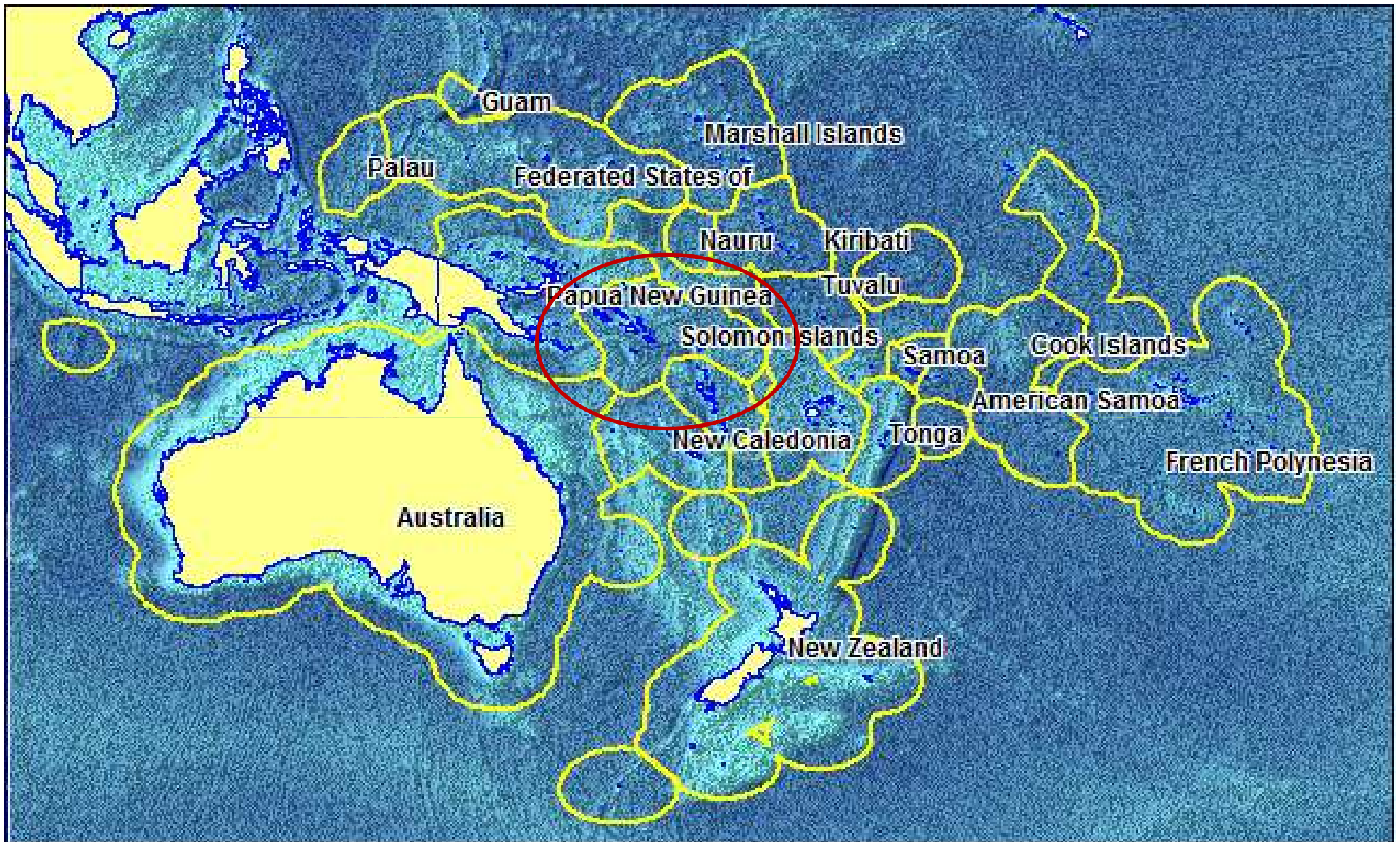




SOLOMON EXPERIENCE: Strengthening the Recovery Process

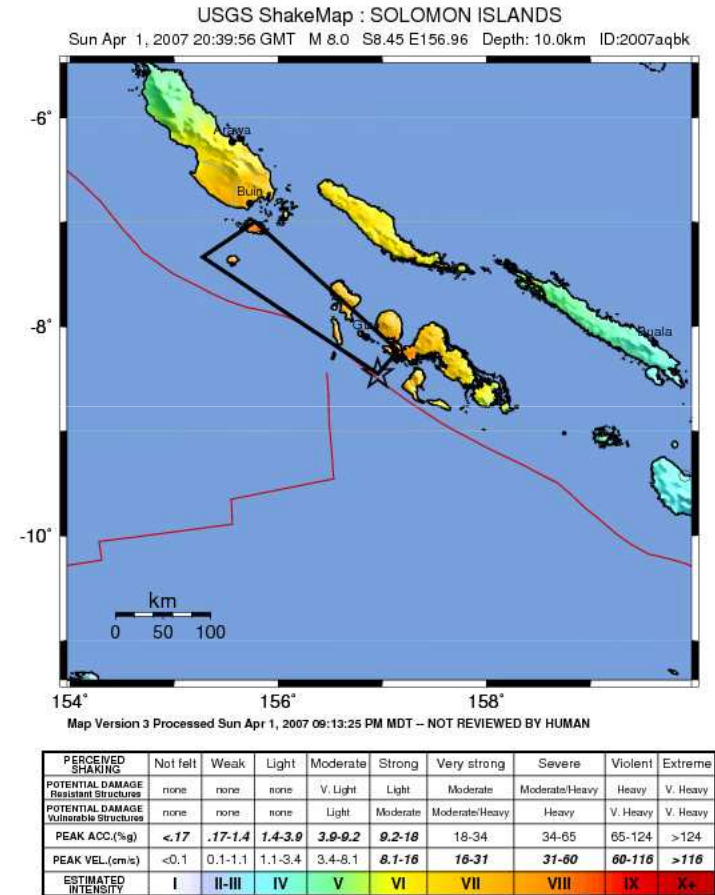
Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
“Big Ocean. Small Islands- Addressing
Disaster Risk in the Pacific Region”

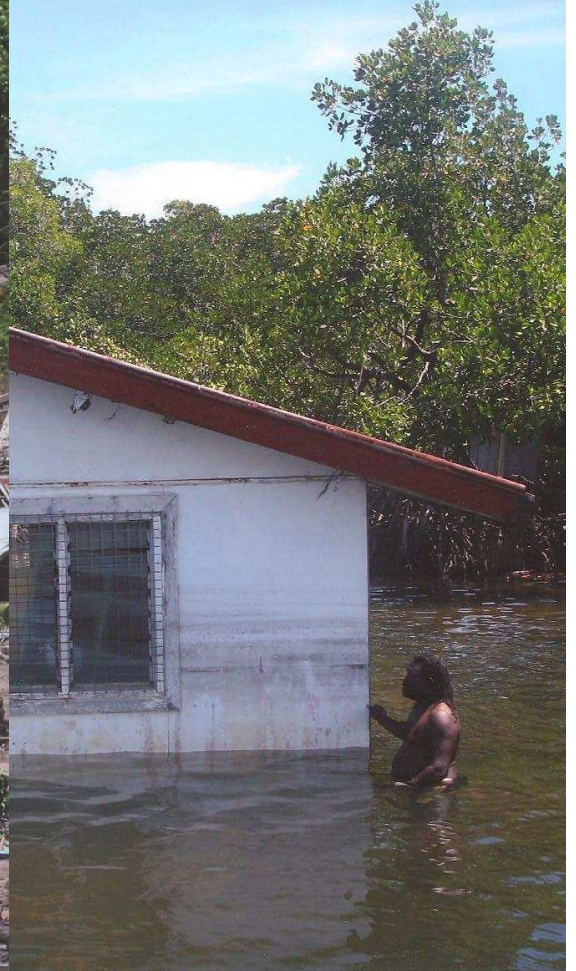
Wednesday 17th June 2009



Earthquake & Tsunami (2 Apr. 2007)

- Magnitude: 8.1
- Epicenter: Southeast of Gizo
- Casualty: 52 dead
- Worst affected areas: Gizo, Simbo, Ranongga, central southern coast of Choiseul





Summary of Impacts:

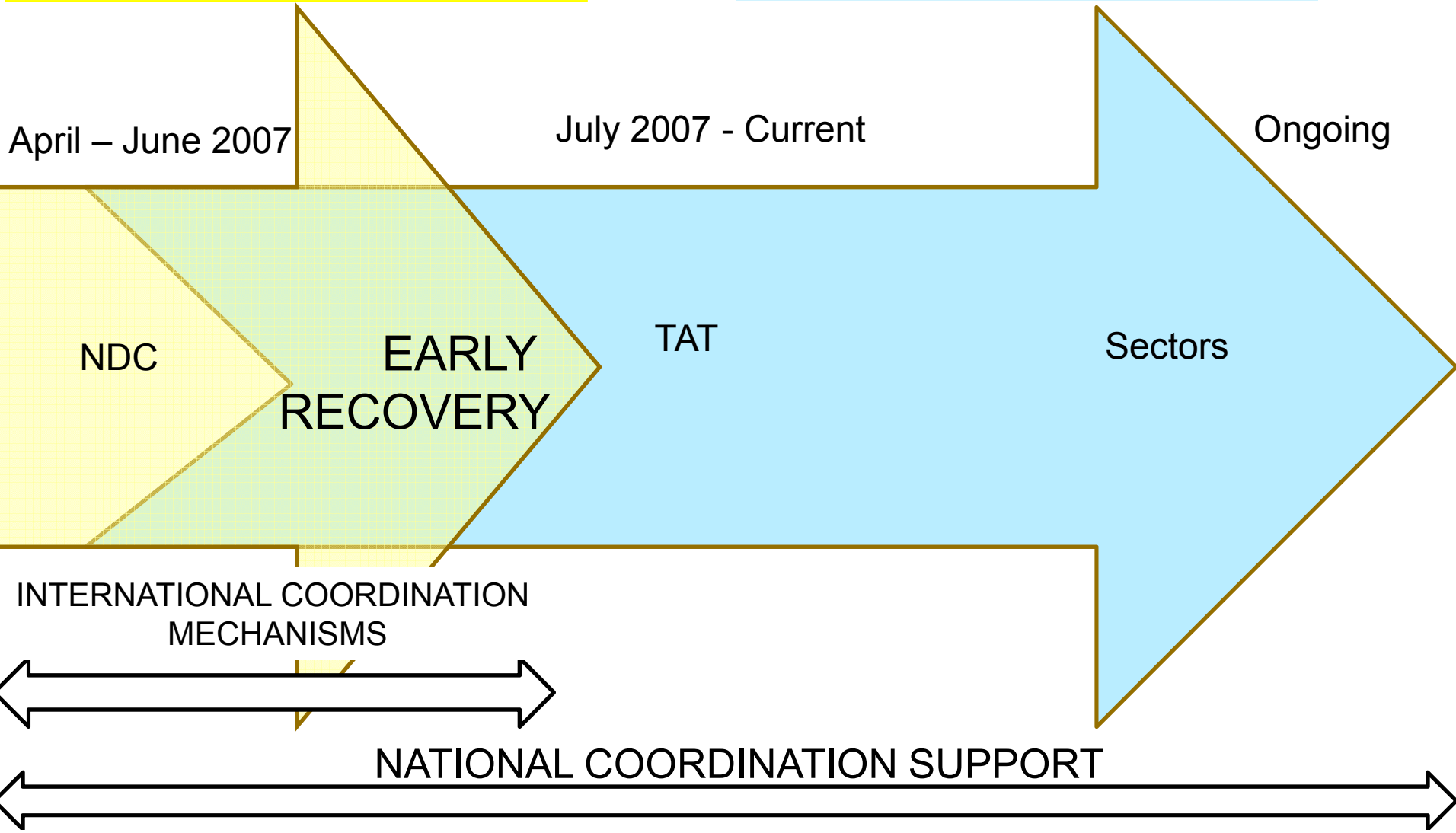
- **Human:** 52 fatalities; 4,000 families displaced; interruption of social services (Education & Health); immeasurable psychological impact; fear of disease outbreaks
- **Economic:**
 - Destruction of workplaces, infrastructure
 - Tourist resorts affected
 - Damaged or destroyed food gardens, crops
 - Loss of Livelihood: crops, livestock, access to sea/roads
- **Natural:**
 - Damages to reefs, shorelines, buildings, caused landslides, uplifting of land mass etc
 - Marine resources affected
 - Gardens destroyed
 - Fish poisoning
- **Infrastructure:** includes damage to wharves, roads and bridges, water supply.
- **60% of recurrent budget of SB Government**

Recovery Phase



HUMANITARIAN PHASE

DEVELOPMENT PHASE



The Context: Disaster Management Institutional Arrangements

- The DM Plan was quite well structured
- However, it was too general and accountabilities are not explicit (except for the NDC)
- There was also a lack of clearly defined standard procedures or working groups
- Sector ministries were uncertain of their roles and reluctant to acknowledge their responsibilities
- Limited resources made it easy for agencies to step back and avoid commitment

Recovery Action Plan

- One plan to facilitate national and international agency programmes
- Coordinated by TAT
- Key Components
 - Education
 - Health
 - Infrastructure
 - Agriculture
 - Government Housing
 - Shelter and Housing (separate Shelter Strategy developed)

Recovery Process: Key Issues

Two years on: slow progress on recovery and rehabilitation

- **Capacity:** first time dealing with a disaster of this scale
- **Commitment:** the TAT met but members often did not attend, and responsible agencies avoided their commitments

Recovery Process: Key Issues cont.

- **Political Pressures:** Cabinet and the political process were disengaged with other pressures at the time
- **Budget Allocations:** the formal SIG 2008 budget process did not address recovery issues
- **Donor engagement:** this needed to be sustained throughout the response and recovery phases – although this may have been due to their reluctance to engage without Government commitment

Recovery Process: Key Issues (cont.)

- **Coordination:** coordination structures developed and funded for managing government and non-government agencies, but ineffective due to the issues above
- **Disaster Risk Reduction:** international infrastructure projects did not address risk reduction because of perceived costs and the land tenure system

Recovery Process: Key Issues (cont.)

- **Baseline and Assessment data:** lack of adequate baseline data to provide a platform for damage assessments, as well as lack of standardised assessment frameworks
- **Scheduling:** initial scheduling was optimistic and key activities, such as sector ministry assessments, took months to undertake
- **Shelter issues:** not dealt with in line with the agreed strategy

Lessons Learned and Way forward

- **Capacity and Commitment** : there is acceptance that effective recovery from significant disasters requires Government commitment and adequate capacity to deliver on that commitment
 - 3-year programme of implementation is now being initiated to set terms of reference, SOP's, clusters, agencies and communities
 - Commitment to NAP and NAPA development and implementation

Issues and Lessons Learned

■ **Institutional Structures:**

- ❑ There is a willingness to address the institutional structures to ensure a more effective recovery process
- ❑ The National DM Plan and the related legislation is being reviewed for all aspects of disaster risk management
- ❑ Clarified roles and responsibilities of government agencies, through the formation of explicit national cluster groupings
- ❑ This is being used to enhance coordination with partners

Examples of Disaster Risk Reduction built in to the Recovery Process

- High Sea-Swells (SI Ontong Java, Dec 08): Recovery Action Plan now includes a range of DRR measures: e.g. upgrading and improvement to current rain water harvesting systems, and introduction of alternate crops which are salt resistant)
- Flash Floods (Guadalcanal, Jan-Feb 2009): integration of DRR into community development plan; disaster resilient agricultural practices
- Floods (Fiji, Jan 09): particular focus on the agriculture sector on how capacity can be enhance for preparedness and response measures within the Ministry

Grasping Opportunities for Disaster Risk Reduction through Recovery Processes

- **NAP process:** a mechanism for incorporating risk reduction into the recovery process, as well as developing appropriate institutional structures for recovery planning and coordination
- **Recovery Action Plans:** opportunity for more effective support by partners to contribute on sector or thematic specific DRR issues in the recovery process
- **Early Recovery Cluster:** Pacific Humanitarian Team, based on IASC Cluster approach
e.g. Fiji Floods: exploring ways to build back better