



General Audit Chamber  

---

Algemene Rekenkamer

# Annual Report

2025

March 2026



**March 2026**

General Audit Chamber, Juancho Yrausquin Blvd 10, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

## Foreword

We present the 2025 Annual Report of the General Audit Chamber for your review. In this report, we detail our constitutional role and responsibilities, the composition of our institution, our budget allocation, and the audits we performed in 2025. Climate change was a key focus this year.

We conducted targeted audits to evaluate the effectiveness of the government of Sint Maarten's climate policy and to determine how efficiently and lawfully public funds are being used to meet climate objectives. We identified risks, assessed policy objectives against actual outcomes, and made recommendations for improvements where needed.

Additionally, our efforts focused on strengthening knowledge sharing both within government agencies and with the public. Through social media, public awareness campaigns, and other methods, we worked to promote transparency and increase awareness of our findings.

In 2025, we initiated the formal objection process regarding the distribution of road tax revenues for the first time. Throughout the year, the General Audit Chamber stayed in close consultation with the responsible ministers. This productive dialogue resulted in an action plan designed to ensure compliance with legal requirements. Based on these positive outcomes, it was decided, in accordance with the law, not to file a formal objection. The Parliament has been informed of this.

Additionally, in 2025, payroll administration was managed entirely in-house for the first time. All salary payments were made on schedule, and the related records were maintained diligently and accurately. This represents an important step toward further professionalizing internal operations and strengthening administrative controls within the organization.

The composition of our institution once again reflects the wide range of expertise needed to conduct independent and thorough investigations. Our budget was carefully allocated to strengthen our investigative capabilities and promote innovation in our methods.

In this annual report, we provide insights into our 2025 activities and their impact on good governance in Sint Maarten. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and remain committed to the efficient, lawful, and transparent use of public funds.

**Alphons M. Gumbs MSc.**  
Chairman

## Content

Foreword.....	1
1. The General Audit Chamber.....	1
1.1. Role.....	1
1.1.1. Tasks and Authorities.....	1
1.2. The organization.....	1
1.3. Cooperation and Contacts.....	2
1.3.1. CAROSAI XIII Congress.....	2
1.3.2. Meeting of the Committee on Country Expenditures on the allocation of road tax.....	2
1.3.3. Workshop: interactive environment.....	2
2. Operations.....	3
2.1. Workforce of the Secretariat.....	3
2.2. Training and Education.....	3
3. Audit Activities.....	3
3.1 Focus audit of Experiences with the Taks System.....	3
3.2 ClimateScanner: assessment of St. Maarten’s climate response.....	4
3.3 Performance Audit regarding the protection of personal data.....	4
3.4 Compliance Audit: Financial Statement APS for 2024.....	4
3.5 Performance Audit on the Process of Building Permits.....	4
3.6 Policy and Legislation.....	5
3.6.1 Internal Policy: health policy.....	5
3.6.2 Audit protocol 2026.....	5
3.7 Advisory Work.....	5
3.7.1 Possible proposal to amend the National Ordinance on Ministers’ Declarations of Integrity....	5
4. Communication.....	5
4.1. Online interactive environment.....	5
4.2. Social media metrics.....	6
4.2.1 WhatsApp Channel.....	6
4.2.2 Facebook.....	7
4.2.3 LinkedIn.....	7
5 Financial Accountability.....	7
5.1 Budget 2025.....	7
5.1.1 Budget Realization.....	7
5.2 Financial Report.....	8
Appendix 1: Financial report of the material and personnel expenditure.....	9

## 1. The General Audit Chamber

### 1.1. Role

The General Audit Chamber, as a High Council of State, oversees the lawful and efficient use of public funds.<sup>1</sup> Our organization and operating procedures are outlined in the National Ordinance on the General Audit Chamber, which establishes the legal framework for our performance duties.<sup>2</sup>

#### 1.1.1. Tasks and Authorities

We are independent of the government and the Parliament and are authorized to conduct three types of audits:



**Legal Compliance**  
(Was money spent lawfully?)



**Performance**  
(Was money spent efficiently?)



**Integrity**  
(Was the matter handled with integrity?)

We document our findings, conclusions, and recommendations in digital reports accessible to everyone on our website. These reports support the Parliament's oversight role. Additionally, we can send notices to both the Parliament and the Governor, who may then initiate further discussions. We can also provide ministers (either publicly or confidentially) with recommendations, comments, or insights to encourage more effective and responsible financial management.<sup>3</sup>

### 1.2. The organization

The Board of the General Audit Chamber consists of a chairperson and two members. In addition, three substitute members may be appointed to replace the Board members if necessary. In the 2025 fiscal year, the Board consisted of a chairperson (who also serves as a member), two members, and one substitute member. Figure 1 shows the composition.

Figure 1: Board of the General Audit Chamber for 2025



Mr. Alphons Gumbs  
**Chairman**



Mrs. Mandy Daal-Offringa  
**Member**



Ms. Sheryl Peterson  
**Member**



Mrs. Amanda Gumbs-Weijmer  
**Deputy Member**

The board generally meets every two weeks. In 2025, 17 board meetings were held.

<sup>1</sup> Constitution of Sint Maarten, Article 74.

<sup>2</sup> National Ordinance General Audit Chamber.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, Article 39.

### 1.3. Cooperation and Contacts

Cooperation with other institutions is important to us. Our partnerships continued in 2025. Below is a summary:

#### 1.3.1. CAROSAI XIII Congress

The 13th CAROSAI Congress took place in the Bahamas from May 19 through 23. This conference is held every three years in the country of the incoming president. CAROSAI (*Caribbean Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions*) is the regional umbrella organization for audit institutions in the Caribbean, with 23 member states. A total of 19 members were represented.



Chairs and Auditor-Generals of CAROSAI and INTOSAI

In various meetings on current audit topics, the General Audit Chamber of Sint Maarten, represented by its chairman Alphons Gumbs, was re-elected as a board member of CAROSAI for a new three-year term. As the host country, the Bahamas will take over the presidency from the General Audit Chamber of Aruba.

The Board is responsible for CAROSAI's strategic vision and development for the years 2025–2028. The General Audit Chamber was represented by its board members, Mr. Alphons Gumbs, Ms. Mandy Daal-Offringa, and Ms. Sheryl Peterson, and supported by the Secretary-General, Mr. Keith de Jong.



Later that year, on October 8, 2025, CAROSAI's new logo was also officially unveiled.

#### 1.3.2. Meeting of the Committee on Country Expenditures on the allocation of road tax

In 2024 and 2025, the General Audit Chamber discussed systemic legal non-compliance with the motor vehicle tax with ministers and the Committee on Country Expenditures. Although the Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment has developed an action plan, the Audit Chamber emphasizes that visible improvements are still necessary and is closely monitoring progress.

#### 1.3.3. Workshop: interactive environment

In April 2025, the General Audit Chamber launched its first school visit at St. Maarten Academy by conducting a workshop using the interactive online platform. Through these educational visits, the Audit Chamber aims to raise students' awareness of the importance of accountability, public funds, and its work.



Chairman Alphons Gumbs presents a token of appreciation to Anansa Payne



Participants who earned a certificate.

In June, the Audit Chamber held another workshop, this time for participants from the private sector, at the government building. All participants received a certificate at the end. In December, a similar workshop took place at St. Dominic High School.

## 2. Operations

This chapter describes the operational activities for the 2025 fiscal year.

### 2.1. Workforce of the Secretariat

The General Audit Chamber has a legally mandated staffing level of 8 FTEs. Figure 2 shows the staffing levels for 2025. In 2025, our team consisted of 5 full-time employees: a secretary, two researchers, a senior secretarial staff member, and a general administrative assistant. In addition, there were 3 part-time consultants: a certified public accountant and two auditors.

Figure 2: Secretariat staffing in 2025

Function	Status	Duration
<b>Secretary General</b>	Full-time	Entire 2025
<b>2x Researcher</b>	Full-time	Entire 2025
<b>Head financial administration</b>	Full-time	Entire 2025
<b>Administrative assistant</b>	Full-time	Entire 2025
<b>Registered Accountant (Consultant)</b>	Part-time	Entire 2025
<b>2x Auditor (Consultant)</b>	Part-time	Entire 2025

### 2.2. Training and Education

The administrative assistant successfully completed his ACCA Accounting and Business course (level: RFQ4) in May. The researchers completed the AFROSAI-E online learning platform, which covered the fundamentals of auditing. One of the researchers started the PESA training program in May to become an accredited compliance auditor. This training is expected to be completed in 2026.

In October, the secretariat participated in an ergonomics training course designed to increase awareness of healthy and safe work practices, teach proper postures, and prevent physical issues in the workplace.

In November, a performance auditing training course was held in Curaçao. Both researchers successfully finished the training, which supported their research efforts.

Also in November 2025, the secretariat successfully completed a first-aid course. Everyone earned the First Aid Provider certificate.

## 3. Audit Activities

In the following sections, we will discuss our research activities.

### 3.1 Focus audit of Experiences with the Taks System



In January, we published our focus audit on Experiences with the Tax System, based on feedback from 562 respondents. The results point to issues such as poor service, unclear tax assessments, and inadequate communication.

Most respondents seek outside help due to the complexity of the process. The report highlights areas for improvement in citizens' tax experience, considering the Tax Inspectorate's mission.

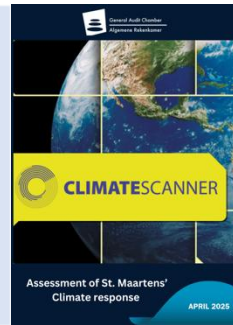
Click [here](#) to read the report.

### 3.2 ClimateScanner: assessment of St. Maarten's climate response

In April, we published the report \*ClimateScanner: An Assessment of the Climate Response in Sint Maarten\*. This audit is part of an international initiative involving more than 100 national audit offices.

The evaluation shows that efforts are being made, but that structural legislation, coordination, and funding are largely lacking. The report calls for an integrated approach to strengthen climate resilience on the island.

To read the report, click [here](#).



### 3.3 Performance Audit regarding the protection of personal data



In August 2025, our performance audit on the protection of personal data was published. The report shows that the government is failing to properly implement privacy legislation: there is a lack of oversight, the digital application form processes sensitive data without a legal basis, and citizens are not sufficiently informed about their rights.

Improvement measures and stricter compliance are urgently needed to safeguard the fundamental right to privacy.

Click [here](#) to access the report.

### 3.4 Compliance Audit: Financial Statement APS for 2024

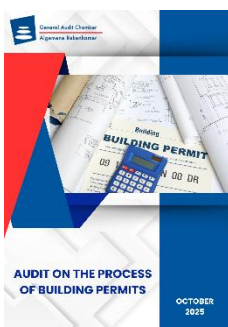
The compliance audit of the 2024 financial statements of the Sint Maarten General Pension Fund (APS) was published in September 2025. The report demonstrates that the financial statements present a true and fair view of the financial position, but highlights concern regarding risk management, transparency, and the sustainability of local investments and contribution policies.

While the increase in the actuarial interest rate improves the picture on paper, it masks structural vulnerabilities for participants. A recent ALM study also shows that the current policy is not sustainable in the long term, posing a risk of loss of purchasing power and insufficient indexation. It is recommended that governance and communication be strengthened.

To read the report, click [here](#).



### 3.5 Performance Audit on the Process of Building Permits



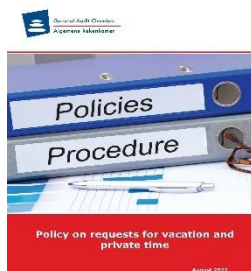
In October 2025, our audit report on the building permit process was published. The report shows that the permit system is based on outdated legislation and is characterized by manual procedures, limited transparency, and a lack of uniform rules. Policy guidelines are not legally binding and are applied inconsistently.

Deviations from technical advice are rarely justified. Due to the lack of digital oversight, standard procedures, and sufficiently qualified staff, the risk of errors and fraud is high. Without reforms in legislation, automation, and staffing capacity, the system will remain vulnerable and public confidence will decline.

Click [here](#) to read the report.

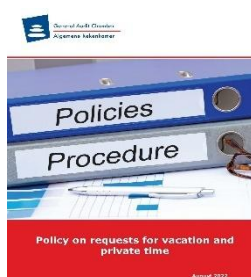
## 3.6 Policy and Legislation

### 3.6.1 Internal Policy: health policy



In 2025, the General Audit Chamber implemented a health policy to support the physical and mental well-being of its staff. The policy includes, among other things, ergonomic guidance, mental resilience, physical activity, and the promotion of a healthy work culture. Its effectiveness is monitored through the internal system and regular team meetings, with adjustments made as needed.

### 3.6.2 Audit protocol 2026



The General Audit Chamber started drafting and formalizing a revised audit protocol in 2025. This protocol offers a structured outline of how audits are selected, prepared, conducted, reported, and followed up. It aligns with international audit standards, emphasizing proportionality and feasibility. The protocol serves as a basis for consistent work methods, transparency with stakeholders, and the ongoing professionalization of the audit process. The protocol will be finalized in 2026.

## 3.7 Advisory Work

Along with conducting audits, the General Audit Chamber is authorized to provide advice. For instance, the Audit Chamber may advise on financial issues impacting the country, as well as on ministers' integrity declarations. In 2025, we began preparing an advisory report on a possible amendment to the National Ordinance on Ministers' Integrity Declarations.

### 3.7.1 Possible proposal to amend the National Ordinance on Ministers' Declarations of Integrity

The General Audit Chamber launched a thorough review of the National Ordinance on Ministers' Integrity Declarations and the advisory role assigned to the Audit Chamber under that ordinance in 2025. According to current regulations, the Prime Minister consults, among others, the General Audit Chamber when determining which business interests, secondary positions, and secondary activities should be considered undesirable.

This advisory role involves the personal interests of prospective ministers, which conflicts with the Audit Chamber's constitutional mandate. According to Article 74 of the Constitution, its mandate is limited to reviewing the country's revenues and expenditures. The General Audit Chamber will therefore consult relevant stakeholders to identify potential amendments to the National Ordinance that could improve the law's effectiveness. The legislative project will continue in 2026.

## 4. Communication

Social media is a valuable tool for expanding our communication with the public. By using social media, we have increased our reach.

### 4.1. Online interactive environment

The first edition of our online interactive platform was launched in August 2022. The goal was to improve the information experience by engaging viewers. Interactivity in videos, infographics, surveys, and audit reports ensures that viewers process information more actively. In September 2024, version 2.0 was released as a pilot. In this version, users can learn more about public financial management across different "worlds."

Throughout 2025, the online environment was further expanded, and various workshops were held to increase awareness. Section 1.3 provides more details about the workshops. Due to their success, the workshops will continue in 2026.



By exploring all the worlds, users have the chance to earn “badges.” Collect these badges to receive a certificate in public financial management. For instance, there is the “Citizens’ Corner,” where users can learn more about their rights as citizens.

In the other sections, users can learn more about the Audit Chamber’s work and the specific topics covered in each section.



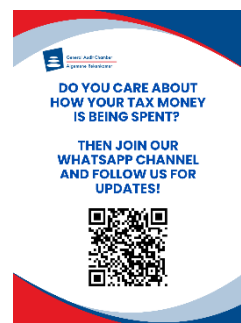
#### 4.2. Social media metrics

In 2025, the Audit Chamber kept working actively to expand its online presence and make its reports and findings more accessible.

##### 4.2.1 WhatsApp Channel

One of our most promising initiatives is our WhatsApp channel, created to keep users quickly and easily informed about relevant publications and insights. This channel provides an accessible way to receive information directly and stay engaged with the work of the General Audit Chamber. Since its launch in April 2024, the WhatsApp channel has grown steadily, reaching 382 members by December 31, 2024, and 405 members by December 31, 2025.

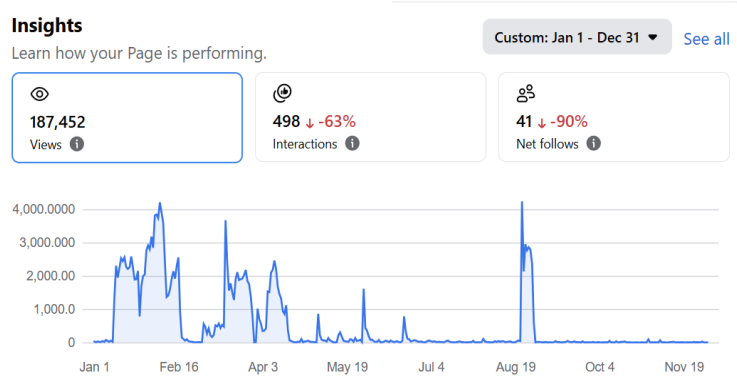
The General Audit Chamber continues to focus on expanding and improving its digital communication tools to enhance transparency and accessibility.



### 4.2.2 Facebook

In 2025, the General Audit Chamber once again reached a wide audience through its digital channels, with 187,452 views on [Facebook](#). However, compared to 2024, the number of interactions fell by 63% to 498, and net follower growth decreased by 90% to 41. This development indicates that the Audit Chamber’s visibility is largely concentrated around a few specific publication moments, while the public’s structural engagement has declined. At the same time, the high view counts confirm continued public interest in our work. This provides a solid foundation for making more targeted investments in outreach and public engagement in 2026, so that our reach leads to more sustained interaction and trust in our oversight.

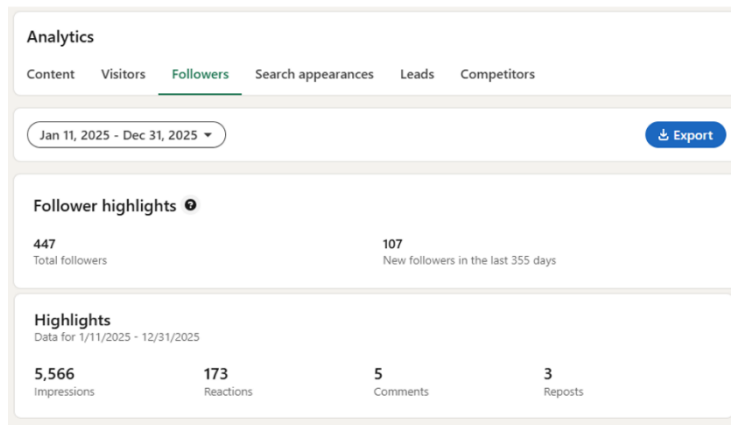
Figure 3: Metrics (2025, Facebook)



### 4.2.3 LinkedIn

Figure 4 illustrates the trend in followers on our [LinkedIn](#) page throughout 2025. By that year, LinkedIn has further established itself as a platform for communication and knowledge sharing. The follower count increased from 340 on December 31, 2024, to 433 on December 31, 2025, a net gain of 93 followers (+27%). This growth has been entirely organic, with no paid promotion involved. The trend shows a steady increase in followers, with occasional peaks coinciding with the publication of research reports and other relevant communications.

Figure 4: Metrics (2025, LinkedIn)



## 5 Financial Accountability

This chapter outlines the allocation of our budget for the 2025 fiscal year.

### 5.1 Budget 2025

The chair oversees financial management.<sup>4</sup> The Secretary General is authorized to conduct specific financial transactions. The SG reported on this in the 2025 quarterly updates. We use our internal financial systems to record expenses.

By law, we are required to submit our budget to Parliament by May 1 of each year. We again submitted the 2025 budget on time. According to the 2025 Budget Ordinance, the 2025<sup>5</sup> budget amounts to XCG 1,604,459 (2024: XCG 1,360,816).

There is a minor discrepancy compared to our submitted budget. Differences were found in personnel expenses. In accordance with the National Ordinance on the General Audit Chamber, any changes to our budget submission must be coordinated with the Audit Chamber. This was not done.

#### 5.1.1 Budget Realization

The budget realization for 2025 stands at 87.7% (2024: 94%). This result reflects our careful planning, financial discipline, and joint efforts to use available resources efficiently.

<sup>4</sup> National Ordinance General Audit Chamber, Article 49, second paragraph.

<sup>5</sup> Based on the 2025 Budget Ordinance (AB 2025, No. 28).

Two official trips were undertaken at the General Audit Chamber's expense. These are discussed in more detail in sections 1.3.1 and 2.2. Table 1 provides an overview of the budget realization.

**Table 1: Overview of Budget Realization 2025**

<b>Budget Post (XCG)</b>	Budget 2025	Expenditure	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Realization (%)</b>
Personnel expenses	793,459	773,136	20,323	<b>97,4</b>
Material costs	811,000	633,858	177,142	<b>78,2</b>
Capital investments	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,604,459</b>	<b>1,406,994</b>	<b>197,465</b>	<b>87,7</b>

## 5.2 Financial Report

The Ministry of Finance has received quarterly reports on significant expenditures promptly. An independent auditor prepared our financial report concerning the expenditures of the material costs. Appendix 1 includes this financial report, which details the realized personnel expenses.

## **Appendix 1: Financial report of the material and personnel expenditure**

**General Audit Chamber**

at St. Maarten

**Management report 2025**

## Table of contents

	Page
1 Accountant's compilation report	3
<b>2. MANAGEMENT REPORT</b>	
2.1 Balance sheet as at 31 December 2025	5
2.2 Statement of actual versus budgeted costs for 2025	7
2.3 Notes to the management report	8
2.4 Notes to the balance sheet as at 31 December 2025	9
2.5 Notes to the actual versus budgeted costs for the year 2025	13

The General Audit Chamber  
Attn. Mr. A. Gumbs  
Philipsburg  
St. Maarten

St. Maarten, March 24, 2026,

Ref.: A26.038/md/PL

Subject: Management Report 2025

Dear Mr. Gumbs,

Following your request, we have prepared the 2025 Management report of The General Audit Chamber.

Our procedures were limited to gathering relevant information such as bank statements and specifications prepared by management, processing this information in the accounting records, classifying the information, and presenting it in the format agreed upon with management.

The procedures performed have been agreed with you and do not constitute an audit or a review, or any other assurance engagement conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and, consequently, no assurance is being expressed.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further details.

Yours sincerely,

BDO St. Maarten B.V.



P.C. Lungu FCCA

**2. MANAGEMENT REPORT**

General Audit Chamber, St. Maarten

2.1 BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

		<u>31 December 2025</u>		<u>31 December 2024</u>	
		XCG	XCG	XCG	XCG
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>	1				
Building Improvements		13,986		17,868	
Equipment		1,376		1,963	
Furniture and fixtures		1,155		2,077	
Computers		7,019		8,029	
			23,536		29,942
<b>Current assets</b>					
<b>Receivables</b>					
Other receivables and current assets	2		18,226		2,002
<b>Cash and banks</b>	3		273,844		98,261
<b>Total assets</b>			<u>315,606</u>		<u>130,205</u>

General Audit Chamber, St. Maarten

		<u>31 December 2025</u>		<u>31 December 2024</u>	
		XCG	XCG	XCG	XCG
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>					
<b>Investments reserve</b>	4				
Investments Reserve			<u>35,704</u>		<u>44,949</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Accounts payable	5	38,412		6,461	
Payables relating to taxes and social security contributions	6	10,684		-	
Other payables	7	<u>230,806</u>		<u>78,795</u>	
			279,902		85,256
Total equity and liabilities			<u><u>315,606</u></u>		<u><u>130,205</u></u>

**General Audit Chamber, St. Maarten**

**2.2 STATEMENT OF ACTUAL VERSUS BUDGETED COSTS FOR 2025**

<i>(in Caribbean Guilders)</i>	Note	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Available	Actual 2024
Budget received		1,604,459	1,604,459	-	731,500
Reimbursement to Government		-	(197,465)	(197,465)	(78,795)
		<u>1,604,459</u>	<u>1,406,994</u>	<u>(197,465)</u>	<u>652,705</u>
<i>Operating Expenses</i>					
Personnel expenses	8.1	793,459	773,136	20,322	-
Housing expenses	8.2	161,000	142,198	18,802	142,829
Office expenses	8.3	35,000	21,171	13,830	19,648
General Expenses	8.4	615,000	470,489	144,511	490,228
Depreciation	1	-	9,250	-	16,423
Appropriated reserve depreciation		-	(9,250)	-	(16,423)
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u>1,604,459</u>	<u>1,406,994</u>	<u>197,465</u>	<u>652,705</u>

The operating expense budget of the General Audit Chamber totaled XCG 1,604,459. This amount is established by national ordinance. The operating expenses are underspent by XCG 197,465. This remaining amount will be settled with Government. See page 12 for the total breakdown.

2.3 NOTES TO THE MANAGEMENT REPORT

*General notes*

**Activities**

On the 10th of October, 2010 the General Audit Chamber was established by the Constitution and started its operations. By official letter of August 23rd, 2019 (DIV number 3300) it was approved for the General Audit Chamber to manage their own financial management as of January 1st, 2020. As of 2025 the payroll administration of personnel is being managed by the General Audit Chamber.

By Constitution, the General Audit Chamber is responsible for investigating the effectiveness and legal compliance of the Government's income and expenditure.

The 2025 management report has been drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the National Accountability Ordinance.

*General accounting principles*

**Principles for balance sheet valuations**

General

Assets and liabilities are valued on the basis of historical cost. Unless stated otherwise in the relevant accounting policy for the specific balance sheet item, the assets and liabilities are stated at nominal value. Impairment of fixed assets is taken into account.

Assets that have been obtained in whole or in part from third parties other than at market price and that have been transferred to the Country, are, as far as possible, valued at market value at the time of transfer.

*Accounting principles*

**Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are valued at acquisition price or production costs, less accumulated depreciation and, if applicable, with impairment. Depreciation is based on the estimated useful life and is calculated on the basis of a fixed percentage of the acquisition price or manufacturing costs.

The depreciation percentages used are as follows:

Improvements to housing, etc.	10%
Inventory	15%
ICT and software	20%

**Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents are valued at nominal value and are at the free disposal of the Country, unless stated otherwise.

**Current liabilities**

Short-term liabilities concern liabilities with a term of up to 1 year. Unless stated otherwise, these are valued at nominal value.

General Audit Chamber, St. Maarten

2.4 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

Fixed assets

1 Tangible fixed assets

Changes in tangible fixed assets are presented as follows:

	<i>Building Improvements</i>	<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Furniture and fixtures</i>	<i>Computers</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>XCG</i>	<i>XCG</i>	<i>XCG</i>	<i>XCG</i>	<i>XCG</i>
Balance as at 1 January 2025					
Cost	38,844	6,958	75,655	66,351	187,808
Accumulated depreciation	(20,971)	(4,995)	(73,578)	(58,322)	(157,867)
Book value as at 1 January 2025	<u>17,873</u>	<u>1,963</u>	<u>2,077</u>	<u>8,029</u>	<u>29,942</u>
Movements					
Additions	-	-	-	2,844	2,844
Depreciation	(3,887)	(587)	(922)	(3,854)	(9,250)
Balance movements	<u>(3,887)</u>	<u>(587)</u>	<u>(922)</u>	<u>(1,010)</u>	<u>(6,406)</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2025					
Cost	38,844	6,958	75,655	69,195	190,652
Accumulated depreciation	(24,858)	(5,582)	(74,500)	(62,176)	(167,116)
Book value as at 31 December 2025	<u>13,986</u>	<u>1,376</u>	<u>1,155</u>	<u>7,019</u>	<u>23,536</u>
Depreciation percentages used	<u>10%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>20%</u>	

Due to the passing of hurricane Irma in September 2017, the General Chamber Audit suffered damages to its tangible fixed assets. Consequently, an insurance claim was received of US\$ 95,659. The non-current assets purchased between 2017 and 2019 reflects the period that the General Audit Chamber was still under the financial management of the Government. As per January 1st, 2020 these non-current assets are held by the General Audit Chamber.

## General Audit Chamber, St. Maarten

### Current assets

	<u>31-12-2025</u>	<u>31-12-2024</u>
	XCG	XCG
<b>2 Other receivables and accrued income</b>		
Other receivables	<u>18,226</u>	<u>2,002</u>
<b>Other receivables</b>		
Employees advance payments	12,902	-
Credit card	3,260	-
Credit card deposit	2,002	2,002
Net wages	<u>62</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>18,226</u>	<u>2,002</u>

#### Credit card

At year-end, the organization's credit card shows a debit balance of XCG 3,260. Because the card has a \$1,000 credit limit, management deposited additional funds in advance to ensure sufficient capacity for future purchases. The resulting debit balance is presented as a other receivable and will be applied against future charges.

### 3 Cash and banks

Windward Islands Bank N.V. (XCG)	254,902	78,482
Windward Islands Bank N.V. (USD)	<u>18,942</u>	<u>19,779</u>
	<u>273,844</u>	<u>98,261</u>

The bank balances are conform the balance on the bank statements as per December 31, 2025.

General Audit Chamber, St. Maarten

4 Investments reserve

Movements in the investments reserve were as follows:

(in Caribbean Guilders)

General reserves	Appropriated reserve depreciation	Appropriated reserve Improvements to be made	Total
Balance as at 1 January 2025	3,821	41,133	44,954
Changes in 2025	(3,821)	(5,429)	(9,250)
Exchange difference			-
Balance as at 31 December 2025	-	35,704	35,704

**Appropriated reserve Depreciation**

The reserve was recorded in connection with the fixed asset recovery investments financed by the Government in the prior years. The reserve is being amortized and it's offsetting the depreciation charge recorded for the respective assets taking into account their useful life. The reserve will be fully depleted at the end of the depreciation period of these assets.

**Appropriated reserve Improvements to be made**

Management presented the amounts received from the insurance company as compensation for the losses incurred regarding the damages caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria as designated reserve. Considering that the proceeds from the insurance company were solely to replace assets, the reserve will be amortized together with the depreciation charge for the assets being replaced.

General Audit Chamber, St. Maarten

	<u>31-12-2025</u>	<u>31-12-2024</u>
	XCG	XCG
<b>5 Accounts payable</b>		
Trade creditors	<u>38,412</u>	<u>6,461</u>
As of January 2026, all outstanding balances have been fully settled.		
<b>6 Payables relating to taxes and social security contributions</b>		
Medical insurance premiums	6,779	-
ZOG premiums	<u>3,905</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>10,684</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>7 Other payables</b>		
To be settled with Government	197,465	78,795
Reservation vacation allowance	26,242	-
Salary advance payable	<u>7,099</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>230,806</u>	<u>78,795</u>

**To be settled with Government**

As per December 31st, 2025, the total amount to be settled with the Government is XCG 197,465.  
In 2025, the unspent budget of 2024, totaling XCG 78,795 was paid back in full.

Balance as at January 1, 2025	78,795	166,430
Settled in 2025	(78,795)	(166,430)
Actual expenses (less depreciation)	1,604,459	731,500
To be settled with Government	<u>(1,406,994)</u>	<u>(652,705)</u>
Total	<u>197,465</u>	<u>78,795</u>

**Breakdown to be settled amount with Government**

Personnel expenses	20,322	-
Operating expenses	<u>177,143</u>	<u>78,795</u>
Total	<u>197,465</u>	<u>78,795</u>

**Salary advance payable**

During 2024, while the Chamber's payroll was still administered by the Government, an employee received a salary advance. The employee repaid this advance to the Chamber in 2025. As the advance should have been repaid to the Government, the Chamber will reimburse the Government for the corresponding amount.

General Audit Chamber, St. Maarten

2.5 NOTES TO THE ACTUAL VERSUS BUDGETED COSTS FOR THE YEAR 2025

OPERATING EXPENSES

*8.1 Personnel expenses*

	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Available	Used in %	Budget 2024
<i>Salaries and wages</i>					
Salaries and wages	581,120	545,330	35,789	94%	455,518
Vacation allowance	37,623	93,447	(55,824)	248%	28,602
Other allowances	42,000	26,849	15,151	64%	18,000
Child allowance	3,180	2,255	925	71%	3,180
Recruitment	25,000	-	25,000		5,000
Gratuity	5,000	-	5,000		5,000
Other personnel expenses	(7,120)	-	(7,120)		(5,694)
	<b>686,803</b>	<b>667,881</b>	<b>18,921</b>		<b>509,606</b>
<i>Social security premiums</i>					
Premium AOV/AWW	33,566	34,409	(843)	103%	25,586
Premium AVBZ	2,858	3,124	(266)	109%	2,211
Premium FZOG	4,101	3,905	196	95%	3,280
Pension premium APNA	66,131	63,817	2,314	97%	52,892
	<b>106,656</b>	<b>105,255</b>	<b>1,401</b>		<b>83,969</b>
Total personnel expenses	<b>793,459</b>	<b>773,136</b>	<b>20,322</b>		<b>593,575</b>

As of 2025, the General Audit Chamber has taken over responsibility for managing personnel payroll administration.

With respect to the budgeted amounts included for financial year 2024 these were handled independently by Government and therefore never included in the settlement. These are included for comparability purposes only.

General Audit Chamber, St. Maarten

**8.2 Housing expenses**

	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Available	Used in %	Actual 2024
Rent	108,000	98,098	9,902	91%	99,384
Cleaning	1,000	412	588	41%	837
Electricity	15,000	12,683	2,317	85%	12,205
Water	3,000	2,601	399	87%	2,422
Insurance premium	5,000	3,536	1,464	71%	3,536
Maintenance building	10,000	6,115	3,885	61%	1,494
Security expenses	1,000		1,000	0%	-
Other maintenance	18,000	18,753	(753)	104%	22,951
<b>Total Housing expenses</b>	<b>161,000</b>	<b>142,198</b>	<b>18,802</b>		<b>142,829</b>

**8.3 Office expenses**

	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Available	Used in %	Actual 2024
Telephone and internet	10,000	6,685	3,315	67%	7,762
Office supplies	10,000	6,585	3,415	66%	4,567
Subscription books	15,000	7,901	7,100	53%	7,319
<b>Total office expenses</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>21,171</b>	<b>13,830</b>		<b>19,648</b>

## General Audit Chamber, St. Maarten

### 8.4 General expenses

	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Available	Used in %	Actual 2024
1. Legal and professional advice	350,000	263,564	86,436	75%	296,858
2. Board members fee	148,000	120,008	27,992	81%	120,450
Representation expenses	50,000	29,918	20,082	60%	30,478
Other services	8,000	2,399	5,601	30%	4,623
Travelling and hotel expenses	30,000	28,650	1,350	96%	23,914
Membership fee	3,500	2,730	770	78%	2,730
Training expenses	20,000	13,085	6,915	65%	6,819
Bank charges	5,000	4,672	328	93%	4,356
Postage and freight	500	331	169	66%	-
Prior year adjustments	-	5,132	(5,132)		-
Depreciation expense		9,250	-		16,423
Appropriated reserve depreciation		(9,250)	-		(16,423)
Total general expenses	<b>615,000</b>	<b>470,489</b>	<b>144,511</b>		<b>490,228</b>
Total operating expenses	<b>1,604,458</b>	<b>1,406,994</b>	<b>197,465</b>		<b>652,705</b>

#### 1. Legal and professional advice

By renegotiating contracts and making use of available free expert advisory resources, costs were reduced.

#### 2. Board members fee

The budget is based on a full board for the year. In 2025, the board was incomplete, which led to an underspending of XCG 27,992.

### 9 Commitments and Contingencies

There are no commitments and contingencies.

### 10 Subsequent events

There are no subsequent events.



General Audit Chamber

---

Algemene Rekenkamer

