Questions & Answers

This is a ‘living document’ and will be updated as necessary. Check back for newer versions.

TERMINOLOGY

1. Windward/Leeward Islands/Antilles
   In the English version of the call text, we did not always use the correct terminology to indicate the different groups of islands in the Caribbean region. We apologize for this mistake and for any inconvenience caused!
   The term Leeward Islands in the call text should read Leeward Antilles and refers to the islands of Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba (in Dutch: Benedenwindse Eilanden). The term Windward Islands in the call text was meant to refer to the islands of St. Eustatius, Saba and St. Maarten (in Dutch: Bovenwindse Eilanden)

WHO CAN APPLY

2. Can qualified researchers working at a public university of the Caribbean islands of the Kingdom submit an application for this call?
   Yes. The call is open for all researchers with a PhD-degree, regardless of their current affiliation. For more details see section 3.1 of the call text.

3. Can qualified researchers working at academic institutions in the Netherlands submit an application for this call?
   Yes. The call is open for all researchers with a PhD-degree, regardless of their current affiliation. For more details see section 3.1 of the call text.

4. Is there an age limit for applicants? Will mid-career applicants be preferred?
   No. There are no formal requirements regarding the age or career stage of applicants. However, applicants should meet the criteria specified in section 4.3.1 and they should belong to the target group described in section 2.1 of the call text.

5. I am interested in this call but I have never been to the Caribbean Islands and I do not speak Dutch. Can I apply?
   Yes. There is no formal requirement preventing researchers regarding the age or career stage of applicants. However, applicants should meet the criteria specified in section 4.3.1 and they should belong to the target group described in section 2.1 of the call text.

REGIONAL EMBEDDING

6. Will the Program Chairs have to stay in the Caribbean Region or can they lead the programs from another location?
   The Program Chairs are supposed to spend as much time in the Caribbean as possible, and to directly and personally engage with setting up and embedding their research programs in the region, in order to strengthen regional structures and capacities.

7. Will one Programme Chair be stationed on the Leeward Antilles (Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire) and the other one at the Windward Islands (Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten)?
It is the intention to spread the groups, and their impact, over the different (groups of) islands. It is, however, not fully decided where the program chairs will settle. This will partly depend on the applicants’ wishes and needs for successfully realizing their plans.

8. **Should the nature-oriented research program focus on the islands of St. Eustatius, Saba and St. Maarten and the SSH-oriented research program on the islands of Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire?**

   No. There are no formal requirements with respect to the geographical scope and focus of the research. Ideally, both research programs should cover a wide field, including different islands in the Dutch Caribbean.

9. **Should the research programs be restricted to the Dutch Caribbean?**

   The Dutch Caribbean Islands should be focus of both research programs. However, the geographical scope of the research can also extend to other islands in the region.

10. **Does this call distinguish between islands with a different legal status within the Kingdom of the Netherlands?**

    No. For the purpose of this call, we do not differentiate in any way between the six islands, regardless of their constitutional status.

**Scientific Content**

11. **Should the research programs be multi-disciplinary, covering various themes and scientific disciplines or should they focus on a narrow scientific topic?**

    The research programs should be broadly multi-disciplinary, crossing borders between scientific disciplines and domains and linking different topics, scientific disciplines and domains, institutions and, where meaningful and possible, the wider public. Integrative approaches will be preferred over programs with a narrow focus (also see sections 1.1 and 2. of the call text).

12. **Can I submit a proposal specifically focusing on medical issues?**

    This call for proposals is not directly aimed at medical research. Issues of health and human well-being will be eligible as components of wider programs dealing with socio-economic challenges and/or focusing on natural systems and processes.

13. **NWO has carried out an online survey in the Caribbean region. When will the results be published and how can applicants take those results into consideration?**

    The response to online survey is being analyzed right now. The first preliminary results will be available at the beginning of November 2019. Applicants may use the preliminary results for their pre-proposals, and a more elaborate version for their final proposals. Updates will be published on the website of NWO and at the website of the survey at [https://caribbeanresearch.nl/en/](https://caribbeanresearch.nl/en/).

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1 Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten are constituent countries of the Kingdom; Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius are special municipalities of the Netherlands.