



# 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](mailto:vaipo.mataora@cookislands.gov.ck)



# 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.





# 6<sup>th</sup> PGSC Meeting – Sydney Australia



## PGSC Business Meeting (11<sup>th</sup> December 2023)

- Council Elections
- 5<sup>th</sup> 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

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E-MAIL: lands@vanuatu.gov.vu

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

PRIVATE MAIL BAG 9090  
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29<sup>th</sup> 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.'

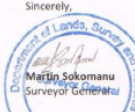
Honorable Minister, a copy of the proposed PGSC Charter is attached for your review and endorsement.

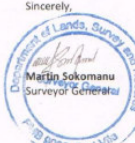
**Recommendations:**


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 *11/4/2016*


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

Enc

(b) PS Sec.  
1. Pl. place a copy in Cabinet Paper/Decision file  
2. A copy each to *Adm. & Dev. Div.*

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


**CABINET DECISION**  
*Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2016*

78. Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council - 1/1/2686

CP(16)61

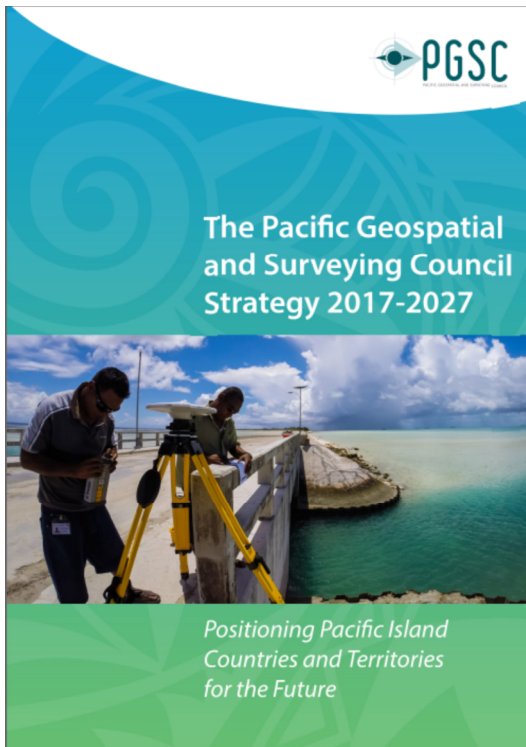
Cabinet, by Written Opinion:

- (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



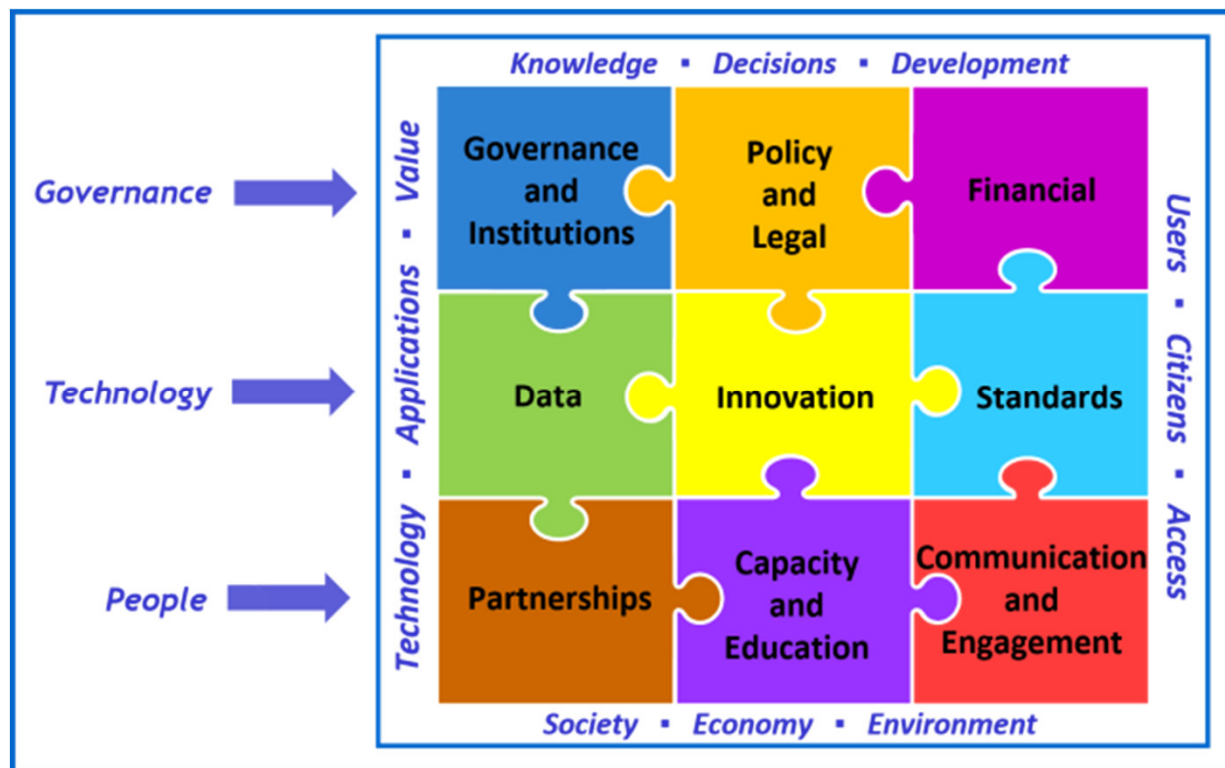
- Strengthen Partnership Desk and provide effectiveness towards:-
  - Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL)
    - Review of PGSC Strategy 2017-2027
    - Capacity Mapping
  - Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI)
    - Networks (PGWN and PYSN)
    - Factsheets (Women 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

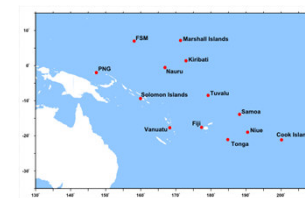
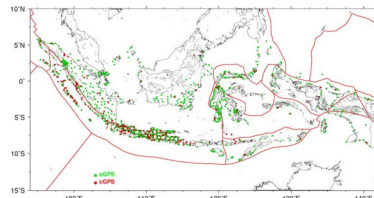
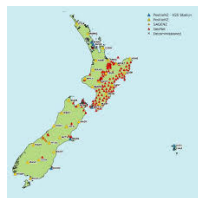
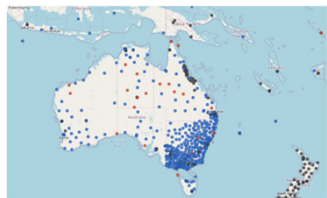
# Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council



## 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** (21<sup>st</sup> March); **World Hydrography Day** (21<sup>st</sup> June); **World GIS Day** (19<sup>th</sup> 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
- **7<sup>th</sup> PGSC Business Meeting**; November 2025







**WORKING  
WEEK 2025**

AND

**Locate25** |   
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Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience:  
Championing a Digital Generation



**Geospatial**  
Council of Australia

Brisbane, Australia 6–10 April

## 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

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