

CommonSensing

Improved climate change resilience and sustainable development in Commonwealth of Nations Small Island Developing States



Small Island Developing States (SIDS) located in the Caribbean, Pacific, Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas (AIMS) belonging to the Commonwealth Secretariat are exposed to the damaging effects of climate change. Such changes in the climatic system have direct effects on the economy as well as the very existence of many SIDS.

The overall objective of the proposed CommonSensing project is **to improve resilience towards climate change, including disaster risk reduction, and contribute to sustainable development in three selected SIDS: Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.** This will be achieved through direct interaction with existing programmes within the Commonwealth Secretariat including the Climate Finance Access Hub. Activities will be implemented in support of national government agencies and regional Commonwealth structures.

CommonSensing will focus on a sustainable service development delivering tools and information for improved climate action and knowledge transfer customized to the requirements for each country.

General key challenges for Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

- (1) Vulnerability to hydro-meteorological and geophysical disasters: Cyclones, floods, droughts, landslides
- (2) Deforestation and land degradation
- (3) Access to clean water
- (4) Food security and maritime sector efficiency
- (5) Sewage treatment and waste management
- (6) Deteriorating road systems
- (7) Overall vulnerability to climate change
- (8) Affordable and reliable access to energy

Key outcomes

- (1) Increased resource capacities to address DRR and CCA resilience in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu
- (2) Enhanced evidence based decision making by using CommonSensing Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
- (3) Strengthened knowledge, skills and awareness on CommonSensing Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

Activities

- (1) Needs assessments
- (2) Training, technical backstopping and knowledge transfer
- (3) Development of ready to use sustainable earth observation derived solutions
- (4) Development of easy to use information and assessment platform
- (5) Awareness raising of senior decision makers and wider stakeholder groups

Sustainability

- (1) Direct inclusion in Climate Finance Access Hub for increased access to funding, feeding back into increased use of services and skills. Positive feedback loop with funding from climate funds.
- (2) Free and open/open license data
- (3) Partnership with Radiant.Earth for possible bridge funding after project end and/or extension to other Commonwealth of Nations SIDS countries
- (4) Technical backstopping along project and access to wide community of practise, including leading edge experts
- (5) New generation of solutions inspired by streaming services enables easy and reliable user access, higher sustained impact and allows for organic and progressive capacity building and minimal demand on IT and infrastructure by the users

Partners

- (1) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) – Lead, with UN Environment Programme as sub-contractor
- (2) Satellite Applications Catapult
- (3) UK Meteorological Office
- (4) Airbus UK (data provider)
- (5) Radiant.Earth
- (6) Sensonomic
- (7) Devex
- (8) University of Portsmouth
- (9) Commonwealth Secretariat with Governments of Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

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