



UWI
CAVE HILL CAMPUS
BARBADOS, WEST INDIES

Roundtable

6

Beach Clean-up & Maintenance

Developing Appropriate Mechanisms

ROUNDTABLE REPORT

Roundtable Six: Clean Up & Beach Maintenance

Topic: Research & Development of Appropriate Mechanisms

INSTRUCTIONS

Persons should have selected this topic because they have an interest or expertise in the specific area.

This is a regional issue, therefore do not focus exclusively on the Barbadian situation, but think about the regional experience and brainstorm regional, international as well as local actions that might be required.

Each group must **select a rapporteur** who will be responsible for summarising and recording the main points made for each question.

Over the next **2 hours** have been allocated for this discussion. The Moderator will announce time checks every 20 minutes. Groups should try to use their time to ensure that they **address all 5 questions**.

At the end of the session this booklet must be handed to one of the administrative staff.

The information will be compiled and emailed to all of the Symposium participants.

1. What is being done and lessons learnt?

What has been done:

- NCC is responsible for coordinating beach cleaning in Barbados.
- In terms of Sargassum, this has been largely reactive rather than proactive and somewhat haphazard.
- Manual methods used involved mainly raking and transferring to the back beach area in wheel barrows or bags. Piling onto tarpaulins and dragging this to back beach also works. This manual cleaning has been done by the NCC, hotels and by community groups. NCC will remove the bags of Sargassum.
- Public beach clean ups have been organised by the NCC.
- SBRC has offered to buy Sargassum delivered to them by the truck load.
- A method involving a horse dragging a mesh a mesh collector in the sea and then transferring the Sargassum to net (onion) bags has proven very effective. Former race horses can be used for this.
- One hotel (the Crane) has used knowledge of the tides to push the seaweed back out to sea.
- Government has employed earth-moving machinery on beaches with large accumulations often after it is rotting and giving off a brown exudate.
- Some affected hotels have spent money transporting guests to Sargassum-free beaches.
- Apparently the French islands have developed a way for dealing with this at sea.
- Some fishing areas in St. Lucia have exploited the fact that the rotting seaweed will sink and be pushed back to sea.
- There has been little international coordination with each Caribbean island doing its own thing.

Lessons:

- The scale of the invasion has been such that the normal NCC coordination of beach cleaning is inadequate. The amount of seaweed has been too much to deal with. A special, agile, national coordinating body needs to be instituted with the key stakeholders and with the necessary resources.
- A regional coordinating body, as suggested by the Vice Chancellor of the UWI, would be useful in coordinating regional efforts and garnering external funds.
- Satellite imagery needs to be exploited to pro-actively deal with fresh arrivals vs. reacting to it after it lands, and this information shared.
- Sargassum should be removed as soon as it lands (or at sea) and not allowed to lie on the beach for days and rot and become a problem.
- It may be that based on the scale of the problem, some beaches should be prioritised for cleaning vs. no cleaning, and different methods identified for different types of beaches.
- Research needs to be carried out on the various methods so far used to recommend the best approach for particular situations.
- Research needs to be carried out on specialised equipment used elsewhere (e.g. booms) and pilot their use in Barbados.
- Better public engagement and education needed on Sargassum.
- Incentives by SBRC to purchase the Sargassum have not apparently worked and the reasons need to be understood.

2. What are the issues to be investigated?

- Proving information on projections of Sargassum arrival.
- Coordination among NCC – CZMU and other stakeholders for rapid response.
- Investigation of what makes a successful beach clean up
- Dissemination of lessons learned across the region (from the Gulf of Mexico)
- Impacts on various sectors – Fisheries, Tourism
- What are other countries doing?
- What approaches are successful?
- Disseminating lessons learned
- Development of a manual for dealing with Sargassum
- Change of protocol for dealing with Sargassum
- Impact of Sargassum on Health
- Ecology

Manual:

- Successful lessons for different sectors/coastal communities
- Different approaches to different areas

3. Who are the stakeholders to be involved?

- CZMU
- NCC
- Academia
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- Government
- International organisation

National

International

- Coordination Agency – Involves all Stakeholders

4. What resources are required?

- Knowledge availability + Access + Compilation
- Technical Expertise
- Funding
- Oversight for coordination
- Monitoring
- System for providing information on projections
- Technical equipment
- What is effective (success stories; lessons learned)
- Bags (Onion bags vs. closed bags) and other materials that are required for large-scale clean ups
- St. Lucia
- Martinique – Sargassum traps
- Push to have locals develop ideas/techniques to get rid of Sargassum
- Local solutions
- SBRC offered money to buy Sargassum
- Community – Not a high enough price, but still can buy the best methods

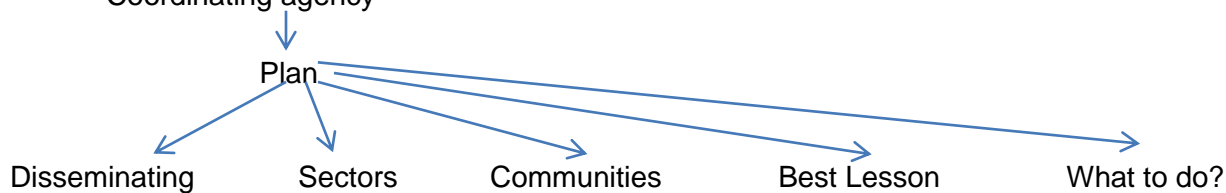
Multiple Solutions:

- Some communities can deal with Sargassum
- Beaches
- Take it away before it reaches the shore

- How can you motivate the people to help you move the Sargassum?
- Opportunities of education/tourism
- Education programme
- Secondary school programme
- **Issues:** Projection so that the plan can be put into action.

5. What are potential sources of funding?

- UNDP (Small Grants)
- GEF
- IADB (Coastal Risk)
- Private Sector (Hotels; Businesses)
- Fundraisers
- Sandy Lane
- Prisoner labour (?)
- Restaurants (recipes)
- Climate Funds
- Response Plan
- List of beaches that are clean
- Coordinating agency



SARGASSUM ROUNDTABLE REPORT



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Thank You for Your Participation

**At the end of the session please hand this booklet to one of the
administrative staff.**