



ASIA-PACIFIC
SPATIAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

NATIONAL WINNER

Pacific Flying Labs Technology & Tradition

The University of the South Pacific has dedicated itself to helping enable communities to monitor their own local environments in the context of climate change.

The Pacific Flying Labs traditional and technology project is designed to raise awareness of the issues faced by coastal Fijian communities, using hard scientific data to help direct sustainable solutions.

This project combined scientific methods, traditional knowledge, and ICT to help communities collect and record important data that will enable them to make informed decisions on changes in their local environment over time.

Our judges commended USP for its genuine endeavours in local capacity building, deployed directly in largely undeveloped villages and settlements. The university managed to establish strong relationships with the communities by optimising their student's connections to their local villages.

Since the project's inception, USP has demonstrated an application of high precision GNSS and aerial robotics, marine robotics, and remote environmental sensors to help map, monitor, and manage selected Fijian communities.

Our judges were deeply impressed with the level of community engagement and noted that community acceptance and trust were important components of the project's success.

In all, USP's efforts are to be celebrated for providing a solid example of community engagement and consultation and the Pacific Flying Lab shows spatial science at its best: delivering technology to help vulnerable communities help themselves.