**Environmental Science - Sustainable Development Goals Assignment**

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

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

The goal assigned to me is *“Responsible production and consumption”*. This goal is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure and providing basic services to improve the quality of life. The aim of this goal is to *do more and better with less*, which will increase the gains of the economy activities by reducing the resource use, degradation and pollution. The target assigned to me are “**Is there an implementation of sustainable public procurement policies and action plans?”** and **“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”**. The first target monitors the sustainability of the process of purchasing goods or services from other companies by the government and citizens and if they are working on plans regarding the purchasing efforts. The second target wants to measure (i) if the students are involved and actively participating in projects that address global issues to the extent where it (ii) changes the way the students think and work towards achieving a sustainable future in and if they are brought forward in the national education policy, given in subjects in classes, brought to the teachers knowledge, behavior or attitude in class while giving class and if they test to see how are the students are about climate change and global issues. These indicators are measured or can be measured by implementing a national framework for the sustainable consumption and production and they should be integrated into a national plan. The indicator 12.7.1 measure the number of countries that are working on a process to achieve sustainability by implementing public procurement policies and action plans. Thus, how many countries are working on improving the consumption and production matter that matches their policies and priorities and the indicator 12.8.1. measures the amount of knowledge, awareness regarding sustainable development and a way of living with keeping in mind the nature.

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

Aruba is a very small island with a relatively large population. We depend on importations to receive most of our foods, therefore if they do not regulate the consumption that depends on importations we will certainly not reached the goal of becoming a sustainable developed island. We will always have the extra trash laying around which if we purchased locally produced foods we would not have. Our supply chain for getting food in Aruba is long, which again does not cooperate for achieving the goal. You also have the energy and water consumption, those should be regulated. Some people do not used energy nor water efficiently. By implementing policies, you can help by reducing all the inefficient consumptions. By providing information about sustainability and informing people what their footprint on the island can be based on their consumption will help maybe implementing a rule that will state your amount of energy and water consumption based on the energy used on your bill. At the end why is it important? It is important because as an island we depend on tourism, if we abuse and damage our natural resources the tourists will not find the island to be attractive. If this happens there will be a lot of social problems and economic problems; we will not become a sustainable developed island. Policies are also important to establish, because this helps with planning on production. This will ensure that for example certain protected areas that are essential for the island and that should not be touched at no circumstances. Thus, this goal and target relate to the prosperity of the island, that is why it is important.

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

As I already said, our supply chain is long because we depend on importation of our foods. All those imported foods after consumption will end up in the Parkietenbos Landfill as trash. If we only had policies that reduced the amount of consumption of imported items it will reduce the amount of trash brought to the island. Also, because we depend on tourism, if the policies regarding waste management are not in place, there would be a lot of trash laying around in the tourist areas. That would affect our tourism sector. Therefore, we should implement policies and bring awareness and show the importance of responsible consumption and production. The SDG goal cannot be met if the consumption is not sorted out.

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

Indicator 12.7.1 is general, it talks about several countries and the question is based on Aruba. This cannot be answered if based on Aruba, however I can say that there is a program called “The Sustainable Public Procurement Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumptions and Production Patterns (10YFP SPP Programme)” that the UN are doing which measures the global sustainable public procurement and gives the results by countries (source: <http://www.scpclearinghouse.org/resource/2017-global-review-sustainable-public-procurement>). However, I think you could say that based on the amount of policies that are being introduced you can measure the indicator 12.7.1. Thus, based on the presentation we had of DNM the beach policy and the plastic cup and straw ban can be considered to be two policies for sustainable consumption and production. On this source <http://www.aruba.com/our-island/environment> they say that steps had already been taken on the indicator 12.8.1 which has to do with environmental education and training. But I am not able to find specific details about in schools etc. I can assume though that based on actions of the schools and locals joining the AHATA beach cleanup, it says that the schools are trying to educate the students regarding consumption. Also, based on the schools that have solar panels or that are thinking about putting solar panels at the schools are in a way educating the students towards renewable energy consumption, which brings awareness to the students.