THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

PARTICIPATORY LAND-USE PLANNING IN ARUBA

CONTRIBUTING TO THE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Photographs:
Department of Nature and Environment of Aruba, NGO StimAruba and YABI
This case study describes the measures taken in Aruba to address the challenges the island faces to sustainably allocate limited land and related natural resources amid competing needs for human settlements, tourism, cultural sites, agriculture and nature conservation. The study explains how a team of researchers discovered ways to make effective plans and decisions on land-use, mindful of Aruba’s cultural values, the concern for ecosystems and for democratic land-use to achieve long-term sustainable development on the island. The approach followed was to conduct inclusive interviews among stakeholders in government, civil society, the private sector as well as a large-scale survey with citizens. This enabled researchers to map areas to which the local community attaches great aesthetic, recreational and cultural value. The data and information obtained informs evidence-based plans and decisions on sustainable land-use. In addition, the maps provide policy makers with a tool to balance economic needs for tourist sites and the provision of spaces for recreational swimming and social events, including popular wedding ceremonies at the beach. As such, the study demonstrates why participatory governance is critical to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, it cautions that scaling up development initiatives can be time consuming and proposes ways to maximize the impact of research findings through formal and informal contacts between researchers, policy makers and the public.
RESOURCES

Cultural Ecosystem Service (CES) for Local Community in Aruba (2017):

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Aruba (2018):

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