

# Curacao the world's 1st 'island doughnut'

By Sharnon Isenia

Member of the strategic core group of the Curacao Doughnut Economy (CDE) taskforce. The CDE taskforce is a social movement. The aim of the taskforce is to create the first island doughnut model of the world. The change and transition that CDE wants to unleash is the creation of a circular economy. The basis for it is the sustainability and innovation of production processes, companies and their underlying business models. <https://www.facebook.com/curacaodoughnut>

*'Curaçao is a pioneer in showing how a Caribbean island can start putting 21st century economics into practice in order to create a regenerative future.'* Kate Raworth, March 2021

## The first steps to change

Curacao has a good basis of becoming the world's first 'island doughnut'. There are plenty of existing companies and initiatives that focus on making the island sustainable. That is one of the main conclusions of the report 'Curacao Doughnut Economy - A New Compass for Economic Prosperity'<sup>1</sup>. On March 24<sup>th</sup> of this year a report was approved by the Council of Ministers as policy plan for the integral development of Curacao towards 2030. This after a presentation by Joeri Oltheten and Juan Carlos Goilo supported by Stacey Mac Donald as an eye whiteness of the strategic core group.

The doughnut model is of the British economist Kate Raworth. It connects environmental, economic and social principles for a sustainable transition from a linear to a circular economy. The report is a first step in the formulation of policy, the promotion and the creation of a circular economy in 2030 for Curacao. The doughnut economy functions as a compass with the aim: to develop the economy in such a way, so a better balance is created over time between the fulfillment of social needs of the inhabitants versus the ecological limits of the earth and Curacao in particular.

## Focus on value

The doughnut model is a compass that makes the direction of Curacao value driven. The model creates this by asking the central question: How can Curaçao be a place for human development and where people flourish with respect for the wellbeing of the whole planet and all inhabitants? To make this question manageable, it is divided into four groups: local-social, local-ecological, global-social and global ecological. The questions help the island think about the local and global dimensions, as well as the social and environmental dimensions of the island related to its economy.

An inventory is made dived into the four groups of sustainable companies with their underlying business models analyze and other initiatives describe. A total of ninety five (95) sustainable companies are identified and also twenty-three (23) new ideas coming from private initiatives are put forward and proposed for further future development.

## How does the doughnut model works?

The doughnut model consists of two concentric rings: an inner ring and an outer ring. The inner ring represents twelve (12) social foundations, derived from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

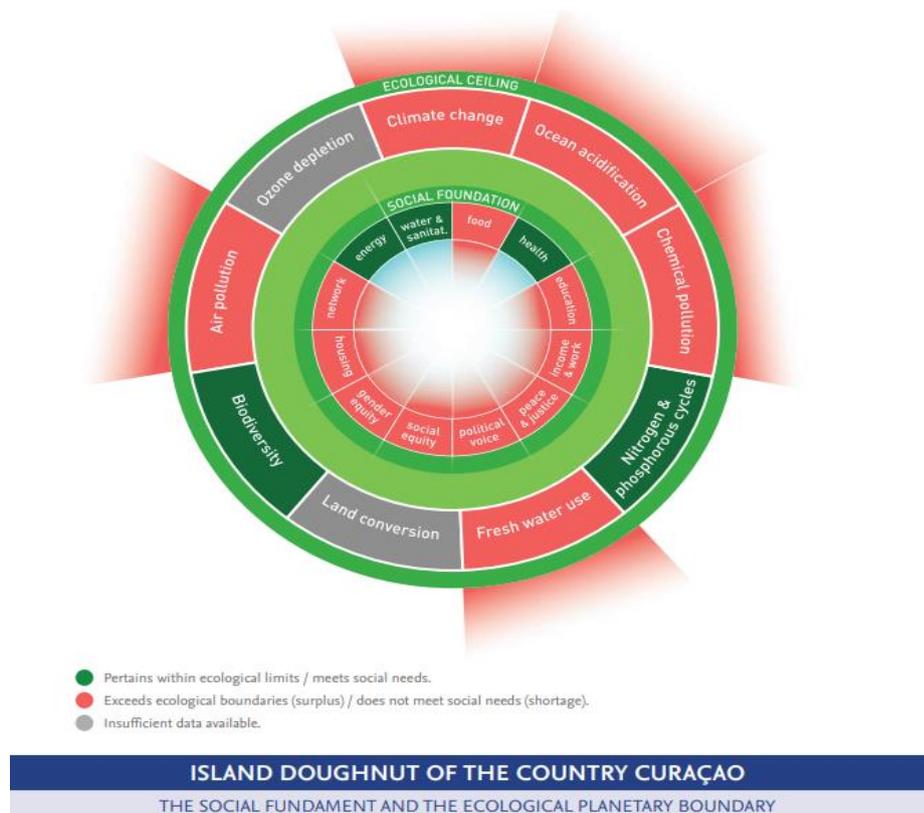
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<sup>1</sup> The report 'Curacao Doughnut Economy - A New Compass for Economic Prosperity' is a product of Project bureau Circular Economy of the Ministry of Economic Development and was established in close cooperation with Curaçao Doughnut Economy Taskforce. The government of Curaçao shows gratitude to all parties involved for their valuable discussions and insights that have contributed to the creation of this first doughnut economy model for islands.

that are needed for a society to develop successfully. The outer ring represents the earth's nine (9) ecological boundaries, developed by Rockström and his colleagues in 2009. These go far beyond the ecological aspects of the SDGs. Raworth's seven principles support economic prosperity from this inner and outer ring of the doughnut model.

Curacao Island Snapshot

In addition to the data collection, ten (10) workshops were organized in smaller community groups in different neighborhoods spread from east to west over the island. The 'Curacao Island Snapshot' shows that there is still much work to be done, if the island wants to be a part of the doughnut economy. Poverty, lack of knowledge, unemployment and inequality on the island reflect the way it's polluted and the environment is neglected. The red discs pertaining to the social fundament show which essential social needs the island is currently lacking. The red discs outside the ecological ceiling show the current exceedance of ecological boundaries.



Conclusions

The Curacao Island Snapshot shows an alarming picture of the economy, both socio-economic and ecological. Curaçao does not meet the limits imposed by the model on several fronts. Five of the nine ecological indicators and nine of the twelve socio-economic indicators provide worrying insights. Curaçao lacks a social foundation, and this has its impact on the climate. More research is needed to find out exactly how this social foundation can be built on a sustainable basis.

Mission & vision

With the right priorities, work programs and projects the government of Curacao can help facilitate to create a path towards prosperity in 2030 that will make the island a leader for sustainability in the Caribbean. But it is in particular various form of private initiatives, which really will make the difference and induce the needed transformation base upon best

practices. These should be part of an integral public-partnership approach. In 2030 Curaçao will be able to reduce its carbon footprint and increase respect to the wellbeing of people, develop more resilient communities and handle regulations in an innovative way by implementing the next nine recommendations. This will automatically attract investors who drive sustainability and guarantee the economic prosperity of the island.

*Nine recommendations*

1. Inter-ministerial cooperation; the complexity of a transition to a circular economy requires more integration between ministries of the government of Curacao and the cultivation of intrinsic motivation.
2. Knowledge, knowledge-sharing and advice; more open government and more contact with communities. Feel free to re-use the model for doughnut workshops.
3. Information and monitoring; regularly examine all indicators within the doughnut model.
4. Open collaboration platforms and a proper digital infrastructure; the doughnut economy taskforce will set up a digital platform to strengthen the path to economic prosperity.
5. Jobs and skills; generate new jobs in the circular economy through challenges formulated by partners in the field.
6. Investment fund; pro-activity develop financing instruments for the circular economy.
7. Circular area development & tenders; areal development and tenders should become circular by design (regenerative, distributive and inclusive).
8. International partnerships; various organizations from Aruba, St. Maarten, Costa Rica, Grand Bahama, Suriname, Malta and the European Union have shown interest in the Doughnut model Curacao developed.
9. Narrative building; develop a strong narrative of change that offers points of reference for sustainable initiatives and gives meaning to the major changes that Curacao is undergoing.