

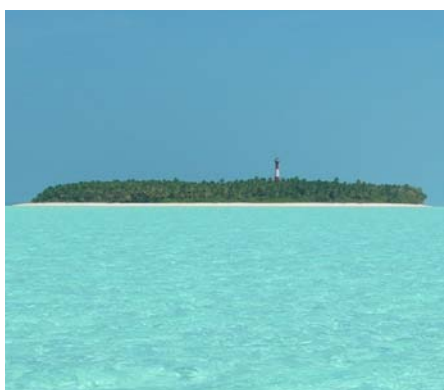
# Islands Are Taking Action!

Islands are showing the way to effectively conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable livelihoods. Further action is needed that builds on what is working.



## Commit to take action now:

- ★ **Demonstrate your leadership by making or helping to implement visionary commitments**
- ★ **Show your commitment by dedicating resources to achieve island aspirations**
- ★ **Collaborate by scaling up and out the bright spots from islands**
- ★ **Take action, support the Global Island Partnership [www.glispa.org](http://www.glispa.org)**



## The Wealth of Islands

Islands are important to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the world:

- ★ The world's 175,000 islands<sup>1</sup> host more than 600 million inhabitants<sup>2</sup> and provide critical resources to many more
- ★ Over two thirds of the world's countries have islands<sup>3</sup>
- ★ Islands support 20% of all biodiversity, including a disproportionately high level of endemic species<sup>4</sup>
- ★ Islands harbour more than:
  - 50% of the world's known marine biodiversity
  - Seven of the world's 10 coral reef hotspots, and
  - 10 of its 34 conservation hotspots<sup>5</sup>
- ★ Islands and their oceans represent one-sixth of Earth's total area
- ★ Terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems provide the base for most island economies (fisheries, forestry, agriculture, and tourism industries) and cultures

## Island Wealth is Under Threat

The challenges facing island biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods are increasing:

- ★ Extinction rates for mammals are 177 times higher in island ecosystems than the aggregated average for all ecosystems<sup>6</sup>
- ★ 95% of bird, 90% of reptile and 70% of mammal extinctions have been on islands and these extinctions are primarily the result of the introduction of invasive vertebrates to islands<sup>7</sup>
- ★ In most islands natural resources are the most important source of products and services for livelihood and health security with fisheries accounting for 10% of GDP and over 50% of exports in some islands<sup>8</sup>
- ★ Continued use and reliance on natural resources poses challenges in aligning competing national priorities with sustainable practices, environmental protection and social equity<sup>9</sup>

**The Aichi Targets cannot be reached without addressing the continued and ongoing loss of island biodiversity and the relationship to sustainable livelihoods. Political leadership and management action are needed to halt and reverse these trends.**

1 According to the GSHHS Dataset (<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/shorelines/gshhs.html>), more than 175,000 islands have a land area of at least 0.1km<sup>2</sup>

2 "A World of Islands: An Islands Study Reader." G. Baldacchino. 2007. <http://www.islandstudies.ca/worldofislands.html>

3 <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/shorelines/gshhs.html>

4 Kier, G.; Kreft, H.; Lee, T. M.; Jetz, W.; Ibsch, P.; Nowicki, C.; Mutke, J. and Barthlott, W. 2009. A global assessment of endemism and species richness across island and mainland regions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 106: 9322-9327. <http://www.pnas.org/content/106/23/9322.full>.

5 Baldacchino, D. World of Islands, 2007 - <http://www.islandstudies.ca/worldofislands.html>

6 Loehle, Craig, and Willis Eschenbach. 2011. Historical bird and terrestrial mammal extinction rates and causes. *Diversity and Distributions*

7 The Global Islands Invasive Vertebrate Eradication Database: A tool to improve and facilitate restoration of island ecosystems. [http://www.issg.org/pdf/publications/Island\\_Invasives/pdfHQprint/1Keitt.pdf](http://www.issg.org/pdf/publications/Island_Invasives/pdfHQprint/1Keitt.pdf)

8 UNEP Green Economy in a Blue World Report. [www.unep.org/pdf/green\\_economy\\_blue.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/green_economy_blue.pdf). 2011.

9 UNEP Green Economy in a Blue World Report. [www.unep.org/pdf/green\\_economy\\_blue.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/green_economy_blue.pdf). 2011.





# Islands Are Leading the Way



TOP: FIJI ©ROB CHAPPELL; BOTTOM: GUAM.  
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Islands have made significant progress towards the Aichi Targets through implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity adopted in 2006 as determined by an indepth review of the programme of work carried out in 2011/12. Islands have demonstrated leadership and commitment to protect, manage and sustainably use their island resources.

Over the past six years, island Parties and Parties with islands launched major initiatives and promising new programmes. These initiatives build on efforts towards more sustainable and resilient island ecosystems and economies. Together these actions will also contribute to poverty alleviation by helping maintain livelihoods for island people.

However, much remains to be done. Major constraints to successful implementation on most islands continue to be limited institutional, technical and economic capacity in Governments, communities and the private sector (often also linked to land tenure issues); susceptibility to invasive species, climate change and natural disasters; isolation and remoteness; and vulnerability to global markets and trends.

Islands are taking action and making progress in the face of these challenges however further commitment is needed to continue to build on what is working and maintain resilient ecosystems, strong island economies and sustainable livelihoods. Lessons learned in islands can be of great value to the rest of the world, and supporting these pioneering leaders and their citizens makes global sense.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Sources: Island Business News 45/2, May 2010 [http://www.unep.org/pdf/green\\_economy\\_blue.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/green_economy_blue.pdf), [http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/portals/88/documents/advisory\\_services/Barbados.pdf](http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/portals/88/documents/advisory_services/Barbados.pdf), <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/SuccessStories/OrganicAgricultureinCuba/tabid/29890/Default.aspx>

“We are not here to talk about saving islands;  
we are here to talk about saving the world.”

—The Hon. Tony de Brum, Minister in Assistance to the President, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Rio+20

# Bright Spots: Invest In What Works

Island success is built upon initiatives that work – bright spots. Bright spots can be projects, programs, policies or initiatives at any level that are making a difference in advancing conservation and sustainable livelihoods. 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. The following are some examples of bright spots emerging from islands, though these are by no means an exhaustive list. Help identify, share, and invest in island bright spots.

GLOBAL	<b>Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)</b> <a href="http://www.glispa.org">www.glispa.org</a>	<p><b>GLISPA</b> is an implementation mechanism for the programme of work on island biodiversity. Since 2006, GLISPA has mobilized more than US\$155 million and assisted countries and organizations in conceiving, launching, financing and strengthening more than 12 major commitments to promote conservation of island biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods. In 2008, GLISPA was recognized as a critical partnership for the Convention on Biological Diversity (Decision IX/28). GLISPA has also supported commitments such as the Global Island Database by UNEP WCMC.</p>
REGIONAL	<b>Regional 'Island' Commitments</b>	<p>Based on national and regional priorities, the commitments add value to existing efforts by helping countries accelerate and improve actions on key international policies and agreements as well as local implementation. Their success is due in large part to committed political leadership, collaboration across political jurisdictions (countries and overseas territories) and approaches that address multiple island and global priorities. The initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ <b>Micronesia Challenge:</b> political commitment of three countries and two territories to effectively conserve at least 30% of the nearshore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. <a href="http://www.micronesiachallenge.org">www.micronesiachallenge.org</a></li> <li>★ <b>Caribbean Challenge Initiative:</b> political commitment of six countries to protect at least 20% of the near-shore marine and coastal habitats by 2020. <a href="http://www.glispa.org">www.glispa.org</a></li> <li>★ <b>Coral Triangle Initiative:</b> multilateral partnership of six countries working together to sustain extraordinary marine and coastal resources by addressing crucial issues such as food security, climate change and marine biodiversity. <a href="http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org">www.coraltriangleinitiative.org</a></li> <li>★ <b>Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge</b> is an emerging commitment championed by Seychelles. <a href="http://www.glispa.org">www.glispa.org</a></li> </ul>
	<b>Sustainable Financial Mechanisms</b>	<p>New multi-country conservation trust funds provide the framework for sustainable financing for regional and national commitments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ <b>Micronesia Conservation Trust</b> is the financial mechanism for the Micronesia Challenge and plays an important function of connecting community-based conservation stakeholders in Micronesia with a broad range of private and public donors.</li> <li>★ <b>Caribbean Biodiversity Fund</b>, supported by national level trust funds in each of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative countries, is a new trust fund that will provide sustainable financing for protected areas.</li> </ul> <p>The trust funds providing the framework to establish other innovation sustainable financing mechanisms such as Debt for Climate Adaptation Swaps.</p>
	<b>Reducing the threat of Invasive Species</b>	<p><b>Micronesia Biosecurity Plan</b> proactively addresses terrestrial and marine invasive species risks to Micronesia in response to the Military relocation to Guam and the Commonwealth of the North Mariana Islands (CNMI). Funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and cooperating Federal Departments, the Plan is unprecedented effort will help address both invasive species threats to the Military mission and invasive species concerns raised by the Micronesian Chief Executives and federal and regional partners.</p>
	<b>Europe Overseas</b>	<p>Recognizing the importance of biodiversity in European overseas territories, the European Parliament established the <b>Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST)</b>. BEST will develop long-term innovative governance and financial instruments to support conservation of island biodiversity and livelihoods.</p>
NATIONAL & SUB-NATIONAL	<b>Advancing Green and Blue Economies</b>	<p><b>Hawai'i Green Growth Initiative (HGG)</b> brings Hawai'i leaders from energy, food and the environment together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i and be a model for integrated green growth. As a microcosm for security challenges facing the globe, Hawai'i has a unique opportunity to build a green economy at a manageable scale with an innovative, integrated multi-sector partnership and work with others to adapt to a changing world.</p> <p>Other Green and Blue Economy initiatives include the <b>Bonaire</b> and <b>Mauritius</b> green island initiatives</p> <p><b>The Palau Green Fee</b> is a fee paid by all visitors upon their departure from Palau to support the Palau Protected Areas Network (PAN). Between 2009 and 2011, Palau raised US\$1.4million from green fees which was allocated to the Micronesia Challenge endowment.</p>
	<b>Large Scale Marine Protected Areas</b>	<p>Several large scale marine protected areas have been established protecting more than 1,300,000 mi<sup>2</sup> (2.9 million km<sup>2</sup>) of ocean ecosystems including Pāpāhānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Phoenix Islands Protected Area, Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, Chagos Marine Protected Area, Motu Motiro Hiva Marine Park, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Cook Islands Marine Park. Big Ocean, a peer learning mechanism, has been established focused on management effectiveness. <a href="http://www.bigoceanmanagers.org/">http://www.bigoceanmanagers.org/</a></p>
COMMUNITY	<b>Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA's)</b>	<p>LMMA's are largely or wholly managed at a local level by the coastal communities and/or land-owning groups, with the support of partner organizations and collaborative government representatives. First established in Fiji, LMMA's are being replicated across island and coastal communities including Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Indonesia, Philippines and now to Madagascar and elsewhere in the Indian Ocean. More than 420 Indo-Pacific sites in the LMMA network involve around 600 villages and cover more than 12,000 km<sup>2</sup> in 15 Pacific Island States. <a href="http://www.lmmanetwork.org/">http://www.lmmanetwork.org/</a></p>





## The Island Way to Achieving the Aichi Targets

The programme of work on island biodiversity (PoWIB) is a tool to implement the larger UN Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the Aichi targets. The PoWIB provides island states and states with islands with a strategic platform to clearly identify and prioritize their common issues. These issues are often linked to the relative isolation of islands, their unique ecological fragility, dependence on biodiversity for food and livelihood security, often limited capacity and resources, and the disproportionate effect of climate change, extreme weather events, natural disasters and invasive alien species on their people and livelihoods.

In other programmes of work and cross-cutting issues of the Convention (e.g. protected areas, climate change and biodiversity for development), the achievements and needs of island Parties may be difficult to recognize as they are overshadowed by Parties with larger populations, geographic size, resources or political influence. The island programme of work draws from all relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues to outline the important actions needed to achieve the Aichi targets on islands.

The programme of work is also a useful tool for Parties with islands. For instance, many European overseas islands face environmental challenges similar to their regional neighbours and may face institutional or capacity difficulties that prevent them from benefitting from the tools and initiatives of the Convention. Overseas islands are some of the most biodiverse parts of Europe, and they also provide valuable lessons on the sustainable use of biodiversity and for the economic valuation of biodiversity

and ecosystem services — solutions that could be shared with all of mainland Europe and its regional neighbours.

By nature of their reduced size and interlinked ecosystems, islands can also provide opportunities for piloting integrated solutions for various multilateral environmental agreements, in particular the three Rio conventions. Biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation in islands have contributed to worsening climate change-related impacts and land degradation, and vice-versa, with negative consequences for human well being. At the same time, healthy, resilient ecosystems contribute significantly to climate change mitigation and adaptation. For these reasons, the PoWIB recognizes and emphasizes the intrinsic interconnectivity of biodiversity, land management and climate change.

The programme of work contributes to meeting at least 14 of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as to the Barbados Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals. During the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-16) the Parties adopted **recommendation XVI/3** as part of the in-depth review of the programme of work. This was considered a strong and coherent draft decision for Parties to negotiate at the eleventh meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties (CBD COP-11). This factsheet has been prepared to support the deliberations based on the in-depth review report.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Island Biodiversity: in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/official/sbstta-16-04-en.pdf>)

This fact sheet has been developed by the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) which is recognized as a mechanism for advancing the conservation of island biodiversity (Decision IX/21, CBD COP9) in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat with the kind financial support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund.



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



“We call on fellow leaders to reach out and come together under the Global Island Partnership to advance our common goal to halt global biodiversity loss, address the threat to climate change and ensure a sustainable future for our island people and the planet.”

— President James Michel, Seychelles