



AND **Locate25** | **G**
THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL CONFERENCE

Presented at the FIG Working Week 2025,
6-10 April 2025 in Brisbane, Australia
FIG **Geospatial**
Council of Australia

Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience: Championing a Digital Generation

Brisbane, Australia 6-10 April



Pacific Geospatial & Surveying Council (PGSC) and the Pacific Community (SPC) Partnership Desk

Vaipo Mataora

Chair - Pacific Geospatial & Surveying Council (PGSC)

Email: vaipo.mataora@cookislands.gov.ck



PLATINUM SPONSORS



What is the PGSC?

- **The Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council**
- **Independent regional body** advancing geospatial and surveying standards and capacity
- Established in the margins of the Pacific GIS/RS User Conference in November 2014
- Governed by the **PGSC Charter** endorsed by 11 Pacific Island governments
- Implementing and monitoring progress against the **PGSC Strategy (2017-2027)**
- Supported by **PGSC Partnership Desk** (GEM Division SPC)



Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council 2018



Chair Ms Rosamond Bing, CEO - Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (Tonga)

Vice-Chair Ms Meizyanne Hicks, Director Geospatial - Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources (Fiji)

Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council 2020

The Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council brings together regional experts, practitioners, and heads of surveying, geospatial information management, and hydrography to report progress against the PGSC Strategy (2017–2027), conduct council business, identify key actions for working groups to progress, and provide a platform to raise regional issues and concerns related to geospatial and surveying capacity development, policy, technical standards, technology, and resourcing.



6th PGSC Meeting – Sydney Australia



PGSC Business Meeting (11th December 2023)

- Council Elections
- 5th PGSC Meeting Minutes
- PGSC Review of Charter
- Terms of reference: -
 - PGSC Women Network
 - PGSC Young Surveyors Geospatial Network
- PGSC Working Groups
- PIC Country Updates
- PGSC Action Items



Mission

Pacific Island survey and geospatial services, including hazard mapping, urban planning, cadastre mapping, hydrography, and other geospatial requirements for sustainable development, are sufficiently resourced to respond to member country priorities.



PGSC Charter

- Drafted by committee in 2014 at inaugural PGSC meeting
- Endorsed by 11 Pacific Governments at Ministerial Level in 2015-2016
- Endorsed by Fiji at Cabinet Level in 2016

GOVERNEMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU VANUATU SERVICE DES TERRES, SERVICE TOPOGRAPHIQUE, REGISTREMENT DES HYPOTHEQUES

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, LAND SURVEY AND LAND REGISTRY

SAC POSTAL RESERVE 9090 PORT VILA TELEPHONE: (678) 22892 FAX: (678) 22708 E-MAIL: lands@vanuatu.gov.vu

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29th April 2015

HON. RALPH REGENVANU
MINISTER OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES

Re: Seeking Endorsement of Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council Charter

Dear Hon. Minister,

As geospatial technology has improved over the last few decades, Pacific governments have come to rely more and more upon accurate mapping to inform decision-making around the issues of coastal development, natural resource management, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. In order to continue to improve these services, it is critical that our regional geospatial resources are further developed.

At last year's **Geographic Information Systems/ Remote Sensing Conference** in Suva (November 23-27), lands and ocean survey representatives from across the Pacific gathered to discuss and outline a strategy for advancing geospatial information and improving collaboration and coordination of activities in the region.

One of the key outcomes of this meeting was the resolution to establish a regional body of surveyors- the **Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC)**. The purpose of such a regional body is to address regional challenges, such as training and capacity building, as well as to further development and standardisation of geospatial information gathering, dissemination, and application. This resolution has been a long time in the making and was, in fact, one of the recommendations from the **Pacific FIG (International Surveyors Federation) Symposium** in 2013, in a document called *'The Suva Statement on Spatially Responsible Governance.'*

Honorable Minister, a copy of the proposed PGSC Charter is attached for your review and endorsement.

Recommendations:

1. That the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC) Charter is endorsed
2. That Martin Sokomanu, Surveyor General is appointed as representative from the Republic of Vanuatu to the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council. (PGSC)
3. That your decisions on (1) and (2) above are relayed to the SPC Geoscience Secretariat.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, questions or suggestions regarding this document. I look forward to your positive response and appreciate the opportunity to represent Vanuatu as we lead this important regional initiative.

Sincerely,


Martin Sokomanu
Surveyor General





Endorsed by: **Ralph Regenvanu**
Minister of Lands and Natural Resources

VANUATU


Office of the Prime Minister

MEMORANDUM

To: Permanent Secretary for Lands and Mineral Resources *M. Lotawa (Ms)*

From: Secretary to the Cabinet

Date: 18 April 2016

Subject: Cabinet Decision

Enclosed please find Cabinet Decision No.78 on the subject of *Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council* for insertion in File No. *1/1/2686* or in an appropriate file.

Please acknowledge receipt.


M. Lotawa (Ms)
for Secretary to the Cabinet

(b) PS Sec.
1. Pl. place a copy in Cabinet Paper/Decision file
2. A copy each to M. Lotawa & D. Kiran.

Ene

CP (2016): Written Opinion
Date: 13/04/16

CABINET DECISION
Wednesday 13th April, 2016

78. Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council - 1/1/2686 CP(16)61

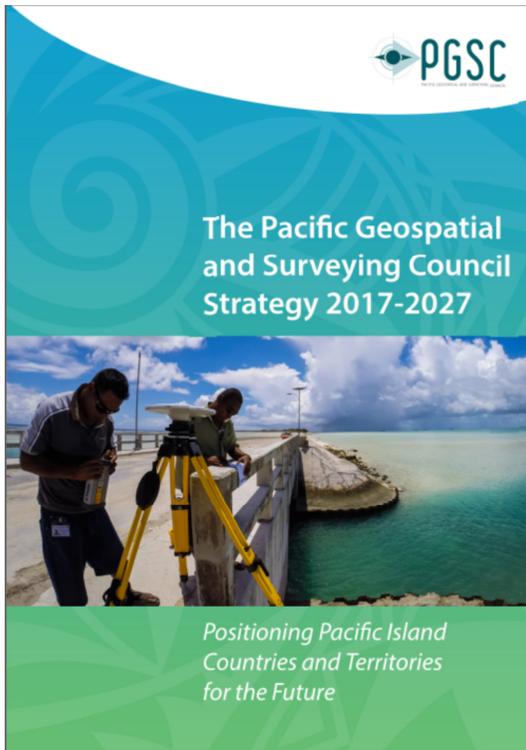
Cabinet, by Written Opinion:

- (i) agreed that Fiji endorse the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council Charter, and become a member of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council.


Susan Kiran (Ms)
Secretary to the Cabinet

FIJI

PGSC Strategy



The late Prime Minister, Hon. Samiuela 'Akilisi Pōhiva launched the **world's first regional strategy for surveying & geospatial development on 10 April 2018 in Nuku'alofa, Tonga**

Also pictured, the Australian High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commissioner, Japanese Consulate, UNGGIM, and the Pacific Community (PGSC Partnership Desk)

PGSC Working Groups

Positioning



Supporting countries to modernise their Geodetic Reference Frames and align to the Global model

Geospatial Policy & Data Management



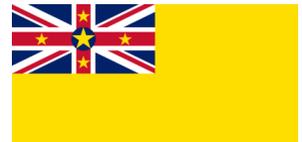
Supporting countries to develop policies and tools for improved geospatial information and data management

Capacity Building



Supporting countries to build existing and future capacity through expanded professional development and educational opportunities

PGSC Partnerships



PGSC Partnership Desk



- Strengthen Partnership Desk and provide effectiveness towards:-
 - Regional Collaboration and Coordination
 - Resource Mobilisation
 - Policy, Standards & Framework
 - Support to meetings and workshops
 - Enhance capability and capacity for geospatial and surveying
 - Technical Services (Geodetic & Hydrographic Surveying, Geospatial and Remote Sensing)
 - Communication
 - PGSC Webpage (website!!)
 - Other platforms; Facebook and LinkedIn
 - Webinars and Virtual Meetings

PGSC Partnership Desk

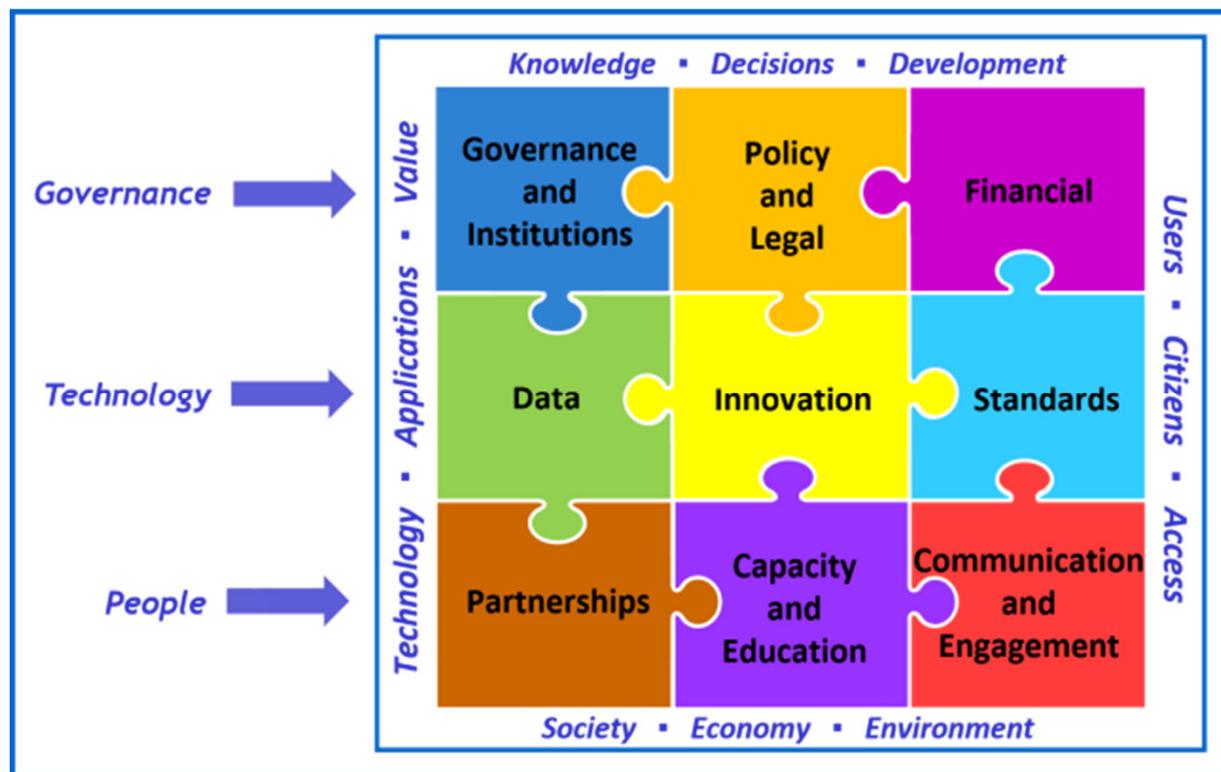


- Strengthen Partnership Desk and provide effectiveness towards:-
 - Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL)
 - Review of PGSC Strategy 2017-2027
 - Capacity Mapping
 - Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI)
 - Networks (PGWN and PYSN)
 - Factsheets (Women in Geospatial & Surveying)
 - Geodetic Infrastructure
 - PGSC Equipment Pool
 - GNSS CORS in the Pacific
 - Geodetic Data, Information & Reporting (Ocean Portal)
 - Data processing and analysis
 - Historical data & Information

Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council



1. UN-IGIF Country Level Action Plan



- ❖ Alignment of geospatial strategies and development of country-level IGIF Action Plans
- ❖ Technical guidance, awareness & build institutional capacity
- ❖ Regional coordination and partnerships

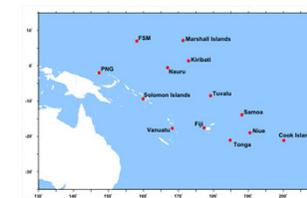
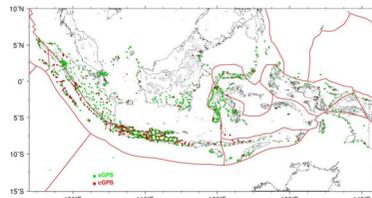
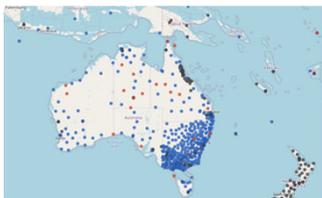
Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council



2. Geodetic Infrastructure - GNSS & Tide Gauges



- ❖ Infrastructure development & support
- ❖ Funding and technical guidance for the installation
- ❖ Collaboration with regional partners to ensure sustainability.
- ❖ Site identification and logistical support for station installation.
- ❖ Data sharing



Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council



3. Regional and National Knowledge Capacity

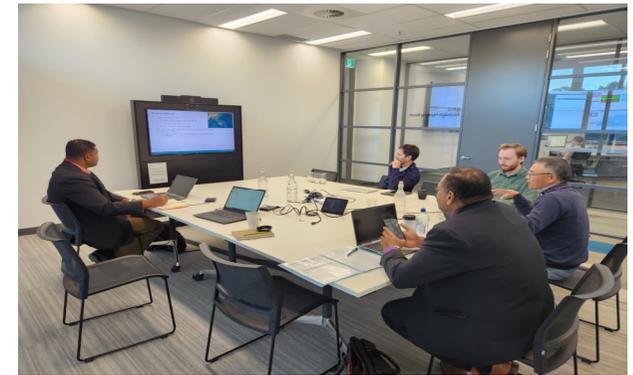


- ❖ **Technical guidance, awareness & build institutional capacity**
- ❖ **Training curriculum tailored to the Pacific context.**
- ❖ **Establishment of train-the-trainer programs to ensure long-term sustainability.**
- ❖ **Hands-on training on GNSS CORS**
- ❖ **e-learning platforms**

PGSC Reflections 2024



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique





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 Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories and the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council
11 - 15 November 2024 | Suva, Fiji





**Global & Regional Collaborations
UN-GGCE International Workshop
"Joining Land and Sea"**

PGSC & the Partnership Desk 2025



- **Global Surveyors Day** (21st March); **World Hydrography Day** (21st June); **World GIS Day** (19th Nov)
- **FIG Working Week** (Brisbane) – **RFiP and SIDS Session**; April 2025
- **GNSS Applications and Capacity** Webinar & Workshop (COSPPac); May 2025~
- UN-GGCE **Geodesy Capacity** Development Workshop; July 2025
- Fiji Institute of **Surveyors Congress**; September 2025
- IAG/GGOS Geohazards Focus Area, IUGG GeoRisk Commission, IUGG Joint Tsunami Commission, **GeTEWS Oceania Workshop**; November 2025
- **7th PGSC Business Meeting**; November 2025

Communications & Community



Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council
Public group · 1.3K members

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3998884766792177/>



Home > Updates from SPC > Web Stories
Mapping our Pacific Geospatial Future

Suva | 21 June 2022



Imagine a world without maps. It's hard to do. Humans are born map-makers, instinctively looking for landmarks, making sense of patterns, and forming connections when we venture beyond our known environment.

For this reason, geospatial science may be one of the most important fields of study you have ever heard of. Geospatial information is location information. At its simplest, this can be topographical information found on a map. But you can also add in layers of location-tagged data, to show changes or trends, for example, in land use, population density, vaccine distribution, or coral reef health over time.

Feature

understanding progress to CDM, there are also other initiatives that will require attention, such as:

- Review of legislation of the Pacific Lands Act, and review thereof; and
- Review of the Pacific Lands Act and review thereof; and
- Review of the Pacific Lands Act and review thereof; and

Enhancing challenges through Partnership, Pacific Geospatial & Surveying Council (PGSC) and the Pacific Community (PC) by Heidi K. Suter

In November 2018, a group of Pacific regional surveying and geospatial experts met in the margins of the annual Pacific Geospatial Information Management Conference in Suva. The aim was to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the Pacific region, and to explore ways to enhance the Pacific Geospatial & Surveying Council (PGSC) and the Pacific Community (PC) partnership.

PGSC is an independent regional organization that provides information and survey services to its members and other stakeholders. The PGSC aims to collaborate with the Pacific Community (PC) to enhance the Pacific Geospatial & Surveying Council (PGSC) and the Pacific Community (PC) partnership.

The 14 members of the PGSC are:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Barbados
- Belize
- Brunei Darussalam
- Christmas Island
- Cook Islands
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Guam
- Kingman Reef
- Marshall Islands
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Papua New Guinea
- Tonga
- Tuvalu

Modern Geospatial Infrastructure - Key to Consistency and Efficiency
By: Joseph Kwan, Senior Surveyor, Auckland, New Zealand

Fiji is highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones, coastal erosion and flooding due to climate change and subsequent sea level rise. This natural event affects the food security, livelihoods, infrastructure, health, housing and livelihood of over 100,000 Fijians. It is therefore critical for Fiji to enhance the resilience of coastal disaster and climate change. Surveyors can enhance this aspect by applying the modern geospatial infrastructure to the coastal disaster and climate change. This involves the use of modern geospatial infrastructure, such as GNSS, GIS, and other modern geospatial infrastructure, to enhance the resilience of coastal disaster and climate change.



The most relevant SDGs related to the presentation and theme of this session



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

International Federation of Surveyors supports the Sustainable Development Goals