



*Tuesday, 24 June 2014, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Suva* - A broad range of geospatial data experts, managers and stakeholders from the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), as well as partner agencies convened for the 2nd CROP Spatial Data Infrastructure meeting. The session was held at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in Suva on June 17th to 18th 2014.

The meeting was opened by Prof Michael Petterson, Director of SPC's Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (AGTD), where he highlighted the various challenges facing effective geospatial data management in the Pacific. Such challenges cited were under-skilled staff, limited understanding by responsible personnel of available datasets, and obsolete formats of residing data. He encouraged the meeting to bring about some positive outcomes to address these and the many other challenges.

Participants reviewed current spatial data systems within CROP agencies to find ways to harmonize current efforts and to identify opportunities for future collaboration. SPC's PacGeo, Open Access Data Repository for the Pacific, was showcased, along with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) ongoing efforts to develop [ESIS.sprep.org](http://ESIS.sprep.org), an Open Access Repository for Pacific Environmental data.

The meeting also addressed ways to promote and strengthen avenues for standardised, cost-effective data sharing across agencies and Pacific Island countries, in order to reduce duplication of data collection and management efforts.

In-depth discussions around achieving the Pacific Oceanscape Framework Strategic Priorities was also held, in particular building the political will to invest in spatial data infrastructures in order to achieve some of the priorities.

One key result of the meeting was the decision to standardise global data standards across sister agencies, and enable secure data access within agencies, inter-agencies and externally.

Around 20 participants attended the two day meeting from SPC's AGTD, SPC's Fisheries,

## CROP Agencies and International Stakeholders Highlight the Significance of Spatial Data for the Pacific

Written by Administrator

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Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Division, University of Sydney, GRID Arendal, Geoscience Australia, GIZ, SPREP, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and CSIRO. This consultation is part of a broader technical collaboration between the agencies involved across a broad range of disciplines.

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*For further information contact: Sachindra Singh, ICT for Development Section, Applied Geoscience and Technology Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community – [sachindras@spc.int](mailto:sachindras@spc.int)*