

# Execution of Clean Ups

## The Nature Foundation St. Maarten

On International Coastal Clean-Up Day, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, The Nature Foundation Sint Maarten conducted a clean-up event on Cay Bay Beach. This was one event on the island of St. Maarten this day, with three other events in close collaboration with organizations including; SXM Action, the St. Maarten Lions Club, and SXM Ocean Conservancy representatives. The collaboration was spear-headed by the Nature Foundation in an effort to expand the reach and visibility of importance of volunteer contribution to conservation efforts. This event was included in the In-No-Plastic project funded by the European Commission.

On September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, The Nature Foundation invited volunteers to Cay Bay at 07:00 to participate within the beach clean-up. These volunteers were also given further information about the other clean-ups around the island and were asked to attend the clean-up they were most comfortable to participate in; taking into account access to transportation, level of physical fitness, and areas of concern for the community. The participants were expected to stay until 10:00 to ensure the greatest amount of litter could be collected. The time restraints on the clean-up are based around the high temperatures and sun exposure to volunteers and the health risks associated with both.

This event was promoted through a variety of channels including radio ads, social media promotion, and outreach efforts. The initiative of the various organizations to host clean-up events at several locations around the island was successful and lead to a record-breaking attendance of clean-up events in honor of International Coastal Clean-Up Day on Sint Maarten.

While the Nature Foundation event was in a very residential area with low tourist traffic it focused on involving members of the community which do not normally participate in such events. Fifteen of the twenty volunteers had never attended a beach clean-up before. This increased visibility to the amount of garbage found in our natural areas is a key component of the In-No-Plastic Project on SXM.

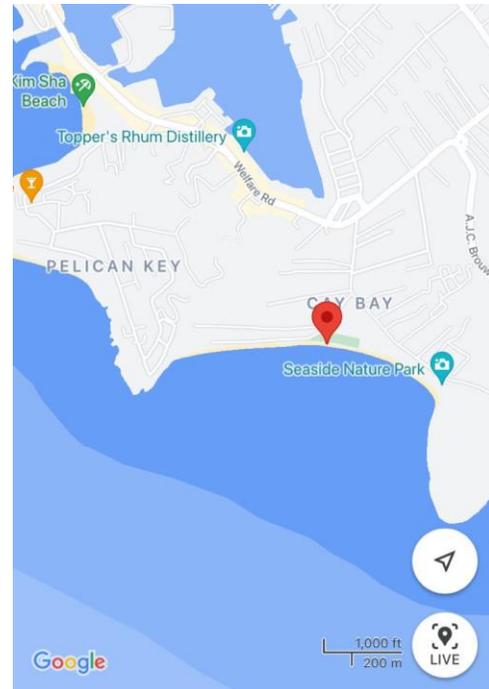
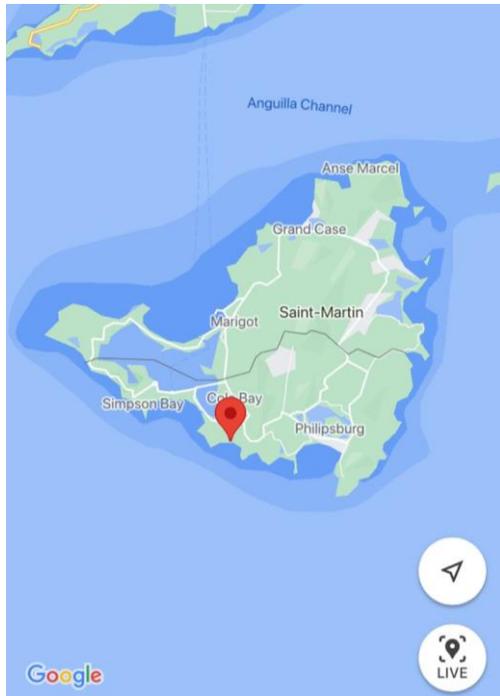


Photo 1 & 2. Location of clean-up hosted by the Nature Foundation.

The event hosted by The Nature Foundation included 20 participants, all of different nationalities and residencies. These residents collected a total of 240kg of waste from the coastal and surrounding areas. Multiple items were collected included furniture, car parts, bottles, bags and various plastics. The plastics and other marine waste were not separated due to their not being a suitable recycling center on the island. Therefore, the Nature Foundation asks volunteers to focus on collecting as much waste as possible rather than focusing on separating the plastic from the other waste.



Photo 3. Some of the participants who were involved in the clean-up.



Photo 4 & 5. Two truckloads of trash collected and distributed in a garbage collection point.

At 07:00, participants were greeted by Nature Foundation staff members, and waste picking and safety materials were distributed. The briefing was given once all participants had arrived, which included the safety briefing. As with all events hosted by the Nature Foundation, fresh water was available for all participants, and first aid equipment was in the truck with all staff being trained on first aid.

As volunteers filled the reusable burlap sacks that are distributed by the foundation, they are asked to return to the check-in station. Each bag is weighed and recorded by staff members for data collection. Volunteers are asked to take new bags to continue trash collection which is disposed of by foundation staff at the end of the event.

The Nature Foundation St. Maarten also collected photos of the participants of the event. These photos are readily available on the website <https://naturefoundationsxm.org/education/in-no-plastic-project/>



Photo 6 & 7. Volunteers collecting litter in the reusable burlap sacks along the coastal and surrounding areas.