Main Topics

Even though there are conditions which separate small islands from each other the "island factor" is present - circumstances which are unique to islands compared to the mainland (or large islands). Some characteristics of the "island factor" are remoteness and insularity, peripherality to centres of decision making, a limited range of natural resources, specialisation of economies, small markets, narrow skills base, poor infrastructure, vulnerability to natural disasters, degree of exposure to forces outside of their control such as climate change and sea level rise, environmental fragility and often unique but threatened biological diversity.

How different islands, through their Government agencies, university departments, NGOs, voluntary bodies, community groups, or simply as individual islanders have overcome these COMMON PROBLEMS was the general theme for Islands VI.

Organiser Island VI

Graeme Robertson
Executive Director of Habitat Scotland / Global Islands Network

Some Facts

Habitat hosted and organised the Islands of the World VI conference in Skye on behalf of the International Small Islands Studies Association (ISISA), which attracted 150 delegates from around 40 countries. With financial support from the Commonwealth Foundation, Department for International Development, European Commission and Foreign & Commonwealth Office, participants from as far afield as Grenada, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea and St Helena were able to attend and join with others in giving just over 100 academic papers or presentations divided into 12 main thematic sessions.

About the Habitat Scotland

Habitat Scotland, an independent environmental research charity based on the Isle of Skye since 1990, was responsible for putting forward the whole Global Islands Network (GIN) concept. The origins of GIN can be traced back to 1994 when Habitat's Director attended the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the parallel NGO Islands Forum held in Barbados.

Newspaper Article

Regional news
Vital gathering of people who are far from insular.

Conference Photos

Isle of Skye

Talisker Distillery (Field Trip)

Tourist Brochures

Portree Visitor’s Center