



UNIDO inputs to the SG report

“Sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations”

26 May 2022

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is assisting SIDS and coastal countries in the application of circular economy and sustainable energy practices in land and marine based value chains of traditional and emerging sectors.

The focus of UNIDO activities lies on reducing marine plastic litter, as well as sustainable waste to energy solutions based on residues or marine materials, such as seaweed.

For example, UNIDO in partnership with the CARICOM Secretariat has established the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) in Barbados in 2018, which is implementing activities related to waste to energy.

In the context of a Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project, UNIDO has recently established the Barbados BLOOM Clean Tech Cluster, which provides shared resources and incubation support to businesses and start-ups working on the commercialization on integrated green and blue economy products and services. For example, Barbadian incubates are working on biodegradable plastic materials to be used in packaging by using green and blue biomaterials, including sargassum seaweed, cassava and sweet potato.

UNIDO supports Caribbean and Central American countries in their COVID-19 recovery efforts to diversify economies, leapfrog to innovative technologies and emerging sectors, including aquaculture, biotechnology and marine based renewable energy technologies. In 2021, the Small Island Sustainable Energy and Resilience Organisation (SIDS DOCK) and UNIDO launched the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA). The initiative addresses the needs of SIDS and coastal developing countries to access ocean energy technology, finance and expertise. It intends to build a bridge between the industry, which needs to test ocean energy systems in tropical climates and Governments of coastal developing nations, which have the interest to timely benefit from these solutions. Several initial workshops and events were organized.