

Additional Material

Ecosystem services

Social values

Ruins of an old indigo dye extraction system were discovered in the area. The natural dye was extracted from a plant, the Indigo shimaron (*Indigofera suffruticosa*), an economically important plant once blue dyes were rare. Ruins of the old Fort Sint Michiel and wall are still present in the area. The salina of Sint Michiel was used for salt extraction in the past and saltpans are still present (F Mercelina, Uniek Curaçao, pers. comm.).

The area is used for recreational purposes (hiking, biking, camping), but also for educational guided tours. It is considered of scenic value by the local population of the nearby town of Sint Michiel. The resources of the area are mostly exploited by the Chinese community through the harvesting of marine organisms in the salina of Sint Michiel (F Mercelina, Uniek Curaçao, pers. comm.).

Current scientific research and facilities:

Relatively extensive research has been conducted by staff and visiting scientists of the Carmabi Foundation in the past decades. Carmabi Foundation has for instance carried out surveys on the presence of certain vegetation types, White-tailed deer, butterflies and the rare endemic Curaçao Barn owl which nests in the limestone cliffs. Inventories of waterbirds and terrestrial birds, as well as fishes, have been carried out by the Zoological Museum of the University of Amsterdam since 2006.

Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

The area is managed by Uniek Curaçao. This nonprofit organization's goal is to maintain and improve the physical and social environment of the island and secure the livability of Curaçao for both locals and visitors. Uniek Curaçao's mission is to promote the island in the most ecological and sustainable way. They prepare educational tools such as information booklets, videos and presentations and also offer guided tours in the area. Once designated as a Ramsar site, this area will be included in Uniek Curaçao's educational and public awareness programs.

Current recreational and tourism:

Recreation is mostly focused on hiking and mountain biking.

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