



Island Biodiversity Coalition

Inaugural Virtual Meetings

Date: 18 September 2025

Format: Two sessions held across 2 time zones

Thank you to all those who attended our inaugural meeting of the Island Biodiversity Coalition. Here are the notes of the call including next steps and access to the recording.

Purpose of the Coalition

The Island Biodiversity Coalition was launched to revitalize island advocacy and visibility within global biodiversity frameworks. For nearly two decades, islands have made significant contributions to conservation and sustainable development, but in recent years their leadership and voices have been less visible on the global stage in the context of the Convention on Biodiversity. This coalition seeks to change that trajectory by providing a unified platform where island actors and island supporters can coordinate, share lessons, and strategise how to speak with one strong voice.

It also aims to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity—first adopted in 2006 and reviewed in 2012 and 2024—ensuring that commitments are mobilised and then translated into action.

Context & Rationale

At the CBD COP16 in 2024 (Cali, Colombia) it was identified that despite past progress, island biodiversity was losing visibility in the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and that implementation needed more support. The challenges identified included under-implementation of existing commitments, limited financial and political resources, and the exclusion of island biodiversity from global scientific literature and funding priority-setting.

Effective coordination among island and SIDS countries is critical for amplifying their collective influence within the CBD and for developing aligned approaches to shared



priorities, including financial resource mobilization, capacity building, and monitoring and reporting. Read more about island biodiversity on our [factsheet](#).

Member Introductions

The inaugural meetings brought together 26 participants representing regional and international organizations (OECS, SPREP, WCS, EDF, IUCN, SPC, Island Conservation, Waitt Foundation, SMILO, CBD Secretariat, Smithsonian), and national and regional Trust Funds (SMILO, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, Niue Ocean Wide Trust, Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust, Belize Fund). Engagement of island representatives is being prioritised for future meetings.

“What we want to do is not only enable local biodiversity action but also to elevate the voices of those who are really working on the ground, the ones who really have the closest connection to nature and provide them the ownership that they should have.”

– Christina Romero, IUCN

Biodiversity Priorities & Political Issues

The meeting helped identify priorities that could be advanced in the next 12 to 18 months through the Coalition including:

- Synergies between island biodiversity and climate change
- Nature based climate solutions
- Loss of visibility of island biodiversity in the Global Biodiversity Framework
- Under implementation of commitments
- Collaboration between island-focussed organisations on these issues

Other themes including:

- Local capacity to implement, sustainability of conservation initiatives, monitoring & biodiversity data gaps, access to finance, inclusive research, grassroots collaboration

It was also proposed that the Coalition follow the ICJ Advisory Opinion and how to integrate this legal opinion in the way we are advocating. There was also an opportunity for island biodiversity input into the Ocean Climate Dialogue (through Fiji) and SBSTTA/SBI for COP31.

(see the process of identifying priorities from meeting 1 [here](#))



“Island biodiversity is a critical component of global recovery and you can connect the health of nature in islands to the health of those communities and to what resilience that provides in the face of climate change.”

– Gerald Miles, WCS

Coalition Objectives

The coalition’s objectives build on past successes while adapting to today’s realities. One central goal is to mobilize large-scale or impactful island commitments, such as supporting regional initiatives like the Micronesia Challenge2030, follow up to the Caribbean Challenge and other country-led island commitments, while supporting new partnerships including the Small Islands Alliance. These commitments demonstrate collective ambition and reinforce the leadership role of islands.

Another priority is coordinated advocacy—ensuring island countries and organizations have a strategy that supports progress (funding, implementation, leadership) on island biodiversity at global forums such as CBD COPs, IUCN World Conservation Congress, and other upcoming relevant fora. To do this GLISPA will coordinate a joint planning calendar.

Tracking and accelerating 30x30 and biodiversity targets also emerged as a key objective. The coalition will highlight regional breakthroughs, share transferable approaches, and ensure islands are recognized for their contributions to global biodiversity goals.

Finally, the coalition aims to mobilize donor support by linking island priorities and island commitments to financial mechanisms. In parallel, peer-to-peer exchange and learning will strengthen collaboration, allowing islands to share lessons, build capacity, and accelerate progress. Participants identified integration in ongoing ocean finance dialogue post BEFF/UNOC and linking to financing in common (public development banks) agenda.

Next Steps and Announcements

Island Biodiversity Coalition Bulletin:

GLISPA will produce an island biodiversity bulletin once a month to share news and progress including a calendar and coalition strategy. If you have anything you would like to share from your work, island Bright Spots or the like please send it to info@globalislandpartnership.org - particularly on the topics outlined above.



Island Biodiversity Coalition Meeting 2:

Meeting Details:

Date: Tuesday 21st October/ Wednesday, 22nd October 2025

Time: To accommodate varying time zones, two sessions will be held so you can choose which best suits you:

9:00 AM BST UTC+1 (see your time zone [here](#))

3:00 PM US ET (see your time zone [here](#))

Meeting links will be shared one week prior to the event.

Engagement of more island representatives is a priority for the next meeting.

Call for Members

Participants are reminded to become members of the Coalition by completing the [endorsement letter](#) and sending it to us via email.

Preparation is underway for engagement at the World Conservation Congress - an informal coffee session about the coalition will be held for those in Abu Dhabi (Kate Brown will be in attendance from GLISPA - if you want to be added to a WCC Islands WhatsApp group let us know).

Calendar

2025

IUCN WCC Oct 9 -15 2025

Pacific subregional consultation on the implementation of the KMGBF 9 -10 Oct 2025

Bangkok

Adaptation Futures Conference 13-19 Oct 2025 New Zealand

UN-Portugal Ocean Fellowship, 20-24th Oct Portugal

Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) annual meeting (Cartagena Colombia 27 - 31 Oct 2025

SBSTTA 27 20-24 Oct Panama

UN Climate Change Conference November Brazil (UNFCCC COP30)

United Nations Environment Assembly Dec 8 - 12 2025, Nairobi



2026

CBD SBI 16-19 Feb 2026 Rome

OCTA Ministerial Conference (Caribbean) first trimester 2026

11th Pacific biodiversity conservation and protected area Conference, New Caledonia

Island Summit, Japan (April/May, Nippon Foundation)

Pacific Island Forum September Palau

CBD COP 17 - Armenia Oct 19-30

- GLISPA High Level Commitment Event and 20th Anniversary

CHOGM, Antigua and Barbuda (no specific date yet)

SMILO Meet-up Nov, in Goree, Senegal

ACPRUP Conference of Presidents, Outermost Regions (last trimester 2026 in French Caribbean)

2027

IMPAC6 in Senegal March 2027

UNDEFINED DATES

CARICOM Ministers of Environment meeting (COTED)

OECS Council of Ministers: Environmental Sustainability (COMES) meeting

Check out Meeting 1 Recording [here](#)

See Meeting 2 Recording [here](#)

Thank you for attending our first meeting. The Island Biodiversity Coalition secretariat is provided by the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA). GLISPA has two decades of experience in advocacy, facilitating island implementation and supporting island leadership in the context of the Convention on Biodiversity.