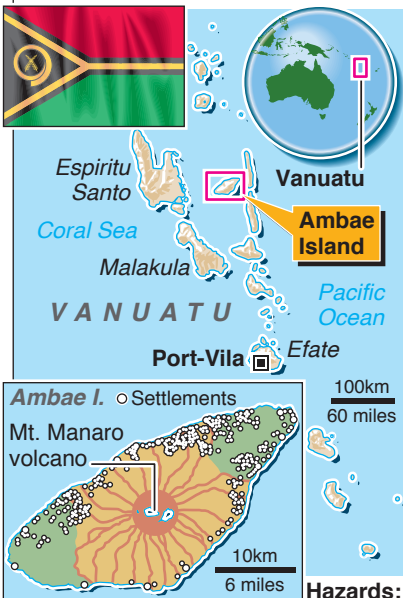


Vanuatu factfile

An erupting volcano is sending clouds of steam and toxic gas thousands of metres into the sky on the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, prompting the evacuation of 5,000 villagers in the path of possible mudflows from the crater



Hazards:

- Mudflow
- Ash/explosions
- Ash

► **Population:** 200,000

► **Independence:** 1980, from Britain and France, formerly New Hebrides

► **GDP per capita:** \$2,900 (2003)

► **Economy:** Small-scale agriculture, fishing, offshore banking, tourism

► **Environment:** Rising sea levels caused 100 people to move inland this year in what UN called one of first examples of displacement by climate change