

22 MAY 2014
INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
ISLAND BIODIVERSITY



ISLAND BRIGHT SPOTS IN CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Investing, Scaling and Replicating in order
to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets



Convention on
Biological Diversity



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

This publication was made possible thanks to contributions from the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA). GLISPA is a mechanism to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity.

The United Nations proclaimed **22 May the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)** to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The theme for 2014 is **Island Biodiversity** to coincide with the designation by the UN General Assembly proclaiming 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States. The theme was chosen to correspond with the timing of COP decision XI/15 paragraph 1(a), in which the Conference of the Parties "urges Parties, and invites other Governments, financial institutions and other relevant organizations to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity".

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication was written by contributions of participants of the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA). GLISPA is a mechanism to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity.

Contributors:

GLISPA Coordination Team: Kate Brown, Jessica Robbins

GLISPA Senior Advisors: Ryan Argentieri, Audrey Newman

GLISPA Fellows: Margot Buchbinder, Gillian Duggin, Zena Grecni, Leah Meth, Lia Nicholson, Breanna Rose, Sam Teicher, Alexandra Tsubota

GLISPA Participants: EConnect, International Union for Conservation of Nature, LMMA Network, Island Conservation, Micronesia Conservation Trust, PCI Media Impact, Polynesian Voyaging Society, Rare, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, UNDP Equator Initiative, UNDP Small Grants Programme, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society.

Published by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
ISBN: 92-9225-525-8

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Citation: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014)

Island Biodiversity – Island Bright Spots in Conservation & Sustainability, 92 pages

For further information, please contact:

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

World Trade Centre

413 St. Jacques Street, Suite 800

Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9

Phone: 1 (514) 288 2220

Fax: 1 (514) 288 6588

E-mail: secretariat@cbd.int

Website: www.cbd.int

Design & typesetting: Em Dash Design

Cover photo: Stuart Chape. Rock Islands, Palau.

FOREWORD



DR. BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS

Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Today we celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity, an opportunity to recognize the central role of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems to life on earth and to human well-being. This year, to mark the International Year of Small Island Developing States, our focus is on island biodiversity. Almost one-third of the world's countries are islands. Over two-thirds of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have island ecosystems.

Islands constitute less than 5% of the Earth's landmass yet provide habitat for 20% of all bird, reptile and plant species. Islands harbour more than 50% of the world's known marine biodiversity, 7 of the world's 10 coral reef hotspots and 10 of its 34 conservation hotspots. The conservation and sustainable use of the natural resources of islands is critical to achieving the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Yet the biodiversity of islands is at risk. Due to the vulnerability of their endemic biota and their intense human use, islands have higher extinction rates. For example, 64% of all recorded extinctions in recent human history (over the last centuries) happened on islands. Extinction rates for mammals are 177 times higher in island ecosystems than the average for all ecosystems. Once thriving coral reefs are now suffering the effects of bleaching, ocean acidification, pollution and other threats.

Residents of islands understand the linkage between healthy ecosystems and biodiversity and human well-being. Biodiversity-based industries such as tourism and fisheries account for over half the GDP of the economies of Small Island Developing States. Coral reefs alone provide an estimated US\$375 billion every year in goods and services.

From the preservation of marine and coastal resources to climate change mitigation and adaptation, from the production of renewable energy to the development of sustainable tourism, islands offer many lessons in resilience and sustainability. As discussions in the United Nations are progressing to frame new sustainable development goals, the experience and knowledge of islands can contribute significantly to the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity and natural resources of our planet.

Pledges from Island governments such as the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge Initiative and the upcoming Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge, together with cooperation platforms such as the Global Islands Partnership, are showing the way for successful multi-Party commitments in support of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Convention's Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity, adopted in 2006 by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, provides a strategic framework to significantly reduce island biodiversity loss, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation and the sustainable development of islands. The programme contributes to meeting at least 14 of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as the Barbados Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

Such innovative projects have come to be known as "Bright Spots." These projects are making a difference in advancing conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

To achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, we need to build on these "Bright Spots." We need to identify those that have the potential to be scaled and replicated as solutions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity throughout the world.

As we celebrate the 2014 International Day for Biological Diversity, let us celebrate the spirit of islands and work together for a sustainable future – a future of life in harmony with nature, the future we want.



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H.E. DR. JOHN W. ASHE

President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

The world's islands are regarded as amongst the planet's most fascinating and beautiful places. They are special gems and home to some of the most globally biodiverse ecosystems, with large numbers of endemic flora and fauna. They host 30% of the world's biodiversity hotspots, 50% of marine tropical diversity, and some of the world's most unusual and rare species, many of which are still unknown or remain to be discovered. This data, together with the fact that UNEP reports that an estimated 150 to 200 species of plants, insects and animals become extinct annually, highlights the importance of this publication and justifies the focus on island biodiversity, which has contributed significantly to global cuisine, cosmetics, medicine and the sheer diversity of the globe's flora and fauna. The effort to attain sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda must be inclusive of the recognition of the value of the world's biodiversity and the need for its protection.

Nature-based industries such as tourism and fisheries account for more than half of the GDP of the economies of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and provide income opportunities for vulnerable groups such as women and the young. Moreover, many ecosystem species and processes hold clues for potentially even greater achievements in the production of medicine, food crops, biofuels, and low-energy materials, among others. It is therefore most fitting that this year's theme for the International Day

for Biological Diversity highlights and celebrates island biodiversity. The initiatives featured in this publication illustrate the successes of SIDS in the sustainable utilization and protection of their biodiversity resources. From the preservation of marine and coastal resources to climate change mitigation and adaptation, from the production of renewable energy to the development of sustainable tourism, islands offer many lessons in resilience and sustainability.

These initiatives also demonstrate how governments, the private sector and civil society can work together in genuine and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships towards achieving national and regional development objectives. Such partnerships can complement traditional official development aid and leverage additional resources in the form of private financing, technology and knowledge transfer, and human resources to respond to the development challenges of SIDS.

The 2014 International Year of Small Island Developing States and Third International Conference on SIDS (UNSIDS) in Samoa in September and the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties (CBD COP 12), will all provide channels to explore the options for showcasing and safeguarding island biodiversity and island solutions.

As the multilateral system grapples with the challenges of framing a new development agenda, the experience and knowledge of the people of SIDS can contribute significantly to the preservation of the biodiversity and natural resources of our planet. I welcome this publication, which celebrates the beauty and many contributions of biodiversity to our quality of life.



Using nature to build resilience in Mauritius.



H.E. RONALD JUMEAU

**Ambassador for Climate Change and SIDS Issues
Representative of the President of Seychelles to the Global Island
Partnership (GLISPA)
Chair of the GLISPA Steering Committee
Republic of Seychelles**

Healthy and thriving biodiversity and ecosystems are central to the sustainability of island economies. At the same time, it is increasingly evident in the current global economic climate that traditional donor-recipient financing mechanisms no longer suffice to meet the requirements of the 21st Century drive towards sustainability.

It is consequently increasingly recognized that one of the most effective ways to protect and sustainably manage and use biodiversity for sustainable livelihoods is through genuine and durable partnerships for action.

This is what the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) is all about: promoting public-private-civil society partnerships for biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods domestically, regionally and internationally where islands help islands develop solutions to island challenges.

This year, the International Year of Small Island Developing States, provides ideal opportunities to further advance meaningful partnerships that actually deliver through the Conference on UNSIDS in the Independent State of Samoa in September and CBD COP 12 in the Republic of Korea in October.

The CBD is to be lauded for dedicating the 2014 International Day for Biological Diversity to islands biodiversity. GLISPA believes this Day provides a unique opportunity to showcase the bright spots where islands have shown leadership in a manner that can be scaled up and replicated to achieve global conservation and sustainable development targets.

2014 is also an appropriate year for GLISPA to recognize our own successes as a global partnership that has catalyzed more than \$130 million for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Let us continue to work together towards the Samoa conference to inspire new leadership from island countries and countries with islands, and to catalyze significant new commitments to implement island solutions.

The time for action is now, in this special year for islands. I invite you to get involved and support our Global Island Partnership to build resilient and sustainable island communities through innovative partnership.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Why Islands, Why Now?

Never before have islands been so at risk. Their peoples, cultures, oceans and ecosystems are interlinked and threatened by natural disasters, invasive species, unsustainable development and global shocks. These challenges are being compounded by the real and serious threat of climate change. While islands constitute less than 5% of the Earth's landmass they provide habitat for 40% of all listed Critically Endangered and Endangered species.¹ More than 80% of known species extinctions have occurred on islands.² Urgent and immediate action is needed to halt and reverse trends to save our precious island ecosystems globally. Now is the time for action: for leadership, commitments and collaboration across all sectors to build a resilient and sustainable future for our islands and the planet.

Island Bright Spots: Invest in What Works

Islands are taking action to effectively conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable livelihoods. Despite significant vulnerabilities facing islands, leaders of island countries and countries with islands have made visionary commitments at local, national, regional and global levels. Notably, governments are working together in innovative partnerships with public and private partners to achieve the commitment targets. Inspired island solutions in action are “bright spots” that exemplify how together we can build on what is working to conserve and sustainably utilize our invaluable natural resources, and achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

1 Critically Endangered and Endangered species are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Threatened Island Biodiversity Database Partners (2012) The Threatened Island Biodiversity Database: developed by Island Conservation, University of California Santa Cruz Coastal Conservation Action Lab, BirdLife International, IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group. Version 2012.1. Available at <http://tib.islandconservation.org/>.

2 Ricketts, T. H., E. Dinerstein, T. Boucher, T.M. Brooks, S.H. Butchart, M. Hoffmann & E. Wikramanayake. 2005. Pinpointing and preventing imminent extinctions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 102: 18497-18501.

“I am not here to talk about saving islands; I am here to talk about saving the world.”

THE HONOURABLE TONY A. deBRUM
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of the Marshall Islands

Inspiring Leadership through the Global Island Partnership

Partnership is a critical means of achieving effective implementation for islands. Islands are leaders of innovative partnerships that can chart a new course to build resilient and sustainable island communities. Mature partnerships, such as the **Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)** co-chaired by the Presidents of Palau and Seychelles as well as the Prime Minister of Grenada; demonstrate the power of island leaders inspiring action.

Launched in 2006, GLISPA is a bright spot that has catalyzed more than US\$130 million in commitments for action on island conservation and sustainable livelihoods. It has assisted more than 30 countries to launch or strengthen major island commitments, such as the Micronesia and Caribbean Challenges. The Partnership facilitates collaboration between all islands regardless of their size or political status. It is recognized as an effective mechanism for advancing the conservation of island biodiversity (Decision IX/21, Decision XI/15) and was named a best practice partnership by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).³ In 2014, one of the outcomes of the Global Ocean Action Summit organised by the Government of Netherlands, World Bank and FAO was the need to build on existing partnerships like the Global Partnership for Oceans, the GLIPSA and 50 in 10 to build global momentum and scale up successes.

3 Synthesis report on best practices and lessons learned on the objective and themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, United Nations: www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=33&menu=45

Elements of an Effective Partnership Model

In September 2014, the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (UNSIDS) in Samoa focuses the world's attention on the sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships. As a successful SIDS-led partnership and interconnected model for collaboration, GLISPA has identified five key elements of success that have enabled it to be a genuine and durable partnership:

- Influential and dedicated high-level country champions as Co-Chairs of the Partnership
- Shared passion, values and dedication of its participants
- A true partnership based on inclusive participation, flexibility and genuine willingness to engage and foster collaboration
- Mutually-reinforcing activities toward achievement of long-term goals;
- Good governance and dedicated coordination support.

Visionary Regional Commitments to Action

Leaders of island countries and countries with islands have made visionary commitments at regional levels that are bright spots in catalyzing long-term momentum towards implementation of conservation and sustainable livelihoods priorities. The ***Micronesia Challenge*** is a bright spot that demonstrates how inspired political momentum leads to diverse initiatives on the ground action. The ***Caribbean Challenge Initiative*** provides a model for leveraging large-scale public and private sector commitment towards common goals. Both bright spots are motivated in achieving their goals over the long-term through friendly competition between countries in the region and globally and continue to learn from and inspire each other through GLISPA.

Bright Spots addressing Island Priorities for Action

In line with Decision XI/15,⁴ governments, financial institutions and other relevant organizations are urged to strengthen conservation of island biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods, and economies, as well as reduce poverty, by investing in successful approaches. A selection of bright spots that exemplify implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are presented

4 Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Decision XI/15: www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-15-en.pdf

according to thematic priorities for action identified in the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity (Decision XI/15). The examples are not an exhaustive list but have been selected as they:

- Demonstrate success/impact in advancing island **priorities for action** as it relates to the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity
- Demonstrate success/impact in advancing island **priorities for effective implementation** through genuine and durable partnership
- Have potential to be **scaled and replicated**.

ISLAND PRIORITIES FOR ACTION	AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS	BRIGHT SPOT EXAMPLES
Establish and Manage Marine and Terrestrial Protected Areas	5, 6, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micronesia Challenge • Caribbean Challenge Initiative • Coral Triangle Initiative • Big Ocean • Locally Managed Marine Areas • The Pilot of Managed Access • Size Matters • Maldives Biosphere Reserve
Management (prevention, eradication and control) of Invasive Species	9, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Islands, Big Difference • The Restoration of Allen Cay • Isla Cabritos Restoration Project • Pacific Invasive Partnership and Pacific Invasives Learning Network • Target a Tree to Save a Forest – Tavita’s Story
Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, specifically mainstream ecosystem-based adaptation	6, 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Majuro Declaration • Namdrik Atoll Local Resources Committee • Women Farmers Create Alternative Livelihoods and Build Resilience

Emerging Opportunities and Initiatives

New and innovative initiatives are emerging as potential models in sustainable develop to help build the island “Future We Want”. Emerging bright spots and innovative initiatives are shared around:

- **Spotlight on Europe Overseas**
- **Hawai’i’s Emerging Leadership in the Green and Blue Economy**

- *Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage: Chartering a new course to sustainability*
- *Supporting Emergence of the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge*
- *CBD LifeWeb: Island Resilience Campaign.*

The Time for Action is Now!

- **Demonstrate your leadership:** Make, promote and implement visionary high-level island commitments
- **Invest in What Works:** Identify, scale and replicate island bright spots
- **Support the Global Island Partnership (www.glispa.org):** Contribute to building resilient and sustainable island communities through innovative partnerships.

White tern (*Gygis alba*) on Cousin
Island Special Reserve, Seychelles



Sandy Island Oyster Bay Marine
Protected Area, Carriacou, Grenada

“Island biodiversity
is not only about
biodiversity of Small
Island Developing
States, it is about
islands as ecosystems
of global significance.”

DR. SPENCER THOMAS
Ambassador and Special Envoy
for Multilateral Environmental Agreements
Government of Grenada



WHY ISLANDS, WHY NOW?

FROM LOW-LYING CORAL ATOLLS to vast jungle archipelagos to the densely populated island cities of Hong Kong, Montreal, Manhattan and Singapore and remote ice-covered lands, the world's 175,000 islands are incredibly diverse. Islands constitute less than 5% of the Earth's landmass yet provide habitat for 40% of all listed Critically Endangered and Endangered species.¹ They are home to more than 600 million people and provide critical resources to many more. The isolation of island regions has led them to being global centres for endemic species, with a richness of endemism 9.5 times higher than in mainland regions.² The conservation and sustainable use of our invaluable natural resources of islands and their surrounding waters are critical to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

- Islands are estimated to provide habitat for 20% of all bird, reptile and plant species³
- Almost 1/3 of the world's countries are islands and over two-thirds of Parties to the CBD have extensive island ecosystems⁴
- Islands harbour more than 50% of the world's known marine biodiversity, 7 of the world's 10 coral reef hotspots, and 10 of its 34 conservation hotspots⁵

1 Critically Endangered and Endangered species are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Threatened Island Biodiversity Database Partners (2012) The Threatened Island Biodiversity Database: developed by Island Conservation, University of California Santa Cruz Coastal Conservation Action Lab, BirdLife International, IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group. Version 2012.1. Available at: <http://tib.islandconservation.org/>.

2 Kier, G.; Kreft, H.; Lee, T. M.; Jetz, W.; Ibsch, P.; Nowicki, C.; Mutke, J. and Barthlott, W. 2009. A global assessment of endemism and species richness across island and mainland regions. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 106: 9322-9327. www.pnas.org/content/106/23/9322.full.

3 Whittaker, R.J. 1998. Island Biogeography: ecology, evolution, and conservation. Oxford.

4 [www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/shorelines/gshhs.html](http://ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/shorelines/gshhs.html)

5 Baldacchino, D. World of Islands, 2007 – www.islandstudies.ca/worldofislands.html



- More than 1/3 of the Pacific Ocean is in the Pacific Island countries' exclusive economic zones, meaning that these island people are guardians of huge ocean territories
- Environmental governance of islands with their maritime territories (one-sixth of the Earth's total area) affects global climate, food supplies and resource cycles
- In most islands, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS), biodiversity the base for most island economies (fisheries, forestry, agriculture, and tourism industries)⁶ and cultures.

Island biodiversity is critically threatened:


- 64% of all recorded extinctions in human history happened on islands
- Extinction rates for mammals are 177 times higher in island ecosystems than the average for all ecosystems⁷
- 95% of bird, 90% of reptile and 70% of mammal extinctions have been on islands, primarily the result of the introduction of invasive vertebrates to islands.⁸

Never before have islands been so at risk. Islands – the bellwethers of our earth – have reached a tipping point. Once brilliant coral reefs have lost their lustre – suffering from the effects of bleaching, and ocean acidification.

6 www.islandstudies.ca/worldofislands.html

7 Loehle, Craig, and Willis Eschenbach. 2011. Historical bird and terrestrial mammal extinction rates and causes. *Diversity and Distributions*

8 The Global Islands Invasive Vertebrate Eradication Database: A tool to improve and facilitate restoration of island ecosystems. http://www.issg.org/pdf/publications/Island_Invasives/pdf/HQprint/1Keitt.pdf



“Islands are working together, getting results and showing the way to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets but further action is urgently needed to conserve and protect the unique island ecosystems and surrounding seas”

DR. BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS

Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Entire ecosystems are at the brink of collapse. This does not just mean the end for many species but the collapse of the economies and societies that depend on them.

Island communities share many common issues and feel the impacts from natural disasters, climate change, overconsumption and other global changes more intensely. These changes jeopardize their food, water, health and economic security. Due to their tourism-based economies, isolation and dependence on imported goods, SIDS are particularly vulnerable to global shocks. Major constraints to successful implementation on most islands, particularly SIDS, continue to be: limited institutional, technical and economic capacity in governments, communities and the private sector (often also linked to land tenure issues); susceptibility to invasive species, isolation and remoteness; and vulnerability to global markets and trends. These challenges are drastically compounded by the real and serious threat of climate change. Urgent and immediate action is needed to halt and reverse trends and to save our precious island ecosystems globally.

THE ISLAND WAY TO ACHIEVE THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

Adopted in 2006 by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 8), the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity (Decision VIII/1) provides a strategic framework for island Parties and Parties with islands to significantly reduce island biodiversity loss, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation and the sustainable

development of islands, particularly SIDS.⁹ The programme contributes to meeting at least 14 of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the Barbados Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals.¹⁰

In line with CBD COP 11 Decision XI/15¹¹ and priorities identified in Decision IX/21,¹² governments, financial institutions and other relevant organizations are urged to strengthen conservation of island biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods, and economies, as well as reduce poverty, by investing in successful approaches – “bright spots” – that address the following priorities:

Priorities for Action

- 1. Establishment and management marine and terrestrial protected areas**, by promoting and supporting high-level regional commitments that have demonstrated success in achieving other Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Targets 5, 6 & 11)
- 2. Management (prevention, eradication and control) of Invasive Species** by developing and strengthening international, regional, national and local collaboration within and across jurisdictions, including the diversity of successful approaches to prevention, eradication and control, and in particular to consider a biosecurity approach that addresses the full range of invasive threats (Aichi Biodiversity Targets 9 & 12)
- 3. Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, specifically mainstream ecosystem-based adaptation** to climate change, ecosystem restoration and invasive species management for human health and well-being are integrated into all island development and conservation plans and projects and building capacity in their application (Aichi Biodiversity Targets 6 & 9)

Priorities for Effective Implementation

- 4. Strengthen local capacity** through adapting and expanding proven, cost-effective mechanisms, in particular: peer-learning networks, learning exchanges, technology transfer, best practices, communication and information exchange tools, key databases and information portals, targeted technical assistance, and formal training and education (Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 19)

9 These include a) large island nations (e.g. Japan, Madagascar, New Zealand, the United Kingdom); b) archipelagic nations (e.g. Indonesia, the Philippines); and c) all CBD Parties with continental or oceanic islands. The latter includes Parties with extensive island regions (e.g. Canada, Ecuador, Russia), Parties with numerous coastal islands (e.g. Australia, China, Italy and Mexico) and Parties with few islands (e.g. Peru, Yemen)

10 Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as its content was developed following the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme (Mauritius, 10 to 14 January 2005)


11 Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Decision XI/15: www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-15-en.pdf

12 Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Decision IX/21: www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=11664

ISLAND ROADMAP TO ACHIEVING THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

 **International Day for Biological Diversity & launch of Worldwide Voyage***

22 May

 **Canada: Island Invasives Workshop,* WGR1 5, SBSTTA 18**

14-28 June

Palau: Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting*

29 July to 1 Aug

NYC: UNGA & Climate Summit

23 Sept

 **Korea: CBD COP 12***

6-17 Oct.

Sydney: World Parks Congress

12-19 Nov

2014 International Year of Small Island Developing States

23-27 June

NYC: Global Prep Comm, UNSIDS*

1-4 Sept

Samoa: 3rd Global Conference on SIDS*

22-25 Oct.

Guadeloupe: International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change for Europe Overseas*

1-12 Dec.

Peru: UNFCCC COP 20

5. **Support development of innovative financial arrangements to mobilize additional resources** including trust funds, “debt-for-adaptation to climate change swaps”, payments for ecosystem services, and fees for tourism or natural resource use to increase funds dedicated to effective conservation (Aichi Biodiversity Targets 20)
6. **Mainstream and strengthen national planning for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**, sustainable development, climate change, and related issues through efficient multi-sector partnerships and planning processes that focus on action (Aichi Biodiversity Targets 17)
7. **Ratify the recently adopted Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization¹³** to ensure that islands benefit from the use of their genetic resources (Aichi Biodiversity Target 16)

Please refer to Decision XI/15, the in-depth review of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity for the full and complete decision text.

PRIORITIZING ISLAND ACTION FOR COUNTRIES WITH ISLANDS

As a result of the adoption of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity in 2006, Italy, Australia and Mexico have led the way in developing coherent island strategies that recognize the importance and significance of island biodiversity.

¹³ CBD COP 10 Decision X/1, Annex I, www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12267

The following events present an opportunity for islands and supporters of islands to come together to promote action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods by inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments and facilitating collaboration through scaling bright spots.

Italy: Milan Expo

May-June

CBD COP 13

CBD COP 14

CBD COP 15
Aichi Biodiversity
Targets Achieved

2015

2016

2018

2020

Dec.

Paris: UNFCCC
COP 21

MDG Review
Post 2015

GLISPA 16th Anniversary
& NYC Arrival of
Worldwide Voyage*

CBD Events

* GLISPA Coordinating Events

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Environment Programme of its Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) invests significantly in conservation, sustainable development, disaster management and risk-preparedness on projects specifically aimed at supporting islands. Their Global Island Strategy identifies a common overarching approach for their investment and engagement in islands including in partnerships such as the Global Island Partnership.

The Global Island Strategy¹⁴ aims to promote and support sustainable development initiatives on islands and SIDS through technical and financial assistance to the institutions as well as to promote synergy and coherence of all initiatives of this kind financed by the Italian Government.

Mexico's "National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of Mexico's Island Territory"¹⁵ provides a strategy for over 2,500 islands that are located in the country's coastal and marine area covering 5,127 km².

Australia's island efforts focused on an independent national assessment report on the conservation value and prioritisation of high conservation status offshore islands and their specific vertebrate pest management issues (2009).¹⁶ The focus of the report was to develop a priority list of 100 islands of high conservation status to help guide future government investment on offshore islands.

¹⁴ www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgcs/documentazione/Report/2006-01-01_GloballIslandStrategy.pdf

¹⁵ www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/planeta/internacional/pdf/estrategia_nacional_de_las_islas.pdf

¹⁶ www.environment.gov.au/resource/prioritisation-high-conservation-status-offshore-islands

ISLAND BRIGHT SPOTS: INVEST IN WHAT WORKS



ISLAND SUCCESS IS BUILT UPON initiatives that work – bright spots. Bright spots are projects, programmes, policies or initiatives at any level that are making a difference in advancing conservation and sustainable livelihoods. To continue to advance toward international targets, we need to build on what is working and upon those bright spots that have the potential to be scaled and replicated. Island bright spots can be scaled and replicated as solutions to global development challenges.

The following section showcases island bright spots that exemplify implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The bright spots are presented according to thematic priorities identified in the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity (Decision XI/15).¹ The examples are by no means an exhaustive list but have been selected as they:

- Demonstrate success/impact in advancing island **priorities for action** as it relates to the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity
- Demonstrate success/impact in advancing island **priorities for effective implementation** through genuine and durable partnership
- Have potential to be **scaled and replicated**

THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW!

- **Demonstrate your leadership:** Make, promote and implement visionary high-level island commitments
- **Invest in What Works:** Identify, scale and replicate island bright spots
- **Support the Global Island Partnership (www.glispa.org):** Contribute to building resilient and sustainable island communities through innovative partnerships

¹ Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Decision XI/15: www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-15-en.pdf



“The Global Island Partnership is an excellent example of intra-island partnership that we believe we must champion in Samoa. Connecting our islands, across our oceans, helping share ideas and also mobilise more resources for island initiatives.”

H.E. JAMES A. MICHEL

President of the Republic of Seychelles
Co-Chair of GLISPA



INSPIRING LEADERSHIP THROUGH INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP

ISLANDS ARE LEADERS of innovative partnerships that are charting a new course to build resilient and sustainable island communities. In January 2005, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan made an urgent call for high-level political commitment to the global challenges facing island states.¹ Two presidents, H.E. Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. of Palau and H.E. James A. Michel of Seychelles took leadership, mobilizing an international partnership for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Since its launch in 2006,² the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) has engaged high-level political leadership through its Co-Chairs, the Presidents of Palau and Seychelles, as well as Prime Minister of Grenada, to catalyze more than US\$130 million in commitments for action on island conservation and livelihoods. It has assisted more than 30 countries to launch or strengthen major island commitments focused on sustainable management of marine, coastal and/or terrestrial habitats, and facilitated collaboration between islands: island countries and countries with islands regardless of their size or political status. Participation is open and voluntary to any entity committed to taking significant action towards the mission.

ELEMENTS OF GLISPA'S SUCCESS

GLISPA fills a unique niche for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods in a variety of ways:

-
- 1 GLISPA was first called for during the high-level event *"Islands, Reefs and Communities: Committing to the Future"* at the International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action hosted by the Governments of Seychelles and United Kingdom in Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January, 2005.
 - 2 GLISPA was launched during the high-level event *"Islands, marine biodiversity and livelihoods: a Global Island Partnership"* hosted by the Republic of Palau at the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity CBD COP 8 in Curitiba, Brazil, 20-31 March, 2006.



Galápagos Islands, Ecuador

All Islands

GLISPA's focus includes all islands, regardless of size or political status, emphasizing commonalities amongst islands. This includes island countries as well as countries with islands. This apolitical and inclusive focus ensures wide participation and promotes collaboration.

Linking biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods

GLISPA's mission recognizes that for conservation to be successful, solutions must take into account the economic and social needs of island communities. GLISPA emerged in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, specifically within the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity. The Partnership has been able to connect discussions of biodiversity within broader discussions of sustainable development due significantly to its focus on promoting and demonstrating high-level political leadership on these issues. Prior to the inception of GLISPA there was no specific 'voice' for highlighting the links between biodiversity conservation (in particular ecosystem services) and sustainability issues.

Engaging High-Level Political Leadership

GLISPA focuses on engaging high-level political leadership from presidents, ambassadors and government ministers to support biodiversity conservation



and sustainable livelihoods, facilitating island ownership and ‘buy in’ of commitments, and ensuring implementation of actions. The connections GLISPA has created between the three Co-Chairs of the Partnership (President of Palau,³ President of Seychelles⁴ and Prime Minister of Grenada⁵) have supported the commitment of more than 30 countries, and the commitment of US\$130 million to island conservation and livelihoods initiatives. These political leaders are able to engage other high-level participants in GLISPA activities, such as when the former Prime Minister of Grenada, H.E. Tillman Thomas co-hosted “Leaders Valuing Nature” with the President of Indonesia at Rio+20 on behalf of the Co-Chairs.

Large Scale Visionary Commitments

GLISPA promotes large-scale conservation and funding commitments as a way to create genuine and measurable impacts and change. The Partnership achieves this by inspiring political leaders to act and by leveraging political motivations to improve implementation. To this end, GLISPA has assisted more than 30 countries to launch or strengthen major island commitments

3 In 2005-2008 the Co-Chair from Palau was held by H.E. Tommy Remengesau Jr. as President of Palau. During 2008-2012 H.E. Johnson Toribiong was elected President of Palau and held the position of Co-Chair. In 2013, H.E. Tommy Remengesau Jr was re-elected as President of Palau and welcomed back as Co-Chair of GLISPA.

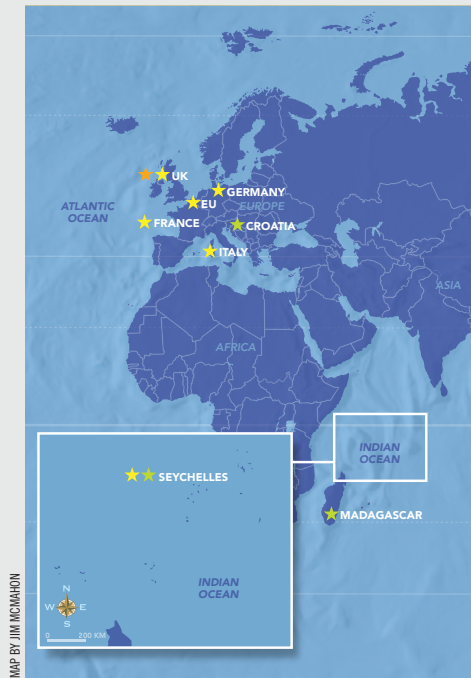
4 2005 to present H.E. James A. Michel, President of Seychelles, has been Co-Chair of GLISPA.

5 In 2012-2013, the Co-Chairs of GLISPA invited H.E. Tillman Thomas, then Prime Minister of Grenada to join them as Co-Chairs of GLISPA. In early 2013, Grenada welcomed H.E. Dr. Keith Mitchell as Prime Minister of Grenada, who now holds the position of Co-Chair.

Global Island Partnership Commitments

- ★ Conservation Commitments
- ★ Public Funding Commitments
- ★ Private Funding Commitments

- CBD** Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- CNMI** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- EU** European Union
- FSM** Federated States of Micronesia
- GEF** United Nations Development Programme - Global Environment Facility
- IUCN** International Union for Conservation of Nature
- UK** United Kingdom
- UN** United Nations
- USA** United States of America



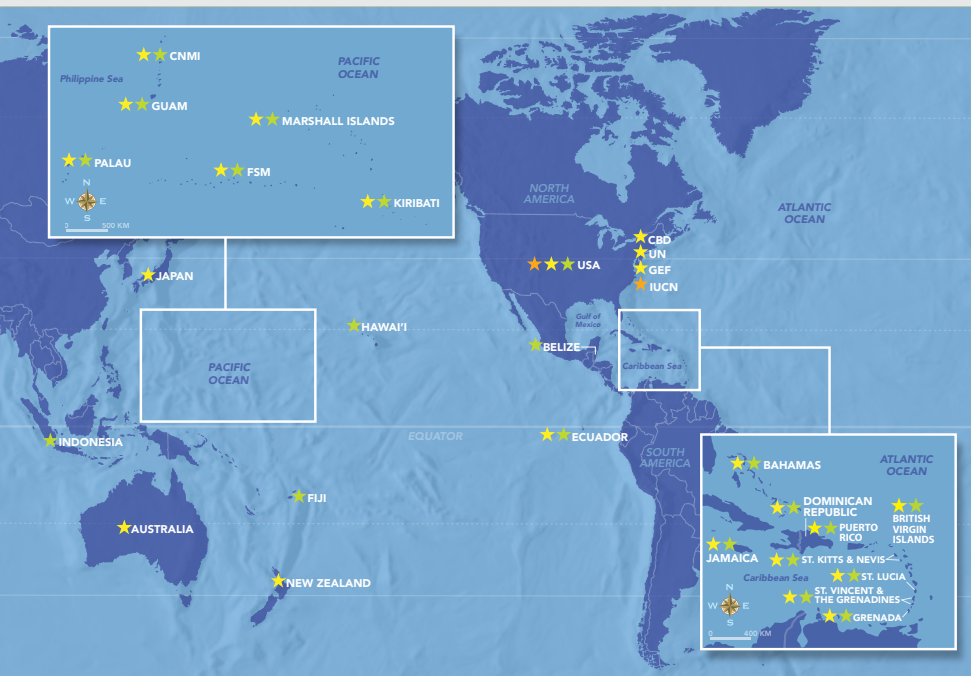
focused on island conservation and sustainable management of marine, coastal and/or terrestrial habitats. The partnership has also helped inspire, recognize and support leaders in Micronesia, the Caribbean, Indonesia and the Western Indian Ocean to work with their neighbours on visionary regional island initiatives.

GLISPA'S EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP MODEL

GLISPA represents a strong model partnership for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods, and has made significant achievements due to the following characteristics:

Influential and Dedicated “Champions” as Co-Chairs of the Partnership

The inspired leadership of the Co-Chairs has been instrumental in maintaining the momentum of the Partnership. These leaders have played a key role in garnering commitment from other leaders in public and private sectors, and encouraging engagement of others in the partnership.



Shared Passion, Values and Dedication of its Participants

A small yet highly passionate and dedicated group of individuals from governments, non-government organizations and multilateral institutions has been engaged with the Partnership since its inception. These individuals have provided continuity and strategic leadership for the Partnership, demonstrating a genuine spirit of collaboration and recruiting other organizations and leaders to support this shared mission.

A True Partnership based on Openness and Flexibility in Participation

Since its inception, GLISPA has become a true partnership that emphasizes openness and flexibility in participation, a genuine willingness to engage, and an emphasis on open and collaborative communications. Members of GLISPA's governing Steering Committee are encouraged to share knowledge and experiences and to develop linkages amongst themselves, working together at the annual Strategy Meeting to determine how to build momentum around key priorities including ecosystem based adaptation, linking conservation and development, invasive species and supporting successful implementation of commitments.

William Aila, Chair of Hawai'i's Department of Land & Natural Resources, at the GLISPA Bright Spot Exchange at CBD COP 11.



Mutually-Reinforcing Activities toward Achievement of Long-Term Goals

GLISPA supports coordination of strategic events at major international meetings (e.g. CBD COPs) to create attention, inspire and showcase island solutions and “bright spots” in implementation of its participants. To date it has held 9 high-level events and more than 30 strategic events at key global and regional meetings. These events provide the opportunity to catalyse new public and private finance and conservation commitments. The events are hosted by at least one country, usually by a representative of the Co-Chair, and provide an opportunity to inspire, motivate and mobilize political will for new commitments. They are also an effective ‘tool’ that generates a sense of urgency for change around specific commitments by providing a forum to ensure that these commitments are ‘kept alive’.

Good Governance and Dedicated Coordination Support

GLISPA has a strong and effective coordination unit comprising of only 1.5 full time staff that are integral to the engagement and advancement of the Partnership along with a number of volunteer advisers, interns and fellows who support the partnership. GLISPA has a clear and transparent governance framework, including a Steering Committee and Executive Committee, and strong leadership provided by the Co-Chairs and their representatives.

GLISPA has evolved into a successful partnership over the past eight years. It has been able to bring together a group of dedicated political leaders and supporters to create a unique network that promotes action for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods for all islands. In 2014, one of the outcomes of the Global Ocean Action Summit organised by the Government of Netherlands, World Bank and FAO was the need to build on existing partnerships like the Global Partnership for Oceans, the Global Island Partnership and 50 in 10 to build global momentum and scale up successes.

Contribute to building resilient and sustainable island communities through innovative partnerships: Join and support the Global Island Partnership (www.glispa.org)

GLIPSA Founding Supporters



GLIPSA Supporters 2013





“Above all, the peoples of Micronesia share a common understanding that we are one with our earth and connected to our neighbours. We are committed to our islands, our peoples, and our natural heritage.”

MICRONESIA CHALLENGE BUSINESS PLAN AND CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

www.glispa.org/commitments/micronesia-challenge

Woman & girl weaving Areca palm leaves, Yap Island, Micronesia

A person is shown from the back, weaving a basket. The basket is made of natural fibers and is decorated with vibrant, multi-colored threads in shades of green, yellow, blue, and red. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

VISIONARY REGIONAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

LEADERS OF ISLAND COUNTRIES and countries with islands have made visionary commitments at regional levels that are bright spots in catalyzing the long-term momentum towards implementation of conservation and sustainable livelihoods priorities. The ***Micronesia Challenge*** is a bright spot that demonstrates how inspired political momentum leads to diverse initiatives and on the ground action. The ***Caribbean Challenge Initiative*** provides a model for leveraging large-scale public and private sector commitment towards common goals. Other initiatives such as the ***Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)*** involving Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste provides another strong model for regional collaboration.

The countries involved in these regional island challenges help each other to be motivated to achieve their commitments through friendly competition regionally and globally. They have also stood as a beacon of inspiration to others, such as Hawai'i and the Western Indian Ocean through the Global Island Partnership, to make similar long-term visionary commitments.

MICRONESIA CHALLENGE: AN INSPIRING MOVEMENT

In 2006, in the midst of increasing global threats such as climate change, the drastic decline of biodiversity and the extreme vulnerability of small island nations, Heads of Government across Micronesia challenged not only themselves but also the international community, to step up and exceed the conservation targets set by international conventions and treaties.

Together the leaders of the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, U.S. Territory of Guam and

U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) came together and committed to **effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020**. This commitment became known as the **Micronesia Challenge**.

The **Micronesia Challenge** spans more than 20% of the Pacific Island region and 5% of the world's largest ocean, encompassing an enormous, invaluable richness of biological and cultural diversity. Importantly, it emphasizes the connectivity of the region and the need to address problems across borders, bringing together nearly 650,000 people from over 2,000 islands and five political jurisdictions in their commitment to conserve the region's life-sustaining natural systems for future generations.

Its innovative model calls on leaders at the highest political level, public and private sectors as well as local communities to collaborate in promoting island conservation and sustainable livelihoods. This collaboration is facilitated at all levels, from the annual review process integrated into the Micronesia Chief Executive Summit, to the tracking of regional indicators, sharing of tools, experiences, techniques and sustainable financing mechanisms between jurisdictions through the meetings of the Steering Committee, a series of MC Measures Working Group meetings and support from jurisdictional partners.¹ Today, the Challenge has grown into a network supported by over 50 partners globally and has seen considerable progress in an immensely complex environment.

The Micronesia Challenge is a bright spot in how heads of government can come together to make visionary, long-term commitments. It is a bright spot at the regional level that has seen significant levels of financial resources being committed to island-led solutions. It is a model that contributes not only to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets but also to the Paris Declaration² as well

MICRONESIA BY THE NUMBERS

- **66** IUCN Red Listed species
- **1300** fish species
- **483** species of corals
- **1400** plant species
- **85** bird species
- **US\$2 billion** annual net benefits to the Pacific from coral reefs
- **US\$800 million** benefits annually from coral reefs

1 Gruby 2013: 100

2 www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/parisdeclarationandaccraagendaforaction.htm

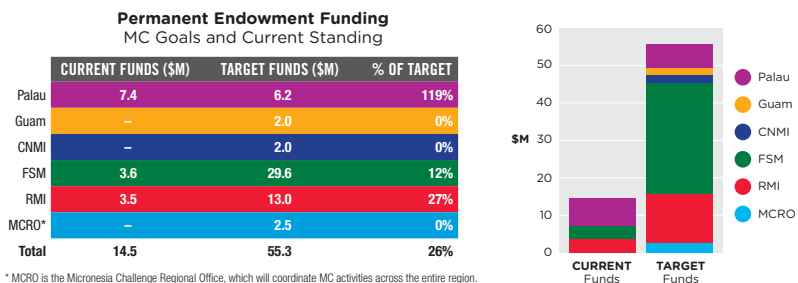
as the Rio Conventions on Climate Change³ and Combating Desertification.⁴ It has also since inspired similar regional initiatives in the Caribbean, Western Indian Ocean and Hawai'i through the Global Island Partnership.

The Micronesia Challenge has set an unprecedented example of collaborative, sustainable marine and terrestrial conservation for the international community. Characterized by regional cooperation, thematic breadth, successful endowments and linking of national, regional and global conservation targets, the Micronesia Challenge has become more than a model: it is a movement.

Innovative Financing for the Future

THE MICRONESIA CONSERVATION TRUST

Established in 2002, the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) was created to provide long-term, sustainable funding for biodiversity conservation into perpetuity. The MCT was selected by the Chief Executives to host a single regional endowment that includes financial pledges from organizations including The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and matching funds from Micronesian jurisdictions. The MCT builds the capacity of Micronesians to design and manage conservation programmes and provides a regional forum to bring together diverse stakeholders to collectively tackle natural resource challenges in Micronesia.⁵ To date, **US\$14.8 million has been secured** with a goal to raise an estimated additional US\$41 million.⁶ The MCT is also working with national jurisdictions to create **internal income generating mechanisms** like Palau's Green Fee. Guam and CNMI hope to establish a similar tourism fee, while RMI and FSM are exploring payment for ecosystem services mechanisms, conservation easements, and fees collected from the tuna industry.



3 https://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/6036.php

4 www.unccd.int/en/programmes/RioConventions/RioPlus20/Pages/Land-Degradation-Neutrality.aspx

5 www.mctconservation.org

6 www.micronesiachallenge.org

PROTECTED AREAS NETWORKS

Palau and FSM have made enormous steps towards long-term protection of their natural resources through the creation of a **Protected Areas Network (PAN)**. Established by national law in 2003, the PAN uses an innovative, collaborative conservation approach that integrates traditional knowledge, customary marine tenure and science-based management tools that focus on large-scale conservation and ecological connectivity. The PAN benefits local communities and livelihoods while protecting the rich marine biodiversity of the region.⁷

THE PALAU PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK (PAN) FUND

Known as the “Palau Green Fee” this national sustainable finance mechanism that requests all tourists leaving Palau pay US\$30, which in turn supports the PAN and MCT. Since it was established in 2009, the Green Fee has been generating approximately US\$1.5 million annually to support community conservation efforts outlined in the PAN and to meet the goals of the Micronesia Challenge. In 2011, Palau committed US\$1.4 million raised from the ‘Green Fee’ to the Micronesia Conservation Trust to support the Micronesia Challenge.

SCALING SUCCESS

Today, the PAN model is spreading. Learning exchanges are being held to support the creation of similar national level PAN legislation in MC countries. The MCT is working with national jurisdictions including Guam and CNMI to create **internal income generating mechanisms** based on the success of the Palau Green Fee. Guam and CNMI hope to establish a similar tourism fee, while RMI and FSM are exploring fees collected from the tuna industry.

Peer Learning through Micronesians in Conservation

Established in 2002 this peer learning initiative has leveraged conservation work in Micronesia by increasing the success and effectiveness of conservation leaders. MIC’s approach is to create a support structure that fosters shared self-directed learning to address priority organizational and technical needs. Leaders meet for a retreat every six months. Members were instrumental in early coordination of the Micronesia Challenge and its continued momentum.

⁷ Gruby 2013

Engaging the Community for Long Term Support

To create local participation and community support for the goals of the MC, the MCT partnered with Rare to launch the **Program for Island Resilience**. The programme is centered on creating a community-driven education and behaviour change campaigns to restore and maintain healthy reefs and resilient livelihoods. Seven sites focus on establishing governance systems from existing MPAs, while four aim to mitigate soil erosion in key watersheds. These campaigns seek to inspire people to take pride in the species and habitats that make their communities unique while introducing alternatives to environmentally destructive practices.⁸ To inspire the next generation of conservation leaders, the Program for Island Resilience has engaged youth leaders through the **Young Champions Intern Program** to work on supporting the education and awareness programme.

Inspiring further regional approaches

The Micronesia Challenge set the precedent for regional cooperation on sustainable development across Micronesia. In 2011, the Micronesia Chief Executive Summit agreed to explore the creation of the world's first Regional Shark Sanctuary, which would prohibit commercial fishing of sharks across the region's exclusive economic zones. The regional sanctuary would build on the shark sanctuary already declared by Palau in 2003 and the shark fin trade bans instituted by Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands in early 2011. The Republic of the Marshall Islands declared what was at the time the world's largest shark sanctuary in October 2011, followed by Kosrae in September 2012, and then Pohnpei and Yap in June 2013. Shark sanctuaries have also been declared by the Bahamas, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Honduras, the Maldives, New Caledonia, and Tokelau. In May 2013, members of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative agreed to establish similar regional protections for sharks in the Caribbean.

Help Micronesia Make its Goals A Reality

In early 2014, the Micronesia Chief Executive endorsed and supported **'We Are One'**, the **Business Plan and Conservation Campaign for the Micronesia Challenge** (www.glispa.org/commitments/micronesia-challenge). The Business Plan showcases the vast array of bright spots that are being driving at community to regional levels that are helping to make

⁸ www.rare.org/program-island-resilience-micronesia

“As business and government leaders in the Caribbean, we have agreed today that both sectors need to work together to ensure that the beautiful marine and coastal areas in the Caribbean are protected”

**CARIBBEAN POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS SUMMIT
COMMUNIQUÉ, 17 MAY 2013**



Local guides casting on Andros flats the Bahamas

© Jonathan Kerr TNC



Co-Hosts of the Caribbean Political and Business Leaders Summit, Premier of the British Virgin Islands, Prime Minister of Grenada and Founder of the Virgin Group.

© Mario Aho Photography

significant progress towards achieving the Challenge goals. Importantly, it calls on new partners to “*help reach our goal of raising US\$55 million dollars for an endowment to support a wide range of annual conservation activities*” and help the people of Micronesia “*protect thousands of unique and endemic species, and preserve a way of life for generations to come.*”

Get involved and support the Micronesia Challenge contact Willy Kostka, Micronesia Conservation Trust, director@ourmicronesia.org.

CARIBBEAN CHALLENGE INITIATIVE

The Caribbean region, which includes 37 countries and overseas territories, harbours roughly 10% of the world’s coral reefs and 1400 species of fish and marine species.⁹ The Caribbean’s coastal and marine resources – its coral reefs, beaches, fisheries, and mangroves contribute significantly to the region’s economic viability and prosperity.

The Caribbean islands, like many of the world’s Small Island Developing States, are highly dependent on their natural resources to support jobs, income, and economic prosperity. Every year, some 40 million people from around the world are drawn to the Caribbean’s magnificent natural beauty and spectacular marine life. According to a 2011 World Resources Institute study, the annual economic benefits of coral reefs provide the region with \$2.7 billion for tourism, \$395 million in the fisheries, and up to \$2.8 billion for shoreline protection.¹⁰ Yet, in the past three decades, coral cover in the Caribbean has fallen by 80%¹¹ and almost all of the marine and coastal natural capital in the Caribbean is threatened by unsustainable coastal development, land and sea-based pollution, unsustainable fishing, and ongoing climate change.

Introducing the Caribbean Challenge Initiative

On 17 May 2013, nine Caribbean governments, fifteen corporations and about 30 partner organizations (e.g. multilateral institutions, development cooperation agencies, NGOs and private foundations), met on Necker Island at the home of Sir Richard Branson, Founder of the Virgin Group, in the British Virgin Islands and made a series of bold commitments to preserve and protect the region’s marine and coastal environment. This Summit of Caribbean Political and Business Leaders, hosted by Dr. the

9 www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/caribbean/caribbean-challenge.xml

10 2011. World Resources Institute: Reefs at Risk Revisited. www.wri.org/publication/reefs-risk-revisited

11 2003. Gardner, T.A., Côté, I. M., Gill, J.A., Grant, A. and Watkinson, A.R., 2003. Long-term region-wide declines in Caribbean corals. *Science*. Science Express, 17 July 2003.

Right Honourable Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada and Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE, Premier of the British Virgin Islands, and Sir Richard Branson, officially launched the second phase of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (2013-2018).

The CCI governments, the Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines endorsed the ‘Leaders Declaration’, a bold and aspirational set of commitments guided by two overarching goals:


1. “20 by 20 Goal”: In each participating country and territory, to protect at least 20 percent of the Caribbean’s marine and coastal environment by 2020,
2. Sustainable Finance Goal: To achieve the “20 by 20 Goal”, to have in place fully functioning sustainable finance mechanisms that will provide long-term and reliable funding to conserve and sustainably manage the marine and coastal resources and the environment in each participating country and territory.

Fifteen CCI companies – Bamboo Sushi, Disney Cruise Line, GOOD, Grupo Propagas, Grupo Puntacana, Guy Harvey Sportswear, KOR Water, NRG Energy, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., Sandals Resorts International, Starwood Hotels and Resorts, Tiffany & Co., Tropical Shipping, Virgin Group, Hublot – signed a Corporate Compact committing them to funding for marine conservation, changes in business practices and support of the key commitments in the Leaders Declaration.

“As business and government leaders in the Caribbean, we have agreed today that both sectors need to work together to ensure that the beautiful marine and coastal areas in the Caribbean are protected.” Caribbean Political and Business Leaders Summit Communiqué, 17 May 2013.

The co-hosts of the Summit further identified three key areas for further action, including:

- The urgent need to create protection for sharks and rays across the whole Caribbean region with the aim of creating a region-wide sanctuary within two years
- Establishing a clear regulatory framework that delivers a systemic and regional approach to conservation of the marine and coastal environment, including increasing considerably the number of marine protected areas
- A dramatic acceleration in the transition from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources over the next five years.



“Protecting our natural resources is one of the biggest opportunities of our lifetime, and nowhere is it more evident than in the Caribbean.”

SIR RICHARD BRANSON
Founder of Virgin Group

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

The CCI provides a clear vision to support a regional approach to long term, sustainable marine and coastal conservation through the collaborative efforts of a coalition of governments, companies and partner organizations. Commitments made through the CCI represent:

- ★ Political will
- ★ Established goals and targets with a defined timeframe
- ★ Framework for action
- ★ Governance structure and agreed conservation principles
- ★ Private and public sector support and involvement.

The CCI is supported by partners including, Germany, Global Environment Facility, The Nature Conservancy, Italy, World Bank, European Commission, United Kingdom, United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Environment Programme and Global Island Partnership. The operation and management of the CCI is supported by the CCI Secretariat hosted by the Government of Grenada and the CCI Council – a body of representatives for CCI governments, partners and companies.


Progress of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative

The CCI was first initiated at the Convention on Biological Diversity at COP 9 in 2008 during a GLISPA high-level event. Phase 1 of the CCI (2008 to 2013) was initially a commitment of five countries to conserve near-shore marine and coastal habitats and grew to eight countries participating in the establishment of a regional sustainable financing mechanism to support the management and preservation of national protected areas.

During Phase 1 of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica and St Vincent and the Grenadines designated 50 new protected areas. By expanding the Andros national park from 185,000 acres to 1.28 million acres, the Bahamas established its largest marine protected area. The Dominican Republic has surpassed their goal of conserving at least 20% of nearshore and coastal environments by setting up 30 new protected areas. Jamaica too has set up several no take fishing zones. The total protected marine area across all of the CCI countries/territories has increased from 7% to about 10%.

Putting in Place Sustainable Financing Mechanisms

To support countries in achievement of the 2020 goal, a regional endowment was established to support multiple national level conservation Trust Funds, known as the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF). The CBF, legally established in 2012, has already reached its initial endowment capitalization target of US \$40million to support several CCI countries with funding from the Government of Germany, The Nature Conservancy, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In Phase II of CCI, efforts are underway in all CCI jurisdictions to establish national and territory trust funds that would be eligible to receive CBF funding. The interest generated from the endowment will provide critical sustainable financing to support long-term conservation of marine and coastal resources in CCI countries.



“We are charting a path for future generations, stressing the importance of conservation throughout the region.”

**DR. THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
KEITH C. MITCHELL**

Prime Minister of Grenada
Co-Chair of GLISPA

© Mario Aho Photography

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?


- ★ Provides funding directly from the national level protected area Trust Funds to marine and coastal conservation projects.
- ★ Stimulating creation of **country-led** conservation finance mechanisms, such as protected area fees, to run through the national Trust Funds and generate match funding.
- ★ Provides the financing mechanism to **achieve the conservation and livelihoods goals** of the CCI.

Defend Paradise Campaign

The ‘Defend Paradise campaign’ a joint effort by The Nature Conservancy and GOOD Corps – together with Tiffany & Co., Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines Ltd., KOR Water, and Guy Harvey Sportswear was launched during the Necker Island Summit. It is a consumer facing campaign aimed at raising funds for marine conservation in the Caribbean and boosting consumer awareness of the marine environment.

Focal Points

Chair of the Interim CCI Secretariat: Mrs. Aria St Louis, Head of the Environmental Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, Government of Grenada, ariajohnson1@gmail.com



“In Palau, we like to say the environment is our economy and the economy is our environment.”

H.E. TOMMY E. REMENGESAU JR.
President of the Republic of Palau
Co-Chair of GLISPA



BRIGHT SPOTS ADDRESSING ISLAND PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

ESTABLISH AND MANAGE MARINE AND TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS

Protected areas are not only critical to supporting healthy ecosystems and threatened species, but also provide many benefits to people and local economies, including provision of food and clean water, disaster risk reduction, and climate change mitigation.

Protected areas provide valuable safety nets for island countries under the stresses of climate change. Protected areas can support species adapting to climate change by providing refuges and migration corridors. They also protect people by reducing their vulnerability to sudden climatic events such as cyclones, storm surge, floods, and drought. Protected areas directly support the economy through providing valuable tourism resources and indirectly by reducing the costs of the negative impacts of climate change and the need for physical infrastructure. In Madagascar, a study of 41 reserves found that the economic rate of return of the protected area system was 54%, from watershed protection and ecotourism.¹

Over the past decade, island Parties (including but not limited to SIDS) launched major initiatives, and promising new programmes were started for Parties with islands (including U.S. and European overseas islands). Regional and global cooperation mechanisms have also been set up. Most

¹ Naughton-Treves, Lisa, Margaret Buck Holland, and Katrina Brandon. 2005. "The Role of Protected Areas in Conserving Biodiversity and Sustaining Local Livelihoods." *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 30 (1): 219–252. doi:10.1146/annurev.energy.30.050504.164507. www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.energy.30.050504.164507.

significantly, these have included regional and multi-country island initiatives (“Challenges”) in Micronesia, the Caribbean, the Coral Triangle, the Indian Ocean and east coast of Africa, and other large-scale initiatives in the Pacific are making significant progress on many critical global issues and on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, by developing networks of protected areas, adopting innovative fisheries management approaches and restoring threatened species.

BIG OCEAN:
A Network of the Worlds Large-Scale Marine Managed Areas


Region: Global

Focal Point: Nai'a Lewis, Big Ocean Coordinator
naia@bigoceanmanagers.org, www.bigoceanmanagers.org

Big Ocean provides a forum for peer learning, communication, and networking through which professional managers of large-scale MPAs can work together to be more efficient and effective in their management efforts.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ **International partnerships** that leverage Hawai'i/Pacific-based efforts to improve marine conservation globally
- ★ **Peer learning and support** that builds capacity, and encourages **sustainable, intergenerational** adaptive management planning
- ★ Places Hawai'i and the Pacific as key players in **reaching global targets**
- ★ **Inter-disciplinary and multi-sector approaches** that assist in leveraging limited resources.



“Big Ocean is a network that fosters peer-based learning and support – for managers, and to-be managers, by managers.”

'AULANI WILHELM
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

LOCALLY MANAGED MARINE AREAS: The Community-Led Solution

Region: Initiated in Fiji and since replicated across Pacific, Asia, Indian Ocean and Caribbean

Focal Point: Wendy Tan, LMMA Network, wendy@lmma.network.org, www.lmma.network.org

Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) are protected areas that are largely or wholly managed by coastal communities and/or land-owning groups, with the support of government and partner representatives. The communities impose restrictions on areas such as ‘no-take zones’ and on certain equipment, practices, species or sizes of catches. These zones or restrictions allow resource and habitat recovery in over exploited areas, enabling a return to more sustainable harvest of marine resources for the community.

First recognized in Fiji, LMMAs are being replicated across coastal communities world-wide. More than 420 Indo-Pacific sites in the LMMA network involve around 600 villages and LMMAs cover more than 12,000 km² in 15 Pacific Island States. LMMAs are now in Madagascar and Indian Ocean. The LMMA Network is a global initiative founded in 2000 to advance LMMA practices around the world. It consists of communities, dedicated practitioners and government officials all focused on community-based marine resource management projects, providing capacity building, awareness and monitoring support. The Network is about sharing ideas and experiences to improve the performance of LMMAs while empowering greater numbers of communities to manage their marine resources in a sustainable way.²

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ **Local planning and management** of a marine reserve
- ★ Encourages use of **local and traditional management practices** and customs to resolve issues around environmental degradation and overexploitation of resources

2 For further examples of Pacific MPA bright spots and case studies, refer to “Good Coastal Management practices in the Pacific: Experiences from the field. 2011. International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)”: http://icriforum.org/sites/default/files/ICRI%20Best%20Practice%20in%20Coastal%20Management%20-%20Govan%202011_0.pdf and “Status and potential of locally-managed marine areas in the Pacific Island Region: meeting nature conservation and sustainable livelihood targets through wide-spread implementation of LMMAs”. (Govan, H. et al. 2009). SPREP/WWF/WFC-Reefbase/CRISP. www.sprep.org/att/publication/000646_LMMA_report.pdf



- ★ A process of hybridization between traditional and contemporary governance systems and knowledge
- ★ **Community-based solution** to issues such as overfishing, destructive fishing practices, pollution, sedimentation and other physical damage.

NANUMEA MOMEA TAPU MPA: An LMMA Example

Region: Oceania

Country: Tuvalu

Focal Point: Semese Alefaio, Tuvalu Association of NGOs (TANGO)

The roughly 700 people who live in Nanumea in Tuvalu depend on coastal and marine fisheries resources for their daily dietary needs. These resources, and thus the community's health and livelihoods, are at risk due to water pollution, coastal erosion, and destructive fishing practices, as well as by the threats of climate change, including coral bleaching, ocean acidification, and tropical storm surges.

In order to combat these threats, the Foundation of the People of the South Pacific International (FSPI), in cooperation with TANGO and with funding from Coral Reef Initiatives for the Pacific (CRISP), have aimed to integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction with locally managed



Establishing the LMMA in Madagascar.

© Garth Cropps, Blue Ventures

marine areas (LMMAs) and the development of resilient coastal fisheries. Primary goals of the project include: ecosystem education, strengthening the island council governance capacity to care for the health of ecosystems through workshops and trainings, building compost toilets to reduce solid waste pollution in waterways, establishing LMMAs and closing them from fishing activities, placing gear and species restrictions in LMMAs, and restoring coral reefs and mangroves in degraded areas.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ Pursues an **integrated community approach** to the sustainable management of resources
- ★ LMMA fishing restrictions help build **resilient coastal fisheries**.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN MADAGASCAR: An LMMA Example

Region: Western Indian Ocean

Country: Madagascar

Focal Point: Roger Samba, Velondriake, www.velondriake.org
Alasdair Harris, Blue Ventures, al@blueventures.org

Since 2004, communities in southwest Madagascar have been working with Blue Ventures to successfully manage octopus fisheries, which



COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES IN MADAGASCAR

To eliminate the destructive practice of fish poisoning and the use of illegal nets in Andavadoak, Gildas Andriamalala of Blue Ventures implemented a campaign to promote his conservation message across many villages. To capture the attention and imagination of fishers, youth and community leaders in the coastal fishing villages, Gildas decorated and outfitted a sailboat that travels up and down this coastal region explaining the threats facing the local fish population and what fishers and communities can do about it. This was coupled with the use of banners and radio ads using Rare Pride methodology. Working directly with fishers and other stakeholders, Gildas aims to raise consciousness about the threats posed to their livelihoods and culture caused by these practices.

included the implementation of the first temporary octopus fishery closure. The seven-month closure improved catches and catalyzed community support for broader adoption of fisheries management practices. The success of these initial octopus fishery closures inspired the formation of the Velondriake Association in 2005, uniting communities from Andavadoaka and 24 other surrounding communities to establish Velondriake, the largest locally managed marine area in the Indian Ocean. These closures have been replicated over 150 times throughout the southwest coast of Madagascar, and are being replicated for the first time internationally in Rodrigues, Mauritius.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ Temporary closures increase the **health of octopus populations**
- ★ Ability to be **scaled and replicated** domestically and internationally
- ★ Focus on **alternative livelihoods** as well as the role of women.

THE PILOT OF MANAGED ACCESS: Securing Sustainable Fisheries and Livelihoods in Belize

Country: Belize

Location: Glovers Reef and Port Honduras Marine Reserves

Focal Point: Adriel Castaneda, Belize Fisheries Department,
adrielcast@gmail.com



Managed Access is an innovative fisheries management strategy that preserves biodiversity in a manner that keeps fishermen on the water and focused on the long-term sustainability of fish stocks. Since 2009, the Government of Belize, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), the Toledo Institute for Development and the Environment (TIDE), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and a range of other organizations have worked to formulate management techniques that will end uncontrolled growth in the numbers of fishermen and ensure that Belizeans will get benefits from ending overfishing, preserving biodiversity and strengthening the fishing industry.

RESULTS OF PILOT

- Violations are down in nearly all categories
- The race to fish has eased
- Fishermen are seeing an increase in catch.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ Engages the fishermen in sustainable fisheries management
- ★ Win-win system where fishermen have a direct stake in the health of the area where they fish and by extension have more incentive to help protect the replenishment zone. As these fisheries recover, fishermen can catch more fish and become vocal stewards of the ecosystem.

The pilot programme is currently being expanded to include 10 marine reserves, or Managed Access Territorial Use Rights for Fishing (TURFS) to cover almost 45% of Belize's fishing areas.

Size Matters: Community
Campaign for Legal Size Lobster
Fishing in the Bahamas



SIZE MATTERS:
Community Campaign for Legal Size Lobster Fishing in the Bahamas

Country: Bahamas

Organization: EConnect Ltd. and Friends of the Environment

Focal Point: d'Shan Maycock, President of EConnect Ltd.,
dshanmaycock@gmail.com

Approximately 9,000 families that depend on the Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) fishery in the Bahamas. On average this fishery is valued between US\$65-95 million per year. There are several regulations in place that manages the fishery including an eight month open season and size limits. However despite regulations local fishermen continued to disregard the laws that regulate the harvesting of lobsters with tails measuring less than 5 ½ inches. During the campaign planning many fishermen claimed this problem existed as many fishers lacked motivation and the tools needed to prevent this practice from occurring. The 'Size Matters' campaign was

launched to educate fishermen in sustainable fishing methods as well as distribute measuring gauges.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ Fishermen felt empowered to regulate themselves by using the appropriate tools
- ★ The momentum of the project continued to offer messages to get fishers to move to action and protect their local resources
- ★ The campaign provided a platform for resource users, policy makers, conservation groups and commercial industry to come together in unison with one common goal of eliminating the threat of illegal undersize fishing and allow discussions for improved management strategies.

This project was funded by Rare, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program, implemented by UNDP and local partners in the Bahamas.

MALDIVES BIOSPHERE RESERVE

In June 2012, at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, RIO+20 meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the President of Maldives announced the intention to declare the whole of Maldives as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve within 5 years (by 2017). This announcement was inspired by the success achieved in designating Baa Atoll as the first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Maldives.

This ambitious target represents a commitment by the Government to implement a de-centralized system for environmental management and sustainable development, based on the lessons learned From Baa Atoll. The Vision is that “Maldives will be a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve”

The three main components covered while becoming the whole country of Maldives as a biosphere reserve will be:

- sites of excellence where new and optimal practices to manage nature and human activities are tested and demonstrated;
- tools to help countries implement the results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and, in particular, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Ecosystem Approach;
- Learning sites for the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development

USEFUL RESOURCES

Global Island Database: <http://gid.unep-wcmc.org>

Good Coastal Management practices in the Pacific: Experiences from the field. 2011. International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP): http://icriforum.org/sites/default/files/ICRI%20Best%20Practice%20in%20Coastal%20Management%20-%20Govan%202011_0.pdf

Govan, H. Et al. 2009 Status and potential of locally-managed marine areas in the South Pacific: meeting nature conservation and sustainable livelihood targets through wide spread implementation of LMMAs: [SPREP/WWF/WorldFish-Reefbase/CRISP. 95pp+5](http://SPREP/WWF/WorldFish-Reefbase/CRISP.95pp+5)

SPREP (2011), Regional Wetlands Action Plan for the Pacific Islands 2011 – 2013, Apia, Samoa: www.sprep.org/att/publication/000909_Wetlands_ActionPlan_Pacific_2011-2013.pdf

SPREP (2009), Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands region 2008 – 2012, Apia, Samoa: www.sprep.org/att/publication/000755_RoundtableActionStrategy.pdf

UNESCO World Heritage Action Plan – Pacific 2009 Programme: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-5-1.pdf>

Rangers in action, Belize.





MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species pose one of the greatest threats to island biodiversity. Approximately 80% of all extinctions recorded since 1,500 have been on islands,³ with invasive species being a primary cause of insular extinctions.⁴ Invasive species are a key risk to today's threatened species with islands providing habitat for 40% of all IUCN listed Critically Endangered and Endangered species.⁵

Invasive species, introduced by human activity, have had drastic impacts on our most isolated and unique ecosystems and continue to pose a serious risk to all islands by threatening the ecosystems and their services: livelihoods, food security, economies and health of inhabitants⁶. In Seychelles alone, the economic damage associated with only four key invasive species is approximately US\$21million annually.⁷ Worldwide the

3 Ricketts, T. H., E. Dinerstein, T. Boucher, T.M. Brooks, S.H. Butchart, M. Hoffmann, E. Wikramanayake. 2005. Pinpointing and preventing imminent extinctions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 102: 18497-18501.

4 Blackburn, T.M., P. Cassey, R.P. Duncan, K.L. Evans, and K.J. Gaston. 2004. Avian extinction and mammalian introductions on oceanic islands. *Science* 305:1955-1958. Clavero, M. and E. Garcia-Berthou. 2005. Invasive species are a leading cause of animal extinctions. *TRENDS in Ecology and Evolution* 20:110.

5 Threatened Island Biodiversity Database Partners (2012) *The Threatened Island Biodiversity Database*: developed by Island Conservation, University of California Santa Cruz Coastal Conservation Action Lab, BirdLife International, IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group. Version 2012.1. Available at <http://tib.islandconservation.org>

6 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005. *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis*. Island Press, Washington, DC.

7 Mwebaze, P., MacLeod A., Tomlinson, D., Barois, H. & Rijpma, J. 2010. Economic valuation of the influence of invasive alien species on the economy of the Seychelles islands. *Ecological Economics* 69: 2614-2623.

estimated damage from invasive species is US\$1.4 trillion annually (5% of the global economy).⁸

The negative impacts of climate change, a threat to the very existence of some islands, is projected to compound biodiversity loss through invasive species. Climate change is likely to increase opportunities for invasive species because of their adaptability to disturbance and to a broader range of biogeographic conditions and environmental controls. The impacts of those invasive species may be more severe as they increase both in numbers and extent, and as they compete for diminishing resources such as water.⁹

Proven tools for addressing the threat of invasive species include prevention, removal, and/or management (www.issg.org) can prevent the introduction or re-introduction of invasive species by implementing a biosecurity plan. If invasive species are present, removal or re-location from the island may be possible. Over 1,100 eradications of invasive alien vertebrates have been successfully completed to date. If invasive species cannot be removed, quarantining invasive species habitat reduces their spread and impact. Drastic action is needed to prevent, remove and manage the threat of invasive species in order to save the invaluable biodiversity of islands.

To escalate awareness of the need for action and build on successful approaches a working group focused on reducing threat of invasive species has been co-chaired by Island Conservation and the U.S. National Invasive Species Council through the Global Island Partnership. This working group, open to any entity willing to take action to reduce the threat of invasives on islands, is focused on supporting political leadership on the issue in islands. The working group has helped to promote improved coordination between the regions.

Small Islands, Big Difference

Region: Global

Focal Point: Olivier Langrand, Island Conservation, olivier.langrand@islandconservation.org

Website: www.smallislandsbigdifference.org

Small Islands, Big Difference (SIBD) is a global campaign to save island species and preserve biodiversity through the eradication of invasive

⁸ Burgiel, S. and Muir, A. 2010. Invasive Species, Climate Change and Ecosystem-Based Adaptation: Addressing Multiple Drivers of Global Change. Global Invasive Species Programme. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/ecdocs/2010-054.pdf>

⁹ Burgiel, S. and Muir, A. 2010.

Invasive Species pose huge threat to food security.

“I believe that the related biosecurity and invasive species issues are absolutely critical to our region and should serve as a model for active and effective response by all of our governments. Aside from Climate Change, no other issue so dramatically alters our island landscapes than invasive species and the broader issues of biosecurity.”

H.E. TOMMY E. REMENGESAU, JR.
President of Palau
Co-Chair of GLISPA



© Bill Nagle



Devastating native flora and fauna.

© David Mudge

species from islands. SIBD serves as a vehicle to inform policy, influence global funding mechanisms, and protect threatened plant and animal species on islands through the eradication of invasive alien vertebrates from islands worldwide and through the prevention of new vertebrate invasions. The goal of the SIBD campaign is to support hundreds of partners in protecting thousands of species through the removal of invasive species from 500 islands.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ Campaign to support island leadership and political momentum towards invasive species
- ★ A global, coordinated, and collaborative effort that serves the Parties to the CBD in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as set goals in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and National Invasive Species Strategies and Action Plans
- ★ Developing and promoting tools, like the Threatened Island Biodiversity (TIB) Database and Database of Island Invasive Species Eradications (DIISE) to help partners identify, plan, and implement island restoration projects worldwide
- ★ Creating new funding streams from governments and international bi- and multi-lateral organizations to implement invasive species eradications on islands
- ★ Strengthen and secure international and national policies that support funding island restoration work.

The Restoration of Allen Cay, the Bahamas

Region: Allen Cay, Exuma Islands, the Bahamas, Caribbean.

Partnership and collaboration was essential to the successful eradication of invasive house mice from Allen Cay. In 2012, the Bahamas National Trust and Island Conservation worked together with government, NGO and private partners to protect Audubon’s Shearwater and improve breeding habitat for the endangered endemic Allen Cay Rock Iguana. This successful partnership protected nationally and globally significant biodiversity, and also created conditions for future restoration projects in the Bahamas. It also built local capacity to implement future eradication projects. A strong partnership now exists to increase the scale and efficacy of future Bahamian island eradication projects to protect threatened species. Sharing expertise and resources will help conservation

“The Small Islands, Big Difference campaign is a very exciting way for individuals, organizations, governments, or funding institutions to engage in conserving some of the most threatened species globally and therefore directly contribute to achieving the 2020 global targets set forth by the Convention on Biological Diversity”

DR. GUSTAVO A.B. DA FONSECA
Secretariat Global Environment Facility

Vermillion fly catcher on Isabela Island, Galapagos, Ecuador.

Iguana, Dominican Republic.

“[This restoration] is an ideal model for effective conservation projects in the Caribbean. Supported by strong partnerships at local, regional, and international level, this project has delivered great conservation results.”

ING. JOSE M. MATEO

Director of Biodiversity, Ministry of
Environmental and Natural Resources
Dominican Republic

practitioners determine where invasive species threaten biodiversity and empower local agencies to invest in the protection of native species on islands.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ Local ownership and management of an island restoration project – the first removal of mice in the Bahamas
- ★ The partnership continues to pursue opportunities for organizational collaboration through designation of national parks and assessing the feasibility of removing IAV to restore the habitat of threatened species.
- ★ Bahamas National Trust plans to replicate the success at Allen Cay with other islands to protect threatened native wildlife and help sustain natural capital for a nature-based tourism economy.

Isla Cabritos Restoration Project, Dominican Republic

Region: Lake Enriquillo, Dominican Republic, Caribbean

Isla Cabritos and the lake shores together comprise the Lake Enriquillo and Isla Cabritos National Park, one of the most important protected areas in the Dominican Republic. The Park forms the core of the Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo Biosphere reserve and is home to about 93 species of birds. The lake and shores provide livelihoods to local communities and artisanal fisheries.

Isla Cabritos is home to the critically endangered Ricord's Iguana that is threatened by invasive cats and donkeys. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in the Dominican Republic, in partnership with the Centre for Agriculture and Bio-Sciences International (CABI), the Ornithological Society of Hispaniola, and Island Conservation, is leading an effort to remove the invasive species to help restore Isla Cabritos and protect and preserve the Ricord's Iguana as well as other native species on the island.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ 100 donkeys were removed from the island alive and given to people living in communities near Lake Enriquillo
- ★ The work was implemented by residents of the Dominican Republic with support and training from international organizations, building capacity within the Dominican Republic to undertake meaningful conservation efforts.



“This announcement is a major milestone for the recovery of Allen Cay and for our partnership. We plan to replicate this success on other islands being damaged by invasive species”

ERIC CAREY

Executive Director for the Bahamas
National Trust

Pacific Invasive Partnership

Region: Pacific

Focal Point: Josua Wainiqolo, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, JosuaW@spc.int, www.sprep.org/Pacific-Invasives-Partnership/invasive-partnerships

Pacific Invasive Partnership (PIP) is the umbrella regional coordinating body for agencies working on invasive species (pests, weeds and diseases introduced from other places) in more than one country of the Pacific. It is the invasive species working group of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation.

The partnership comprises the regional agencies: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and University of the South Pacific (USP); two regional

programmes: Pacific Invasive Initiative (PII) and the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) and other agencies working on invasive species in the region. PIP is dedicated to coordinated planning and assistance to meet the needs of the Pacific Island countries and Territories.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ Increased political support for invasive species management especially, Pacific Island Forum Leaders acknowledging the escalating threat of invasive species on Pacific economies and environments and calling for further efforts and investment to effectively address this threat in the communiqués from their 2012 and 2013 meetings
- ★ Increased technical support and capacity development to countries and territories including development of best practice resources for rodent and cat eradication and invasive plant management
- ★ Increased action-on-the-ground including successful eradication of invasive plants, rodents, cats, rabbits and goats on islands and on-going control of rats, invasive plants and invasive birds
- ★ Increased cooperation and coordination at the national and regional levels such as the establishment of French Polynesia Invasive Species Archipelagic Network and the Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council
- ★ Increased investment in invasive species management.

Target a Tree to Save a Forest – Tavita’s Story

Location: American Samoa

Focal Point: Tavita Togia, National Park of American Samoa;
tavita_togia@nps.gov

Tavita Togia a terrestrial ecologist at the American Samoa National Park Service spends his days fighting invasive Tamaligi trees to give a real chance for native trees to thrive. Invasive species are the biggest threat to biodiversity in small island countries. American Samoa has suffered from the introductions of many alien species; from the giant African snail, the cane-toads, tropical fire ants, rubber trees, African tulip-trees, Singapore daisy and the Tamaligi (*Albizia*) causing massive decline in native species and environment degradation.

Invasive Tamaligi trees grow rapidly and tower over many of the slow growing native species. Tavita builds and inspires a team of young American

Samoans to climb the steep hills of Tutuila island to remove Tamaligi. Ten years since they started the work, native trees are coming up where once the Tamaligi stood, and the local community is getting behind removal of the invasive trees to save their forests.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ Having a passionate leader that believes in the harm caused by invasive species and takes action
- ★ Working with local and overseas partners to assist with provision of resources, building technical capacity and provide other necessary support to allow the team to battle invasive species
- ★ Respecting the culture, traditions and values of the Samoan traditions to endear, inspire and strengthen stewardship of local communities to act.

USEFUL RESOURCES

List of online invasive alien species databases:

www.gisin.org/gisinlist.htm

CABI Invasive Species Compendium: **www.cabi.org/isc** (currently only available to CABI partners)

Database of Island Invasive Species Eradications:

<http://eradicationsdb.fos.auckland.ac.nz>

FishBase: **www.fishbase.org**

Global Compendium of Weeds: **www.hear.org/gcw**

Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN): **www.gisin.org**

Global Invasive Species Database (GISD): **www.issg.org/database**

Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII): **www.pacificinvasivesinitiative.org**

Island Biodiversity and Invasive Species Database:

<http://ibis.fos.auckland.ac.nz>

Island Conservation: **www.islandconservation.org**

IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group: **www.issg.org**

Threatened Island Biodiversity Database:

<http://tib.islandconservation.org>

WHO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures:

www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm



© Matthew Fehenski, UNEP GRID-Arendal

Ecosystem based adaptation is a cost effective solution for islands. The Bahamas.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

The special characteristics of islands (e.g. geographic isolation, frequency of natural disasters and extreme weather events, nature-based livelihoods, socio-economic conditions) make them highly vulnerable to a large range of potential impacts from climate variability and change.

Island biodiversity is particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts due to typically high levels of endemic species with regionally restricted distributions. Islands are often characterised by high levels of biodiversity that provide essential goods and services for local communities. In particular, climate change heavily impacts coral reefs, fisheries and other marine-based resources. Projected sea level rise poses a high risk for low-lying islands and their coastal resources (e.g. corals, mangroves, and reef fish).

In addition, rapid climate change will lead to greater numbers of introductions and enhanced colonisation by invasive species, with consequent increases in impacts on these island ecosystems.

Resilience is the ability of an ecosystem to absorb disturbance without shifting to an alternative state and losing ecosystem function and services. Resilient and healthy ecosystems are a cost-effective way of managing some of the adverse impacts of climate change, such as increased storm surge, flood and erosion control. For example, the investment of US\$1.1 million in mangrove restoration is estimated to have saved US\$7.3 million in dyke maintenance in Vietnam, while providing coastal protection and ecosystem services to communities.¹⁰ Similarly, it is estimated that coral reefs and seagrass protect 5.5% of Jamaica's GDP from sea-level rise and tropical cyclones.¹¹ Maintaining and restoring biodiversity promotes resilience to human-induced pressures and is therefore an essential 'insurance policy' and safeguard against expected climate change impacts. When appropriately designed, ecosystem restoration and management can also increase carbon sequestration and decrease emissions from ecosystem degradation, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation.

The Majuro Declaration: Moving Beyond Consensus

Region/Country: Republic of the Marshall Islands

Focal Point: The Honourable Tony deBrum, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Marshall Islands

www.majurodeclaration.org

"The responsibility of all to act falls to every government, every company, every organization and every person with the capacity to do so, both individually and collectively," states the Declaration. Endorsed by the leaders of the 44th Pacific Island Forum in 2013 and since signed by Mexico, the State of Hawai'i, the European Union and its member states, United Kingdom and the United States of America, the Majuro Declaration targets

¹⁰ Reid, H and Huq, S. 2005. Climate change – biodiversity and livelihood impacts. Tropical forests and adaptation to climate change: in search of synergies. Adaptation to climate change, sustainable livelihoods and biological diversity, Turrialba, Costa Rica, March 2004., 57-70

¹¹ United Nations Environment Programme. Using ecosystems to address climate change – Ecosystem based adaptation. Nairobi, Kenya: Regional Seas Programme, Information Series, No. 1.

“It is a common misconception that sea level rise is the greatest threat to small island countries, when in fact the decline of the coral reefs that help feed and protect us and contribute to our wealth and well being is a more immediate threat to the economic viability and the very physical existence of many of our islands.”

H.E. RONNY JUMEAU

Ambassador for Climate Change and SIDS Issues
Chair of the GLISPA Steering Committee
Republic of Seychelles

the leaders that see the urgent need for climate action beyond the globally agreed targets.

The Declaration enables leaders to make commitments to emissions reductions, renewable energies as well as energy efficiencies that are central to climate change mitigation. These commitments set the framework for advancing greater island resilience, blue and green growth as well as act as a beacon to other leaders to make visionary goals.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ Provides a framework for progressive leaders who want to move beyond consensus targets
- ★ Demonstrates the power of island leaders to inspire greater leadership.

Namdrik Atoll Local Resources Committee

Region: Micronesia

Country: Republic of the Marshall Islands

Focal Point: Albon Ishoda, Namdrik Atoll Local Resources Committee

Award: Winner of the 2012 Equator Prize

To reduce dependence on declining fisheries and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, Namdrik Atoll Local Resources Committee is promoting a model of community self-sufficiency, local food security and adaptation. Through the development of a Management Plan, the Committee is using a multifaceted approach to conserve biodiversity, address invasive species, improve agricultural resources, and strengthen community resilience to climate change.

The Management Plan includes several components. Traditional crops such as breadfruit, taro and native pandanus have been reintroduced to protect and restore soil, diversify agriculture and open value-added secondary processing industries for local communities. A pearl farm provides jobs and a revenue stream to fund community development projects in education and health. Training in rainwater harvesting is providing the community with access to safe drinking water, and access to solar technology is providing the community with a source of renewable energy. The Management Plan also includes initiatives to restore shoreline vegetation through native and traditionally-used species. The initiative is community-owned, fueled by local



Coastal erosion

© Ashish Shah



© Stockphoto/Tinkatock



**“The village of
Grand-Sable in Mauritius is
highly vulnerable to the effects
of climate change. We’ve been
given an opportunity through this
project, which has empowered us
to make future progress so as to
sustain our livelihoods as well as
that of our families today and
in the future.”**

MRS. ARISTIDE

Grand-Sable Women Planters Farmers
Entrepreneurs Association

leadership and has provided a sustainability model that has been replicated in other atoll communities across islands in the Pacific.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ A **sustainable and innovative financing mechanism** that supports community livelihoods
- ★ **Conserves biodiversity** and protects local resources
- ★ Pursues **ecosystem-based adaptation** to climate change
- ★ Fueled by **local leadership** and supported by the community.

Women Farmers Create Alternative Livelihoods and Build Resilience

Country: Mauritius

Focal Point: Geraldine Fine Aristide, President of the Grand-Sable Women Planters Farmers Entrepreneurs Association

Communities in Grand-Sable rely upon agricultural land for vegetable plantations and pasture for livestock; however, poor farming practices and improper knowledge of land maintenance, coupled with heavy rains, soil erosion, waterlogging, and higher annual temperatures, create poor growing conditions for crops and present a threat to community livelihoods.

To combat these threats and improve security for members of the community, the Grand-Sable Women Planters Farmers Entrepreneurs Association sought solutions in diversified or alternative livelihoods. Sites were selected via a Vulnerability Reduction Assessment (VRA), which engaged the community in evaluating its vulnerability to risk and openness to sustaining the project. Households in chosen sites were then educated in alternative livelihoods, which include seaweed farming and the development of seaweed-derived products, the cultivation of Vetiver (a flood-mitigating crop) and other medicinal plants and roots, and small-scale household waste composting.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ Alternative and diversified livelihoods protect farming households from financial and crop losses they may experience during periods of flooding or drought
- ★ Project has long-term impact by creating a lasting source of income and improving agricultural and ecological conditions.

This project was the winner of the **Island Bright Spot Award of the 2013 Solution Search** coordinated by Rare and The Nature Conservancy. The project was funded by the Australian AID Small Island Developing States Community-Based Adaptation Project (SIDS CBA) through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme.

USEFUL RESOURCES AND TOOLS

Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS): www.aosis.org

Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange, CAKEX: www.cakex.org

Ecosystem-based Management Tools Network:
<http://ebmtoolsdatabase.org>

Many Strong Voices: www.manystrongvoices.org

Pacific Solution Exchange Climate Change Community:
www.solutionexchange-un.net/pacific/index.php

SPREP Pacific Climate Change Portal: www.pacificclimatechange.net

UNEP Global Adaptation Network: <http://ganadapt.org>

The FAO's "Pacific Food Security Toolkit:
Building resilience to climate change – root crop and fishery production
(2010) (www.sprep.org/att/IRC/eCOPIES/Pacific_Region/677.pdf)


UNEP's "Pacific Island Mangroves in a Changing Climate and Rising
Sea: (2006) (www.unep.org/PDF/mangrove-report.pdf)

SOPAC Framework for Action 2005–2015: building the resilience of nations
and communities to disasters (www.sopac.int/RfA+2005+2015)



Onion plantations at Grand Sable, Mauritius.





“[The International Year of SIDS] is recognition that the world needs to step up its action and work in a coordinated and integrated way to make a difference in the lives of the people of SIDS.”

H.E. TUILA'ÉPA LUPESOLIAI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI

Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa
Host of the Third International Conference on SIDS,
September 2014

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES AND INITIATIVES

NEW AND INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES are emerging as potential models in sustainable development to help build the island “Future We Want”.¹ Emerging bright spots and innovative initiatives are shared around:

- *Spotlight on Europe Overseas*
- *Hawai‘i’s Emerging Leadership in the Green and Blue Economy*
- *Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage: Charting a new course to sustainability*
- *Emerging Leadership in the Western Indian Ocean*
- *CBD LifeWeb: Island Resilience Campaign*

SPOTLIGHT ON EUROPE OVERSEAS

With island and mainland territories scattered across the globe, the EU Overseas entities host an outstanding diversity of landscapes, ecosystems and species² and also play a key role in efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts. Spread across all oceans and in South America, the 34 overseas territories including 8 Outermost Regions and 26 Overseas Countries and Territories³ are home to more than 70% of the EU’s biodiversity.

1 The Future We Want Outcome Document adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, Rio de Janeiro, 22 June 2012: www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/727The%20Future%20We%20Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf

2 www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/overseas_list

3 Europe overseas include: **Denmark:** Greenland; **France:** French Guiana, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Territories (TAAF), Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Reunion Island, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Wallis and Futuna; **Netherlands:** Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Saint Eustatius, Sint Maarten; **Portugal:** Azores, Madeira; Spain: Canary Islands; **United Kingdom:** Anguilla, Bermuda British Antarctic Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Ascension Island, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands; British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The designation of geographical entities in this bid, does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

New Caledonia alone, although smaller than Belgium, has a number of endemic species comparable to the entire European continent, and is largely responsible for the inclusion of France among the world's 18 "Megadiverse Countries", the only European country on the list. Greenland, an overseas territory of Denmark, has within its border the largest terrestrial protected area on Earth.⁴ French Guyana hosts 95% of the French vertebrate fauna and the biggest national park of the European Union. The combined Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the area is >15 million km square, an incredibly diverse and biologically rich marine domain. French Polynesia's marine territory alone is as wide as the European Union and hosts 20% of the world's lagoons.

Local communities and economies of Europe Overseas are highly reliant on biodiversity for food security, livelihoods and poverty reduction. As is the case with islands globally, the biodiversity that supports communities inhabiting the European Overseas countries and territories is highly vulnerable to negative impacts of unsustainable development, invasive species and climate change.

Building Framework for Action

There is growing awareness of the global ecological value and importance of Europe overseas as well as focus on how to tackle biodiversity loss. However, the level of financial investment for tackling the challenges is limited.

In 2008, the Government of France and the Regional Council of Reunion Island with IUCN convened the first conference "EU and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to Counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss". This meeting resulted in a joint strategy and action plan to counter biodiversity loss and the impacts on climate change *Message from Reunion Island (2008)*. In 2010, in response to the Message, the European Parliament initiated the "Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas" (BEST)⁵ with the objective to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in European Outermost Regions and European Overseas Countries and Territories.

BEST has provided political leverage to this issue for Europe overseas entities and has acted as an important stepping stone towards developing

4 Northeast Greenland National Park, 972 000 square kilometres

5 <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm#best>



Aldabra giant tortoise on Cousin Island Special Reserve, Seychelles.

© Nature Seychelles/Peter Chadwick

a mechanism dedicated to protecting and sustaining the incredible array and amount of biodiversity in Europe overseas. Thus far, 18 projects have been selected for funding and granted with the available budget of €2 million annually to designation and management of terrestrial and marine protected areas, activities for combating invasive species, synergies using ecosystem services for climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as for effective implementation.

BEST initiative is seeking new partners for continuing to support local and regional actions for people and biodiversity in Europe overseas to continue to build synergies to strengthen and enhance the impact of actions in these regions.

Europe Overseas is a strategic gateway for regional cooperation activities between Europe with the Pacific, the Caribbean, the South Atlantic, the Macaronesian and West Africa regions, the North Atlantic and the Arctic, the Sub Antarctic and the Antarctic Regions and the Indian Ocean region. There is growing momentum between Europe overseas entities learning, sharing and scaling initiatives with neighboring island countries and countries with islands as well as leadership of Europe overseas being champions of island conservation and sustainable livelihoods, as demonstrated by the British Virgin Islands co-hosting of the Summit of Political and Business Leaders and the Caribbean Challenge Initiative. In recent years there has

also been growing engagement of the Overseas Country and Territories Association with GLISPA. In 2012, during CBD COP 11, at a high level event coordinated by the GLISPA,⁶ The Honourable Maurice Ponga, New Caledonia's Member of the European Parliament, announced an additional commitment of €2million of funding to BEST.

In 22 to 25 October 2014, “La Guadeloupe Conference: a critical milestone to sustain further action” will be held. This conference will assess implementation of “the Message from Reunion Island”. Further it will identify key priorities for action taking into account the outcomes from the UNSIDS Conference in Samoa and the outcome of CBD COP 12. It will further define a roadmap towards creation of the BEST Facility to promote the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services in EU ORs and OCTs, that will include support to local and regional actions on the ground.

The World Heritage listing of the Lagoons of New Caledonia: a Catalyst for Participatory Management

Region: New Caledonia, Pacific

Focal Point: Nathalie BAILLON, Conservatoire des espaces naturels, dircen@cen.nc

The reefs, lagoons and associated ecosystems of New Caledonia have been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since July 2008. The listed property is a serial property, made up of a set of six areas, covering 16 000 sq km representing some 60% of the total area of the coral environment and lagoons of New Caledonia. Since 2006, the Government of New Caledonia and the three provinces, with the help of the French State, are working to implement a real participative management on the six areas. Thirteen community-based management committees have been created to work on management plans, including environmental diagnosis (based on scientific data but also on empirical knowledge of local people). Some of these plans are ready and many actions have already been carried out, not only on the property zones but also on the terrestrial buffer zones, by a large variety of actors: technical staffs of New Caledonia and provinces, management committees, NGOs and scientists. The Conservatory of Natural Spaces of New-Caledonia was created in 2011 and has since 2012 coordinated the management of the six areas.

⁶ <http://glispa.org/images/glispa/events/1210-GLISPA-EVENTSPOTLIGHT-CBDCOP-11.pdf>





© Stuart Chappe

Isle of Pines, New Caledonia.

WHAT MAKES IT BRIGHT?

- ★ It encompasses all the complexity of the coral environment and its associated ecosystems (mangrove stands, seagrass beds and algae fields) and includes an extraordinary diversity of morphologies, physical environments, habitats and biodiversity, in a good state of conservation.
- ★ An integrated management in all the marine and terrestrial areas
- ★ Participatory management at the institutional level as well as local populations
- ★ Coordination of the management of six areas listed ensured by working for example on global communication on the serial property, organizing meetings to permit committees to meet and exchange information, creating educational tools for scholars, elaborating reports for the World Heritage Committee.

HAWAI'I'S EMERGING LEADERSHIP IN THE GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY

Governments are seeking to lead their nations out of economic and environmental crises while building strong economies that account for ecological limits. To this end, the green economy has been proposed as a means to galvanize policy action and international cooperation in support of ***economies that improve social equity and well being while***

significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

The concept gained particular prominence as one of the two key themes of the 2012 UN Sustainable Development Conference (Rio+20). Although the green economy is gaining momentum internationally, the concept is still evolving. Islands are lending their unique perspectives to the movement. For instance, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have championed expanding the green economy concept to include the *blue economy*, to better reflect their roles as stewards of vast oceans and their dependence on marine resources for their livelihoods and economies. The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) seeks to highlight examples of the blue and green economy concept put into action.

GLISPA applied its experience facilitating international collaboration and commitments to help Hawai'i forge a strong partnership that brings together leaders from across business, government, academia and civil society, to advance statewide sustainability goals. This collaboration, called ***Hawai'i Green Growth***, demonstrates the effectiveness of an integrated, holistic approach to sustainability. It now serves as a catalyst for multi-sector action to advance Hawai'i's emerging green economy.

Green Growth Critical to Hawai'i's Future

Focal Point: Hawai'i Green Growth, Audrey Newman, Senior Advisor, Hawai'i, Green Growth (HGG) and Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), audrey.newman@glispa.org

With mounting threats to energy, food, and water security, infrastructure, and public health and safety, Hawai'i is a microcosm for security issues facing the globe. Hawai'i's depend on imports for roughly 95% of their energy and 85-90% of their food, at an estimated annual cost of more than \$8 billion. Many threats to endemic species also make the islands a hotspot for biodiversity loss. Although comprising less than 0.2% of the land area of the United States, the Hawai'ian Islands are home to more than 30% of the nation's endangered or threatened species.

Climate change presents an added challenge for ecosystems and for Hawai'i's built environment and communities, all of which must respond and adapt. The islands have already experienced sea-level rise, increases in air and sea-surface temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns, and declining freshwater supplies. Climate models suggest that sea level will rise ~6 inches to 5 feet by 2100. Rising sea levels have the potential to increase coastal flooding and coastal erosion, impacting coastal

infrastructure, tourism, and reef ecosystems. Meanwhile, increases in sea temperatures and ocean acidification will have negative consequences for nearshore and open ocean ecosystems and fisheries. Important species on land will also be affected. Increasing temperatures and an increased risk of drought in some areas are expected to further stress upland native ecosystems, which are critical to freshwater recharge.

EARLY ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY: THE FOUNDATION FOR A BLUE-GREEN ECONOMY

For decades, Hawai'i leaders have recognized the islands' vulnerability in the face of change, and have developed major initiatives for clean energy, food and water security, and biodiversity resilience. Statewide efforts over the years provide the foundation for building a blue and green economy. For example:

- One of the most comprehensive community-based planning processes in the state's history culminated in the 2007 release of the **Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan**, outlining goals for Hawai'i's sustainable future, strategic actions to achieve those goals, and indicators to measure sustainability.
- Under the **Hawai'i Invasive Species Council**, a cabinet-level inter-agency collaboration, Hawai'i maintains committed statewide leadership and an action network for invasive species prevention and management.
- A **statewide network of 11 watershed partnerships** collectively manages more than 2.2 million acres of forested land, spanning all of the mountain ranges in the state.
- In 2007, Hawai'i became one of the first states in the nation to enact **major climate change legislation** establishing greenhouse gas emissions limits, with a law that requires emissions reductions to levels at or below 1990 levels by 2020. The State of Hawai'i and the U.S. Department of Energy established the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative to work toward phasing in clean energy for electricity and transportation.
- Hawai'i was the **first in the nation to enact a barrel tax on petroleum**, which raises revenues for state programmes that promote energy self-sufficiency, local food production, and emergency environmental response.

These world-class conservation and sustainability programmes remained isolated, however, working toward individual goals. Seeing the opportunity



Governor Abercrombie of Hawai'i greets Ambassador Jumeau of Seychelles (Chair of GLISPA Steering Committee) at state reception.

for Hawai'i to coordinate its actions toward building an integrated green economy, GLISPA and its Hawai'i-based partners began working to enhance collaboration. These efforts coalesced as Hawai'i Green Growth, a forum of leaders from across the energy, food and environment sectors, with the shared vision to achieve Hawai'i's sustainability goals and serve as a model for green growth.

TARGETS FOR GREEN AND BLUE GROWTH

Launched in 2011, Hawai'i Green Growth has grown to over 50 active working group members who collaborate on key strategies to develop the state's green and blue economy. In addition to high-level representatives from business, the non-profit sector, and academia, all of the relevant government agencies and offices are involved, including the Governor's office. Jointly, these leaders set ambitious targets to create a more secure, sustainable, and resilient economy for Hawai'i by 2030:

- 1. 70% clean energy** – 40% from renewable energy & 30% from energy conservation
- 2. Double local food production** – 20-30% of food consumed in Hawai'i is locally produced



**“The Hawai‘ian Islands
are a learning laboratory for
scalable, innovative mitigation;
adaptation policies and techniques;
and providing a model on local and
regional collaboration.”**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE

Governor of the State of Hawai‘i
United States

3. **Reverse the trend of natural resource loss** – more fresh water; more reef fish; more healthy forests, streams, and coastlines; and no new extinctions of Hawai‘ian species
4. **Increase local green jobs and education** to implement these targets

Recognizing that waste, climate change, and the built environment are key issues for the state, Hawai‘i Green Growth is added two more targets in 2014:

5. **Reduce the solid waste stream prior to disposal by 50%**, through source reduction, recycling and bioconversion
6. **Increase livability and resilience in the built environment** through planning and implementation at the state and county levels

HAWAI‘I: A MODEL FOR INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY

“Hawai‘i has the potential to be a pioneer and advocate for green growth,” U.S. Ambassador Kurt Tong, Senior Official to APEC, said at the APEC 2011 and Hawai‘i Green Growth Briefing in Honolulu on August 9, 2011. Hawai‘i now showcases a wide range of large-scale green and blue initiatives. Recent actions to advance green growth in Hawai‘i include:

- In 2011, Governor Abercrombie announced the launch of the **Rain Follows the Forest: Hawai‘i Watershed Initiative**, a plan to replenish Hawai‘i’s water sources by doubling watershed land in protection over the next decade.
- President Obama appointed Hawai‘i’s governor to serve on the **President’s Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience**. This led to a major focus on climate resilience and sustainability in the Governor’s 2014 legislative priorities, including a proposed Hawai‘i Climate Adaptation Initiative to support climate change adaptation research, planning, and coordination.
- **Green funding mechanisms** for clean energy, food self-reliance, watershed protection and invasive species management are supported by diverse, community leaders at the State Legislature and in editorials.
- County sustainability offices, state agencies, university and private sector representatives formed a **statewide partnership to collectively work on sustainability measures**.
- Governor Abercrombie appointed the first **State Sustainability Coordinator** in October 2013. One of the first initiatives under her direction was the creation of a website, Sustainability.Hawaii.gov,

which will serve as a community resource and encourage people to get involved in green growth.

- The first report on ***Economic Trends in Hawai'i Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resource Management*** analyzed Hawai'i's emerging green economy in 2012. Among other findings, the study concluded that Hawai'i could simultaneously strengthen the economy and sustainability through green jobs training programmes and through strategic incentives to accelerate green growth in key sectors.

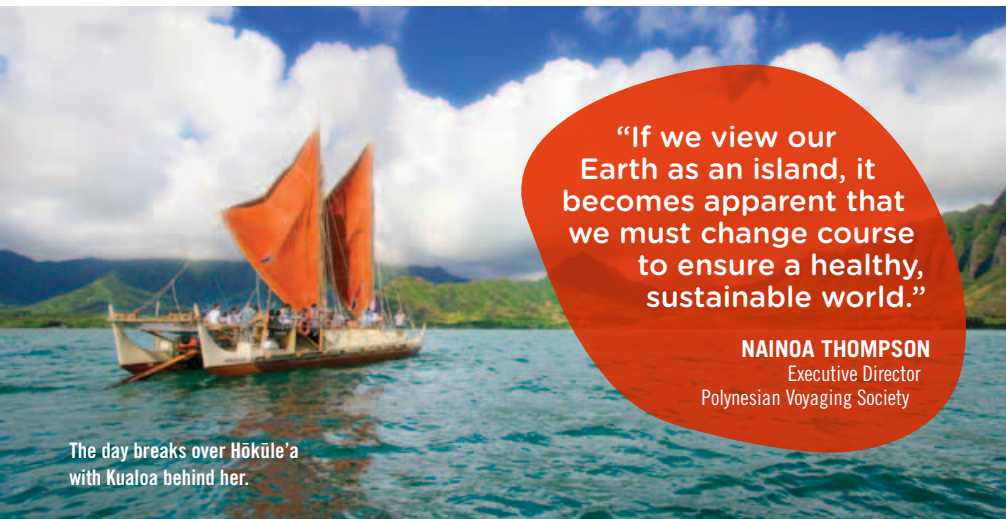
Hawai'i Green Growth strengthens all these initiatives by providing a forum for cooperation and mutual support. Under Hawai'i Green Growth, leaders develop shared priorities, support innovative funding mechanisms and enhance their legislative strategy, as well as coordinate action toward the 2030 targets.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND RECOGNITION AS A LEADER IN THE GREEN ECONOMY

Hawai'i has been recognized at the international level for its integrated approach and actions to build a green and blue economy, and Hawai'i's leaders recognize the benefit from exchanging knowledge, strategies, and best practices with islands around the world. Early examples of Hawai'i's international engagement include:

- Welcomed by the US State Department, United Nations, and Pacific Island leaders, Hawai'i became the first sub-national government to sign onto **the Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership**.
- Hosted the **Third Asia-Pacific Clean Energy Summit** and the **First Islands and Isolated Communities Congress** in September 2013.
- Held a state reception for **The Honourable Ronald Jumeau**, Seychelles Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing State Issues and Chair of the Global Island Partnership Steering Committee attended by more than 130 sustainability leaders from Hawai'i, the US, and the Asia-Pacific region.
- Hawai'i's leadership in integrated green growth was recognized at the **2012 World Conservation Congress** in South Korea and the **Island Summit** held at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 11th Conference of the Parties (COP 11) in India.

Hawai'i Governor Abercrombie and his cabinet agreed to join GLISPA in 2013 and are working with other elected officials and Hawai'i Green Growth to announce the state's first international commitment to sustainability in 2014.



The day breaks over Hōkūle'a with Kualoa behind her.

“If we view our Earth as an island, it becomes apparent that we must change course to ensure a healthy, sustainable world.”

NAINOA THOMPSON
Executive Director
Polynesian Voyaging Society

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MĀLAMA HONUA WORLDWIDE VOYAGE: CHARTING A NEW COURSE TO SUSTAINABILITY

In May 2014, as we celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity: Island Biodiversity, the traditional Polynesian voyaging canoe – Hōkūle'a, and Hikianalia – her sister voyaging canoe, will set sail on a three-year voyage around the world to chart a new course for a resilient and sustainable future.

The voyage, led by Master Navigator Nainoa Thompson and a new generation of navigators, will use only the signs of the waves, winds and stars to find their way around the Earth. One key stop is the Third International Conference of Small Island Developing States (UNSIDS) in Samoa in September 2014. These courageous navigators will bring the stories of our islands and oceans to inspire leaders to take action to protect these critical resources. The Hōkūle'a and Hikianalia crew will then carry this message to 26 countries and 85 communities on its 47,000 nautical mile voyage.

Take Action to Support the Worldwide Voyage:

- Make a donation to help its incredible crew take the message of islands and oceans globally
- Confirm your countries support to the Voyage arriving in your country
- Share news of the Voyage and its incredible journey:
www.hokulea.org

GLISPA is assisting the Voyage to meet with leaders of island countries and countries with islands.

An aerial photograph of a small, rocky island in the Seychelles. The island is covered in dense green vegetation and has a rugged, rocky coastline. The water around the island is a vibrant turquoise color, transitioning to a deeper blue further out. In the background, other islands and a clear blue sky with some clouds are visible.

**“The Western
Indian Ocean Coastal
Challenge can become an
example to the world on
how to integrate climate
change adaptation, ecosystem
management, biodiversity
conservation, clean energy for
sustainable livelihoods with
development.”**

PROFESSOR ROLPH PAYET
Minister for Environment and Energy
Republic of Seychelles

SUPPORTING EMERGENCE OF THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN COASTAL CHALLENGE

The **Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge (WIOCC)** was first proposed by the President of Seychelles in 2007 as a “platform to galvanize political, financial and technical commitments and actions at national and regional levels on climate change adaptation, promoting resilient ecosystems (marine and coastal resources), sustainable livelihoods, and human security”. To realize his vision, consultations have been held with country representatives of the WIO and coastal countries of East Africa as well as with partners in the region and at significant international meetings hosted by the Government of Seychelles.

During Rio+20, the Vice President of Seychelles announced that the WIOCC received funding from the **European Union** through the **Indian Ocean Commission ISLANDS Project** to support mobilization of WIO country level engagement and that Seychelles was committed to supporting efforts to build a common vision and regional strategy. This funding has provided the necessary financial resources to support the countries and support partners, including the Indian Ocean Commission, the **Consortium of the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C)** and the **African Biodiversity Consultative Group** and the **Global Island Partnership** to help operationalize the WIOCC.

The WIOCC operationalization process, led by Seychelles as President of the WIOCC, has involved been a bright spot in supporting country leadership. Several technical meetings have been hosted by Seychelles with the support of the IOC ISLANDS Project, to help the countries determine the commitments that could be formally launched by interested countries during the Third International Meeting of Small Island Developing States (UNSIDS 2014) meeting, Apia, Samoa.

In December 2012, during the 7th Conference of Parties for the Nairobi Convention (COP 7), Mozambique, Decision CP7/16 requested Contracting Parties and other partners to support and encourage participation in the WIOCC as a means to mobilize political will and resources necessary to achieve the objectives of the Challenge and its strategic work. It further requested the Secretariat and invites the IOC and other partners to continue supporting the WIOCC through their respective work programmes. Seychelles has additionally taken leadership through engaging high-level leaders in target countries by sending delegations. In August 2013, the

Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar gave their in principle agreement for the President of Zanzibar to formally join the WIOCC during the 2014 UNSIDS meeting. Zanzibar has further passed a bill related to Zanzibar's support to the WIOCC.

Join and support the WIOCC at www.wiocc.org or wioccostalchallenge@gmail.com.

CBD LIFEWEB: ISLAND RESILIENCE CAMPAIGN

In recognition of the 2014 International Year of Small Island Developing States, CBD LifeWeb in partnership with GLISPA will launch a campaign to secure financing to support island countries and countries with islands and overseas territories build resilient and sustainable island communities that will contribute to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Island Resilience Campaign provides a unique opportunity to encourage investment in the bright spots emerging from islands globally that can be scaled and replicated. The campaign will identify at least 6 medium to large-scale initiatives that are working ('bright spots') and catalyze further commitment to support broader impact.

The Island Resilience Campaign seeks:

- Potential governments of island countries and countries with islands to submit potential project proposals that have the potential to build on bright spots that are advancing conservation and sustainable livelihoods, and will support implementation of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity
- Potential donor governments, agencies, public or private financial institutions who are interested in investing in the scale and replication of bright spots.

Contact with Charles Besançon, charles.besancon@cbd.int

ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (GEO SIDS)

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has begun preparation of an Environment Outlook for Small Islands Developing States (GEO SIDS) in recognition of the International Year of SIDS. UNEP has invited broad participation in the process through an online 'Community of Practice' hosted on its UNEP-Live platform. This product aim to support environmental



decision-making and facilitate science-policy interactions. They are developed through consultative, participatory processes that identify key issues and nominate advisors to provide guidance.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Environment Outlook 5 (www.unep.org/geo)

Read more:

<http://biodiversity-l.iisd.org/news/unep-invites-participation-in-geo-on-sids>

MAURITIUS EXPERIMENTAL ECOSYSTEMS/NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS OF MAURITIUS

To support various assessments such as TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity – UNEP), WAVES (Wealth Assessment and Valuation of Ecosystem Services – The World Bank) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Government of Mauritius and Indian Ocean Commission launched an experiment of checking the feasibility of ecosystem/natural capital accounts using data presently available in Mauritius and assessing the first outcomes in terms of statistical quality and policy relevance. Detailed accounts have been produced, in particular by river basins and socio-ecological units, that are the basis for reporting for various geographical breakdowns (e.g. the inland coastal zone). Preliminary provisional findings indicate that inclusion of sea coastal ecosystems in the application meets repeated policy requests and open the way for enhanced ecosystem based integrated coastal zones management.



USEFUL GLOBAL ONLINE INFORMATION RESOURCES

Global Island Partnership: www.glispa.org

Global Island Network: www.globalislands.net

Small Islands Developing States Network (SIDSNet): www.sidsnet.org

SIDS Policy & Practice: <http://sids-i.iisd.org>

United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States: <http://unohrlls.org>

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation:
www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/sids

University Consortium of Small Island States: www.myucsis.com

Regional Organisations

Indian Ocean Commission: www.commissionoceanindien.org/accueil

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme:
www.sprep.org

Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre:
www.caribbeanclimate.bz

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute: www.canari.org

UNEP-Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP-CAR/RCU):
www.cep.unep.org/about-cep/unep-car-rcu





GLOBAL
ISLAND
PARTNERSHIP



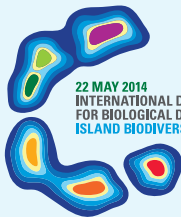
Convention on
Biological Diversity



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity



#islands2014
#BrightSpots



www.cbd.int

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
413 Saint Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, Quebec,
Canada H2Y 1N9
Tel +1 514-288-2220 Fax +1 514-288-6588
secretariat@cbd.int

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