. A gate and lock were installed in the Sulphur Mine to restrict access beyond the "loop" which continues to be safe for exploration.



SCF continues to work with the "Canadian" (as well as others such as the Lipscomb) volunteers who have been coming to Saba for several years to assist with major trail construction and repairs. In 2008, three visiting groups (six to eight members each for up to two weeks) contributed over 5,000 hours of volunteer work under the supervision of the Trail Ranger.



On-going cleaning and maintenance throughout the year continues to be completed by contract workers supported by Saba Island Government funding and by local island volunteers and students from the Saba University School of Medicine.

During October, Hurricane Omar caused considerable damage to many of Saba's hiking trails. Numerous trees were toppled and several landslides resulted in restricted access to many of the trails. Exceptional effort by SCF rangers, contract trail cleaners and volunteers resulted in all trails being fully functional 10 days following Omar's passing.

### **2.5.2. Trail Shop**

With funding from Stichting DOEN, the SCF was able to initiate some long overdue building upgrades to the Trail Shop. This included repairing the leak in the cistern, replacing structural support beams, repainting both the inside and outside, spraying the property for termites, replacing information signs and clearing vegetation to allow for better visibility. The trail leading from the Trail Shop to the museum was cleared and numerous banana slips were planted in the gut below.

## **2.6. Administration**

### **2.6.1. Office**

Over the course of 2008, three Comprehensive School students performed "job shadowing" with SCF staff to learn about Marine Park activities such as patrols, mooring maintenance, yacht check-in and office duties. This program is intended to provide students with workplace experience, an understanding of the function of SCF on Saba and potential career options in the field of environmental conservation.



The SCF has re-established the dormant charitable status with the Internal Revenue Service (also known as "501c3") allowing tax receipts to be issued to citizens of the United States for donations greater than \$25.

### **2.6.2. Accounting**

In keeping with the SCF commitment to maintain good governance, a professional accountant was retained to conduct the year-end closing of the books and prepare for

the full audit conducted by Ernst & Young as part of our commitment to DCNA and Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties (BZK). We continue to improve our governance and professional capacity building so that we will be in full compliance with any European Union funding agency.

### **2.6.3. Law Enforcement, Policy and Legal Issues**

Staff continue to patrol the Marine Park, Terrestrial Park and trails as part of their role in nature management. Currently, the Trail Ranger has special agent status and the SCF works with local police and government authorities to address Ordinance violations. Under instruction from the Lt. Governor, the Trail Ranger is also responsible for goat control at the airport.

During spring, meetings with the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba Coast Guard, Saba Island Government, Department of Environment and Nature and the SCF resulted in an agreement that the SCF would monitor tankers and cargo vessels operating over the Saba Bank. The agreement also details the procedure for removing vessels anchored within the 12 mile limit controlled by the Saba Island Government. During 2008, four vessels were contacted by the SCF and all four relocated beyond the 12 mile limit.



Also during spring, consultants retained by the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) were on Saba to facilitate an update of the SCF Nature Policy. This was completed through interviews with management and staff to determine effort levels for each area of operation (e.g. education, accounting, patrolling, etc.). When finalized, this Policy will be a guiding document for the management of terrestrial resources on Saba.

In September, the Dutch Navy vessel van Speijk anchored within the Marine Park but outside of the anchorage zone caused considerable damage to coral reefs. Following submission of a report and formal complaint to the Navy by the SCF, a new protocol has been established and proper anchoring procedures are now in place to ensure that this incident will not occur again in the future.

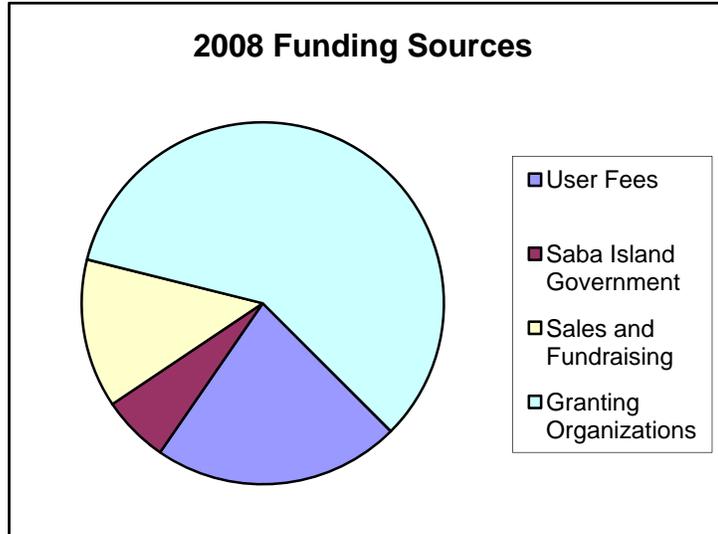


### **2.6.4. Staffing**

There were no staff changes during 2008.

### 2.6.5. Funding

As of 2008, operational funding is provided from the following sources: user fees, Saba Island Government support and fundraising and sales. Funding for capital expenditures and special projects was provided by USONA, Prins Bernhard Fonds and Stichting DOEN. As a general break-down, granting organizations provided 59%, user fees 22%, sales and fundraising 13% and Saba Island Government 6% of the SCF's revenue. Please see



Section 4. Financial Reporting for additional details.

On Earth Day, local restaurants were asked to participate in a fundraising effort to provide for the construction and placement of a rest shelter on one of Saba's trails. Over \$600 was raised and at the end of 2008, this project was still in-progress.



In 2008, the SCF re-instated the United States IRS 501c3 status that allows us to issue tax receipts for donations in excess of \$25 from US citizens. The following person/businesses contributed a total of \$1,400 this year:

Amy Luke  
Chris Davies  
David Wagner

Glenn Stewart  
John Valiulis  
EZ-CO Inc.

Also in 2008, Dive Rite (of Lake City, Florida) became a sponsor of the SCF by entering into an agreement to provide SCUBA equipment at a substantial discount. Through a financial grant provided by Stichting DOEN, several sets of dive gear were purchased to replace aging equipment used by staff and volunteers.

## 2.7. Relationships with Other Organisations

### 2.7.1. Saba Island Government

Unfortunately, during 2008, the Saba Island Government was preoccupied with constitutional issues and the in-person, bi-monthly information updates with the



Executive Council did not occur. The SCF routinely invites government representatives to all public events in order to build support and has maintained two-way communication via written correspondence. These efforts have resulted in continued funding for the SCF from the Saba Island Government and a greater prominence of the Foundation's role in the management and protection of the island environment.

### 2.7.2. Local Stakeholders

SCF continues to build cooperative rapport with local fishermen, dive shops and hotel operations. This is accomplished through greater communication and affording mutual respect. This has resulted in increased compliance with environmental management rules and regulations, fee collection, etc. in order to fund the protection of Saba's natural resources.

### 2.7.3. Outside Stakeholders

During 2008, the SCF continued its long-standing relationship with the Bruce Trail Conservancy (Canada), Lipscom Group (Tennessee) and Small Island Voice Backchat (St. Kitts). Volunteers from these organizations come to Saba regularly to provide expertise and labour with the reconstruction of local historic trails. This work adds immensely to the enjoyment and safety of visiting tourists (hikers) and locals (farmers, goat herders, etc.) alike.



### 2.7.1. Stichting DOEN

With assistance of DCNA, the SCF was successful in securing substantial funding from Stichting DOEN in 2008. Grant money was used to purchase a new 4x4 truck for the



Marine Park, complete numerous building upgrades and repairs to the Fort Bay Office and Trail Shop, construct a storage facility, replace the computer system and

cover payroll expenses.

### 2.7.2. USONA

In cooperation with the Department of Environment and Nature, and Conservation International, SCF administered a study to conduct detailed surveys of the Saba Bank. This project was



funded by USONA and concluded in 2008 with recommendations for the development of a Management Plan for the various activities on the Bank. See Section 1.2.1 Monitoring and Research for further information.

### **2.7.3. Divers Alert Network**

The SCF continues to work with Divers Alert Network (DAN) to ensure that the Hyperbaric Facility is maintained and operated to standard. The first major upgrade in 20 years (including replacement of the air storage tanks and piping, installation of extra isolation valves and purchase of new gauges) was initiated in 2008 and will continue for the next 18 months.



### **2.7.4. Prins Bernhard Fonds**

The Prins Bernhard Fonds continued its support of the hiking trail maintenance program by providing funding to purchase new hand tools. These tools are used by the various groups of volunteers that return each year to Saba to complete major trail (re)construction projects.



### **2.7.5. DCNA**

The SCF continues its membership in the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance as a member of the Board of Directors. Provisions for transferring money into the Trust Fund were made in 2008. One DCNA meeting was attended in May (Bonaire) and November (Aruba).

### **3. Management**

#### **3.1. Board**

During 2008, several Board changes took place. Franklin Johnson stepped down as Treasurer and Karin Hodge agreed to take over. Michael Chammaa and Travis Johnson joined the Board to increase the management expertise.

As of the 31 December 2008, the SCF Board was made up of the following members:

Chairperson:	Johanna van't Hof
Treasurer:	Karen Hodge
Secretary:	Carl Buncamper
Members:	Menno van der Velde Franklin Johnson James Wright Michael Chammaa Travis Johnson

#### **3.2. Committees**

No Board committees were struck in 2008

#### **3.3. Staff**

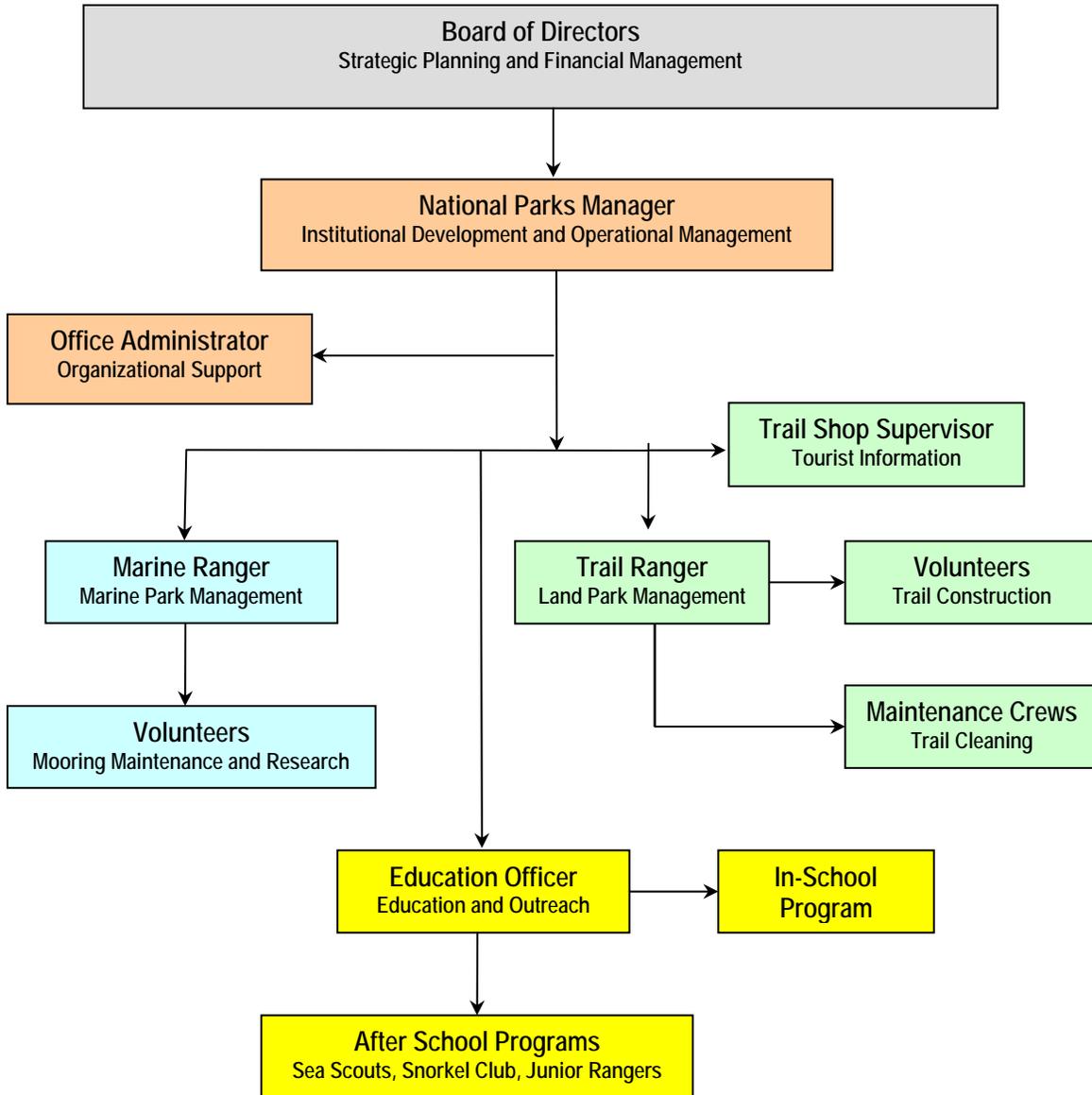
No staff changes occurred for the SCF during 2008.

Volunteers continue to assist Terrestrial Park staff with trail maintenance and Marine Park staff with mooring maintenance, research and monitoring, building upgrades (electrical and mechanical) and office administration.

The SCF continues to provide job-shadowing opportunities to the local schools. This program allows children to experience the daily duties of park rangers, administration and trail shop staff and the manager. The SCF continues to promote environmental management as a viable career choice for Saba's youth.

In 2008, the SCF initiated an evaluation program to formalize a review of staff performance. This program allows for each staff member to set personal goals and objectives to further their career development as well as allowing management to track individual progress. This program also enhances the SCF's governance and professional administration.

### 3.3.1. Staff Organisation



### 3.3.2. Staff training

In April, the Parks Manager attended an air compressor maintenance course and the SCF now has the ability to perform the required overhaul for this portion of the hyperbaric chamber equipment. In May, the Marine Park Ranger attended a preliminary workshop for establishing a bird monitoring program on Saba.

In September, the Marine Park and Trail Rangers and the Education Officer attended a bird monitoring workshop hosted by DCNA on St. Eustatius. This 5 day course will enable the SCF to establish stations on Saba and initiate a population and habitat monitoring program.

In October, the Marine Park Ranger and Education Officer attended a turtle monitoring workshop hosted by WIDECAS in Bonaire. This 5 day course will enhance the SCF's education and outreach capabilities with respect to sea turtles and their reproduction, migration and feeding habits.

### **3.4. Organisational objectives**

In 2004, SCF set its program objectives for the next 3-5 years to contribute toward overall institutional building and increase effectiveness in nature management. These objectives remain relevant to the SCF today and should continue to guide the programs of SCF until the Management Success report is finalized. Until then, these objectives will continue to guide to program, project and activity prioritisation as follows:

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>JUSTIFICATION</b>	<b>ACHIEVEMENTS / PROGRESSION</b>
To work towards an environment where nature is protected	This goal focuses on developing the necessary management tools and instruments for the protection of nature parks as well as endemic and keystone species. It also focuses on coordinating key inputs into policy and legislation with government agencies	Draft nature management plan started in 2007.
Build awareness and support for nature management objectives	In order to establish the tools and instruments to support nature management it is important to build public awareness, as well as support for nature management through education, information and communication programs.	Draft nature management plan started in 2007.
Strengthen management capacity	In order to effectively realize the organization's objectives management tools, outreach and education programs are required. All members of the organization must share a common vision. Expected outcomes, must be achieved by appropriately skilled and qualified personnel to carry out respective tasks. Strengthening management capacity also means securing necessary financial and technical resources in order to function effectively, as well as developing financial and technical networks regionally and internationally.	Continued work with current and potential funding agencies to develop appropriate project proposals. Continued work internally to rationalize the business plan so that activities reflect available funding resources.

## **4. Recommendations**

### ***4.1. Integrated management plan for Land Park and Marine Park***

Management plans are important as a guiding document for protected area managers. These help to ensure that the Protected Area's long term vision and strategy are captured and can be used to guide management activities. This ensures continuity of management effort and allows stakeholders and other interest groups to understand and participate in the planning process. According to IUCN, management plans are an essential step towards ensuring the proper management of protected areas. Anticipated future changes in the Antillean government highlight the need for such documents in order to better define the goals and objectives of the Park and to clarify management objectives and strategies. This will allow the Park success to be measured and its management effectiveness to be assessed. It will also assist both staff and board by providing a solid framework for reference, decision making and planning.

### ***4.2. Develop and lobby for legislative protection of Saba's nature and environment***

Over-arching legislative protection for the nature and environment of Saba has been under discussion since 1999. Recent incidents of hunting for iguanas and removal of native plants are just a few examples of the need for a made-on-Saba mechanism to protect our plants and animals. Once the legislation is passed, the Island Government can enact laws to ensure that Saba remains the Unspoiled Queen.

### ***4.3. Board management strengthening***

For many years the Saba Conservation Foundation has benefited from the stability of long standing Board members who served the organisation well. As SCF continues to define its relationship with DCNA, BZK and other regulatory and funding agencies, we will require a much higher level of due diligence and strong leadership on the part of the Board. By recruiting members with a wide range of environmental, cultural, administrative and business experience, the interests of the SCF will be secured.

### ***4.4. Update website***

The website has not been effectively updated since June 2005. The website is often the first point of contact for prospective visitors who want information about Saba's parks and read recent news articles and for researchers, academics and other interested parties. The website sections under the annual report, programs and research information should be updated. This should be considered a critical part of the awareness campaign for local, regional and international communities.

### 4.5. SCF Communication Strategy

GROUP	DETAIL	OBJECTIVES	WEBSITE	LIST SERVERS	ANNUAL REPORT	NEWSLETTER	E-NEWS	BROCHURE, LEAFLETS	SIGNAGE	PRESENTATIONS	MEETINGS	PRESS/TV/RADIO
Government	Executive Council	Promote nature as good business and value to the island economy	•		•	•	•			•	•	
Government departments		Developing practical solutions to conservation and management issues	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	
Tourism	Tourism Boards, FCCA , associations, trade shows, airlines, travel agents, resorts	Establish Saba as a premier hiking and diving destination in the Caribbean with a reliance on eco-tourism	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•
Local Activity groups	Hikers, dive operators, kayakers, yachts, fishermen	Emphasise the need for practical hands on conservation effort on the part of the industry to protect the flora and fauna of Saba.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tourists	Visiting tourists, volunteers	Importance of conservation and visitor role in conservation management	•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Research Institutions	International, regional	Stimulate relevant management orientated research into issues of interest to SCF	•	•	•	•	•					
Private sector	Companies, individuals, business associations	Value of SCF (to their business) and fund raising	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
Islanders	Islanders, especially special interest groups such as fishermen	Stimulate interest in SCF, educate about conservation management and build support for management decisions	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Funders	Current/future funders, foundations, individuals	Build donor confidence in SCF and donor cultivation	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	
International conservation	Regional institutions, international NGOs, conferences	Promote conservation management activities and build relationships with other similar initiatives	•	•	•	•	•			•		•
Local Education	Schools and school children	Educate about the environment and need for conservation	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•

## 5. Financial Reporting

### 5.1. Balance Sheet

#### Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2008

<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$US</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	129,912
Accounts Receivable	10,653
Other Current Assets	<u>57,007</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>197,572</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Infrastructure and Equipment	426,498
Depreciation	<u>(139,913)</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>286,585</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>484,157</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Liabilities	<u>91,823</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>91,823</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Opening Balance	352,188
Retained Earnings	(21,708)
Net Income	<u>61,854</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>392,334</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>484,157</b>

**5.2. Income vs. Expenditure****Statement of income for the year ended December 31, 2008**

	<b>\$US</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Dive Fees	70,016
Hyperbaric Chamber Fees	21,679
Nature Fees	13,138
Yacht Fees	9,937
Grants	344,945
DCNA Trust Fund	182,750
Fundraising	2,966
Sales	45,277
Other Income	<u>13,138</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>703,846</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Marine Park Maintenance	120,191
Trail Maintenance	75,536
Hyperbaric Chamber Maintenance	11,576
Education and Outreach	13,525
Building Maintenance	38,743
Office and Overhead	39,433
Personnel Expenses	142,069
DCNA Trust Fund	182,750
Special Projects	7,567
Travel and Training	4,871
Other Expenses	<u>5,731</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>641,992</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>61,854</b>