



3rd Capacity-building Hub Finance and Technology Day

Commonwealth Secretariat Role of earth observation data and tools for improving flows of climate finance, experiences from Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

Event Summary

CommonSensing is an innovative project based on a partnership between Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and a consortium of international partners to provide actionable satellite-based information services and data around disaster and climate risks to inform planning, climate action, and increased access to climate finance.

The Commonwealth Secretariat, through its Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub, is spearheading the climate finance component of this project with climate finance advisers deployed in these three aforementioned countries to support the development of funding proposals using this earth observation data.

Attendees were also introduced to the model applied through the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub in enabling member countries to build human and institutional capacity for improved access to climate finance.

Experiences of practical application of this Earth observation data in these countries were shared, as well as a comprehensive demonstration of use of the CommonSensing Platform by a partner organisation – Satellite Applications Catapult Ltd. Elements such as the web-based decision support tool of the platform were also explained, including how this can enhance in-country decision making.

An overview was provided of the three country reports developed by The Commonwealth Secretariat for these Pacific islands highlighting the vulnerable sectors that would benefit most from the use of Earth observation data for developing climate finance proposals.

Currently, as part of the Secretariat's work in the Pacific, 'writeshop' workshops have been conducted in Fiji and Solomon Islands thus far, with Vanuatu to follow. These aim to strengthen climate finance skills already obtained in previous trainings. The 'writeshop' format seeks to use live concept notes to demonstrate the practical application of data and information from the CommonSensing Platform to enhance the evidence base and climate rationale in funding proposals.

The Commonwealth Secretariat remains keen on working with interested partners in implementing similar initiatives across other regions, given the clear replication potential of the CommonSensing initiative.

