

Global Island Partnership: Our Wealth of Islands: Discussion Document

Rationale

For more than a decade, island leaders at the highest political levels have been taking urgent action to protect our planet's precious and vulnerable ecosystems: our islands, our oceans and our island Earth. It was at the CBD COP8 in Brazil 2006, that island leaders came together to launch the Global Island Partnership as a cooperation platform to support the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity, adopted at that same meeting. That was also when one of the first globally relevant island-led commitments, the Micronesia Challenge, was announced. Over the next thirteen years a groundswell of formidable island leaders launched bold, visionary and measurable commitments through the Partnership to galvanize urgent action to protect our planet's island ecosystems from their mountains and coasts to the deep ocean. From the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, Micronesia Challenge and Aloha+ Challenge in Pacific to the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, Seychelles Blue Economy Vision and Europe's BEST Challenge, these beacons demonstrate how we can deliver in a locally and culturally appropriate way on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Paris Agreement, SAMOA Pathway and Sustainable Development Goals.

This progress has been inspired, facilitated and coordinated by the Partnership through a set of interconnected islands, organisations, partnerships and networks working together toward the common mission to build resilient and sustainable island communities for all islands. In the thirteen years since its launch the Global Island Partnership has continued to mature, grow and cement deep relationships with the guidances of its prestigious leaders: the Presidents of Palau, Marshall Islands and Seychelles as well as the Prime Minister of Grenada and Premier of the British Virgin Islands. These leaders bring visionary leadership and champion and inspire islands. The Partnership has moved from strength to strength launching its 2030 Strategic Plan during its ten year anniversary in 2016 and moving to a formal membership that now brings together 35 paid members and 45 friends working together to achieve common goals and priorities. The Partnership is widely regarded as a global platform able to:

- **Leverage** its network of political leaders (heads of state, ministers, governors, ambassadors) who act as champions to leverage financial, political, and institutional support for island action.
- **Connect** and collaborate with partners from across political jurisdictions to support the implementation of commitments, the scaling of solutions, and to track progress in relation to the SDGs.
- **Strategize** with other members and partners to strategically frame island issues and show how islands can provide scalable solutions to global challenges.
- **Incubate**, launch and strengthen high-impact initiatives to move forward mutual priorities.

The Partnership has been widely celebrated by the United Nations as a platform inspiring island action for implementation of global sustainability goals. Recognitions include: showcased in the 2016 UN Partnerships for SIDS; SIDS Action Platform (2014) and Sustainable Development Knowledge Platforms (2015); joint production, with the CBD Secretariat, of a collection of island bright spots and posters celebrating the theme of the 2014 International Day on Biodiversity, for the 3rd International SIDS Conference in Samoa; as a success factor in preparations for the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and as a mechanism for consultations and messaging to advance the

conservation of island biodiversity in Decision IX/21, CBD COP9 (2008) and Decision XI/15, CBD COP11 (2012).

Celebrating the Wealth of Islands 2019 to 2020+

Islands have contributed a wealth of solutions to conserve and protect biodiversity. These solutions are beacons of hope to the world that there is the vision and determination to navigate to the future we want. To make these solutions a reality, we need to continue to encourage investment into island solutions, to strengthen the partnerships and mechanisms and to build the movement of formidable leaders and bold champions that are building island resilience and galvanizing long-term, deep change.

Roadmap 2020+

1. **Year 1** (Jan to Dec 2019) is an institutional stepping stone to enable the Partnership to convene and coordinate across island regions to consolidate the progress of islands as well as understand the next set of commitments that could be launched by islands over the next decade. It provides a set of steps and milestones to launch the new vision and to help islands engage in a transformational way in COP 15 in China.
2. **Year 2** (Jan to Dec 2020) supports GLISPA to mobilize the high level political will behind the island-led commitments which are measurable and ambition to be launched at CBD COP15 as well as high level support of islands at CBD COP15 to deliver on the post 2020 CBD agreement. This will enable the Partnership to continue to build the island conservation and resilience movement, inspire the next generation of commitments and celebrate the wealth of islands in advancing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at CBD COP 14 and 15 and their contributions to mainstreaming biodiversity to achieve the SAMOA Pathway, Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals and other global agreements.

Outcomes

Islands effectively engage with the process to CBD COP15 and preparations for the post 2020

Biodiversity Framework:

- The wealth and impact of island contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets is celebrated and widely recognized (detailed dashboard)
- New visionary commitments are identified that could be launched by island Parties and Parties with islands to highlight action to post 2020 CBD Goals (innovation) and which are measurable and ambitious.
- Island Parties' and Parties with islands' needs and priorities at the global level for post 2020 in the UN and MEAs are packaged through the Global Island Partnership
- The Global Island Partnership is financially stable and institutionally independent as a platform led by islands to build resilient and sustainable island communities for all islands continuing to grow and facilitate island-led action.

Roadmap Activities

1. **Assess the wealth and impact of island Parties and Parties with islands to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in advancing conservation of biodiversity and promoting integrated solutions to resilience and sustainability to help prepare for the post 2020 Biodiversity Framework.**

This effort will put in place a set of interrelated activities provides a platform to reflect on the *Wealth of Islands: A Global Call for Conservation (2006)*¹, the launch of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity and progress of the interrelated commitments and partnerships that were launched to identify bright spots, lessons and impacts in advancing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. These activities will include:

- **Wealth of Islands Workshop, Location: tbc - Hawaii, Date: tbc btw April to Sept 2019** to convene the representatives of island commitments from Micronesia, Caribbean, Seychelles and Hawaii to identify the bright spots, partnerships, lessons learnt and impact in advancing the Aichi Targets. These proven local to regional models can be scaled and adapted by cities, states and countries globally to locally deliver in a culturally appropriate way on the SDGs and other global agreements.
- Development and launch of the **“Wealth of Islands Part 2: Bright Spots and Impact of Islands in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets” Report** to be launched in the lead up to CBD COP15 in China and based on the findings and outcomes from the workshop and further research. This would be supported by island input into the next Global Biodiversity Outlook.
- **Launch of the “Island Heroes” social media campaign.** Launched approximately mid-2019 toward CBD COP15. This campaign will be used to share key messages and finding of the Wealth of Islands Report to create a drum beat to COP15 using innovative use of video interviews, multi and social media to reinforce the message that “islands are leading innovative solutions that are building resilience”. GLISPA will collaborate with the Secretariat, UN and media and dissemination channels to mobilize the momentum of islands toward CBD COP15 (*Approx 100k in co-financing will need to be secured targeting private sector*).

2. Celebrate the ‘wealth of islands’, the island leaders, their commitments, solutions & partnerships that have made a considerable impact on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets during a series of events (high level and side events) in the lead up to the CBD COP15. See Island Roadmap.

3. Identify new large-scale and visionary commitments that could be launched by island Parties and Parties with islands to highlight action to post 2020 CBD Goals

¹ Wealth of Islands: A Global Call for Conservation (2006). Mulongoy, K.J., Webbe, J., Ferreira, M. & C. Mittermeier. Special Issue of the CBD Technical Series, Montreal, <https://www.cbd.int/island/islands.shtml>

4. Identify opportunities to build and strengthen capacity for nationally-led public-private partnerships to drive implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, SDGs and other global agreements locally.

5. GLISPA is financially stable and strengthened institutionally as a platform led by islands to build a resilient and sustainable island communities for all islands. This will center on GLISPA convene its first Council Members Meeting (Location: Mallorca, Date: April 2019).

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GLISPA Island Roadmap: Celebrating the Wealth of Islands

Events	Opportunity	Events	Time period / Major Milestones
CBD COP14 Cairo, Egypt	Launch the 'Wealth of Islands' approach	GLISPA event series to showcase island contributions to the Aichi Targets as well as kick-start the 'Wealth of Islands' process to support Micronesia, Caribbean and other commitments to explore renewed/expanded commitments beyond 2020.	High Level Segment 7 to 8 Nov 2018 10 to 22 Nov 2018
SMILO Annual Meeting	MOU signed. Engagement and planning on Island Roadmap Approach.	GLISPA and Small Islands Organisation (SMILO) sign an MOU focussed on supporting efforts on the Island Roadmap.	Dec 2018

2019 Events	Opportunity	Events	Time period / Major Milestones
UN High Level Political Forum	Share island progress	Event with GEF SGP implemented by UNDP, Local 2030 hub	July, 2019
UN General Assembly (High-level Reviews of: Progress on SAMOA Pathway and HLPF as well as SG Climate Agenda)	High Level Event linking between three focus - SIDS/Islands, SDGs and Climate with focus on implementation.	Island High level event	Sept 3, 2019
Oceans SDG UN Conference, Portugal			2020
IUCN World Conservation Congress, Marseille, France	Convene island focussed events with Small Islands Organisation and France.	GLISPA event / island fete	June 2020
Our Ocean 2020, Palau	Showcase the wealth and impact of islands in advancing oceans and biodiversity goals		August 2020
UNGA 2020	High level		
CBD COP15, China	Showcase the wealth and impact of islands in advancing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and global goals.	GLISPA high level event / island fiesta (tbc) New or re-commitments and celebration of what has been achieved.	November 2020