



The Island Biodiversity Coalition brings island governments and partners together to accelerate island-led climate and biodiversity action and strengthen global recognition of island stewardship of critical ecosystems.

Key Messages from the 5th Island Biodiversity Coalition Meeting

25 February 2026

Why This Matters

Island nations and territories steward some of the world's most important ecosystems, including coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass systems, and large areas of the global ocean. At the same time, islands face disproportionate impacts from biodiversity loss and climate change.

The fifth meeting of the Island Biodiversity Coalition reaffirmed the role of the Coalition as a platform for strengthening collaboration among island governments, regional organizations, and partners to advance biodiversity implementation and amplify island leadership in global policy processes.

Discussions focused on how scientific evidence, legal developments, and coordinated advocacy can help accelerate island-led climate and biodiversity action under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

Three Strategic Signals from the Coalition

1. Islands are strengthening the science–policy interface

Participants highlighted the importance of engaging more actively with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

IPBES assessments—including the Global Assessment and recent Nexus and Transformative Change assessments—provide important evidence relevant to island ecosystems and governance.

Coalition members emphasized the need to:

- increase island participation in IPBES expert groups and plenaries
- strengthen awareness and use of IPBES findings in national biodiversity planning
- translate scientific assessments into practical guidance for implementation

Strengthening the connection between global science and national action will be important for achieving biodiversity commitments, including the 30x30 target.

2. Emerging legal tools are reinforcing the climate–biodiversity agenda

The Coalition reviewed progress on the ICJ Advisory Opinion Climate–Biodiversity Pocket Guide, a practical resource designed to help island governments understand the implications of the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Climate Change.

The guide will help clarify how evolving international legal interpretations may intersect with biodiversity protection, ecosystem integrity, and climate action.

A working group including SPC, SPREP, OECS, Micronesia Conservation Trust, and GLISPA is developing the guide, with completion targeted for International Day for Biodiversity (22 May 2026).

3. Island leadership in biodiversity implementation is gaining visibility

Participants discussed a collective advocacy initiative designed to highlight island leadership in conservation and ocean stewardship.

The initiative will showcase examples of successful island initiatives, including:

- regional conservation collaborations
- innovative conservation finance mechanisms such as conservation trust funds
- ecosystem restoration and nature-based solutions led by island communities
- island contributions to marine protection and the global 30x30 target

The aim is to strengthen how island biodiversity leadership is communicated to international partners, financial institutions, and global policy platforms.

Strategic Outlook

Participants noted that 2026 will be an important year for advancing biodiversity implementation and strengthening island visibility in international policy discussions.

Upcoming moments of engagement include:

- Pacific Ocean Finance Exchange
- OCTA Ministerial Meeting
- Island States Ocean Summit (Tokyo)
- London Climate Week
- CBD COP17 (Armenia)

The Coalition also highlighted the importance of expanding participation from African and Indian Ocean island regions to strengthen shared learning and representation.

Next Steps

- Launch the ICJ Climate–Biodiversity Pocket Guide (May 2026)
- Finalize and deploy the Island Biodiversity Advocacy Package
- Increase island engagement in IPBES processes
- Explore a potential island leadership event at CBD COP17
- Strengthen collaboration across island regions

Closing Note

The Island Biodiversity Coalition continues to provide a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and collective advocacy among island governments and partners working to protect biodiversity and strengthen climate resilience.

Next Meeting: March 25th, 2026

Video Link & Attachments

1. [Meeting recording](#) and Passcode: ^rB?i5Hy
2. Presentation on IBES by Floyd Homer: [PPT](#) and [Abstract](#)
3. [ICJ COP30 Advisory Opinion Pocket Guide](#)
4. [Island Advocacy Package](#)