

Fiji GIS&RS User Meeting – 19.02.13 / 14:30 at SOPAC

The GIS&RS User Meeting was organised and hosted by SOPAC, it was the first meeting in Fiji after 1 ½ years.

Updates

Lukemine Enterprises

- Mineral resources Department, Water Authority Fiji, GIZ and Department of Environment purchased different versions of Trimble Juno GPS units.

Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP)

- No updates

Lands Department

- Mapping of state leases currently the main task;
- Occupied with migration from GeoMedia, Microstation and MapInfo to ArcGIS.

Biosecurity Authority Fiji (BAF)

GIS is planned for the near future to:

- Create maps of ports and transport lines into Fiji from there;
- Monitor biosecurity risk items;
- Monitor insect damage outbreak within Fiji;
- Forecast the spread of damaging insects;

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

The WCS GIS will be utilised for integrated coastal management in Fiji financed through an ADB grant.

University of the South Pacific (USP)

Looking for presentations from the industry to demonstrate students real GIS applications;

Fiji Forestry Department

- Working on printing the forest cover maps, which can be performed at 1:50,000 scale for islands like Koro and Gau but is currently limited to 1:100,000 scale for the main islands due to printer problems;
- Working with SOPAC on the forest mapping at 1:10,000 scale utilising very high resolution (VHR) image data;
- Will work on forest stratification using VHR image data and other information such as height above mean sea level and rainfall maps.

SPC Land Resource Division (LRD)

- Starting GIS and conducting mapping of Sabeto area where the 1:10,000 land cover map created at SOPAC is further stratified;

SPC-SOPAC

- Moved the main focus from utility support to vegetation mapping;
- Main activity is the land use mapping as support for food security and climate change activities financed by USAID;
- Edwin Liava'a has left SOPAC out of personal reason and established the consulting company CheSpatial (<http://www.chespatial.com/>). He is still in

close contact with the GIS&RS unit at SOPAC. Conway Pene from USP will start in the SOPAC GIS&RS unit within the next weeks.

Presentations:

Vilisi Tokalauvere explained ***Choiseul's Climate Change Planning*** where several donor organisations try to coordinate their efforts to jointly develop the area. GIS&RS will be a linking tool in Choiseul as the missing land cover information is required for most stakeholders. Lands Department, Forestry Department, Agriculture Department and Environment Department currently delineating jointly land cover features on 1:50,000 scale image data (SPOT and THEOS). Later this will be carried out at 1:10,000 scale (WorldView-2 image data) for selected areas (Choiseul and Rennell) and supported by field work. The most probably will allow calibrating the 1:50,000 image data and to adjust the country wide interpretation.

Salote Baleisuva explained with her presentation the ***establishment of a Solomon Islands soil layer*** which will be available for all GIS users in Solomon Islands. All physical soil maps have been scanned and are currently being digitised. They will be rasterised to be also available as raster data for overlay analysis. An important part will be the transformation of soil description stored in reports to a database where each description can be linked to the corresponding spatial map element.

Wolf Forstreuter presented “***VHR Satellite Image Data for Land Cover Mapping***”. He highlighted in his presentation that: (i) WorldView-2 (WV-2) image data is currently the most cost effective solution between all VHR satellite data. This is through the partnership between SOPAC and DigitalGlobe the world largest image data company. SOPAC acts as reseller but is not allowed to keep part of the reseller discount due to the status as regional organisation. (ii) WV-2 data provides at the same time a much better quality than other satellites (8 spectral bands instead of 4); (iii) SOPAC pre-processing provides enhanced products, which are important especially for Pacific Island Countries such as atmospheric correction for pan-sharpened images, without charging extra.

Conway Pene presented “***Some Cartography Tips for Better Looking Maps***”. Conway explained and demonstrated that with a few tricks a boring map can be converted to something which becomes an eye catcher just by adding elements such as colour, topographic and bathymetry texture, etc. During the discussion the audience agreed that the cartographic part of map production is often neglected today as mostly GIS user talks to GIS user. However, to sell information to GIS inexperienced political decision makers it can be essential to polish the information to be delivered.

Pacific Island GIS&RS User Conference 2013

- The time window is fixed from 25th to 29th of November where the Monday (25.11.13) is reserved for workshops.
- The theme of the conference is “Connecting the Pacific with Maps”.

- o The website for the conference is established <http://picgirs.appspot.com> and the conference is already placed in the ISPRS event calendar and will be placed in other calendars during the next days.

Next GIS&RS User Meeting

There was a general consensus to restart the meetings after a pause of 1 ½ years. Fiji Lands Department offered to host the next meeting on Tuesday 12th March 2013 at 14:30, venue most likely to be Department HQ, Nasese, Suva.

The actual and potential GIS users and others interested in the meeting are stored in a database which will be handed over to Lands Department for extraction of e-mail addresses.

Further announcement will be on GIS-PacNet. All meeting participants agreed to be subscribed to this GIS focussed information distribution list.