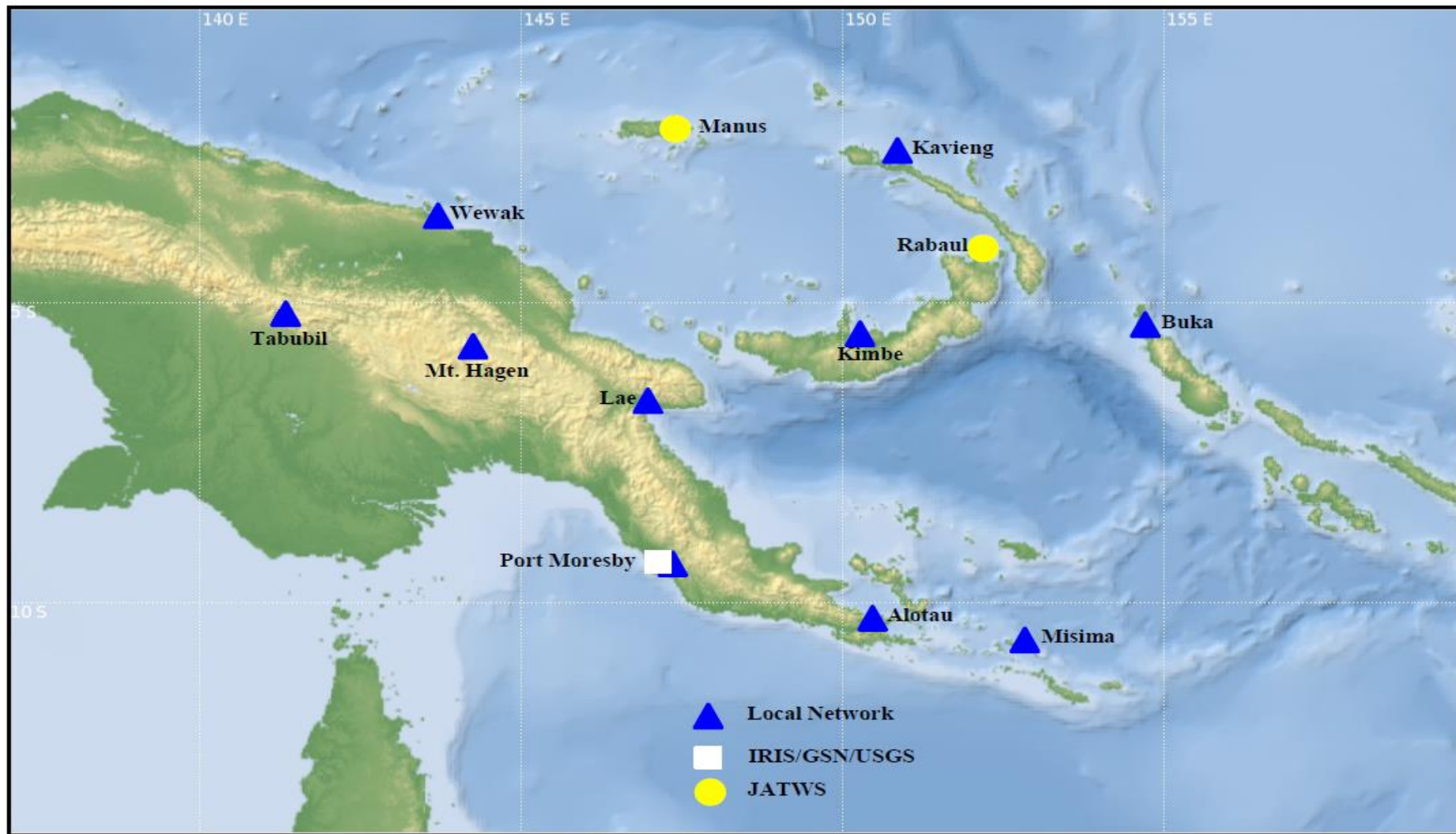# Progress on tsunami monitoring in the PNG region

Port Moresby Geophysical Observatory
Department of Mineral Policy & Geohazards Management
Papua New Guinea

Current status

- Timely receipt of alerts for regional and Pacific basin–wide tsunamis

- PTWC and RIMES text products – received

- Enhanced products continuously received for major earthquakes – very helpful

- Estimation of wave amplitudes – very helpful

- Local bulletins – issued hourly or when additional information is received
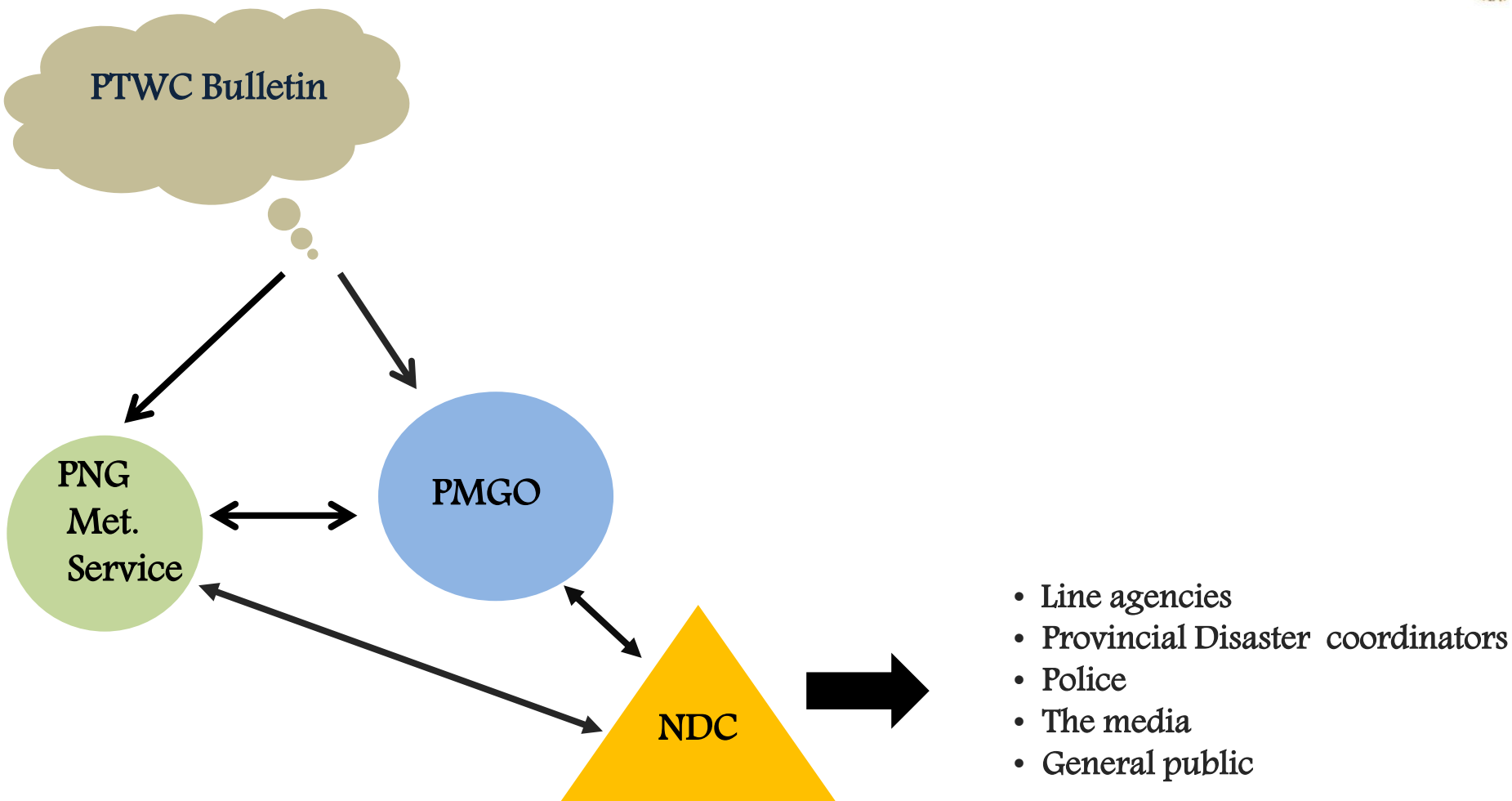
National seismograph network

Current network setup

Operational status

- Network operating at 50–60% of full capacity

- Difficulty in maintaining data telemetry links at consistent level

- No additional stations been added

- Regional stations in the region are operating consistently

- Central facility – operation is ok

Current Information flow chart

PTWC Bulletin

PNG Met. Service

PMGO

NDC

- Line agencies
- Provincial Disaster coordinators
- Police
- The media
- General public

PTWC bulletin is received by: PMGO & PNG Met. Service
PMGO – responsible for evaluating and advising

New PTWC Enhanced Products

❖ Added graphics gives rapid visualization of the tsunami potential – very helpful

❖ At–risk areas are rapidly identified

❖ Effort is focused on areas of high potential initially then to areas of low potential

❖ Has improved reliability

❖ Has improved coordination

An example

- 29 March 2015
  Mag 7.4
  23:49 UTC
  Depth 40km

- 3 tsunami information bulletins were issued by PMGO

  - 1. Immediately after the earthquake

  - 2. When PTWC enhanced products were received

  - 3. After about 90 minutes when it was determined that no major tsunami is expected along nearby coastline

Challenges

➢ Able to consistently implement current status quo & make improvements

➢ Information reaching the last mile still remains a major concern

➢ Issuing of warning for near-source events still a challenge even with new enhanced products in place

Summary

➢ Enhanced products has assisted greatly with improved monitoring and information dissemination

➢ On-going out reach education and awareness programs are being pursued

➢ Stakeholder collaboration are being implemented

Thank you ...