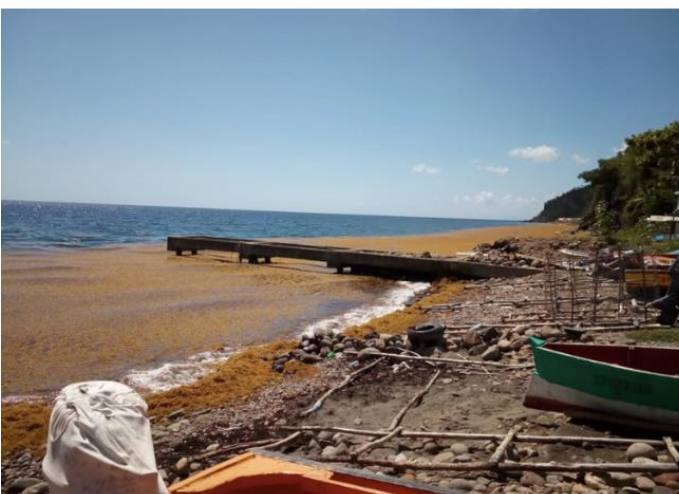
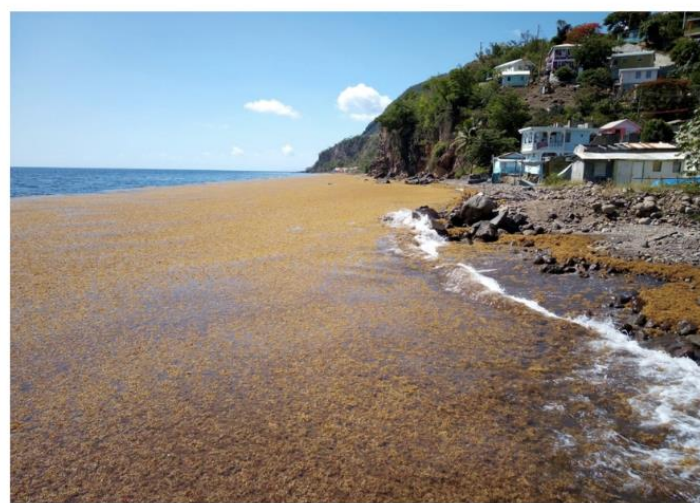
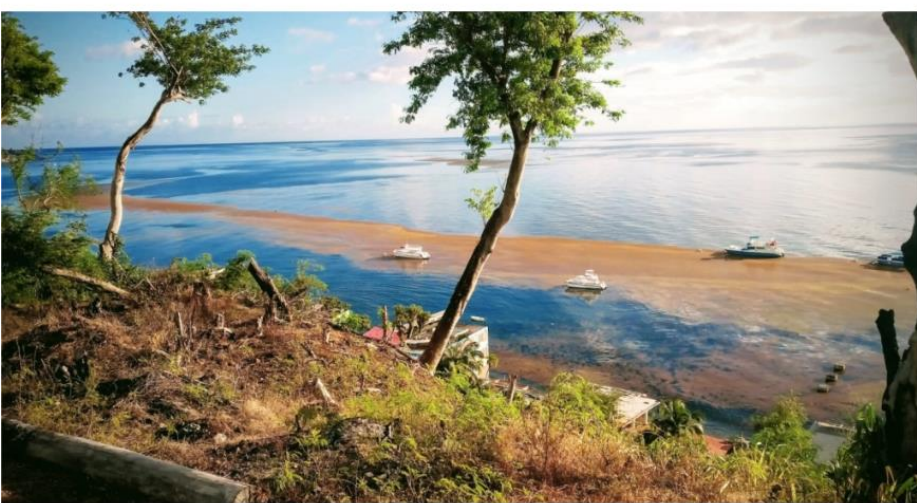


DRAFT

DOMINICA SARGASSUM ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (SAMS)

VOLUME 2: ACTION APPENDICES



April 2023

SargAdapt

Adapting to a new reality: Managing responses to influxes of sargassum seaweed in the Eastern Caribbean as ecosystem hazards and opportunities



Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART A: COUNTRY SPECIFIC	1
1 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	2
1.1 Authority	2
1.2 Institutions	2
1.3 Roles of some stakeholders in management	3
2 MONETARY MATTERS	4
3 KEY SARGASSUM CONTACTS	4
4 SARGASSUM EXPOSURE AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT	5
5 LOCATION PROFILES OF SARGASSUM STRANDING SITES	7
5.1 Marigot	8
5.2 Scotts Head	12
5.3 San Sauveur	16
5.4 Rosalie Bay	20
5.5 Castle Bruce	24
5.6 Fond Cole	28
5.7 Massacre	32
5.8 Mero	36
5.9 Bioche	40
5.10 Dublanc	43
5.11 Turtle Bay Beach, Portsmouth	47
PART B: CARIBBEAN GENERAL	51
6 LOCAL LEVEL SARGASSUM MANAGEMENT PLANS	52

7	ACTIONS AND OPERATIONS	54
7.1	Resources for responsible responses	54
7.2	Management of sargassum influxes	57
7.3	Sargassum forecasting and monitoring	65
7.4	Recommended actions for key sectors	69
7.5	Sargassum projects in the wider caribbean	73
8	SARGASSUM USES	80
8.1	Key resources	80
8.2	Challenges and considerations	82

Suggested citation:

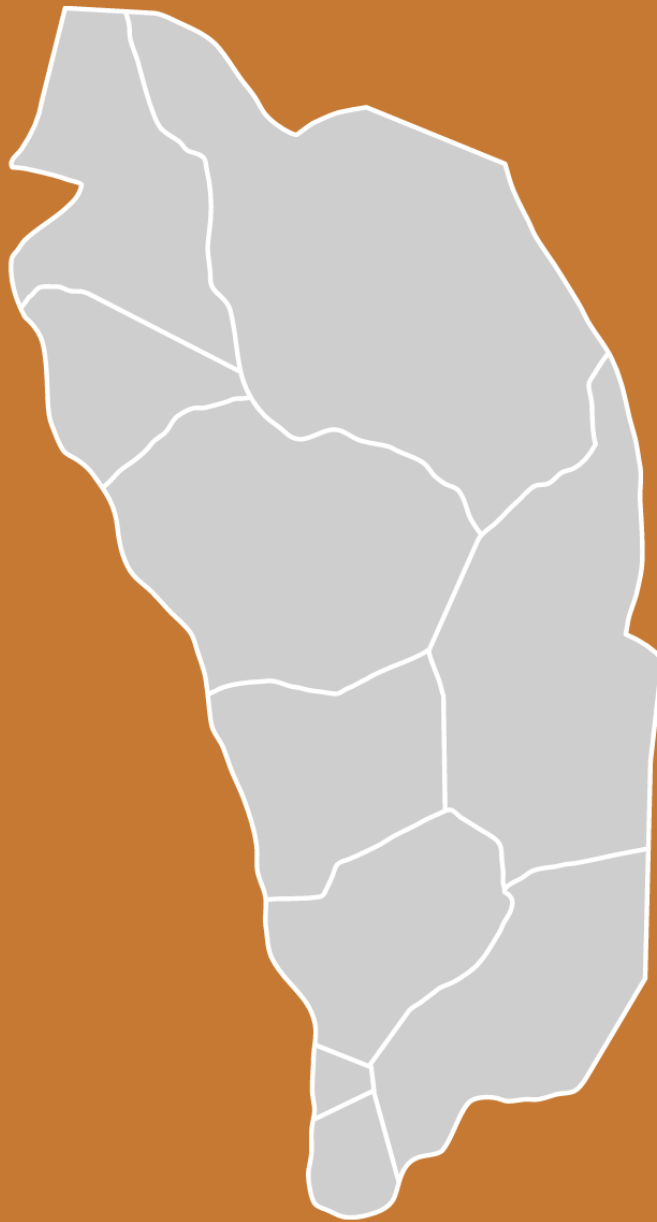
CERMES. 2023. Draft Dominica Sargassum Adaptive Management Strategy. Volume 2: Action Appendices. University of the West Indies (UWI) Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), Barbados.

Photo credit:

Top: Left and right- Fisheries Division

Bottom: Left- Fisheries Division, right- Karen Thomas

PART A: COUNTRY SPECIFIC



1 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1.1 AUTHORITY

This section lists some existing documentation which can provide the framework for sargassum management in Dominica.

- Climate Resilience Act
- Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan
- Climate Change, Environment and Natural Resource Management Bill
- Disaster Management Plan
- Dominica National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020
- Dominica National Ocean Policy (Draft) 2019
- Environment and Natural Resource Management Bill
- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Dominica
- Environmental Health Services Act (1997)
- Fisheries Act No. 11 of 1987
- Fisheries Development and Management Plan 2005- 2010
- Fisheries (Marine Reserve) Regulations (2001)
- Fisheries Policy for Dominica 2012-2037
- Low-Carbon Climate-Resilient Development Strategy
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2013)
- National Climate Change Adaptation Policy 2002
- National Climate Change Policy and Action Plan (2019-2024)
- National Disaster Plan of 2001
- National Land Use Policy and Action Plan (2014)
- National Parks and Protected Areas Act (1975)
- National Physical Development Plan (2016)
- National Resilience Development Strategy Dominica (2030)
- National Tourism Policy 2020
- Physical Planning Act (2002)
- Product Development Policy
- Protected Areas Policy
- Solid Waste Management Act (2002)
- Strategic Program for Climate Resilience
- Strategic Plan for Health 2010– 2019
- Strategic Sargassum Preparedness Plan (2019)
- Tourism Policy
- Tourism Master Plan 2012-2022

Note: This list reflects the national legislation enacted before the publishing date of this document.

1.2 INSTITUTIONS

No formal institution exists, however, the Fisheries Division is the *de facto* leader or coordinator of sargassum-related activities. Despite the absence of a sargassum management committee, local communities and special interest groups finance sargassum clean-up efforts at individual sites. Some groups fundraise through attraction entry fees or grants (e.g., Mero).

Officers of the Environmental Health Division, stationed at main health centres in affected communities, have been providing public education about possible health effects of sargassum exposure and keeps records of patients presenting with sargassum-related health impacts.

1.3 ROLES OF SOME STAKEHOLDERS IN MANAGEMENT

Management institutions can comprise a mix of actors and roles. The table provides a limited example such as can be constructed following stakeholder identification and analysis.

Fisherfolk or similar coastal area users	General public or civil society organisations	Sargassum authority (e.g. Fisheries Division)
Attend, contribute, participate in the information and education sessions	Attend, contribute, participate in the information and education session	Ensure project structure is well defined and in place
Provide use of boats and seine nets towards the cleanup of offshore areas	Identify groups and clubs to sign up for the volunteer beach clean- up sessions.	Discuss and help plan beach clean- up activities with the communities
Participate actively in beach cleanups. Form fisher groups specifically to assist in the beach cleanups	Promote the formation of new clubs and help strengthen weak groups.	Inform the communities of ecological advantages of sargassum (climate adaptation, sustainable & innovative project opportunities)
Report location and possible size of Sargassum sightings at sea	Provide support and volunteer to ensure project is a success	Ensure communities have the information, supplies, equipment to carry out the tasks at hand.
Promote the importance of good practices when removing sargassum	Share information on the project with individuals and households	Carry out monitoring and evaluation of project processes and procedures to ensure compliance with funding agency
	Ensure the safety of project assets – tools, equipment, supplies	Ensure proper utilization and allocation of resources
	Ensure cleanup is done thoroughly and diligently	
	Encourage innovation to create sustainable livelihoods among community, specifically the youth	Work with community to encourage innovation, research and development to create sustainability after end of project

(Examples adapted from Sealys and Felix (2017))

2 MONETARY MATTERS

Line ministries, statutory corporations, non-governmental organisations and private sector managers and financial staff will have several different ways of presenting and analysing sargassum-related costs and earnings. It is not suggested that there should be a standard format, but there should be a simple means of estimating equivalence in order to easily determine and compare the costs and benefits of various operations at whatever scale is appropriate. The figures given below are entirely fictitious, but illustrate the kinds of information required.

EXAMPLES OF VALUE TYPES	AUTHORITY FOR VALUE ESTIMATE	UNITS AND NOTES	VALUE (EC)
Cane loader rental	Ministry of Agriculture	Average hourly rate	250.00/hr
Beach restoration	CZMU	Estimated contractor fee	1,300.00/day
Biofuel production value	Energy Division	From xx biogas digester	6,500/ton wet weight
Decline in fish harvest	Fisheries Division	Based on ex-vessel price	1,000,000.00/season

For a more thorough treatment see the journal article:

Rodríguez-Martínez, R.E., Torres-Conde, E.G. and Jordán-Dahlgren, E., 2023. Pelagic Sargassum cleanup cost in Mexico. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, 237, p.106542.

3 KEY SARGASSUM CONTACTS

This section gives an overview of the existing legislation which provides the framework for sargassum management in Dominica.

NAME	POST	ORGANISATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Derrick Theophille	Chief Fisheries Officer	Fisheries Division	derkjt@gmail.com	
Kurt Hilton	Fisheries Officer	Fisheries Division	khiltonflo@gmail.com	
Diana Degallerie	Liaison Officer	Fisheries Division	diana.degallerie@gmail.com	
Wynnona Joseph	Senior Fisheries Officer	Fisheries Division	wynnonaj@gmail.com	

This table should be expanded and updated to include other sectors and actors (public sector, private sector and civil society) such as renewable energy, tourism, coastal management, etc.

4 SARGASSUM EXPOSURE AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

It must be noted that generally, there has been little systematic monitoring of sargassum inundations and therefore lack of data on spatial and temporal distribution. However, under the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) project '*Adapting to a new reality: managing responses to influxes of sargassum seaweed in the Eastern Caribbean*' (SargAdapt), hazard risk assessments of sargassum inundations were created using a combination of the tools of hazard risk response and spatial planning¹.

Thirty-three (33) sites were identified as being prone to sargassum influxes in Dominica, along the southeast, east, northeast and north coasts of Dominica. For the study, six coastal zone sub-areas were delineated for the island, since there is no existing framework with coastal sub-regions. Of these, only sub-areas 1 to 4 have been exposed to sargassum inundations over the years. The levels of sargassum inundations for these four coastal sub-areas and are shown in the map below. The findings from the study revealed based on available Google Earth imagery from 2010 to 2021, beaches exposed to sargassum inundation make up 21 km (14%) of the coastline of Dominica.

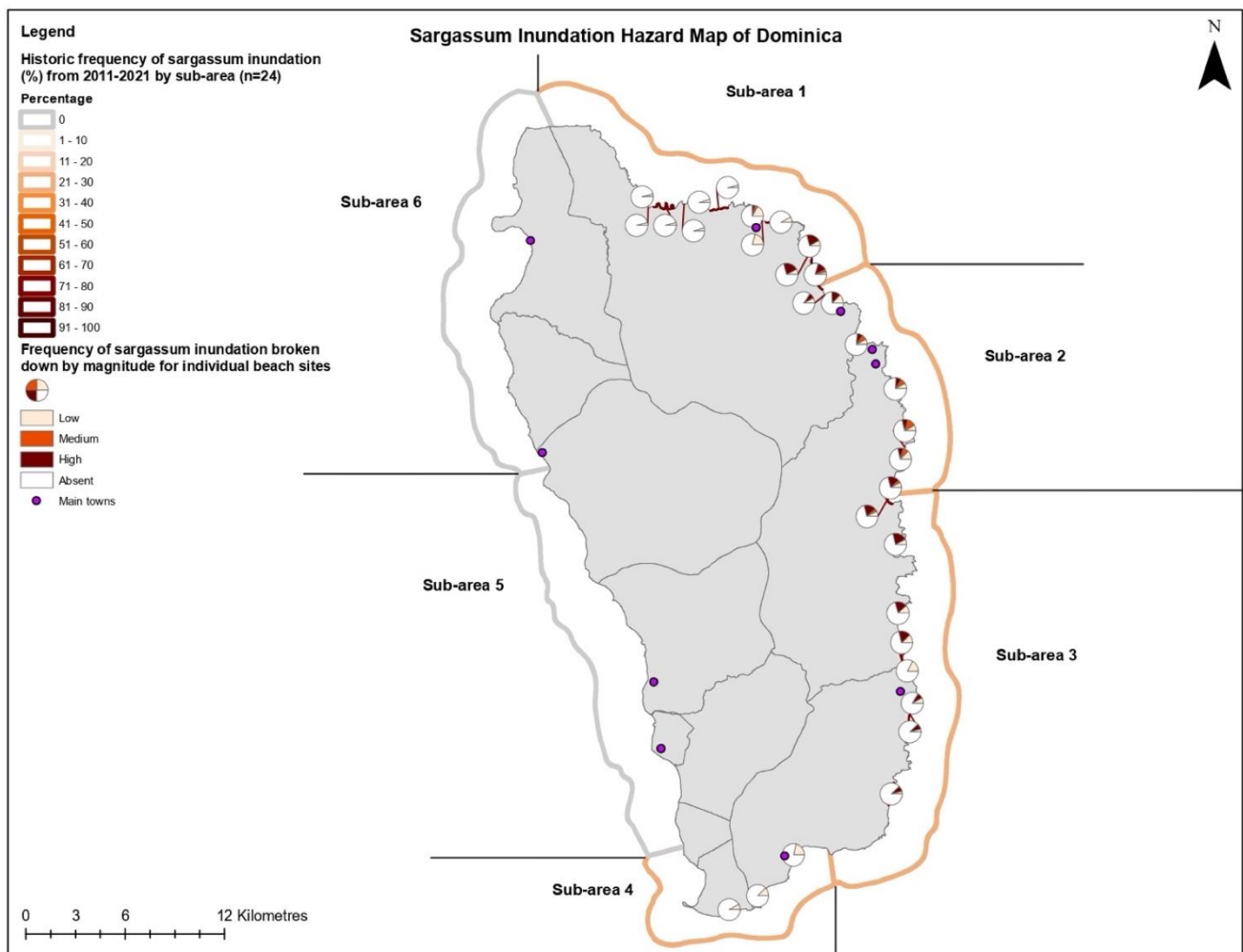
The frequency and magnitude of inundations are similar among the subareas, with sub-area 1 to 3 experiencing sargassum 29% of the time while sub-area 4 experiences sargassum 21% of the time. Even though sub-areas 1 and 3 have almost the same number of beaches, sub-area 3 has the greater length of exposed coastline (8.48 km).

To view the entire Project Report visit:

https://iweco.org/sites/default/files/202204/IWEco_Project_C2_Final_Report_Applying_Hazard_Risk_Assessment_and_Spatial_Planning_Tools_to_Sargassum_Inundations_in_the_Eastern_Cbean.pdf

¹ Degia. A.K., M. Small, H.A. Oxenford, 2022. Applying Hazard Risk Assessment and Spatial Planning Tools to Sargassum Inundations in the Eastern Caribbean Small Island States as a basis for improving response. SargAdapt Project Report, FINAL DRAFT. Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados, 72pp

Map of Dominica showing the level of sargassum inundations within the four coastal sub-areas.

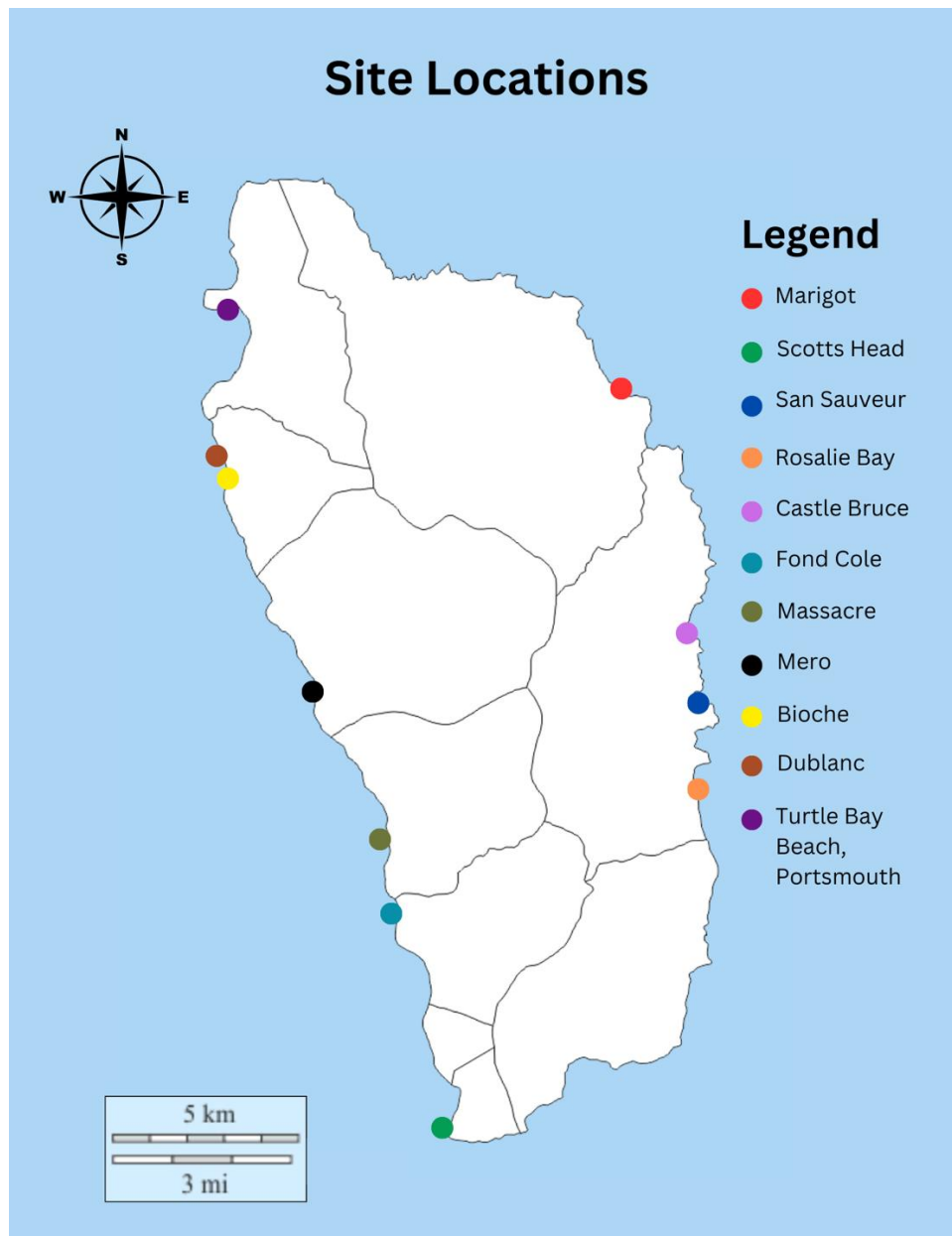


(Source: Degia et al. 2022)

During the rapid scoping assessment exercise, eleven sites were prioritized, based on their social and ecological characteristics and the severity of impacts in the past. This assessment provides useful information to support the design of targeted interventions for maximum impact. This is needed to inform decision making by assessing the most suitable interventions for each site to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability.

5 LOCATION PROFILES OF SARGASSUM STRANDING SITES

The eleven sites prioritized in Dominica are shown in the map below. Key physical, social and ecological features were identified for each site and a historical matrix was created to identify past sargassum impacts and responses.



5.1 MARIGOT



Source: Google Maps (Edited) – Marigot

SELECT SOCIAL KEY FEATURES	SELECT ECOLOGICAL KEY FEATURES
• One of the main towns in Dominica. • Population of approximately 2,411.² • Marigot Port and Fisheries Complex is classified as a tertiary landing site. • The fishery operating from Marigot includes a large portion of indigenous fishers from the Kalinago Territory.³ • Fishers in the Marigot area depend largely on fish aggregating devices (FADs).⁴ • Residential areas surrounding, with bars and food establishments. • Guest houses and apartments present.	• Coral reefs which support biodiversity.

DATE	SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSES
No historical records kept	-	-

BEACH ACCESS	LOCATION	TERRAIN
Vehicular		Slipway present
There is access for maneuvering of machinery/heavy equipment via the slipway. There is also pedestrian access.		

² Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica. 2020. Dominica Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020-2030. Climate Resilience Executing Agency of Dominica; the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning, Resilience, Sustainable Development, Telecommunications and Broadcasting, The Commonwealth of Dominica.

³ Turner, R., McConney, P. and Monnereau, I. 2020. Climate Change Adaptation and Extreme Weather in the Small-Scale Fisheries of Dominica, Coastal Management, DOI: 10.1080/08920753.2020.1795970.

⁴ The GEF Small Grants Programme. 2012. Improving livelihoods and increasing food security in St. Marks with best practice in sustainable fishing and protection of the environment in the Soufriere/Scotts Head Marine Reserve. Accessed from <https://sgp.undp.org/spacial-itemid-projects-landing-page/spacial-itemid-project-search-results/spacial-itemid-project-detailpage.html?view=projectdetailandid=19867> on January 27, 2022.

Vulnerability factors	
Geophysical features	Presence of bay which may retain sargassum, currents and the headlands impede natural removal.
Is there adequate access to the bay to facilitate clean-up efforts?	Yes
Is the area important for fishing? (Presence of fish market and other infrastructure e.g. Jetty)	Yes, Marigot Fisheries Complex is the newest and largest fish landing site in Dominica, supporting livelihoods of many especially those who reside in the Kalinago Territory. It is also a port of entry. A fish complex and other infrastructure are present at the site. There is no jetty, but there are moorings and a launch area.
How close is the community to Bay?	~46m
Proximity of bay to schools and other infrastructure (e.g. polyclinics etc.).	The bay is in close proximity to Marigot Hospital (~425m) and Marigot SDA Church (~448m). The closest school, Wills Strathmore Stevens School, is roughly 843m from the bay.
Volume of sargassum during scoping assessment	Very low
Volume of sargassum historically (2011 – present)	Very high volumes of sargassum have been experienced.
Is the beach heavily used by locals?	There is no recreational beach in the immediate vicinity.
Is the beach heavily used for tourism?	No
Evidence of resilience	
Is there evidence of community efforts to clean-up?	No
Is there evidence of community efforts to use sargassum?	No
Presence of church and community groups that advocate for government assistance?	Fisherfolk have been requesting assistance.

Overall comments on vulnerability and resilience:

The nearby community, the residents and the fisherfolk that are based in the bay and fishing harbour are heavily impacted by fresh and decomposing sargassum. Sargassum influxes in 2018 were particularly severe and it was reported that Sargassum covered the entire bay in Marigot, resulting in the inability of fishers to go to sea for up to three days. The Sargassum was so thick that vessel movement within the bay was restricted.⁵ The Marigot Port and Fisheries Complex is a major source of income for many persons from the nearby communities. Given the low wave energy present, the natural removal of sargassum rarely occurs; the community displays a **HIGH vulnerability** to influx events.

⁵ Schuessler, R. 2018. The Eastern Caribbean Is Swamped by a Surge of Seaweed. Accessed from <https://hakaimagazine.com/news/the-eastern-caribbean-is-swamped-by-a-surge-of-seaweed/> on January 27, 2022.

No efforts were made to clean-up/utilize sargassum. As a result, the community demonstrates **LOW resilience**.



Photo credits: left- JAK/IPS (2022), right- Karen Thomas



Photo credits: left- Wynnona Joseph (2021), right- Jeanelle Irvine (2023)



Photo credits: left and right- Jeanelle Irvine (2023)

5.2 SCOTTS HEAD



Source: Google Maps (Edited) – Scotts Head

Important for Fisheries Division to sketch the extent and distribution of sargassum inundation on both the leeward and windward sides of the bay. Unclear from images seen.

SELECT SOCIAL KEY FEATURES	SELECT ECOLOGICAL KEY FEATURES
- The Soufriere-Scotts Head Marine Reserve is the main feature and a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. - Prime tourist attraction with an average of 4000-5000 visitors to annually.⁶ - A recreational area for swimming and snorkelling and scuba diving area. - A tertiary fish landing site with approximately 21.8% of the island's catch.⁷ - Fishing is the main source of income and local livelihood for the residents in Scotts Head. - Small shops along the coast. - Residential areas surrounding, with a church, clusters of bars and food establishments. - Guest houses and apartments present.	- Protected marine reserve. - There is fish nursery area within the Soufriere-Scotts Head Marine Reserve. - Pristine coral reefs which support biodiversity. - The Reserve is also home to a variety of fish species such as jacks, sardines and mackerels, and cetacean species such as spinner dolphins and sperm whales.⁸ - The Bay is an extinct volcanic crater.

DATE	SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSES
No historical records kept	-	-

BEACH ACCESS	LOCATION	TERRAIN
Vehicular		A paved main road leading to a narrow strip of sand and stone leading toward the Peninsula.
It could be difficult for large machinery/heavy equipment to access the narrow strip of sand and stone heading toward the lookout point. Good pedestrian access along the bay.		

⁶ UNESCO. 2022. Soufriere-Scotts Head Marine Reserve. Accessed from <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6022/> on January 28, 2022.

⁷ FAO. 2021. FIGIS Country Profile Fact Sheet. Accessed from http://www.fao.org/fishery/country/fims_dm/en#content on January 28, 2022.

⁸ Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions. 2022. Soufriere-Scotts Head Marine Reserve / Dominica. Accessed from <https://cats.carpha.org/Ridge-to-Reef/Coastal-and-Marine/Soufriere-Scotts> on Jan 28, 2022.

Vulnerability factors	
Geophysical features	The Scotts Head peninsula is positioned between Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean. Long stretch of narrow rocky and sandy beach with sparse coastal vegetation along its banks.
Is there adequate access to the bay to facilitate clean-up efforts?	Yes
Is the area important for fishing? (Presence of fish market and other infrastructure e.g. Jetty)	Yes, Scotts Head is one of the main fishing villages on the island, supporting livelihoods of many who reside in the nearby community. A jetty is present.
How close is the community to Bay?	~1m
Proximity of bay to schools and other infrastructure (e.g. polyclinics etc.).	The Scotts Head Primary school is ~422m away and the Scotts Head Church of Christ is ~482m away.
Volume of sargassum during scoping assessment	Very low
Volume of sargassum historically (2011 – present)	Moderate
Is the beach heavily used by locals?	Moderately used by locals.
Is the beach heavily used for tourism?	Moderate
Evidence of resilience	
Is there evidence of community efforts to clean-up?	Yes
Is there evidence of community efforts to use sargassum?	No
Presence of church and community groups that advocate for government assistance?	No

Overall comments on vulnerability and resilience:

Scotts Head is predominantly a fishing village, and also a popular snorkeling and diving site for tourists. Although Scotts Head is an important site to the fisherfolk, tourism operators, small vendors and coastal bar and food establishments, the bay is largely protected from large influxes by Scotts Head Peninsula. The Headland is exposed to the Atlantic Ocean to the East, which receives sargassum periodically. Notwithstanding, The Soufriere-Scotts Head Marine Reserve is a protected area and tourism and fishing activities support many livelihoods. Scotts Head displays a **MODERATE vulnerability** to influx events.

There has been evidence of community clean-up efforts (occasionally sargassum is collected, dried and burned). The presence of the jetty also allows boats to continue to land their catches during influxes. The community demonstrates **MEDIUM/ MODERATE resilience**.



Photo credit: left- Chad Ambo (2021), right- Shaheim Ceasar (2021)



Photo credit: left and right- Jeanelle Irvine (2023)



Photo credit: left and right- Jeanelle Irvine (2023)

5.3 SAN SAUVEUR



SELECT SOCIAL KEY FEATURES	SELECT ECOLOGICAL KEY FEATURES
• Small east coast fish landing site. • Residential area surrounding with a community primary school and church • Few businesses in the area.	• Coral reefs which support biodiversity • River • Sea turtle nesting site

DATE	SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSES
No historical records kept	-	-

BEACH ACCESS	LOCATION	TERRAIN
Vehicular		Rocky
A vehicular access point. Good pedestrian access along the bay.		

Vulnerability factors	
Geophysical features	Enclosed bay with a rocky coastline, changing geophysical features - temporary/transient beach
Is there adequate access to the bay to facilitate clean-up efforts?	Yes
Is the area important for fishing? (Presence of fish market and other infrastructure e.g. Jetty)	Yes, San Sauveur is a fishing village with mooring and storage infrastructure.
How close is the community to Bay?	~5m
Proximity of bay to schools and other infrastructure (e.g. polyclinics etc.).	The nearest school and church are ~58m away.
Volume of sargassum during scoping assessment	Low
Volume of sargassum historically (2011 – present)	High
Is the beach heavily used by locals?	The bay is moderately used by locals.
Is the beach heavily used for tourism?	No

Evidence of resilience	
Is there evidence of community efforts to clean-up?	No consistent clean-up activities. Sometimes a few community members engage in clean-up activities.
Is there evidence of community efforts to use sargassum?	No
Presence of church and community groups that advocate for government assistance?	No

Overall comments on vulnerability and resilience:

The bay is subject to low wave action and the natural removal of sargassum rarely occurs. The San Sauveur community is located within the bay which makes the community susceptible to the smell due to decomposing sargassum. There is no jetty to minimize the impacts of sargassum influxes on fish landings. Given the importance of the bay to fisherfolk and the proximity to the nearby community inclusive of a school and church, San Sauveur displays a **HIGH vulnerability** to influx events.

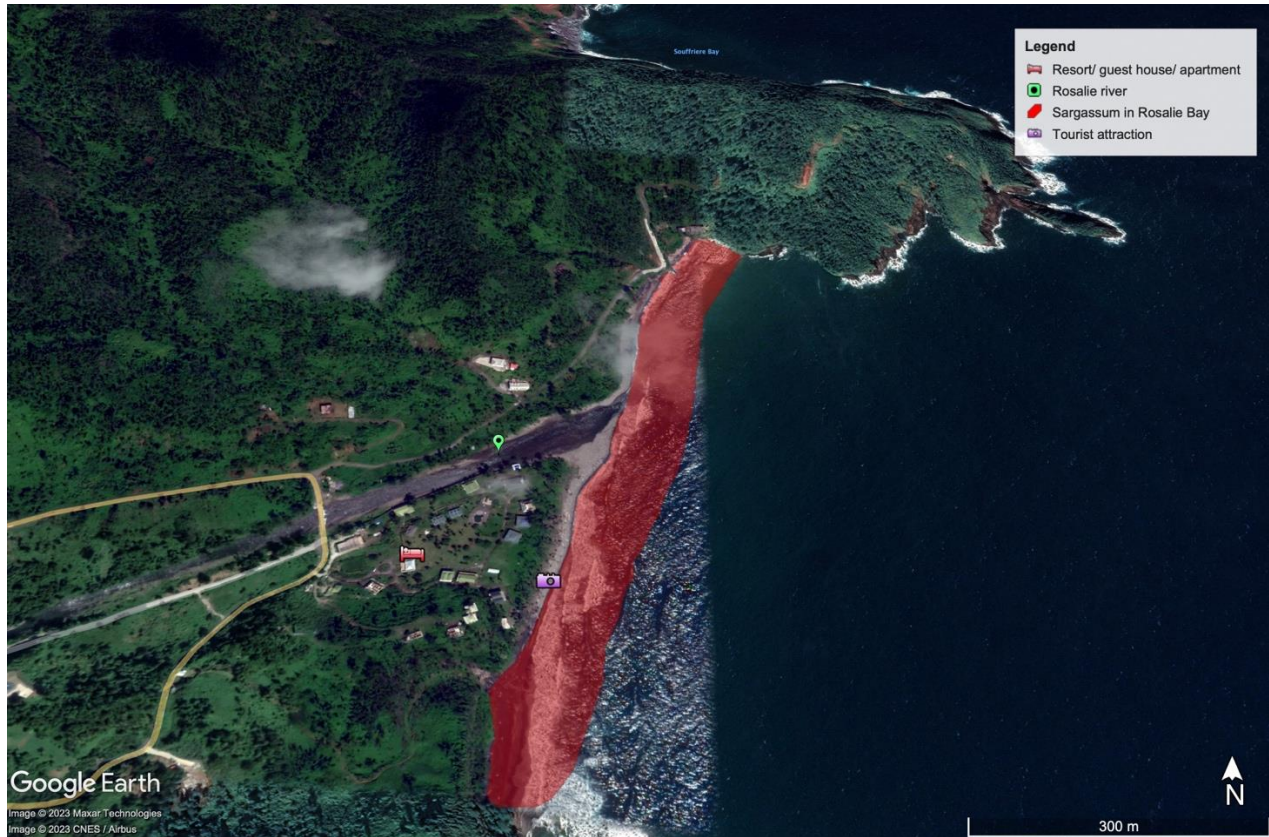
There have been no consistent community clean-up activities in the bay. As a result, the community demonstrates **LOW resilience**.





Photo credit: Jeanelle Irvine (2023)

5.4 ROSALIE BAY



Source: Google Maps (Edited) – Rosalie Bay

SELECT SOCIAL KEY FEATURES	SELECT ECOLOGICAL KEY FEATURES
- Rosalie Bay Resort - Known spot for turtle watching - Catholic rectory	- Sea turtle nesting site - Rosalie river

DATE	SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSES
No historical records kept	-	-

BEACH ACCESS	LOCATION	TERRAIN
Vehicular		Black sandy beach
Good pedestrian access available along the length of the beach. However, the access way to the beach is too narrow for the passage of heavy equipment.		

Vulnerability factors	
Geophysical features	Wide and relatively flat black sandy beach
Is there adequate access to the bay to facilitate clean-up efforts?	Yes, manual collection only
Is the area important for fishing? (Presence of fish market and other infrastructure e.g. Jetty)	No
How close is the community to Bay?	No residential community nearby
Proximity of bay to schools and other infrastructure (e.g. polyclinics etc.).	No schools and other infrastructure nearby
Volume of sargassum during scoping assessment	Moderate
Volume of sargassum historically (2011 – present)	High
Is the beach heavily used by locals?	The beach is occasionally used by locals.
Is the beach heavily used for tourism?	Yes, visitors staying at The Rosalie Bay Resort.
Evidence of resilience	
Is there evidence of community efforts to clean-up?	No
Is there evidence of community	Yes, some persons collect and use for agricultural

efforts to use sargassum?	purposes.
Presence of church and community groups that advocate for government assistance?	No

Overall comments on vulnerability and resilience:

Rosalie Bay is heavily used by the guests staying at the nearby Rosalie Bay Resort. Due to strong currents, swimming is ill-advised and activities are generally shoreline based. Despite no residential communities located nearby and the low use of the beach by locals, Rosalie Bay Resort is an important source of income for the resort staff. Shoreline activities are particularly sensitive to the presence of sargassum washed up along the beach. The guests and staff may also be susceptible to the smell released from decomposing sargassum. Rosalie Bay is also a sea turtle nesting beach. As such, Rosalie Bay displays a **MODERATE vulnerability** to influx events.

The bay has not been prioritised for community clean-up activities. The lack of beach access limits what can be done. As a result, Rosalie Bay demonstrates **LOW resilience**.





Photo credit: Jeanelle Irvine (2023)

5.5 CASTLE BRUCE



SELECT SOCIAL KEY FEATURES	SELECT ECOLOGICAL KEY FEATURES
• 1 Hotel • 1 police station • Nearby residential area • A restaurant • Beach facility with washrooms • Recreational area • Landing site with fishing lockers	• River • Sea turtle nesting site (leatherback)

DATE	SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSES
No historical records kept	-	-

BEACH ACCESS	LOCATION	TERRAIN
Vehicular		Grassy area and relatively flat sandy beach
Good pedestrian and vehicular access available along the length of the beach.		

Vulnerability factors	
Geophysical features	Presence of sea stacks and eroding headlands
Is there adequate access to the bay to facilitate clean-up efforts?	Yes
Is the area important for fishing? (Presence of fish market and other infrastructure e.g. Jetty)	Castle Bruce is a recently designated fish landing site (to encourage youth engagement in fisheries). There is no jetty, slipway or fish market present.
How close is the community to Bay?	~48m
Proximity of bay to schools and other infrastructure (e.g. polyclinics etc.).	The Castle Bruce Secondary is ~291m away and the health centre is ~177m away.
Volume of sargassum during scoping assessment	Low
Volume of sargassum historically (2011 – present)	High
Is the beach heavily used by locals?	The beach is moderately used by locals.
Is the beach heavily used for tourism?	Low
Evidence of resilience	

Is there evidence of community efforts to clean-up?	There is some evidence; between 2016-2018 beach clean-up activities were conducted.
Is there evidence of community efforts to use sargassum?	No
Presence of church and community groups that advocate for government assistance?	No

Overall comments on vulnerability and resilience:

Efforts have been made to revitalise fishing activities in Castle Bruce with the official designation as a fish landing site. Currently, there is no jetty which could minimize the impact off sargassum influxes on fish landings. The Castle Bruce housing development project is also located nearby. Given the planned urbanisation in the area, the existing residences and hotel and efforts to further develop the fisheries of Castle Bruce, the community displays a **HIGH** vulnerability to the social and economic impacts of influx events.

Efforts to clean-up sargassum were made, however these have not been sustained. As a result, Castle Bruce demonstrates **MODERATE resilience**.





Photo credit: Jeanelle Irvine (2023)

5.6 FOND COLE



SELECT SOCIAL KEY FEATURES	SELECT ECOLOGICAL KEY FEATURES
- Fish landing site - Woodbridge Bay Port - Commercial area - Nearby residential area	Coral reefs which support biodiversity

DATE	SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSES
No historical records kept	-	-

BEACH ACCESS	LOCATION	TERRAIN
Vehicular		Relatively flat sandy beach
Good pedestrian and vehicular access available along the length of the beach.		

Vulnerability factors	
Geophysical features	Sandy bay
Is there adequate access to the bay to facilitate clean-up efforts?	Yes
Is the area important for fishing? (Presence of fish market and other infrastructure e.g. Jetty)	Yes, a jetty is present
How close is the community to Bay?	~9m away
Proximity of bay to schools and other infrastructure (e.g. polyclinics etc.).	No schools nearby
Volume of sargassum during scoping assessment	No sargassum present
Volume of sargassum historically (2011 – present)	Moderate
Is the beach heavily used by locals?	The beach is moderately used for recreation by locals.
Is the beach heavily used for tourism?	No
Evidence of resilience	
Is there evidence of community efforts to clean-up?	No
Is there evidence of community	No

efforts to use sargassum?	
Presence of church and community groups that advocate for government assistance?	No

Overall comments on vulnerability and resilience:

Fond Cole located on the southwestern coast of Dominica is a hub of commercial activity, with many government and private businesses in the area including The Woodbridge Bay Port, the main port of entry in Dominica. A residential community is located in the bay which makes it susceptible to the health impacts of sargassum influxes. The area is already subject to storm surge and flooding. Fishing is also an important source of income for the Fond Cole fisherfolk and the landing site is equipped with a jetty which minimizes the impacts of sargassum influxes on fish landings. Given the commercial activity in the area, the Fond Cole community demonstrates a **HIGH** vulnerability to sargassum influxes.

No evidence was found to support increased resilience of the Fond Cole community to sargassum influx events. There are no active community groups engaging in beach cleaning. As a result, Fond Cole demonstrates **LOW resilience**.



Photo credit: first, second and third (left) row- Jeanelle Irvine (2023), third row (right)- The Dominica Fisheries Division, n.d.

5.7 MASSACRE



SELECT SOCIAL KEY FEATURES	SELECT ECOLOGICAL KEY FEATURES
- Fish landing site - Restaurants - Residential community nearby - Sports centre	-

DATE	SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSES
No historical records kept	-	-

BEACH ACCESS	LOCATION	TERRAIN
Vehicular		Rocky
The shoreline is narrow but there is access for maneuvering of machinery/heavy equipment via the slipway. There is also pedestrian access.		

Vulnerability factors	
Geophysical features	-
Is there adequate access to the bay to facilitate clean-up efforts?	Yes
Is the area important for fishing? (Presence of fish market and other infrastructure e.g. Jetty)	Yes
How close is the community to Bay?	~23m
Proximity of bay to schools and other infrastructure (e.g. polyclinics etc.).	A primary school is ~9m away
Volume of sargassum during scoping assessment	No sargassum present
Volume of sargassum historically (2011 – present)	Moderate
Is the beach heavily used by locals?	No
Is the beach heavily used for tourism?	No
Evidence of resilience	
Is there evidence of community efforts to clean-up?	No
Is there evidence of community	No

efforts to use sargassum?	
Presence of church and community groups that advocate for government assistance?	No

Overall comments on vulnerability and resilience:

The Massacre community including a primary school is in the bay which makes it susceptible to the smell caused by decomposing sargassum. Fishing also occurs in the area which could be disrupted during sargassum influxes. Given these factors, The Massacre community demonstrates **HIGH** vulnerability to sargassum influxes.

No evidence was found to support increased resilience of the Massacre community to sargassum influx events. There are no active community groups engaging in beach cleaning which demonstrates **LOW resilience** of the Massacre community.



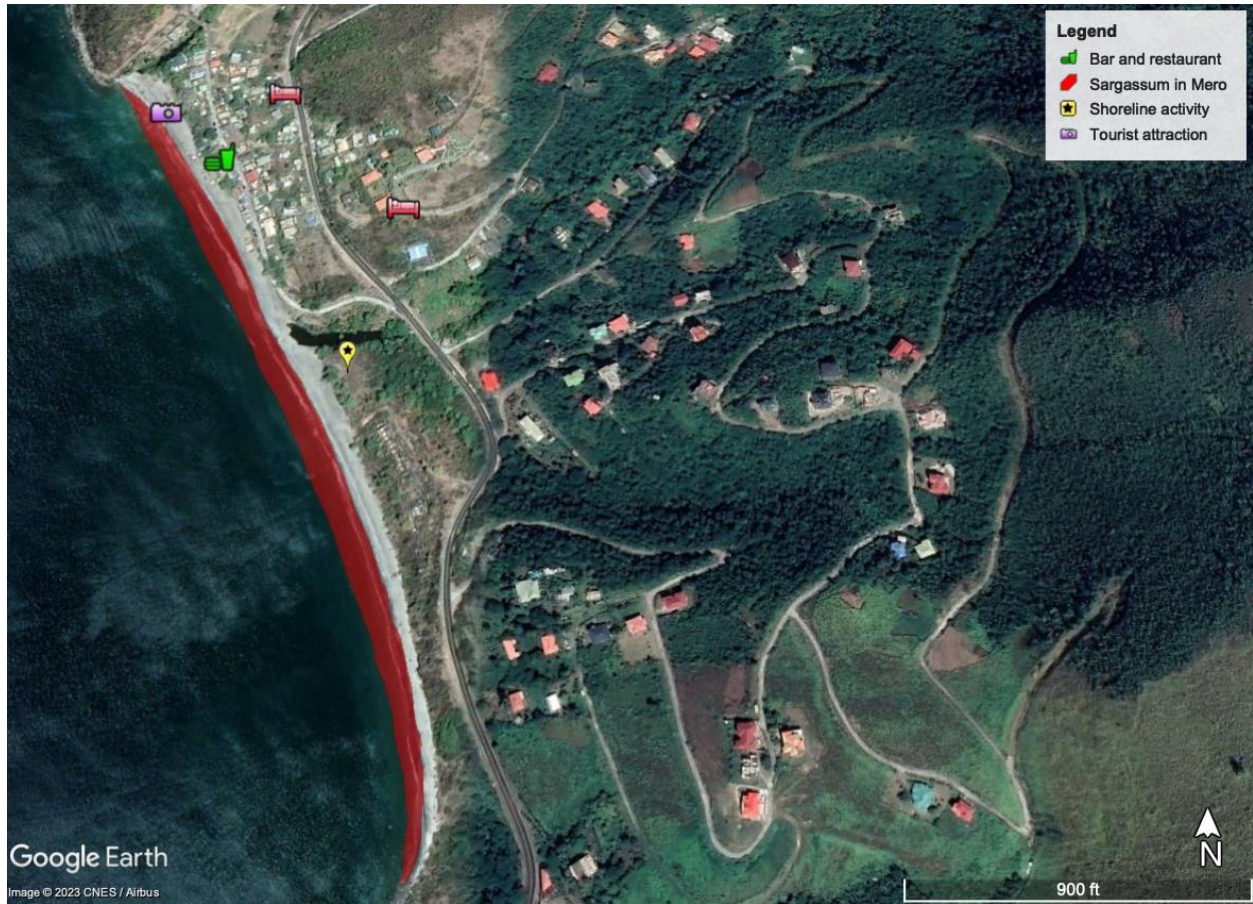
Photo credit: left and right- Candy Stoute





Photo credit: second and third rows- Jeanelle Irvine (2023)

5.8 MERO



SELECT SOCIAL KEY FEATURES	SELECT ECOLOGICAL KEY FEATURES
- Fish landing site - Tourism activity - Nearby residential community - Businesses located in the area	-

DATE	SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSES
No historical records kept	-	-

BEACH ACCESS	LOCATION	TERRAIN
Vehicular		Sandy beach
There is vehicular and pedestrian access.		

Vulnerability factors	
Geophysical features	Wide sandy beach
Is there adequate access to the bay to facilitate clean-up efforts?	Yes
Is the area important for fishing? (Presence of fish market and other infrastructure e.g. Jetty)	No, a small landing site used by 1 or 2 fishers
How close is the community to Bay?	~20m
Proximity of bay to schools and other infrastructure (e.g. polyclinics etc.).	NA
Volume of sargassum during scoping assessment	No sargassum present
Volume of sargassum historically (2011 – present)	Moderate
Is the beach heavily used by locals?	Yes
Is the beach heavily used for tourism?	Yes
Evidence of resilience	
Is there evidence of community efforts to clean-up?	Yes, the Mero Enhancement Community Group conducts beach clean ups
Is there evidence of community	No

efforts to use sargassum?	
Presence of church and community groups that advocate for government assistance?	No

Overall comments on vulnerability and resilience:

Mero is a wide sandy beach with calm and clear waters and is one of the popular destinations for tourists and locals to engage in recreational activities including the Storm Island Waterpark. It also supports the livelihood of a few small businesses including beach chair vendors, bar and food establishments and craft and souvenir shops. Due to the sensitivity of the primary activities and the proximity to the residential community, Mero displays a **HIGH** vulnerability to sargassum influxes.

There is evidence of self organisation of the Mero Enhancement Community Group to conduct beach clean-ups, as such the community displays **MODERATE** resilience.





Photo credit: Jeanelle Irvine (2023)

5.9 BIOCHE



SELECT SOCIAL KEY FEATURES	SELECT ECOLOGICAL KEY FEATURES
- Fish landing site - Repair and lockers - Vending - Community shop - Nearby community	- Coral reefs which support biodiversity - River

DATE	SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSES
No historical records kept	-	-

BEACH ACCESS	LOCATION	TERRAIN
Vehicular		Sandy and rocky coastline
There is vehicular and pedestrian access.		

Vulnerability factors	
Geophysical features	Headland Bay, tributary
Is there adequate access to the bay to facilitate clean-up efforts?	Yes
Is the area important for fishing? (Presence of fish market and other infrastructure e.g. Jetty)	Yes
How close is the community to Bay?	~5m
Proximity of bay to schools and other infrastructure (e.g. polyclinics etc.).	NA
Volume of sargassum during scoping assessment	Low
Volume of sargassum historically (2011 – present)	Low
Is the beach heavily used by locals?	Yes
Is the beach heavily used for tourism?	No
Evidence of resilience	
Is there evidence of community efforts to clean-up?	Yes, piled sargassum
Is there evidence of community	No

efforts to use sargassum?	
Presence of church and community groups that advocate for government assistance?	No

Overall comments on vulnerability and resilience:

Bioche, located on the Leeward side of the island is seldomly impacted by sargassum inundations. However, given the proximity of the residential community and the importance of the beach to fisherfolk beach vendors, and the wider community, Bioche demonstrates **MODERATE** vulnerability.

The piles of sargassum on the beach indicate that beach clean-ups have been undertaken, as such the community displays **MODERATE** resilience.



Photo credit: Jeanelle Irvine (2023)

5.10 DUBLANC



SELECT SOCIAL KEY FEATURES	SELECT ECOLOGICAL KEY FEATURES
- Fish landing site with a storage area - Residential community with a church and school	-

DATE	SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSES
No historical records kept	-	-

BEACH ACCESS	LOCATION	TERRAIN
Vehicular		Sandy
There is vehicular and pedestrian access.		

Vulnerability factors	
Geophysical features	Headland Bay
Is there adequate access to the bay to facilitate clean-up efforts?	Yes
Is the area important for fishing? (Presence of fish market and other infrastructure e.g. Jetty)	Yes
How close is the community to Bay?	~9m
Proximity of bay to schools and other infrastructure (e.g. polyclinics etc.).	~9m to school
Volume of sargassum during scoping assessment	Very low
Volume of sargassum historically (2011 – present)	Moderate
Is the beach heavily used by locals?	Yes
Is the beach heavily used for tourism?	No
Evidence of resilience	
Is there evidence of community efforts to clean-up?	Yes, the farmers collect sargassum.
Is there evidence of community efforts to use sargassum?	Yes, by the farmers

Presence of church and community groups that advocate for government assistance?	No
--	----

Overall comments on vulnerability and resilience:

Dublanc located on the Leeward side of the island and has been moderately impacted by sargassum inundations throughout the years. The Dublanc community, including a church and school, is located within the bay and is susceptible to the unpleasant smell of decomposing sargassum. Fishing activities also occur in the bay which could be disrupted during sargassum influxes. For these reasons, the Dublanc community demonstrates **MODERATE** vulnerability.

The farming community has been harvesting sargassum, as such the community displays **MODERATE** resilience.

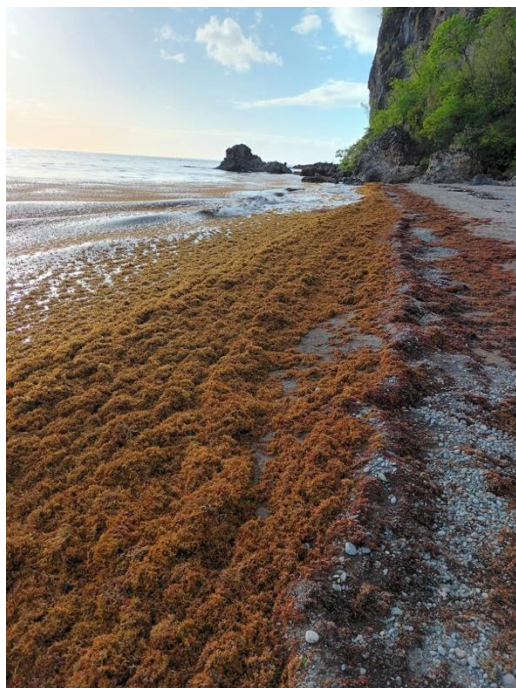


Photo credit: left and right- Candy Stoute



Photo credit: Jeanelle Irvine (2023)

5.11 TURTLE BAY BEACH, PORTSMOUTH



SELECT SOCIAL KEY FEATURES	SELECT ECOLOGICAL KEY FEATURES
• Tourism operators • Restaurants • Residential community with a school	-

DATE	SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSES
No historical records kept	-	-

BEACH ACCESS	LOCATION	TERRAIN
Vehicular		Sandy
There is vehicular and pedestrian access.		

Vulnerability factors	
Geophysical features	Headland Bay, moderate width, relatively flat beach with fine sand
Is there adequate access to the bay to facilitate clean-up efforts?	Yes
Is the area important for fishing? (Presence of fish market and other infrastructure e.g. Jetty)	No
How close is the community to Bay?	~8m
Proximity of bay to schools and other infrastructure (e.g. polyclinics etc.).	~46m to school
Volume of sargassum during scoping assessment	None
Volume of sargassum historically (2011 – present)	Moderate
Is the beach heavily used by locals?	Yes
Is the beach heavily used for tourism?	Yes
Evidence of resilience	
Is there evidence of community efforts to clean-up?	The Portsmouth Association of Yacht Security allows the Sargassum to dry, then remove it and dispose by burning

Is there evidence of community efforts to use sargassum?	Yes, by the farmers
Presence of church and community groups that advocate for government assistance?	-

Overall comments on vulnerability and resilience:

Turtle Bay Beach is one of the most popular beaches in Dominica, known for its expanse of fine sand and calm waters, attracting both locals and tourists to sunbathe, swim, engage in watersports, picnicking, yachting, among other activities. Turtle Bay Beach is a hub of activity featuring local bands, watersports, concessions, etc. The Seabird Bar and Grill restaurant and The Portsmouth Association of Yacht Security are also located on the beach. The Turtle Bay Beach is a heavily used beach and supports the livelihoods of coastal business operators. Due to the sensitivity of the primary activities, Turtle Bay Beach displays **HIGH** vulnerability.

The Portsmouth Association of Yacht Security has been engaging in clean-up activities, as such the community displays **MODERATE** resilience.



Photo credit: Jeanelle Irvine (2023)



Photo credit: Candy Stoute

PART B: CARIBBEAN GENERAL



6 LOCAL LEVEL SARGASSUM MANAGEMENT PLANS

Context

An adaptive management strategy, rather than a more site-specific management plan, is needed at the national level. This is due to the many uncertainties associated with sargassum and responses to it at the geographic, ecological, social and institutional scales of an entire island. However, at the local or site level, it is usually possible and desirable to specify management plans at much finer detail. People will usually seek and depend on this plan first for guidance.

Coherence

In order for a national strategy to be coherent, local management plans must be closely linked to each other and to the strategy for ease of rep and execution. Thus, plans contribute to the strategy by using a similar layout, but with detailed content relevant to specific locations. If most of the response and use is scaled to be nationally decided and implemented, then there may be limited or no need for local level plans. Avoid making local plans that are unnecessary.

Management unit

What is considered “local” will differ, even within the same country. The planning unit could be a single bay with its one community, or perhaps a stretch of well-connected villages that form a cluster. For sargassum, the main aim is for the local unit to be practical. It need not coincide with other units such as village or town boundaries, watersheds, parishes, enumeration districts or other national divisions. However, there are often benefits to using well accepted functional boundaries, and associated resources, to take advantage of harnessing what is already working.

Annotated outline

The following is an annotated outline of a generic local sargassum management plan. It has to be customised and evolves like, and with, the national strategy. Stakeholders and others may prefer to put the plan on paper or use in electronic form, rather than as a website. The plan should be updated annually, or more often if there have been changes that affect responses to the sargassum hazard or opportunities for its use. As with the national strategy, the content below is not intended to be prescriptive. Hence the annotations are general suggestions. Local formal (documented) and informal (people just know) knowledge will provide specific content. Matters such as literacy and language, formatting preferences (text, tables, charts, diagrams, maps), print size and font, colours, overall length, bound or loose leaf etc. may influence use.

INTRODUCTION

- Remind the reader how the plan is set out, will be kept updated, and how to use it
- Don't repeat the adaptive approaches unless some are very site critical, e.g. DRM

PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

- Mainly to align the plan with the national strategy and any critical local initiatives
- Highlight any local social or ecological considerations critical to sargassum such as protected areas, highly valuable or vulnerable assets or sargassum opportunities

SCOPE

- Clearly identify the geographic or spatial scope of the plan, including demarcation of boundaries covering the terrestrial, coastal and marine areas addressed in the plan
- Boundaries can be ‘fuzzy’ if they are functional (e.g. “to just beyond the reef” or to “where farmland turns into forest in the hills”) rather than specifying precise areas
- Identify the key sargassum-related features within the area in a broad profile, noting intersections with other bounded areas and the agencies that have jurisdiction within

AUTHORITY

- Identify authority linkages to the national strategy, describing what powers for decisions and action have been formally delegated so that there can be no misunderstanding of who the leader is, and with what authority to do what. This is key for conflict management.
- If there is legislation, a policy or another plan that impacts sargassum operations, then these should be listed with the operative extracts from them extracted for reference, e.g. laws or regulations for a specific protected area, economic activity area or beach.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- A detailed, downscaled counterpart to the national strategy including making links to the strategy and its actors so there is a clear chain of accountability and responsibility
- Fit the leader(s) of the management plan, identified in the authority section, into the institutional arrangements of the strategy as such leaders cannot operate in isolation
- Chains of command for different aspects of local sargassum operations must be clear
- List local contact information along with expected roles and responsibilities (in a table)
- Similarly set out resources (e.g. labour, equipment, expertise) available at local level

MONETARY MATTERS

- Set out the local estimated budget elements, sources of funds and likely main expenses
- Include not only cash (e.g. funds transfer, subventions) but values of in-kind resources
- Estimate the limits of local support for both the hazard responses and sargassum uses
- Identify financing available locally for innovation, technical assistance, entrepreneurship

LOCAL MAP AND PROFILE

- Build on the site profile map and other content in the appendix of the national strategy
- Use the same content categories, but add as much site-level detail as practically useful
- Focus on the vulnerabilities and responsible responses, including for sargassum uses
- There should be no large contradictions between information in the strategy and plan
- Provide accurate plan information to update the national strategy as situations change
- Consider this section as requiring the most investment in accuracy to prioritise action

ACTIONS AND OPERATIONS

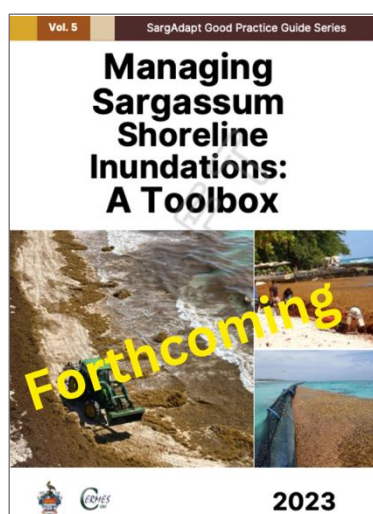
- Set out only the details of pre-impact, impact and post-impact specific to the local level
- Set out practical ecosystem measures for nearshore marine habitats, shoreline vegetation and wildlife
- To avoid being overwhelmingly extensive refer to guidance in the strategy or elsewhere
- Consider limitations in local capacity to manage and adapt, including building capacity

7 ACTIONS AND OPERATIONS

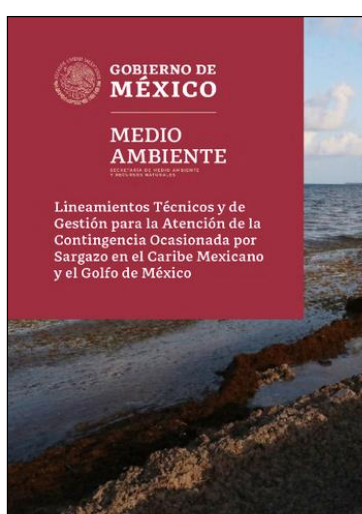
Several diverse types of knowledge products have been developed and made accessible throughout the years, mostly related to sargassum monitoring, management, coping and adaptive mechanisms for key sectors, removal and uses. Post 2021, the number of protocols and guidelines on sargassum-related actions and operations continues to grow slowly. Most territories in the Caribbean have sargassum management strategies in place, however, few have a publicly available policy institutionalised by national government. This section highlights some of the resources for responsible responses.

7.1 RESOURCES FOR RESPONSIBLE RESPONSES

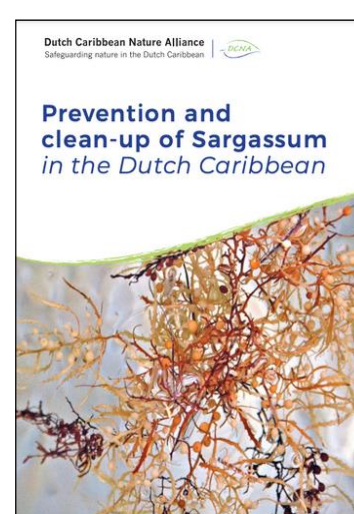
Guidance documents on **sargassum removal** have been produced at the national and regional levels. Click on the images below to peruse the documents!



Tags: good practices, onshore and in-water collection, containment barriers



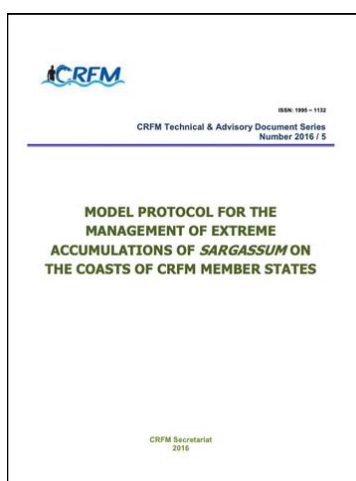
Tags: onshore and in-water collection, containment barriers, turtle nesting beaches, disposal, health and safety, monitoring, uses



Tags: good practices, onshore and in-water collection, containment barriers, disposal, health and safety



Tags: good practices, onshore and in-water collection, public awareness, uses

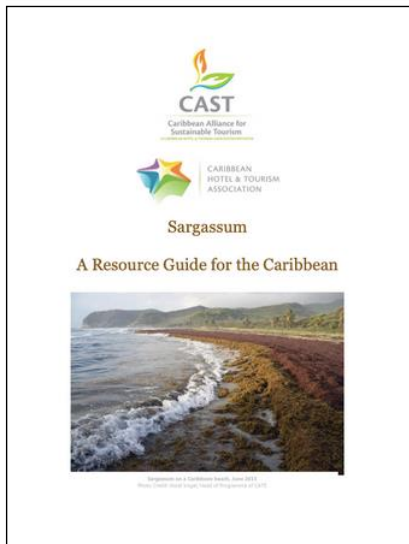


Tags: template, national-level management plans



Tags: good practices, public awareness, onshore and in-water collection, disposal

A few of the **sector specific** guidance resources are shown below. Click on the image to visit the website!



Tags: tourism, public awareness, impacts, good practices, onshore collection



Tags: good practices, impacts, small-scale fishers, coping mechanisms

UWI-CERMES has developed a range of protocols on **sargassum monitoring**. Check out the [UWI-CERMES Good Practice Guide Series](#) for more information!



7.2 MANAGEMENT OF SARGASSUM INFLUXES

Over the years various collection techniques were tried and tested, with many lessons learned, as highlighted in the various guidance documents presented in the previous section. A systems approach is essential for improving national capacities for sargassum management. It is assumed that if mechanisms to support the effective and continuous collection of sargassum seaweed are implemented, and the technical capacity for sargassum removal is increased, then the resilience of coastal areas will be improved⁹. The figure below illustrates further¹⁰.



Source: UNDP. 2022. Project Document- Improving National Sargassum Management Capacities in the Caribbean.

It is important to note that there is not a “one-size-fits-all-solution” and best practice will require site-specific solutions, but general guidance for removal of sargassum is as follows:



⁹ United Nations Development Programme. 2022. Project Document- The Project for Improving National Sargassum Management Capacities in the Caribbean.

¹⁰ The images and names of commercial merchandise in this appendix do not constitute an endorsement or product review. They are for information only as explanatory examples.

STEP 1: Assess the level of impact first to determine if conditions are:



Low- just a small amount of sargassum. Sparse, less than 2 inches in depth. Faint seaweed odor. Small amounts of sargassum on the beach will do no harm and may not require intervention.



Medium– About 6 – 9 inches in depth. Strong odor, several insects. Moderate amounts may also not require intervention.



High– more than 10 inches in depth. Pungent odour, significant impairment of movement of vessels and use of beachfront. Large inundations need to be cleared quickly (within 24-72 hours).

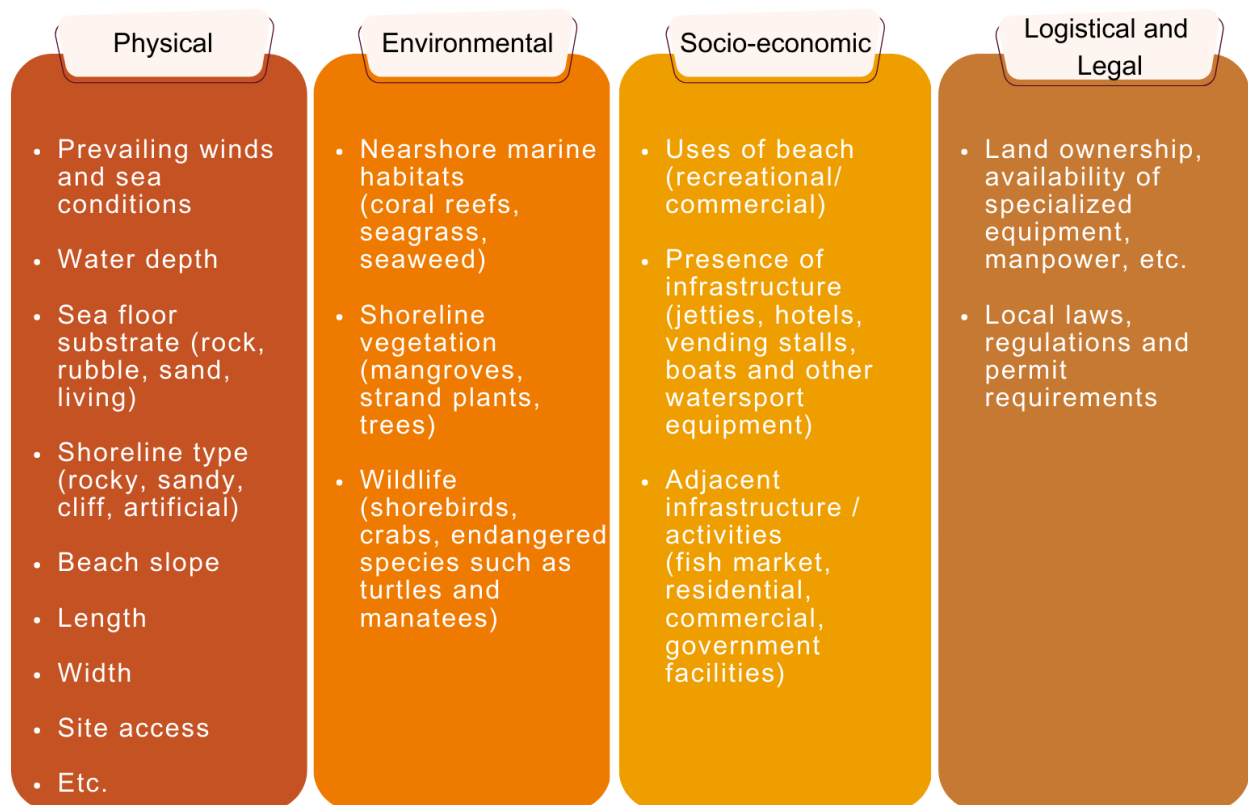
STEP 2: Communicate with coastal stakeholders and the wider public

Communication is key! Stakeholder collaboration and engagement is critical to ensure the continued success and support of clean-up initiatives.

- Stakeholders should be informed of interventions both at the local and national levels, to manage their expectations.
- They should know who the lead agency is for executing clean-ups and other partners that will be involved.
- Each stakeholder group will have distinct concerns, therefore a range of media targeted to the specific needs of the various groups is needed.
- Use effective methods of communication to ensure the intended messages are received.
- Encourage public participation in clean-up initiatives. It is acknowledged that each affected community will require equipment support, some training, assistance in removing and transporting aggregated material from the beaches.

STEP 3: Consider the physical, environmental, socio-economic, logistical and legal conditions:

It may not always be necessary to collect or clear up after all sargassum beaching events. Before investing in a specific method and/or type of collection equipment, the local context and potential environmental impact must be considered. Physical, environmental, socio-economic, logistical and legal conditions vary at any given site which should inform the appropriate response.



(Adapted from the CERMES SargAdapt Good Practice Guide Series: *Managing Sargassum Shoreline Inundations: A Toolbox*)

STEP 4: Determine method of collection (onshore or in-water)

Onshore collection

Removal can either be manual using rakes, pitch forks, wheelbarrows and buckets, or mechanized using machinery such as surf rakes, excavators and other heavy machinery. While manual removal is a preferred method, mass strandings will require the use of mechanical equipment, or a combination of both.



Belize (2018). Credit: Caribbean Press Releases



The Barber Surf Rake at Playa Paraiso, Tulum, Mexico (2018). Credit: Marc Bruxelle



Bath Beach, St. John, Barbados (2018). Credit: The Barbados Advocate

The table below provides further guidance and considerations on the removal methods.

	Manual onshore collection (rakes, pitch forks, wheelbarrows, buckets)	Mechanised onshore collection (mechanised rake)	Mechanised onshore collection (excavator & other heavy machinery)
Suitable conditions	Volume is low to medium Low frequency events Beach with high ecological sensitivity	Volume is low to medium Frequent inundations Long, wide, flat or gently sloping sand beach No or little beach infrastructure	Huge accumulations of sargassum where other onshore methods are initially impractical Public health and the environment may be at risk Sediment that can bear the weight of heavy machinery Available dedicated access for heavy equipment
Unsuitable conditions	High amounts of beached sargassum Long inundation events with continuous high supply daily Decomposing sargassum producing high levels of toxic gases posing a health risk to workers	Piles of sargassum more than 30-40 cm deep Narrow, short or steeply sloping beaches or those comprising pebbles Beaches with high density of beach infrastructure or vegetation	Narrow beach, rocky shoreline Presence of dense beach infrastructure No vehicular access Ecological sensitive beach
Good practice	Collect sargassum as fresh as possible. This minimizes health issues and maximizes valorisation potential	Operate when beach use is low Operate during low tide Retrieve sand for beach nourishing where possible Implement a equipment maintenance routine, including freshwater cleaning	Always avoid use of heavy tracked vehicles on sandy beach Use vehicles with large pneumatic tyres to spread load Use a mechanized bucket to remove only the top layer of sargassum Use an environmental monitor to keep an eye on the operation
Operating costs	Low (Low cost, low technology equipment, cost determined largely by cost of labour, time needed and transport and disposal costs)	High (cost to purchase, ongoing maintenance, driver to operate machinery, transport and disposal costs)	Very High (cost to purchase, ongoing maintenance, machine operators require training)

(Adapted from the DRAFT CERMES SargAdapt Good Practice Guide Series: *Managing Sargassum Shoreline Inundations: A Toolbox*)

The Barber Company is a distributor of the surf rake, with three models, Optimized for different-sized beaches. The largest rake cleans sand up to nine acres an hour. The three cubic yard hopper can hydraulically lift up to 4,500 pounds of material to a clearance height of nine (9) feet and dump its contents. For more information visit [The Barber Company](#) webpage.



To see the surf rake in operation in Mexico click [here](#).

In-water collection

In-water collection close to shore, where possible and permitted, is often preferable to beach collection as it avoids removal of sand and damage to coastal vegetation. It may also prevent sargassum from rotting in the water (Hinds et al. 2016). Offshore barriers and boat harvesters are the methods commonly used for in-water collection. A combination of the offshore barrier and harvest barge yield optimal results.

Offshore barriers work either through diversion away from sensitive areas or through storage and containment.



Source: Algeanova- Offshore barriers designed and deployed by Algeanova in the Dominican republic.

Boat harvesters are motorised vessels (often barges) which harvests sargassum mats offshore (close to the coast) on a tilted conveyor belt as the barge moves through the water (Chereau 2019).



Source: Algeanova- Custom built Algeanova boat harvester operating in Dominica Republic

Source: The Ocean Cleaner- Custom built boat harvester operating in Mexico, designed by The Ocean Cleaner

The table below provides further guidance and considerations for in-water collection.

		
Suitable conditions	Relatively calm sea conditions Shallow waters with suitable anchoring substrate (sand, rock) Good accessibility at sea, and relatively close to safe harbour/docking facilities	Relatively calm sea conditions Easily accessed from safe harbour/docking facilities Must have other vessel(s), dock or beach facility for frequent unloading
Unsuitable conditions	Prevailing rough seas Deep water Sensitive substrates for anchoring (coral reefs) Not easily accessible from sea or far from docking facilities	Rough seas or open ocean No transport vessels available or nearby onshore offloading facility
Good practices	Thorough investigation of the local geomorphic and hydrodynamic conditions Ensure ample anchoring points, preferably with Halas-type moorings Frequent cleaning of barrier to avoid sargassum build up Keep barrier and netting (skirt) clean of settling organisms Consider openings for boat traffic and nesting turtles. Use observers to assist escape of turtle hatchlings Consider barrier removal during periods of low or no sargassum inundation. Ensure adequate storage space	Works best in tandem with barrier to aggregate the material Have observer(s) watching the conveyor system to remove and release any turtle hatchlings and other larger marine organisms
Operating costs	High Cost of suitable barrier, continuous maintenance, harvest boat to continuously remove sargassum from barrier and maintenance and skilled vessel operator(s)	High Cost for purchase of custom-built vessel(s), running and maintenance costs, skilled operators and others required to operate the collecting system

(Adapted from the DRAFT CERMES SargAdapt Good Practice Guide Series: *Managing Sargassum Shoreline Inundations: A Toolbox*)

AlgaeNova is a distributor of both offshore barriers and boat harvesters. The offshore barriers (ProjiNova patent) have been successful in retaining sargassum at sea in the Dominican Republic and Mexico. The AlgaeNova boat harvesters can collect approx. 200 tons of fresh seaweed per day and sail in the open sea as well as shallow water.



For more information visit the [AlgaeNova](#) webpage.

To see videos of the AlgaeNova offshore barrier and boat harvester in operation click [here](#).

The Ocean Cleaner is another distributor of offshore barriers and boat harvesters. The patented 'Sargaboard' works with the Sargabarrier to collect sargassum seaweed. One Sargaboard can harvest about 500m³ of sargassum in 8 hours and the autonomous Sargatrailer has a capacity of 8m³. For more information visit [The Ocean Cleaner](#) webpage.



To see The Ocean Cleaner offshore barrier and boat harvester in operation click [here](#).

STEP 5: Transport to an appropriate disposal/storage site

Collected sargassum must be transported to an appropriate disposal or storage site. This is likely to require the selection of a suitable temporary or permanent on-site location and/or some kind of transport mechanism to move it directly from the collection site. Where possible, the costs of routine transportation of the sargassum to the dump sites should be incorporated into contracts created between the SSA and the Waste Removal Company. This may be the most cost-efficient way to manage routine transportation to the dump site.

Equipment commonly used in construction and agriculture (backhoe, caterpillar excavator, cane grabs, etc.) have been used to collect and transport sargassum to disposal/storage sites. However, machinery with a solid digger, bulldozer or backhoe bucket can inadvertently damage the beach. Instead, lifting sargassum using grabs, or screening and claw buckets remove less sand and minimise damage to the beach. Machinery with metal caterpillar tracks on beaches should also be avoided.



Cane grabs used for lifting sargassum. Credit: erosionpollution.com

Disposal/storage sites should:

- ✓ Allow sargassum to dry out to prevent anaerobic decomposition and production of toxic hydrogen sulphide and ammonia gases. After drying separate the sand before removal, wherever practical.
- ✓ Not be near drinking water supply as leachates from decomposing sargassum are likely to be high in arsenic and possibly other elements that are damaging to the environment. Lining with geomembranes to prevent escape of leachates should be considered where possible.
- ✓ Be outfitted with hydrogen sulphide and methane meters to monitor air quality.

Note: In- country inundation removal responses and results vary

There is no “one size fits all” solution and sometimes equipment may not function as anticipated. For example, in Barbados the seaweed harvester and offshore barrier were deployed, however, due to prevailing ocean conditions including rough waters and strong currents, the desired results were not achieved.

Lessons learned

- Can be costly
- Highly repetitive
- Often ineffective
- Sometimes futile
- Needs a system

Factors to be considered

- Environment
- Technology
- Ecology
- Humans
- Funding



Seaweed harvester



Crane Hotel's offshore barrier



The Japanese Government in collaboration with UNDP, has embarked on a three-year (2022-2025) project “*The Project for Improving National Sargassum Management Capacities in the Caribbean*” to support the enhancement of national capacities for the management of sargassum. Under the Project, beneficiary countries including Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago will be provided with removal equipment, technical expertise and gender responsive training for removal, transport and disposal and overall long-term management of sargassum¹¹.

11

<https://www.undp.org/barbados/sargassum#:~:text=The%20project%20aims%20to%20support,to%20mitigate%20the%20reoccurring%20threat>

7.3 SARGASSUM FORECASTING AND MONITORING

Sargassum monitoring has been gaining much attention, especially at the regional and international levels. Below features a few platforms that monitor sargassum influx events and collect reports of sargassum strandings. Click on the images to visit the websites for more information!

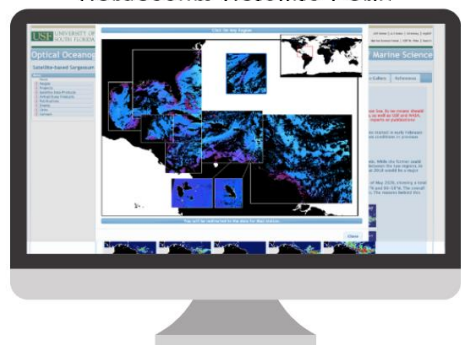
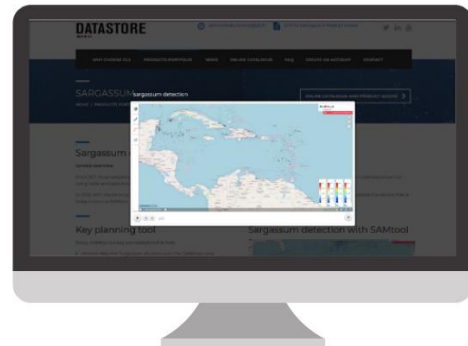
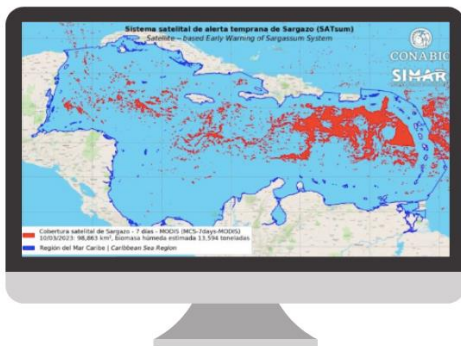
Sargassum Monitoring- Detection using on satellite imagery



NOAA Coastwatch
Oceanviewer



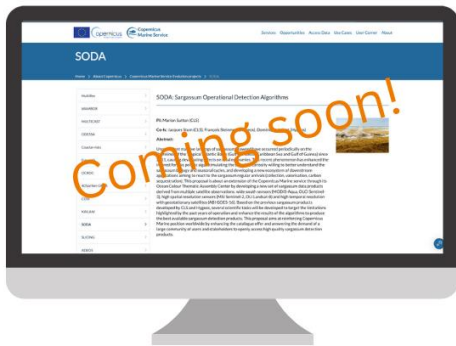
Caribbean Coastal Ocean
Observing System (CariCOOS)



Sargassum Watch
System (SAWS)



Sargassum Monitoring



Sargassum Operational Detection Algorithms (SODA)

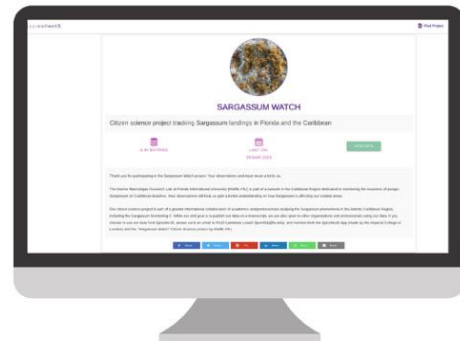


SARTRAC Sargassum Detection Algorithm

Sargassum Monitoring- Citizens Science

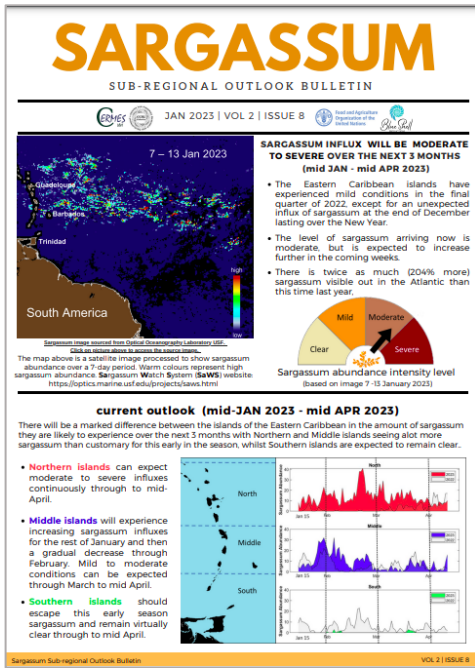


SargSNAP

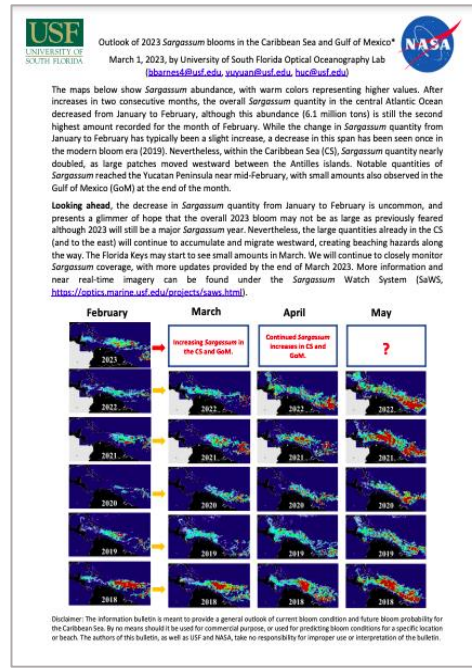


Epicollect Sargassum Watch

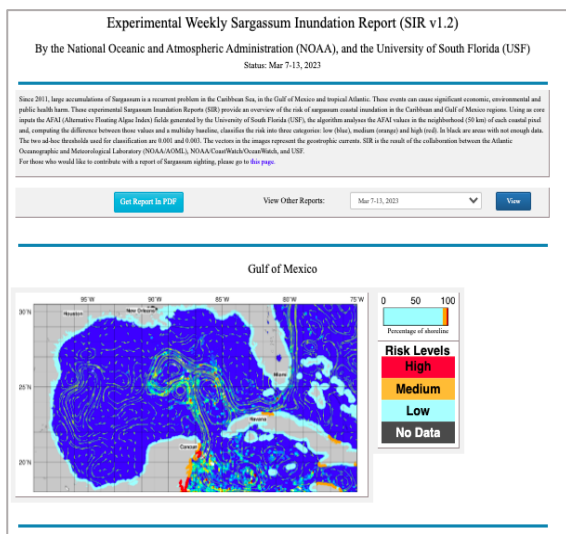
Sargassum Reporting- Bulletins and Reports



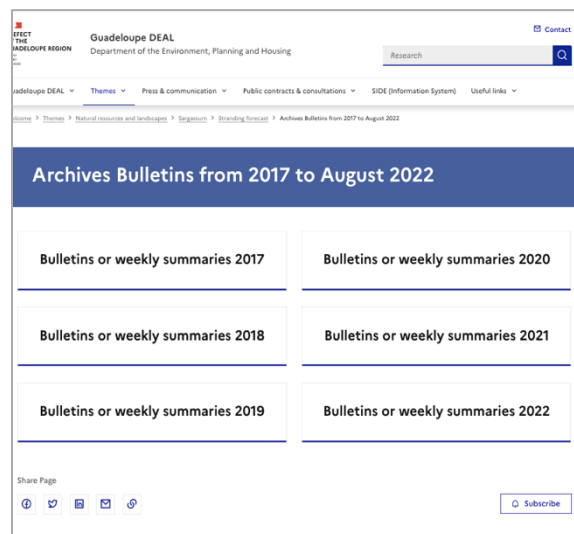
UWI-CERMES Sub-regional
Sargassum Outlook Bulletin



USF Sargassum Outlook Bulletin



NOAA Experimental Weekly
Sargassum Inundation Report



Sargassum Surveillance Bulletin for
Guadeloupe

Sargassum Reporting- Citizens Science

Pelagic Sargassum Report

This form can be used to provide in-situ Sargassum observations. It is compatible with desktop, tablet and smartphones devices.

Date/Time of Observation*

3/19/2023

10:06 PM

Country or Region*

Landmark, point of reference, county, municipality or parish.

Where was Sargassum Observed?*

☐ Washed-up on the shore

☐ Floating along the shoreline

☐ Floating in bays, channels, harbors

☐ Floating over reefs or seagrass

☐ Offshore

Sargassum Observed As

☐ Line(s) of Sargassum

☐ Mats/rafts

☐ Scattered clumps

Sargassum Pelagic Report

Sargassum sightings form. CEP UNEP

Please fill in to your best knowledge, and put "N/A" if the information is not available.

—Creating a shortcut to this form in I Phone: Click on the share button> Add to home screen. Now, a screen opens where you can customize the name of the shortcut. —Creating a shortcut to this form in Android: Click on the menu, the three points in the upper right corner. Choose "Add to home screen" and you will have direct access to the web on your main desktop.

Next

Return to Beginning

Go to End

Sargassum Sightings Form

68

7.4 RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR KEY SECTORS



HEALTH

Impacts

- 1) Hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) can **affect the air quality** for individuals, especially those with asthma or other respiratory conditions.

Recommended Actions

- 1) **H₂S Detection Equipment** should be carefully positioned in communities, to prevent high exposure of H₂S taking into consideration wind levels, humidity and temperature. Emergency plans should be set in place if levels exceed acceptable standards.
- 2) **Installation of Wi-Fi video camera – CCTV** across beaches, bays and coastlines commonly affected by sargassum. Surveillance equipment should include night-time surveillance capabilities, operation without infrastructure support, long range and resistance motors for resistance to harsh weather.
- 3) **Prioritising removal of sargassum seaweed** in high-risk areas using data from surveillance and H₂S equipment. This will guide & increase the effectiveness in determining areas for frequent collection of the seaweed from the various beaches.
- 4) **More bioprocessing sites** should be identified for composing of seaweed. Locations should not be located close to human settlements and have adequate areas of unused land with soil properties useful in leaching heavy metals in the seaweed. Sites should also be rotated.
- 5) Beaches and bays should be classified as high and low risk areas of seaweed exposure. This can be done through **public notification and risk communication** using easy to read signs for beaches.

Capacity and Resource Needs

- Procurement of monitoring equipment including H₂S detectors
- Wi-Fi video cameras.
- Dedicated funding to develop/support consistent monitoring.
- More technical personnel to carry out monitoring measures.
- Training of staff in the use & maintenance of H₂S equipment.
- Engagement with community representatives, fisherfolk and tourism operators.
- Development of a clear health early warning and reporting syst
- Procurement of drying or ensiling technology/equipment, materi
- needed for treatment of biomass.
- Dedicated funding to facilitate operation of the bioprocessing sites.
- Procurement and training of workers to operate in the bioprocessing facility.
- Structured public education and communication plan.





Impacts

- 1) The main impact on tourism is caused by **negative guest perception** and reaction to sargassum. In addition to the **visual impact** on beaches, there is also the **unpleasant smell** (caused by decaying organisms trapped in the seaweed) that is generated as it decomposes in the sun.
- 2) Large sargassum influxes can lead to a **lack of beach access** and a **decline in ocean and beach-based activities and business**. In severe cases, it can also lead to **vacation cancellations, closure of beachfront accommodations and businesses**, with a rollover effect on staff layoffs and reduced economic activity.

Recommended Actions

- 1) **Provide guests with as much educational material as possible.** Forecasting websites can help with predicting where and when the sargassum will be located. This is bolstered by the placement of signage along beaches and frequented coastal areas with quick fact sheets on sargassum and the country's commitment to removing the seaweed quickly & safely.
- 2) Where there are low to moderate influxes, beachgoers can be provided with buckets and fact sheets to go on **"sargassum scavenger hunts"**. This strategy was employed in Galveston, Texas where it was popular with guests and positively changed perceptions of the sargassum.
- 3) **Develop a comprehensive beach cleaning programme** to be enacted at the national level during heavy influxes. This involves partnering with hotels, the tourism associations, other beach front businesses and local communities to have appropriate sargassum removal equipment and agreement on regular cleaning and maintenance schedules.

Capacity and Resource Needs

- Better engagement of tourism and hotel operators as well as other related enterprises in adaptation planning.
- Improved communication and data sharing from Sargassum Management Authorities to the tourism sector, e.g. increased use of The Sargassum Outlook Bulletin.
- Capacity building programme for hotel staff, lifeguards and tourism operators.
- Sargassum public education programme.
- Communication through both print and electronic mediums.
- Greater use of social media and/or the development of an easy platform for sharing information (e.g., through a mobile application).
- Procurement of appropriate clean-up equipment.





At landing sites fishers battle with impeded access, difficulty maneuvering vessels through bays and the unpleasant smell as sargassum decomposes. Challenges encountered at sea include engine overheating, loss of steerage, entangled fishing gear, poor visibility and skin irritation. In addition to disrupted fishing operations, fishers have reported that the behaviour of target species e.g. flying fish in Barbados.

The impacts to the harvest sector also extend to those working in the post-harvest sector and beyond, e.g. fish vendors & processors, restaurateurs and general consumers.

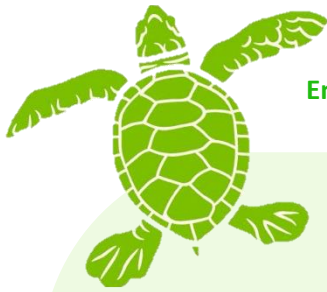
Recommended Actions

- 1) **Removal of severe onshore and nearshore sargassum mats** mitigates against loss of access to boats for fisherfolk.
- 2) **Public education on the availability of new fish stocks** will lessen the impact of reduced fish sales. Amberjacks are plentiful and viable for sale in the Barbados market, have begun to replace flying fish and the usual dolphinfish catches during acute sargassum events.
- 3) **Ensuring boat insurance policies cover damage** caused by sargassum entanglement gives boat owners some financial coverage during large sargassum events.
- 4) **Promote citizen science.**

Capacity and Resource Needs

- Budget for sargassum clean-up and management.
- Financial support for an Early Warning System (EWS) at the national level to mobilise resources and equipment before influx arrives.
- Improved communication and engagement between Fisheries Management Authorities and fishers to support monitoring and early warning.
- Greater use and sharing of free or inexpensive early detection, warning and forecasting data on influxes, e.g. increased use of The Sargassum Outlook Bulletin. Also, more guidance on risk mitigation.
- Marketing strategy to maximise the economic opportunities associated with increased catches of species such as the almaco jack.
- Better loss and damage data collection on fishing gear, loss of revenue/fishing days.
- Risk insurance for fisherfolk for sargassum.





Environment

Impacts

In addition to the strong odour from sargassum onshore, high quantities of sargassum impact **biodiversity** which can lead to:

- **Loss of some marine species** - Barbados has seen a near depletion of some marine life such as its seasonal flying fish and dolphin
- **Key processes become affected** – large quantities of sargassum can hinder light from reaching marine plants
- **Eutrophication** – excessive quantities of nutrients such as nitrogen are brought to marine ecosystems resulting in large growth within these areas.
- **Entangled marine life**

Recommended Actions

- 1) The environmental impact of removing sargassum must always be considered. **Where it is possible, it is always best to leave the sargassum on the beaches.**
- 2) When removal is necessary, it must be done in a way that **preserves the coastline and the does the least damage to marine life.** Mechanical removal poses the highest risk in this regard, and so **removal should be done manually whenever possible.** Mechanical rakes and cranes that remove sand can disturb sand dwelling critters, nests, sea turtles and sea turtle nests. Consult sargassum removal guidance documents for appropriate responses.
- 3) **Avoid burying sargassum** on turtle nesting beaches. Transport sargassum away from these sites.

Capacity and Resource Needs

- A management framework for systematic monitoring of the turtle nesting beaches is needed.
- Greater public awareness of safe removal and disposal practices on turtle nesting beaches.



7.5 SARGASSUM PROJECTS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN

In order to keep abreast of sargassum initiatives, and develop an effective SAMS, there must be dedicated persons and agencies networking online to make contacts and obtain the most current and appropriate information. It is possible to do some of this networking through subscription mail, podcasts and webinars, but reaching out to key contacts in person will be necessary if resources are to be mobilised sufficient to keep the country in the forefront.

	Sargassum Caribbean Projects, Programmes and Initiatives	Brief Description	Organisation/agency	Start Year
1.	Sargassum hub Click here to visit website!	Website that integrates information from multiple sources. Items featured include monitoring systems, in-situ observations, bulletins issued and good practices for management & use.	Geoplanet, IOCaribe, Atlantos, Air Centre	2020
2.	SargNet Click here to visit website!	A listserv and online network of sargassum stakeholders hosted by Florida International University (FIU).	Florida International University (FIU)	2019
3.	SPAW-RAC/UNEP-CEP Sargassum on-line forum Click here to visit website!	Online forum that provides easy access to relevant documents on awareness, management and research about the Sargassum influx, as well as direct exchanges between stakeholders to share their experiences.	UNEP-CEP	2015
4.	Caribbean Cooperation Programme against Sargassum (SARG'COOP) Click here to visit website!	The Caribbean cooperation programme for the monitoring of sargassum seaweed' is bringing together regional partners to share knowledge and expertise and foster collaboration across language barriers.	Regional Council of Guadeloupe	2019

Sargassum Caribbean Projects, Programmes and Initiatives	Brief Description	Organisation/agency	Start Year
5. SargAdapt (Adapting to a new reality: Managing responses to influxes of sargassum seaweed in the Eastern Caribbean as ecosystem hazards and opportunities) Click here to visit website!	The ultimate goal of SargAdapt is to reduce the impacts of and improve adaptation to sargassum influxes in the Eastern Caribbean with emphasis on converting a climate-linked ecosystem hazard into an asset that supports opportunities for socio-economic development.	UWI-CERMES, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	2019 - 2022
6. SARTRAC (Teleconnected SARgassum risks across the Atlantic: building capacity for TRansformational adaptation in the Caribbean and West Africa) Click here to visit website!	SARTRAC identifies new transformational developmental opportunities that build resilience equitably, for people affected by changing biomes/ecosystems in developing countries.	University of Southampton, UWI-CERMES, University of Ghana, University of York	2019 - 2022
7. Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH) Sargassum Subproject Click here to visit website!	This sub-project aims to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts including sargassum influx events in the Eastern Caribbean fisheries sector.	FAO, UWI-CERMES, USM	2017- 2021
8. SASAMS (SAteellite SArgassum Monitoring System) Click here to visit website!	This project aims to develop a near real-time service for monitoring pelagic sargassum seaweed beaching, initially aimed at Mexico's Caribbean Coast	University of Nottingham, Specto Natura Ltd, Triple Line Consulting Ltd. CONABIO, UNAM, CentroGeo, Planet Inc.	2020
9. Sargassum Products for Climate Resilience in the Caribbean Click here to visit website!	The overall aim of the project is to mitigate the environmental and economic impacts of Sargassum seaweed influxes in affected Caribbean countries through the creation of inclusive value chains for Sargassum seaweed.	CRFM, Plant and Food Research, A New Zealand Crown Research Institute	2020 - 2023
10. Activated Carbon: A successful multi-lateral	This research project is investigating different activation	Université des Antilles (Guadeloupe)	2019

Sargassum Caribbean Projects, Programmes and Initiatives	Brief Description	Organisation/agency	Start Year
and multi-national research project	methods and different pyrolysis temperatures (600 – 900 °C) to obtain activated carbon using sargassum.	(COVACHIMM2E laboratory), Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC) (Dominican Republic),	
11. CESAR (Coastal environment under sargassum crisis) Click here to visit website!	This project seeks to develop tools and methods to manage sargassum influxes in the Caribbean, particularly in the French West Indies.	Coordinator and collaborators can be found here	2019
12. CORSAiR (Atmospheric and marine corrosions) Click here to visit website!	The main aim of this project to investigate the corrosion rate of exposure sites and modelling the phenomenon of corrosion and its natural inhibitory solution. It also seeks to characterize of biofilms and compile legal tools	Coordinator and collaborators can be found here	2019
13. FORESEA (Forecasting of sargassum stranding in the Tropical Atlantic) Click here to visit website!	The purpose of the FORESEA research proposal is to advance the current understanding of Sargassum bloom and drift in the open and coastal ocean and help transfer this understanding into a seasonal forecast of the quantity of Sargassum and probability of stranding at the coast.	Coordinator and collaborators can be found here	2019
14. PYROSAR (Valorisation of sargassum by pyrolysis-application for food safety) Click here to visit website!	This project aims to optimize the production of biochar and activated carbon from sargassum at laboratory and industrial scale using the solar microwave process of NST	Coordinator and collaborators can be found here	2019
15. Sarg As Cld (Environmental impacts of sargassum leachate due to arsenic and chlordecone: quantification) Click here to visit website!	The initiative seeks to improve knowledge on sargassum contamination by arsenic (marine origin) and chlordecone (terrestrial origin).	Coordinator and collaborators can be found here	2019

Sargassum Caribbean Projects, Programmes and Initiatives	Brief Description	Organisation/agency	Start Year
16. SARGACARE (Human health effects of chronic exposure to gaseous fumes from decomposing brown algae in the French West Indies) Click here to visit website!	Goal: Conduct a detailed study of the clinical, biological, functional and socio-anthropological consequences of gaseous emissions produced by decomposing sargassum in the Caribbean.	Coordinator and collaborators can be found here	2019
17. SARGASSUM ORIGINS (Identity and origins of pelagic sargassum) Click here to visit website!	This project aims to identify sargassum species growing in the North Atlantic (co-occurrence) by studying the connectivity of sargassum at the Atlantic scale.	Coordinator and collaborators can be found here	2019
18. SARGOOD (Holistic approach to sargassum valorisation) Click here to visit website!	The project will conduct an assessment of the sargassum life cycle and develop innovative materials and technologies	Coordinator and collaborators can be found here	2019
19. SARGSCREEN (Pharmaco-toxicological screening of molecules extracted from Caribbean sargassum: highlighting their impact on certain pathologies widespread in the Caribbean) Click here to visit website!	The project aims to detect pharmacological potential of sargassum extracts against pathologies spread over the Caribbean	Coordinator and collaborators can be found here	2019
20. SARtrib (Tribological and electrochemical valorisation of sargassum) Click here to visit website!	Aim: Valorisation of vacuum pyrolysis by-products of sargassum: electrodes for lithium batteries and new generation of lubricant	Coordinator and collaborators can be found here	2019
21. SAVE (Sargassum agricultural valorisation and energy production) Click here to visit website!	This project seeks to identify non-destructive sargassum harvest methods and develop a social and environmental approach to integrating the treatment of sargassum and local bio wastes.	Coordinator and collaborators can be found here	2019

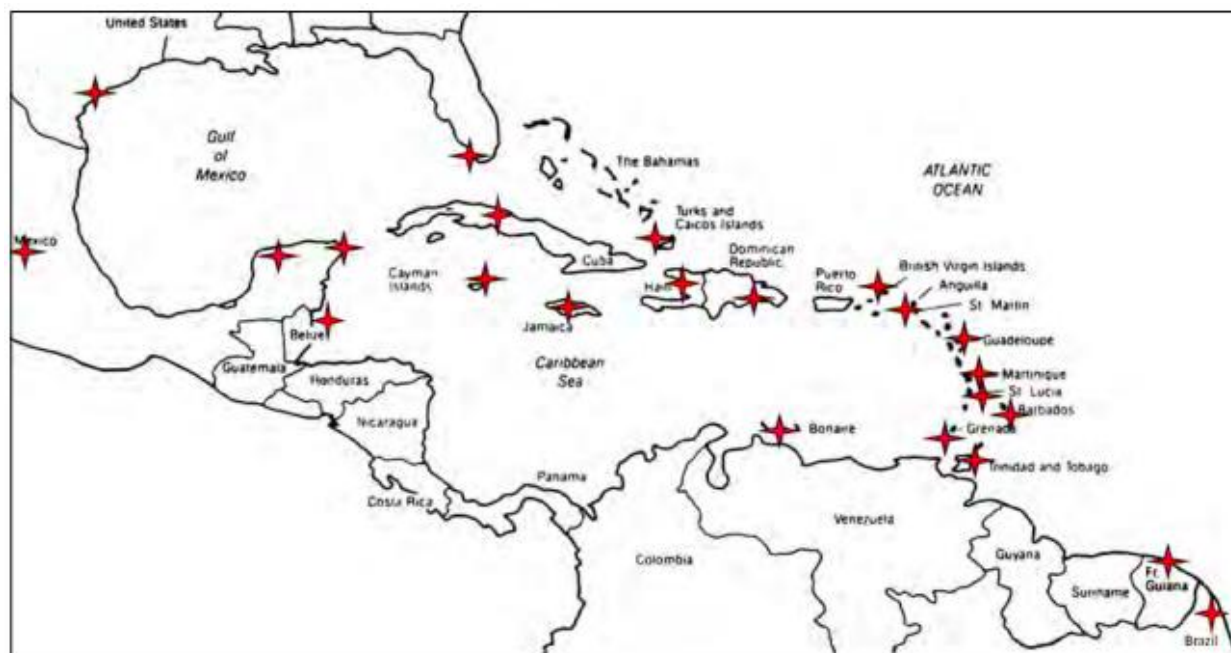
Sargassum Caribbean Projects, Programmes and Initiatives	Brief Description	Organisation/agency	Start Year
22. SAVE-C (Study of holopelagic sargassum responsible of massive beachings: valorisation and ecology on Caribbean Coasts) Click here to visit website!	This project aims to better understand the diversity and the functioning of pelagic sargassum, from the drifting rafts until their beaching	Coordinator and collaborators can be found here	2019
23. Developing a sustainable sargassum value chain	Research project seeking to identify sustainable business opportunities utilizing sargassum seaweed that could lead to the development of a sustainable sargassum value chain, easy to replicate and scaled- up in other areas or countries	Polytechnic University in Quintana Roo (UPQRoo)	2019
24. SOS (Sargassum Ocean Sequestration) of Carbon Click here to visit website!	This project supports the production of a specialized machine used as an alternative way to manage pelagic sargassum strandings. The machine pumps sargassum to a critical depth where it becomes negatively buoyant. Also exploring carbon credit or carbon trading opportunities.	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	2019
25. EnergYAlgae Click here to visit website!	Multi-sectoral and multi-national initiative developing sustainable sargassum uses with a focus on bioenergy.	AlgaeNova, Grupo Puntacana, University APEC (UNAPEC), Y.A. MAOF Holdings & Management Ltd.	2019
26. Closing the Circle Programme Click here to visit website!	Exploring challenges and advancing potential solutions to marine debris, Sargassum threats and marine spatial planning in Small Island Developing States with a particular focus on the Eastern Caribbean region.	World Maritime University	2020

Sargassum Caribbean Projects, Programmes and Initiatives	Brief Description	Organisation/agency	Start Year
27. Sargassum Podcast Click here to visit website!	A podcast hosted by marine educators and scientists with a range of expertise in Sargassum and Coastal Communities. The podcasts interviews a variety of stakeholders about how they experience Sargassum, a floating algae that has caused severe problems when beaching in the wider Caribbean and West Africa.	Marine conservation without borders	2021
28. Sustainable Sargassum Management in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, and Montserrat Click here to visit website!	The project aims to enhance the knowledge, institutional frameworks, experience and commitment of coastal and marine resource managers and users in Anguilla, BVI and Montserrat to manage the ecological and socio-economic risks from sargassum influxes.	CANARI, UWI-CERMES and OECS Commission	2021-2024
29. The Project for Improving National Sargassum Management Capacities in The Caribbean Click here to visit website!	This project aims to support the enhancement of the national capacity for the management of sargassum inundations by providing five small island developing states in the Eastern Caribbean with equipment, expertise, and technical knowledge to collect, remove, transport, and dispose of sargassum accumulated on shore and/or in the nearshore.	Government of Japan and UNDP	2022-2025
30. Sargasse Project Click here to visit website!	This project involves converting sargassum into a useful, ecological biomaterial, which will become an ecological packaging product of the future.	Coordinator and collaborators can be found here	

Sargassum Caribbean Projects, Programmes and Initiatives	Brief Description	Organisation/agency	Start Year
31. Building capacity to monitor and manage sargassum seaweed inundations in Western Africa (SARCAP) Click here to visit website!	This project aims to build capacity within West African schools, local communities, research institutes and environmental management organisations to monitor, manage and use sargassum.	Tecnológico de Monterrey, the University of Ghana, the University of Southampton and the University of York	
32. Monitoring a large Sargassum bloom subject to a major volcanic eruption (MONISARG) Click here to visit website!	This project aims at understanding variations in Sargassum inundation within the Caribbean region following the eruption of the La Soufrière volcano in St. Vincent.	The Mona Geoinformatics Institute (MGI), the University of Southampton (UoS) and CERMES	
33. Half Moon Bay (HMB) Sargassum Project Click here to visit website!	This project aims to mitigate the environmental damage caused by sargassum influxes through the construction and deployment of an offshore barrier outside the reef of Half Moon Bay, Mexico.	Mexican Secretariat of the Environment & Natural Resources (The Yucatan Environmental Fund (YEF) and Ecoproteccion Akumal (EPA)	2021

8 SARGASSUM USES

There continues to be a rapidly growing interest across the Caribbean region in utilizing sargassum as a primary resource for developing value-added compounds for varied industries, to help to mitigate damage caused by repeated strandings. Entrepreneurs and research teams across the region have been working over the last few years to develop innovative projects and businesses using sargassum seaweed including agricultural uses, biofuels, bioplastics, alginates, cosmetics and environmental restoration. Below is a map showing the sargassum entrepreneurs and researchers across the Wider Caribbean (last update was 2020). No novel uses of sargassum have been reported in Dominica.¹²



(Extracted from The Sargassum Uses Guide (2020))

8.1 KEY RESOURCES

The Sargassum Uses Guide¹³ remains the most comprehensive and authoritative resource on potential applications of sargassum biomass. Potential uses were identified across 14 different sectors, including agriculture, biofuels, cosmetics, bioplastics, construction, pharmaceutical, among others. Below shows

¹²<https://sargassumhub.org/dominica/#:~:text=Apart%20from%20the%20common%20application,of%20sargassum%20reported%20in%20Dominica.>

¹³ Desrochers, A., S-A. Cox, H.A. Oxenford and B. van Tussenbroek. 2020. Sargassum uses guide: a resource for Caribbean researchers, entrepreneurs and policy makers. Report funded by and prepared for the Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH) Project of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. Bridgetown: Barbados. CERMES Technical Report No. 97, 172 pp.

Sargassum Biomass Index, illustrating the relative product yields that could potentially be produced from one metric tonne (1000 kg) of fresh sargassum. Click [here](#) to access the full document.



Other highlights of the document include:



In addition to the Sargassum Uses Guide, below are some useful open access (free) seaweed databases and a podcast on sargassum uses ranging from micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) to larger scale ventures.

The Phyconomy Seaweed Database

This database contains extensive information about over 1000 organisations in the global seaweed industry. Of these, 50 focus particularly on sargassum in the Wider Caribbean region and beyond (at the time of writing). The database also tracks investments in the seaweed economy, as well as information on algae species, harvesting volumes and more.

Click [here](#) to visit the database!

The screenshot shows the 'Phyconomy seaweed' database interface. It features a navigation bar with tabs for Companies, Investments, Investors, Algae species, Research institutes, and Jobs. Below the navigation bar, there's a search bar and a filter dropdown set to 'Filtered by Species, Industry (Applications)'. The main table lists companies with columns for Name, Headquarters, Value chain, and Website. The table contains 47 records, with the first 9 visible.

Name	Headquarters	Value chain	Website
1 Abapias	Mexico	Applications	https://abapias.com
2 Akki Foods	Japan	Applications	https://akkifoods.com
3 Algas Organics	Saint Lucia	Farming & harvesting	https://algasorganics.com
4 AlgaeNova	Dominican Republic	Farming & harvesting	https://www.algaenova.com
5 Algopack	France	Applications	https://www.algopack.com
6 Alquimar	Mexico	Applications	https://www.alquimar.com
7 Awganic Inputs	Jamaica	Farming & harvesting	https://www.awganic.com
8 BiogasTiger (FWE Energy)	Germany	Applications	https://www.biogastiger.com
9 Biomava	Mexico	Farming & harvesting	https://www.biomava.com

The UWI-CERMES Sargassum Reference Repository

This is a living and growing collection of scientific works related to the biology, impacts and uses of sargassum within the Wider Caribbean Region and beyond. The references are organised and searchable based on a predetermined set of tags, including uses. At the time of writing, 92 entries were compiled under the uses tag.

Click [here](#) to visit the database!

The screenshot shows the 'zotero' interface for the 'Sargassum Reference Repository'. It displays a list of references with columns for Title, Creator, Date, and Item Type. The references are filtered by the 'uses' tag. The first few references are visible.

Title	Creator	Date	Item Type
A critical review of analytical methods used for the chemical characterisation and quantification of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in brown seaweeds	Ford et al.	2019	Journal Article
A natural history of floating Sargassum	Godínez-Ortega et al.	2021	Journal Article
A novel α-glucosidase inhibitor	Zhang et al.	2022	Journal Article
A Promising Potential of Brown Sargassum	Hannun et al.	2022-01-06	Journal Article
A review on bio-based lubricants	Syahrir et al.	2017	Journal Article
Activated carbon synthesized from Sargassum	Francisco et al.	2021	Journal Article
Algae application in civil construction	Rosignolo et al.	2022	Journal Article
An exposition on potential seaweed-based materials	Falcaya et al.	2011	Journal Article
Antiangiogenic and antitumoral activity of Sargassum	Dias et al.	2005	Journal Article
Antimicrobial activity of brown seaweeds	Borbinha et al.	2012	Journal Article
Antioxidant, Antiproliferative, and Anticancer Activity of Sargassum	Namvar et al.	2013	Journal Article
Arsenic removal from the seawater by Sargassum	Wang et al.	2022	Journal Article
Bioactive potentials of sulfated polysaccharides from Sargassum	Sarjawa et al.	2018	Journal Article
Biochemical characteristics of Sargassum	Mohapatra et al.	2020	Journal Article
Biochar and activated carbon from Sargassum	Ranquin et al.	2021	Journal Article
Biochar from commercially cultivated Sargassum	Roberts et al.	2015	Journal Article
Biochar derived from wasted Sargassum	Poo et al.	2018	Journal Article
Biogenic acidification of Portuguese Sargassum	Han et al.	2020	Journal Article
Bioremediation potential of Sargassum	Saldamagala-Hernandez et al.	2020	Journal Article

The Sargassum Podcast

The podcast is hosted by marine educators and scientists with vast expertise in sargassum and coastal communities. The sargassum podcast hosts interviews with a wide range of stakeholders including scientists and innovators with information exchange on where the science is headed based on new emerging information, including uses.

Click [here](#) to visit the website!



8.2 CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

Although strides have been made in exploring ways to valorize this feedstock, converting sargassum biomass into value-added does not come without its constraints and challenges. Oxenford et al. (2021)¹⁴ conducted a comprehensive investigation of the challenges and constraints to starting up, expanding, and scaling-up existing sargassum-related ventures, as summarized in the following image. Click [here](#) to access the publication.



Source: Oxenford et. al (2021)

¹⁴ Oxenford, H., S-A. Cox, B. Tussenbroek, A. Desrochers. 2021. Challenges of Turning the Sargassum Crisis into Gold: Current Constraints and Implications for the Caribbean. *Phycology* 1(1), 27-48.



Due to the widespread use of sargassum in agriculture, the chemical composition of sargassum, in particular the concentration of heavy metals, has drawn more and more attention over time. Emerging studies cautioned its use in animal feed and fertilizer for consumables due to **elevated levels of arsenic and cadmium**, which can be toxic to humans and animals. Notably, some companies e.g. [Algas Organics](#) have reportedly found successful methods of extracting heavy metals during their production process.

Notwithstanding, more research is needed to understand impacts of these higher levels of heavy metals and the long -term effects when ingested. The door is open for sargassum to be used as building material, biofuel or perhaps fertilizer for decorative plants or construction material, such as bamboo.

Click in the links below to view some of the studies on heavy metal concentration in sargassum:

- [Element concentrations in pelagic Sargassum along the Mexican Caribbean coast in 2018-2019](#)
- [Sargassum Fertilizer Transfers Heavy Metals to Vegetables](#)
- [Opportunities for Valorisation of Pelagic Sargassum in the Dutch Caribbean](#)