



**United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management**

**International Workshop on Legal and Policy Frameworks
for Geospatial Information Management:
Licensing of Geospatial Information
Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga
10 – 13 April 2018**

Information Note
(as at 15 March 2018)

Organized by
**The United Nations Secretariat for
Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)**
in collaboration with the
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Kingdom of Tonga

Introduction

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), at its seventh session, called for the development of mechanisms for Member States to develop capacity to address the legal and policy matters that have an impact on the collection, dissemination and application of geospatial information. In this context, UN-GGIM, having undertaken the development and preparation of the Compendium on the Licensing of Geospatial Information, has initiated a series of peer-to-peer learning events that will allow both providers and consumers of geospatial information at the national level to be better aware and informed, thus improving the capacity of Member States, in addressing legal and policy considerations in geospatial information management. The learning event aimed to support the sharing and dissemination of data, to significantly increase the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information.

With emerging and innovative collection and application of geospatial information within existing national legal and regulatory frameworks, UN-GGIM is cognizant of the need to address policy and legal issues that impact geospatial information management. Examples include, the acquisition and application of geospatial information in or near real-time, from unmanned aerial systems, pervasive mobile applications, and “smart” initiatives. These technologies and applications are being used to consume and produce location-based information and services at an increasing volume and pace. This need has become more challenging and critical.

About the International Workshop

This UN-GGIM peer-to-peer learning event will be a four-day workshop with a program designed to raise awareness, introduce and inform participants from Small Islands Developing States in the Pacific on concepts and practical approaches which the participants should find helpful in their normal work. The workshop will be participatory, where the participants are expected to be active; engage in discussions and to interact with one another. To ensure the effectiveness of this International Workshop, there will be no more than 40 invited participants. The workshop is so designed offering peer-to-peer engagement, networking and learning opportunities that may lead to co-operation or partnerships that go well beyond the conclusion of this workshop.

The goal of this International Workshop is to make both providers and consumers of geospatial information at the national and local levels better aware and informed on how a country’s legal and policy framework impact geospatial information management, improve the capacity of Member States in addressing legal and policy considerations in geospatial information management, including the licensing of geospatial information to improve data sharing and dissemination, and increase the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information.

Objectives

This International Workshop will consider the concepts and approaches outlined in the UN-GGIM Compendium on Licensing of Geospatial Information. The Compendium seeks to provide guidance on standard legal and licensing terms as they relate to geospatial information licenses, or arrangements or agreements or terms of use. It is also intended to help foster understanding on the rights and obligations that organizations are agreeing to abide by when entering a geospatial information licensing arrangement. The Compendium provides geospatial information management practitioners with useful guidance on legal considerations relating to the sharing and dissemination of geospatial information.

The main objectives of the workshop are -

- (a) To raise awareness on how an evolving legal and regulatory environment concerning geospatial information will impact the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information;
- (b) To afford professionals within the geospatial information community who do not have legal training a better understanding of legal and policy considerations concerning geospatial information management and the sharing and dissemination of geospatial information; and
- (c) To discuss the purpose and usefulness of a geospatial information licensing arrangement, and the role of the licence that is relevant in national contexts.

Organisers

The Secretariat for UN-GGIM in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources of Tonga jointly organise this International Workshop, supported by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) through its Working Group 1 – Geodetic Reference Frame, and the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council facilitated by the South Pacific Community.

Language

The International Workshop on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management - Licensing of Geospatial Information will be conducted in English only.

Participants

Participation is solely by invitation only. Participants are expected to be senior level officials from Ministries, Agencies or Departments responsible for geospatial information management, surveying and mapping of both terrestrial and marine environment. Participants are senior level officials who need to address and improve the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information nationally, consider legal and policy issues related to the sharing and dissemination of geospatial information.

All invited participants must confirm their participation with the Secretariat of UN-GGIM (email Ms. Vilma Frani at: frani@un.org)

Outline Programme

Tuesday, 10 th April 2018	Session #1 Joint official opening session for the UN-GGIM International Workshop on Legal and Policy Frameworks and the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council Meeting
	Session #2 Introductions and setting the scene
	Session #3 Policy and legal framework around geospatial information management
Wednesday, 11 th April 2018	Session #4 Role and options on the sharing and dissemination of geospatial information
	Session #5 Policy and legal issues and challenges in geospatial information management in the Pacific Island States
Thursday, 12 th April 2018	Session #6 Key Legal issues in geospatial information management
	Session #7 Improving availability and accessibility of geospatial information in the Pacific Island States
Friday, 13 th April 2018	Session #8 Emerging trends in legal and policy issues that impacts geospatial information management
	Session #9 Wrap-up, summary and closing

Venue

Tanoa International Dateline Hotel

Vuna Road,
Nuku'alofa,
Tonga

url: www.tanoadateline.com



Accommodation

Every participant is responsible for arranging their own accommodation and manages their individual hotel bookings.

Listing of accommodation options

Rates in Tongan Pa'anga (TOP)

International Workshop venue:

1. Tanoa International Dateline Hotel

url: www.tanoadateline.com

or contact

Mere Vuda

conference.tidh@tanoahotels.com

*for more special offers but please mention
UNGGIM workshop*

*TOP280.00 per room per night inclusive of
taxes and full buffet breakfast.*

2. Mamta Villa

mamtavilla@gmail.com

www.mamtavila.com

Standard Room TOP150.00

Deluxe Room TOP200.00

*Include continental breakfast & Free
Internet all taxes*

3. Little Italy

littleitalytonga@gmail.com

www.littleitalytonga.com

Ocean View Room TOP260.00/night

Standard View Room TOP195.50/night

*Both rates are tax inclusive, offers full
buffet breakfast and unlimited Wifi usage
throughout entirety of stay.*

4. Seaview

seaview.tonga@gmail.com

www.seaview-logs.com

Double Seaview Room (with Balcony) (x 3)

TOP 325.00 per night/room

Double Garden View Room (with Balcony) (x

1) TOP 275.00 per night/room

Double Standard Rooms (no Balcony) (x 6)

TOP 240.00 per night/room

5. The Captain Cook

cookapartments@yahoo.com

www.captaincooktonga.com

*TOP310 per night for 1 or 2 persons - for a 2-
bedroom apartment.*

6. Emerald

emeraldhoteltonga@gmail.com

emerald-joe@hotmail.com

www.emerald-tonga.com

(We are just 1 minutes' walk to Tanoa)

Ocean View King Deluxe

TOP220.00 per night

Twin Deluxe

TOP199.00 per night

King Garden View Deluxe

TOP180.00 per night

7. Meida Hotel
meidahotel@gmail.com *Single normal rooms TOP190.00 per night*
Single small room TOP150.00 per night
8. Villa Ishadora
villaishadora@yahoo.com *Garden View TOP200.00 per night*
Ocean View TOP220.00 per night
9. Simon's Place
simonsplacetonga@gmail.com *TOP130.00 per night*
info@simonsplacetonga.com
10. City Hotel
[info@cityhotel.tonga.com](mailto:info@cityhotel.tonga) *Twin Single Beds TOP160.00 per day*
Double Queen bed TOP180.00 per day
11. Water Front
www.tongawaterfrontlodge.com *TOP260.00 per night*
waterfrol@kalianet.to

Please check for provision of airport transfer and free WIFI. You can also search for other accommodations which are available in Nuku'alofa

Visa for entry to the Kingdom of Tonga

Visa is the responsibility of the participant and/or his/her Government. The organizers of this Workshop are not responsible for requesting or applying for the visa. When a visa is needed, any visa fees payable is the responsibility of the participant and/or his/her Government and is not reimbursable by the organizers.

A traveller to the Kingdom is required to have a valid return ticket out of the Kingdom to a country that s/he shall be able to enter into.

If a non-Tongan passport holder is a citizen from a country NOT listed below, s/he requires a letter of authority allowing him/her to travel to Tonga and apply on arrival in the Kingdom for a visitor's visa

Visa Waiver Countries

The following countries are NOT required to apply for a visa to enter Tonga. They will be issued upon arrival with a visitor's visa for 31 days, free of charge and this can be extended for up to six months. If any of the countries below belong to the Schengen Member States then they get an automatic 90 days upon arrival.

Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, China SARs ONLY (Hong Kong and Macao), Cook Islands, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, France, French Polynesia (New Caledonia, Tahiti, Wallis & Futuna), Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niue, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russia, Samoa, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Sweden, Switzerland, The Bahamas, Tokelau, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United States of America, Vanuatu.

Please note, visitors from all other countries need visas prior to arrival. If you do require a visa, contact Ms Ilaisipa 'Alipate at Foreign Affairs via email laupeau@gmail.com or Tongan Immigration Department at visatonga@gmail.com or phone +676 26 696 or +676 26 970.

Transit visa

Participants, depending on final travel itinerary, may be required to travel to Tonga via Australia, and/or Fiji and/or New Zealand. Transit visa, if needed, is the sole responsibility of the participant.

Airport and flights

International Airports are located on Tongatapu, Fua'amotu International Airport is located 21km south of the capital Nuku'alofa. Tongatapu domestic airport is located alongside Fua'amotu International Airport.

Air New Zealand, Pacific Blue, and Fiji Airways flies to Tonga several times per week from Australia, Fiji and New Zealand with connections from most cities. Real Tonga is currently the only domestic airline servicing the Kingdom of Tonga. Their fleet of aircrafts service 6 airports ('Eua, Tongatapu, Ha'apai, Vava'u, Niuatoputapu and Niuafu'ou). Their flights to Tongatapu's neighbouring island of 'Eua, about 7 minutes, is reported to be the shortest commercial flight in the world.

Transportation to and from Airport/Hotel

There is no public bus service directly to the airport, but shuttles and taxis are available for international flights. Most accommodation in Nuku'alofa provides pick-up services for their guests if you let them know in advance. There are tour operators that provide transfers to and from the domestic and international airport.

Taxis

There are many taxis throughout Tonga with the majority based in Tongatapu. Taxis are often unmarked and are identified by the letter T at the beginning of the number plate. Taxis are not metered and it is important to always agree on the fare before departure. An acceptable fare from

the International Airport to downtown Nuku'alofa would be TOP50.00 and short trips around the capital TOP5.00 – 6.00. Taxis can also be hired for a half or full day for sightseeing.

Rental Cars

Rental cars are another popular way to get around Tonga and there are several companies operating rental fleets in Tonga. A Tongan visitor driver's license can be easily obtained from the Ministry of Transport in Nuku'alofa and is required for all drivers in Tonga. Tongan's drive on the left-hand side of the road. People drive very slowly in Tonga, observing all the rules of 50 km/hr in towns and villages and outside these areas 70 km/hr.

Bus

The buses in Tonga are an inexpensive way of getting around. There is no scheduled timetable, however, buses usually start early in the morning around 8:00 and run until 17:00 and no buses operate on Sundays. It is advisable if you have travelled out of Nuku'alofa for the day that you are on a bus for return into town by 15:00.

There are two central bus stations located along Vuna Road in Nuku'alofa. Opposite the Tonga Visitors Bureau office, is the Central Bus Station that takes you to the Hospital and around the town area. To travel to the far eastern and western districts, catch a bus from the station opposite the Ministry of Education building.

Currency

The currency in Tonga is "Pa'anga". ATMs are available in the capital city Nuku'alofa. There are several ATM's in Nuku'alofa and one in the general public area of the Fua'amotu International Airport (*The one at the Airport can however occasionally run out of cash*). Westpac and ANZ BANK currently operate all these ATM's. Most larger tourist service providers and supermarkets accept local bankcards as well as Visa and MasterCard and occasionally AMEX and Diners Club.

Most banks are open Monday – Friday, 9am – 4pm and Saturday from 8.30am – 12noon.

Tipping

Tipping is not expected in Tonga but is always appreciated as a reward for good service (*and you will find great service in Tonga!*).

Business hours

The normal business hours in Tonga are 8:30am-4:30pm from Monday to Friday.

Sunday

All business, shops, supermarket, restaurants are closed on Sunday. Please ensure that you have everything you need before Sunday if you will arrive on Saturday. Hotels and accommodations operate normally on Sunday.

If you are arriving on Saturday afternoon change your money at the airport and if you need SIM card buy them also in the airport as most of these services are already close in Nuku'alofa

Time

Tonga Time (TOT) is 13 hours ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

Climate

Tonga has a unique tropical climate with an average annual daytime temperature of 24°C or 75°F. In the summer from December to April the temperatures are warmer and more humid but never above 35°C or 95°F and the winter months from May to November are cooler and dryer and never below 18°C or 64°F.

Overall Tonga enjoys a climate that is warm and pleasant all year round. Any time of the year is a perfect time to visit and enjoy this unique pacific island Kingdom and all it has to offer.

Electricity Supply

Electricity in Tonga is 240 volts AC Hz/50 cycle.

Hotels generally provide wall sockets in every bathroom for razors and hair dryers, accommodating “triangular 3-pin plugs.”



Safety

Please ensure hotel rooms are locked at all times. There are no traffic lights crossings, make sure all vehicles have stopped before you cross in the crossings.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

922: Police
999: Fire Emergency
933: Ambulance

General Information

Tongatapu and Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

Tongatapu – ‘Sacred South’ – is the southern starting point for visitors exploring the Kingdom of Tonga. Every visitor can expect a warm welcome at one of the world’s most easy-going international airports before journeying north across the island to the Tongan capital of Nuku’alofa. The harbour-side town is the centre of Tongan commerce, government and the residence of the Royal Family in the South Pacific’s only monarchy. Around 70,000 people live on Tongatapu, and Nuku’alofa – ‘Abode of Love’ – is a vibrant introduction to the Kingdom. Ferryboats and trading ships dot Nuku’alofa Harbour, preparing to venture to the far-flung Vava’u, Ha’apai and Niua island groups to the north.

King George Taufa’ahau Tupou I issued the Constitution of Tonga on 4 November 1875, in Nuku'alofa. This Declaration of the Constitution of Tonga formalised Nuku'alofa as the Capital of Tonga.

Nuku’alofa’s Talamahu market is a proud local affair, selling fresh tropical produce and authentic Tongan arts and crafts. On Sundays, the churches of Tongatapu glow with soaring harmonies and warm welcome to visitors.

Ancient Tongan history includes the fascinating 11th century Ha’amonga ‘a Maui trilithon and the ancient Langi (terraced tombs) of the Tongan kings. More recent are the Tongatapu landing sites of Abel Tasman and Captain James Cook, and on Nuku’alofa’s waterfront, one can find the elegant Royal Palace.

Offshore island resorts effortlessly combine the rustic with the romantic. The ‘Anahulu Caves and the Mapua ‘a Vaea blowholes present Tongatapu’s more rugged natural beauty.



The Royal Palace



Basilica St. Anthony of Padua (Catholic)



Old Prime Minister's Office



Downtown Nuku'alofa



Ha'amonga Trilithon



Handicraft-Talamahu Market



Main island, Tongatapu



Map of Tonga

Points of Contact

Local arrangements:

Mr. Viliami Folau
 Surveying Division
 Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
 Tonga
 Email: viliami.folau@gmail.com or vfolau@mlnr.gov.to

For general administrative matters:

Ms. Vilma Frani
 United Nations Statistics Division
 Department of Economic and Social Affairs
 Email: frani@un.org

Substantive matters:

Mr. TEO CheeHai
 Global Geospatial Information Management
 United Nations Statistics Division
 Department of Economic and Social Affairs
 Email: teo@un.org

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