



Open Call – Join the Regional Dialogue Forum for Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) 2025!

The United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (**UNU-EHS**), together with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32, 53113 Bonn, Germany (**GIZ**), on behalf of the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Flagship (**GEO-LDN**), is pleased to announce an open call for applications from intersectoral country teams of relevant actors involved in land governance and land degradation monitoring (Intersectoral Teams) interested in attending the Regional Dialogue Forum for the Pacific Islands in July 2025 and using geospatial data to reach Land Degradation Neutrality (**LDN**). This open call addresses **countries set out in the [list of Partner Countries](#)¹ and a Pacific Small Island Developing State (PSIDS) in conjunction with Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung, BMZ) regulations.**

As UNU-EHS in part of GEO-LDN, they are mentioned together as "GEO-LDN" in the following.

GEO-LDN aims to establish strong partnerships with countries that share our vision and commitment to utilizing earth observation data, geospatial technologies, and intersectoral collaboration to address complex challenges in areas such as Integrated Land Use Planning (ILUP) and reaching LDN. Our primary goal is to meet the needs and interests of countries with LDN targets using Earth Observation and/or spatial planning. UNU-EHS, which is the academic arm of the United Nations, contributes to GEO-LDN specifically by adding a science-policy perspective for supporting countries in implementing goals and targets of the three Rio Conventions, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in an integrated manner.

Successful applicants will be sponsored to join the Dialogue Forum in the week of 21st to 25th July 2025. The exact date, time and place will be published later. The Dialogue Forum aims to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange and in-person support on national challenges regarding reaching LDN targets, as well as other land-related targets linked to climate and biodiversity goals. It is one of the foundational elements for becoming a part of GEO-LDN's long-term peer-to-peer exchange program, where Partner Countries and Intersectoral Teams receive regular support and expertise.

Through this open call, we invite Intersectoral Teams to submit applications that present a strong interest in using geospatial data to reach LDN and land-related climate and biodiversity goals, and to implement ILUP. The selected Intersectoral Teams will gain access to our extensive network of experts, technical resources, and capacity development programs to facilitate the implementation of innovative solutions.

Services offered by GEO-LDN – Why apply?

¹All Partner Countries set out in the attached list are:

(i) eligible to receive Official Development Assistance (ODA) as per the OECD please [click here](#)

GEO-LDN has adopted a toolbox approach to help partner countries to define user needs and develop use cases relevant for them. Improved gender-sensitive planning of land resources is important to reach LDN, however the specific planning differs per partner country.

We support and capacitate relevant actors in partner countries to use Earth Observation data to monitor land degradation and work towards LDN. More specifically, our offer includes:

- working groups to advance the human capacity, data standards and analytics needed to implement LDN,
- support by the GEO-LDN secretariat, currently hosted by GIZ,
- an engaged and committed leads group, consisting of renowned scientists and practitioners of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Conservation International (C.I), the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR) in Ghana, The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) and others to offer 2nd level support,
- a continuous knowledge exchange and learning platform until 2026 through the annual dialogue forums and monthly online seminars, offering access to a community of land use planners and geospatial practitioners.

Application – How to Apply?

Please send the following documents in one email to PSIDS-dialogue@ehs.unu.edu. Please include all the following documents in one single pdf file.

1. A table consisting of each member of the Intersectoral Team including (related to criteria 1 and 2 in the assessment grid):
 - a. Full name
 - b. Current place of work (Ministry, NGO, etc.) specifying how their position within an institution/ministry supports the application (1 sentence maximum)
 - c. Email and Phone Contact
 - d. Nationality (participants must be a valid passport holder at the time of the Dialogue Forum)
2. A copy of the CV for each representative of the Intersectoral Team (related to criteria 1 to 4 in the assessment grid)
3. One joint expression of interest (**EOI**) addressing all the questions in criteria 5 of the Assessment grid (minimum 300 words and maximum 700 words in total).
4. A “declaration of consent” form from each member of the Intersectoral Team allowing us to use and process your personal data for the organisation of the event. More information can be found in the data protection section of this call; the form itself can be downloaded from our website.
5. A statement whether full funding is required for the team members or whether costs can be covered by themselves, e.g., through financial means of the GEF-8 Star Allocation budget.

2 country teams with 3 members each can be funded through this call, i.e., 6 people in total.

Please note: In your EOI take into consideration the criteria against which your application will be assessed (as seen in the assessment grid below).

The application submission deadline is **11:59 pm CET 28th of February 2025**. Please ensure that the subject line of your email reads: “Application for Dialogue Forum 2025 – [Partner Country Name].”

We look forward to receiving your application and exploring the possibility of establishing a fruitful partnership between GEO-LDN and your Intersectoral Team.

Criteria against which applications will be assessed:

Key criteria

The application needs to meet the following criteria – if not, it cannot be assessed in the further process:

- Applicant country is eligible to receive ODA
- Application documents are complete (see “application” section)
- Intersectoral team has 3 members of which 1 or more are female
- Application involves national institution(s) mandated with reporting to the three Rio Conventions. (Generic suggestions for suitable institutions: Ministry of Lands, Planning, Environment, Forestry, Agriculture, Climate, etc...)

Assessment grid

	Criteria	Rating	Max. Points
1	Agency that reports on land-based indicators to the UNCCD, the UNFCCC and the CBD	National Focal Point(s) included – <i>10 points</i> Representative included – <i>8 points</i> Focal point or Representative not included – <i>0 points</i>	10
2	GIS or Remote Sensing Specialist included	One GIS / Remote Sensing Specialist directly involved in reporting to UNCCD, UNFCCC or CBD included – <i>10 points</i> One GIS / Remote Sensing Specialist not directly involved in reporting to UNCCD, UNFCCC or CBD included – <i>5 points</i> No GIS specialists included – <i>0 points</i>	10
3	Use case assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your primary challenge or use case you want/need to address through the use of geospatial data? (150 words maximum, ideally use bullet points) – <i>12 / 6 / 0 points according to clarity of paragraph</i> • How can this challenge/use case be addressed; in which role do you see GEO-LDN flagship? – <i>12 / 6 / 0 points according to clarity of paragraph</i> 	40

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you reduce your use case/challenge to a single question (max 50 words)? – 6 / 0 points according to clarity of question • Are there enabling framework conditions or processes that are connected to the described use case? This can be a global or bilateral development project or laws, regulations or policy documents, laws on national level? Please add link or document for proof. – 10 / 0 points for proof / no proof. 	
4	Target Setting Process	<p>The country has completed the LDN Target Setting Process and/or the target setting process related to land-related goals under UNFCCC and CBD (e.g., in National Action Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans), and made them publicly available (i.e. the UNCCD Website) – 5 points</p> <p>Target Setting Process not completed and not publicly shown – 0 points</p>	5

Data Protection

GIZ and UNU-EHS attach great importance to responsible and transparent management of personal data. GIZ and UNU-EHS process personal data exclusively in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the German Federal Data Protection Act (*Bundesdatenschutzgesetz, BDSG*), and the United Nations University Policy on Personal Data Protection, respectively. For more information see: http://www.giz.de/en/html/data_protection.html and <https://unu.edu/sites/default/files/2023-05/UNU-Policy-on-Personal-Data-Protection-Policy.pdf>

The personal data of applicants and participants (first name, last name, organization, e-mail) that are required for the participant management of the Dialogue Forum for Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) 2025 organised by GIZ will be stored securely on GIZ and UNU-EHS servers and used for contacting and registering participants of the Dialogue Forum 2025.

The personal data will be used exclusively for sending out invitations and a summary of the event, managing registrations, transport, accommodation, and catering during the event. The personal data will be used exclusively for the purposes described in this statement. Any other use always requires further consent. Your personal data will not be used for advertising purposes or shared with third parties without your expressed consent.

The legal basis for the processing is the consent of the participants ([declaration of consent form](#)) in accordance with the GDPR and the United Nations University Policy on Personal Data Protection.

Access to your personal data is reserved for GIZ and UNU-EHS staff in organizational unit G520 who need to process it for the above purpose and who will handle the information you provide properly and confidentially.

Further Terms and Conditions

1. All members of the Intersectoral Team must have their residence in a Partner Country.
2. The use case or challenge must also be based in a Partner Country.
3. If the Intersectoral Team gets sponsored to be a part of the 2025 Dialogue Forum, all flights to the host country in the pacific, specific country to be determined, must originate from an ODA recipient country.
4. Participation in the Dialogue Forum does not warrant further financial support through GEO-LDN, GIZ, or UNU-EHS.
5. Intellectual property rights: Further use of submitted use case and work results can and will be used publicly. All members of the Intersectoral Team grant the GEO-LDN network an irrevocable, non-exclusive right of use, unlimited in time, space and content, free of charge, to all work results which are created or procured in connection with the Dialogue Forum.
6. The selected Intersectoral Teams will be informed via e-mail and must confirm participation.
7. Later changes in team composition need approval by GEO-LDN.
8. Up to five different Intersectoral Teams, made up of 5 individuals each (a total of 25 people) will be sponsored to attend the conference including travel costs (e.g., visa, flight tickets, accommodation, insurance).
9. GIZ and UNU-EHS reserve the right to exclude applicants who provide false or incomplete information or otherwise violate these terms and conditions from this Open Call and/or the 2025 Dialogue Forum. In such case, financial contributions by GIZ may be subsequently reclaimed.
10. If a selected Intersectoral Team does not take advantage of the sponsoring by UNU-EHS, UNU-EHS reserves the right to decide at its own discretion how to use the corresponding financial contribution.
11. GIZ and UNU-EHS reserves the right to react transparently to unforeseen circumstances by changing or cancelling this open call or amending these terms and conditions.
12. Should any clause of these terms and conditions be invalid, the validity of the remaining terms and conditions shall remain unaffected.
13. The legal recourse shall be excluded.

Appendix/Summary of call for applications for the Regional Dialogue Forum for Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) 2025!

Our goal	GEO-LDN aims to establish strong partnerships with countries that share our vision and commitment to utilizing Earth Observation data, geospatial technologies, and intersectoral collaboration to address complex challenges in areas such as integrated land use planning and reaching LDN, climate and biodiversity goals. Our primary mandate is to meet the needs and interests of countries with land-related targets to address goals of the Rio Conventions using earth observations and/or spatial planning.
Why join?	To become a part of GEO-LDN's long-term continuous learning journey, where countries and Intersectoral Teams receive regular support and expertise. The selected Intersectoral Teams will gain access to our extensive network of experts, technical resources, and capacity development programs to facilitate the implementation of innovative solutions. The forum further serves as platform to enable interregional and intersectoral peer-learning on how to integrate land, biodiversity and climate goals for better alignment of national planning instruments under environmental agreements and frameworks and for leveraging synergies for reporting under these national instruments.
Location	Viti Levu, Fiji
Date	Week of 21 st to 25 th July 2025
Target audience	Planners from national and sub-national institutions, scientists, and decision-makers with a direct link to Spatial Planning and Land Degradation Neutrality, or reporting for Sustainable Development Goal 15.3.1, as well as same stakeholders involved in planning, implementing and reporting on land-related interventions in line with national processes contributing to the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
Sponsorship	GEO-LDN will sponsor travel costs (e.g., visa, flight tickets, accommodation, insurance) for all Intersectoral Team members to join the event if costs cannot be covered by themselves, but will not be organizing the visa beyond a letter of support from the GIZ country office.
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your country is eligible for official development assistance according to the OECD DAC list and is the Pacific Island Small Developing State as per BMZ regulations. Your Intersectoral Team sent all necessary documents in the application window. Your Intersectoral Team abides by the requirements, meets the criteria and is selected by the GEO-LDN committee as a qualified Intersectoral Team.
Application documents (all in one PDF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CV for all representatives of the Intersectoral Team. Expression of Interest (EOI). Declaration of consent (signed by all representatives). All sent in one document in a PDF format.

How to apply?	Your application focal point should send all documents in one PDF file by email to PSIDS-dialogue@ehs.unu.edu .
Application deadline	11:59 pm (CET), 28th of February 2025
Please note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants should already be valid passport holders to travel during the dates of the event upon sending in the application. • Please see detailed information about the needs and criteria for the EOI in the <u>official open call document</u>. • We encourage applications even if not all criteria are met. A ranking will be applied based upon the above assessment grid. • The results will be communicated by mid-March 2025.
More information	The GEO-LDN Secretariat will have a limited capacity to support your Intersectoral Team throughout the duration of the application window, however, please send any relevant questions to PSIDS-dialogue@ehs.unu.edu .
List of Eligible Countries <i>*based on information available to GEO-LDN at the time of writing the open call</i>	<p>1) Fiji, 2) Kiribati, 3) Marshall Islands, 4) Micronesia, 5) Nauru, 6) Niue, 7) Palau, 8) Papua New Guinea, 9) Samoa, 10) Solomon Islands, 11) Tonga, 12) Tuvalu, 13) Vanuatu</p> <p>*Disclaimer: This is based on information provided by the OECD list of countries eligible for Development Assistance, also known as DAC and GIZ internal regulations.</p>