



## Agenda

June 22, 2012  
h. 13:00-15:00  
Parque Dos Atletas  
Mountain Pavilion

# Sustainable mountain development challenges in the islands The Global Island Partnership meets the Mountain Partnership

### Buffet lunch at 13:00

*Chair:* Alfredo Guillet, focal point for the environment, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate General for Development Cooperation

Time	Description
13:20 – 13:25	<b>Welcoming address from the Mountain Partnership</b> Olman Serrano, Coordinator, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Forestry Department
13:25 – 13:30	<b>Welcoming address from the Global Island Partnership</b> Kate Brown, Partnership Coordinator, Global Island Partnership
13:30 – 13:35	<b>Introduction</b> Alessandro Busacca, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate General for Global Affairs, Italy
	<b>Country perspectives</b>
13:35 – 13:45	Gordon Darcy Lilo, Hon., Prime Minister, <b>Solomon Islands</b>
13:45 – 13:55	Samuela Saumatua, Hon. Col., Minister for Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment, <b>Fiji Islands</b>
13:55 – 14:05	Marilyn Headley, CEO & Conservator of Forests Forestry Department, Ministry of Agriculture, <b>Jamaica</b>
14:05 – 14:15	Joe Pokana, Director of Climate Change, Office of Climate Change and Environment Sustainability, <b>Papua New Guinea</b>
14:15 – 14:25	Didier Dogley, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, National Botanical Gardens, <b>Seychelles</b>
14:25 – 14:35	Claudio Conese, Italian National Research Council and University of Sassari, Italy
14:35 – 14:55	<b>Discussion</b>
14:55 – 15:00	<b>Closing remarks</b>

*Rapporteur:* Giorgio Grussu, Forestry Officer, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, FAO Forestry Department

## **Sustainable mountain development challenges in the islands. The Global Island Partnership meets the Mountain Partnership**

**Description:** experts from academia, policy makers, development practitioners from developing countries and their development partners will come together in Rio to discuss the specific challenges and potentials of sustainable management of islands' mountain ecosystems, when compared to their continental counterparts.

**Date and venue:** 22 June, 13:00–15:00, Mountain Pavilion, Parque Dos Atletas.

**Organizers:** Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs-DGCS, Mountain Partnership, Global Island Partnership

### **Background and rationale:**

The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) is a voluntary partnership dedicated to promoting actions for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods, by inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments and facilitating collaboration. GLISPA is recognized as a mechanism to implement the Convention on Biodiversity's Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity, as well as a Commission on Sustainable Development Best Practice Partnership. Its membership includes 39 countries, 35 international organizations and 16 national/regional organizations ([www.glispa.org](http://www.glispa.org)).

The Mountain Partnership (MP) is a voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain people and protecting mountain environments around the world. The Mountain Partnership addresses the challenges facing mountain regions by tapping the wealth and diversity of resources, knowledge, information and expertise, from and between one another, in order to stimulate concrete initiatives at all levels that will ensure improved quality of life and environments in the world's mountain regions. Currently, 50 countries, 16 intergovernmental organizations and 125 major groups are members ([www.mountainpartnership.org](http://www.mountainpartnership.org)).

When we discuss mountain development, we generally don't picture islands in our minds, and vice versa. And yet innumerable islands have mountains, and the problems they face in their efforts to work towards sustainable development can be, in spite of their isolation, more related to those faced by some continental mountain regions than to the problems of other islands, such as the atolls.

When dealing with the management of their mountain ecosystem services, islands may face a combination of challenges. The quick succession of different ecosystems, sometimes ranging from snow-capped mountains to coral reefs within a few miles and with only narrow buffer zones, if any, intensifies the interactions between terrestrial/mountain and coastal/marine ecosystems. And that, furthermore, aggravates the need to carefully tackle such interactions with an interdisciplinary approach, at different levels and scales.

In turn, the adverse impacts of current climate trends, together with an increased incidence of natural disasters, call for innovative management strategies, in addition to emergency preparedness practices and resilience planning. In islands more than elsewhere, degraded mountain ecosystems -even when economically marginal- can have a highly negative impact on more productive areas and activities, such as lowland soils, coastal tourism, etc..

Generally, the knowledge and the lessons learned acquired within a given thematic network - be it in the framework of the Island Partnership, or the Mountain Partnership - tend to be circulated within the members of the same network. And yet, that information could be particularly valuable to others, if shared across fraternities, as this could help identify knowledge gaps and prioritize research activities to ensure proper tailor-making of development actions to the islands' specificities, as well as provide guidance to development partners on priority needs for development.

**Objective:** This side event aims to promote the establishment of a systematic dialogue between the Global Island Partnership and the Mountain Partnership on a common ground: the specificity of insularity in the sustainable management of mountain ecosystems.

### **Outcomes:**

- Identify, within GLISPA and MP, those countries that could benefit from sharing their knowledge and lessons learned on sustainable mountain development in islands;
- Facilitate the establishment of mechanisms and procedures for a systematic dialogue among those countries, through their respective networks;
- Promote affiliation of mountainous islands' stakeholders to the Mountain Partnership;
- Provide indications to development partners on relevant priority development issues.

### **Key Issues:**

- The extent to which such conditions as small size, insularity, remoteness and being mountainous, imply different challenges and/or specific potentials in the sustainable management of islands' mountain ecosystems, when compared to continental mountain regions.
- REDD+ specific experience and lessons learned from the islands.
- Potential contribution of traditional knowledge in tailoring the sustainable management of mountain ecosystems, to the islands' specificities.
- Tourism.