

Pacific GIS & Remote Sensing Council

2024 Annual Report





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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

Talofa, Mālō e lele, Kia orona, Mauri, Molo ni, Fakaalofa atu, Halo, La Orana, Kia ora, Mālō te ma'uli, Ekamowir Omo, Aloha, Alii, Iakwe, Mogethin, Ran annim, Lenwo, Kaselehlie, Hāfa Adai, Bozu, and Bula Vinaka!

As we reflect on the outcomes of the 2024 Pacific GIS and Remote Sensing User Conference, it is clear, that our community's commitment to advancing GIS and Remote Sensing in the Pacific remains as strong as ever. On behalf of the Pacific GIS and Remote Sensing Council (PGRSC), I thank you for another successful year.

Our conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) provided a valuable platform for us to exchange ideas, share best practices and chart a course for the future. It is also essential that we continue to leverage the power of GIS and RS, as you each demonstrated that our work has never been more critical in helping build resilience and sustainability echoing our theme " Sustainable Management for Coastal Areas Through Remote Sensing and GIS."

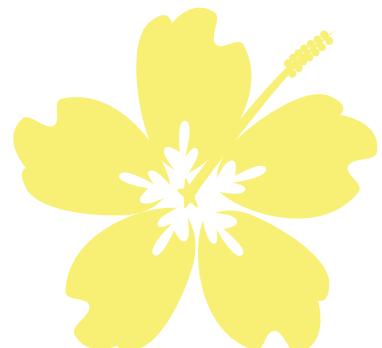
2024 was a monumental year as we launched our webinar series, saw significant increases in membership and travel grants, and revitalized our website and information sharing tools. Let us continue to drive positive change and innovation in our field.

Thank you again for your support in developing the GIS and Remote Sensing community and we look forward to seeing you at the 2025 Annual Pacific GIS & Remote Sensing User Conference.

Vinaka Vakalevu,



Salote Viti
Outgoing Chair





THE ORGANISATION

History

The Pacific GIS & Remote Sensing Council (PGRSC) is a non-profit organisation duly established under the processes within the Charitable Trust Act [Cap 67] of the Republic of Fiji. PGRSC was established in 2018 to oversee the activities of the Pacific GIS and Remote Sensing User Conference and promote the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) technologies in the Pacific Islands Region.

For more than 20 years, the Pacific Islands GIS and Remote Sensing User Conference reputably hosts the largest GIS and RS conference in the Pacific providing a platform for (i) GIS and RS users from nearly all Pacific Island Countries, (ii) satellite data, software, hardware and consulting enterprises, and (iii) scientists from universities and research institutions.

The Council aims to pursue, support, and facilitate knowledge sharing, networking, communication, and collaboration among GIS & RS Users in the Pacific. PGRSC offers substantial inter-country networking opportunities to promote information exchange through our website (www.pgrsc.org), webinar series, and Pacific Islands GIS and RS Newsletter as well as a network of PGRSC Focal Points, who link the local GIS and RS user groups in the Pacific Island Countries and the Council.

Mission and Goals



- To promote the development of GIS and Remote Sensing (RS) data, technologies, methods and services for the pacific region.
- To enable collaboration and share lessons learned across regional agencies and commercial parties.
- To discuss and establish methods in building adaptation for the Pacific environment for solutions working already well outside the region.
- To manage the distribution, publication and awareness of conference outcomes.
- To establish robust links with other GIS, RS and scientific bodies regionally and globally.



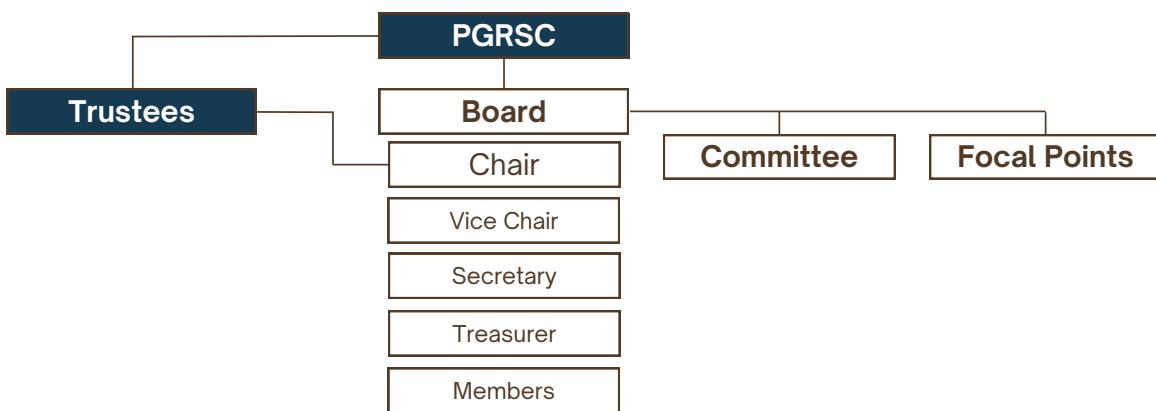


PGRSC TRUSTEES



The Trustees play crucial roles in overseeing and guiding the PGRSC, ensuring its effectiveness in fulfilling its purpose. The Trustees are recognized as guardians of the Council and are nominated by the PGRSC Board. Trustee responsibilities include ensuring the Board operates in accordance with PGRSC goals and in compliance with the PGRSC Constitution. There are four Trustees on the Pacific GIS and Remote Sensing Council: Rajendra Singh, Arthur Faerua, Dr. Russell Howorth, and Conway Pene.

In 2024, PGRSC welcomed **Conway Pene** as a Trustee. Conway Pene is a consultant specialising in GIS and asset management. He has worked as a private sector consultant in the Pacific and internationally for over 10 years. Prior to this position, he worked as Lecturer in GIS at USP for 15 years, teaching in the Geography and GIS programmes and working with the Pacific GIS industry to strengthen collaboration between education and industry.





PGRSC BOARD



The Board oversees the governance of PGRSC and its operations, ensuring overall benefits to PGRSC Members and GIS & RS Users and a successful annual Pacific GIS & RS User Conference. The Board maintains the organization's structure, including the election or appointment of officers and the development of policies and procedures.

In 2024, the PGRSC Board held a total of 19 Board Meetings to discuss PGRSC operations and planning.

Board Members play a key role in fundraising and resource mobilization efforts which are needed to support PGRSC's activities and programs. Salote Viti serves as Chair, Arti Pratap as Treasurer, and Bradley Eichelberger as Vice Chair and Secretary. In 2024, PGRSC also welcomed **Kasaqa Tora** as a new Board Member. Kasaqa is a Spatial Analysis Specialist - Protected Areas - with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and has served in GIS roles in the Pacific for 30 years.



2024 IN REVIEW





PARTNERSHIPS

Under PGRSC's Strategic Plan, a goal was set to improve the formal recognition of PGRSC by accomplishing the following objectives:

Gain Cabinet endorsement from Fiji Government.

Gain Cabinet endorsement from other Pacific Island country governments.

Gain endorsement from regional political and technical organisations.

Become a member of regional and global Earth Observation organisations aligned with our mission.

Develop relationships with universities.

In 2024, PGRSC signed **Memorandum of Understandings (MOU)** with the **International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** and **University of the South Pacific (USP)** to promote the use of geospatial and remote sensing tools in the Pacific Islands Region.

PGRSC also held discussions with other regional organisations and expects future partnerships to be announced in 2025.





FOCAL POINT NETWORK

Under PGRSC's Strategic Plan, a goal was set to establish and maintain in-country connections through focal point network by accomplishing the following objectives:

Establish focal points in all Pacific Island countries.

Create an incentive program to encourage focal point participation and engagement.

Maintain focal point network.



FOCAL POINT NETWORK

-  **American Samoa - Vacant**
-  **Cook Islands - Vaipo Mataora**
-  **Federated States of Micronesia – Luke Carlos**
-  **Fiji - Vacant**
-  **French Polynesia - Yoann Roncin**
-  **Guam – Maria Kottermair**
-  **Kiribati - Catherine Paul/Tiaotin Enary**
-  **Marshall Islands – Mark Stege/Benedict Yamamura**
-  **Nauru – Diminski Reweru**
-  **New Caledonia - Damien Buisson**
-  **Niue - Richard Siataga**
-  **Northern Mariana Islands – Bradley Eichelberger**
-  **Palau – Jacqueline Ngiraimau**
-  **Papua New Guinea – Arnold Lakamanga**
-  **Samoa - To'oa Brown**
-  **Solomon Islands - Joy Papao**
-  **Tokelau – Jewel Tuitama**
-  **Tonga - Halalilika Etika**
-  **Tuvalu – Dolores Leneuati**
-  **Vanuatu - Johnie Tarry Nimau**
-  **Wallis and Futuna - Vacant**

The focal point network serves as a direct link between PGRSC and Pacific GIS & RS users, promotes the Annual Conference, distributes spatial and non-spatial data, communicates the needs of their respective country to PGRSC, and contributes information to the PGRSC Newsletter.

In 2024, PGRSC maintained focal points in **18 Pacific Island countries and territories**. Focal points are encouraged to submit country-focused articles to PGRSC's Newsletter to **facilitate knowledge sharing across the region**. In addition, a special discussion panel session for focal points to discuss their data needs and capacity issues was conducted during the 2024 conference.



FOCAL POINT NETWORK

As part of the **2024 focal point incentive program**, PGRSC secured a grant from the United States Embassy's Diplomacy Small Grant Program to cover conference travel costs for four focal points or their designated representatives. PGRSC sponsors, DataTerra and the Pacific Fund, United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) also covered conference travel costs for focal points or their designated country representatives.



US Embassy Embassy

- Oroititi Bakatenuateaba (Kiribati)
- Tewaea Keariki (Kiribati)
- Halalilika Etika (Tonga)
- Dolores Leneuati (Tuvalu)



UN-SPIDER

UN-SPIDER

- Antoine Nia (Cook Islands)
- Diminski Reweru (Nauru)
- Jacqueline Ngiraimau (Palau)
- Rodney Yoshida (Palau)



Data Terra and the Pacific Fund

- Yoann Roncin (French Polynesia)
- Mathilde Souchon (Fiji/New Caledonia)
- Maria Kottermair (Guam)
- Pascal Dumas (New Caledonia)
- Remi Ardreoli (New Caledonia)
- Tingneyuc Sekac (Papua New Guinea)



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

GIZ

- Fiona Meke (Solomon Islands)
- Johnie Tarry Nimau (Vanuatu)
- Smith Malvi (Solomon Islands)



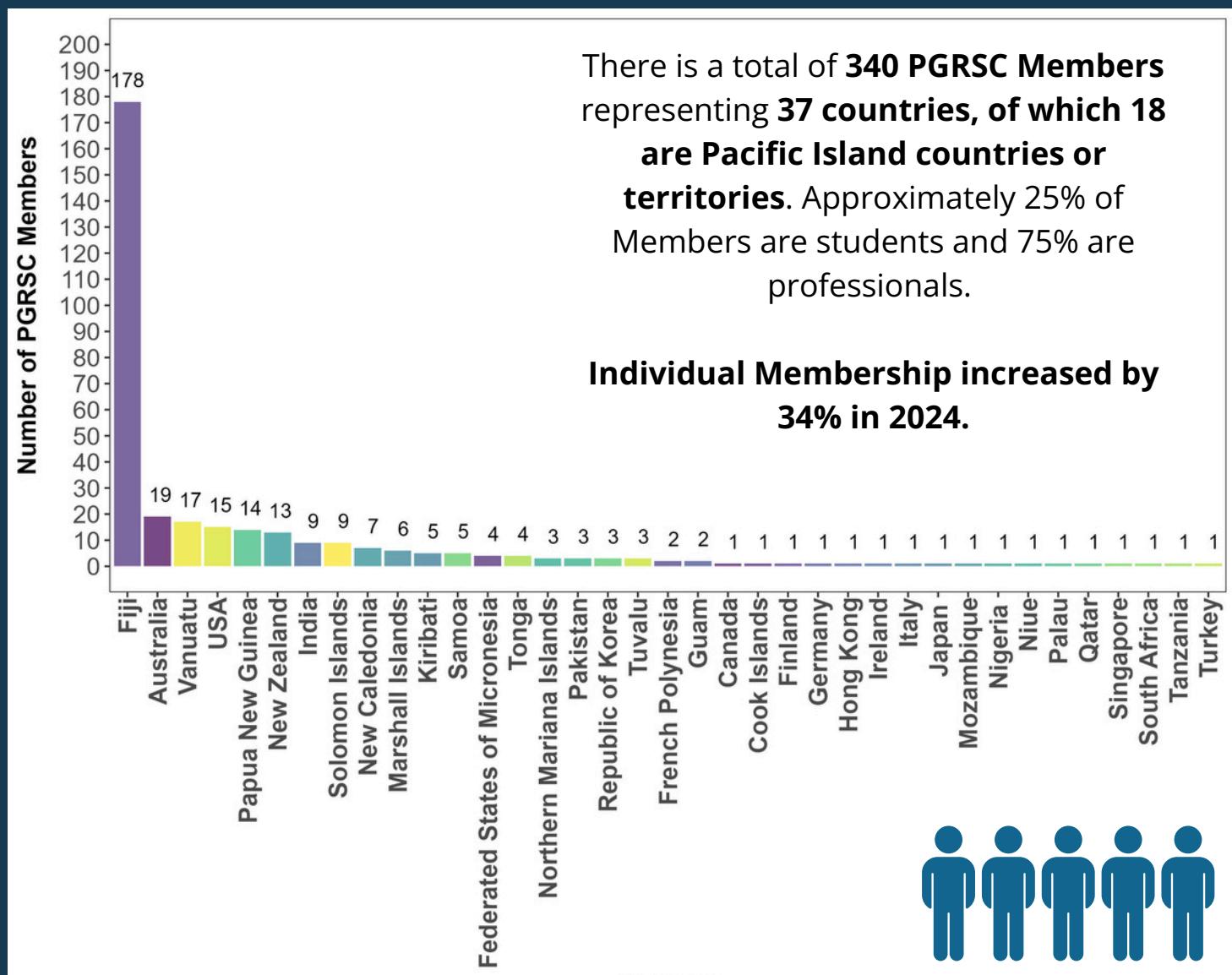
MEMBERSHIP

Under PGRSC's Strategic Plan, a goal was set to expand and maintain PGRSC membership across the Pacific Islands region by accomplishing the following objectives:

Establish individual members in all Pacific Island countries.

Double PGRSC individual membership in each PIC by 2028.

Double PGRSC institutional membership in each PIC by 2028.





MEMBERSHIP

Institutional Membership

PGRSC has a total of **40 Institutional Members** that represent various government agencies, international and regional organisations, research institutions, universities, and private companies.

In 2024, **14 new Institutional Members** joined PGRSC which represents a **54% increase** from the previous year.



Institutional/Organisational Membership



Institutional/Organisational Member Benefits

- Organisation name, description, and logo on website
- Announcement of organisation as Member on webpage, social media, and Slack channel
- Access to PGRSC Member network through Slack channel
- Access to PGRSC Employment Roster
- Opportunity to present at PGRSC webinars

In turn, PGRSC expects Institutional Members to provide support and promotion of the PGRSC and its activities.





MEMBERSHIP

Institutional Membership

New Institutional Members in 2024 included:

Infrastructure Cook Islands



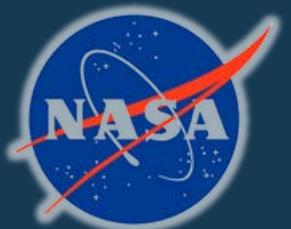
Tonga MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forest)



J2 Geospatial Intelligence Services



National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)



Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)

Pacific Coastal Research and Planning

National Disaster Risk Management Tonga

Skand

Fiji Land Transport Authority

Data Terra

PALARIS - Land and Resource Information System Office, Palau

Mammoth Geospatial

Kahuto Investments

BAE-Ecospatial



2024 CONFERENCE

Under PGRSC's Strategic Plan, a goal was set to develop and strengthen successful annual PGRSC Conference by accomplishing the following objectives:

Ensure efficient conference planning.

Establish early promotion of conference.

Increase the number of conference participants to ensure all PIC are represented.

Increase the diversity of conference presentations and keynote addresses.

Ensure adequate funding for annual conferences.

Improve conference participants' experience.

Prior to the 2024 conference, PGRSC polled its Members to ask what they want to see at the conference. A total of 50 Members responded. We used their feedback to adapt the conference format to improve the user experience and included lightning talks and 6 discussion panels!



To ensure efficient conference planning, PGRSC established a **2024 Conference Committee** who held meetings for conference organizing and drafted **protocols** for guiding conference planning





2024 CONFERENCE

The 2024 conference theme was “Sustainable Management of Coastal Areas Through Remote Sensing & GIS”.

Over **173 participants** registered from **14**

Pacific Island Countries and 7 International Countries

65+ Presentations

4 Workshops

1 Women’s Session Panel

6 Discussion Panels

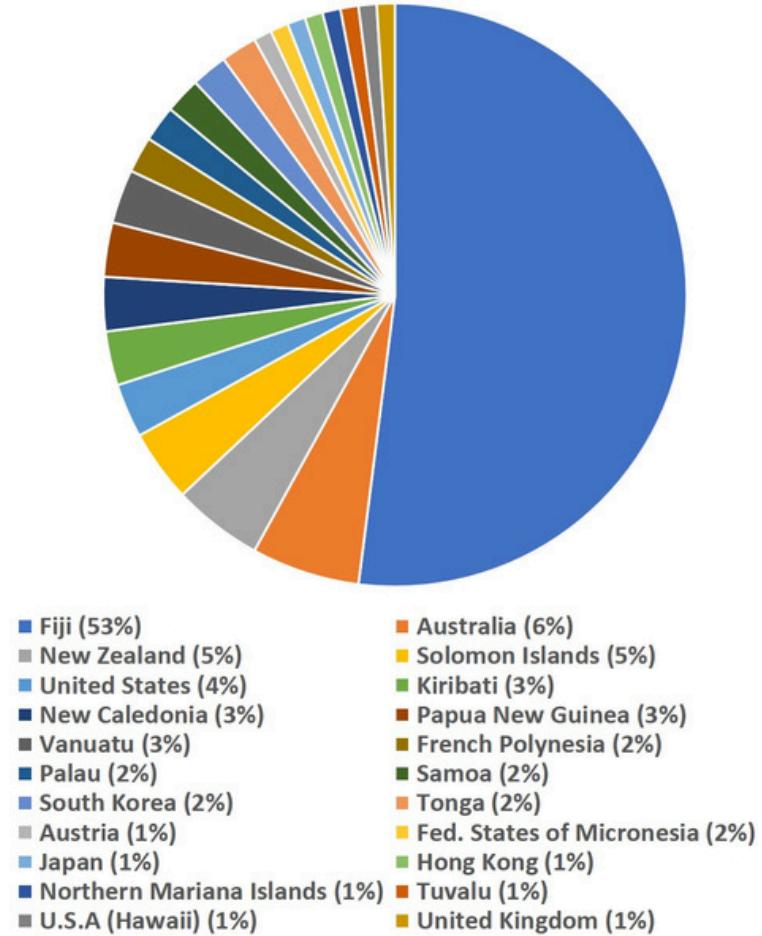
1 Lightning Talk Session

Social Events

Presentations and the conference proceedings can be found at:

<https://pgrsc.org/2024-conference-resources/>

Workshops focused on RS software (Hexagon/ERDAS), exploring open-source and free GIS (OSGeo Oceania and QGIS), supervised classification of coastal ecosystems (GIZ MACBLUE and the Pacific Community (SPC) Digital Earth Pacific), and a training program for using NASA ocean satellite data (NOAA-CoastWatch and PacIOOS).





2024 CONFERENCE

2024 Sponsors included:

United States Embassy – Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu Mission

University of South Pacific

DataTerra and Pacific Fund

UN-SPIDER

GIZ

LandPro

Kahuto Investments

OSGeo Oceania

Drone Services Fiji

SPREP

Fijian Elections Office (FEO)

Vodafone

Geo Week



DATA
TERRA



LANDPRO
BETTER ENVIRONMENTS, BETTER RETURNS



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme



Fijian Elections Office
My Election. My Fiji





KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Under PGRSC's Strategic Plan, a goal was set to promote and enhance geospatial knowledge sharing and capacity building by accomplishing the following objectives:

Provide pathways for knowledge sharing between PGRSC members.

Organise or co-organise group-coordinated events to improve GIS data quality and capacity building in the Pacific Islands Region.

Promote educational and capacity building events and resources.

Promote professional development pathways for PGRSC members.

In 2024, PGRSC launched a new **Webinar Series** with the first webinar being from NOAA CoastWatch and PacIOOS. All webinars are recorded and available on the PGRSC webpage under the Member's section.

In addition, PGRSC distributed GIS and RS information using the following vehicles:

PGRSC Newsletter (distributed once in 2024)

Information Papers

Slack Channel

GIS-PacNet (~700 users)

Annual GIS and RS User Conference

LinkedIn and Facebook posts

Specifically, PGRSC promoted the following capacity building opportunities:

3 free external agency webinars

5 free trainings and workshops

2 free GIS Tutorials/Manuals

A lot of satellite agency and data announcements!





PGRSC SUPPORT

Under PGRSC's Strategic Plan, a goal was set to generate revenue to support operations and Member benefits by accomplishing the following objectives:

Ensure sufficient funding of operations.

Ensure sufficient funding of member benefits.

In 2024, PGRSC was awarded a grant under the **United States Embassy Diplomacy Small Grants Program** entitled "**Support for a Resilient Pacific Community through Geospatial Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing**", Federal Grant Award: SJF60024GR0025. The total grant amount was **USD \$15,000.00** and funds were used for the following two objectives:

Objective 1. Ensure one or more representatives from Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu, and Tonga will be in attendance and contribute to the conference discussions by providing travel support for the respective country's Focal Points and other recommended attendees.

Objective 2. Ensure a successful conference by securing funding to support conference operations such as venue costs and the partial cost of catering, which benefits Fiji participation.



PGRSC wishes to thank the United States Embassy – Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu Mission as well as its other sponsors listed on page 15 for their support: University of South Pacific, DataTerra and Pacific Fund, UN-SPIDER, GIZ, LandPro, Kahuto Investments, OSGeo Oceania, Drone Services Fiji, SPREP, Fijian Elections Office (FEO), Vodafone, and Geo Week.



FINANCIAL REPORT

PACIFIC GIS AND REMOTE SENSING COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

	31-Dec 2024	31-Dec 2023
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	18,403.00	24,733.59
Cash on Hand	121.10	(495.70)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 18,524.10	\$ 24,237.89
EQUITY		
Capital Contributions		
Retained Earnings - Prior Years	24,237.89	33,848.68
Net Surplus/(Deficit) - Current	(5,713.79)	(9,610.79)
TOTAL EQUITY	\$ 18,524.10	\$ 24,237.89
Revenue	31-Dec 2024	31-Dec 2023
Grants - Donors/Partners	49,146.80	5,470.52
Conference Sponsorship	0.00	17,848.81
Membership/Registration	7,725.00	9,457.99
Other Income	48.20	51.54
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 56,920.00	\$ 32,828.86
Expenses		
Advertising & Marketing	0.00	575.00
Accounting Fees	175.00	100.00
Accommodation – International Delegates	6,546.00	0.00
Allowances – International Delegates	2,000.00	0.00
Bank fees & Charges	10.77	10.00
Communications	289.68	0.00
Consultant –PR Officer	1,500.00	1,500.00
Hire of Venue & Facilities	7,342.00	7,001.50
Membership Subs and Renewal	741.93	307.00
Gift/Token of Appreciation	120.00	0.00
Printing, Consumables and Supplies	389.92	160.00
Purchase of Asset Equipment	0.00	239.00
Online Registration Cost	433.74	0.00
Transportation	621.32	512.95
International Travel	13,813.00	2,058.47
Conference T-shirts	3,640.00	2,394.00
Workshop Catering & Cocktail	24,651.83	25,769.23
Website Development Cost	0.00	1,616.10
Meeting Expenses	358.60	186.40
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 62,633.79	\$ 42,429.65
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (5,713.79)	\$ (9,610.79)



PACIFIC GIS & REMOTE SENSING
COUNCIL

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