



H.E. Ronald Jumeau
Ambassador for Climate Change and SIDS Issues
Representative of the President of Seychelles to the Global Island Partnership
Chair of the GLISPA Steering Committee
Republic of Seychelles

Foreword to the booklet on the International Day for Biological Diversity 2014

Healthy and thriving biodiversity and ecosystems are central to the sustainability of island economies. At the same time, it is increasingly evident in the current global economic climate that traditional donor-recipient financing mechanisms no longer suffice to meet the requirements of the 21st Century drive towards sustainability.

It is consequently increasingly recognized that one of the most effective ways to protect and sustainably manage and use biodiversity for sustainable livelihoods is through genuine and durable partnerships for action.

This is what the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) is all about: promoting public-private-civil society partnerships for biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods domestically, regionally and internationally where islands help islands develop solutions to island challenges.

This year, the International Year of Small Island Developing States, provides ideal opportunities to further advance meaningful partnerships that actually deliver through the Conference on UNSIDS in the Independent State of Samoa in September and CBD COP12 in the Republic of Korea in October.

The CBD is to be lauded for dedicating the 2014 International Day for Biological Diversity to islands biodiversity. GLISPA believes this Day provides a unique opportunity to showcase the bright spots where islands have shown leadership in a manner that can be scaled up and replicated to achieve global conservation and sustainable development targets.

2014 is also an appropriate year for GLISPA to recognize our own successes as a global partnership that has catalyzed more than \$130 million for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Let us continue to work together towards the Samoa conference to inspire new leadership from island countries and countries with islands, and to catalyze significant new commitments to implement island solutions.

The time for action is now, in this special year for islands. I invite you to get involved and support our Global Island Partnership to build resilient and sustainable island communities through innovative partnership.

