

GIS&RS User Meeting 11.06.13 / 14:30 Department of Agriculture, Raiwaqa

Due to presence of Hon. Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forests, Ministry of Rural & Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Inia B. Seruiratu the meeting was reorganised. First the presentations were given followed by the updates.

1 Presentations:

(A) “Coconut Resource Assessment in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia” presented by Wolf Forstreuter, SPC-SOPAC. Wolf explained in his presentation the way the resource assessment was conducted as a combination of (i) image interpretation, (ii) GIS-based mapping, (iii) field work with forest measurement equipment, (iv) field data analysis in relational database and finally (v) GIS overlay analysis as buffer zones around the roads to limit the production area to economically harvestable coconut palm stands.

Wolf mentioned that Directors of SPC-LRD and SPC-SOPAC have realised that there is demand in other Pacific Island Countries and join their resources for a land cover inventory group. The group will (a) conduct coconut, forest or land cover inventories where countries express need and do not have own capacity; (b) establish inventory units where countries need to build their own capacity and (c) enhance units in countries where inventories are conducted without appropriate methods and techniques.

(B) “Fiji datums, projections and coordinate systems”, by Conway Pene, SPC-SOPAC.

This presentation outlined the status of the Fiji mapping system, specifically the Fiji Map Grid and the Fiji Geodetic Datum. More and more data is being used that is in a coordinate system different from the Fiji system, and there is confusion about how to convert data between these different systems. A number of conversion parameters have been published, and some of these are now built in to GIS software. Users are applying these conversions without fully understanding the process and its implications. There is a need to agree on a common standard transformation that is made readily available to everyone in the GIS community.

2 Updates

SPC-SOPAC

- GIS Unit
 - 10:00 scale land cover (agriculture and forestry) mapping of Fiji continues in collaboration with Fiji Department of Agriculture and Department of Forestry
 - High resolution satellite imagery has been acquired for most of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, and will soon be acquired for outer islands of Fiji
 - A joint vegetation inventory unit has been set up between SPC-Land Resources Division and SPC-SOPAC. This unit will focus on forestry (including coconut) and vegetation inventory.
 - A 1-week training course is being held on GIS and GPS for staff of Fiji Department of Forestry (Northern Division office)

- Held under the MOU between Department of Forestry and SPC-SOPAC
- Islands and Oceans Programme
 - Pacific Regional Maritime boundary work continues in North Pacific
 - Recent agreement reached between Kiribati and US on shared maritime boundary

Town and country planning

- Village mapping project
 - Urban villages in Suva-Nausori areas mapped
 - Mapping of villages around Lautoka and Nadi
 - Possible redefinition of town boundaries too include urban village

Forestry

- National forest inventory map printing (forest inventory 2006)
 - Printing starting at Lands Department next week
 - Printing at 1:50,00 scale matching Fiji Topographic map sheets
- Forest mapping at 1:10,000 scale continues (forest/non-forest boundary)

Lands Department

- State Land System continues
 - Ground checking and comparison with existing state land database
 - This year (2013) State Land System to be completed, followed by freehold and native land in 2014
 - In cooperation with TLTB

Agriculture Department

- Two staff continue agriculture mapping at 1:10,000 scale at SOPAC
- Field teams visiting Kadavu and Vanua Levu

USP

- Thanks to former student who have been giving guest lectures
- Invitation to organisation to submit small project for students to work on during the second semester (July-October)

Biosecurity Authority

- Mapping of traps continues

Fiji Electricity Authority

- Field data collection in Western Viti Levu continues
- New GPS purchased
- Question raised about other organisation data charging policy; FEA is looking to charge for spatial data

General announcements

- 2013 Pacific GISRS Conference - dates have been shifted to 18-22 November. Venue and registration to be confirmed.

3 Next Meeting

- July 14:30, 9th July 2013 at Lands Department HQ, GCC Complex, Nasese