

Aruba as a Model for Sustainable Development

By 2030, Aruba will be a model for Sustainable Development with a long-term human-centered approach supported by adaptive policy-making and aims to share its expertise and experience through the creation of a knowledge management ecosystem

Program 9



NOS PLAN, NOS FUTURO®



NSP 2020-2022

Program 9 Report
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Aruba as a Model for Sustainable Development



By 2030, Aruba will....

SDG Target
17.6

Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

SDG Target
17.7, localized

Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to and from other countries (especially among SIDS)

SDG Target
17.8, localized

Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

SDG Target
17.9, localized

Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

SDG Target
17.14, localized

Enhance evidence-based policy coherence for sustainable development

SDG Target
17.16, localized

Enhance the national and international Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG Target
17.17

Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

SDG Target
17.19, localized

Build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building

SDG targets addressed by NSP Program with target period other than 2030

SDG target 17.11, localized Significantly increase the exports of Aruba, in particular with a view to have an increase of the countries' share of global exports by 2022

SDG target 17.18, localized By 2022 increase the availability of high quality, timely and reliable data with disaggregation relevant to national context

Strategic objectives

Communications strategy to mainstream SDGs across institutions and the community

Pg. 10

Aruba will develop a well-thought-out public diplomacy/branding and communications strategy for raising awareness and mainstreaming the SDGs that fosters participation and co-creation with local institutions and community

Enhance partnership for sustainable development

Pg. 13

Aruba will build strong national and international partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs and for showcasing the Aruba SDG implementation as a good practice

Improve national mechanism for reporting (on the SDGs)

Pg. 16

Aruba will efficiently institutionalize reporting on the SDGs at the national, regional and global levels with support of a strong monitoring and evaluation framework

Knowledge management ecosystem

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Aruba will create a knowledge management ecosystem that supports the Aruba SDG implementation process and is aimed at sharing this as a good practice with the international community

Introduction

In pursuing its vision of sustainable development, Aruba has, over the years, gain experience and knowhow in its way to achieving its vision and objectives. The Aruba government program 2017-2021¹ point focuses on placing the citizen as central by having a human-centered approach in policy-making and it emphasizes the adoption of the principles and implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and its corresponding SDGs². Hereby also establishing a commitment to a long-term national vision that focuses on the citizen and that can transcend political cycles for sustainable development. The former government had also committed to the SDGs by supporting the SDG Commission and by collaborating with the UNDP throughout several missions. Aruba established a National SDG Commission³, which was re-instated in January 2018 by Ministerial decree with an institutional framework to give strategic direction and coordinate the implementation of the SDGs. The commission consists of three ministers, and representatives from different governmental ministries and departments. Building on its technical expertise and experience, and as an early implementer of the UN 2030 Agenda and its corresponding SDGs, Aruba can collaborate and share its knowledge with fellow small island states in order to drive their sustainable development priorities. Aruba will thereby simultaneously be

working on its development, develop adaptive policies and aims to share its experience and (continuously) strengthen its role as a model of sustainable development along its journey.

Various global assessments, including The Samoa Pathway report from The Third International Conference on SIDS, held in Samoa in September of 2014⁴, which is an international agreement and provides a pathway for the sustainable development of SIDS, highlights SIDS as facing distinct economic, social and environmental challenges. Particular challenges SIDS face are; various constraints due to high population densities, high import costs, low institutional capacity; degradation of our natural resources; and greater vulnerability to climate change owing to the concentration of people and economic activities in coastal zones. SIDS collectively recognize the continued demand for knowledge sharing among island states as is described within Art. 66 of the Apia, Samoa 2018 outcome document of the Inter-Regional Meeting for the Mid-Term Review of the Samoa Pathway⁵, in preparation for the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway to be held in New York in September 2019⁶, which states:

¹ Hunto pa Aruba 2017-2021 Government program plan: https://www.overheid.aw/actueel/rapporten-en-documenten_43353/item/hunto-pa-aruba-programa-di-gobernacion-2017-2021_32626.html

² In September 2015, the member states of the United Nations (UN), jointly committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development resolution A/RES/70/1. The 2030 Agenda is anchored around a comprehensive set of 17 goals and 169 targets that are universally applicable to all countries including Aruba as part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The 2030 Agenda is further grounded on 5

dimensions, also called the “5 P’s” or 5 pillars of sustainable development, which are People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership

³A Roadmap for SDG implementation on Aruba <http://www.sustainablesids.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/The-Aruba-SDG-Roadmap.pdf>

⁴<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids2014>

⁵https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21058Final_Samoa_Outcome.pdf

⁶<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/samoareview>



“We call for scaling up North-South cooperation in support of SIDS, complemented by South-South, triangular, and also SIDS-SIDS cooperation, including through enhanced knowledge sharing platforms, using known platforms such as the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development of SIDS, dissemination of best practices and strengthening peer review and peer-to-peer learning processes.”

Art. 66 of the Apia, Samoa 2018 outcome document of the Inter-Regional Meeting for the Mid-Term Review of the Samoa Pathway



Solidifying this role can be done by stimulating innovative sustainable practices and localized implementation of the SDGs. Firstly, mainstreaming SDGs through a ‘whole society’ approach and across local institutions and community, with a communication strategy as well as establishing and enhancing partnerships, both nationally, within the Kingdom and internationally, is necessary. Special attention is laid with pillar People, programs Quality of Life & Well-being, and Youth Empowerment of this NSP, which aims to strengthen educational policies supporting a mind-set shift towards sustainable practices within society. The monitoring and reporting of the SDGs (National/ Regional/Global level/Kingdom of the Netherlands) requires Aruba to rise to the occasion, to build capacity and promote transparency and accountability to its citizens as well as on the world stage. Hereby generating both good as well as best sustainable practices⁷.

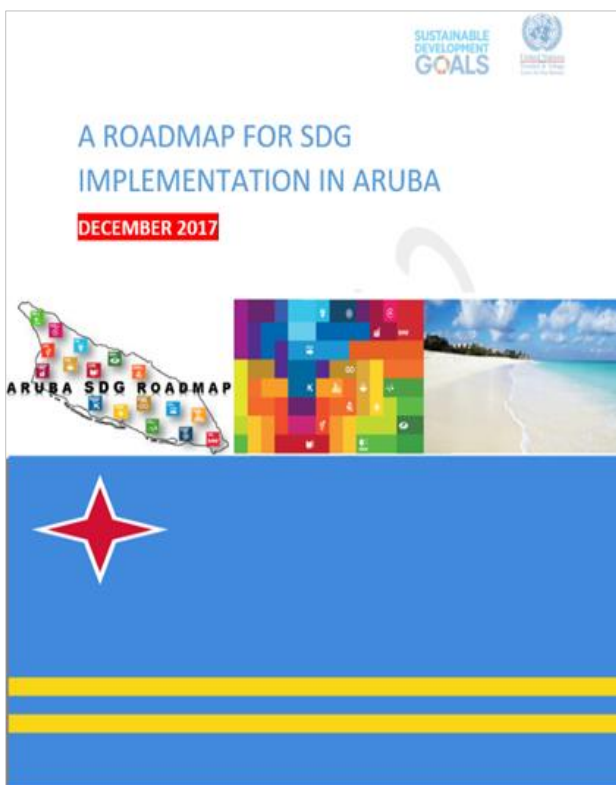
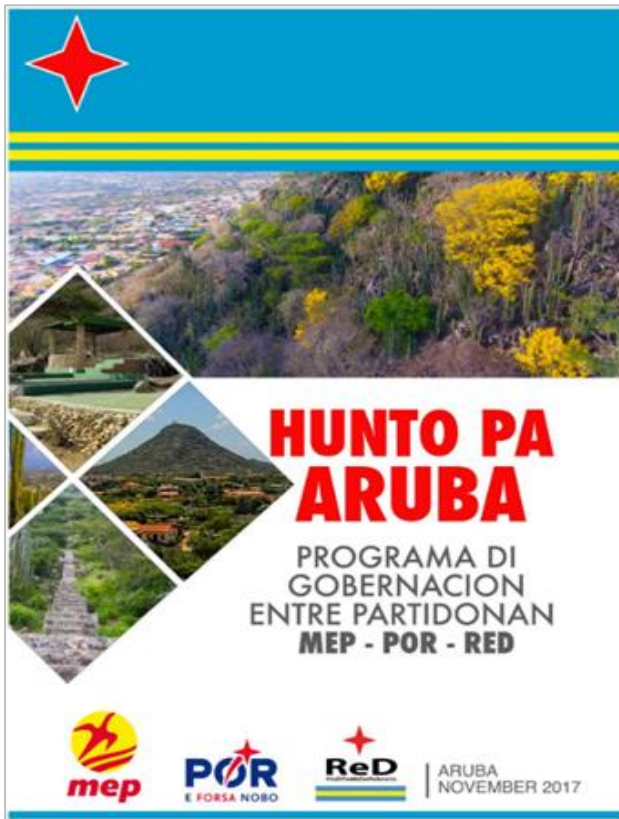
Finally, a knowledge management ecosystem to share sustainable practices, both locally and internationally, will be developed to sustain and support this long-term human-centered vision approach⁸.

Our sustainability agenda is a long-term one and requires us being dynamic, creating adaptive policies and serving as an incubator for sustainable islands solutions, which Aruba aims to share with fellow SIDS. While also recognizing the extension to and benefit to other non-UN member SIDS and SNIJs as well as potential cities and countries where these island solutions can be catalyzed and scaled-up.

⁷ Aruban stakeholders emphasized during the participatory sessions for this National Strategic Plan (NSP) to prefer to add the term “good practice” next to “best practice”, as in reality it is debatable whether there is a single ‘best’ approach knowing that approaches are constantly evolving and being updated. The use of the term “good practice” is also recognized as being more commonly used within the international community on South-South and triangular cooperation (<https://www.unsouthsouth.org/library/publications/good-practices-in-sstc-for-sustainable-development/>)

⁸ One such example of the knowledge management ecosystem is the Aruba Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development of SIDS (COE), which was established through a partnership by the Government of Aruba, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2015. The COE aims to strengthen innovation and resilience of SIDS by offering a platform for South-South cooperation and exchange of knowledge in a range of areas, including sustainability planning, renewable energy, sustainable tourism, and social innovation. The role of the COE for Aruba’s sustainable development will be further advanced as it migrates into the University of Aruba

The main umbrella policies mentioned in this report are the following policy documents:



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS

A photograph of three flagpoles with flags (Aruba, Netherlands, and United Kingdom) flying against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there are several palm trees and a landscaped area with small flowers. The image is used as a background for the text.

Aruba adopted the SDGs to achieve a better and more sustainable all-embracing future for our citizens. With the NSP we demonstrate that we have strengthened our efforts to achieve our goals. By achieving a national statistical capacity, we support the following goals.



9.1 Communications strategy to mainstream SDGs across institutions and the community

Aruba will develop a well-thought-out public diplomacy/branding and communications strategy to raise awareness and mainstream the SDGs that fosters participation and co-creation with local institutions and community

Overview

To achieve a shift in our societies and systems towards sustainability depends on the full ownership by our communities. We must go beyond the simple adaptation of global goals to the local level; the government has a role to play in fostering implementation by integrating the various agendas on the ground. In this way, with the political will and co-creation with our communities, we can find solutions at the local level as well as contributing to the global challenges and objectives.

An initial step for Aruba would be to develop a well-thought-out awareness raising and communications strategy to raise awareness and mainstream the SDGs. The government, civil society organizations, private sector, media, academia and the general public will need to build strong and inclusive partnerships for the achievement of the SDGs and thus designing a National Awareness program to bring the SDGs to the ground level, is essential.

In the pursuit of this localization and mainstreaming of the SDGs, Aruba will work on its development and simultaneously strengthen its role as a model of sustainable development. Aruba aims to share its strategy of mainstreaming the SDGs as well as the resulting impact hereof on society as a good practice.

Desired outcome 1

Marketing communications strategy (local) showcasing the Aruba SDG implementation as a good practice is established

Awareness-raising is not only about letting citizens know about the existence of the SDGs. It is also about empowering them to participate in the achievement of the SDGs in their daily lives. Aruba envisions a human-centered approach for the communications strategy to foster participation and co-creation with the local community, to be an adaptive strategy as well as modern with use of innovative communications approaches and to be showcased as a good practice.

Within the government, among the civil service in particular, there is a need to ensure that the SDGs are also understood. The people from whom much will be expected must be familiar with the

priorities and establish processes so that they will move forward. The marketing communications strategy includes raising awareness of the 2030 Agenda among the different government Ministries and departments to help localize the agenda, including its integration into policies, projects, budget allocations and set-up mechanisms that enable local community participation and ultimately institutional accountability. Focal points will need to be identified within the government and across local institutions and community.

With this base, the government and partners across local institutions and community can work together on campaigns with similar goals (e.g., on health and biodiversity conservation). These efforts can engage the media successfully (TV, radio and social media), and design a National Awareness program with campaign models that involve broad local-level participation (such as children

in schools in a biodiversity conservation campaign). Furthermore, this opens the door to build strong partnerships with local institutions and community beyond joint awareness raising, such as partnerships for technical expertise in projects and funding.

Actions

- A. Identify focal points for each institution
- B. Design adaptive and modern awareness raising and communications strategy (local)
- C. Implement National Awareness and communication program on the SDGs



9.2 Enhance partnership for sustainable development

Aruba will build strong national and international partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs and for showcasing the Aruba SDG implementation as a good practice

Overview

Partnerships play a crucial role in mobilizing resources for the implementation of the SDGs. Partnerships make, also, a real difference in the lives and livelihoods of the local community. Partners may provide both financial and non-financial resources such as human resources, in-kind contributions of goods as well as services such as knowledge-sharing and expertise. Deepening Aruba's engagement with key resource partners and fostering new alliances, both national and international, is essential to generate real impact on the ground. In the drive to achieve real impact, Aruba aims to work with a variety of resource partners; national and international organizations, countries, private sector, CSO and academia.

Special attention is paid to building partnerships with SIDS and with fortifying mutually beneficial Kingdom relations on the subject of SDG implementation.

With these strong partnerships built for the implementation of the SDGs and serving as an incubator for innovative island solutions, Aruba aims to be a good practice with real impact and to share this with the world.

Desired outcome 1

National and international resource mobilization is enhanced

Current and future partnership with national and international organizations, countries, private sector, CSO and academia should be fostered. Therefore, a comprehensive resource mobilization plan needs to be developed that encompasses the different opportunities for partnership building. The resource mobilization plan should describe how to engage likely resource partners and for which resources. Resource mobilization is a process and continuous dialogue and engagement of resource partners is necessary to build relationships and trust. The resource mobilization plan should be adaptive and include space for evaluation through the monitoring of resource mobilization activities.

Actions

- A. Develop national and international resource mobilization strategy and plan

Desired outcome 2

Collaboration with SIDS intensified

SIDS were recognized as a distinct group of developing countries facing specific social, environmental and economic vulnerabilities at the UNCED, also known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. The United Nations recognizes 38 UN Member States as SIDS and 20 Non-UN Members/Associate Members of the Regional Commission, the latter group containing Aruba. The planet has some 80,000 permanently inhabited islands and Aruba recognizes the benefit of sharing knowledge on sustainable development with UN- member SIDS as well as with other non-UN member SIS and SNIJs, nonetheless Aruba emphasizes partnership building among the SIDS group as it is an internationally recognized platform for governmental island advocacy within the UN system. Aruba foresees establishing a strong partnership with SIDS to spur further island collaborations. In order to

intensify this collaboration, a mapping of potential partners and a collaboration strategy with SIDS is necessary.

Actions

- A. Mapping and identifying potential partners for Aruba's sustainable development objectives
- B. Develop a collaboration strategy with SIDS

aspires to fortify further and promote Kingdom relations.

Actions

- A. Develop a Kingdom relationship strategy on SDG implementation

Desired outcome 3

Mutually beneficial Kingdom relations are promoted

All four partner countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands have welcomed the SDGs and are committed to achieving them. The SDG framework is seen as beneficial for guiding and accelerating ongoing efforts towards sustainable development ambitions. Various initiatives are being taken across the Kingdom to raise awareness of the SDGs and engage citizens in SDG implementation. Strengthening and promoting mutually beneficial relations and thus our partnership within the Kingdom, which contains five other small island developing states, Curacao, St. Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, can be leveraged in implementing the SDGs. The Kingdom reported jointly in 2017 to the UN HLPF on Sustainable Development with a VNR. During the Inter-Parliamentary Kingdom Conference, the decision was made to install a committee to continue discussions on SDGs between parliamentarians. Aruba

9.3 Improve national mechanism for reporting on the SDGs



Aruba will efficiently institutionalize reporting on the SDGs at the national, regional and global levels with the support of a strong monitoring and evaluation framework

Overview

The 2030 Agenda puts monitoring, evaluation and learning by reporting at the heart to achieve the 17 SDGs at all levels. The importance of monitoring, evaluation and learning by reporting is to stimulate participation, transparency, accountability and focus efforts towards real action on the ground by working in a collaborative and integrated approach among public, private, CSOs, academia and citizens⁹.

At the national level, member states recommend undertaking regular monitoring and evaluations based on data, which is high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable from the National Statistical Office and possibly from relevant stakeholders in society in order to make informed decisions. At the regional level, the follow-up and review of the SDGs could consist of peer learning, sharing of best practices, and discussion on shared targets and issues. At the global level, the HLPF on sustainable development constitutes the overall global review architecture of the 2030 Agenda. UN member states are encouraged to present VNRs¹⁰ to the HLPF, following common guidelines proposed by the Secretary-General. The UN IAEG-SDGs¹¹ has affirmed the overall ownership and primary responsibility of member states through their NSOs, which is the CBS on Aruba¹². They are expected to compile and provide data for reporting.

Desired outcome 1

Continuous capacity building on monitoring, evaluation and reporting is institutionalized

In order to achieve the SDGs by 2030, civil servants must improve their statistical capacity in order to move toward consistent evidence-based policy-making. Therefore, capacity building is needed to lay a firm foundation for understanding data for monitoring, evaluation and learning by reporting. Capacity building should be continuous and institutionalized within the governmental system.

Actions

A. Identify potential courses and training

- B. Set up a train-the-trainers program
- C. Develop an online training program
- D. Execute the yearly training program for a minimum of 150 persons

Desired outcome 2

Monitoring & Evaluation and Learning framework is developed

As recognized in *The Road to Dignity by 2030*, national monitoring of the SDGs should “build on existing national and local mechanisms and processes, with broad, multi-stakeholder participation.” Countries can define the nature of the indicators, their specifications, timing, data collection methods, and

⁹ Additionally, reporting on the status of the SDGs will be useful to international development partners in identifying areas of technical assistance to Aruba and provide the basis for soliciting bilateral technical assistance (e.g. with the Central Bureau of Statistics of The Netherlands)

¹⁰ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

¹¹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/>

¹² Coinciding with the installation of Aruba’s SDG Commission, a SDG-Indicator Working Group (SDG-IWG) was installed in January 2017 and is a joint effort between different data producing government departments. The main purpose of the SDG-IWG is to support the CBS in leading the process of data collection to monitor and evaluate the SDGs and the integration of the SDGs in national policy

disaggregation to suit their priorities and needs.

Localization of the SDG indicators allows Aruba to reflect its specific national context in the indicators. This localization includes the identification of indicators on the global list that are not relevant to Aruba and the inclusion of Aruba-specific indicators that may not be included in either the global list or regional list of SDG indicators.

A comprehensive MEL framework should be developed to be accountable to our citizens and the Agenda 2030. Monitoring has to do with processes to produce the data. Evaluation differs from monitoring and goes beyond technical target and indicator measurement. It provides a way to explain data trends, adds substantial value for learning and adaptive management, and investigates whether measured progress is relevant and sustainable. Reporting is one component of evaluation processes, and VNRs are an important evaluation tool, rolled-out globally, to demonstrate how far countries are progressing toward realizing the SDGs, but VNRs represent just one approach to evaluation in the 2030 Agenda. Countries can look beyond evaluation in the context of global reporting through VNRs to also embed evaluation at the national/local level. In this way, evaluation can be a strong entry point for countries to achieve truly transformative development, include broad stakeholder participation within an evaluation policy beyond reporting as a report card approach, reflecting the Agenda's inclusive ambition.

Actions

- A. Identify monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks available internationally
- B. Develop an appropriate monitoring, evaluation learning framework
- C. Stimulate a collaborative and integrated approach on monitoring and evaluation (public, private, CSOs, academia & citizens)

Desired outcome 3

National reporting mechanism is institutionalized

A strong national reporting mechanism that describes processes for, what and when to report, in collaboration with whom and to which platforms should be developed as there are different levels of reporting the SDGs, nationally, regionally and globally. At the regional level Aruba aims to submit to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development through ECLAC and at the global level Aruba reports as part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the HLPF.

Partnerships are imperative for this development. Aruba, as part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, presented its first VNR report together with the other three autonomous countries, St. Maarten, Curacao and the Netherlands at the HLPF in 2017. It is expected to report again in 2021, as the reporting cycle on the global level with the Kingdom is set to take place every five years. Additionally, a first baseline measurement report of the global monitoring indicators was produced in June 2018 by the SDG-IWG.

Actions

A. Develop a national reporting mechanism

A string of colorful international pennants and lights hangs across the frame. The pennants feature various national colors and patterns, including red, white, blue, yellow, and orange. The lights are small, round, and white. The background is a soft, out-of-focus view of a building with a large circular window.

9.4 Knowledge management ecosystem

Aruba will create a knowledge management ecosystem that supports the Aruba SDG implementation process and is aimed at sharing this as a good practice with the international community

Overview

A knowledge management ecosystem consists of individuals, organizations and networks, and comprises the creation, storage, and use of knowledge between these entities. For a successful implementation of the SDGs in Aruba, we must create and embed a knowledge management ecosystem to support national policy-coherence and the share of new knowledge. Hereby involving international multi-stakeholder partnerships to showcase the Aruba SDG implementation as a good practice.

Desired outcome 1

A digital repository for policies and reports is created

As the SDGs are all interlinked, putting in place tools to produce effective, efficient, and coherent policies in all sectors is essential. Policy-coherence is one of the targets. The problem is that policymakers and planners operate in silos. Different ministries might handle energy, agriculture and health, while they are interconnected. Policy coherence for sustainable development has thus become a reality reflected in the ‘Systemic Issues’ section of SDG17 on ‘Strengthening the Means of Implementation and Revitalising the Global Partnership’. Specifically, SDG Target 17.14 to “enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.”

Therefore, the creation of a government portal/intranet for sharing policies/documents/reports (e-government) cross-ministerial is seen as an integral part of promoting policy-coherence. Such a knowledge sharing platform is one where civil servants can interact with each other to share knowledge and contribute formal (and informal information) to the knowledge base. It can allow civil servants to connect with each other for close collaboration. Hence, utilizing a knowledge management tool to streamline the knowledge sharing

process and breaking down silos is beneficial for coordinating on the implementation of the SDGs.

Actions

- A. Create a government portal/intranet for sharing policies/documents/reports (e-government)
- B. Awareness and training of public officials in the use of the portal
- C. Identify relevant policy reports available internationally

Desired outcome 2

A knowledge exchange strategy for international stakeholder partnerships, including showcasing the Aruba SDG implementation, as a good practice, is developed

Currently there is a lack of a coherent national strategy directed towards the entire knowledge sharing and dissemination process. Given the increased awareness of the contribution of the implementation of the SDGs knowledge to the global community, greater consideration will be given to developing a strategy with processes and channels by which examples of good practices and ‘Aruba as a model for Sustainable Development’ flows. This increasing awareness is an opportunity to strengthen Aruba’s knowledge economy by

promoting and implementing policies for sharing these good practices. Within this knowledge exchange strategy, partnerships with international stakeholders will play a crucial role.

Actions

- A. Identify appropriate and effective knowledge exchange strategies
- B. Implement knowledge exchange strategy

Acronyms

C

CBS Central Bureau of Statistics
CSO Society Organizations

E

ECLAC UN Economic Commission
for Latin America and the
Caribbean

H

HLPF UN High-level Political
Forum

I

IAEG-SDG UN Inter-Agency and Expert
Group on SDG Indicators

M

MEL Monitoring, Evaluation &
Learning

N

NSO National Statistical Offices
NSP National Strategic Plan

S

SDG UN Sustainable
Development Goal
SDG-IWG SDG Indicators Working
Group
SIDS Small Island Development
States
SIS Small Island States
SNIJs Sub-national Island
Jurisdictions

U

UN United Nations
UNCED UN Conference on
Environment & Development

V

VNR Voluntary National Review



L e a v e a m a r k

ARUBA DEPENDS ON YOU

Aruba as a Model for Sustainable Development

NSP 2020-2022