

**Report to the 47th General Assembly
FIG Working Week 2024, Accra, Ghana**

FIG Climate Compass Task Force

Report of Activities 2023-2024

1. General

The climate crisis represents the single greatest challenge humankind faces to ensure our planet remains sustainable and our people remain resilient. This theme underpins the FIG Council's vision of sustainability over the term 2023- 2026. For the benefit of society, concerted action by FIG Members is needed to help meet a range of climate challenges such as greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss, deforestation and large-scale land use change, desertification, urban sprawl into agricultural land, water scarcity, pollution of the seas and more. The expertise of FIG Members means they are well positioned to make a major contribution to addressing a wide range of land and water related climate change issues.

Surveyors have a large range of skills and knowledge that is needed to address different types of climate challenges which cut-across all Commissions and Networks. The major land and water climate challenges that relate to the land profession include:

1. **Sea level rise** and coastal zone management;
2. Carbon loss through **land use change** – deforestation, urban sprawl into agricultural areas, soil sealing, cropland expansion into natural & semi-natural areas and avoiding, reducing and restoring the land;
3. **Biodiversity loss** through land use change and the need to set aside 30% of the earth's land surface and oceans as protected areas (Global Biodiversity Framework, 2022);
4. **Desertification**, land degradation and land restoration;
5. **Natural disasters** and 'building back better';
6. Degradation of **wetlands, rivers, lakes, peatlands**;
7. Break down in **earth's global systems**;
8. **Measurement of complex earth systems** for the management of competition over land and natural resources from global to local;
9. Implementing existing **national climate plans** of the 193 countries who have Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) plans, which is a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate

impacts. Countries also have National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Often these plans do not take into account land and water tenure issues.

10. 70% of people do not have government documents for their land. **Tenure security** is critical for sustainable land management as people will not invest in their land if they have no tenure security;
11. Weak **land and water governance**, administration, management and data undermine sustainability;
12. Weak **waste disposal** and land use controls.

The Terms of Reference for this Task Force were approved by FIG Council and the General Assembly at the FIG Working Week in Orlando, 2023.

The Climate Compass Task Force is elevating the work that has already been done and is continuing to be done by the FIG Commissions, Task Forces and other groups globally. It is acting as a portal to provide a clear picture of the role that surveyors, as a global profession, play in measuring, managing and mitigating the present and future impacts of climate change. The Task Force's key objectives are to:

- Capture the extent of climate-related content that is being worked on across FIG Commissions and other bodies.
- Map out the areas where new thinking is flourishing and where gaps exist that could be filled in future.
- Work with the surveyors interested in and working in climate around the world, generating knowledge sharing and thought leadership content on the surveying-climate nexus.
- Share knowledge and developments on the role of surveyors in combating the climate crisis across FIG.

2. Cooperation

The Climate Compass Task Force actively works to support all of FIG's Commissions and Networks to mainstream climate as a key issue that is relevant to their activities through aiding them to identify climate-related aspects that are within their remit. The Task Force held a dedicated co-design and consultation workshop at the FIG Working Week Orlando in 2023 to achieve this, such that climate relationships across FIG's Commissions and Networks could be identified and included within the Task Force Terms of Reference before it was presented for final approval before the General Assembly.

The Task Force brings this to life in its operations with the focus of building capacity of surveyors interested in climate across all of FIG's Commissions and Networks with a broad focus on land, water and marine. This takes the form of running regular events that are relevant across all commissions (inviting key members of Commission to be speakers to these events) as well as holding formal joint events with Commissions.

The Task Force has established cooperative links with UNCCD and UN-Habitat / GLTN, who have been actively advertising all Task Force webinars and seminars.

The Geospatial Council of Australia is kindly supporting the Task Force in sponsoring its webinars and seminars and providing access to their Zoom license to enable these events.

3. Events 2023-2024:

- **FIG Working Week Orlando**
 - Total of 20 papers linked to climate in the Working Week program
 - TS01C: Reimagining the Climate Action Agenda for the Global Surveyor Community (a co-design and consultation session with delegates of the Working Week to validate our Terms of Reference and understand the FIG's climate community's areas of interest)
 - TS02C: FIG/GLTN Working Together on Land and Climate (a workshop to engage with professionals and gain their further thinking on Land and Climate for GLTN's next phase)
 - Climate Compass Task Force community social event
- **Conversations & Consultations Webinar Series**
 - October 11, 2023: Beyond Business-as-usual: Climate Resilience & Fit-for-purpose Surveying for Land, Water & Marine: 255 registrations; speakers Honorary Associate Professor David Mitchell, speaking on 'Fit-for-purpose approaches for small island states coping with sea level rise'; Associate Professor Eugene Chigbu, speaking on 'The link between land tenure, land use planning, land restoration and climate in the global south'; Paula Dijkstra, speaking on 'SDGs and climate'.
 - November 29, 2023: Re-designing land, water & marine surveying systems to make them FFP for climate action: 161 registered; speakers Dr Jamal Browne, speaking on 'Coastal erosion in small island states and involuntary resettlement'; Dr Kwabena Asiana, speaking on 'The valuation of unregistered customary/indigenous land and natural accounting'. Simon Ironside and Assistant Professor Gordana Jakovljevic at Banja Luka university speaking on 'Mapping plastics in the oceans'.
- **Seminar Series: Regionally relevant case studies showing opportunities & gaps for surveying and climate**
 - February 20, 2024: Seminar 01: Regional Seminar for Europe/Africa/Western Asia: 250 registered; interactive participatory audience open discussion after speakers Dr. Paul van Asperen from the Netherlands government spoke on their new Environmental Planning Act and how the digital system has been developed to support it; Dr. Eranda Gunathilaka from Sri Lanka spoke on their national environmental plan for carbon (NDC) and surveying challenges and opportunities; Ms. Rumbidzai Chivizhe from Zimbabwe, spoke on using survey tools to monitor flooding from tropical cyclones.

- February 21, 2024: Seminar 02: Regional Seminar for Asia-Pacific and the Americas: 127 registered; interactive participatory audience open discussion after speakers Dr. Charisse Griffith-Charles from Trinidad-Tobago, who spoke on informal settlement regularisation, disaster management and small island developing states (SIDS); Ms. Kate Fairlie from Australia, presented 4 case studies from Asia-Pacific linking land and climate; Prof Ruishan Chen from China, spoke on climate change, disaster management and carbon neutrality initiatives in China, focusing on cities.
- February 22, 2024: Seminar 03: Regional Seminar for Europe/Africa/Western Asia: 258 registered; interactive participatory audience open discussion after speakers Usue Donezar, Copernicus' climate monitoring service, spoke on its free data sets and dashboards used by the world on climate, land, water and marine; Simon Peter Mwesigye, spoke on Ugandan customary tenure and local forms of land certificates within the national land administration system linked to natural resource certificates for access to wetlands; Nelson Nieto, from Colombia spoke on the study of mangrove forests using hyperspectral field data with satellite images.
- **Strong presence planned for FIG Working Week 2024 in Accra, Ghana**
 - Climate action has now been mainstreamed across many of the Commission sessions because of the very strong submission of climate action related abstracts across Commissions and Task Forces.
 - Paper session: Climate Resilience Actions for the Future
 - Workshop: Exploring Climate Issues Together - Interactive Workshop Session
 - Collaborations:
 - Commissions 4 joint session: Facing the Changing Climate & Environmental Degradation: Hydrosatial Solutions
 - Commission 7 joint session: Climate Change and Land Administration
 - Young Surveyors Network joint session: Mapping the Surveying Profession's Climate Impact Potential
 - GLTN and Commission 7 join session: Critical Emerging Areas for Global Work towards Gender Equality and the Land Sector
 - Climate Compass Task Force Core Team committee meeting
 - Climate Compass Task Force community social event

4. Communication and publications

There is a global Climate Compass Task Force Community of 757. This Community participates through the Task Force marketing strategy and report-back of events, as well as on a WhatsApp group where regular updates are provided about activities. Over 100 nationally-based surveyors from this Community attended the inaugural Annual Meeting Task Force online meeting in February 2024.

The Core Team of this task force is very active. Co-Chairs meet weekly, and the Core Team meets monthly online from all corners of the world. This core team is composed of Roshni Sharma (Australia, Co-Chair), Clarissa Augustinus (Ireland, Co-Chair), Angela Anyakora (Nigeria), David Elegbede (Nigeria), Dr Kwabena Asiana (Ghana), Naa Dedei Tagoe (Ghana), Simon Ironside (New Zealand), Cromwell Manaloto (Italy), Cemal Özgür Kivilcim (Italy), Ferah Pırlanta Köksal (Turkey), Gordana Jakovljevic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Enrico Rispli (Italy), Rigoberto Moreno (Mexico).

The Task Force has a LinkedIn page with over 1,000 followers, where regular updates are provided, climate and surveying related content is shared, and blog posts from members from around the world are featured.

The Task Force has a FIG Climate Compass Task Force YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@FIGClimateCompassTaskForce>) which has 21 videos of webinars and seminars.

The Task Force regularly contributes to the FIG Newsletter about its activities.

The Task Force has begun work on an innovative FIG Publication, which will be delivered at the FIG Working Week 2026 in Cape Town.

5. Other highlights

None.