GEOSPATIAL CHALLENGES FACED BY SMALL PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) – Fiji Perspective
FIG SYMPOSIUM

• Suva, Fiji. 18th – 20th September 2013
• FIG partnering with FAO, Fiji Government and Fiji Institute of Surveyors organized symposium.
• Theme: “Policies and Practices for responsible Governance”
SYMPOSIUM SUB THEMES

- Geospatial information management in the Pacific
- Improved governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests
- Secure land property rights for all
GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS - SIDS
CHALLENGES FACED - SIDS

- Geographic locations of SIDS. Remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters etc
- Influence respective Governments - Improved management of information.
- Capacity. How to maximize the use information collected
- Volume of data collected small – not to global standard (WGS72 → WGS84)
CHALLENGES FACED – SIDS…..cont’d

• Not well versed. Reflecting in poor participation, different levels of approach to importance and use.
• More individualistic reliance on existing infrastructure – conversion of data into digital forms.
• Lack of monitoring and continuance of projects. Financial standings
• No meets for land management discipline for SIDS
GOALS ACHIEVED

Symposium concluded with the “SUVA STATEMENT ON SPATIALLY RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE”

- Recognize UN-GGIM leading role in setting agenda for the development of global geospatial infrastructure and its management
GOALS ACHIEVED......cont’d

- Confirm the role of national and individual professionals responsible to the inputs and contributions towards responsiveness and challenges in the region.
- All activities have a geographical and temporal context.
- Agree that information on geography, custodianship and ownership is foundational for informed decision making, resilience & sustainability.
GOALS ACHIEVED......cont’d

- Importance of and the need to strengthen and modernize:
  - Geodetic framework
  - Structure for sharing and delivering towards improved geospatial information management.
The need for partnership, to share and collaborate to reduce duplication in these efforts.

The need for capacity and professional development including strengthening of teaching and training institutions.
FIJI - BACKGROUND

- Being UN member state has aligned to the UN initiative on development of Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) – inception in Korea 2011.
- Fiji represented by the Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources in all UN-GGIM – being the National Mapping Agency and authority on Geodetic Framework.
FIJI DATA CHALLENGES

- No strategic data direction
  - Inventory
  - Standards
  - Dissemination
- Absence of specific legislation/polices
FIJI DATA CHALLENGES ......cont’d

• Capacity to sustain the technology. The framework required to keep the development going
DATA ACCESSIBILITY - FIJI

- No inventory
- Private data
- Generate income
- No metadata
DATA AS INFRASTRUCTURE

- Data sharing is a curve
- Options and control
- Audience and response
- Geospatial Information in Fiji now
  - Digital data – 4/5
  - Responsive dynamic outputs – 2/5
  - Information as infrastructure – 1/5
  - Data driven decision making – 1/5
WAY FORWARD

- Government commitment
  - Minister as Champion
  - Establishment of a Committee to develop a Geospatial Information Management System
- Framework
  - Fiji’s symposium resolutions
    - Legislation & Polices
    - Ways to increase capability and capacity. Reduce the digital divide.
— DATA AS INFRASTRUCTURE

• Data as a product
  - value and *acquisition* costs
  - recoverable and profitable

• Data as infrastructure
  - value and *effectiveness* (Data plus context)
  - subsidized as national infrastructure
WAY FORWARD

- How we can work in partnership with the civil and private society.
- Provide options for government and in their evolution to create national geospatial authorities (Data Authorization)
- How we can promote data sharing, accessibility and dissemination.
THANK YOU
VINAKA