

Mapping the Academic Community of the ABCSSS Islands

RESEARCH REPORT



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Colophon

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RE-Quest Research & Consultancy

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Acknowledgments

This project is being funded and carried out on behalf of / in cooperation with the ministry of the Interior and Kingdom relations. It is part of the development of its strategic knowledge function on the field of Kingdom relations. The aim is to strengthen knowledge-based and evidence-informed policymaking regarding Kingdom relations.

We would like to sincerely thank all members of the Caribbean research community who participated in the mapping sessions and survey. Their perspectives, experiences, and ideas have been invaluable in shaping this report and in strengthening the collective understanding of the academic landscape across the ABCSSS islands.

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Summary

The scientific community connected to the six islands of the Caribbean part of the Kingdom (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Saba, and Sint Eustatius) comprises scholars embedded in national universities and research institutes (e.g., University of Aruba, University of Curaçao, University of Sint Maarten, Carmabi, NAAM, CBHRI) as well as at least three additional groups: independent researchers working outside formal institutions, visiting academics conducting time-bound fieldwork, and diaspora academics with established careers abroad who maintain active ties to the islands. The latter group, in particular, can leverage affiliations and publication records to unlock competitive funding and often seeks opportunities to remain engaged. Together, these actors could constitute a resilient ecosystem.

This study maps the ecosystem and addresses three questions: (1) Who participates in research and knowledge work in, on, and with the islands, and how are they distributed geographically and institutionally? (2) What are their academic roles, working conditions, and career trajectories? (3) What challenges do they face, what support do they need, and what value could a Caribbean Researchers Portal provide?

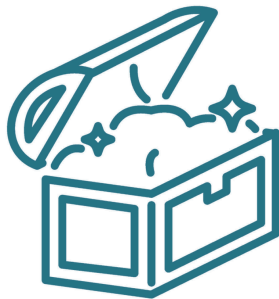
A mixed-methods design combined desk research, two facilitated mapping sessions with community members, and an online English-language survey administered 5 May–22 August 2025 (n=383). Snowball sampling was used to reach institution-based, independent, visiting, and diaspora researchers and knowledge professionals.

Findings indicate a diverse, transnational, and mature field of academics connected to the islands often blending personal, professional, and societal dimensions. Many respondents pursue multi-local careers spanning the islands, the Netherlands and the rest of the world, underscoring high mobility and layered affiliations. Educational attainment is predominantly postgraduate, and multilingual capacity is extensive (English and Dutch near-universal, with substantial Spanish and Papiamentu/o), facilitating cross-regional collaboration. Knowledge dissemination reaches beyond peer-reviewed journals to policy reports, community fora, media, and digital platforms, reflecting a strong applied orientation and public-value ethos. At the same time, work is frequently organised through project-based, short-term arrangements that jeopardise continuity, protected research time, and institutional scaffolding. The most frequently reported constraints were limited access to funding (54%), data (52%), and institutional support (45%), followed by high travel/logistics costs (40%) and difficulty forming partnerships (30%). Priority needs mirror these barriers: financial support (67%), networking with other researchers (61%), expanded partnership opportunities (54%), and stronger institutional/governmental backing (53%). Together, the findings show researchers need both resources and robust platforms for connection and knowledge exchange. Interest in a Caribbean Researchers Portal is broad: 71% wish to be invited when launched; among diaspora respondents, 56% are willing to be associated with proposals and 35% indicate “maybe.” A well-governed Caribbean Researchers Portal should serve as enabling infrastructure: making people and outputs findable and visible; providing live statistics for longitudinal monitoring of capacity, collaborations, and knowledge use; and revealing strengths and gaps as they evolve. While the present survey offers a robust snapshot, it is time-bound and snowball-based; a functioning Portal would improve coverage, metadata quality, and continuity.

In sum, the islands are connected to a substantial reservoir of expertise that is internationally oriented, multilingual, and community-impact-minded. With targeted investment in funding stability, data infrastructure, equitable governance, and a Caribbean Researchers Portal as connective tissue, this ecosystem can be more fully mobilised to deliver sustained societal value for the islands.

Infographic Policy Relevant Results

Mapping Caribbean Researchers



Highlights:

Caribbean researchers form

- a diverse and highly educated group
- with strong societal engagement and
- high mobility across islands and continents.

They are

- multilingual, often hold multiple cultural identities,
- and display a remarkable drive to contribute to knowledge and policy relevant to their societies.

Despite financial insecurity and limited institutional support, they represent a rich reservoir of local expertise and commitment.

Who are they?

Personal characteristics of Caribbean researchers

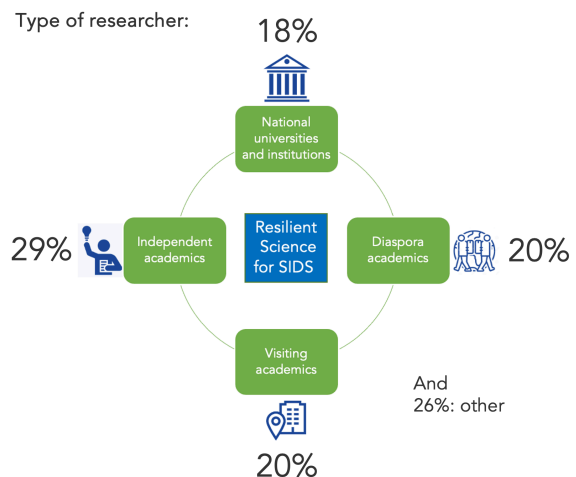
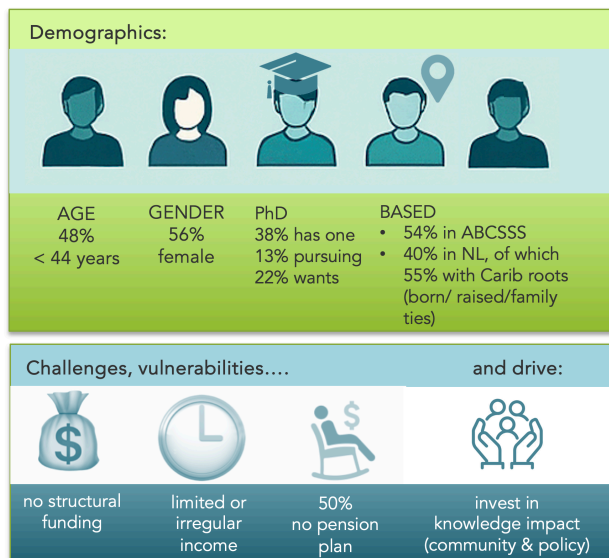


Figure 1: Resilient Science for SIDS
Source: Pin et al., (2020). *Improving Resilience and Quality of Life in Small Island Communities*, NWO-Call for Multi-disciplinary Caribbean Research.

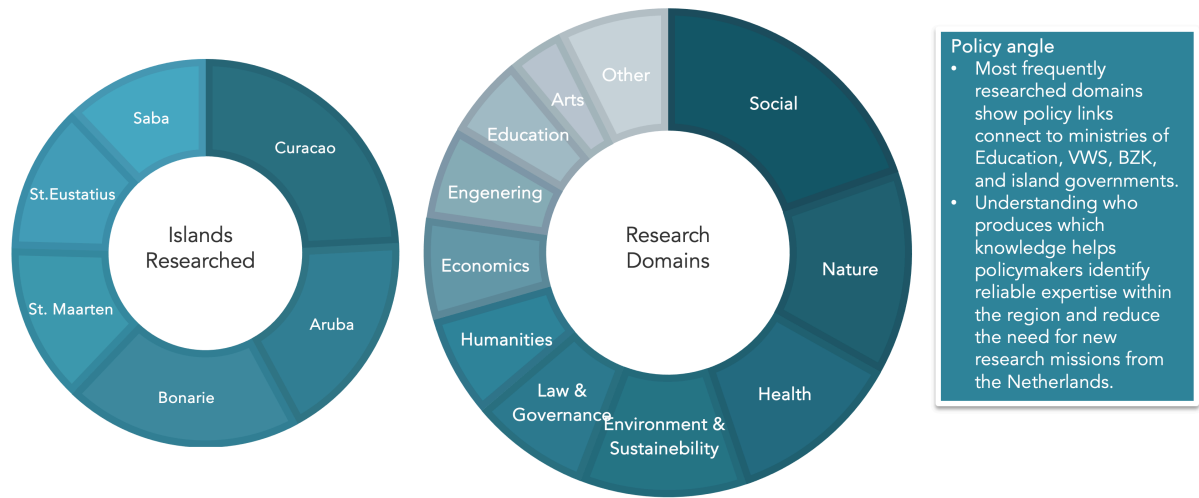
How do they work?

Professional and institutional characteristics

- Mostly independent or NGO-based
- Limited university based (but: do have affiliation)
- No structural funding or grantwriting support
- Often cross-island or transnational research

Structural aspect	Current situation	Desired support
Funding access	Project-based / ad hoc	Microgrants, structural support
Institutional backing	Limited	Shared services, network office, access to data
Collaboration	Informal	Recognized inter-island network

What do they research?
Research Domains & institutional affiliations



What's next?
From mapping to action: unlocking knowledge via portal

Challenge	Need	Portal / Policy Opportunity
No structural funding	Financial stability	Research microgrants
Limited access to data	Access to data and publications	Knowledge sharing
Fragmented network	Connection	Caribbean researchers portal
Limited visibility	Recognition	Involve in policy calls / assignments
Lack of support	Capacity	Shared grantwriting & admin unit

Key takeaway: Strengthening the Caribbean research community supports both knowledge equity and policy efficiency within the Kingdom.

Next step: Connect mapping outcomes to the projects second phase – portal for valorisation, visibility, and collaboration.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Scientific research in and about the six Caribbean islands of the Kingdom of the Netherlands—Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius, and Saba (ABCSSS)—has grown steadily in recent years. Scholars from a wide range of disciplines contribute to knowledge production on the region, including those based on the islands, academics working in the Netherlands, and members of the wider Caribbean diaspora. Despite this expansion, there remains no comprehensive overview of who these researchers are, the fields in which they work, or how they collaborate across institutional, national, and regional boundaries.

This lack of integrated knowledge poses challenges for visibility, coordination, and policymaking. It also limits opportunities for effective collaboration and the development of research infrastructures that are responsive to the needs of both local communities and the broader academic field.

To address this gap, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK) commissioned this Caribbean Science Mapping Project. The initiative aims to create a structured overview of the research community connected to the ABCSSS islands, thereby strengthening connections, improving accessibility, and fostering more inclusive knowledge practices.

This project is being funded and carried out on behalf of / in cooperation with the ministry of the Interior and Kingdom relations. It is part of the development of its strategic knowledge function on the field of Kingdom relations. The aim is to strengthen knowledge-based and evidence-informed policymaking regarding Kingdom relations.

1.2 Resilient Science for SIDS

Just as island residents in general are often highly mobile, so too are the academic communities of the islands characterized by significant migration. Highly educated individuals in island contexts are particularly known for their coming and going: young people leave to pursue education abroad (a dynamic often framed as “brain drain”) and may or may not return to contribute to their home island (more positively framed as “brain circulation”). In addition, researchers are frequently “imported,” residing temporarily on the islands—sometimes for only a short visit, sometimes for several years.

The academic landscape is further marked by limited structural financial support for scientific research. Given the substantial societal challenges faced by the islands—poverty, income inequality, drug trafficking, public health, education, and social issues—public funding is primarily directed toward these urgent needs. As a result, research often remains sporadic. Within the Dutch Kingdom, funding for research in the Caribbean territories therefore frequently comes from external sources in the form of project-based grants, such as NWO or ZONmw: sometimes substantial amounts become available, but once the project is completed and the funds are depleted, the support disappears.

Science on the islands must therefore be resilient to the ebb and flow of both financial resources and human capital: resilient science for SIDS (Pin et al., 2020), see Figure 1. The scientific community on the islands is situated partly within established institutions (such as the University of Aruba, the University of Curaçao, the University of Sint Maarten, as well as renowned research institutes such as Carmabi, NAAM, and CBHRI). However, other important groups of scholars can also be identified: independent researchers (working on the islands but (sometimes deliberately) unaffiliated with formal institutions), visiting academics (conducting research on the islands temporarily, sometimes in collaboration with local projects), and diaspora academics (who have established careers abroad but maintain connections to the islands, often returning regularly and expressing willingness to contribute to local research and knowledge production). Through their affiliations and strong publication records, diaspora academics in particular may be able to secure access to competitive funding opportunities and often welcome opportunities to remain involved.

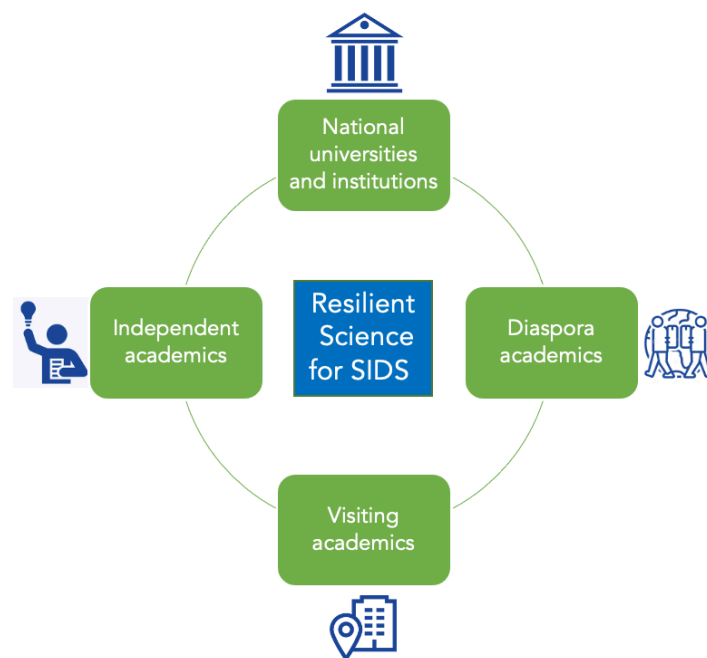


Figure 1: Resilient Science for SIDS

Source: Pin et al., (2020). *Improving Resilience and Quality of Life in Small Island Communities*, NWO-Call for Multi-disciplinary Caribbean Research.

Together, these groups form a resilient academic ecosystem. Yet key questions remain: Who are they? Where do they live and work, and under what labor conditions? What are their needs? And importantly, are they able to generate the knowledge required to address the pressing challenges facing the islands? Do the islands already possess the necessary expertise—suggesting that funding should build on existing strengths—or are there critical knowledge gaps that funding strategies must seek to fill?

This study maps the academic communities connected to the six islands and seeks to provide answers to these questions.

1.3 The value of engaging the Caribbean research community in policy research and evidence-based policymaking

For policy research concerning the Caribbean part of the Kingdom, the involvement of researchers from the Caribbean research community offers distinct practical and substantive advantages. These researchers, whether based on the islands or part of the wider Caribbean academic diaspora, bring essential contextual knowledge, linguistic fluency, and trusted networks that enable a deeper understanding of social dynamics and policy outcomes. Their local grounding facilitates accurate data interpretation and meaningful engagement with stakeholders, advantages that external research teams from the European Netherlands often lack. Such engagement also contributes to more efficient and sustainable research processes, with fewer travel movements between Europe and the Caribbean. Moreover, relying on researchers already embedded in the region helps reduce stakeholder fatigue and the burden placed on local government officials and other stakeholders who are repeatedly required to host visiting delegations from new external research parties (see e.g. Schotborgh-van de Ven & Van der Zee (2023)).¹ As Pin (2024)² notes, research conducted *with* and *by* Caribbean scholars, rather than *on* the Caribbean, strengthens ownership of knowledge and alignment with local realities. Closer collaboration with researchers from the Caribbean research community therefore enhances the quality and policy relevance of research and supports a more resilient and interconnected knowledge infrastructure within the Kingdom.

1.4 Objectives

The central aim of this project is to map and connect the diverse research community working in, on, and with the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. Specifically, the project seeks to:

1. Increase the visibility of Caribbean researchers and experts;
2. Strengthen collaboration between local, regional, and international scholars;
3. Provide data-driven insights to support funding opportunities, institutional partnerships, and evidence-based policymaking.

As part of the project's first phase, a survey was conducted among researchers with ties to the six islands. The survey targeted academics, professionals, and independent scholars across a broad spectrum of disciplines, ranging from social sciences and health to environmental studies and engineering. Participation was open to researchers affiliated with institutions on the islands, members of the diaspora, and those conducting research related to the region from abroad.

¹ See e.g. page 16, Schotborgh-van de Ven, N., & van der Zee, S. (2023). *Inventarisatie bestuurlijke weerbaarheid in Caribisch Nederland* (Eindrapport SRA/2023/421). SRA-Caribbean & Partners. Uitgevoerd in opdracht van het Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties. <https://www.kennisopenbaarbestuur.nl/documenten/2023/06/14/eindrapport-inventarisatie-bestuurlijke-weerbaarheid-in-caribisch-nederland> and Nauta, O., Piepers, N., & van Egmond, P. (2022, 12 december). *Versterken rechtsstaat: Beleidsdoorlichting artikel 1 hoofdstuk IV Rijksbegroting – Bijlage 2: Oordeel onafhankelijk deskundige*. DSP-groep. <https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/ronl-7381ce14eec3b42d6ff41dedcf16c3db3b5f7488/pdf>

² Pin, R. (2024). Het onzichtbare potentieel. In R. Zwart & G. Thodé (Red.), *Last of lust: Verkenning naar duurzame toekomstscenario's voor Caribisch Nederland* (pp. 200-206). Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties. <https://dossierkoninkrijksrelaties.nl/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Last-of-Lust-DEF.pdf>

The survey serves two main purposes. First, it generates baseline data on the composition and characteristics of the Caribbean research community, including academic fields, employment conditions, geographic locations, and funding sources. Second, it collects insights into researchers' needs, such as access to resources, training opportunities, networks, and professional support structures.

1.5 Broader Ambition: Caribbean Research Portal

The Caribbean Science Mapping Project is not limited to data collection and documenting the Caribbean researchers' landscape on group level. Its broader ambition is to lay the groundwork for a Caribbean Research Portal: an accessible digital infrastructure where researchers can profile themselves, find collaborators, and share knowledge.

Examples include:

- <https://findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/> — University of Melbourne's public "Find an Expert" directory with searchable researcher profiles.
- <https://globalcampus.ai/> — an AI-driven portal positioning itself as a way to discover academics and their work.
- <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events/find-an-expert> — University of Oxford's media-facing expert directory for locating specialists by topic.
- <https://expertisefinder.com/> — a commercial expert-finder platform used by institutions to publish searchable faculty profiles.

By providing a reliable evidence base and a sustainable networking platform, the project aims to enhance the recognition and utilization of Caribbean expertise in policy, education, and society at large.

Ultimately, this work is guided by the belief that stronger connections lead to stronger knowledge-sharing, better research opportunities, and greater impact for the Caribbean region.

2. Research method

2.1 Approach: Mapping Sessions and a Survey

This study applied a multi-method approach combining desk research, two mapping sessions with members of the research community, and an online survey among researchers and knowledge professionals connected to the six islands.

2.1.1 Desk Research

As preparatory work, desk research was conducted to review comparable initiatives that map researcher ecosystems and networks. We drew methodological cues from the University of Reading's *Mapping the Open Research landscape* (Connecting Research blog and 2022 report³), insights on researcher motivations from the Rathenau Institute (*Drijfveren van onderzoekers – Goed onderzoek staat nog steeds voorop*⁴) and an annex on research and knowledge institutions in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom⁵, instrument-design ideas from e.g. *The Land / Terre Design Research Network* in Canada: *Survey of Academic Researchers 2019*.⁶ Together, these sources informed our variables (e.g., affiliation, field, openness practices, motivations, geography), sampling approach, and the typology used to profile individual academics.

2.1.2 Mapping Sessions as Preliminary Exploration

Two mapping sessions were organized to inform the design of the survey. The first session took place face-to-face on Curaçao during the Dutch Caribbean Research Week (28 November 2024, 20 participants). The second was held online on 27 March 2025 with 51 registered participants. Both sessions involved members of the research community and served to identify key considerations for assessing the research landscape of the six islands.

The discussions generated several guiding principles, which were incorporated into the survey design, including both questionnaire structure and sampling strategy:

1. **Inclusivity** – The research community should not be limited to PhD holders. Fieldworkers, volunteers, and hobbyist knowledge producers also play a valuable role. For instance, an individual may be both a professional historian and an amateur birdwatcher. The planned research portal should reflect such diversity and maintain quality control through appropriate labeling.
2. **Caribbean focus** – The terminology used should emphasize “Caribbean” rather than “Dutch,” reflecting the regional orientation of the project.

³ <https://research.reading.ac.uk/research-blog/2022/02/02/mapping-the-open-research-landscape-at-the-university-of-reading/>

⁴ <https://www.rathenau.nl/nl/werking-van-het-wetenschapssysteem/drijfveren-van-onderzoekers-2018>

⁵ https://www.rathenau.nl/sites/default/files/2022-01/bijlage_onderzoeksinstellingen_Cariben.pdf

⁶ https://www.landterre.com/files/ugd/08032d_270bfb0bca44043e3a3820dcecb500589.pdf

3. **Public benefit** – The focus should be on researchers contributing to the public good, rather than activities primarily aimed at commercial marketing.
4. **Local ownership** – The initiative should be clearly presented as originating from the islands themselves, and respondents should be approached as colleagues.
5. **Multiple roles** – Many individuals hold overlapping roles. Accordingly, most survey questions were designed with “select all that apply” options.
6. **Additional considerations** – Other practical suggestions raised in the sessions were also integrated where possible.

2.1.3 Survey

Building on the desk research and the insights from the mapping sessions, a questionnaire was developed for an online survey. The survey was conducted between 5 May and 22 August 2025, in English, and targeted a broad spectrum of researchers and knowledge professionals connected to the six islands.

The survey addressed respondents’ academic profiles, work contexts, career development, and professional needs. On average, it took approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Intro survey, personal tone of voice

Dear colleagues, fellow Caribbean researchers,

This short survey (±15 minutes) aims to map academics, researchers, and knowledge professionals connected to Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius, and Saba—whether based on the islands, in the diaspora, or visiting. It includes those working at institutions, independently, or as interns.

Your input will help us better understand working conditions, research needs, and how to improve visibility through a future Dutch Caribbean Researchers Portal.

The survey is carried out by RE-Quest for the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK). All responses are anonymous, and results will only be reported at group level. At the end of the survey, you may choose to receive an invitation to join the portal.

Thank you for contributing!
Renske Pin, PhD & Steffen van Heijningen, PhD

2.2 Respondents: targeted groups of island academics

For this survey, four main groups of researchers and knowledge professionals connected to the ABCSSS islands were targeted:

1. **Institution-based researchers/knowledge professionals** – living on the six islands and employed at a university.
2. **Independent researchers/knowledge professionals** – living on the six islands and working independently or through their own company.
3. **Diaspora researchers/knowledge professionals** – born and/or raised on the six islands but currently working outside the region.
4. **Visiting researchers/knowledge professionals** – not originally from the islands, but temporarily engaged in research or teaching on or about the region (including visiting scholars and interns).

To reach this diverse community, a snowball sampling strategy was applied. Several outreach methods were used:

- A press release was distributed to media outlets across all six islands (431 contacts), with a strong call to share the survey with diaspora communities. This appeal was widely picked up and reported.
- Social media posts via LinkedIn, Facebook, and WhatsApp were circulated multiple times during the survey period.
- Invitations were sent through existing networks and mailing lists, including participants of earlier mapping sessions, Ponton, and *Knowledge over Lunch*.
- Key figures in the research community, such as the director of the NWO Caribbean Programme, rectors of universities, and leading institutes (e.g., CARMABI and NAAM), were approached to share the call within their networks.
- The personal networks of the two lead researchers were mobilized through direct mailings.
- Diaspora outreach included distribution through newsletters of organizations such as WeConnect (1600 relations) and ISISA (international).

Due to privacy and policy restrictions, DUO and NWO/Dutch Caribbean Research Week were not able to share the survey invitation through their official newsletters.

An recognizable brand image was created for the survey (see cover) and a landing page (<https://svheyningen.wixsite.com/caribbean-research>) with background information and profiles of the 2 independent lead researchers with a strong , a link to the survey and a keep me informed form.

In total, **383 respondents** completed the survey, with a relatively balanced representation across the four targeted groups.

2.3 Scope: aspects assessed

The questionnaire was designed to capture a broad range of information on researchers and knowledge professionals connected to the six islands. Specifically, the survey assessed:

- Place of residence and work
- Institutional affiliation
- Role and academic discipline
- Type of academic work
- Working conditions
- Demographic characteristics
- Educational level and PhD attainment
- Career stage
- Main challenges encountered
- Sources of funding
- Published or presented work
- Needs for support and expectations regarding the Research Portal



2.4 Confidentiality

Confidentiality was a core principle of this research. The survey was conducted by RE-Quest on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK). All data were collected and processed anonymously by RE-Quest and were not shared with BZK in identifiable form. Reporting is limited to aggregated results, ensuring that individual responses cannot be traced back to participants.

At the end of the survey, respondents were given the option to provide their contact details if they wished to receive an invitation to the future Research Portal. These data are stored separately and are not linked to the survey responses.

2.5 Analysis

The results presented in this report are based on descriptive analysis. Findings are reported for the full sample and, where relevant, compared across the four respondent groups:

- a) institution-based,
- b) independent,
- c) visiting, and
- d) diaspora researchers.

In some cases, results are further disaggregated to highlight group-specific patterns.

3. Results

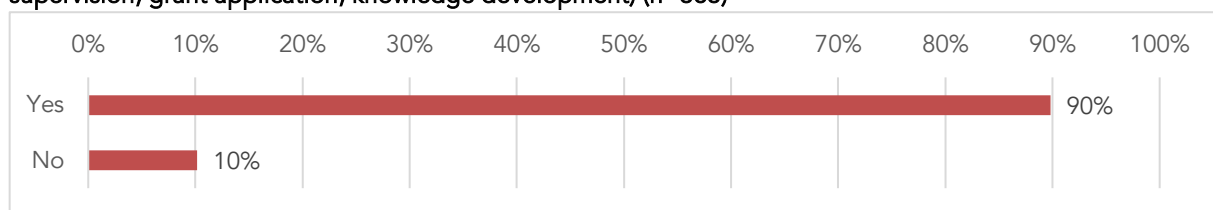
3.1 Profile of Island Academics

This section describes who the respondents are. It outlines their connection to the islands, where they live and work, their institutional affiliations, and their demographic characteristics. It also provides an overview of their educational background and PhD attainment.

3.1.1 Connection to the islands

The vast majority of respondents (90%) identify as researchers or knowledge professionals, currently engaging in activities such as research, teaching, supervision, or grant applications. A smaller group (10%) answered “no,” but many of them later indicated that they are a student, intern or had previously worked as knowledge professionals—for example, before retirement or after moving into different types of work, sometimes looking for work in the academic field. Their participation in the survey suggests that they still consider themselves part of the broader research and knowledge community connected to the islands, even if they are no longer/not currently active in formal roles.

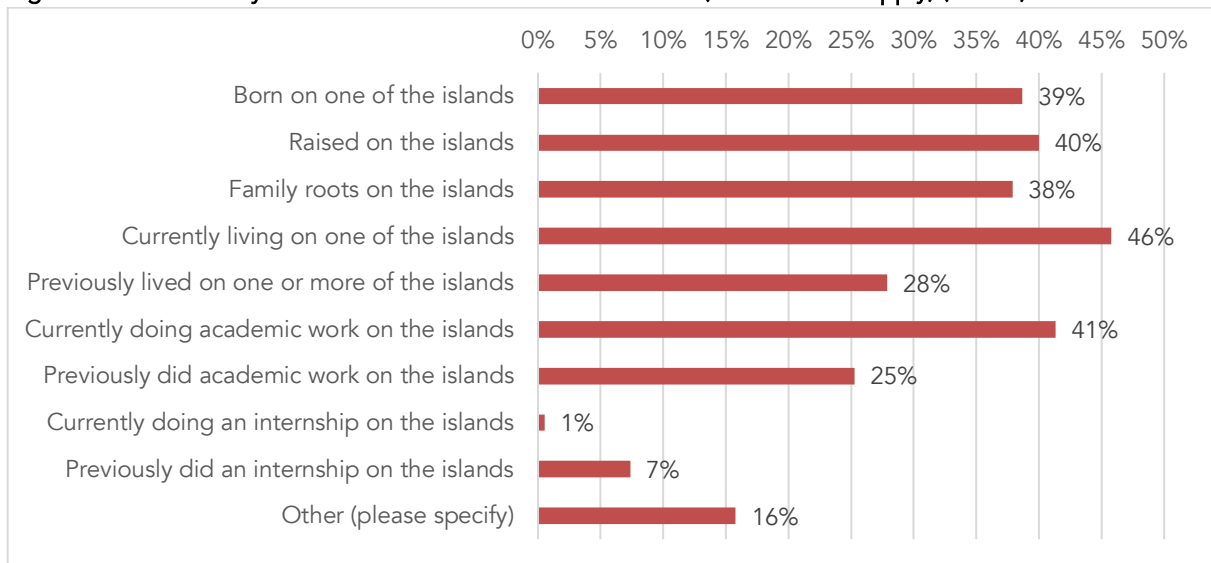
Figure 2: Q1- Do you work as a researcher/knowledge professional? (e.g. do you do research, teaching, supervision, grant application, knowledge development) (n=383)



Almost half of the respondents (46%) currently live on one of the Dutch Caribbean islands, and more than four in ten (41%) are conducting academic work there. Strong personal ties are also visible: many were raised (40%) or born (39%) on the islands, or have family roots (38%). Previous residence (28%) and academic work (25%) also play a role, while internships form a smaller pathway of connection. These findings show that the research community is anchored in both personal backgrounds and professional engagement with the islands.

The open responses (Other (please specify)) reveal a wide variety of additional ties between researchers and the ABCSSS islands, ranging from professional commitments to personal attachments. Several respondents emphasized long-standing academic engagement: *“In the past 4 years I acquired assignments and supervised graduate and third-year students on the islands”* and *“Setting up and executing nature conservation projects as a freelance marine biologist on Curaçao and Bonaire for the past 15 years.”* Others highlighted more personal connections, such as *“Affection with and passion for the islands, partnered with an islander, regular visitor of Curaçao.”* Respondents also mentioned institutional affiliations, including roles as policy advisors, board members of heritage platforms, or CEOs of independent research organizations. A smaller group pointed to cultural and historical contributions, for instance through documenting the art scene or running neighborhood-based heritage initiatives. Overall, these narratives illustrate that connections to the islands often blend personal, professional, and societal dimensions, enriching the research landscape beyond the predefined survey categories.

Figure 3: Q2- What is your connection to the ABCSSS Islands? (Select all that apply) (n=380)



Respondents categorize themselves in multiple ways, reflecting the diversity of the research and knowledge community across the ABCSSS islands. The largest group (29%) identify as *independent researchers* or knowledge professionals, typically living on the islands and working from their own company or as self-employed consultants. This highlights the important role of freelance and non-institutional expertise in the region. At the same time, 18% describe themselves as *institution-based researchers*, working at universities or other formal institutions on the islands.

A significant portion of the community is shaped by mobility and transnational ties. One in five respondents (20%) identify as *diaspora researchers*—born and/or raised on the islands but working outside the region. An equal share (21%) categorize themselves as *visiting researchers*, who do not have roots in the islands but are temporarily involved in research or teaching related to them. These groups underline how knowledge flows across geographic boundaries, through both outward migration and temporary engagements.

Finally, 26% selected “other,” which suggests that existing categories do not fully capture the wide range of roles and identities within the community. Taken together, the findings show that the Dutch Caribbean research landscape is not dominated by a single group, but is instead a mosaic of institutional, independent, diaspora, and visiting professionals, complemented by a significant share of “hybrid” or alternative roles.

The open responses to the “other” category reveal the wide variety of roles and hybrid identities that do not fit neatly into predefined boxes. Many participants described themselves as institution-based but outside universities, working at research institutes, government agencies, NGOs, or specialized centers. For example, one respondent noted being an “*institution-based researcher/knowledge professional: living on the six islands and working at a National Library*,” while another identified as part of “*Curaçao Biomedical and Health Research Institute (CBHRI)*.”

Several respondents emphasized career transitions or multiple roles: “*Former teacher/institution-based knowledge professional, living in the Netherlands*” or “*Currently civil servant, formerly researcher linked to Dutch university*.” Others combined teaching, consultancy, and research, often across

borders: *“Working on the island and teaching (remote) in the Netherlands” or “Career scientist (PhD) working at companies or as consultant in North America, looking for work on Bonaire.”*

The category also captured diaspora and heritage-based connections, with respondents highlighting family roots or ongoing projects despite being based abroad: *“Live in the Netherlands, family roots on Bonaire and have conducted research on Bonaire for master’s thesis” and “Independent, born and raised in the Netherlands but roots on the island, involved in Diaspora projects.”*

Some described non-traditional roles, including “Citizen Scientist,” investigative journalism, science communication, or voluntary research work. Others explicitly resisted conventional labels, with one respondent stating: *“As a person who is not into colonial frameworks of research, governance, education.”*

Overall, these responses underline the plurality of pathways through which people contribute to knowledge about the ABCSSS islands. They include academics, policy advisors, heritage professionals, civil servants, health workers, consultants, and independent researchers, many of whom move fluidly between roles. This diversity illustrates that the research community extends well beyond universities and formal institutions, encompassing a broad ecosystem of knowledge producers.

Figure 4: Q4- How would you categorize yourself? (Select all that apply) (n=376)



3.1.2 Place of residence and work

The data highlight the wide-ranging mobility and diverse backgrounds of researchers and knowledge professionals connected to the ABCSSS islands. While many respondents were born (46%) or raised (42%) in the Netherlands, substantial shares were born or raised on the islands themselves—most prominently Curaçao (26% born, 32% raised) and Aruba (13% born, 15% raised). This points to a community that is both locally rooted and shaped by migration to Europe.

Patterns also reflect the scale of the islands and historical education pathways. It is unsurprising that smaller islands such as Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Bonaire account for fewer respondents by birth or upbringing. On the islands of Sint Eustatius and Saba, medical facilities for births are limited. Therefore,

expectant mothers are often sent to the island of St. Maarten before delivery. Until recently, students from Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Bonaire often had to move to Curaçao, Aruba, or Sint Maarten to complete secondary education (HAVO/VWO) and, in many cases, continued to the Netherlands with study grants available to Kingdom citizens. Others pursued higher education opportunities in the wider Caribbean or North America. These structural pathways have contributed to high levels of mobility, with two-thirds of respondents (66%) having lived in the Netherlands at some point and 68% having worked there.

At the same time, residence and professional engagement do not map neatly onto each other. While 40% currently live in the Netherlands, 44% work there (including remotely), and large shares also work in Curaçao (33%) and Aruba (22%), alongside smaller proportions spread across Europe, North America, and Latin America. This underlines the transnational nature of the knowledge community, with professional work often continuing across borders regardless of residence.

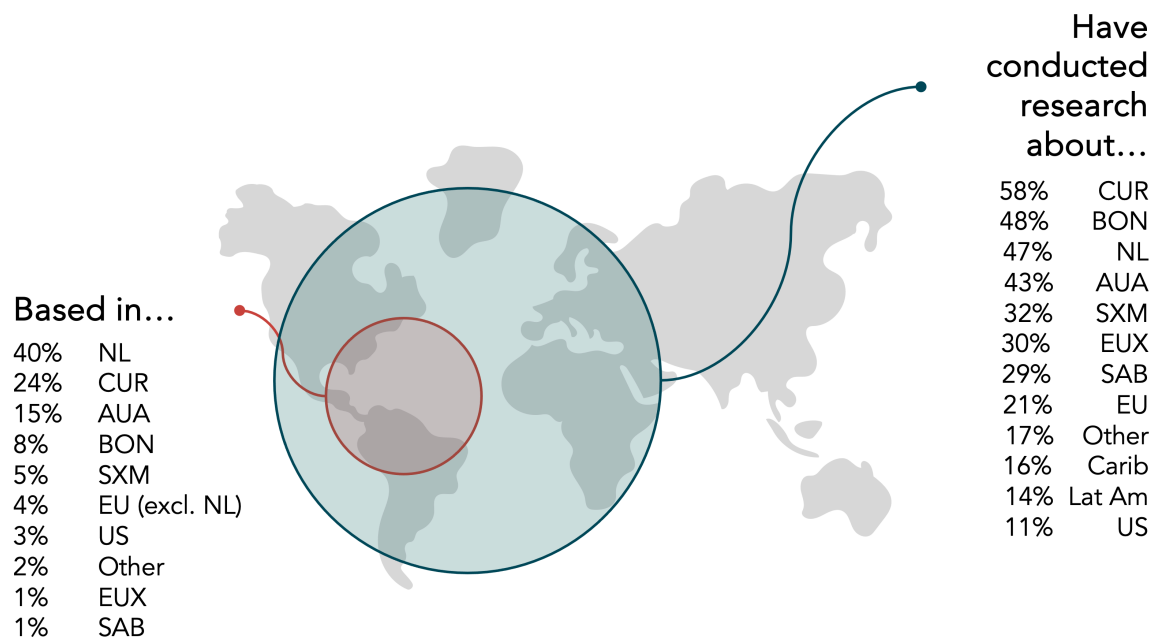


Figure 5: Q3- Where were you born, where did you live and where were you involved in research/knowledge development work e.g. research, teaching, supervision, and grant applications? (Select all that apply) (n=379)

What is striking is that despite their small population size, the smaller islands are frequently the subject of research. For instance, 48% of respondents report having conducted research about Bonaire, 29% about Saba, and 30% about Sint Eustatius—figures that are relatively high compared to the scale of those communities. This suggests that their unique ecological, social, and cultural contexts make them important sites of study, even if fewer researchers are originally from these islands.

Overall, the findings reveal a highly geographically mobile and interconnected research community. Professionals often move between the islands and the Netherlands at different stages of their careers, yet continue to engage academically with the region. Of the 147 researchers currently residing in The Netherlands, 81 (about 55%) have family roots and/or were born and/or raised on the Dutch Caribbean islands. This combination of local grounding, outward migration, and sustained research attention

illustrates both the opportunities and the challenges for building a cohesive Dutch Caribbean research infrastructure.

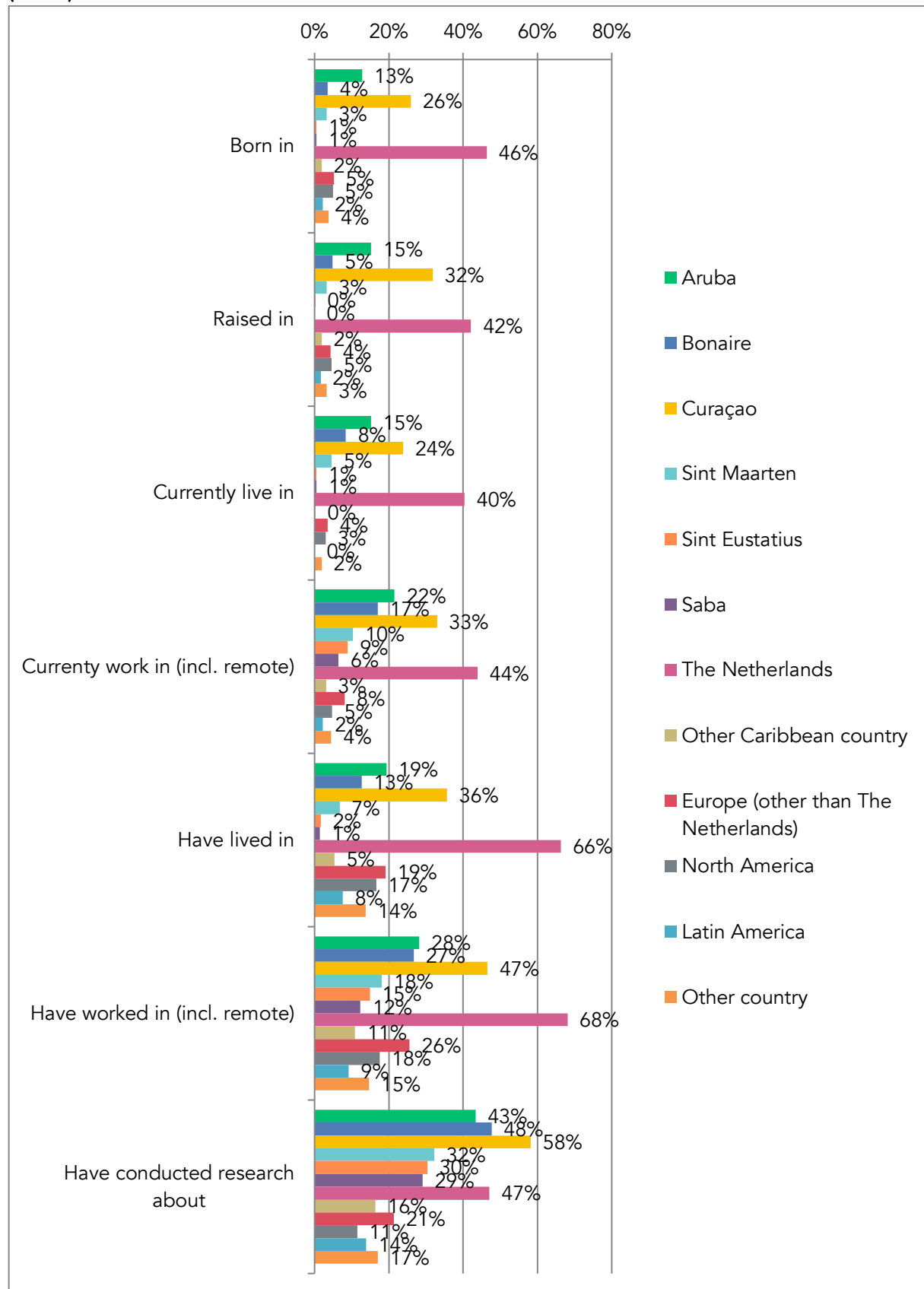
The open responses under “other” illustrate just how globally connected the ABCSSS research community is. Beyond the predefined categories, respondents mentioned engagement in regions ranging from Asia (China, Laos, Indonesia, Pakistan, Jordan) and Africa (South Africa, Kenya, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Morocco), to the wider Caribbean (Suriname, French Guiana, Guadeloupe), and across Europe and the Pacific. For some, this reflects highly international careers in which the islands are one part of a broader portfolio: *“I have done research in about 25 countries across the globe”* or *“My research had participants from around the globe.”* Others described work in specific professional domains, such as *“gas turbine diagnostics and condition monitoring”* or *“applied economics, consumer behavior, and marketing.”*

Several respondents emphasized the comparative perspective gained from working across multiple small island states, including the Pacific and Indian Ocean regions, pointing to shared challenges around governance, resilience, and education. As one respondent put it: *“Organizing quality in Small Island States—collaboration, integrity, leadership; SDGs 16 and 17.”* Others highlighted mobility across academic, professional, and policy roles, such as one participant who moved from UN work in China to public health in one of the islands, and later became an independent consultant working for two well-known knowledge organizations across the Americas.

Together, these responses demonstrate that while the ABCSSS islands form the focal point of this study, their research and knowledge networks are embedded in much wider global flows. This global engagement provides opportunities for cross-regional learning, particularly with other small states and island communities.

The mapping data further indicate that collaboration between island- and Netherlands-based researchers already occurs frequently, and that many Caribbean-born or -raised researchers are currently based in the Netherlands. Of the 147 researchers currently residing there, 81 (about 55%) have family roots and/or were born or raised on the Caribbean islands. This transnational composition of the research community creates opportunities for cross-regional partnerships that combine local insight with institutional capacity, strengthening both the quality and legitimacy of policy research across the Kingdom.

Figure 6: Q3- Where were you born, where did you live and where were you involved in research/knowledge development work e.g. research, teaching, supervision, and grant applications? (Select all that apply) (n=379)

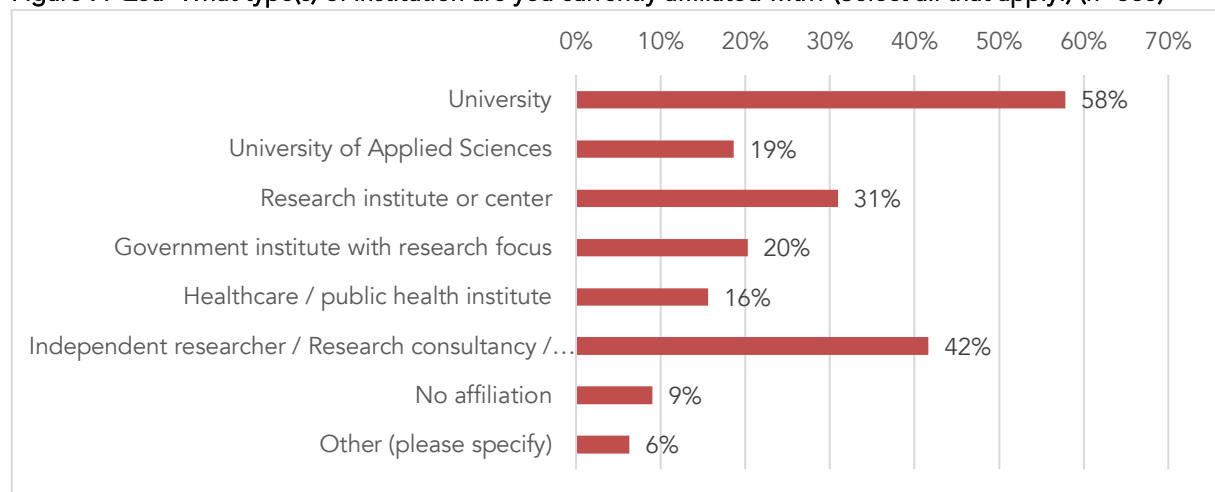


3.1.3 Institutional affiliation

Respondents reported a wide range of institutional affiliations, illustrating the heterogeneity of the research and knowledge sector linked to the ABCSSS islands. The largest group is connected to universities (58%), highlighting the continued centrality of higher education institutions in knowledge production. At the same time, a substantial share of respondents operate outside the university system. Over four in ten (42%) identify as independent researchers or research consultants⁷, and nearly one-third (31%) are affiliated with a research institute or center. Government institutions with a research focus (20%) and universities of applied sciences (19%) also play a significant role, alongside healthcare and public health institutes (16%).

It is important to note that many respondents hold multiple affiliations simultaneously. For example, some work primarily from their own companies but maintain a university affiliation—such as a visiting academic position—to facilitate research collaborations and access to resources. This reflects the hybrid nature of professional identities in the Dutch Caribbean research community. In addition, almost one in ten (9%) report having no current institutional affiliation, showing that engagement also extends beyond formal organizations. A further 6% selected “other,” pointing to additional contexts not covered by the predefined categories. Taken together, these findings indicate that knowledge production about and from the islands is supported by a diverse ecosystem of institutional, independent, and hybrid professionals.

Figure 7: Q5a- What type(s) of institution are you currently affiliated with? (Select all that apply.) (n=365)



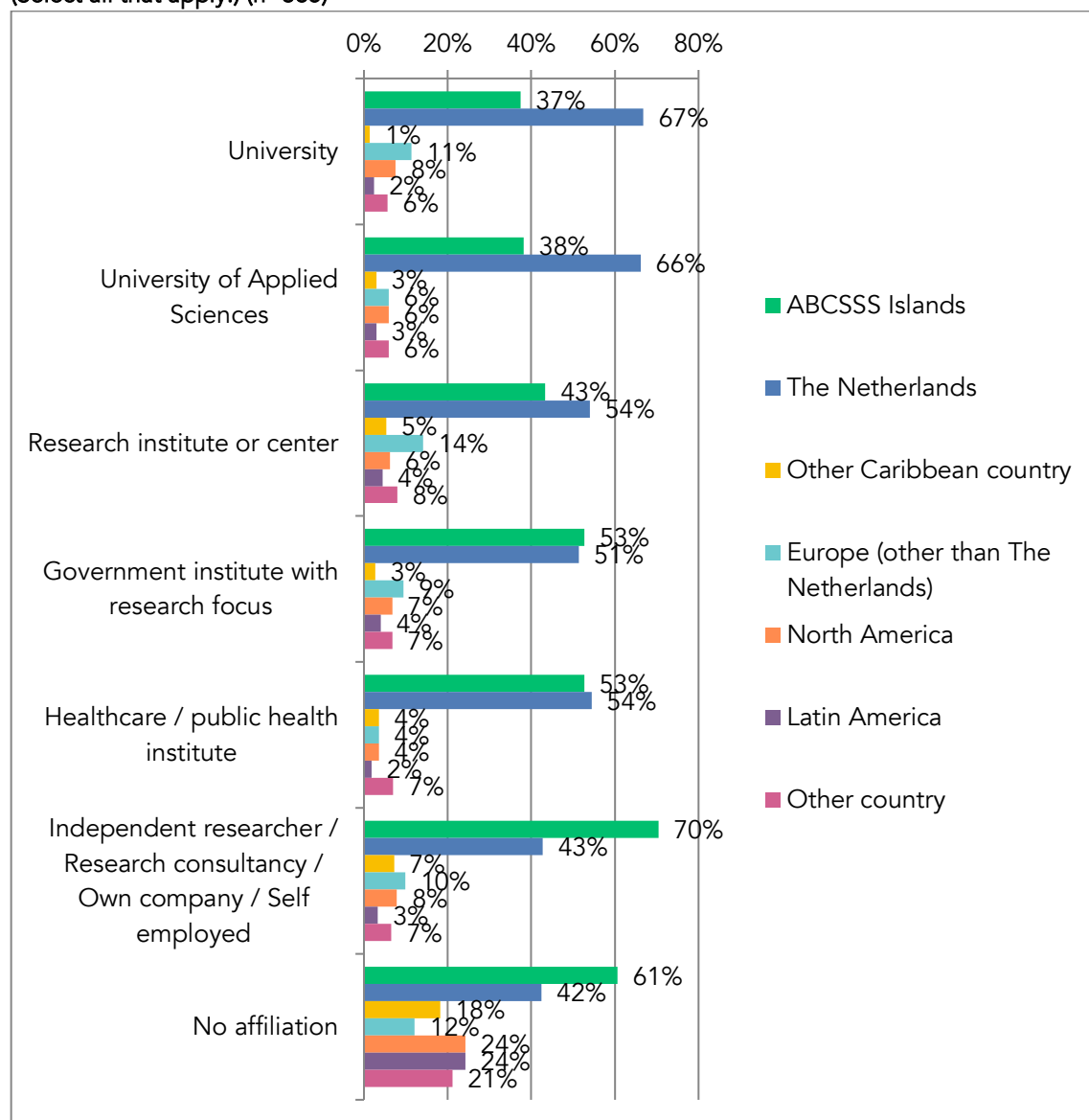
The results show that institutional affiliations of researchers and knowledge professionals are spread across both the ABCSSS islands and international contexts, with respondents holding multiple affiliations simultaneously. Of all respondents, 67% report an affiliation with a university in the Netherlands, 37% are affiliated with a university on the islands. This reflects e.g. a common practice where professors based in the Netherlands also hold a smaller appointment at universities in the region, which is important for accreditation processes and strengthening local programs.

⁷ In the Netherlands this is much more rare, see e.g. <https://universonline.nl/nieuws/2020/02/17/waar-blijft-de-wetenschappelijke-zzper/>

A similar pattern emerges in other institutional types: 66% is affiliated with universities of applied sciences in the Netherlands, 38% report links to universities of applied sciences on the islands. In the case of research institutes and centers 54% is affiliated to one in the Netherlands and 43% to one on the islands (43%), while 53% has affiliations with government institutes with a research focus on the islands, and 51% in the Netherlands). In the healthcare and public health sector, affiliations are again balanced, with 54% in the Netherlands and 53% on the islands.

Remarkably, 70% indicates current affiliation as independent researchers and consultancies on the islands, showing the central role of independent professionals in the local knowledge ecosystem.

Figure 8: Q5b- What type(s) of institution (and regions they are based) are you currently affiliated with? (Select all that apply.) (n=365)



3.1.4 Demographic characteristics

Gender and age

The survey population is gender diverse, with a slight majority identifying as female (56%), compared to 42% male, and 2% preferring not to say. In terms of age distribution, respondents span all age groups, with the largest share between 25–34 years (25%), followed by 35–44 years (21%) and 45–54 years (21%). Older cohorts remain well represented, with 18% aged 55–64 and 13% aged 65+, while only a small minority are under 25. This distribution indicates a community that combines both early-career and highly experienced knowledge professionals, supporting intergenerational exchange within the field.

Figure 9: Q14- What is your gender? (n=368)

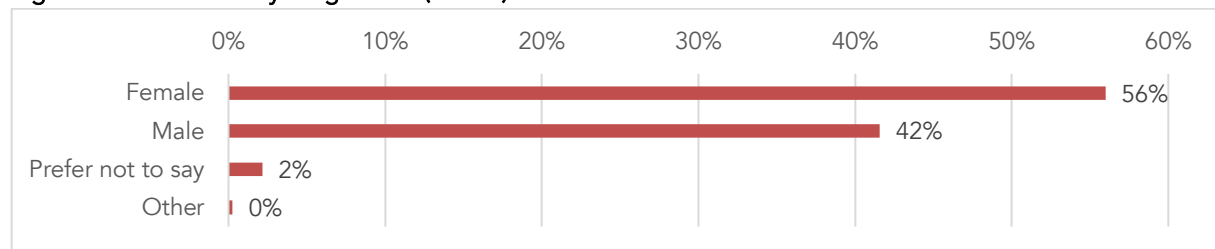
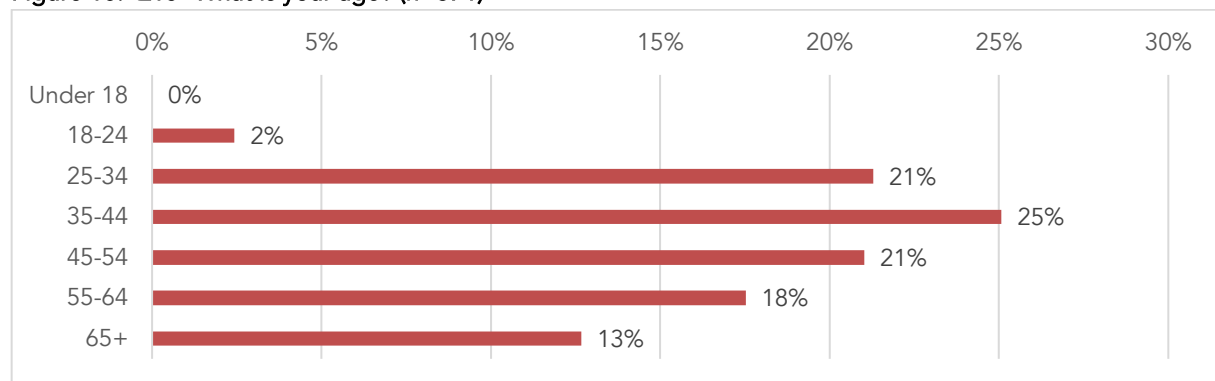


Figure 10: Q15- What is your age? (n=371)



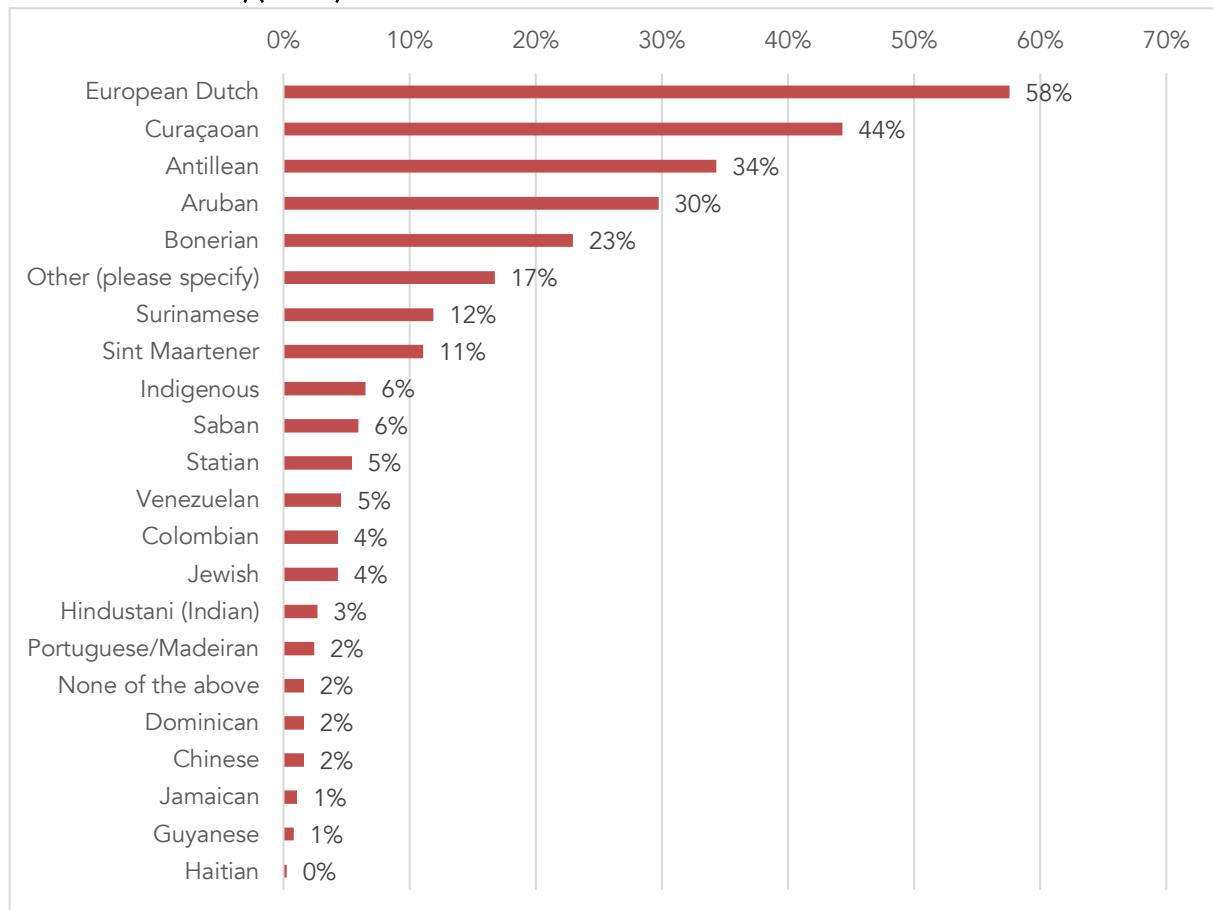
Community representation

The results show a highly diverse set of community affiliations among respondents. The largest shares identify as European Dutch (58%), Curaçaoan (44%), and Antillean (34%), followed by Aruban (30%) and Bonerian (23%). Smaller but significant groups include connections to Surinamese (12%) and Sint Maartener (11%) communities, alongside Indigenous, Saban, and Statian identities (5–6% each). This reflects both the Kingdom ties and the multi-layered Caribbean identities present in the research community. Importantly, 17% selected “other,” pointing to a broad range of additional connections.

The open answers confirm this breadth of belonging. Many respondents identify with global or hybrid identities, such as “world citizen,” “European, Caribbean,” or “Indo-Dutch.” Others stress deep diaspora or regional affiliations, for example “After 27+ years in the Guyanas, I have gained a deep trust from Indigenous and Maroon communities” or “Born in Belgium but moved to Aruba as a baby, Aruba will always be home.” Respondents also highlighted ties to the wider Caribbean and beyond, including Cuba, Guadeloupe, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, and the East Caribbean, as well as countries such as Mexico, India, Pakistan, and Sweden.

Overall, these findings underline that the knowledge community connected to the ABCSSS islands cannot be captured by single categories: it is transnational, multi-local, and deeply shaped by migration and diaspora experiences, with people carrying layered identities that span Europe, the Caribbean, and the wider world.

Figure 11: Q16- Which community or communities do you identify with or feel connected to? (You may select more than one) (n=370)



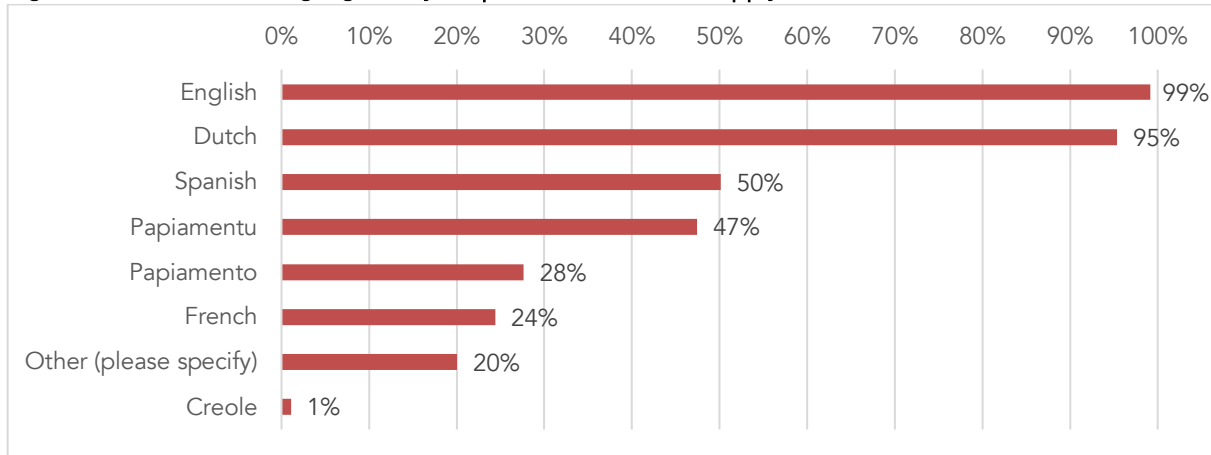
Languages

Nearly all respondents report speaking English (99%) and Dutch (95%), underscoring the dual linguistic foundation of the research community. In addition, Spanish (50%) and Papiamentu/o (47% and 28%) are widely spoken, reflecting both the Caribbean context and migration patterns. Smaller but meaningful groups also speak French (24%) and other languages (20%), while a small minority report Creole (1%). This multilingual profile indicates that most knowledge professionals are able to operate in several linguistic and cultural contexts.

The open responses reveal the breadth and depth of multilingualism beyond the listed categories. Many reported fluency or working knowledge of German, Italian, Portuguese, and Frisian, as well as regional and diaspora languages such as Sranan Tongo, Sarnami, Surinamese, and Urdu/Punjabi/Hindi. Some noted learning or partial knowledge of Papiamentu (*"only the basics of Papiamentu"*), while others stressed using languages at varying levels of fluency or context-specific (*"not all languages equally fluent"*).

Together, these findings underline the multilingual and multicultural competencies of the ABCSSS knowledge community. Beyond English and Dutch, respondents draw on a wide linguistic repertoire that connects Europe, the Caribbean, Latin America, and diasporic communities worldwide—an asset for cross-regional collaboration and culturally grounded research.

Figure 12: Q17- Which languages do you speak? (Select all that apply) (n=371)



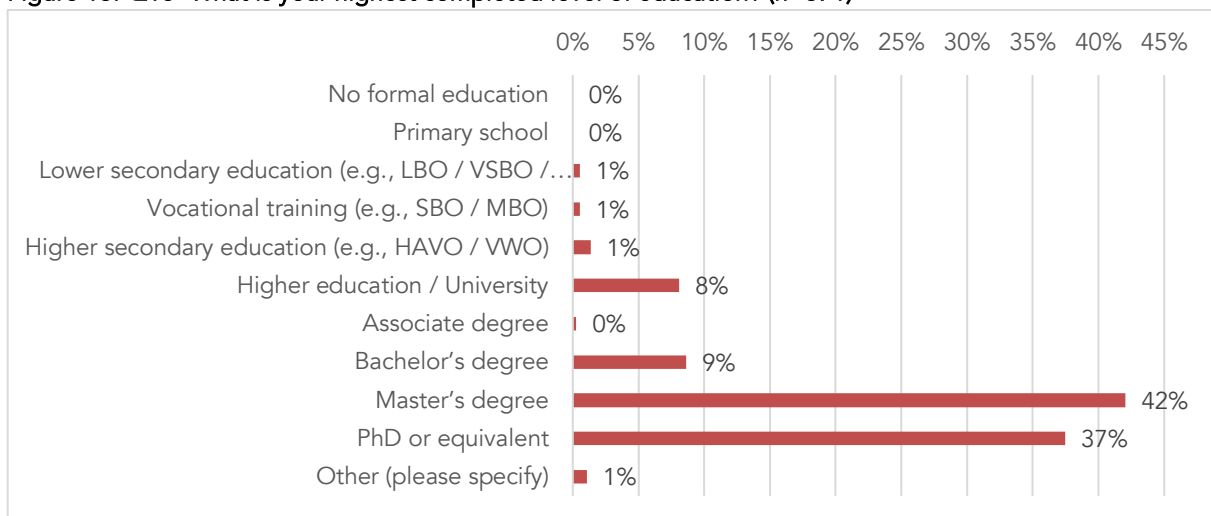
3.1.5 Educational background and PhD attainment

Educational background

The survey respondents are a highly educated community, with the vast majority holding advanced academic degrees. Over four in ten (42%) report a Master's degree as their highest completed level of education, and a further 37% hold a PhD or equivalent. Another 9% completed a Bachelor's degree, and 8% report higher education/university without degree completion. Only a very small share (1–2%) have vocational or secondary-level qualifications.

This distribution illustrates that the ABCSSS knowledge community is dominated by postgraduate-level professionals, reflecting both the academic nature of the work and the pathways required to engage in research and knowledge production at regional and international levels.

Figure 13: Q18- What is your highest completed level of education? (n=371)



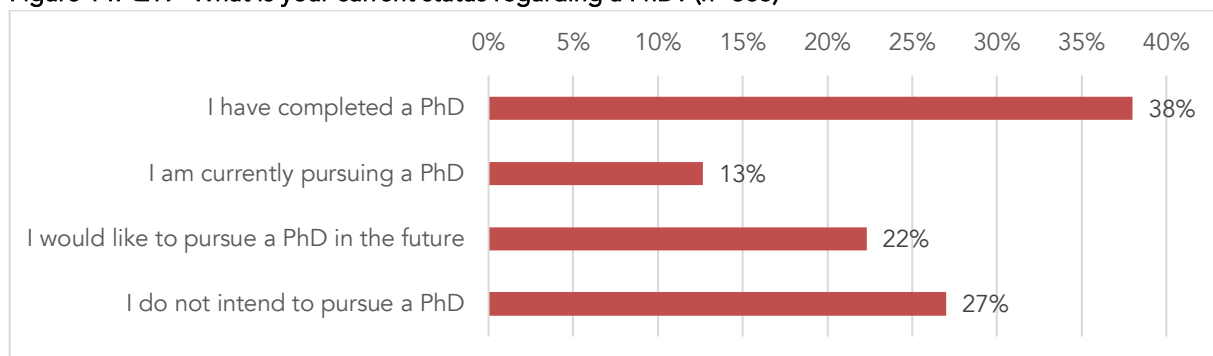
PhD attainment

The survey shows that just over a third of respondents (38%) have completed a PhD, while 13% are currently pursuing one. Another 22% indicate that they would like to pursue a PhD in the future, whereas 27% state they do not intend to do so.

The open comments add nuance to these figures. Respondents shared diverse trajectories and perspectives, ranging from those finalizing their dissertations (e.g., *"I am currently working on a PhD on homicide in the Dutch Caribbean"*) to those who have completed degrees at leading institutions such as Erasmus University, the University of Groningen, and the University of Cambridge. Several highlight pursuing a PhD as an external candidate or through joint appointments between the Netherlands and the Caribbean. Others emphasize future aspirations, such as *"I plan to pursue a PhD in the Netherlands in 2026,"* while some voice more critical or ambivalent views, noting that *"a PhD has no added value in my current broad spectrum of Action Research work"* or that they would only pursue one if the topic truly inspired them. A few mentioned challenges such as lack of funding, balancing research with family responsibilities, or blocked opportunities by employers.

Together, these responses illustrate the wide spectrum of engagement with doctoral education in the Dutch Caribbean knowledge community—from accomplished academics with international recognition to early-career professionals seeking opportunities, as well as those who critically reflect on whether the PhD path aligns with their professional goals and the societal impact they wish to achieve.

Figure 14: Q19- What is your current status regarding a PhD? (n=363)



3.2 Academic Roles and Work Context

Here we explore the professional roles and disciplinary fields of island academics. The section examines the types of work they carry out and the conditions under which they perform their academic activities.

3.2.1 Academic roles and disciplines

Respondents occupy a broad spectrum of roles and positions, underscoring the diversity of the research and knowledge community connected to the ABCSSS islands. The two largest groups are independent researchers (30%) and those who selected "other" (31%), indicating that many knowledge professionals operate outside traditional academic career tracks or combine roles that do not fit neatly into predefined categories.

Among more conventional academic positions, lecturers (20%) and professors (13%) represent substantial shares, while PhD candidates (11%), postdoctoral researchers (9%), and those with a completed PhD (10%) reflect the early and mid-career stages of the academic pipeline. Interestingly, hobbyist researchers (11%) also form a notable group, pointing to active engagement by individuals outside formal academic employment structures.

Smaller but important groups include fieldworkers (7%), research administrators in support roles (5%), and students at master's (5%) and bachelor's level (2%). A small share also identified as research assistants (3%) or postgraduate fellows (1%).

Taken together, these results highlight both the breadth of professional identities and the importance of roles beyond universities—particularly independent researchers and hybrid professionals. The presence of students and early-career researchers suggests a pipeline of emerging scholars, while the inclusion of hobbyist researchers and those in "other" roles illustrates the openness of the community to contributors from non-traditional pathways.

Within the open responses to the "other" category, many respondents describe themselves in formal academic positions, such as *"assistant professor," "associate professor,"* or *"professor emeritus,"* while others highlight specialized research functions including *"Research Scientist/Principal Investigator"* and *"Datamanager in oncology clinical trials."*

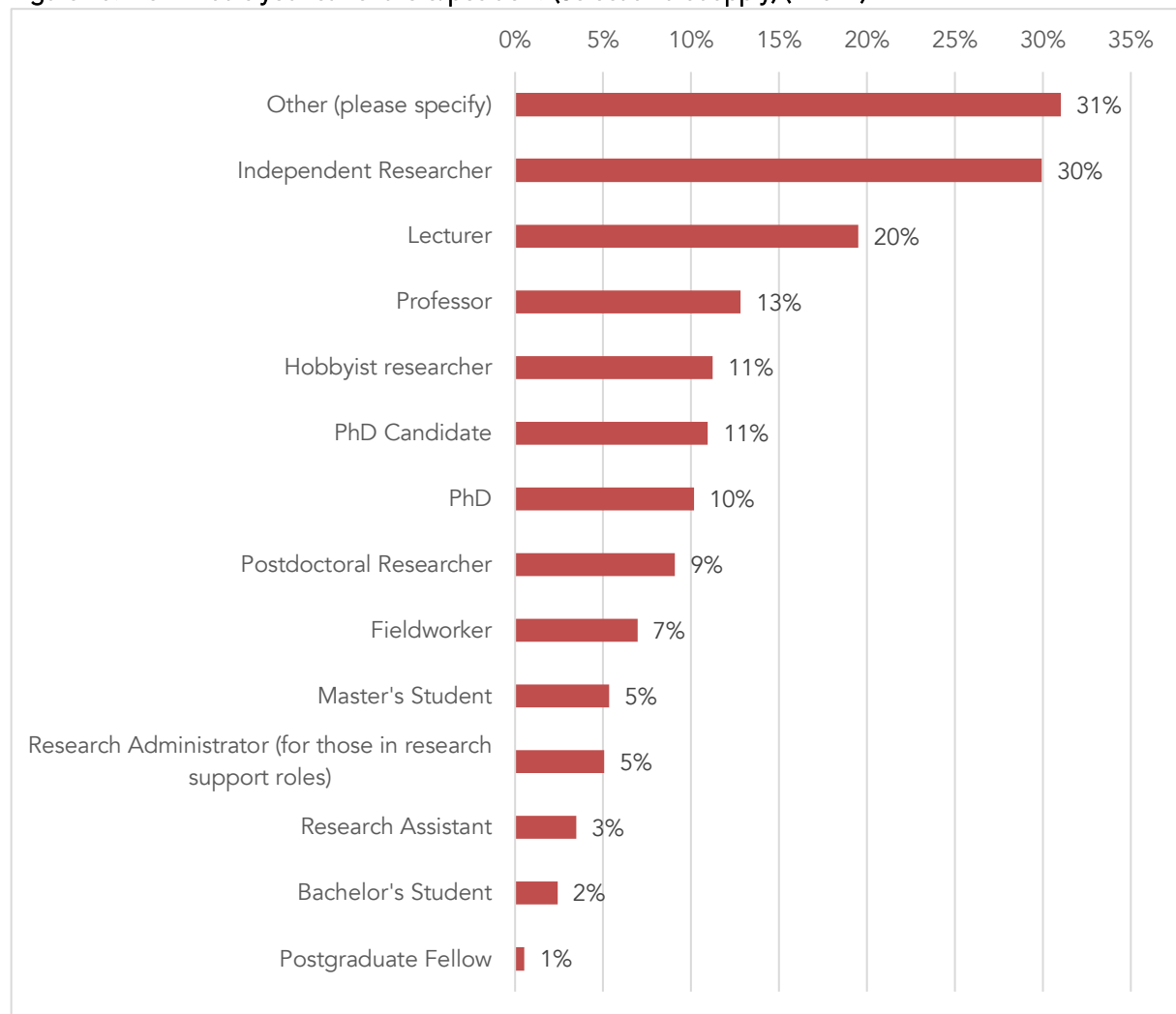
A large share report professional and managerial roles that combine leadership with research, for instance *"Head of a research department," "Program manager,"* or *"Director."* Similarly, consultancy and independent work appear frequently: *"Independent consultant and project manager," "Practitioner consulting from own company for various organizations, including advisory committees for research projects,"* and *"Founder/CEO."*

Several answers reflect sector-specific expertise, particularly in health and medicine, including *"medical doctor, specialist (psychiatrist)," "clinical neuropsychologist," "hospital pharmacist at CMC and doing clinical research,"* and *"epidemiologist."* Others highlight cultural heritage and governance roles such as *"Advisor International Heritage Cooperation"* and *"Coordinator Caribbean Netherlands [---]."*

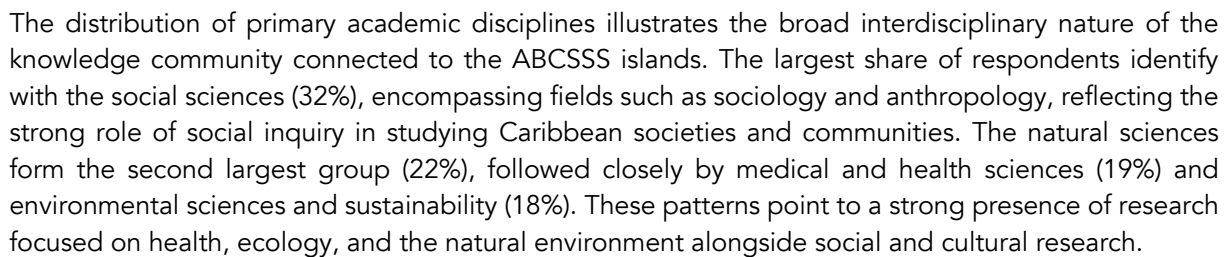
The category also captures non-traditional or hybrid roles, including *"Citizen Scientist," "Investigative journalist,"* and *"Artist/Researcher/Teacher."* Some noted temporary or early-career positions, such as internships, student coaching, or combined PhD–research responsibilities.

Overall, the open answers show that knowledge work related to the ABCSSS islands spans a wide ecosystem of roles: from academics and health specialists to consultants, managers, policy advisors, heritage experts, and independent professionals. This diversity reflects both the interdisciplinarity of the community and the multiple pathways through which individuals contribute to research and knowledge development.

Figure 15: Q6- What is your current role/position? (Select all that apply) (n=374)



Among the 329 respondents who detailed their current institutional affiliations and work, the word cloud underscores “research” as the dominant activity, frequently paired with teaching and supervision (e.g., “teaching,” “supervision,” “PhD students,” “Master student,” “thesis”). Reported roles span the academic ladder—professor/associate/assistant professor, lecturer, senior or independent researcher—and extend to consultant/coach/guide and program or project management/coordination. Named institutions include universities in the Caribbean (University of Aruba, University of Sint Maarten, University of Curaçao, International University Curaçao) and the Netherlands (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Leiden University, Wageningen University, University of Amsterdam, Utrecht University, TU Delft, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), alongside research institutes and government bodies (e.g., CARMABI, ministries, public health institutes). Geographic tags—Curaçao, Aruba, Bonaire, St Maarten/St Martin, the Netherlands, and the wider Kingdom—highlight cross-border affiliations. Overall, the pattern points to a mixed academic–applied workforce in which many respondents combine research with teaching, supervision, and policy- or practice-oriented work across multiple institutions.



Smaller but important shares highlight contributions from other disciplinary domains. Law and governance (13%) and business and economics (11%) underline the applied and policy-oriented dimensions of research, while humanities (11%) demonstrate the continuing importance of history, literature, and philosophy in contextualizing Caribbean societies. Engineering and technology (10%) and education and pedagogy (9%) further broaden the profile, and a smaller group (6%) report work in the arts and creative industries. Finally, 12% selected “other,” suggesting additional specialist fields not captured by the listed categories.

Overall, these findings show that the Dutch Caribbean research community spans a full spectrum of disciplines. While social sciences and natural/health sciences dominate, the presence of law, economics, humanities, and creative fields indicates a community that combines empirical, applied, and artistic approaches to knowledge production. This breadth is important for addressing the multifaceted challenges and opportunities facing the islands.

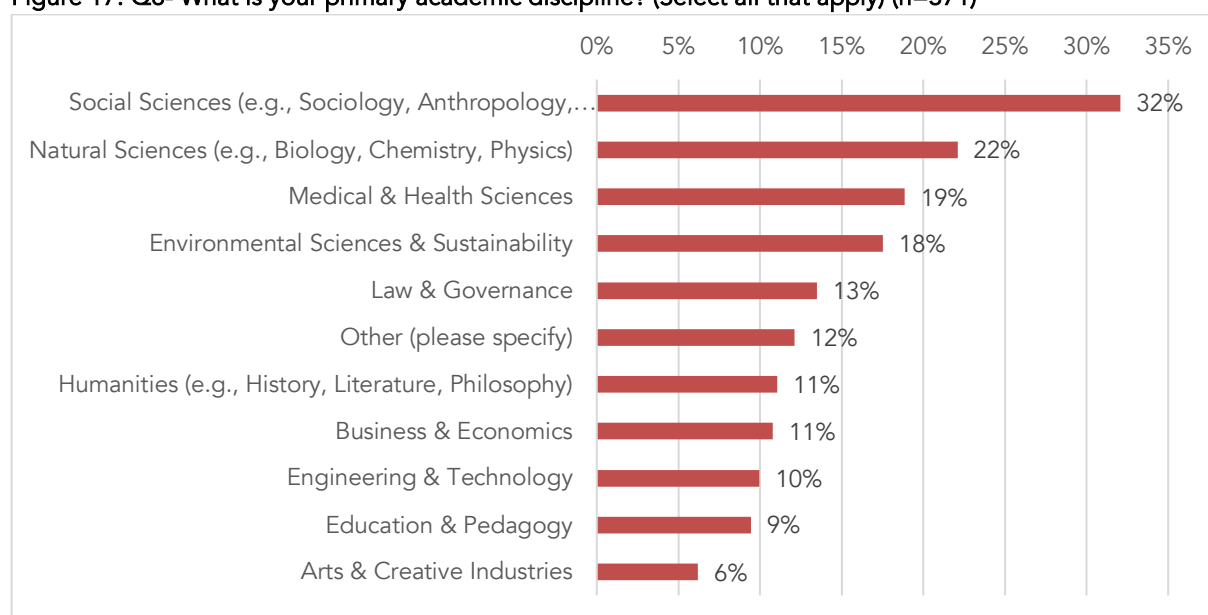
The open responses provided under “Other” show that several participants do not identify with the listed disciplines, or work in highly specific and cross-cutting fields. Some highlight professional domains such as public administration, policy advising, museology, digitization, heritage studies, and communication, which do not fully align with the standard categories. Others emphasize a more

applied or practice-oriented focus, for example through food processing, project management, consultancy, or direct involvement with NGOs and non-profit organizations.

A number of respondents also describe themselves in interdisciplinary or hybrid roles, using terms such as *“transition mediator”*, *“knowledge professional”*, or by combining academic research with activities as an artist, journalist, or practitioner. In addition, several highly specialized areas are mentioned, including *semiconductor engineering*, *neuropsychology*, *pharmacy*, and *clinical practice*, which fall outside the broader disciplinary groupings.

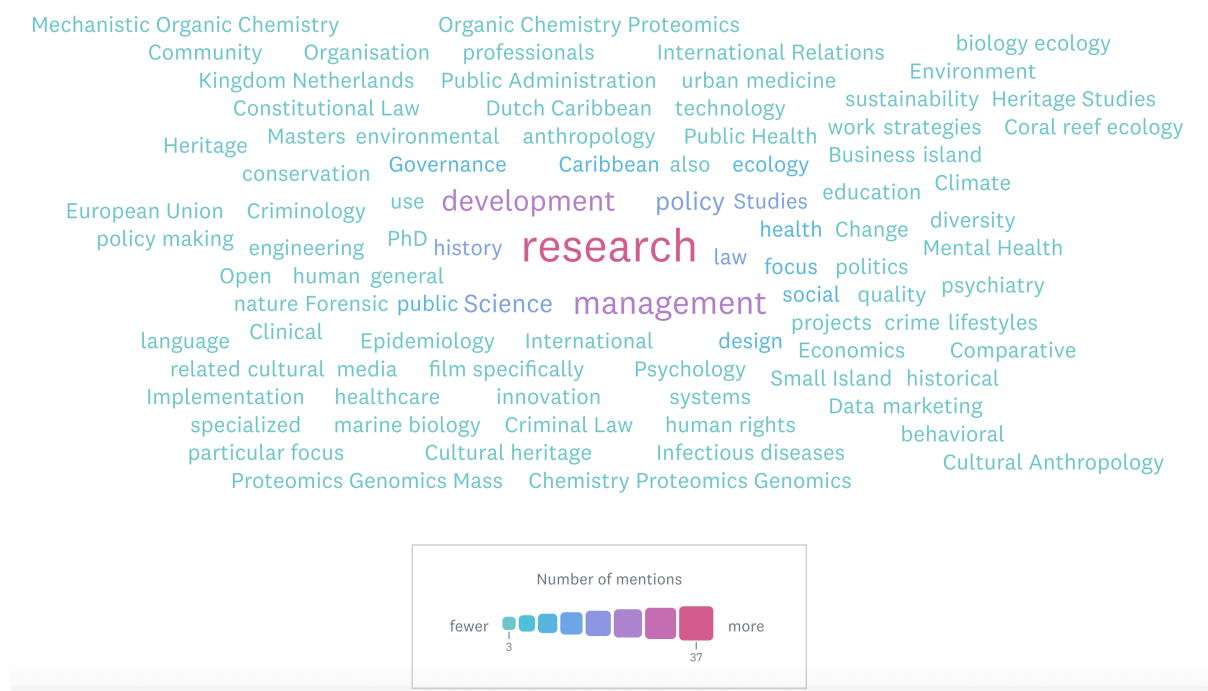
Taken together, these responses confirm that the research and knowledge community connected to the ABCSSS islands is not limited to conventional academic disciplines. Instead, it spans a wide range of applied, policy-oriented, and creative fields, demonstrating the importance of linking research to practice, governance, and society.

Figure 17: Q8- What is your primary academic discipline? (Select all that apply) (n=371)



Among the 352 respondents who elaborated on their specific expertise, the word cloud below (see figure 18) visualizes the 98 most frequently mentioned terms. “Research” is most prominent, with strong clusters around “development” and “management.” The distribution indicates both deep specialization and clear multidisciplinaryity: life and health sciences (e.g., public health, epidemiology, mental health, infectious diseases, urban/clinical medicine), natural and environmental sciences (organic chemistry, proteomics/genomics, marine biology, coral reef ecology, sustainability, climate), and social sciences, law, and humanities (governance, public administration, policy, economics, criminology, psychology, anthropology, cultural heritage, human rights, constitutional/criminal law). Several terms signal a geographic focus—“Caribbean,” “Dutch Caribbean,” “Small Island,” “Kingdom Netherlands,” and “European Union.” Overall, the pattern points to a broad, applied orientation—implementation, conservation, and design—cutting across disciplinary boundaries.

Figure 18: Q9: More specifically, what is your expertise? (n=352) Wordcloud



3.2.2 Types of work

Nearly half of respondents (49%) report conducting academic research, making this the most common type of work. Interdisciplinary research is also highly prevalent (42%), underlining the cross-cutting nature of much knowledge production in the region. A significant share engages in activities that sustain the research ecosystem, such as writing grant proposals (39%), teaching undergraduate students (37%), and contributing to public outreach and science communication (36%). Supervision and mentorship roles are also well represented, with one-third supervising Master's students (33%), 29% supervising undergraduate theses, and 19% co-supervising PhD students. Beyond academia, 31% indicate involvement in applied or industry-related collaborations, and a similar share (31%) report conducting other types of research outside formal institutions. Curriculum development (29%), graduate teaching (28%), and participation in academic administration or policy-making (25%) further reflect the broad scope of roles within the community. While only a small share identify as research assistants (5%), the responses overall illustrate a community deeply engaged in both research and the wider infrastructure of teaching, mentorship, and outreach.

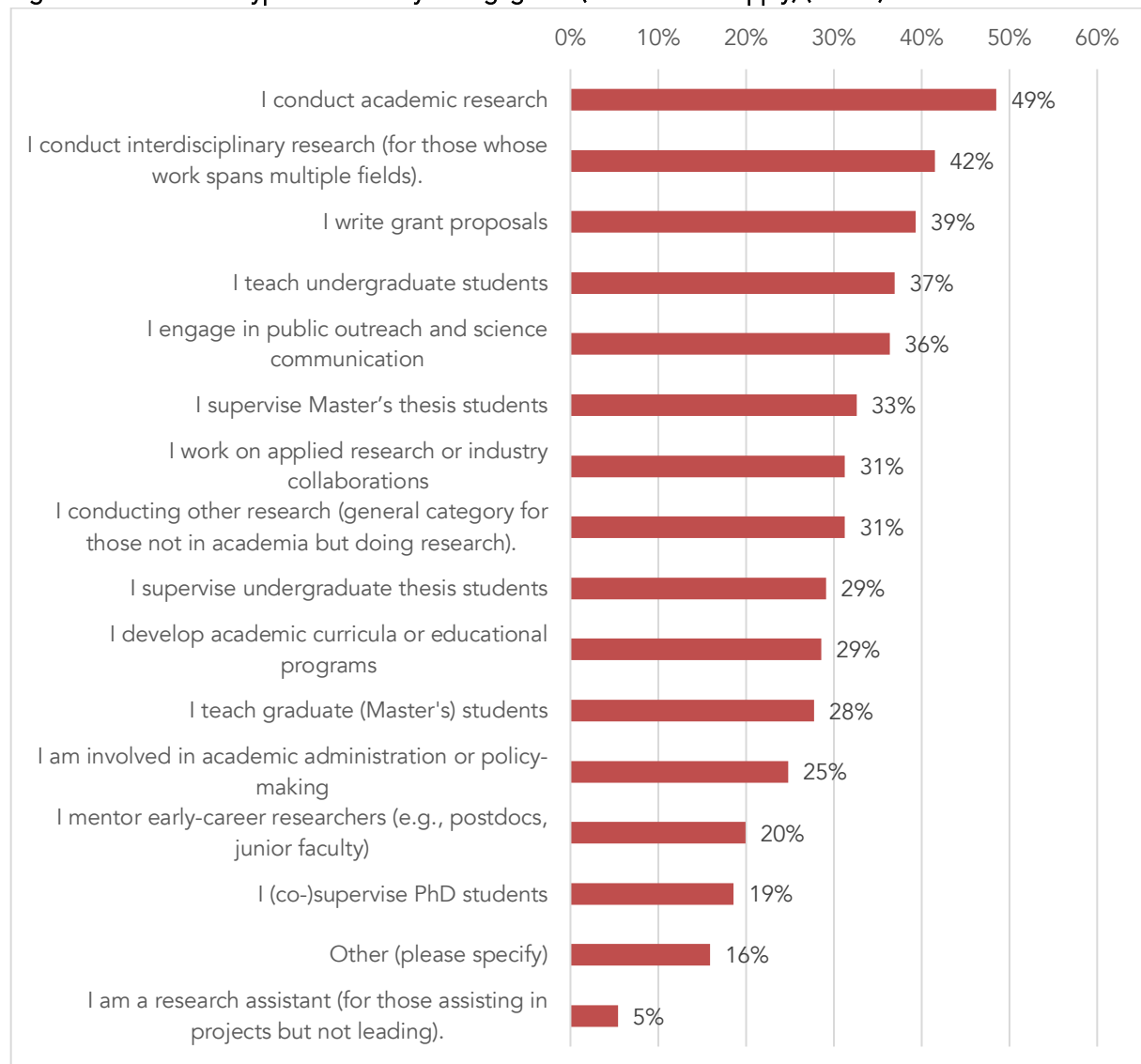
The open responses under "Other" illustrate the wide range of professional activities and hybrid roles that extend beyond the predefined categories. Several respondents describe work in education at various levels, ranging from teaching in primary and secondary schools to training lecturers, supervising students, and giving specialist lectures at universities. Others emphasize roles in policy and advisory work, including advising governments, conducting policy research, and providing strategic advice to both governmental and non-governmental organizations. A number highlight health-related roles, such as medical doctors, clinical neuropsychologists, healthcare managers, and those engaged in public health projects across the Dutch Caribbean.

Some responses stress applied and transdisciplinary work, including consultancy in environmental management, engineering, and heritage, as well as involvement in EU-funded projects, coral

cultivation, or competition law investigations. Others describe responsibilities in academic infrastructure and communication, such as writing protocols, reviewing papers, or translating complex research into accessible content for broader audiences. There are also mentions of non-academic leadership roles, such as foundation chairmanship, managing research organizations, or working for funding bodies. Finally, a small group note being students, on sabbatical, or in career transitions, reflecting the diversity of career stages represented.

Overall, these open answers underscore that the research community's contributions extend well beyond conventional academic roles. They highlight strong intersections between research, policy, education, healthcare, consultancy, and public engagement—indicating a highly versatile community with a wide societal reach.

Figure 19: Q10- What type of work do you engage in? (Select all that apply) (n=371)



3.2.3 Working conditions

Arrangement

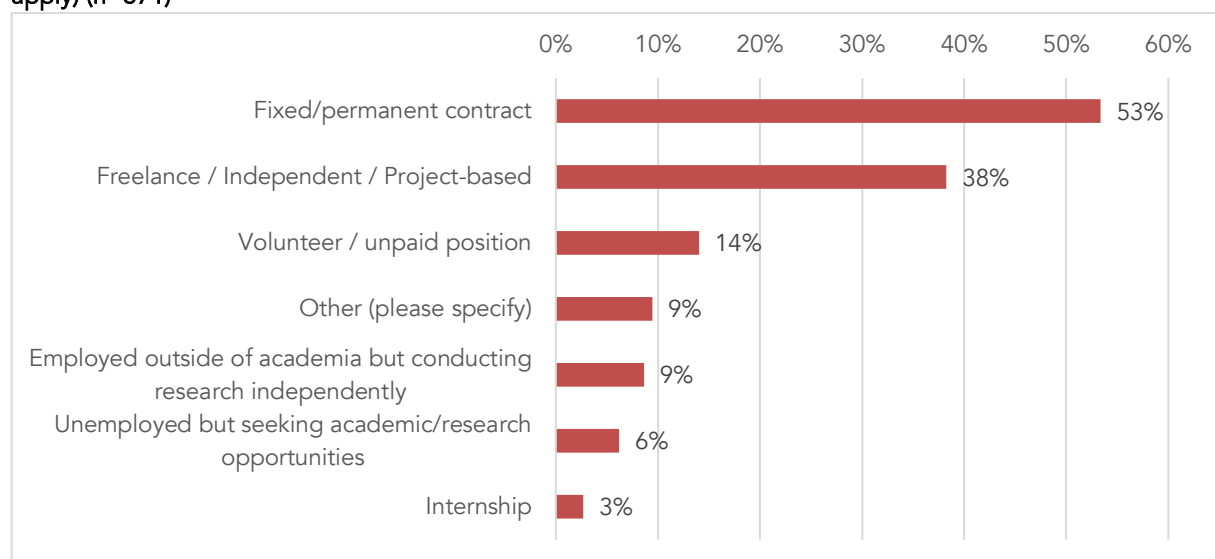
Over half of respondents (53%) report working under a fixed or permanent contract, while a substantial share (38%) operate as freelance, independent, or project-based professionals. A smaller group contribute in volunteer or unpaid roles (14%), and around one in ten (9%) are employed outside academia but continue to conduct research independently. Another 9% selected “other,” reflecting additional hybrid or less formal arrangements. A minority are currently unemployed but seeking opportunities (6%) or working in internships (3%). These findings underline that the research community combines stable institutional employment with a significant proportion of flexible, independent, and informal work arrangements.

The open answers reveal a wide spectrum of employment situations, ranging from tenured or permanent contracts to more precarious or flexible forms of work. Several respondents describe themselves as retired but still active, continuing to contribute through consultancy, volunteering, or research enthusiasm. Others highlight temporary or project-based positions, such as PhD contracts, soft-money funding, or fixed-term appointments with the possibility of renewal. A number of professionals combine roles, for example holding a part-time or small university contract alongside consultancy or project work: *“A fixed-term appointment at 0.2 FTE at the university, while also working with various institutions on a contract basis as a researcher, consultant, or in other roles.”*

The responses also illustrate transitions and uncertainties: some are actively seeking academic opportunities, waiting for a PhD position, or shifting from paid to unpaid roles while remaining engaged in knowledge work. Others operate independently, running a private company or working for NGOs and non-profits.

Taken together, these accounts highlight the hybrid and dynamic character of working arrangements in the Dutch Caribbean research community, where stable, temporary, independent, and post-retirement roles coexist. This diversity underlines both the resilience and the structural precarity present in the sector.

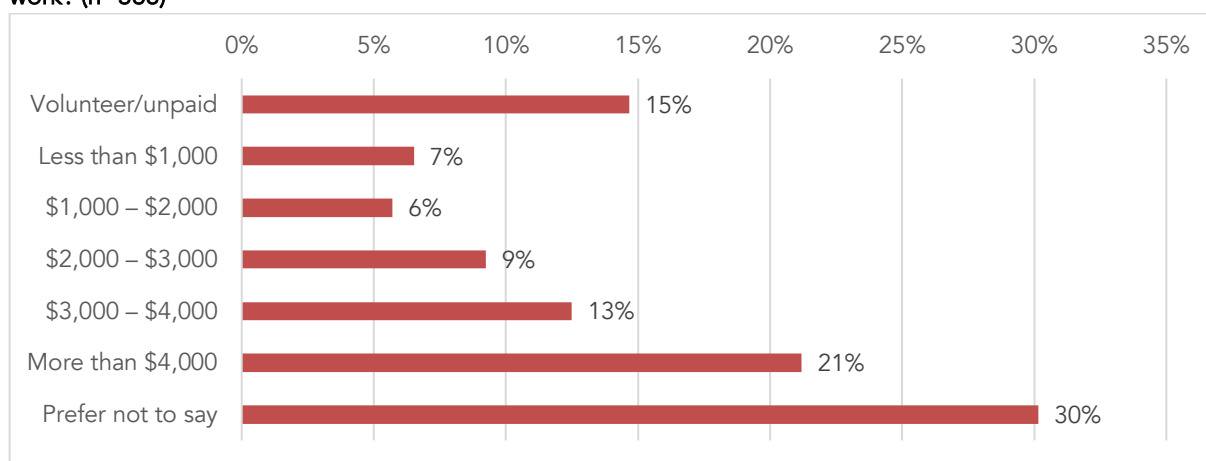
Figure 20: Q11- What is your current working arrangement as a knowledge professional? (Select all that apply) (n=371)



Income

Income levels among knowledge professionals show significant variation. About one in five respondents (21%) report earning more than USD 4,000 per month, while 13% earn between USD 3,000–4,000 and 9% between USD 2,000–3,000. At the lower end, 7% earn less than USD 1,000, and 6% report earnings of USD 1,000–2,000. Notably, 15% describe their work as volunteer or unpaid, underlining the extent of unpaid contributions within the community. A substantial share (30%) preferred not to disclose their income, suggesting sensitivities around financial matters. Overall, the findings highlight both the income diversity and the presence of structural precarity, with a sizeable group engaged in unpaid or very low-paid knowledge work.

Figure 21: Q12- What is your total monthly net income (in USD) from your research/knowledge development work? (n=368)

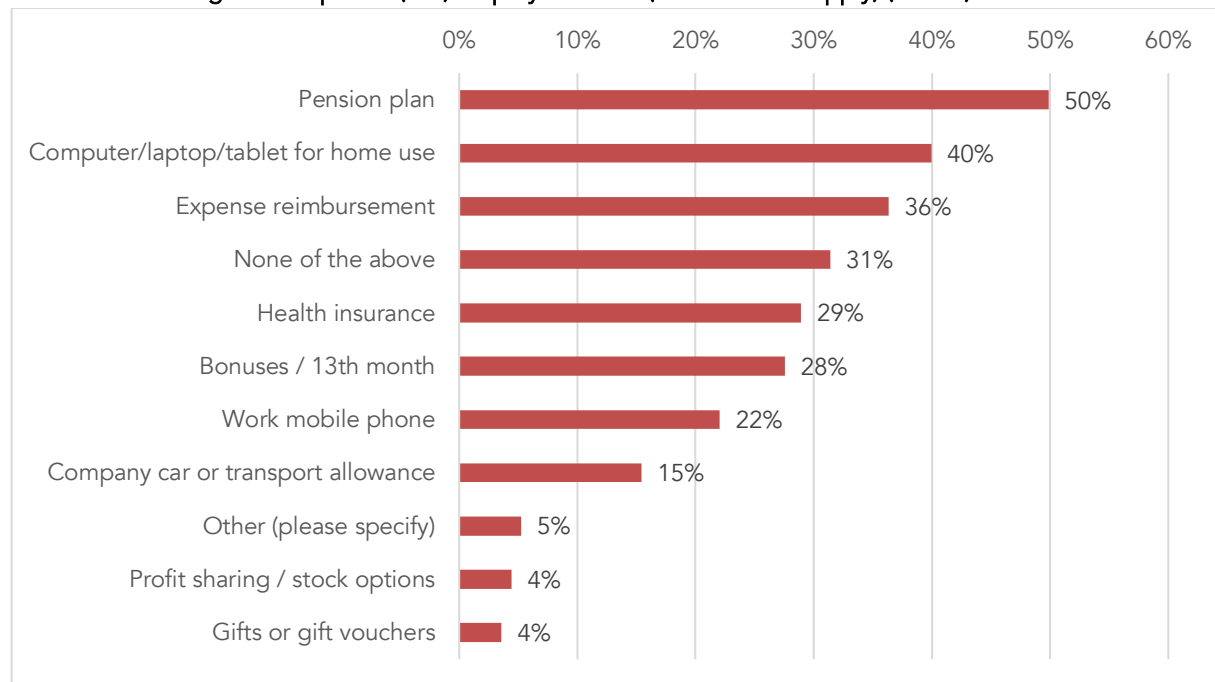


Employment benefits

Access to employment benefits among knowledge professionals is uneven. The most common provisions are pension plans (50%), equipment for home use such as laptops or tablets (40%), and expense reimbursement (36%). Around three in ten report receiving health insurance (29%) or bonuses/13th month payments (28%), while smaller shares benefit from a work mobile phone (22%) or a transport allowance/company car (15%). Notably, nearly one-third (31%) indicate they receive none of the listed benefits, pointing to significant gaps in employment support. Less common benefits such as profit sharing, stock options, or gift vouchers (each 4%) remain rare. These findings highlight a dual reality: while some knowledge professionals enjoy relatively comprehensive employment packages, a substantial portion work without basic benefits, reflecting structural inequalities in the sector.

The open answers reflect a mix of additional benefits and individual circumstances not captured by the predefined options. Several respondents mention standard employment benefits such as *vacation money (vakantiegeld)*, flex budgets for buying extra leave or pension, housing allowance, and office space. Others highlight academic-related support, including *PhD supervision hours from professors in the Netherlands* and free access to online knowledge platforms like *Eduroam*. Some describe benefits coming from external sources, such as sponsorships from partners providing internet or mobile data. A few responses reflect personal situations, for instance being already retired with a pension, or combining full-time clinical work with voluntary research.

Figure 22: Q13- Which of the following employment benefits do you currently receive through your research/knowledge development (self) employed work? (Select all that apply) (n=363)



3.3 Career Development

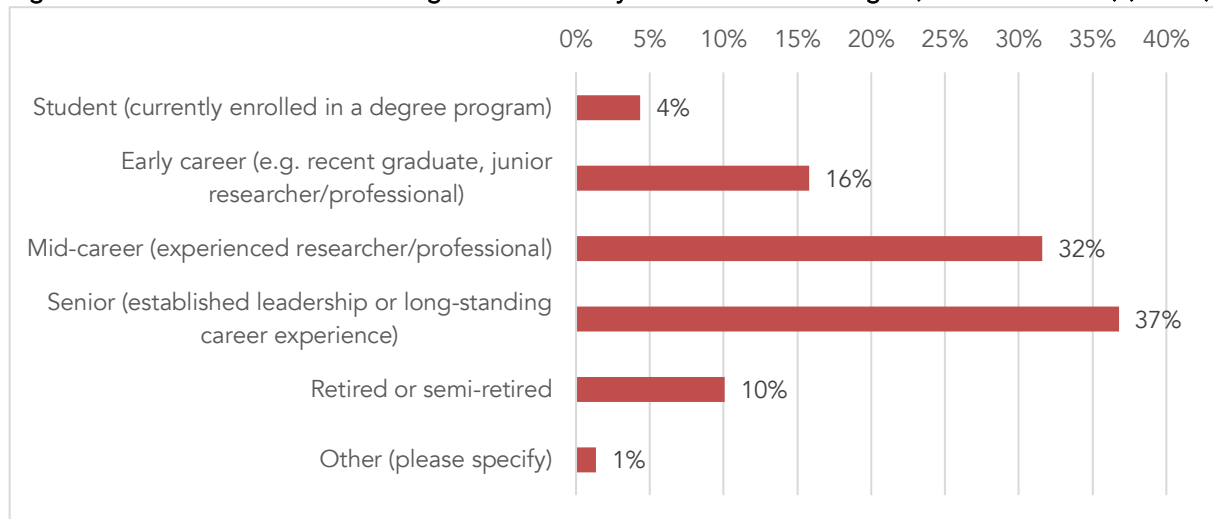
This section focuses on the academic careers of island scholars. It discusses their career stage, the challenges they encounter along the way, and the sources through which they fund their work.

3.3.1 Career stage

The results show that the respondents in this survey representing the knowledge community around the ABCSSS islands is largely composed of experienced professionals. Over two-thirds identify as either mid-career (32%) or senior (37%), highlighting the presence of substantial expertise and long-standing engagement. Early-career researchers and professionals make up 16%, while a smaller share consists of students currently enrolled in a degree program (4%). Additionally, 10% describe themselves as retired or semi-retired, indicating that some remain active in research and knowledge work even after formal retirement.

This distribution suggests a mature research community with a strong base of expertise, but also points to the importance of supporting pathways for younger and early-career professionals to ensure continuity and renewal in the field.

Figure 23: Q20- Which of the following best describes your current career stage? (Please select one) (n=367)



3.3.2 Challenges in research work in the ABCSSS islands

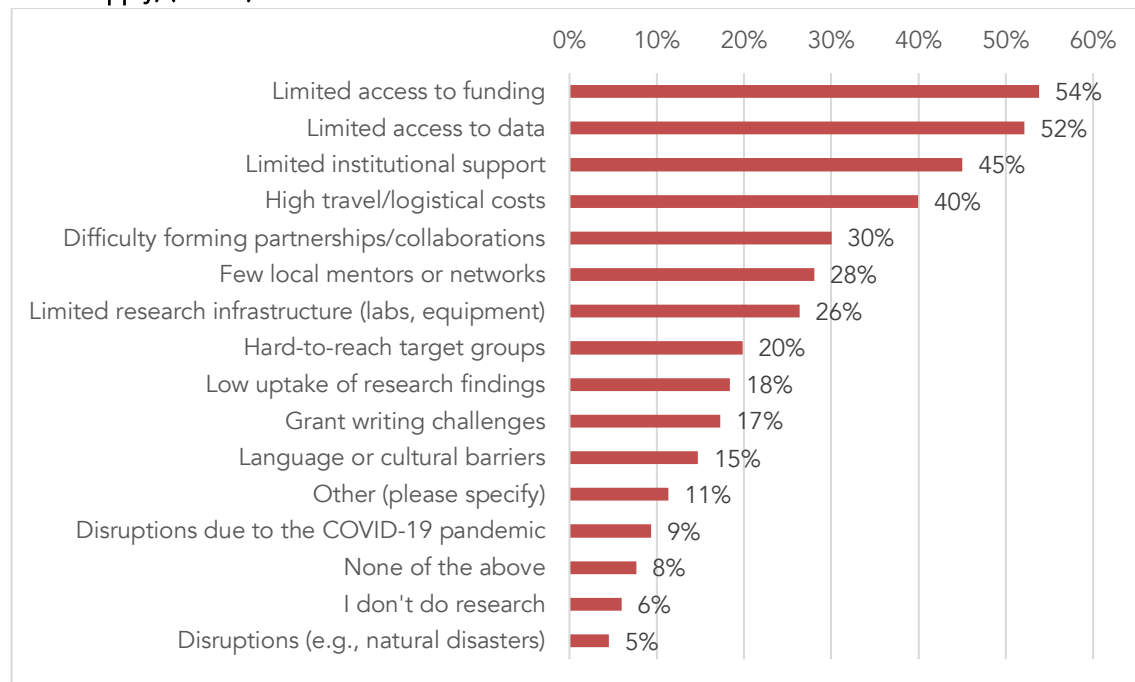
The most frequently reported challenges for conducting research in the ABCSSS islands are limited access to funding (54%), limited access to data (52%), and limited institutional support (45%). These structural barriers are compounded by high travel and logistical costs (40%) and difficulties in forming partnerships and collaborations (30%). A significant share also reported a lack of local mentors and networks (28%) and limited research infrastructure (26%). Issues such as hard-to-reach target groups (20%), low uptake of research findings (18%), and grant writing challenges (17%) further complicate research efforts. Fewer respondents highlighted cultural or language barriers (15%) or disruptions due to COVID-19 (9%) and natural disasters (5%).

The open responses under *Other* provide rich context that goes beyond the listed options. Some respondents pointed to structural constraints, such as the political system, lack of government support, and a limited number of qualified local researchers. Others emphasized institutional and cultural factors, including an undervaluing of research, resistance when findings expose uncomfortable realities, and the dominance of “research colonisation,” where studies are led by foreign researchers with little knowledge transfer to the islands. Respondents also noted challenges related to capacity and workload, such as high turnover of local staff, the overburdening of individuals with multiple institutional tasks, and difficulties in finding PhD supervisors or collaborators.

Practical barriers were also highlighted: limited access to books and academic literature, high costs and long delays in shipping, restricted digital communication, and even problems at borders when research visits were viewed with suspicion. At the same time, some respondents shared positive experiences, noting fruitful local collaborations and exchanges, but also warned that these relationships depend heavily on a few key individuals, whose eventual retirement may leave significant gaps in expertise.

Taken together, these insights underscore that while funding and data access are critical bottlenecks, the challenges of conducting research in the ABCSSS islands are deeply interwoven with questions of infrastructure, governance, and power dynamics in knowledge production. Addressing these barriers will require not only financial and logistical support, but also long-term investments in local research capacity, equitable partnerships, and recognition of Caribbean-specific knowledge systems.

Figure 24: Q21- Which challenges have you experienced in your research work in the ABCSSS islands? (Select all that apply) (n=353)



Biggest challenges?

In response to the open question Q25 – “What are your biggest challenges as a researcher/knowledge professional in or connected to the Dutch Caribbean?”, 284 respondents shared their main obstacles, ranging from structural funding and access to data to networking, infrastructure, and the broader governance context.

Across free-text responses, a consistent picture emerges: the Dutch Caribbean knowledge ecosystem is constrained by money, data, and muscle. Respondents most often cited funding scarcity—both to start projects and to sustain them, cover high travel/logistics costs, and pay local collaborators (“*Good proposals exist, but continuous funding is too limited—gaps stall programs*”). A second, equally strong theme is data poverty and access: outdated or non-existent datasets, limited archival digitization, and gatekeeping (“*You don’t get access to data; what exists is 8 years old*”). Third, many struggle to build and maintain partnerships and networks, given small scale, turnover, and fragmented governance (CAS vs. BES)—“*I’m reinventing the wheel; no central place shows who is doing what.*” Respondents also describe weak institutional scaffolding: few labs and facilities, thin mentoring and ethical-review capacity, little protected time amid heavy teaching/administration, and limited government support or shifting policies. Several emphasize equity and authorship issues, and the risk of externally driven agendas that bypass local priorities (“*Dutch teams publish as first authors; local capacity and visibility don’t grow*”). Additional barriers include language (Papiamentu/o) and publication hurdles, bureaucracy and political interference, border/permit frictions, and a limited research culture in parts of the public sector (“*Research treated as a luxury, not a must-have*”). Overall, the open answers point to a mutually reinforcing cycle—thin funding → thin infrastructure → weak data and networks → low impact and visibility—and to concrete levers to break it: multi-year funding, shared data/archives, island-led research agendas, protected research time, and mechanisms that reward local leadership and implementation.

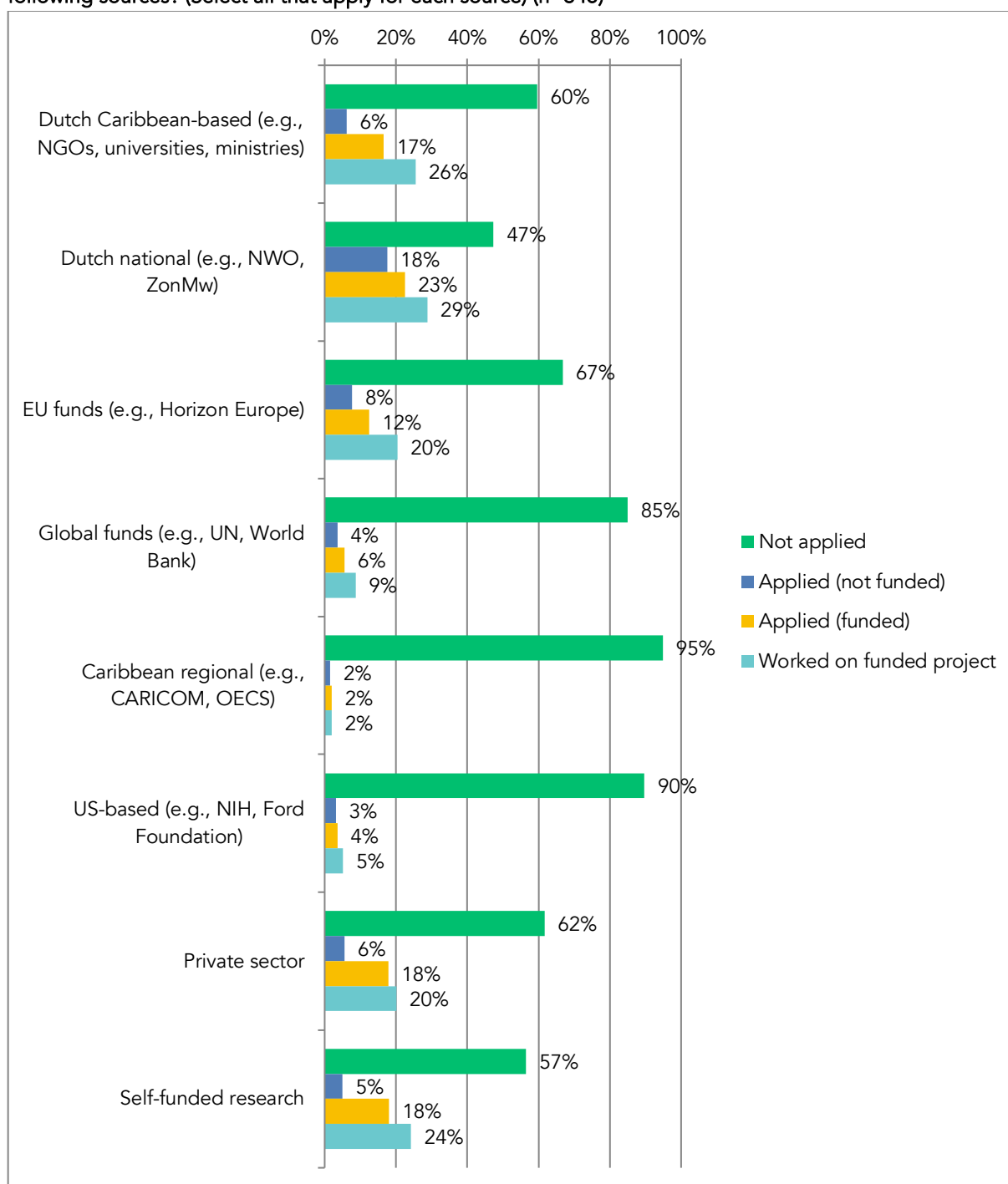
3.3.3 Funding sources for their work

Figure 25 shows the funding landscape for research connected to the ABCSSS islands. Most respondents have not applied to international sources: 85% have not applied to global funds (e.g., UN, World Bank), 90% to US-based funds, and 95% to Caribbean regional funds. Instead, researchers rely more heavily on Dutch Caribbean-based institutions (26% worked on a funded project, 17% applied unsuccessfully, 6% successfully applied) and Dutch national sources such as NWO or ZonMw (23% applied but not funded, 18% funded, 29% worked on a funded project). EU funds are less commonly accessed, though 20% have worked on an EU-funded project. Beyond institutional channels, many researchers rely on the private sector (20% worked on a funded project, 18% applied successfully) or self-funding (24% worked on self-funded projects).

The open responses illustrate the fragmented and often precarious nature of funding. Several respondents noted reliance on self-funding for extended periods, including cases where projects were only partially supported (e.g., travel-only scholarships or unpaid leave). Some highlighted artistic or cultural heritage funding streams (e.g., Mondriaanfonds, journalism/heritage funds), as well as publishers supporting book research. Others mentioned specific international or regional sources, including UNESCO, the Australian Research Council, Canadian funding agencies, Spanish postdoctoral fellowships, and French Guiana-based ministries. In addition, some researchers mobilize private donations—sometimes through non-profit entities—to maintain independence and ensure donors do not influence research directions. Local organizations were also mentioned as small but important contributors.

Overall, the responses show that while some Dutch and international channels are used, access is uneven and many researchers fill gaps through personal or alternative funding mechanisms, highlighting the vulnerability and creativity required to sustain research in the region.

Figure 25: Q22- In the past 10 years, have you applied for or worked on research projects funded by the following sources? (Select all that apply for each source) (n=345)



3.4 Outputs and Needs

The final section highlights what island academics produce and what they need to thrive. It looks at their publications and presentations, and concludes with the forms of support they consider important, including the potential role of a dedicated researchers' portal.

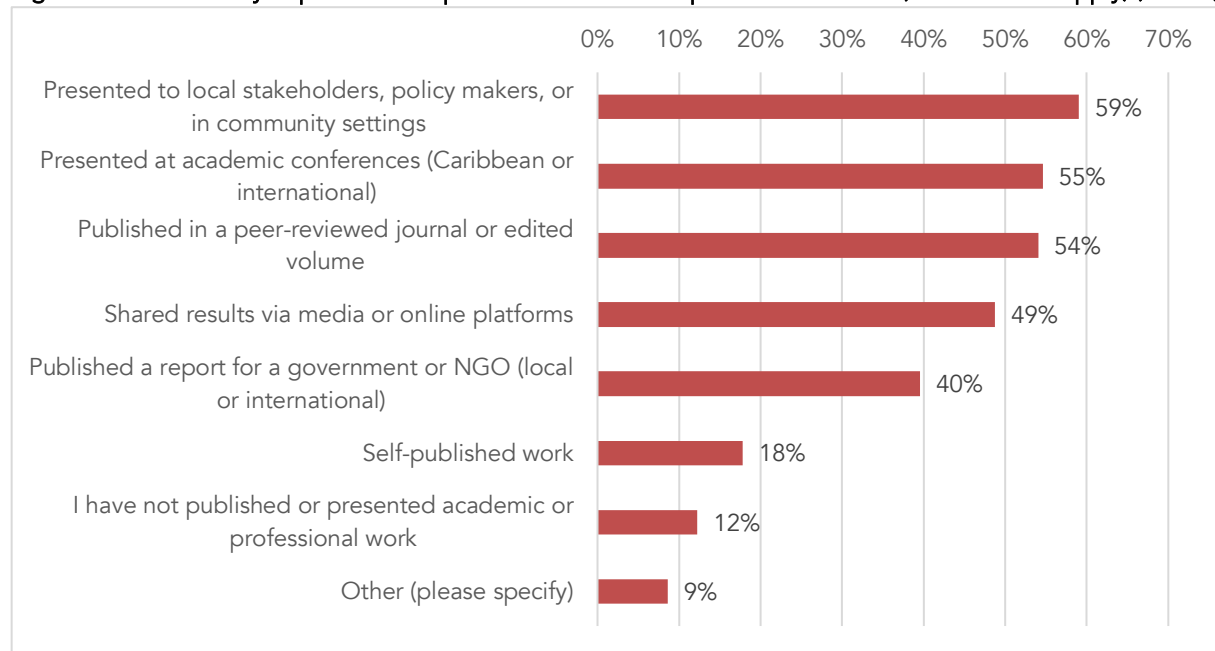
3.4.1 Publications and presentations

Publication and presentation practices among respondents show a highly diverse set of dissemination pathways. A majority report presenting to local stakeholders, policymakers, or in community settings (59%), highlighting the strong applied and societal orientation of much of the work in the ABCSSS context. Similarly, 55% have presented at academic conferences (regional or international), while 54% have published in peer-reviewed journals or edited volumes. Dissemination through media and online platforms (49%) also plays a major role, reflecting efforts to reach broader publics. In addition, 40% have produced reports for governments or NGOs, underlining the policy relevance of research outputs. Smaller groups engage in self-publishing (18%), while 12% indicated not having published or presented work.

The "Other" responses provide further insight into the wide range of outputs and dissemination formats. Several respondents noted theses, journal articles under review, and conference presentations as their main contributions, while others emphasize writing blogs, sharing findings on social media (e.g., Instagram pages on heritage in Bonaire), or working as journalists. Some highlighted books and edited volumes, including biographies, local history, and political analyses, while others mentioned confidential mediation reports or educational materials not formally published. A few detailed extensive academic careers, with hundreds of publications or long-standing professorships across the Caribbean, Europe, and North America. Others are still in the process of preparing or finalizing publications, reflecting both ongoing engagement and structural barriers to formal dissemination.

Taken together, these findings illustrate that knowledge production in the Dutch Caribbean is disseminated through a much broader spectrum than peer-reviewed journals alone. Outputs range from academic books and conference papers to community-oriented reports, journalism, social media, and self-published work, demonstrating both creativity and necessity in making knowledge accessible. At the same time, the open responses also reflect barriers to institutional support for publishing, highlighting reliance on individual initiative, self-funding, and informal dissemination pathways.

Figure 26: Q23- Have you published or presented research or professional work? (Select all that apply) (n=359)



3.4.2 Support needs and the role of the Portal

The responses show that the research community most strongly emphasizes financial support as a critical need: 67% of respondents selected grants, scholarships, or similar resources. Close behind, 61% highlighted the importance of networking with other researchers, and 54% called for greater opportunities to build research partnerships and collaborations. These findings underscore that researchers seek not only resources to fund their work but also stronger platforms for connection and knowledge exchange.

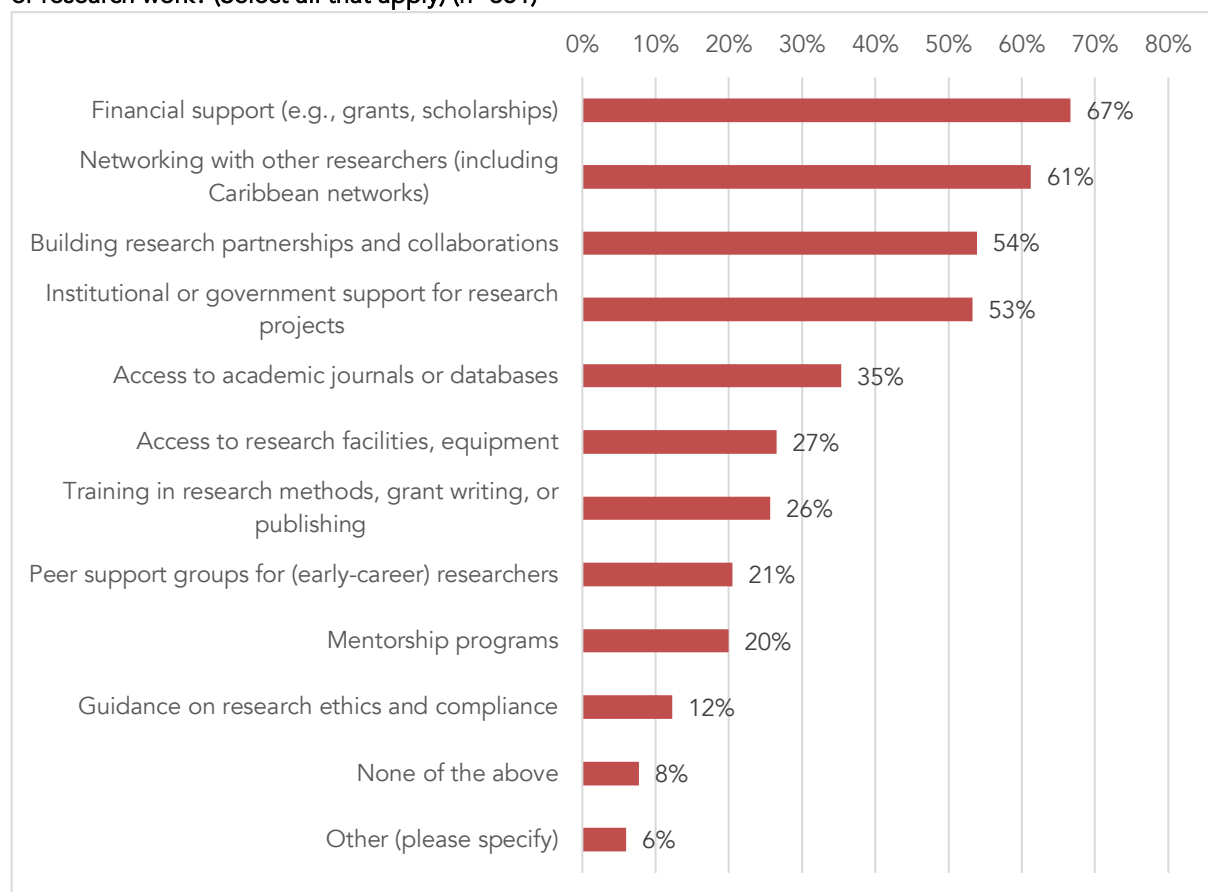
Institutional and governmental backing was also considered crucial, with 53% identifying this as a key requirement. Other significant needs include access to academic journals and databases (35%), research facilities and equipment (27%), and training in methods, grant writing, or related skills (26%). Support structures for professional growth, such as peer support groups (21%), mentorship programs (20%), and guidance on ethics and compliance (12%), were selected less often but still indicate demand, particularly among early-career researchers.

The “Other” responses provide valuable additional insights. Several respondents stressed the importance of governmental support and policy changes, such as stronger integrity laws, data protection, and a reduction of political influence on research. Others called for practical tools, including a centralized live database of funding opportunities per island and better digital access to archives and Kadaster records. Some emphasized the need to cultivate a local research culture, through public awareness and initiatives that normalize research as part of island life.

Additionally, respondents pointed to mentorship and leadership development opportunities, particularly for underrepresented groups, as well as language support in Papiamentu/o to strengthen local knowledge systems. A few highlighted very specific needs, such as time allocated for research within professional workloads, integration into major international collaborations (e.g., high-energy physics), or recognition of the post-research phase of innovation and transition facilitation.

Taken together, these findings highlight a dual priority: while financial resources remain the most urgent need, the sustainability and impact of research in the ABCSSS islands also depend on structural support, stronger networks, improved access to knowledge infrastructure, and a cultural shift that values and supports research.

Figure 27: Q24- What types of support or professional development would be most valuable for your academic or research work? (Select all that apply) (n=351)



Visibility and audiences for a Dutch Caribbean research portal

Figure 28 presents the responses to the question whether, and for which audiences, a potential portal with Dutch Caribbean researcher and knowledge professional profiles would be valuable. The results show a clear priority: fellow researchers seeking collaboration (85%) were identified as the most important audience. This underlines the strong demand for opportunities to connect with peers, exchange expertise, and build sustainable research partnerships. In addition, local policymakers (79%) and (international) organizations commissioning research (72%) are seen as critical stakeholders, reflecting the desire for research to directly inform policy development and program implementation. The private sector (67%) also emerges as an important audience, particularly in fields where applied research and innovation can support economic and social development. Finally, journalists and media (57%) and students seeking supervision or mentorship (52%) are recognized as valuable groups, suggesting that respondents also see a role for the portal in knowledge dissemination, public communication, and academic capacity building.

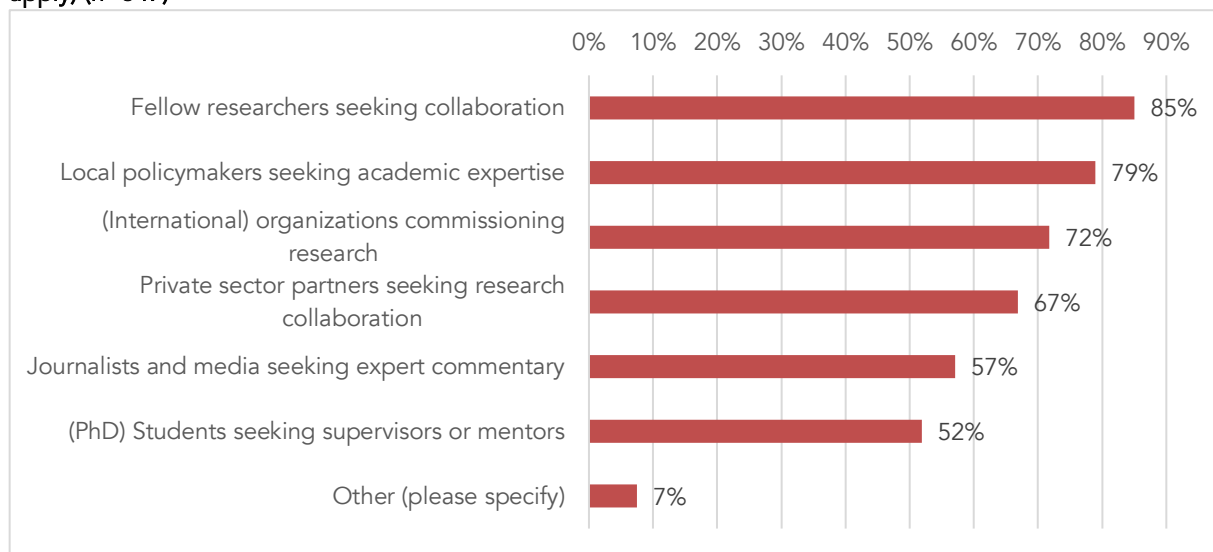
The open responses provide additional nuance to these priorities. Several respondents emphasized that governmental institutions and public and private organizations should be key users of the portal,

as they can apply research outcomes in decision-making. Others argued that the portal should not be limited to academic circles: citizens, high school and university students, and local organizations were mentioned as groups who could benefit from access to research knowledge, both for education and for community projects. Some respondents also stressed the importance of open access publication and visibility in open-source journals and social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter) to ensure broad societal engagement.

At the same time, a number of critical voices questioned the need for such a portal, pointing out that related initiatives already exist (such as DCBD, <https://www.dcbd.nl/>, Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database, a central repository for biodiversity related research and monitoring data from the Dutch Caribbean), or that they themselves did not see personal value in being listed. Others suggested that rather than a Kingdom-wide initiative, they would prefer a Caribbean-centered portal, designed to strengthen collaboration across the small islands and build a more unified research presence internationally.

Taken together, these insights illustrate both the strong enthusiasm for increased visibility and connectivity, and the need to ensure that any portal is inclusive, accessible beyond academia, and complementary to existing resources.

Figure 28: Q26- If a portal with Dutch Caribbean researcher/knowledge professional profiles and publications were created, for which audiences would it be valuable for you to be visible and searchable? (Select all that apply) (n=347)



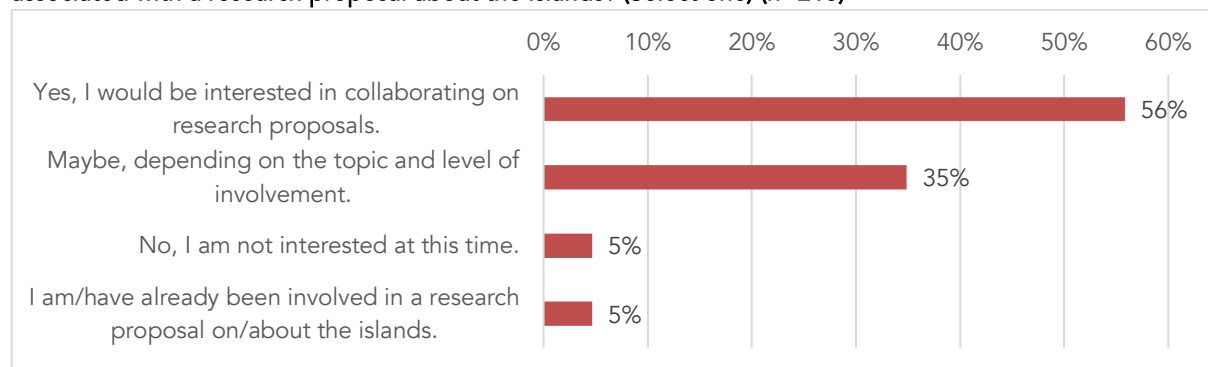
Involvement of diaspora researchers in research proposals

Figure 29 explores the willingness of diaspora researchers and knowledge professionals to be associated with research proposals concerning the Dutch Caribbean. Among those who identify as diaspora, there is a strong willingness to contribute: 56% expressed clear interest in collaborating on research proposals, while an additional 35% said “maybe,” depending on the topic and level of involvement. This indicates that more than half of the diaspora respondents are open to engagement, at least under certain conditions.

At the same time, a small minority reported no interest (5%) or noted that they are already involved in research proposals about the islands (5%).

Overall, these findings highlight the potential of the diaspora community as a resource for research collaboration, while also underlining that engagement depends on relevance, practical feasibility, and alignment with professional or personal priorities.

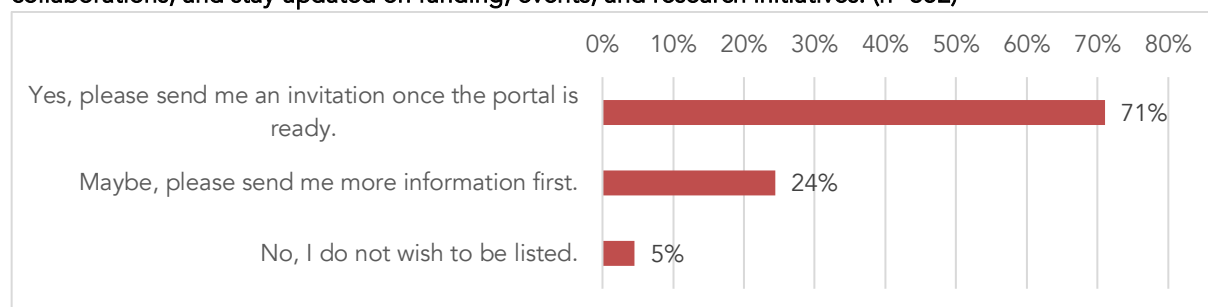
Figure 29: Q27- If you identify as a diaspora researcher/knowledge professional, would you be willing to be associated with a research proposal about the islands? (Select one) (n=215)



Support for a Caribbean Researchers Portal

Interest in participating in a future Caribbean Researchers Portal is high. No less than 71% of respondents indicated that they would like to receive an invitation once the portal is ready. An additional 24% would like to receive more information first before deciding, while only 5% explicitly stated they would not want to be included. This points to a broadly shared need for a digital platform that connects researchers and knowledge professionals, enables them to make their work visible, and facilitates new collaborations and opportunities.

Figure 30: Q28- Would you like to be included in the Caribbean Researchers Portal? (Select one) The Portal will allow researchers/knowledge workers to create a professional profile, connect with others, explore collaborations, and stay updated on funding, events, and research initiatives. (n=352)



Final comments, suggestions or ideas

The open responses confirm the strong support for the portal, while also raising additional wishes, concerns, and suggestions:

- **Broad support and enthusiasm:** Many respondents stressed that this is an important and valuable initiative to strengthen the visibility and collaboration of Caribbean researchers. Phrases such as “great initiative” and “keep up the good work” were mentioned repeatedly.
- **Inclusivity:** Some respondents expressed concern that the portal should not be focused solely on the ABCSSS diaspora, but instead also connect with the broader Caribbean and

international research networks. They pointed out that collaboration between Caribbean and non-Caribbean experts can enhance the quality and impact of research.

- **Access to data and results:** Several contributions highlighted the need for better access to existing research outputs and datasets. The portal could help meet this need by serving as a central repository for publications, data, and reports.
- **Practical support:** Respondents suggested features such as a multilingual translation service to make knowledge more accessible, inclusion of NGOs and civil society organizations in the portal, and the organization of conferences and networking events (both online and in-person).
- **Support for early-career researchers and students:** Suggestions included making internships, mentoring opportunities, and examples of career pathways visible through the portal, thereby inspiring and connecting the next generation of researchers.
- **Structural conditions:** Some respondents pointed to broader systemic challenges, such as the lack of structural funding, the need to put local knowledge at the center, and the importance of action research that has direct practical relevance for Caribbean communities.

In summary, Q30 reveals broad support for the portal but also clear expectations: it must be inclusive, practical, data-rich, and connected to the wider Caribbean region. Respondents also emphasized that visibility alone is not enough—sustainable funding, local anchoring, and collaboration with societal organizations are crucial conditions for success.

4. Conclusion

This report mapped the research and knowledge community working in, on, and with the ABCSSS islands, combining desk research and facilitated mapping with an online survey (n = 383). The analysis provides a baseline of who participates in Caribbean research, the institutional and geographic configurations under which they operate, and the conditions required to enhance impact.

Academic Profiles, Roles, Work Context of Island Academics?

The evidence indicates a diverse, transnational, and hybrid ecosystem. Independent professionals constitute a large segment alongside institution-based researchers, diaspora affiliates, and visiting scholars, with many individuals occupying multiple roles across research, teaching, advisory, and implementation. Knowledge production and dissemination extend beyond peer-reviewed outlets into policy, community, and media channels, reflecting an applied orientation and public value ethos. At the same time, the ecosystem relies heavily on project-based and short-term arrangements, yielding flexibility but also vulnerability in terms of continuity, protected research time, and institutional scaffolding.

Outputs and Needs?

Respondents consistently identified access to funding, access to data and archives, and institutional support as primary constraints, alongside high travel and logistics costs and the transaction costs of forming and sustaining partnerships. Reported support needs mirror these constraints: grants and scholarships, networking and partner matching, improved data access, skills development, and recognition and protection of research time within organizations and government. There is broad interest in a digital Caribbean Researchers Portal, suggesting a pragmatic lever to strengthen visibility, brokerage, and coalition-building.

Implications for Policy and Practice

The findings imply that research impact can be accelerated if (a) funding is stabilized beyond ad hoc project cycles and (b) infrastructure and governance reflect the cross-border and multi-institutional character of the field. Priorities include (i) multi-year mechanisms that reward island-led agendas and fair authorship, (ii) shared and ethical data infrastructures, (iii) mobility support that reduces inter-island and conference frictions, (iv) dedicated capacity pathways for early-career researchers, and (v) contracting norms that secure equitable collaboration, local compensation, and durable knowledge transfer.

Caribbean Researchers Portal

Establish and maintain a Caribbean Researchers Portal as an enabling infrastructure for the ABCSSS research ecosystem should make researchers and outputs findable and visible, provide live statistics on the field, and support longitudinal monitoring of capacity, collaborations, and knowledge use. The study demonstrates that the islands are already connected to a rich and diverse community of researchers and knowledge professionals. However, decision-makers currently lack a dynamic overview of who is active, what expertise exists, and where gaps remain.

The present survey offers a well-grounded snapshot, but it is time-bound and relied on snowball sampling. A functioning Portal would improve coverage, metadata quality, and longitudinal tracking. A well-governed Portal would (i) continuously surface people and expertise, (ii) reveal strengths and gaps as they evolve, and (iii) reduce reliance on repeatedly importing external expertise without deep familiarity with local society, language, and culture. For funders and commissioning bodies, improved

visibility enables better allocation: investing to strengthen what works and to target missing capabilities where they are needed most to tackle the challenges the islands face now and in the future.

Conclusion

The findings of this survey present a clear and compelling picture: the Dutch Caribbean research field is neither marginal nor emerging: it is active, highly educated, and deeply embedded in local island societies. Researchers connected to the ABCSSS islands often work across disciplines, languages, and national contexts. Many hold multiple roles, for example as scholars, educators, policy advisors, and community contributors, and move fluently between them. This hybrid character is a unique strength and leads to research that is not only academically rigorous but also (and very importantly) locally relevant and directly implemented. Because they are closer to, and part of the social fabric, their work reflects that.

At the same time structural vulnerabilities were identified, primarily that the researchers landscape is not easily visible. Coordination is often informal or ad hoc, and opportunities for strategic collaboration are frequently missed. Remuneration is inconsistent, and access to funding remains a key challenge, particularly for independent researchers or those outside formal institutional settings.

The fragmentation of the academic landscape in the Dutch Caribbean can be partly attributed to geography and infrastructure. The six islands are spread out over a wide area and are thus more often than not distant from major academic hubs, which results in researchers being dispersed across multiple locations. A significant portion of academic professionals live and work outside the islands (in the diaspora) or are present only temporarily for fieldwork, making it difficult to form a cohesive local research community. Additionally, many researchers are not institutionally affiliated. Instead, they operate as independent academics, consultants, or project-based professionals. These independents make up a sizable part of the research ecosystem, but their work is often carried out through isolated short-term contracts rather than embedded in long-term institutional frameworks, reinforcing fragmentation across the sector.

In a related country with strong academic infrastructures, such as the Netherlands, the picture looks very different. Nearly all researchers are affiliated with universities, applied science institutions, research centers, or private R&D entities. Independent academics are a rare exception. To illustrate: the Netherlands has fourteen research universities employing over 61,000 staff, indicating that most research activity takes place within institutions. In a global study of academic publishing, only 7 out of 217 articles written solely by independent researchers came from the Netherlands: about 3%. Even in countries with larger academic populations, such as the US and UK, independent researchers still represent only a small fraction of the total academic workforce ([bron](#)). This contrast highlights how critical institutional networks are in reducing fragmentation. Whereas the Caribbean research landscape depends heavily on independent and hybrid roles out of necessity, countries with robust infrastructures are able to consolidate research activity within formal settings, allowing for stronger collaboration, shared resources, and greater visibility.

The central insight from this project is not a call for external expertise, but a recognition of the knowledge that already exists. The community is there. The expertise is there. And crucially, there is a clear willingness to connect, collaborate, and contribute, both on the islands and within the diaspora. What is missing is a sustainable and active structure that makes this ecosystem visible and discoverable: to each other, to funders, to institutions, and to policy. That is why we want to take the next step: the development of a Caribbean Researchers Portal. The goal of this portal is not to solely be a directory. It is the foundation for a more connected, resilient, and recognised research environment.

Appendix: List of unique affiliated institutions

Q7 - Please describe your current institutional affiliations in more detail: Include the institution name(s), location(s), your role, and type of work (e.g., research, teaching, supervision).

All unique institutions, including departments of larger organizations as mentioned in open-ended responses, are presented below. Please note that several Caribbean researchers reported affiliations with more than one institution.

Name		Department	City	Country
Academisch Medisch Centrum of AMC	AUMC	pediatric nephrology department Human Genetics	Amsterdam	Netherlands
Aidsfonds			Amsterdam	Netherlands
Algarve Centre of Marine Sciences	CCMAR		Algarve	Portugal
Algemene Inlichtingen- en Veiligheidsdienst	AIVD			Netherlands
American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine				Sint Maarten
Amsterdam City Archive			Amsterdam	Netherlands
Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Metropolitan Solutions	AMS-Institute		Amsterdam	Netherlands
Amsterdam UMC	AUMC		Amsterdam	Netherlands
Amsterdam Universitair Medisch Centrum	UMC	Science, Health Care en Behavioural science Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacy Department of Medical Oncology	Amsterdam	Netherlands
Aoyama Gakuin University				Japan
ARGEograph			Leiden	Netherlands
Aruba Ateliers 89				Aruba
Aruba Fair Trade Authority				Aruba
Aruba Institute for Good Governance & Leadership				Aruba
Aruba Marine Mammal Foundation				Aruba
Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists	ACAMS			
Aureus University School of Medicine				Aruba
Avans University of applied Sciences			Breda	Netherlands
Belastingdienst				
Bestuursacademie			Hilversum	Nederland
Betta Grasse				Bonaire
Biblioteca Nacional Aruba			Oranjestad	Aruba
Bibob Academie			Westervoort	Netherlands

MAPPING THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY OF THE ABCSSS ISLANDS

Binnenlandse Veiligheidsdienst	BVD			Netherlands
Botika Sorsaka				Curacao
Breda University of Applied Sciences		Hotel and Facility Management	Breda	Netherlands
Cambisol				Netherlands
Canadian Federal Ministry of Environment				Canada
Care 4 Aruba (VBA cooperation) CaribAlgae				Aruba
Caribbean Applied engineering and Science Research Foundation				Aruba
Caribbean Center for Children's Rights				
Caribbean Higher Education Council of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	CHECK			
Caribbean Medical University	CMU			Curacao
Caribbean Netherlands statistics				
Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity	CARMABI			Curacao
Caribbean Research Network				
Caribbean Wide Orca Project				Colombia
Carleton University		Department of Sociology and Anthropology	Ottawa	Canada
Central Bank of Aruba				Aruba
Central Planbureau				
Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica				Netherlands
Chair Kingdom Relations: Democratic Representation in the Kingdom				Netherlands
Chamber of Commerce & Industry				Bonaire
Change Maker network			Amsterdam	Netherlands
City University of New York			New York	US
Club17				Curacao
Cornerstone Economics				Aruba
Court of Audit				St. Eustatius
Creative Europe				
Criminal courts in the Kingdom				
Curaçao Biomedical and Health Research Institute	CBHRI	Department of Social Sciences		Curacao
Curacao Medical center	CMC			Curacao
Curaçao Tourist Board	CTB			Curacao
De Nederlandse Taalunie			Den Haag	Netherlands
De sleutel ben jezelf Coaching				
Deltares			Delft	Netherlands

MAPPING THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY OF THE ABCSSS ISLANDS

Dow's musical foundation				Sint Maarten
Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance	DCNA			
Dutch Royal Meteorological Institute	KNMI			Netherlands
Ecovision NV				Curacao
EduCampus				Aruba
Eelens Consultancies NV				Aruba
Erasmus Medical Center		Department of Virology	Rotterdam	Netherlands
Erasmus University		Health Economics Policy and Law International Institute for Social Studies Geneeskunde	Rotterdam	Netherlands
European Organization for Nuclear Research	CERN		Geneve	Zwitserland
Faber organisatievernieuwing bv			Oss	Netherlands
Feinstein Institute for Medical Research		Northwell Health	New York	USA
Frank Rovers Advies				Netherlands
Fundashon Históriko Kultural Boneriano	FuHiKuBo			Bonaire
Fundashon Instituto Splikami				Curaçao
Fundashon Mariadal				Bonaire
Fundashon Prevenshon				Curaçao
George Washington University			Washington DC	USA
Ghent University			Ghent	Belgium
Government of Aruba		Department of Culture		Aruba
Government of Canada		Impact Canada Privy Council Office		Canada
Government of Curacao		Min. Economische Ontwikkeling Curaçao, ministerie van Justitie Curaçao Ministry of Health, Environment, and Nature - Public Health Service, Curaçao Creative Industries Curaçao (MEO)		Curacao
Government of Sint Maarten		Department of Public Health and Collective Prevention Services Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor Cultural department		Sint Maarten
Haagse Hogeschool				Netherlands
Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences	HVHL		Leeuwarden	Netherlands

MAPPING THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY OF THE ABCSSS ISLANDS

Hanze University of applied sciences			Groningen	Netherlands
Hasselt University			Hasselt	Belgium
hera Right to Health and Development			Mechelen	Belgium
Hogeschool Rotterdam			Rotterdam	Netherlands
Instituto Pedagógico Arubano/ Pedagogical Institute of Aruba	IPA			Aruba
Integrity Chamber Sint Maarten				Sint Maarten
Inter-Continental University of the Caribbean	ICUC			Curacao
International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement	IEA's			
International Center for Amazonian Indigenous Knowledge	Amik		Den Haag	Netherlands
International Teleport Aruba Foundation				Aruba
International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources	IUCN			
International University School of Medicine	IUSOM			Bonaire
IOCARIBE (IOC/UNESCO Regional Body				
Ipsos I&O			Amsterdam	Netherlands
Iscte - University Institute of Lisbon			Lisabon	Portugal
Jissen Women's University				Japan
JUMP 18				Aruba
Justitiële Inrichting Caribisch Nederland	JICN			Bonaire
Justitiële Jeugdinrichting Curaçao	JJIC			Curacao
Kaya kaya Foundation				Curacao
Kennis Centrum Curacao				Curacao
Klinika Capriles Curacao				Curacao
KU Leuven				Belgium
Lab de Med				Curacao
Landschap Erfgoed Utrecht				Netherlands
Landschapsbeheer Flevoland				Netherlands
Lausanne University Hospital	CHUV		Lausanne	Switzerland
Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries	IGB		Berlin	Germany
Leiden University		Faculty of Archaeology Institute of Political Science	Leiden	Netherlands
Leiden University Medical Center			Leiden	Netherlands
Loket voor Jonge Moeders Den Haag				Netherlands

MAPPING THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY OF THE ABCSSS ISLANDS

Lund University Biomedical Center			Lund	Zweden
Maastricht University		Department of Health Services Research, Living Lab of Ageing and Long-term Care	Maastricht	Netherlands
MaHe Hydraulics			Den Haag	Netherlands
Mangrove Maniacs				Bonaire
Massachusetts Institute of Technology		Department of Earth, Atmospheric & Planetary Sciences		USA
Medisch spectrum Twente				Netherlands
Mental Health Caribbean Bonaire, Saba & Statia				BES
Meteorological Department Curaçao				Curacao
Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties	BZK			Nederland
Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid Europees Nederland	SZW ENL			Nederland
Mistras group				Netherlands
MIT		Senseable City Lab	Cambridge, Massachusetts	USA
Monash University				Australia
National Archaeological Anthropological Memory Management	NAAM			Curaçao
National Commission of Aruba				Aruba
National Commission of Curacao				Curacao
National Commission of Jamaica				Jamaica
National Commission of Sint Maarten				Sint Maarten
National Commission UNESCO Aruba				Aruba
National Institute for Subatomic Physics	Nikhef		Amsterdam	Netherlands
Naturalis				Netherlands
NCCRSPIN			Basel	Switzerland
NCOI Applied University				Netherlands
Nederlands Instituut voor Onderzoek van de Gezondheidszorg	NIVEL		Utrecht	Netherlands
Nederlands Kanker Instituut – Antoni van Leeuwenhoek	NKI-AVL	department of Urology		Netherlands
Nederlands Studiecentrum Criminaliteit en Rechtshandhaving	NSCR			Netherlands
Nederlandse Organisatie voor toegepast-	TNO			Netherlands

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natuurwetenschappelijk onderzoek				
Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek	NWO		Den Haag	Netherlands
Netherlands Defence Academy				Netherlands
Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience			Amsterdam	Netherlands
NTI			Leiden	Netherlands
Nyenrode Business University			Breukelen	Netherlands
NYU school of Medicine			New York	USA
Onderwijs Cultuur en Wetenschap in Caribisch Nederland	OCW - RCN			Bonaire
Onderwijs Cultuur en Wetenschap in Europees Nederland	OCW ENL		Den Haag	Netherlands
Open Universiteit Nederland				Netherlands
Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire	OLB			Bonair
Post Aruba				Aruba
PROGAYA				Curacao
Psychologiepraktijk Van de Vorst B.V.				Curacao
Public health department Bonaire				Bonaire
Raad Onderwijs Arbeidsmarkt Caribisch Nederland (ROA CN)	ROA CN			Netherlands
Raad voor Cultuur Curaçao				Curacao
Radboud University		History Department Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behavior	Nijmegen	Netherlands
Radboudumc			Nijmegen	Netherlands
Radboudumc Amalia Children's Hospital			Nijmegen	Netherlands
RE-Quest Research & Consultancy				Curacao
Red cross blood bank				Curaçao
Reef Renewal Foundation				Bonaire
Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife of the Caribbean	SPAW-RAC			Guadeloupe
Resilient Worlds International				
Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland	RCN			Bonaire
Rijksdienst voor ondernemend nederland	RVO		Den Haag	Nederland
Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu	RIVM	Centre for Population Screening	Bilthoven	Netherlands
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen	RUG		Groningen	Netherlands
Rijkswaterstaat		CIRCUROAD		Netherlands
RINO Zuid			Eindhoven	Netherlands

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Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV-KNAW)	KITLV		Leiden	Netherlands
Saba Conservation Foundation				Saba
Saba Research Center				Saba
Saxion UAS				Netherlands
Scientific Consulting Curaçao				Curacao
Sea Aquarium Curacao				Curacao
Sea Turtle Conservation				Bonaire
Sectra Benelux			Almere	Netherlands
Selikor NV				Curacao
SEO Amsterdam Economics			Amsterdam	Netherlands
Simon Global Consultancy			Amsterdam	Netherlands
Sint Maarten Youth Department				Sint Maarten
Soa Aids Nederland				Netherlands
Sosiedat Komersiante Otrobanda				Curacao
SRA-Caribbean & Partners				Curacao
St Antonius Hospital			Nieuwegein	Netherlands
St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation	STENAPA			Sint Eustatius
St. Martin Archiving & Heritage Platform				Sint Maarten
St. Martin Science Research Institute	SSRI			Sint Maarten
State commission against Discrimination and Racism				Netherlands
Statistics Netherlands				The Hague and Bonaire
Stellenbosch University		Department of Paediatrics and Child Health		South Africa
Stichting Climate Adaptation Services,			Bussum	Netherlands
STINAPA				Bonaire
SVH Productions				Belgium
Swiss Nanoscience Institute			Basel	Zwitserland
Teaching in Plurilingual Island Communities	TiPiCo			Aruba
Technische Universiteit Delft	TU Delft	Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences; Department of Water Management Micro-nanolab	Delft	Netherlands
Terramar Museum				Bonaire
The Daily Herald				Sint Maarten
The Hague University		Kingdom Affairs programm		Netherlands
The Social Design Foundation			Amsterdam	Netherlands
Think To DO Institute				Curacao
Tygerberg Hospital			Cape Town	South Africa

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Uitvoeringsorganisatie Justitiële Zorg	UOJZ			Curacao
UN National Decade Comity - Kingdom of The Netherland		UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development		
UNESCO				
Universidad Simón Bolívar		Unidad de Estudios Arqueológicos	Caracas	Venezuela
Universidade do Algarve			Faro	Portugal
Universitair Medisch Centrum Utrecht	UMCU	Julius Centre, Dept. Public Global Health and Bio Ethics	Utrecht	Netherlands
Universitat Pompeu Fabra			Barcelona	Spain
Universiteit van Amsterdam	UvA		Amsterdam	Netherlands
University Medical Center Groningen	UMCG	Department of Medical Microbiology & Infection Prevention	Groningen	Netherlands
University of Amsterdam	UvA	Freshwater and Marine Biology	Amsterdam	Netherlands
University of Aruba	UA	Academic Foundation Year Faculteit der rechtsgeleerdheid Organization, Governance, and Management Faculty of Arts and Science		Aruba
University of Aruba Research Center	UARC			Aruba
University of Basel			Basel	Zwitserland
University of Cambridge				UK
University of Curacao - Dr. Moises da Costa Gomez	UoC	Faculty of Arts (Algemene Faculteit). Faculty of Social Sciences and Economics Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences		Curacao
University of Curaçao Research Institute	UCRI			Curacao
University of Groningen			Groningen	Netherlands
University of Liverpool		Global Higher Education		UK
University of Maastricht			Maastricht	Netherlands
University of Malta		Islands and Small States Institute		Malta
University of Manitoba		Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Soil Science & Pesticide Research Laboratory	Winnipeg, Manitoba	Canada
University of Oklahoma				USA
University of Oxford				USA
University of Pretoria		Department of Humanities Education		South Africa
University of Sint Maarten	USM			Sint Maarten

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University of the Dutch Caribbean	UDC			Curacao
University of the Punjab				Pakistan
University of the West Indies				Barbados
University of Twente	UT			Netherlands
Urban AI Academy				
Urban Cycling Institute			Amsterdam	Netherlands
Utrecht University	UU	Department of Earth Sciences Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning Institute for Cultural Inquiry Faculteit Recht, Economie, Bestuur en Organisatie (REBO)	Utrecht	Netherlands
Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences			Leeuwarden	Netherlands
Veiligheidsdienst Aruba	VDA			Aruba
Veiligheidsdienst Netherlands Antilles	VNA			Curaçao
Verwey-Jonker Instituut			Utrecht	Netherlands
Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center				USA
Virginia Tech		Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics		USA
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	VU	Athena Institute	Amsterdam	Netherlands
Vrije University Amsterdam	UVA	IVM		Netherlands
Wageningen University and Research	WUR	Sociology of Development and Change Wageningen Food and Biobased Research Wageningen Marine research Wageningen Livestock Research Biology Marine Animal Ecology group Environmental science department, Soil physics and land management group WMR-WUR	Wageningen	Netherlands
Web Aruba				Aruba
Web Bonaire				Bonaire
White Yellow Cross Care Foundation				Sint Maarten
Whole Life Carbon	WLC			
Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network	WIDECAST			
WILD CONSCIENCE				Bonaire
XiYueFa R&D Center			TaiYuan	China

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Yorkville University				Canada
Zarja Architects				Curacao
ZonMw			Den Haag	Netherlands

