

2 A listing of the World's populated sub-national island jurisdictions

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The development of a global database of sub-national island jurisdictions (SNIJs) began in 2004. The initial list compiled consisted of post-colonial 'overseas territories' which were known to exhibit significant legislative competence and executive governance beyond simply that of a commune, ward, county or municipality with delegated powers. These islands, often locked in federal relationships of one kind or another, conform closely to the listing and categorization in the chapter by Ronald Watts in this volume. It soon became apparent, however, that the arrangements in many other islands also warranted attention, particularly where islands as sub-national territories had been selected for distinctive asymmetrical treatment. These islands – whether recognized as UNESCO World Heritage sites, as territories requiring national Ministries, or some other distinct political status – have been added to the list which follows as Table 2.1. No sufficient rationale for capping island size, either by geography or population, could be found; and so, only unpopulated islands were excluded.

Three sets of graduate students in Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, were tasked to develop factual dossiers on each SNIJ in the on-line database. Primary data were assembled from expert resource persons and reliable contacts, often within the jurisdictions, and were corroborated by secondary data gleaned from other reliable sources (like news agencies) via web-based search engines. These dossiers are available in the public domain as research tools, and offers for their revision and updating are welcome.

The following list of SNIJs (Table 2.1) is my compilation. It is intended to be both illustrative and widely inclusive. It reflects selected information from the dynamic SNIJ database now available through the Island Studies website at: www.island-studies.ca. SNIJs exhibit a broad range of jurisdictional capacities, from extremely limited to full sovereignty in everything but name. The table also includes some island territories which have been difficult to classify. Although they may be *de jure* municipalities or equivalent forms of local government, they exhibit some *de facto* capacity for self-governing autonomy, even if only in a single dimension. For example, the Norwegian archipelago of Lofoten, made up of six municipalities within a county, has been declared a petroleum-free zone due to the lobbying efforts of a resident non-governmental organization. Another example is Macquarie Island, part of Huon Municipality in the State of Tasmania, Australia, but declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and run by scientists.

In Table 2.1, SNIJs are arranged by associated power. Additional columns provide (a) a very brief description of the nature of the autonomy, (b) the date at which

Table 2.1 Key indicators for the world's Sub-national Island Jurisdictions

	<i>Associated power/ federation</i>	<i>SNIJ</i>	<i>General description of autonomy</i>	<i>Year of autonomy</i>	<i>Population</i>
1	Antigua and Barbuda	Barbuda	Special status (local council 11 members)	1981	1,500
2	Australia, Commonwealth of	Macquarie Island	UNESCO World Heritage Site; run by Australian Antarctic Division	1997	30
3	Australia, Commonwealth of	Norfolk Island	Legislative assembly (9 seats)	1979	2,114
4	Australia, Commonwealth of	Christmas Island	Territory (unicameral shire council – 9 seats)	1958	396
5	Australia, Commonwealth of	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Territory (unicameral shire council – 7 seats)	1955	627
6	Australia, Commonwealth of	Tasmania	State (province) within Commonwealth	1901	456,652
7	Australia, Commonwealth of	Torres Strait Islands	Torres Strait Regional Authority, admin. by Queensland for 18 Torres Strait local and island councils	1994	8,089
8	British Crown	Guernsey, Bailiwick of	Crown dependencies (not in EU) Alderney, Guernsey, Herm, Sark, sm islets	1254, 1948	65,031
9	British Crown	Isle of Man	Crown dependency – (not in EU but free access to mkt)	1765	72,000
10	British Crown	Jersey, Bailiwick of	Crown dependency (not in EU), largest of Channel Islands	1945	90,502
11	Canada	Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands)	Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) to protect, assert aboriginal title and land claims; in British Columbia	1980	5,000
12	Canada	Newfoundland and Labrador	Province within federation	1949	586,000
13	Canada	Nunavut (Islands and mainland)	Self-governing territory; Inuit homeland	1999	23,000
14	Canada	Prince Edward Island	Province	1873	138,000

(continued)

Table 2.1 (Continued)

	<i>Associated power/ federation</i>	<i>SNIJ</i>	<i>General description of autonomy</i>	<i>Year of autonomy</i>	<i>Population</i>
15	Chile	Rapa Nui (Isla de Pascua/Easter I)	1st governor (1984); council of elders (1988); World Heritage Site (1996)	1999	3,500
16	China, People's Republic of	Hong Kong	Special admin. region, semi-autonomous (intl agreement) (more than 200 islands)	1997	6,855,000
17	China, People's Republic of	Hainan	Province	1912, 1988	8,180,000
18	China, People's Republic of	Macao	Special admin. region, semi-autonomous entity pursuant to international agreement	1999	520,400
19	Colombia	San Andrés y Providencia	Department dominated by executive branch of government; disputed by Nicaragua	1810, 1991	59,500
20	Comoros, Union of the	Anjouan (Nzwani)	Island sub-jurisdiction within union (federation)	2002	189,000
21	Comoros, Union of the	Moheli (Mwali)	Island sub-jurisdiction within union (federation)	2002	24,000
22	Comoros, Union of the	Grande Comore (Ngazidja)	Island sub-jurisdiction within union (federation)	2002	234,000
23	Denmark, EU	Bornholm	Regional municipality, single-tier local government	2007	43,000
24	Denmark, EU	Faeroe Islands	Federacy (17 inhabited islands of 21), not in EU	1948	46,000
25	Denmark, EU	Greenland (Kalaallit-Nunaat)	Autonomous dependency (not in EU)	1979 home rule	56,000
26	Ecuador	Galápagos	Province of Republic	1822	17,000
27	Equatorial Guinea	Annobon	Island province in a republic (dictatorship with govt in exile)	1968	5,000
28	Equatorial Guinea	Bioko (Eri, Fernando Poo)	2 provinces (North and South Bioko)	under dictatorship	101,000

(continued)

Table 2.1 (Continued)

	<i>Associated power/ federation</i>	<i>SNIJ</i>	<i>General description of autonomy</i>	<i>Year of autonomy</i>	<i>Population</i>
29	Estonia, UK	Saaremaa	Saaremaa county council	1992	40,000
30	Estonia, UK	Hiiumaa	Hiiumaa county council	1992	11,087
31	Fiji	Rotuma	Administered by district officer; Rotuma council	1992	2,600
32	Finland, EU	Åland Islands	De-militarised federacy	1921	26,200
33	France, EU	Corsica	Regional government, the Collectivité Territoriale de Corse (CTC)	1975, 1982	279,000
34	France, EU	Fr. Polynesia (Tahiti, Society Is.)	Overseas collectivity (5 admin. divisions, 130 islands); own president, legislative assembly	1946, 2003	259,800
35	France, EU	Guadeloupe	Overseas department: (Guadeloupe/ La Désirade/Les Saintes/Marie-Galante)	1946	422,500
36	France, EU	Martinique	Overseas department	1946	381,400
37	France, EU	New Caledonia (Kanaki, Kanaky)	'Sui generis collectivity' (overseas territory): 3 provinces (includes autonomous Kanak region-2 provs)	1988	213,679
38	France, EU	Réunion	Overseas department (site of administration for 5 islands)	1946	766,153
39	France, EU	Saint Barthélemy	Territorial collectivity; has unicameral territorial council with president; laws of France	2007	6,852
40	France, EU	Saint Martin	Territorial collectivity; has unicameral territorial council with president; laws of France	2007	33,102
41	France, EU	Saint-Pierre and Miquelon	Territorial collectivity (two main islands + 6 islets) (2 communes)	1985	6,125
42	France, EU	Wallis and Futuna	Territorial collectivity; two island groups, 3 traditional chiefdoms; territorial council and President	1959, 1961	15,480

(continued)

Table 2.1 (Continued)

	<i>Associated power/ federation</i>	<i>SNIJ</i>	<i>General description of autonomy</i>	<i>Year of autonomy</i>	<i>Population</i>
43	France, EU (claimed by Comoros)	Mayotte	Territorial collectivity (two main islands + 30 islets)	1946, separate 1974	186,026
44	Hellenic Republic, EU	Greek Islands	7 main island groups: Ionian, Saronic, Cyclades, Dodecanese, Sporades, Aegean, Crete	various 1985-98	499,000
45	Independent; unrecognized	Taiwan (Formosa)	Dispute: Republic of China; claimed by People's Rep. of China	1949	21,336,000
46	India	Andaman and Nicobar	Union territory admin. by national government	1950	356,152
47	India	Lakshadweep	Union territory admin. by national government	1956	60,600
48	Indonesia	Aceh	Special autonomous district (in Sumatra) of unitary state (archipelago)	1949, secess movement	3,799,000
49	Indonesia	Maluku	Province (archipelago of South Moluccas); has militant separatist movement since 1999	1999	1,313,022
50	Indonesia	North Maluku	Province (archipelago); formerly one province with Maluku; religious and ethnic unrest	1999	870,000
51	Indonesia	West Papua (Irian Jaya)	Province	war, indep. move- ment	1,958,000
52	Iran	Kish	Kish free zone organization, a company with an autonomous legal status	mid-1990s	20,000
53	Italian Republic, EU	Sardinia	Autonomous region – cultural (4 provinces) (Sard language legalized in 1991)	1948	1,677,000
54	Italian Republic, EU	Sicily	Autonomous region – cultural (9 provinces)	1948	5,151,000
55	Japan (US military base)	Okinawa (Ryuku Islands)	Prefectures (Sakashima Islands/Okinawa Islands); (Amami Islands) Kyushu	1972	1,292,000
56	Japan/Russia (disputed)	Ho'aido (Japan Northern Terr.)	Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, Habomai; claimed by Japan (1945) and Ainu nationalists	dispute, 1947, 1991	11,000

(continued)

Table 2.1 (Continued)

	<i>Associated power/ federation</i>	<i>SNIJ</i>	<i>General description of autonomy</i>	<i>Year of autonomy</i>	<i>Population</i>
57	Kiribati	Banaba/Ocean Island	Municipal administration by Rabi council of leaders and elders on Rabi in Fiji	1942–1983	300 + 5,000 in Rabi
58	Korea, Republic of (South Korea)	Jeju (Cheju-do)	Special self-governing province	1917	543,000
59	Malaysia	Labuan	International offshore finance centre; federal territory of Malaysia admin. by fed. govt	1984	78,000
60	Malaysia	Sabah (North Borneo)	State	1963	1,760,000
61	Malaysia	Sarawak (North Kalimantan)	State	1963	1,846,000
62	Malta, EU	Gozo	Ministry for Gozo	1987, 1998	23,800
63	Mauritius	Rodrigues	Autonomous island region of Mauritius; agitation for full sovereignty	2002	36,000
64	Netherlands, EU	Aruba	Autonomous part of kingdom of Netherlands	1986	71,218
65	Netherlands, EU	Netherlands Antilles	Autonomous federation (5 islands – Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten), Part of Kingdom of the Netherlands. Dismantled in 2008	1954	218,126
66	New Zealand	Chatham Islands	Local council	1995	760
67	New Zealand	Cook Islands	Associated state in free association	1965	21,200
68	New Zealand	Niue	Self-governing in free association with NZ at request of Niue	1974	2,156
69	New Zealand	Tokelau	Self-administered territory (3 atolls)	1925	1,405
70	Norway, Kingdom of	Jan Mayen	Administration shared between Nordland Company and Norwegian armed forces	1995	18
71	Norway, Kingdom of	Lofoten Islands	Archipelago of 6 municipalities, part of Nordland county; declared temporary petroleum-free zone (2003)	Traditional	24,500

(continued)

Table 2.1 (Continued)

	<i>Associated power/ federation</i>	<i>SNIJ</i>	<i>General description of autonomy</i>	<i>Year of autonomy</i>	<i>Population</i>
72	Norway, Kingdom of	Svalbard (Spitzbergen)	Territory admin. by Norwegian polar dept of ministry of justice; governor in territory	1920	2,756
73	Papua New Guinea	Bougainville (North Solomons)	Autonomous province (4 reps to parliament) in transition (peace treaty 2001)	2001	185,000
74	Papua New Guinea	Manus (Admiralty Islands)	Province (2 representatives to PNG parliament)	1975	32,840
75	Papua New Guinea	New Britain (Western and Central)	Province (3 representatives to PNG parliament)	1975	130,190
76	Papua New Guinea	New Ireland	Province (3 representatives to PNG parliament)	1975	87,000
77	Philippines, Republic of the	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	6 provinces in Mindanao and Sulu Archipelago; autonomous regional govt	1989	2,803,805
78	Portugal, EU	Azores	Autonomous region (9 islands), regional legislative assembly	1976	232,000
79	Portugal, EU	Madeira	Autonomous region (Madeira, Porto Santo and two groups of barren islets)	1976	284,000
80	Russian Federation	Novaya Zemlya (Severny, Yuzhny)	Part of Arkhangel'skaya oblast (region); site of nuclear testing, Russian army base	1950s	100 Nenets
81	Russian Federation	Sakhalin and Kuril Islands	Part of Sakhalin regional дума (includes Sakhalin Island and Kurile Islands)	1947	608,000
82	Russian Federation	Hasava (islands and mainland)	Nenets autonomous region, Yamalo-Nenets, Taimyr (Dolgano-Nenets)	no status	161,000
83	São Tomé e Príncipe	Príncipe	Province with political and admin. autonomy; 7-member regional assembly	1995	5,700
84	Spain, EU	Balearic Islands	Autonomous province; 4 island councils: Majorca, Minorca, Ibiza, Formentera	1978; 2007	842,000
85	Spain, EU	Canary Islands	Autonomous region (13 islands)	1983	1,643,000

(continued)

Table 2.1 (Continued)

	<i>Associated power/ federation</i>	<i>SNIJ</i>	<i>General description of autonomy</i>	<i>Year of autonomy</i>	<i>Population</i>
86	Sri Lanka	Tamil Eelam (unrecognized state)	Tamil separatist movement in north and eastern Sri Lanka	2002/ceasefire	1,871,500
87	St Kitts and Nevis	Nevis	State within federation (secession pressure, abated in 2004)	1983	38,836
88	Sweden, EU	Gotland	Single-tier local government (municipality); pilot project on decentralization (1996–2002)	1996	58,000
89	Tanzania, United Republic of	Mafia Island	Province (Chole, Jibondo, Juani Islands and coastal mainland)	1979	40,800
90	Tanzania, United Republic of	Zanzibar (Unguja) and Pemba	Autonomous province (Zanzibar, Pemba and number of small islands)	1979	641,000
91	Trinidad and Tobago, Republic of	Tobago	Ward of republic, 15-member house of assembly	1962	58,400
92	Turkey, Republic of	Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus	<i>De facto</i> state only recognized by Turkey	1974	264,172
93	United Kingdom, EU	Akrotiri and Dhekelia	Sovereign British – 2 military bases on Cyprus; admin. by UK base commander	1960	3,500 mil/ 5,000 civil
94	United Kingdom, EU	Anguilla	Overseas territory	1980	13,008
95	United Kingdom, EU	Bermuda	Overseas territory	1968	64,935
96	United Kingdom, EU	British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)	Overseas territory (inhabitants expelled); Diego Garcia leased to US military	1965	1,500 mil/ 2,000 civil
97	United Kingdom, EU	British Virgin Islands	Overseas territory	1977	22,187
98	United Kingdom, EU	Cayman Islands	Overseas territory	1962	43,100
99	United Kingdom, EU (claimed by Argentina)	Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	Overseas territory	1998 amended	2,967
100	United Kingdom, EU	Montserrat	Overseas territory (extensive UK aid due to volcano)	1989	9,245
101	United Kingdom, EU	Northern Ireland	Home nation	1999; susp till 2007	1,685,000

(continued)

Table 2.1 (Continued)

	<i>Associated power/ federation</i>	<i>SNIJ</i>	<i>General description of autonomy</i>	<i>Year of autonomy</i>	<i>Population</i>
102	United Kingdom, EU	Orkney	UK's smallest local authority; island council: 6 wards, 21 councillors; one rep in Scottish parliament	1974	20,000
103	United Kingdom, EU	Pitcairn Islands	Overseas territory	1904, 1940	46
104	United Kingdom, EU	Saint Helena	Overseas territory (includes Ascension, Tristan da Cunha as dependencies)	1989	7,415
105	United Kingdom, EU	Scotland	Home nation; part of United Kingdom; own parliament	1999	5,116,900
106	United Kingdom, EU	Shetland	Island council: 22 wards/councillors; two reps to devolved Scottish parliament	1974	43,000
107	United Kingdom, EU	Turks and Caicos Islands	Overseas territory (40 islands, 8 inhabited)	1976	19,956
108	United Kingdom, EU	Wales	Home nation; part of United Kingdom; own assembly	1999	2,958,600
109	USA	Aleutians	Unorganized borough of Alaska; strong US military presence; fed. natural resource mgt	1867	8,200
110	USA	American Samoa	Unincorporated and unorganized territory admin. by Office of Insular Affairs	1966	57,902
111	USA	Hawaii	State (8 major islands and numerous smaller islands); homeland compact with US govt	1959	1,210,000
112	USA	Northern Marianas	Self-governing commonwealth in political union with USA (14 islands, 3 main)	1986 covenant	78,252
113	USA	Puerto Rico	Self-governing commonwealth in free association with USA	1952	3,676,000
114	USA	US Virgin Islands	Organized, unincorp. territory admin. by Office of Insular Affairs (3 islands)	1917, 1954	108,775
115	USA (US military base)	Guam	Organized, unincorporated territory admin. by Office of Insular Affairs	1944	166,090
116	Yemen, Republic of	Socotra	Part of Aden governorate (province); special conservation and development programme	1990	44,000

arrangements for self-rule first became operative, and (c) a ballpark estimate of recent population size. Where more than one date for self-rule is specified, the first entry may reflect legitimate constitutional authority followed by a second entry showing recent changes that may be more relevant to the current level of autonomy. No attempt has been made to define the quality or extent of autonomy that is enjoyed by each jurisdiction.

Acknowledgement is particularly made to the CIA *World FactBook* (various editions) and the *Island Jurisdictions* website moderated by attorney-at-law Dan MacMeekin at: <http://macmeekin.com/Library/Jurisds/aaaindex.htm>. No copyright to the reproduced SNIJ information is asserted. Moreover, while information is believed to be accurate, neither such accuracy nor currency of information is warranted, especially because circumstances can and do change. Inclusion in this dynamic list is also not to be construed as an act of acknowledging the legitimacy or otherwise of any jurisdictional powers, *de jure* or *de facto*. Effective date of compilation of this SNIJ database is: 25 August 2007.