***ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE***

***SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INDICATORS***

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

My Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) is life on land. Goal number 15. A brief description of this goal is basically to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reserve land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Target 15.5 is saying that we need to take urgent action to reduce the extinction of our natural habitat. We should also stop the loss of biodiversity and by 2020 we must try to protect and prevent the extinction of endangered species. The indicator for this is 15.5.1 and its (red list index). Yes, there is an endangered species list of Aruba’s endangered species.

“Aruba has a large nature reserve, Arikok National Park, which covers nearly 33% of the island and includes the protected wetlands site Spanish Lagoon. It also has several important bird habitats recognised by Birdlife International. Indigenous flora and fauna are regularly monitored and studied on the island as part of ensuring the preservation of its rich natural habitat.” This information was cited from this website. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16109Netherlands.pdf

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

“The implementation of the SDGs is impossible to accomplish without partnering with other stakeholders, such as NGOs and other entities. Aruba is collaborating with various national and international organizations, NGOs and businesses to successfully meet the 2030 Agenda, as set by the United Nations. Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten all signed the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF) for the Caribbean. The Framework intends to guarantee national ownership while promoting regional synergies in the implementation of the SDGs. It primarily focuses on the priority areas for the Caribbean that further structures collaboration with the UN system. The UN MSDF provides a platform for countries to access the global expertise and experience of the UN System at both the country and sub-regional levels.” The source of the information is taken from http://sdgaruba.com/partnerships/

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

“Just two generations ago, before the dawn of disposable plastic, people could throw their waste on the ground and it would rot. Not so today, with [plastic now clogging up drains and being ingested by livestock](http://zlcomms.co.uk/this-is-not-a-leaf-the-story-of-plastic-bottle-schools/). Chemicals seep from immense quantities of dumped waste, poisoning groundwater, streams and rivers. Life on land (**SDG 15**) can only be healthy when waste is properly managed.”

Waste is polluting the air we breathe as well. When people have no waste management services, they can only dump waste in the open – or burn it. Open burning of waste is sadly commonplace. In days gone by, it wasn’t such an issue. This info was cited from this website. https://wasteaid.org.uk/waste-sustainable-development-goals/

***Legislative and Administrative Policy***

“Fortunately, hardly anyone has to suffer from severe hunger or malnutrition in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. For the Dutch, overweight seems to be the problem, although the percentage of the population suffering from corpulence or obesity seems to have stabilised in the past few years. Dutch policies on preventing overweight target children and young people, since obesity is hard to reverse once it occurs. In the Netherlands, Healthy Weight programmes in neighbourhoods and schools are aimed at substantially reducing the percentage of overweight children and young people. In addition, far-reaching agreements are being made with partners in the food chain on reducing the amount of salt, sugar and saturated fat in food products. The government also encourages healthy eating by promoting transparency and public awareness through food product labelling and information campaigns. Other programmes are being launched in partnership with specific industries, for instance the fruit and vegetable industry trade association, and a Healthy School Lunches programme.

The government of Aruba recognises the importance of food security and focuses on ensuring the availability, accessibility, nutritional value and stable supply of food on the island. In collaboration with several international partners, Aruba is expanding skills and knowledge in support of food security by promoting sustainable food supply. A stakeholder from the private sector is conducting a community-supported urban farming project. Once the pilot is getting results, its goal will be to help other neighbourhoods in Aruba, and ultimately to collectively contribute to enhancing the country’s food security.” This information was cited from this website https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16109Netherlands.pdf