

Netherlands Antilles Coral Reef Initiative



MPAs

- Four islands have MPAs including all coastal waters, managed by NGOs, with user fees in place
- Curação has MPA for 12% of leeward coast, but no user fees and lack of management

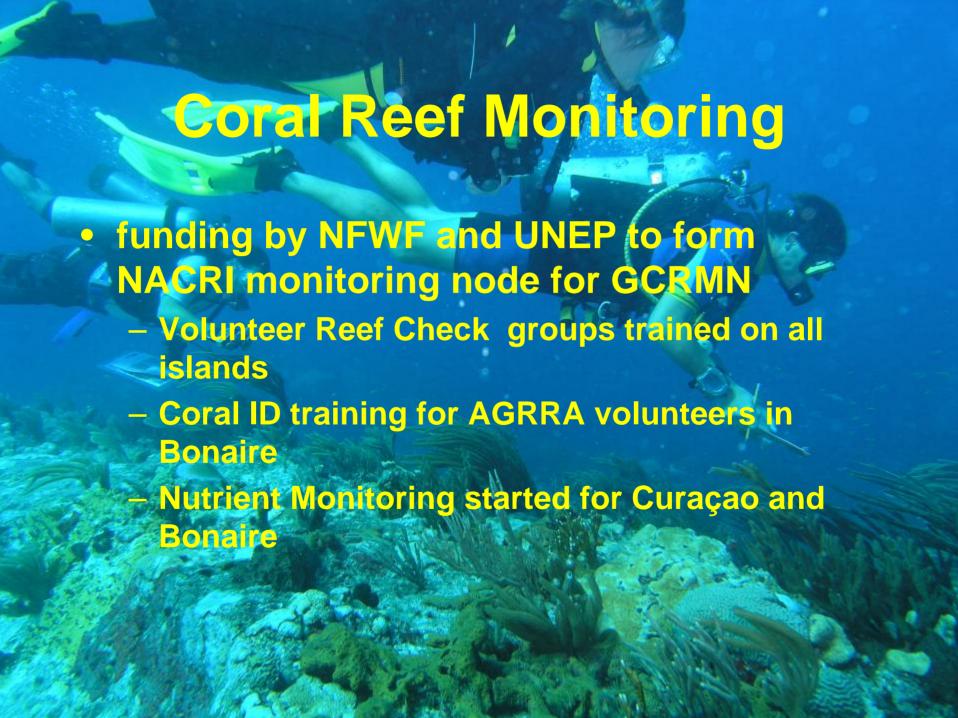
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- Established in 2000
- Consists of:
 - MPA management NGO's
 - Dive operators
 - Grassroots groups
 - Tourism organizations
 - Lisland government agencies
 - (fishermen organizations)
 - Central government, Department of Environment (MINA)
- Member of the ICRI (Int. Coral Reef Initiative)



- Coral reef monitoring
- Increased public awareness
- Sustainable fisheries
- Support for island MPAs
- Improved legislation
- strengthening communication and cooperation

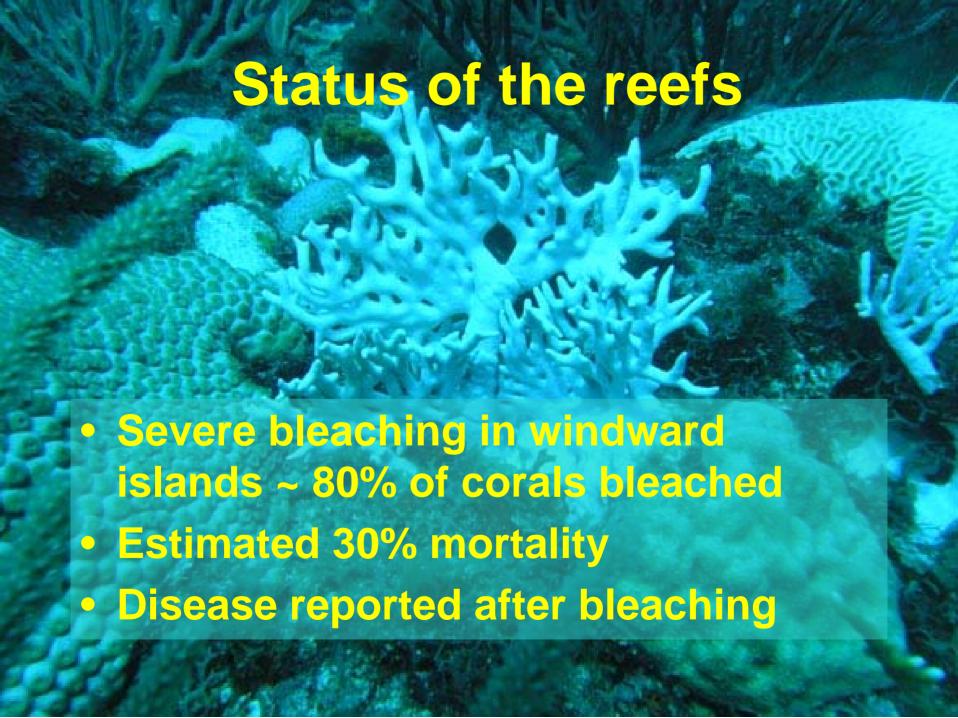




- St. Lucia added to extended nutrient monitoring program
- Funded by WW2BW (via NMSF)
 - Comparing low-level nutrient concentrations, N sources, and algae cover

Status of the reefs

- Bonaire and Curacao, very little bleaching in 2005
- some Diadema recovery in Bonaire, Jess in Curação
- Average coral cover in Curação from ≈60% down to ~30%, but still some sites with 70% cover
 - Acropora with high genetic diversity
- Recruitment of corals is high 24 2002





- Saba Bank surveyed in January 2006
- High coral diversity
- Recovering from bleaching, but not much mortality
- Algal diversity considered to be some of the righest of the Caribbean
- Large Xestospongia sponges with little sign of bleaching or disease

Conclusions

- Reefs continue to deteriorate, but recruitment rate and genetic diversity of Bonaire and Curação reefs is hopeful
- Cooperation through NACRI has improved monitoring
- Recent establishment of Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance has strengthened MPAs



- Regional cooperation has strengthened local cooperation
- Need for further strengthening of monitoring groups and MPAs to improve monitoring frequency
- Need to further strengthen regional cooperation through instruments such as the SPAW protocol and the CaMPAM network