

## Additional information

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### Ecosystem services

#### Social and cultural values:

Some of the caves in the area were used for spiritual rituals in the past. Indian drawings are found in a cave in the Christoffel Park and are estimated to be more than 5000 years old. They were made in pre-Columbian times by the Indians living on the Dutch Leeward Islands. At that time, the Indians were still living in a Stone Age culture (Reijns 1984). At the Christoffel Park, the Landhuis Savonet was recently restored and transformed into a museum about Curaçao's history. The proposed Ramsar area already (partly) overlaps with two existing natural parks that are regularly visited by tourists and locals, but also by school children during educational field trips. The area is considered to be of significant scenic value by the local community. Access to the parks is only granted after an entrance fee is paid. These earnings are then used for maintenance and management of the area. The north coast of Curaçao is regularly visited by local fishermen.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? YES

#### Current land (including water) use:

Most of the lands adjacent to the coast were attributed a "Conservation" status in the island's zoning plan locally known as the EOP ("Island Development Plan"; AB 1995 no. 36), which became effective on May 23, 1997. The conservation destination is attributed to areas with a scientific, historic, cultural or scenic value. A small fraction of the area was designated as "Open land" in the EOP. Open lands have no special designation at present, but could be assigned one in the future. The waters surrounding the area are occasionally visited by a few fishermen. Due to very rough waters and limited public access, fishing and diving pressures are minimal along the north coast of Curaçao. The terrestrial part of the proposed Ramsar site is mostly uninhabited and undeveloped and comprises sections of both Christoffel and Shete Boka Parks. The parks are regularly visited by tourists and locals, but also by scientists for research and monitoring of the area.

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

The Ramsar site encloses part of the Christoffel and Shete Boka Parks, established and managed by Carmabi Foundation since 1978 and 1994, respectively. They are both opened to the public and include hiking trails and scenic car routes. The Natuur en Milieu Educatie (NME) is a separate branch within Carmabi which implements various educational programs for schools and other groups since the 1980s. Excursions take place in both the Christoffel and Shete Boka National Parks and are part of a mandatory program at all Primary and Secondary schools. The organization also prepares teaching material, information booklets and many other activities meant to help children and teachers to get involved in nature conservation. The area of Ascension is managed by Uniek Curaçao, a non-profit organization which aims to maintain and improve the physical and social environment of the island and secure the livability of Curacao for both locals and visitors. Uniek Curacao's mission is to promote the island of Curacao in the most ecological and sustainable way.

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