

Planning for climate-resilient WASH in urban underserved settlements

Community of Practice (CoP) - Terms of reference

Name of Community of Practice:

Pacific GeoWASHUS: Spatial Tools supporting WASH in urban-underserved settlements in the Pacific

Purpose

Spatial information systems are regularly used by government and utility organisations to guide planning and operations. This CoP provides an opportunity for professionals working with those existing systems to strengthen their capacity and interest to incorporate information/data relating to climate hazards, informal settlements, and water /sanitation services, into spatial-based decision support tools and systems. In particular the objectives of the CoP include:

- Share relevant resources (e.g. datasets, guides) and methodologies developed in this research program, and by others, amongst participants
- Provide structured training in the autonomous identification of informal settlements
- Provide a platform for professionals working in similar contexts to share lessons with each other
- Identify capacity and research needs to further improve planning capacities for WASH in urban underserved settlements.

The “Planning for Climate-resilient urban WASH” research program aims to contribute to stronger planning systems for climate-resilient WASH services in urban informal or underserved settlements. We are exploring decision and planning support systems (PSS) for urban planning and WASH, political and social advocacy methods, and ways of engaging with settlement residents to progress collaborative planning. A key part of this research is to improve the way spatial data relating to climate hazards, informal settlements, and water and sanitation services are integrated in spatial information systems, and used to inform planning and service decisions.

Membership

- Professionals and academics currently working in, or with a demonstrate interest in, the use of spatially-based tools to support planning activities relating to climate-resilience, urban water and sanitation services and/or informal settlements.
- The CoP will be promoted by existing members.
- To ensure compliance of ethical requirements of this research project, participants will request membership, rather than the CoP be open to the public. Participants need to satisfy the above criteria for acceptance to the private group, and agree to a basic ‘statement of ethical conduct’, relating to the application of the knowledge and skills gained through the CoP.
- There will be no cost for approved applicants to participate in the CoP

Activities of the CoP

1. Establish and facilitate a platform for sharing resources and enabling discussion amongst members
 - a. LinkedIn (TBC with members) private Group (membership managed by USP Fiji)
 - b. Discussion on specific topics to be stimulated and facilitated (USP Fiji). A work plan of monthly topics will be developed, with input from participants, on topics of interest and relevant to the objective of this CoP.
 - c. Open discussion forum for members to initiate discussion on other topics (moderated by USP Fiji)
 - d. Link to relevant external resources (posted by CoP facilitators, or members)
 - e. Link to the structured training resource: Autonomous Identification of informal settlements in Pacific Island Countries
2. Schedule ~monthly zoom CoP discussion sessions:
 - a. Topics scheduled in concert with topics being discussed in the discussion group (LinkedIn)
 - b. Include networking activities
3. Promote and support completion of the training resource: “Autonomous Identification of informal settlements in Pacific Island Countries”.
 - a. Links to the online location of the training modules will be shared through the LinkedIn group
 - b. Training modules – video-based, can be streamed from the website location for the duration of 2024 (at least).
 - c. (Some) LinkedIn discussions will be structured around the modules of the training resource, including troubleshooting and other support.
 - d. (Some) online monthly zoom sessions will focus on the training resource, including troubleshooting and discussion of application in the workplace.

Management of the CoP

- The CoP will be operated by USP Fiji, including managing the LinkedIn group, and leadership of facilitation of discussions on the platforms.
- The management of the CoP (objectives, membership, key activities) will be determined by the research team (spatial subgroup).
- Specific resources and technical content, including contributing to discussions (LinkedIn and zoom) will be provided by a range of team members, including UACS who have developed the training resource.
- The usefulness of the CoP will be determined through a user survey conducted twice during the CoP 2024.