

Progress Update - September to October 2011

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Partnership Specific

1. [Caribbean Challenge Planning Meeting – Grenada, 21 October 2011](#)

The Planning Meeting focused on the sharing of advances made in implementing the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) in each country; discussion on the **Caribbean Biodiversity Fund** (CBF) that will be launched by the end of 2011 with the initial investment of US\$ 32 million from TNC, KfW and GEF and the establishment of national conservation trust funds. It provided a forum to also discuss the idea of debt-for-climate adaptation swaps and to lay the groundwork for the next phase of the Caribbean Challenge including national protected area trust funds. The outcomes of the meeting included support for a Caribbean Leaders Summit in 2012 to galvanize political and private sector commitment to conservation, adaptation and sustainable development. A Caribbean Summit Steering Committee has been established to broadly support the engagement and mobilization of high level political commitment necessary to host a successful summit. In addition, there was interest from countries in further exploring the use of Debt for Adaptation as an innovative sustainable financing mechanism that could be used by countries to raise national pledges to match donor commitments to the conservation trust funds and Caribbean Biodiversity Fund.

2. Briefing on Debt Swaps for Adaptation – NYC, 13 October, 2011

The Seychelles Mission and GLISPA held a briefing lunch with various representatives of island missions to seek interest from countries in exploring debt swaps for adaptation as an innovative sustainable financing mechanism. The concept of undertaking **Debt for Adaptation Swaps** could dramatically reduce SIDS unsustainable debt levels and provide an innovative mechanism to efficiently apply adaptation funding to achieve high leverage for adaptation projects and simultaneously reducing financial barriers to SIDS implementation of climate adaptation strategies. Such mechanisms have proven successful in developing countries around the world, including Belize, in leveraging public funds with private resources. By engaging in such debt swaps, SIDS would be well-positioned to fund coastal and marine adaptation activities and provide social and economic benefits in a sustainable manner into perpetuity. Further discussions will be held with interested island parties and donor countries to explore the concept such as at the UNFCCC COP17, Durban. For further information, contact Robert Weary email: rweary@tnc.org.

3. Hawai'i Green Growth Initiative

HGG and GLISPA hosted a successful briefing with US Ambassador Tong, Senior Official to APEC in August 2011. Ambassador Tong indicated that Hawai'i "has the potential to be a pioneer and advocate for green growth." The briefing provided a clear understanding of the US green growth agenda for APEC, which includes strategic economic initiatives to encourage trade in green technologies and other targeted issues. The briefing resulted in an invitation for Hawai'i and the State Department to work together in future and greater recognition by Hawaii leaders of the state's potential role as "an example of green growth for the country and the region". After the briefing, HGG agreed that APEC was not the appropriate venue for a GLISPA high-level event, but Hawai'i hopes to join other island leaders at a GLISPA green growth event in 2012. The Event Spotlight can be downloaded from: <http://www.cbd.int/islands/doc/EventSpotlight-9Aug2011.pdf>. HGG is now collaborating on some "early wins", including recommendations to the 2012 Legislature on the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan, green funding mechanisms and briefings on the Micronesia Biosecurity Planning with Hawai'i state officials and the Department of Defense.

4. Palau pledges US\$1.4million match to Micronesia Challenge

The Honorable Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, has signed a bill allocating US\$1.4 million toward the Micronesia Challenge endowment, thereby fulfilling all of the stringent conditions necessary to receive a \$2M endowment contribution from The Nature Conservancy for Phase I of sustainably financing of the Micronesia Challenge. This is a significant milestone for the Micronesia Challenge and demonstrates the leadership and commitment of Palau to promoting conservation of biodiversity and the security of livelihoods for their people.

5. POWIB - Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity and NBSAP Workshops

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Planning (NBSAP) Workshops for the Pacific and Caribbean were held in Fiji (3 to 7 October 2011) and Grenada (17 to 21 October 2011). These meetings included discussion of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity. The full details of the POWIB IDR are available on the CBD website <http://www.cbd.int/island/review.shtml>. If you have questions on the POWIB or would like to receive the POWIB IDR road map, please contact Jacqui Grekin at the CBD Secretariat (jacqueline.grekin@cbd.int). Pacific NBSAP Workshop News, Outcome Documents and Presentations can be found at:

- <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2/pacific/>
- <http://sids-l.iisd.org/news/cbd-sprep-hold-pacific-workshops-on-nbsaps-and-protected-areas/>

Caribbean NBSAP Workshop News, Outcomes Documents and Presentations will be available from:

- <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2/caribbean/>
- <http://sids-l.iisd.org/events/cbd-regional-workshop-for-caribbean-countries-on-updating-national-biodiversity-strategies-and-action-plans/>

6. 2012 Major Events Planning

Rio+20

GLISPA is supporting efforts by partners to create an innovative 'leadership platform' at Rio+20, where leaders from the public, corporate and civil society sectors can profile success stories of natural solutions to economic and social development challenges; and share their experiences in relation to a specific sector, such as forestry, freshwater quality and availability, fisheries and marine conservation, mining, renewable energy and agriculture. GLISPA is aiming to ensure that the significant advancements towards a green economy are showcased and highlighted as part of this event in support of GLISPA priority to celebrate island leadership on green (and blue) economy and to catalyze new commitments towards conservation of island biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods.

CBD COP11

GLISPA will be supporting efforts of the CBD Secretariat to host an Island Summit during CBD COP11. The Island Summit will provide a focused environment conducive to deeper discussion to advance island conservation and sustainable livelihood priorities and to showcase a wider variety of successful large-scale green (and blue) initiatives led by island countries and countries with islands that are advancing the green economy, including: world-class marine protected areas, multi-country conservation commitments, progressive biosecurity planning and innovative sustainable financing mechanisms to support these programs.

World Conservation Congress

A number of collaborative proposals have been submitted by GLISPA partners to the IUCN World Conservation Congress. We wish them all good luck as they go through a process of being selected to take place at the WCC. These include:

- *Island Leadership on Global Challenges* that will demonstrate and inspire leading edge conservation at large-scale that can help implement global conventions by sharing the successes and lessons from the Micronesia Challenge, Caribbean Challenge, Western Indian Ocean, Big Ocean network and others;
- *Island Initiatives to Progress the Blue-Green Economy* that aims to bring together island representatives to describe initiatives they are carrying out to progress blue green approaches to sustainable socio-economic development.
- *Knowledge Cafe on Implementation Partnerships in Hawaii and the Pacific*
- *Unifying for action in the Western Indian Ocean: climate resilience, food security and biodiversity conservation Islands and Energy and Biodiversity*
- *Translating Red List conservation status into conservation action.*
- *How eradication of invasive species from islands can help improve ecosystem resilience and prevent threatened species extinction*
- *The world, an island; An island, the world: Applying Island Knowledges to World Environmental Challenges*

Thank you to the glispa-discuss members who contributed to the on GLISPA e-discussion that was hosted as an initial step towards supporting coordination for the WCC. For further information on the WCC event proposals contact: jessica.robbsins@glispa.org

7. Islands Communications Toolkit

GLISPA and PCI-Media Impact have been working to develop an Islands Communications Toolkit to demonstrate how communications, education and public awareness strategies can be used to stimulate behavior change, inspire leadership, and create global awareness of climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development issues using examples from islands for islands. A soft launch of

the Toolkit was held during the UNESCO Climate Change Education Experts Meeting held in Nassau, Bahamas in September 2011. The UNESCO conference hosted approximately 70 communications, education and climate change experts from all major island regions and engaged the primary target audience. The Toolkit will be launched in November. For further information contact: jessica.robbins@glispa.org.

8. Review of the Challenges

The proposed review of the Challenges by The Nature Conservancy and GLISPA will be postponed until further notice. For further information contact Chrissy Schwinn at cschwinn@TNC.ORG.

9. Annual GLISPA Teleconference – 2-3 November, 2011

GLISPA hosted its global teleconference for Asia/Pacific and EU/Africa/WIO on the 2 and 3 November respectively. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss progress made in 2011 on GLISPA priorities of advancing ecosystem based adaptation, mitigation and invasive species as well as linking conservation and sustainable livelihoods to development and the green economy and plans for 2012. Thank you to all the partners that participated in this meeting.

10. 4th GLISPA Steering Committee Meeting – 26 October, 2011

The meeting welcomed Bill Waldman, Island Conservation, as the Invasive Species representative on the Steering Committee, and Molly Powers, University of Columbia SIPA, as GLISPA Fellow based in New York supporting Communications. The meeting focused on discussion of the annual GLISPA Steering Committee will be hosted on the 31 January to 1 February 2012 in Washington DC. The meeting participants, as per previous years, will fund their own travel to the meeting. The meeting will focus broadly on a review on progress on GLISPA 2010-12 Strategy: EBA and invasives, the green economy, identify priority outcomes and activities for 2012/13, and sustainability of GLISPA. The meeting also discussed current financial sustainability of GLISPA which continues to be of concern. The Fundraising sub-group reported that they are pursuing a short-term and long-term resource mobilization strategy. The meeting also heard from commitment focal points, these updates are contained under separate sections in this update.

Related News

11. Europe's overseas territories need more protection - November 2, 2011

Giant "Mountain Chicken" frogs, the 25 million bird island, and a rainforest the size of Portugal are increasingly threatened by the impacts of climate change and in need of greater protection, according to a new report published by IUCN. The study, Future Directions for Biodiversity Action in Europe overseas: Outcomes of the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, states that Europe's commitment to the global biodiversity goals set by the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) will benefit from action in its overseas territories. For more information: <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/?8534/Europes-overseas-territories-need-more-protection>

12. Seychelles announced as Chair of Indian Ocean Commission

The Seychelles has been announced as Chair of the Indian Ocean Commission for 2012.

13. CAMPAM Hosted MPA Training with Caribbean Challenge countries

CAMPAM completion of the Caribbean MPA Management Capacity Assessment. For more information on this and CaMPAM's other activities can also be found at <http://campam.gcfi.org/campam.php>.

14. Funding for Micronesia Biosecurity Planning

The University of Guam earned a \$1 million cooperative agreement to help stop invasive species from coming into Guam. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas issued the \$1 million Cooperative Agreement

between the Department of Navy and the university on Sept. 29, according to a Navy press release. The goal of the agreement is to conduct peer review of the Micronesia Bio-security Plan and develop a plan to protect the island's ecosystem http://www.guampdn.com/article/20111005/NEWS01/110050323/Navy-awards-UOG-1M-stop-invasive-species?fb_ref=artrectop&fb_source=home_online

15. SIDS Policy and Practice (<http://sids-l.iisd.org/>)

We encourage all members of this GLISPA-discuss list serve to also sign up to the SIDS-L service (if you haven't done so already). SIDS-L provides a useful weekly summary of news, event reporting on SIDS. We will not cross-post the SIDS-L summaries to the GLISPA-discuss list serve unless to draw your attention to GLISPA specific content.

Thank you to all partners 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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