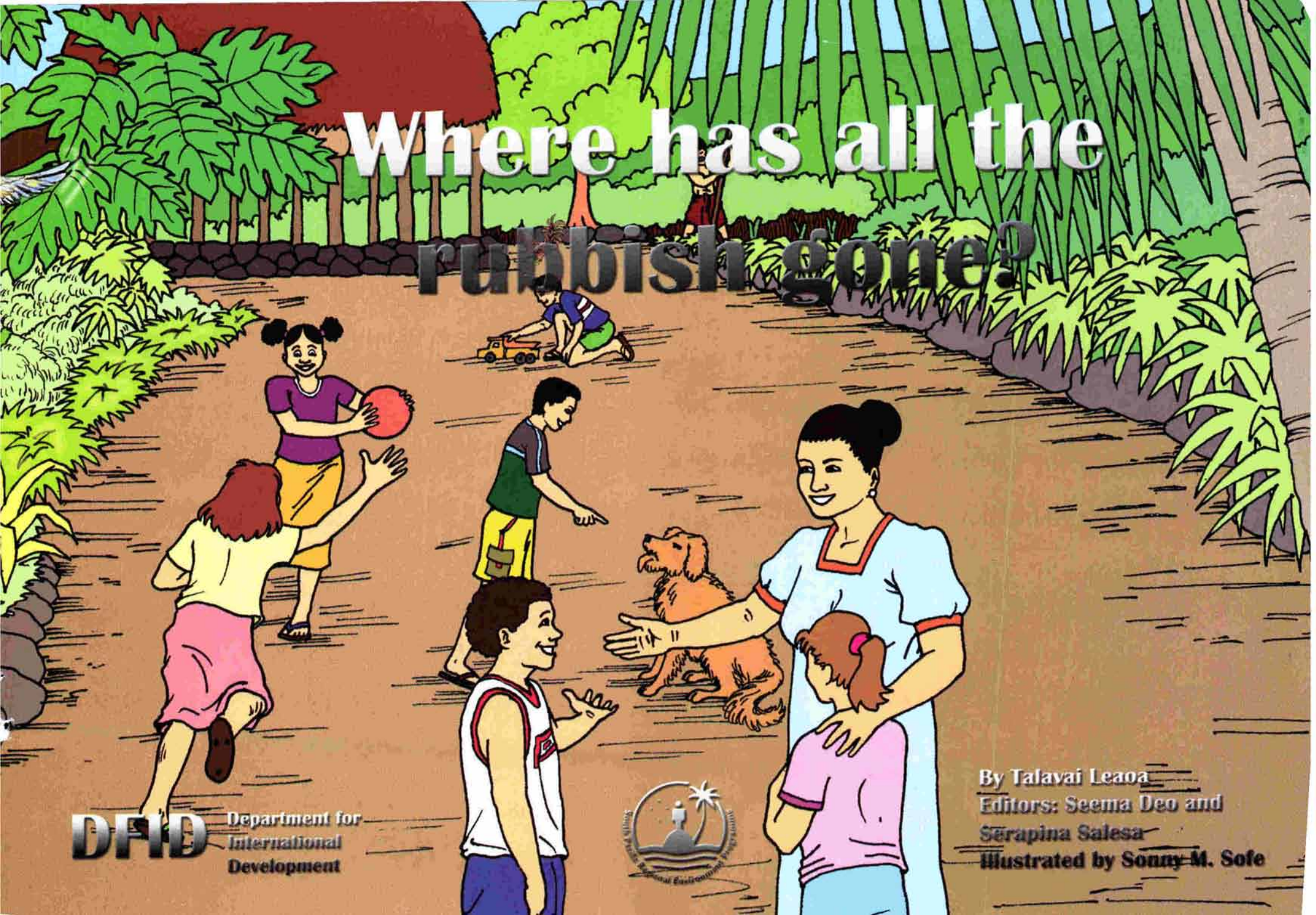


Where has all the rubbish gone?



DFID

Department for
International
Development



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SPREP Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Leaoa, Talavai

Where has all the rubbish gone? / by
Talavai Leaoa; [editors] Seema Deo and
Serapina Salesa; illustrated by Sonny M.
Sofe. — Apia, Samoa : SPREP, 2002.


10 p. ; 21 cm.

ISBN: 982-04-0252-2

1. Conservation of natural resources -
Picture books - Samoa. 2. Source reduction
(Waste management) — Teaching —
Aids and devices. 3. Environmental
education — Special education literature.
I. Deo, Seema. II. Salesa, Serapina.
III. Sofe, Sonny M. IV. South Pacific
Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).
V. Title.

363.728

Printed by Oceania Printers Ltd, Suva, Fiji Islands



We pick up the rubbish.
What a lot of plastic bags!

What a lot of tin cans!
What a lot of *ulu* leaves!



Shall we dump it in the river?

**No Sina, not in the river!
I like to swim in clean water.**



Shall we throw it in the sea?

**No Fatu, not in the sea!
The fish we eat also need
clean water to live.**

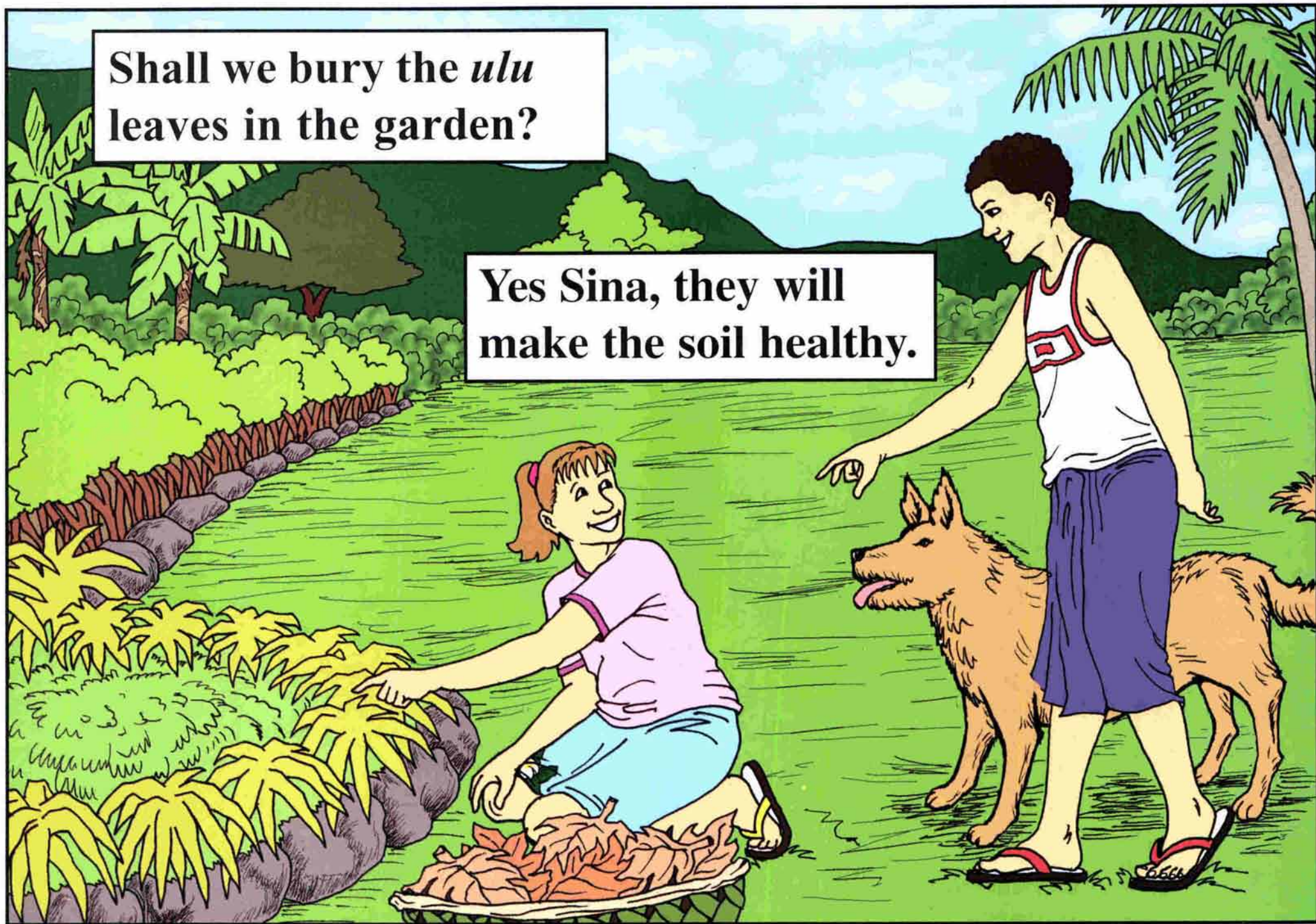


Shall we throw it in the fire?

No Fatu, not in the fire!
Burning plastic can make
the air unhealthy for us.

Shall we bury the *ulu* leaves in the garden?

Yes Sina, they will make the soil healthy.







Shall we crush the bottles
and containers?

Yes Sina - then they will
take up less space at the
rubbish dump.



NOTE TO TEACHERS

Rubbish is a common environmental problem in most Pacific island countries. This story book introduces the idea that there are different types of rubbish which need to be disposed of in different ways. The importance of proper waste disposal is highlighted in terms of our health, safety and overall well-being. The characters in the story find themselves in a situation with several different types of rubbish — each of which poses a different threat to their own well-being. Through a series of discussions, they work out the most appropriate disposal method for each. While this book is not intended specifically as a classroom text book, teachers may find it a useful starting point for discussing the idea of waste minimisation and appropriate disposal methods. A list of extension activities is provided here for those wishing to take this further. These activities aim to increase knowledge about different types of wastes and to encourage children to think critically about the problem of solid waste management.

Extension Activities

1. **What type of rubbish?** Organise a rubbish collection from in and around the schoolyard. Take appropriate safety precautions. Have the children separate the rubbish into groups as they see fit. Record the categories on a large sheet of paper. Which types of rubbish will decay or rot when left in the soil? What will happen to the other rubbish? Using additional resources, discuss the ways in which **non-biodegradable** rubbish may be safely disposed.
2. **Reusing rubbish:** Ask children to collect rubbish from around the home and find ways to reuse these for making toys, as storage containers, etc. Some good ideas can be found in the *What a Waste!* comic book produced by SPREP/EU 2001 and the booklet *Making Toys* produced by USP.
3. **Recycling rubbish:** in some countries glass, paper, metal, oil and even plastics can be returned to the manufacturer for recycling. Find out if there are such opportunities in your country. If possible, organise a field trip to one of these businesses.
4. **Reducing rubbish:** ask children to keep a record of their daily activities for a week and to keep track of the waste they create through these activities. In groups, get them to analyse their records and identify those wastes that could have been avoided. Discuss the different ways by which they (the consumer) might help to reduce waste. (Some ideas include making better shopping choices, such as purchase of reusable containers and refusing to purchase items such as disposable plastics and Styrofoam).

Other Resources (material listed here is considered suitable for use in primary schools or as additional resources for the teacher)

What a Waste! Comic Book, SPREP/EU 2001.

Waste World Video, SPREP 2000.

Making Toys for Learning from Locally Available Materials, USP1994.

Contact SPREP Environmental Education and Awareness Officer for further information on email: sprep@sprep.org.ws or

website: www.sprep.org.ws

