

OUR LOW ISLAND ENVIRONMENT

Different island places are homes to different kinds of plants and animals. Each living thing needs the right environment to survive. For example, a tree lives in the forest, but a fish lives in the lagoon.

Environments on land are called terrestrial environments. They include forests and gardens. Environments very near or under water are called aquatic environments. They include places with fresh water, such as taro pits, and places with seawater, such as coral reefs.

If we do not preserve the different environments on our islands, some plants and animals will lose their homes and disappear forever.



4 BEACHES are sandy areas where ocean and land meet. Many birds, lizards, crabs, and other creatures live there in the shade of coconut palms.



5 SMALL ISLANDS without people are perfect places for sea turtles and sea birds to make their nests. They cannot survive without these nesting sites.



6 LAGOONS are parts of the ocean surrounded by land and coral reefs. They are homes to countless sea animals. Most of our seafood comes from lagoons.



1 ATOLL FORESTS grow on low islands that have not been greatly affected by people. Lush and wild, they are home to many native plants and animals.



2 AGROFORESTS surround villages, where people make their gardens and plant useful trees. These areas are full of fruits and other valuable plants.



3 TARO PITS are found in low-lying areas. They were dug by people over many generations. They are partly covered with water and are used to grow taro.



7 LAGOON-FACING REEFS are well protected from waves. There are few corals and lots of mud and sand. Many animals like such quiet conditions.



8 PATCH REEFS grow like little underwater hills from the muddy or sandy lagoon floors. With their nooks and crannies, they shelter many sea animals.



9 OCEAN-FACING REEFS are exposed to waves. Their outer walls are very steep and border on the open ocean. Big fish and many different corals live here.

