

## October 2016

Newsletter of the Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute at St Eustatius (CNSI)

### Nature Awareness

Together with St Eustatius National Parks (STENAPA) CNSI started a Nature Awareness project funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs. The project is focussed on outreach to the general public, to managers, civil servants and (business) stakeholders, to teaching staff and students and to the customs and police. The project includes series of workshops for different target groups about the importance and economic value of nature, the threats of highlighting some of the island's natural treasures such as *Statia morning glory*, red-billed tropic bird and alien invasive species, media campaigns and the Lesser Antillean iguana, underwater life.

Contact: Hannah Madden (hannah.madden@cnsi.nl)

### New employee

Hannah Madden, Project Leader Nature Awareness



Hannah is a terrestrial ecologist who has lived and worked on St. Eustatius since 2006. She is no stranger to nature-related activities on Statia, having been active in the field for over a decade. Her knowledge, experience and organizational skills make her a perfect fit for the CNSI team, and we are all excited about getting the nature awareness project underway.



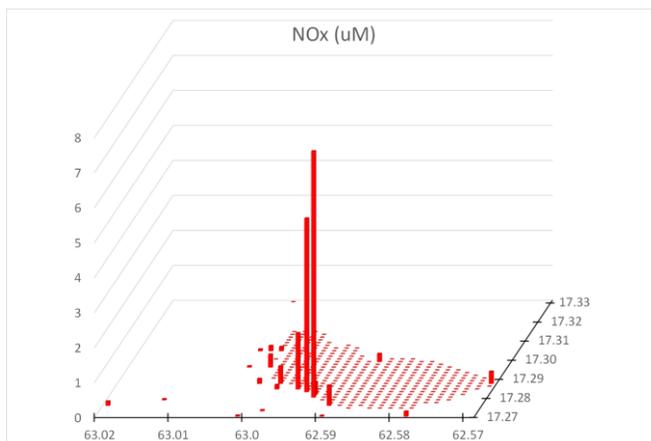
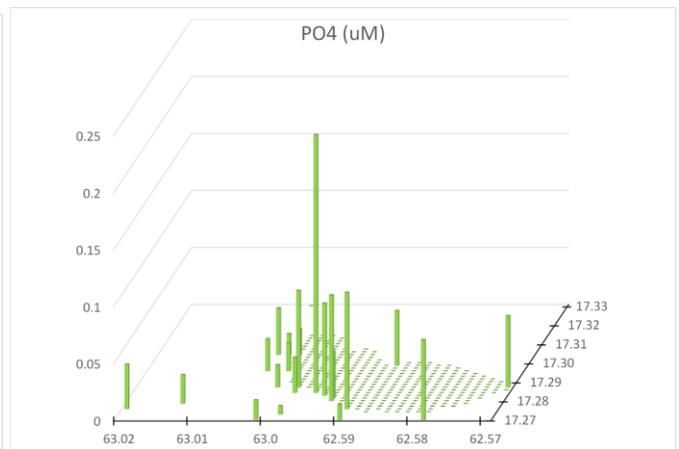
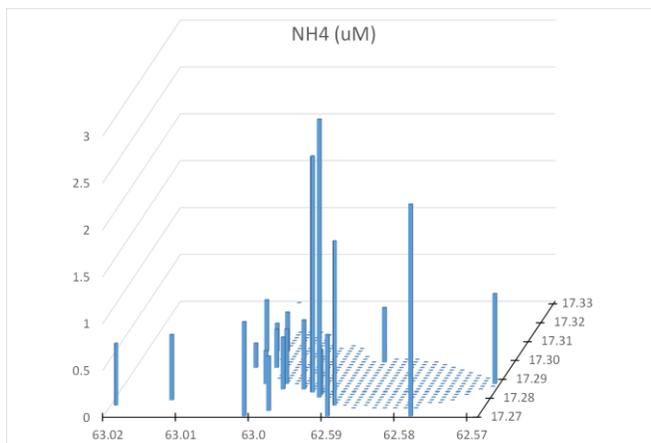
### Coming up

In November 2016 Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences will have its first field course on St Eustatius in the framework of its new 'minor' **Sustainable Island Management** addressing the challenges of sustainable economic development from a people, planet, profit point of view. Contact: Marlous Heemstra (marlous.heemstra@hvhl.nl).

In March 2017 Naturalis Biodiversity Center will start its second MSc course **Tropical Biodiversity and Field Methods** on St Eustatius after its successful premiere in October 2015. 1) Investigate vegetation plots and collect data on birds, spiders, butterflies & other insects, vascular plants, mosses, local uses. 2) Data collection methods: variety of trapping techniques, night collection, bryophyte survey, botanical vouchers, local uses of plants, bird watching. 3) Practice data analysis methods, carry out your own research projects. Possibilities to extend with internship projects. Contact: Jeremy Miller (jeremy.miller@naturalis.nl)



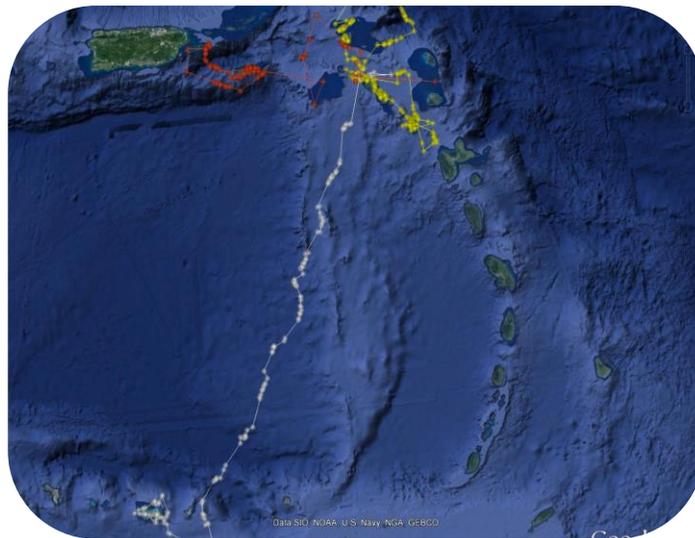
## Nutrient concentrations



In June 2016 CNSI started monthly measurements of nutrients (ammonium, phosphate and nitrate) in the coastal waters around St Eustatius. The first data show that concentrations are higher closer to the coast, especially off Lower Town. Nitrate concentrations are particularly high. Preliminary data also show high nitrate concentrations in well water and cistern water.

## Turtles

In August 2016 researchers from Groningen University started a turtle survey at St Eustatius. Some turtles were equipped with a small satellite transmitter on their carapace. Preliminary data show that Stata's nesting turtles travel long distances, as far as Guadeloupe, Puerto Rico and all the way down to Venezuela. The research is part of a larger research programme into the ecology, migration routes, population demographics and habitat use of green and hawksbill turtles in the Caribbean funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). New fundamental insights may guide marine conservation efforts in response to global concerns over the status of these animals. Contact: Marjolijn Christianen (m.j.a.christianen@rug.nl).



## Students welcome

