

The VNR in a Nutshell – National Strategies for SDGs.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands

Capital Amsterdam
Population 17.03 million (2016)



Area (in sq.km) 16,412
Languages Dutch
Per capita income 46,326
International Tourist Arrivals (2015) 15.007 million



Sources: UNDP, World Bank, UNWTO

The recognition of the role of tourism in sustainable development and the emphasis placed in the SDGs on the development of public policies for sustainable tourism is a landmark breakthrough that provides a unique opportunity for all governments to create a sound and favourable policy foundation.

The first two years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have shown that countries are making headway in aligning national strategies, adapting institutional frameworks and adjusting policies to realize the SDGs.

The countries' efforts have been reported in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), presented by UN Member States during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2016 and 2017

Title of VNR: Report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

Presenter for VNR: Lilianne Ploumen, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

National Thematic Focus:

In the VNR, only Curaçao mentions the focus on priority areas: education, the economy, sustainability, national identity, and good governance and leadership. The plan includes various aspects of nation building and capacity development. This framework has integrated four SDGs that provide measurable targets responding to local challenges: Quality Education; Affordable and Clean Energy; Decent Work and Economic Growth; and Life Below Water. (SDG 4, 7, 8, 14)

Institutional Arrangement:

Netherlands: The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Coordination is responsible for the overall coordination of the SDGs. An SDG working group brings together representatives from each Ministry, chaired by the specially appointed high-level coordinator for national SDG implementation.

Aruba: National SDG Commission coordinates implementation of the SDGs. It includes representatives from the Ministry of General Affairs and the Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry (DEACI).

Curaçao: The Ministry of General Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Governance, Planning, and Public Service share the responsibility for the implementation of the SDGs. Inter-ministerial collaboration is reinforced by joint meetings and workshops.

St. Maarten: a "Think and Act" Commission consisting of the three ministries most involved in SDG implementation will organize an information and communication campaign in its initial three-year phase.

SDG Incorporation to National Framework:

Each of the four countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is mainstreaming the SDGs into their national strategies.

- Netherlands: implementation of the SDGs objectives will be organized in the Netherlands' action plan on inclusive development.
- Aruba: the roadmap for SDG implementation will be finalized by July 2017.
- Curaçao: has integrated four SDGs (education, energy, work and economic growth, and water) which are most consistent with the five priority areas in Curaçao's National Development Plan (education, economy, sustainability, national identity, and good governance and leadership).
- St. Maarten: is integrating the SDGs into its National Development Plan, currently under development.
- Netherlands: implementation of the SDGs objectives will be organized in the Netherlands' action plan on policy coherence.

Tourism Ministry /NTA portfolio:

Tourism portfolio is integrated in [Ministry of Economic Affairs](#)

Tourism and SDG in The Kingdom of Netherlands:

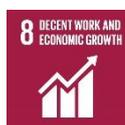
Opportunities

- **Partnerships**
- **Science and research**



Aruba is recognised as an important **partner** in sharing knowledge on sustainability, and as a role model for the Caribbean. In 2016 Aruba partnered with the Netherlands, the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) and UNDP to establish the UN Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Development for SIDS. The Centre aims to **strengthen innovation** and resilience by offering a platform for South-South cooperation and exchange of knowledge in areas including renewable energy, public-private partnerships, water management, **tourism**, the environment and sustainable health practices. The Centre plans to organise high-level training courses on creating sustainable development roadmaps, provide in-country technical assistance, and develop a virtual platform with access to knowledge products and learning tools. Aruba is also working with partners, including the Carbon War Room and the associated Rocky Mountain Institute, on meeting its own energy needs with 100% renewable energy by 2020. It understands that as a small island it is especially dependent on strong partnerships to achieve its goals.

- **Economic development**
- **Education vocational training**



All countries in **the Kingdom** invest in **education**. The Netherlands promotes learning, skills acquisition and knowledge through its national education policy and curriculum, which also addresses crosscutting themes such as sustainability, equal opportunities and social inclusion. It also has national policies promoting culture, not only due to the intrinsic value of artistic expression but also to its social importance (for personal development, dialogue, cohesion and historic awareness) and economic value (for creative industries, **sustainable tourism**, innovation and spatial planning).

- Employment creation
- Security and peace
- SMEs and entrepreneurship platform



St Maarten is promoting **sustainable tourism** that creates jobs and **promotes local culture and products, a shared cultural identity, diversity and tolerance**. Heritage activities are also included in the educational curriculum. The country is strengthening legislation to enhance employment opportunities, improve relations between employers and employees, and support access to financial services. St Maarten plans to stimulate economic growth and business development through innovation, SME promotion, the development of telecom and other services, and the creation of an enabling environment.

- Marine and coastal protection
- Science and research
- Tourism diversification



The waters around **Curaçao** have extensive coral reef systems, which are an international focal point for marine biology research. The Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity foundation conducts studies in the region in cooperation with international institutes, **promoting scientific tourism**.

Challenges

- Human Rights



The Netherlands has two priority areas: combating human trafficking and fighting the exploitation of children in **child sex tourism** and child pornography, both at home and abroad.

Resources and Useful Links

[The Kingdom of Netherlands VNR 2017](#)