

Island Bright Spots

Invest in what works



Island Bright Spots: Marine Protected Areas

Island success is built upon initiatives that work – bright spots. Bright spots can be projects, programs, policies or initiatives at any level that are making a difference in advancing conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

The following is a selection of island solutions collated for IMPAC to share further examples that could be scaled and replicated.

Help identify, share and invest in island bright spots - www.glispa.org





Why Island Bright Spots?

Islands are taking action and making progress in the face of major geographic, economic and social challenges however further commitment is needed to continue to build on what is working and maintain resilient ecosystems, strong island economies and sustainable livelihoods.

To continue to advance we need to build on what is working. We need to invest in those bright spots which have the potential to be scaled and replicated. The Global Island Partnership is committed to the identification, review and sharing of bright spots as a mechanism to achieve its mission to promote action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Island Bright Spot will help to:

- **Inspire leadership** by celebrating what is working in islands and those leaders that are committed to success
- **Catalyze** commitments by encouraging investment in bright spots
- **Facilitate** collaboration by exchanging solutions for islands to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss.

Island Bright Spots offers are a means to achieve the priorities identified in the Convention on Biodiversity's programme of work on island biodiversity (PoWIB, [Decision XI/15](#)) and as a tool to implement the larger U.N. Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the Aichi targets.

Origins of Bright Spots

The origins of the bright spot concept come from the public health sector and the theory of [positive deviance](#) developed by Jerry Sternin of Save the Children. The term "bright spots" was first coined in the book [Switch](#) authored by Chip & Dan Heath and adopted by the conservation organization Rare, a GLISPA supporter.

GLISPA first adopted the bright spot approach during a half day knowledge exchange event coordinated with **Rare** as part of the Island Summit ('Island Innovations') held in parallel to the eleventh meeting of the Convention on Biodiversity Conference of the Parties (CBD COP11). The event used participatory facilitation techniques (world café) that focused on sharing island bright spots from community to global levels. Participants shared their own experiences and bright spots to determine how these successes could be scaled and replicated. Based on the success of the event and interest generated the Global Island Partnership will continue to identify, review and share bright spots.



Table of Contents

Island Bright Spot Examples

Pacific

1. **Micronesia Challenge**
2. **Palau Green Fee**
3. **Watershed Management and Community Engagement, Saipan**
4. **Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), Fiji**
5. **Yadua Backyard Garden and MPA, Fiji**
6. **Nanumea Momea Tapu MPA, Tuvalu**

Caribbean

1. **Caribbean Biodiversity Fund**
2. **The Man of War Shoal MPA, St Martin**
3. **Coral Bay Watershed Management Project, US Virgin Islands**

Indian Ocean

1. **Cousin Island Special Reserve, Seychelles**

Asia

1. **Municipal Leadership for Food Security, Philippines**



Bright Spot: Micronesia Challenge

- **Region:** Micronesia
- **Countries:** Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, Guam
- **Focal Point:** Berna Gorong, b.gorong@yahoo.com, Micronesia Challenge Regional Office, www.micronesiachallenge.org

The Micronesia Challenge is a commitment by five governments to effectively conserve at least 30% of near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. First launched during CBD COP8 in 2006, the Micronesia Challenge has since inspired other multi-country conservation initiatives such as the Caribbean Challenge Initiative as well as the emerging Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge. In the past seven years, the Micronesia Challenge has made substantial progress including:

- the establishment or strengthening of more than 150 protected areas covering over 680,000 hectares,
- leveraging over \$20 million in operational funds, including an endowment that currently stands at over \$13 million,
- identified and are monitoring key regional measures of success,
- leveraged several other regional opportunities including: world's first shark sanctuary, Micronesia Biosecurity Plan, RARE Pride Social Marketing campaigns,
- mentored over twenty Young Champions.

What makes it bright?

- **Visionary long-term, multi-country commitment**
- **Supported at the highest political level**
- **On the ground action**

Contribution to Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity:

7) *Establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas and terrestrial Protected Areas, including inland waters.*

“Out of all attempts to unify islands in one challenge and one effort, (the Micronesia Challenge) has been the most successful.”

**The Hon. Tony de Brum, Minister in Assistance to the President
Republic of the Marshall Islands**



Bright Spot: Palau Green Fee

- **Region:** Micronesia
- **Country:** Palau
- **Focal Point:** Joe Aitaro, Director, Protected Areas Network Coordinator, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism of Palau

The **Palau Green Fee** is a USD30 fee paid by all tourists upon their departure from Palau to support the Palau Protected Areas Network (PAN). The Palau Green Fee is a sustainable financing mechanism for protected areas and wetlands. **Thus far, the Fee raises approximately USD1.5 million per year.** In 2011, Palau contributed US\$1.4million from green fee funding to the Micronesia Challenge endowment.

What makes it bright?

- An effective country-led **sustainable and innovative** financing mechanism that takes advantages of tourists willingness to pay for use and conservation of natural resources
- Generate conservation financing that **contributes to broader initiatives**, such as the Micronesia Challenge

Contribution to Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity:

- 3) New and innovative financial arrangements, e.g. trust funds, debt swaps, payment for ecosystem services, fees for natural resource use, etc.





Bright Spot: Watershed Management and Community Engagement in Laolao, Saipan

- **Country:** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)
- **Region:** Micronesia
- **Organization:** CNMI Division of Environmental Quality/Mariana Islands Nature Alliance
- **Focal Point:** Avra Heller, DEQ, avrahellerdeq@gmail.com, Fran Castro, DEQ, coralreefpoc@gmail.com, Sam Sablan, MINA

Laolao Bay is one of Saipan's most valuable – and visited – natural resources, home to species such as sea snails, starfish, urchin, sponges, and fish, as well as over 100 coral species, many of which are endemic to the Mariana Islands. Because of its rich biodiversity, the bay is a critical resource for local fishermen and their families. The bay is an important resource for Saipan's dive tourism industry, as well as a culturally and historically significant archeological site.

In an effort to protect Laolao Bay and its valuable resources, the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality, along with the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, has generated community awareness and engagement through anti-littering and sediment management campaigns. These campaigns have attracted various federally funded "Best Management Practice" interventions, which include road paving, stream-crossing hardening, permeable parking, and upland re-vegetation projects. Laolao Bay is now also a focal point for three separate community-based projects: Laolao Watershed Rare Pride Campaign, OurLaolao Campaign, and the Tasi Watch Rangers Program.

Why it is successful

- **Maintains biodiversity** in resource-rich ecosystems
- **Generates awareness and builds community support** for culturally significant areas

Results/Impact

- Marked decrease in sedimentation and marine debris
- Increased awareness of the importance of resource management and biodiversity preservation, resulting in greater attention and more funding opportunities

Contribution to Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity:

2) Adapting and expanding proven, cost-effective mechanisms to strengthen local capacity for communication, awareness generation, and education, including peer-learning networks, learning exchanges, transfer of technologies, sharing of lessons learned and best practices, communication and information exchange tools, targeted technical assistance, and formal training/education.

Bright Spot: Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA)

- **Region:** Oceania
- **Country:** Origin Fiji
- **Replicated:** Indo-Pacific, Indian ocean.
- **Focal Point:** Hugh Govan, hgovan@gmail.com , LMMA Network (<http://www.lmmanetwork.org/>)

LMMA's are protected areas that are largely or wholly managed by coastal communities and/or land-owning groups, with the support of government and partner representatives.

The communities set aside 'no-take zones' or impose restrictions on certain equipment, practices, species or sizes of catches. These no-take zones allow resource and habitat recovery in over exploited areas, enabling a return to more sustainable harvest of marine resources for the community.

First established in Fiji, LMMA's are being replicated across coastal communities. More than 420 Indo-Pacific sites in the LMMA network involve around 600 villages and cover more than 12,000 km² in 15 Pacific Island States. LMMAs are now in Madagascar and Indian Ocean.

Why it is successful

- **Local ownership and control** of a marine reserve
- Encourages **traditional management practices** and customs to resolve issues around environmental degradation and overexploitation of resources
- **Community based solution** to issues such as overfishing, destructive fishing practices, pollution, sedimentation and other physical damage

Contribution to Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity:

9) *Participatory approaches for the sustainable management of natural resources, such as integrated marine and coastal area management*



Photo: BV Garth Cripps, Courtesy Blue Ventures

Bright Spot: Yadua Backyard Garden and MPA

- **Region:** Oceania
- **Country:** Fiji
- **Organization:** National Trust of Fiji Islands
- **Address:** P.O.Box 2089, Government Buildings, 3 Maafu Street, Suva
- **Focal Point:** Jone Niukula

The community in Yadua depends upon fisheries and farming for both subsistence and livelihood needs. Fisheries face major threats from over-exploitation by modern fishing methods, such as scuba diving for bech-de-mer (a major source of income). Population growth further stresses the fisheries, while also limiting the amount of land that can be cultivated to grow crops. The community in Yadua is also deeply concerned about the effects of climate change, which include rising sea levels and irregular weather patterns.

The National Trust of Fiji Islands has undertaken an agenda in order to address concerns regarding food security, depleted fisheries, and vulnerable coastlines. This includes: establishing nurseries for newly-introduced, diverse crop varieties, which households then plant and grow in their own backyards; establishing a Marine Protected Area (MPA) that ensures the sustainable harvest of fish and the protection of fisheries from illegal poachers; and the planting of mangroves as part of a coastal reforestation program.

What makes it bright?

- **Engages the community** in identifying risks, solutions, and stakeholders
- Effectively monitored and maintained MPAs

Results/Impacts

- Improved food security and increased agricultural diversity as a result of the successful introduction of new crop and vegetable varieties
- Increased coastal resilience to rising sea levels and storm surges





Bright Spot: Nanumea Momea Tapu MPA

- **Region:** Oceania
- **Country:** Tuvalu
- **Organization:** The Foundation of the People of the South Pacific International (FSPI)
- **Focal Points:** Zaidy Khan (zaidy.khan@fspi.org.fj) and Dr. Hugh Govan (hgovan@gmail.com) of FSPI, Semese Alefaio of the Tuvalu Association of NGOs (TANGO)

The roughly 700 people who live in Nanumea, Tuvalu depend on coastal and marine fisheries resources for their daily dietary needs. These resources, and thus the community's health and livelihoods, are at risk due to water pollution, coastal erosion, and destructive fishing practices, as well as by the threats of climate change, including coral bleaching, ocean acidification, and tropical storm surges.

In order to combat these threats, FSPI, in cooperation with TANGO and with funding from Coral Reef Initiatives for the Pacific (CRISP), have aimed to integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction with locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) and the development of resilient coastal fisheries. Primary goals of the project include: ecosystem education, strengthening the island council governance capacity to care for the health of ecosystems through workshops and trainings, building compost toilets to reduce solid waste pollution in waterways, establishing LMMAs and closing them from fishing activities, placing gear and species restrictions in LMMAs, and restoring coral reefs and mangroves in degraded areas.

Why it is successful:

- Utilizes **ecosystem-based adaptation** to address climate change
- Pursues a **participatory approach** to the sustainable management of resources

Results/Impacts:

- LMMAs aid in fishery rehabilitation and improved coastal and marine habitat; communities have reported evidence of increased populations of fish both inside and outside of their MPA
- Mangrove restoration reduces the vulnerability of coastal communities to floods and storm surges

Contribution to Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity:

6) Mainstreaming ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation to climate change, with particular attention to ecosystem restoration and invasive species management for human health and well-being; addressing this priority in all island development and conservation plans and projects and building capacity in their application.



Bright Spot: Caribbean Biodiversity Fund

- **Region:** Caribbean
- **Country:** Caribbean Challenge Initiative
- **Focal Point:** Rob Weary, The Nature Conservancy, rweary@tnc.org

The **Caribbean Biodiversity Fund** is the world's first regional endowment developed to support multiple national level conservation Trust Funds. Once the initial funding target of US\$40million is reached, the Fund will provide US\$2 million per year in critical sustainable financing to The Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to support these countries to protect nature and livelihoods as part of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative.

US\$30million has already been committed to this Fund towards the initial target of US\$40million by the Government of Germany, The Nature Conservancy, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

What makes it bright?

- Spending **decisions** will be made by the national level protected area Trust Funds
- Stimulating creation of **country-led** conservation finance mechanisms, such as protected area and green fees, to run through the national Trust Funds and generate 1:1 match funding
- Provides the financing mechanism to **achieve the conservation and livelihoods goals** of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative

Contribution to Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity:

3) *New and innovative financial arrangements, e.g. trust funds, debt swaps, payment for ecosystem services, fees for natural resource use, etc.*

Photo: Marjo Aho, Grenada





Bright Spot: The Man of War Shoal Marine Protected Area

- **Region:** Caribbean
- **Countries:** St. Maarten
- **Focal Point:** Tazio Bervoets (St. Maarten Nature Foundation), manager@naturefoundationsxm.org

The area within the Man of War Shoal Marine Park in St. Maarten is one of the island's most ecologically and economically valuable marine environments. The area is home to extensive coral reefs and seagrass beds, and it serves as a migratory stop or spawning ground for over 100 endangered or red-listed species.

The Man of War Shoal Marine Protected Area is St. Maarten's first and only protected area (marine or terrestrial), and represents a major step toward marine environmental protection. Within both the park and the territorial waters of St. Maarten, sharks and marine mammals are protected, allowing for the preservation of the area's rich biodiversity. A well-established educational component has trained over 40 community members as rangers, and has worked to support the livelihoods of fishermen through sustainable management practices.

Why is it successful?

- **Properly managed and maintained MPA** protects biodiversity and conserves valuable marine resources
- Focuses on the **natural capital** (economic goods and services) provided by the local ecosystem

Results/Impacts

- Serves as a strong model for future Marine Protected Areas
- Exhibits some of the healthiest shallow reef beds and fish densities in the Northeastern Caribbean

Contribution to Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity:

7) Establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas and terrestrial Protected Areas, including inland waters

“The eleventh hour has come and gone, and the establishment of the Marine Park as the island's first and only protected area is a large step in protecting our Natural Resources,”
- Former Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Franklyn Myers



Bright Spot: Coral Bay Watershed Management Project

- **Location:** Coral Bay, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands
- **Region:** Caribbean
- **Organization:** Coral Bay Community Council, Inc.
- **Date/timeframe of project:** 2007-present
- **Focal Point:** Sharon Coldren (Coral Bay Community Council, inc.)

Coral Bay hosts a wide diversity of coral, sea grass, and other benthic habitats that support marine species such as reef fish, turtles, and conch. It also supports a growing community of people, dependent on properly managed resources and effective infrastructure for basic public services. In recent years, Coral Bay has been threatened by challenges associated with rapid population growth and coastal development, such as pollution from sedimentation and erosion. This coupled with a lack of appropriate storm water management infrastructure has seriously compromised the Coral Bay Watershed.

In order to address these threats, Coral Bay Community Council developed the Coral Bay Watershed Management Plan. This plan provides a comprehensive set of objectives and actions that address land use planning, protection and restoration of sensitive lands and aquatic buffers, improved site design and construction techniques, and effective storm water management. With the support of the EPA, NOAA, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, CBCC has begun watershed restoration through the implementation of these key objectives.

Why is it successful?

- Brings together people, in conjunction with expertise and funds, to successfully restore critical environments
- Emphasizes the importance of conserving environmental resources in the face of developmental pressures

Results/Impacts

- Identification of critical areas that provide natural hydrologic function, unique habitat, and storm water storage, and demonstrated progress to restore these areas

Contribution to Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity:

7) Establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas and terrestrial Protected Areas, including inland waters



Bright Spot: Cousin Island Special Reserve

- **Location:** Seychelles
- **Region:** Western Indian Ocean
- **Organization:** Nature Seychelles
- **Focal Point:** Dr. Nirmal Jivan Shah, nirmalshah@natureseychelles.org

Cousin Island Special Reserve was established as a protected area in 1968, and has been coined “one of the world’s great conservation success stories” by BirdLife International. This locally managed area is protected from poaching, and has thus witnessed an increase in key species, such as seabirds and turtles. The reserve hosts ecotourism opportunities for small and large local tour operators, and acts as a training center for young interns from the Maritime Training Centre and the Seychelles Tourism Academy. Revenues generated through the reserve are directed towards various environmental and sustainability programs throughout Seychelles.

Why is it successful?

- Established by a local organization and **managed by community members**
- **Self-funded**; ecotourism revenues provide support for national environmental programs, as well as for education and awareness-building programs within the reserve
- Strengthens local economy and **generates employment opportunities**

Results/Impacts

- Improved biodiversity due to protected area management
- Generates funding for environmental programs both within the reserve and throughout Seychelles

Contribution to Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity:

7) Establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas and terrestrial Protected Areas, including inland waters





Bright Spot: Municipal Leadership for Food Security

- **Region:** Asia
- **Country:** Philippines
- **Focal Points:** Mayor Pedro Trinidad, Cortes, Philippines
- **Contact:** Kate Mannle, Rare, kmannle@rare.org

In the Philippine municipality of Cortes, **municipal leadership** around engaging the community in management of their local marine protected areas has resulted in decreases in the number of people caught illegally fishing and an increase in fish biomass. The campaign used targeted messaging and mascots based on the area's flagship species to engage local fishermen who were once illegally fishing within the MPA to actively participate in its protection. As a result the Mayor has:

- Increased enforcement of the local MPA with 24/7 volunteer guards, including initiating a program where families on welfare assistance could volunteer for guard shifts
- Helped to create an alliance of other municipalities with MPAs that all contribute financially and share staff to protect the MPA network.

What makes it bright?

- **Community engagement** in conservation activities
- **Collaborating** and inspiring other local leaders
- **Messaging** benefits of increased food security to communities rather than conservation targets

Contribution to Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity:

2) Adapting and expanding proven, cost-effective mechanisms to strengthen local capacity for communication, awareness generation, and education, including peer-learning networks, learning exchanges, transfer of technologies, sharing of lessons learned and best practices,





Process to Island Bright Spot Selection

Bright Spot Identification

Categories

The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) is interested in identifying Bright Spots that are advancing conservation and sustainable livelihoods, specifically in advancing implementation of the decision on the recent review of the Convention on Biodiversity's Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity ([Decision XI/15](#)).

Selection Criteria

To be considered as an Island Bright Spot, the initiative/activity will:

- Have demonstrated measurable success / impact in advancing conservation of island biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods as it relates to the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity ([Decision XI/15](#))
- Be a community, national, regional or global island initiative
- Have potential to be scaled and replicated

Recommendations

Bright Spots can be recommended by any national or local government, agency or organization. GLISPA participants and Working Group members are encouraged to support the ongoing identification of bright spots and share them with Jessica Robbins jessica.robbsins@glispa.org or complete the following survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RVTHSLY>

To recommend a bright spot, please send a concise overview of your bright spot. The bright spot recommendations should be less than one page and include:

- What is the bright spot? (2-3 paragraphs)
- What makes it bright? (What are the key results or impacts)
- What are the essential elements that made it successful? If someone else wanted to replicate your success what would they absolutely need to have?
- Quote (from high level person or community member)
- Photo (2 to 5 images)
- Focal point contact details

Bright Spot Review

Bright Spots will be reviewed against the selection criteria by a group of experts. The expert group will consist of at least 3 representatives from:

- GLISPA Coordination Team
- Representative of the each of the GLISPA Working Group Chairs
- Representative of the GLISPA Communications Working Group
- Thematic Expert in the category



The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), Co-Chaired by the Presidents of Seychelles and Palau, promotes action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods by inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments, and facilitating collaboration.

The Global Island Partnership is an open and entirely voluntary partnership, available to any national or local government, agency or organization that shares its mission and supports the advancement of its objectives.

GLISPA is recognized as:

- a mechanism for advancing the conservation of island biodiversity [Decision IX/21](#), CBD COP9 (2008) and [Decision XI/15](#), CBD COP11 (2012) further invites Parties to engage with GLISPA as an effective partner to support conservation of island biodiversity
- a best practice partnership by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, 2010)
- a success factor in preparations for the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

Get Involved! Join the Global Island Partnership:

Jessica Robbins, Islands Communications Manager, jessica.robbins@glispa.org.

www.glispa.org

[Sign up to GLISPA-discuss mailing list](#)

Follow GLISPA on [Facebook](#)

@GLISPA_discuss

#GLISPA

#island

#brightspots

#Islands2014