



THE MONTHLY EXPLORER




Navigating Climate Change in the Eastern Caribbean

Image: Impact of ashfall from the 2021 La Soufriere volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Photo Credit: UN Barbados/BajanPro)



WHAT WE'RE READING

The [World Economic Forum 2023 Global Risks Perception Survey and Report](#) finds that climate change remains the biggest risk the world faces over the next decade. The top three global risks in the next 10 years are climate risks:

- failure to mitigate climate change
- failure of climate change adaptation
- natural disasters and extreme weather events.

Additionally, following COP27, interest has continued to mount in response to the ambitious [Bridgetown Initiative](#). Led by Barbados Prime Minister, the Honorable Mia Amor Mottley, the Bridgetown Initiative calls for strong reform of international financial systems in recognition of the realities of climate change, which disproportionately impact vulnerable nations.

This merger of finance with the climate crisis is revolutionary as it holds the potential to renew global funding architecture, resulting in comparisons being made with the Marshall Plan of 1948.

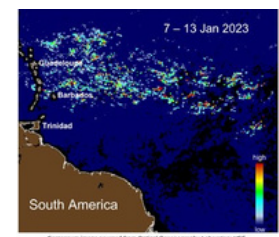


TOOLS WE'RE EXPLORING

Following a presentation from Paula Mosera, an Accelerator Lab colleague from Uruguay, during the weekly Data Thursdays meetings, we are exploring how the Uruguay Lab is using [Power BI](#) as a gender tracker tool of digital violence. Through data science and Twitter, the tracker was able to answer questions surrounding levels of online aggression, peaks in violence as well as more frequent types of aggression.

WHAT WE'RE INSPIRED BY

The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting last month focused on "Cooperation in a Fragmented World." Amongst the conversations, we picked up on threads on representation as it relates to gender. In the ["Women's Leadership: Towards Parity in Power"](#) dialogue, calls for gender-diverse leadership were heard in response to the COVID-19 "she-cession" and the fact that the time projected to attain gender parity has increased from 100 years in 2020 to 136 years in 2023.



SARGASSUM INFLUX WILL BE MODERATE TO SEVERE OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS (mid JAN - mid APR 2023)

- The Eastern Caribbean islands have experienced mild conditions in the final quarter of 2022, except for an unexpected influx of sargassum at the end of December lasting over the New Year.
- The level of sargassum arriving now is moderate, but is expected to increase further in the coming weeks.
- There is twice as much (204% more) sargassum visible out in the Atlantic than this time last year.

Sargassum abundance intensity level (based on image 7-13 January 2023)

QUESTIONS WE'RE ASKING

The January 2023 Sargassum Sub-Regional Outlook [Bulletin](#) has confirmed that there is twice as much sargassum currently visible in the Atlantic than there was at this time last year, contributing to a moderate to severe sargassum influx forecast over the next few months. How can sargassum be better collected, harvested and applied for good in new ways, contributing to alternative blue livelihoods in cosmetics, packaging, pharmaceuticals and more? To find the answers, we may need to start with value chain analyses.

The first [blog](#) from our Accelerator Lab for 2023 titled "Beyond climate doom and gloom" has been published as part of a series on climate change. This outlines some of the issues island states are facing, as well as some of the solutions our office is exploring via collaboration, gender equality and building government capacities. In our next blog on climate change, we will be asking: what is the connection between nature and mental health among youth?

WILD CARDS

How do science, tech and visual arts connect? How can visual arts help to portray harsh realities on the ground? Media artist [Refik Anadol](#) provided great inspiration on this through 'data painting' techniques unveiled at [Davos](#) that merge physical and virtual worlds. To do so, Anadol's AI Data sculpture used approximately 1 billion images of corals via Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning models, resulting in incredibly captivating images.

