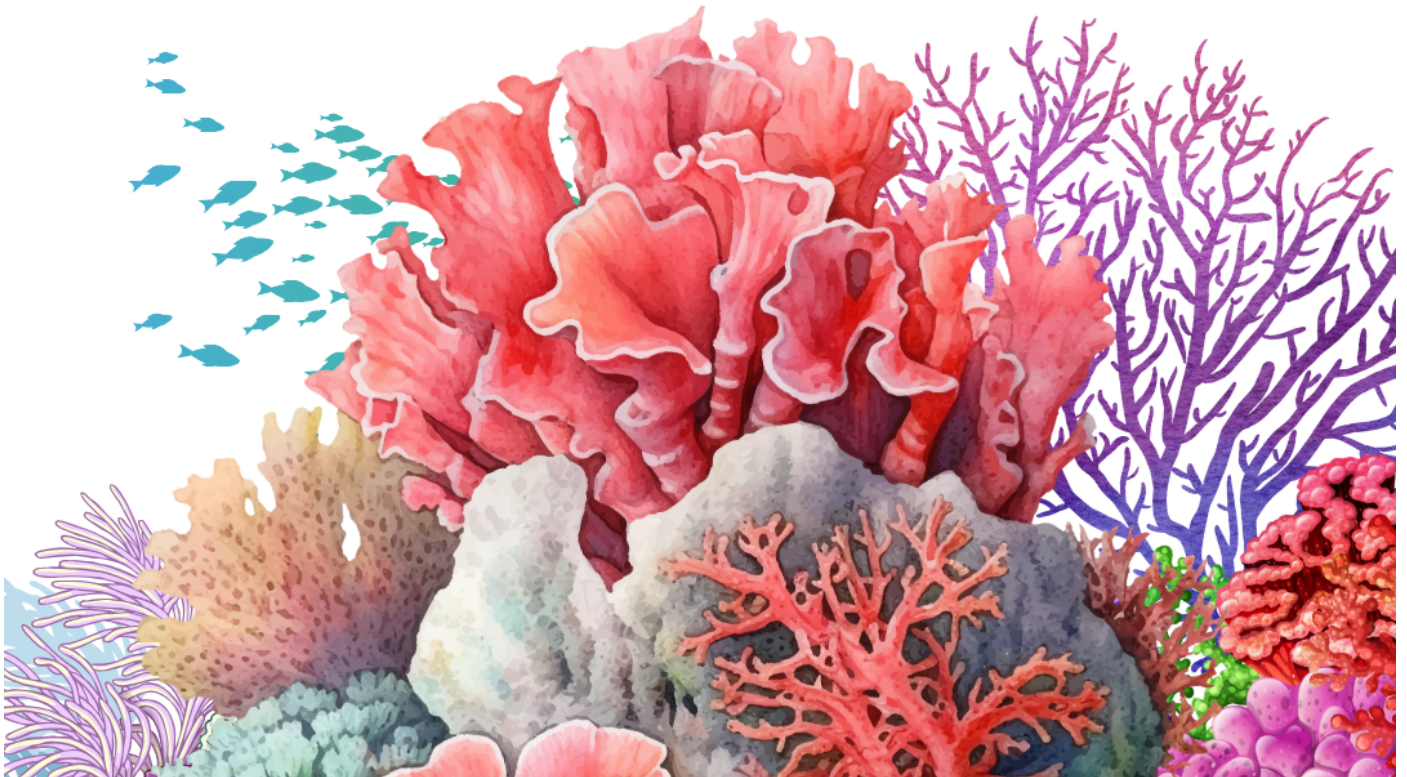




ISLAND BIODIVERSITY COALITION 2ND MEETING

Session 1: Tue Oct 21, 2025 4am – 5am (GMT-4)

Session 2: Tue Oct 21, 2025 3pm – 4pm (GMT-4)



Island Biodiversity Coalition

2nd Virtual Meetings

Date: 21 October 2025

Format: Two virtual sessions held across 2 time zones

Thank you to all those who attended our 2nd virtual meeting of the Island Biodiversity Coalition. Here are the notes of the call including next steps and access to the recording.

Purpose of the Coalition

The Island Biodiversity Coalition was launched to revitalize island advocacy and visibility within global biodiversity frameworks. For nearly two decades, islands have made significant contributions to conservation and sustainable development, but in recent years their leadership and voices have been less visible on the global stage in the context of the Convention on Biodiversity. This coalition seeks to change that trajectory by providing a unified platform where island actors and island supporters can coordinate, share lessons, and strategise how to speak with one strong voice.

“This coalition is about changing the narrative—making sure island leadership, innovation, and experience are seen and heard.”

– Paula Lewis

It also aims to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity—first adopted in 2006 and reviewed in 2012 and 2024—ensuring that commitments are mobilised and then translated into action.

Context & Rationale

At the CBD COP16 in 2024 (Cali, Colombia) it was identified that despite past progress, island biodiversity was losing visibility in the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and that implementation needed more support. The challenges identified included under-implementation of existing commitments, limited financial and political resources, and the exclusion of island biodiversity from global scientific literature and funding priority-setting.

Effective coordination among island and SIDS countries is critical for amplifying their collective influence within the CBD and for developing aligned approaches to shared priorities, including financial resource mobilization, capacity building, and monitoring and reporting. Read more about island biodiversity on our [factsheet](#).

“It’s not about shining a light on islands as vulnerable, but about shining a light on islands as solutions; implementable, scalable solutions.”

– Cameron Diver, Island Conservation

Biodiversity Priorities & Political Issues

The Coalition reaffirmed its focus on bridging biodiversity and climate agendas while clarifying its positioning among existing island and other relevant networks and coalitions that it would seek to work with to advance its objectives. Members emphasized the need for coherence, clear political strategy, and stronger connections between advocacy and implementation to ensure island-led solutions remain central to global frameworks.

- Define a clear strategy for this work, linking high-level advocacy to tangible implementation on the ground.
- Prioritize islands as an ecosystem and community-led approaches that position islands as solution providers rather than vulnerable outliers.
- Build political momentum through regional and national champions and unified messaging across upcoming relevant COPs and biodiversity forums.
- Identify bright spots that illustrate specific implementation examples in islands

“This is about ensuring that we’re all paddling our boat in the same direction rather than in many multiple directions.”

– Kate Brown, GLISPA

Coalition Objectives

The Coalition outlined clear objectives to guide collective action and strengthen island advocacy in upcoming global biodiversity and climate processes. The focus is on building coherence, advancing implementation partnerships, and ensuring that island priorities are visible and actionable.

- Consolidate a unified advocacy framework and shared messaging ahead of COP30, COP31, and CBD COP17.
- Prepare for a GLISPA High Level Event at CBD COP 17 that will focus on highlighting new island and island supporter political commitments and recognising progress on existing commitments. Outreach is underway to the host government (Armenia)
- Coordinate regionally through a shared events calendar (2025–2027) and partnerships under the proposed UN Decade of Island Resilience.
- Outreach to coalitions on Blue Foods Breakthrough, Locally led adaptation, reef resilience, finance, oceans, food security and others in lead up to COP30.

“We all have to be aligned on what the key asks are so that we just don't have some SIDS benefiting while others aren't benefiting. And I think it would really help to start building this formal framework between the regions to support the kinds of knowledge exchange that's needed.”

– Safiya Sawney, Special Envoy and Ambassador for Climate of Grenada

Next Steps and Announcements

Building on the momentum of the discussion, the Coalition agreed on several concrete follow-up actions to maintain coordination and advance joint advocacy. The coming months will focus on refining shared tools, aligning messaging for major global events, and strengthening cross-regional collaboration.

- **Engagement** — GLISPA will engage with coalitions, organisations and networks that are relevant to the coalition goals including GLISPA members who are attending COP30 and working towards COP17.
- **Deepen coordination and knowledge exchange** — Members are invited to update the shared global calendar and contribute information. GLISPA will outreach to members of the coalition to connect meeting outcomes to plans moving forward. This includes indicating who will be attending COP30.
- **Prepare for global advocacy moments** — A unified messaging package for COP30 and eventually COP17 will be released in early November 2025, with a follow-up call scheduled to map strategy
- **Join the 3rd Virtual Meeting of the Island Biodiversity Coalition** — Save the date! 26th November 2025, 2pm US ET.

Meeting1 Recording: [Access here](#)

Passcode: 4!dwQa&J

See Meeting2 Recording: [Access here](#)

Passcode: 02@.IQXJ

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