

2013 Annual GLISPA Executive Committee Minutes

Washington, D.C., 18 February 2013

Executive Committee Chair: The Hon. Ronny Jumeau, Ambassador for Climate Change and SIDS Issues, Seychelles, and President's Representative as Co-Chair of GLISPA

Participants: Refer to [Annex 1](#)

Outcomes of Executive Committee

1. [Terms of Reference of GLISPA Steering Committee endorsed](#)
2. [2012 progress assessed and recommendation made to ensure GLISPA's sustainability](#)
3. [2012 financial reports and 2013 budget, funding, work plan & staffing endorsed](#)
4. [Participant, role and support to GLISPA co-chairs and arrangements for 2013 updated](#)
5. [Process for evaluating GLISPA agreed](#)
6. [Reviewed progress of GLISPA Communications and agreed to a process for approving the GLISPA Communications Strategy](#)

Executive Committee Key Points

1. Endorse the Terms of Reference of the GLISPA Steering Committee

The Hon. Ronny Jumeau, Ambassador for Climate Change and SIDS Issues of Seychelles, was appointed as the Chair of the GLISPA Executive Committee. The Chair of the Executive Committee will hold the position for 12 months and is the main point of contact for governance issues.

The 2013 annual GLISPA Steering Committee meeting was held based on a revised governance structure requested by the 2012 meeting which establishes a subcommittee of the Steering Committee to focus on governance issues known as the Executive Committee. GLISPA is a maturing partnership and the new governance structures and sustainability plans provide the flexibility to involve a broader range of partners in the Steering Committee that are committed to advancing the Partnerships mission while maintaining a smaller group focused on GLISPA's governance and sustainability.

The revised governance structure defined by Terms of Reference establishes:

- **A Steering Committee** group focused on developing and implementing the GLISPA Strategy. The Steering Committee is made up of those individuals, organizations and countries that have made significant commitments to advancing GLISPA's mission.
- **An Executive Committee** a subcommittee of the Steering Committee that makes recommendations and decisions related to governance, administration, finances, staffing and related issues for the GLISPA Steering Committee.
- **Clarified the role of the Co-Chairs** held by the Presidents of Seychelles, Palau and Prime Minister of Grenada to provide strategic and high level guidance and leadership to the partnership. NB: The chairmanship of the PM of Grenada is currently being reconfirmed because



of elections that took place in Grenada during the Steering Committee meeting. The former Prime Minister Tillman Thomas lost his leadership of Grenada during that election.

In review of the Terms of Reference of the GLISPA Steering Committee, the Executive Committee emphasized the need for commitment, passion and leadership in all its membership towards actively advancing GLISPA's mission to promote action for conservation of island biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods.

2. Assess progress and make recommendations to ensure sustainability of GLISPA

A Funding Team, established in 2010, focused on designing and implementing a strategy to ensure the sustainability of GLISPA. Based on the early momentum around GLISPA, The Nature Conservancy and the Italian Directorate for Cooperation through the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) agreed to provide initial start up funding to put in place a Coordination Team for the Partnership from 2009 to 2012 and to fund initial activities. This coordination team has consisted of 1.5 full time equivalent staff and a range of interns and consultants.

The Funding Team was tasked to come up with a model for ongoing support and agreed to a set of measures to support GLISPA's long-term sustainability. It is important to note that GLISPA is generally successful in raising funds for activities it wants to undertake but has more trouble raising funds for the actual coordination of the partnership.

In 2012 members of the GLISPA Steering Committee began to build on previous support to GLISPA coordination and to make voluntary contributions to the coordination of GLISPA including: Seychelles (US\$10,000 for 3 years), Italy (US\$50,000 for 2 years), Island Conservation (US\$5,000 ongoing), The Nature Conservancy (US\$5,000 for three years), Rare (US\$5,000 cash/in-kind US\$15,000 – office space). IUCN has continued to contribute \$50,000 annually. During the 2013 Steering Committee meeting, Palau also announced that it would match Seychelles' contribution to the coordination team of US\$10,000. GLISPA's sustainability plan builds on this and focused primarily on a direct member contribution model, along with other options.

With all of this in mind the GLISPA Steering Committee endorsed GLISPA's proposed Sustainability Plan which has specific objectives which are:

Short Term: Close GLISPA 2013/14 funding gap. 2013 Fundraising goal for core functions of GLISPA: \$145,000 and the gap for 2014 is \$209,800.

Medium Term: February 2014: 75% of the GLISPA Steering Committee agrees to contribute financially or in-kind to GLISPA.

Long Term: February 2015: GLISPA has sufficient multiyear funding to maintain the partnership and is meeting its funding targets with significant participant support and funding allocations from within island projects and initiatives. This would see all GLISPA Steering Committee members supporting GLISPA coordination either with funding or in-kind.

GLISPA Fundraising Principles

- GLISPA fundraising efforts should be complementary and not compete with country or organization fundraising efforts



- GLISPA participants should consult with the GLISPA Coordinator prior to assigning the Coordination Team any obligations in prospective grants applications or fundraising efforts.

Specifically the various approaches that GLISPA has available are as follows and were also endorsed:

- **Direct Contributions:** single or multiyear funding commitments by GLISPA participants, especially participants of the GLISPA Steering Committee.
- **Large Donor Options:** GLISPA can accept direct contributions to GLISPA Coordination and its activities by a large donor.
- **Project Involvement:** GLISPA can be incorporated in country/region-driven projects and challenges if aligned with the fundraising principles.

A guideline for direct contributions was proposed:

Classification	Target USD/per year	Examples (annual amount)
SIDS	\$10,000	Seychelles(3 years@\$10,000) ¹
Bigger countries & international institutions	\$50,000	Italy (2 years@\$50,000) ²
Other organizations	\$5,000 to \$25,000	Rare (\$5,000 + \$15,000 in-kind) ³ Island Conservation (\$5,000 annually)

The Executive Committee noted its considerable thanks to those Steering Committee members that made commitments to GLISPA's coordination in 2012/2013 as well as the following partners for their ongoing direct support to GLISPA or through project allocation for priorities and activities or in-kind: Italy, The Nature Conservancy, IUCN, United States, the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat/Japan Fund, Media Impact, UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme, Indian Ocean Commission ISLANDS Project, Engelhard Foundation, Koniani Fund, Rare, Trust for Sustainable Livelihoods, Audrey Newman (significant personal time contribution), SPREP, PANOS and the GLISPA Fellows.

3. Discuss and endorse 2012 financial reports and 2013 budget, funding, work plan & staffing

Review of the 2012 financial report and 2013 budget reveals that there are funding gaps that require immediate resolution. The Executive Committee agreed that funding raised will initially be prioritized to core funding namely securing positions of the Coordination Team. The Executive Committee endorsed the 2013-15 budget which includes a full time communications manager as well as additional event/admin/finance support which would bring the staffing of the Partnership from 1.5 full time staff to 3 full time staff.

The Executive Committee recognized the considerable in-kind support of its participants, particularly recognizing the Co-Chairs and their representatives on the Steering Committee, Audrey Newman for her considerable investment of personal time and the GLISPA Fellows which in 2012 includes: Leisha Beardmore, Jessica Bensley, Margot Buchbinder, Gillian Duggin, Fekade Mariam, Pietro Luzetti, Molly Powers, Vanessa Ogonni, Breanna Rose, Jenta Russell and Angela Stephens.

¹ The President of the Seychelles decided in 2012 to commit multiyear funding to GLISPA of \$10,000 USD each year for three years.

² Italy was able to contribute to GLISPA through a Pacific project starting in 2012 which supports the Coordinator salary.

³ In 2013 Rare has offered to host the GLISPA coordinator (the value of this is approximately \$15,000 USD which will not have to be raised by the partnership)



4. Update participation, role and support to GLISPA Co-chairs and arrangements for 2013

The Executive Committee clarified the role of the Co-Chairs of the Partnership held by the Presidents of Seychelles and Palau and Prime Minister of Grenada. The role includes:

- Provide strategic & high level guidance and leadership to the partnership
- Advance GLISPA's strategic priorities and support the implementation of GLISPA's work program as appropriate (including hosting and speaking on behalf of the partnership)
- Reach out to engage other leaders

The Executive Committee particularly noted the re-election of GLISPA co-founder His Excellency Tommy Remengesau, President of Palau and the participation of his chief of staff Elbuchel Sadang in the GLISPA Steering Committee meeting.

5. Agree to a process for evaluating GLISPA, including agreeing to indicators and fundraising to recruit external evaluator

GLISPA has established a set of measures of success against two sets of indicators: impact and governance. Impact Indicators include:

- Total no. organizations participated in GLISPA Events
- Total no. countries participated in GLISPA Events
- Total no. organizations that have made a commitment
- Total no. countries that have made a commitment
- Total \$ catalyzed through GLISPA
- Assisted XX countries to launch/strengthen major island commitments

Governance indicators are currently being revised but include the total number of Executive Committee meeting as well as working group meeting as well as results of the annual GLISPA survey.

The GLISPA Executive Committee agreed that the current impact indicators are sufficient for demonstrating impact. Investment of resources and capacity into an in-depth evaluation was not considered a priority of the Executive Committee because GLISPA needs to secure the coordination function as a matter of urgency. It was noted that a GLISPA Case Study is currently being developed by Gillian Duggin, GLISPA Fellow.

The report on the current GLISPA Dashboard of measures as well as from a 2012 Participant Survey was received. Highlights from these reports will be contained in the 2012 Annual Report. The GLISPA Impact figures highlight:

Since its launch in 2006, GLISPA has:

Inspired Leadership for Conservation & Sustainability

- Helped inspire, recognize and support leaders in Micronesia, the Caribbean, Indonesia and the Western Indian Ocean to work with their neighbors on visionary regional island initiatives ('Challenges') for conservation and sustainability
- Assisted island leaders to advocate for ecosystem-based adaptation to be recognized internationally

Catalyzed Commitments to Large-Scale Action and Funding



- Assisted more than 30 countries to launch or strengthen major island commitments focused on island conservation and sustainable management of marine, coastal and/ or terrestrial habitats
- Helped catalyze more than US\$134million in commitments for island actions

Facilitated Collaboration to Support Island Priorities

- Enhanced collaboration among political leaders, key government ministries and agencies, and non-governmental partners working on shared commitments through high level and strategic events at key global and regional meetings
- Recognized and promoted each island commitment as a beacon of inspiration and guidance to others

6. Reviewed progress of GLISPA Communications and agreed to a process for approving the GLISPA Communications Strategy

The 'Islands Are Taking Action' message emerged throughout the GLISPA events in 2012. GLISPA will continue to focus on identifying opportunities to showcase island actions moving forward and take this message to a broader audience towards 2015. An approach to identify, reviewing and sharing 'Island Bright Spots' was endorsed by both the Steering Committees as a means to achieve part of GLISPA's mission on facilitating collaboration and celebrating success . A successful model for GLISPA events was identified based on experiences since 2005 including: high level 'commitment breakfasts (or short events), island bright spot workshops for sharing and collaboration and island fiestas for celebrating success and island networking. The 2013 GLISPA Communications Strategy was endorsed.

Meeting Outputs

- Terms of Reference for GLISPA Governance Structure 2013 to 2015
- 2012 Annual Report (draft)
- 2012 Financial Report
- 2013-2014 Budget
- GLISPA Sustainability Plan
- 2013 GLISPA Communications Strategy
- GLISPA Island Bright Spot Approach
- Reviewed 2011 GLISPA Steering Committee Action Items
- Executive Committee Report to the Steering Committee

Presentations

- GLISPA Finance Report and Budget – Kate Brown
- GLISPA Sustainability Plan – Susi Menazza
- GLISPA Communications Report – Jessica Robbins
- GLISPA Dashboard & Annual Survey – Jessica Robbins

Notes of Thanks

The GLISPA fellows Margot Buchbinder, Jessica Bensley, Gillian Duggin and Breanna Rose for their considerable assistance with logistics and coordination. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Washington D.C. office for hosting the Executive Committee meeting in their conference room.



Annex 1: Executive Committee Members

Name	Role	Country/Organisation
Ed Barrow	Head, Ecosystem Management Program	IUCN, Kenya
Kate Brown	Partnership Coordinator	GLISPA, Washington, D.C.
Alain de Comarmond	Director General, Climate Affairs, Adaptation and Information Division Environment Department	Ministry of Environment and Energy, Seychelles
Eric Coppenger	Director, New Business Development	Rare, Washington, D.C.
Gillian Duggin	GLISPA Fellow	Columbia University, New York City
Oliver Hillel	Programme Officer – Islands	Convention on Biodiversity Secretariat, Canada
Ambassador Ronny Jumeau	Roving Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing States Issues and President's Representative as Co-Chair of GLISPA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Seychelles
Carole Martinez	Coordinator	EU Overseas Countries and Territories, IUCN Brussels
Susi Menazza	Senior Policy Adviser	The Nature Conservancy, Asia Pacific, The Hague
Gerald Miles	Regional Director	External Affairs and Policy, The Nature Conservancy, Asia Pacific, Australia
Jessica Robbins	Communications Manager	GLISPA, New York City
Breanna Rose	GLISPA Fellow	Hawaii
Elbuchel Sadang	Chief of Staff, Office of the President	Palau
Simona Somma	Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist	Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, Rome
Spencer Thomas (SKYPE)	Multilateral Environmental Agreements Ambassador	Grenada
Apologies		
Margot Buchbinder	GLISPA Fellow	Washington D.C.
Giorgio Grussu	Programme Officer	Italy and Mountain Partnership
Dr. Alfredo Guillet	Focal Point for the Environment, Directorate General for Development Cooperation	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy
Sean Southey	Executive Director	PCI Media Impact, New York City
Ambassador Dessima Williams	Permanent Representative to the United Nations	Grenada

