

Republic of the Marshall Islands



PART A
State of the Environment
report 1992



national environmental management strategy
nems



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PART A

State of the Environment Report 1992

Written by

Martha J. Crawford
Consultant to General Manager
RMI Environmental Protection Authority

Prepared under the Supervision of

The National Task Force on
Environmental Management &
Sustainable Development

Adopted & endorsed by

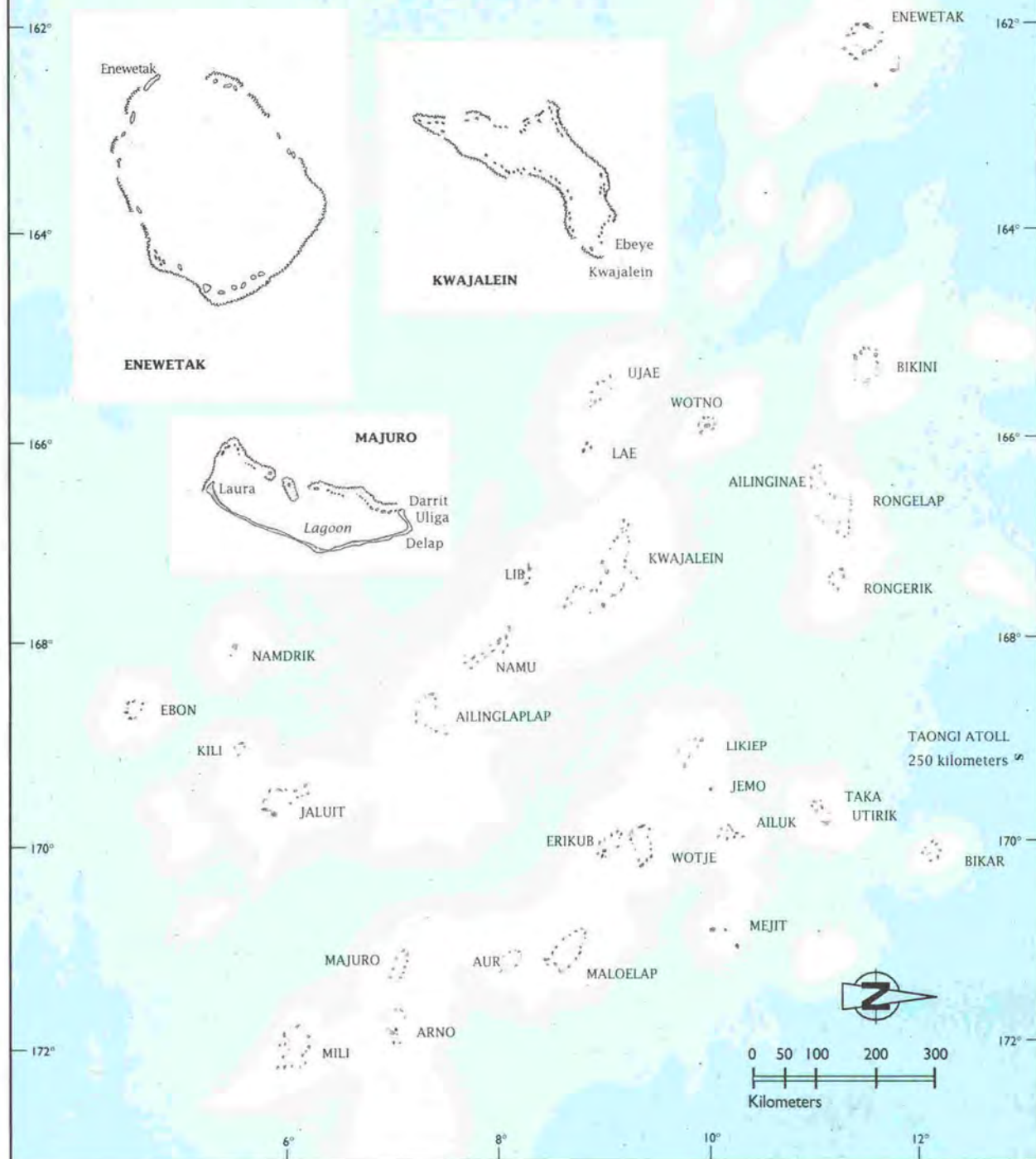
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IUCN
The World Conservation Union



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Republic of the Marshall Islands



Foreword

This document represents the first ever government-wide effort to evaluate environmental management needs and establish future priorities for improving management capabilities. Developed as the product of a lengthy consultative process between government leaders, the unique aspect of this report is its incisive accuracy and thorough treatment of the subject matter. The National Task Force on Environmental Management and Sustainable Development, created especially to develop this two-part National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS), has provided the impetus and oversight which saw this project to completion. In presenting this document as an official government document, I must acknowledge the invaluable role that the Task Force has played.

The author of this report, Ms Martha Crawford, also bears special mention. She has lived and worked in the Marshall Islands, as Consultant to the General Manager of the Environmental Protection Authority, for over two years. Serving as Coordinator of the Regional Environment Technical Assistance (RETA) Project during 1991, she worked tirelessly with the National Task Force on Environmental Management and Sustainable Development in examining all of the issues described herein. In addition to her professionalism and dedication, Ms Crawford's never-ending energy and enthusiasm largely account for the unqualified success of this project.

This document also represents a significant cooperative effort at the international level. Funding for the RETA Project was generously provided by the Asian Development Bank. The South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) provided coordination at the regional level, and technical assistance during the National Seminar on Environmental Management held in Majuro in October 1991. Additional funds were provided by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the United Nations Environment Programme. The funding and coordination provided by these agencies

served as the initial impetus to take on the mammoth task of developing this two-part National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS), a task which has consumed the better part of a year.

Here I proudly present to you the two-part result of our work, NEMS Part A: State of the Environment Report 1992 and Part B: Action Strategy for Strengthening Environmental Management, 1992-1996. I am even more proud, however, to state that in the process of developing the NEMS, a permanent partnership between the development and environment sectors has been forged. An inter-sectoral dialogue was initiated to facilitate the analysis of the issues and development of the principles presented in this document. This important communication link will no doubt prove helpful in implementing the Action Strategy (Part B) during the period 1992-1996.

The National Task Force on Environmental Management and Sustainable Development (EMSD), a body with high-level membership from all government sectors which was established by Cabinet Paper to oversee the development of the NEMS, has served extremely well. In recognition of the important role that the Task Force has assumed, that of bridging the gap between the development and environment sectors and promoting the ideals of sustainable development, it will be established as a permanent body to oversee the implementation of the Action Strategy (NEMS Part B) during the period of the Second Five Year Development Plan, 1992-1996.

In recognition of the new world order, which calls for all nations to take responsibility for their environmental impacts, and to cooperate in finding global solutions to global problems, our nation presents this document as an affirmation of its commitment to integrating the principles of sustainable development into national policy. As a nation composed entirely of low-elevation atolls, we depend on reciprocal cooperation from developed and developing countries alike to halt global warming and prevent a devastating

rise in average sea level. We presented this document at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to signal our commitment to the goals of the Earth Charter and Agenda 21.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amata Kabua", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The Honorable Amata Kabua
President, Republic of the Marshall Islands

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