After two years of review which started after COP 10 in Nagoya, Japan, the revision of the special work programme for islands within the Convention on Biodiversity was adopted at COP-11 in Hyderabad (Decision XI/15).

The decision is a momentous opportunity for islands to continue their work as leaders in achieving the Aichi Targets. “This programme of work is not only about biodiversity of SIDS, the economies and peoples. This programme is about islands as ecosystems of global significance,” stated Dr. Spencer Thomas of Grenada.

Strong statements of support were made for the revisions to the programme of work on island biodiversity by island Parties from all three major island regions as well as from Parties with islands including Australia, New Zealand and negotiating groups such as the SIDS group, European Union, and others. The recommendations recognize that islands have made significant progress towards the Aichi Targets but emphasizes that much remains to be done.

**Summary of the Decision on Island Biodiversity**

It asks that the implementation of the POW be strengthened while building on successful island approaches by:

- Promoting and supporting high level regional commitments
- Adapting and expanding proven mechanisms to strengthen local capacity
- Developing innovative financial arrangements to mobilise additional resources
- Maintaining and supporting key databases and information portals
- Addressing gaps in implementation identified by the in-depth review itself

It also asked for international attention and action to be focussed on the six priorities included in Decision IX/21 (COP 9) as they affect livelihood and island economies: the prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species; climate change adaptation and mitigation activities; establishment and management of marine protected areas; capacity building; access to, and fair and equitable sharing of, the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and poverty alleviation, with particular attention to:

a. Developing and strengthening international, regional, national and local collaboration to manage invasive alien species within and across jurisdictions
b. Mainstreaming ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, ecosystem restoration and invasive species management for human health and well-being.

Parties are further asked to give priority to the management of terrestrial protected areas, including inland waters in particular enhancing regional and international cooperation on transboundary pollution and supporting subnational implementation on islands including urbanisation links.

Parties and others are also asked to form partnerships in particular in relation to TEEB and mainstreaming NBSAPs and to coordinate these efforts with the 3rd SIDS sustainable development meeting in Samoa in 2014, and the potential engagement of national and local leaders in public-private partnerships and participatory approaches.

GLISPA itself is seen an an effective partner to support implementation and Parties are asked to recognise and engage further while Island Conservation’s “Small Islands, Big Difference” campaign on invasive alien species is noted.

Finally the Convention’s Executive Secretary is asked to pursue two points:

a. Cooperating with relevant secretariats and organisations to promote coherent and harmonized national information systems related to the reporting needs of the biodiversity-related conventions, and for joint reporting, as appropriate, for small island developing States and least developed countries with islands;
b. Enabling regional and global technical support networks to help the ongoing review, updating and implementation of NBSAPs in SIDS and LDCs.

Island Innovations:
Celebrating Success in Island Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods
16 October 2012

“Islands are showing the way to conserve nature and achieve sustainable livelihoods,” stated Seychelles’ Minister for Environment & Energy, Dr. Rolph Payet during the opening of Island Innovations. This one day event welcomed by SBSTTA-16 was co-hosted by Seychelles and India to celebrate the progress made in implementation of the PoWIB thus far. The event was held in two parts:

- Island Bright Spots, a half day knowledge exchange that focused on a selection of bright spots and determined how these successes can be scaled and replicated
- Island Life, a high level evening celebration that mobilized leadership and commitment to action of island countries and countries with islands to developing innovative solutions to global challenges

ISLAND BRIGHT SPOTS: Exchanging Innovations and Successes

Island success is built upon initiatives that work – bright spots. To continue to advance we need to build on what is working and upon those bright spots which have the potential to be scaled and replicated.

Using participatory facilitation techniques this event focused on sharing island bright spots from community to global levels that are playing a critical role for advancing conservation and offering a solution to help overcome global conservation challenges. Participants shared their own experiences and bright spots to determine how these successes can be scaled and replicated.

Bright spots highlighted during the event include:

**Ecosystem-based adaptation**
- Small Scale Fisheries Management leading to ecosystem based adaptation in Madagascar
- Integration of traditional knowledge into formal protected areas in New Caledonia

**Food security**
- Municipal leadership in the Philippines
- Locally Management Marine Areas (LMMAs) creating food security in Fiji

**New and innovative financial mechanisms**
- Caribbean Biodiversity Fund- regional collaboration and economies of scale

**Green and Blue Economies**
- Integrated approaches- Hawaii’s Green Growth Initiative

**Reducing threat of invasive species**
- Community engagement in the brown tree snake eradication and reintroduction of native bird species in Guam
- Regional Biosecurity plan for Micronesia

During the session, participants made pledges for follow-up actions. The pledge ranges from the personal (Spend 4 more hours each week to implement sustainable practices and educate my government officials, neighbors, and family to do the same. Including taking less fish from the ocean) to the high-level (Ensure the Lifeweb initiative will facilitate financing for invasive alien species projects).

Suggested next steps include:
- Coordinate a collective global policy effort on invasive species
- Create a database on invasive species eradication bright spots to bring attention to the tools that are available and have been tested
- Create a way to share bright spots between regions and create linkages
- Create more opportunities for sharing between peers to allow the catalytic effect to other islands

More about each of these Bright Spots is available from www.glispa.org. GLISPA is committed to continuing to identify bright spots and to work together to see how these can be scaled and replicated.
ISLAND LIFE: Celebrating Leadership and Commitment to Action

The second evening event provided opportunity for island countries and countries with islands to demonstrate global leadership, commitment to action and rapid progress in addressing the issues highlighted in and recommendations of the indepth review of the programme of work on island biodiversity. A range of new and significant commitments to conserve nature were announced during the event:

- **The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund**, the world’s first regional endowment developed to support multiple national level conservation Trust Funds was launched by Grenada’s Multilateral Environmental Agreement Ambassador Dr. Spencer Thomas on behalf of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative countries along with Peter Hilliges, Director Natural Resources Sector for Latin America and the Caribbean for the German development bank (KfW), and Robert Weary, Director of Conservation Finance for The Nature Conservancy. US$30 million has already been committed to this Fund towards an initial target of US$40 million by the Government of Germany, The Nature Conservancy, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Once the target is reached it will provide US$2 million per year in critical sustainable financing to Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to support these Caribbean Challenge Initiative countries to protect nature and livelihoods.

- **Deputy Premier of the British Virgin Islands (BVI)**, The Honorable Dr. Kedrick Pickering announced that BVI will co-host a Caribbean Political and Business Leaders Summit with Sir Richard Branson of the Virgin Group and the Prime Minister of Grenada in 2013 as part of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative. The Summit will build on the visionary commitments of Caribbean Challenge countries to protect near shore marine areas by 2020 and in developing sustainable finance mechanisms to support these goals and expand the membership of the CCI.

- **Republic of the Marshall Islands Minister in Assistance to the President**, The Honorable Tony de Brum shared how the RMI shark sanctuary and the Micronesia Challenge embody commitment to the future of the region and island biodiversity at a scale that is necessary for our blue planet. He further stated, “We are stronger together and together through partnerships like GLISPA we can work at a scale that can sustain life beyond our islands.”

- **New Caledonia’s Member of the European Parliament**, The Honorable M. Maurice Ponga, announced that the European Parliament will support a third phase European Union funding of 2 million Euros under the Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST) and push to better integrate EU overseas biodiversity conservation and resource management in EU policies.
ISLAND LIFE: Celebrating Leadership and Commitment to Action
(continued)

• The Chair of Hawai‘i’s Department of Land & Natural Resources, USA, William Aila showcased the state’s innovative approach to achieving a green economy by bringing together Hawai‘ian leaders from energy, food and the environment together as part of the Hawai‘i Green Growth Initiative to achieve Hawai‘i’s sustainability goals and be a model for integrated green growth. “As islands, we understand that these challenges are linked, and we must solve them together. Our economic future depends on caring for our environment mauka to maka (mountains to the ocean).”

• Ecuador’s Director of the Galapagos National Park, Edwin Naula, announced the recent creation of the Galapagos Invasive Species Endowment which currently is generating around USD$925,000 for managing invasive species in the archipelago.

• United Nations Development Programme Associate Administrator, Rebecca Grynspan, announced that UNDP will be increasing support to islands.

• Dr. Naoko Ishii was welcomed as the new CEO and Director of The Global Environment Facility.

Palau was recognized for their global leadership in marine policy in establishing Palau’s Protected Areas Network Act, initiated in 2003, and the Shark Haven Act from 2009 which resulted in Palau being the winner of the Future Policy Award 2012.

“Islands are working together, getting results and showing the way to achieve the Aichi targets,” stated Dr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, “but further action is urgently needed to conserve and protect the unique island ecosystems and surrounding seas.”

Minister Payet reinforced this statement affirming, “The time for action is now. We must continue to take leadership, to make visionary commitments and ensure these commitments are implemented on the ground. We must scale up the bright spots emerging from islands and invest in what works. We must continue to work together as a Global Island Partnership.”

GLISPA Resources from CBD COP-11
Learn more about how islands are taking action!
• Island Action Fact Sheet: English, French, Spanish
• Island Bright Spots summaries and TV interviews are available from http://www.glispa.org
• Photos from the events https://www.facebook.com/glispa/
The Global Island Partnership promotes actions for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods by inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments and facilitating collaboration. The Global Island Partnership is recognized as:

- a mechanism for advancing the conservation of island biodiversity (Decision IX/21, CBD COP9)
- a best practice partnership by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)
- a success factor in preparations for the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

The Partnership is open to any entity committed to taking significant action to ensure island conservation and sustainable livelihoods. To learn more, go to www.glispa.org

Rare is a leader in behavior change marketing for global biodiversity conservation — with a successful track record of 267 community-based campaigns in 57 countries with over 200 partners. Many of the world’s largest conservation groups, as well as nations in the developing world, have partnered with Rare to help build stronger local community support for their work. Rare’s campaigns have influenced more than 6.8 million people living in over 2,400 remote communities. www.rareconservation.org

Island Innovations was made possible with the kind financial support of: Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat, the Government of Seychelles, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) through the BEST Preparatory Action and the Trust for Sustainable Livelihoods.