



Global Gateway –

Sargassum Example
in the Caribbean
region

This was identified as a regional Global Gateway priority identified for the Caribbean region

Objective:

Turn Sargassum algae from a threat to an economic opportunity (e.g. biofuel, water purification, agriculture) -



Key Points

- **Relevance of this sector:**
 - **For the Caribbean:**
 - A major physical, health, negative marketability and economic impact
 - At the same time, significant potential worthwhile new raw material for exploration and the development of new industries - fuel, biogas, fertilizers, animal feed, extract for cosmetic industry, among other areas.
 - **For the EU**
 - There are several biotechs in the EU with good experience in algae-based products and research & development
 - There are European technologies available for the forecasting, collection, or the processing of sargassum , as well as potential private sector investors willing to explore opportunities in the Caribbean region.



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Flagship activity

- Among the key activities within the theme was the Sargassum conference - September 2024, Grenada
- **Main organisers:**
 - DG INTPA HQ (Latinamerica and Caribbean Directorate)
 - the EU Delegation in BARBADOS
 - The EU-LAC Policy Dialogue Support Facility facility managed by company CESO (consulting firm).
- **Planning period:** 6-7 months

Attendees

- 400 persons physical plus more online
- Top Government officials from Grenada, including Prime Minister,
- Top regional government authorities
 - Secretary General of OECS,
 - CARICOM
- Top EU officials
 - EU Officials from INTPA, and EEAS,
 - EU Member States Ambassadors in the region
 - Directors/Managers of IFIs like EIB, GIZ, AFD, WB, IFC, CAF, IADB, etc.
 - EU Delegation - Barbados including the Ambassador of EU Del, Barbados
- EU businesses with interest in sargassum forecasting, collection, processing, etc. technology suppliers, bio techs, researchers. NGOs
- Business Displays - EU companies (market fair)

Results needed

- Increase Education/Awareness/ Advocacy/ mobilisation of HR and financial resources
- Concrete match making between EU and regional companies
- Concrete interest from companies to support Governments in Grenada and elsewhere to address the issue

Approach

- **Partnership** promoted throughout the conference
- Global gateway was the **brand** used to mobilise resources
- **Led by highest levels:** EU Director in INTPA plus EU Ambassador in the region led the initiative - *this type of soft support / leadership is powerful in getting others mobilised*
- **Budget:** The Global Europe regional LAC budget under the **PDSF facility** was used to pay for the organisation - conference, speakers, promotion, organisers, catering.
- **Co-financing/ Contributions:** Grenada Government contributed to cover some conference cost, local transport and cocktail during the event
- **Private sector support:** Private sector companies attending would have been encouraged to attend but companies paid their own cost