

# Workshop report

## Sargcoop II – work package 3 “collection, valorisation and storage”

Held on March 28th, 2025, in Guadeloupe during the launching of SARGCOOP II this workshop goals were:

- get to know each other - partners of the WP3 “collection, valorisation and storage” & coordinators of other cooperation programs over the Caribbean territories and countries representatives.
- schedule the WP3 activities over 2025/2026 and harmonize with the other cooperation programs.
- choose priorities to work on (regarding the thematics of the WP3).

The list of the workshop members is annexed to the report.

### I. Cartography of the list of target areas for cooperation program interventions (maps are annexed to the report)

Throughout the workshop, the participants crafted a cartography that provides informations about cooperation programs in the Caribbeans and Latin America.

In this zone, it can be noted that cooperations programs are very active.

One can conclude that there is a disparity in terms of assistance. For example, in Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago, one can notice that they have almost all the international financial institutions involved, whereas is the north, apart from Dominican Republic, there is less involvement (for example Haiti or Cuba is not concerned).

It emerges that the number of cooperation programs is driven by the level of countries development and also the harshness of sargassum strandings.

French islands are apart: very impacted by sargassum but not included into the different cooperation programs over the Caribbean, apart from Sargcoop.

## II. Types of actions supported by the different programs:

Through “post it” participants summarized the type of actions supported, to identify synergies.

| Webinars /Workshops   | Research   | Governance/Regulation   | Call for Projects/grants   | Economic Studies  | Study trips   |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Global Seaweed Coalition</li> <li>-Sargcoop</li> <li>- Expertise France → Regional workshop</li> <li>- GIZ → Technical cooperation → National and regional workshop</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sarg Net International →Build recommendations → Use this forum to create a flow of information about the topic across the region → Map scientists working with sargassum → Can help to run surveys of programs already existing</li> <li>- AEC-ACS → Scientific cooperation</li> <li>- GIZ → Research cooperation</li> <li>- EF → Summary of scientific knowledge</li> <li>-SPAW-RAC →ecosystem + pollution impact</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ECLAC → Raising High level attention → Policy supports regional</li> <li>- World Bank → Policy + technical advice</li> <li>- GIZ → National Regulation</li> <li>- ACS → State Level cooperation policy → Coordination of national to international law → raising international awareness → Creation of the sargassum sub-committee to harmonize national and regional agendas.</li> <li>- Expertise France → raising international awareness → Roadmap of management of sargassum</li> <li>- OECS implication in : → Expertise France project management → Sargcoop (impacts, cluster) → UBEC project → World Bank → Blue economy project → Biospace (SLU) : valorization</li> <li>- Global Seaweed Coalition → scientific support → Advocate</li> <li>- FAO-CFIF SASI →support Grenada</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GIZ → Pilot projects</li> <li>- ACS -AEC</li> <li>- Expertise Fr → Valorization</li> <li>- WB → Loans + Credits (complements with grants)</li> <li>-Global Seaweed coalition (small grants) (also EIB)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WB →Sargassum economic impact assessment</li> <li>→ Analytics and advisory services</li> <li>→ Sargassum Value chain assessment</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sargcoop</li> <li>-GIZ</li> </ul> |

Joined actions could be done: gathering call for projects for certain countries, communicating about webinar/workshops/field trips thematics to avoid doing the same (or target different countries), advise and advocate countries for regulatory frameworks together... Regarding science: have a more specific discussion about how to lead the subject.



### III. Overview of needs and concerns in sargassum management

- ➔ Some countries participated to the workshop. They explained their needs and key issues regarding the specific characteristics of their territory
- ➔ A common challenge across different countries is the lack of communication and understanding of the roles of the various stakeholders working on sargassum management. Each country listed the organizations that are involved in this area.

| Countries       | Concerns/issues   | Needs   | Organizations   |
|-----------------|---|---|---|
| <b>BRAZIL</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Irregularity of strandings</li> <li>- Huge amount close to the coast but never land.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spotlight on monitoring and oceanographic dynamics.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fapes P</li> <li>- SargaSTREAM</li> <li>- VSP</li> <li>- UFPA</li> </ul>   |
| <b>MEXICO</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No security for the workers who pick up the Sargassum</li> <li>- Illegal sites</li> <li>- Water/Soil Pollution</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Budget to =               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ to clean</li> <li>→ to transport</li> <li>→ to place Sargassum in safe sites</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |   |
| <b>ST LUCIA</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sensitization community involvement</li> </ul> <p>Impact on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- health (mental, physical)</li> <li>- environment</li> <li>- economy (tourism mostly and fisheries)</li> </ul> <p>Absence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring</li> <li>- Stakeholder input</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mitigative methods</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Conservation Authority (beach management)</li> <li>- Ministry of Agriculture → Fisheries Department</li> <li>- Stakeholder: → UWI open campus?</li> </ul> |
| <b>ST BARTH</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Risk for workers</li> <li>- Nuisance for neighbours (STORAGE)</li> <li>- Small Storage Space (small islands)</li> <li>- Coastal Erosion</li> <li>- Image of the island</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collection equipment (adequate)</li> <li>Proper storage sites</li> <li>Treatment + valorization processes</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>TOBAGO</b>   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Storage site management</li> <li>- Forecasting</li> <li>- Monitoring health impact</li> <li>- Collection</li> <li>- Valorization</li> </ul>                            | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) CZMU</li> <li>2) TEMA</li> <li>3) Public utilities</li> <li>4) Fisheries &amp; Agriculture</li> <li>5) UWI</li> <li>6) IMA</li> <li>7) UTT</li> </ol>             |

Shared conclusions regarding the needs:



- Lack of regional coordination
- Mapping all the existing efforts / knowledge / work already done
- Education on the impact of sargassum (through active involvement of local communities)
- Specific stakeholder engagement / implication definition per territory
- More research on health issues
- Storage site concerns

#### IV. Round tables about the deliverable of the WP3

Each people could contribute to round tables about specific concerns, linked with the Sargcoop II WP3.

##### a. Prescriptions on storage sites

Through WP3 we plan to assist 3 countries for the elaboration of technical prescription for storage sites.

GIZ identify a possible cooperation with its program on that point (kick off meeting in October 2025), through its cooperation with CARICOM. With possibilities of financing investment.

Expertise France (EF) precise that storage sites can come up in their discussions about roadmap management with the countries involved in their program.

ACS could ask members countries their interest through a call for proposal.

Countries are interested in this work, even already identified places for this kind of sites (Grenada). For now, for most of them (apart from Mexico, Dominican Republic), there is no massive collection but it's improving, and they will need storage site soon.

It seems important to involve Ministry of Health to create criterias to protect environment/health. These criterias can also be shared with Ministry of the Environement.

Needs :

- Build guidelines on how to begin a work on storage
- Anticipate the cost of maintenance / functioning
- Sargassum must be collected down the sea to avoid dirty sargassum going into the storage
- Importance of focal point and knowing who can finance
- Definition of Sargassum managers

Queries :

- Pre-process before storage ?
- Private or public ?
- Transport : how to cover ?



## b. Case study on quintana roo (SargaStream project)

Participants exchanged on what are the key aspects of the case study:

- gathering data on volume, frequency and variability of the resource and compare to the demand regarding valorization companies. Indeed, if sargassum become a new resource, it must match the demand, because the quantity of sargassum is variable.
- employment opportunities, investing in local excellence
- laws and regulations. Standardized procedure
- location of storage, processing (local vs export)
- compartmentalizing/specialisation vs holistic approach on valorization
- identification of regional
- comparison of the different valorization options: high tech vs low tech, arsenic vs arsenic removal...
- price investors/clients are willing to pay per kg of Sargassum based on quality.
- how will the demand evolve
- the importation/exportation framework (cf DR-Finland case)
- molecule of Chloredacone/Kepone (US) leading to difficult valorization in some areas.
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## c. Training: Worker's safety

The safety of the workers is one priority, participants discussed how can we build and broadcast trainings (a French version already exists)

- Targets for the worker's safety training:
  - Not only collecting workers → fishermen
  - Ministries: Fisheries & Agriculture, department of Health, department of Labor, sustainable development / Environment Department.
  - Hotel & tourism associations (like St Lucia Hospitality and Tourism Association Inc)
  - UWI Center of biosecurity
  - Environmental groups (like National Conservation Authority in Saint-Lucia)

Not to forget in the training:

- Cost of protective gear + maintenance
- Explain the danger and utility of the collecting job

Needs related to trainings:

- Online session for more accessibility
- Need of prevention in non-touristic areas
- Involving local communities
- Formation dedicated to tourism sector

Other existing training:

- Florida international University: training for teacher, field courses

Conclusion: Handling sargassum require the formation of workers, it can be made online. Moreover, countries need prevention in non-touristic areas, to generate awareness about sargassum. This prevention can prioritize 2 targets: public sector with the Ministry of Health or the department of Labor & tourism sector.



#### d. 2025 / 2026 Main events

Participants elaborated a 2025-2026 calendar, gathering information about known events.

| APRIL / MAY 2025   | JUNE 2025  | JULY / AUGUST 2025 | SEPTEMBER 2025  | OCTOBER 2025                | NOVEMBER 2025   | DECEMBER 2025               |
|--|--|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ADEME – Global Seaweed Coalition: Webinar<br>→ informative<br>→ suitable for all audience<br>➤ <b>postponed</b><br>- Technical launch of the ACS Sub-Commission of Sargassum | FR+CR<br>- UNOC<br>→ Diplomacy<br>→ Member states<br>→ Policy change<br>- Caricom<br>→ South-South Cooperation |                    | - Webinar ADEME/Global seaweed coalition/Intec<br>-80: UNGA (USA) | - Global gateway Brussels 8 | - COP30 Brazil<br>- Annual meeting Caribbean Academt of Science in Barbados | -Fied trip sargcoop Mexico? |

| JANUARY 2026  | FEBRUARY 2026   | MARCH 2026  | APRIL 2026 | MAY 2026   | JUNE 2026 | JULY 2026 | AUGUST 2026 | SEPTEMBER 2026  |
|---|---|---|------------|--|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| - Webinar ADEME/Global seaweed coalition/Intec<br>Training (INTEC+ACS+MEX)<br>→ Local Agents: online courses on integrated sargassum management | Training (INTEC+ACS+MEX)<br>→ Local Agents: online courses on integrated sargassum management | Training (INTEC+ACS+MEX)<br>→ Local Agents: online courses on integrated sargassum management |            | → Sargexpo (St Martin)<br>Potential partnership with geo blue planet meeting |           |           |             | → Webinar ADEME |

#### e. Other deliverables - priorities

Reports to be translated:

- Sargassum uses Guide in Spanish (A.Desroches)
- White papers on Sargassum (UNEP – CEP)
- IDB. Innovation for Sargassum resilience
- Webinars:
  - Valorizaton
  - Microplastic “invisible pollution”
  - Health
  - Forecasting: links between satellite and coastal observations



## V. Conclusions on how to enhance collaboration between international financial institutions:

At least GIZ / CARICOM / Expertise France / World Bank / EU / ACS / OECS / SARGCOOP. And maybe in the future with EIB, CAF, KOICA, UNDP..

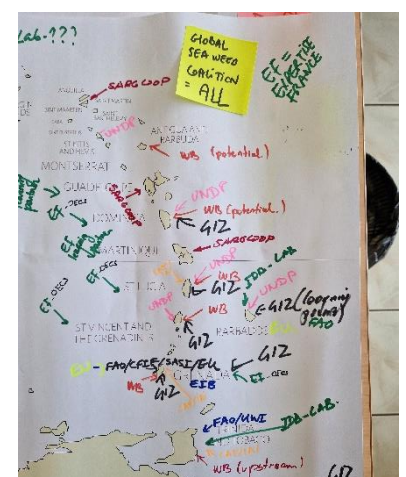
Teamwork: ideally one quick online meeting per month with IFI + OECS / CARICOM / ACS about news. And more detailed workshop during longer events (like global gateway conference, sargexpo...)

We couldn't conclude about who will lead the animation (ACS could do it, but GIZ is more involved with CARICOM and Expertise France with OECS).

The future workshop could take place in October during kick off meeting of GIZ and during the Global gateway (initially in June but postponed to October). Expertise France can plan next quick online meeting (may?).

We can also start cooperating on specific actions, regarding synergies identified during the first part of the workshop (cf p.2). For example, World Bank & ADEME will mutualise a mission in SLU in April, also meeting GIZ there.

*Huge thanks to everyone, and special thanks to Region Guadeloupe for the organisation!*



## I. Annex

### Workshop participants

| STRUCTURE  | NAME                      | LOCATION |
|--|---------------------------|----------|
| ADEME  | Charlotte Gully           | MAR      |
| ADEME  | Emma Duclaut              | GUA      |
| AEC  | Adeline Raphael           | TT       |
| AFD  | Clara Dufesne             | MAR      |
| Tobago House of Assembly                                     | Howard Robin              | TT       |
| Expertise France   | Marie-Elodie Rouch        | FR       |
| GIZ  | Findeisen Clemens         | DR       |
| Global Seaweed Coalition                                     | Mélanie Cueff             | FR       |
| INTEC  | Ulises Jauregui           | DR       |
| OECS   | Helena Jeffery Brown      | SLU      |
| SARGNET  | Ligia Collado             | US       |
| UE   | Susana Aguerro            | BD       |
| University Mc Gill   | Santiago Ramírez Said     | CA-MX    |
| UWI / FAO  | Anne Desrochers           | BD       |
| WORLDBANK  | Patrick Alexander Smytzek | US       |
| OECS   | Simon Delage              | SLU      |
| Mexican Academy of Sciences                                  | Dalida Aldana             | ME       |
| Embassy of France in St Lucia                                | Christiane Bourges        | SLU      |
| ECLAC  | Artie Dubrie              | TT       |
| Ministry of Health,<br>Department of<br>Environmental Health | Emerson Vitalis           | SLU      |
| Caribbean Public Health<br>Agency                            | Glenda Etienne            | SLU      |
| COLLECTIVITE D'OUTRE MER<br>DE SAINT BARTHÉLEMY              | Franz Dillard             | SBH      |
| UA   | Sarah Gaspard             | GUA      |

### Sargcoop partners :



1. Cartography of target areas for cooperation program ( non-exhaustive )



