

WHAT IS SARGASSUM?

- Sargassum is a brown seaweed
- There are >300 species of Sargassum
- Only two species live their whole lives floating on water (holopelagic):
S. fluitans* and *S. natans
- Sargassum contains lots of chemicals and compounds—both good and bad.



Kingdom	Protista
Class:	<i>Phaeophyceae</i>
Order:	<i>Fucales</i>
Family:	<i>Sargassaceae</i>



WHERE DOES SARGASSUM COME FROM?



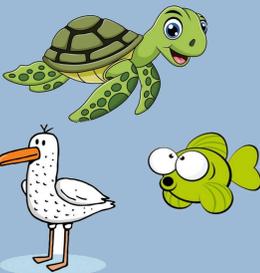
- Sargassum comes from the Sargasso Sea, it was blown south by unusual ocean currents and winds events in 2010
- Since 2011, huge amounts of sargassum have appeared across the Atlantic ocean and badly affected coastal countries from Central America to West Africa, including Ghana
- Scientists predict sargassum in West Africa is here to stay, so...

IS SARGASSUM GOOD?

AT SEA: YES



- Providing home and food to many fish and invertebrate species
- Acting as nursery for baby sea turtles
- Providing food sources for sea birds
- Sequestering CO₂ from the water, which increases ocean PH and helps with the problem of acidification



ON LAND: NO



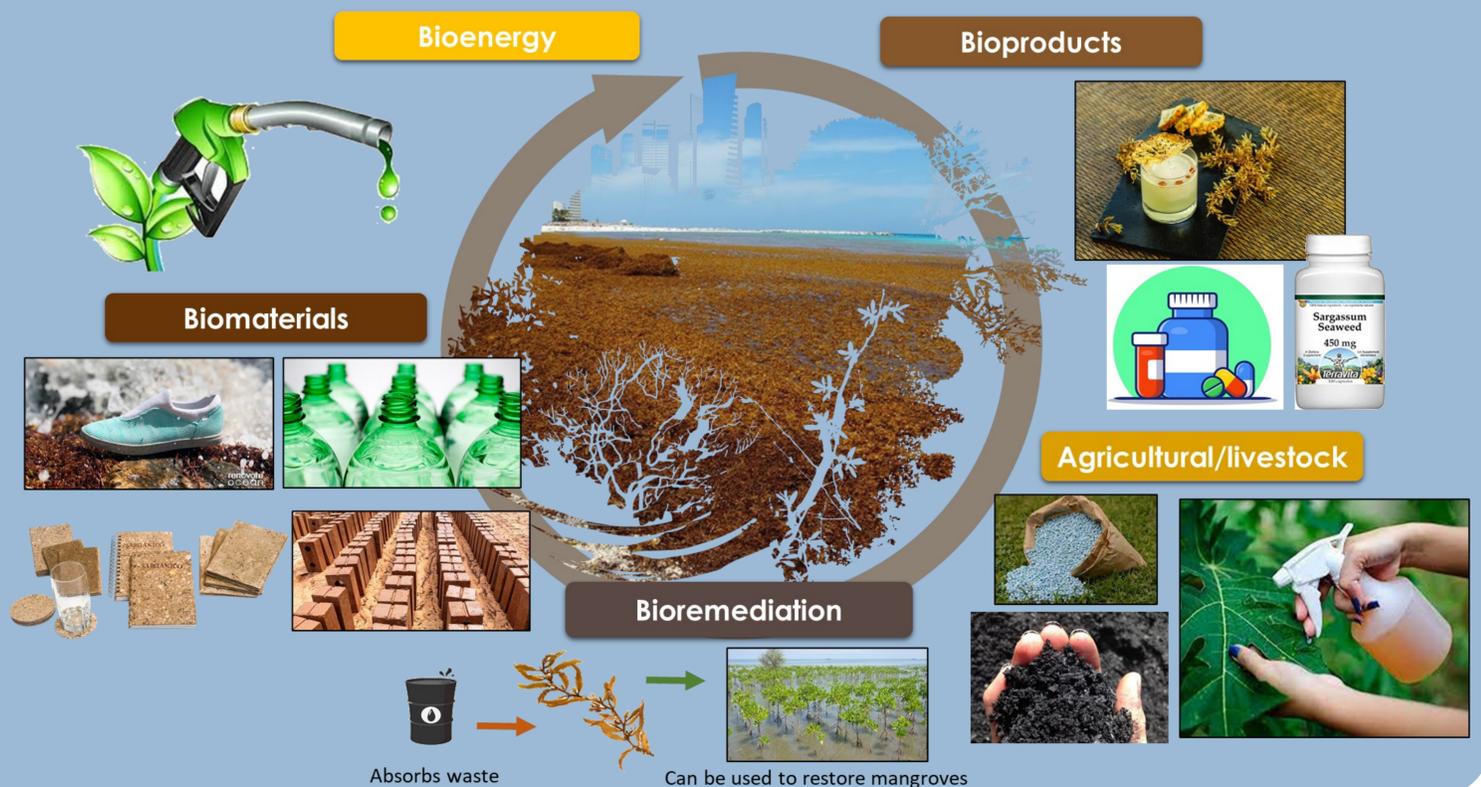
- Piles up on shore, blocks access to the sea, and creates bad smells, itchy skin and waste when it rots



CAN WE MAKE MONEY OUT OF SARGASSUM?

Business opportunities:

- People are using sargassum to make many things in the Caribbean and Mexico
- People now have jobs related to collecting, transporting and processing sargassum
- Innovative new products are being made which is good for the economy



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS