

ZAKITO

The government of Curacao in April 2018 installed the Werkgroep Ontwikkeling Zakito+ (WOZ+) with the main task to advise the Council of Ministers regarding the development of the Zakito area through an integral approach. The general area covered by WOZ+ starts at the present mangrove park and continues along the coast up to the World Trade Center.

The WOZ+ was responsible for coordinating and giving guidance to the process of making a vision for the development of the area. The Vision Document, funded by SLS and approved in 2018 by the Council of Ministers, provides the general development potential and possibilities of the area. It includes among others a description of the core values and the challenges in the area, a vision map, potential future development proposals and a development strategy. This document effectively still serves as the framework guiding all development in the area.

The WOZ+ has identified a strong need for technical assistance to provide continuity in carrying out its tasks. With the financial assistance of SLS it was possible to acquire the support of Heren2 Caribbean, which proved to be a valuable addition during the period from May 2019 to April 2020 through advices, proposals, drawings, designs and related documents.

Together with the approval of the vision, government decided to formulate a Quick Win Plan (QWP) to provide clearly defined short-term projects for the development and improvement of the public area at Koredor. The goal of this initiative was to encourage an increased use of the area by the local community and tourists and to promote private investments activities in the area. The QWP was finalized in August 2019 through funding by SLS. The government subsequently approved funding for the execution of the QWP, which will be finalized in July 2022. Government also approved funding of Phase 2 of the development of Koredor to start in the second half of 2022.

The area has encountered a high level of public and private investment during the last years. This trend is expected to continue in the coming years. Next to the aforementioned investment of government at Koredor (QWP and Phase 2), government also improved the water quality and developed a mangrove park east of Corendon Mangrove Resort. This also included considerable improvements in road access and wastewater transportation. Private investment is taking place at among others Corendon Mangrove Beach Resort, Caribbean Medical University and Royal Palm Resort.