



Progress Update No. 3, 2013

March to August 2013

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2 Progress Update

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1.1. GLISPA joins Global Partnership on Oceans

June 2013: GLISPA formally joined the Global Partnership on Oceans (GPO) in recognition of its significance as an international initiative with the potential to further unite global efforts toward environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods. GLISPA is acutely aware of the environmental dependence that exists for those within island communities, and GPO's central focus on ocean health is obviously important for island life. Moving forward, GLISPA will explore potential for effective involvement of islands in the Global Ocean Action Summit to be held in 2014.

2. Progress on Commitments and Emerging Opportunities

2.1. Caribbean Challenge Initiative

On 17 May 2013, fifteen Caribbean governments and seventeen corporations met on Necker Island in the British Virgin Islands and made a series of bold commitments to preserve and protect the region's marine and coastal environment, and accelerate efforts to transition to renewable energy. These commitments officially launched the second phase of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (2013-2018) during the historic Summit of Caribbean Political and Business Leaders hosted by Dr. the Right Honourable Keith C. Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE and Premier of the British Virgin Islands, and Sir Richard Branson, Founder of Virgin Group. This was a momentous event for both the Caribbean Challenge Initiative and the Caribbean countries.

Kate Brown facilitated the Stakeholder Forum that took place on Day 2 of the Summit and included three consecutive panels: (i) Threats to marine and coastal ecosystems, (ii) Financing: Innovative and Entrepreneurial Approaches to Financing for the Marine and Coastal Environment, and (iii) Management of Large Marine Ecosystems. The Forum was designed to enable stakeholders attending the Summit to have a series of more detailed technical discussions highlighting ideas and experiences on ways to identify concrete actions and to generate financial and technical support to the Caribbean Challenge Initiative in fulfilling its objectives. The Forum highlighted the critical issue of implementation with a number of speakers highlighting the need for implementation to happen at all levels, from political levels to community level.

More information on the Summit can be accessed from: <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/caribbean/caribbean-summit.xml> or by contacting Safiya Sawney, at safiya.sawney@gmail.com.

2.2. Micronesia Challenge

On 5 June 2013, President Remengesau, Jr. addressed a large crowd at the Hokulua United Church of Christ in Puako, Hawai'i to share lessons learned from the Micronesia Challenge. He spoke candidly about how Palau preserves its culture and natural resources against the challenges of economic growth, tourism and climate change, as well as the importance of focusing "on the environment of which we're borrowing from our future children." [Hawai'i Tribune article](#).

On 17 June, Ambassador Kyota of Palau spoke on the Micronesia Challenge during Pacific Night in Washington D.C. to raise awareness of the Challenge with a Washington D.C. and US government audience. Read the full [Micronesia Challenge](#) progress report here or go to the website: www.micronesiachallenge.org.

2.3. Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge

“The Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge can become an example to the world on how to integrate climate change adaptation, ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, clean energy for sustainable livelihoods with development,” stated Prof. Rolph Payet, Minister for Environment and Energy, Republic of Seychelles, during the opening of the Third Technical meeting on WIOCC held on the 15 to 16 July 2013 in Victoria, Seychelles.

Hosted by Seychelles, the meeting brought together countries of the region including Comoros, France-La Reunion, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique and Tanzania-Zanzibar as well as representatives of the Consortium of the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C), including The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), Indian Ocean Commission, Nairobi Convention Secretariat, and Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), to determine a plan of action to operationalise the WIOCC. The meeting was coordinated by the Indian Ocean Commission ISLANDS Project funded by the European Commission and facilitated by the Global Island Partnership Coordination Team.

Significant progress was made in developing the action plan for the WIOCC, including through the participation of Willy Kostka from the Micronesia Challenge, who shared Micronesian experiences in particular to sustainable financing. At the meeting, WIOCC countries determined the process to define targets and potential commitments for the WIOCC, as well as the process of how to join the WIOCC at a high political level. They also examined resource mobilization, sustainable finance approaches and governance. Next steps for the WIOCC will be the implementation of each action plan by interested countries and preparation for a launch of the WIOCC sometime in 2014.

2.4 Preparatory process for the 3rd UN Meeting on the Sustainable Development of SIDS

On 17 July 2013, H.E. James Michel, President of the Republic of Seychelles and Co-Chair of GLISPA, opened the [Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea \(AIMS\) SIDS](#) regional preparatory meeting in Seychelles stating “The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), is an excellent example of intra-island partnership that we believe we must champion in Samoa. Connecting our islands, across our oceans, helps share ideas and also mobilise more resources for island initiatives.” GLISPA was subsequently highlighted throughout the meeting by several high level representatives of the Government of Seychelles as well as the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and Secretary General of the Conference. Kate Brown, GLISPA Coordinator, shared the successes and lessons from the partnership during a high-level open dialogue session organized by the Government of Seychelles.

GLISPA was highlighted in the outcome document of the AIMS meeting: Para 25 “AIMS SIDS have successfully mobilized partnerships of all types, especially SIDS-SIDS partnerships, to advance their sustainable development, and they call for their continued strengthening and expansion. The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) is advancing conservation efforts for island biodiversity, SIDS-DOCK is promoting sustainable energy across all SIDS regions, and the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge is championing innovative regional approaches to climate change adaptation.”

2.5 Hawaii Green Growth Initiative

On the 9 to 15 September 2013, The Hon. Ronny Jumeau, Seychelles Ambassador for Climate Change and SIDS Issues and Chair of the GLISPA Steering Committee, will be a keynote speaker at the “[Islands & Isolated Communities Congress](#)” which is part of the [Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit](#) in Hawai'i. In addition to his role as keynote speaker, the Ambassador will represent GLISPA in a meeting with Hawai'i leadership to discuss green growth and opportunities for collaboration as island leaders. GLISPA will host a special session during the Conference that will provide a briefing on GLISPA's Working Strategy for 2013-2014 and engage current and potential GLISPA partners at the APCEC/IICC. This panel will be an interactive opportunity to be

engaged and informed of the GLISPA strategy and how working collectively can help participants increase their impact.

GLISPA will also meet with the Polynesian Voyaging Society to progress the development of an MOU between GLISPA and PVS on the World Wide Voyage of the [Hokulea](#) (traditional voyaging canoe). The WWV mission is to navigate toward a healthy and sustainable future. GLISPA is keen to support raising awareness of the WWV, and views it as an opportunity to inspire leadership at community to global levels.

2.4. Europe Overseas

As part of GLISPA's strategic priority to raise the awareness of the value of biodiversity in European overseas entities globally, Ambassador Jumeau, alongside Carole Martinez of IUCN European Overseas Program and Kate Brown, met bilaterally with European representatives including M. Maurice Ponga (New Caledonia), Member of the European Parliament, Mr. Janez Potocnik, Commissioner for Environment of the European Commission, and representatives of various divisions of the European Commission (Environment, Climate Change) including long time GLISPA Collaborator Ms. Karin Zaunberger.

M. Ponga, long time advocate of islands and GLISPA, hosted a special roundtable at the European Parliament to highlight the key sustainable development challenges faced by Europe's overseas entities and the potential of islands across the globe to help achieve both EU and international environmental targets. The over-subscribed event heard from MEPs Younous Omarjee and Patrice Tirolien, as well as from representatives of the EU overseas, such as OCTA. Representatives from the European Commission's DG Environment, DG DEVCO, the OCT Taskforce and DG REGIO also spoke on current activities with the EU overseas.

The call for improved support for Europe overseas comes just as the European Commission has launched its third and final call for tender concerning measures towards sustaining the BEST preparatory action. [More information is available.](#)

In October, GLISPA and the IUCN European Overseas Program are coordinating an Island Bright Spot event as part of the 3rd International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3) titled "*Championing Aichi Targets: Islands Key role and bright spots for marine biodiversity conservation*" in Marseille, France. This event will focus on a selection of island bright spots that are advancing conservation and sustainable livelihoods through Marine Protected Areas. Participatory facilitation techniques will be used to share a range of bright spots that can be potentially replicated. We would like to call for Island Bright Spot recommendations by completing this survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RVTHSLY>.

3. GLISPA Priorities

3.1. Invasive Species Working Group

In early June, the ISWG came together to share news and progress on reducing the threat of invasive species on islands. The working group is encouraging efforts to have invasive species as part of the agenda for the Pacific Island Forum meeting in August 2013. The minutes from the meeting are available on request.

3.2. International Year of Small Island Developing States Working Group

2014 is the International Year of SIDS (IYSIDS) to promote action at all levels for the achievement of sustainable development of SIDS. In support of GLISPA's mission to promote action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods, GLISPA is coordinating an informal working group to leverage our collective networks to:

1. **Showcase the action** being taken by islands for conservation and sustainable livelihoods, particularly during the UNSIDS 2014 and CBD COP12

2. Encourage investment in island **bright spots** that can be scaled and replicated to achieve sustainable development goals and the Aichi targets
3. **Profile island leaders** and catalyse further island leadership that inspire commitment to action at community, national, regional and global levels

If you are coordinating an initiative that could contribute to the above, email jessica.robbs@glispa.org. Please note GLISPA is not coordinating the full IYSIDS communications/activities. We are instead using the opportunity to bring together our participants to share efforts towards our common goals and priority areas within GLISPA's niche – island conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

3.3. Island Bright Spots

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. Bright Spots offer a solution to help overcome global conservation challenges. GLISPA is committed to identification, review and sharing of island bright spots. To nominate a bright spot please complete this survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RVTHSLY>.

4. GLISPA Governance and Coordination

4.1. GLISPA Executive Committee

In mid-June, GLISPA held the second Executive Committee meeting via teleconference. The Committee reiterated the importance of GLISPA's sustainability. This year, both the Presidents of Seychelles and Palau pledged \$10,000 each to GLISPA for the next three years; a powerful demonstration of the high level commitment to our Partnership, and our sustainability. During the annual meeting in Washington D.C. the Steering Committee agreed that by February 2014 75% of the Steering Committee will contribute financially or in-kind to guarantee the continuance of GLISPA, and by February 2015, 100% of the Steering Committee will be active sponsors of GLISPA. The Fundraising Working Group is following up in an effort to secure GLISPA's core costs of operation: US\$145,000 for FY2013, US\$210,000 for FY2014. Contact kate.brown@glispa.org if you are interested in contributing to GLISPA coordination.

4.2. GLISPA Fellows

On behalf of Kate, Jessica and the full GLISPA Steering Committee, we would like to thank our GLISPA Fellows for their invaluable support over the past few months. We would also encourage you to share potential job opportunities with these talented and passionate individuals:

Gillian Duggin recently graduated from Columbia University in New York City with a Master in Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy, complementing her prior education and experience as an environmental lawyer for seven years in Australia, Mongolia and Timor-Leste. She is now based in Brazil looking to continue pursuing her career in environmental law and policy, and is particularly interested in biodiversity conservation, climate change, and natural resource management, and the linkages of these issues with community livelihoods and sustainable development. During her time with GLISPA, Gillian developed a case study on GLISPA demonstrating why and how it has developed into a successful partnership. While it will highlight some of the concrete achievements of GLISPA and its partners, the main focus of this report is on explaining why GLISPA would be considered a success, by filling of a unique niche promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods for islands from the perspective of mobilizing leadership. The Case Study will be made available in September. gillian.duggin@gmail.com.

Lora Vaioleti came to the US on a Fulbright scholarship to complete her Masters in Management and Sustainability at the University of California, with a concentration in social policy, communication, strategy

and futures. Just prior to arriving in the US, Lora completed a novel study into the perceptions of Pacific people on their future in the face of climate change, and secured funding to extend this research throughout California this year. Lora was a Fellow of the Center for Unconventional Security Affairs at the University of California, Irvine and continues as a Fellow for the Indigenous Maori and Pacific Adult Education Charitable Trust (IMPAECT) in New Zealand.

Lora is especially interested in the future of climate migration and the role of business and diaspora strategy in building social resilience to climate change in Oceania, and has led a national study in New Zealand into the gaps in Climate Change education. Through IMPAECT, she assists in the coordination and planning of a national RSE program that contracts seasonal workers from Tonga to work in a Maori owned vineyard in the South Island of New Zealand. Lora returned to New Zealand and is continuing to assist in the development of the partnership between GLISPA and the World Wide Voyage, as well as developing the stories behind island Bright Spots and their leaders for future promotion. lora.vaioleti@gmail.com

Jessica Bensley is known as the ‘Map Lady’ to the islanders in the Caribbean. Jessica has been working in the region for over two decades, creating maps that support and promote indigenous sights, cultures and businesses. As the CEO of Skyviews, she created the only satellite Atlas of Barbados that documents the island’s road networks and special places of interest, giving the government and the tourism industry a much needed reference point for planning and development. Additionally, she initiated and spearheaded the public waste management campaign in Anguilla and mentors youth entrepreneurs under the Barbados Youth Business Trust.

Jessica provided coordination support to GLISPA during the 2013 annual Steering Committee meeting in Washington D.C. She also worked with PCI Media Impact to create a Biodiversity Guide to support the My Island My Community campaign activities focused on building resilience, strengthen biodiversity awareness and change behavior patterns around waste and energy matters. Jessica also created a media piece on the importance of mangroves, and action strategies for their restoration and preservation - the piece is being used at schools in the Caribbean.

Recently graduated from Columbia University with a Master of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy, her energies are now focused on building island resiliency, globally. Focusing on small island nations, she seeks to address climate change issues through waste management, ocean resources and ecosystem valuations as a tool to integrate environmental dialogue into economic development and policy decisions. jcbensley@gmail.com.

Thank you to PCI Media Impact and Rare for allowing our GLISPA Fellows to join their teams! We will profile Alessio De Rita in the next update.

5. Related Partnerships

5.1. Mountain Partnership

The Mountain Partnership held its sixth IPROMO training programme on sustainable mountain development. About 35 participants, including eight from island countries, attended the course, which took place in Ormea, Italy, 12-22 July. The course shared with participant’s approaches and methods for promoting a better understanding and implementation of watershed management in mountain areas. The Mountain Partnership is also gearing up for the main event of the year, the Fourth Global Meeting of members, which will take place in Erzurum, Turkey, 17-19 September. This high-level meeting will be crucial to endorsing the new four-year strategy and governance of the Mountain Partnership, to initiate work on its implementation, and to nominate its Steering Committee. It will also provide a unique opportunity for members from across the

world to meet, network, present interesting initiatives and promote collaborative actions in sustainable mountain development.

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. Or go to:

www.glispa.org

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