
2012 Global Island Partnership Steering Committee Meeting Brief

31 January to 1 February 2012
Rare Conservation, Arlington, U.S.A

The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) Steering Committee attained the following outcomes:

- Unified the vision and goals for the Partnership towards 2015
- Invigorated the Steering Committee and key stakeholders
- Strengthened the governance of the Partnership

Steering Committee Meeting Objectives:

1. Create an action plan to achieve GLISPA financial sustainability 2012 – 2015 – ACHIEVED.

The Steering Committee discussed the next steps for GLISPA to achieve financial sustainability following the first three years (2009-12) of the GLISPA Coordination Unit. The initial funding was largely supplied by The Nature Conservancy and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) from the U.S. and Italy. To continue this successful partnership, the steering committee formed a GLISPA Funding Team to be led by Susi Menazza of The Nature Conservancy. The Funding Team will explore and implement a new fundraising methodology which would include following up on public and private support opportunities and a partner support scheme. GLISPA's funding principles were reaffirmed: (i) GLISPA fundraising efforts should be complementary and not compete with country or organization fundraising efforts, (ii) GLISPA participants should consult with the GLISPA Coordinator prior to assigning the Coordination Team any obligations in prospective grants applications or fundraising efforts.

2. Review progress of 2010-12 GLISPA Strategy: ACHIEVED.

The following section contains highlights of progress summarized by strategic priority:

➤ **Successful implementation of regional island challenges and other partner commitments**

The progress reports on the Regional Island Challenges from Dr. Spencer Thomas and Rob Weary on the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, Willy Kostka on the Micronesia Challenge and Kate Brown on the emerging Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge (WIO-CC) indicated good progress. Highlights included: country-raised funds pledged to commitments, expansion of protected area sites and innovations in sustainable financing mechanisms. The Challenges identified the need for support in:

- (i) invigorating and maintaining high-level political will and island champions,
- (ii) sharing knowledge between the Challenges, and
- (iii) support in communicating successes globally

Action plans to address identified needs were agreed with progress to be reviewed during future Steering Committee meetings.

➤ **Ecosystem-based adaptation, mitigation and reducing the threat of invasive species**

Since GLISPA first focused on ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) in 2008, EBA has been recognized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and there is a growing body of work and funding specific to EBA and islands. In 2011, substantial progress was made in exploring innovative sustainable financing mechanisms to support this priority. Progress was also made around the invasive species component of the priority, particularly around the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan.

➤ **Linking conservation and sustainable livelihoods to development dialogue**

Strong progress has been made to link conservation and sustainable livelihoods to development dialogue, particularly with the formation in 2011 of the Hawai'i Green Growth Initiative (HGG). The HGG brings leaders from

energy, food and the environment together to achieve Hawaii's sustainability goals and to be a model for building a green economy. The HGG held a successful event with Ambassador Tong, Senior Official to APEC, U.S. State Department during 2011.

In addition, GLISPA has supported efforts to explore opportunities for debt-for-adaptation swaps as a potential way to resources activities to advance the blue economy in Small Island Developing States, in particular those with major debt issues. GLISPA has also worked closely with the CBD Secretariat to coordinate the in-depth review of the programme of work on island biodiversity.

GLISPA Communications: The new GLISPA communications materials were reviewed and will be released in early 2012. GLISPA communications will focus on further engaging the existing and new Challenges and commitments as well as ensuring that GLISPA is appropriately represented at relevant forthcoming events.

3. Identify priority outcomes and activities for 2012 & 2013 – ACHIEVED.

The Steering Committee reaffirmed that GLISPA will continue to focus on the priorities that were operational from 2010 – 12 which are highlighted below. Work plans for each priority were developed and include:

➤ **Successful implementation of regional island challenges and other partner commitments**

Focus on maintaining high level political engagement in the regional island challenges and supporting planning for the respective phases of the Challenges; identify and supporting emerging commitments; identifying opportunities to share operational knowledge between commitments and in the establishment of new commitments. Key events linked to this priority include: Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge Workshop (March 2012), Micronesia Chief Executives Summit (March 2012), and proposed Caribbean Summit (2013) as well as engagement at Rio+20, 2012 World Conservation Congress and CBD COP-11.

➤ **Ecosystem-based adaptation, mitigation and reducing the threat of invasive species**

GLISPA will maintain focus on EBA and mitigation on islands with a view to identify best practices and lessons. In 2012, a key focus will be on reducing the threat of invasive species through global advocacy to support catalyzing new commitments as well as showcasing the successful leadership of islands in this area. Bill Waldman, Island Conservation, has agreed to chair the invasive species working group. Key events linked to this priority include: In-depth Review of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity (IDR PoWIB) including SBSTTA-16 and a proposed Island Summit parallel to CBD COP-11.

➤ **Linking conservation and sustainable livelihoods to development dialogue**

Strategic events will be utilized to highlight and advance commitments on building sustainable and resilient economies. GLISPA will shine a spotlight on the leadership taken by islands in addressing conservation and sustainable livelihoods issues combined with the use of innovative sustainable financing mechanisms as a model to stimulate action and impact on the ground. Key events linked to this priority include: Rio+20 and a focus towards the BPOA+20 and 2015 MDGs review.

4. Finalize a minimum set of measures of success to track GLISPA progress (M&E) – PARTIALLY ACHIEVED.

The Steering Committee has put in place an annual scorecard to track success of GLISPA's progress as a Partnership and putting in place the processes to achieve this. It was identified that the partnership needed to encourage the commitments to measure and report on progress and to help share the frameworks and lessons between the regional island challenges and other commitments.

5. Strengthen the GLISPA team, leadership and governance, including Steering Committee, Co-chairs and engagement of participating countries and organizations. ACHIEVED.

It was agreed that a short discussion draft of a revised GLISPA governance structure would be presented to the next Steering Committee teleconference in April. It was decided to invite the Prime Minister of Grenada to be a co-chair of the Partnership (this would bring the total number of chairs to three – Presidents of Palau and Seychelles

and if he accepts, the Prime Minister of Grenada). It was also decided to reach out to the European Union Overseas Countries and Territories (EUOCTs) group and invite them to become more engaged in GLISPA strategy following successful interactions in previous events. For 2013, based on the outcomes of the discussion draft on GLISPA governance it is planned to have two meetings in Washington DC in early February. One is a small group that is focused on the governance of GLISPA, approving work plans and budgets and oversight to how the partnership is performing. The second would be a broader meeting, more like a small conference for islands focused on strategy.

Meeting Outputs:

- 2012 to 2015 GLISPA Strategy (Refer to new GLISPA Brochure)
- 2012 GLISPA Priorities Work Plan (available on request)
- GLISPA Steering Committee Action List (available on request)
- 2012 GLISPA Funding Strategy (Steering Committee)
- 2012 GLISPA Communications Strategy and Work Plan (In progress)
- Revised GLISPA Governance Structure (In progress)

Presentations:

Updates on Challenges

- Micronesia Challenge – *Willy Kostka, Micronesia Conservation Trust*
- Caribbean Challenge Initiative – *Dr Spencer Thomas, Grenada, and Rob Weary, The Nature Conservancy*
- Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge – *Kate Brown, GLISPA, on behalf of Lisa Gaylord, Wildlife Conservation Society*

Updates on Activities

- Hawai'i Green Growth Initiative – *Audrey Newman, GLISPA*
- In-Depth Review of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity – *Oliver Hillel, CBD Secretariat*

Updates on GLISPA Coordination

- GLISPA Finances – *Kate Brown, GLISPA*
- GLISPA Communications – *Jessica Robbins, GLISPA*
- Sustainability of GLISPA – *Susi Menazza, The Nature Conservancy*
- GLISPA Measures of Success – *Kate Brown and Jessica Robbins, GLISPA*

Emerging Areas of Interest

- A People Centered Approach to Island Conservation - *Steve Watkins, Rare Conservation*
- Managing Coastal Blue Carbon Ecosystems: The Missing Sinks and Sources in the Climate Change Debate - *Dorothee Herr, IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme*
- Coastal Fisheries: Fish Forever - *Martha Piper, Rare Conservation*
- Debt for Adaptation Swaps and How They Work – *Rob Weary, The Nature Conservancy*
- Invasive Species on Islands – *Bill Waldman, Island Conservation*

Notes of Thanks:

The GLISPA Steering Committee would like to sincerely thank Brett Jenks and the team at Rare Conservation for hosting the meeting in their Arlington office. The Committee would also like to thank Dorothee Herr (IUCN), Martha Piper and Steve Watkins (Rare) for their presentations on emerging areas of interest as well as Molly Powers and Jenta Russell (GLISPA Fellows) for logistical support.

2012 GLISPA Steering Committee and Strategy Meeting Participants

Role in Steering Committee	Participants	Organization	Email	Title
GLISPA Steering Committee				
Co-Chair Seychelles	Ronald Jumeau (Co-Chair of Meeting)	Seychelles	seychelles@un.int	Ambassador
Caribbean Challenge Initiative	Spencer Thomas (Co-Chair of Meeting)	Grenada	stthomas@ectel.int	Ambassador and Special Envoy
	Rob Weary	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	rweary@tnc.org	Senior Finance and Policy Advisor
Global Island Partnership Coordination	Ed Barrow	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Edmund.Barrow@iucn.org	Programme Manager (Ecosystem Management)
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Global Island Strategy	Ranieri Guerra	Italian Embassy (representing Italy)	Ranieri.guerra@esteri.it	Scientific Attaché
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Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge Development	Caleb McLennan	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	cmclennen@wcs.org	Director, Marine Conservation
Ecosystem Based Adaptation and Mitigation	Susi Menazza	TNC	smenazza@tnc.org	Senior Policy Advisor Asia-Pacific
Development	Gerald Miles	TNC	giles@TNC.ORG	Regional Director External Affairs
	Keneti Faulalo	UNDESA	Faulalo@un.org	Adviser on Water Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation
GLISPA Communications	Sean Southey	Media Impact	ssouthey@mediainpact.org	Executive Director

Invasive species	Bill Waldman	Island Conservation	bill.waldman@islandconservation.org	Executive Director
	Olivier Langrand	Island Conservation	olivier.langrand@islandconservation.org	Director of Global Affairs
	Stas Burgiel	U.S. National Invasive Species Council (U.S. NISC)	sburgiel@gmail.com	Senior Global Invasive Species Policy Advisor
GLISPA Participants				
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GLISPA Coordination Team				
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