



# GLOBAL ISLAND PARTNERSHIP

LEADERSHIP | COMMITMENT | COLLABORATION | ACTION



The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) assists islands in addressing one of the world's greatest challenges — to conserve and sustainably utilize invaluable island 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.

## Importance of Islands

- 🌀 **Earth's 175,000 islands<sup>1</sup> are home to more than 600 million inhabitants<sup>2</sup>**
- 🌀 **Islands and their oceans represent one-sixth of Earth's total area**
- 🌀 **Islands support many of the most unique and isolated natural systems including:**
  - more than half the world's marine biodiversity<sup>3</sup>
  - 7 of the world's 10 coral reef hotspots
  - 10 of the 34 richest areas of biodiversity in the world
- 🌀 **64% of recorded extinctions are on islands**
- 🌀 **Over two-thirds of the world's countries include islands**

**"Let us work together to help small islands survive and prosper; and to ensure that all people enjoy a sustainable future."**

—Kofi Annan, Former UN Secretary General, Mauritius, January 2005



1 According to the GSHHS Dataset (<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/shorelines/gshhs.html>), more than 175,000 islands have a land area of at least 0.1km<sup>2</sup>  
2 & 3 "A World of Islands: An Islands Study Reader," G. Baldacchino. 2007. <http://www.islandstudies.ca/worldofislands.html>

# STRATEGY 2011 to 2015

**MISSION** The Global Island Partnership promotes actions for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods by inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments, and facilitating collaboration

**FOCUS** All Islands

## GOALS

- Support successful implementation of partner commitments
- Catalyze new commitments to address critical island issues
- Establish and maintain a flexible and efficient Partnership responsive to its partners' needs and aspirations

## PRIORITIES

- Successful implementation of regional island challenges and other partner commitments
- Ecosystem-based adaptation, mitigation and reducing the threat of invasive species
- Linking conservation and sustainable livelihoods to development dialogue



## A Global Opportunity

Islands are unique, diverse and vulnerable. They are important early indicators of the common challenges facing our global community. Island communities feel the impacts from natural disasters, climate change, overconsumption and other global changes more intensely as these changes jeopardize their food, water, health and economic security. Today, many islands are demonstrating global leadership and rapid progress in addressing these challenges and inspiring others around the world.

Recognizing the global importance of islands, the Global Island Partnership brings together all islands—small and large, developing and developed—to mobilize leadership, increase resources, share solutions and catalyze action on island priorities in a cost-effective and sustainable way.

## Call for Island Leadership

At the Mauritius International Meeting<sup>4</sup> in January 2005, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan made an urgent call for high-level political commitment to the global challenge on islands. Inspired, President



Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. of Palau and President James A. Michel of Seychelles called for greater collaboration through an international partnership for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

The Global Island Partnership grew spontaneously based on the needs of participating governments and partners. It was officially launched at the 8th Conference of the Parties (COP8) for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Brazil, 2006. The Partnership has a committed Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Presidents of Palau and Seychelles, as well as a small coordination unit based in the United States.

## The Global Island Partnership is Recognized as...

- a mechanism for advancing the conservation of island biodiversity (Decision IX/21, CBD COP9)
- a best-practice partnership by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)
- a success factor in preparations for the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Mauritius International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 10-14 January 2005.

<sup>5</sup> "Synthesis report on best practices and lessons learned on the objective and themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development." United Nations General Assembly, 21 January 2011. <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/213/65/PDF/N1121365.pdf?OpenElement>

**"The United States has supported the Global Island Partnership since its launch in 2006. We share the Partnership's strategic priorities for integrating policy and action on island conservation and sustainable livelihoods, ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation, and addressing the threat of invasive alien species."** —Hon. Rick Barton, United States Ambassador, September 2010

“GLISPA for me is a model of how very diverse Parties and organizations that are scattered around the globe join together to formulate their needs and take control of their destiny.”

—Hon. Sigmar Gabriel, Minister of Environment, Germany, May 2008



## IMPACT

Since its launch in 2006, the Global Island Partnership has:

### Inspired Leadership for Conservation & Sustainability

- Helped inspire, recognize and support leaders in Micronesia, the Caribbean, Indonesia and the Western Indian Ocean to work with their neighbors on visionary regional island initiatives (“Challenges”) for conservation and sustainability
- Assisted island leaders to advocate for ecosystem-based adaptation to be recognized internationally, in particular under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

### Catalyzed Commitments to Large-Scale Action and Funding

- Assisted more than 30 countries to launch or strengthen major island commitments focused on island conservation and sustainable management of marine, coastal and/or terrestrial habitats
- Helped catalyze more than US\$ 125 million in commitments for island actions

### Facilitated Collaboration to Support Island Priorities

- Enhanced collaboration among political leaders, key government ministries and agencies, and non-governmental partners working on shared commitments through high level and strategic events at key global and regional meetings
- Recognized and promoted each island commitment as a beacon of inspiration and guidance to others

## Support

The Partnership supports participating countries and organizations that share in its mission by:

- inspiring and recognizing commitments
- strengthening implementation
- mobilizing resources
- promoting collaboration
- increasing visibility and communications
- tracking progress

### PHOTOS

Front Page:  
• Dying reefs. ©Henry Wolcott  
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“The visionary leadership and strong support of GLISPA and our international partners helped our five governments come together in a breakthrough commitment to effectively conserve at least 30% of our near-shore marine resources and 20% of our terrestrial resources by the year 2020.”

—H.E. Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., former President of the Republic of Palau and Co-Chair of the Global Island Partnership, May 2008



# COMMITMENTS

The commitments promoted through the Global Island Partnership are significant public pledges by a government or organization towards the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods on islands. Commitments are based on global, national, regional and/or organizational priorities and add value to existing efforts by helping countries accelerate and improve actions on key international policies and agreements as well as local implementation. The following are commitments and initiatives that have been conceived, launched or strengthened through the Partnership.

## Regional Island Challenges

 **Caribbean Challenge Initiative** so far involves eight island nations—The Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda as well as Saint Kitts and Nevis. Five countries have made formal commitments to protect at least 20% of the near-shore marine and coastal habitats by 2020. All eight countries are participating in the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund that will provide sustainable financing for their national protected areas.

 **Micronesia Challenge** is a commitment by five governments—Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, US Territory of Guam and US Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

 **Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge** is a developing Challenge, led by the Government of Seychelles, that is a regional “call to action” to address the threats posed by climate change and to ensure sustainable national economies, coastal livelihoods, food and human security, and marine and coastal ecosystems. It invites all the countries that share the western Indian Ocean’s vast, resource rich waters and coasts to come together and commit to actions based on a shared 25 year vision.

## Other Initiatives

 **Hawai'i Green Growth Initiative** is a group of Hawai'i leaders working together across government, business, academia and civil society to achieve ambitious targets in energy, food and ecosystem security for a sustainable, resilient and prosperous future in the Hawaiian islands. The initiative supports the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan and New Day Hawai'i.

 **Phoenix Island Protected Area** in Kiribati is the largest marine protected area in the Pacific Ocean. It is partly financed through an innovative “reverse fishing license,” which funds an endowment to cover core management costs and compensate the government for foregone commercial fishing license revenues.

 **Sea Level Rise Foundation** is a global foundation based in the Seychelles that brings together resources and expertise to support small island states, islands and other low-lying areas in adapting to the growing threat of sea level rise.

 **Knowledge Sharing and Coordination Initiatives** have been developed through GLISPA to improve knowledge sharing and coordination around island conservation and sustainability: Global Island Database ([www.gid.unep-wcmc.org/](http://www.gid.unep-wcmc.org/)), Islands Communications Toolkit ([www.commstoolkit.org](http://www.commstoolkit.org)), SIDSNet ([www.sidsnet.org](http://www.sidsnet.org)) as well as hosting strategic meetings such as the Helping Islands Adapt: A Workshop on Regional Action to Combat Invasive Species on Islands to Preserve Biodiversity and Adapt to Climate Change.

**The Global Island Partnership is open to any entity committed to taking significant action to ensure island conservation and sustainable livelihoods**

To learn more, go to [www.glispa.org](http://www.glispa.org) or contact Kate Brown, Partnership Coordinator [kate.brown@glispa.org](mailto:kate.brown@glispa.org)

**“We call on fellow leaders to reach out and come together under the Global Island Partnership to advance our common goal to halt global biodiversity loss, address the threat of climate change and ensure a sustainable future for our island people and the planet.”**

—H.E. James A. Michel, President of the Republic of Seychelles and Co-Chair of the Global Island Partnership, July 2011