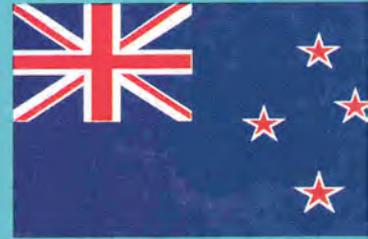


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State
Of the
Environment
Report

Tokelau



Tokelau

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of all Tokelauans. Today, however, modern changes are having a
significant influence on the traditional lifestyle and values of the
people living on these isolated atolls. (photo: Daphne Hougard)*

Tokelau

State Of the Environment Report 1994

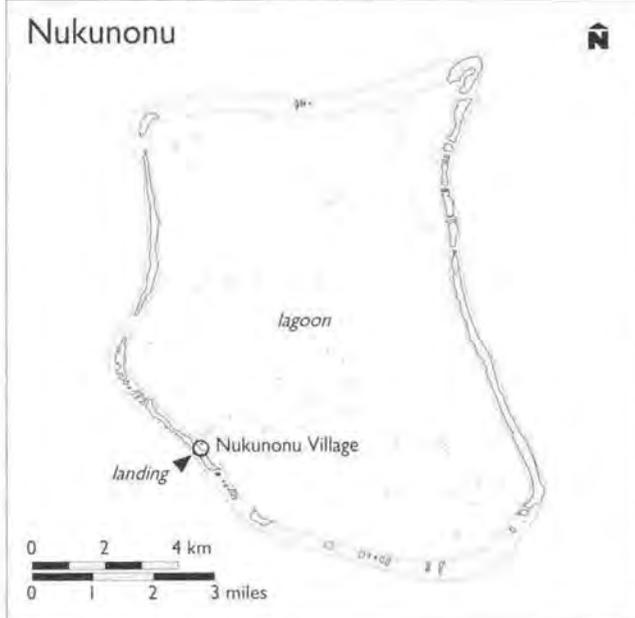
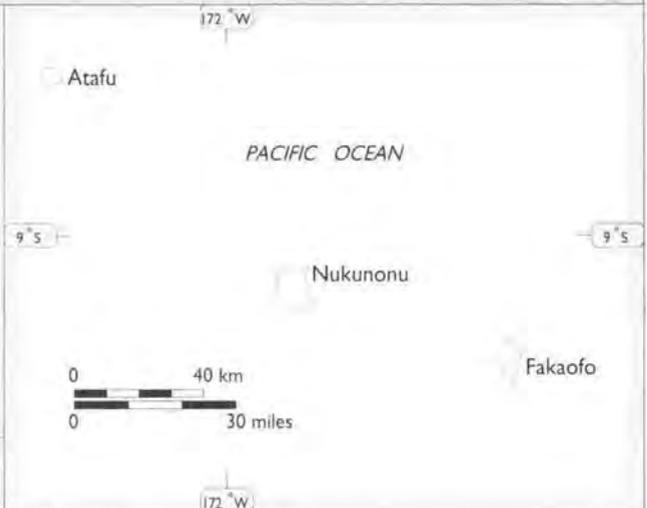
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*in collaboration with members of the
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Foreword

This document represents a concise report on the state of the environment for Tokelau. It was prepared as a major component of the National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) Project. The NEMS Project was instigated to address sustainable environmental development and planning issues in a number of Pacific Island countries, namely, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Western Samoa. It has been funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and implemented through the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as part of a broader UNDP assistance programme called PMI: Planning and Implementation of Pacific Regional Environment Programme which concentrates on regional and in-country institutional strengthening and training of environmental managers.

The State of the Environment Report for Tokelau was a major background document for the preparation of the draft Tokelau Environmental Management Strategy (TEMS) and forms an important reference document for the National Seminar held in Tokelau to further refine and develop the TEMS. The Report summarises the current state of knowledge about the environment of Tokelau in areas such as terrestrial environment, marine resources, cultural and archaeological re-

sources, and socio-economic environment, and outlines the environmental challenges facing Tokelau. The State of the Environment Report also provides an important vehicle for raising awareness within the communities on each of the three atolls about the importance of environmental issues and how these issues should be integrated into future decision-making processes.

I would like to thank Mr Makalio Ioane, Atoll Environment Coordinator for Nukunonu who prepared this State of the Environment Report in collaboration with members of the Tokelau National Task Force for Environmental Management and Sustainable Development, and staff of the Environment Policy Unit.

SPREP looks forward to working with the Tokelauan people and with other regional and international organisations in tackling the environmental issues identified in this State of the Environment Report.



Vili A. Fuavao
Director
South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

Preface

As atoll environments are delicate environments, and as our survival in Tokelau depends on maintaining them in a pristine and productive state, we are asking you as Tokelauans to examine this document carefully. As we currently undertake our development path, we realise that constraints must be put in place that will assure Tokelau of an ecologically sensitive, sustainable development.

Therefore, on behalf of the three Councils of Elders, we, the Faipule of each atoll, are grateful to those who have made a valuable and detailed input into this latest environmental report, with special thanks to the members of the National Task Force for Environmental Management and Sustainable Development who have helped identify Tokelau's environmental needs.

What we all want now is the best environmental planning possible. Fortunately, there has been in more recent times an awakening to the relationship between our surroundings, our culture and our current development path. While this awareness is new to most of us, reports like this will help us to evolve a type of modern-day development that will not damage our natural resources, that will not drastically alter our culture, and that will preserve our environment for future generations.

We can now look forward to those changes that

will bring about a greater awareness of our traditional culture and its relationship to our natural resources, and of changes that will provide a permanent partnership between development and environmental trends.

This State of the Environment Report now serves as the official government document that will guide us with the implementation of the Tokelau Environmental Management Strategy (TEMS) Project. The TEMS Project would not have been possible had it not been for the generous assistance and advice from SPREP, UNDP, the New Zealand Government and other agencies which are assisting Tokelau along the path towards sustainable human development. Without such international assistance to small Pacific Island nations like Tokelau, our collective efforts to attain sound environmental management and sustainable development within the Pacific region would have only limited effectiveness.

It is now our hope that the proposed Tokelau Environmental Management Strategy will not only prevent Tokelauans from making some regrettable development decisions, but will also hasten our attainment of sustainable development. To those who have guided us, we are eternally grateful.



Salesio Lui

Members of the Council of Faipule, Tokelau



Keli Neemia



Lepaio Simi

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