

## Francesco Sindico, University of Strathclyde

Francesco Sindico is a Professor of International Law at the University of Strathclyde Law School, currently on secondment (until April 2024) with the Scottish Government where he leads the Carbon Neutral Islands project and is the Islands Team liaison officer for Shetland Islands. He is the Founder of [the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance \(SCELG\)](#) and Founder and Director of the [Climate Change Litigation Initiative \(C2LI\)](#), which was launched at COP26.

He leads the [EILEAN initiative](#) at SCELG, an effort to better understand how island communities engage with legal and political processes to promote resilience and sustainability. Francesco has collaborated with the Scottish Government in the implementation of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 by providing technical advice to the consultation leading to the National Islands Plan and working on guidance related to island communities impact assessment. Amongst other island related work, Francesco is currently collaborating with the University of the Aegean and Island Innovation in a study commissioned by Volkswagen on the community perception of the public-private e-mobility project on the Greek island of Astypalea. Francesco is also the Co-Chair of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) Climate Change Law Specialist Group where he is developing a project on islands and net zero policies. Francesco has collaborated with Island Innovation in the [Islands and Covid-19 survey](#) that has collated data from islands in 53 countries, which was then followed in 2021 by the [COVID-19 Island Insight Series](#) which, together with the University of Prince Edward Island and Island Innovation, presented more in depth studies from 24 islands. Finally, he has been leading since 2018 Island Explorers, a sustainability education project aimed at primary school pupils, which is being used to build similar projects across island based schools in Europe through the EU Islands project.

Francesco is a Public International Lawyer by training and has over ten years of experience providing legal advice to international organisations and national governments in the fields of climate change law, international water law and sustainable development law and policy. He was Counsel for the Plurinational State of Bolivia before the UN International Court of Justice in the case over the status of the waters of the Silala against Chile. Francesco speaks four languages (English, Italian, Spanish and French) and was trained in Italy and Spain.

<p>Relevant project experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Island Schools Harnessing Regional Innovation</i>, (2020-2023) Erasmus + project, Co-investigator</li> <li>▪ <i>Law, Arts and Island Resilience</i>, project funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh (2018-2019), Principal Investigator</li> <li>▪ <i>One Ocean Hub</i>, project funded by the UKRI Global Challenge Research Fund (2019-2024), Co-investigator</li> </ul>	<p>Policy relevant documents authored or contributed thereto</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ F. Sindico, G. Sajeve, N. Sharman, P. Berlouis and J. Ellsmoor, <a href="#">Islands and COVID-19: A Global Survey</a>, Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance and Island Innovation, 2020</li> <li>▪ Scottish Government, <a href="#">National Islands Plan</a>, 2019</li> <li>▪ Nrg4SD and SCELG, <a href="#">Localising the SDGs: Regional Governments Paving the Way</a>, 2017</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ F. Sindico, <a href="#">Transboundary Water Cooperation and the Sustainable Development Goals</a>, UNESCO-IHP Advocacy Paper, 2016</li> </ul>
<p>Collaboration with governments and other stakeholders, including communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Secondment with the Scottish Government Islands team to lead on the Carbon Neutral Islands project, a programme for government commitment aimed at supporting 6 islands to become carbon neutral by 2040.</li> <li>▪ Consultancy awarded by the Scottish Government to provide technical advice in the implementation of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018. Francesco contributed to the consultation process that led island communities to inform the first ever National Islands Plan.</li> <li>▪ Consultancy with UNESCO-IHP to provide capacity building in the field of international water law to relevant policy makers and wider water stakeholders in Southern Africa and Central America (2014-2017)</li> <li>▪ Legal counsel for the government of Bolivia in a case against Chile before the International Court of Justice (the highest judicial body of the United Nations) (2018-2022)</li> </ul>	<p>Selected relevant publications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ F. Sindico, "Climate Change, Islands and Net Zero" <i>Islands Economic Cooperation Forum, Annual Report on Global Islands 2022</i>, Island Studies Press, in press</li> <li>▪ K. Agius, F. Sindico, G. Sajeve, &amp; G. Baldacchino, "<a href="#">'Splendidisolation': Embracing islandness in a global pandemic</a>" 17.1 <i>Island Studies Journal</i>, 2022, pp. 44-65</li> <li>▪ F. Sindico, "Sub-National Island Jurisdictions and Biodiversity Protection: Moving Towards Greater Resilience and Sustainability" in M. Campins Eritja and T. Fajardo del Castillo, <i>Biological Diversity and International Law: Challenges for the Post 2020 Scenario</i>, Springer, 2021, pp. 141-155</li> <li>▪ F. Sindico and N. Crook, "The Islands (Scotland) Act: Island Proofing through Legislation" in K. Burnett, R. Burnett and M. Danson, <i>Scotland and Islandness: Explorations in Community, Economy and Culture</i>, Peter Lang, 2021, pp. 215-238</li> <li>▪ F. Sindico, "<a href="#">Building Back Better: COVID19 and Island Economies</a>" in <i>Islands Economic Cooperation Forum, Annual Report on Global Islands 2021</i>, Island Studies Press, pp. 61-78</li> <li>▪ F. Sindico and M. Moise Mbengue (Eds.), <i>Comparative Climate Change Litigation: Beyond the Usual Suspects</i>, Springer, 2021</li> <li>▪ F. Sindico, <i>Transboundary Aquifers and International Law</i>, Edward Elgar, 2020</li> <li>▪ F. Sindico and N. Crook, "Placing the Community at the Heart of Island Governance: The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018", 23 <i>Edinburgh Law Review</i> (2019), pp. 441-448 (01)</li> </ul>