

GLOBAL ISLAND PARTNERSHIP

2010 Strategy

FINAL - June 2008

The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) assists islands in addressing one of the world's greatest challenges – to conserve and sustainably utilise the invaluable island natural resources that support people, cultures and livelihoods in their island homes around the world. Recognising that islands have unique and isolated natural systems and are particularly vulnerable in a rapidly changing world, this Partnership brings together island countries and countries with islands – small and large, developing and developed – to mobilise leadership, increase resources and share solutions in a cost-effective and sustainable way that will catalyse action for conservation and sustainable livelihoods on islands.

GLISPA is recognised by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as a partnership to advance the implementation of the CBD 2010 target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss and the Programmes of Work on Island Biodiversity (IBPoW) and Protected Areas. GLISPA was created to help bridge local and global initiatives, build upon existing networks and programmes, and share knowledge among all of islands.

Mission Statement

GLISPA promotes actions for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods by inspiring leadership, catalysing commitments, and facilitating collaboration among all islands

Background

Since it was first called for at the Mauritius International Meeting in January 2005 and launched at the Eighth Conference of the Parties (COP8) for the Convention on Biological Diversity in Brazil in March 2006, GLISPA has grown rapidly.

More than 50 governments, multi and bilateral agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and private sector donors worldwide have worked with GLISPA to advance high level commitments and on the ground action for island conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

The GLISPA group spans all the regions of the world and includes leaders from Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), overseas territories, large island countries and countries with islands, bilateral and multilateral agencies, as well as local, national, regional and international organisations. Remarkably, the Partnership has achieved this without formal structure or dedicated staffing.

In September 2007, a group of active GLISPA participants met in Rome to outline GLISPA's first strategic plan and a global consultation process. This GLISPA 2010 Strategy will guide the Partnership, define membership and provide the necessary support structure, as GLISPA continues to evolve over the next three years.

More details on the GLISPA 2010 Strategy are available at

<http://www.cbd.int/island/glispa.shtml>

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GLISPA Principles

1. GLISPA is an *open* partnership, available to any national or local government, agency or organisation that shares its mission and supports the advancement of its objectives.
2. GLISPA commitments are based on global, national, regional and/or organisational *priorities*, including helping countries accelerate and improve action on key international policies and agreements.
3. Partners are responsible for implementing and funding their commitments, while the Partnership *assists* through its global network and capacity to facilitate action.
4. *Collaboration* is encouraged and facilitated by the Partnership but is always voluntary.
5. GLISPA concentrates on *adding value* to existing networks and initiatives.

GLISPA Membership

After three years of rapid growth and informal collaboration, GLISPA participants called for clear criteria and expectations for GLISPA membership. These are intended to strengthen the Partnership and ensure it remains responsive, high-leverage and credible as it grows. All past and future participants in GLISPA are invited to join the Partnership. However membership will not be required to participate in a GLISPA event. The GLISPA Steering Committee and Coordinator will invite all participants to officially join the Partnership in 2009.

GLISPA Membership Criteria

1. GLISPA membership is open to any entity – government, agencies, organisations, but also individuals – committed to taking significant action to ensure sustainable livelihoods, conserve nature or address global changes on islands.
2. Partners implement their commitments in accordance with GLISPA principles.
3. As appropriate, partners identify specific ways the Partnership can help advance their initiatives and specific ways they can help advance the Partnership.
4. Membership lapses in three years, unless the partner reports progress on its commitment(s).
5. The GLISPA Steering Committee decides any membership related issues.

Expectations of GLISPA Partners

1. Partners have a role in implementation or financing GLISPA commitments.
2. Partners assist others in advancing GLISPA goals, as appropriate.
3. Partners may use GLISPA to launch new initiatives, to strengthen implementation partnerships and/or to seek assistance.
4. Each partner identifies a GLISPA contact or focal point for regular contact with the Partnership.
5. Partners are willing to report on progress and acknowledge GLISPA assistance, as appropriate. (Ideally, this will be integrated with other reporting requirements).
6. Partners share their lessons learned with other islands and/or are receptive to requests for assistance or exchanges.

GLISPA Goals and Strategies

Goal 1: Support successful implementation of Partner commitments.

Goal 2: Catalyse new commitments to address critical island issues.

Goal 3: Establish and maintain a flexible and efficient Partnership responsive to its partners' needs and aspirations.

Strategy 1: Inspire and recognise leadership and commitments to action for island conservation and their people's sustainable livelihoods.

Strategy 2: Strengthen partnerships to support implementation of commitments and to build local long-term conservation capacity.

Strategy 3: Facilitate increased public and private funding for island priorities.

Strategy 4: Promote targeted and cost-effective collaboration and exchanges among islands.

Strategy 5: Engage in effective communication strategies on island issues.

Strategy 6: Build linkages between all islands, regardless of political status.

Strategy 7: Track progress on GLISPA commitments.

GLISPA 2010 Objectives

The following objectives reflect the countries and organisations that are currently active in GLISPA and using the Partnership to assist with planning, launching or implementing their major island commitments. For most of the commitments, lead participants have begun to identify and document specific ways to use GLISPA to help advance their initiatives and ways they can strengthen the Partnership. New commitments will be added with time and included in updates of the GLISPA 2010 plan. Critical milestones to track the Partnership's effectiveness are provided on p.3.

Goal 1: Support successful implementation of Partner commitments.

Goal 2: Catalyse new commitments to address critical island issues.

Strategy 1: Inspire and recognise leadership and commitments to action for island conservation and their people's sustainable livelihoods.

2010 Objectives

- 1.1 *Large-scale (regional or sub-regional) commitments* to effective conservation of island ecosystems launched in the Caribbean, Pacific, and explored in at least one more island region.
- 1.2 *Leadership and achievements by founding GLISPA Partners* recognised and used to inspire action by other island leaders.
- 1.3 Regional or global commitments under development to address the two global threats to islands that require transboundary actions - *invasive species* and *the effects of climate change*.

Strategy 2: Strengthen partnerships to support implementation of commitments and to build local long-term conservation capacity, including:

2010 Objectives

- 2.1 *Promote, facilitate and support new and existing partnerships* between governments, agencies, NGOs and the private sector at any level from local to global to advance planning and implementation of active GLISPA partner commitments.
- 2.2 For each GLISPA commitment, work with lead participants to identify and document specific ways the Partnership can help *advance their initiatives*, and specific ways they can help *advance the Partnership*.

Strategy 3: Facilitate increased public and private funding for island priorities.

2010 Objectives

- 3.1 Help partners secure local and international funding from public and private sources for the *sustainable financing* of GLISPA commitments.
- 3.2 Work with the GEF, the CBD Secretariat, the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other donors and co-financers to structure effective projects to *support global leadership in island invasive species* management, resilient marine protected area networks, adaptation to

climate change and the implementation of the CBD IBPoW.

- 3.3 Work with the GEF, the World Economic Forum, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, other trade organisations and voluntary initiatives, and interested *private sector partners to catalyse investment and support* for conservation and climate change initiatives.
- 3.4 Initiate a *global island fundraising campaign* by early 2010.

Strategy 4: Promote targeted and cost-effective collaboration and exchanges among islands.

2010 Objectives

Island exchanges and knowledge-sharing collaborations would focus in particular on:

- 4.1 Regional "challenges" and *large-scale conservation area* initiatives.
- 4.2 *Sustainable finance planning* for island initiatives, including significant local sources of support.
- 4.3 New models for *trans-boundary networks and partnerships*.
- 4.4 *Effective communication strategies* on priority island issues, especially at the national and regional scales.

Strategy 5: Engage in effective communication strategies on island issues.

2010 Objectives

- 5.1 *Build awareness* in the public and private sectors of the conservation challenges facing island people around the world, by identifying experts and public platforms to discuss these issues.
- 5.2 *Promote partner achievements* - commitments and implementation - across government, civil society, private sector and island leaders to inspire action by others.
- 5.3 *Identify and train key spokespeople* to effectively communicate the threats to islands and conservation success stories.
- 5.4 *Raise the profile of GLISPA* as an effective platform to support island conservation action to increase participation in the Partnership.
- 5.5 *Ensure synergies with communications strategies of key GLISPA initiatives* by identifying joint communications opportunities including potential earned media benefits.

Strategy 6: Build linkages between all islands, regardless of political status.

2010 Objective

- 6.1 Foster and strengthen collaboration among regional neighbors through *targeted high level events, linked to major international or regional meetings*

Strategy 7: Track progress on GLISPA commitments.

2010 Objectives

- 7.1 Present a global *overview of island achievements in relation to global targets* (e.g. CBD 2010/2012).
- 7.2 Develop an *Island Database* that will feed future biodiversity assessments, support international action for islands and contribute to communications products on key island conservation initiatives.

Goal 3: Establish and maintain a flexible and efficient Partnership responsive to its partners needs and aspirations.

GLISPA's focus on leadership and synergy are key success factors. The proposed governance structure calls for a GLISPA Steering Committee to provide leadership, decision-making and accountability for the Partnership over the next three years. This approach will maintain GLISPA's strategic agility, high leverage and low overhead while providing the oversight, continuity and professional support essential for the Partnership to function effectively and respond to its growing membership.

The functions, criteria and proposed membership of this Steering Committee are outlined below. This structure will be revisited regularly and adapted as needed.

Objective I: Leadership and Decision-making

Establish an effective "Steering Committee" with representatives from 10-20 GLISPA partners to provide leadership and decision-making for the Partnership.

Steering Committee Key Functions

- a. Ensure GLISPA core coordination functions are maintained (e.g. events, conference calls, exchanges, information/expertise sharing, partner engagement & recruitment, fundraising).
- b. Facilitate new or existing commitments for action with a focus on leveraging support and resources.
- c. Recruit, support and supervise the GLISPA Coordination Team and an extended network of in-kind staff contributions.
- d. Oversee GLISPA management, including review and approval of membership, budgets, and administrative arrangements.
- e. Approve and oversee GLISPA high level communications decisions, including GLISPA Communications Plan.
- f. Ensure regular communication and consultation with GLISPA membership and key stakeholders, including a short annual report.
- g. Track progress on GLISPA 2010 Strategy and update it annually.
- h. Recommend improvements to GLISPA governance structure, including possibly instituting a high level board or patrons group for CEO/Head of State engagement.
- i. Review and update Steering Committee membership every year.

Steering Committee Membership Criteria

One or more of the following:

- a. Financial and/or significant in-kind contributions to GLISPA core coordination functions.
- b. Lead role in implementation of a major GLISPA commitment.
- c. In-kind contribution of committed staff to provide timely review of materials and regular participation on conference calls and meetings (20% time or more highly recommended).

Objective II - GLISPA Staffing

Hire and support a GLISPA Coordination Team to provide professional support for three critical partnership functions: facilitation and strategy with partners, communications, and GLISPA event coordination.

Since 2005, GLISPA has grown without dedicated staffing or funding. All activities have been organised and executed by staff of participating organisations on a volunteer basis. This experience has demonstrated the need for a **Coordination Team** formed by three dedicated GLISPA staff positions/contracts to ensure continuity of critical coordination functions as well as maximum leverage for GLISPA partners.

- **GLISPA Coordinator** to work closely with the Steering Committee to develop and implement GLISPA's strategic direction, including assistance with recruiting new members, leveraging initiatives and fundraising.

- **Communications Coordinator** to work closely with the Communications Working Group (comprised of communication staff of GLISPA partners) to raise the visibility of island issues, commitments and achievements, including joint communication campaigns.
- **Events Coordinator** to work with the other GLISPA staff and ad hoc teams of GLISPA partners to develop and implement up to two major GLISPA events each year to be held in conjunction with a relevant global event (e.g. the CBD COP).

Objective III - GLISPA Finance

By June 2008, secure commitments for at least U.S. \$2 million to support the GLISPA coordination functions through 2010.

GLISPA's coordination costs will be financed by partner contributions. For the first three years, at least 4 partners will contribute approximately U.S.\$500,000 each to establish the GLISPA Coordination Team and provide base funding for essential network activities. All GLISPA commitments and most GLISPA events will be jointly funded by sponsoring partners.

GLISPA Milestones 2010

First year milestones (2008)

- At least 5 countries report high-impact results on their island conservation commitments, and these are publicised/shared widely.
- At least 10 countries or organisations make new commitments to major island conservation initiatives that implement priority actions within the CBD Islands Programme of Work or related policies.
- At least 3 countries report significant progress on sustainable finance mechanisms to ensure long-term conservation.
- Island exchanges facilitated to accelerate conservation progress on priority island issues, as requested.
- Global Island Partnership structure established, funding secured and staff hired.
- GLISPA communications plan developed and at least 10 major media hits on island conservation issues/leaders.
- At least U.S.\$25 million in new funds pledged to support Partner commitments, including \$2 million for GLISPA coordination.

Success measures (2010)

- At least 10 countries report high-impact results on their island conservation commitments, which are publicised/shared widely.
- Sustainable funding targets met by at least two initiatives, with significant GLISPA assistance.
- Efficient mechanisms, in place to help islands rapidly share solutions, technology, capacity and practices to address invasive species and sea level rise (e.g. exchanges, networks, database, etc).
- More than 50% of active GLISPA partners report significant benefits from participating in the Partnership.
- At least 20 major media hits on island issues/leaders and measurable change in perception of island ecosystem challenges and progress/achievements.
- At least one partnership with the private sector announced to address a major island challenge, such as sustainable tourism, fisheries, forestry, agriculture, waste management, coastal development, invasive species management, and protected areas.

Commitments and Initiatives Conceived, Launched or Strengthened with GLISPA's assistance

The *Micronesia Challenge* was one of the earliest GLISPA commitments and is an outstanding example of how the Partnership is working. Following Fiji's bold announcement in Mauritius, the President of Palau led five Micronesian Chief Executives - three Heads of State and two Governors of U.S. Territories - to a shared conservation commitment. To date, the Micronesia Challenge has received almost \$12m in pledges of support for sustainable financing from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Conservation International (CI) and through the Global Environment Facility's Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF PAS).

The Micronesia Challenge has inspired other multi-country commitments. In 2006, the government of Grenada announced its intention to protect 25% of its marine and terrestrial area by 2020. Grenada was immediately joined by The Bahamas, thereby initiating the *Caribbean Challenge*. At the same time, Indonesia's President Yudhoyono initiated discussions with five neighboring countries - Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste - to work together to protect the heart of coral diversity in the world - resulting in the *Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security*, and Seychelles' President Michel launched the *Western Indian Ocean Marine Protected Area Initiative*.

Commitments being implemented with GLISPA's assistance

- **Micronesia Challenge:** Five Micronesian governments - Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, U.S. Territory of Guam, and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands - came together in a joint commitment to conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. The five governments represent 6.7 million square kilometers of ocean and contain 4% of the world's coral reefs. The Challenge includes financial sustainability for implementation from domestic and international sources. The Micronesia Challenge governments are working in partnership with the United States, TNC, CI, the GEF, Turkey, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), the Pacific Island Forum, UNEP, RARE, the Micronesia Conservation Trust and several local NGOs.

- **Phoenix Islands Protected Area:** In January 2008, the Government of Kiribati expanded the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) and declared the Phoenix Islands archipelago and its waters the world's largest marine protected area, encompassing an ocean wilderness the size of California. PIPA conserves pristine coral reef systems, abundant bird life, underwater mountains, deep-sea habitat and rich fish populations threatened by over-fishing and climate change. PIPA will be partly financed through an innovative 'reverse fishing license' - funding an endowment to cover core management costs and compensate the government for the foregone commercial fishing license revenues. PIPA was developed with technical assistance and funding from the New England Aquarium, CI, the Coral Reef Initiative in the South Pacific (CRISP) and others.

- **Coral Triangle Initiative:** Six neighboring countries -- Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste - are working together to protect the heart of marine biodiversity in the world, the Coral Triangle. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders and a range of development partners and NGOs are joining in support of this new Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security.

- **Fiji Marine Initiative:** At least 30% of Fiji's marine areas will come under comprehensive, ecologically, representative networks of marine protected areas effectively managed and financed by 2020. Fiji is advancing this commitment with a partnership of government agencies, the Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) network, the University of the South Pacific, WWF and others.

- **Western Indian Ocean Marine Protected Area Initiative:** Seychelles, the Comoros, Madagascar and Mauritius are working together to improve the management and ecological status of more than 26 marine protected areas (MPAs) in their region and to establish new MPAs with coral reefs resilient to climate change in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission and WWF. Public and private partners have pledged more than \$1.9 million Euros to support and expand this initiative.

New Commitments under Development with GLISPA assistance

- **Caribbean Challenge:** With leadership from Grenada and The Bahamas, six members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) - Antigua & Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines - along with the Dominican Republic and Jamaica are working together on an ambitious regional framework of conservation commitments and sustainable financing for national systems of protected areas.

- **Invasive Species on Islands:** GLISPA is working with key countries in the major island regions to advance leadership and collaboration to address the global threat of invasive species on islands. Islands around the world are expressing interest in developing joint strategies and rapid exchange of effective approaches.

- **Sea Level Rise Foundation:** President Michel of the Seychelles has established a global foundation to bring resources and expertise together to support small island states, islands and other low-lying areas in adapting to the growing threat of sea level rise and avoiding the first climate refugees.

The Foundation is registered in Seychelles.

- **Global Islands Database and Information Portal:** the project will feed future biodiversity assessments, facilitate monitoring, support international action for islands, and lead to the development of several products, including an islands information portal and a World Atlas of Island Biodiversity and Climate Change to communicate key issues in island conservation. The initiative is being developed in partnership with the Government of Italy, the Secretariat of the CBD, the Global Islands Network (GIN), UNEP-World-Conservation Monitoring Centre

New Commitments being Explored with GLISPA assistance

- **Sustainable Tourism on Islands:** The goal of this initiative is to enlist the support of the tourism industry to secure long term and meaningful funding and management of the world's marine and insular protected area network. It will bring together resort developers, entrepreneurs and investors, as well as governments and other players, in selected geographical areas on islands and coastal ecosystems. Early partnerships are planning two workshops in 2008: in Cancun, Mexico and in the Seychelles. These meetings will seek to catalyse win-win situations, where sustainable tourism planning and development leads to the creation and effective management of new and existing public and private protected areas.

- **Mediterranean Partnership:** IUCN and WWF are developing a joint marine programme in the Mediterranean to support decision makers with information and to create networks of marine protected areas and ecosystem-based managed small scale fisheries.

- **Ecosystem-Based Management of Fisheries and Large Marine Ecosystems:** Explore opportunities for collaboration and synergy with the Ecosystems-based Management of Fisheries and Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) projects that are under development with GEF support across the globe.