



## Progress Update No. 1, 2012

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### Progress on Partnership Priorities

#### 1. GLISPA Annual Steering Committee Meeting

The GLISPA Steering Committee held its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. on the 31 January to 1 February 2012. The meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador Jumeau (Seychelles) and Dr. Spencer Thomas (Grenada), and resulted in:

1. An action plan to ensure GLISPA's sustainability, including the continuation of the GLISPA Funding Team to be chaired by Susi Menazza
2. Review of progress on GLISPA commitments including support to island commitments
3. Reaffirmation of GLISPA's four strategic priority areas:
  - a. Successful implementation of regional island challenges and other partner commitments
  - b. Ecosystem-based adaptation, mitigation and reducing the threat of invasive species
  - c. Linking conservation and sustainable livelihoods to development dialogue
  - d. GLISPA sustainability
4. Identified priority outcomes and activities for 2012 & 2013
5. Finalized a minimum set of measures of success to track GLISPA progress
6. Strengthened the GLISPA coordination team, leadership and governance

This Progress Update is based on the discussions from the meeting. The meeting brief and list of participants is attached. Photos from the event are on our GLISPA Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/glispa>.

## 2. New GLISPA Brochure Available

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The new GLISPA brochure can be downloaded from: <http://www.cbd.int/island/glispa/documents.shtml>. Please do share the brochure through your networks. If you would like hard copies, please contact [jessica.robbs@glispa.org](mailto:jessica.robbs@glispa.org).

## 3. GLISPA Dinner during UNFCCC COP16 explores Innovative Financing Mechanisms

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The Global Island Partnership facilitated a dinner with The Nature Conservancy, co-hosted by the Governments of Grenada (Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States) and Seychelles (Co-Chair of GLISPA) to bring together a small group of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and donor governments to discuss the potential of Debt for Adaptation swaps. Besides the hosts, 18 representatives from the Governments of Australia, Germany, the United States, Maldives, and Belize as well as a representative from the European Commission attended the dinner. All agreed to continue discussions on the topic via future multi-lateral channels related to the ongoing UNFCCC and Rio+20 processes as well via bi-lateral channels, with the aspiration of officially rolling out the concept at the upcoming Rio+20 meeting in June 2012 with an initial small group of SIDS. Others would engage over the next few years.

## 4. Caribbean Challenge Initiative

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**Peer-to-Peer Learning Workshop on Sustainable Finance Strategies for Marine Protected Areas** was held at the 64th Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) Meeting in Puerto Morelos. Marine protected area (MPA) managers from 9 Caribbean nations and territories came together to share experiences related to sustainable finance strategies for MPAs. Four countries from the CCI participated in the meeting – The Bahamas, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada. They presented about their experiences in developing and implementing site level business plans and sustainable finance mechanisms. Participants are now working on follow-up activities to implement new approaches to financing learned at the event and to further build site-level capacity for the sustainable financing of MPAs. Organized by CaMPAM, facilitated by The Nature Conservancy and funded by NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, the event was the first follow-up activity to the CaMPAM Management Capacity Assessment of Selected Coral Reef Marine Protected Areas in the Caribbean (for the full report please see <http://campam.gcfi.org/CapAssess/CapacityAssessmentReport2011/index.html>). For further information please contact Emma Doyle at [emma.doyle@gcfi.org](mailto:emma.doyle@gcfi.org).

In support of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, the United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP CEP) Caribbean Challenge project hosted two meetings with funding from the Directorate General of International Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy:

- **Caribbean Challenge 2<sup>nd</sup> Project Meeting** was held in parallel to the 64th Annual GCFI Meeting on the 3 to 4 November 2011. Approximately 30 experts, including 8 country focal points, as well as supporting partner organizations attended the meeting. Ongoing and completed activities were reviewed, including the mid-size grants provided in 2011 to each of the eight countries participating in the Caribbean Challenge initiative to support marine protected area (MPA) effectiveness. The meeting allowed the participants to exchange ideas and best practices on effective MPA management and no-take areas. Additional activities will be developed in the next months including learning exchanges, MPA profiling and database update, communication, management plans, and compilation of case studies on MPA management. The participants also attended sessions of the GCFI conference.
- **9th Training of Trainers Regional Course on MPA management for Caribbean Challenge countries** was held from 12 to 23 September 2011 at the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, Belize, facilitated by UNEP-CEP and

the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas (CAMPAM) Network and Forum. The meeting involved representatives from seven of the countries involved in the Caribbean Challenge Initiative and the host country. Lectures from regional experts and Belizean MPA scientists and practitioners from government and NGOs on MPA management, national conservation fund management and MPA system development. Grants are being awarded to trainees to organize local training activities in their respective countries.

## 5. Micronesia Challenge

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Micronesia Challenge countries and territories have been involved in Climate Change Workshops facilitated by the Micronesia Conservation Trust and regional mentors of the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community (PIMPAC) network (a peer learning network across Micronesia). The most recent workshop was held in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in February, and focused on how to carry out effective and meaningful community-based adaptation to the projected impacts of climate change. A toolkit has been developed based on extensive consultations and research to help communities assess their vulnerability to climate change impacts and develop adaptation projects. Download the [pdf](#) at [www.cakex.org](http://www.cakex.org). The Workshops have been held in the Marshall Islands, FSM, and Palau. Upcoming Workshops are to be conducted in Kosrae FSM (February 27-March 2, 2012) and Yap FSM (April 2-6, 2012). Further information on the Micronesia Challenge is available from: [www.micronesiachallenge.org](http://www.micronesiachallenge.org).

## 6. Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge

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Mr. Wills Agricole (Director of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Seychelles) was elected as the new President of the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge (WIO-CC) during the body's first technical workshop held in Mauritius from 24 to 27 January 2012. He was chosen by representatives from WIO countries and territories during the meeting of the Implementation of the Small Island Developing States Mauritius Strategy project, newly branded 'Islands'. This European-funded project is providing initial support to operationalize the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge and a range of other activities.

This initial meeting discussed the development of a roadmap and action plan by participant countries, including a 20-year Vision with regional and country level goals, objectives and targets. The WIO-CC will establish an agreement with the Western Indian Ocean Consortium (WIO-C), a consortium of NGOs in partnership with inter-governmental organizations supporting coordination and implementation towards conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems in the region. This agreement would enable the Western Indian Ocean Consortium to provide technical direction and support to the Challenge. The first technical meeting of the WIO Coastal Challenge is planned in March in Seychelles.

## 7. Relationships forged between Hawai'i and Micronesia

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H.E. Johnson Toribiong, President of Palau and the co-chair of GLISPA, and the Hon. Neil Abercrombie, Governor of Hawai'i, met on the margins of the Asia-Pacific Economic Community (APEC) Summit in Hawai'i on 13 November 2011. They discussed a number of issues of mutual interest and potential opportunities for collaboration including Hawai'i's watershed protection programs, the regional Micronesia Shark Sanctuary, the Micronesia Challenge, and sustainable funding mechanisms including Palau's "green fee" for natural area protection and Hawai'i's Temporary Accommodations Tax (TAT). This meeting was arranged at Palau's request by the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) & Hawaii Green Growth Initiative (HGG).

## 8. In-Depth Review (IDR) of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity (PoWIB) and Island Summit at CBD COP-11

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GLISPA is a mechanism to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity (PoWIB). In 2008, the ninth Conference of the Parties (COP-9) Decision XI/21 on Island Biodiversity requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to

undertake an in-depth review of the PoWIB for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting that will take place in Hyderabad, India in October 2012.

GLISPA has been working closely with the CBD Secretariat to ensure islands are able to engage in the review process. As part of our support to the PoWIB and its ongoing implementation in islands, the GLISPA Steering Committee agreed to explore organizing a strategic, high level Island Summit in parallel to CBD COP-11, Hyderabad, India, in October 2012. The specific proposed date is the afternoon and evening of October 16<sup>th</sup>.

The focus of this event would be to recognize island leadership in taking early action on the PoWIB. The event would advance commitments and aspirations articulated in the PoWIB review. The Island Summit has the following proposed objectives:

- Catalyze new commitments towards conservation of island biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods
- Celebrate island leadership and action on the PoWIB

The Island Summit Concept will be discussed at a meeting to be scheduled during the upcoming SBSTTA in Montreal in late April. Final comments from CBD parties on the in-depth review of the PoWIB are currently underway and the draft paper for SBSTTA has been circulated via GLISPA-discuss list serve and other networks.

## 9. GLISPA Plans for Rio+20

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The Steering Committee provided guidance to GLISPA's proposed activities at Rio+20 in June 2012. GLISPA is looking to support a leadership platform and a small event with leaders from current GLISPA commitments. The events will showcase innovative sustainable financing mechanism as well as advance commitments that are aligned with the Rio+20 themes.

The following events are being developed:

- **Leaders Platform – Catalyzing Commitments to Green/Blue Leadership (High Level Event):** an innovative platform at Rio+20, where leaders from the public, corporate and civil society sectors will:
  - profile success stories of natural solutions to economic and social development challenges;
  - commit to undertake initiatives implementing “green” economic solutions in specific sectors over the next three years; and,
  - prepare for the review of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015.

This event is being undertaken with The Nature Conservancy, World Resources Institute, the Seychelles, and others. It will highlight both island and continental initiatives.

- **GLISPA Leaders' Exchange:** This proposed high level activity will bring together a select group of leaders from GLISPA commitments to celebrate progress and identify opportunities for further collaboration.

GLISPA is also exploring other opportunities at Rio+20, which we will share as they develop.

## 10. World Conservation Congress 2012

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GLISPA partners will be hosting a workshop at the World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Jeju, Korea in September 2012 titled: **“Island Leadership on Global Challenges”**. The workshop will share the experience of successful regional and global initiatives that are working with high-level political leadership to advance large-scale commitments to conservation and sustainable livelihoods and make a link to the green economy. Presenters will describe how strategic engagement with high level leaders led to significant increases in international and national resources for conservation and a strong public-private partnership committed to implementation and accountability. Lessons learned about key factors for success and potential pitfalls will be discussed. Leads on this are: Mae Burton-Adams (TNC Micronesia), Willy Kostka (Micronesia Conservation Trust) and Nicholas Conner (Lead, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Economic Valuation Specialist

Group). Other workshops and events involving GLISPA at WCC will be shared through the GLISPA-discuss list serve.

## 11. Related News

- Updates from the **Sea Level Rise Foundation** can be found at: <http://sealevelrise.blogspot.com/>
- Ambassador Jumeau (Seychelles) represented GLISPA during an IUCN side event focus on **Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) in Islands** held during UNFCCC COP-17 Durban. For more information, go to: [http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news\\_overseas/?8931/Working-with-nature-in-and-for-islands](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news_overseas/?8931/Working-with-nature-in-and-for-islands)
- News, presentations and speeches from the **High Level Conference on Islands at the European Parliament** (21 December 2011) can be downloaded from: [http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news\\_overseas/?8921/EU-islands-and-overseas-territories-The-key-for-successful-climate-change-adaptation-strategies-and-biodiversity-policies](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news_overseas/?8921/EU-islands-and-overseas-territories-The-key-for-successful-climate-change-adaptation-strategies-and-biodiversity-policies)
- News from **IUCN European Union Overseas Territories (EUOST)** can be found at: [http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news\\_overseas/](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news_overseas/)
- New **Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Newsletter** focuses on the Caribbean Challenge Initiative: <http://www.cep.unep.org/about-cep/spaw/newsletters/2011/SPAW%20Newsletter%20Ndeg4%20-final.pdf/view>
- **SIDS Policy and Practice** (<http://sids-l.iisd.org/>): we encourage all people interested in islands to sign up to the SIDS-L service. SIDS Policy and Practice provides a useful weekly summary of news and event reporting on SIDS. We will not cross-post the SIDS Policy and Practice summaries to the GLISPA-discuss list serve unless to draw your attention to GLISPA specific content.

**Thank you for your continued efforts to promote action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods.**

The Global Island Partnership is an open and entirely voluntary partnership, available to any national or local government, agency or organization that shares its mission and supports the advancement of its objectives. It is recognized as a best practice partnership by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and as an implementation mechanism for advancing conservation of island biodiversity by the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity.

To learn more about participating in GLISPA or any of the above mentioned announcements, please contact: Jessica Robbins, Islands Communications Manager, [jessica.robbins@glispa.org](mailto:jessica.robbins@glispa.org). Or go to:

[www.glispa.org](http://www.glispa.org)

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