



GEO WEEK 2019  
 PACIFIC ISLAND PROGRAM  
 4-7 November 2019

## High Level Pacific Plenary Panel Discussions

10.30am-12.30pm, Monday 4th November 2019  
 Bradman Theatre, National Convention Centre

### Summary:

Small Island Developing States, with their close connection to land and sea have a strong dependency on the natural environment. As some of the world's original Earth Observers, the Pacific Islands know the value and importance of Earth Observing, and are hopeful that current and emerging earth observing will enable them to increase their capabilities to manage their natural estates in a changing world. To achieve this a number of key challenges remain to be overcome in order for the Pacific Islands region to take full advantage of the services, information and knowledge available via the GEO community.

As the Opening Event for the **Pacific Island Program at GEO Week**, these panels, with their expert speakers, will explore governance, sustainability and technical issues faced by the region at a high level and in doing so, inform, engage, inspire discussions throughout the throughout the Pacific Island Program at GEO Week.

**Format:** Each panel speaker will provide around 5 minutes of remarks, which will be followed by facilitated discussion using set questions together with live polling and moderated audience questions via Sli.Do.

Time	Item	Speakers
10:30-10:45	<b>Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Welcome</b> by Pacific Island Program @ GEO convener, Ms Emma Luke</li> <li>• <b>Acknowledgement of Country</b>, Ms Vonda Malone, Mayor of the Torres Shire Council, Australia</li> <li>• <b>Opening remarks</b>, Ms Rosamond Bing, CEO Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Government of Tonga</li> </ul>
10:45-10:50	<b>Setting the Scene</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What could the EO in the Pacific look like in the future?</b> Dr Stuart Minchin, Australian GEO Principal and SPC DG-Designate</li> </ul>
10:50-11:20	<b>Panel 1: Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr James Movick</b>, former Director General, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency</li> <li>• <b>Ms Kathy Klugman</b>, First Assistant Secretary, Office of the Pacific, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</li> <li>• <b>Dr Yves Lafoy</b>, Counsellor, Official Representative of New Caledonia to Australia, New Caledonia's Head of Mission, Embassy of France, Canberra</li> <li>• <b>Dr Melissa Finucane</b>, Senior Fellow, East-West Center, Honolulu</li> <li>• <b>Mr Steven Ramage</b>, Head of External Relations, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat</li> </ul>
11:20-11:50	<b>Panel 2: Sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr Andrew Jones</b>, Director, Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community</li> <li>• <b>Ms Tamara Greenstone-Alefaio</b>, Conservation Program Manager, Micronesia Conservation Trust</li> <li>• <b>Mr Mark Alcock</b>, Director Boundaries &amp; Georegulations, Geoscience Australia</li> <li>• <b>Mr Steven Ramage</b>, Head of External Relations, GEO Secretariat</li> </ul>
11:50-12:20	<b>Panel 3: Technology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Rafael Kargren</b>, Xerra Earth Observation Institute, New Zealand</li> <li>• <b>Mr Ngatokotoru Puna</b>, Director, National Environment Service, Cook Islands</li> <li>• <b>Mr Andrew Zolli</b>, Vice President, Global Impact Initiatives &amp; Planet Fellow</li> <li>• <b>Dr Indi Hodgson-Johnston</b>, Assistant Director, Integrated Marine Observing System</li> <li>• <b>Mr Steven Ramage</b>, Head of External Relations, GEO Secretariat</li> </ul>
12:20-12:30	<b>Wrap up and what's next?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Emma Luke thanks all speakers and introduces <b>Dr David Helweg</b>, U.S. Geological Survey to announce arrangements for next events under the <b>Pacific Island Program at GEO Week</b>.</li> </ul>

## Meet the speakers



**Ms Vonda Malone**, Mayor, Torres Shire Council

Vonda is a fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Program and the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner's Indigenous Fellowship Program. Vonda holds 22 years' experience with the Australian Government, which started with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade working in the Torres Strait, Canberra and New Zealand.



**Ms Rosamond Bing**, CEO Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Tonga

With over 10 years of experience in the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Ms. Bing has progressed through her public service career in the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources in 2002 from her first posting as a Principal Assistant Secretary, then most recently as a consulting Legal Administrator. Ms. Bing is a law graduate of the Australian National University.



**Dr Stuart Minchin**, Australian GEO Principal and SPC DG-Designate

Dr. Minchin is currently the Chief of the Environmental Geoscience Division of Geoscience Australia, the center of expertise for environmental earth science issues and custodian of national environmental geoscience data, information and knowledge. Stuart represents Australia in key international forums and is Australia's Principal Delegate to both the UN Global Geospatial Information Management Group of Experts and the Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO).



**Mr James Movick**, former Director General, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency. Adviser/ Member, Pacific Fusion Centre Reference Group.

Movick served as Deputy Director General of the FFA from August 2010 before assuming the position of Director General for two terms from November 2012-2018. In that capacity he oversaw FFA's continued enhancement of regional fisheries surveillance and enforcement including promotion of broader law enforcement information sharing cooperation. He is currently advising on the development of the Pacific Fusion Centre by the Australian Government. He also serves on the board of advisers for the GEOSS Blue Planet initiative and is a strong advocate for greater PIC citizen engagement in Oceans Science and use of Earth Observation to improve

governmental and community decision making. He is a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, residing in Pohnpei



**Ms Kathy Klugman**, First Assistant Secretary, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

In November 2018, Ms Klugman became the inaugural First Assistant Secretary of the Pacific Strategy Division in the recently established Office of the Pacific, which covers Australia's regional engagement in the Pacific, incorporating security co-operation, people to people links, labour mobility and economic growth. Ms Klugman has held a number of previous roles including FAS South and West Asia Division, FAS International Division Prime Minister & Cabinet, High Commissioner to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Deputy High Commissioner Singapore and Deputy High Commissioner Colombo.



**Dr Yves LAFOY**, Counsellor, Official Representative of New Caledonia to Australia

Dr Lafoy has a PhD in Pacific Marine Sciences from the University of Brest (France) and held research positions in Japan and Fiji before being recruited to New Caledonia's Department of Industry, Mines and Energy in 1991. In 2012 he was appointed to head New Caledonia's inaugural Diplomatic Representation at the French Embassy in

Wellington. As New Caledonia's first Official Representative to New Zealand he oversaw the development, signing and implementation of the first Joint Cooperation Plan between the two countries in 2016. In January 2019 Yves Lafoy was appointed to head New Caledonia's first Diplomatic Mission in Australia.



**Dr Melissa Finucane**, Senior Fellow, East-West Center, Honolulu  
Melissa Finucane is a senior fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawai'i, her interdisciplinary and policy-oriented research focuses on understanding the human dimensions of environmental health risks. She received her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Western Australia  
Finucane is a co-investigator with the Pacific RISA program, which aims to support Pacific Island communities to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change (related to fresh water resources, coastal erosion, and military infrastructure).  
@MelissaFinucane



**Mr Steven Ramage**, Head of External Relations, GEO Secretariat  
Since 2016 Steven Ramage has been leading global stakeholder engagement and external relations for GEO, an intergovernmental partnership promoting the value and usefulness of Earth observations (EO) for research, policy, decisions and action. GEO works on behalf of more than 100 UN Member States to highlight the role of EO to provide

insights and actionable information for the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the UN 2030 Agenda; with a focus on open data access, sharing, policies and use. Steven worked in the private sector for 20 years before he started consulting to the World Bank and the United Nations in 2012.  
@steven\_ramage



**Dr Andrew Jones**, Director Geoscience, Energy and Maritime, Secretariat of the Pacific Community  
Andrew has 17 years of experience working with extractives and development teams of Geoscience Australia, including planning, managing and delivering more than a dozen donor-funded projects on behalf of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and foreign governments; and also developed and managed an extensive stakeholder network at senior levels across multiple regional government agencies and with multilaterals such as the UN and World Bank.  
His management responsibilities included integrating large multi-disciplinary teams and operational budgets for a broad and complex multi-stakeholder network across national and cultural borders in countries such as Indonesia, Philippines and PNG. He has worked extensively in the Pacific, primarily in the field of disaster reduction, and has led projects focused on climatic and geological hazards in PNG and Tonga and developed programmes on spatial data analysis for the South West Pacific region.



**Ms Tamara Greenstone-Alefaio**, Conservation Program Manager, Micronesia Conservation Trust  
Tamara has lived in the Micronesia region (the Marshall Islands and Pohnpei) for almost 20 years. Tamara has been working at the Micronesia Conservation Trust since 2016 where she manages the Conservation Program. She and the MCT team acquire and manage international and regional donor grants issuing subgrants to local NGOs and communities ensuring that conservation and climate finance can be accessed where it is needed the most. MCT also offers technical support to partners across the region as part of a shared commitment to the Micronesia Challenge. MCT is the smallest entity in the world to be accredited by both the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund.

**Mr Mark Alcock**, Director, Boundaries & Georegulations, Geoscience Australia

Mark has been the Director of Georegulation since 2008, where he is responsible for leading the Australian scientific and technical program that manages Australia's offshore boundaries. This includes assistance to the Pacific region to secure its marine jurisdiction rights.

He chairs the International Hydrographic Organisation S-121 Maritime Limits and Boundaries Project Team, a body established in answer to a 2004 United Nations General Assembly Resolution tasked with improving the United Nation's systems for sharing and publicising maritime limits and boundaries.



**Mr Rafael Kargren**, Xerra Earth Observation Institute, New Zealand

Rafael is seasoned entrepreneur, telecom and space executive, director of operations at Xerra and founder of New Zealand’s Earth Observation Group.

Rafael has extensive background in satellite earth observation, building remote sensing applications and data management tools. In his role, he has led engagement with key project stakeholders and governments in many countries around the world including Pacific Islands. His passion lies in translating remote sensing observations of the environment into actionable information with focus on sustainability and analysing long term human impact on the environment.

Rafael has been involved in many international initiatives to improve humanitarian action and disaster response. He brought Copernicus Data Hub to New Zealand and represents New Zealand in several international Earth Observation forums.

@RafaelKargren



**Mr Andrew Zolli**, Vice President, Global Impact Initiatives & Planet Fellow

For more than two decades, the central thrust of Andrew’s work has been how to harness the power of emerging tools, technologies, and new approaches to drive collective, regenerative, and systemic change.

He oversees Global Impact initiatives at Planet, a breakthrough space and AI organization which has deployed the largest constellation of Earth-observing satellites in history. These satellites image our whole planet every day in high resolution, and my team makes sure this data is used to its highest and best purposes to monitor the world’s ecosystems, improve humanitarian action and disaster response, transform sustainable development, and advance scientific discovery and artistic expression. (@andrew\_zolli)



**Mr. Ngatokotoru Puna**, Director, Cook Islands National Environment Service

Mr Nga Puna has been in his current position of Director of the Cook Islands National Environment Service for seven months on a 3 year Contract. His qualifications include Bachelor's Degree in Employment Relations and Human Resources Management and a Masters in Business Administration. Previous roles include: CEO for Minister of Infrastructure, Transport and Environment, Policy and Governance Consultant, a School Principal and Senior Maths Teacher for 15 years.



**Dr Indi Hodgson-Johnston**, Assistant Director, Integrated Marine Observing System

As Assistant Director at IMOS, Indi has responsibilities for key user and stakeholder portfolios and communications. This involves research, analysis and provision of advice on government, industry, and social drivers as relevant to the

uptake and impact of both current and potential IMOS observations and data.

Indi has a background in maritime security operations, and marine law and policy. She has also acted in strategic communications roles and has worked for the Antarctic Treaty and Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources Secretariats.



**Ms Emma Luke**, GEO Ministerial Taskforce’s Government and International Strategy Advisor  
A firm believer in science for development, Ms Luke has over 18 years experience in the Australian government in international science roles, working mainly across the Asia Pacific. Career highlights include leading the APEC Earth and Marine Observations initiative (2015) and program coordinator for the ASEAN-based SPS Capacity Building Programme and the Australian Plant Pest and Disease Database. She holds a BSc. with honours in biological sciences and completing her Masters in Marine Sciences & Management.



**Dr David Helweg**  
Dr. Dave Helweg is Senior Liaison for Insular Relations in the U.S. Geological Survey National Climate Adaptation Science Center. Helweg leads development of methodologies to conduct strategic initiatives, developing partnerships, and identifying the key science support needs of U.S. Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs and partner organizations in the U.S.