

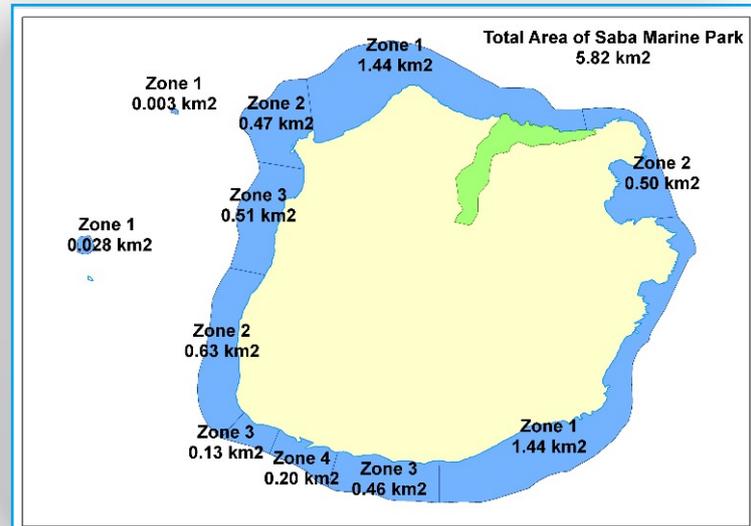


Factsheet

The Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean (SPAW):

Saba National Marine Park

- A SPAW listed site -



Identification

Country: The Kingdom of the Netherlands
Name of the area: Saba National Marine Park
Administrative region: Dutch Caribbean
Date of establishment: 6/25/1987
Geographic location:
 Longitude X: 17.6354642
 Latitude Y: -63.2326763
Date of listing under SPAW: 09 December 2014

Contacts:
 Contact address: P.O. Box 18, The Bottom, Saba, Dutch Caribbean
 Website: www.sabapark.org
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Introduction

Saba is located in the North Eastern Caribbean (17°38N, 63°14W) near St Eustatius (Netherlands.), St. Martin (Netherlands/France.), U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands and 20 other inhabited islands. These together form the Lesser Antillean Island Arc, which stretches from Puerto Rico in the North to the coastline of Venezuela in the South. Saba National Marine Park, an 800 hectare (2,000 acres) protected area, was established in 1987 to safeguard the island's pristine coral reefs and the marine environment. The park extends from the high-tide mark to a depth of 60 meters (197 feet), circling the entire island.

A zoning plan divides the park between recreational and commercial uses and a system of permanent mooring buoys facilitates diving and prevents anchoring damage to the corals. The Saba National Marine Park is home to an abundance of fish as a result of restrictions on fishing and anchoring. There still large Groupers, Hinds and Coneys that are in healthier populations than many other locations in the Caribbean. Both Green Turtles and Hawksbills thrive within the Marine Park and divers may be fortunate enough to spot Hammerhead Sharks, Whale Sharks and Manta Rays

SPAW criteria met

- Ecological criteria**
- Representativeness
 - Conservation value
 - Rarity
 - Naturalness
 - Critical habitats
 - Diversity
 - Connectivity/coherence
 - Resilience

- Cultural and socio-economic criteria**
- Productivity
 - Cultural and traditional use
 - Socio-economic benefits

Site description

General features of the site

Size: 8 sq. km

Terrestrial surface under sovereignty, excluding wetlands:

0 sq. km

Wetland surface: 0 ha

Marine surface: 8 sq. Km

National status of your protected area: National Act

Nature Conservation Framework BES (Bonaire St. Eustatius and Saba).

Marine ecoregion: 64. Eastern Caribbean

Management structure, authority

The island government of Saba, responsible for the management of the Saba National Marine Park has mandated the Saba Conservation Foundation (SCF) a non-governmental organisation established in 1987 to preserve and manage Saba's natural and cultural heritage, with the management of the marine park.

Main fauna populations and/or those of particular importance present (resident or migratory) in the area:

All four Caribbean species of turtle can be found in Saba National Marine Parks water: Hawksbills (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), Leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Loggerheads (*Caretta caretta*) are a very occasional visitor. A number of Cetaceans are regular visitors both to the reefs and the waters around Saba, including; Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), Spinner Dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*), Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) (Attachment 13). Caribbean Reef Sharks, Nurse Sharks and Black Tip Sharks are the most common shark species in Saba National Marine Park, with occasional sightings of Hammerhead Sharks, Bull Sharks and Tiger Sharks. Manta Rays and Whale Sharks are also seen on occasion (Attachment 14).

The coral reefs are home to many fish species including Fairy baslets (*Gramma loreto*), Angel fish (*Holocanthus* sp. and many others) Groupers, Triggerfish, Scorpion fish, Moray eels (e.g. *Gymnothorax moringa*), Wrasse and Chromis, Parrot fish

and roaming shoals of Blue Tangs (*Acanthurus coeruleus*). In sandy areas Garden eels (*Heteroconger halis*), Peacock Flounder (*Bothus lunatus*), Stingrays (*Dasyatis Americana*) and Flying Gurnard (*Dactylopterus volitans*) can all be seen. Near to the reefs in the blue water, Crevalle Jacks (*Caranx hippos*), Bar jacks (*Caranx ruber*), Shoals of Barracuda (*Sphyrnaea sp.*) Horse-eye jacks (*Caranx latus*) and Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*) meander looking to feed off the smaller reef fish.

Eleven coral species are common around Saba; *Agaricia spp.*, *Colpophyllia spp.*, *Diploria labyrinthiformis*, *Diploria strigosa*, *Madracis decactis*, *Millepora spp.*, *Montastraea annularis*, *Montastraea cavernosa*, *Porites astreoides*, *Porites porites*, and *Stephanocoenia michelinii*. Of these, *Montastraea annularis* was most dominant overall, followed by *Agaricia spp.*, *Millepora spp.* and *Diploria strigosa*.

Inhabitants inside the area or in the zone of potential direct impact on the protected area:

Inside the area:

Permanent: Not given

Seasonal: No given

In the zone of potential direct impact

Permanent: 2000

Seasonal: 25000

Management plan

The Saba Marine Park Management Plan was written in 1999 and is in need of updating, see Attachment 2.

International status and Date of designation

Significant bird area: Yes 1/1/2007

SPA Site : 09 December 2014



Links

PA LISTING : www.spaw-palisting.org

CaMPAM : <http://campam.gcfi.org/campam.php>

UNEP-CEP : www.cep.unep.org/

SPA-WRAC : www.car-spaw-rac.org