

TOPIC 4.5

The Function of Political Boundaries

IMP-4.B.3

Land and maritime boundaries and international agreements can influence national or regional identity and encourage or discourage international or internal interactions and disputes over resources.

Background Reading

A secessionist revolt in 1975–76 on Bougainville Island resulted in an eleventh-hour modification of the draft Constitution of Papua New Guinea to allow for Bougainville and the other eighteen districts to have quasi-federal status as provinces. A renewed uprising on Bougainville started in 1988 and claimed 20,000 lives until it was resolved in 1997.

Bougainville had been the primary mining region of the country, generating 40% of the national budget. The native peoples felt they were bearing the adverse environmental effects of the mining, which poisoned the land, water and air, without gaining a fair share of the profits.

The government and rebels negotiated a peace agreement that established the Bougainville Autonomous District and Province. The autonomous Bougainville elected Joseph Kabui as president in 2005, who served until his death in 2008. He was succeeded by his deputy John Tabinaman as acting president while an election to fill the unexpired term was organised.

James Tanis won that election in December 2008 and served until the inauguration of John Momis, the winner of the 2010 elections. **As part of the current peace settlement, a non-binding independence referendum was held, between 23 November and 7 December 2019. The referendum question was a choice between greater autonomy within Papua New Guinea and full independence for Bougainville, and voters voted overwhelmingly (98.31%) for independence.**



Where is Bougainville?



Singapore

Indonesia

Papua New Guinea

Australia

New Zealand

Celebes Sea

Java Sea

Banda Sea

Bismarck Sea

Arafura Sea

Solomon Sea

Timor Sea

Coral Sea

Great Australian Bight

Tasman Sea

Where is Bougainville?



Papua New Guinea

New Britain

New Ireland

Bougainville Island

Solomon Islands

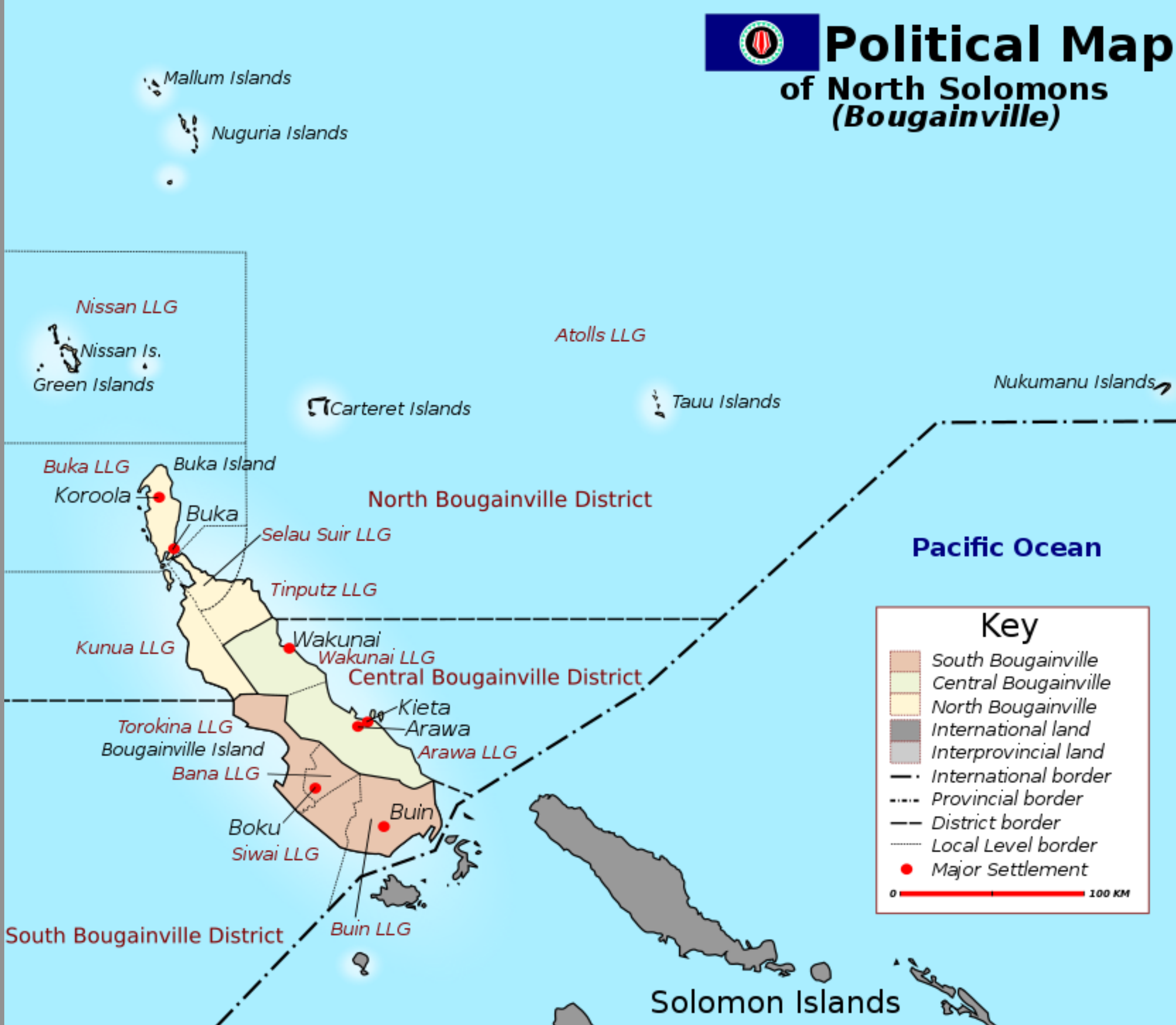
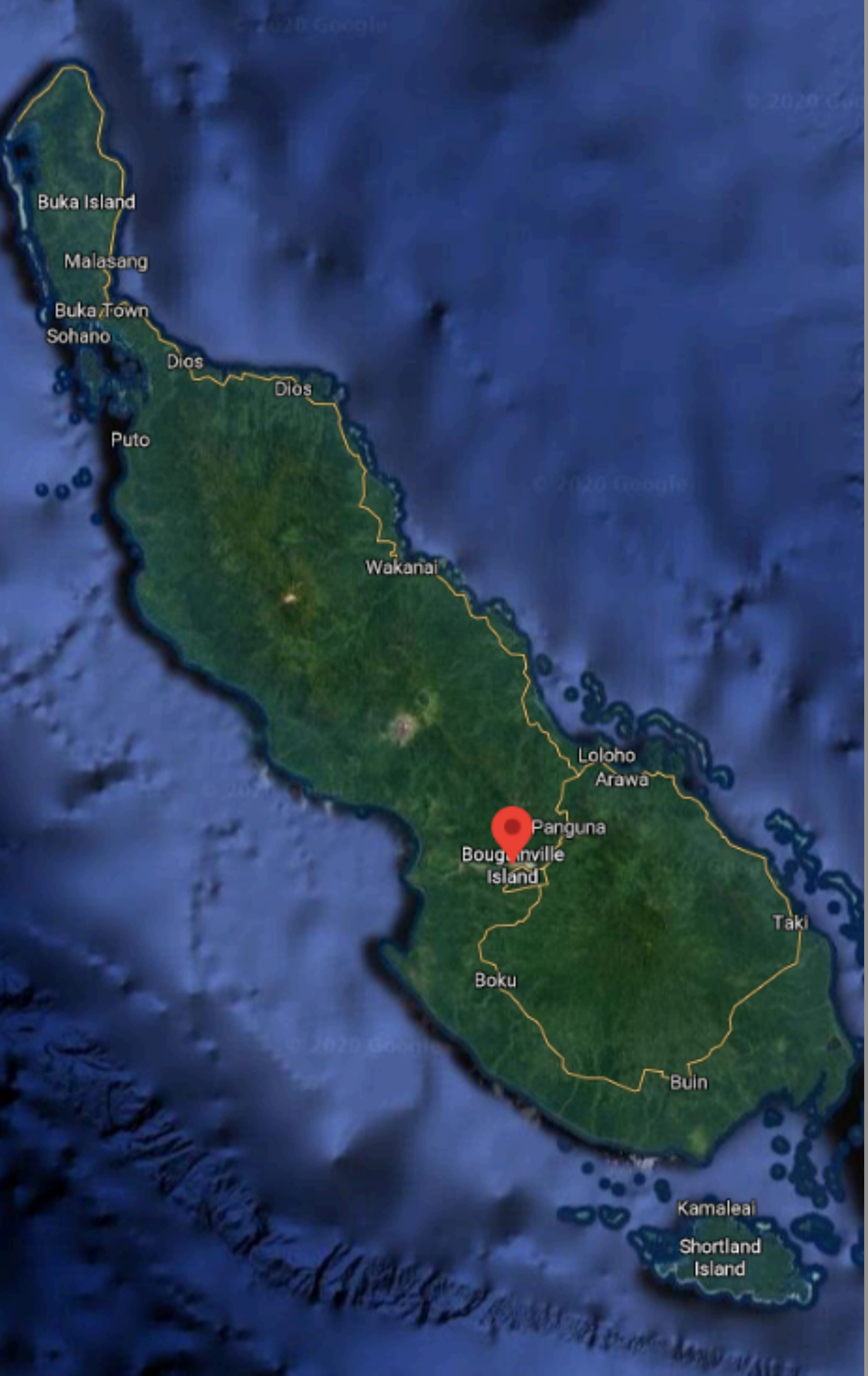
Where is Bougainville?



Where is Bougainville?



Political Map of North Solomons (Bougainville)

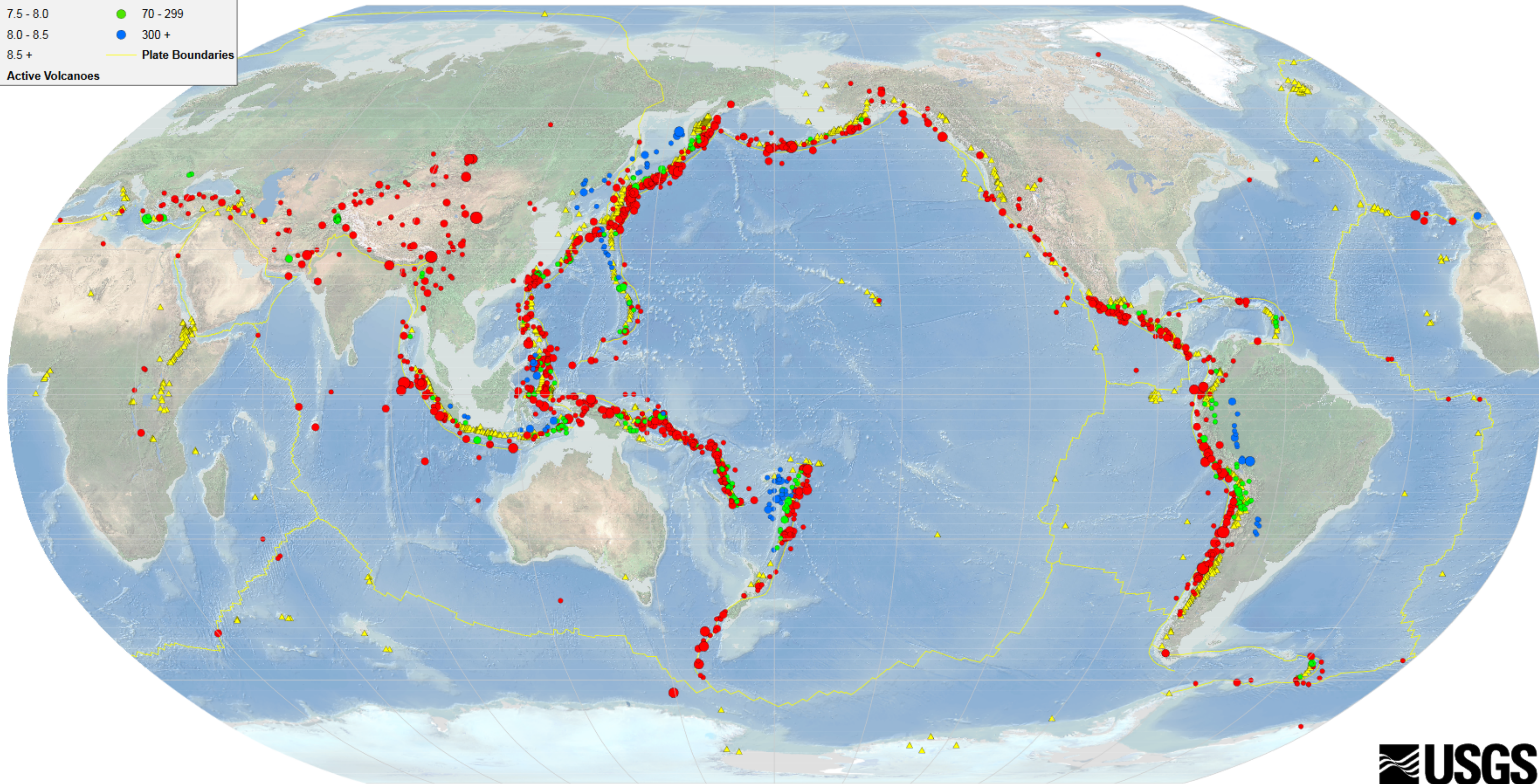
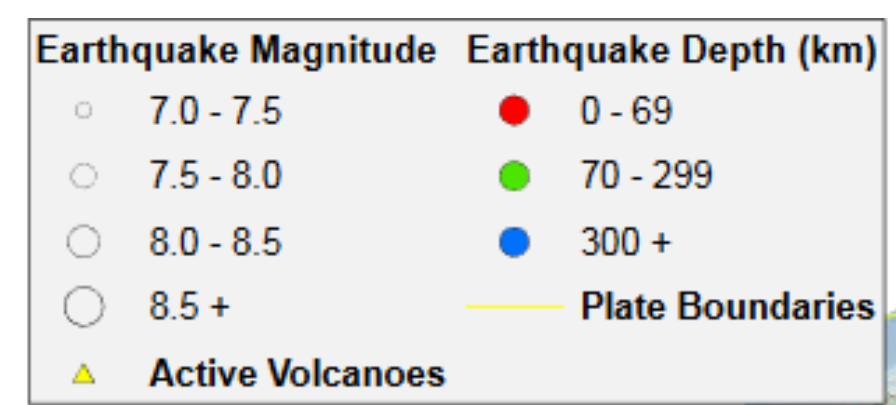


Key

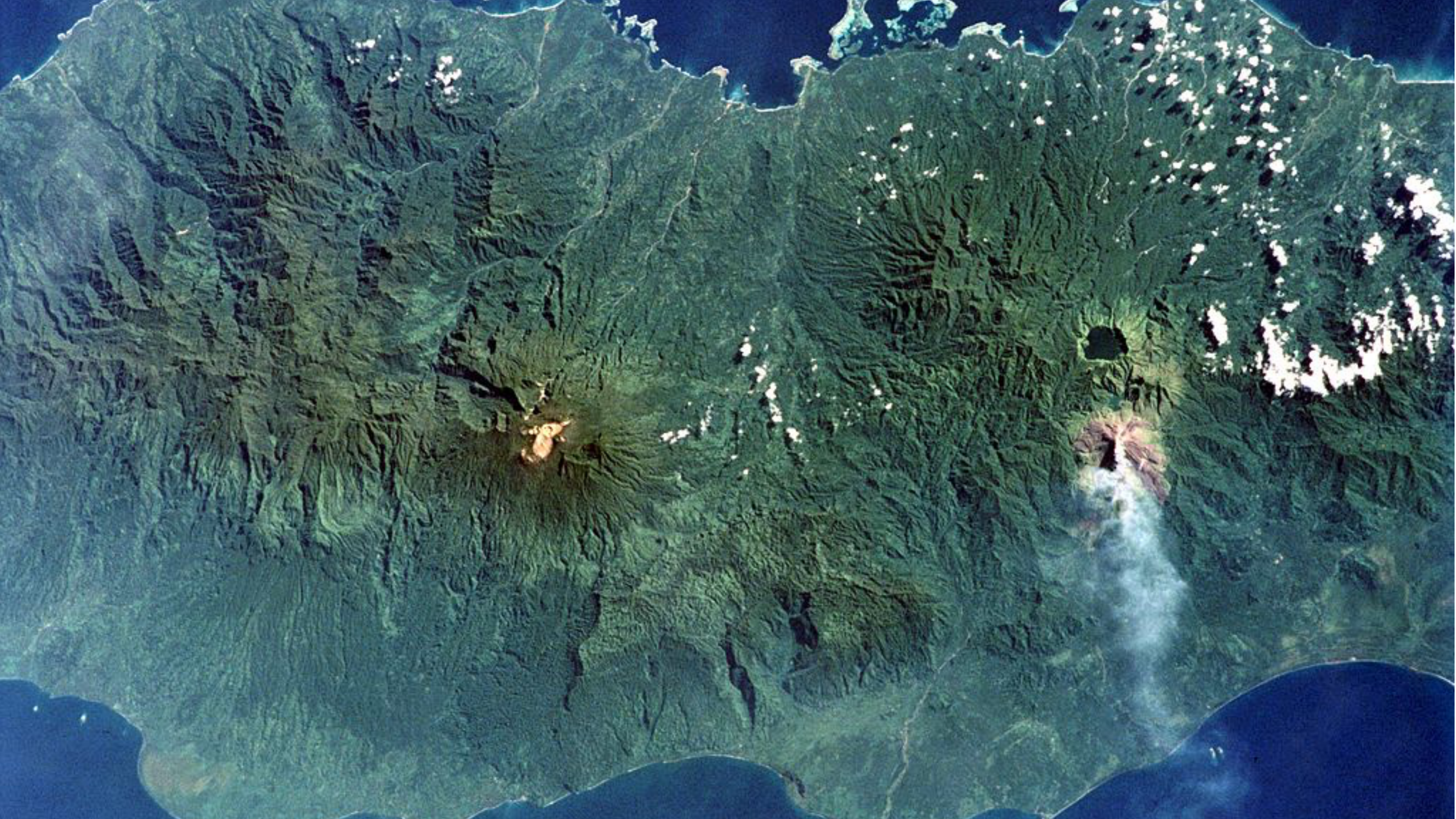
- South Bougainville
- Central Bougainville
- North Bougainville
- International land
- Interprovincial land
- International border
- Provincial border
- District border
- Local Level border
- Major Settlement

0 100 KM

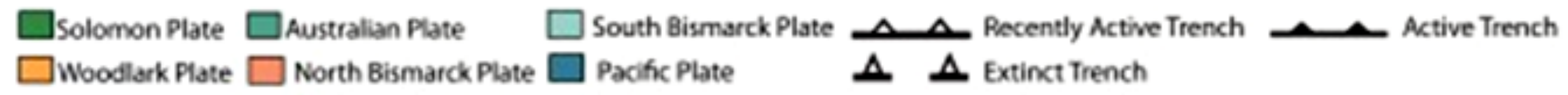
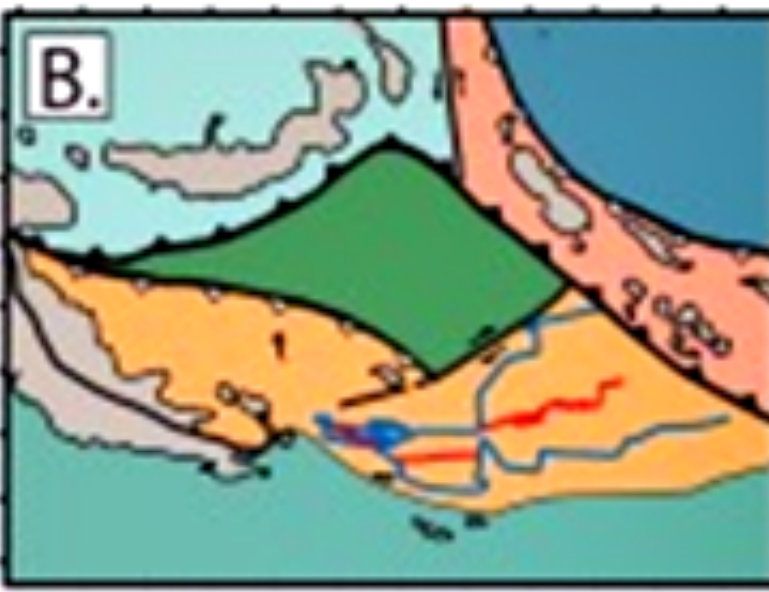
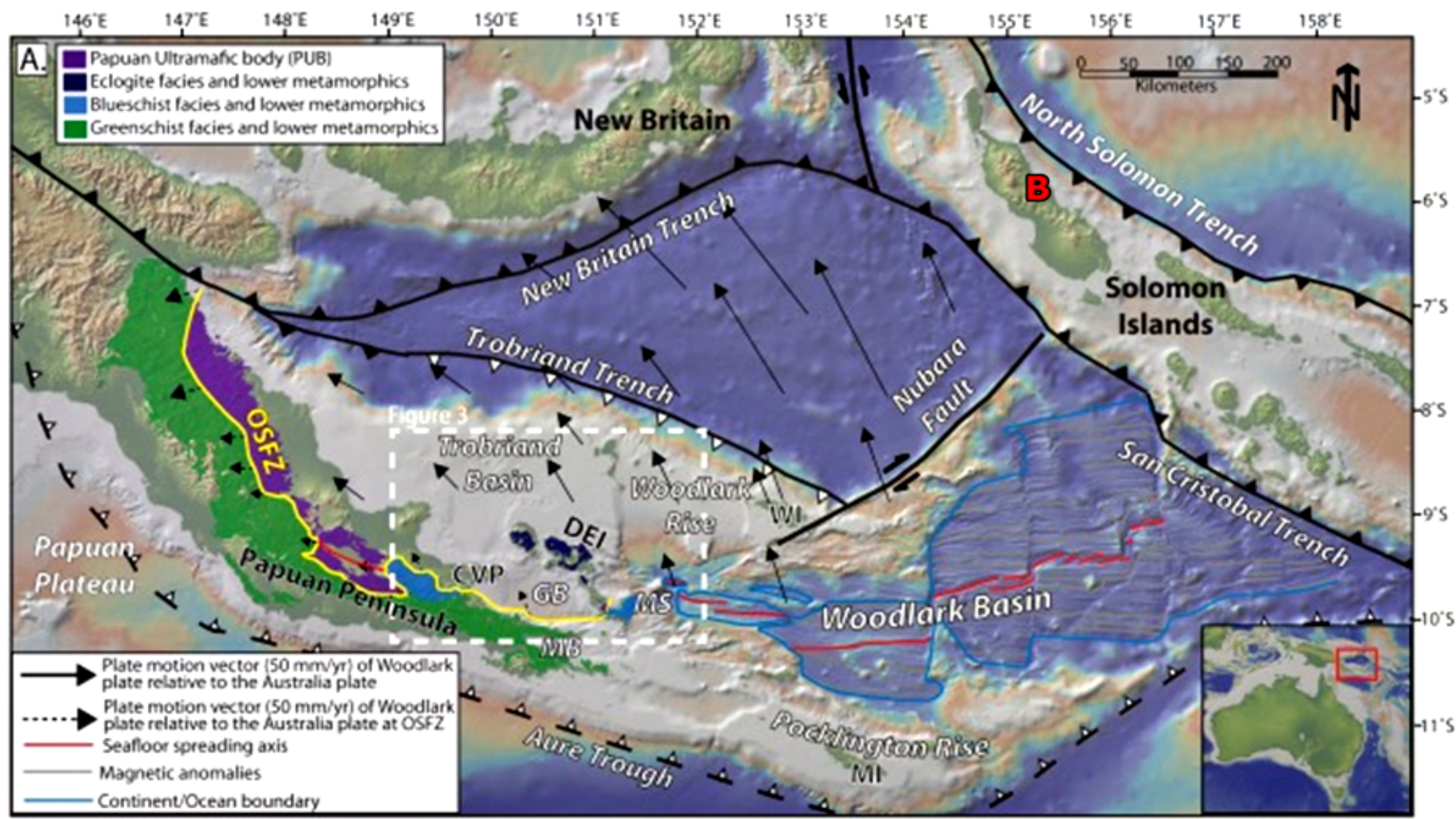
Global Earthquakes 1900 - 2013











B = Bougainville





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Bagana



Country Papua New Guinea

Volcanic Region Melanesia and Australia

Primary Volcano Type Lava cone

Last Known Eruption 2020 CE

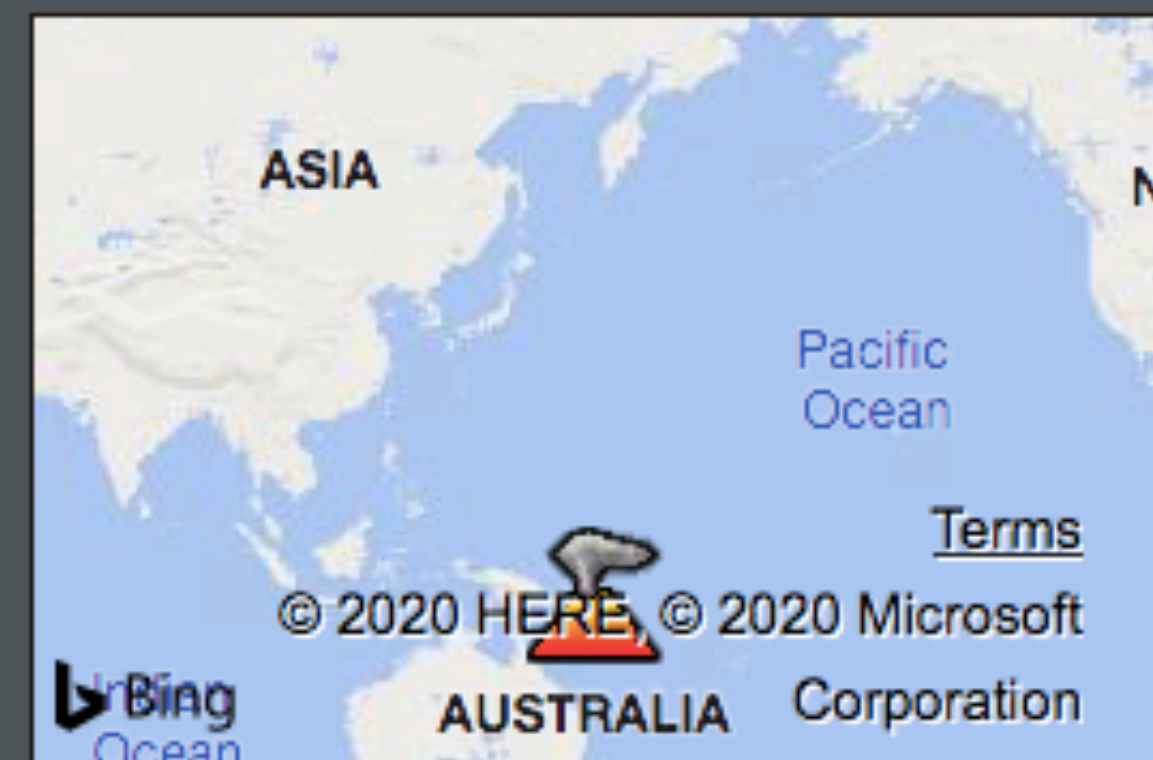
Latitude 6.137°S

Longitude 155.196°E

Summit 1855 m

Elevation 6086 ft

Volcano Number 255020



[Google Earth Placemark with Features](#)



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Historical background Reading (1930–1988)

Lode gold was first discovered on Bougainville in 1930. The discovery of vast copper ore deposits in the Crown Prince Range on Bougainville Island during the 1960s led to the establishment of the huge **Bougainville Copper Mine by the Australian company Conzinc Rio Tinto**. The Panguna mine began production in 1972 under the management of Bougainville Copper Ltd, with the government of Papua New Guinea as a 20% shareholder. At the time, the Panguna mine was the largest open cut mine in the world. It produced **more than 45% of Papua New Guinea's national export revenue**, and was, as such, vitally important to the economy.

The mine recruited thousands of workers to the island, mostly Papua New Guineans, whom the Bougainvilleans referred to as "**red-skins**" because of their skin colour. By contrast, most native people of the island identify as **black**. Many "**white-skins**", mostly Australian nationals, also came to work at the mine. **The Bougainvilleans wanted neither the migrants nor immigrants on their land**; they especially resented the "red-skins," because of cultural differences between the groups.

Conflict began to emerge from the start of mining operations at Panguna. Many of the local landowners were opposed to the mine because it attracted an influx of workers from other parts of PNG. In addition, they were concerned about adverse environmental effects, **while seeing most of the mine profits leaving the island**. Prior to Papua New Guinea's independence in 1975, Bougainville Island had attempted to secede and become independent. Its representatives reached an agreement with the national government for further **decentralization**, which satisfied concerns at the time.



Panguna Mine















The war has been described by John Momis, President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, as the largest conflict in Oceania since the end of World War II.^[8]

PNGDF casualties during the fighting were believed to include more than 300 killed.^[61] Meanwhile, the Australian government estimated that anywhere between 15,000–20,000 people could have died in the Bougainville conflict. However, more conservative estimates put the number of combat deaths as 1,000–2,000.^[1]

Other sources estimated that around 10,000 Bougainvilleans died of violence or disease during this period, while over 60,000 Bougainvilleans were living in internally displaced persons' camps by the mid-1990s and thousands more had fled to the nearby Solomon Islands.

PNG (Papua New Guinea) is known as the land of a thousand tribes and many in the Government are worried about keeping the rest of the country united if Bougainville leaves.

PNG Prime Minister James Marape has offered economic control but stopped well short of committing to independence for **Bougainville**.

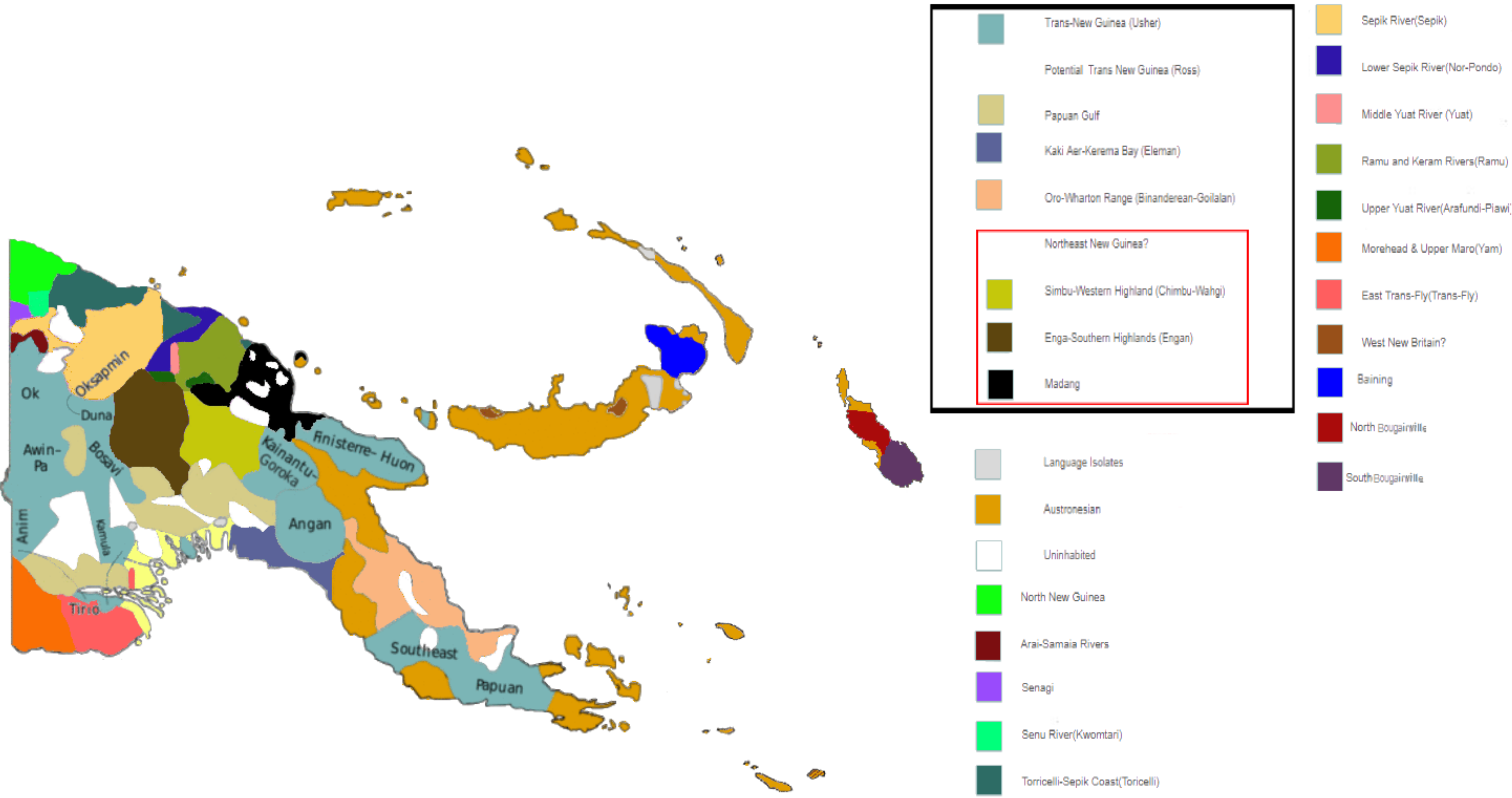
Economically, the most obvious income stream for the resource-rich area is **mining**, but that would involve revisiting the issues that started the bloody conflict in the region.

Landowners at the site of the Panguna **gold and copper mine**, where the violence first broke out, say they are ready to see it reopen in the wake of the referendum.

Up to 20,000 people died in the secessionist conflict that followed, before the peace agreement which guaranteed the vote brought it to an end.



New Guinea from 1884 to 1919. Germany and Britain controlled the eastern half of New Guinea.



- Trans-New Guinea (Usher)
- Potential Trans New Guinea (Ross)
- Papuan Gulf
- Kaki Aer-Kerema Bay (Eleman)
- Oro-Wharton Range (Binanderean-Goilalan)
- Northeast New Guinea?
- Simbu-Western Highland (Chimbu-Wahgi)
- Enga-Southern Highlands (Engan)
- Madang

- Sepik River(Sepik)
- Lower Sepik River(Nor-Pondo)
- Middle Yuat River (Yuat)
- Ramu and Keram Rivers(Ramu)
- Upper Yuat River(Arafundi-Plawi)
- Morehead & Upper Maro(Yam)
- East Trans-Fly(Trans-Fly)
- West New Britain?
- Baining
- North Bougainville
- South Bougainville

- Language Isolates
- Australasian
- Uninhabited
- North New Guinea
- Arai-Samaia Rivers
- Senagi
- Senu River(Kwomtari)
- Toricelli-Sepik Coast(Toricelli)

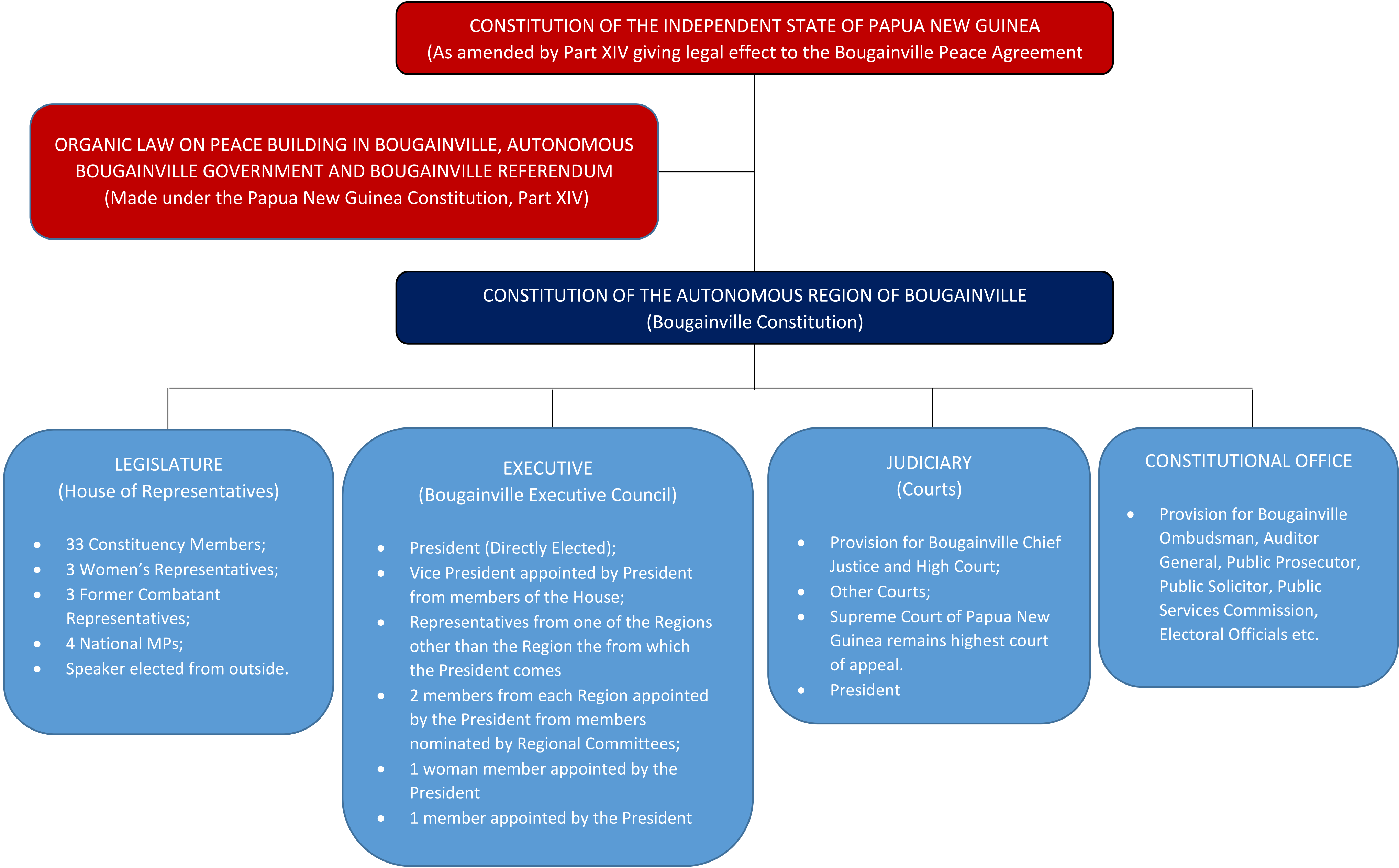
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Authority and Structure of the Government of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville











Ballot Box
Ballot Box Number:
Polling Team Number: N-130
TSTALATG



Land and maritime boundaries and international agreements can influence national or regional identity and encourage or discourage international or internal interactions and disputes over resources.

Mini FRQ Writing Assignment

- 1. Explain why the PNG government and Australians were interested in Bougainville.**
- 2. Explain why there was armed conflicts in Bougainville in the 1970's.**
- 3. Explain what PNG did to end the conflict.**
- 4. Describe what may be the future for the people of Bougainville.**
- 5. What would be THREE potential problems Bougainville may face if it does become an independent country?**



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE CONSTITUTION

Our founding document



