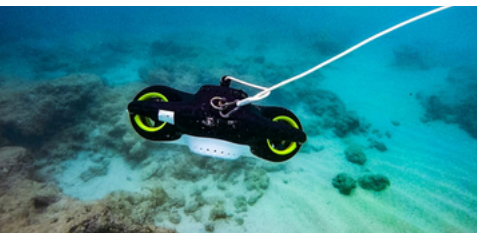




THE MONTHLY EXPLORER



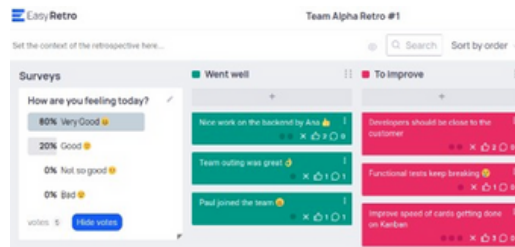
RBLAC UNDP Accelerator Lab Retreat 2022, Panama



WHAT WE'RE READING

Following extensive research on the Future of Work and futures thinking in the Blue Economy, the Accelerator Lab in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean published a blog last month on "Marrying the old and the new through Futures Thinking: A Blue Economy Perspective." This includes a summary of our recent scanning of Digital Twins of the Ocean, Plant-Based Seafood and Deep-Sea Research. In addition, it shares our inspiration from Smithery, Changeist and the UNDP Development Futures Series.

Additionally, as we contribute to developing the Blue Economy in the Eastern Caribbean in relation to UNDP's Ocean Promise and SIDS offer, we have also been conducting research and reviews of the blue landscape through the Commonwealth Blue Charter, UNCTAD's work on fisheries in Barbados and conch in St. Lucia and UNDP's blue Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) focused on the role of blue carbon and nature - based solutions to determine common goals.



TOOLS WE'RE EXPLORING

EasyRetro is a retrospective tool that can be used for sprint sessions to look backwards and conduct post-mortems, discussing what went well, what didn't go well and action items that can be identified for improvement. As well, EasyRetro can be used to generate conversation around thematic areas within communities of practice. See here an example from the Women+ In Public Sector Innovation group.

WHAT WE'RE INSPIRED BY

Much of our blue exploration in recent months has looked at the interconnection between climate and ocean regarding how ocean action is climate action. Further inspired by Oceanic Global's work on this and #oceanoptimism as well as concerned by COP 27 and COP 15, the ocean appears to be getting more recognition for the pivotal role it can play in combatting the climate crisis. Linked to these explorations, we have also been listening to and participating in the role of plastics in the climate and ocean

conversation, such as through "The Weekly Tradecast" from UNCTAD and our role in contributing to UNDP's Plastic and Ocean Offer via the program 'Let's Talk About It' with SCP.



QUESTIONS WE'RE ASKING

Following the UNDP RBLAC Accelerator Lab Retreat on "Prototyping the way forward," we are asking how this global innovation network can better connect with regional programming, including in Governance, Nature, Climate and Energy, Gender, Inclusive Growth and Disaster Risk Reduction. Specifically, how can the Labs play an integrator role through portfolio sensemaking across projects, clusters and priority areas in 2023 for greater impact? In addition, how will the new direction of the Labs as Research and Development (R & D) agents take shape?

UNWTO data has indicated that between January to July 2022, tourist arrivals in the Caribbean reached 81.9% of the same seven-month period in 2019, pointing towards a rebound within the tourism sector following COVID-19. With projected growth on the horizon, how can we continue to safeguard a new normal wherein hospitality plays an active role in regeneration and restoration?

WILD CARDS

What is the connection between climate change, climate anxiety and climate action among youth in SIDS? The Accelerator Lab will continue to dive into these questions on sentiment among youth towards the climate through an OECS survey launched during this year's World Mental Health Day on October 10th in collaboration with the U-Report and UNICEF SMS mobile polling tool. Initial results in Barbados from 350+ respondents can be viewed here, including the fact that 52% of respondents shared that interacting with the natural environment around them has a positive impact on their mental health.

