



# GLOBAL ISLAND

PARTNERSHIP

**2030 STRATEGY**  
2024

# VISION

Sustainable and Resilient Island Communities through Partnerships

# MISSION

Promote action to build resilient and sustainable island communities by inspiring leadership, catalysing commitments and facilitating collaboration for all islands.

# GLISPA PRINCIPLES

- 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 regardless of political status. It is open to both island countries and countries with islands, to territories, state level governments and independent countries. If you are an island, and you share GLISPA's mission, you can be involved in GLISPA activities.
- 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.
- Partners are responsible for implementing and funding their commitments, while the Partnership assists through its global network and capacity to facilitate action.
- Collaboration is encouraged and facilitated by the Partnership but is always voluntary.
- GLISPA concentrates on adding value to existing networks and initiatives.



# GLISPA IN ACTION

Since 2006 GLISPA has a proven track record in fostering and supporting ambitious, locally championed movements across geographical boundaries and diverse political realities. Our tried and trusted partnership model is durable, sustainable, and implementable and we are proud catalysts and/or supporters of these landmark initiatives: **Micronesia Challenge, Aloha+ Challenge, Caribbean Challenge Initiative/ Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, BEST Challenge, Coalition of Fragile Ecosystems, Climate Strong Islands Network, Blue Nature Alliance, Niue Ocean Wide Trust, Local2030 Islands Network, SMILO,** and other efforts.

Initially established as a mechanism to support islands to progress from policy to implementation with a specific focus on implementing the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity within the Convention on Biodiversity.

A shift from primarily conservation commitments to sustainability commitments more broadly began in 2010, and the lessons from all the commitments and initiatives that the partnership has been engaged with culminated in the formation of the Local2030 Islands Network in 2019. GLISPA, in collaboration with Hawaii Green Growth Local2030 Hub, serves as the co-secretariat and focuses specifically on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation within island communities. This flagship initiative, with its own strategy, contributes to achieving our 2030 Strategy.



## GLISPA works through the following approaches:

- Mobilisation of high-level political will for island commitments and ongoing support
- Empowering islands and island issues: Elevating island priorities, amplifying success and leading global change
- Strengthening partnerships and collaboration: Catalysing island partnerships

## 2030 GLISPA OBJECTIVES

- 01. Foster durable partnerships between governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), philanthropy, and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) that deliver for islands:** Deliver services to support island member priorities through appropriate matchmaking, strategic advice and engagement with our expanded network of strategic partners and members.
- 02. Facilitate strategic communications to further drive action on islands:** Use our website, network and social media platforms to tell the stories of our members' work in islands in interesting and impactful ways.
- 03. Promote and strengthen island conservation Trust Funds and other high-leverage funding mechanisms:** Establish a "Think-and-Do Tank" to initiate a global dialogue that highlights Bright Spots on these topics and which advocates for these mechanisms.
- 04. Strengthen organizational structure:** Strategically expand staff and undertake succession planning. Secure long term funding and establish measures of accountability. Governance restructuring and alignment to optimise achieving new GLISPA objectives and continuing our work as the Co-Chair of the Local2030 Islands Network Secretariat.



# KEY ACTIONS

## **01.** Foster durable partnerships between governments, NGOs, IGOs, IFIs, and philanthropy that deliver for islands:

- Deliver services to support island member priorities through appropriate matchmaking, strategic advice and engagement with our expanded network of strategic partners and members.
- Depending on alignment, strategise and facilitate the best way to connect our members to island governments for greatest impact. Options include, and to be stewarded by GLISPA:
  - a. Facilitate connection directly with the relevant island(s)
  - b. Facilitate intervention through GLISPA coordination team, including strategic advice.
  - c. Formalised arrangement as an official partner in the Local2030 Islands Network
- Incubate and launch at least one (1) high-level and visionary sustainable island commitment each year at a GLISPA High Level Event
- Prioritise innovative actions that integrate the connections between actions on climate resilience, biodiversity protection and sustainable development.
- Continue to support the successful implementation of regional island challenges and other partner commitments

## **02.** Facilitate strategic communications to further drive action on islands:

- Use our website, network, communications tools and social media platforms to tell the stories of our members' work in islands in interesting and valued ways towards the following outcomes:

- a. Building the profiles of our members and promote the work they specifically engage in within islands
- b. Exploring both longform and short form storytelling with the intention to keep local grassroots action at the heart of the story.

- Establish “The GLISPA Resilience Award: Honoring Excellence in Island Sustainability”. Recognises the commitment and progress of island nations and territories that have made exemplary strides in enhancing resilience and promoting sustainable development within their communities.

### **03. Promote and strengthen island conservation and sustainability Trust Funds and other high-leverage funding mechanisms:** Establish a “Think & Do” tank to initiate a global dialogue that highlights Bright Spots on these topics.

- Terms of Reference for this Think & Do Tank and preliminary membership to be established by 2025 or before.
- Engage Regional and National Conservation Trust Funds to develop a capacity building, leadership and advocacy initiative by 2025 or before.
- Act as a policy incubator by sharing early successes, and lessons learned through communications and advocacy strategy.

### **04. Strengthen organizational structure:** Strategically expand staff and complete leadership succession. Secure long term funding, and establish measures of accountability.

- Organisational Restructuring Priorities:
  - Complete process to establish GLISPA as a legal entity.
  - Elevate Advisory Board to become GLISPA’s governing board. Ensure that there are always at least four (4) Island Government representatives that serve on the Board.

- Implement a tiered payment structure for non-island members to join GLISPA i.e. Island entities, NGOs, IGOs, and Private/Philanthropic organisations. Membership fee must be aligned to the prospective members' size and financial capability.
- Expand membership outreach to national NGOs and under-served regions.
- Clearly communicate GLISPA's new roles, services, and benefits to recruit new members.
- Continue to serve as Local2030 Islands Network Co-Chair & Secretariat: Focus on strategic priorities in membership, funding, partnerships, leader meetings, and stewarding the Virtual Island Platform.
- Secure financial sustainability:
  - Maintain & increase support from members, current and historically strong funders
  - Identify and secure new potential funding sources and approaches as required to make up the difference
  - Diversify funding approaches through the provision of specialised advisory services to members as needed
  - Project budget allocations for strategic initiatives and objectives listed
  - Implement resource allocation strategy to ensure efficient use of resources by 2025
- Increase staff capacity:
  - Staff recruitment to include strengthening communications support and administrative/finance support.
  - Develop a new GLISPA Dashboard by 2025 to track progress and be a model for members and other networks.
  - Develop succession plan by 2025



# MAJOR NETWORK ACHIEVEMENTS

Since its launch in 2006, the Partnership has engaged high-level leaders to catalyse more than US\$150 million for island action and have assisted more than 35+ countries to launch or strengthen major sustainable island commitments. GLISPA works to support its members to develop effective strategic initiatives that champion island priorities.

The work GLISPA does lobbying globally on behalf of islands is outsized and through our network GLISPA has successfully reframed the narrative that islands are solely victims, but can contribute real solutions that inspire the rest of the world.





# THE GLISPA TIMELINE OF ACHIEVEMENTS

## 2005 | A Call for a New Global Island Partnership

At the Mauritius International Meeting in January 2005, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan made an urgent call for high-level political commitment to the global challenge on islands. Island countries and partner organisations made significant pledges to the long-term protection of important island habitats. Inspired by these commitments, President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. of Palau and President James A. Michel of the Seychelles called for greater collaboration through an international partnership for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods. And so the Global Island Partnership began, initially without formal structure or official status, based on the needs and guidance of participating governments, IGOs, civil society and partners. However it quickly grew to become a model for this mode of partnering.

## 2008 | GLISPA Announces Secretariat and New Political Commitments for Islands

Caribbean Challenge catalysed at CBD COP 9 and a decision made by CBD Parties for GLISPA to be an official mechanism for implementing the CBD's Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity. Announcement of a new GLISPA Secretariat to be hosted by IUCN in Washington DC with financial support from the Government of Italy, The Nature Conservancy and the US Government. A strengthened GLISPA Steering Committee also established, consisting of island governments and partners and operational co-chairs in the President of Seychelles, President of Palau and Prime Minister of Grenada, represented in the Steering Committee by their Ambassadors.

## 2006 | Launch of GLISPA and New Political Commitments for Islands

Official launch of the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) at the 8th Conference of the Parties (COP8) for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Curitiba, Brazil in March 2006. GLISPA is officially recognised by the CBD as one of the mechanisms to implement the Island Biodiversity Program of Work. It establishes the idea of a global partnership for islands, driven by islands with the tagline: **For Islands By Islands**. It was included within the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Biodiversity Strategy to help address high priority issues in island states, such as marine protected areas and invasive alien species. The GLISPA High Level Event at COP 8 also announces the Micronesia Challenge and the start of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative through a commitment by Grenada.

## 2010 | Building from Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods Commitments into Island Sustainability

Recognising the importance of mainstreaming conservation and livelihoods action - GLISPA worked together with Hawaii to expand the type of commitments catalysed by the Partnership to include the broader idea of island sustainability. Became the first fiscal host for a new sustainability approach in islands in Hawaii, driven initially by Hawaii's conservation community that eventually became known as Hawaii Green Growth and the Aloha+ Challenge.

# THE GLISPA TIMELINE OF ACHIEVEMENTS cont'd

## 2012 | Fostering Implementation Around the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity

Lead the In Depth Review of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity with the Convention on Biodiversity Secretariat, ensuring island engagement and implementation. Officially recognised by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as a partnership to advance the implementation of the CBD 2010 biodiversity target, to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss, and the programmes of work on island biodiversity and protected areas. Established the ongoing island 'Bright Spots', which elevated the stories of grassroots community-based leaders from islands around the world to a global stage and highlighted successes, identifying particular elements of their success, and spotlighting how these can be replicated in other island contexts. At Rio+20, partnered with The Nature Conservancy to create a unique high-level commitments event for heads of state, hosted by the Prime Minister of Grenada and President of Indonesia, focused on commitments to the Green and Blue Economy.

## 2014 | Aloha+ Challenge Formally Launched

Helped to catalyse the Aloha+Challenge which was formally announced at the UN SIDS Meeting in Samoa by the US Head of Delegation, and Hawaii leaders at a GLISPA High Level Event. Built and strengthened partnerships that led to the successful implementation of global conservation and sustainability goals on islands, especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## 2013 | Caribbean Challenge Initiative Announced

Helped to catalyse the reinvigorated Caribbean Challenge Initiative which eventually led to the development of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund. All GLISPA Steering Committee members agree to contribute to funding GLISPA.

## 2015 | Progressing Seychelles' Debt for Adaptation Swap at UNFCCC COP21

At UNFCCC COP21 in Paris, GLISPA partnered with The Nature Conservancy to support a high-level islands event announcing the debt-for-adaptation "swap" with the Paris Club and the Government of Seychelles, thereby creating the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust.

## 2016 | Progress with Europe and in Japan with a Global Oceans Summit

Catalysed the European Union's BEST Challenge Initiative to foster cooperation between islands of Europe Overseas and other islands building on the Micronesia Challenge, Caribbean Challenge Initiative and the Aloha+Challenge. Catalysed, together with TNC and the Nippon Foundation, the first global Oceans Summit focused on sharing lessons across coastal and island communities around the world, with moderation from IFIs and IGOs. GLISPA was nominated by a range of partners and islands for the Midori Prize for its work on progressing biodiversity action in islands.



# THE GLISPA TIMELINE OF ACHIEVEMENTS cont'd

## 2019 | Launch of the Local2030 Islands Network Focused on SDG Localisation

Co-founded the Local2030 Islands Network, the world's first global, island-led peer-to-peer network devoted to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals through locally-driven solutions. This network, for which GLISPA serves as the co-secretariat and co-chair now has 25+ Island Members and 20+ Partners

## 2020 | GLISPA Evolves into an Island Based Organisation

Micronesia Conservation Trust becomes GLISPA Fiscal Host. GLISPA helps mobilise islands, resources and support for new Local2030 Islands Network which includes 4 communities of practice, a leadership platform and island dashboards.

## 2023 | Formally Designated a Partnership Accelerator for SIDS Partnerships

Recognised as a SIDS Partnership Accelerator by UN-DESA particularly to support SIDS partnerships. First in person Communities of Practice meetings of Local2030 Islands Network held in Hawaii.

## 2024 | Strengthening Island Engagement Through New Network

Second in person Communities of Practice meetings of Local Islands Network held in Hawaii. 3rd Local2030 Islands Network Island Leaders Summit held at the SIDS4. New initiatives catalysed.

## 2020 | Launch of the Climate Strong Islands Network, a New US Island Network

In partnership with The Ocean Foundation, helped launch the first ever US wide island network, the Climate Strong Islands Network (CSIN), with a focus on driving resources locally to US islands and advocating for policy and legislation that represents the local needs and opportunities for US islands, prioritizing linking U.S. island champions, on-the-ground organizations, and local stakeholders to accelerate progress. CSIN is a chapter of GLISPA.

## 2021/2022 | GLISPA Strengthens its Efforts to Share Island Solutions

GLISPA hires new staff in the Caribbean region. Local2030 Islands Network with GLISPA support launches a Community of Practice on Sustainable and Regenerative Tourism and one on Data for Climate Resilience. The first Local2030 Island Leaders Summit held in the margins of Our Oceans in Palau with announcement of Palau's efforts to implement a dashboard and new funding to the network. Second Island Leaders Summit of Local2030 Islands Network held in the margins of the UN General Assembly. Through key events at COP27, notably at the Moana Pacific Pavilion, GLISPA facilitates dialogue and exchanges between delegations and non-state actors. Through our Bright Spot Event Series, held in the margins of major international events, GLISPA facilitates dialogue and exchanges between local grassroots implementers and global policy makers.



**GLISPA**

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