

Vision document: CNSI expectations

Positioning

1. CNSI positions itself as a sustainable institution at the intersection of research, education and outreach. Where possible and relevant it contributes to policymaking, management and surveillance. The unique geographical location between Europe and the Americas, the richness of culture and nature values and the embedding in the Netherlands existing political order offers excellent opportunities for the centre to develop into a sustainable, inspiring meeting place and an international centre of expertise in relevant domains.

Operations and relation to the island

2. CNSI intends to give a sustainable socio-economic impulse to Statia and thus contribute to societal values on the island (such as emancipation, security, employment and health)
3. The centre will operate as much as possible as an independent organisation, with a governance suitable to that purpose. This structure must ensure that the island interests are fully taken into consideration in a timely manner and that the interests of research, education and outreach will have a balanced position in the development of the centre.
4. Whenever feasible and fitting in the mission of CNSI, the centre will collaborate with the existing organisations on the island and promote facility-sharing.

Role for the other islands of Caribbean Netherlands

5. CNSI aims to position itself as a node in the Caribbean knowledge network through collaboration with relevant organisations: regional on the north-eastern lesser Antilles (in particular, but not exclusively St Maarten), within Caribbean Netherlands in collaboration with organisations on Bonaire and Saba, and within the Kingdom in collaboration with organisations (in particular Carmabi) and Aruba.
6. In addition, the centre will strengthen the collaboration among the islands in the Caribbean in the area of nature conservation, nature education, nature management and nature research. The proposed multifunctional facility will thus be able to contribute to the legal management and surveillance tasks and provide support for remediation activities on the Caribbean Netherlands' islands.

Principal task

7. The principal task of CNSI is to support activities in the area of research, education and outreach. For this, CNSI offers suitable infrastructure to researchers, students, island organisations, inhabitants of the islands and visitors. In this way the centre serves as a workshop with accommodation for researchers, students and visitors.
8. The centre connects research and society and hence host permanent and temporary exhibitions in selected topics or support outreach of knowledge in other ways.

Balance between the interests of Statia and Netherlands' research

9. Statia expects that the activities supported by the centre will bring very practical solutions for very practical problems. It is of utmost importance that the ambitions of researchers and the demands of the island are connected. In the start-up phase the management of CNSI should be very conscious of this and consider it as its primary duty to unite these two strands.