



THE MONTHLY EXPLORER



Photo Credit: UNDP Barbados & EC/Zaimis Olmos, Hurricane Maria, 2017, Colihut, Dominica.

Overall results: Have you ever considered the link between the impacts of climate change on your mental health? (Question 11)

Figure 8

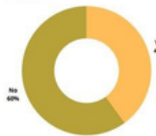
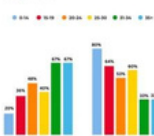


Figure 9



We were also inspired by field visits to the Barbados Museum and Historical Society and Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology, where we examined the Creative Economy and maker culture up close, revealing rife possibilities.



WHAT WE'RE READING

Last month, our Lab was pleased to publish its second [blog](#) for 2023 titled, "A Look at the Intersection of Mental Health and the Climate Crisis: A Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Youth Perspective." This blog follows on from research conducted last year in collaboration with U-Report on a poll regarding "Youth Views on the Environment and Mental Health" which, beginning on World Mental Health Day 2022, commenced our examination of how sentiment on the environment is affecting Eastern Caribbean youth. Findings shared in a resulting [report](#) have revealed that just over 90% of 350+ respondents are at least somewhat concerned with the future state of the environment. On the flip side, just over 80% of respondents also shared that interactions with the natural environment have positive impacts on mental health, pointing towards an interesting duality.

As well, we have been tracking the projected impacts of AI on the future of work regarding [white collar jobs](#) and the [creative industries](#), which continue to shift.

TOOLS WE'RE EXPLORING

In an effort to develop a more robust Solutions Mapping and fieldwork schedule and practice, we have been exploring [Felt](#), a mapping tool that lets teams create maps collaboratively. Although this has thus far included our identification and layout of blue, green and orange sites of interest, Felt also allows users to tell stories through data, track events live and better plan for future events. We will continue to explore its offerings. In addition, through use at the Global level, we have also been exploring Meet Geek for meeting minutes as well as chatGPT 4 and newness for Signals Sorting.

WHAT WE'RE INSPIRED BY

As we collaboratively build out our understanding and application of the new R&D function of the Accelerator Labs, we have been inspired by change management views and strategy. This has included the following quote: "Innovation doesn't happen centrally, according to plan, but at the edges, when some organism senses a change in the appropriate response. Some attempts fail to catch on; others rapidly spread to all corners of the ecosystem." -Frederic Laloux. Does this resonate with other Labs as well?

QUESTIONS WE'RE ASKING

How is digital transformation shifting the way the Blue Economy is evolving in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) globally? In the [SIDS Bulletin 70](#), a comprehensive digital picture was painted with documentation of blockchain being applied in Fiji among fisheries who are recording information on catches and supply chains, which buyers can in turn use to identify the origins of seafood. In Mauritius, newly launched comprehensive electronic monitoring capabilities are addressing the sustainability of longline fishing on the ocean. A bit closer to home, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will be implementing the Blue BioTrade action plan regarding the sustainable and equitable trade of queen conch.

By progressively gathering more and more data points on the Blue Economy and applying innovative approaches to its sub-sectors, will the ocean finally get the attention it deserves? To date, SDG 14 is still the most underfunded of all the development goals.

WILD CARDS

What do AI, whales and decoding big data have to do with each other? We have been exploring how cryptographers, linguists, roboticists, AI experts, technologists and marine biologists are using advanced machine learning, gentle robotics and AI to listen to and translate the communication of sperm whales in Dominica. We are interested to map signals and generate insights on how this may be linked to valuation of blue natural assets and blue carbon. As we continue to explore how sperm whales' voices and their communication back to humans through cutting-edge technologies is emerging, we are asking how this may help us to learn how we can also preserve traditional human language and knowledge and perhaps reshape humanity's understanding of its place on the planet. We are feeling intrigued and inspired as we try to find a better balance: for people, for planet at the ocean - climate intersection.

