

**GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEANS (GPO)  
BLUE RIBBON PANEL**

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**MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES**



***Rolph Payet***  
***Ministry of Environment and Energy (Seychelles)***

Rolph Payet FRGS is an international policy expert and researcher on environment and island issues, and was the first President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Seychelles. . In March 2012, he was appointed as Minister of Environment and Energy. Rolph had a 17 year career in the civil service, and eventually serving as Principal Secretary for Environment from 2003-2007. During that period he revolutionized environment management in Seychelles and on the international level. He was Seychelles' chief negotiator for the Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention, and the UNFCCC. He was instrumental in addressing Small Island Developing States issues and in implementing appropriate strategies, institutions and capacity in Seychelles to address these emerging global environmental issues.

Rolph is also presently the Pro-Chancellor of the University of Seychelles and Associate Professor at the University of Linnaeus, Sweden. He serves on the UN Group of Experts for the Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects. Rolph is periodically invited by the Secretary General of the UN to speak at various UN forums, including the UN General Assembly.

Rolph has also been instrumental in increasing the visibility and impact of numerous regional and international organizations such as the International Coral Reef Initiative (co-chair from 2003–2005), the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, and the Interim Coordinator of the Nairobi Convention UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

He is also founding member/trustee of a number of conservation-oriented foundations such as the Global Island Partnership, the Sea Level Rise Foundation, the Seychelles University Foundation, the Seychelles Centre for Marine Research and Technology, the Island Conservation Society and the Silhouette Foundation.

He has received numerous international awards and recognition for his work including sharing in the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize as an IPCC Lead Author and also a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

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