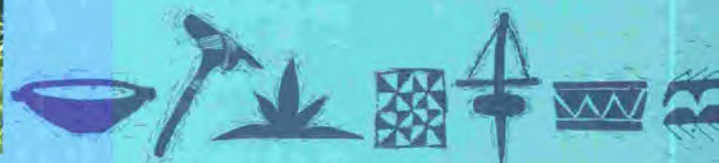


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Western Samoa

State

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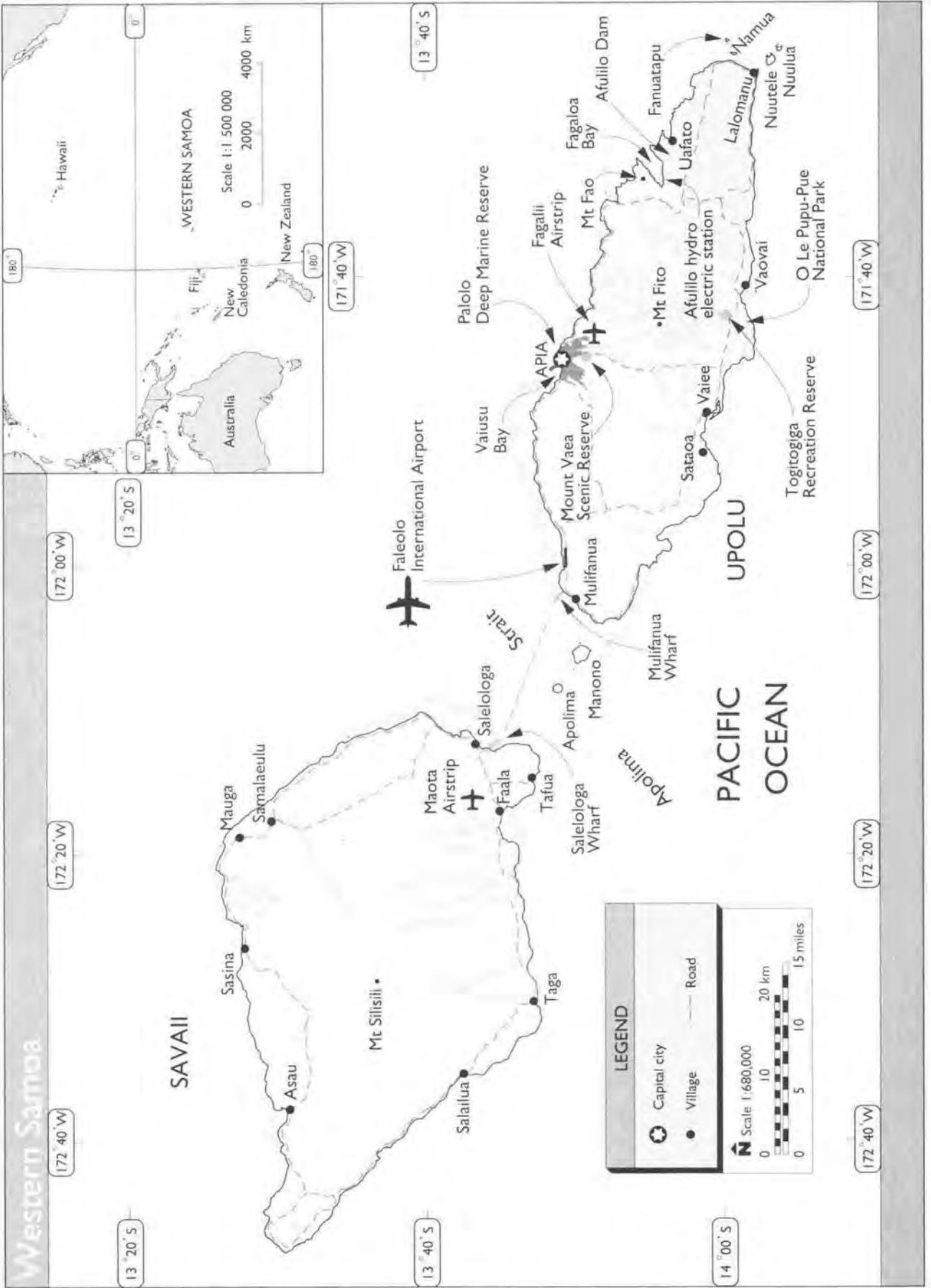
State

Of the

Environment Report

by Tu'u'u Ieti Taule'alo
Local NEMS Consultant
Western Samoa 1993





Foreword

This document represents a concise but nevertheless comprehensive report on the State of the Environment in Western Samoa. It was prepared as supporting documentation to the National Environment and Development Management Strategies document and process which culminated in Cabinet-endorsed strategies aimed at ensuring that present and future development activities within Western Samoa are undertaken with all due consideration for sustaining environmental quality. This State of the Environment Report was one of several documents prepared for this process. It is obviously a most important publication because it brings together available information about Western Samoa's natural resources, cultural heritage, existing processes and practices, as well as institutional and administrative mechanisms. This information is vital when developing ongoing strategies aimed at environmental protection. As well, it is valuable to have an up-to-date document which is useful not just to policy makers but also to the wider community. This State of the Environment Report has thus been written in a style which will make it accessible to a wide Western Samoan audience.

Financial assistance for the preparation of this report and for the process of National Environment and Development Management Strategies production within Western Samoa has been generously provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the NEMS Project within the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

This report summarises the current state of knowledge about the environment of Western Samoa. It covers the terrestrial, marine, urban and rural environment, the socio-economic situation and institutional responses to development trends, and provides valuable information and base data to act as a gauge against which to measure the future state of Western Samoa's environment. Such a measuring stick will ensure that quick action can be taken should there be signs of environmental degradation.

I would like to pay particular tribute to the work of Tu'u'u Ieti Taule'alo, the Local NEMS Consultant who prepared both the State of the Environment Report and the draft National Environment and Development Management Strategies document, the latter being produced through a broad consultative process which drew on the diverse views of a wide cross-section of Western Samoan society. I would also like to acknowledge the assistance provided by Julia Haska of Western Samoa's Department of Lands, Survey and Environment in the final report preparation stages.

SPREP looks forward to working with Western Samoa 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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