

2011 Global Island Partnership Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

22 to 23 February 2011

National Audubon Society, Washington DC

Attendance

Name	Country or Organization	Role in GLISPA Steering Committee
Audrey Newman	GLISPA	GLISPA Senior Advisor
Chrissy Schwinn	TNC	Communications Working Group
Jessica Robbins	GLISPA and Media Impact	Communications Manager
Kate Brown	GLISPA	GLISPA Coordinator
Louisa Wood	UNEP-WCMC	Global Islands Database
Oliver Hillel	CBD Secretariat	Island Biodiversity Program of Work
Olivier Tyack	IUCN	Fundraising Working Group
Sean Southey	Media Impact	Communications Working Group
Spencer Thomas	Grenada	Caribbean Challenge
Susi Menazza	TNC	Climate Change
Rob Weary	TNC	Caribbean Challenge
Ronny Jumeau	Seychelles	Western Indian Ocean Partnership
Guests		
Jackie Kozak	Hawai'i Invasives Species Council	APEC Hawai'i Working Group
Barbara Bendandi	GLISPA	GLISPA Fellow
Jenta Russell	GLISPA	GLISPA Fellow
Marina Cracco	Facilitator	Facilitator
Day Two Only Attendees		
Nicole Glineur	GEF	Global Environment Facility
Stas Burgiel	National Invasive Species Council	
Trina Leberer	TNC	Micronesia Challenge
Apologies		
Alfredo Guillet	Italy	Global Island Strategy
Gerald Miles	External Affairs/TNC	Development
Keneti Faulalo	SIDSNet/UNDESA	Development
Simona Somma	Italy	Global Island Strategy

Highlights

Welcome to the new team members - Audrey Newman in her new roles as Senior GLISPA Advisor and Jenta Russell as GLISPA Fellow, both based in Hawai'i; Jessica Robbins as GLISPA Islands Communications Manager and Barbara Bendandi as GLISPA Fellow, both in New York with Media Impact; and Louisa Wood from UNEP-WCMC and Stas Burgiel from National Invasive Species Council.

The GLISPA Steering Committee attained the following outcomes:

- GLISPA partnership promoted and strengthened through exchange of information, recommendations and by specifically formulating new priority outcomes in a respectful environment.
- GLISPA planning strengthened, specifically through definition of draft priority outcomes and specific activities/action for 2011 and 2012. However, clarification of Steering Committees responsibilities, Co-chairs and engagement of member countries and organizations was not discussed, nor were M&E aspects as focus was given to the funding situation of GLISPA. These other elements will be followed up through GLISPA Steering Committee teleconferences during 2011.

Steering Committee Meeting Objectives:

1. Identify priority outcomes and activities for 2011 / 2012 ACHIEVED

Meeting participants identified a series of potential priorities for the defined period. These priority outcomes as well as potential activities were refined during another activity resulting in six priority outcomes for 2011-2012. Each priority outcome was further worked and specifics included.

This objective was mostly achieved, although measures of success, key next steps, specific communications needs were only somewhat defined during the workshop. Participants agreed to continue discussions post-meeting.

2. Review progress on GLISPA 2010-12 Strategy ACHIEVED

Through a presentation, Kate Brown (GLISPA Coordinator) reviewed progress on the GLISPA 2010-2012 Strategy during the workshop. A comments and question session followed each item presented and general actions were specified as well as further information shared.

3. Identify GLISPA's role and activities to support implementation as well as new commitments (Island Biodiversity POW IDR, Rio+20 and APEC in Hawaii). ACHIEVED

As described above, under objective 1, during the meeting the group discussed GLISPA's role and activities to support implementation as well as new commitments. A general presentation and discussion of GLISPA's potential role during upcoming events (IBPoW In-depth Review, Rio + 20, and APEC in Hawaii) as well as thematic focus (EBA and Mitigation, development including green economy and invasive species, as well as commitments and outreach) was implemented prior to discussing and defining priority outcomes and more specific activities.

4. (Discuss how to) Secure support for GLISPA fundraising. MOSTLY ACHIEVED

Given some developments of budget and financial commitments aspects that materialized immediately prior to the meeting and for which some meeting participants learned about during the meeting, it was decided by the group to spend and allocate additional time to discuss this agenda item.

After an overall presentation of the budget and funding challenges by the GLISPA Coordinator, the group discussed specifics of the funding challenges as well as opportunities and actions to improve it. A series of action items were developed and further information and discussion will happen in following weeks.

5. Develop and agree a minimum set of measures of success to continuously track GLISPA progress (M&E). NOT ACHIEVED

This objective was not achieved during the meeting. Given the importance and the need to discuss GLISPA fundraising and budget aspects more in-depth, time assigned to discuss this and other agenda items was allocated towards fundraising issues.

6. Review progress of GLISPA Communications Strategy ACHIEVED

Discussions followed a presentation of the GLISPA draft communication strategy by the communication team. During this plenary discussion, the participants requested the Communications Coordinator to review the draft strategy, specifically tailoring it towards 2011 needs. It was agreed that the overall communication strategy would be retaken later, and presently, communication activities linked to 2011 priority outcomes and activities were going to be defined. Louisa Wood sought advice of the Steering Committee on the Global Island Database which main purpose is to make available data regarding the state of biodiversity in island ecosystems for decision makers. The Steering Committee members to provide feedback on the database, particularly on: potential users, opportunities, and data layers.

7. Update and strengthen GLISPA team, leadership and governance, including Steering Committee, Co-chairs and engagement of member countries and organizations PARTIALLY ACHIEVED

This objective was partially achieved during the meeting. Given the importance and the need to discuss GLISPA fundraising and budget aspects more in-depth, time organized to discuss this and other agenda items was allocated towards fundraising issues. Nevertheless, some aspects of this objective were covered and discussed during other workshop sessions (i.e. engagement of member countries and organizations, leadership during defined events).

Meeting Outputs:

- A document containing confirmed and supported priority activities 2011 / 2012. ACHIEVED
- Specific actions and assignments to strengthen GLISPA team. ACHIEVED
- A document containing an operational plan including clear process and timetable for Steering Committee review and implementing the strategy. PARTIALLY ACHIEVED
- Inputs for Summary Report 2010 on GLISPA 2010-12 Strategy progress and challenges for Steering Committee. ACHIEVED
- GLISPA Communications Strategy discussed and inputs for its strengthening provided by the group. ACHIEVED
- A list of few agreed GLISPA measures of success. NOT ACHIEVED.

GLISPA Update - Progress in 2010

- The Committee reviewed results from events in 2010 including: a networking event in March with Massachusetts Islands and SIDS Ambassadors, a global workshop on invasive species and islands (Helping Islands Adapt) Side events at CSD and CBD SBSTTA in May, a high level event at the UN General Assembly in September and efforts related to the Western Indian Ocean Partnership and the regional Challenges at COP 10 in October.
- The Committee agreed that the high level events hosted since 2005 have resulted in significant commitments from leaders to conservation. There was further agreement that GLISPA should continue to strategically use high level events to catalyze new commitments.

GLISPA 2011 to 2012 Priorities

The Committee confirmed that GLISPA would continue to focus on:

- Ecosystem Based Adaptation, Mitigation & Invasive Species: Leadership and commitments to action strengthened on ecosystem based adaptation and mitigation, including the threat of invasive species.
- Development Dialogue: Promoting island leadership in advancing the Green Economy. (refocusing the 2010/11 objective of integrating conservation and livelihoods into the development dialogue.

Making It Happen: Activities and Actions

The following events/activities were seen as opportunities to advance GLISPA priorities.

- **Hosting High Level Event at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in November 2011 -** GLISPA is exploring the interest and next steps to supporting Hawai'i (as host of the 2011 APEC meeting) and the US Government in holding the event. A Hawai'i Working Group of influential leaders has expressed unanimous support in investigating this as an option. The event will aim to demonstrate early action in building green economies. If successful, the event will strengthen GLISPA's relationship with the US and inspire leadership and commitment to conservation and action towards green economies.
- **In-depth Review of the CBD Program of Work on Island Biodiversity -** The CBD Secretariat is preparing a document to summarize progress of parties on items which will then be presented at SBSTA16 meeting in May 2012. The final version of the document will be presented at the CBD COP11 in October 2012. The IBPOW is a major chance to put islands on map in the CBD as well as provide opportunity for knowledge exchange between islands. The concept of islands as an 'ecosystem' will be promoted through the SBSTA documentation.
- **Rio +20 –** General consensus that Rio+20 would be useful as a follow on event from APEC to demonstrate islands in advancing the green economy. GLISPA will explore engaging AOSIS to see if opportunities exist to collaborate.

The GLISPA Strategy will be updated to focus Development Dialogue on the Green Economy.

Funding and Governance

An urgent situation in terms of support for the GLISPA Coordination function was brought to the attention of the Steering Committee. For the past two years the GLISPA Coordinator salary has been paid from IUCN sources, in line with a commitment IUCN made to the partnership in 2008. This commitment was to support the coordinator position for 3 years from May 2009. From the middle of

May 2009, IUCN supported this position to a total amount of USD312,000, with funding from the following sources: Italy Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) (USD168,000), US Voluntary Contribution (USVC) (USD144,000). In early 2011, it was identified that IUCN would not be able to fully meet its commitment to fully fund the coordinator salary, and that funds would need to be used from the TNC commitment to GLISPA. Unfortunately not all of the commitments made to IUCN for the funding of this position materialized. IUCN did re-allocate other funding (e.g. from USVC) but this is not adequate. This situation has also been exacerbated by the global economic crisis.

For the 2011 Meeting, the Steering Committee had already identified that they would need to discuss the future of GLISPA beyond the initial three years for which additional funding was supposed to have been secured. It was expressed that they did not expect to be discussing an urgent funding situation at this meeting. It was decided to send a letter to the Director General of IUCN with specific requests, and that this letter would be sent by Ambassador Jumeau. A fundraising group was also re-activated with IUCN playing a leadership role within it. It was further iterated that the level of funding commitments by partners offer a direct measure of the perceived value of the partnership.

Communications Strategy

The draft Communications Strategy was presented to the Committee. The Committee provided inputs to further articulate the target audience and specific activities that would advance the GLISPA strategy.

Global Islands Database

A commitment by UNEP WCMC in 2008, the Global Island Database was discussed and steering committee members were asked to review it and to provide feedback and suggestions for making it as useful to islands as possible, to Louisa Wood of UNEP-WCMC. It was felt that the Global Island Database could play an important role in the CBD's Indepth Review of the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work.