



ISLAND BIODIVERSITY COALITION 3RD MEETING

26 November 2025 2pm (EST)



Island Biodiversity Coalition

3rd Virtual Meeting Summary

Date: 26 November 2025

Format: Virtual

Thank you to all who participated in the 3rd Island Biodiversity Coalition meeting. The discussion centered on COP30 outcomes, strategic finance for islands, and how we collectively drive implementation, advocacy, and coordination across biodiversity-climate as we move into 2026. We were joined by Coral Pasisi, the Director of Climate and Sustainability at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community who gave us an update on COP30 outcomes in relation to the island biodiversity goals of the coalition.

COP30 Outcomes: Presentation and Discussion

COP30 delivered mixed results for global climate action. It was framed as the implementation COP in the lead up aiming to move from ambition to practical roadmaps but there was no mention of fossil fuels in the final text. Some highlights relevant to the coalition:

- New voluntary mechanism launched at COP - the Global Implementation Accelerator to accelerate real-world implementation of climate plans: specifically, the national commitments under the Paris Agreement (i.e., NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs)
- By COP end, 120 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) were submitted, doubling the initial 60, yet global warming is still projected between 2.3 and 2.5 degrees, far above the 1.5°C target critical for islands.
- SIDS fought for their “special case” designation in the face of strong opposition
- SIDS also fought to keep the 1.5C limit referenced in the face of attacks on its scientific basis.
- With Australia hosting COP31 negotiations and a Pacific pre-COP meeting in an island country, islands have a strong chance to showcase ocean biodiversity and traditional knowledge leadership.
- The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) indicators were reduced from 100 to 59, with only six related to ecosystems — a signal that stronger island advocacy is needed to restore measurable biodiversity metrics.

Oceans

The COP30 outcome enhanced recognition of the ocean’s role in climate adaptation and biodiversity, shifting focus from mitigation-heavy blue carbon debates. Even with this ocean representation in the final text was limited.

The Ocean Dialogue, now co-chaired by Fiji, offers a pathway to embed oceans within COP work programmes ahead of COP31 in Turkey. The dialogue's recommendations could lead to formal inclusion of oceans in COP work programmes - important also for island priorities.

COP 30 also saw 17 countries joining the Blue NDC Challenge (launched at UNOC) to advance the integration and implementation of ocean-based actions within NDCs, ensuring that commitments are translated into concrete policies, measures, and tangible results for nature and people.

The five Ocean Breakthroughs launched a collective and coordinated [Plan to Accelerate Solutions](#) to scale implementation across the five strategic areas: marine conservation, aquatic food, ocean renewable energy, shipping, and coastal tourism. This includes a global Implementation Tracker. Under the marine conservation breakthrough - the Saltmarsh Breakthrough—supported by a dedicated policy taskforce—mobilizes major finance and restoration efforts to protect 500,000 hectares by 2030. The Mangrove Breakthrough is unlocking investment through its new \$80 million Mangrove Catalytic Facility toward a \$4 billion goal, and the Peatland Breakthrough's new science-based framework gives governments and investors a shared roadmap to drive high-integrity protection and restoration at scale.

The One Ocean Partnership launched at COP30 a global network of Regenerative Seascape that will accelerate regenerative ocean action by catalysing at least \$20 billion of investment in the Regenerative Blue Economy by 2030.

Financing

- Financing signals at COP30 show growing favor for integrated proposals linking climate, biodiversity, and desertification goals. Funders now prefer broad outcome proposals - this can support the biodiversity-climate nexus critical for islands.
- The newly launched Loss and Damage Fund issued its first call for proposals for up to \$250 million, offering important direct finance opportunities. Its flexible modality, allowing countries and communities to register their own preferred mechanisms for accessing funds, is a game changer for island finance access.
- Islands face challenges accessing finance due to lack of debt instruments for swaps (for example in the Pacific), but innovative partnerships like the Niue Oceanwide Trust (NOW Trust) exemplify local solutions to unlock funding.
- Proposals for a “blue deal” similar to Brazil’s Tropical Forest Forever Fund are emerging, with islands positioned to be primary beneficiaries as custodians of vast ocean territories.
- Adaptation finance tripled — from USD 20 billion to USD 60 billion annually by 2035.
- Islands need to prepare and support funding partnership initiatives leveraging their unique blue real estate and biodiversity stewardship.
- Emerging non-market mechanisms offer new opportunities for islands to scale biodiversity and adaptation projects. Article 6.8 mechanisms of the Paris Agreement now provide space for registering voluntary, non-market initiatives with biodiversity and climate benefits. Islands are encouraged to explore these registration opportunities to

unlock recognition and resources for community-based projects. The Niue Oceanwide Trust (NOW Trust) was presented as a model for locally driven, finance-ready innovation.

- Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF) – Over US \$5.5 billion was announced for the facility, and 53 countries endorsed its launch declaration at COP30

Narrative Shift and Legal Frameworks

Coalition members stressed the importance of reframing island narratives from vulnerability to contribution — emphasizing stewardship of vast ocean territories and natural capital. Islands should rightly position themselves as custodians of global resilience and for their massive contribution to planetary stability. This reframing can strengthen islands' stake in advocacy and justify greater resource allocation. As well, building a collective narrative that values island biodiversity contribution is critical for global recognition and funding.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion on climate obligations provides a strong legal foundation for island advocacy, clarifying states' responsibilities under international law. The Coalition discussed producing pocket guides and resources to translate this legal tool into actionable advocacy in the biodiversity-climate space and to ensure greater engagement of youth in the Coalition and this work.

Next Steps

Coalition Members / Participants

- Identify who should be part of this coalition and let GLISPA know.
- Contribute to coordinated advocacy materials and messaging for 2026 global events
- Engage in and support early 2026 CBD meetings to support coalition goals.
- Contribute to an Island Advocacy Package incorporating COP30 outcomes and island priorities for 2026 milestones
- Support development of tools such as the ICJ Advisory Opinion pocket guide and youth engagement materials relevant to the Coalition.

Events (Upcoming)

SIDS Future Forum (13-16 Jan), UK

IPBES 12 Plenary (2-8 Feb), UK

Island Invasives Conference (9-13 Feb), NZ

Workshop on Resource Mobilisation - CBD (10-13 Feb), Italy

6th Mtg of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation - CBD (16-19 Feb), Italy

Check out GLISPA's [Calendar of Events](#) for more information.

Meeting Access: [3rd Island Biodiversity Coalition Meeting Recording](#)

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Next meeting date: 28 January 2025 (US Eastern Time)