

Global Sustainable Islands Summit 2026

Logistics Guide

Plan Your Trip to GSIS2026

Event Location

Event Dates: 20–22 April 2026

Venue: ExpoMeloneras

Address: Plaza de las Convenciones s/n,
Urbanización Las Meloneras, 35100, San
Bartolomé de Tirajana, Gran Canaria, Spain

Contact:

Fax: 0034 928 128 00

Telephone: 0034 928 128 000

**For full details on how to get to the venue
please visit this [link](#).**



Event Overview

Welcome to the GSIS2026! This guide provides essential information to help you plan your trip and navigate the conference smoothly.

We're excited to welcome you to Gran Canaria!

Event Dates: 20–22 April 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

ABOUT THE
EVENT

05

EVENT THEMES

06

ABOUT GRAN CANARIA

07

EVENT VENUES

10

ACCOMODATION

11

TRAVEL INFORMATION

12

EVENT AGENDA

13

SOCIAL MEDIA AND
PROMOTION

16

FAQ AND CONTACT
INFORMATION

About the event:

Global Sustainable Islands Summit (20–22 April, Gran Canaria)

Co-hosted with the Cabildo de Gran Canaria, the Global Sustainable Islands Summit is the premier international forum for addressing sustainable development in island communities. In May 2024, the Summit was successfully hosted in Prince Edward Island, Canada. In 2025, the event was hosted by St. Kitts & Nevis and brought the focus to the Caribbean. Now, it will be held in Gran Canaria, a strategic hub for sustainability in Europe, the Canary Islands, and the wider Macaronesia region.

The 2026 Global Sustainable Islands Summit provides a platform for high-level dialogue, knowledge exchange, and practical collaboration among leaders, policymakers, sustainability experts, and global stakeholders.

We will also host a special parallel event as part of the Global Sustainable Islands Summit 2026:

Geothermal Energy Forum

22 April

After its successful debut on the Caribbean island of Nevis, the Geothermal Energy Forum returns as a flagship event within the Global Sustainable Islands Summit in 2026. Our forum will explore how geothermal energy can power island resilience, climate adaptation, and energy independence. Set in Gran Canaria, a European leader in geothermal innovation and research, the forum brings together government officials, investors, utilities, and technical experts from across Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Sub-national Island Jurisdictions (SNIJs), and EU outermost regions.

Audience

The Global Sustainable Islands Summit will bring together approximately 500 delegates representing over 100 islands from across the globe. The event will feature a diverse group of participants, including ministerial delegations, technical experts, industry leaders, academics, community representatives, and other key stakeholders committed to advancing sustainable development in island communities.

The Summit will serve as a vibrant platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and collaboration, facilitating high-level dialogues on critical topics including climate resilience, renewable energy transitions, biodiversity conservation, and resource efficiency. Delegates will have the opportunity to engage in workshops, panel discussions, and keynote sessions designed to showcase innovative solutions, share success stories, and identify actionable pathways for addressing the unique challenges faced by islands.

The Summit aims to foster partnerships between islands, international organisations, and private-sector actors, enabling the co-creation of impactful strategies to drive sustainable growth and resilience in island jurisdictions worldwide. By uniting such a wide-ranging group of stakeholders, the event underscores its commitment to empowering island communities and positioning them at the forefront of global sustainability efforts.

Confirmed speakers:

For a full list of who is speaking at the Summit please click [here](#).

Event Themes

Six critical pathways for sustainable island development, bringing together global expertise and local innovation



1

Resilient Island Energy Systems

Pioneering microgrids, pumped hydro and storage integration, offshore wind, affordability and community-scale energy planning and renewable solutions from islands leading the transition



2

Ocean, Blue Economy & Maritime Innovation

Maritime governance, offshore wind, shipping innovation, marine renewables, sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and spatial planning from ocean-dependent jurisdictions



3

Circular Economy & Sustainable Tourism

Marine biomass innovation, blue bioeconomy, circular and sustainable tourism, tourism waste valorisation, algae cultivation, and integrated resource recovery, transforming ocean and land constraints into opportunities.



4

Building Capacity: Talent, Technology & Institutional Innovation

Digital government, workforce development, diaspora engagement, youth pathways into green jobs, participatory governance, and institutional strategies multiplying impact in small jurisdictions



5

Climate Adaptation, Biodiversity & Natural Area Management

Nature-based solutions, community science, ecosystem restoration, and adaptation where ocean and climate impacts demand immediate action



6

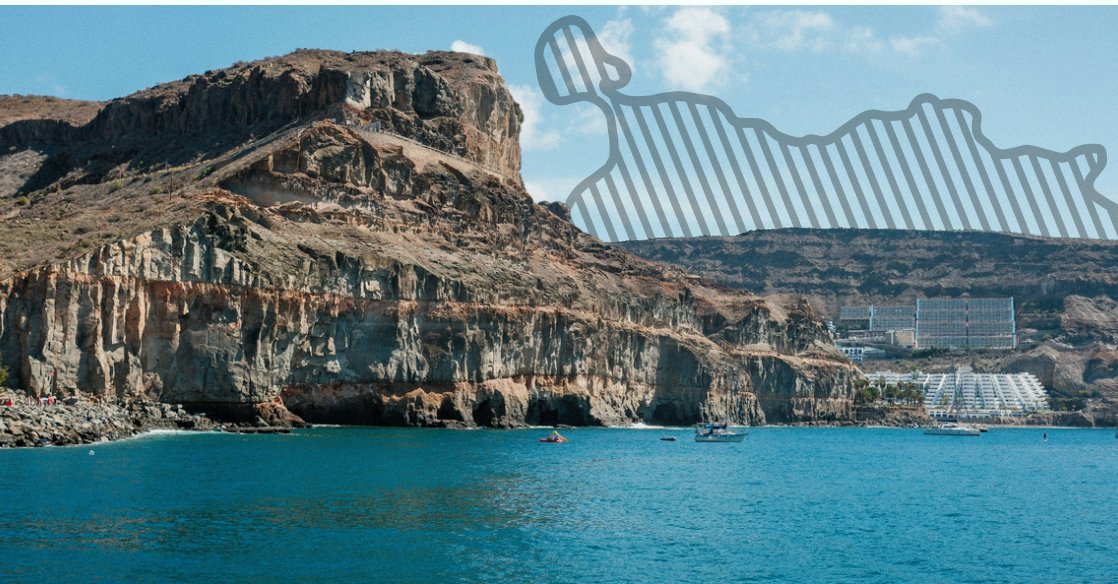
Mobilising Finance for Sustainable Economic Development

EU institutional funding and consortia for outermost regions and sub-national island jurisdictions, climate fund navigation, philanthropic partnerships, blended finance, local trust funds and investment-readiness for island SMEs.

About Gran Canaria:

Gran Canaria is rapidly positioning itself as a global reference for island sustainability. As a key part of the Macaronesia region and a bridge between Europe, Africa and the Americas, the island is executing its Ecoislas agenda, a comprehensive framework guiding the transition toward a climate-neutral and socially inclusive development model.

The Ecoislas Agenda is Gran Canaria's sustainability framework, guiding the island's transition toward a resilient, climate-neutral and socially inclusive development model. It integrates climate change mitigation and adaptation, the energy transition, water and food sovereignty, biodiversity protection, circular economy and sustainable tourism into a single, coherent territorial vision aligned with European climate and sustainability objectives. Through the Ecoislas Agenda, Gran Canaria positions itself as a living laboratory for island sustainability, combining policy, innovation and community engagement to deliver practical, place-based solutions. This integrated approach closely aligns with the vision of the Global Sustainable Islands Summit (GSIS), reinforcing Gran Canaria's role as a reference island for sharing governance models, real-world experiences and scalable solutions with island territories worldwide.



About Gran Canaria:

Gran Canaria is not only hosting a Geothermal Forum, but demonstrating how islands can move from potential to drilling operations. With €15 million secured through Spain's IDAE funding program and technical direction from New Zealand's JRG Energy, Gran Canaria is positioned to become Spain's first island to generate baseload geothermal electricity.

This dedication to tangible results makes Gran Canaria the ideal co-host for the Global Sustainable Islands Summit (GSIS). Through this partnership, the Cabildo of Gran Canaria seeks to showcase scalable solutions and foster international collaboration, reinforcing the island's role as a leader in addressing the shared challenges of climate change and energy independence.

Event Venues:

ExpoMeloneras, Gran Canaria

Address: Plaza de las Convenciones s/n., Urbanización Las Meloneras, 35100, San Bartolomé de Tirajana

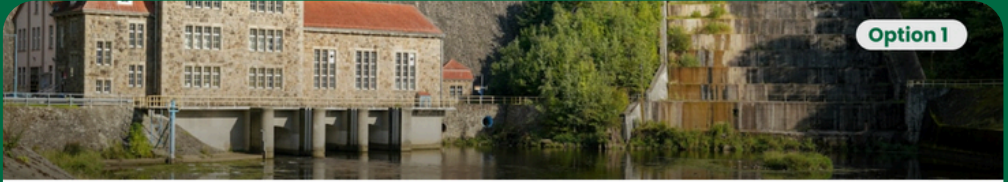
Contact: Fax: 0034 928 128 00 / Telephone: 0034 928 128 000

For full details on how to get to the venue please visit this [link](#).



Field Trips (Limited Capacity)

Field trips will take place on Monday, April 20, 2026. All registered attendees should review the following information and complete the required preparations to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.



Option 1

Salto de Chira: Renewable Energy

Salto de Chira is a unique renewable energy project at global scale, designed for an electrically isolated island energy system that requires large-scale storage solutions. The project combines a 200 MW pumped-storage hydropower plant with a desalination facility and is fully integrated within an underground cavern inside a mountain, avoiding landscape impacts. It will enable at least a doubling of renewable energy penetration in Gran Canaria.



Option 2

BIOGREENFINERY

This experimental biorefinery explores the production of renewable fuels and e-fuels from green hydrogen, providing a perspective on how islands can reduce external energy dependence while developing new energy pathways.



Option 3

Algae Bank, Ecoaqua Institute/ PLOCAN

The Spanish Bank of Algae (BEA), hosted at the ECOAQUA Institute in Gran Canaria, preserves a unique collection of microalgae and cyanobacteria from the Macaronesian region and is one of only a handful of similar culture collections worldwide. ECOAQUA is recognised as one of Europe's most prestigious research centres in aquaculture research. The visit may also include the Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN), a major scientific and technological infrastructure for marine research, ocean observation and blue economy innovation.

Option 4



Maspalomas Dunes

The Maspalomas Dunes cover approximately 400 hectares and represent one of the most complex and iconic natural systems in the Canary Islands. Surrounded by one of Europe's most important tourist destinations, the area faces significant pressures from nearby hotels and tourism infrastructure. Projects such as Impulsa Maspalomas and MasDunas have turned the site into a benchmark for environmental restoration in highly anthropised coastal environments.



Dress Code & Requirements

- Provide ID/passport number in advance.
- Shoe size required.
- Hats recommended (sand can get very hot).
- No open shoes.



Option 5

ATH Bioenergy: Waste-to-biomethane and circular economy solution

This integrated bioenergy initiative focuses on transforming organic waste into renewable biomethane and natural fertilizers, offering a practical model for circular resource use on islands. By addressing both energy generation and waste management, ATH Bioenergy demonstrates how island regions can reduce landfill dependency, lower emissions, and create closed-loop systems that support environmental health and community well-being.

RSVP Plan



- Field trip options will be emailed to all ticket holders by **March 20**.
- RSVPs must be submitted by **April 13**.
- Please note that transportation to each site is included, with pick-up and drop-off at ExpoMeloneras, Gran Canaria. Detailed transportation information will be provided after you RSVP.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL



Visa Requirements:

Please check visa requirements for Spain based on your nationality. Apply early if a visa is needed.

Accommodation

Partner Hotel: Lopesan Baobab Resort

We've secured a special discounted rate for GSIS participants. The resort is a 5-minute walk from the summit venue. You can check the walking distances in [this PDF document](#).



Please see your ticket confirmation email for further details on hotel booking and discount codes.

Other Options:

Participants are also welcome to book nearby hotels or short-term rentals. The surrounding area has a wide range of accommodation to suit different budgets.

2min

Lopesan Baobab

Baobab takes you to the heart of the African continent, where nature and adventure meet in their purest form.

C. Mar Adriático, 1, 35100 Meloneras
+34 928 15 44 00

2min

Villa Del Conde

A five-star oasis with exclusive rooms, fine dining, a spa, and magnificent ocean views.

C. Mar Mediterráneo, 7, Meloneras
+1 833 422 3334

4min

Costa Meloneras

An iconic hotel deeply rooted in the island's history, inspired by the splendour of old haciendas.

C. Mar Mediterráneo, 1, Meloneras
+34 928 12 81 00

7min

Ifa Faro

A Lopesan Collection Hotel, recognised for its comfort, design, and inviting light.

Plaza de Colón, 1, Meloneras
+34 928 14 22 14

✈ Travel Information

Airport: Gran Canaria Airport (LPA)

Located approximately:

- 30 minutes from ExpoMeloneras
- 20 minutes from Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Visa Requirements:

Attendees are responsible for ensuring they meet all visa and entry requirements for Spain before travelling. We strongly recommend checking your visa status early and allowing sufficient processing time, as requirements differ depending on nationality.

Car Rentals & Ground Transport:

A variety of car rental companies are located in the Arrivals Terminal, offering convenient options for those who prefer to drive. Taxis and other ground transport services are also readily available upon arrival.

Airport Welcome & Assistance:

Liaison officers will be present at the airport to greet GSIS participants and assist with transportation arrangements to your selected accommodation.

Additional Travel Information:

For full details on travel and transportation for GSIS 2026, please visit the event information page.



BEFORE THE EVENT CHECKLIST:

BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Secure booking for accommodation to access the special conference rate.

Booking via: <https://www.lopesan.com/en>

- Code is valid for all Lopesan hotels in Gran Canaria!
- Please see your ticket confirmation email for further details on hotel booking and discount codes.

BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS

BOOK YOUR TRANSFERS

Check Hotel to Venue Distance Map [here](#)



On the day

Registration & Badge Collection

Ahead of the conference start time, pick up your badge at the registration desk at ExpoMelonerás. This badge grants access to the entire conference, including the main stage, side event rooms, Geothermal Energy Forum (April 22), and the exhibition hall.

Dress Code

- Conference sessions: Business attire
- Field visits: Closed comfortable shoes, sun protection (hat, sunscreen), and a light jacket

Agenda:

Agenda Schedule in Brief

The field trips conclude around 15h00–16h00 CET, giving attendees some time to decompress and change into their business attire to attend the Official Opening Ceremony at 17h00 on ExpoMelonerás.

Monday 20 April Day 1	Tuesday 21 April Day 2	Wednesday 22 April Day 3
Field trips ⌚ 09:00–15:00	Registration opens ⌚ 08:30	Registration opens ⌚ 08:30
Registration	Main stage panels start ⌚ 09:30	Main stage panels start ⌚ 09:30
Opening Ceremony ⌚ 17:00–18:30		Closing ceremony ⌚ 15:00–16:00
Welcome Reception ⌚ 19:00–21:30		

For the full Summit Programme [click here](#)

Social Media & Promotion

Please like/follow our social media accounts for the latest updates about the Summit. If you want to post about the Global Sustainable Islands Summit, then please use **#GSIS2026** and **#IslandInnovation** in your posts!

Promotion Suggestions:

Encourage Colleagues to participate:

Send emails to colleagues stating that you are attending the event, and link information about the event found [here](#).

Interact and Reshare:

Please interact with our accounts and actively reshare our content related to the event on your own accounts leading up to the event.

Promote via posts:

A sample suggested posts can be found below.

Stay Connected

Follow GSIS2026 updates and join the conversation on social media



@Islandsinnovate
Twitter/X



@island-innovation
LinkedIn



@islandinnovation
Facebook



@_Islandinnovation
Instagram



Use **#GSIS2026** to tag your posts

#GSIS2026

Promotion Materials

Island Innovation and Event Logos



Official Flyers and Media Graphics



Example Captions

Below are short and long versions of captions you can use to help us promote the 2026 Global Sustainable Islands Summit on your social media and email platforms.

Short Captions

The Global Sustainable Islands Summit (#GSIS2026) is a 3-day event dedicated to island sustainability, climate adaptation, renewable energy and responsible tourism solutions. Join us in Gran Canaria, Spain, from April 20-22, 2026: gsis.islandinnovation.co/

#IslandInnovation #GranCanaria #EnergiaGranCanaria
#Sostenibilidad

Promotion Materials

Short Example Caption

The Global Sustainable Islands Summit (#GSIS2026) will be hosting its fourth edition at the heart of the Atlantic Ocean, in Gran Canaria (Spain), in collaboration with the Cabildo de Gran Canaria. In addition to the main conference, the event will feature an exhibition area, parallel side events, and a dedicated Geothermal Energy Forum on the last day.

Get your tickets today and join us from April 20–22, 2026:
gsis.islandinnovation.co/

#IslandInnovation #GranCanaria #EnergiaGranCanaria
#Sostenibilidad



Long Example Caption

The Global Sustainable Islands Summit (#GSIS2026) is @IslandInnovation's landmark annual in-person event, taking place in Gran Canaria (Spain) with the support of the Cabildo de Gran Canaria, tailored to the needs of every coastal and island nation.

The #GSIS2026 will bring together island leaders, innovators, and sustainability specialists from around the world for 3 days of solution-sharing, inspiring stories, and actionable strategies for creating resilient island communities.

In addition to the main conference, the event will feature an exhibition area, parallel side events, and a dedicated Geothermal Energy Forum on the last day.

Join the 2026 Global Sustainable Islands Summit in Gran Canaria from April 20–22!

Tickets are available at the website, including flexible rates:
gsis.islandinnovation.co/

#IslandInnovation #GranCanaria #EnergiaGranCanaria
#Sostenibilidad

FAQs

Please refer to our [FAQ page](#) for further guidance.

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT

ONSITE SUPPORT:

- Arianna Abdul-Nour:
- arianna@islandinnovation.co
- +447410984717

Conference Manager:

- Mikayla Johnson:
- mikayla@islandinnovation.co
- +18687606198

Stay Connected

Follow GSIS2026 updates and join the conversation on social media



[@Islandsinnovate](#)
Twitter/x



[@island-innovation](#)
LinkedIn



[@islandinnovation](#)
Facebook



[@_islandinnovation](#)
Instagram



Use **#GSIS2026** to tag your posts

[#GSIS2026](#)