



**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 a improved geospatial information management.

GOALS ACHIEVED.....cont'd

- 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/policies

FIJI DATA CHALLENGEScont'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 & Policies
 - 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**