

Assessment of coral cover at Marie Pampoen

Curaçao, 2015

Client info:



Name: Curaçao Tourist Board
Sector: Government, non-profit
Location: Curaçao

The Curaçao Tourist Board is a state department on Curaçao whose main mission is to market Curaçao as a leisure and business destination.



Rationale: The Curaçao Tourist Board (CTB) wished to develop a recreational area at Marie Pampoen. The development includes the creation of a beach. CTB required several permits from the Government of Curaçao. One of the permit application requirements is that a coral survey be done.

Approach: A coral survey was performed in the area selected for coastal development. The aim of the project was to estimate the coral cover and assess the presence of vulnerable/endangered coral species (SPAW protocol, Annex II). Using the transect and quadrant method a qualitative and quantitative analysis was done of the corals present at various depth zones. For quantifying the corals, photos were taken and analysed using the computer programme CPCe.

Outcome: A report was submitted to CTB describing the coral density and coral species present. The results were included in the permit application dossier for developing the area.