



Digital Atlas of Pohnpei State – A Geospatial Map and Data Server for Resource Management



Funded by:
US Geological Survey, Water Institute Program

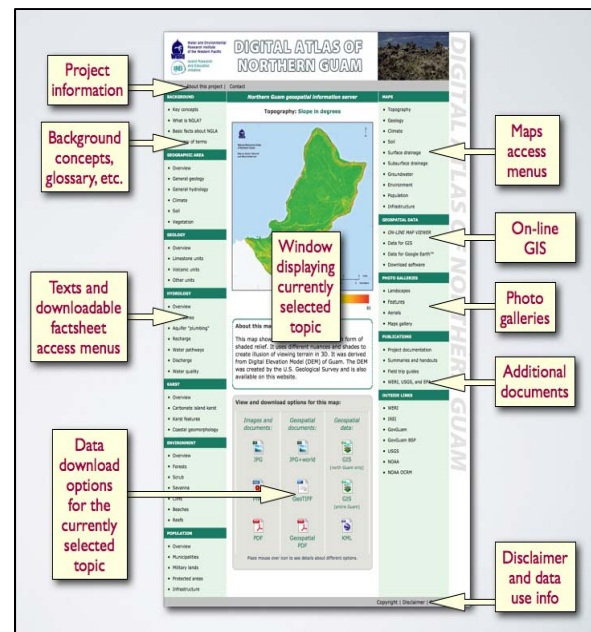
Principal Investigators:
Danko Taborosi & Shahram Khosrowpanah

Pohnpei is the political and administrative center of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). It is home to over a third of the nation's population and represents the hub of commercial activity and economic development in the region. In addition, Pohnpei is a part of a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) whose many low-lying yet densely-populated areas are at great risk of natural disasters and effects of climate change and sea-level rise. Sustainable development and effective management of resources, especially in the context of improving resiliency to the effects of climate change and responding to the risk of natural disasters and ameliorating their effects, requires geospatial information of the physical, environmental, and anthropogenic components of the entire system. Such information must be accurate, up-to-date, mutually compatible, and readily available. Given the difficulties in locating and accessing such data on Pohnpei, let alone verifying their quality and actually applying them in decision making, Pohnpei has a great need for a unified, comprehensive, and user-friendly information management system for geospatial data. We propose to create a web-based digital repository and dissemination system for GIS and other geospatial data related to Pohnpei, to include all maps and significant aspects of its natural and man-made geography (see Appendix 1), as well as comparable data for all of Pohnpei State's outer islands (see Appendix 2).

The resultant geo-database will be established to incorporate all relevant physical, environmental, and infrastructural information and would include existing data (which would be inventoried and collected as part of this project) and any new data yet to be created, and become the mainstay for future collecting, digitizing, cataloguing, and distributing geospatial data on Pohnpei. Therefore, the overall objective of the project proposed here is to create a robust, comprehensive, and versatile geospatial data server to support all geospatial aspects of planning, disaster risk reduction and emergency

response, resource management, sustainable development, research and modeling, conservation, and education on Pohnpei. Based on experiences from Guam and results of comparable projects there, we plan to call the product proposed here the “Digital Atlas of Pohnpei” so that it can become a sister product to the intensively used and highly successful “Digital Atlas of Guam,” created in several stages between 2009 and 2013.

The Digital Atlas of Pohnpei will be web-based, permanently on-line, and act both as a repository of relevant GIS data and geospatial resources in other formats, as well as a digital point-of-contact and information-sharing hub for anyone involved in resource management, engineering, research, and decision-making in Pohnpei.



Detail of Digital Atlas of Guam.