

Law, Arts and Island Resilience: Workshop I

Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance and Glasgow School of Art

29 May 2018

North Uist, Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum & Arts Centre

10:00 – 10:30 Introduction to the project and to participants

10:30 – 1:00 Resilience and Sustainability

10:30 – 11:30

- What does resilience look like?

We will explore what resilience looks like by asking each participant to think of a person they know who they consider to be “resilient” and to explain the characteristics that make that person resilient. Each participant will then be asked to think of an island other than North Uist, which they consider to be “resilient”. Again participants will be asked to explain what characteristic make that island resilient.

The goal of the exercise will be to come up with a working definition of resilience.

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 – 1:00

- Sustainability challenges and opportunities on North Uist

Everybody will be given a piece of paper where they will be asked to write the three key challenges faced by North Uist when it comes to sustainability, and the three key opportunities that may arise when dealing with sustainability. Participants will then work in groups and discuss challenges and opportunities in greater detail and then revert back to the wider group.

The goal of the exercise will be to come up with a list of prioritised sustainability challenges and opportunities on North Uist and to discuss a working definition of sustainability and consider how much it differs or aligns with the previous one on resilience.

1 – 2 Lunch

2 – 3:30 Islands Scotland Bill and wider island policy developments in Scotland

2:00 – 2:45

- The Islands Scotland Bill

A presentation will update participants on the current status of the Islands (Scotland) Bill in Parliament, the process leading up to the Bill, its key elements and will also highlight the next steps in relation to its future implementation. The presentation will also aim to explore more in general the role of a piece of legislation (and of law more broadly) in dealing with sustainable development.

2:45 – 3:30

- Wider island policy development in Scotland

After the discussion on the Bill participants will share their own experience, if applicable, about other island policy related developments in Scotland.

The goal of the presentation, Q&A and discussion is to map together the current web of policy initiatives of interest to island communities in Scotland.

3:30 – 4:00 Coffee break

4:00 – 5:00 Islands Scotland Bill and Resilience and Sustainability on North Uist

4:00 – 4:30 Participants will be given a copy of the Bill in its current format and asked to work in groups to highlight sections that they believe are important or may be challenging in order to promote resilience or deal with sustainability on North Uist. Participants will be asked to refer back to the sustainability challenges and opportunities discussed earlier in the day and to the working definition of resilience. Participants will also be asked to think at how the Bill may (or should) relate with other island related policy developments in Scotland.

4:30 – 5:00 Groups will then have an opportunity to share their discussions with the rest of the participants.

The goal of this exercise is to pin down which sections of the Bill may prove more problematic when it comes to its implementation and to highlight important links with other island related policy developments when it comes to future implementation of the Bill.

5:00 – 5:45 Next steps and the role of arts in the project

This is a living project that aims to establish a formal working relationship between those whose lives the Island (Scotland) Bill aims to improve (island communities) and those in charge of implementing it (Scottish Ministers and relevant public authorities). According to the project proposal, it “wishes to explore the strategy in which the arts community present in North Uist can promote the principle of islands proofing throughout the implementation of the Islands (Scotland) Bill. This multidisciplinary and practical exercise will, in itself, provide insights for possible future applications of arts in the context of island resilience elsewhere in Europe and the rest of the world”. However, the goal and the project itself can still (and should) be shaped and co-developed by the island community on North Uist, as it is the best suited to lead a project that focuses on North Uist. Against this background, the last section of the workshop aims to summarise the main findings discussed throughout the day and open to participants the floor for options and suggestions as to how to shape together the way forward of the project.

The last session will also be an opportunity to start considering the second workshop, which will bring in the arts dimension of the project more prominently and where we aim to discuss the role of arts and of artistic communities on North Uist in promoting and fostering resilience.

6:00 – 8:00 Dinner

List of participants:

1. Andy Mackinnon, Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum & Arts Centre
2. Anna Wendy Stevenson, Head of Music at UHI/Lewis (TBC)
3. David Amos, Programme Director Islands Deal by Western Isles/Orkney/Shetland (TBC)
4. Fiona Person, Beacon Studio
5. Francesco Sindico, Co-Director of the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance, University of Strathclyde
6. Jane Morrison-Ross, Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum & Arts Centre
7. Kirsty MacCormick, Director of Cothrom (South Uist) (TBC)
8. Laura Donkers, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design PhD student
9. Mary Schmoller Mairi, Operations Manager of Ceolas and Vice Chairperson of Storas Uibhist
10. Meg Rodger, Birlinn Yard Company
11. Susan Brind, Reader in Contemporary Art: Practice and Events, Glasgow School of Art
12. Theona L Moireasdan, Sgilean agus Iomairt, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Griomasaigh, Uist