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state of the environment report

*Cook Islands*

By  
**Teariki Rongo**  
Local RETA Consultant  
*Cook Islands 1993*



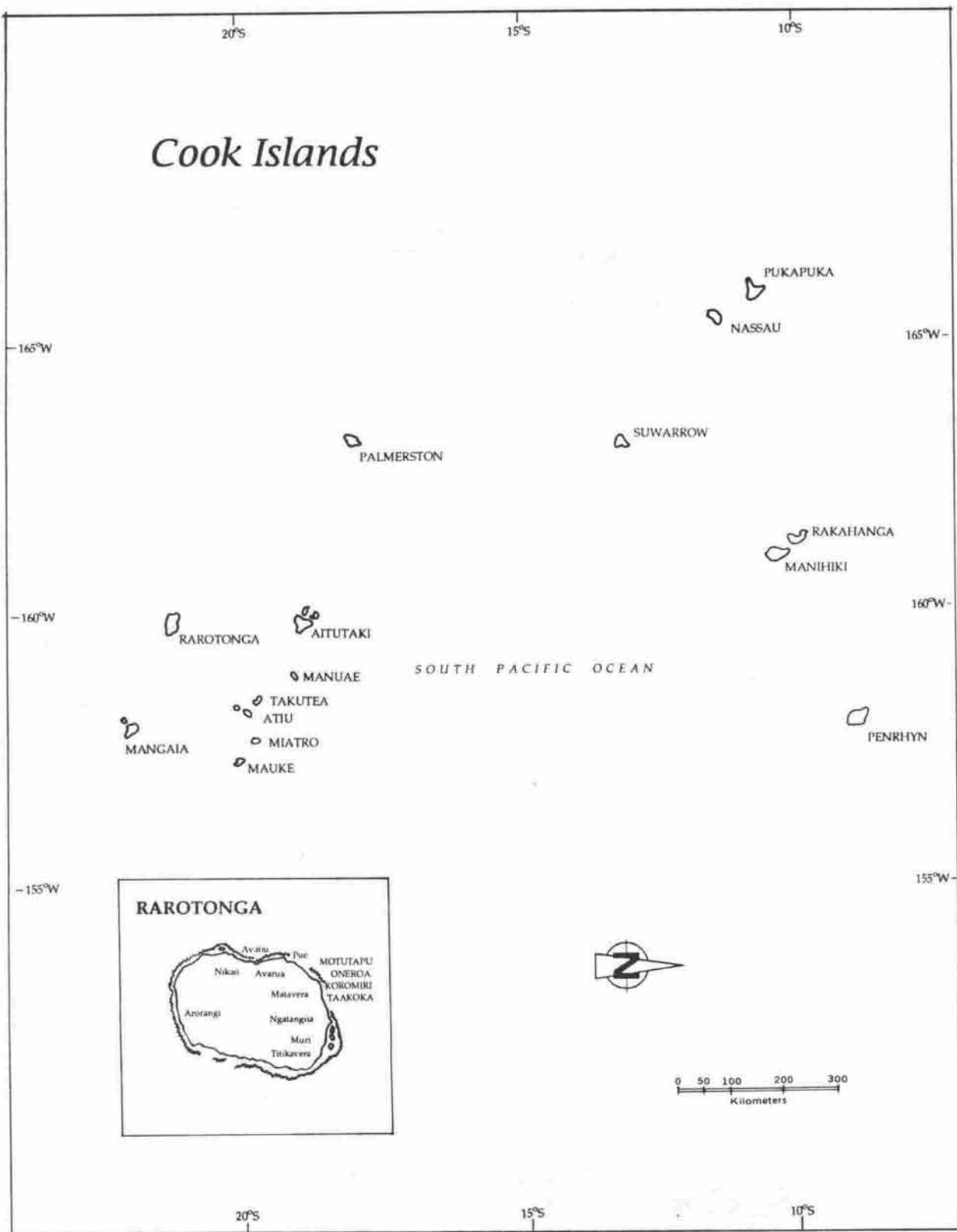


# *Cook Islands*

state of the environment report



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## Foreword

This document represents a concise report on the State of the Environment for the Cook Islands. It was prepared as a major element of the Regional Environment Technical Assistance (RETA) Project, one of the largest environmental projects implemented in the Pacific. The RETA Project has been made possible through the generous financial and technical assistance of the Asian Development Bank and the World Conservation Union. This assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

The main aim of the RETA Project is to develop National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) in a number of Pacific countries. The NEMS is a practical document which aims to identify the major environmental issues in the Cook Islands and the priority environmental programmes required to address them. The emphasis has been on ownership of the document by the Government and people of the Cook Islands. The process which has resulted in the preparation of the NEMS has involved many people and has been directed by a Task Force on Environmental Management and Sustainable Development, comprising relevant government and non-governmental organisations in the Cook Islands.

The State of the Environment Report for the Cook Islands was a major background document for the preparation of the NEMS. It summarises the current state of knowledge about the environment of the Cook Islands in areas such as geology, vegetation, fauna and marine resources. It represents a comprehensive reference document which formed the major background paper to the National Environmental Seminar held in Rarotonga in March 1992. The preparation of the State of the Environment Report has also provided an important vehicle for raising awareness at the state and national level of the importance of environmental issues and how they could be integrated into decision-making processes.

I would like to pay particular tribute to the work of Teariki Rongo, the RETA Local Consultant for the Cook Islands, who prepared its State of the Environment Report. The comprehensive nature of this report is a tribute to his efforts.

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



Vili A. Fuavao  
*Director*

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