**ES, SDG Assignment**

Yaella Lopez, student nr. 147974

**11 Sustainable cities and communities**

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

My first target, falls under the sustainable cities and communities SDG target. This target has a goal of strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage. And they indicate this by looking at the total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship).

My second and my third target also fall under the sustainable cities and communities SDG target. These targets goal, is that by 2030 the number of deaths and the number of people affected will be significantly reduced and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations. And they indicate this by looking at the number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people (2nd target indicator) and by the direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services.

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

Aruba is a small island that mostly depends tourism as the main pillar for income. Aruba’s economic situation isn’t the best at the moment either, so the amount of expenditure per capita wouldn’t be a lot. That is why in order to increase it if needed, it needs to be monitored in order to know if the total expenditure per capita needs to be increased. Since we’re a small island with a lot of foreign residents living here, the need to protect and conserve our cultural and natural heritage is important so it won’t eventually be forgotten. Each country needs to hold onto their heritage, especially since Aruba is small, it there aren’t many Arubans to begin with.

When it comes to target 2nd and 3rd it’s important for not only Aruba, but all the other countries, to know the number of death’s so they can know how many people die in a year and keep tabs on the amount of people still alive on the island. It’s also important to see how many people are effected by the disasters that can occur here on Aruba. For example, if a heavy drought happens again like the one of last year, we’d need to be able to help as many people, especially the poor and the ones in the most vulnerable situation, so we can be able to support them and provide them with necessary resources if needed. Or somehow preventing that disasters have less impact where we wouldn’t need to have a big economic loss by needed to repair people’s homes etc.

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

Preservation of our natural heritage is extremely important since it is what Aruba is known for and why tourists visit this island. Managing our waste is important so it doesn’t end up at these natural sites, which is sadly a big problem that happens here on Aruba. If people would be more conscious of where they threw their trash and where it could end up, then it would make it all the more attractive. But since there is so much trash laying everywhere from beaches to even anywhere in for example Parke Arikok, having better waste management to keep these places clean, places that are important for Aruba’s image, is extremely important.

For my 2nd and 3rd target waste management is also important because if we were to decrease the economic losses of the disasters that happen here on Aruba, then measures would have to made to prevent as much of it as possible from happening. If that would happen, then it can also prevent more waste from occurring. With any type of disaster, there would need to be cleaning up and restore to how it was before. Be it for the infrastructure that was ruined because of heavy droughts to an accidental oil spillage to any body of water nearby.

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

I have found on the SDG website that Aruba has adopted the concept of smart growth. Under this concept they focus mainly on 3 goals: creating world class walkable destinations for residents and tourists; providing incentives for households to retrofit and for commercial energy efficiency; and implementing a sustainable approach to the tourism sector that creates an inspirational holiday destination. “Bo Aruba” and “Bo Bario”, which are government programs, fall into this category. Bo Aruba is an extensive infrastructural program directed toward urban renewal and improvement of neighborhoods, in combination with modernization of the road system on the island. The investment program is also in line with the international trends and functions as an economic stimulus package for the local economy. Bo Bario involves stakeholders (Government of Aruba, NGOs, and private organizations) from the beginning to improve neighborhoods in terms of safety, equality, health, and opportunity, and focuses more on bike paths and walkways for pedestrians, rather than motor vehicles.

I have tried to search if my other SDG target indicators were being monitored, but I have not been able to find anything, so I concluded that it has not been monitored yet. I have also tried to get a hold of the people at SDG twice through the contact information on their website ([http://sdgaruba.com),](http://sdgaruba.com)/) but since my 2nd and 3rd target goal will be indicated at the end of 2030, which says so on the SDG Aruba website, I am assuming that they will provide info by then.

But I have found some facts regarding the entire world:

* Half of humanity – 3.5 billion people – lives in cities today
* By 2030, almost 60 per cent of the world’s population will live in urban areas
* 95 per cent of urban expansion in the next decades will take place in developing world
* 828 million people live in slums today and the number keeps rising
* The world’s cities occupy just 3 per cent of the Earth’s land, but account for 60-80 per cent of energy consumption and 75 per cent of carbon emissions
* Rapid urbanization is exerting pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage, the living environment, and public health
* But the high density of cities can bring efficiency gains and technological innovation while reducing resource and energy consumption

<http://sdgaruba.com/>

<http://sdgaruba.com/sdgs/cities/>

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/>

