

United Nations Environment Programme

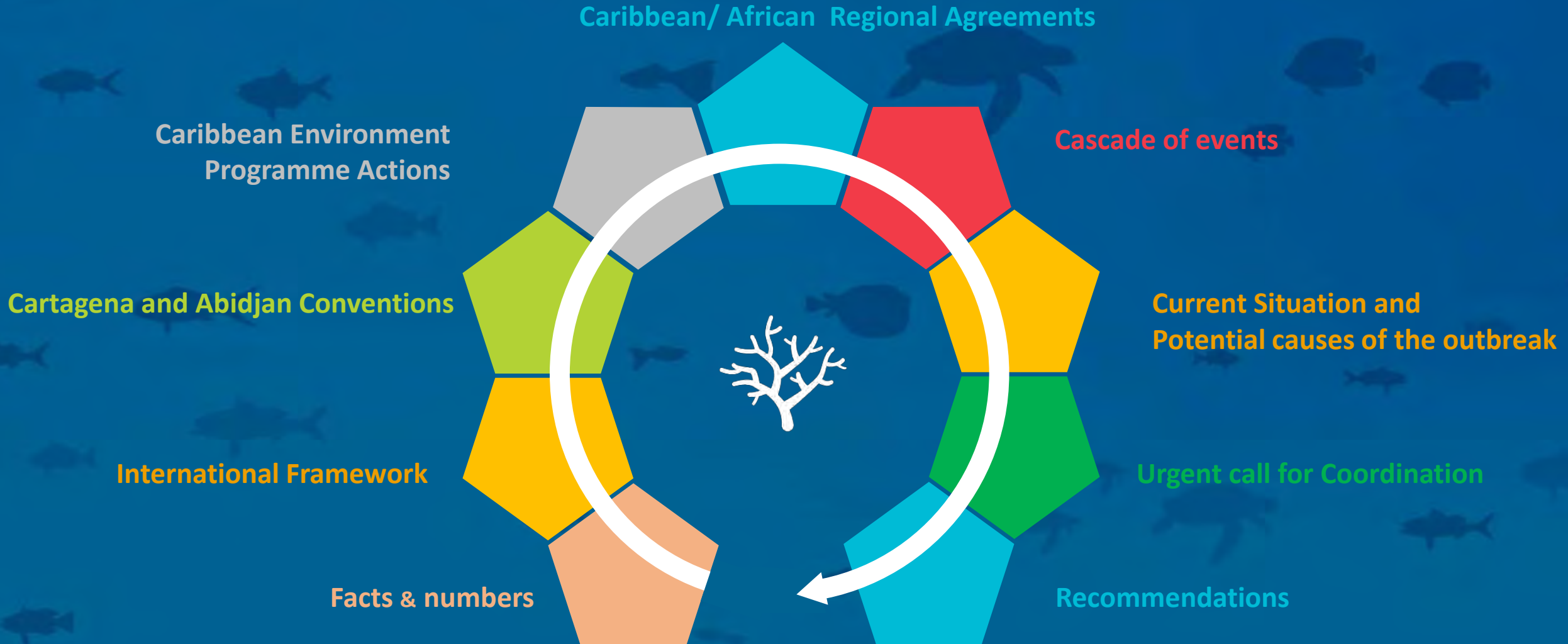
SARGASSUM CONFERENCE and EXPO

Complexe World Trade Center, Guadeloupe
24-26 October 2019

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United Nations Environment Programme



Summary



Facts & numbers

2018 *The estimated US dollar clean-up cost for sargassum across the Caribbean:*

\$ 120 Million

During the first semester

MEXICO

has witnessed a large decline in tourism with a

35% DROP

Many other areas of the Caribbean have witnessed similar declines



Facts & numbers

2018

It was another record-breaking year: the total amount of seaweed reached approximately

6000 km²

and a weight of

20 million tons

in the month of June.



As large as 4 times the island of

GADELOUPE

**Which would make necessary
30,000 of the world's biggest
trucks to completely remove it**



Facts & numbers



2018

2019

The cost of keeping one beach resort clean in Grand Cayman:

\$150,000

Mexico has spent

\$ 17 million

to remove Sargassum from over 1,000 km (621 miles) of Mexican beaches through 2019



From May to August 2019,
69,606 tonnes of Sargassum
were collected and 13,527 people were
employed to clean up beaches.



Cartagena Convention

1974

UNEP launched the Regional Seas Programmes, one of its most significant achievements in the past four decades

1983

Countries of the Region adopted the Cartagena Convention on 24 March



1981

UNEP established the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) as one of its Regional Seas Programmes

1986

The Caribbean Regional Co-ordinating Unit (CAR/RCU) was established in Kingston, Jamaica. It is the Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention and the CEP

Caribbean Environment Programme Actions

A priority in the work of the **Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Protocol**:



SPA-RAC
interactive
platform of
exchanges



Sargassum
Ad-Hoc
Working
group



Partnerships
with University
of South Florida
and Texas A&M



Sargassum
White
paper



Regional
Intergovernmental
resolutions
endorsed by
countries

Cascade of events

2-4 May 2018

Workshop:
Sargassum and oil
spills monitoring
pilot project for the
Caribbean and
adjacent regions

**Montserrat, 10-11
July 2018**

The 5th Meeting of the
Organization of Eastern
Caribbean States (OECS)
Council of Ministers:
Environmental
Sustainability (COMES-5).
The theme: “Building
Resilience on the
Frontline of Climate
Change”.

Mexico, June 2019

High-level
International
Meeting on
Sargassum in the
Wider Caribbean
held in Quintana Roo

Here, now!

Sargassum
Conference and Expo
in Guadeloupe
focusing on Sargassum
management solutions
and technologies

Jamaica, 6-8 Nov 2019

The International Atomic
Energy Agency (IAEA)
Technical Meeting on
Sargassum

Current Situation

Lack of regional coordination as
Well as at global level

Shortage of conclusive information
regarding the outbreaks

Partial understanding of local
impacts at social-economic
and environmental levels

Unclear what are the best
options for the sustainable
use of sargassum



Potential causes of the outbreak



African
atmospheric
dust



Warmer sea
surface
temperature
s and hot,
sunny
summers



Rainfall
pattern



Nitrogen and
Phosphorus
from fertilizers
entering the
ocean from
inland sources



Hurricanes



Climate change-
induced changes to
ocean currents



Unknown

SARGASSUM BLOOM

Potential causes of the outbreak



Global Emergency



**Complexity of the causes,
ongoing research**

Urgent call for Interregional Collaboration & Coordination

Urgent call for Coordination

Strengthen

COLLABORATION and
COORDINATION

at global and regional levels

amongst

**ALL RELEVANT
STAKEHOLDERS**

is essential to optimize resources
and avoid duplicity of efforts.



Recommendations

Development of a
MONITORING PROTOCOL
and coordination mechanism with
Africa



**SUSTAINABLE
MANAGEMENT**
of Sargassum landings

Development of an
**EARLY WARNING
GLOBALLY**



Potential **BENEFICIAL USES**
of Sargassum in the Caribbean

Understanding the correlation
between drivers and occurrence of
bloom events



Recommendations

Elaboration of a interregional Sargassum strategy to promote synergies and avoid duplication of efforts including among others:

Research from regional
level to global level :
Cartagena/Abidjan
Conventions

Assessment of socio-economic
and environmental impacts and
challenges

Determine main sources of
pollution and nutrients

Potential impacts of toxic
chemicals

Knowledge Communication



Recommendations



Consideration/recommendation for Member States and partners to present a ***draft Resolution on Sargassum Challenges and Opportunities*** at the 5th Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) scheduled to take place during the last week of February 2021, in Nairobi, Kenya for deliberation.



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

This Decade will provide a common framework to ensure that ocean science can fully support countries' actions to sustainably manage the Oceans and more particularly to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Urgent call for Interregional Collaboration & Coordination

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Thank you

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