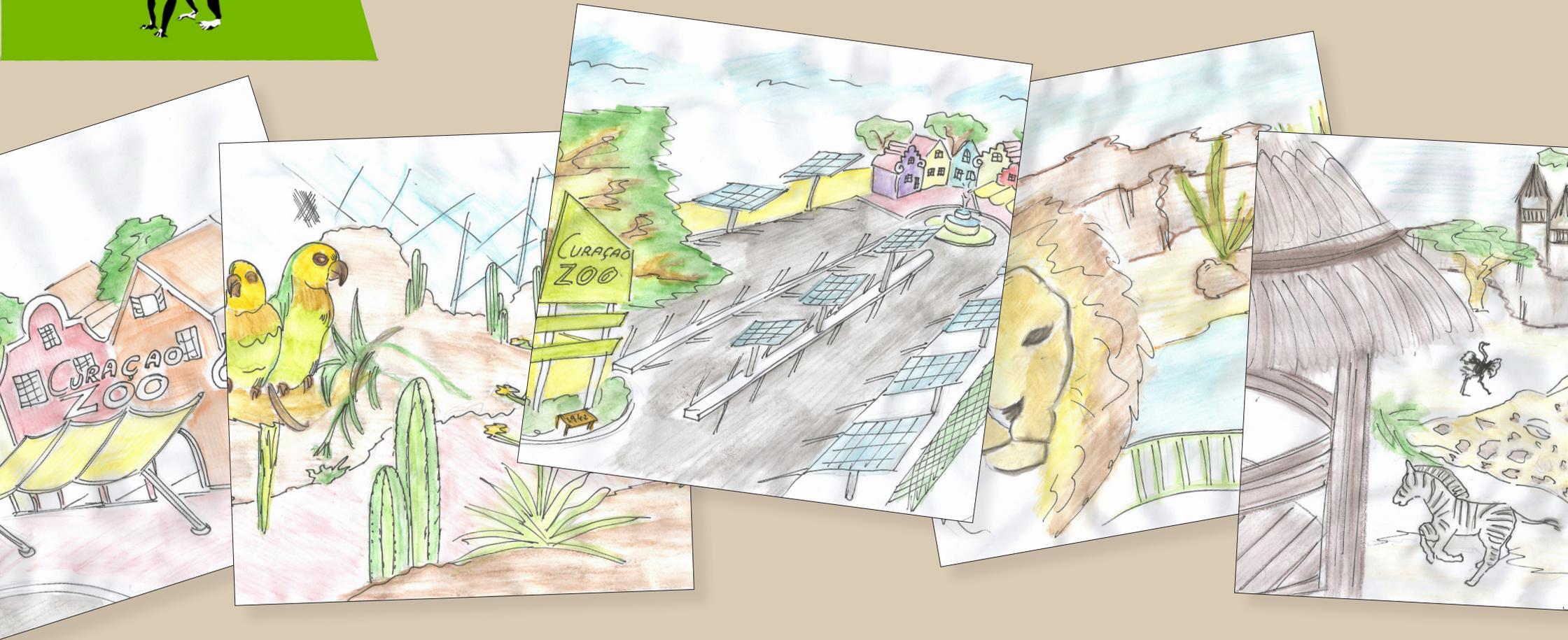


Curaçao  
**ZOO**



# The Curaçao Zoo 2013 - 2023

## OUR 10 YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN



“ Let’s make this magical cultural and educational experience  
one that will ignite your wildest imagination. ”

# Colofon

---

**Goal:** An inventory of investment and analysis of and advice on the operational aspects, related with the realization of the mentioned project

**1st edition**  
**June 21, 2016**

**Commissioned by:** Curaçao Zoo Foundation  
**Prepared by:** Bc. Ing. Heinrich de Windt and Acs. Hubèrt I C Isenia  
**Grammar check:** Deva-dee Siliee and Vivian Le Blanc

**All rights reserved**



**The Curaçao Zoo 2013 - 2023**  
OUR 10 YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

# Board letter

---

Dear all ,

The new board of the Curaçao Zoo would like to thank you all for the ongoing support.

Thanks to you all, a lot of exciting things are happening at the Curaçao Zoo. Our natural diversity on our “dushi” island of Curaçao is unique in itself, from tropical to dessert like conditions.

Our Board consisting of various professionals assisting the Zoo director on major issues of concern with the Zoo’s operation ,and helping to raise funds to support Zoo programs. Our board also assists in promoting the Zoo’s activities locally and internationally and has an interest in zoos, conservation and biological education.

Our mission is a global mission, it is clear and urgent, every country around the world needs to respect scientist and help sound the alarm. We as humans need to innovate, reduce and restructure our ways of living to abbey to our planet’s needs.

Our National Zoo history is a long one. Celebrating in 2017 our 75 year existence. Starting out as a botanical garden and turned later in an animal sanctuary that housed many exotic animals that were abandoned or donated.

A zoo is not what is used to be in the last three decades, most zoos worldwide are working with international groups that focus on conservation, it is necessary to look for ways to support yourself and for this matter, you have to commercialize on some things.

Strict rules and structure make of the Curaçao Zoo, a model for the Caribbean. Within these narratives, we are able to deliver our message – that wildlife and the natural world deserve our attention and respect. The planet and its species may not be as durable as we think. Our footprint is getting heavy. Conservation action begins with us.

We would love for you to join us in our journey. Please bring your friends, family, or a date to the Zoo! Come and see how it feels to engage with an animal and support wildlife conservation.

Please make a contribution. The Zoo’s Annual Fund provides critical operating support for our most important initiatives including wildlife and conservation education, animal nutrition and wellness, endangered species propagation, and conservation work in the field. Your generous contribution to the Curaçao Zoo will allow us the opportunity to continue to provide for the 400+ animals entrusted to our care.

<b>IVAN PEDRO DE WINDT</b>	CHAIRMAN
<b>CHARIMAE MARTIS MUJICA</b>	TREASURER
<b>JANIKE MARIA</b>	SECRETARY OF BOARD
<b>ALLAN RAPOSO</b>	BOARD MEMBER
<b>GLENDON ANICETA</b>	BOARD MEMBER
<b>CHUNDRISS MUJICA</b>	BOARD MEMBER
<b>STANLEY IGNACIO</b>	BOARD MEMBER

<b>MELVYN VORNIS</b>	ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS
<b>HUMBERTO NIVILLAC</b>	ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

CURAÇAO ZOO & NATURE RESERVE FOUNDATION, BOTANICAL AND ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, CONCERNED WITH RECREATION NATURE PROTECTION AND CONSERVANCY.

# Animal Curator's Preface

*From the time that I can remember I always had a fascination for wildlife. Growing up my house was a free range zoo; geese and tortoise walking in the house, hamsters under the bed, rabbits in the yard. Everywhere I looked there was always an animal around me, not strange that I've chosen to study in this field. Seeing what our planet has become over the last 3 decades, worries me. It made me think a lot about our planets future and ofcourse my Island Curaçao.*

---

A visit to Curaçao Zoo is an essential part of every childhood. On our Island – we value its role in the community. Our mission is to make of it the best small zoo in the world. In the last years Curaçao zoo has changed to become slowly but surely a fully self-sustaining zoo. We are keeping up with modern animal management and husbandry. Our animal enclosures are constantly being modified to house our animals every day better. One of our goals as the Curaçao Zoo is to take on a more active role in our communities education, research, breeding of threatened and endangered species and work actively on conservation. It took 4 years and 1 month to make a master plan to assists the Zoo into the future.

Why a small zoo? Simply because we have a small area compared with bigger countries. The animals that can be housed need space, therefore we focused on a truly amazing feeling for our animals and visitors. We will be breeding threatened species and educate ourselves and others more broadly to understand their natural world. We are sure that the Government is going to support this beautiful sustainable plan.

As of May 2015, the Government of Curaçao raised our monthly subsidy from NAf. 19.791,67 to NAf. 39.583,33 for basic general operation so that our day to day operation can be more manageable. We are far from the minimum of NAf 75.000 that we need for the basic operation to be on a respectable level in this current state, but I am happy that after some intensive work the governments

managed to increase this, based on our work and the importance and value of the Zoo for the community.

I commend the Curaçao Zoo staff for their vision, determination, love and passion together with all our supporters, volunteers and our community. We look forward to a bright future full of success and that someday we will become entirely self-sustainable.

Global issues are closer than we think. With the world population now at 7.400.000.000 (7.4 Billion) and counting, we have to see our species as a major treat to the existence of other living beings on our planet earth. We are destroying and polluting on a daily basis, species are dying on an alarming rate. We need to stop questioning and start working! I wish that someday our work can be done! We can and will reach it together. Please, don't see a Zoo as a prison for animals, ours for sure isn't one. Globally people have managed to destroy most of the natural areas that threatens the future existence of almost all of the wild animals on our planet, the work of the Curaçao Zoo and many others is to reproduce on a scheduled and controlled way to keep good bloodlines for the future. We give our inhabitants the best of the best, a peaceful existence, slowly but surely further away from the public to increase natural behavior and sustaining the international organizations to reach our common goal; to someday release the new generation of zoo animals into the wild again. Until that day I will work and do my best for my Islands pride; The Curaçao Zoo.

I finish with a quote from my idol; John Bushnell, Jungle Jack Hanna.

“ People need to teach people about the animal world because eventually what happens to the animal world, will happen to the people world. You have an opportunity of a lifetime. Let's save the animal world! “



**Hubert I C Isenia, Animal Care Specialist (ACS)**  
Animal Curator of the Curaçao Zoo

# Contents

---

## SECTION 1

Introduction	9
A Strategic Approach to our Master Plan Development	11
Whole of Zoo Planning Issues	12
Creating one of the World's Best Small Zoos	15

## SECTION 2

### Proposed Zoo Upgrade and Development

1. Amazonia (South American Rain Forest)	20
2. Reptile World	22
3. Aquatica (Flooded Rainforest)	24
4. It's a small world after all (Petting Zoo)	26
5. Land of Asha (African Lion Enclosure)	28
6. African Savanna	30
7. Humbolth World (South American Penguin)	32
8. Prikichi Landing	34
9. Tails of Madagascar	36
10. Insectra (Tree of Life)	38
10A. Lepidoptera (Butterfly World)	40

## SECTION 3

11. Alegria Playground	42
12. Curacao Zoo Convention Center	44
13. Service building and Intern Complex	45
14&16. Tree Top (The Zoo Café) and King's Plaza	46

## SECTION 4

### Environmental Management and Sustainability

15. Horticulture (EM farming)	48
17. Mahok Amphitheater	50
18. Parking	52
19. Behind the Scenes Facilities	54
20. Dwarf forest (kabouterbos)	56

SUMMARY DEVELOPMENT AND OVERVIEW	58
----------------------------------	----

TABLE OF FIGURES	58
------------------	----

" The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty.  
The activist is the man who cleans up the river. "

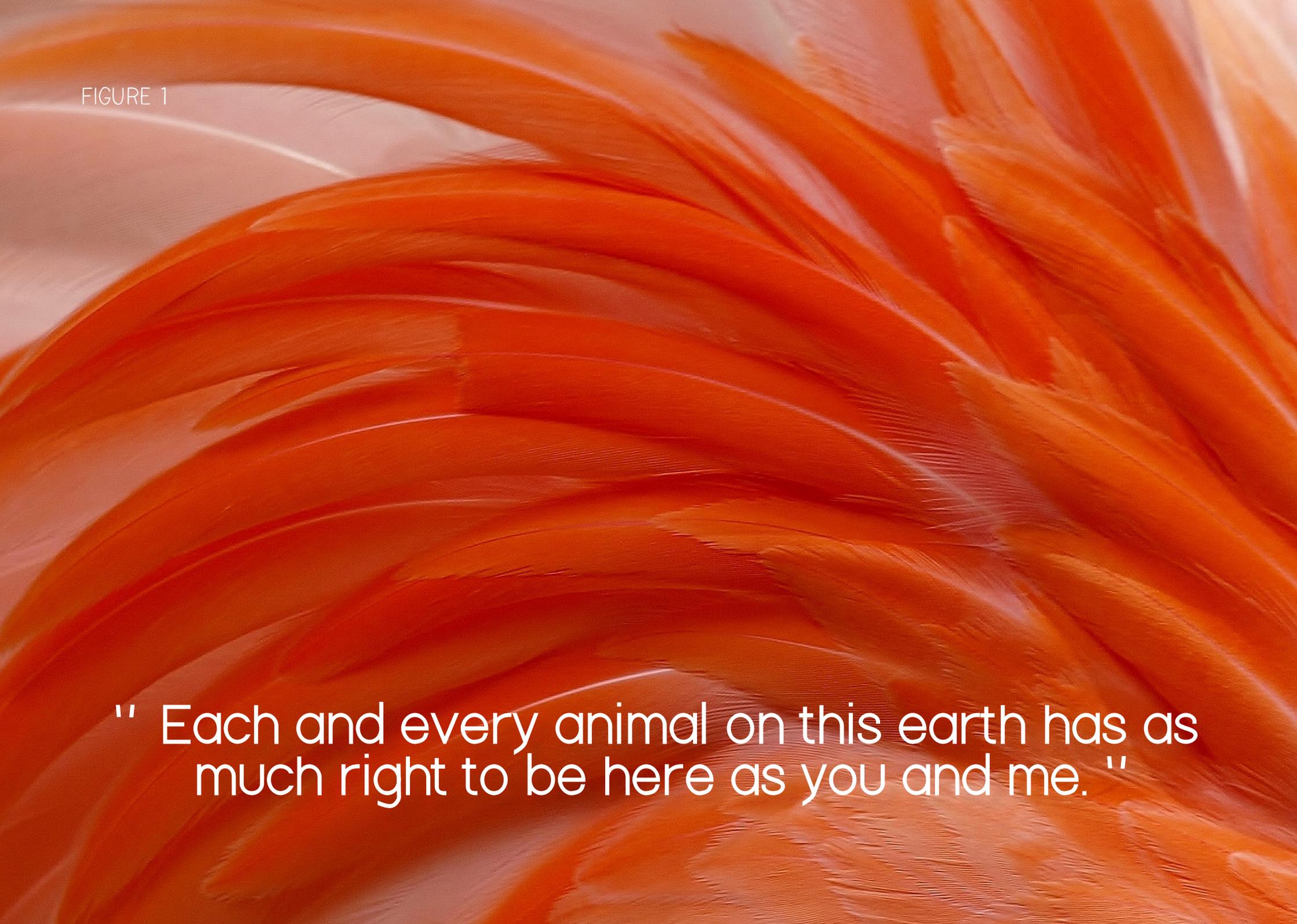


FIGURE 1

" Each and every animal on this earth has as much right to be here as you and me. "

# Introduction

*Why visit a Zoo? It's a prison for animals that belong in their natural habitat. Did you think about this so called habitat? Humans have taken over this planet and destroyed a lot. We need to help out and we do it with science, captive breeding and hopefully reintroduction. Amid a global extinction crisis, wildlife biologists are calling on animal parks to do more for conservation. Can city zoos shift from just displaying animals in time to save species in peril—and themselves?*

---

Parke Tropikal Foundation started out in the year 2000, after the Curaçao Government down sized it's operational cost and placed our national zoo in the hands of this new foundation, many things did not go well in the past. But we kept the hope up and know that we will succeed. The Curaçao Zoo holds an important place in the Curaçao community established in 1952. It has an important part in education and recreation for local people and tourists. The Curaçao Zoo is a memorable landmark. We will be displaying native and exotic animal species in natural settings, providing conservation education and experience based tourist activities. It has lush and historic botanical specimens. We house trees dating back to the early 40's. In the future we will be providing a peaceful and reflective setting for family picnics and camping. How will Curaçao Zoo sustain this special place as a tourist and cultural landmark into the future?

Presently Curaçao Zoo is one of the most popular places in Curaçao. It's the most popular attraction for young and old on the Island following a drastic change in the management at the end of 2011. Our market research showed that 98% of the Zoo visitors agreed that Curaçao Zoo has an important role in the community; and 89% believed that the Zoo needs to stay to work on the edification of our community. In addition, 65% of visitors were satisfied with Curaçao Zoo's overall services and facilities and we are happy with the little that we have. We know that our team will do good and rebuild our national zoo.

The Curaçao Zoo is faced with substantial challenges. There is increasing competition from other venues, a high demand for new and exciting exhibitory areas, and it is imperative to elaborate on scientific research for threatened species, a necessity to extend educational programs, a requirement to ensure compliance and a need to develop commercially. There is also a requirement to upgrade some animal holding areas and ageing infrastructure. Curaçao Zoo is accordingly moving to position itself for the future. We will do this through establishing sustainable environmental systems; facing our business competition; securing resources to develop and upgrade facilities and services and importantly; consolidating ourselves as a modern zoo.

"Every animal has his or her story,  
his or her thoughts, day dreams and interests."



FIGURE 3

# A strategic approach to our Master Plan Development

*Above all, a visit to a zoo should be educational and even a bit inspiring. "A good zoo would leave you changed." You'd leave the zoo not just with a better understanding of the complexity and interdependence of nature and the extraordinary diversity of natural forms, but also with a passion for finding ways to make the world more environmentally harmonious.*

---

Curaçao Zoo Master Plan is not just a physical plan, it addresses the core of why Curaçao Zoo exists and sets its future direction. The physical lay-out of a Zoo provides a framework for its purpose, reflecting its aims, mission and functions. Curaçao Zoo has developed a clearer vision for its future.

The Zoo's role in conservation is delivering a high level of research and educational programs. These will increase knowledge of bio-diversity, our animal collection plan will enable protection and re-introduction of threatened species. It will also allow us to show-case best practice in environmental management. This reflects the Zoo's commitment to excellence in species management and care, research, education and in the management and custodianship of the Zoo grounds.

Increasingly, and in line with developments globally through the World Zoo movement, Curaçao Zoo is not an 'old-style' zoo that is a recreational attraction that simply entertains. Curaçao Zoo provides many recreational activities for families and other visitors. It is, however, a conservation, research and education agency. This is a conscious strategic direction.

The position of Curaçao Zoo as one of several important sites in the city of Willemstad places it well to take a lead as a conservation, research and learning institution. This does not mean that the Zoo will not operate in a commercial manner.

Curaçao Zoo's commercial activities have been developed to align and complement its strategic objectives. Using principles of environmental and business sustainability show-casing its activities expertise in research and breeding of threatened species. Curaçao Zoo aims to develop as one of the world's best small zoos leading the way in animal care, conservation work, community and school education programs, business practice and environmental management. The intention of this plan is to confirm and to set a future and potential development path. Given that as our vision, the two questions that drive the development of this plan are:

- Where does Curaçao Zoo need to improve to become one of the world's best small zoos?
- How do we balance the many competing priorities to achieve a long-term and sustain able high quality Zoo for our visitors?

There has been substantial analysis of exhibit requirements, education, research focus and visitor service needs in order to identify what is required to be an even better zoo. However, our priority to achieve this is set within the context of financial and physical constraint. This plan sets out to be achievable and practical, recognizing the constraints in both the commercial and public sector environments as well as acknowledging our obligations to the community for quality services and responsible management.

# Whole of Zoo Planning Issues

*In addition to staff input in developing this plan, extensive research has been undertaken on the development of Zoos Master Plans guided by AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquarium) development standards and conservation programs. The following areas were considered as key in the development of the Curaçao Zoo Master Plan:*

---

- **ANIMAL COLLECTION** – Curaçao Zoo operates on an Animal Collection Plan developed in conjunction with regional animal collection planning with major zoos on the ISIS platform. The Zoo Animal Collection Plan has been maintained as a primary source in the development of this Master Plan.
- **ANIMAL WELFARE** - Legal standards and requirements for the keeping of animals have been introduced at national and international levels. The highest standard of animal welfare is the priority in all Zoo operations. This will include Behind the Scenes facilities, off exhibit enclosures and breeding facilities.
- **RESEARCH** - Curaçao Zoo has a strong conservation research orientation and a highly successful research based native species' breeding program.
- **VISITOR SERVICES** - Curaçao Zoo is a very popular venue for visitors. A high quality of visitor services is required, including adequate facilities for the aged, disabled and people with young children. The role of Curaçao Zoo Docents in our visitor service and education activities is also vital to the success of our organization.
- **CONSERVATION & EDUCATION** - Community education about conservation and environmental sustainability is a core Zoo function. Upgrading of facilities and services that enhance and strengthen this responsibility is an important factor.
- **COMMERCIAL ISSUES** – Curaçao Zoo maintains a strong business partnership approach with corporate sponsors, businesses and performing organizations. The Zoo operates in a commercial environment. The success of the Zoo's commercial events, retail and contract management to optimize self-generated commercial return.
- **BOTANICAL ESTATE AND HERITAGE MATTERS** - The heritage of the Zoo site is significant. This includes the substantial botanical site (1942 proeftuin) and significant plantings throughout the Zoo. Only a few buildings of our heritage remain. The conservation of the Zoo's heritage plantings, the remaining built heritage and the ambience of the Zoo as a significant botanical garden, will be upheld.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT** - In all Zoo operations, best practice environmental management will be in place. Infrastructure will require upgrading and replacing to ensure sound environmental practices.
- **OFF EXHIBIT AREAS** - Due to the nature of our business, Zoo staff are often required to work long hours over long periods of time. The Zoo is open 362 days a year and during summer the Zoo is often open for extended hours. Staff facilities need to be upgraded to reflect the specific requirements that arise in zoo keeping, such as animal hand rearing. There will also be facilities that reflect the opportunities of partnerships with other zoos, research and teaching institutions.

*An important consideration in Master Plan development is a projection of visitor admissions. For the purpose of this Plan, estimates about competition to the Zoo, changing public opinions and population growth have been considered. A trend in zoos internationally has been the vital importance of new exhibitory, animal births and strong marketing to maintain increasing admission figures. Should resources for new animal exhibits be available within a five year period then the Zoo should be able to expect a maintenance and growth of admissions and revenue over the life of this Plan. This Plan attempts to be a useful and realistic tool recognizing the Zoo's economic and development constraints. The Plan is indicative only and the detail of exhibit design and integration with existing facilities and exhibits will require further detail. Aside from an analysis of each area of the zoo which follows, the following Zoo priority planning issues have been identified;*

- There has been ongoing interest in acquisition of the Curaçao Zoo site as a commercial or residential development site. The location and convenience of the existing site are strong reasons for the success of the Zoo. The site is now a place of important heritage value, as a central landmark in Curaçao. The site is sufficient at 8.2 hectares to maintain a strong small zoo collection and to fulfill its mission.

These should be accommodated into the new Zoo fabric. The Zoo has beautiful gardens and good signage. Improvements are greatly needed in interactive and interpretative signage, to remain competitive and to meet visitor demands. Immersion, the use of a re-created environment, such as in the Amazonia Rainforest or African Savanna, is a successful approach that will be continued.

However, interpretation could be enhanced through discrete information 'hubs' that provide easily understood high level information on the natural world, research activities that occur in the Zoo and issues that relate to animal habitat protection. Inter-active signage using high-level information technology also will be incorporated.

- The Curaçao Zoo has a shortage of suitable enclosures to hold animals off exhibit, to allow for transactions, quarantine, breeding and appropriate management. This requires urgent attention.
- High level environmental management is a high priority for the Zoo and this will continue. The Zoo has a keen interest to be sustainable in its environmental management programs. A Sustainable Management Plan, developed in 2012, provides a useful planning tool for implementation and will be continually addressed.
- High impact Zoo exhibitory will be necessary to maintain competitiveness and visitor impact. It's planned that large species, such as Lions, Camels, Giraffes, Wildebeest and Zebra's will be displayed in state of the art enclosures that present the animals in the best immersion experience for visitors.
- The public areas of the Zoo are becoming run down. New toilet facilities which accommodate facilities for the aged, disabled and young families are required. Seating and rest areas are also required. The eating facilities require replacement.

- Behind the Scenes in the Zoo, there are also increasing demands to upgrade off-exhibit enclosures and staff facilities. Perimeter fencing around the Zoo urgently needs replacement and the four gates must be rationalized as a priority to improve security management into the future. New fencing is also necessary to ensure the security of animals in open exhibits.
- The Zoo had a high debt profile which resulted from a period when the zoo was required to borrow to offset the lack of any capital funding to maintain or build new exhibits and facilities. Operating costs are also rising in an environment of increasing competition.



*There has been some recent additional funding from Government and modest improvements in the Zoo's own commercial returns, however the business basis requires further support. The Zoo will allocate resources to the commercial activities consistent with its mission to enable business growth that will support wider Zoo operations. In summary, it is recommended that:*

- 3.1 Curaçao Zoo should remain on its existing site and be further developed as a peak tourist and visitor experience, with high-level conservation education experiences.
- 3.2 Within the period of this Plan, that the Government should consider a site for general recreation additional to the zoo. This would enable accommodation Camping grounds, hiking, biking and horseback riding and tourist facilities in the medium term.
- 3.3 Off-exhibit multi-purpose animal enclosures should be constructed throughout the Zoo to enable breeding research and provide off-exhibit times for more comprehensively-based animal management.
- 3.4 The Zoo should be used as a center for public education of sustainability principles with the construction of water recycling facilities, water treatment plants to become a model for the public in best practice environmental management.
- 3.5 There should be an upgrade of visitor amenities throughout the Zoo. Toilet facilities require attention. While functional, they do not provide modern services for disabled, the elderly or parents with young children. Rest areas throughout the Zoo need to be identified with increased seating and shaded areas.
- 3.6 Curaçao Zoo security requirements should be given priority with new perimeter fencing and associated security lighting, rationalization of the number of gates and introduction of other security measures.
- 3.7 The business and commercial areas of the Zoo should be sufficiently resourced to enable a regular and assured commercial return, with performance facilities and upgraded conference facilities.

FIGURE 4

# Creating one of the World's Best Small Zoo

## In 2023, a world-class zoo will:

- Immerse visitors into natural habitats, rich in biological diversity;
- Provide multi-sensory experiences that allow visitors to see, hear, smell and touch;
- Provide a unique contact with nature;
- Be an ecological park that services as a zoo, aquarium, science center, art museum and botanical garden;
- Contribute to local and world-wide conservation program sand enable visitors to learn and see how the zoo interacts with in-situ conservation programming;
- Be a place where animals are treasured and shared with the public, to be loved, appreciated and respected;
- Inform visitors of the direct actions and lifestyle changes which they can make that would contribute to local and global conservation efforts.

What do we mean by aiming to be one of the world's best small zoos? Will zoos be 'out-of date' and unfashionable in 20 years? What is the future of zoos? These are vital areas for discussion in the World Zoo movement. Zoos in the world have moved rapidly from being simply display areas for animals to being centers of conservation education and research on animals, plants, environments and their inter-relationships. The major components of a modern zoo are outlined below.

- Zoos are no longer just 'attractions'. They promote conservation education messages and actively publicize the importance of bio-diversity as central components of their exhibitories. These are givens in a modern zoo. A modern zoo has strong stimulating interpretative signage about animals, plants and environment. The signage and displays are increasingly inter-active and technology based, linking to other information sources. A zoo web-site is a primary source of information for threatened species.
- Zoo research that directly increases knowledge of living things, particularly threatened species, is a vital and evolving component of a modern zoo. It is a modern zoo's responsibility to display, educate and to increase scientific knowledge about animal and plant life. Partnerships with research institutions involving shared resources and knowledge are central to a modern zoo.
- Animal enrichment and keeping standards for species are of the highest quality in a modern zoo. We are member of the International Species Information System and work with Zims record keeping software. Enclosures for animals must demonstrate that they meet legal standards as well as enhance natural animal behaviors. The era of big cats in barred cages is past. Enclosures both on and off exhibit must be designed for safety, animal behavioral enrichment and foster visitor understanding and knowledge.
- Modern zoos have better enclosures, exhibit fewer species and have increased behavioral enrichment for animals. This includes keeping herds or groups of the same animal and facilitating breeding when it is in the interests of the health of the species and individual animals. This changes the environment of the zoo, particularly small zoos, with larger and less numbers of enclosures.
- Captive zoo breeding may be the only option for future preservation of some species and in such situations zoos play a vital role in conservation.

A strong push in the modern zoo movement has been to link captive breeding with support for in-situ projects and to conserve habitats of the threatened species. Given the world-wide shortage of funding for zoos this is becoming increasingly difficult. Zoos provide the support with in-kind contributions through staff exchanges, training opportunities and participating in fund-raising activities for in-situ projects.

- Visitors to zoos expect high standards of visitor services. Adequate and clear signage, rest areas, good restrooms and transport must accommodate diverse visitor needs, particularly visitors with disabilities, the aged and people visiting with young children.
- Increasingly, visitors are also expecting the charismatic 'flagship' species. A high quality modern zoo displays large species with a high profile for best conservation education results.
- A modern zoo operates in a competitive and commercial environment. The commercial activities must complement the core business of the zoo and promote its overall conservation focus.
- In presenting species for exhibit, modern zoos aim only to use captive-bred animals unless best practice species management dictates otherwise. This is to discourage potential illegal trade in animals and disruption of wild populations. The captive breeding and related management world-wide (particularly of the genetic representation to ensure successful breeding outcomes) is extremely complex. An entire 'zoo system' exists, (Zims) involving management of captive species regionally and internationally. Modern zoos are inextricably bound to the global effort through the World Zoo Movement and CITES to manage captive bred animals responsibly.
- Staff are required to be highly trained and flexible enough to provide keeper talks, other interactions with visitors and also participate in research activities. Modern zoos need to respond to these requirements and deliver training that reflects the increased research focus, conservation education and presentation skills.
- Zoos must become living and practical examples of conservation agencies. Their policies and practices must reflect conservation values and principles. It's realistic to position Curaçao Zoo for the future as one of the world's best small zoos. Already Curaçao Zoo has the foundation and key elements that make up a great modern zoo with strong research and education programs, highly skilled staff and a sound, well maintained animal collection. Curaçao Zoo's vision and mission fit well with the charter for modern zoos. The recommendations below identify the areas where the Zoo will be required to develop and grow.

- 
- 4.1 Curaçao Zoo membership of the International Species Information System organization is a strength of its operations. It provides a link for Zoo visitors to participate in programs and activities that make a difference in conservation.
  - 4.2 Curaçao Zoo should increasingly highlight membership of the Association of Zoos and Aquarium (AZA) organization in its promotions, signage and negotiation for resources. Bona fide in-situ conservation projects and the AZA organization's role should be show-cased through signage and interpretation where appropriate.
  - 4.3 The Zoo's education and interpretation signage should be substantially upgraded to enable high inter-activity and greater inter-action for visitors. Specific higher level interpretation could include three dimensional signage, multi-media and linkages that detail the key issues of bio-diversity. Video link-up with Behind the Scenes activities

and enclosures would also enhance understanding of animal management and behaviors.

- 4.4 Research into animals and plants in the Zoo collection and breeding for release into the wild should continue as a priority activity. This can be show-cased and staff supported, to grow in these areas of activity. Collaboration with universities and other zoos on research should be pursued as a priority.
- 4.5 Curaçao Zoo should continue to implement, accepted changing regulatory standards for captive animal management in exhibit size and design. It's acknowledged that the time frame of implementation is based on available resources and needs to be staged through priorities identified in this Plan. It is only by way of funding partnerships that Curaçao Zoo will be able to develop and address issues of maintenance of its aged site. Of special concern are the animal holding areas requiring upgrades. Further recommendations relating to the upgrade, replacement and enhancement of Zoo facilities and services are detailed in following sections.

FIGURE 5



" Animal's eyes  
have the power  
to speak a great language. "

A close-up photograph of a purple plant with several long, pointed leaves. The leaves are covered in small, clear water droplets. The plant is growing on a light-colored, textured rock surface. The background is blurred, showing more of the same plant and rocks.

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

FIGURE 6

**The Curaçao Zoo is divided into  
a couple of major exhibitory areas**

---

# 1. Amazonia (South American Rainforest)



FIGURE 7

**“ Smells, textures and moisture; a real tropical garden filled with exotic animals that live among each other in a bio diverse setting.”**

---

Waterfalls and lagoons, every corner something special and when looking up or down you will see and enjoy plenty.

Our visitors will never be able to annoy our animals, basically because you will be watching from a distance and if some of the animals want to, they can come closer to take a good look at the humans.

Pinning down exact numbers is nearly impossible, but most experts agree that we are losing upwards of 80,000 acres of tropical rainforest daily and significantly degrading another 80,000 acres every day on top of that. Along with this loss and degradation, we are losing some 135 plant, animal and insect species every day or some 50,000 species a year—as the forests fall.

A wooden suspension bridge with rope railings and a stone staircase, set against a lush green rainforest background. The bridge is made of wood and rope, with a stone staircase in the center. The surrounding environment is a dense, vibrant green rainforest with various tropical plants and trees. The lighting is bright, highlighting the textures of the wood, rope, and foliage.

" Amazonica is a beautiful and peaceful area with artificial misting and animal noises to replicate life in the rainforest. "

FIGURE 8

A close-up photograph of fish scales, showing a variety of colors including black, yellow, and white, with some scales having dark spots. The scales are arranged in a regular, overlapping pattern. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and sheen of the scales.

FIGURE 9

" If animal's could speak, mankind would weep. "

## 2. Reptile World



FIGURE 10

**“ This 60 meter by 20 meter exhibits will showcase some of the most beautiful reptiles from all around the world. ”**

---

These are high impact animals with great visitor interest. However, the interest and charismatic nature of the species make them attractive exhibitory species that greatly enhance our display as well as tourist interest.

The area could be extended into a touch and feel lawn with lots of vegetation and waterfalls.

### 3. Aquatica (Flooded Rainforest)



FIGURE 11

**“ Full of sounds and smells from the rainforest you will get hooked on Aquatica.”**

---

Walk down a mysterious path to find yourself in an freshwater aquarium filled with giant fish that will amaze you by their size and tranquility.

Aquatica will be an underwater learning place where students and visitors can enjoy a fresh water aquarium world and see how, for example, a rain forest is transformed into a lagoon with large river fish.

See the biodiversity of this flooded underwater world. Aquatica is also a filtering center for most of the Curaçao Zoo exhibits water.

"The most precious resource  
we have is fresh water.  
Let's preserve it."



FIGURE 12

A close-up photograph of a dog's face, showing its eyes, nose, and mouth. The dog has light brown fur and dark brown markings around its eyes and on its muzzle. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a soft, intimate feel. The quote is overlaid in the bottom left corner.

"Pets teach children kindness, respect, love and compassion."

## 4. Petting Zoo (it's a small world after all)



FIGURE 14

**“ Touring the world in our Petting Zoo will be something amazing.”**

---

You'll be visiting Egypt, Australia, Curaçao, Asia, South America, Africa, the Netherlands and the USA see and feel their barn and domestic animals; animals that are mostly bred for a purpose. Our helpers will be teaching our visitors how important each and every one of these beautiful creatures are for our planet's continuation. Also seeing the added value of their use in the modern culture like learning how to milk a cow or goat and how to make all different products from their milk, for example, cheese.

Relax in different themed areas in our petting zoo. There are times that the area can be booked for picnics and birthday parties.

## 5. Land of Asha (African Lion Enclosure)



FIGURE 15

**“ Close to our Amphitheater you will encounter the flagship of them all; the king of the African terrains, the Land of Asha enclosure.”**

---

Derived from the word in Swahili Aisha, meaning life, we give and assure our lions the hope to keep their bloodlines strong so eventually they will be reintroduced into the wild. Their numbers are going down in the wild, that's why Zoos are closing in and producing good bloodlines that will be re-introduced into the wild in the near future. Many aspects are playing a role, draught, sickness, shortage of food, habitat lost and poaching.

Our lions will be housed on a 9250m<sup>2</sup> piece of land with a refreshing lagoon, shade trees, lush green lawns and also dry and rocky areas, they will have a great stretch of land to run on, and our visitors can view them with set in place binoculars or with your bare eyes. With proper night enclosure and controlled areas this enclosure will be one of the bests in it's kind in our region.

"The only creature on earth whose natural habitat is a zoo, is the zookeeper."



"The eternal being,  
as it lives in us,  
also lives  
in every animal."

FIGURE 17

## 6. African Savanna



FIGURE 18

**“ The African Savanna will have great visitor appeal and will be a very effective area of the Zoo. ”**

---

There have been several minor changes to the exhibit design over the past three years. It will be functional and should remain so over the life of this plan.

The plan is set to meet breeding requirements of different species held in the Savanna and to honor the Zoo's Collection plan and international obligations. The proposed extension of Savanna exhibits will impact on the 'Land of Asha' exhibit. Due to its continental similarity and giving the sense that it is an open terrain, the feeling of the natural and wild Africa will be felt.

Meerkats are located in a popular exhibit within the Savanna. The existing Meerkat enclosure is attractive and enables visitors to achieve a close view experience without disturbing the animals. The Meerkat colony will naturally grow and develop, accommodation of two or more colonies is necessary for healthy development of the group. Meerkats are wonderful display animals that have a high visitor appeal and conservation education value. A display for one group could be located near the café area in front of the Land of Asha enclosure. They will teach everyone that team work is the key to success.

## 7. Humboldt World (South American Penguin)



FIGURE 19

**“ The South American Penguin is a popular animal but they have less chance to survive as a result of the impact that people have on the planet. ”**

---

Penguins are threatened by climate change and pollution. Penguin populations have decreased by nearly 80 percent in some areas and the majority of scientists agree that rising temperature due to climate change is the primary culprit.

By supporting a breeding program through the AZA/WAZA/ALPZA we can house these males in tuxedo and help them procreate for the re-introduction of pure bloodlines in the wild.

FIGURE 20



"Penguins are threatened by climate change and pollution."

A close-up photograph of a parrot's feathers. The feathers are primarily green, with some showing a blue or cyan hue. The texture of the feathers is highly detailed, showing the fine structure of the barbs. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the edges and creating deep shadows.

FIGURE 21

" If we could read the minds of animals  
we would find only truths. "

## 8. Prikichi Landing



FIGURE 22

**“An increased ‘wow’ factor with improved enclosures for this beautiful bird, greater attention given to visitor immersion in display management and detail.”**

---

Our Prikichi Landing enclosure will house a controlled number of our native parakeet. The *Eupsittula Pertinax* Pertinax in an effort to reproduce a specific number annually that we can re-introduce into the wild of our Island. It could be strengthened through increased interpretation of Zoo research and breeding programs.

The current problem locally with our native prikichi is the color mutations that are becoming more and more visible, a bird with a fully yellow tail, or feathers, is alarming. Basically the problem is the annual hunting for these birds to be housed in tiny cages as pets. We will inform the community that together we will help our native bird stay healthy in the wild by breeding true selective DNA control and annual release of the wild kept yearlings. This new enclosure will be the first experience our visitors will have upon entering the Curaçao Zoo.

## 9. Tails of Madagascar



FIGURE 23

**“ One of the most distinct places in the world; Madagascar, has a bio diversity that is practically unbelievable. ”**

---

Tails from Madagascar will be an open enclosure where different species of lemurs live on a beautiful island. The interaction with visitors will be something unique that will not annoy our animals in any way. They will be living in an enriched atmosphere full of exiting new adventure routes that constantly change and that will cross path above the visitors resting areas.

FIGURE 24



"Animals tell stories, cry and laugh with thier tails."

FIGURE 25



"The love for all living creatures  
is the most noble attribute of man."

## 10. Insectra (Tree of Life)



FIGURE 26

**“ A mesmerizing trip into the unknown. A world of little creatures a different life; insect species, micro- organisms and taxidermied insects; a magnificent learning experience.”**

---

A building made in the shape of an old giant tree, where in an amazing learning class room you will be surrounded by insects from around the world combined with native species. A Microbe Zoo (Educational Lab) where one can learn about all living organism in a chilled atmosphere; a state of the art educational center.

There is sufficient space for the growth of education program activity throughout the Trunk of this Tree classroom and a three-story building in the form of an old but full of character tree with detailed artwork in every corner. And of course creepy crawlers.

"How we treat the vulnerable  
is how we define ourselves  
as a species."



FIGURE 27

## 10A. Lepidoptera (Butterfly World)



FIGURE 28

**“ Lush garden filled with fruits and flowers and an engaging path to see the world’s most beautiful butterflies. ”**

---

Come with us and experience an almost magical atmosphere where butterflies fly all over a covered lush garden. Learn and see how these beautiful creatures come out of their cocoons that look like fairies from our childhood memories. Lepidoptera (Butterfly World) will surely be memorable.

## 11. Alegria Playground



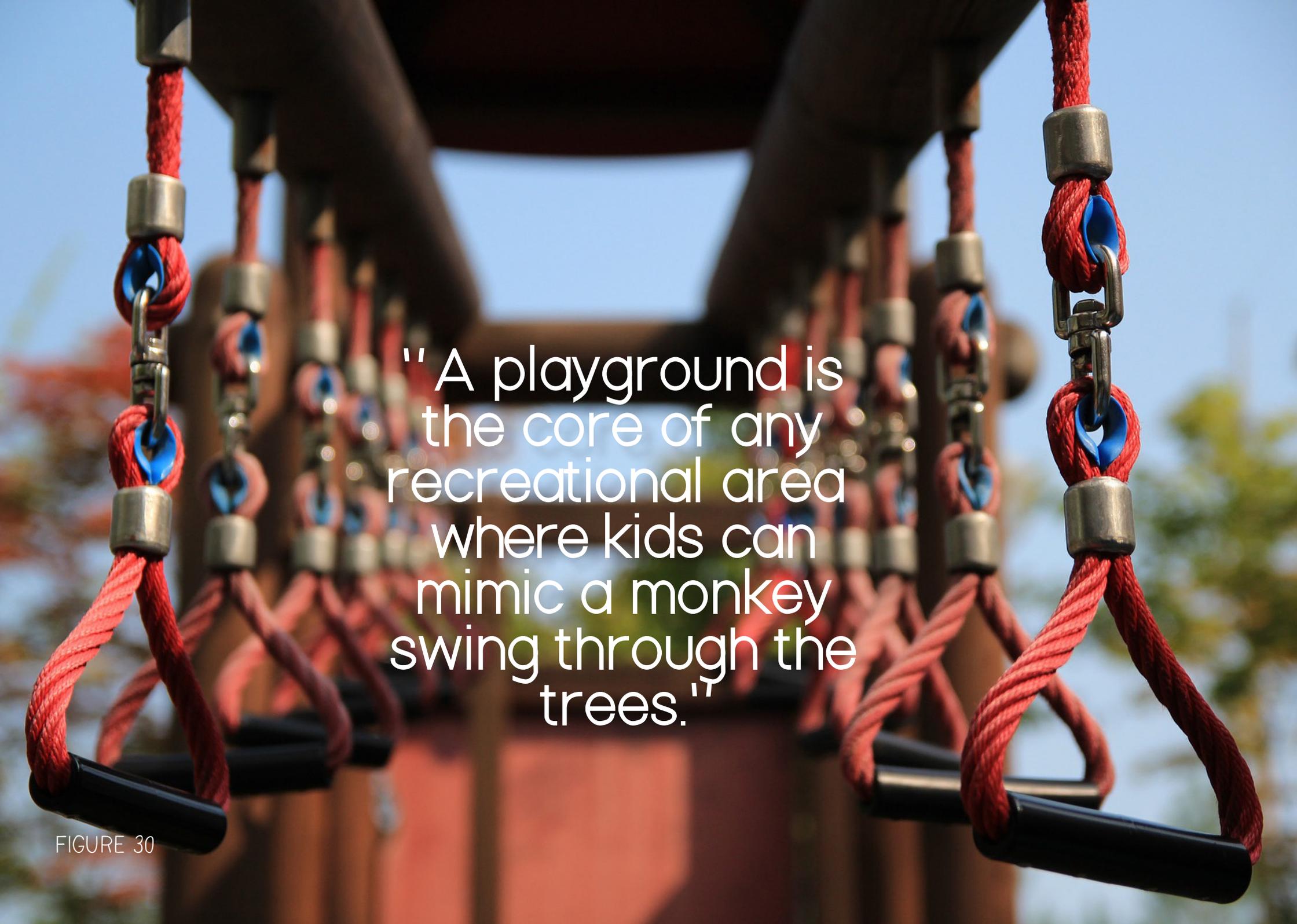
FIGURE 29

### “ The first ever learning playground in Curaçao. ”

---

Right next to our King's Plaza is our playground, which is a popular family picnic spot and the location for Zoo events. The area could be greatly enhanced by a few features;

- We will have a splash and refreshing area, fountains and misters to cool off in this hot Caribbean sun;
- A family oriented attraction near our restaurant and King's Plaza;
- The Curaçao Zoo Playground will be divided into a toddler area and different age sections following, with giant swings and slides, educational areas where “dino” digging can be done.
- Digging for fossils will be a highlight for young and old, we will be re-arranging the concrete bones and shapes and you can spend hours brushing and searching for the dinosaurs. The Curaçao Zoo Playground will be a kids paradise, where they will also learn a lot about the biodiversity of our planet.



"A playground is the core of any recreational area where kids can mimic a monkey swing through the trees."

FIGURE 30

## 12. Curaçao Zoo Conference Center

*The First floor of our Entrance building will be a fully equipped conference center where you can host lectures, parties and almost any event for a maximum of 850 people seated, air-conditioned or open window with beautiful view into the trees and most of the zoo. On the floor level we will have a total of 4 educational rooms, these are for school projects Zoo volunteers.*

### ZOO ENTRANCE (THE CURAÇAO ZOO CONVENTION CENTER) AND EDUCATION AND CONFERENCE ROOMS

For more than 63 years our Zoo had just two 4 meter long doors that gave the entrance a flattering and exiting first impression. The New Front Entrance has an Information Center. Our ZOO-tique Shop and Zoo offices, security office, state of the art powder rooms and rest rooms. One criticism of the entrance has been that it does not have a strong impact. The planned acquisition of the new Prikichi landing exhibit next to the entrance would address this deficiency, given that it would be partially in view upon entering the Zoo.

The Information Center will be a friendly and helpful additional to our visitor service facilities, such as adequate storage areas, lockers and first aid areas. The Zoo will develop a landscape plan for the entrance statement with additional seating and a feature that complements the existing sculptures. Other medium to long-term improvements will be required over a 10-year period. These include more appropriate guiding arrangements for peak periods, increased information and integrated signage. We will introduce portable equipment for security control at the Zoo entrance. Plans for a modern ticketing system should be set in place within a 2-year period.



FIGURE 31

# 13. Curaçao Zoo Service Building

*A learning institute;  
A state of the art staff resting area, and class rooms will make of our Zoo service building something magnificent*

---

## SERVICE BUILDING AND INTERN COMPLEX

The core of our operations, our service building will house our animal nursery, laboratory, clinic, morgue, animal food prep kitchen, gardening, technical departments and food storage on the ground level. The first story of this building will house packed foods, and other items of the Zoo, on the second floor we will have 48 intern dormitories with solar panel roofing. A self-sustaining building. Our Nursery will house incubators/hand-rearing of animals.

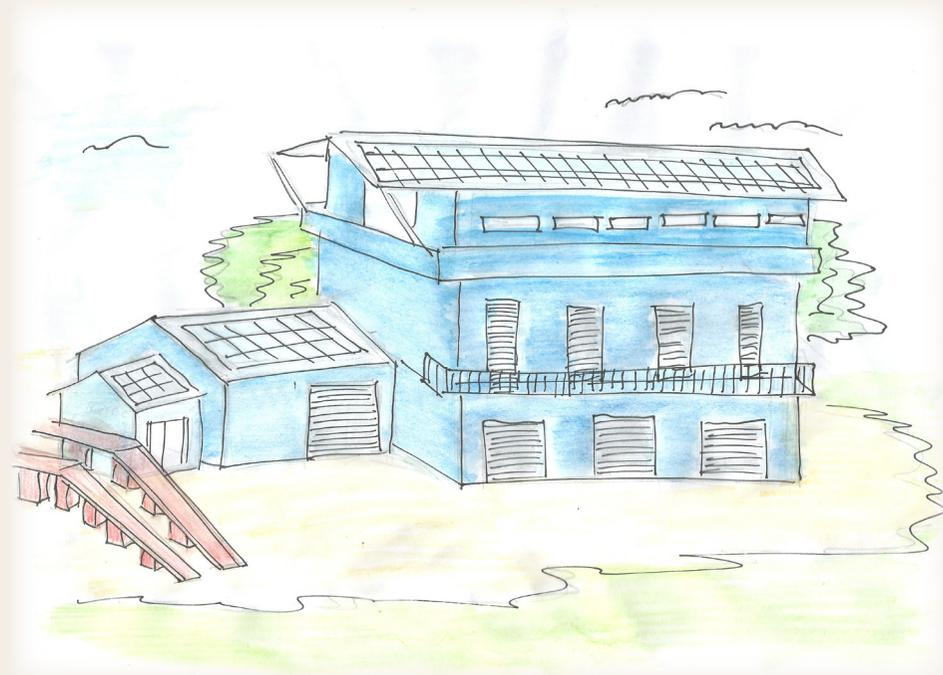


FIGURE 32

## 14 & 16. Tree Top (The Zoo Café) and King's Plaza



FIGURE 33

**“ The Tree Top restaurant will be a learning facility for kids, grownups and people with mental or physical limitations. ”**

---

Kaku and Sloke are just two names for different themes and areas that will be used by our visitors for parties or meetings in our restaurant. Our restaurant will serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. Main courses, salads, soups and vegan food. Most of the food prepared will be harvested from our zoo grounds. We will be working with professionals and also institutions with people with limitations, this will make of our restaurant a unique experience for every visitor.

The Tree Top restaurant will be a learning facility for kids and grownups with mental or physical limitations. Who want to be a part of our community and support our Zoo. It will be a special way to show our visitors that every body counts and that we have to value each and every soul that gives a hand to our mission.

Upon entering our Zoo you will be amazed; a big square with lots to see and a main plaza for presentations, fairs and almost any event you can imagine. King's Plaza is our way to remember our beloved lion who passed away at the respected age of 20 on August 8, 2014. He will be forever our driving force to continue. As we did not have the chance to give him his land of ASHA.

"How do we expect wild animals to survive if we give them nowhere in the wild to live."



FIGURE 35

"A great nation is a compassionate nation."

## 15. Horticulture (EM Farming)



FIGURE 36

“ The gardens of the Zoo are one of it’s most important physical advantages. It’s a significant botanical garden in its own right and enhances the Zoo significantly. ”

---

The Zoo gardens contain significant heritage trees that should be conserved. The role of our horticulture staff in growing, coordinating animal feed production, involvement in mulching and worm farming, as well as the significant job in tending and managing the Zoo gardens make them vital. The conservation of trees and plants within the Zoo grounds should be assured through the implementation of the Botanical Plans developed through the Horticulture Branch. The nursery will be visible for the visiting public as an extra educational area. Effective Microorganisms (EM) help the Zoo magically by doing the best natural odor control possible known to mankind, and at the same time giving life to new plant and nourishing every living bean in the ZOO. EM has reduced our outsourcing for industrial cleaning agents for our facilities and general cleaning by 80%.

## 17. Mahok Amphitheater



FIGURE 37

“ Mahok (Mahogany in Papiamentu) is the name of our Amphitheater for the abundant lush mahogany trees around the area.”

---

Mahok Amphitheater will house 850 seated people in an open air theater where we will educate our visitors about many aspects of our zoo can be rented out for parties or events, our Zoo-vie Picnic night will continue every first Saturday of each month on our big screen at the Mahok Amphiteater.



"Success will never be a big step in the future, success is a small step taken just now. Brick by brick."



" Animals share with us the privilege of having a soul. "

## 18. Parking

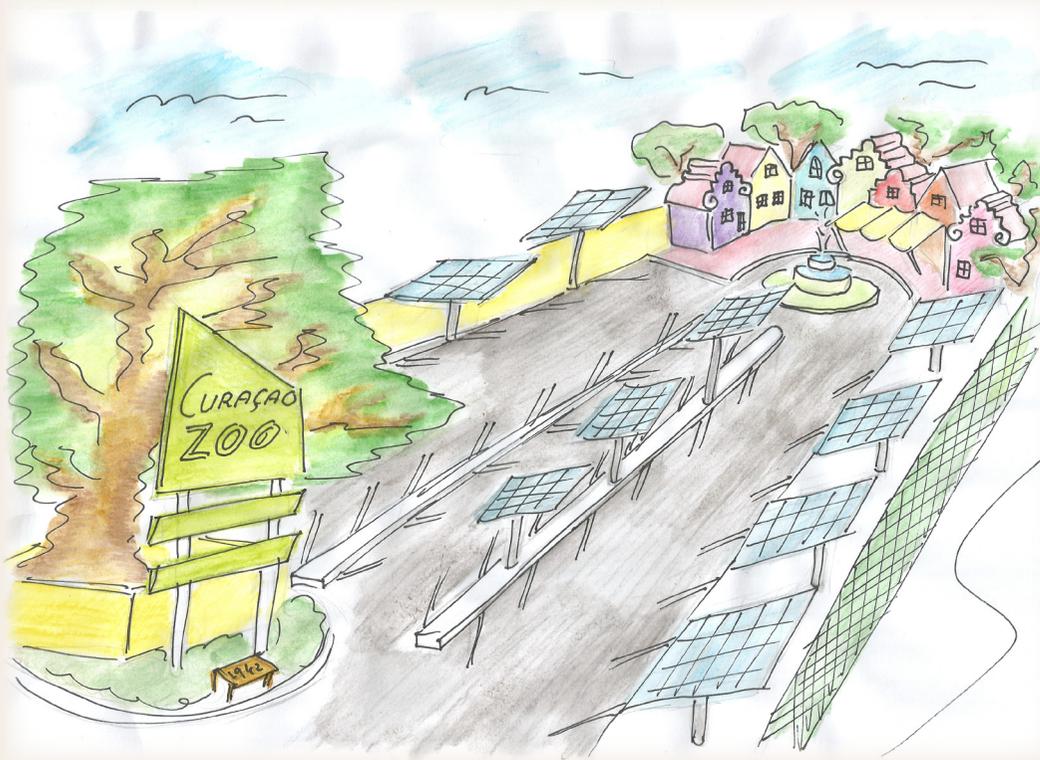


FIGURE 40

**“Parking facilities for our Zoo visitors are presently adequate but may not remain so in the life of this Plan.”**

---

Present public transport to the Zoo is not adequate and this poses a significant restriction on the Zoo's development in the future. Alternative transportation should be secured to enable increased tourist visitation and to increase access of Curaçao Zoo visitors in outlying suburbs. Alternative transport systems that will service the Zoo and provide a permanent and accessible link between Willemstad and the Zoo should be explored.

Working with tour operators / Airport / Hotels and transport authorities on alternatives are a must. In our development we will make 350 parking spaces for cars and 10 spaces for busses.

## 19. Behind the Scenes Facilities



“A great way for our visitors to see the ins and outs of the zoo on a guided tour.”

---

Aside from the environmental management areas and horticulture areas described above, the behind the scenes of the Zoo can be divided into different areas: staff areas including animal food preparation and animal housing.



iCare iComfort  
iVolunteer  
iShare iGive  
iAssist iLove  
iCONTRIBUTE  
iDonate

iCare iComfort  
iVolunteer  
iShare iGive  
iAssist iLove  
iCONTRIBUTE  
iDonate

" The best way to find yourself  
is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Become a volunteer: [friends@curacaozoo.com](mailto:friends@curacaozoo.com)



"The earth is what we all have in common."

## 20. Dwarf forest (kabouterbos)



FIGURE 44

“ Dating back to 1910 the Cas Cora dam (Dwarf forest), through time it transformed into a beautiful urban forest. ”

---

Dating back to 1910 the Cas Cora dam (Dwarf forest), through time it transformed into a beautiful urban forest. The main purpose has been partially lost, the current capacity for holding water is much less than it was in the past. 100 plus years later it is a thick forest that needs some shaping and also proper maintenance to guarantee the continuation of the Zoo and the neighborhood. If heavy rainfall occurs right now it can be devastating for the surroundings. Our development plan holds a beautiful lush green forest merged into a recreational area where the whole community can do different activities. The dam is almost 20 hectares in the center of the dwarf forest, making it a spectacular view dry or flooded.

Activities like, horseback riding, camping, biking and when the dam is full even a kayak experience can be enjoyed. In the future a tree-top path and a zip line can be major attractions for the visiting public. A state of the art horse stable to manage rescued animals that can be socialized and kept in good shape by riding on a regular basis, pony clubs, café. This is also a educational area that will be merged to the Zoo and much more.

# Summary Development and Overview

This Plan reflects the carefully selected ideas to enhance the Zoo into the future. This is a 10 year view that will continue to provide excellence as a tourist and visitor experience, best practice in environmental management and continuing the work of the Zoo in captive breeding of threatened animal species and the Zoo's research activities.

The scope and extent of the Plan illustrates priorities for the Zoo to position itself for the future. There is a concentration of the activities in the first five year period to address the backlog in some areas; to address issues regarding the management of animals and to improve the business footing of the Zoo. The business areas require a capital injection to allow for greater commercial activity and growth to contribute to the implementation of the plan.

---

## Table of Figures

Figure 1: Crocodil  
Figure 2: Flamingo  
Figure 3: Sea Turtle  
Figure 4: Wood Structure  
Figure 5: Baby Ostrich  
Figure 6: Flowers  
Figure 7: Amazonia  
Figures 8: Rainforest  
Figure 9: Snake Scale  
Figure 10 Reptile Worlda  
Figure 11: Aquatica  
Figure 12: Caribbean Fish  
Figure 13: Goat  
Figure 14: Petting Zoo (it's a small world after all)  
Figure 15: Land of Asha

Figure 16: Lion  
Figure 17: Meerkat  
Figure 18: African Savanna  
Figure 19: Humboldt World  
Figure 20: Penguin  
Figure 21: Macaw  
Figure 22: Prikichi Landing  
Figure 23: Tails of Madagascar  
Figure 24: Ringtailed Lemur  
Figure 25: Insectra  
Figure 26: Grasshopper  
Figure 27: Lepidoptera (Butterfly Garden)  
Figure 28: Butterfly  
Figure 29: Playground  
Figure 30: Playground

Figure 31: Entrance  
Figure 32: Service Building  
Figure 33: Tree Top Restaurant & King's Plaza  
Figure 34: Lion  
Figure 35: Plant  
Figure 36: Farming  
Figure 37: Mahok Amphitheater  
Figure 38: Theater  
Figure 39: Toucan  
Figure 40: Parking  
Figure 41: Vegetables  
Figure 42: Volunteers  
Figure 43: Dwarf goat  
Figure 44: Dwarf forest

**Thanks for reading**

PUBLIC ENTRANCE: CHUCHUBIWEG Z/N

TEL: +5999 736 01 88

SERVICE ENTRANCE: REIGERWEG Z/N

EMAIL: [INFO@CURACAOZOO.COM](mailto:INFO@CURACAOZOO.COM)

WEB: [WWW.CURACAOZOO.COM](http://WWW.CURACAOZOO.COM)