ITU Asia-Pacific Centers of Excellent Training Workshop

''Effective Use of Telecommunications/ICT in Response to Disasters: SAVING LIVES''

24th – 28th November 2008

Sintok, Kedah, Malaysia

Williams B. Worwor

Weather Forecaster, Vanuatu meteorological services

Republic of Vanuatu

Cyclone
Landslides
Droughts
Tsunami

Cyclone
Landslides
Flooding
Earthquake
Tsunami

Cyclone
Landslides
Flooding
Earthquakes
Volcanic eruption
Tsunami

Cyclone
Landslides
Flooding
Earthquakes
Volcanic Eruption

Cyclone
Earthquakes
Landslides
Flooding
Fire
Drought
Volcano

Cyclone
Volcanic Eruption
Flooding
Drought

Source: Vanuatu National Statistics Office

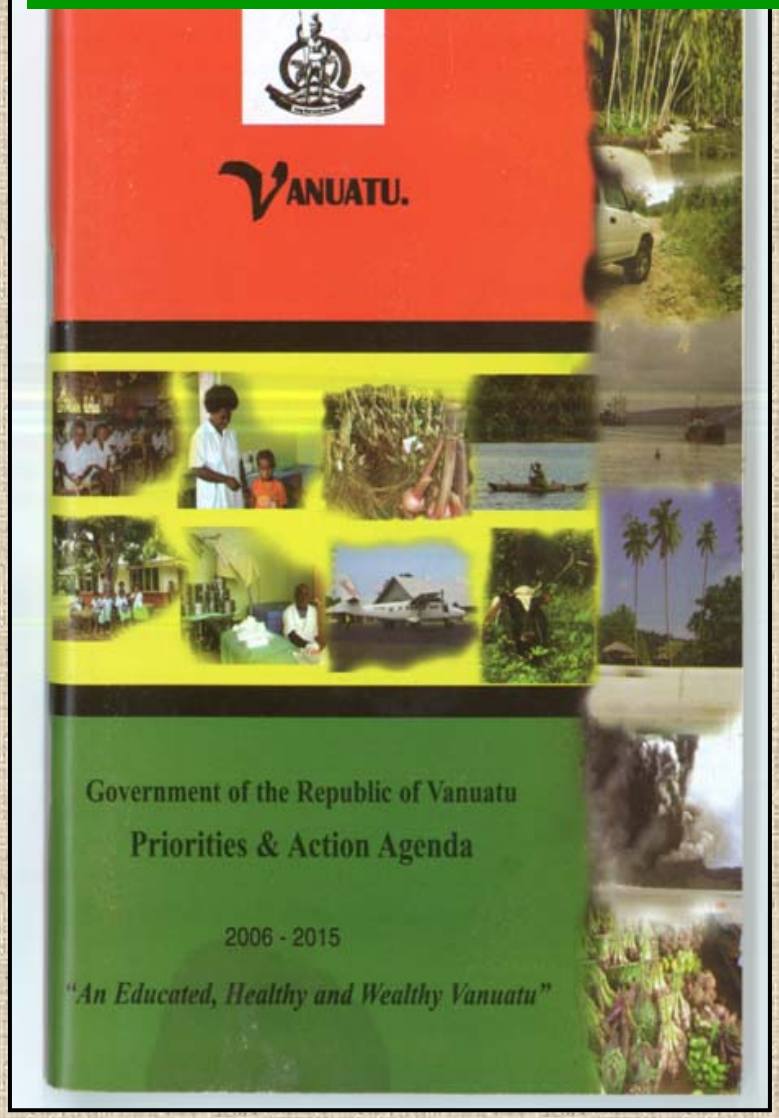
Regional Location

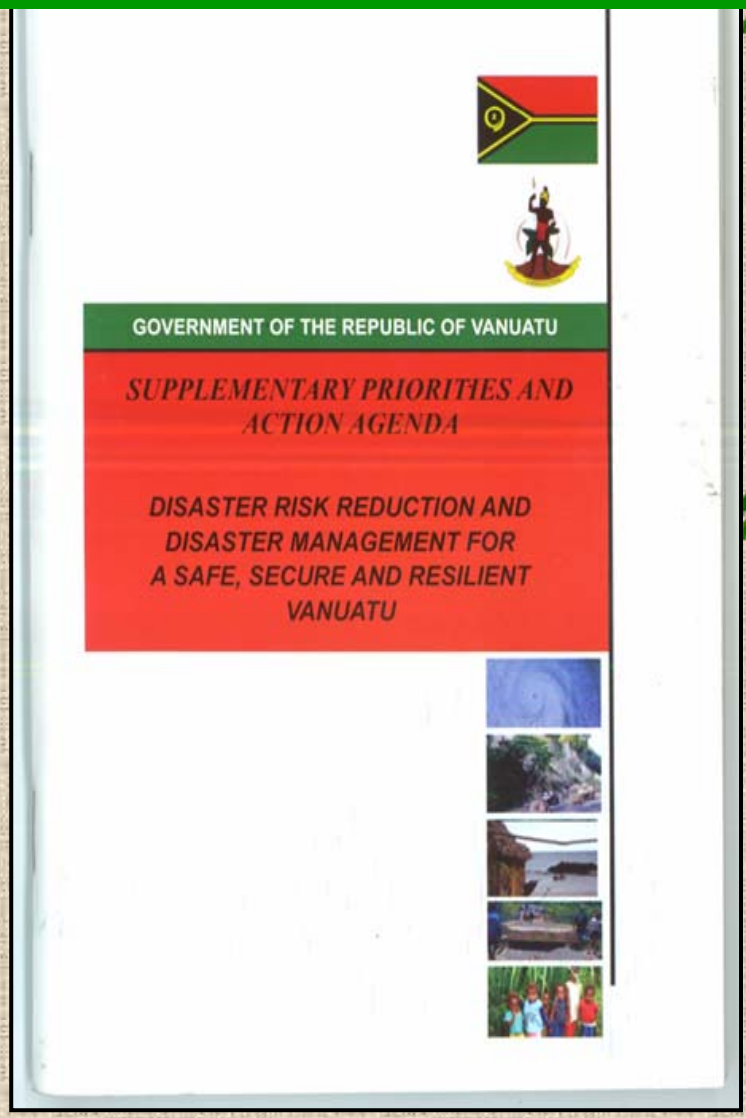
- Sits on the Pacific "Rim of Fire".
- Sits on the subduct ion zone of two tectonic plates and subjected to frequent earthquakes.
- Sits on the Pacific cyclonic belt.
- Sits within 450,000 km2 of an Ocean waters
- Covers a land mass of 12,189 km2
- 900 km from Torres Group (Nouth) to Aneytum (South)

Key Challenges to Telecommunication in Disaster Response in Vanuatu

- Isolation of Islands.
- 2 Telecommunication companies (80%).
- Over 80% of the population do not have access to internet
- HF Radios are mainly used during Disaster response
- Very Few Satellite phones.
- Major Responders are Police & Mobile force and Red Cross
- No specific Police on Communications for emergencies and disasters ??

Vanuatu Government Priority Action Agenda





CONCLUSION

Many Disaster management offices in the Pacific islands have only extremely limited resources available in terms of man power and financial resources. The islands are far from each other, and many islands do not have populations big enough to allow the maintenance of costly infrastructure. In the case of major disasters, help are normally thousands of miles away and take days to arrive. Identifying vulnerable populations in advance, monitoring hazards to be able to warn early enough, be it an approaching cyclone or a slow-onset coastal erosion reinforced by global climate change, are therefore key to successful disaster management in the Pacific. Regional and international networking are thought to play a prominent role to make space-based information and technology more accessible in the Pacific region.

- **United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTIONS