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UN-GGIM
UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



SDG
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Expert Consultation and Meeting on Enhancing Geospatial Information Management Arrangements and Accelerating the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals together with the Sub-regional Workshop on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Framework for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories

SPC Pasifika Conference Room
Suva, Fiji, 11 – 15 November 2024

Logistical and Information Note

Preamble

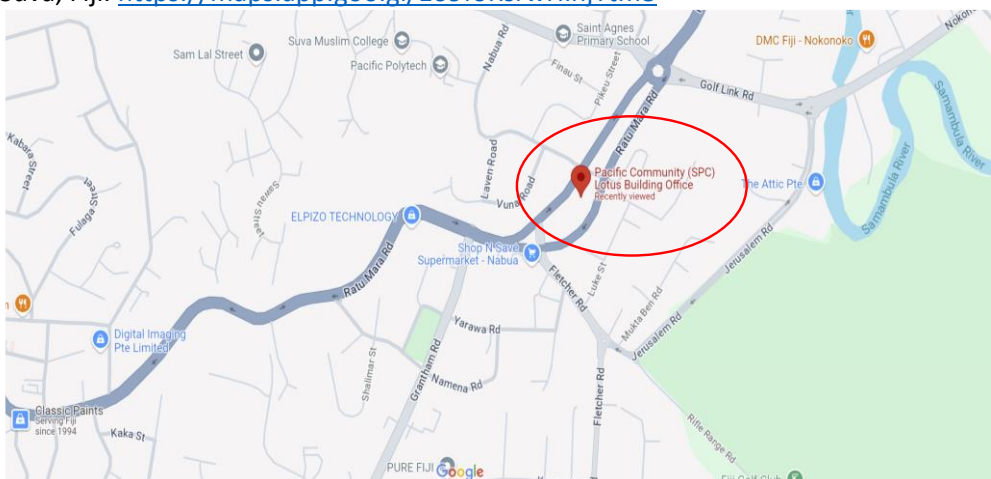
In this logistical and information note, you will find relevant information about the logistics and arrangements for the Expert Consultation and Meeting on Enhancing Geospatial Information Management Arrangements and Accelerating the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals together with the Sub-regional Workshop on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Framework for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories, including information on the venue, visa, accommodation, and general information about Suva, Fiji.

Logistical arrangements for the event

The in-person expert consultation and meeting and sub-regional workshop is organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations through its Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division and the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Division of Sustainable Development Goals jointly with the Pacific Community through its Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division, the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council, and the SDG Data Alliance, and supported by the International Hydrographic Organization. The event will generally be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Venue

The event will be held at the Pasifika Conference Room, Level 1 – Lotus Building, Pacific Community (SPC) in Suva, Fiji. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/1o9foRsrwHihjTtm8>





Language

This expert consultation and meeting and sub-regional workshop will be conducted in English.

Participants

This event is an in-person closed event and participation is by invitation only. Participants are expected to be designated geospatial information management representatives, leads or focal persons, and subject matter experts from the Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

Accommodation

Participants are responsible for arranging their accommodation and can make the necessary reservations through all major booking websites. The United Nations will not be able to assist in booking or in bearing any related costs and expenses. A few recommendations are as follows;

1. Grand Pacific Hotel <https://maps.app.goo.gl/UMw182QRpFpD5fwj8>
2. Holiday Inn Suva <https://maps.app.goo.gl/uyELQB2QVcoRS52g6>
3. Tanoa Plaza Hotel <https://maps.app.goo.gl/cyf2ewP65bEbsRE9A>
4. Suva Motor Inn <https://maps.app.goo.gl/2EukXhyrhy4XqSkr6>
5. Capricorn Hotel Suva <https://maps.app.goo.gl/1GfMBpbsxKtPpRvE9>
6. Quest Suva <https://maps.app.goo.gl/sy3dyCE5otpmDJ9YA>
7. Southern Cross <https://maps.app.goo.gl/4x1DdyJRnTNnNR9h9>
8. de Vos On The Park <https://maps.app.goo.gl/m9JKCx5qzUExgns16>
9. Five Princes Hotel <https://maps.app.goo.gl/1EXCYjArXhdcPKVC7>

Travel information

Participants are responsible for their travel to and from Fiji and for acquiring entry visas into Fiji and any necessary transit visas, including necessary travel and health insurance as applicable. The United Nations will not be able to assist in bearing any related costs or in obtaining required visa

Visa

Some countries do require a Visa for travel to Suva, Fiji. For a list of countries whose citizens do not require a visa for entry into Suva, Fiji, visit <https://www.immigration.gov.fj/visa-exempted-countries/>. For visa requirements (for non-exempted countries only), visit <https://www.immigration.gov.fj/visa-application/>.

As unforeseen events may affect or extend visa processing times, applications should be made well in advance.

Transportation

Taxis with reasonable costs are available to travel in and around Suva.

Buses are also available to travel from Nadi International Airport to Suva; refer to https://www.airportsfiji.com/pdf/pacific_transport.pdf

Taxis are available to travel from Nadi International Airport for a four-hour ride and from Nausori International Airport for a thirty-minute ride to your preferred hotels in Suva.

Health and Safety,

Proof of COVID vaccination is no longer required for entry into Fiji; <https://www.fiji.travel/things-to-know/travel-requirements/covid>. Refer to the link for additional information for health and safety in Fiji; [Health and Hospitals \(fiji.travel\)](#)

To be prepared for any health and safety; keep your own first aid kits which will include bandages and mosquito repellants.

Weather

Fiji has a warm, comfortable sub-tropical climate with only two seasons: summer and winter. Summer, from November to April, is the wet season characterized by long, warm days, short afternoon downpours, and higher humidity.

November in Fiji brings warm temperatures, with an average ranging from 22°C to 31°C (72°F to 88°F), offering an ideal climate for beach activities, outdoor excursions, and cultural experiences. Occasional tropical showers add to the lushness of the landscapes.

Suva's proximity to mountainous terrain, such as the nearby peaks of the Suva Range, contributes to orographic lifting, as a result, it is common for Suva to receive rainfall, contributing to its lush green landscapes and abundant vegetation.

Currency and banking

The local currency in Fiji is the Fijian dollar. It is available in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100, as well as 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, \$1 and \$2 coins. You can either order travel money in advance or visit a currency exchange once you arrive in Fiji. Nadi, Suva and Savusavu airports all have 24-hour currency exchanges, plus you will find outlets in many major towns. There is also the option of using ATMs, some of which are located inside resorts and hotels.

It is possible to pay by credit or with debit card at many places in Fiji. American Express, Visa and Mastercard are accepted at larger establishments. You will want to notify your bank that you are traveling in Fiji beforehand to avoid any issues. If you need to visit a bank during your vacation, note that many are not open on weekends.

Telephone communications, mobile telephones and Internet

The country code for Fiji is +679. Upon arrival into the Nadi International Airport, mobile phone providers are available with tourist packages for internet data and calls; A prepaid SIM card made exclusively for visitors to Fiji is known as a Fiji travel SIM card. You can use your phone when inside the nation without having to pay exorbitant roaming fees. As soon as you land in Fiji, you can activate these SIM cards and start using them to stay connected.

Complementary internet will be available during the workshop at the meeting venue.

Electricity

Fiji uses type I power outlets, which have three flat pins in a triangular pattern. These are the same as the outlets in Australia and New Zealand. Electricity supply is 240 volts, which is higher than in some other countries, such as the United States, which uses 120 volts. Fiji operates at 50Hz.

On larger islands, 60% of Fiji's electricity comes from hydropower and biomass. On smaller islands, Solar Home Systems (SHS) provide electricity.

Laptops and Printing

Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptops. The meeting will be mainly paperless. All the meeting documents and the power point presentations will be made available via cloud; link will be provided. Printing will be made available only upon request, please reach out to meeting organizers for assistance.

Time Zone

Fiji is one of the first countries in the Pacific to welcome a new day, located in the UTC/GMT +12 Time Zone.

Fiji Standard Time (FST) is 12 hours ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC+12). This means that when it is noon in Fiji, it is midnight at the Prime Meridian.

- Sydney, Australia: Fiji is usually 2 hours ahead of Sydney. So, if it is 10 AM in Sydney, it is 12 PM in Fiji.
- New York City, USA: Fiji is 17 hours ahead of New York. If it is noon on Monday in Fiji, it is 7 PM on Sunday in New York.

Attire

Participants are encouraged to wear formal at this meeting, The formal attire is reflective to the “Bula” or the Pacific style.

Enquiries

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