

CSCN Peer to Peer pilot

Transforming Sargassum from Problem to Opportunity

Introductory Meeting with Nominated Councils
Commonwealth Local Government Forum
25 June 2026



Agenda

- 1. Welcome and meeting purpose**
- 2. Introduction to CLGF and the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network (CSCN)**
- 3. Scene setting: Why this topic matters for Caribbean local government**
- 4. Discussion on key challenges**
- 5. Opportunities of the peer learning pilot project**
- 6. Timeline, Next steps and Closing**



Commonwealth Local Government Forum

A network supporting **strong and effective local government across the Commonwealth**
Representing local government across 56 Commonwealth countries

CLGF brings together:

- Ministries responsible for local government
- Local government associations
- Cities and local authorities
- Research and professional institutions

How CLGF supports members

- **Advocacy:** Promoting & Advocating for Local Democracy & Good Governance
- **Projects:** Supporting capacity building
- **Networking:** connecting cities to share experience
- **Research & knowledge:** identifying best practices

Regional presence:

Caribbean | Southern Africa | West Africa | East Africa | Asia | Pacific | Europe



CLGF NETWORKS



- Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network (CSCN)
- Commonwealth Women in Local Government Network (ComWLG)
- Commonwealth Youth for Sustainable Urbanisation (CYSU)
- Research Advisory Group (RAG)

Today's discussion sits within the CSCN



**Commonwealth Youth
for Sustainable Urbanisation**

Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network (CSCN)

A CLGF Network connecting **cities across the Commonwealth**

Established in **2015** to support cities responding to rapid urbanisation

What CSCN does

- Facilitates **peer learning between cities**
- Supports **practical solutions to urban challenges**
- Strengthens **city leadership and governance**
- Promotes **city-led approaches to development**

How cities engage

- Peer exchange and learning sessions
- Targeted initiatives and pilot activities
- Sharing experiences and good practice

This digitalisation pilot is one **CSCN learning initiative**.



Why this Topic Matters

Costal authorities across the Caribbean face similar challenges

- Clogged beaches and shorelines
- Public health impacts
- Local economy impacts (tourism; fisheries)

Local authorities are key to address this issue through:

- Public awareness
- Safe collection & disposal
- Local capacity building
- Small scale innovation & LED



Regional context and existing initiatives

National

- National Sargassum management plans in: **Dominica, Saint Kits & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Grenada, Saint Kitts & the Grenadines**

Regional

- **UNDP's "Improving National Sargassum Management Capacities in the Caribbean" (2022–2026, €12.3M)** – which supports national-level coordination and research.
- **SARG'COOP II (2025–2027)** – funded under the **Interreg Caribbean Programme**, focusing on monitoring, collection, and transformation of sargassum across Guadeloupe and neighbouring territories.
- **SARSEA Project** - focused on helping Caribbean island nations sustainably manage and valorise influxes of sargassum seaweed – funded by ADF and implemented by Expertise France
- **OECS Commission** – leading a Sargassum Management Programme which includes a focus on: On-the-Ground Management; Knowledge, Monitoring and Data Systems; Coordination, Governance and Policy; Community & Stakeholder Engagement
- **Sargassum Hub** (<https://sargassumhub.org/>) – a platform documenting local-level sargassum activities and affected communities across the region.
- **EU–Caribbean Global Gateway Conferences on Sargassum** (2019 Guadeloupe; 2024 Antigua; 2025 Belgium)

Why This Pilot?

Town and Communities across the Eastern Caribbean face common challenges including the need to:



Increase public awareness



Coordinate with other authorities on removal



Support the local economy



Proactively prepare for unpredictable blooms

Peer learning can help cities move forward together



Where This Pilot Fits CSCN Pilot Project

Focus:

**Transforming Sargassum from
Problem to Opportunity:
Strengthening Local Responses for
Sustainable Coastal Economies**

Region: Eastern Caribbean

Timeline: 2026-2027

Small group of local authorities
learning together

Important Clarification

What the project is NOT

Not a funding programme

Not an equipment procurement project

What the project IS

Peer learning

Sharing practical experience

Identifying realistic improvements

Supporting local authorities to develop their own action plans & link into national and regional programmes

What Participation Requires

Local authorities participating should:

- ✓ Engage leadership (Mayor / Town Clerk)
- ✓ Share experiences openly
- ✓ Participate in peer learning sessions
- ✓ Identify practical reforms to pursue
- ✓ Commit to exploring practical improvements



Questions for Discussion

1. What are the main challenges Local Authorities are facing with regard to sargassum in communities?
2. What responsibilities do local authorities have in terms of addressing sargassum?
3. Beyond statutory responsibilities are there actions you have been taking on Sargassum?
4. What would be most useful to you in a regional exchange among local authorities on Sargassum?

Next Steps



Confirm

Confirm local authority interested in participating



Follow

Follow-up discussion with each local authority



Begin

Begin peer learning activities



Further activities determined

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