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AND NATURAL HABITATS

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International efforts to conserve biological diversity in islands

FINAL VERSION

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When you set out on your journey to Ithaca,
pray your road is a long one,
full of adventure, full of knowledge

K.P. Kavafis

1. ISLANDS IN EUROPE

European coasts are long and complex, marked by a succession of peninsulas and deep gulfs, which leads to an important number of islands of varying sizes. The processes responsible for the formation of European islands include volcanism, erosion, plate tectonics and changes in sea level. The importance of islands in Europe is reflected by the fact that there are several island states, many states include islands in their borders and some estates have overseas and dependent territories.

While the precise number of islands in Europe is unknown, there are around 500 islands larger than 20 km^2, which add up to more than 70000 km^2, that is, more than 7% of the total surface of Europe. The number of smaller islands and islets must be huge but remains unknown. Greece alone has more than 1100 islands, of which 227 are inhabited but only 78 of which have more than 100 residents.

There are several island countries in Europe. The biggest island is Great Britain (218,595 km^2), which is more than double the size of the second biggest one, Iceland (101,826 km^2) while Ireland has an area of 81,638 km^2. In the Mediterranean, two of the smallest countries in Europe are also islands: Cyprus (9,234 km^2) and Malta (246 km^2).

This diversity in size means that problems associated with islands are more evident on smaller islands than on larger ones. Thus, some of the issues that follow manifest themselves differently on islands of different sizes. On the other hand, the biggest islands such as Great Britain, Iceland and Ireland don't have many of the features that are shared by smaller, isolated territories. On the other side, and excluding those bigger islands, about 10% of Europe Biosphere Reserves are on islands. This rate is difficult to interpret, but should be related to the deserving relationship between people and nature; this spirit is worth to be further developed.

2. INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The main international framework relevant to the conservation of biodiversity at a Global level is the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, www.biodiv.org) drawn up at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, ratified by 191 states and endorsing the aim of achieving 'by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth'.

One outcome of CBD that specifically address to islands is the **Global Island Partnership** (GLISPA http://www.cbd.int/island/glispa.shtml) that "assists islands in addressing one of the world's greatest challenges: to conserve and utilize the invaluable island natural resources that support people, cultures, and livelihoods in their island homes around the world" (see annex). This network is of especial interest to European islands. At its COP7 in Kuala Lumpur in February 2004, it was decided to establish a thematic programme of work on Island Biodiversity, with an ad hoc technical expert group in Canary Islands (Spain) in December 2004.

Concerning migratory animals is the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979) (CMS), and the resulting agreements AEWA, EUROBATS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and ACAP. Other instruments that could affect migratory species include the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, www.cites.org), the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (fish and cetaceans) and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar, www.ramsar.org) especially as waterfowl habitat, as most waterfowl are migratory. Also relevant, particularly for conserving habitats used by migratory species, are the European Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) and Habitats (92/43/EEC) Directives, the Barcelona Convention, mainly the Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (and the subsequent SPAMI), and the activities implemented by Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the

Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) or by the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM).

In particular the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats has taken special interest on the recognition of the distinctiveness of biodiversity issues on islands.

There are some other international agreements and initiatives that directly and specifically affect islands.

- Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPOA) comprehensively addresses the economic, environmental, and social developmental vulnerabilities facing islands; and outlines a strategy that seeks to mitigate those vulnerabilities.
- UNEP Island site includes information on islands and Small Island Developing States (SIDS):
  - directory http://islands.unep.ch/isldir.htm; includes information on the physical and human geography, biodiversity, threats, socioeconomics of the "significant islands of the world".
  - Small islands environmental management self training course http://islands.unep.ch/siem.htm
  - Links on features related to islands (UN, intergovernmental organisations, etc.) http://islands.unep.ch/isllinks.htm
  - Agenda 21 on small islands http://islands.unep.ch/da21c17g.htm
  - Environmental vulnerability index http://islands.unep.ch/#ISLAND%20ENVIRONMENTAL%20VULNERABILITY
- GIN, Global Island Network, including lots of partners (including IUCN or CBD, among others) working on connecting and coordinating efforts to help ensure a healthy and productive future for islanders. http://www.globalislands.net/index.php

In Europe, there are a number of organisations working on archipelagos at the national (Assembly of Estonian Islands, Hellenic Small Islands Network, National Association for the Swedish Archipelago, Association of Danish Small Islands, Irish Island Federation,…) or subnational level (The Scottish Islands' Network, Association of Ponant Islands, …). Those organisations are devoted to promote social, economical and cultural values. Several of them take part in the European Small Island Network, whose main goal is to build a network of small islands to promote self-help throughout lobbying, support among partners and exchange of information and ideas.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The varying biodiversity of islands can often be explained in terms of their relative isolation. Their origin, distance from the continent and their degree of interaction with other islands determines their species richness. Isolation allows evolution to take place in allopatry and therefore endemism is a common feature on islands. In addition to this, islands provide predator-free breeding sites for many species (e.g. birds and turtles). It is likely that most endemic species have disappeared over time, especially in Europe, where civilisations, technologies and industries have developed early. Pleistocene megafauna evolved on islands into endemic communities that were lost soon after the arrival of humans. However European islands continue to be havens for breeding birds, resting stops for migrating passerines and sanctuaries for endemic plants and animals.

Yet global environmental problems are exacerbated on islands, especially those associated with seas and coasts.

Island characteristics which make them more fragile include:

- A shortness of space, which limits the carrying capacity for human activities and leads to overexploitation and devastation faster than on continents
- A strong maritime influence (a mild climate, wind and salt spray) due to the high ratio of coastline
- Scarcity of water and limits to other resources

Historically, use of land by humans was relatively proportional to the available resources. But since transport became faster and the import of consumption goods became easier, environmental problems on islands have proportionally increased. Due to their aesthetic values (calmness, proximity to the sea, mild climate, visual appeal) islands currently support populations above their natural carrying capacity, sometimes seasonally, just when resources like water are scarcer. Medium size islands are threatened by shoreline destruction to build resorts and houses while uncontrolled visitors and irresponsible tourism developments jeopardise smaller islands. Increasing traffic towards islands, both airborne and seaborne, or transiting close to them, increases the risk of diffuse pollution and oil spills.

The global problems that affect islands are:

- global warming, ice melting and the subsequent sea level rise. Smaller islands could loose significant parts of their territories and habitats or even disappear.
- habitat destruction: building on the shoreline, infrastructure construction. Due to the limited area of islands, developments that could be more environmentally feasible on a continent have a greater impact on islands.
- pollution. Human activities produce increasing amounts of waste, both solid and liquid. Management of waste is more difficult on islands due to the scarcity of land and water and the absence of long rivers to carry waste water away from the interior. Saline intrusion can also be a problem.
- IAS (Invasive Alien Species). On one hand, their impact can be stronger on islands due to the fragility of the native communities, but, on the other, both prevention and eradication are feasible on islands, but are almost impossible on the mainland.

4. POTENTIAL LINES OF WORK

4.1 European islands inventory

The first step in putting together a group of experts to work on problems associated with islands is to understand the field of work. An inventory of the islands in Europe is an essential starting point on which potential actions can be based. This task could be undertaken either at a regional or a continental level or every State could be asked to draw up its own inventory.

The definition of an island should also be determined. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, for example, defines islands as “lands isolated by surrounding water and with a high proportion of coast to hinterland”; and stipulates that they must be populated, separated from the mainland by a distance of at least two kilometres, and measure between 0.15 square kilometres and 2.2 million square kilometres (the size of Greenland). However the strict application of this definition results in many interesting insular territories being neglected due to their smaller size or lack of other qualifying characteristics. These areas can contain important communities that should be included in any conservation strategy. A proper definition should therefore be outlined, in some cases depending on the management topic.

For the purpose of any strategy derived from this initiative, the inclusion of Greenland and overseas territories outside Europe should be discussed and the role of the Outermost Regions (France’s *Départements d’Outremer*, Canary Islands, Açores and Madeira) has also to be clarified. In this sense, it should be taken into mind that Macaronesia archipelagos has narrowest biological and ecological links to the rest of Europe and belongs to the same Western Palearctic region. Inner water islands and deltas could also be taken into consideration.

4.2 Island habitat conservation assessment

Once islands are inventoried, a proper assignation of habitats should be implemented. The Biotope CORINE classification, or any other classification generally accepted by the scientific and conservationist communities could be used for this purpose.

Once those habitats are assigned, the degree of conservation must be assessed. Threats have to be identified properly. Natura2000 habitats should be a priority but an accurate list of island and their habitats would be useful to take management decisions.

In many cases, solutions for major threats or even recovery projects can be implemented for degraded habitats and sites.

4.3 Island protected areas inventory, networking and monitoring

Together with the inventory of islands, protected areas should be listed, and could be classified into comprehensible categories.

Globally, 31% of priority areas for protected area expansion were on islands (Rodrigues *et al*., 2004). Once an inventory has been drawn up, gaps could be identified and proposals made to undertake protection measures. This is an especially important issue demanding cooperation among countries, sharing experiences and supporting efforts to ensure the conservation of unspoiled examples of relevant biotopes.

Site management case-studies could be identified and properly divulgated to different levels in order to increase awareness of stakeholders and to serve as models for similar situations.

Existing protected areas networks (SPAMI, Natura2000) are of considerable value in that they help to weight conservation efforts according to the value of the site and not to the wealthiness of the host country. Specific networks could be developed in order to identify specially protected islands. Island twinning could also bring many benefits.

4.4 Biodiversity richness assessment

Although the main contribution of islands to global biodiversity is the high ratio of endemic species, islands in Europe have suffered a fast depletion of endemic taxa. Nevertheless, European islands continue to be havens for ground nesting birds, for resting migrant birds and for many relict species, in addition to the remnant endemic species, especially plants and invertebrates.

4.4.1 Endemic species inventory and evaluation

Islands contribute significantly towards global biodiversity. Of the 34 biodiversity hotspots defined by Conservation International, 10 are islands; of the 200 global critical ecoregions identified by WWF, 25% wholly comprise islands; of the Endemic Bird Areas listed by BirdLife international 48% are on islands; 39% of sites holding the entire effective population of one or more Critically Endangered or Endangered species (www.zeroextinction.org) are on islands (Fonseca *et al*., 2006). Roughly 20% of all the world's vascular plant diversity and 15 percent of all the world's mammals, birds, and amphibians are found only on islands (Conservation International, 2006). Covering about 5% of the total land surface, they harbour one third of threatened vertebrates (Fonseca *et al*., 2006).

Mediterranean islands are a hotspot for many plants and invertebrates. In the Canary Islands, up to 70% of some taxa, like coleopters, are endemic (Machado 1998). Almost 12% of Corsican flora is endemic and endemic plants constitute 10% and 7% of the flora in Crete and Cyprus respectively.

Actions could be taken to fully understand the richness of islands in the European and neighbour contexts; this is an opportune scenario to develop and improve international cooperation.

4.4.2 Monitoring the use of small islands by over sea migratory vertebrates

The effects of climate change on the distribution and behaviour of birds have been documented in an increasing number of scientific papers since the late 1980s (Boucher & Diamond, 2001). In particular, migration routes and timings are changing. Migrant birds stopover on islands where continuous mist netting and ringing stations provide an important way to detect changes in those factors. Projects like *Piccole issole* or the European-African Songbird Migration Network are very useful for detecting changes in migration phenology that could be associated with several features, especially climate change (Spina, 2007).

Migrant passerines are important indicators of the magnitude of climate change on an intercontinental scale. Monitoring actions like those described should be encouraged, but, as

continuity is essential in this kind of projects, financial durability is a must; international cooperation could help to implement this kind of applied research.

4.5 IAS on islands

Terrestrial and marine IAS are a topic of particular concern on island habitats. Their impact on endemic species, natural habitats, resting migratory birds or seabirds is significant. These effects are especially serious on islands as they are normally predator-free and are chosen by animals in order to breed in safety. Marine habitats also suffer from the invasion of alien organisms which either spread through natural means or as stowaways on hulls or in ballast water. Studies and reviews on this subject are abundant.

Regional cooperation initiatives like those implemented in the Spanish and Portuguese archipelagos are good models to replicate and further develop.

4.5.1 Identification of species, sites and actions

Priority sites should be identified among those holding more threatened ecosystems or key species. Experts could evaluate the kind of actions to develop restoration of those habitats.

4.5.2 Prevention of IAS

Inhabited islands have to import most, if not all, of the goods consumed by the population, from food to energy. Even unpopulated islands receive visits for the purposes of conservation, science or leisure. This influx of people provides many opportunities for IAS to reach islands. But the limited number of introduction points for IAS on small and medium sized islands can also make prevention easier. Such islands could be identified and inventoried and the feasibility of IAS prevention designed.

4.5.3 Previous studies, case-studies

European islands have probably experienced invasions for thousands of years and some processes and effects have already been diluted; in this respect, the study and comprehension of invasion mechanisms is easier to understand on archipelagos where invasion is a recent phenomenon. Nevertheless, European islands remain important for understanding the future of invasions in the rest of the world. The effect of recent invasions or ongoing processes can also provide useful analysis, as can the eradication and control measures taken at a regional level. Those studies and initiatives could be promoted and divulgated inside the “island community”.

4.5.4 Priority species and sites Identification

A catalogue of particularly sensitive species could be drawn up and sites where invasions are still occurring and impacting on native habitats, and where eradication and restoration measures could serve as examples.

4.5.5 Promotion of pilot management sites

The identified areas could be the main targets of pilot management plans. Management actions that had already been done should be a matter of analysis and understanding to determine their replicability.

4.5.6 Ballast waters

Ballast water results in the introduction of many invasive species, including human pathogens. Proposed solutions to this problem include the exchange of ballast waters out at sea, because most invasive species are associated with coastal or estuarine waters (Cohen & Carlton, 1998). Due to the abundance of islands and sinuous coastlines, most European seas don’t have enough distance from the coast to allow safe ballast discharge. Better alternatives should therefore be developed and proper directives designated.

4.6 Oil-spills and other seaborne pollution risks

Chokepoints are narrow channels which occur along widely used global shipping routes. From a geopolitical point of view, European seas are affected by four of seven primary chokepoints, but only

one of eleven secondary chokepoints (Alexander, 1992). They are a critical part of global energy security due to the high volume of oil traded through their narrow straits.

For instance, the Mediterranean Sea represents only 0.7% of the global surface area of seas and oceans but 27% of world's sea borne oil traffic transits this Sea (Patruno, 2008). Because of its geostrategic value, the Mediterranean is the most militarised sea in the world and is home to many military bases. Nuclear powered and armed ships cruise its waters.

In addition to that, the Mediterranean Sea receives 20% of the world's leisure cruise traffic and 30% of the world's international tourists. Most of this traffic affects islands significantly.

On their side, Baltic State economies are growing fast but the Baltic Sea is particularly dangerous for sea transport due to its shallowness and the winter freeze-over (Kotiranta, 2008).

All this seaborne traffic causes diffuse contamination and results in the dumping of pollution, threatening island habitats.

Some European seas, like the Barents and North Seas, have important offshore oilfields.

Programs as CLEOPATRA (Chemical Effluent & Oil Pollution Alert and Tracking) are useful to detect and track pollution events. The activities promoted by REMPEC or HELCOM could be encouraged and some cooperation developed.

Islands that have already suffered the effects of oil-spills and that have monitored the consequences have a knowledge base which could be very useful for other islands.

4.7 The impact of climate change on islands

Climate change can affect islands in several ways. The most widely known effects are polar ice melting and thermosteric volume increase that will produce a sea level rise. The most serious impacts will probably be caused not only by changes in mean sea level but by changes in the frequency of extreme events such as storm surges and exceptionally high waves, which are forced by meteorological conditions (Church *et al.*, 2001).

Sea level rise and increasing storminess will lead to the disappearance of sandy islands, like the Frisian archipelago, if they are not artificially protected, and this will have dramatic consequences for the neighbouring coastline (Ahrendt, 2001). The Mediterranean sea level is suffering an accelerated rise since the early 1990s (Vargas Yáñez *et al.*, 2008) while sea level rise in the Baltic Sea is counteracted by the isostatic rise of Fennoscandia (HELCOM, 2007).

Other important consequences of climate change include changes in wind patterns and extreme events such as storms, floods and droughts (IPCC, 2007). Changes in wind patterns could have an influence on the trade winds and, therefore, on the conditions in which Macaronesian laurisilva grows. IAS would also be more likely to spread (Harley *et al.*, 2007) and native species could become invasive in a warmer climate. Algal blooms are more likely to occur under warmer conditions and changes in bird migration and other phenological features are also associated with climate change (Cotton, 2003; Visser & Both, 2005).

4.8 Sustainability on medium size and small islands

Inhabited medium size and small islands have different problems than unpopulated ones and the approaches to faces problems are also different. Permanently and temporary inhabited islands could, in consequence, be listed and described.

Populated islands can implement institutional and participative tools for the sustainable management of their territory and resources (through Agenda21, EMS-environmental management systems). Those approaches could include management of waste and resources, given that capacity to store waste and extract resources is more limiting on islands than on mainland.

Partnership with industries and communities could be developed in order to implement best practices to address a major threat to islands, such as sustainable fisheries, forestry, agriculture, waste management or invasive species control.

4.9 Coordination mechanisms for a network of experts

To get the above mentioned goals, it would be useful to create a group of experts in order to discuss the different aspects considered in this document, to design and promote the different groups or actions.

Coordination among experts could be extremely beneficial if it allowed communication in a fluid form and without encumbering the making or implementation of any decisions. Thus, meetings should occur on a periodical basis and sharing of information should be fluid.

However, when European Outermost Regions are considered, the coordination of meetings becomes expensive and difficult. Alternative ways of "virtual meeting" are worth to be taken into mind instead physical meetings when places are separated long distances, to avoid bulky ecological footprints.

Interaction or integration of such groups of experts with international initiatives, mainly GLISPA is a must. It should be noted that, although some European actions are listed among the commitments of this network, in general terms, islands belonging to this continent don't have a substantial role (see appendix).

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Annex 1

Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)

(excerpt from http://www.cbd.int/island/glispa.shtml**)**

The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) assists islands in addressing one of the world's greatest challenges: to conserve and sustainably utilize the invaluable island natural resources that support people, cultures, and livelihoods in their island homes around the world. It brings together island nations and nations with islands — small and large, developing and developed — to mobilize leadership, increase resources and share skills, knowledge, technologies and innovations in a cost-effective and sustainable way that will catalyze action for conservation and sustainable livelihoods on islands. It is 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.

Since it was first called for in Mauritius (January 2005) and launched at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Brazil (March 2006), GLISPA has grown rapidly as an informal network advancing island conservation and sustainable livelihoods, with seven major strategies:

1. Inspire and recognize leadership and commitments to action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods
2. Connect partners to support implementation of commitments
3. Promote collaboration and exchanges among islands
4. Engage in joint communication strategies on island issues
5. Track progress on GLISPA commitments (monitor results)
6. Build linkages between island nations and nations with islands
7. Facilitate increased public and private funding for island priorities by:

    - helping partners secure local and international funding from public and private sources for the sustainable financing of GLISPA commitments.
    - working with the GEF, CBD Parties, and other donors and co-financers to structure effective projects to support globalleadership in island invasive species management, resilient marine protected area (MPA) networks, adaptation to climate change and the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity
    - working with the GEF, the World Economic Forum, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, other trade organizations and voluntary initiatives, and interested private sector partners to catalyze support for conservation and climate positive investment.
    - establishing a global island fundraising campaign by early 2010.

In its first year, GLISPA engaged more than 20 countries and 20 agencies and organizations worldwide in high-level commitments and on-the-ground action for island conservation and sustainable use, including bold commitments by Fiji, the Micronesian countries and territories, Grenada and others to commit to conserve 20% or more of their terrestrial and/or marine resources by 2020. GLISPA has also helped catalyse more than US$ 130 million in support.

The SCBD has been instrumental in the organization of GLISPA. Indeed, GLISPA responds directly to paragraph 16 of decision VIII/1, which "encourages Parties to establish national, subregional, regional and international island partnerships that bring Governments and civil society organizations together to increase political, financial and technical support to accelerate the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity".

In 2008, COP 9 recognized GLISPA as one of the mechanisms to implement the island biodiversity programme of work and welcomed the establishment of a coordination mechanism for GLISPA, to be hosted by the IUCN (decision IX/21).

Strategy

GLISPA has helped catalyze significant advances in island conservation and funding without the benefit of dedicated staff, structure or financial support. The increasing number of members and activities, however, has emphasized the need for a strategy to guide the work of the Partnership. The opportunity to develop one was given by one of GLISPA's youngest members, Italy.

In the framework of the SIDS initiatives promoted by the Italian Government, in November 2006, Italy's Ministries of Environment and Foreign Affairs, together with IUCN agreed to sponsor a GLISPA meeting to showcase progress, secure concrete commitments to conservation action on islands and develop a strategy to guide the next three years of its activities.

An impressive number of GLISPA members participated in the planning and preparation of Action for Island Conservation and Livelihoods: Strategy for a Global Challenge. Building upon this, a small group of self-funded GLISPA members held a meeting in Rome at the end of September 2007 to achieve two main goals:

1. Develop a draft Global Island Partnership Strategy (2008 – 2010) and global review process that will strengthen and guide the Partnership to:
   - Support leadership ready to take significant action on high-priority island conservation and sustainable-livelihood issues through current and new GLISPA commitments
   - Accelerate and add value to existing and emerging island networks and initiatives
   - Establish a strong foundation for Partnership governance and structure, including membership, leadership, communications, staffing and funding for essential coordination support
2. Prepare for a meeting in 2008 in La Maddalena, Italy to significantly expand and strengthen the Partnership and build momentum for GLISPA commitments and action
   - Agree on objectives for and expected outputs from the La Maddalena meeting, possibly including finalizing the GLISPA strategy
   - Ensure synergy with other international events in 2007-2008 that are opportunities to advance GLISPA (e.g., UNFCCC COP 13, CBD Working Group on Protected Areas 2, CBD COP 9, WCC, etc.)
   - Appoint a La Maddalena Planning Committee and next steps to ensure High Level and representative participation

Objectives

1. Inspire and recognize leadership and commitments to action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods
2. Connect partners to support implementation of commitments
3. Promote collaboration and exchanges among islands
4. Engage in joint communication strategies on island issues
5. Track progress on GLISPA commitments (monitor results)
6. Build linkages between island nations and nations with islands
7. Facilitate increased public and private funding for island priorities by:
   - helping partners secure local and international funding from public and private sources for the sustainable financing of GLISPA commitments.

- working with the GEF, CBD Parties, and other donors and co-financers to structure effective projects to support globalleadership in island invasive species management, resilient marine protected area (MPA) networks, adaptation to climate change and the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity
- working with the GEF, the World Economic Forum, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, other trade organizations and voluntary initiatives, and interested private sector partners to catalyze support for conservation and climate positive investment.
- establishing a global island fundraising campaign by early 2010.

Principles

- GLISPA is an open partnership, available to any country or organization that shares its mission and values.
- Commitments are based on national and/or organisational priorities.
- Collaboration is encouraged but voluntary.
- GLISPA adds value to existing networks and initiatives.
- Implementation and funding is by partners – not GLISPA.
- Mechanism for accelerating action on island issues (e.g., island POW and related policies).
- Focus is on helping countries implement existing policy framework on islands.
- GLISPA does not engage in policy advocacy; this is a role for individual countries, organizations or coalitions.

Commitments

Country/ Organization/Initiative	Commitments
Asia Pacific	
1. Micronesia Challenge	30% marine; 20% terrestrial under effective conservation by 2020 in Palau, FSM, RMI, CNMI, Guam & US$6 million challenge to leverage $12 million more to sustainable finance protected areas in the Micronesia Challenge. GEF funds pledged toward match.
2. Kiribati	Phoenix Islands Marine Protected Area: third-largest marine protected area (MPA) in the world
3. Fiji PA Network	30% of Fiji's inshore and offshore marine areas in MPA network by 2020
4. Coral Triangle Initiative	Support for the Global Island Partnership and commitment to work with Coral Triangle countries to conserve coral mega diversity in the Coral Triangle (Malaysia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Timor L'Este, Papua New Guinea, Palau and FSM)
5. Australia	AU$ 500,000 to support freshwater management on islands, a critical ecosystem that is often not included in protected area systems. (Mauritius)- continuation of Regional Natural Heritage Program (RNHP)
6. New Zealand	Continued support for the Cooperative Islands Initiative to reduce the impacts of invasive alien species on island biodiversity and livelihoods - US$ 600,000 to match UNDP/GEF for the GEF Small Grants Programme across the Pacific, bringing the total to US$ 1.2 million. Will host a regional technical workshop for islands to showcase lessons learned from the Pactific Invasives Initiative and provide the opportunity to exchange experiences.
7. USP	10% graduates trained for successful implementation of GLISPA by 2010
Latin America Caribbean	
1. Grenada	25% marine & 25% terrestrial areas under effective conservation by 2020.
2. Belize	Comprehensive National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan by 2005
3. Bahamas	Initiated Caribbean Challenge: minimum of 10% of the Caribbean terrestrial and marine habitat conserved by 2010 and 2012 respectively. Doubling national parks; committed $2 million over the next four years (2008-2012) for the establishment of the Bahamas National Protected Areas Trust Fund. Studies of potential ways to enhance fish biomass in areas outside of proposed marine reserve boundaries.
4. St. Vincent and the Grenadines	10% of marine area effectively managed by 2012; expansion of marine protected areas system to include 20% of marine habitats by 2020.
5. Jamaica	20% of marine and terrestrial areas protected by 2015.
6. Dominican Republic	Creation of a $10 million National Trust Fund, of which $5 million generated by domestic resources.
7. Ecuador	Committed $5 million to the newly established Galapagos Invasive Control Fund.
Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, Africa	
1. Western Indian Ocean	Regional Marine Protected Area network by 5 island nations & financing
2. Madagascar	Protected Areas
Europe & North America	
1. Croatia	Commitment to work towards the development of management plans for five MPAs by 2012 and the improvement of a system of effectively managed and representative network of MPAs in the Mediterranean by 2012.
2. France	EU 9 million for reef conservation (2005 – 2007) – IFRECOR & CRISP commit to be part of GLISPA. Organizing the conference The European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss (7-11 July 2008) in collaboration with IUCN, as an official event of the 2008 European Union French Presidency to develop Europe's work on islands.
3. Italy	Expand Island Initiative (with IUCN). Support GLISPA by providing facilities on Maddalena Island in Sardinia and the GLISPA coordination team and island programme (EU 500,000). Supporting UNEP-WCMC for the development of the Global Islands Information Portal and Database.

4. UK	Co-sponsor & active partner in all GLISPA events. Developing island initiative focused on climate change
5. USA	Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) National Monument, largest marine protected area in world. $460,000 for protected areas in FSM, regional invasives and RMI waste mgmt-NOAA/UNESCO meeting to increase collaboration by NWHI and the Pacific. Supporting Coral Triangle Initiative. Financial support for the GLISPA coordination team and IUCN's new islands programme.
6. EU	Funding in Mauritius
7. IUCN	Will host the GLISPA Coordination Team
8. RARE/TNC	$3 million for social marketing campaigns (not only islands)
9. TNC	$2 million for Early Action Grants for MPA networks in island states; Commitment to provide $500,000 for activities that strengthen and expand GLISPA and to raise US$ 20 million for the implementation of the Caribbean Challenge.
10. UNDP/GEF with NZ	$1.2 million for GEF Small Grants Program across Micronesia ($600K matched 1:1 by NZ) and readiness to support implementation of the Challenge
11. UNEP-WCMC	Development of the Global Islands Information Portal and Database
12. GLISPA	More than 20 organizations are working together to highlight the importance of island biodiversity; hold GLISPA events; assist with implementation of major island commitments and strengthen the Global Island Partnership’s ability to help islands around the world.