



**GLISPA Highlight:
Mauritian NGO Wins Island Bright Spot Award**

4 December 2013

The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) is pleased to announce that the ***Grand-Sable Women Planters Farmers Entrepreneurs Association*** of Mauritius has been awarded the ***Island Bright Spot Award*** as part of the 2013 [Solution Search](#) coordinated by Rare and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Grand-Sable Women Planters Farmers Entrepreneurs Association was selected as the winner of the Award for their project focused on educating women and households of Grand-Sable in creating diversified and alternative livelihoods through the cultivation of seaweed, medicinal plants and roots such as Vetiver (a flood-mitigating crop) to develop products such as soaps, pickles, herbal teas and essential oils.

“It is a great honor and privilege for us to receive the Island Bright Spot Award,” said Geraldine Fine Aristide, President of the *Grand-Sable Women Planters Farmers Entrepreneurs Association*. “The village of Grand-Sable in Mauritius is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. We’ve been given an opportunity through this project, which has empowered us to make future progress so as to sustain our livelihoods as well as that of our families today and in the future.” See a video of Mrs. Aristide’s statement, [here](#).

This project, funded by UNDP GEF Small Grant’s Program, was selected from more than 30 entries as it advances conservation of island biodiversity through ecosystem-based adaptation and promotes sustainable livelihoods. It has potential to be scaled and replicated to other island communities.

“The Island Bright Spot Award demonstrates GLISPA’s commitment to replicating what’s working for island conservation, and it connects directly with Solution Search’s mission. Find what works. Repeat,” said Brett Jenks, President and CEO of Rare. “We are proud to have partnered with GLISPA on this contest and look forward to working together in the future.”

The Award was sponsored by GLISPA to showcase island action in advance of the United Nations International Year of Small Island Developing States in 2014. To celebrate this award, a representative of Grand-Sable Women Planters Farmers Entrepreneurs Association will be invited to participate in GLISPA events at the [Third International Conference on Small Island Development States](#) (UNSIDS 2014) to be held in Apia, Samoa on 28 August to 4 September 2014. GLISPA will also showcase this project through events and activities to encourage investment in scaling and replicating this and

other island bright spots as effective solution to achieve global conservation and climate change targets.

The award was presented during a gala event as part of the 2013 [Solution Search](#), coordinated by Rare and The Nature Conservancy. Solution Search is a contest that illuminates successful innovations in community-led conservation and gives them a global platform. This year's search focused on people around the world who are developing successful ways to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The event demonstrated how investing in nature as a key component to adapting to climate change produces invaluable benefits for community livelihoods and the environment.

The contest revealed inventive and exciting projects from 37 countries. The [outcomes of this year's Solution Search](#) confirm that a wide range of innovative, nature-based solutions exist that will aid communities in adapting to climate change.

The **Global Island Partnership** (GLISPA) assists islands in addressing one of the world's greatest challenges – to conserve and sustainably utilize invaluable islands natural resources that support people, cultures and livelihoods in their island homes around the world. It is a partnership for all islands, regardless of size or political status, to take bold steps towards greater sustainability. It provides a global platform that enables islands to work together to develop solutions to common problems and to take high-level commitments and actions that address these global challenges – www.glispa.org.

Island success is built upon initiatives that work – bright spots. Bright spots can be activities, projects, programs, policies or initiatives at any level that are making a difference in advancing conservation of island biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods and have the potential to be scaled and replicated. To nominate a bright spot please complete this survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RVTHSLY>