



The Island Biodiversity Coalition brings island governments and partners together to accelerate island-led climate and biodiversity action and strengthen global recognition of island stewardship of critical ecosystems.

May 27th, 2026

Summary: 8th Island Biodiversity Coalition Meeting

The 8th Island Biodiversity Coalition (IBC) Meeting brought together coalition members and partners to strengthen coordination across biodiversity, climate, and ocean agendas, with a clear focus on advancing implementation, improving island representation in global processes, and preparing for key international policy moments.

Key Themes

Strengthening the Biodiversity–Climate–Ocean Nexus

Participants reflected on the coalition's evolution from addressing island biodiversity visibility to advancing a more integrated approach that connects biodiversity, climate, and ocean priorities. Members emphasized that islands are uniquely positioned to demonstrate how these interconnected challenges can be addressed through practical, island-led solutions.

Discussion highlighted the need to bridge global commitments with implementation, ensuring island experiences and leadership are reflected in international policy, financing, and decision-making processes. The coalition's work increasingly aligns with broader efforts to advance resilient, nature-positive island development and strengthen pathways from ambition to action.

Addressing Representation and Reporting Gaps

A major concern raised during the meeting was the persistent underrepresentation of island priorities in global biodiversity reporting and negotiations. Participants noted that limited reporting capacity across many island nations results in island achievements, challenges, and needs being insufficiently reflected in Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) processes and global assessments.

Members stressed the importance of supporting island governments and regional organisations with the technical resources, coordination, and financing required to strengthen reporting and participation in international biodiversity processes.

Ocean Issues as a Strategic Entry Point

The coalition discussed the growing prominence of ocean issues within climate negotiations and identified this as an important opportunity for island advocacy. Participants noted that ocean-focused approaches, including ecosystem-based adaptation and sustainable ocean governance, are increasingly gaining traction across international forums and may provide an effective pathway for advancing biodiversity and climate priorities together.

Updates were also shared from regional ocean initiatives, including the Melanesian Ocean Summit and preparations for the upcoming Island States Ocean Summit, highlighting emerging political leadership and opportunities to connect conservation, finance, and implementation agendas.

Regional Perspectives from the Pacific

Representatives from the Pacific region highlighted ongoing challenges related to capacity, technical support, and financing for biodiversity implementation. While important progress has been made through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), participants stressed that implementation remains difficult without sustained institutional and financial support.

SPREP shared plans to strengthen coordination across its biodiversity programmes, with a renewed emphasis on people-centred conservation, indigenous knowledge, cultural values, and sustainable financing. The upcoming Pacific Nature Conference was highlighted as an important opportunity to advance regional priorities ahead of future CBD negotiations.

Ocean and Climate Dialogue Update

An update was provided on the Ocean and Climate Dialogue process, which is working to strengthen synergies between ocean, climate, and biodiversity agendas. Discussions focused on

reducing duplication across international conventions, integrating indigenous knowledge, and improving coordination among global policy processes.

Coalition members explored opportunities to influence upcoming UNFCCC and CBD discussions and emphasized the importance of ensuring island perspectives help shape future ocean-climate-biodiversity priorities.

Science, Coral Reefs, and Knowledge Exchange

The International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS), taking place in Auckland in July, was highlighted as a major opportunity to connect science, policy, and implementation. Participants discussed how emerging research on coral reef restoration, climate impacts, and management approaches can inform policy decisions and strengthen support for island-led conservation efforts.

The symposium will also provide a platform for practitioners, researchers, and island leaders to share lessons, build partnerships, and elevate island perspectives within global coral reef discussions.

Advocacy and Strategic Communications

Members reviewed progress on two key coalition products:

- An **ICJ Advisory Opinion Pocket Guide**, designed to translate legal outcomes into practical advocacy tools for island governments and partners.
- A broader **Island Biodiversity Advocacy Framework**, which will articulate core coalition messages around island leadership, biodiversity-climate synergies, conservation innovation, and the need for fit-for-purpose financing.

The discussion reinforced a shared narrative that islands are not simply sites of vulnerability but are leaders in conservation, stewardship, and innovation whose experiences offer globally relevant solutions.

Looking Ahead

The coalition agreed to focus on stronger coordination around upcoming policy and advocacy opportunities, including the Island States Ocean Summit, London Climate Week, the International Coral Reef Symposium, and future CBD and UNFCCC processes.

A coordination call on 10 June will bring members together to align priorities, review emerging opportunities, and strengthen collective engagement across biodiversity, climate, and ocean agendas. The coalition will also continue efforts to improve island representation in global

biodiversity processes, advance financing solutions, and support implementation pathways that translate commitments into meaningful outcomes for islands and communities.

Overall Takeaway

The meeting underscored a growing consensus that while global ambition on biodiversity, climate, and oceans continues to increase, implementation remains the critical challenge. Coalition members reaffirmed the importance of strengthening island leadership, improving access to finance and decision-making, and building more connected pathways from global commitments to coordinated, financed, and implemented action. This aligns closely with the coalition's broader vision that islands are essential partners in delivering solutions for biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainable ocean management.

Closing Notes:

Join the GLISPA Coordination Call [here](#)



GLOBAL ISLAND PARTNERSHIP

ISLANDS ARE LEADING

The way

Let's coordinate, Collaborate
Amplify island leadership and solutions
across key 2026 global moments

GLISPA COORDINATION CALL

Scan for Meeting Link

📅 JUNE 10 2026 | 🕒 4:00pm US EST



UPCOMING GLOBAL MOMENTS

 Our Ocean Conference 16-18 June 2026	 London Climate Week 20-28 June 2026	 International Coral Reef Symposium 19-24 July 2026
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Share plans. Build Partners. Coordinate Impact

8th IBC [Meeting and video link](#) Passcode: +aQUpi9g

Ocean and Climate Dialogue: The UNFCCC's official 2026 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue's three primary focus areas are integrating ocean-based measure into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), strengthening the ocean under the Global Goal on Adaptation, and advancing ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies. [Presentation by Dr Sivendra Michael](#)

[Newsletter link](#)

Next IBC Meeting: **June 24th, 2026**

