



Elevating Island Leadership:

How GLISPA Supported the Micronesia Challenge at COP16

A case study of strategic engagement, communications support, and global visibility

The Opportunity

COP16

COP16, held in 2024, was the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). As the world's most influential gathering on biodiversity, it brought together governments, Indigenous peoples, scientists, and civil society to accelerate implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. For island nations, it was a critical platform to spotlight the role of healthy ecosystems in ensuring climate resilience, food security, and sustainable livelihoods.

The Micronesia Challenge 2030

The Micronesia Challenge 2030 (MC2030) is a regional commitment by Micronesian leaders to conserve at least 50% of marine resources and 30% of terrestrial resources across their jurisdictions by 2030. Building on over a decade of collaborative conservation success, MC2030 strengthens the region's ability to protect biodiversity, ensure food and water security, and sustain livelihoods in the face of climate change. It serves as a powerful model of island-led action and long-term environmental stewardship.

GLISPA's Role



Strategic advice and coordination



Banners, flyers, catering, logistics



Talking points, briefings, media review, news updates



Shared and amplified on GLISPA's 40+ member network

Key Outcomes

Side Event Impact

- Large in-person audience
- Engaged panel of supporters
- Strong post-event interest

International Recognition

- Featured as a model for peer SIDS
- Briefing held with Solomon Islands & Vanuatu for potential knowledge transfer
- International visibility via social media



“[GLISPA] has really helped islands to become more visible and... provided a space for them to shine - for island leaders to be able to bring their issues to the forefront of some of these larger global commitments.”

— Willy Kostka, former Exe. Director of Micronesia Conservation Trust



MC representatives with panelists at the MC2030 event in Cali

Why It Matters

Broader Significance for Small Island Developing States

COP16 offered the opportunity for a re-energized Micronesia Challenge 2030 to demonstrate to the international community and the Pacific region what it has achieved and its vision for the future. The success of the Micronesia Challenge demonstrated how strategic collaboration can elevate island leadership on the global stage. For Small Island Developing States (SIDS), where island biodiversity is deeply tied to cultural identity, economic security, and climate resilience, visibility in global biodiversity dialogues is critical. By supporting initiatives like MC2030, GLISPA reinforces a broader movement that champions island innovation, fosters peer learning among SIDS regions, and secures stronger commitments to protect the world's most vulnerable — and vital — ecosystems. GLISPA's work continues to empower island nations to shape international biodiversity and climate action agendas through unified, impactful engagement.

Looking Ahead

GLISPA's Commitment Beyond COP16

GLISPA remains dedicated to amplifying island voices well beyond COP16, helping island nations not only participate but lead in global environmental negotiations. Through tailored engagement strategies, communications support, and partnerships, GLISPA will continue to showcase the pioneering solutions emerging from islands — ensuring that their leadership, knowledge, and resilience inspire global action for biodiversity and climate resilience.



Looking to scale your island's leadership on the global stage?

Let's talk: info@globalislandpartnership.org

#MicronesiaChallenge #COP16 #IslandLeadership #GLISPA

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