

A Short Report on the Digital Earth Pacific National Consultation held in Tanoa Plaza, Suva on Thursday 24th March 2022

The consultation provided details on the Digital Earth Pacific (DEP)¹ initiative to make analysis-ready satellite data freely available and openly accessible for sustainable development in Pacific Island countries. The consultation was attended by the Minister for Infrastructure and Meteorological Services and Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources Honorable Jone Usumate.

The Digital Earth Pacific (DEP) is the fundamental digital infrastructure and regional public good that will ensure every nation in the Pacific has access to Earth and Marine Observation (EMO) tools and technologies to better understand the changes to Pacific environments and people. The objectives of the consultation were as follows:

1. Share lessons and experiences from around the world on how relevant time-series earth and marine observations (EMO) data support decision-making
2. Understand the needs and priorities of Fiji on the use of EMO and geospatial data to address national development priorities and sustainable development
3. Share the key challenges and opportunities, and any insights on capacity development requirements for EMO
4. Identify opportunities for early win products for Fiji



¹<https://www.spc.int/DigitalEarthPacific>

²<https://www.dea.ga.gov.au/>

³<https://www.digitalearthafrika.org/>

Figure1. Digital Earth Pacific National Consultation participants' photo session with Honorable Minister Jone Usumate in the middle front row.

The DEP draws lessons from similar platforms in Australia (Digital Earth Australia)² and Africa (Digital Earth Africa)³ where the EMO tools and technologies have been utilised and proven successful.

By the end of the consultation is it clear that the DEP initiative is a vital instrument for driving sustainable development as well maximizing the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing in the Pacific Islands. Additionally, It will allow the Member States to make more informed decisions based on good information to overcome the challenges we face such as climate change, food security, and disasters.



Figure 2. Honorable Minister Jone delivering his address and the official workshop opening declaration

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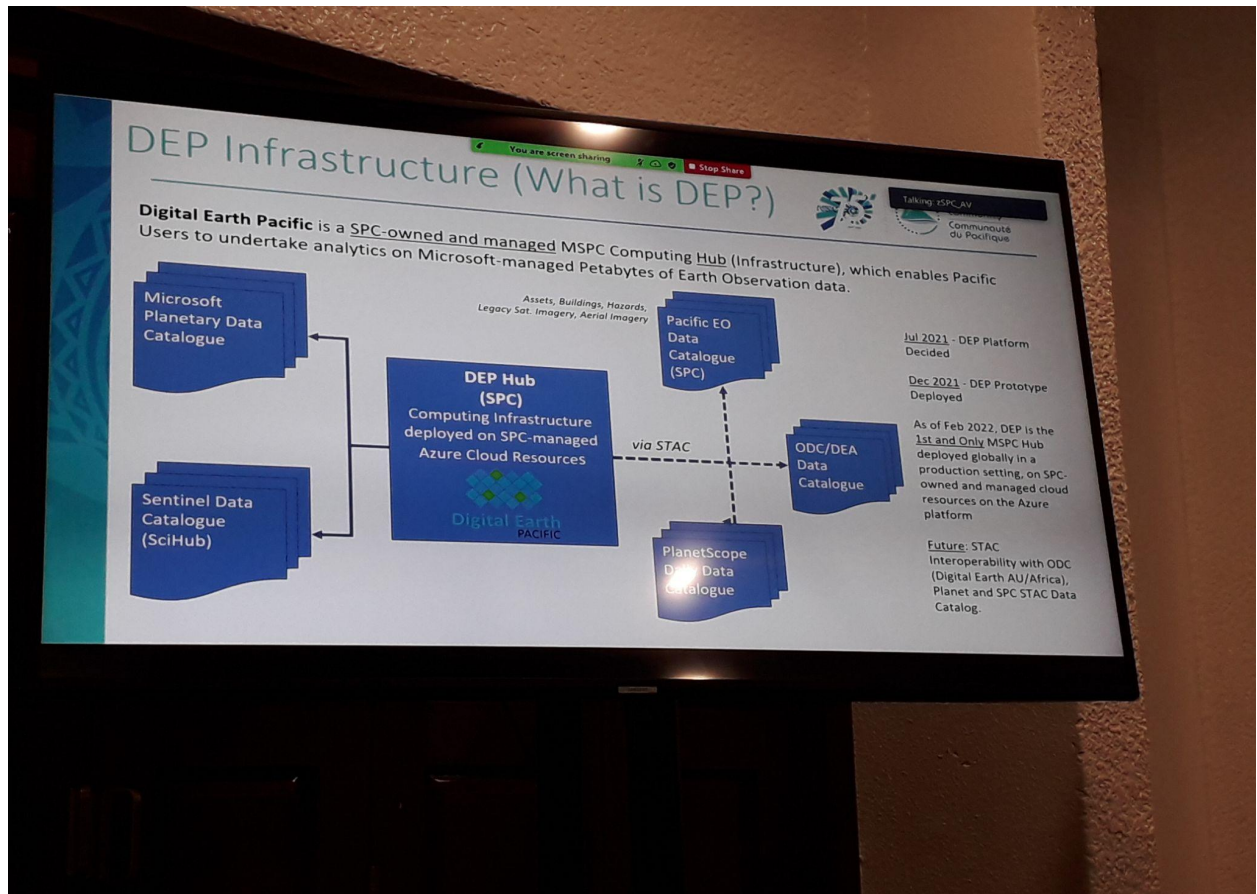


Figure 3. Overview of the Digital Earth Pacific (DEP) Infrastructure

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Figure 4. Stakeholder discussions

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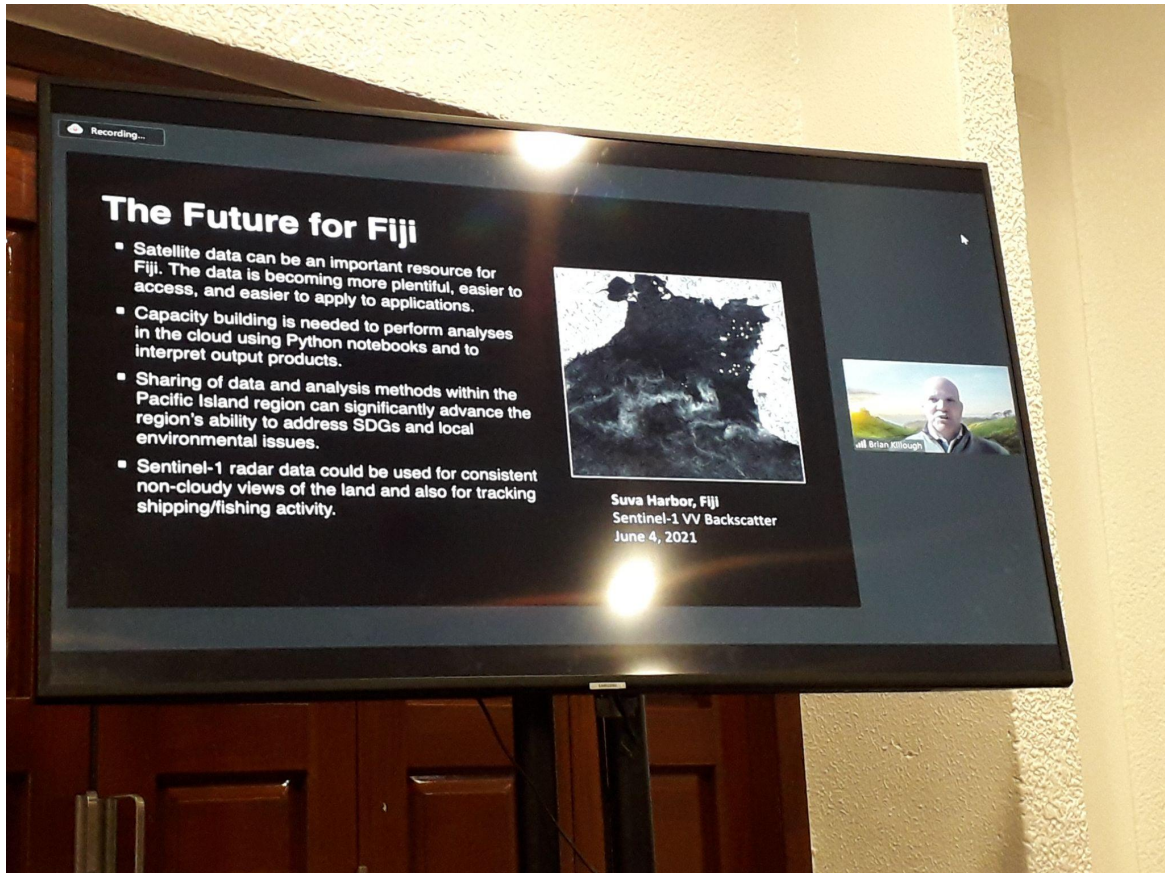


Figure 5. Some future opportunities for Fiji provided the Digital Earth Pacific (DEP) initiative

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