

## GLISPA Highlight – NYC Strategy Briefing

25 April 2013



Director of UNOHRLS Heidi Schroderus-Fox speaking alongside the meeting hosts Ambassador Beck of Palau and Ambassador Jumeau of Seychelles

Samoa is looking for “actionable outcomes” for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Samoa in 2014 (UNSIDS 2014) stated Ambassador Heidi Schroderus-Fox the Director of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLS) during the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) Strategy briefing on 25 April 2013.

Ambassador Schroderus-Fox indicated that the expectations for the meeting it was for it to “forge partnerships that can have sustained long term change in lives and

livelihoods of the people.”

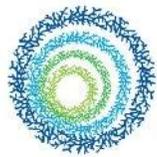
The strategy briefing, hosted by Palau and Seychelles as co-chairs of GLISPA was the first to be held in New York City and provided an opportunity to engage and get feedback from current and potential GLISPA participants on directions for the Partnership’s 2013 to 2015 Strategy.

The Strategy, discussed during the annual GLISPA steering committee meeting held in Washington D.C. in late February, identifies ways to engage on specific actions to help advance our common goals on priority issues:

- Successful implementation of regional island challenges and other partner commitments
- Ecosystem-based adaptation and reducing the threat of invasive species
  - Invasive Species
  - Financing for EBA
- Linking conservation and sustainable livelihoods to development
  - Blue-green growth

It takes advantage of opportunities presented by upcoming forums including the UNSIDS 2014 as well as efforts towards the post 2015 agenda.

In discussion on the post-2015 agenda, The Hon. Stuart Beck, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations, highlighted the need for countries to focus on ocean issues, particularly through the development of a specific Sustainable Development Goal on oceans.



Speaking on the Micronesia Challenge, Joe Aitaro from Palau stated that the Challenge has been effective in enabling people to conserve and take care of their resources. He observed that through the Challenge, local expertise have been increased, “Years ago it was people from all over world coming to Palau to talk about conservation. Now it is Palauans who are focused on how to advance conservation in our country.”

The Hon. Ronny Jumeau, Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing States and the Chair of the GLISPA Steering Committee, noted that Seychelles was inspired by the Micronesia Challenge and is working towards launching a Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge that will also invite the islands of the Western Indian Ocean as well as the countries of the eastern coast of Africa who choose to join them.



Joe Aitaro of Palau speaking on the progress of the Micronesia Challenge

There has been strong mobilization of both public and private sector support towards the Caribbean Challenge, particularly through the Caribbean Challenge Political and Business Leaders Summit being co-hosted by the Prime Minister of Grenada, the Premier of the British Virgin Islands and Richard Branson of Virgin.

An update was also given on the efforts of Hawaii Green Growth Initiative to work together to achieve targets in energy, food and ecosystem security with a specific short term focus on a green funding mechanism and state-wide sustainability measures.

During discussion, participants identified opportunities to work with GLISPA to promote and showcase the action that islands are taking to advance conservation of island biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods through the International Year of SIDS that has been declared by the United Nations General Assembly for 2014.

Thank you to the GEF Small Grants Program being implemented by UNDP as well as PCI Media Impact for assistance in meeting preparations.

Further information:

- [GLISPA Event Spotlight – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Steering Committee meeting](#)
- [GLISPA Brochure](#)
- [GLISPA 2012 Annual Report](#)