



GLISPA Office

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January 29, 2010

Ms Sarah Bobbe
US Coral Reef Taskforce

Dear Ms Bobbe,

RE: Update on Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)

On behalf of GLISPA I would like to make the following comments to the US CRTF meeting to be held here in Washington DC.

GLISPA is helping islands to address one of the world's greatest challenges – to conserve and sustainably use island natural resources through promoting actions for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods. The focus of this action is to inspire leadership, catalyse commitments and facilitate collaboration among all islands. It was created to help bridge local and global initiatives, build upon existing networks and programmes and to share knowledge. In this way it has some common objectives and common partners to the USCRTF.

Since it was first called for in 2005, and until 2009 largely an effort supported by volunteer efforts from countries and organisations who care about island issues, GLIPSA has involved more than 50 governments, multi and bilateral agencies, NGOs and private sector donors worldwide who have focussed on:

- Inspiring and recognizing leadership and commitments to action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods;
- Strengthening partnerships to support implementation of commitments and to build local long-term conservation capacity;
- Facilitating increased public and private funding for island priorities;
- Promoting targeted and cost-effective collaboration and exchanges among islands;
- Engaging in effective communication strategies on island issues;
- Building linkages between all islands, regardless of political status;

In May 2009 a new Coordination Unit was set up in Washington DC and staffed by a GLISPA Coordinator and also in 2009 the new President of Palau, President Johnson Toribong has confirmed that he will take on the role of co-Chair of GLISPA along with the President of the Seychelles President James Alix Michel.

GLISPA has helped countries to catalyse national and multi country island conservation and sustainable livelihood commitments around the world. While both the Micronesia Challenge and the Caribbean Challenge have been highlighted at previous USCRTF meetings it is worthwhile to see them as part of a global effort to increase support for work on islands.

Over the coming two to three years GLISPA would like to work closely with partners like the USCRTF on supporting current commitments as well as identifying opportunities for island leadership and support. The current focus of GLISPA following a recent GLISPA Steering Committee meeting is on:

1. Developing leadership and commitments on ecosystem based adaptation and mitigation including the threat of invasive species. (includes identifying and highlighting projects in this area)
2. Integrating island conservation and sustainable livelihoods into the development agenda and dialogue.
3. Highlighting and promoting GLISPA commitments including enabling exchanges and sharing of effective practices.

If you have any further questions, I can be reached via telephone at +1 202 288 2606 and/or e-mail kate.brown@iucn.org.

Sincerely,

Kate Brown
Global Island Partnership Coordinator