

INFLUENCE OF PEOPLE

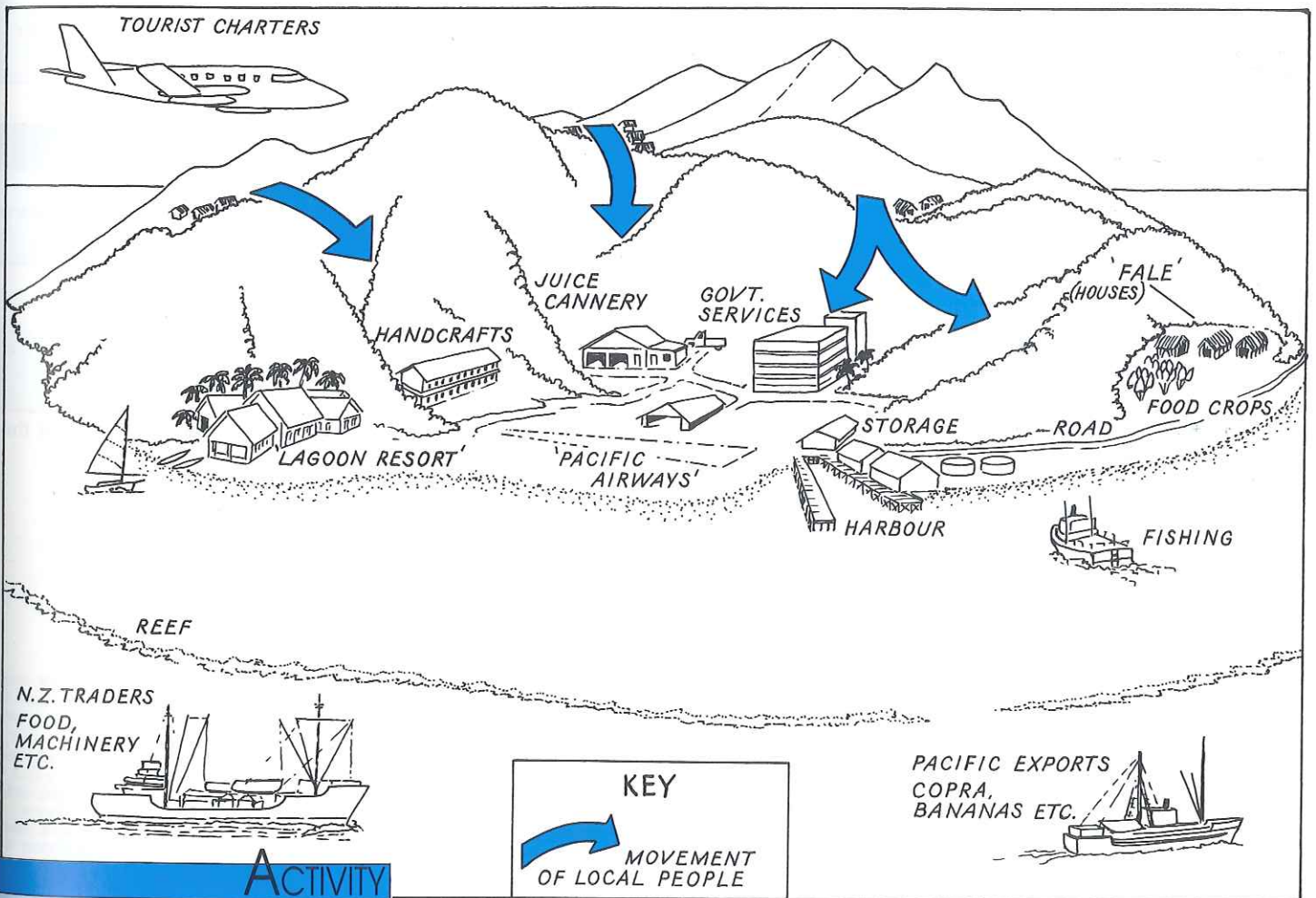
How can people increase or decrease the likelihood or effects of tropical cyclones being hazardous??

THE LIKELIHOOD

Resources 33.1–33.4 show clearly why people have a limited influence on whether or not tropical cyclones will occur. The processes that produce the wind, rain, and high seas are generated *above* the Earth's surface and are therefore completely beyond human control or influence. Whether or not these natural **elements** become hazardous is partly the result of processes *on* the Earth's surface which *can* be influenced by people.

The definition of a natural hazard on page 4 makes it clear that a natural hazard is more than a natural event. People must in some way be endangered for it to be a hazard. The likelihood of tropical cyclones being hazardous to people can be increased by cultural processes (see resource 37.1).

37.1 THE COASTAL CONCENTRATION ON PACIFIC ISLANDS



ACTIVITY

Based on resource 37.1 construct a flow diagram which starts with

EUROPEAN ARRIVAL

and ends with

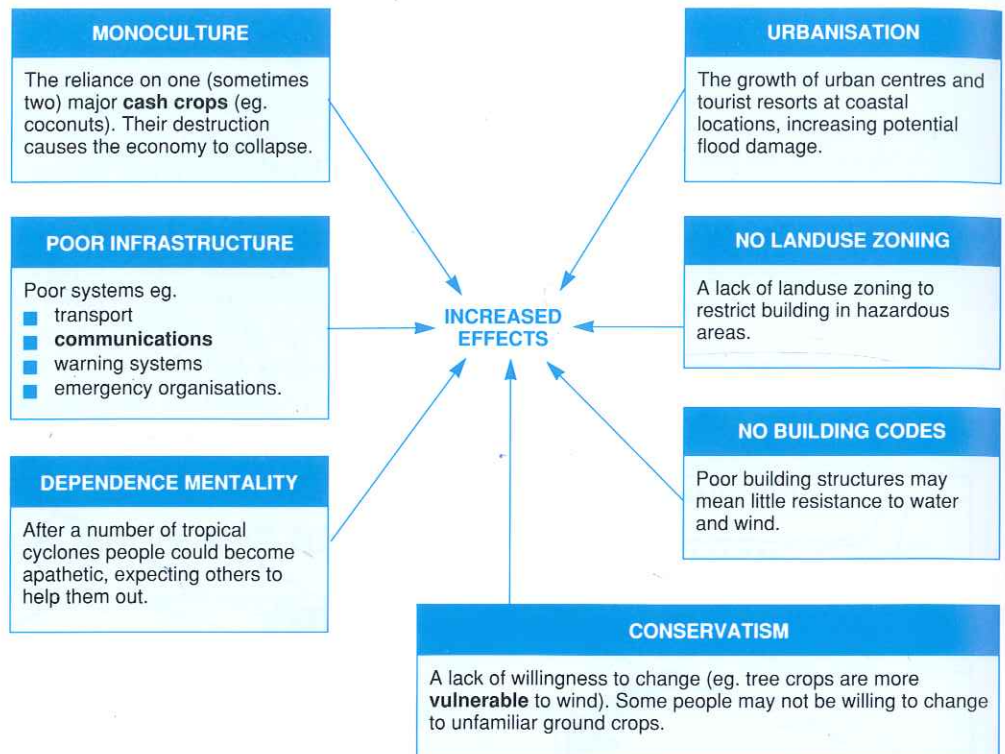
INCREASED HAZARD LIKELIHOOD

Since the arrival of Europeans in the Pacific Islands the focus of economic activity and population **distribution** has moved from the scattered villages to coastal urban settlements (see resource 37.1). As a result, flooding in particular, is likely to be more hazardous to more people. People can do little about the amount of rain that falls, or the water deposited on beaches by storm surges and high seas but they can increase the likelihood of these being hazardous by living and working there.

INCREASING THE EFFECTS

People, by their presence in certain locations, and the decisions they make about the use of these locations, can increase the effects of tropical cyclones (see resource 37.2).

37.2 INCREASING THE EFFECTS

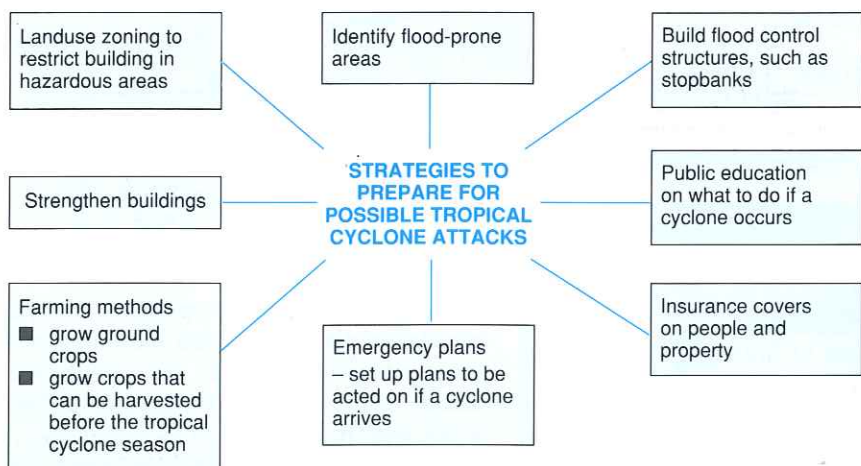


DECREASING THE EFFECTS

People's decisions can decrease the effects of tropical cyclones at three points in their occurrence:

- before the tropical cyclone comes, preparedness (see resource 37.3).
- as the cyclone threatens and while it rages (see resource 37.4).
- after the cyclone has passed (see resource 37.5).

37.3 BEING PREPARED



ACTIVITY

Reconstruct the information in resources 37.3–37.5 using the structure of resource 4.2.

37.4 WHAT TO DO

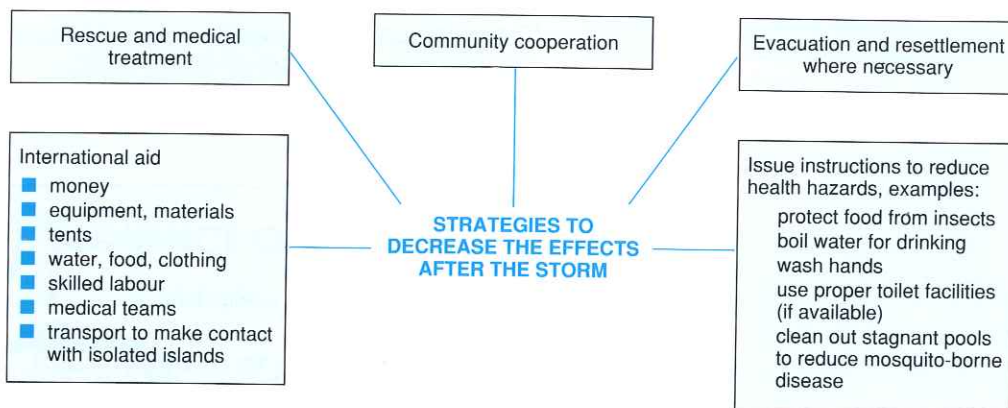
NATIONAL ORGANISATION

- 1 Use all available warning systems.
- 2 Keep the public informed over the radio.
- 3 Coordinate evacuations where needed.

INDIVIDUALS

- 1 Listen to the radio and follow instructions.
- 2 Put up hurricane shelters on windows.
- 3 Secure objects outside.
- 4 Move boats to safety.
- 5 Move away from low-lying areas.
- 6 Stay indoors during the storm.

37.5 RECONSTRUCTION



EXAMPLES – see resource 37.6

37.6 NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

FIJI LEARNS HARD WAY

From bitter experience Fiji knows a lot about hurricane relief and rehabilitation.

Radio plays a critical communications role in any disaster in Fiji.

Radio Fiji's two programmes are linked and the station will stay on the air around the clock (normally it closes down at 11pm on week days and midnight at weekends) to broadcast warnings, advice and "cheerful music" till the danger has passed.

Resort hotels braced for cyclones

Last year the beach in front of the hotel was built up with extra sand to provide a buffer against storm surge.

Right crops help

Root crops with long ground storage life, such as certain types of taro, can relieve food shortages for island communities of the South Pacific who run the risk of cyclone devastation.

REBUILDING SCHOOLS

Schools on the west side of Fiji's main island which suffered major damage in four cyclones in January and March this year, are slowly being rebuilt and re-equipped with New Zealand assistance.

Wide response from NZ

Starting with an aerial reconnaissance by an Air Force Orion whose photographs made people gasp at the extent of devastation, New Zealand has provided a wide range of relief and rehabilitation assistance to Tonga.

The Government, churches, voluntary agencies and business sector have all been involved.