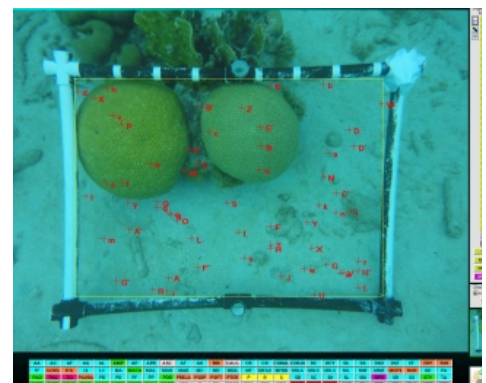
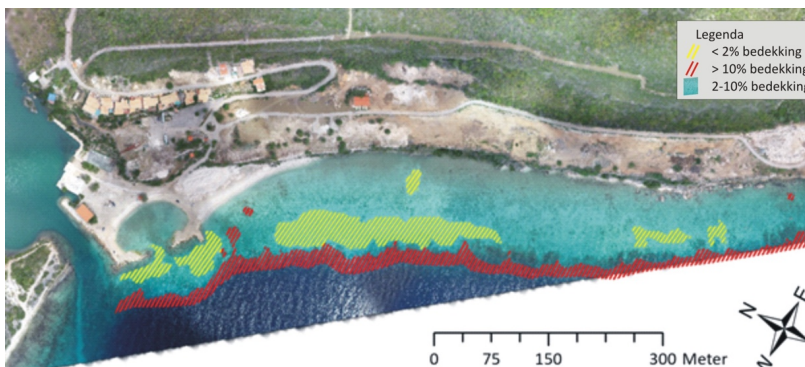


# Preliminary survey coral density and species composition Santa Martha (phase 1)

Curaçao, 2019

## Client info:

Name: International Hospitality Developing Group (IHDG)  
Sector: Hotel & Tourism  
Location: Curaçao  
IHDG is a development company.



**Rationale:** IHDG intends to develop the beach at Santa Martha Bay as part of the development of the hotel zone Santa Martha. EcoVision conducted a preliminary survey of the main marine nature values in the area (1000 meters of fringing reef). With this study the principal is able to adjust the initial design of the beach in an early phase, taking nature values into account.

**Approach:** Based on a detailed aerial image composed of drone pictures, the marine area was roughly divided into subareas of coral cover: <2%, 2-10%, >10%. Then, the entire area was systematically investigated using snorkel gear. Colonies of protected coral species were registered using a handheld gps. In areas with estimated coral cover 2-10%, coral cover was verified by analysing pictures of frames using point count software CPCe.

**Outcome:** A report was submitted to IHDG describing the main marine values. The report presents recommendations for adapting the design for beach development in order to preserve marine values.