**Environmental Science**

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Date: November 12, 2017

Assignment: SDGs ( Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns)

**12.5.1:** National recycling rate, tons of material recycled

This indicator is proposed as an indicator for Sustainable Development Target 12.5.”By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse”. Prevention or reduction minimizes the generation of waste products in the first place. It involves using less material in design and manufacture, trying to keep products for longer, and using less hazardous materials. The reuse of waste is any operation where products or materials that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were intended. Recycling involves sorting and processing the recyclable products into raw material and then remanufacturing the recycled raw materials into new products (trash24.org).

It is important to Aruba because it would help generate waste, ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment. It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. If waste is not produced then it has not to be disposed of. When waste is produced, it gives precedence to preparing it for reuse, then recycling, then recovery, and last of all disposal.

This indicator compares to the way waste management is being operated is related, as Aruba has been the only island that has made the most progress. Before July 2009, an enduring image for many visitors to Aruba — as they arrived and departed from the international airport — was the stuffed-to-capacity landfill nearby. An additional landfill built in 2004 had a lifespan of only five years. With a land area of just sixty-nine square miles and nowhere left to dump the tons of rubbish generated by its 105,000 residents and thousands of tourists, the island decided it was time to go green. And Aruba has never looked back.

A growing number of private companies in Aruba also recycle and ship paper, newspapers, cartons, and aluminum, as well as printer and toner cartridges, to buyers abroad( ECOtech offers a wide range of totters, bins, buckets and oil totes which are serviced by a fleet of MACK trucks). And, most inspiring of all, the island can boast of having made both a fashion and an environmental statement with its gorgeous (and educational) Aruba Reusable Bag. Ethically made under fair labour conditions, the bag is itself one hundred percent recyclable.

**12.6.1:** Number of companies publishing sustainability reports help “encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle” **(12.6).** **Society does not know a company’s contribution to sustainable development. Several integrated monitoring standards have been developed that track the social and environmental externalities of businesses. Currently, just over one in 10 FTSE 100 companies report on the alignment of their corporate sustainability commitments with the SDGs. If the SDGs are to be a success, we expect that number to grow. The SDG Target 12.6 Live Tracker is the first step of a larger initiative developed by GRI aiming at supporting governments to monitor and implement SDG Target 12.6. As part of this initiative, capacity building programs will take place with the goal to help countries where there is a low uptake of sustainability reporting to create a facilitating environment for corporate sustainability reporting**.(https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/)

This SDGs target and goal is important to Aruba because Aruba is actively involving as many stakeholders as possible in implementing the SDGs. The Aruban National SDG Commission has conducted a survey of stakeholder involvement around each of the following pillars: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. Aruba will continue to involve the private sector, trade unions and civil society organizations in consensus-based decision-making on major policy issues. Aruba is combining sustainable economic growth, social equity and environmental awareness in order to enhance quality of life and raise living standards for all Arubans, leaving no one behind.(https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16109Netherlands.pdf)

The Centre of Excellence (COE) for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States leverages best practices from SIDS – mainly technical expertise and experience in sustainable development - to provide a platform for strengthening innovation and resilience among SIDS through South-South cooperation and exchange of knowledge on sustainable practices in areas such as energy, public-private partnerships (PPP), waste management and more.(sustainabledevelopment.un.org).

This Indicator has been measured and benefits on the island such as Promotes recycling within rooms and organizes monthly beach cleanups encouraging individual guests to participate; Organizes group clean-up events (of about 20 people) once a year on the northern coast; but this indicator has been monitored, since there are no international and agreement to follow hotel, so companies households must take their responsibility at this moment. However, Aruba is working to adapt the SDGs to its national reality and achieve the SDGs by 2030.