Establishing the geospatial information accurately for Fiji’s Maritime Boundaries
Maritime Boundaries describes the area over which a State exercises its national jurisdiction under international law (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – UNCLOS).

Important to provide the accurate and legal framework which governs the development of marine activities and management purposes, such as shipping and navigation purposes, fisheries, mineral exploitation and environmental management.
Fiji’s Maritime Boundary Committee (MACC)

• Chair - Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation.

• Technical Advisory Committee:
  - Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources,
  - Ministry of Fisheries,
  - Fiji Navy,
  - Fiji Islands Maritime Safety Administration
  - Applied Geoscience & Technology (SOPAC) Division of SPC for their technical advice (Invited Representative)
Fiji’s maritime boundaries (old system defined in the legislation, “Marine Spaces Act”, 1981)

“Archipelagic Straight Baseline” as it satisfies criteria under Article 47 (1) of UNCLOS

“An archipelagic State may draw straight archipelagic baselines joining the outermost points of the outermost islands and drying reefs of the archipelago provided that within such baselines are included the main islands and an area in which the ratio of area of the water to the area of land, including atolls, is between 1 to 1 and 9 to 1.”
Baseline surveys in 2007 & 2008
Review & Verification of Fiji Islands Archipelagic Baseline

Why.............

- Base point Positioning
- Local Geodetic Datum
- Defined & Accurate Archipelago
- Rules of UNCLOS
Review & Verification Archp. Baselines

RULES of UNCLOS

General Configuration of the Archipelago

Data Sources

- Hydrographic Charts
- Topographical Maps
- Aerial Photos
- GPS Surveys
- Satellite Imageries
- Definition of ITRF System
- Area of Archipelago
- Promulgation (Gazettal) of Maritime Boundaries
Review & Verification of Fiji Islands Archipelagic Baseline

Manual Plots

GIS Plots
Review & Verification of Fiji Islands Archipelagic Baseline

Topographical Maps

Hydrographic Charts
Review & Verification of Fiji Islands Archipelagic Baseline

Reef Delineation Surveys

Aerial Photos
Reef Delineation Survey in GIS
Some Findings

[Diagram showing Naovo Island, Reef, and Submerged area]
Some Findings
Fiji’s maritime boundaries (updated in 2012)
Fiji’s maritime boundaries (updated in 2012)
Fiji’s maritime boundaries (updated in 2012)
Fiji’s Maritime Boundaries - negotiations

Preparations of the technical solutions - shared EEZ outer limits, leading to negotiations with neighbouring countries.

Fiji’s maritime boundaries with other countries:
1. Tuvalu – signed in October 2014
2. Wallis & Futuna (France) – signed in 1983
3. Tonga
4. New Caledonia (France) – signed in 1983
5. Vanuatu
6. Solomons; and
7. extended Continental Shelf overlapping with New Zealand
Baseline important for negotiations

Preparations of the technical solutions for shared EEZ leading to negotiations with neighbouring countries.

Baseline around Rotuma island shown on the Geoeye satellite imagery which is the closest island to Tuvalu and important for this negotiations
FIJI & TUVALU PRELIMINARY BOUNDARY & NEGOTIATIONS

TUVALU’s EEZ

FIJI’s EEZ

Area to be negotiated
Fiji-Tuvalu Maritime Boundary

- In October 2014, the PMs of Fiji and Tuvalu signed and settled their maritime boundary agreement
Regional meetings & working sessions

Fiji has been participating in regional training workshops since 2008 in capacity building and understanding the technical and legal requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

Partner agencies:
Fiji’s remaining negotiations for future....

Establishing the accurate and legal framework using latest geospatial dataset is vital to the secure establishment of Fiji’s rights in international law and promotes a stable environment in the region.

Fiji’s maritime boundaries with other countries:
1. Tuvalu – signed in October 2014
2. Wallis & Futuna (France) – signed in 1983* (error to be corrected)
3. Tonga
4. New Caledonia (France) - signed in 1983
5. Vanuatu
6. Solomon; and
7. extended Continental Shelf overlapping with New Zealand
VINAKA