

Caribbean Sargassum Phenomenon: Complexities of
Communicating

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THE
UPCYCLE



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The sargassum seaweed influx has plagued the Caribbean since 2011 and has highlighted the need for science-based policy making. Governments in the region are yet to determine an effective means of managing this threat to the region's most essential tourism product, its beaches. Communication challenges between science and policy have been identified as the problem, an issue that has been established in prior studies [1].

The authors, from the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Sciences (CERMES) at the University of the West Indies, apply an analytical framework based on the five-stage policy cycle to the issue. The tackle the specific points in the policy process where ineffective communication has limited the input of the scientific community.

CESaRE has identified critical areas for consideration stemming from the authors' work:

1. Improving the science-policy interface is necessary to better address this phenomenon. Ineffective communication is often the reason for science being ignored, rather than the science itself [2].
2. Packaging marine science for uptake throughout the policy cycle will aid in its inclusion. This is commonplace at the international level and can be adapted to the Caribbean context.
3. Solving the sargassum crisis offers an opportunity for the introduction of evidence-based policymaking practices. It opens the door for science to contribute answers to the challenges faced.

CESaRE has a strong mandate to connect leading institutions and academics in the Caribbean, pushing research publications from virtual sources of information to catalysts of change.

Through our innovative publication issues, we will feature many academics in our scope of the environmental sciences and renewable energy, and The UpCycle hopes to further the discussion beyond publication.

Owing to your work within the field, we are connecting you to our latest postgraduate feature article and we hope that there is room for collaboration. Your continued active engagement with academics and research institutions will build resilience in the Caribbean region and stimulate much needed change.

You can contact the corresponding author patrick.mcconney@uwi.edu.

REFERENCES





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