Life on land 15: Target 1&2 (Cindy Quintero)

Forest area as a proportion of total land area

* Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type
* Progress towards sustainable forest management

The Sustainable Development Goal’s (SDG) number fifteen is Life on Land. The first target of this goal is to ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services (in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands) in line with obligations under international agreements by the year 2020. So basically to protect all natural resources we have on land. They will monitor this by looking at the total forest area and comparing how much is forest and how much the total land is. And also by looking at what part of the land are actually (officially) protected.

The second target is about promoting and encouraging the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forest, to put a halt deforestation, to restore degraded forests and to increase afforestation and reforestation globally. What indicates this target is to see the progress that has been made towards sustainable forest management.

This SDG goal/ target is important, because it focuses on Life on Land which is where we live. Aruba is a small island and our forests (mondi) have already been greatly affected by droughts, over population (overbuilding) and pollution by people. We need to find new ways to restore our nature, because it does not look good at the present time. We as a touristic island are dependent on how many tourist come and visit, if we lose our nature that means one less attraction that tourist can enjoy, so it also affects us economically. We also need more protected areas, to stop further damage done by building more things.

Waste management on Aruba is something that we have not put enough attention on. We can see this by comparing ourselves to other countries. And a lot of times we also see how people throw their waste in our mondi, which affects it because animals live there and animals are essential for our mondi because when an animal dies or even their feces are nutrients to the plants.

They are not monitoring indicator number one, when I called Parke Arikok they gave me the number Miss Siske which said that only Parke Arikok is about 18% forest she wasn’t sure of the rest. She guessed that Aruba might be 33% mondi, but it isnot officially measured.

She mentioned a few places that were protected (Indicator number two) these were: Parke Arikok, Spaans Lagoon and Bubali Plaas

For the third indicator she said there wasn’t much being done, but when I went on the website there was a project they were working on, the only thing was that they hadn’t put any information online yet, so they were still working on it.

Also when visiting the webside of the government (<http://www.overheid.aw/>) and going to the section of laws that protect flora and fauna (<http://www.overheid.aw/governance-administration/06-public-housing-regionalspatial-planning-and-environmental-protection_3913/item/0603-bescherming-flora-en-fauna_20878.html>) you can see that in recent yearslike in 2013 they set laws that protect the land that is Parke Arikok and its fauna.