



CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS SCIENCE INSTITUTE
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Newsletter

August 2014

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

Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute Open

On April 24, 2014, the CNSI Steering Group together with the Island Governor of St Eustatius officially opened CNSI. The event featured a two days open seminar, awards, cultural events, local food and the opening of the exposition 'The natural beauty of Sint Eustatius'.



A First guest's impression

With the opening of the Institute, science finally has a home on Statia. Considering the comfortable offices and sparkling new labs to work in, a nice kitchen to cook in, a breezy back porch to relax on, and clean cool rooms to sleep in, there may be no reason to leave CNSI. Unless you need to take a dive or hike up the Quill to collect a few samples. – *Steve Bush, Associate Professor, Dept of Biology, Coastal Carolina University, USA*

CNSI Objectives

CNSI is a facility that supports basic, strategic, applied, societal and policy relevant research and education in all fields of science and humanities. CNSI aims to facilitate scientific curiosity in which issues relevant to the sustainability of tropical small island economies are addressed. Its mission is to realise a permanent scientific presence in the Caribbean Netherlands with research and outreach facilities and accommodation for visitors. CNSI welcomes users from around the globe.

A First guest's impression

A perfect home for anybody who is performing research on St. Eustatius. All basic needs for you to feel at home abroad. Everything on St. Eustatius a walking distance away. Spacious. – *Erik Houtekamer, IMARES, The Netherlands*



Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research funds nine Caribbean Research projects

- Confronting Caribbean Challenges: Hybrid Identities and Governance in Small-scale Island Jurisdictions: Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV)
- Imagining the Nation in the Classroom: A Study of the Politics of Belonging and Nationness on Sint Maarten and Sint Eustatius: University of Amsterdam (UvA)
- Pathways into Crime: The Interrelation of Poverty, Education, Family Factors and Attachment Among Dutch Caribbean Women: Free University, Amsterdam (VU)
- Caribbean Island Biogeography Meets the Anthropocene: Free University, Amsterdam (VU)
- 4D crust-mantle modelling of the eastern Caribbean region: toward coupling deep driving processes to surface evolution; Utrecht University (UU)
- Caribbean coral reef ecosystems: interactions of anthropogenic ocean acidification and eutrophication with bioerosion by coral excavating sponges: Royal Netherlands Institute of Sea Research (NIOZ)
- Exotic plant species in the Caribbean: foreign foes or alien allies? Utrecht University (UU)
- Stability of Caribbean coastal Ecosystems under future Extreme Sea level changes (SCENES): Utrecht University (UU)
- Ecology and conservation of green and hawksbill turtles in the Dutch Caribbean; Groningen University (RUG)

Other projects

- 3P@C (People, Planet, Profit at Sea): Wageningen University and Research Center (WUR)
- Biodiversity of Sint Eustatius: Naturalis Biodiversity Center
- Cattle feed production (Roaming Animals): St Eustatius department of Inspection and Implementation/Netherlands ministry of Economic Affairs

First guests' impressions

I have been to Sint Eustatius ten times to work on my floristic project. It was only on my tenth visit that the CNSI was open for my stay. I only wish that it had been open earlier. The room was the most comfortable I have so far stayed in and the scientific company was stimulating. Bravo for CNSI – *Frank Axelrod, Collections Manager Herbarium, Dept of Biology, University of Puerto Rico*

It is exciting to see how the CNSI is not only a station for fieldwork, but also becoming a central meeting place for researchers and community members – *Maarten Eppinga, Assistant professor Environmental Science & Ecology, Fac of Geosciences, Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

Students welcome

For (bachelor and master) students CNSI may be the field base for internships on a Caribbean related subject. Students should be supervised by their home institutions and come with an approved research plan. Topical subjects include, but are not limited to:

- Agriculture and fisheries;
- Medicine, health and health care (e.g. dengue, diabetes);
- Ecology and environment (e.g. ecosystem functioning and services); Invasive species; Biodiversity; Nature management; Climate change; Sustainable development;
- Oceanography (physical, chemical, biological, geological); Geology, tectonics, seismology and volcanology;
- Economics and logistics; Archaeology; History; Tourism;
- Social welfare; Education; Law (Dutch, EU, international); Politics and governance;
- Renewable energy; Civil engineering; Erosion; GIS; Spatial Planning;
- Disaster management and mitigation (hurricane, tsunami, earthquake, oil spill); etc.

