

# VANUATU

## NATIONAL SUMMARY REPORT

### IDNDR

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#### SECTION A: PROFILE

(This section contains relevant basic information about your country.  
Please complete and check the information already included.)

#### 1. Composition of National Committee (Focal Point):

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(Please list the names of the institutions represented and indicate in the brackets the number of members for each group)

- \* **Ministries** [1]
  - Home Affairs
  
- \* **Academic & Research Institutions** [ ]
  
- \* **Non-Governmental Organizations** [4]
  - Red Cross
  - ADRA
  - Save the Children
  - World Vision
  
- \* **Media** [1]
  - Vanuatu Radio and Broadcasting Commission
  
- \* **Private Sectors** [1]
  - ORSTROM
  
- \* **Insurance** [1]
  - Allied Risk Insurance

\* **Public Services (e.g. meteorological, etc) [16]**

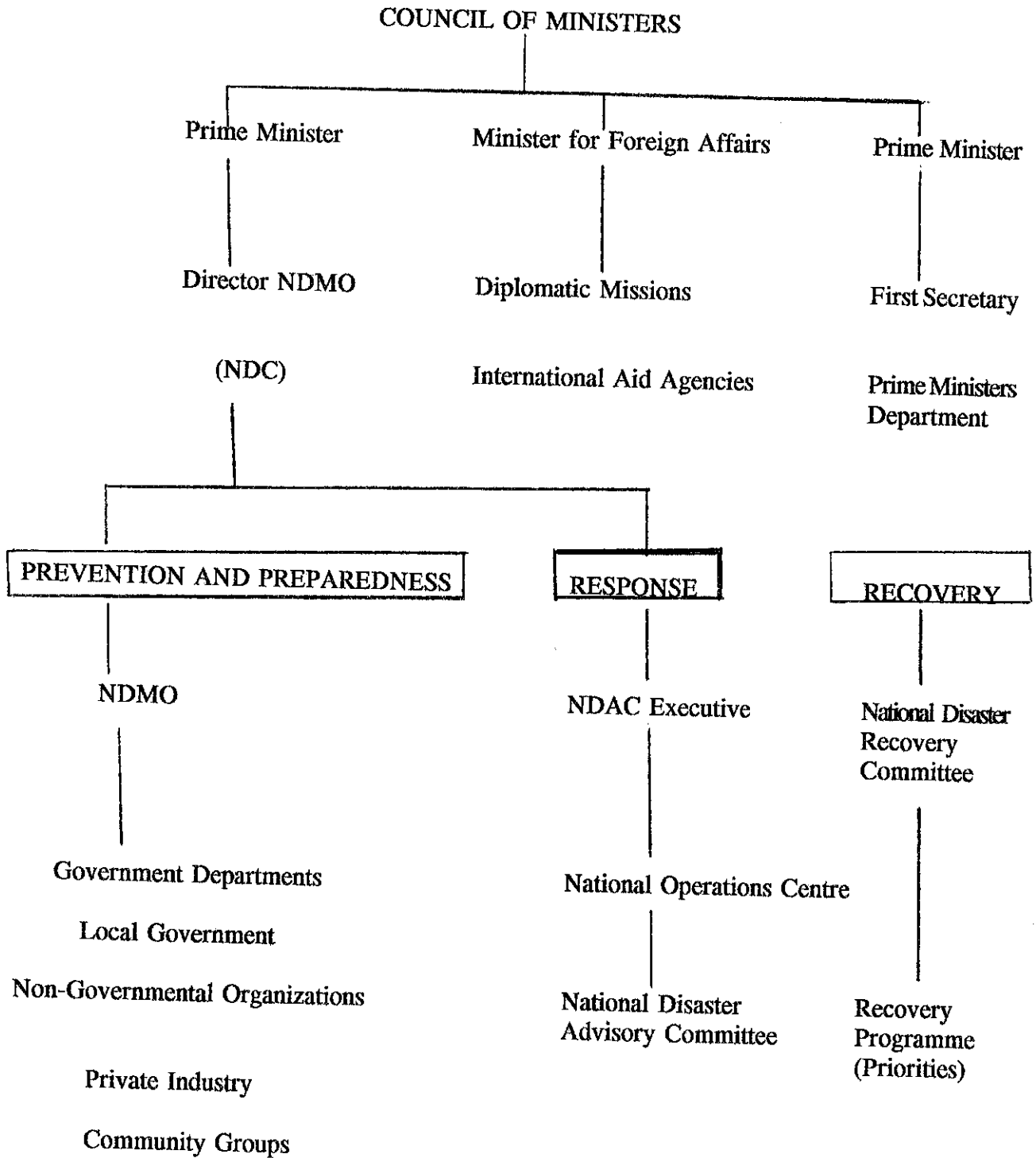
- National Disaster Management Office
- Police
- Army
- Civil Aviation
- Ports and Marine
- Local Government
- Public Works
- Geology and Mines
- Finance
- Health
- Meteorology
- Environmental Unit
- Local Government
- Land Administration
- Water Resources
- Education

\* **Others [ ]**

2. Internal organization of the National Committee

(Please describe hierarchy, responsibilities, coordination and cooperation mechanisms in natural disaster reduction activities.)

**REPUBLIC OF VANUATU  
DISASTER MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**



### 3. Prevailing hazards

| Type              | Location    | Affected Population |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Cyclone           | all islands | 155,000             |
| Earthquake        | all islands | 155,000             |
| Volcanic eruption | six islands | 80,000              |

(Please attach additional information if necessary)

### 4. Recent natural disasters

| Type                     | Location                 | Affected Population | Losses                              |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cyclone Betsy (Jan. 92)  | Central islands          | 60,000              | severe crop and building            |
| Cyclone Fran (March 92)  | Southern Central Islands | 45,000              | as above                            |
| Cyclone Prema (March 93) | Southern Central         | 55,000              | one death, severe crop and building |

### 5. National socio-economic conditions

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- \* Population: 155,000
  - \* Gross-National Product (GNP): Vt 12,000,000,000
  - \* Per-Capita Income: Vt 60,000  
(Vt = 115 US)

### 6. Availability of assistance to other countries in the field of natural disaster reduction.

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(Please list potential resources, scientific expertise, technology, etc.)

- \* Disaster Management Expert who is currently serving as a Disaster Management Adviser to the Republic of Vanuatu. Particular Expertise in Mitigation, Preparedness and Response programme development, including the development of in-country disaster management infrastructures.

- \* Available until June 1994.

## **7. International assistance required for natural disaster reduction**

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(Please indicate requirements for scientific expertise, technology, resources etc.)

- \* Training and development of key officials - based on country needs.
- \* Risk mapping for volcanic threat.
- \* Financial support for the construction of a disaster store to house relief supplies and equipment.

## SECTION B: STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

(This section deals with current or planned strategies and activities)

### 1. Steps towards achieving the 3 main Decade targets

(a) **Comprehensive national assessments of risks from natural hazards, with these assessments taken into account in development plans;**

- \* Major risk and hazard analysis is currently scheduled for the volcanic threat which exists on six of the most populated islands within the group.

(b) **Mitigation plans at national and/or local levels, involving long-term prevention and preparedness and community awareness; and**

- \* A National Disaster Plan which details major policy, roles and responsibilities and uniform procedures has been developed for the republic. This plan is complimented by four support plans (Cyclone, Aircraft Accident Earthquake/Volcanic eruption and Marine Accident), which serve as an operational guide for these specific threats.

Proven warning and alerting systems are supported by an extensive public awareness and education programme which is ongoing during the cyclone season (November-April). These systems were directly responsible for the low casualty rate experienced from cyclones which have impacted the Republic over the past two years.

Longer term strategies aimed at reinforcing the Republic's Disaster Management Infrastructure are in place to ensure continuity of service and maintenance of systems.

(c) **Ready access to global, regional, national and local warning systems and broad dissemination of warnings.**

- \* Vanuatu is fortunate to have ready access to regional cyclone warning centres and geophysical observation stations in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Hawaii.

### 2. Present national plan for natural disaster reduction

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a) **Time span covered:**

November 1991-June 1994

**b) Agencies, institutions and organizations involved:**

- \* Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB), National Disaster Management Office - Vanuatu, Emergency Management, Australia

**c) Implementing agencies:**

AIDAB

**d) Funds available for implementation:**

AIDAB

**3. Legislation introduced and enacted in relation to natural disaster reduction**

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- \* Disaster Act 1994 to be submitted to Parliament in early 1994.

**4. Disaster mitigation activities completed or underway:**

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**a) Identification of hazard zones: hazard assessment**

**Title of project:**

Not applicable

**Status:**

Underway

**Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:**

National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)  
Orstrom/Geology and Mines Department  
Department of Rural Water Supply

**Costs of project:**

Unknown

**Sources of funding:**

Vanuatu Government

**Implementing agencies:**

NDMO

**Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:**

tel: 678 23745

fax: 678 22800

***b) Monitoring, prediction and warning***

**Title of project:**

Not Applicable

**Status:**

Ongoing

**Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:**

NDMO

Meteorology Department

Geology and Mines

**Costs of project:**

Unknown

**Sources of funding:**

Various

**Implementing agencies:**

Meteorology (Cyclones)

Geology and Mines (Earthquake and Volcanic)

**Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:**

tel: 678 23745

fax: 678 22800



**c) *Short-term Protective measures and preparedness***

**Title of project:**

Public Education and Awareness  
Disaster Planning

**Status:**

Ongoing

**Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:**

NDMO  
Meteorology  
Agriculture  
Local Government  
All National Committee members

**Costs of project:**

Unknown

**Sources of funding:**

IDNDR Australia  
Vanuatu Government

**Implementing agencies:**

NDMO

**Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:**

tel: 678 23745  
fax: 678 22800

**d) *Long-term preventive measures***

**Title of project:**

Low cost housing

**Status:**

Yet to commence.

**Comment:** Attempts to identify a suitable design and funding have to date been unsuccessful owing to Government non commitment

**Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:**

**Costs of project:**

**Sources of funding:**

**Implementing agencies:**

**Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:**

***e) Land-use and risk management***

**Title of project:**

Currently being considered.

**Status:**

**Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:**

**Costs of project:**

**Sources of funding:**

**Implementing agencies:**

**Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:**

***f) Public education and information***

**Title of project:**

**Status:**

Completed with ongoing maintenance scheduled.

**Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:**

**Costs of project:**

**Sources of funding:**

**Implementing agencies:**

**Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:**

## 5. Plans to fully achieve Decade targets by the end of 1999

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(As in 4 above, for each area of activity [i.e., hazard zoning/assessment, monitoring, preparedness, etc] please indicate as applicable, the project title, the participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level, the costs of projects, the sources of funding and the implementing agencies.)

- \* It is possible to realistically set two year plans owing to the fragile nature of the major players. Short to mid-term programme aimed at disaster planning, training and development and the establishment of a viable infrastructure to ensure continuity of service and ongoing maintenance, will continue to be the major focus of attention, as will public education and awareness.

Longer term more tangible mitigation strategies viz. Housing standards, Land Use Management etc., can only be developed as and when funding and Government commitment are as one.

## SECTION C: INTERACTIONS

(This section focuses on international involvement in the IDNDR.)

### 1. Publications on IDNDR-related subjects:

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(E.g. manuals, brochures, bulletins and other publications of relevance to IDNDR. Please mention title, author/institution, place and year of publication)

- \* Nil

### 2. IDNDR meetings and conferences held or planned:

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(Please indicate, date, location, organizing agency, national and international participation.)

#### A. Regional

- \* Solomon Islands - May 1992
- \* Japan (Chiba) - November 1992
- \* Vanuatu - August 1993
- \* Japan - World Conference 1994

#### B. National

- \* November 1991 - Chairman and National Reps.
- \* October 1992 - Chairman and National Reps.
- \* March 1993 - Chairman and National Reps.
- \* November 1993 - Chairman and National Reps.
- \* February 1994 (scheduled)
- \* June 1994 (scheduled)

### 3. Current or planned partnerships and cooperation related to IDNDR with other countries

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(Please indicate Governments, National Committees, Institutions or Organizations involved.)

Extensive and ongoing liaison with the Australian IDNDR Coordinating Committee.

## SECTION D: EVALUATION

(This section analyses national progress and outlines possible improvement.)

### 1. Overall evaluation of national disaster mitigation programmes including, but not limited to, those initiated after IDNDR and achievements up to now

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(Please elaborate on whether the targets set by the National Committee, if any, the national disaster mitigation plans or other IDNDR activities have been met. If not, please indicate reasons.)

IDNDR activities have been developed in unison with overall Disaster Management Development Programmes. To date the IDNDR concept has, with the assistance of the Australian IDNDR Coordinating Committee, been responsible for the successful development of Public Awareness and Education material for Tropical Cyclones.

Other mitigation programmes which have not necessarily been developed for or under the IDNDR banner, have included the completion of National and special Disaster Plans, the establishment of a National Disaster Management Infrastructure, Training and Development of selected key officials, Redevelopment of a multi purpose Operations Centre and development of extensive Public Education and Awareness programmes.

The development of an in-country capability for the ongoing development and maintenance of Disaster Management systems is the overall aim of the current programme.

### 2. Review of the IDNDR

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(Critique of the Decade to date and suggestions for improvement/modifications in the second half.)

- \* A fair comment would be to state that the IDNDR concept has had minimal impact on Vanuatu and even less on the other South Pacific Island Nations. Several factors are suggested as being major contributing factors to this situation.

#### Identification

Vanuatu and other South Pacific Nations are perceived to be located within the Asia Pacific Region and the major focus of attention within this region is Asia and the Philippines. Very little is known of the South Pacific Islands, and very little attention is afforded to them.

This applies in particular to the IDNDR STC.

#### In-Country Infrastructures

There is no shortage of information and material being sent by the IDNDR Secretariat to Island Nations, however most lack an established infrastructure or focal point, which is

sufficiently committed to the receipt and actioning of material or requests for information.

### IDNDR Secretariat and STC

There is no doubting the tireless efforts of the IDNDR Secretariat staff in trying to make the major objectives of the Decade more achievable. Unless some worldwide strategies are developed and supported by financial and resource support, some doubts will always linger over the IDNDR as an achievable or realistic concept.

The STC in the four years of operation to date, has, in terms of the South Pacific Region, achieved little or nothing towards the IDNDR objectives. When one views the composition of this body, it is no wonder that this scenario exists. There may have been an initial requirement for "Very Qualified Academics" on the STC, however it is considered that their race is now run, and the time has come for experienced "hands on" Disaster Management professionals to start developing and implementing strategies and programmes so that the IDNDR concept can be seen to be a viable proposition.

Vanuatu is disappointed at the results of the most recent review of the STC membership, and would appeal that the original prerequisite of "personal contribution based on experience" be adhered to without exception. our own nomination for the committee is widely recognized as being among the most experienced Disaster Management practitioners in the South Pacific, and this includes Australia and New Zealand.

If the concept is to be successful, then experienced achievers are required to provide the impetus and direction for such achievement.

Vanuatu is fully committed to the IDNDR concept, and supports the efforts of the secretariat in the achievement of global objectives.