**Environmental Science - Sustainable Development Goals Assignment**

**Goal # 12: Responsible consumption and production**

**SDG target 12.7:**

* Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.
  + Is there an implementation of sustainable public procurement policies and action plans?

**SDG Target 12.8:**

* By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.
  + Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment

**Describe what SDG target and goal your indicator is monitoring, and how?**

This SDG goal is basically monitoring how efficient we are using our water, energy and foods. Thus, how efficient we are consuming our natural resources. This goal is based on motivating the citizens to become more conscious about the environment in regards of the usage of resources, with the goal of reducing the inefficient consumption of natural resource and to promote and achieve sustainable development on the long run. The indicator is monitoring if there are any policies or action plans that are implemented or that are being implemented regarding achieving sustainable development for the island. In other words, if the government is doing something about the consumption of natural resources, for example: creating bans, limiting certain resources that are not helping towards achieving sustainable development or that will not help on the long run either. Also, if incidents occur when there is a case of inefficient use of the resources, how prepared are we as an island, if there is a plan or procedure. An example in my opinion is how prepared are we if there’s a case of oil spill, if we have an action plan we can be prepared to avoid a disaster. It is hard to monitor, but you can start by looking if there are any policies or plans regarding this goal and if they are being reinforced. Also, this target and goal (12.8) monitors how involved and aware the citizens divided into several groups of the island are and how are they bringing awareness forward regarding the target and goal towards becoming a sustainable developed island.

**Why is this SDG target and goal important to Aruba?**

In general, the Sustainable development goals and target are important, because they are created to improve and transform the island and the world for the better. By achieving these goals, it means that we made it to create a sustainable developed island. This goal helps with the achievement of development plans, it reduces social, economic and environmental costs and it makes the economic the economy stronger and by creating a sustainable developed island it gives us competitive advantage compared to other islands, which will eventually reduce poverty. The targets are important for Aruba, because by creating awareness you can reach the general goal of sustainable production and consumption and by knowing the implemented policies you can live by them to help achieve the goal. On the long run by creating awareness, this reduces the wasteful consumption, which helps with the climate change and reduce the amount of CO2 that is being released in the atmosphere through waste burning like in Parkietenbos or this also reduces the amount of pollution that is being caused by overuse of natural resources.

**How does this SDG target and goal relate to waste management in Aruba?**

This goal talks about the consumption and production, therefore it is related in every way to waste management, because it is one factor that is making it hard to achieve this goal. Inefficient material consumption, creates much more waste than efficient material consumption. Thus, making the waste management in Aruba a barrier towards achieving this goal. Since we are an island that imports most of the food resources, you can also say that this target is really related to waste management in Aruba. The importation of processed foods; all the packaging ends up as waste, which eventually ends up in the Parkietenbos. All these processed foods which are unhealthy for human kind, if avoided could help with the reduction of waste, if we considered local resources. Also, this goal and target is related with the promotion of recycling and reuse, which there are not many people who actually price it. The Parkietenbos also is not helping at all with achieving this goal, it is actually causing damage to the environment. All the waste that is being used on the island that gets there, becomes in one way or another a pollution to the environment. The inefficiency use of water source on the island, creates more waste water and in most of the cases this water ends up again in the ocean. Due to the apparent lack of policies or not enforced limited policies regarding waste management this is becoming a problem on the island, however some of the citizens of Aruba are aware of the damage of the amount of waste or inefficient usage of waste is causing and they actually do something about it, but others are clearly aware but do not do anything about it and yet complain about it.

**Find out if the described indicator is being monitored in Aruba:**

Based on the field trip, I can say that the amount of waste consumption is being monitored. They weigh the garbage that will be thrown when you enter the dump. Based on information I read on the page of Ecotech Aruba it can be said that they try to create awareness regarding recycling and while splitting the types of garbage they are in a way monitoring the waste consumption. Other private organizations that are making an effort in creating awareness is AHATA, by doing beach clean up and motivating students, individuals, company workers to participate they are creating awareness about this SDG and in an indirect way it can be said that the ones participating, and the organizers monitor the amount of garbage that are being left behind by citizens or tourists.

The ones who implement the policies and action plans are actually department of nature and environment. There are several departments involved in the execution of nature and environmental task which helps on the long run with the achievement of these indicator. (source: <http://www.overheid.aw/governance-administration/department-nature-and-environment-dnm_45687/>). Thus, there are some people working on this indicator or the goal in general, but if it is really being monitored I am not sure about that. However, I think that for example the policies applied the police notices that it is not being followed, but again they do nothing about it (plastic bag ban, you see them picking up their Chinese food and coming out with a plastic bag to hold the foam box).

These two sources show how they claim to try to create awareness regarding several types of consumptions, which most of these if they really happened would help Aruba on the long run.

<http://www.arubaeconomicaffairs.aw/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=88>

<https://ecotecharuba.com/about-us/about-ecotech/>