

Abstract:

**The context of external CSR. A study into oil and gas companies in Trinidad and Tobago**

Oil and gas companies are making a significant contribution to Trinidad and Tobago's economy, but pressure is there to do something more. In this paper, Gerda van Roozendaal (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen) and Hebe Verrest (University of Amsterdam) have studied the external CSR policies of three companies operating in this Caribbean island state, and they argue that the relations with the state and fence-line communities are the most important determinants of the CSR policy, surpassing any well-deliberated policy that could be more beneficial to both the companies and the country in the long run.

Bio: Since 2005, Gerda van Roozendaal has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations and International Organization at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Van Roozendaal earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science, with a specialization in International Relations, from the University of Amsterdam. From this university she also received her Phd. In 2001, she moved to Curaçao where she worked as a researcher, consultant and as the policy advisor at the Foreign Relations Department of the Dutch Antilles. Van Roozendaal's current research focuses on how (legitimate) institutions develop.

Hebe Verrest is a Human Geographer, with a specialisation in Human Geography of Developing Countries. As off 2010 she is assistant professor at the Department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies (GPIO) of UvA. Her research focuses on small and medium sized cities, particularly in The Caribbean. Leading in her work is a focus on exclusion and inequality, reflected in more specific research themes such as urban governance and spatial planning, climate change, livelihoods and entrepreneurship.

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