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State
Of the
Environment
Report

Niue



Niue

**State
Of the
Environment Report
1993**

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Cover photograph: Matapa Chasm is one of the many scenic features of Niue's environment that makes the island so attractive to locals and visitors alike.

Niue

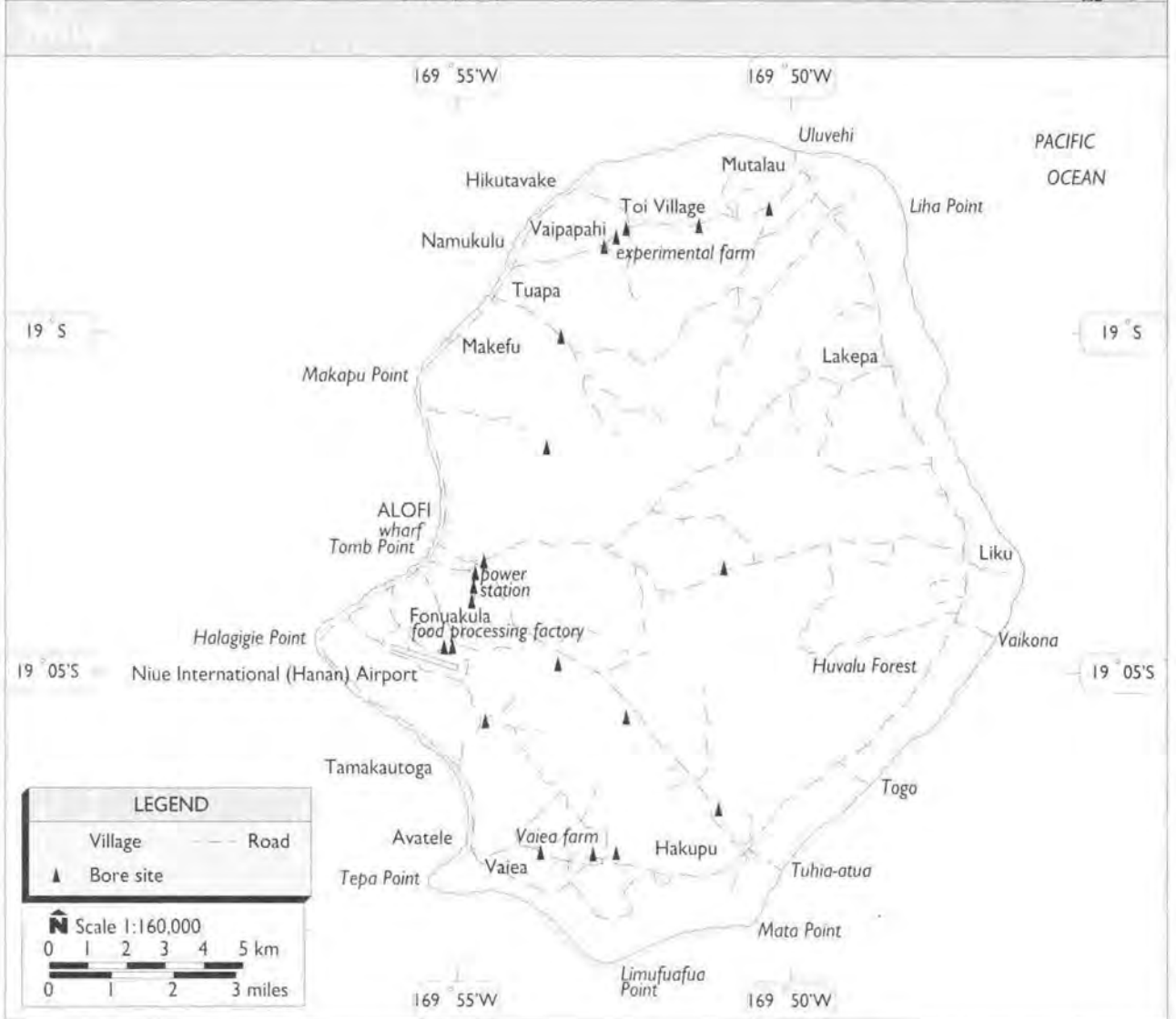
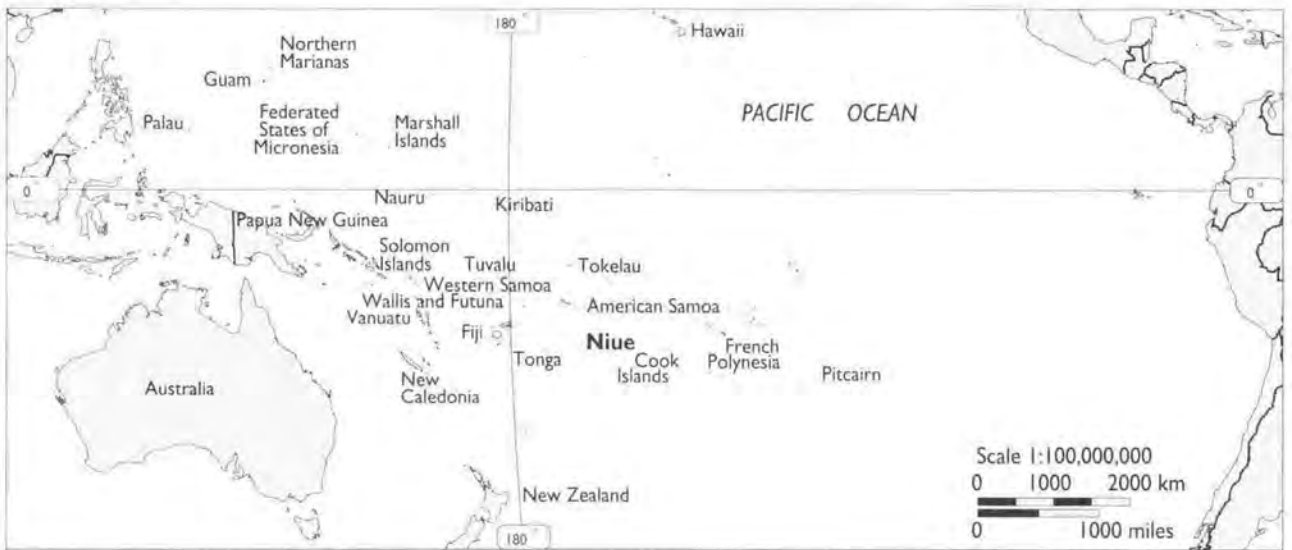
State Of the Environment Report 1993

Prepared by John Lane

Report for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme as documentation in support of the Niue National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS)

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Foreword

This document represents a concise report on the State of the Environment for Niue. It was prepared as a 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 Niue is a comprehensive reference document on the current status of the environment of Niue which should act as a benchmark against which changes to the environment can be gauged. The report summarises the current state of knowledge about the environment of Niue in areas such as terrestrial

environment, marine resources, cultural and archaeological resources, and socio-economic environment, and outlines environmental challenges facing Niue. The State of the Environment Report also provides an important vehicle for raising awareness within the community about the importance of environmental issues and how these should be integrated into future decision-making processes.

I would like to thank John Lane for his work in preparing this State of the Environment Report. SPREP looks forward to working with the people of Niue and with other regional and international organisations in tackling the environmental issues identified in this report.



Vili A. Fuavao
Director
South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

Preface

Having read this report, I am convinced that Niue urgently needs a “National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS)” that it can implement immediately. This State of the Environment Report will serve as a basis for Niue’s future development.

Our ability to survive with dignity and without total reliance on our Pacific neighbours is at stake. Our economic environment and future development rely on Niue having an intact environment. I ask you all to examine this document carefully, as the custodians of our heritage and natural resources.

If it were not for the National Environmental Management Strategy initiatives, we could possibly have overlooked the need to change our environmental management in Niue. The Government of Niue and the community have a daunting task ahead of them if they are to alter their current environmental practices.

In Niue, we want the best environmental planning possible, and we want it translated into action before further damage is done to our delicate environment. We must act now. We have the capability, and we also have many of the solutions.

We owe a sincere thanks to SPREP, UNDP and the New Zealand Representative (Niue) for this initiative and for their continuing financial support. Without such help, it would not be possible for us to attain sound environmental management and sustainable development throughout the Pacific region.

I look forward to a change in development attitudes, a change that will bring about a greater awareness of the ‘Moui Faka-Niue’ and its relationship to our natural resources and the beautiful environment of Niue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Lui', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

The Honourable Frank Fakaotimanava Lui
Premier of Niue

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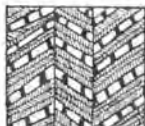
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