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MOWCAP
UNESCO Memory of the World
Regional Committee for Asia/Pacific

Nomination form

Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register (revised October 2016)

(Nominations must be received by 31 August 2017 for consideration for inscription in 2018)

Office Use Only	
ID code:	Item or collection short title:
Institution / Owner:	Country or countries

Introduction

Information on the Asia Pacific Memory of the World Programme can be found at www.mowcapunesco.org

This form should be used to nominate items to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register. It sets out the range of information needed. Nominations should be expressed in clear concise language and lengthy submissions are not required.

Supplementary data may be attached. Please clearly label and number every page in the boxes provided.

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You should read the *Guidelines* for nominating items and collections to the Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register. These are available at <http://www.mowcapunesco.org/core-activities/register/nominations/>

Nominees can also look at the current International Memory of the World Register <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/memory-of-the-world/register/> to see examples of completed nomination forms. Note that the MOWCAP form is not a copy of the international form.

Completed nomination forms should be sent by email to MOWCAPinfo@gmail.com. The secretary-general will confirm receipt of nominations by email.

If you need to provide large files such as those for moving images then send to the following address:

MOWCAP Secretary General,
G.P.O Box 8374
Hong Kong

No material will be returned and will become the property of MOWCAP.

There is a [contact form](#) on the website which should be used if you have any questions. Please keep a copy of your submission for your records and in case we need to contact you.

Please note: nomination forms will be put on the website prior to a decision being made about whether or not they will be inscribed on the register.

Mr Li Minghua
Chair, MOWCAP

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Nomination form

Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World Register* nomination form

Part A: Essential information

1 Summary (max 100 words)

Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated, and the reasons for proposing it. Highlight the nature, uniqueness and significance of the nominated documentary heritage.

The Agreements with Local Governments are the only original document that stands as evidence for when each of the islands in Ellice Islands submitted to the British Empire. They were signed by Sir John Bates Thurston, Knight Commander of The Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, High Commissioner and Consul General for the Western Pacific, on behalf of Her Britannic Majesty, Queen Victoria and approximately 8 Tuvaluan (Ellice Islands) Chiefs with 40 island elders. These documents were signed in all Ellice Islands beginning from Funafuti on the 26th June 1893 and end with Nanomaga on 15th November 1893.

These documents explicitly states the order of the British Empire that Ellice Islands should adhere to. The Agreements enabled the British Empire to combine Ellice Islands with Gilbert Islands into one colony, known as Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. These documents also states that within these agreements Her Britannic Majesty has Power and Jurisdiction over all persons residing, or being within the Ellice Group. Whereas it is expedient to provide a revenue for the purposes of local administration. All trade licences or taxes of any kind payable by foreigners residing, or being within the islands or any part of the Ellice Group, shall be imposed and levied by Her Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner, and shall be payable to him only, or to such Officer as he may appoint in that behalf.

The selected documents represent a significance colonization process that was done by the British to other fellow Pacific countries like Fiji, Cook Islands, Tokelau and New Zealand to name a few.

2 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organisation)

Tuvalu National Library and Archives, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

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2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Custodian

2.3 Contact person(s)

Mr Noa Petueli Tapumanaia

Chief Librarian & Archivist & Head of Department

Tuvalu National Library and Archives Department

2.4 Contact details

Name: <i>Noa Petueli Tapumanaia</i>	Address: <i>Tuvalu National Library and Archives Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Funafuti, Tuvalu</i>
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Telephone: *00 688
20128*

Facsimile

Email: opetaia.noa@gmail.com

3 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

“Agreements with Local Governments. 1893-1916.”

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

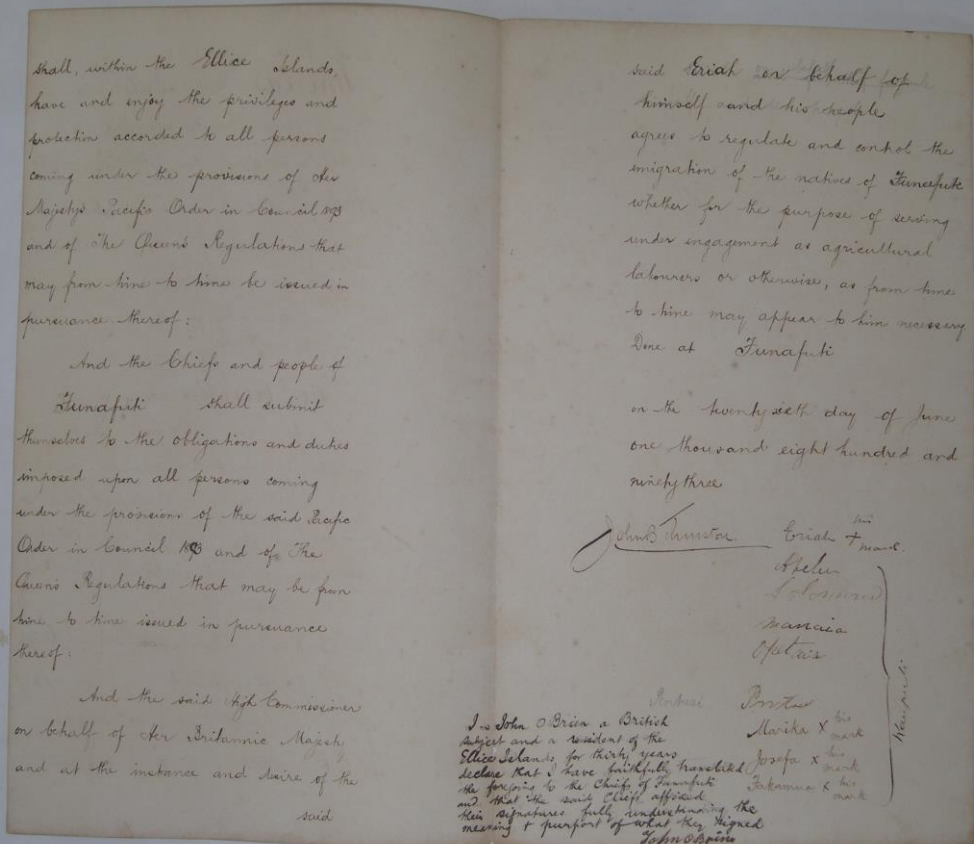
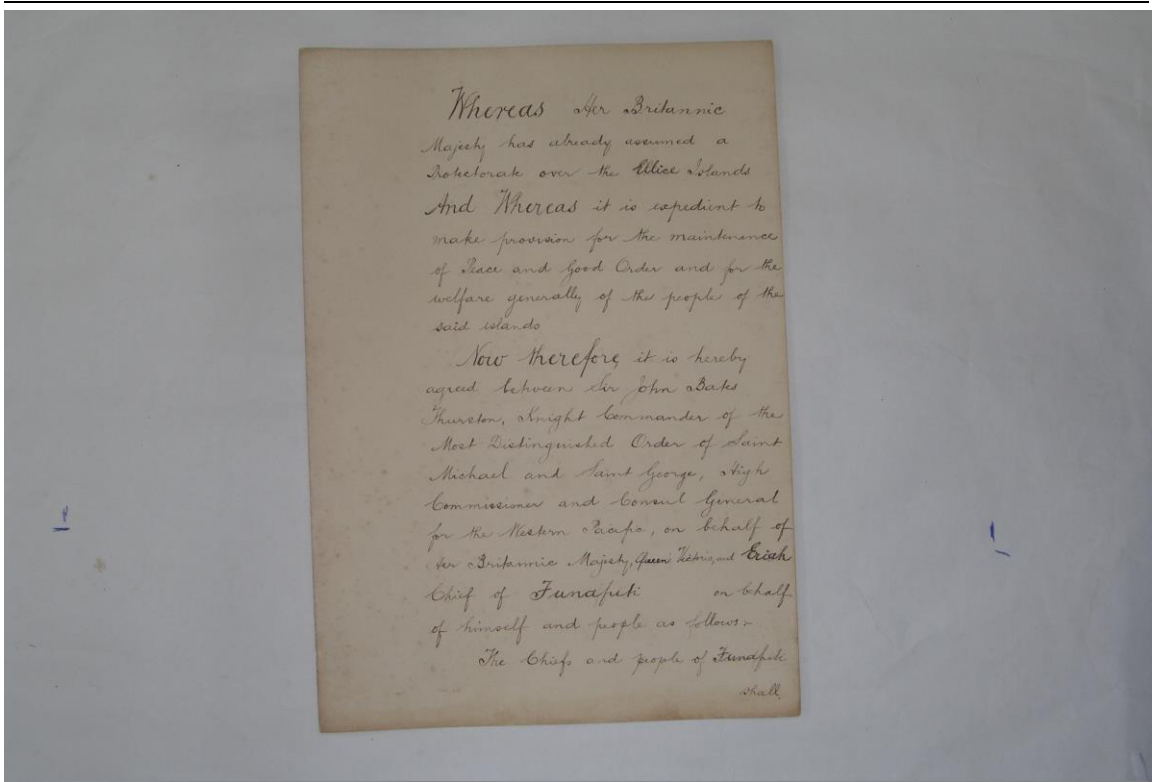
The nominated documents are registered in the TUV Series in the WESTERN PACIFIC ARCHIVES, TUVALU NATIONAL ARCHIVES, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protection and Colony, I Agreements with Locals Governments 1893 - 1916, Records Control List no. TUV I, Series no I, TUV/I, Item no. 1 - 8, Page no. 1

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3.3 Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage. At least three digital photographs of the documentary heritage should be provided. By providing the photos you are agreeing that they can be used by MOWCAP for the purposes of promoting Memory of the World e.g. newsletters, website etc. Please note on the form if you do not wish MOWCAP to use the photos for publicity or promotional purposes.

<u>WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION</u>	
<u>GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS PROTECTORATE</u>	
TUV 1/I	<u>Agreements with Native Governments.</u> <u>1893-1916.</u>
Item no.	
1	Agreement between the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and the Chief and Councillors of Funafuti. 1893.
2	Agreement between the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and the Chief and Councillors of Nanomea. 1893.
3	Agreement between the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and the Chief and Councillors of Nanomaga. 1893.
4	Agreement between the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and the Chief and Councillors of Niutao. 1893.
5	Agreement between the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and the Chief and Councillors of Nui. 1893.
6	Agreement between the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and the Chief and Councillors of Nukufetau. 1893.
7	Agreement between the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and the Chief and Councillors and Nukulaelae. 1893.
8	Agreement between the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and the Chief and Councillors of Vaitupu. 1893.
9	Documents signed by members of the Native Governments of Nanumea, Nanumaga, and Niutao accepting the rule of the King of England. February, 1914.
10	Documents signed by members of the Native Governments of Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau, Funafuti, and Nukulaelae accepting the rule of the King of England. February 1914.
11	Literal translation and draft of document signed by Native Governments of the Union Islands (Tokelau) on 25th and 26th January, 1916.
12	Documents signed by Native Governments of Atapu, Fakaofa, and Nukunono, Union Islands (Tokelau) accepting the rule of the King of England. 25th January, 1916.

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3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

These documents were part of the Tuvalu collection that was under the care of the Western Pacific Archives. But before Tuvalu ceased to be a colony of the British Empire, all Tuvalu Archives documents that were kept in the WPA were transferred to Funafuti in 1976 as part of the preparations for Independence. They were then kept in the vault of the old Tuvalu Government office and later shifted into the Tuvalu National Library and Archives repository on 1978, where they remain.

3.5 Bibliography

3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organisations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage.

Name	Qualifications	Address
Mr Richard Ovary		tabiang@xtra.co.nz

Name	Qualifications	Address
Mr Ewan Maidment		Ewan.Maidment@anu.edu.au

Name	Qualifications	Address
Ms Kylie Moloney		kylie.moloney@anu.edu.au

I assert that the above named referees have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination for the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register, and their names to appear on the website. (Contact details will not appear on the website or be disclosed by the MOWCAP to any third party).

Signature



Full name (Please PRINT)
NOA PETUELI TAPUMANAIA

Date
22nd SEPTEMBER 2017

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4 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address	
Tuvalu National Library and Archives, Tuvalu	Tuvalu National Library and Archives, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Private Mail Bag, Vaiaku, Funafuti, Tuvalu	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
00 688 20711, 00 688 20128		opetaia.noa@gmail.com

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email

4.3 Legal status

Details of legal and administrative powers for the preservation of the documentary heritage

Under the Tuvalu PUBLIC RECORDS ACT CAP. 22. 15 section 12 states that public records must not be destroyed or disposed without the authority of the Archivist. Therefore the preservation of documentary heritage in Tuvalu is highly valued for the greater good and benefit of the people of Tuvalu. In the Tuvalu National Library and Archives office where public records are kept, the practice is that the responsible officer who is the Archivist is the only authorized personnel to have access into the repository room to retrieve and return archival documents, unless the Archivist delegates his or her power to under personnel. This must be approved by the Minister concerned, who is the Minister for Education, Youth and Sports. Public records are only accessed for research purposes and not for personal use, and copyright is strictly monitored.

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

The Tuvalu National Archives documents are accessible to anyone in the public provided if patron have valid reasons. Access is strictly monitored and controlled by the Archivist, and the public is not authorized to enter the repository room. Usually if a patron has a query about archival documents the Archivist will firstly conduct an interview of what type of information is looking for, why is it needed, what purpose will it be used for, does the information provided affect others, is it for research purposes and so on. If the Archivist is satisfied then the information will be checked if the Archives has the information and record all the necessary details of the conversation for record purposes. The information will be released under strict supervision of the Archivist. If a copy is needed the Archivist will make a duplicate of the original and seal it with the Archives stamp then hand it over to the patron.

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All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

Where any person publishes any work containing any passage from any public record deposited in the Tuvalu National Archives Offices, he shall in that publication acknowledge the source from which that passage is taken.

On the recommendation of the Archivist, the Minister may authorise the publication of any public record deposited in the Archives Office and available for the public reference which he considers to be of sufficient interest to warrant its publication.

Tuvalu Public Records Act CAP. 22. 15 Section 15 Publication of public records and Section 16 Copyright

5 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 First criterion: authenticity. Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Has its identity and origin been reliably established?

Yes, these documents were the original documents that were made during the time of the agreement with the Local governments were signed. They are easily identified as originals by the way of their appearance, ink used to produce it and the type of papers that were used to for the agreements.

These documents contains original scribe of the full agreements which also contains original signatures of Island Chiefs and Councillors at the time the agreements were made.

5.2 Second criterion: world significance. Is the documentary heritage unique and irreplaceable, something whose disappearance or deterioration would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created a great impact over a span of time and/or within a particular supra-national cultural area of the region? Is it representative of a type, but it has no direct equal? Has it had great influence – whether positive or negative – on the course of history?

Yes it is unique and irreplaceable due to the fact that it has only one copy and it is with the Tuvalu National Library and Archives. If it disappeared the Tuvaluan people would not have evidence that they were once under the British Empire Protectorate. It has created a great impact by shaping the lifestyle of Ellice people by putting them in a Colony with the Gilberts.

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5.3 Third, world significance must be demonstrated in meeting one or more of the following criteria. Because significance is comparative, these criteria are best illustrated by checking them against items of documentary heritage already inscribed (for example) on the International *Memory of the World Register*:

Time: Is it especially evocative of its time (which may have been one of crisis, or significant social or cultural change; it may represent a new discovery or be the “first of its kind”)

These documents are evidence of cultural change. The Tuvaluan (Ellice Islands) people have their own way of life, but the effectiveness of these agreements gives total power and authority to the British Empire over Tuvalu (Ellice Islands) Islands people. They were introduced to a new way of life where money has become the main source of exchange. Under the rule of the British Empire the people were also introduced into new rules, regulations and punishment which they never encountered in their traditional way of life.

Britain raised the flags over this tiny island world at a time when her avowed policy was to avoid added colonial entanglements. Nor were there any compelling local circumstances to warrant the move. British interests were predominant within the group, but those interests were small and not under threat - a few hundred tons of copra at best for Henderson & Macfarlane and 3000 adherents of L.M.S. There were no plantations to protect, no labour recruiting of any consequence to maintain or regulate, and no problems of ‘disorder’ which might otherwise have invited imperial intervention. The group was strategically unimportant; although a coaling station had been established at Funafuti for Royal Navy vessels during the Russian war scare of the early-1880s, that threat had since passed and the facility been dismantled. The decision to declare a Protectorate was quite unrelated to events within the group. Rather it flowed-on from declaration of a British Protectorate in neighbouring Kiribati the month before which, in turn, was a function of Great Power diplomacy.

The idea to draw-in Tuvalu was that of the man on the spot, Sir John Bates Thurston, the Western Pacific High Commissioner. Three years earlier Thurston had suggested, as a counter to what he perceived to be German designs in Kiribati, that treaties be entered into with local authorities in Kiribati and Tuvalu “for the acceptance by them of a Resident appointed by or in the name of Her Majesty to aid and advise them in the administration of their affairs”; but his scheme was rejected. With a Protectorate declared over Kiribati, Thurston now saw the French as the danger and warned that they might drive a wedge between Fiji and Kiribati by occupying intervening Tuvalu. On this occasion his promptings were heeded and it was quickly decided that the Queen’s protection should also extend over Tuvalu providing “the Locals agree”, and so the Royalist was diverted to the group. But even before that agreement was forthcoming the R.N.A.S. was instructing Captain Gibson of H.M.S. Curacoa to place Tuvalu under British protection, and this he did a few weeks later. Even then Britain’s unwilling rush for new Protectorates was not over. Fearing that recent events might provoke the French into seizing the non-German Solomons, and fearing even more the political implications, Britain felt impelled to declare yet another Protectorate. “The French Govt,” as Fuller of the Colonial Office minuted, “if their hands were forced by a subordinate would be in a difficult position, as they are more terrorised by their Jingoists than even we are by ours”.

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Place: Does it contain crucial information about a locality important in the history of the region and its cultures? Or did the location have an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the documentary heritage? Or is it descriptive of physical environments, cities or institutions since vanished?

Tuvalu is a group of nine islands, low-lying, formed of coral with many atolls, at the western margin of Polynesia.

The total land of the country is under 27 square kilometres and the population of less than 11,000. Its people are mainly of Samoan and Tongan heritage.

From 1893 to 1974, Tuvalu was under the British protection as the second part of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands group. The Gilberts Islands became known to the outside world through the Battle of Tarawa and the writings of Sir Arthur Grimble Commissioner of the Colony. Meanwhile Tuvalu, the Ellice Islands, was hardly recognised by the rest of the world.

People: Is it related to people in a social and cultural context that reflects significant aspects of human behaviour, or social, industrial, artistic or political development. It may reflect the important roles and impact of key or certain individuals or groups.

In these documents the agreement speaks of immediate and implementation of the British Empire rules and regulations. It shows the immediate transition of Tuvalu (Ellice Islands) people to the rules and regulations of the British Empire, introducing various types of fees, licences and taxes that the people were not used to. The most important thing about these documents is that they contain the names of the people who made the agreement.

These documents also provide solid evidence of why Tuvalu was in the British Colony. At the time of the Agreement, all Tuvalu (Ellice Islands) islands speak the Samoan language due to the fact that the Samoan and London Missionary Society introduced the Gospel to the Ellice Islands. After the agreement was made then Tuvalu was combined with the Gilbert Islands to form the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. Another new language was introduced to the Tuvaluan people and that is the Gilbert language. Over time there probably many Tuvaluan words and customs disappeared given that the main language of communication is in Gilbert and English. This is evidence today as people who were born in the 1920-40's understand Samoan but those who were born in the 1950-70s speak Gilbert.

Subject and theme: The subject matter may represent particular historical or intellectual developments in natural, social and human sciences, politics, ideology, sports and the arts.

In 1892 Great Britain added further 10 square miles to her overseas Empire when Captain H.W.S. Gibson of H.M.S. Curacoa declared a Protectorate over all nine Tuvalu islands. With the assumption of British rule a powerful new element entered the scene which, by degrees, fundamentally altered existing relationships between Islanders and foreigners and which gradually gave Tuvalu the basis for a wider sphere of participation with the outside world.

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Form and style: The item(s) may have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value, be a typical or key exemplar of a type or presentation, custom or medium, or of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format.

6 Other matters taken into account: rarity, integrity and threat

Rarity Does the content or physical nature of the documentary heritage make it a rare surviving example of its type or time?

These documents enable the people of Tuvalu (Ellice Islands) to identify who are the Chiefs and Councillors in their island at the time of the Agreements were made. The signatures of Chiefs and Councillors in these documents could not be found in any other document in Tuvalu and also the world apart from Sir John Bates Thurston's signature. The type of paper that was used to create the documents were the oldest within the Tuvalu National Archives collection and also in the Tuvalu administration.

Given that these documents are vulnerable, and Tuvalu is also one of the small island states affected by climate change. Therefore, these documents can be very difficult to restore once they are damage given that paper are fragile and so often does not survive.

Integrity Within the natural physical limitations of carrier survival, is the documentary heritage complete or partial? Has it been altered or damaged?

These documents are the exact original that were produce and signed in the time when the agreements were made. Over the period of time since their production to the time they were signed it was kept safe and no intruder have made any changes, add or inscribed something that was made during the time of the agreements were signed. Their appearances have remain true to its nature and originality.

Threat Is its survival in danger? If it is secure, must vigilance be applied to maintain that security? Detail the nature and scope of threats.

Given that Tuvalu is vulnerable to the effect of climate change therefore it is also a threat to these documents. The Tuvalu National Library and Archives is located close to the shore lines and the building where these documents are kept is very old and not safe. Over time minor renovations have took place but it seems like the building it-self is giving up as leakage during heavy rain falls keeps on occurring.

But at the moment these documents are housed in an air-conditioned room which is the repository room of the Tuvalu National Library and Archives. Sometimes when air-condition broke down it provides an unfriendly air-circulation within the room. This causes deterioration to documents in the Archives repository room. These documents at the time is very fragile as they seems to start broken into pieces.

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Attach a separate statement if space is insufficient!

7 Preservation and Access Management Plan

Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? Are there strategies to preserve and provide access to it?

YES

NO

If yes, describe or attach a summary of the plan. If no, please provide details about current method of storage and custody of the materials.

At the moment there is none. But the Tuvalu National Library and Archives have already engage in an Endanger Archives Project that was funded by the PAMBU and British Library in 2005-2007. The project microfilm and digitise fragile documents in the Tuvalu National Archives Collections. The Agreements with Local Governments were included in the documents that were digitised and microfilmed. However, the Tuvalu National Library and Archives still need to conduct a preservation and access management plan for the safe keeping and preserving of Tuvalu documentary heritage. A proper facility with adequate storage capacity is highly recommended.

8 Any other information

Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this item(s) / collection on the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World Register*.

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

9 Checklist

Nominees may find completing the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to MOWCAP.

-
- MOWCAP website reviewed
-
- Introduction read
-
- summary completed (maximum 100 word) (section 1)
-
- Nomination and contact details completed (section 2)
-
- If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified
-
- Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3)
-
- History/Origin/Background/Provenance completed (section 3.4)
-
- Bibliography completed (section 3.5)

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-
- Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6)
-
- Declaration signed and dated that all referees have given their written permission for their names to appear on the MOWCAP website (section 3.6)
-
- Details of owner completed (section 4.1)
-
- Details of custodian – if different from owner - completed (section 4.2)
-
- Details of legal status completed (section 4.3)
-
- Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4)
-
- Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5)
-
- Evidence presented of authenticity (section 5.1)
-
- Evidence presented of world significance (section 5.2)
-
- Evidence presented against one or more additional criteria (section 5.3)
-
- Information presented on rarity, integrity and threat (section 6)
-
- Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan provide details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 7)
-
- Any other information provided - if applicable (section 8)
-
- Sample photographs or VDO prepared for MOWCAP use (if required)
-
- Printed copy of Nomination Form made for organisation's records
-
- Electronic copy of Nomination Form made for MOWCAP use (if required)