

DRAFT AGENDA

THEMATIC DAYS

- **Day 1: ADAPT TO CHANGE**

How are island communities responding to shifting conditions, from climate pressures to economic transitions? Day 1 looks at what is being navigated right now, and what adaptation looks like in practice across island contexts.

— *What islanders know. The knowledge and practice that has sustained island communities, and what the world needs to learn from it.*

- **Day 2: TRANSFORM SYSTEMS**

What does real systematic change look like for islands? Day 2 explores the models, policies, and transitions that are already shaping island futures, from energy to governance to ocean management.

— *What islanders are building. The next-generation systems being designed and scaled now.*

- **Day 3: MOBILISE ACTION**

What moves people, capital and political will? Day 3 focuses on the mechanisms behind momentum: the funding structures, coalitions, and leadership approaches that turn ideas into results.

— *What it takes to back them. The finance, policy, and political will to put resources behind island-led solutions.*

TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER – DAY 1: ADAPT TO CHANGE**Session 01**

Opening: Knowledge That Carries: Scalable Island Adaptation Across Generations

Zoom Webinar Link for attendees: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87923339212>

Time: 08:00am EDT (New York) 13:00pm BST (London) 22:00pm AEST (Sydney)

Duration: 1 hour

Description: Island communities have been adapting to environmental change for generations through navigation systems, land and sea management practices, agricultural techniques, and ways of organising community life that have evolved alongside the natural world. This opening session puts that knowledge at the centre of the conversation, exploring what it looks like, how it is being carried forward, and what the rest of the world can learn from it.

Moderator: James Ellsmoor, CEO, Island Innovation

Speakers:

- Hon. Feleti Penitala Teo, Prime Minister, Government of Tuvalu
- Mafalda Duarte, Executive Director, Green Climate Fund
- Rob Lantz, Premier, Government of Prince Edward Island
- Baroness Rosie Winterton of Doncaster DBE
- Louise Heaps, Lead, Sustainable Blue Economy (Global), WWF
- Arianna Abdul-Nour, Head of Education & Capacity Building, Island Innovation

Session 02

Island Marine Transport: From Fossil–Fuel Dependence to Resilient Lifelines
With the participation of our event sponsor: Pacific Environment

Zoom Webinar Link for attendees: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89689060175>

Time: 11:00 am EDT (New York), 16:00 pm BST (London), 01:00 am AEST (Sydney)
(Next Day)

Duration: 1 hour

Description:

Island communities have long understood that connectivity is survival and many have spent decades learning, often the hard way, what it takes to build

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lasting transport infrastructure. Ferry networks built for an earlier, cheaper era of fossil fuel are now straining under rising fuel and running costs, ageing vessels, and crewing shortages, forcing a rethink of what a resilient lifeline actually looks like. This session looks at how islands are navigating that shift: from the practical realities of decarbonising marine transport, to the economics of ageing fleets, to the appeal of fixed-link infrastructure as a longer-term alternative.

Island Innovation Presenter: Grace Henry, Director of Client Relations & Delivery, Island Innovation

Moderator: Danny Kennedy, Senior Advisor, The Sunrise Project

Speakers:

- Eduardo Boné Morón, Senior Manager Maritime Affairs, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
- John Taukave, Technical Support, Researcher and Cultural Protocol, Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport (MCST)
- Jamie Yates, Climate & Renewable Energy Manager, Pacific Environment

Session 03

Communities on the Frontline of Coastal Change – *With the participation of the event sponsor. The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund*

Zoom Webinar Link for attendees: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87522993119>

Time: 14:00pm EDT (New York) 19:00pm BST (London) 04:00am AEST (Sydney) (Next Day)

Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes

Description:

For many island communities, coastal change is not a future risk but a lived reality, and adapting to loss is knowledge that's been built through direct experience. This session explores the human reality of coastal erosion and the range of responses communities have developed, from traditional engineering interventions and Nature-based Solutions to managed retreat, migration, and new approaches to risk and insurance.



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Island Innovation Presenter & Moderator: Christian Zacchino, Director of Digital Infrastructure and Event Platforms, Island Innovation

Speakers:

- Cora Richardson-Hodge, Premier of the Government of Anguilla
- Seong-Hwan Cho, President, Korea Island Development Institute
- Hugo Sobral, Deputy Director-General at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
- Jache Adams, Minister of Public Works and Environment, Government of Bermuda
- Kurt Prospere, Technical Officer, Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Facility, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
- Justine Brossard, Project & Policy Officer, CPMR Islands Commission

Session 04

Island Knowledge, Ocean Solutions

Zoom Webinar Link for attendees: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87697718125>

Time: 18:00pm EDT (New York) 23:00pm BST (London) 08:00am AEST (Sydney) (Next Day)

Duration: 1 hour

Description:

Island communities have been managing ocean resources sustainably for generations. Their governance models, traditional practices and deep ecological knowledge offer practical, tested solutions to the challenges now facing ocean policy worldwide — from marine protected areas to community tenure to climate-resilient fisheries management. This panel brings together island practitioners and policymakers to share what works, why it's been overlooked in global frameworks, and how traditional ocean knowledge can be integrated into the decisions being made right now about the future of our seas.

Island Innovation Presenter: Lara Eviota, Content Creator, Island Innovation

Moderator: Jabal Hassanali, Strategy Manager, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)

Speakers:

- Lourdes Leon Guerrero, Governor of Guam

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- Chalapan Kaluwin, Director of Momis Ocean and Climate Research Institute & Dean of School of Sustainable Resources Management & Business Studies, PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment
 - Hideyuki Shiozawa, Director/Senior Program Officer, Sasakawa Peace Foundation
 - Ulalia Woodside Lee, Executive Director, The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra
 - Joeli Veitayaki, Strategic Advisor & Co-Primary Investigator for the Blue Prosperity Fiji Research Expedition
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WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER – DAY 2: TRANSFORM SYSTEMS**Session 05****The Systems Behind Future-Proofing Island Destinations**

Zoom Webinar Link for attendees: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85164816861>

Time: 03:00am EDT (New York) 08:00am BST (London) 17:00pm AEST (Sydney)

Duration: 1 hour

Description:

Many island destinations are already reshaping tourism through visitor caps, tourism taxes, and zoning reforms. This session explores the systems and transitions behind these approaches and what it takes to implement change before tourism pressures become irreversible.

Island Innovation Presenter: Lara Eviota, Content Creator, Island Innovation

Moderator: Manuel Alector Ribeiro, Professor of Sustainability and Social Transformation, University of Surrey

Speakers:

- Randy Durband, CEO, Global Sustainable Tourism Council
- Brian Cant, President, 4TVI (Tourism Vancouver Island)
- Ryo Takahama, Chief (Okinawa Regional Office), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

Session 06

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Teaching Island Languages – how indigenous language can power education, culture and belonging – *Session sponsored by the Edge Foundation*

Zoom Webinar Link for attendees: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84578473165>

Time: 11:00am EDT (New York) 16:00pm BST (London) 01:00am AEST (Sydney) (Next Day)

Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes

Description:

In this session, coordinated by the co-chairs of the Island Education Network, we will showcase how the teaching and celebration of indigenous languages has been flourishing on many islands around the world – welcoming leading examples including from Europe and the Caribbean. We will hear from these experts about the approaches they are taking to transform language learning and use on their islands, sharing lessons learned for others who want to do the same in their contexts. We will look at how they are overcoming barriers and also reflect on the important role that language can play not only in education but in fostering connections with heritage, encouraging sustainable tourism and giving young people a sense of belonging that helps to encourage them to stay on or return to their islands.

Island Innovation Presenter: Arianna Abdul-Nour, Head of Education and Capacity Building, Island Innovation

Co-Moderators: Olly Newton, Executive Director, Edge Foundation & Arianna Abdul-Nour, Head of Education & Capacity Building, Island Innovation

Speakers:

- Hannah Mary Goodlad, MSP for Shetland Islands & Minister for Public Finance, Scottish Government
- Ben Spink, Head of Jèrriais delivery, Jersey Heritage, Jersey Museum
- Aalin Clague, Manx Language Teacher, Bunscoill Ghaelgagh Primary School, Isle of Man
- Nirvana Krishnaveny Lavictoire, International Foundation Programme Lecturer, Middlesex University Mauritius
- Maxine Browne, Director of Culture, Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture & Creative Industries of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Session 07**Securing Large Ocean Spaces: Monitoring, Compliance, and Enforcement at Scale – Session Sponsored by the Waitt Institute****Zoom Webinar Link for attendees:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88158603875>**Time:** 16:00 pm EDT (New York) 21:00 pm BST (London) 06:00 am AEST (Sydney, next day)**Duration:** 1 hour and 30 minutes

Description: Large ocean states manage ocean territories many times the size of their land, creating complexity in sustaining fisheries, protecting ocean spaces, and preventing illegal activity. This session explores what makes it possible, from satellite tracking and enforcement vessels to cross-agency coordination and the legal frameworks that turn policy into practice. Drawing on direct experience from the Atlantic and beyond, speakers will unpack what monitoring, compliance, and enforcement look like on the water, and what it takes to manage ocean health and security.

Island Innovation Presenter: Mikayla Johnson, Growth & Impact Manager, Island Innovation

Moderator: Cory Pukini, Enforcement and Compliance Program Manager, Waitt Institute

Speakers:

- Bernardo Brito e Abreu, Advisor to the President of the Regional Government of the Azores and coordinator of the Blue Azores Programme
- Ian Ralby, PhD, President, Auxilium Worldwide
- Tim White, PhD, Head of Analysis, Global Fishing Watch
- Gregg Casad, Managing Director, Exculans
- Calla Allison, Founder and Executive Director, MPA Collaborative

Session 08**Island and Food Sovereignty: Urgency and Responses****Zoom Webinar Link for attendees:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83984198330>**Time:** 19:00pm EDT (New York) 00:00am BST (London) (Next Day) 09:00am AEST (Sydney) (Next Day)**Duration:** 1 hour

Description:

Import-dependent food systems leave island communities exposed to shocks, from shipping disruptions to climate-linked harvest failures. But across islands, communities are already building the alternative: local production models, supply chain innovations, and food networks that reduce reliance on imports and put control back in local hands. This session opens with a brief framing of the pressures driving this shift, then turns to practitioners building community-led responses on the ground, to explore what's working, how it scales, and what other islands can learn from it.

Island Innovation Presenter: Ana Gama, Project Manager, Island Innovation

Moderator: Peter Van Aert, Researcher and Teacher at the Institute of Culture, Society and State, National University of Tierra del Fuego

Speakers:

- Álvaro Román, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Social Sciences, University O'Higgins of Chile
- Alexandra Mackenzie, Project Officer, Food Resilience Uist, UCVO
- Henry Obispo, Founder of ReBORN FARMS
- Robert Oliver, Executive Director and Founder of Pacific Island Food Revolution
- Hampus Eriksson, Principal Scientist, WorldFish

THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER – DAY 3: MOBILISE ACTION**Session 09****Mobilising Ocean–Climate Finance at COP31**

Zoom Webinar Link for attendees: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84695316385>

Time: 03:00am EDT (New York) 08:00am BST (London) 17:00pm AEST (Sydney)

Duration: 1 hour

Description:

With COP31 convening in Antalya and the Pacific's interests carried into the negotiations through Australia's presidency role and a dedicated Pacific pre-COP, this session looks at what it would take for blue carbon credits, marine protected area financing, and ocean-specific loss-and-damage allocations to be treated with the same urgency as terrestrial climate finance.

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Island Innovation Presenter: Lara Eviota, Content Creator, Island Innovation

Moderator: Francois Martel, Senior Advisor – Pacific region (SIDS and Climate Resilience), Island Innovation

Speakers:

- Senator the Hon Nita Green, Assistant Minister for Pacific Islands Affairs, Government of Australia
- Rachel Kyte, UK Special Representative for Climate
- Kunal Singh, Regional Climate Finance Access Network (CFAN) Advisor, Pacific Community-SPC
- Salome Tukuafu, Strategic Partnerships and Donor Relations Adviser, SPREP
- Anne Rasmussen, Climate Lead Negotiator, AOSIS

Session 10

Paying for Resilience: Who Funds Island Energy Security?

Zoom Webinar Link for attendees: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84215489241>

Time: 09:00am EDT (New York) 14:00pm BST (London) 23:00pm AEST (Sydney)

Duration: 1 hour

Description:

Energy security isn't just generation capacity; it's storage, redundancy, grid hardening, and the financial buffers that keep power flowing when a storm takes out a cable or a fuel shipment doesn't arrive. But for most islands, the harder question isn't technical, it's financial: who backs this, and on what terms? This session looks at how islands are structuring capital to pay for resilience rather than just renewable build-out, and what it takes to make energy security investable when state support is limited or absent.

Island Innovation Presenter: Arianna Abdul-Nour, Head of Education and Capacity Building, Island Innovation

Moderator: Anastasiia Lisniak, Associate Programme Officer within Project Facilitation and Support Division, IRENA

Speakers:

- Albert Bryan, Governor of the US Virgin Islands
- Christopher Macgregor, Managing Director, Alderney Electricity Limited
- Gonzalo Piernavieja Izquierdo, CTO, ITC

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- Robert Moons, Energy Transition and Climate Finance Expert for Overseas Countries and Territories, Green Overseas Programme

Session 11**Governance and autonomy in Northern and Arctic non-sovereign island societies**

Zoom Webinar Link for attendees: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88082268096>

Time: 11:00am EDT (New York) 16:00pm BST (London) 01:00am AEST (Sydney)
(Next Day)

Duration: 1 hour

Description:

This session reviews and discusses governance and autonomy in Northern and Arctic island societies today drawing on five case studies: the Faroe Islands, the Shetland Islands, Isle of Man, Greenland and Prince Edward Island. The aim of the session is to explore the processes of continuity and change in the relationship between the island societies (with different governance models) and the central state. Moreover, we examine how these processes intersect with economic, social and infrastructural projects and policies within the societies in focus – their strategies towards a resilient, sustainable and inclusive future society.

Island Innovation Presenter: Thaiz Maciel, Director of Communications, Island Innovation

Moderator: Firouz Gaini, Professor in Anthropology, The University of the Faroe Islands

Speakers:

- Andrew Jennings, Professor of Island Studies, Institute for Northern Studies, University of the Highlands and Islands, Shetland
- Laurie Brinklow, Assistant Professor in Island Studies; Co-ordinator, Master of Arts in Island Studies; Chair, Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island
- Maria Helena Ackrén, Director of the Stefansson Arctic Institute, University of Akureyri, Iceland

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- Gary Wilson, Professor and Chair in the Department of Political Science, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada

Session 12**From Insight to Action: Looking Ahead at the Future****Zoom Webinar Link for attendees:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81993877815>**Time:** 15:00pm EDT (New York) 20:00pm BST (London) 05:00am AEST (Sydney)
(Next Day)**Internal Note:** 8am Niue, 9am Honolulu**Duration:** 1 hour**Description:**

This session will bring together diverse perspectives on what the future of island communities can look like and what is needed to make that future a reality. The conversation will explore the role of collaboration, innovation, leadership, and shared ambition in addressing the challenges facing islands today, while creating new opportunities for resilient, sustainable, and prosperous island futures.

Island Innovation Presenter & Moderator: James Ellsmoor, CEO, Island Innovation**Speakers:**

- Kalani Ka'anā'anā, Chief Executive Officer, Hawai'i Green Growth
- Dai-Yeun Jeong, Professor of Environmental Sociology, Jeju National University & Director, Asia Climate Change Education Centre