



Situation Report

Response Name	Volcanic Activity – Ambae & Ambrym
Situation Report	08
Time & Date	17:00 18 th October 2017
Reporting period	18/10/2017
Provinces affected	Penama, Sanma, Malampa
Attachment(s)	Ambae Volcano Alert Bulletin 14, 14 th October 2017
NEOC status	Operational

Situation Overview

Monaro Volcano on Ambae Island remains at Alert Level 3. A State of Emergency is in place for the Island of Ambae until the 24th October 2017. The island has been evacuated, only some security personnel remain on the island.

Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD) continues regular monitoring of the volcano. VMGD Port Vila team have departed today for Santo, Pentecost and Maewo to undertake community information sessions on the volcanic activity and discuss strategies for living with active volcanos. These sessions are targeting evacuation centres and host communities with evacuees.

Two teams have undertaken on ground assessment of Ambae. These teams have been reviewing the suitability of the conditions on island for repatriation. The teams include specialists in food security, water and sanitation, environmental health, logistics and provincial government officials.

No decision regarding the future of evacuees has been made. However, on instruction from the Council of Ministers, plans are being prepared for repatriation of evacuees if it decided it is safe to do so. These plans are being prepared by the NDMO, the Provincial Government and the Police Force. Clusters have provided inputs to support the repatriation planning.

The Government is coordinating a complex response to support the shelter, health, safety and other needs of evacuees. In doing this the Government continues to receive generous support from a range of sources. These include the expatriate Ambae community, individuals, community groups, faith based groups, private companies, NGOs, foreign governments, the Red Cross and UN Agencies.

The Government of Vanuatu with support from the International Organisation for Migration and the Red Cross is undertaking comprehensive registration of evacuees across multiple provinces and islands. A summary of the location and number of evacuees is as follow:

Location	Displaced Persons	Households	Male	Female
Santo	8,385	2,307	4263	4113
Pentecost	1,475	387	774	701
Maewo	609	218	310	299
Port Vila (estimated)	400			
Total	10,869	2,912	5,347	5113

General Coordination

The Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) of the Sanma Provincial Government is the operation hub for managing the response. The NDMO is supporting the operation of the PEOC with a number of staff. Clusters are active and have a presence in Santo. The Penema Provincial Government has many staff operating from Luganville.

The Council of Ministers will meet tomorrow morning to discuss the situation of evacuees and the next steps.

MALAMPA Update

Ambrym Volcano remains at Alert Level 3. Food and water is being dispatched to support 600 people in west Ambrym while long term interventions are currently in progress.

Further Information

Volcanic bulletins: <http://www.vmgd.gov.vu/vmgd/index.php/geohazards/volcano/alert-bulletin>

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Next situation report: TBD

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Ambae Volcano Alert Bulletin N°14, 14th October 2017

Ambae volcano activity,

Ambae Island, 15°40'0"S, 167°83'0"E, Summit (1 496 m)

Eruptive activity at Ambae is continuing in the minor eruption state ; The Alert Level for Ambae volcano remains at Level 3.

The volcanic eruption at Ambae is continuing in the minor eruption state and confined to Lake Vouli. New scientific analyses confirm that there is currently no evidence of risk escalation from this activity. As a consequence, the Volcanic Alert Level remains at Level 3. The volcanic eruption is likely to continue in this state. The restricted area of risk is limited within 3 km from the active vent in Lake Vouli.

Observations and the analysis of seismic data of 10th, 12th, 13th and 14th October 2017 confirm the new intrusion of magma in the volcano conduit generating frequent explosions with moderate ash column and the activity is occurring only at the summit crater lakes (Lake Vouli). This eruptive activity consists of ongoing explosions, emission of ash columns and gas from the eruptive vents. Lava flows from the eruptive vents to the lake have ceased. The activity at Ambae is like what is seen and experienced at Yasur on Tanna Island. A small-scale eruption continues in Lake Vouli at Ambae volcano. The local population from Ambae and from neighbouring island can hear some of the explosions, see volcanic ash and gas columns and glows over the mountain at night. A small-scale eruption continues in Lake Vouli at Ambae volcano.

The eruption at Ambae started in September, when the Volcanic Alert Level was raised to Level 3. The volcanic activity has built a volcanic cone (island) in Lake Vouli. The cone building phase produced the largest explosions and ashfalls. Some parts of the island experienced ashfalls from this phase of the eruption. The eruptions in mid-September 2017 are similar to those in 2005.

The style of eruption have changed around 22 September when Geohazards staff observed lava (molten rock) at the surface for the first time. This was a significant change and raised the level of uncertainty about the development of the eruption. The volcanic Alert Level was also raised at that time to Level 4. With more observations and the analysis of seismic, gas, thermal and deformation data by scientists from the Geohazards Division of the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazard Department (VMGD) and the international counterpart, it is confirmed that the volcano has settled in a more stable state of activity, therefore the Alert Level was dropped to Level 3 on 6th October 2017. The current observations are consistent with the Alert Level 3 activity. Level 3 indicates '*Minor eruption*'; *Danger on volcanic cones, within caldera and other specific area, possibility of moderate eruption and also chance of flank eruption.*

Ambae volcano is a very large volcano and is frequently active. In the recorded history, there have been many eruptions, every 10-50 years over the past 150 years. All have been from the summit craters, except

one recorded in 1670's when a lava flow occurred in the Ndui Ndui area. The current eruption is focused in the summit crater and there are no indications of activity elsewhere on Ambae Island.

This is a reminder to all tourism agencies, local authorities, people of Ambae and the general public **not to access the Danger Zone which is about 3 km radius from the eruptive vent**. In this area flying rocks, volcanic ashes and gases may be present (See map below). Villages from Ambae and neighboring islands may experience volcanic hazards from gas and ash plumes, especially those exposed to prevailing trade winds direction.

The Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department will continue to closely monitor this volcano activity. More information will be provided as available.

For further information, please contact Geohazards office at the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department

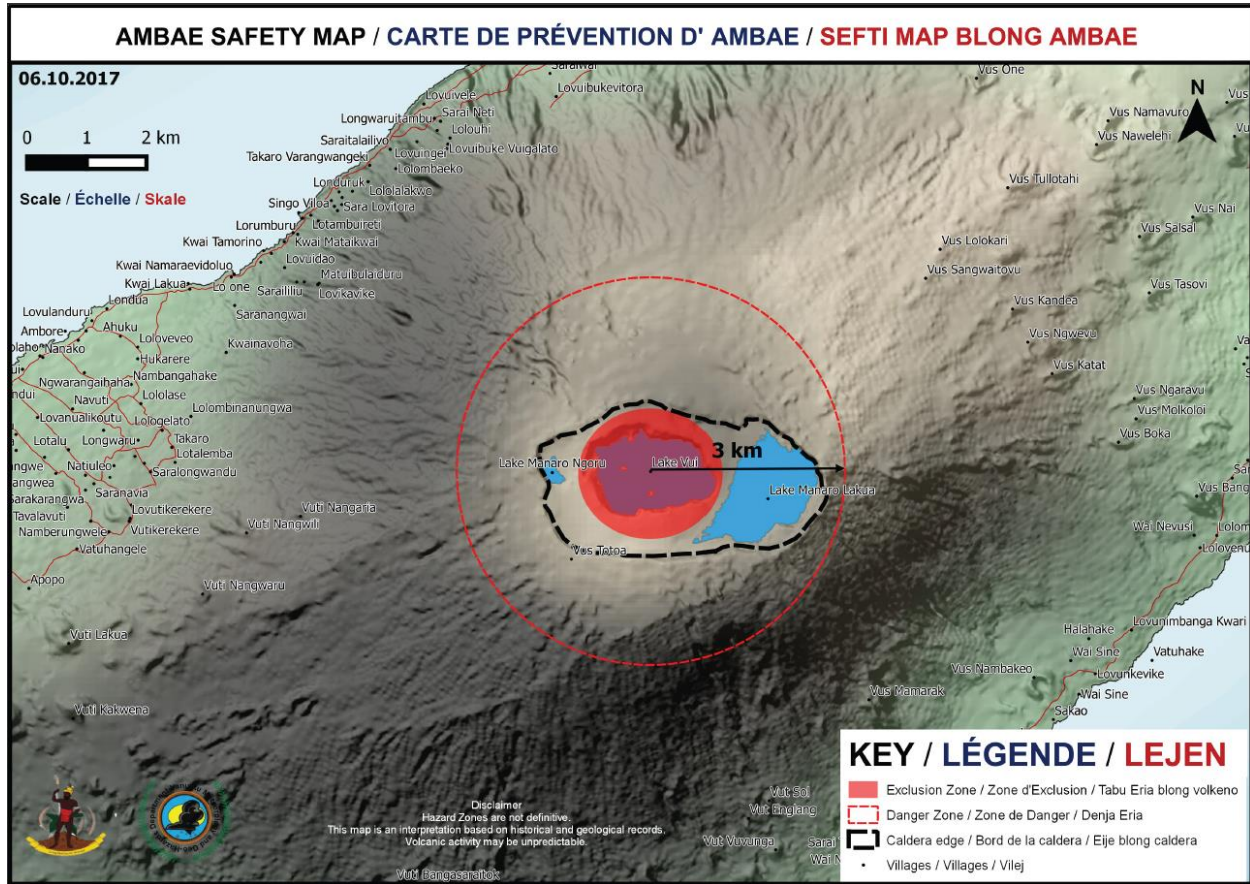


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**Alet Buletin blong volkeno /Volcano Alert Bulletin / Bulletin d'Alerte
Volcanique**



*Blong kasem moa infomesen, plese kontaktem ofise blo Geohazards long Vanuatu Meteorologi mo Geohazards Dipatment
 For further information, please contact Geohazards office at the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department
 Pour plus d'information, veuillez contacter le bureau de Geohazards au Département de la Météorologie et Geohazards*