

# Appendix 2

## Global Island Partnerships (GLISPA)<sup>1</sup>

The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) assists islands in addressing one of the world's greatest challenges – to conserve and sustainably utilise invaluable island natural resources that support people, cultures and livelihoods in their island homes around the world. Recognising that islands have unique and isolated natural systems and are particularly vulnerable in a rapidly changing world, GLISPA brings together island countries and countries with islands – small and large, developing and developed – to mobilise leadership, increase resources, share solutions and catalyse action on island priorities in a cost-effective and sustainable way.

### **Achievements**

Since its inception in 2005, the Partnership has engaged leaders all over the world. More than 60 governments of small islands developing states (SIDS), large island countries, countries with islands, overseas territories, multi and bilateral agencies, and international, national and regional organisations have worked with GLISPA to advance high-level commitments and on the ground action for island conservations and sustainable use of natural resources. Without formal structure or dedicated staffing, GLISPA has helped catalyse more than US\$70 million in commitments to island conservation.

### **GLISPA's role**

Each government and organisation active in the Global Island Partnership shares goals articulated in the CBD programmes of work and other international, regional and national plans. Each partner comes with its own priorities and mandates, which drive the GLISPA commitments that partners make. GLISPA's role is to provide a mechanism for achieving, accelerating and leveraging partner efforts and achievements.

## GLISPA's main goals are to

1. Support successful implementation of commitments to island conservation and sustainable livelihoods.
2. Catalyse commitments to address critical island issues.
3. Establish and maintain a flexible and efficient Partnership responsive to its participants' needs and aspirations.

## GLISPA Strategies

GLISPA was created to help bridge local and global initiatives, build upon existing networks and programmes and share knowledge among all islands. The Partnership defines its unique niche in the following way:

1. Inspire and recognise leadership and commitments to action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods.
2. Strengthen partnerships to support implementation of commitments and to build local long-term conservation capacity.
3. Facilitate increased public and private funding for island priorities
4. Promote targeted and cost-effective collaboration and exchange among islands.
5. Engage in effective communication strategies on island issues.
6. Build linkages between all islands, regardless of political status.
7. Track progress on GLISPA commitments.

## GLISPA principles

1. GLISPA is an open partnership, available to any national or local government, agency or organisation that shares its mission and supports the advancement of its objectives.
2. GLISPA commitments are based on global, national, regional and/or organisational priorities, including helping countries accelerate and improve action on key international policies and agreements.
3. Partners are responsible for implementing and funding their commitments, while the Partnership assists through its global network and capacity to facilitate action.
4. Collaboration is encouraged and facilitated by the Partnership but is always voluntary.
5. GLISPA concentrates on adding value to existing networks and initiatives.

GLISPA has assisted participant countries and organisations in conceiving, launching or strengthening more than 12 major island commitments. The following are examples of island commitments and initiatives that are utilising GLISPA to advance their collaboration, planning and implementation.

- **Micronesia challenge:** Five Micronesian governments – the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the US Territory of Guam, and the US Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – came together in a joint commitment to effectively conserve at least 30 per cent

of the near-shore marine resources and 20 per cent of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

- **Caribbean challenge:** With leadership from Grenada and The Bahamas, and involving Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, the Dominican Republic, St Lucia, and Jamaica the Caribbean challenge is an ambitious regional framework of conservation commitments and sustainable financing for national systems of protected areas including the establishment of a Caribbean Biodiversity Fund.
- **Phoenix Islands protected area:** In January 2008, the Government of Kiribati expanded the Phoenix Islands Protected Area and declared it the world's largest marine protected area, encompassing an ocean wilderness the size of California.