



## **GLISPA Highlight – SIDS Expert Group Meeting**

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**24 April 2013**

“We need partnerships for SIDS to achieve our sustainable development goals,” stated Ambassador Feturi of Samoa during the SIDS Expert Group Meeting at UN Headquarters in New York City on 23 to 24 April 2013.

This meeting was held as part of the preparatory process towards UNSIDS 2014. Kate Brown, GLISPA Coordinator shared lessons from GLISPA as a model. Key lessons included: measuring impact, good governance, maintaining focus on the issues that we are about as well as dedicated coordination. It was further emphasized that formal recognition by institutions such as the UN as a best practice has helped to build its profile for some participants. GLISPA is now a maturing partnership. It remains a partnership for all islands and those leaders that are willing to make commitments to advance island conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Rob Weary of The Nature Conservancy also presented on the Caribbean Challenge Initiative highlighting the upcoming Caribbean Political and Business Leaders Summit to be held in May co-hosted by H.E. Keith Mitchell the Prime Minister of Grenada, H.E. Orlando the Premier of the British Virgin Islands and Sir Richard Branson of Virgin. Rob provided an overview of the structure of the CCI as well as sustainable financing mechanisms that have been put in place to provide the long term funding necessary to achieve goals of the Challenge. Lessons from the Caribbean Challenge Initiative indicate that to be successful, you need focus and high level commitment.

In closing the meeting, Ambassador Jumeau of Seychelles as moderator of the EGM highlighted that SIDS have the opportunity change the dialogue to focus on resilience of islands. He also noted that the emphasis should not be on the numbers but on genuine and durable commitments and partnerships that will make a difference on the ground.