

Survey of breeding least terns

Curaçao, 2020-2023

Client info:



Name: NuCapital / NuKoraalTabak Windparken

Sector: Power/Utility

Location: Curaçao (Koraal Tabak)

NuCapital's focus is the origination and development of new wind farms, solar PV projects, and integrated solutions in the Caribbean and Central and South America.



Rationale: The bird monitoring study performed in 2019 at the proposed location for a new wind farm at Koraal Tabak showed that the least tern was by far the most frequently observed bird species. To compensate for the expected habitat impact by the wind farm on the breeding least tern colony, it was proposed to investigate protection measures for the breeding terns. NuCapital asked EcoVision to do a study to determine the situation of least terns nesting at Koraal Tabak during the nesting season of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Approach: Twice weekly survey along the coastline where the least terns were breeding to determine location and number of nests, breeding success and fledging success. Also the factors (such as disturbance, destruction or predation) impacting the rates of success were determined. The approach for the survey (written in the monitoring protocol) has been thoroughly discussed with ecologist Fernando Simal, who has extensive experience monitoring breeding terns on Bonaire

Outcome: Recommendation to mitigate the impact on the breeding terns by creating a bird sanctuary in the area and by adapting the proposed layout of the wind farm. The results will be used in the Environmental Impact Assessment that will be performed for the wind farm project.