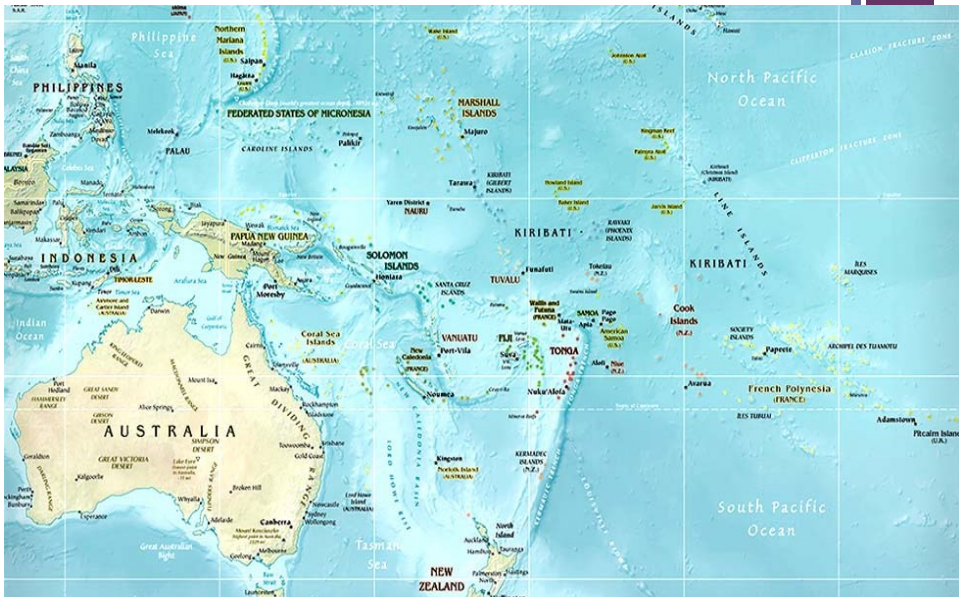




## Transforming governance in Vanuatu: Incorporating kastom, cultural diversity and complex social-ecological changes in policy-making

Action for Change

### + Background



## + Government and people

### Constitution establishes:

- government with a head of state
- Chiefs (Malvatumauri), composed of elected “custom chiefs,” which advises the government on matters relating to custom and tradition.
- Land ownership belong to custom owners

### Decentralisation Act allows for

- Provincial governments to be established with representatives of pillar groups

## + Adapting to change

- The **Happy Planet Index (HPI)** is an index of human well-being and environmental impact that was introduced by the New Economics Foundation (NEF) in July 2006. Out of the 178 countries surveyed in 2006, the best scoring country was Vanuatu.
- The *World Risk Index*, calculated by the United Nations University for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and featured in the 2013 World Risk Report (WRR 2013) published by the Alliance Development Works/Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (BEH). Out of 173 countries surveyed Vanuatu was ranked as the most vulnerable country in the world.

## + Tipping points



1. March 2015, Cyclone Pam
2. October 2015, 14 MPs convicted of bribery
3. November 2015, Parliament dissolved

## + Defining who we are? Looking back in order to go forward...

- It is the realization of who they are that makes men create their own realities
- Development of National Sustainable Development Plan
- Tafea Suatu 30



## + Empowering the most vulnerable



## + Establishing the Taso Land Management Committee





## + Moving Forward: Lessons learnt

The global is the sum of many local parts working together in unison. The global is only as effective and as strong as the weakest local part...



- More spaces need to be created to allow People to tell their stories
- Foster dialogue towards creating understanding