

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

### Moving Forward with Purpose

### 5th Annual Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) Steering Committee Meeting

Washington D.C., 18 to 20 February 2014



2014 is the year we charter a new course to build resilient and sustainable island communities through innovative partnership.

PHOTO: HOKULEA. CREDIT: NA'ALEHU ANTHONY AND OWI TV.

**"2014 is the year for islands,"** stated H.E. Ronny Jumeau, Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing State Issues, Republic of Seychelles and Chair of the GLISPA Steering Committee at the opening of meeting. The Steering Committee put in place a strategy that will move forward key priorities for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods through inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments and facilitating collaboration.

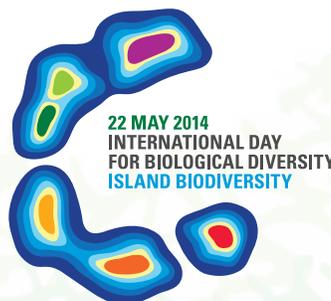
### HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Ambassador Jumeau confirmed as Chair of GLISPA Steering Committee for 2014 and H.E. Caleb Otto, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Palau to the UN, is confirmed to take up the new role as Vice-Chair
- \* The Partnership recognized the significant progress implementing the GLISPA Strategy in 2013 and identified new or ongoing priorities for 2014 – 2020 that include to:
  - \* Build resilient and sustainable island communities through innovative partnerships
  - \* Support successful implementation of island commitments
  - \* Catalyze commitments to ecosystem based adaptation, mitigation and reducing the threat of invasive species
  - \* Prepare to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of GLISPA in 2016
  - \* Ensure a sustainable partnership

GLISPA will specifically focus on three events and related processes in 2014: the 3rd International Meeting of Small Island Developing States (UNSIDS) in Samoa, the 12th meeting of the Convention on Biodiversity Conference of the Parties (CBD COP12) in Korea and the International meeting on islands (in particular Europe Overseas) in Guadeloupe in October to advance the Strategy. In May, GLISPA will celebrate the International Day of Island Biodiversity as well as the launch of the traditional Polynesian canoe, the Hokule'a, as it set off on a three-year worldwide voyage. The inspiring vision, leadership and commitments announced and celebrated through these events will set the scene to charter a new course for island and ocean sustainability towards 2020.



Chair and Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee, Ambassador Jumeau of Seychelles (left) and Ambassador Otto (right)



The Global Island Partnership is open to any entity committed to taking significant action to ensure island conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Get involved now to help making 2014 the year for island action.

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The 2014 Global Island Partnership Steering Committee

## GLISPA Executive Committee

18 February, a subset of the Steering Committee focused on governance and sustainability.

### LEADERSHIP

The Executive Committee acknowledged the acceptance of H.E. Dr. The Right Honorable Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister Grenada, as a Co-Chair of the Partnership joining H.E. James Michel of the Republic of Seychelles, and H.E. Tommy Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau in this leadership role. Prime Minister Mitchell is represented on the Executive Committee by H.E. Dr. Denis Antoine, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations for Grenada.

It was decided to explore expansion of the leadership roles of the partnership that will be announced later in 2014.

### GOVERNANCE

The Executive Committee affirmed the Governance structure of the partnership. To complement the Chair of the Steering Committee, the new role Vice-Chair of the GLISPA Steering Committee was established.

The Executive welcomed Ambassador Otto as the new representative of the President of Palau to the Steering Committee, and endorsed him as Vice-Chair of the GLISPA Steering Committee. The Executive further welcomed the continued leadership of Ambassador Jumeau as Representative of the President of Seychelles as Chair of the GLISPA Steering Committee in 2014.

The strong high-level country leadership of the Co-Chairs of GLISPA and their representatives to the Steering Committee are critical to inspiring and catalyzing action and commitments to achieve the Partnerships mission. The visits of Ambassador Jumeau to Hawaii and Europe during 2013 on behalf of GLISPA and Seychelles were highlighted as examples of how this strong country leadership helps to engage leadership of other countries and organizations towards achieve the Partnership's mission and provide a sense of urgency to moving forward.

The Executive reaffirmed that GLISPA is open to any entity committed to taking significant action to ensure island conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

### SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The continuity of funding to support the GLISPA Coordination Team remains a threat to the sustainability of GLISPA. The urgent priority is to secure the core funding of USD300,000 annually that supports the coordination of the partnership including a full time Coordinator, Communications Manager and administration support person. The Committee reaffirmed the 2013 goals GLISPA Sustainability Plan that outlined that by 2015 all GLISPA Steering Committee members would have found a way to contribute to the sustainability of the Partnership.

## GLISPA Steering Committee 19 to 20 February

More than forty participants of the GLISPA Steering Committee came together to: review progress in 2013, assess financial sustainability, identify goals for 2014 and develop a clear work plan towards 2015.

### BRIGHT SPOTS IN 2013 STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

#### \* **Supporting Implementation of Existing Commitments:**

**Micronesia Challenge** developed strong measures of progress in marine conservation and began implementing their sustainable finance mechanism. Palau is looking to establish a marine sanctuary for whole EEZ. "Partnership is the only way to do this," Ambassador Otto.

**Caribbean Challenge Initiative:** 9 Caribbean government and 17 corporations came together in May 2013 in the British Virgin Islands to make a series of bold commitments to preserve and protect 20% of the marine and coastal environment by 2020, and accelerate efforts to transition to renewable energy. The Summit, hosted by the Prime Minister of Grenada, the Premier of BVI, and Sir Richard Branson, Founder of the Virgin Group, officially launched the second phase of the CCI. The CCI has been recognized as a champion for biodiversity by the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Global Island Database:** Overcame significant technology/legal hurdles to make database more usable and applicable for decision makers. Look for it at <http://gid.unep-wcmc.org/>

#### \* **Supporting development of new commitments**

**Hawai'i Green Growth Initiative** is working towards launching a significant blue/green growth commitment in 2014. In late 2013, Ambassador Jumeau met with the Governor of Hawaii to draw attention to the value to Hawaii's efforts and to invite Hawaii to participate in GLISPA.

**Seychelles** hosted the Abu Dhabi Blue Economy Summit in January. Seychelles is preparing to undertake a debt for adaptation swap. In 2014 the Minister of Finance adopted it as a project under his office, signifying a unification of environment and economic goals, an important step.

#### \* **Ecosystem-based adaptation and reducing the threat of invasive species.**

Building on the CBD COP 11 Decision on the programme of work on island biodiversity, the invasives working group, co-chaired by Olivier Langrand (Island Conservation) and Phil Andreozzi (US National Invasive Species Council) have been working to ensure that management of invasive species is prioritized, including through GEF-6 funding and Lifeweb. GEF 6 (the new four year GEF cycle) starts in July 2014 and is likely to include a specific programme allocation (Programme 4) dedicated to address the impacts of invasive alien species.

#### \* **Growing engagement of Europe Overseas.**

Ambassador Jumeau met with members of the European Commission including Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for the Environment, to support efforts to raise awareness of the value of island biodiversity with the EU. M. Maurice Ponga, Member of European Parliament from New Caledonia, hosted a overcapacity MEP Roundtable during the GLISPA delegation visit. IUCN Europe Overseas Program, Rare and GLISPA also hosted a bright spot exchange and reception during the Third International Marine Protected Areas Congress in October 2013 to further this pursuit.

#### \* **Building strategy towards 2014/2015.**

Several working groups have been convening to coordinate activities towards 2015. GLISPA has continued to work with the Polynesian Voyaging Society to assist with international networking, especially with other islands and their leaders with the goal to raise awareness of declining ocean health and bright spots in ocean conservation. In 2014, the PVS have been preparing to launch their three year round the world traditional voyage.

#### \* **Building bright spots and strategic collaboration.** Two bright spot exchange events were held as part of IMPAC3 and Hawaii Congress to encourage investment in scaling and replicating what is working.

**"GLISPA is an excellent platform to forge partnerships in ways that are concrete and transparent."**

H.E. DR. OTTO, AMBASSADOR FOR REPUBLIC OF PALAU.

# GLISPA Strategy and Priorities towards 2016

The approaches take advantage of strategic events towards 2016 to apply GLISPA's model of inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitment and facilitating collaboration for all islands. GLISPA priorities are based on the priorities for islands as defined the CBD programme of work on island biodiversity.

## PRIORITIES

- \* **Build resilient and sustainable island communities through innovative partnerships**
  - \* Build a pipeline of commitments around the vision for "GLISPA 2.0" focused on highlighting blue-green growth-oriented components in commitments.
  - \* Recruit new and diverse leadership, particularly around islands leading in the blue and green economy
- \* **Support successful implementation of regional island challenges and other partner commitments**
  - \* Engage European Union in recognizing the value of their Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions biodiversity and the bright spots in sustainable development efforts;
  - \* Catalyze financial commitments to support island action including of the Micronesia, Caribbean and Western Indian Ocean Challenges;
  - \* Facilitate collaboration and sharing of lessons and successes between regional island challenges, such as governance, financing, blue/green growth etc.
- \* **Catalyze commitments to ecosystem-based adaptation, mitigation and reducing the threat of invasive species**
  - \* Support funding mobilization to invasive species and ecosystem based adaptation including through:
    - Seychelles and other interested countries debt for adaptation swaps to contribute to broader development strategies
    - Promoting GEF 6 and Lifeweb opportunities.
  - \* Identify bright spots for EBA and invasive species management in national strategies and plans of islands including demonstrating integrated approaches
  - \* Support Invasive species management to be recognized globally as a sustainable development priority

## Celebrating GLISPA's 10th Anniversary

The Partnership will launch a campaign in advance of its 10th Anniversary in 2016. The campaign will launch on the International Day of Island Biodiversity, 22 May 2014, focused on catalyzing significant, new commitments to island action that can be announced during a high level event at the UNSIDS meeting in Samoa.

The campaign will focus on securing funding to support GLISPA and work to leverage significant resources for islands. The value that GLISPA brings was summed up as "leadership, leveraging, and partnerships."

## Bright Spots

Build profile of island bright spots to help create closer connections between government, community and regional investment decisions.

## Other issues discussed:

- \* Development of a plan for the engagement of GLISPA in the Pacific Island Forum in Palau in July and to advance Forum outcomes
- \* Broadening EU engagement to support unlocking the value of Europe Overseas
- \* Role of Italy as EU president in 2014 and how that can support the island strategy and Italy's hosting of the Milan Expo in 2015 and the opportunity to showcase island issues.
- \* Developing closer synergies /collaboration between GLISPA and the Mountain Partnership based at FAO from the perspective of mountainous islands and to build on the many similarities between the two fraternities

## Outputs: All meeting documents are available on request

- \* 2014 GLISPA Strategy and Governance
- \* 2014 GLISPA Roadmap
- \* 2014 GLISPA Work plans
- \* 2005 to 2013 GLISPA Event Chronology

**Our sincerest thanks to The Nature Conservancy for hosting the GLISPA Steering Committee meeting at their World Office in Arlington. The Steering Committee acknowledges the significant in-kind support of:**

**GLISPA Fellows:** Margot Buchbinder, Alessio de Rita, Gillian Duggin, Zena Grecni, Leah Meth, Lia Nicholson, Kalani Rossel, Sam Teicher, Allie Tsubota, Lora Vaioleti

**GLISPA Communications Supporters:** Mark Thiel (Website Designer) and Rommel Alama (Graphic Design)

**GLISPA Advisers:** Audrey Newman (Senior Adviser), Jessica Bensley (Communications Adviser) Scott Hajost (Senior Adviser)

### GLISPA Founding Supporters



### GLISPA Supporters 2013



## 2014 GLISPA Governance Structure

GLISPA is Co-Chaired by the Presidents of Seychelles and Palau as well as the Prime Minister of Grenada. The Co-Chairs provide strategic high-level guidance and leadership to advance the Partnerships strategic priorities. As appropriate the Co-Chairs will host events, speak on behalf of the Partnership and reach out to inspire other leaders to make visionary commitment to advance the Partnership’s mission. The Co-Chairs designate a representative to interact with and provide input to the GLISPA Steering Committee.

**GLISPA Steering Committee**, Chaired by the President of Seychelles representative to the Steering Committee and Vice-Chaired by the President of Palau’s representative, the Steering Committee is responsible for governance and strategy of the partnership. The whole Steering Committee develops, implements and monitors the GLISPA Strategy. The Steering Committee meetings annually in Washington D.C.

**GLISPA Executive Committee** is a subset of the Steering Committee that makes recommendations and decisions related to governance, administration, financial issues, coordination team staff and related issues on behalf of the Steering Committee. The Executive Committee reports to the GLISPA Steering Committee and meets via teleconference at least 3 times annually.

**GLISPA Coordination Team** is responsible to the Executive Committee to coordinate implementation of the GLISPA Strategy and Work plans. The Coordination Team reports to the Executive Committee Chair on implementation progress, governance, administration, communications and staffing.

**GLISPA Participants.** GLISPA is open to any entity committed to taking significant action to ensure island conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

## GLISPA GOVERNANCE

