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Nordiska
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Gränsregionalt forum 5-6 september 2018 Åland



Insularity vs. Islandness

- an emerging topic of island policy -

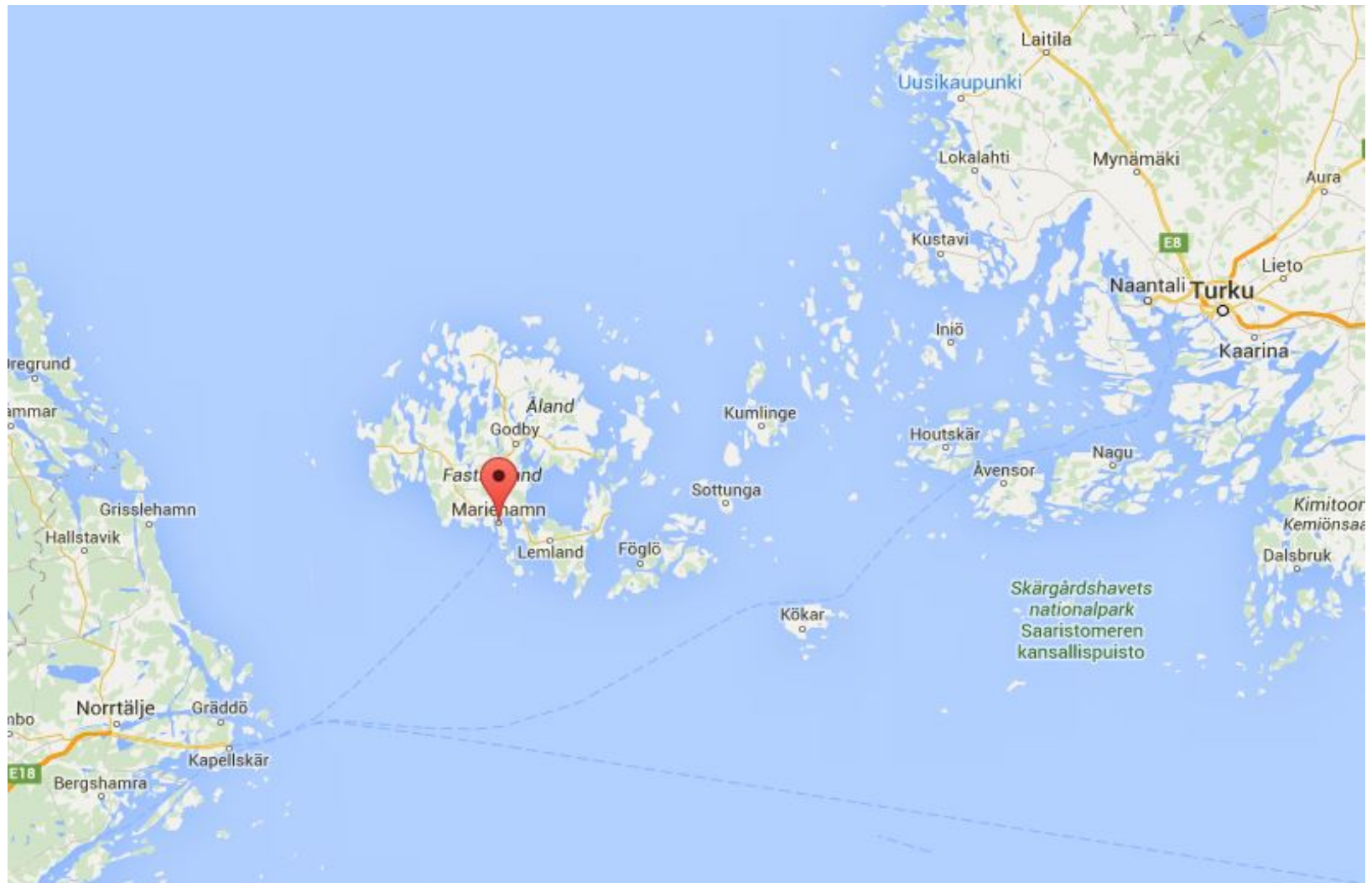
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September 5, 2018

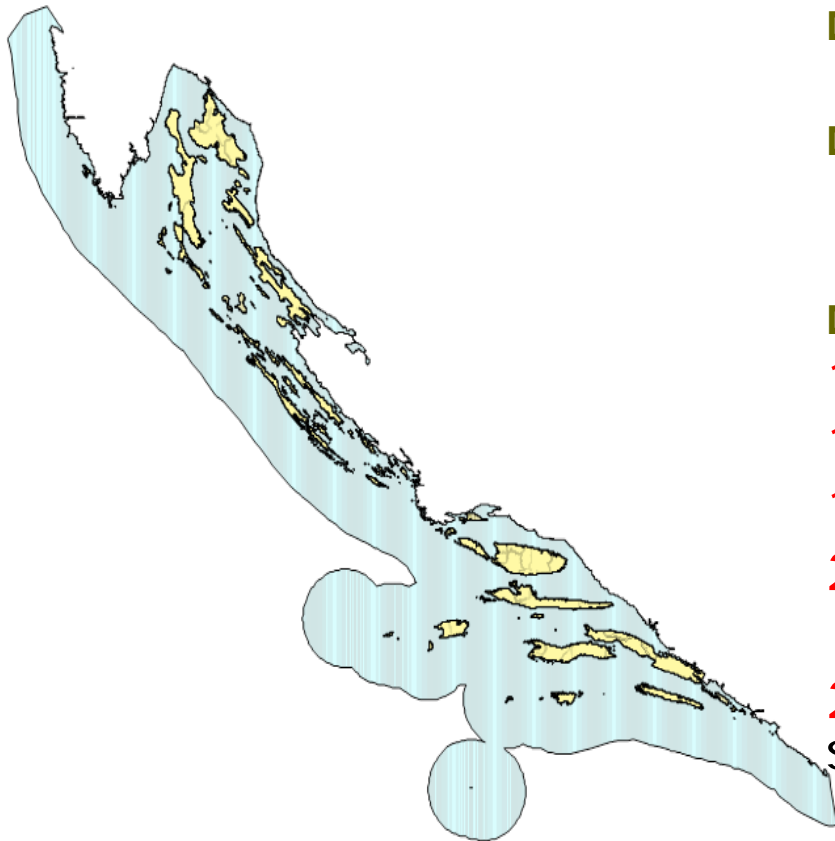
Aaland islands



Croatian archipelago



Croatian archipelago



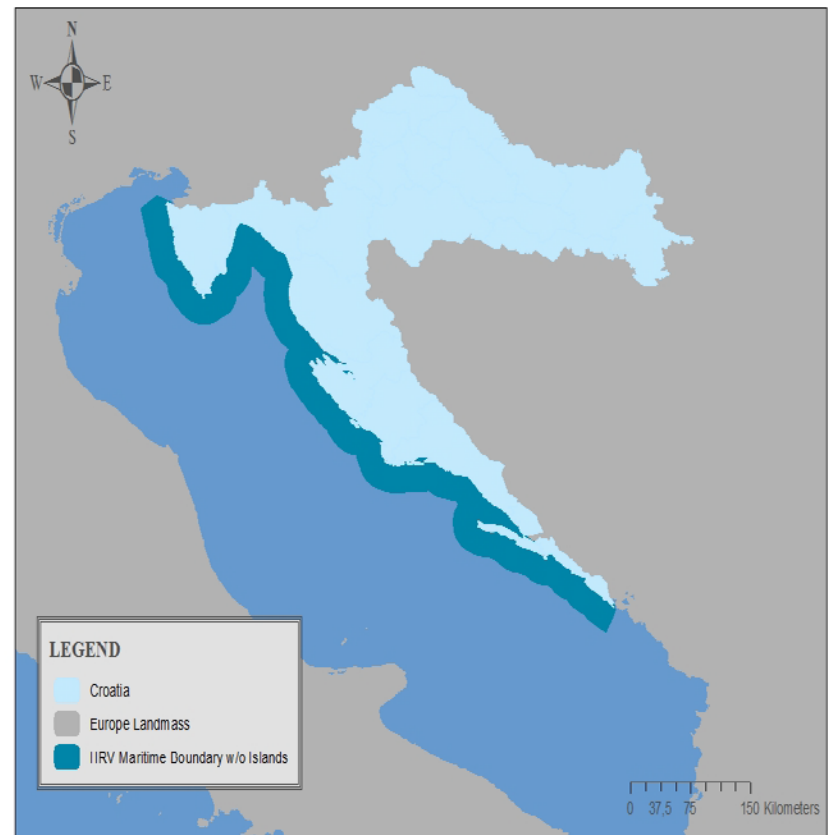
- **1244** islands, islets, rocks and reefs (**740** islands)
- 3,259 km² - 5.8% of the Croatian land

- 47 - 50 inhabited islands:
 - 1921:** 174,994 (historical maximum)
 - 1981:** 113,299 (historical minimum)
 - 1991:** 124,296
 - 2001:** 124,870

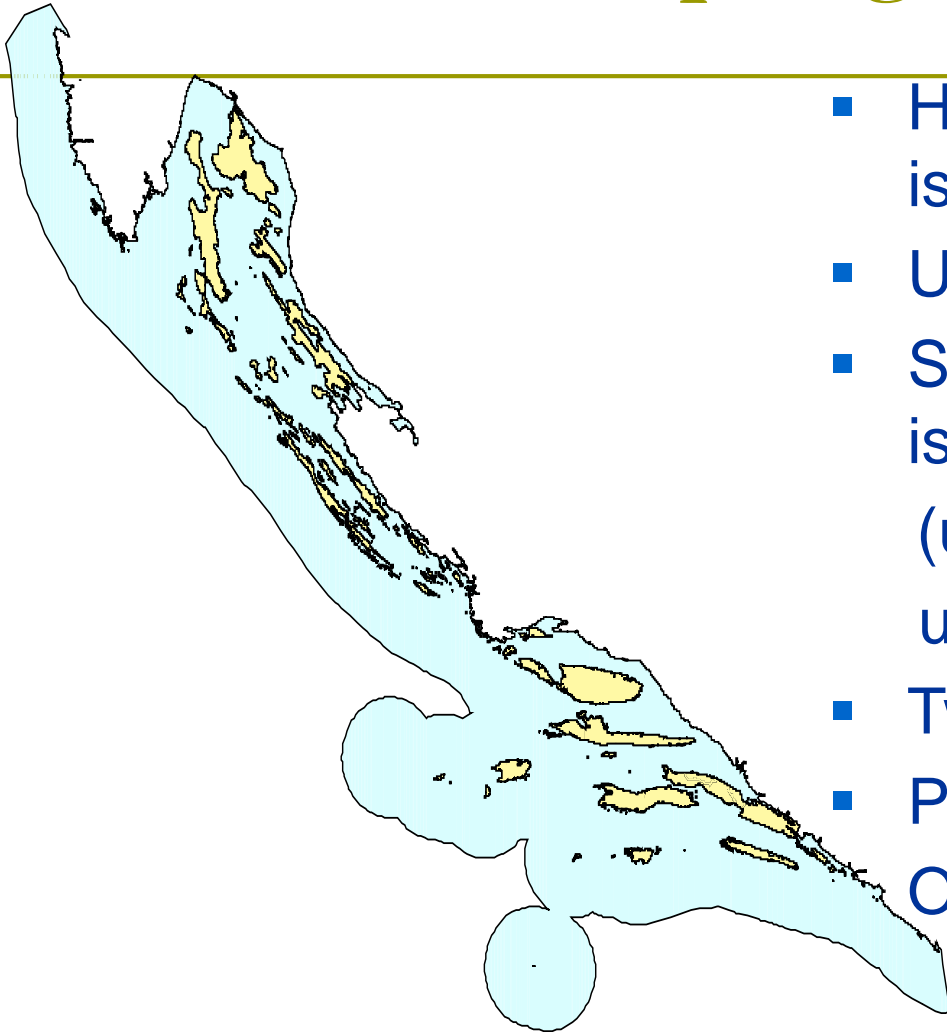
 - 2011:** **125,082** islanders in **340** settlements

Croatian territorial sea

Islands constitute 37% of Croatia



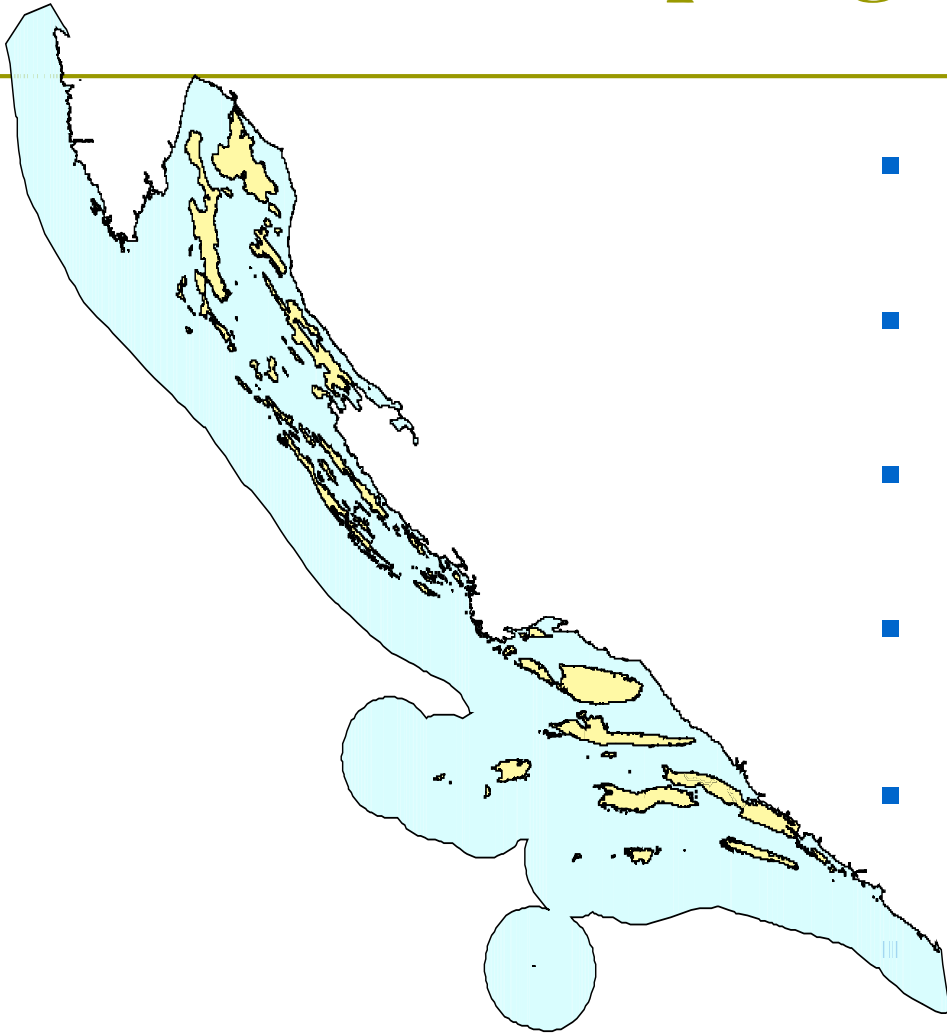
Croatian archipelago



- Hypoinsularised bridged islands
- Urban subarchipelagos
- Small hyperinsularized islands
(up to 25 km²,
up to 250 islanders)
- Two islands on one
- Peninsula as an island
- Outer fishermen's islands
- Good refuges



Croatian archipelago



- All loosing economic versatility
- (almost) all specialising in tourism
- (almost) all tending to water supply dependency
- too close (and too weak) to escape mainland influence
- too weak to influence anything on mainland
- strong enough to establish a sustainable insular existence (If left alone!)

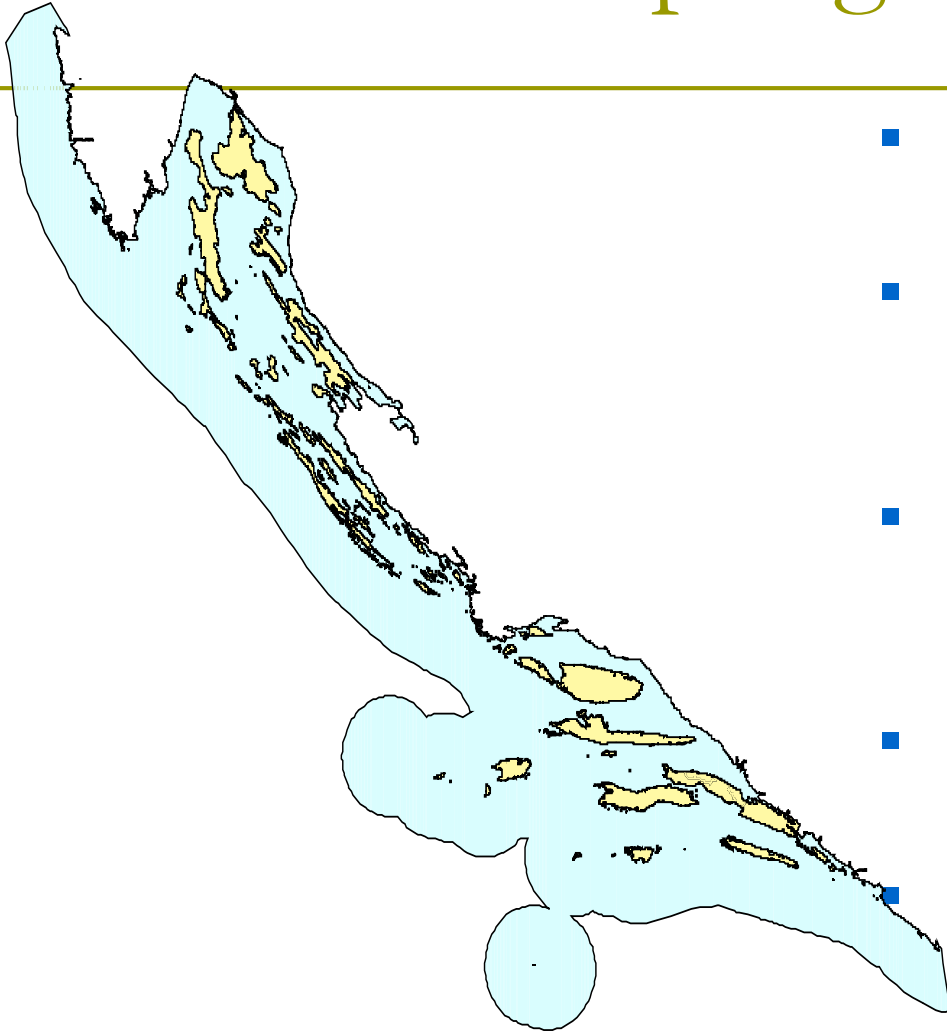








Croatian archipelago



- too close to raise curiosity, a proper interest
- too close to avoid (super) imposed mainland development policies
- too exposed to mainland policies to develop their own specific island policy
- well articulated particular island identities
- „bilateral” communication with the mainland
- archipelago identity in traces

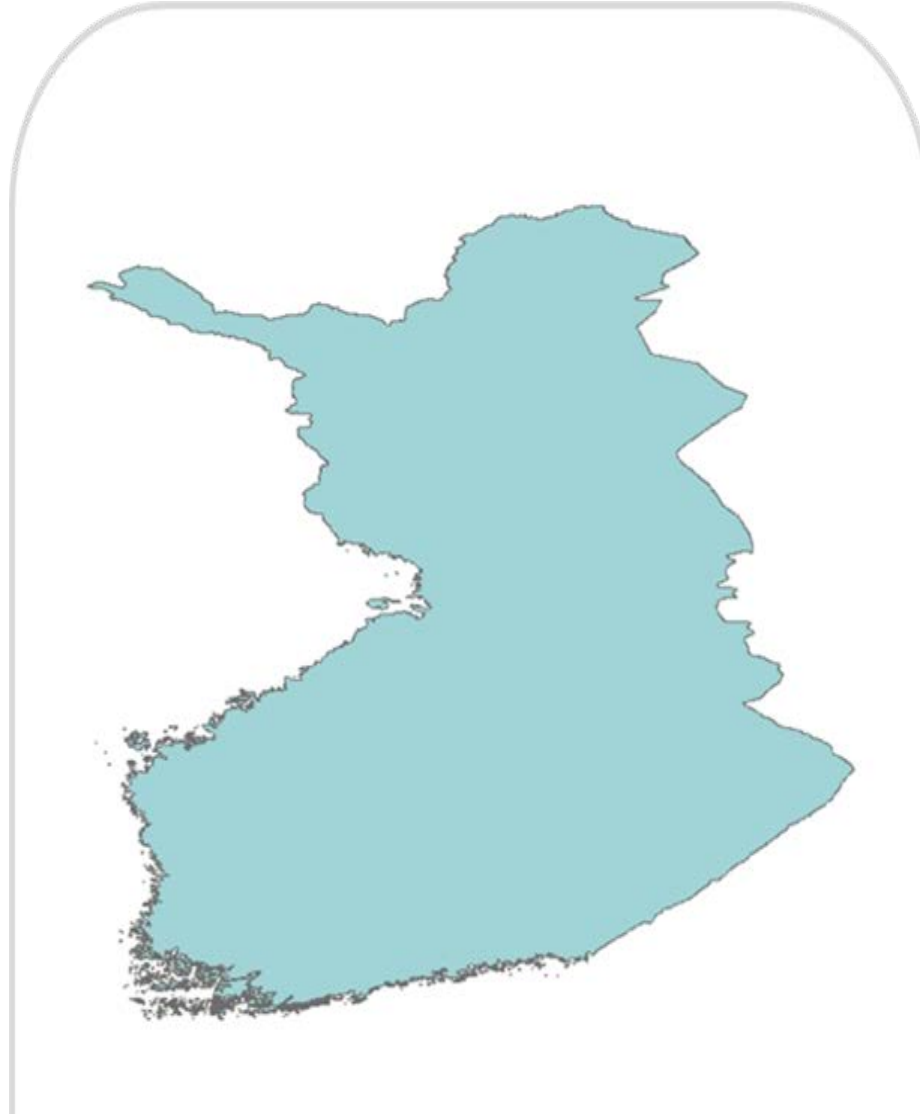
Identity (island, archipelago)?

117 islands of Venice:

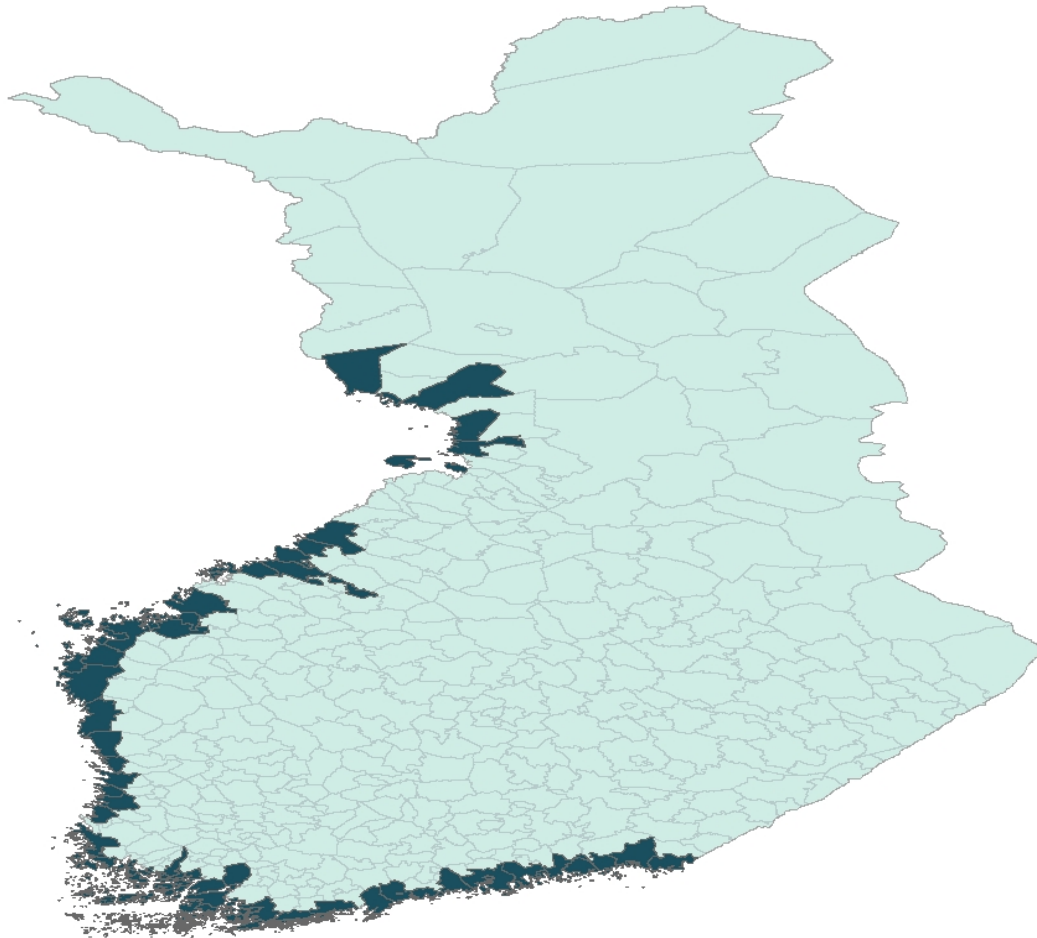
no mention of the archipelago



Identity (island, archipelago)?



Identity (island, archipelago)?

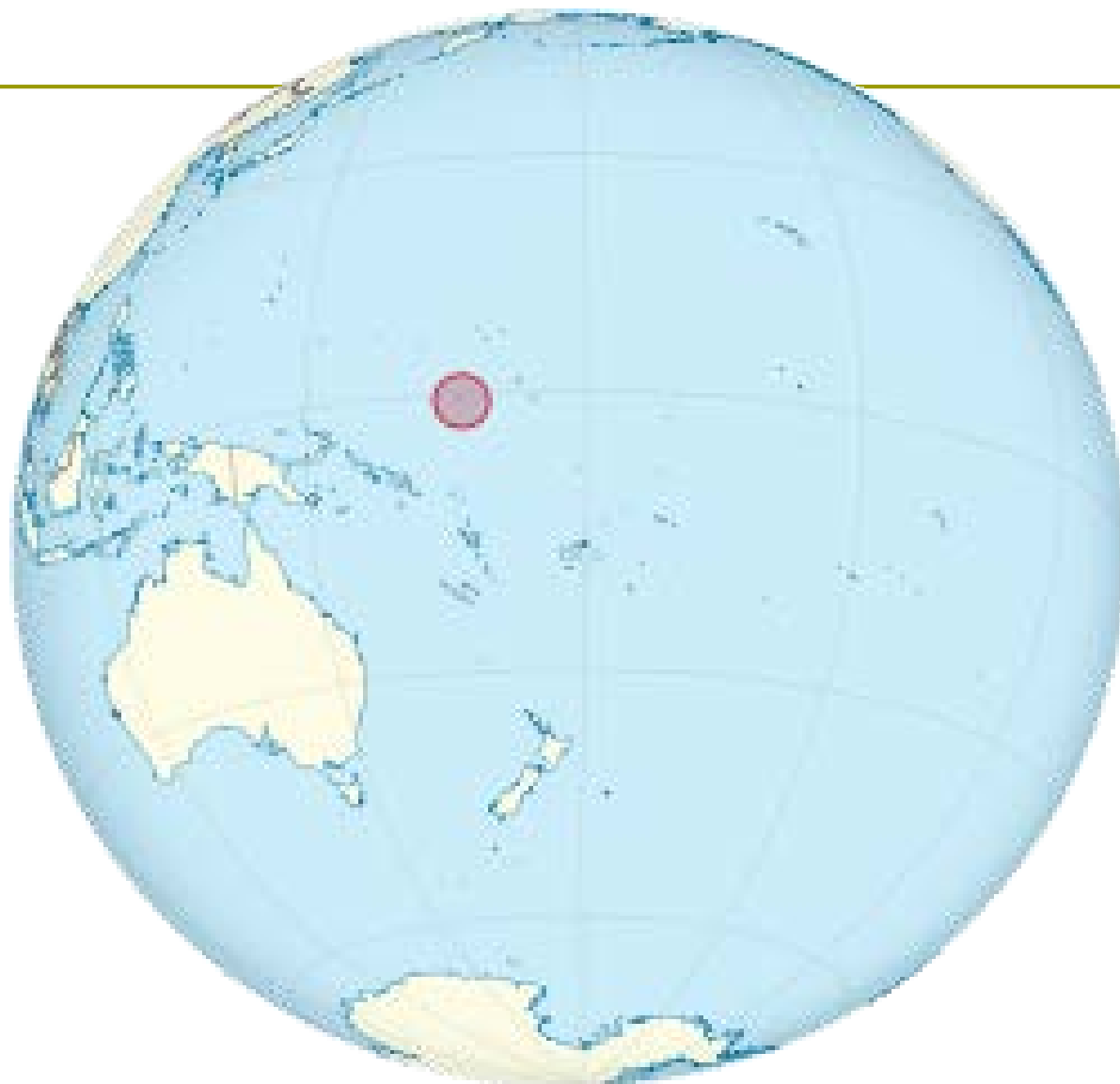


Compare islands?

(a policy point!)

	Islands, rocks...	Area	Inhabited	Population
Aaland islands	6,500	1,580 km ²	80	30,000
Croatian islands	1,244	3,259 km ²	50	125,000
Gronland	1	2,130.800 km ²	1	56,800
Nauru	1	21 km ²	1	10,000





Nauru



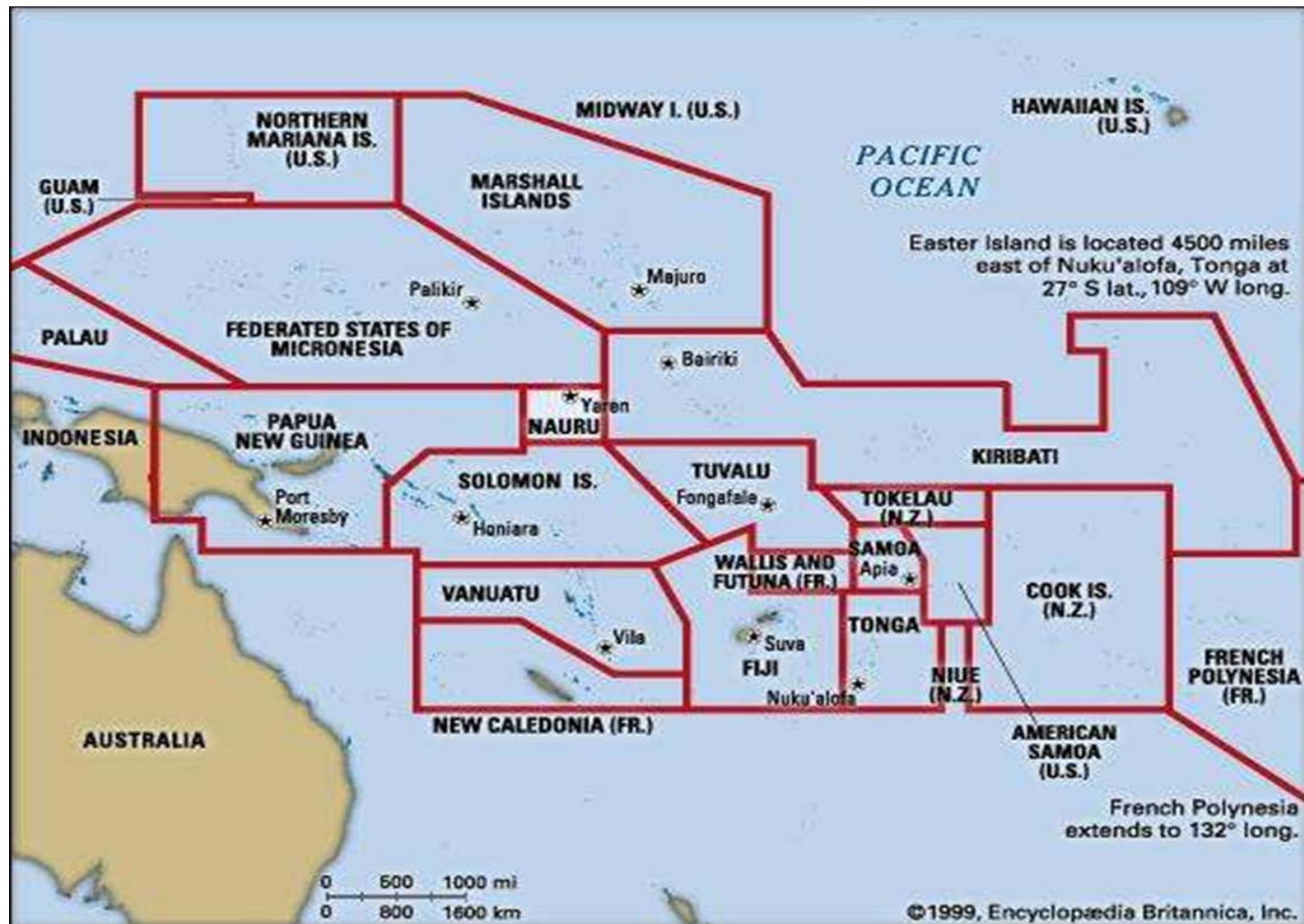
Nauru



Nauru



Pacific island states



Compare islands?

	Area	Population
Croatian island of Cres	405 km ²	3,200
Repubblika ta' Malta	316 km ²	475,700

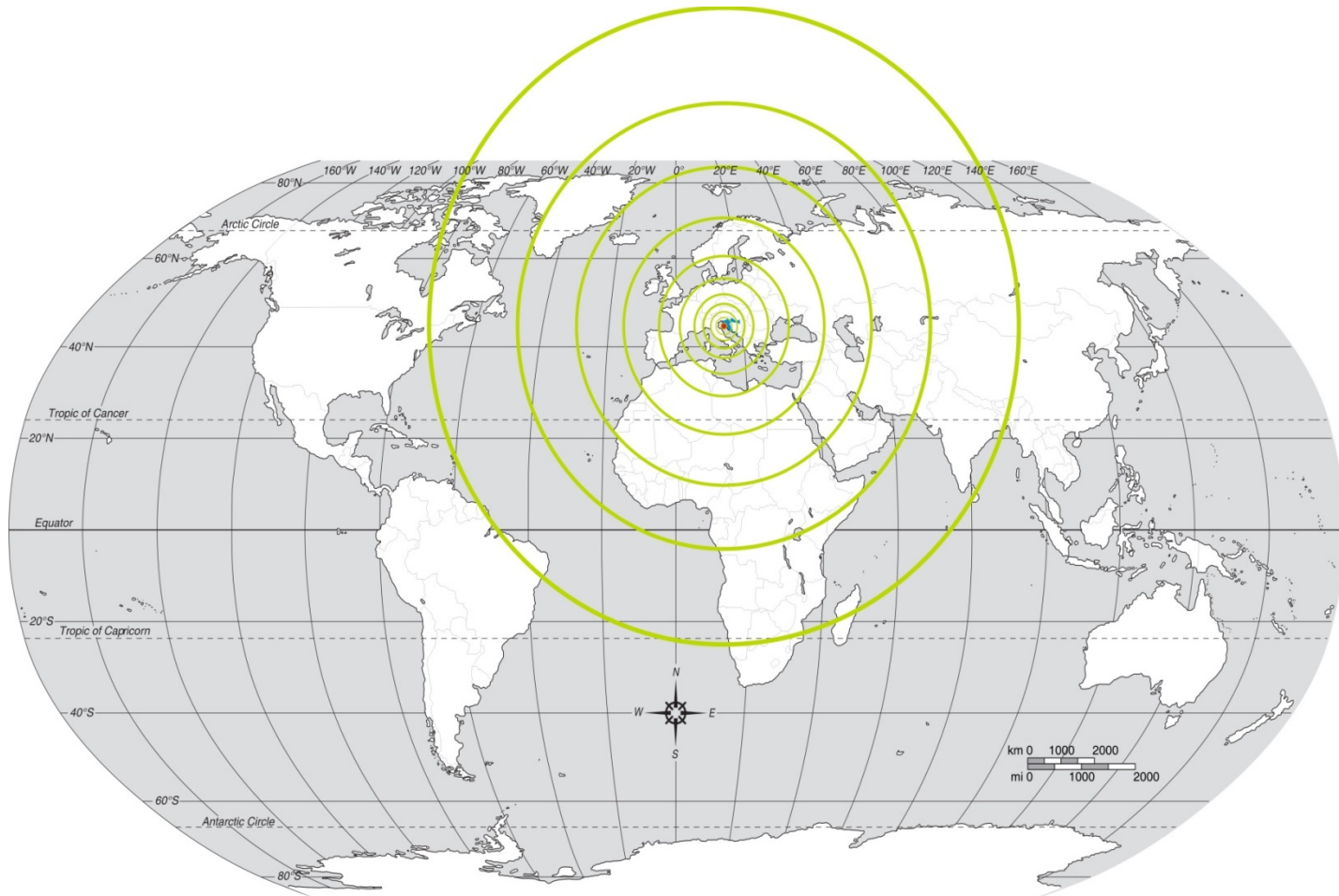
Croatian islands

(important? significant?)



Croatian islands

(important? significant?)



Nearness vs. high seas (>12 nm?)

- ❑ Islands of Finland, Sweden, Norway, Croatia – near (coastal)
- ❑ Islands of Portugal and Spain – high seas
- ❑ Islands of Scotland?, Greece?
- ❑ **Criterion:**
- ❑ Geographical (geopolitical)
- ❑ administrative
- ❑ island policy making (who does it?)
- Island made policies (do they know how?)
- Mainland made island policies (do they know better?)

Define island

- **Necessary?**
- **Geographers, biologists:** a land mass surrounded by water hosting a terrestrial ecosystem
- **(UN Convention in the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, (1958):** “...a *naturally* formed area of land surrounded by water which is above water at high tide..”

Define island

- **Necessary?**
- **EUROSTAT:** *“Not bridged land mass of at least 1km², and at least 50 permanent inhabitants, must not host the capital city of an EU member state”* (lighthouses, Malta? Cyprus?)
- **Finnish Island Act (1981):** *“The concept of island is taken to include all masses of land surrounded by water, whether sea or lake, to which there is no permanent road access, **and all mainland regions** in which conditions comparable to the above prevail”*

Define island

- **Necessary?**
- **Croatian Island Act (1999):** Island development policy shall be defined for and implemented on 1224 Croatian islands, islets, rocks and rocks awash **and the peninsula** of Pelješac.
- **Baharia, Dakkhla, Farafra, Kharga, Siwa** (oases in the Lybian desert – in the 5th century BC *Herodot* refered to them as to an **archipelago**)
- **The Island Act of Japan (1952)?**

shima, jimma...



'	亅	𠂇	𠂇	𠂇
𠂇	鳥	鳥	島	島

音読み	とう
訓読み	しま

as a pictogram:

bird

grass

sea

Getting complicated?

- ❑ near (coastal) islands
- ❑ far (high seas, remote) islands
- ❑ bridged islands (ex-islands?)
- ❑ dyked islands (ex-islands?)
- ❑ „cut out” islands
- ❑ artificial islands
- ❑ urban archipelagos
- ❑ hyperinsularized islands
- ❑ hypoinsularized islands
- ❑ administrative islands
- ❑ big islands, small islands

Insularity vs. islandness

Insularity:

- ❑ Low accessibility
- ❑ State of detachment from socio-economic networks

Islandness:

- ❑ (assumed) basic characteristics that distinguish islands from mainland

Island - mainland distance:

- ❑ an obvious propelling force for insularity, which is a propelling force for islandness

Insularity vs. islandness

Insularity:

- ❑ development obstacle (viewed as)
- ❑ detachment to be overcome (undisputably!?)
- ❑ main subject of near island policies
- ❑ Main policy goal: **deinsularization**

Islandness:

- ❑ accepted intuitively (yet to be defined!)
- ❑ not a subject of island policies
(until recently)

Islandness, towards a definition...

- The core of island studies: an intervening variable that does not determine, but contours and conditions, physical and social events on an island...
(Baldacchino, 2004)
- Dichotomy of **vulnerability** and **resilience**, necessary to acknowledge in order to understand how islands cope with a variety of factors, anthropogenic, political, and natural. (Campbell, 2009)

Elements of islandness

– a pragmatic view:

- Ecological specificities (characteristics significantly more pronounced than on mainland):
 - high proportion of endemic species
 - tendency to climax ecosystem
 - Low level of resilience to intruders
 - Symbiosis of natural and cultural heritage
 - Centuries old man made environment

Elements of islandness

– a pragmatic view:

- ❑ Social specificities (social features significantly more pronounced than on mainland):
 - ❑ common goods management
 - ❑ tradition maintained (conservatism?)
 - ❑ preservation of language, customs
 - ❑ low level of resilience to newcomers

Elements of islandness

– a pragmatic view:

- ❑ Economic specificities (economic features significantly more pronounced than on mainland):
 - ❑ tendency to a full usage of resources
 - ❑ „forced“ sustainability
 - ❑ low level of specialisation
 - ❑ pronounced versatility of production skills
 - ❑ prompt response to comparative advantages created on mainland
 - ❑ slow restructuring after comparative advantages cease to exist

Islandness...

- ❑ desired?
- ❑ welcome?
- ❑ warranted?

- ❑ Is there a policy perspective?
- ❑ Is there a legal (normative) perspective?
(how do we legalize an unproperly defined category?)

Top down policy context

- islands of the EU

- ❑ Pact on Islands (2011) (declared as an official European initiative – signed by 117 MPs)
- ❑ European Parliament Resolution on the Special Situation of Islands (2015/3014(RSP))
- ❑ **Smart** Island Declaration (2017 – signed by more than 200 municipalities, 20 from Croatia)
- ❑ 11 similar documents on EU level
- ❑ European Parliament Intergroup in charge of the islands (2014 - 90 MPs from 20 member countries)

Legislation - island acts

- Japan (1952)
- Canadian Islands Trust Act (1979)
- Finland (1981)
- Croatia (1999, 2018 in spe)
- Estonian Small Islands Act (2003)
- Scottish Islands Bill (May 2018)

- Greece, USA, Australia, New Zealand
- Note:
Small island developing states excluded

Policy context, legislation

-Croatian islands example

1990: The Croatian Constitution, Article 52:

The sea, seashore, **islands**, and other items of particular cultural, historical, economic or ecological significance which are **specified by law to be of interest** to the Republic of Croatia shall enjoy its special protection.

1997: National Island Development Program

1999: Island Act

The main problem: islandness denied

- ❑ **3 government layers:**
 - ❑ - the Republic of Croatia
 - ❑ - **21** counties (**7** have islands)
 - ❑ - **556** local self-government units—LSUs (municipalities and towns)
 - ❑ - Local boards – LBs (**would be the 4th layer**)
- ❑ **58 island and mainland-island LSUs:**
 - ❑ **4** one island LSUs
 - ❑ **37** island LSUs (10 islands with 2-8 LSUs)
 - ❑ **4** penninsular LSUs
 - ❑ **5** multi-island LSUs
 - ❑ **8** mainland-island LSUs

The main problem: islandness denied

31 out of 50 inhabited Croatian islands with 1-3 local boards only: _

- ❑ no legal persons
- ❑ do not have a say in the municipal council
- ❑ do not have a bank account
- ❑ do not participate in LSU's economic development planning
- ❑ do not participate in land use planning
- ❑ (almost) complete dependence on higher government layers!

Towards the solution:

new Croatian Island Act (end of 2018):

Article 5.1

- *Islands in a specific administrative position*
– islands and parts of islands whose municipal center is on the other island or on the mainland

Article 5.2.

- *Islandness* – a set of geographic, ecological, economic, social, and historical specificities resulting from complete surroundness by the sea

Towards the solution: new Croatian Island Act (end of 2018):

- Article 5.2.

- *islandness* – a set of ...

- Administrative rationale (explanation):

„...a new term introduced in order to **avoid equalizing** islands and mainland in the process of defining and implementing development policies. Reference to islandness will be made to **justify particular measures** within the island development policy as well as within wider development policies implemented at national and coastal-island county level.”

Towards the solution: new Croatian Island Act (end of 2018):

- **Article 5.3.**
- *Smart island* – an island that develops in sustainable manner by use of adequate tools and innovative solutions; **smart** island builds the circular economy and develops sustainably in terms of ecology, society, technology and economics; **smart** island builds selfdependance and resilience to climate change; **smart** island policy is the constituting element of the overall national spatial-economic policy providing concepts and solutions which, once developed and tested in island conditions, can be **upscaled and implemented** on mainland

Towards the solution: new Croatian Island Act (end of 2018):

A step forward:

- Deinsularization policy

and

- Policy of islandness preservation and use for the sake of smart islands

Confronted?

Mutually exclusive policies?

- An integrated island policy!

- actual institutional capacity?

- political will?