

## The copper mine:

Copper has played an important role in the overall history of men. Usage and consumption of copper can be traced as far back as 10.000 years ago. Copper was and still is a most valuable earth element prized for its flexibility and durability: it is easily molded into any desired shape and is resistant to rust and erosion. It is also a fantastic conductor of heat and electricity.

Historically copper was used for the making of plows, tools, weapons, decorative objects and other functional artifacts.

Traces of copper have been found in samples collected on Curaçao as far back as 1664.

The mine you are now looking at was opened up around 1724 by Paulus Prints; a miner of the W.I.C.

Despite this mine being 8 meters deep, and many investigations being done in past centuries, no copper in profitable quantities or grades has ever been found. This is because copper ore is strictly made by diorite intrusions, which on Curaçao only occur in the North-West in small pockets.

Copper is extracted from rocks containing high amounts of copper-minerals (ore).The ore is first removed from the ground in either open pit or underground mines. The one you're looking at is an open pit mine. The emerald green rocks you can see near the mine shaft are called malachite, and it is actually a gem material. Malachite was one of the first ores used to produce copper metal.

It is no longer used to make copper because it is usually found in small quantities and can be sold at higher prices for other types of use.It is used to make beads or it can even be sculpted into ornamental objects.

Fun facts:

- The statue of liberty is made out of copper.
- Rose gold is made out of copper and gold.
- Copper is a 100% recyclable metal.
- Copper is even found in electronical devices such as phones.
- Copper is essential for human nutrition, found in food and even in most water supplies. Asparagus is also a source of copper.
- Police officers in the U.S. are called cops because they had copper buttons on their uniforms.

