Building **climate resilience** with small island nations

ABOUT COMMONSENSING

CommonSensing is an innovative international project based on a partnership between Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and a consortium of international partners, working together to support and build climate resilience and enhance decision making through the use of satellite remote sensing technology.

GOALS

By developing satellite based information services that directly match challenges and needs, the project will support the three nations in their goals to strengthen capacity to access climate finance and report on climate funds; strengthen national and regional climate action policy; and reduce the impact and improved risk management of natural disasters and food security.

To achieve this the project will also:

- Build capacity in-country in the use of the information services strengthening technical skills across the region
- Place specialists within Government structures to ensure local knowledge and data systems benefit from the added capabilities from CommonSensing

CONTACT US

If you have any questions on the project please contact Einar Bjorgo, Project Director at Einar.Bjorgo@unitar.org

You can follow the project **@EOCommonSensing**

The project will focus initially on providing actionable information in priority areas identified by country partners within the following broad thematic areas:

IMPROVED ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE

Support to access climate finance through strengthened institutional and technical capacity within project beneficiary countries and provision of evidence based information to develop robust climate finance proposals and prioritisation of project pipelines. This component of the project will closely inter-link with the Commonwealth's Climate Finance Access Hub (CFAH).

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FOR NATURAL HAZARDS

Satellite-derived imagery and elevation models will be used to develop tools for highlighting risk areas for climate driven hazards and facilitating the development of evidence-based strategies for disaster risk reduction.

ENHANCED FOOD SECURITY

Computational simulations on satellite remote sensing data and other relevant data sources will be used to provide evidence-based insight on the robustness and economics of each nation's food production systems.

ENHANCED RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Weather and climate data already form an important part of countries' decision-making processes, therefore new satellite data sources will be used to address existing gaps and strengthen existing platforms.

The CommonSensing team will design the information services working directly with the people who will be using them. This people-focused design process will ensure they are easy to access and integrate seamlessly with their own data and decision-making systems.

ACTIVITIES

The project will roll-out over three years working closely with senior decision makers and wider stakeholder groups at all stages:

Phase 1 Understanding challenges

- Information and requirements collation through research and consultation with stakeholders and initiatives at a regional and national level
- Understanding the challenges in the individual countries for gap analysis and needs assessment for satellite-derived services

Phase 2 Addressing needs

- Definition, design and development of tools that address the defined challenges
- Testing and service prototyping to ensure fit with partner countries existing processes
- Support through capacity building and technical assistance programmes in collaboration with partners

ABOUT IPP

CommonSensing is funded through a grant from the UK Space Agency's International Partnership Programme (IPP) which supports cutting-edge research and innovation on global issues affecting developing countries.

IPP aims to make a positive and practical impact on the lives of citizens by supporting the people tackling sustainable development challenges to harness the full potential of satellite technology and data.

The grant funding is supplemented by contributions from the project partners and matched with in-kind contributions from the three participating nations including team resource, meeting facilities and access to data.

PARTNERS

CommonSensing brings together nine organisations with world-leading expertise in satellite remote sensing, sustainable development, business analysis, data analysis and modelling and climate financing.

The project is led by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR's)Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) working with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Satellite Applications Catapult, Devex International, the Met Office, Sensonomic, Spatial Days Ltd., and the University of Portsmouth.