



FLIS NEWS

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STATE LAND GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM— "VANUAINFO"

In broad terms, a Geographical Information System (GIS) is defined as a technology (information-system) that enables the capture, modeling, manipulation, retrieval, analysis and representation of Geographical data. GIS is an enormously powerful tool for inventory, query, analysis and decision making in many diverse applications and industries.

The Department of Lands and Survey, in Fiji has recently set out its GIS section known as "**VanuaInfo**"

The objective of this project is to identify all the original state land parcels, map them and link to existing data base.

According to their new supervisor, the first stage of the project is to locate all Native and Crown Grants thus confirming its true status, i.e. either State or Freehold land. If found to be state land, it will further be identified as state land "with" or "without" title.

The second stage is identifying all the leases

within the original title and linking to new modified state land administration. The end product of the project is expected to provide management with all needed statistics and maps for sound decision making.



VanuaInfo team—Standing : Miss Rashmi Rita, Mr. Malakai Vakautawale, Mrs. Akata Takala
Sitting: Mr. Lorosio Raikivi

Special points of interest:

- The "VANUAVIEW" (a computerised map viewing software package) is available at FLIS.
- The Department of Lands & Survey has recently established its Marketing Policy.
- 349 Customary Fishing Right boundaries have been mapped out by FLIS for Native Land Fisheries Commission.
- GIS/RS User forum meets bi-monthly. The next meeting is on 12 April at USP's GIS unit.

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH AMBASSADOR

In September, 2004 the Department of Lands & Survey agreed to host an assignment with the Australian Youth Ambassador for Development under AusAid. The assignment position titled as System Analyst /Programmer and is based at the Fiji Land Information System Support Centre, located at 22 Gorrie Street, in Central Suva.

Mr. Morgan Martin-Skerm a graduate from Flinders University of South Australia with a Bachelor of Information Technology was nominated for this assignment. The assignment duration is 12 months and with Morgan's skills in database administration, development and programming he is hopeful that the one year term will enable him to meet the host's expectations

in terms of outcomes, duties and responsibilities. The editorial team wishes Morgan all the best during his 12 months attachment at FLIS.



Mr. Morgan Martin-Skerm at work - FLIS

DEPT. OF LANDS & SURVEYS WEBSITE

**“The Lands
Department website
address is:
www.lands.gov.fj”**

The FLIS web development team Sitiveni Gauna and Morgan Martin-Skerm have recently completed the Department of Lands and Survey website, which is located at www.lands.gov.fj. The development of the web site is the first step in the department’s overall online strategy, which aims to be a government leader in the provision of online services. The website currently has a joint focus of providing information and access to services for local residents and facilitating the liaison between the department and foreign investors. Information about specific functions of the department and contact details to key sections have been provided online in addition to information on land acts and legal issues. Specific products such as maps and aerial photography available from the Map Shop and VanuaView GIS software (available from FLIS) have also been included. The website also aims to strengthen ties with USP and international researchers by providing various educational resources relating to land in Fiji. Future developments will include online transaction support to facilitate the payment of lease renewals and applications or the purchasing of

products provided by the Department of Lands and Survey. The inclusion of Geomedia Web-map, a Web-based map visualization and analysis tool into the website is also an exciting project for the future. This will allow site visitors to view the different types of tenure, such as native, state and freehold land or parcel boundaries, in addition to geographical features.



Website development team: Sitiveni Gauna and Morgan Martin-Skerm (FLIS)

A presentation on “VanuaView” was carried out by Lands Department staff to the Fiji Police Management team including the Commissioner of Police. They were impressed, thus proposing to purchase a multi-user license on VanuaView from FLIS.

FIJI POLICE CRIME STATISTICS & GIS

The Fiji Police Force’s Crime Statistics & GIS Unit is responsible for the collection of crime information in the form of daily crime reports (DCR) on a 24 hour period.

The unit has now formed a team for the development of a Crime Information Database for the above-mentioned purpose. The intention is to run the Crime Information database as a distributed system, where the data is captured at station level and relayed through network to a centralized repository at Central Police Station. This is why the Japanese government through JICA had donated 41 computers.

The development team recognises the powerful ability of GIS in Crime Analysis and is now exploring possibilities of integrating this powerful tool onto the Crime Information Database. While it might take a lot of time, effort and resources to build a totally new customized GIS component, the team has considered using off the shelf GIS

programs, which could be used for crime location plotting. A software package namely, *VANUAVIEW*, offered locally through FLIS (Fiji Land Information System) has been recognised as having capabilities of capturing crime locations geographically.



Mr. Rohit Kumar, GIS Analyst at the Fiji Police Force Crime Statistics & GIS Unit.

DEVELOPMENT OF GIS AT FIJI PINE

Mr. Naca Yalimaitoga, the Panning & Technical Services Manager at Fiji Pine Limited presented on “GIS Development at Fiji Pine, with its progress, constraints and benefits at the Fiji Land Information Council’s recent meeting in February this year.

The Fiji Pine Commission (FPC) was originally set up in 1976 and later on corporatised to Fiji Pine Limited (FPL) in 1990 with the following objectives;

- to establish a viable forest industry and
- to transfer ownership to landowners when viability attained.

Fiji Pine Limited identified the need to establish its GIS unit to assist the company in better managing the vast land and

forest resources that the company own. Since 1998 FPL had been trying to set up its GIS on its own. It was only in 2003, when FPL became one of the stakeholders in the EU funded project managed by SOPAC that the GIS expert from SOPAC developed their GIS structure and plan. Rapid progress was achieved and the company is now reaping some of the early benefits from its GIS set up. This progress was greatly assisted by the recruitment of two graduates with GIS knowledge who then enhanced their GIS skills through training offered by SOPAC. However, FPL now realises that continuing assistance from SOPAC’s GIS expert would be difficult and is now seeking technical assistance from Fiji Land Information System Support Centre to further develop and enhance its GIS.



PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES GIS/RS USER CONFERENCE—2004

The 2004 Pacific Island Countries GIS & Remote Sensing User Conference was held at the Marine Studies complex at the University of the South Pacific’s Laucala Campus on Wednesday to Friday, 24-26 November. The theme was “GIS Towards Knowledge Based Economy.” A total of 210 participants from Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Samoa, Tonga Vanuatu, Marshall Islands and Fiji attended. There were 10 organisation updates and 35 technical presentations & special projects were highlighted focusing on various aspects of GIS in the Pacific Islands during the conference. The programme also includes Poster and Exhibition sessions, which the organising committee is hopeful that more agencies will take keen interest in, the next conference. The regional organisations SOPAC and USP explained their programmes regarding GIS and RS development in the Pacific regions in terms of training and method development. While FLIS explained their

programme to support GIS and RS in Fiji Islands. GIS in Fiji is on the brink of becoming the mainstream part of information technology. Issues which were raised and discussed at the conference includes the potential of a mobile ground receiving station and the installation of a MapServers through the SOPAC- EU Project.

Dr. Nick Rollings, the newly appointed Director of GIS Unit at USP welcomed the 2004 conference attendees. While the CEO, Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources, Mr. N. Tabunakawai, gave the keynote address and the CEO, Ministry of Transport & Civil Aviation, Mr V. Buatoka closed the conference. The conference was a success through the generous support of sponsors and the enthusiasm of the GIS/RS users in Fiji and the Pacific region. It is anticipated that this year’s conference will be even larger.

“GIS Towards Knowledge Based Economy”

The 2005 Pacific Island Countries GIS /RS User Conference is scheduled to be held from Wednesday 23 to Friday 25 November.



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EDITORIAL COMMENT

GREETINGS to you all! And welcome to this first issue of 2005 FLISNews.

We in Fiji, as an individual in our various organisations or as a group of GIS/RS/LIS community should now be able to see our achievements and the direction where we are heading to compared to the rest of the world.

Accurate and reliable Land Information is essential to determine its conservation and rational usage. There is real value in seeking to produce consistent, up-to-date and reliable core information about land.

- ◆ Without proper information, no organization can be effective in carrying out its role and responsibilities.
- ◆ Without information, the quality of service delivery, financial performance and ability to plan can be ineffective.
- ◆ Without information on Infrastructure and Utility, services can adversely affect the economy, the quality of life, public health and the environment.

I, therefore challenge you all to keep up to par with the GIS/RS technologies to enhance better delivery of services.

The editorial committee once again remind us of the fact that FLISNews plays a vital role in the development of LIS/GIS/RS technologies in Fiji and your contributions in future editions are most welcome.

VINAKA VAKALEVU
[Thank You]
M. Buatoka [Editor]



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DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed within FLISNews do not necessarily reflect the views of the Fiji Land Information Council or the Government of Fiji.

PUBLICATION NOTE

*The idea behind the **FLISNews** is to provide an avenue for the dissemination of information amongst the many varied groups interested in the Land Information Systems, both in Fiji and overseas.*

It is also the intention of the editorial staff that the newsletter be informative to the user community at large especially the many allied agencies.

Contributions on local, national and international news will always be welcomed and serious attention will be paid to constructive criticisms.

Please forward all correspondence to:-

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DEVELOP SUGAR INDUSTRY ANALYSIS GIS

One of the objectives of the ACIAR project was to generate a GIS database of the sugar industry, to develop a digital map of the sugar belt, including mill and sector, district boundaries together with individual farm boundaries superimposed on soils data and Land ownership data.

The project team has completed its task after cross-checking, validating and harmonizing different sets of information obtained from various stakeholders, such as Native Land Trust Board, Sugar Industry Tribunal, Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar & Land Resettlement, Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources, Fiji Sugar Corporation, and Fiji Sugar Cane Growers Council.

In early December 2004, the stakeholders along with the Fiji Land Information Council unanimously agreed that FLIS would temporarily maintain the spatial dataset generated by Dr. Padma Lal & Rashmi Rita. This agreement will only be for 12 months (i.e. until such time the respective stakeholder, FSC is fully technically developed).

It is interesting to note that the chairman of FLIC, Mr. N. Tabunakawai officially received the soft copy (CD) of the completed project from Dr. Lal, and likewise all the stakeholders received the same.

On behalf of the editorial team, "Congratulations to both of you, Padma & Rashmi for the work, well done!"