

Fiji Geodetic Datum Surveys, Data Handling and Compilation

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SUMMARY

Fiji's National Development Plan (NDP) 2025 – 2029 and Vision 2050, with the vision of “Transforming Fiji”, maps out the way forward for all the Fijians to realise our full potential socio-economic benefits as a nation. A modernized and international recognized Geospatial Reference Systems is a necessary tool, to help address the growing demand for more precise positioning frameworks to enable for sustainable development. It is also essential for effective decision making and underpinning infrastructure which is applied in areas of natural hazard and disaster management, climate change and sea level monitoring, geospatial information, mapping and navigation by society at large every day. The geodetic infrastructure provides a foundation for Fiji's land administration and development. In the 2015 General Assembly, Fiji through the office of the Permanent Representative to the United Nations tabled a draft resolution on “A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development” on behalf of United Nations Global Geodetic Information Management (UNGGIM). This resolution was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/69/266) in its 80th plenary meeting held on 26th February 2015 on the Global Geodetic Reference Framework for Sustainable Development. In alignment to the adopted Resolution, Fiji commenced in upgrading its local reference systems based on World Geodetic System 1972 to an international geodetic reference system. Adopting the international reference systems will ensure Fiji's compatibility across the geospatial reference systems at national, regional, and global level. In return supports human activity that is related to, or dependent on, geographic location and information about resources. This paper highlights the journey so far, and the challenges faced in modernizing its reference systems for the pacific island state.