

**REPORT TO UN-DESA ON THE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN
ADDRESSING VULNERABILITIES OF SIDS THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
MAURITIUS STRATEGY FOR FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION (MSI) OF THE BARBADOS
PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

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SCBD and the GLISPA Coordination Unit, December 2009**

The following report highlights the main activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) to support island States, including small island developing States (SIDS), and States with islands, in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly the island biodiversity programme of work (IBPOW), which incorporates much information and input from the MSI and BPOA. This report, and the activities it covers, focuses on area ix of the UN-DESA guidelines, “biodiversity resources,” although several other thematic areas covered by the Convention are also included, as explained below.

1. INTRODUCTION

•Background to the island biodiversity programme of work

At its eighth meeting, in 2006, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted the first-ever programme of work dedicated solely to island biodiversity. Its adoption was the outcome of a process that began at its previous meeting, two years earlier, when the COP identified island biodiversity as a new thematic area to be developed under the Convention and requested the Executive Secretary develop a preparatory process to this end.

In response to this request, the Executive Secretary convened a meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Island Biodiversity in December 2004. Attended by 20 Government-nominated experts, most from island nations, as well as by representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, the meeting developed proposals for a programme of work on island biological diversity. In February 2005, immediately after the Mauritius meeting, a liaison group meeting on island biodiversity was held, followed by a meeting of SBSTTA, which adopted the proposals for the programme of work on island biodiversity and sent its recommendation to the COP, which resulted in decision VIII/I, adopting the island biodiversity programme of work (IBPOW).

•Synopsis of decision VIII/1 and the programme of work

The aim of the programme of work on island biodiversity is to reduce significantly the rate of island biodiversity loss as a contribution to poverty alleviation and the sustainable development of islands, particularly small island developing States. The programme of work sets out almost 50 island-specific priority actions arranged under 11 goals, which are in turn organized under seven focal areas:

1. Protect the components of biodiversity
2. Promote sustainable use
3. Address threats to biodiversity
4. Maintain goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being
5. Protect traditional knowledge and practices
6. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources
7. Ensure provision of adequate resources

Many of the thematic areas of the BPOA and MSI, including climate change and sea-level rise, coastal and marine resources, freshwater resources and tourism resources, are addressed by the island biodiversity

programme of work, primarily under the first three focal areas (above). In addition, these areas constitute individual programmes of work in the Convention—indeed, the IBPOW is really a microcosm of the entire convention, focused specifically on island States. The decision can be consulted at <http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-08>.

●Highlights of decision IX/21

While the adoption of the CBD's newest programme of work was a significant achievement, it was only the very beginning, to be followed up by a series of activities on the part of the Secretariat and its partners to assist the Parties to implement it. These activities are in many cases channelled through the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), which was recognized by the COP, at its next meeting (2008), as one of the mechanisms to implement the island biodiversity programme of work (decision IX/21).

In the same decision, the COP requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to review in-depth the programme of work on island biodiversity at its 15th meeting, to be sent for consideration by the COP in 2012 (decision IX/21). The COP also identified the following priorities for islands: the management and eradication of invasive alien species, climate-change adaptation and mitigation activities, establishment and management of marine protected areas, capacity-building, access to, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and poverty alleviation. The full text of the decision is available at <http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-09>.

2. SCBD ACTIVITIES

●INSULA, the International Journal of Island Affairs: Island Biodiversity, Sustaining Life in Vulnerable Ecosystems (February 2004), <http://www.cbd.int/island/insula.shtml>

“Island biological diversity” was the theme selected for the February 2004 issue of INSULA, the International Journal of Island Affairs. This issue was intended to sensitize the world community of the need for immediate action and to renew the commitment to the sustainable development of islands. It was the result of a joint effort by three organizations actively involved in island environmental and development affairs: the International Scientific Council for Island Development, the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This issue was published in the run-up to two important international meetings of relevance to island environments: the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (February 2004), which endorsed the development of a new programme area focusing on island biodiversity, and the Mauritius meeting for the review of the Barbados Programme of Action. A new issue of INSULA is being prepared for 2010, with the assistance of UNESCO.

●Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)

The SCBD has been instrumental in the organization of the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA). GLISPA brings together over 20 Parties to the Convention, as well as major non-governmental and multilateral organizations, to assist islands in addressing one of the world's greatest challenges: to protect and sustainably manage the invaluable natural resources that support people, cultures, and livelihoods in their island homes around the world. GLISPA was launched in March 2006 at COP 8 to build leadership and partnerships committed to actively supporting implementation of the island biodiversity programme of work and other related global policies.

Since its inception, GLISPA has engaged leaders all over the world. More than 60 governments of small island developing States (SIDS), large island countries, countries with islands, overseas territories, as well as multi and bilateral agencies, and international, national and regional organizations have worked with GLISPA to advance high-level commitments and on the ground action for island conservation and

sustainable use of natural resources. Without formal structure or dedicated staffing, until very recently, GLISPA has helped catalyze more than US\$30 million in commitments to island conservation.

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 ways:

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

GLISPA held its first Strategy Meeting in Rome, Italy, from 25 to 27 September, 2007 (see below). In 2008, IUCN took over the hosting of GLISPA, with financial support from IUCN, Italy, USA and The Nature Conservancy (approximately US\$ 1.5 million). With the kind support of the government of Italy, and through the institutional support of IUCN, GLISPA set up a Coordinating Unit in Washington, DC, USA, and chose Ms. Kate Brown, with extensive previous island-related experience from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), as the global coordinator.

•GLISPA side events at COP 8

23 March 2006: Palau, Seychelles, Tuvalu, TNC, IUCN, CEP, SPREP, UNESCO, CBD, CMS, Nature Seychelles, WWF and ICRAN—“Exploring a Global Island Partnership”

28 March 2006: Joint Initiative: Department of Conservation New Zealand and the Co-Operative Initiative on Invasive Alien Species on Islands—“The 3 I’s: Islands, Invasives and Innovations”

28 March 2006: Office of Environmental Response and Coordination, Office of the President—“Leadership for Island and Marine Biodiversity and Livelihoods: A Global Island Partnership”

•Workshop on the Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Protected Areas in Small Islands, (Bangkok, Thailand, 12-16 December 2006)

The Secretariat organized, in concert with the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), a capacity-building workshop for representatives of small island developing States in the Indian Ocean, Pacific and Caribbean regions. The workshop built capacity through an exchange of views and experiences among participants and, building upon their considerable experience, developed guidelines, including key lessons learned, for the application of the ecosystem approach to protected areas in small islands.

•Web portal on island biodiversity, including list of potential partners

Another SCBD activity, mandated through decision VIII/1, is the development of a web portal on island biodiversity, in support, *inter alia*, of the programme of work. The web portal can be found here:

<http://www.cbd.int/island/>

Much of the portal’s content is devoted to the activities of GLISPA: <https://www.cbd.int/island/glispa.shtml>

In paragraph 24 of the annex to decision VIII/I, whereby the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted the island biodiversity programme of work, the COP requested the CBD Secretariat to collaborate with Governments, international organizations and other relevant bodies to implement the programme of work, including to develop a list of, and encourage, potential partners for each of the goals of the island biodiversity programme of work.

As a result, the Secretariat, with input from members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Island Biodiversity, which had met in December 2004, drew up a tentative list of potential partners for each of the goals of the island biodiversity programme of work, which were then contacted regarding their willingness to be a partner of the programme of work. The resulting list can be found here:

<http://www.cbd.int/island/partners.shtml>

•The Global Islands Database

Together with UNEP-WCMC, the Global Islands Network, and IUCN, the SCBD has collected data and facilitated the development of an islands database to feed biodiversity assessments and support international action for islands, and may lead to the development of a world atlas of islands to communicate key issues in island conservation.

•UNFCCC Expert meeting on adaptation for small island developing States (SIDS) (Kingston, Jamaica, 5-7 February 2007)

Hosted by the Ministry of Local Government and Environment of Jamaica, the meeting was organized by the UNFCCC in collaboration with the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme. Participants included experts from SIDS, developed countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

The Secretariat's objectives were to highlight biodiversity as a key component of mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change, particularly for small island developing States; to further integrate the IBPOW, its climate change components, and the SCBD's work on sustainable tourism, into the agenda of UNFCCC's work; and to liaise with key regional players (CCCCC, SPREP, SIDS Parties to the UNFCCC and others) to leverage the SCBD's work.

The SCBD delivered a presentation focusing on the need to consider biodiversity as a key component of adaptation strategies. The SCBD's contribution was welcomed by participants and incorporated into the workshop's official report and working group outputs.

•GLISPA Strategy Meeting (Rome, September 2007)

Instrumental to getting GLISPA in full swing, the GLISPA Strategy Meeting took place in Rome, Italy, from 25 to 27 September, 2007. Meeting participants included representatives of the Partnership's most active government and organization members and/or champions of existing or developing initiatives that were interested in greater involvement with the Partnership. H.E. Seychelles President James A. Michel opened the meeting, which was co-chaired by Rolph Payet, his Special Advisor, and Jo Mulongoy, Principal Officer of the Division of Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters, CBD Secretariat. The resulting strategy, which includes objectives for 2010, is available here:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/programmes/areas/island/glispa/glispa-2010-strategy-en.pdf>

•Preliminary Meeting for the Joint SCBD / SPREP Regional Capacity-Building Workshop on Implementing NBSAPs and Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Pacific (Alotau, Papua New Guinea, 19 October, 2007)

One of the outcomes of COP 8 (decision XIII/8) was a series of regional and/or sub-regional workshops on capacity-building for NBSAPs. Their aim was to discuss national experiences in implementing NBSAPs, the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, obstacles, and ways and means for overcoming these obstacles. In preparation for the Pacific workshop, the Secretariat of the CBD, along with SPREP, organized a one-day initial meeting as a side event at the 8th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in Alotau, PNG. Some 25 participants attended.

•8th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas: Conservation Serving Communities, in a Rapidly Changing World (Alotau, Papua New Guinea, 22-26 October, 2007)

The Secretariat contributed to this conference, where participants stressed the need to combine biodiversity (which is often perceived as secondary in political priorities) with population pressure, development needs, climate change and water as important factors. Bilateral agencies (AusAid, NZAid) often focus mainly on development, poverty alleviation and climate change. SPREP was perceived as a natural ally for any activities regarding the IBPOW in the Pacific. The role of the SPC and of universities, the success of the Pacific Roundtable as an intersessional mechanism, and possible links with GLISPA were also discussed. Elements for positioning NZ as a pivotal country for regional cooperation on biodiversity include:

- Capacity-building on addressing requirements of the MEAs (notably on NBSAPs), also on monitoring and evaluation and proposal development;
- Control of alien invasive species and ecosystem restoration
- Protected areas management
- Community-based tourism development

The Secretariat also visited:

- the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII) at Auckland University and relevant tourism experts at Auckland University of Technology. The AU team explained the main components of PII and several other invasive-related initiatives (GRIS, GISD, ISIR, GISIN), including the relations between PII and its originating concept, the Cooperative Islands Initiative (CII).
- SPREP, whose director reiterated SPREP's commitment to the CBD, reviewed possible long-term financial support from Parties and multilaterals, and discussed SPREP's role in GEFPAS. It was agreed that the SPREP/SCBD memorandum of 2003 should be renewed and should include specific joint activities on islands, invasives, long-term financing of activities, capacity-building in tourism and support to the implementation of NBSAPs.

•The European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to Counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss (7 to 11 July 2008, Saint Denis, Reunion Island)

Organized by IUCN and supported by the French Presidency of the EU, Participants included focal points for the Convention from the member States of the European Union and their seven "outermost regions" (ORs) and 21 overseas countries and territories (OCTs), as well as other island countries such as Australia and selected representatives from small island developing States (SIDS), international and regional organizations, research institutes, civil society and the private sector.

The Message from Reunion Island stresses the importance of the implementation of the Convention's work programme on island biodiversity and officially recognizes GLISPA as one of the most effective mechanisms to advance regional and global cooperation. It also stresses the indivisibility of the issues of climate change and biodiversity, encouraging the members of European Union, OCTs, the ORs, ACP countries and the SIDS to unite in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss, by actively participating in international initiatives such as GLISPA.

It urges EU institutions and member states, ORs/OCTs and organizations to strengthen and support involvement of overseas entities in regional cooperation efforts with SIDS and ACP countries, more

specifically in initiatives such as GLISPA; and to unite in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss and leverage ORs/OCTs experience in international negotiations.

•Workshop on “Indigenous Communities, Tourism and Biodiversity Workshop Series: New Information and Web-based Technologies” (Apia, Samoa, 3-5 November, 2008)

The workshop, “Indigenous Communities, Tourism and Biodiversity Workshop Series: New Information and Web-based Technologies,” was organized in collaboration with SPREP as part of a series of regional and sub-regional workshops aimed at capacity-building for indigenous and local communities. It addressed the issues and challenges facing tourism destinations managed and owned by indigenous and local communities in the Pacific region. The specific objectives were: to support the development and management of biodiversity-friendly tourism activities; to support new information and web-based technology capacity of indigenous tourism operators; to support the marketing and development of the culturally and biologically sustainable aspects of indigenous tourism products and experiences through the Internet; develop networks and exchange information; share and compile approaches to specific challenges in order to develop best practices; use successful tools from a the first workshop in the series and refine and add to them for application by current participants and in future workshops, to create a set of on-line resources that can be of value to island based tourism operators and planners.

The workshop was attended by 22 participants (indigenous tourism operators, executives of trade associations, local non-governmental organizations) from Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Palau and Cook Islands.

•GLISPA side events at COP 9

23 May 2008: IUCN GLISPA (Global Island Partnership)—“An Open Platform for the Island Biodiversity Programme: Awareness-raising for GLISPA and its role in island biodiversity”

27 May 2008: SCBD / Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)—High-level Event: “A Celebration of Island Leadership: Voluntary Commitments to Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods on Islands”:

Leaders from island nations and nations with islands around the world joined together at a high-level GLISPA event to announce significant conservation commitments to protect the future of islands. The Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas hosted the event, and, with the support of leaders from across the Caribbean, Hon. Hubert Alexander Prime Minister of the Bahamas announced the Caribbean Challenge, a historic commitment to protect 10% of the Caribbean terrestrial and marine habitat by 2010 and 2012 respectively, a commitment inspired by the Micronesia Challenge.

In response to Prime Minister Alexander's challenge, the Dominican Republic announced the creation of a US\$ 10 million National Trust Fund, half of which will be generated by domestic resources; St. Vincent and the Grenadines announced plans to make 10% of its marine area effectively managed by 2012 and the expansion of its marine protected areas system to include 20% of marine habitats by 2020; and Jamaica announced its target of sustainably managing 20% of its critical marine and terrestrial areas by 2015. The Nature Conservancy committed to raise US\$ 20 million for the implementation of the Caribbean Challenge.

•MoU with SPREP (February 2009)

The SCBD and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) signed a new memorandum of understanding (MOU), revising their 2003 MOU and responding to a request by the COP (decision IX/21). The objective of the MOU is to enhance cooperation on issues of common interest relating to the three objectives of the CBD. The MOU lists specific joint activities, notably active involvement in GLISPA activities and on issues related to invasive alien species.

3. ACTIVITIES BY PARTIES

●National-level:

Article 26 of the Convention states that each Contracting Party shall, at intervals to be determined by the Conference of the Parties, present to the Conference of the Parties reports on measures it has taken to implement the provisions of this Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of this Convention. Following are some highlights of challenges and achievements on the part of island states that have submitted their fourth national reports to the Secretariat:

Island Parties to the CBD have reported that their coastal ecosystems are in decline. The mega-diverse country of Madagascar, for example, recently reported a 30% decrease in live coral and disturbance to the breeding and development of marine turtles due to the increase in temperature, salinity and sea-level resulting from climate change. Indonesia notes that 40% of its coral reefs were damaged as of 2006, citing destructive fishing practices, among other factors; the Philippines, for its part, reports damage to 70% of its coral. Destruction of mangrove and seagrass communities is also cited by numerous island Parties, including Indonesia—over 70% of its mangrove forests and 10% of its seagrass beds damaged—and Philippines, which has reportedly lost 30 to 40% of its seagrass areas in the last 50 years. Grenada also indicated that its coral reefs, mangroves, coastal wetlands and seagrass beds have significantly declined in recent years. Dominica, for its part, reports that its corals and seagrass beds are threatened.

Many island Parties have cited limited human capacity and financial resources for addressing the threats to their biodiversity, and yet have indicated their commitment to the objectives of the Convention:

- **Cuba** reports that its system of protected areas, both terrestrial and marine, is on the rise, as are management and administration plans for them, and that its forest cover is increasing, reaching over 25% in 2007. It also indicates the country's increasing taxonomic knowledge about the species occupying its main ecosystems
- **Dominica** reports that its areas of emphasis include public awareness and addressing the dearth of local expertise/training.
- **Grenada** has designated six new protected areas, based on a study of areas of particular importance to biodiversity, and is preparing to establish a National Protected Area Trust. Grenada has also embarked on a public-awareness-raising campaign on biodiversity
- **Madagascar** reports an increase of protected areas from 1.7 to six million hectares, which is about 8% of the country's total surface area. It also reports having exceeded its objective of mobilizing US\$ 50,000,000 in capital by 2012 (has reached US\$ 52 091 570); having successfully developed and implemented various conservation strategies and plans for conservation of endangered species (amphibians, chameleons, crocodiles, lemurs, turtles, birds, *vositse* and *Prunus africana*); and having reforested an area of 34 925 ha, which exceeded its 2008 objective.
- Like many other SIDS, **Cape Verde** notes a lack of technical and management capacity, emphasizing a need for baseline studies of its biodiversity, and the nascent state of its environmental sector, which has only had a ministry since 2002. It has, however, made some progress in describing some potential protected area sites, both terrestrial and marine, comprising some 15% of its territory.
- **Sao Tome and Principe** reports little advancement in the objectives of the Convention due to lack of capacity, both human and financial; nevertheless, they report growing momentum especially in the area of information, education and communication. The public is being taught the importance of biological resources for human survival, and the need for change in attitude on this matter, for the recovery and sustainable development of these resources. In addition, they report on the

creation, in 2006, of the *Parques Naturais d'Obo*, a national park protecting about 40% of the country's surface and campaigns for the conservation of sea turtles.

Thus far, islanders have proven to be strong leaders with a vision for determining their own future. A number of island biodiversity champions having emerged, including former-president of Palau, Thomas Esang Remengesau, Jr., and President James A. Michel of Seychelles, who are the founding fathers of the Global Island Partnership.

Dr. Spencer Thomas of Grenada has also emerged as a strong leader, having been unanimously elected by the COP as Chairman of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (2008-2010).

• **Regional initiatives, through GLISPA**

- **Micronesia Challenge:** Five Micronesian governments — the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the U.S. Territory of Guam, and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands — made a joint commitment to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. Announced in 2006, at COP 8. Grenada made a public announcement to effectively protect 25 percent of its near shore marine and terrestrial areas by 2020. This has been dubbed the Grenada Challenge being motivated by the Micronesian Challenge which was also launched at that event.
- **Caribbean Challenge:** Eight Caribbean governments (Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) jointly committed, in May 2008, to expand their marine near-shore area under protection to 20% by 2020 and develop conservation finance mechanisms to support national systems of protected areas.
- **Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI):** Six neighbouring countries — Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste — are working together to protect the heart of marine biodiversity, the Coral Triangle. Covering only 2% of the world's ocean, the Coral Triangle contains 76% of all known coral species and a wide variety of fish. In May 2009, the leaders of these countries adopted a 10-year plan of action to avert the growing threats to the region's coral reefs, fish, mangroves, vulnerable species and other vital marine and coastal living resources. The Indonesian government has pledged to designate 20 million hectares of marine protected areas across the archipelago by 2010.
- **Fiji Marine Initiative:** Fiji committed that by 2020, at least 30% of its inshore and offshore marine areas will come under comprehensive, ecologically representative networks of marine protected areas, which are effectively managed and financed.
- **Western Indian Ocean Challenge:** Seychelles, the Comoros, Madagascar and Mauritius are working together to improve the management and ecological status of more than 26 marine protected areas in their region and to establish new ones with coral reefs resilient to climate change, in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission and WWF. Public and private partners have pledged more than US\$ 1.9 million Euros to support and expand this initiative.
- **Phoenix Islands Protected Area:** In 2008, the Government of Kiribati expanded the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) and declared it the world's largest marine protected area, encompassing an ocean wilderness the size of California.
- **Sea Level Rise Foundation:** President Michel of the Seychelles has established a global foundation to bring resources and expertise together to support small island states, islands and

other low-lying areas in adapting to the growing threat of sea level rise and to campaign for action on climate change.

4. UPCOMING EVENTS FOR GLISPA AND THE IBPoW

Decision IX/21, in paragraph 10, requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to undertake an in-depth review of the programme of work on island biodiversity at one of its meetings after the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be sent for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting. The in-depth review will therefore be on the agenda of SBSTTA 15, with dates still to be defined, and will be an opportunity to take stock of progress, disseminate lessons learned and further mobilize Parties towards the implementation of the programme of work. Furthermore, in decision IX/21, the COP specifically welcomed the upcoming conference: Islands and Invasive Species: Regional Solutions to a Global Challenge—Preserving Biodiversity and Adapting to Climate Change (Auckland, New Zealand, 12 - 16 April 2010).

The workshop is designed to help strengthen and mobilize capacity on islands across the globe to address the threats posed by invasive species. It is also intended to help garner more widespread donor and political support for these efforts, as well as to place invasive species management squarely at the centre of the broader international discourse on biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation. The primary focus will be on institutional relations and collaboration among key stakeholders. Discussions will cover the intersection of a range of sectors (agriculture, environment, natural resource management) and ecosystems (terrestrial, marine, inland waters), but will not concentrate on site - based management and control issues.

The workshop is currently being developed through a partnership between the NZ Government, the Australian Government, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII), the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) and the Global Invasive Species Program (GISP).

Based on the success of the Rome Strategy meeting, and in order to mobilize island Parties, SIDS and island-related organizations for the opportunity of the in-depth review of the programme of work at SBSTTA 15 and COP 11, GLISPA has set up another Strategy meeting for January 13 and 14, 2010, at GLISPA's Coordinating Unit in Washington, DC. For more information, please contact Ms. Kate Brown at kate.brown@iucn.org.