Last week flashback!

The sequence of significance could be based on the: - scale of the event (geographical area)

- nature of disruption

- severity of the disruption

- number of people involved

- amount of property and infrastructure affected

- scale of assistance required by humanitarian agencies and others.
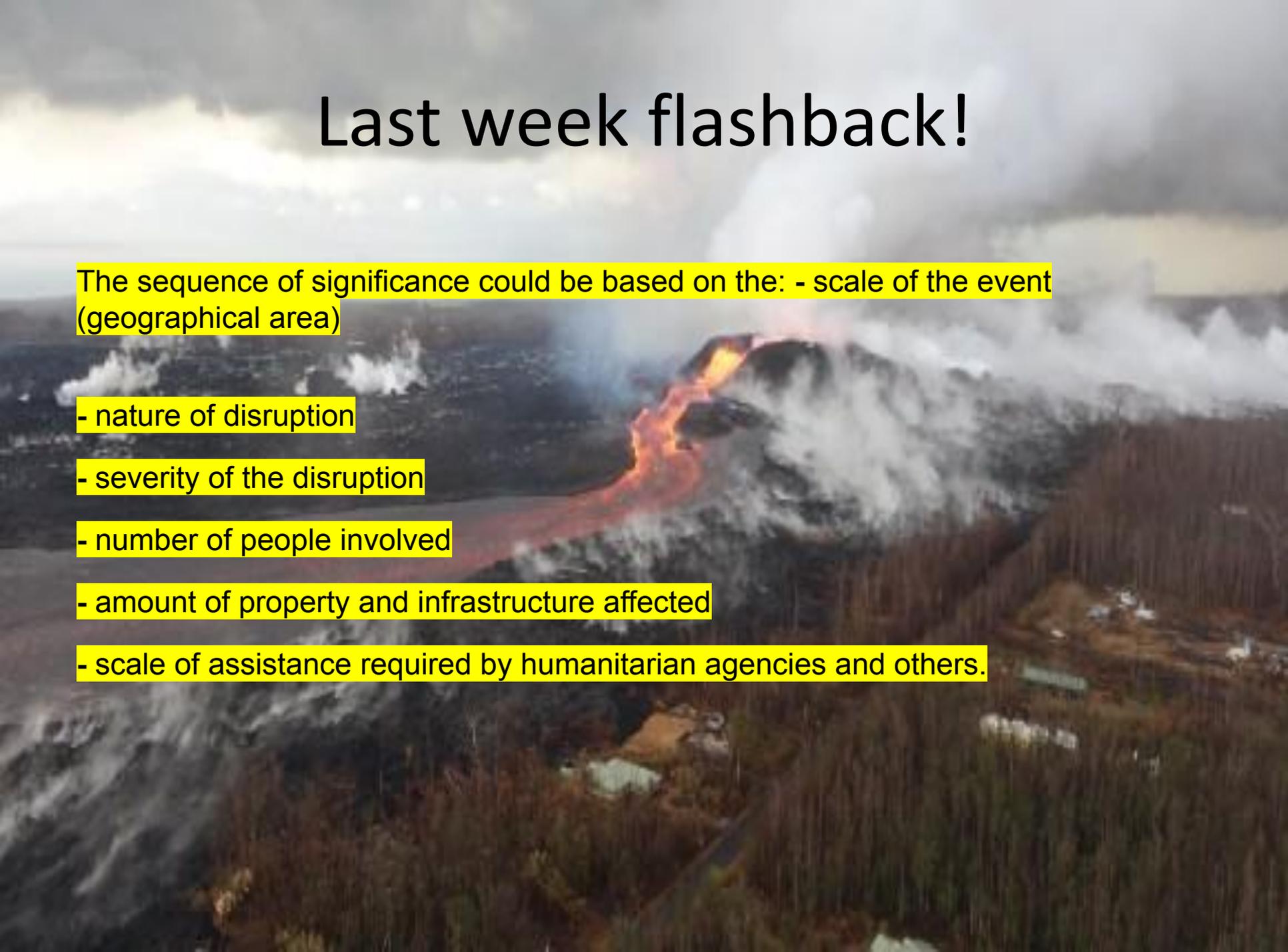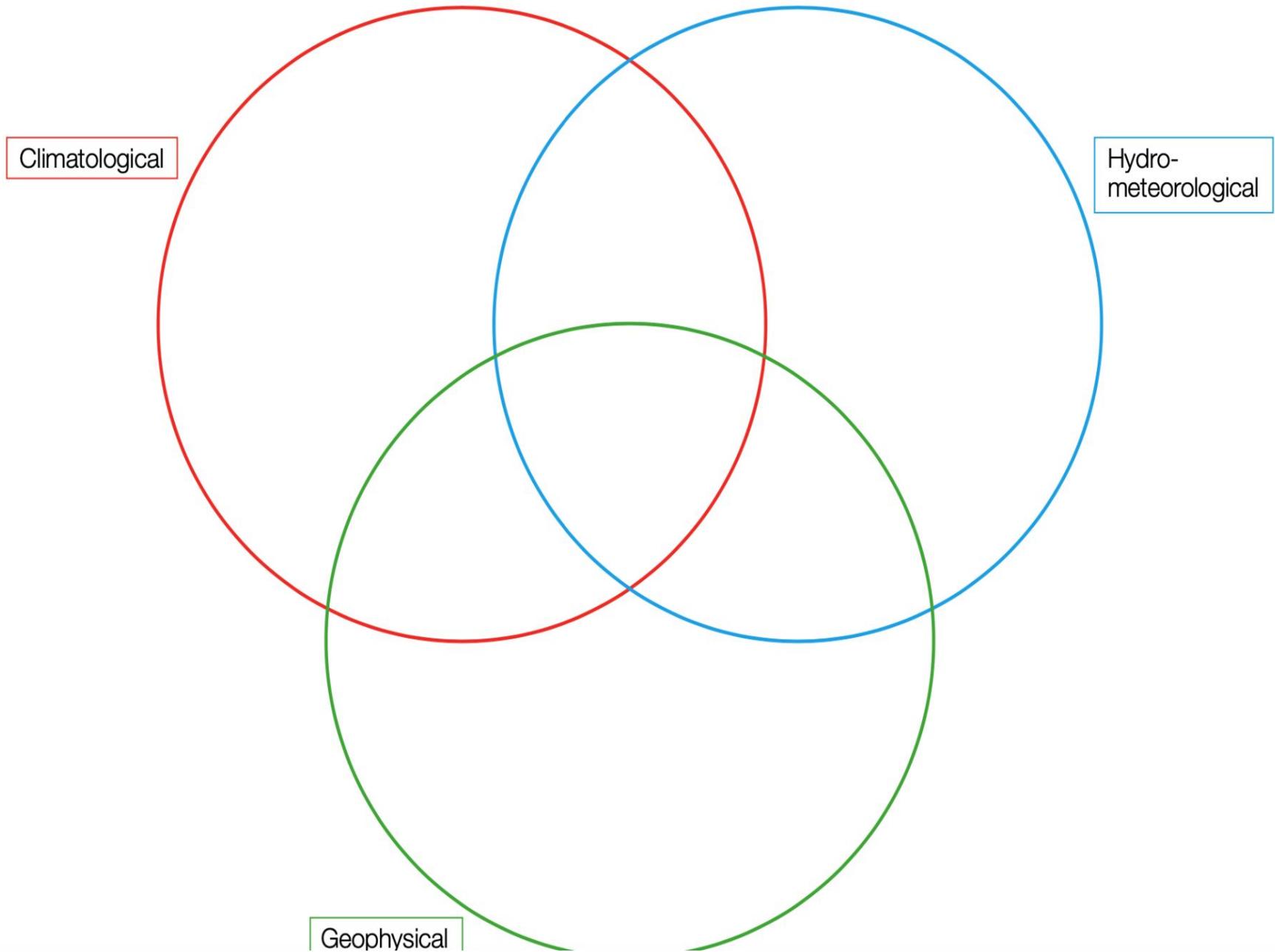
Earthquake, Volcanic eruption, Rock fall,
Landslide, Subsidence (including sink-holes),
Tropical storm,Extratropical storm, Tornado,
River flood, Flash flood, Storm surge,
Avalanche, Heatwave, Freeze,
Ice storm, Drought, Wildfire, Hailstorm

Hazard classification guide

| Meteorological Events	Hydrological Events	Climatological Events	Geophysical (Tectonic) Events
Storms, including tropical storms, mid latitude depressions	Flooding, including flash floods, river flooding and storm surge	Drought	Earthquake
Tornado	Mass movement, including landslide and avalanche	Extreme heat	Volcanic eruption
Lightning strike, or local hailstorm associated with convection	Subsidence	Wildfire, triggered by lightning	Mass movement e.g. landslide or rockfall
			Tsunami

1. Introduction to disaster hotspots
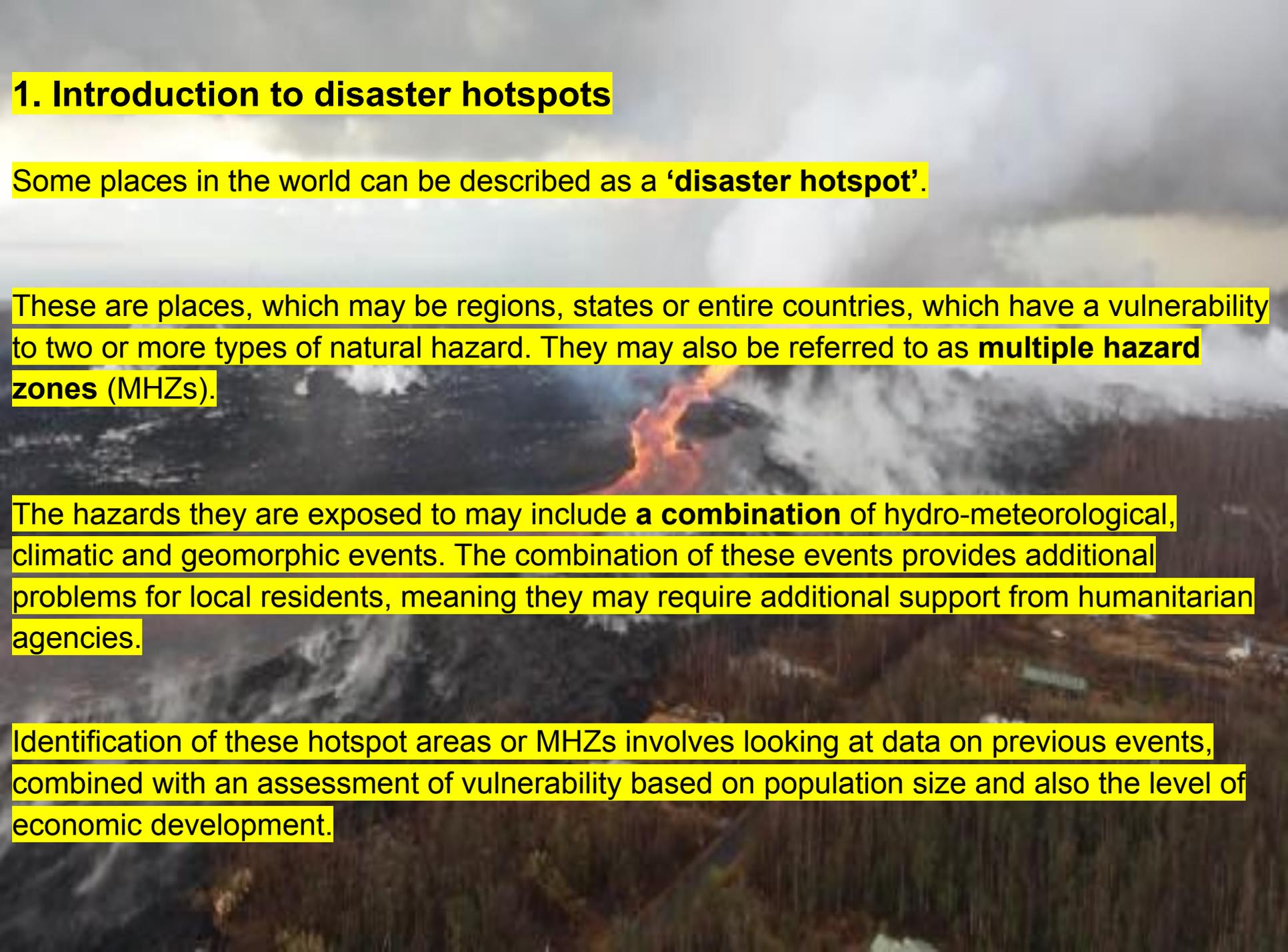
Some places in the world can be described as a **'disaster hotspot'**.

These are places, which may be regions, states or entire countries, which have a vulnerability to two or more types of natural hazard. They may also be referred to as **multiple hazard zones** (MHZs).

The hazards they are exposed to may include **a combination** of hydro-meteorological, climatic and geomorphic events. The combination of these events provides additional problems for local residents, meaning they may require additional support from humanitarian agencies.

Identification of these hotspot areas or MHZs involves looking at data on previous events, combined with an assessment of vulnerability based on population size and also the level of economic development.

Figure 2. Location of cities by population size and level of vulnerability to disaster-related mortality

Mortality Vulnerability
- No vulnerability (green)
- Low vulnerability (blue)
- Medium volunerability (yellow)
- High vulnerability to 1 type of disaster (orange)
- High vulnerability to 2 types of disaster (red)
- High vulnerability to 3+ types of disaster (dark red)

City Pop. in 2018
- 300 to 500K
- 500K to 1M
- 1 to 5M
- 5 to 10 M
- 10 + M
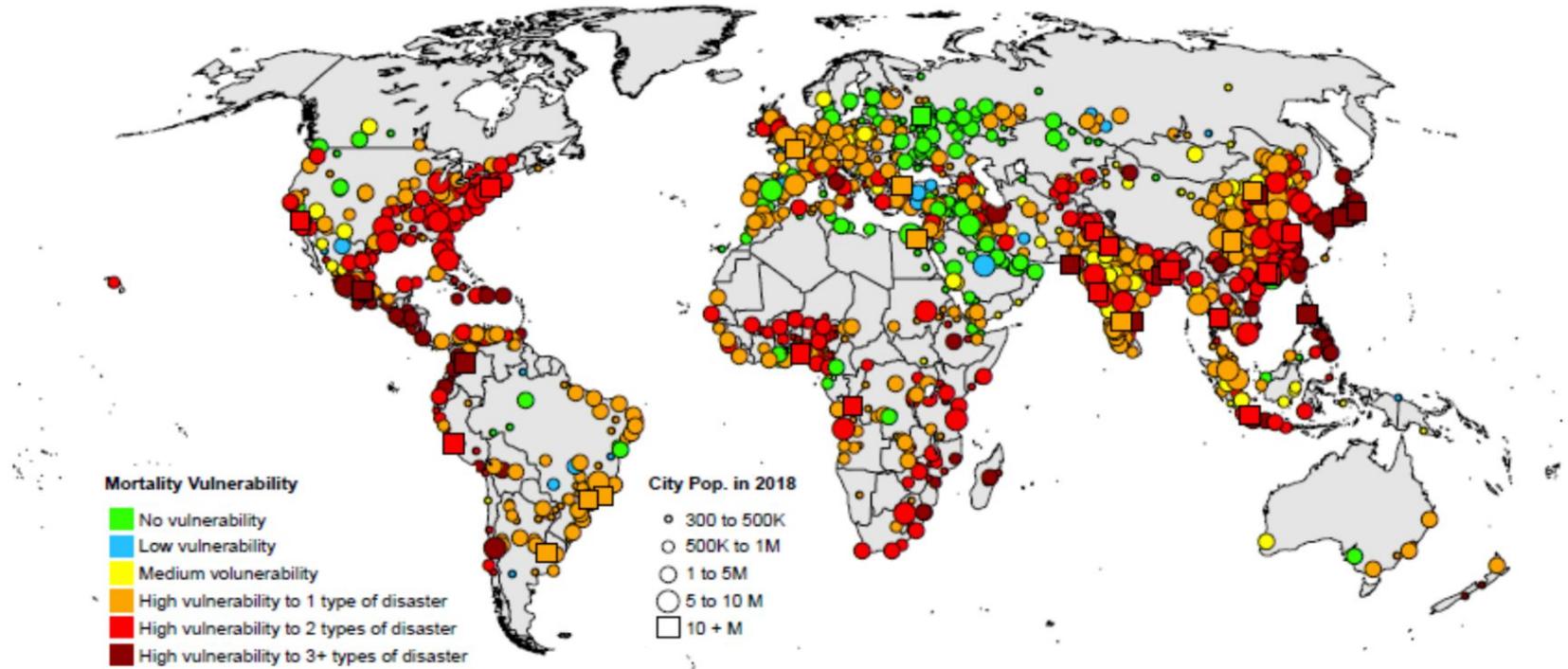
The following **three** places are amongst those that have been suggested as possible **disaster hotspots**:

- Nepal

- California, USA -

The Philippines

Explaining the Nepal earthquake – answer sheet

A week on from the earthquake, Professor Iain Stewart, Director of the Sustainable Earth Institute at Plymouth University, produced a video exploring what was known about the earthquake at that stage, and the unfolding impact it was having in Nepal. Professor Stewart is well known from a number of BBC series on the power of the planet, and the forces that shape it. He works in the area of communicating geosciences, and has a good understanding of the interaction between natural disasters and people.

Case Studies Fact sheet:
Nepal example