

2ND EU-CARIBBEAN GLOBAL GATEWAY CONFERENCE ON SARGASSUM

EXPLORE • CONNECT • INVEST

Turning the Tide: Sustainable Practices and Economic Opportunities for Sargassum in the Caribbean Basin



1-2 October 2024



Radisson Grenada Beach Resort
Grand Anse, Grenada

• AGENDA •

DAY 1

8:00-9:15 REGISTRATION

9:15-9:30 WELCOME BY EVENT HOST

- **Hon Kerryne James**, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy

MC INTERLUDE

- **Niela Etienne**, Master of Ceremonies

9:30-10:10 OPENING CEREMONY

- Prayer, national anthem, and cultural presentation

OPENING REMARKS

- **H.E. Ambassador Malgorzata Wasilewska**, Head of the European Union Delegation to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM
- **H.E. Dr. Didacus Jules**, Director General of the OECS Commission
- **The Honourable Dickon Mitchell**, Prime Minister of Grenada

10:10-10:30 **FEATURED ADDRESS:** "Global Gateway Regional Response to Sargassum: Building a Sustainable Sargassum Value Chain in the Caribbean"

- **SPEAKER: Mr. Félix Fernández-Shaw**, Director for Latin America, the Caribbean and Overseas Countries and Territories relations - European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)

10:30-10:35 MC INTERLUDE

in collaboration with

10:35-11:15

SETTING THE SCENE: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In this section, we will unpack the current status and future directions of Sargassum valorisation. The aim is to assess the present state of research, the enabling environment, and the development of value chains. Drawing on insights from recent conferences in the Dominican Republic and Mexico, the discussion will provide a comprehensive overview of where we stand in addressing Sargassum-related issues and the most promising opportunities.

MODERATOR: Neila Ettiene, Master of Ceremonies

SPEAKERS

- **Dr. Brigitta van Tussenbroek**, Senior Researcher, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico
- **Mr. Ignacio Muñoz**, CEO, The Seas We Love, Mexico
- **Dr. Pierre Failler**, Professor of Economics, Centre for Blue Governance, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom
- **Dr. Ulises Jáuregui Haza**, Coordinator of the Doctoral Program in Environmental Sciences, INTEC, Dominican Republic

11:15-11:40

COFFEE BREAK & PHOTO

EXPLORE 1: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

11:40-12:20

PANEL 1 – UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL: OVERCOMING BARRIERS IN THE SARGASSUM VALUE CHAIN

This panel explores the critical challenges in developing sustainable Sargassum value chains, with a focus on overcoming key obstacles such as the complex and variable chemical composition of Sargassum, heavy metal contamination (especially inorganic arsenic), managing leachate and gas emissions, and unpredictability and variability of Sargassum influxes. As the global community seeks sustainable solutions, leading experts will share the latest research, innovative processing technologies, and best practices. The discussion will also emphasize the need for increased investment in research and development to fully unlock the potential of Sargassum as a valuable resource for various industries.

MODERATOR: Professor Clive Landis, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, Cave Hill Campus, University of the West Indies

SPEAKERS:

- **Dr Pierre-Yves Pascal**, Senior Lecturer, Université des Antilles, Guadeloupe, France
- **Dr Damien Devault**, Senior Lecturer, University of Mayotte, Mayotte, France
- **Dr Maud Benoit**, Services Manager and Partnership Developer, Algaia, France
- **Dr Kristie Alleyne**, Consultant, Barbados
- **Dr. Gael Many**, GEO Blue Planet European Coordinator, Mercator Ocean International Blue Oceans, France

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EXPLORE 2: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

12:20-13:00

PANEL 1 – POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

This panel will explore the issues of Sargassum influxes through the lens of policy makers, looking at national and local policies and strategies developed in different areas and countries. Panellists will discuss the formulation and implementation of effective policies, strategies, and action plans at both national and local levels, emphasizing on collaborative approaches and community involvement. National policymakers will share their current management practices and experiences, engaging in dialogue to derive horizontal conclusions and recommendations based on real-world experiences.

MODERATOR: **Edison Rijna**, Cabinet Special Envoy for Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba for EU, UN and Trade and Economic development in the LAC region.

SPEAKERS

- **Hon. Oscar Rebora**, Secretary for Ecology and Environment of the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico
- **Mrs. Stephanie Linton-Shields**, Manager, Local Area Planning Branch, Spatial Planning Division, Jamaica National Environment and Planning Agency, Jamaica
- **Ms. Judith Raming**, Manager, Bonaire National Marine Park, STINAPA, Bonaire
- **Dr Shelly-Ann Cox**, Chief Fisheries Officer, Department of Fisheries Barbados (virtual participation), Barbados
- **Hon. Jose Ramon Reyes**, Vice Minister of marine resources, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic

13:00-14:30

LUNCH BREAK AND SARGASSUM TRADE FAIR EXHIBITION LAUNCH

14:30-15:15

PANEL 2 – POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AT REGIONAL LEVEL

This panel discussion will focus on the regional level of action to address the challenges posed by Sargassum influxes, with an emphasis on the regulatory landscape and policy needs. Experts and policymakers will share their experiences and insights on regional strategies and actions that have been implemented or are under consideration. The session will delve into the legislative landscape, highlighting key elements necessary to support investment and innovation for value chain development. Additionally, the discussion will explore the potential for international agreements, such as the Cartagena Convention, and other regional decisions that could enhance coordination and management of Sargassum in the Caribbean.

MODERATOR: **Mr. Ignacio Ybanez**, Special Envoy on Small Islands Developing States, European External Action Service

SPEAKERS

- **Mr. Yoeri de Vries**, Sr. Policy Officer, NL Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Quality and Nature; Expert on Sargassum within the Cartagena Convention, The Netherlands
- **Hon. Sylvie Gustave dit Duflo**, Vice-President of the Departmental Council for Guadeloupe (virtual participation)
- **Mr. Milton Haughton**, Executive Director, Caribbean Fisheries Mechanism Secretariat, Belize
- **Mr. Oscar Quesada**, Advisor of the Executive Directorate of the General Secretariat, SICA, El Salvador
- **Dr Jaime Ortega**, Copernicus LAC-Chile, Chile

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15:15-16:55

PANEL 3 – UNLOCKING SARGASSUM'S POTENTIAL: CRITICAL STEPS OF FORECASTING, COLLECTION AND STORAGE

This panel discussion brings together industry experts and environmental scientists to explore the critical processes of forecasting, collection, and storage, which form the foundation of the value chain for the commercial utilization of Sargassum. This panel will address both practical and regulatory considerations at national and regional levels.

MODERATOR: TBC

SPEAKERS

- **Dr Marc Lucas**, Project Manager, CLS, France
- **Dr Karl Payne**, CERMES, University of the West Indies, Barbados
- **Mr. Andrés Bisonó**, CEO, SOS Carbon/ SOS Biotech, Dominican Republic
- **Mr. Serafí Mercadé**, Managing Director, Beach Trotters, Spain
- **Ms. Sadie-Ann Sisnett**, Programme Specialist, UNDP, Barbados

EXPLORE 3: TRANSFORMATION - SARGASSUM VALORISATION AND EMERGING COMMERCIAL PROSPECTS

16:55-17:35

PANEL 1 – ECONOMIC IMPACT AND BUSINESS MODELS

This panel delves into the economics and business models related to Sargassum utilization, focusing on successful case studies and emerging opportunities within this sector. The discussion will highlight how various enterprises have effectively harnessed Sargassum as a resource, showcasing their approaches and the broader financial and economic benefits derived from such ventures. By examining successful business models, the panel aims to identify common challenges and horizontal issues that may impact the valorisation of Sargassum.

MODERATOR: TBC

SPEAKERS

- **Mr. Jake Kheel**, Vice President, Fundacion Grupo Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
- **Dr Angus Friday**, Director, SarGas, Grenada
- **Dr Mari Granström**, CEO, Origin by Ocean, Finland
- **Prof. Walter Stinner**, German Biomass Research Center – DBFZ, Germany

17:35-18:00

LET'S RECAP

18:30-21:00

EVENING NETWORKING EVENT

in collaboration with

DAY 2: INVESTMENT FORUM

8:30-9:10

OPENING OF DAY 2

WELCOME

- **Niela Etienne**, Master of Ceremonies

Opening remarks to set the scene for the Investment Forum

SPEAKERS

- **H.E. Dr Didacus Jules**, Director General (OECS)
- **Andrea Clerici**, Director of Corporate Finance and Global Activities Department (EIB Global)
- **Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy**, Regional Manager for the Caribbean (CAF)

9:10-10:45

FINANCING INVESTMENT PERSPECTIVE

Representatives from public and private financing institutions will present on the tools available for financing sargassum initiatives and companies.

OBJECTIVE: The session will highlight the opportunities and challenges of financing sargassum projects, both in terms of mitigation activities and valorising sargassum. The session will provide details on funding sources available and discuss additional potential measures to increase public and private financing for sargassum.

MODERATOR: **Andrea Clerici**, Director of Corporate Finance and Global Activities Department (EIB Global)

SPEAKERS

- **Alberto Romy**, Principal Executive, Venture Capital and Impact Investing Division, CAF
- **Dale Galvin**, Managing Director, Global Fund for Coral Reefs
- **Kristina Eisele**, Representative for the Southern and Eastern Caribbean, EIB
- **Benoît Bosquet**, Director for Sustainable Development for the Latin America and Caribbean Region, World Bank
- **Rodrigo Navas**, Director IDB Invest, Manufacturing

10:45-10:50

INTRODUCTION TO THE BUSINESS TOWNHALLS AND THE LOGISTICS AFTER THE COFFEE BREAK

10:50-11:15

COFFEE BREAK

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Four parallel business townhalls will take place on different sargassum topics and uses. The sessions will start with short presentations from companies to illustrate the possibilities for commercial opportunities. Subsequently the moderators will take questions from the audience both for the companies and on key topics.

OBJECTIVE: The objective is to foster partnerships between private and public entities, including investors, to enable investment into sargassum, and to identify constraints for investment.

BUSINESS TOWNHALL 1: COLLECTION AND STORAGE

MODERATORS: Alvaro Pereira and Martha Prada, CAF

SPEAKERS

- Ignacio Muñoz, TSWL - MORENOT
- Daveian Morrison, Awganics
- Rolando Chavez Peñaherrera, DESMI Sea Turtle Sargazo Project
- Shawn Carter, UNDP Barbados
- Marc Lucas, CLS
- TBD, Seafield Solutions

BUSINESS TOWNHALL 2: ENERGY

(BIOFUELS, COMBUSTION, BIOGAS, WASTE TO ENERGY)

MODERATORS: Veronica Navas, IFC; and Etienne Raffi Kechichian, World Bank

SPEAKERS

- Legena Henry, Rum & Sargassum Inc
- Benjamin Nestorovic, Sargas Ltd
- Jake Kheel, Fundación Grupo Punta Cana
- Rolf Krüger, Variodin

BUSINESS TOWNHALL 3: AGRICULTURAL AND CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS (FERTILIZERS, BIO-STIMULANT, COMPOSTING, BLOCKS, PANELS)

MODERATORS: Rodrigo Navas and Camila Rodriguez Taylor, IDB Invest

SPEAKERS

- Carol Lue, AgriShare/CaribShare Biogas
- Alena Kharissova, Thrasos 3D
- Sophie Jones-Williams, Plant and Food Research Institute
- Elena Martínez Martínez, SOS Carbon / SOS Biotech
- Joshua Forte, Red Diamond Compost

BUSINESS TOWNHALL 4: BIOREFINERY

(COSMETICS, PHARMACEUTICALS, EXTRACTS, BIOPLASTICS)

MODERATORS: Kristina Eisele, EIB; and Nicolaas Kersting, COWI

SPEAKERS

- Paulina Zanela, Thalasso Ocean
- Geoff Chapin, Carbonwave, Puerto Rico
- Gennike Mayers, Geli Pedi Ltd
- Sarah Hosking, Unilever
- Mari Granström, Origin by Ocean

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13:00-15:00

LUNCH BREAK AND B2B MEETINGS

15:00-16:00

GOVERNANCE SESSION

Understanding governance complexities and constraints in the development of the sargassum industry in the Caribbean region.

OBJECTIVE: Based on experience in the region and considering the need to improve the sargassum governance as a waste, fishing or essential habitat resource, while maximizing its potential sustainable use for a growing industry, this panel is aimed at identifying strategies and actions to collectively build a reliable regulatory framework to innovative and technological solutions at various spatial and temporal scales.

MODERATORS: Alvaro Pereira and Martha Prada, CAF

- **UNEP/SPAW (Susana Perera Valderrama):** Transboundary strategies and action plan to enhance coordination and collaboration towards sustainable sargassum technological solutions, the SPAW Protocol initiative.
- **IMIPAS (Pablo Arenas, Mexico):** The challenges of transforming the Sargassum in a sustainable fishery, a way to facilitate fair and equitable provision of raw material for business development.
- **Rum & Sargassum Inc (Legena Henry, Barbados):** Filling governance gaps in Barbados, perspectives from a sargassum energy innovator.
- **Walter Stinner, DBFZ German Biomass Research Center gGmbH (Germany):** governmental role in the sargassum value chain from harvesting to product development.
- **MARENA (Enrique Pugibet, Dominican Republic):** Increasing participation and sharing responsibilities to overcome limitations in the sargassum governance, the case of Dominican Republic.
- **AFD Group (Mathilde Richelet, France):** New sargassum initiative to improve technology and regulatory framework.

GUIDED DISCUSSION (30 MIN): CAF facilitators would lead a group discussion and extract recommendations on how to improve governance in management of the sargassum at the scales needed by this growing industry.

16:00-16:40

CLOSING SESSION OF THE INVESTMENT FORUM

- **Business Townhall debrief** by moderators
- **Summary of Financing Investment Perspective and Governance Session** by the European Investment Bank and CAF

16:40-17:40

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE CLOSURE

SUMMARIES & CONCLUSIONS

FINAL CLOSING REMARKS BY:

- **Félix Fernández-Shaw, INTPA Director LAC**
- **Minister of Grenada**

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