

Fernando Simal Busto

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EDUCATION

- 2003, MSc. Nature Conservation and Management, University of Cádiz, Spain.
- 1987, BSc. Biology, University of Louisiana at Monroe, U.S.A.

WORK

- September 2014 - Present Co-Managing Director and Founder WILDCONSCIENCE B.V. (Wildlife Conservation, Science and Education).
- January 2010 – August 2014 Manager, Natural and Historic Resources Unit. STINAPA Bonaire.
- October 2000 – January 2010 Manager, Washington-Slagbaai National Park. STINAPA Bonaire.
- Years 2002 and 2004 Interim Manager, Bonaire National Marine Park. STINAPA Bonaire.
- January 2000 – October 2000 Manager, SCUBA Diving Center, La Salle Foundation for Natural Sciences. Isla de Margarita, Venezuela.

EXPERIENCE/SPECIALITIES

- 14 years of experience in management of terrestrial and marine protected areas (national parks).
- Design and implementation of base line research and monitoring for terrestrial, aquatic and sea birds (population estimates).
- Board member of nature conservation societies (BirdsCaribbean and CARIBSS).
- Creation of nature protected areas (Bonaire Caves & Karst Park, Cargill salt ponds at Bonaire).
- Research and monitoring of nesting terns in the ABC islands.
- Research and monitoring of parrot populations (population estimates and nesting success).
- Design and implementation of sea turtle surveys for population estimates, including sea turtle netting.
- Distance sampling use in marine and terrestrial species.
- Environmental Impact Assessments and studies of Key Natural Values for development projects.
- Bat research and monitoring, cave use dynamics and migratory movements.
- Gating bat maternity caves with own innovative design.
- Cave surveys and mapping.
- Grant proposal writing for nature conservation projects.
- Management of nature conservation projects.
- Elaboration and management of annual budgets.
- Creation and implementation of plans for eradication and control of exotic species.
- Training and supervision of national parks staff.
- Writing articles for social media.
- Participation in drafting new legislation for conservation.
- Design, text and layout for nature conservation and natural sciences museum exhibits.
- Writing and implementing national park management plans.

- Workshops, conferences and strategic meetings facilitator.

PROFFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT (COURSES AND WORKSHOPS)

- 2019- Organization and facilitator of the I CARIBSS certification course for cave tour guides. Bonaire, CN.
- 2018- Selection and Designation of Important Areas and/or Sites for Bat Conservation (AICOMs and SICOMs). Latin American and Caribbean Network for Bat Conservation (RELCOM), Honduras.
- 2014- Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage for the Caribbean States. UNESCO Foundation. St. Eustatius, Dutch Caribbean.
- 2013- Marine Mammal Entanglement Response. International Whaling Commission. St. Maarten, Dutch Caribbean.
- 2012- International Seabird Capacity Building Workshop, SCSCB. San Salvador, Bahamas.
- 2012- Organization and facilitator of the workshop “Bat field techniques”. Aruba and Curacao, Dutch Caribbean.
- 2012- Bat Taxonomy, Ecology, Conservation and Field Techniques, CEBIO. Research Center Jenaro Herrera, Peru.
- 2011- Technical Diver (Mixed Gases and Decompression Procedures), TDI. Bonaire. Dutch Caribbean.
- 2011- Cave Mapping, STINAPA Bonaire, Bonaire.
- 2010- ArcGIS 10. ArcEditor. Google Earth Pro. ESRI4, Bonaire.
- 2008- Water birds monitoring workshop. SCSCB, Providence, Bahamas.
- 2007- Environmental Impact Assessment for Ramsar designated Wetlands. CREHO/Ramsar. Panamá.
- 2006- Water run-off management for restoration of degraded habitats. CARMABI, Curaçao.
- 2005- Course and oath taking as Extraordinary Police Officer, Island Government, Bonaire.
- 2005- Boat captain. Island Government, Bonaire.
- 2004- Marine Protected Area Management. Training of Trainers, UNEP/ICRAN. Soufriere, Santa Lucía.
- 1990- SCUBA Diving Instructor, NAUI, PADI, SSI. Marathon Key, USA.
- More courses and diplomas available upon request.

PARTICIPATION AT SCIENTIFIC AND CONSERVATION MEETINGS

- **Simal, F.**, Sorenson, L., Gerbracht J., Rivera-Milán, F., Nomination of the Cargill salt ponds on Bonaire as a *Site of Regional Importance* for the Western Hemisphere Migratory Shorebird Network: A 5-year process of international cooperation. XXII International meeting Birds Caribbean. Island of Guadeloupe, July 25th-29th, 2019. Oral presentation.
- **Simal, F.**, Sorenson, L., Gerbracht J., Rivera-Milán, F., Abundance of migratory shorebirds at a salt production facility on the South of Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. XX International Meeting Birds Caribbean. Kingston, Jamaica July 25th- 29th, 2015. Oral presentation.
- **Simal, F.**, Nassar, J.M., Garcia, L., Doest O., de Lannoy, C., Advances in the studies of, *Leptonycteris curasoae*, in the Islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and Northwestern Venezuela. I COLAM (I Latin American Bat Congress) Quito, Ecuador. August, 6th-9th, 2014. Oral presentation.
- **Simal, F.**, Nassar, J.M., Garcia, L., Doest O., de Lannoy, C., AICOMs and SICOMs on the Islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao. (I Latin American Bat Congress) Quito, Ecuador. August, 6th-9th, 2014. Oral presentation.
- Rivera-Milán, F., **Simal, F.** Density and Abundance of Yellow-shouldered Parrots (*Amazona barbadensis rothchildi*) on Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. XVIII Meeting of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds. Freeport, Grenada. July 21st -25th, 2011. Oral presentation.
- de Leon, R. **Simal, F.**, Effectiveness of management actions on lionfish control in the Islands of Bonaire and Curaçao, Dutch Caribbean. I Workshop on Lionfish Management for the French Caribbean. CRPMEM and CAR_SPAW, Guadeloupe, July 10th-11th 2013. Oral presentation.

- **Simal, F.**, Nassar, J.M., García-Rawlins, A. Identification of diurnal roosts and first population estimates of the Long-nosed bat, *Leptonycteris curasoae*, in Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. I International Bat Symposium, Lima, Peru. January 13th -15th, 2010. Oral presentation.
- **Simal, F.**, Nassar, J.M., García-Rawlins, A. Identification of diurnal roosts and first population estimates of the Long-nosed bat, *Leptonycteris curasoae*, in Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Bat Conservation and Biology Symposium. IX Venezuelan Ecology Congress. Margarita Island, Nueva Esparta. November 21st -26th, 2011. Oral presentation.
- **Simal, F.** A proposal to increase the area of the Washington-Slagbaai National Park and its designation as a Ramsar site. II Meeting of the Caribbean Regional Initiative for the wise use of wetlands in the framework of the Ramsar Convention. Bonaire, July 6th – 9th, 2011. Oral presentation.
- Rivera-Milán, F., **Simal, F.** Density and Abundance of Yellow-shouldered Parrots (*Amazona barbadensis rothchildi*) and Brown-throated Parakeets (*Aratinga pertinax xanthogenia*) on Bonaire, Netherland Antilles. XVIII Meeting of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds. Freeport, Bahamas. July 21st -25th, 2011. Oral presentation.
- **Simal, F.** History and Management of Bonaire's Natural Protected Areas. I Congress Wild Aruba, Aruba. August 25th – 29th, 2008. Oral presentation.
- **Simal, F.** Financial sustainability of a Marine Protected Area. II Workshop South Caribbean Alliance, Margarita Island, Venezuela. November 12th – 16th, 2007. Oral presentation.
- de Mayer K, **Simal, F.** The Bonaire National Marine Park – A Model of Success. Tropical Americas Regional Workshop. ICRI, CONANP, UNEP-CAR/RCU. Cancún, México. June 10th – 14th, 2002. Oral presentation.

BOOKS

- Bird Guide to the Washington Slagbaai National Park. Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, Nature Guide Series No. 002. Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Contributing authors: Florence Depondt, Nathaniel Miller, Marvin Vasquez, Elsmarie Beukenboom and **Fernando Simal**.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

- **Fernando Simal**, Linda Smith, Odette Doest, Clifford de Lannoy, Facundo Franken, Indra Zaandam, Daniela Simal, John de Freitas, and Jafet M. Nassar, 2020. Recurring bat inventories at caves and mines on the islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao, and proposed conservation actions. Accepted by Acta Chiropterologica (# AC-00534-2021-02). To be published in second edition of 2021.
- **Fernando Simal**, Adriana Vallarino y Elisabeth Albers, 2020 Conservation opportunities for tern species at two Ramsar sites on Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands. Journal of Caribbean Ornithology in 2020 (in press).
- **Fernando Simal**, Adriana Vallarino, Elsmarie Beukenboom, Rutsel Paula, Henry Beaumont, George Zaragoza, Esther Wolfs, Patrick Holian And Elisabeth Albers, 2020. Brown Boobies (*Sula leucogaster*) roosting at Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands. Journal of Caribbean Ornithology 33:78-81.
- Frank F. Rivera-Milán, **Fernando Simal**, Paulo Bertuol and G. Scott Boomer, 2019 Population monitoring and modelling of yellow-shouldered parrot on Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands. Journal of Wildlife Biology 2018: wlb.00384
- **Fernando Simal**, Odette Doest, Clifford de Lannoy, Linda Garcia-Smith, John de Freitas, Daniela Simal, Paulo Bertuol and Jafet Nassar, 2015. Island-island and island-mainland movements of the Curaçaoan long-nosed bat, (*L. curasoae*). Journal of Mammalogy, 96(3):579-590, 2015 DOI: 0.1093/jmammal./jyv063
- Frank F. Rivera-Milán, Paulo Bertuol, **Fernando Simal** and Bonnie L. Rusk. Distance sampling surveys and abundance estimation of the critically endangered Grenada dove. The Condor 117(1): 87-93.2015

- Ramón de León, Kim Vane, Paulo Bertuol, Valerie C. Chamberland, **Fernando Simal**, Eseld Imms, Mark J. A. Vermeij, 2013. Effectiveness of lionfish removal efforts in the southern Caribbean. *Endangered Species Research*. Vol. 22: 175–182, 2013doi: 10.3354/esr00542.
- Roxanne J. Larsen, Peter A. Larsen, Hugh H. Genoways, Francois M. Catzeflis, Keith Geluso, Gary G. Kwiecinski, Scott C. Pedersen, **Fernando Simal** and Robert J. Bakera, 2012. Evolutionary history of Caribbean species of *Myotis*, with evidence of a third Lesser Antillean endemic. *Mammalian Biology* 77(2012): 124-134
- Richard H. Witte, Luis A. Bermudez-Villapol, Gerard van Buurt, Adolphe O. Debrot, **Fernando Simal** and Hans Verdaat, 2011. First record of Fraser’s dolphin *Lagenodelphis hosei* Fraser, 1956 for the Dutch Caribbean. *Marine Biodiversity Records* 5: 1-4

TECHNICAL REPORTS

- **Simal, F.** A study of the natural values in 10.2 hectares of land located north of Bona Vista, Bonaire, CN. July 2021.
- **Simal, F.** Study of natural and cultural values in 6,500m² of land located next to Kaminda Mexico, Bonaire, CN. June 2021.
- **Simal, F.** Vegetation survey in 1.1 hectares of land located near Rincon, Bonaire, CN. April 2021.
- **Simal, F.** Study of the natural and cultural values in 12 hectares of land in eastern Tera Kora, Bonaire, CN. October 2020.
- **Simal, F.** Study of natural and cultural values in 0.6 hectares of land located at Nikiboko, Bonaire, CN. October, 2020.
- **Simal, F.** Study of natural and cultural values in 1.88 hectares of land located at Wamari, Bonaire, CN. September 2020
- **Simal, F.** and Zeegers, S., Inventory of special karst features on the Middle Terrace’s cliff at Bolivia and their ecological importance. Bonaire, July 2020.
- **Simal, F.** and Mittiga, L. Study of natural and cultural values in 12 ha located southeast of Hato, Bonaire, CN. Bonaire, June 2020.
- **Simal, F.**, Rivera-Milán, F. and Mittiga, L. Feral donkey detection and abundance estimation on Bonaire, CN. Bonaire, May 2020.
- **Simal, F.**, Monitoring plan and protocol for nesting Least terns at Koral Tabak, Curaçao, Dutch Caribbean. April 2020.
- **Simal, F.** A study of the natural values in 4 ha of land located at Piedra haltu, Bonaire, CN. Bonaire, April 2020.
- **Simal, F.**, Riveros J., Nava M. and Schut, K., Bonaire turtles by the numbers. Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire year report 2019. Bonaire, March 2020.
- **Simal, F.** A study of the natural and cultural values in 15 ha located south of Lagun Bay, Bonaire, CN. February 2020.
- **Simal, F.** A study of the natural values in 7 ha of land located at Karpata, Bonaire, CN. Bonaire, February 2020.
- **Simal, F.** Study of natural and cultural values in 5 hectares of land located in central Bonaire, CN. January 2020
- **Simal, F.** A study of the natural and cultural values in the property San Bernardo, Bonaire, CN. Bonaire, March 2019.
- **Simal, F.** Application to the Latin America and Caribbean Bat Conservation Network for the designation of the Island of Klein Bonaire as an Important Area for Bat Conservation. Bonaire, October 2018.
- **Simal, F.** & Nassar J.M., Application to the Latin America and Caribbean Bat Conservation Network for the designation of the cave Pos di Antoin as an Important Site for Bat Conservation. Bonaire, October 2018.
- **Simal, F.**, Recommendations for the placement of 20-30 housing parcels at Dawari. Bonaire, May 2018. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to the Bonaire Island Government.

- **Simal, F.**, Study of the natural and cultural values of 40 ha. of land at West Lima. Bonaire, May, 2018. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to private client.
- **Simal, F.**, Study of the natural and cultural values of 8.5 ha. of land at Sabadeco. Bonaire, February 2018. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to private client and the Bonaire Island Government.
- **Simal, F.**, Study of the natural and cultural values in 8 ha. at Playa Grandi. Bonaire, November 2017. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to private client and the Bonaire Island Government.
- **Simal, F.** and de León R., EIA evaluation of the project: Ecological Restoration of salina di Vlijt. Bonaire, October 2017. WILDCONSCIENCE BV and Reef Support to private client and the Bonaire Island Government.
- **Simal, F.**, Study of the natural and cultural values of 3 ha. of land at West Rincón. Bonaire, September 2017. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to the Bonaire Island Government.
- **Simal, F.**, Study of the natural and cultural values of 6 ha. of land at Dawari. Bonaire, August 2017. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to the Bonaire Island Government.
- **Simal, F.**, Study of the natural and cultural values of 4 ha. of land at Barkadera. Bonaire, May 2017. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to private client and the Bonaire Island Government.
- Sorenson L., **Simal, F.**, Gerbracht and Rivera-Milán, F., Migratory shorebird surveys on the Monte Cristy salt flats. Dominican Republic, February 2017. BirdsCaribbean to Canada Environment.
- **Simal, F.**, Study of the natural and cultural values of 20.000 m² of land at Den Tera. Bonaire, February 2017. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to the Bonaire Island Government.
- **Simal, F.**, Initial Memorandum for native habitat restoration at the property San José. Bonaire, January 2017. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to private client and the Bonaire Island Government.
- **Simal, F.**, Study of the natural and cultural values of 6.400 m² of land at Lagoen. Bonaire, January 2017. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to private client and the Bonaire Island Government.
- de León, R. and **Simal, F.**, Lionfish density, size and biomass on Bonaire coral reefs. Bonaire, November 2016. Reef Support BV and WILDCONSCIENCE BV to STINAPA Bonaire.
- **Simal, F.**, Environmental Impact Assessment on bats and caves by construction of the WEB water plant at Barkadera. Bonaire, October 2016. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to private client and the Bonaire Island Government.
- **Simal, F.**, Environmental Impact Assessment at Atlantis Beach (Kiteboarding Bonaire). Bonaire, September 2016. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to private client and the Bonaire Island Government.
- **Simal, F.**, Study of the Natural Values of Lima with Recommendations for Development and the Bonaire Zoning Plan (R.O.B.). Bonaire, May 2016. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to private client and the Bonaire Island Government.
- de León, R. and **Simal, F.**, Initial Memorandum and Environmental Quick-scan for the expansion of Sorobón Beach Resort. Bonaire, September 2015. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to private client and the Bonaire Island Government.
- **Simal, F.**, Environmental Quick-scan for the residential development “Nos Kunuku”. Bonaire, July 2015. WILDCONSCIENCE BV to private client and the Bonaire Island Government.
- Sorenson L., **Simal, F.**, Gerbracht. Building capacity for waterbird and wetland conservation in the Dutch Caribbean: Results of a training workshop and Caribbean Waterbird Census (CWC) surveys. March, 2015, BirdsCaribbean to Canada Environment.
- de Graaf, M. and **Simal, F.**, Disease of juvenile fish (Chapter 8 of the technical report: Status and trends of Bonaire’s coral reef in 2015: Slow but steady signs of resilience). June, 2015. University of Maine to STINAPA Bonaire.
- de Graaf, M. and **Simal, F.**, Quicksan to assess the prevalence of dermal parasites among coral reef fishes of Bonaire. May, 2015. IMARES to Island Government of Bonaire.
- Nassar, J.M., **Simal, F.**, Doest, O., Castillo, L., Estrada, S. August 2014, Final Report for Bat Conservation International and the Disney World Wildlife Fund. Project: Saving a Key Caribbean Pollinator.
- **Simal, F.**, Doest, O., de Lannoy, C., Garcia-Smith, L., Nassar, J.M., March, 2014, Application for the designation of the area “North Coast Strip” in the Island of Curaçao as AICOM (Important Area for Bat Conservation) PPRABC to RELCOM.

- **Simal, F.**, Doest, O., C., Garcia-Smith, L., Franken, F., Nassar, J.M., Application for the designation of the area Arikok in the Island of Aruba as AICOM (Important Area for Bat Conservation) PPRABC to RELCOM.
- Sarah R. Smith, Narangerel Davaasuren, Adolphe O. Debrot, **Fernando Simal** and John A. De Freitas, Preliminary inventory of Key Terrestrial Nature Values of Bonaire. March 2012 IMARES, Wageningen UR to Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, The Netherlands.
- **Simal, F.** September 2011, A proposal to increase the area of the Washington Slagbaai National Park and its designation as a Ramsar site. STINAPA Bonaire to Island Government.
- **Simal, F.**, Nassar, J.M., August 2011, Application for the designation of the cave “Pos de Kalbas” as a SICOM (Important Site for Bat Conservation). PPRABC to RELCOM.
- **Simal, F.**, Nassar, J.M., August 2011, Application for the designation of an AICOM for the Island of Bonaire. (Important Area for Bat Conservation). PPRABC to RELCOM. PPRABC
- Buitrago, J., M. Rada, M. E. Barroeta, E. Fajardo, E. Rada, **F. Simal**, J. Monente, J. Capelo, J. Narváez. 2010. Physico-Chemical Indicator’s Monitoring for Water Quality in the Salinas of Northwest Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles. A base line study.
- Rivera-Milán F., **Simal, F.** Density and Abundance of Yellow-shouldered Parrots (*Amazona barbadensis rothchildi*) and Brown-throated Parakeets (*Aratinga pertinax xanthogenia*) on Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles. Reports: December 2009, March and October 2010, March and October 2011 and March 2012.
- **Simal, F.** Waterbirds Monitoring Program, Year Reports 2008, 2009 and 2010. STINAPA Bonaire.
- **Simal, F.** Brown Boobies Monitoring Program, Year reports 2008, 2009 and 2010. STINAPA Bonaire.
- **Simal, F.** Washington Slagbaai National Park Management Plan, 2006-2010. 2005, STINAPA Bonaire.

RESEARCH, MONITORING AND NATURE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.

- Physical protection of the most important bat maternity roosts on Bonaire. Design and implementation of innovative cave gating system to eliminate uncontrolled human access to four bat maternity caves on the Bonaire cave system. Bonaire, 2019-2020.
- Nomination of the Cargill salt ponds on Bonaire as a *Site of Regional Importance* for the Western Hemisphere Migratory Shorebird Reserve Network. Bonaire, 2015-2020
- Drafting and implementation of the project: Bonaire Caves and Karst Nature Reserve. Included scientific research, education, signs, communications, creation of hiking trails and the establishment of a cave tour guide organization. Bonaire, 2017-2019.
- Creation of the Bonaire Caves & Karst Park, a pilot project for the BC&KNR project. Bonaire, 2019
- Survey design for baseline population estimate and trend of sea turtles using netting techniques at Lac Bay. Bonaire, 2017.
- Survey design for a baseline population estimate and trend of sea turtles using Distance sampling in water transects on the west coast of Bonaire. Bonaire, 2017.
- Baseline research on nesting seabirds on Washington Slagbaai National Park. Bonaire, 2013.
- Monitoring Program (Caribbean Waterbird Census) for aquatic and shore birds inhabiting the salt flats of Northwestern Bonaire. Bonaire, 2013.
- Eradication and Control program of Lionfish in the Bonaire National Marine Park, Bonaire, 2013.
- Bat Research and Conservation Program for the islands of Aruba, Curacao y Bonaire. ABC Islands, 2011.
- An evaluation of the effectiveness of management actions on Lionfish populations on the Bonaire National Marine Park and the coral reefs of Curacao. Bonaire and Curaçao, 2011.
- Monitoring program for coral bleaching in the Bonaire National Marine Park. Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Bonaire, 2010.
- Monitoring program for the terrestrial birds of the island of Bonaire. Bonaire, 2009.

- Monitoring program for the nesting season of Yellow-shouldered parrot (*Amazona barbadensis rotsch.*) in the island of Bonaire. Bonaire, 2009.
- The Bonaire Cave System Mapping Project. Bonaire, 2009.
- Monitoring program for the Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) colony at Malmok, Bonaire. Bonaire, 2008.
- Eradication and Control Program for exotic species of vertebrates in the Washington-Slagbaai National Park. Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Bonaire, 2008.
- Cave use dynamics of the bat fauna of Bonaire. Bonaire, 2008.

LANGUAGES

	SPEAK	READ	WRITE
SPANISH	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
ENGLISH	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
PAPIAMENTO	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	GOOD
DUTCH	POOR	REGULAR	POOR

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

- History
- Music
- Yoga
- Sports (long distance races, mountain bike, surf, open water swimming)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Place and date of birth: Asturias, Spain. November, 28th, 1963
- Nationality: Spanish