Report from
The Pacific Island Advisory Group (PIAG)

Program Board 21.01

Agenda Item 21.18

30 September 2021
Geneva, Switzerland

Australia
on behalf of PIAG members

Presentation Overview

- Chronology – where have we come from

- Primary activities of PIAG in 2021

- The draft PIAG Engagement Strategy

- Supporting the Work Plan: Developments and Opportunities

- Beginning with the end in mind – who are the users?

Key events GEO ⇔ PICTs

- **2019**
  - GEO Week 2019 ⇔ GEO Ministerial Summit Declaration
  - GEO Week Pacific Island Program ⇔ EO in the Pacific Talanoa Statement
- **2020**
  - Establishment of the Pacific Island Advisory Group (PIAG) to GEO Executive Committee
  - Endorsement of the PIAG Terms of Reference by ExCOM 53
- **2021**
  - AO GEO Symposium, GEO Week 2021
  - Draft PIAG Engagement Strategy & Workplan => ExCOM 55

Primary activities of PIAG in 2021

- Ongoing efforts to **develop and refine PIAGs work plan**

- Development of an **overarching Engagement Strategy**

- Participation by members / PICTs in a **range of activities promoting GEO-PICTs engagement**

  - in line with the **PIAG TORs** and detailed **PIAG work plan**

- Several **significant developments/opportunities**:

  - Digital Earth Pacific & EO in the Pacific Needs Assessment

  - Engagement with Asia Oceania GEO

  - New GEO members, and increased engagement by existing PICT members

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PIAG draft Engagement Strategy

- **Draft Engagement Strategy outline** (Annex A)
    - A **series of actions and opportunities** to increase and improve GEO⇔ PICT connections
    - **Highlights links between goals** of GEO (Canberra Declaration) and the PICTs (Talanoa Statement on EO)
    - **Links PIAG TORs to proposed activities** and **associated deliverables**
    - **5 areas of focus**: Scoping, Consulting, Connecting, Aligning and Advising

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Goal: Support GEO Ministerial Summit Declaration, "Welcome new Members from the Pacific and other island nations to the GEO community, and recognise the significant capabilities they have to offer. Emphasise the importance of GEO being inclusive of these countries with their significant and increasing exposure to disaster risk, climate change and sustainable development challenges", **in line with the priorities of the EO in the Pacific Talanoa Statement**.

PIAG TOR FUNCTION/DELIVERABLE	ACTIVITES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES

Objective, Action, Results, Outcomes

PIAG TOR FUNCTION/DELIVERABLE	ACTIVITES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
SCOPE the EO needs and priorities of the Pacific **CONSULT** discuss needs, barriers, opportunities for engagement PICTs ⇔ GEO **CONNECT** technical EO activities happening PICTs ⇔ GEO **ALIGN** with relevant UN agendas **ADVISE** GEO governance on how to strengthen the links PICTs ⇔ GEO	• Identify EO needs & end user priorities, connect to GEO WP • Strengthen PICT-GEO engagement • Promote PICT participation in activities to increase knowledge sharing, expertise and opportunities • Promote UN Agenda alignment • Advise EXCOM on strengthening GEO-PICT engagement	• Target GEO Work Program according to priorities • Broker GEO member assistance to PICTs • Establish a community of practice • Increase GEO membership, engagement, participation • Empower PICT leadership in GEO • Technical training and development • Increased knowledge transfer GEO ⇔ PICTs • Aligned activities GEO ⇔ UN Agendas • PIAG Strategy for long term PICT engagement in GEO	Support objectives of: • GEO Ministerial Summit Canberra Declaration 2019 • Earth Observation in the Pacific Talanoa Statement 2019

Supporting the Work Plan:
Developments and Opportunities

- **SCOPE** the EO needs and priorities of the Pacific
  - SPC needs assessment complete
- **CONSULT** and discuss needs, barriers, opportunities for engagement PICTs to GEO
  - University of South Pacific => GEO PO
  - Deep consultation with SPREP as existing GEO PO
  - GEO Week 2021 side event
- **CONNECT** the PICTs ⇔ GEO technical EO activities
  - Digital Earth Pacific accepted as GEO Community Activity
  - USP ⇔ GRSS on MOOC
  - AO GEO Symposium session *"Satellite data for the Pacific Islands: Supplier and User perspectives "*
- **Align** with relevant UN Agendas
  - Ongoing discussions with UN SPIDER
  - Opportunities to link SPREP EO ⇔ SDGs

Connecting GEO and the PICTs:
It's all about the users…

Technical EO users=> EO advisors=>governments, business and community users (least EO proficiency)

Thank You

Communicate and Collaborate with GEO:

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