



Caribbean

Sargassum, Story of a Brown Tide

In the Caribbean, a collective of artists, journalists, and researchers give a voice to the populations to create a graphic narrative about sargassum seaweed.

COUNTRY

République Dominicaine, Guadeloupe and Martinique (France)

DATES OF THE PROJECT

January 2021 – December 2021

ARTISTS INVOLVED

Jessica Oublié, Ulises Jauregui

PARTICIPANTS

Population of the Caribbean arc, Political decision-makers

FUNDING

Metis Fonds 40,000 €

PARTNERS

Alliance française, Cultural Affairs Departments

SECTOR AND SDG'S



A BROWN TIDE OVER THE CARIBBEAN

For about fifteen years, sargassum seaweed has been invading the Caribbean coasts. The brown algae wash up massively on beaches and coastal areas, and their decomposition generates toxic gases. This phenomenon presents a triple threat: health, environmental, and economic. An international conference was held in Guadeloupe in 2019, bringing together various countries from the region to conduct scientific studies and develop common solutions at a regional scale.

BUBBLES AGAINST SEAWEEED

Why are these algae proliferating? What are their effects on health? What are the environmental consequences? What solutions can be implemented to combat them? Illustrator Jessica Oublié and Cuban researcher Ulises Jauregui initiated a collaborative comic book creation project addressing the issue of sargassum. Following a call for projects, in partnership with the Alliance Française and Cultural Affairs Departments, three teams of actors from Guadeloupe, Martinique, and the Dominican Republic—nine illustrators, researchers, and journalists—were selected. They met with local populations and civil society to give them a voice on this issue. Thanks to these encounters, everyone was emotionally involved and collaboratively engaged in an artistic project that concerns their territories. The artists, journalists, and researchers enriched their approaches and perspectives on the subject.

The graphic novel *Sargassum, Story of a Brown Tide* tells the stories of Caribbean populations through documentary reportage, tales, or fiction.

Published in 8,000 copies and translated into four languages, the graphic novel is distributed throughout the region, from Venezuela to the Dominican Republic, including Guadeloupe and Mexico. The proceeds from sales have enabled the creation of a support fund for awareness-raising and prevention regarding the sargassum issue.

THEY SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE

"The graphic novel quickly appeared to me as an essential medium. The plural storytelling methods it offers allow for collaborations that are both unique and meaningful." –

JESSICA OUBLIÉ, ILLUSTRATOR

"While science seeks solutions, artists summon emotions to shed light on the impacts of this phenomenon on the environment, as well as on Caribbean populations and economies."

SANDRA KASSAB, DIRECTOR OF AFD DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

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TERRITORIES INVOLVED:
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC,
GUADELOUPE, AND MARTINIQUE:

8,000
COPIES PUBLISHED
OF THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

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LANGUAGES TRANSLATED