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Vegetation Survey of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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The vegetation of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northem Mariana Islands is described and mapped. The survey, intended for land-use planning and forest resource management, is based on vegetation types identified on 1976 aerial photographs. Descriptions emphasize native limestone forest types and are based on field reconnaissance. The maps indicate that native forest and introduced trees cover approximately 29,278 acres (11,848 ha), secondary vegetation covers an estimated 24,986 acres (10,111 ha), and some 16,500 acres (6,678 ha) are unforested.

Retrieval Terms: vegetation survey, vegetation maps, forest resources, Rota, Tinian, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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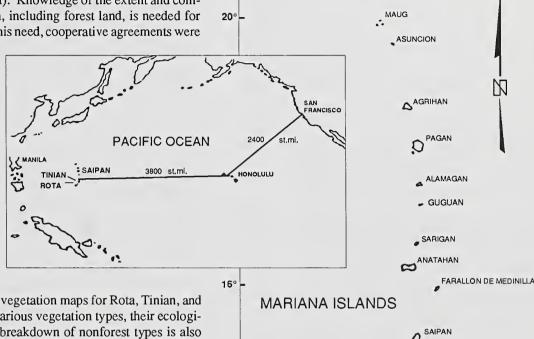
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INTRODUCTION

The islands of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan are the largest and southernmost islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). Knowledge of the extent and composition of their vegetation, including forest land, is needed for land-use planning. To fill this need, cooperative agreements were

drawn up between the CNMI, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, to map the vegetation of the three islands. The vegetation maps were prepared by the Forest Service in cooperation with the Commonwealth Government and are intended to serve as a working tool for landuse planning and forest resource management.



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ISLAND SIZE

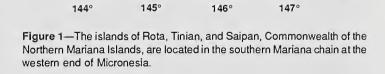
STATUTE MILES

This bulletin presents 13 vegetation maps for Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, and describes the various vegetation types, their ecological function, and uses. A breakdown of nonforest types is also provided.

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Rota, Tinian, and Saipan are located in the Mariana Islands (lat. 14°01' to 15°20' N., long. 145°00' to 145°50' E), between Guam and Farallon de Medinilla (*fig. 1*). In general, the islands are raised limestone terraces on extinct volcanic peaks and slopes, with limited areas of volcanic soils protruding through limestone. The smallest of the three islands is Rota, which is approximately 33 mi² (86 km²) and has a maximum elevation of 1612 ft (490 m). Saipan, the largest of the islands, is 47 mi² (122 km²) and has an elevation of 1554 ft (472 m). Tinian, the least mountainous of the islands, has a maximum elevation of 557 ft (169 m) and is 39 mi² (102 km²) in total area (Douglas 1969).

The climate of the CNMI is warm and humid throughout the year. Data collected for the island of Saipan gives a mean temperature of 78 °F (25.6 °C) with a mean annual relative humidity of 82 percent. Mean annual rainfall recorded at Garapan, Saipan, is about 85 inches (2159 mm). The dry season extends from



TINIAN

AGUIJAN

January to April, and the rainy season from mid-July to mid-November (Perry 1984). The Mariana Islands are located in the northeast trade wind belt and are frequently affected by typhoons, the most recent being Typhoon Roy, which caused major damage to Rota on January 12, 1988. This bulletin represents the vegetation of the CNMI before this storm.

SURVEY METHODS

Vegetation types of the Northern Mariana Islands were identified and delineated on black and white aerial photographs taken in 1976 at a nominal scale of 1:8,000.

Vegetation differences can often be recognized by examining photographs stereoscopically for differences in tone, texture, and image patterns. In some cases, individual species may be recognized by their distinctive shape. Thus, after comparing photoimagery with ground conditions in the field, a skilled interpreter can become fairly proficient at recognizing vegetative types on aerial photos. Overall accuracy will depend on the scale, age, and quality of the photographs; the skill of the interpreter; degree to which the vegetative types differ in image characteristics; and the amount of ground checking by the interpreter.

Before vegetation typing could begin, a vegetation mapping scheme was needed. Instead of devising an entirely new classification system for the Marianas, the system developed for use in the Caroline Islands was used to interpret the vegetation for Rota, Saipan, and Tinian (Cole and others 1987, Falanruw and others 1987a, 1987b; MacLean and others 1986; Whitesell and others 1986).

The vegetation of the three major islands was classified into types that could be identified on black and white aerial photographs without intensive ground checking, and which would be useful to foresters and land-use planners. Types were delineated on the photographs after stereoscopic examination and ground checking along roads and trails, in 1984. The photos were then edited and sent to the Engineering Geometrics Section of the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Regional Office for transfer to base maps and measurements of type areas.

TYPE CLASSIFICATIONS

For mapping purposes, the islands of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan were divided into four broad land classes: forest, secondary vegetation, agroforest, and nonforest (table 1 and fig. 2):

Forest—The forest class includes five primary types of areas vegetated with trees (*fig. 3*):

Native limestone forest (LI)

Introduced trees (IF)

Mangrove forest (MN)

Casuarina forest (CA)

Atoll forest (AT)

Secondary vegetation (SV)—Secondary vegetation includes fast growing shrubs, small trees and vines on recently disturbed areas.

Agroforest (AG)—The agroforest class consists of areas with trees cultivated for food crops, fruit, wood, and other products. Coconut plantations are coded as CO.

Table 1— Area of three islands of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, by land class and type, 1984

| Land class and type | Symbol | Saipan | Rota | Tinian | To | ıal |
|----------------------|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| _ | acres (hectares) | | | | | |
| Forest | | | | | | |
| Limestone forest | LI | | | 1,714 | 15,043 | |
| Introduced trees | IF | 7,888 | | -, | 10,658 | |
| Casuarina thickets | CA | 1,137 | | 1,865 | 3,467 | (1,403) |
| Atoll forest | AT | 11 | 82 | - | 93 | (37 |
| Mangrove forest | MN | 17 | - | - | 17 | (|
| Total forest | | 10,235 | 12,986 | 6,057 | 29,278 | (11,848 |
| Secondary vegetation | sv | 8,651 | 2,719 | 13,616 | 24,986 | (10,11) |
| Agroforest | | | | | | |
| Agroforest | AG | 9 | 6 | 2 | 17 | (|
| Agroforest with | AG.CO | 84 | 31 | 3 | 118 | (48 |
| Coconut plantation | СО | 2,979 | 1,075 | 284 | 4,338 | (1,75 |
| Total agroforest | | 3,072 | 1,112 | 289 | 4,473 | (1,810 |
| Nonforest | | | | | | |
| Marsh, fresh | M.F | 363 | - | 41 | 404 | (16 |
| Savanna/grassland | G | 3,237 | 3,125 | 2,872 | 9,234 | (3,73) |
| Strand | S | 1,112 | 683 | 1,212 | 3,007 | (1,21 |
| Cropland | C | 223 | 130 | 468 | 821 | (33 |
| Urban | U | 1,841 | 213 | 206 | 2,260 | (91 |
| Barren | В | 314 | 40 | 370 | 724 | (29: |
| Water | W | 45 | - | 5 | 50 | (2) |
| Total nonforest | | 7,135 | 4,191 | 5,174 | 16,500 | (6,67 |
| Total area | | 29,093 | 21,008 | 25,136 | 75,237 | (30,44 |

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Nonforest—Nonforest areas include marshes, savanna/grasslands, and areas developed for urban use. The seven primary types in this class are:

Marsh (M)

Savanna/Grassland (G)

Strand (S)

Cropland (C)

Urban (U)

Barren (B)

Water (W)

The forest types are further subdivided into size and density classes identified by these codes:

| Code | Size class |
|------|--|
| 0 | Short, shrub-like stands less than 5 inches (<12.5 cm) diameter at breast height (d.b.h.). |
| 1 | Trees averaging less than 12 inches (<30 cm) in d.b.h. but larger than or equal to 5 inches (>12.5 cm) in d.b.h. |
| 2 | Trees averaging 12 or more inches (>30 cm) in d.b.h. |
| Code | Density class |
| Н | High—crown closure of main canopy over 70 percent. |

High—crown closure of main canopy over 70 percent.
 M Medium—crown closure of main canopy between 30 and 70 percent.
 L Low—crown closure of main canopy less than 30 percent.

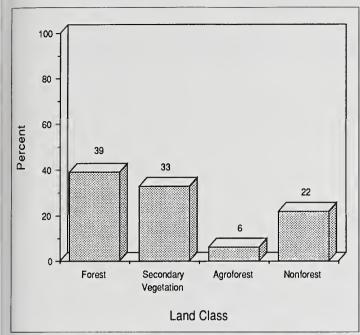


Figure 2—Four major land classes were mapped on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Although forest is the largest land class, much of this area on Tinian and Saipan is composed of introduced trees (IF).

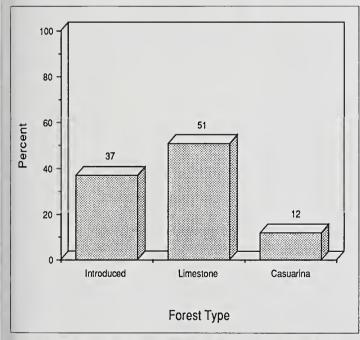


Figure 3—The forest land class was broken down into five types on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Only three types are shown here because the mangrove and atoll types contain less than 1 percent of the total area.

On the folded maps, the vegetative areas are numbered and identified by symbols in the legends. In each symbol, the vegetation type code (table 2) is shown first, followed by the size class and crown density class given above. For example, LI1H would indicate a limestone forest with trees ranging between 5 and 12 inches (12.5 and 30 cm) in diameter and a high density crown

closure. Where possible, dominant species are identified. In such cases, the density class is followed by a period, then by one or two letters of the genus name, for example: IF1M.D as when *Delonix regia* makes up at least 20 percent of an introduced forest stand. Occasionally, mixed stands are identified by a slash between the primary vegetation type and a second type, with density and size classes given only for the primary type. For example, IF2L/SV.L would indicate scattered introduced trees 12 inches (30 cm) or greater in d.b.h., with inclusions or patches of secondary vegetation having *Leucaena leucocephala* as its major component.

The minimum type area mapped during photo interpretation was 1 acre (0.4 ha).

Table 2—Vegetation type codes used for mapping the vegetation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, by land class, 1984

| Vegetation codes | Vegetation types, subtypes, and components |
|------------------|--|
| | Land class: Forest |
| LI | Native limestone forest, various size and density classes apply |
| LI.CA | Native limestone forest, Casuarina component |
| LLCO | Native limestone forest, coconut component |
| LI/S | Native limestone forest, strand understory |
| LI/SV | Native limestone forest, secondary vegetation |
| LI/SV.G | Native limestone forest, tall grass |
| LI/SV.G.S | Native limestone forest, tall grass and shrubs |
| LI/SV.P | Native limestone forest, Pandanus understory |
| LI/SV.S | Native limestone forest, shrub understory |
| IF | Thickets of introduced trees, various size and density classes apply |
| IF.D | Introduced trees with Delonix component |
| IF/SV | Introduced trees with secondary vegetation understory |
| IF/SV.B | Introduced trees with bamboo |
| IF/SV.G | Introduced trees with tall grass understory |
| IF.D/SV.G | Introduced trees, Delonix, with tall grass |
| IF/SV.L | Introduced trees, with Leucaena |
| IF.D/SV.L | Introduced trees, Delonix, with Leucaena |
| IF.D/SV.S | Introduced trees, Delonix, with shrubs |
| IF/SV.L.C | Introduced trees with Leucaena and Casuarina inclusions |
| IF/SV.L.G | Introduced trees with Leucaena and tall grass |
| IF/SV.S | Introduced trees with shrub understory |
| CA | Casuarina thicket, various size and density classes apply |
| CA.AT | Casuarina thicket, atoll forest component |
| CA.LI | Casuarina thicket, native limestone forest component |
| CA/G.G | Casuarina thicket, short grasses |
| CA/M.F | Casuarina thicket, freshwater marsh |
| CA/M.F.P | Casuarina thicket, freshwater marsh with Phragmites |
| CA/SV | Casuarina thicket, secondary vegetation understory |
| CA/SV.G | Casuarina thicket, tall grass |
| CA/SV.L | Casuarina thicket with Leucaena |
| CA/SV.L.G | Casuarina thicket with Leucaena and tall grass |
| CA/SV.S | Casuarina thicket, shrub understory |
| CA/U | Casuarina thicket in urban areas |
| AT | Atoll forest, various size and density classes apply |
| AT.LI | Atoll forest, native limestone forest component |
| AT/S | Atoll forest, strand understory |
| MN | Mangrove forest, various size and density classes apply |
| MN/SV.H | Mangrove with Hibiscus |
| | |
| | (continued) |

Table 2—Vegetation type codes used for mapping the vegetation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, by land class, 1984 (continued)

| | h of the Northern Mariana Islands, by land class, 1984 (continued) |
|---------------------|--|
| Vegetation codes | Vegetation types, subtypes, and components |
| | Land class: Secondary Vegetation |
| SV | Secondary vegetation, size and density classes do not apply |
| SV.AS | Secondary vegetation, agri-scrub component |
| SV.AS.L | Secondary vegetation, agri-scrub and Leucaena components |
| SV.B | Secondary vegetation, bamboo component |
| SV.B.G | Secondary vegetation, bamboo and tall grass components |
| SV.B.S | Secondary vegetation with bamboo and shrubs |
| SV.G | Secondary vegetation, tall grass component |
| SV.G.C | Secondary vegetation, tall grass and Casuarina components |
| SV.G.C.L | Secondary vegetation, tall grass, Casuarina, and Leucaena components |
| SV.G/C | Secondary vegetation, tall grass, pasture land |
| SV.G.L | Secondary vegetation, tall grass and Leucaena components |
| SV.G.L.S | Secondary vegetation, tall grass, Leucaena, and shrub components |
| SV.G.S | Secondary vegetation, tall grass and shrub components |
| SV.H.L | Secondary vegetation, Hibiscus and Leucaena components |
| SV.L | Secondary vegetation, Leucaena component |
| SV.L.C | Secondary vegetation, Leucaena and Casuarina components |
| SV.L/C | Secondary vegetation, Leucaena pasture land |
| SV.L.S | Secondary vegetation, Leucaena and shrub components |
| SV.L.S.C | Secondary vegetation, Leucaena, shrub, and Casuarina components |
| SV.L.S.G | Secondary vegetation, Leucaena, shrub, and tall grass components |
| SV.S | Secondary vegetation, shrub component |
| SV.S.C | Secondary vegetation, shrub and Casuarina components |
| SV.S/C | Secondary vegetation, shrub, pasture land |
| SV.S/B.D | Secondary vegetation, shrub component, with disturbed understory |
| | Land class: Agroforest |
| AG | Agroforest |
| AG.CI | Agroforest, Citrus component |
| AG.CO | Agroforest, coconut component |
| AG.CO/SV | Agroforest, coconut component with secondary vegetation |
| AG.CO/SV.L | Agroforest, coconut component with Leucaena |
| СО | Coconut plantation, various size and density classes apply |
| CO.AT | Coconut plantation, atoll forest component |
| CO.LI | Coconut plantation, native forest component |
| CO.IF | Coconut plantation with introduced trees |
| CO/C | Coconuts growing in pasture land |
| CO/G.G | Coconut plantation, short grass understory |
| CO/S | Coconut plantation, strand understory |
| CO/SV | Coconut plantation, secondary vegetation understory |
| CO/SV.G | Coconut plantation, tall grass understory |
| CO/SV.G.S | Coconut plantation, tall grass and shrub understory |
| CO/SV.L | Coconut plantation, Leucaena understory |
| CO/SV.L.G | Coconut plantation, Leucaena and tall grass components |
| CO/SV.S | Coconut plantation, shrub understory |
| CO/U | Coconut trees in urban areas |
| | |
| | (continued) |

| Vegetation codes | Vegetation types, subtypes, and components |
|---------------------|--|
| | Land class: Nonforest |
| M.F | Freshwater marsh |
| M.F.P | Phragmites marsh |
| M.F.P/W.F | Phragmites marsh with open water inclusions |
| G.CA.S | Savanna/grassland, abandoned cropland with shrub component |
| G.G | Savanna/grassland, short grass component |
| G.G.B | Savanna/grassland, short grass and bamboo components |
| G.G.C | Savanna/grassland, short grass and Casuarina trees |
| G.G.C.D | Savanna/grassland, short grass and Casuarina components with disturbance |
| G.G.C.L | Savanna/grassland, short grass, Casuarina, and Leucaena |
| | components |
| G.G.C.S | Savanna/grassland, short grass, Casuarina, and shrub component |
| G.G/C | Savanna/grassland, short grass pasture land |
| G.G.D | Savanna/grassland, short grass, disturbed |
| G.G.S | Savanna/grassland, short grass and shrub components |
| G.G/S | Savanna/grassland, short grass with strand inclusions |
| G.G.S/C | Savanna/grassland, short grass and shrub pasture land |
| G.S | Savanna/grassland, shrub component |
| G.S/C | Savanna/grassland, shrub pasture land |
| S | Low strand |
| S.P | Low strand with Pandanus component |
| S.S | Tall strand |
| S.S.P | Tall strand with Pandanus component |
| S/B.L | Low strand with limestone outcrops |
| S/DV | Low strand with dwarf vegetation inclusions |
| S.S/DV | Tall strand with dwarf vegetation inclusions |
| С | Cropland |
| U | Urban land |
| В | Barren land |
| B.D | Disturbed land |
| B.L | Limestone outcrops |
| B.S | Beach sand |
| B/S | Strand inclusions |
| W.F | Water, fresh |
| | |

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Table

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Abrus Acacia Aglaia Aidia

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Angiop
Annon
Annon
Annon
Annon
Antigo
Araucc
Areca
Artocc
Aspler
Averri
Barriu
Bauhi
Benin
Biden

Bikki

Blech

Brugi

Caesa

Capp Caric Cassu Casu Cath Ceibi Cerb Chry Curu

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NOTES:

Size classes and density codes are used only with the forest class and with the coconut plantation type.

All components, inclusions, or understory species must be present on at least 20 percent of the mapped area.

VEGETATION TYPE DESCRIPTIONS

Land classes and primary types are described by habitat and major overstory and understory species. Full species citations, families, and Chamorro names of plants mentioned in the text are given in *table 3*.

The vegetation descriptions for the island of Rota are summaries based on descriptions and species lists made at approximately 45 stations during two visits to Rota, totaling about 12 days of field and lab work. Field work on Tinian and Saipan was less extensive. Fosberg (1960) described the geology and terrain of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, and provided a general history and description of vegetation changes. This bulletin updates those descriptions and includes information on a number of uncommon to potentially endangered endemic limestone forest species.

Table 3-Plant species mentioned in text1

| Genus, species, and author | Chamorro name | Family |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|
| Abrus precatorius L. | kulales halom tano | Fabaceae |
| Acacia confusa Merr. | sosigi | Mimosaceae |
| Aglaia mariannensis Merr. | mapuñao | Meliaceae |
| Aidia cochinchinensis Lour. | sumac | Rubiaceae |
| Albizia lebbeck (L.) Benth. | kalaskas | Mimosaceae |
| Alyxia torresiana Gaud. | nanagu | Apocynaceae |
| Angiopteris evecta (Forst. f) Hoffm. | | Marattiaceae |
| Annona muricata L. | laguaná | Annonaceae |
| Annona reticulata L. | anonas | Annonaceae |
| Annona squamosa L. | ates | Annonaceae |
| Antigonon leptopus H. & A. | cadena de amor | Polygonaceae |
| Araucaria sp. | | Araucariaceae |
| Areca catechu L. | puguá | Palmae |
| Artocarpus altilis (Park.) Fosb. | lemmai | Moraceae |
| Artocarpus mariannensis Tréc. | dokdok | Moraceae |
| Asplenium nidus L. sensu lato | galak | Polypodiaceae |
| Averrhoa bilimbi L. | kamis (pickle tree) | Oxalidaceae |
| Averrhoa carambola L. | bilembines | Oxalidaceae |
| Barringtonia asiatica (L.) Kurz | puteng | Lecythidaceae |
| Bauhinia monandra Kurz | flores mariposa | Caesalpiniacea |
| Benincasa hispida (Thunb.) Cogn. | kodót | Cucurbitaceae |
| Bidens spp. | | Compositae |
| Bikkia tetrandra (L. f.) A. Rich. | gausali | Rubiaceae |
| Blechnum orientale L. | | Polypodiaceae |
| Bruguiera gymnorhiza (L.) Lam. | mangle machu | Rhizophoracea |
| Caesalpinia major (Medic.) Dandy & Exell | pakao | Caesalpiniaceae |
| Capparis cordifolia Lam. | atkaparas | Capparidaceae |
| Carica papaya L. | papaya | Caricaceae |
| Cassytha filiformis L. | agasi | Lauraceae |
| Casuarina litorea L. | gagu | Casuarinaceae |
| Catharanthus roseus (L.) G. Don | chuchurika | Apocynaceae |
| Ceiba pentandra (L.) Gaertn. | atagodon | Bombacaceae |
| Centrosema pubescens Benth. | | Fabaceae |
| Cerbera dilatata Mgf. | chuti | Apocynaceae |
| Chrysophyllum cainito L. | star apple | Sapotaceae |
| Citrus spp. | kahat/limon | Rutaceae |
| Claoxylon marianum MuellArg. | panao | Euphorbiaceae |
| | | (continued |

| Genus, species, and author | Chamorro name | Family |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Clerodendrum spp. | lódigao | Verbenaceae Palmae |
| Cocos nucifera L. | niyog | |
| Codiaeum variegatum (L.) Bl. Coelogyne guamensis Ames | leston puyitos | Euphorbiaceae Orchidaceae |
| Coix lacryma-jobi L. | bilén | Gramineae |
| Colocasia esculenta (L.) Schott | suni agaga | Araceae |
| Cordia subcordata Lam. | niyoron | Boraginaceae |
| Cordyline fruticosa (L.) Chev. | baston San Jose | Liliaceae |
| Crinum asiaticum var. not determined | pigá palayi | Amaryllidaceae |
| Crotalaria retusa L. | h.9 h | Fabaceae |
| Cucurbita spp. | kalamasa | Cucurbitaceae |
| * * | | |
| Cycas circinalis L. | fadang | Cycadaceae |
| Cynometra ramiflora L. | gulos | Caesalpiniaceae |
| Cyrtosperma chamissonis (Schott) Merr. | baba | Araceae |
| Davallia solida (Forst. f.) Sw. | puguá machena | Polypodiaceae |
| Delonix regia (Boj.) Raf. | atbot | Caesalpiniaceae |
| | ottot | Myrsinaceae |
| Discocalyx sp. | | Sapindaceae |
| Dodonaea viscosa (L.) Jacq. | lampuaye | |
| Dioscorea alata L. | dagu | Dioscoreaceae |
| Elaeocarpus joga Merr. | yoggá | Tiliaceae |
| Erythrina variegata var. orientalis (L.) Merr. | gaogao | Fabaceae |
| Eugenia palumbis Merr. | agatélang | Myrtaceae |
| Eugenia spp. | 38 | Myrtaceae |
| Eupatorium odoratum L. | masigsig | Compositae |
| Euphorbia milii var. splendens | | |
| (Bojer) Ursch & Leandri | crown of thoms | Euphorbiaceae |
| Ficus prolixa Forst. f | nunu | Moraceae |
| Ficus spp. | | Moraceae |
| Ficus tinctoria var. neo-ebudarum | hoda | Moraceae |
| (Summerh.) Fosb. | h-: | T111 |
| Flagellaria indica L. | bejuco halom tano | Flagellariaceae |
| Freycinetia reineckei Warb. | fianiti | Pandanaceae |
| Gardenia spp. | | Rubiaceae |
| Geniostoma micranthum A. DC. | maholok hayu | Loganiaceae |
| Gleichenia linearis (Burm. f.) C.B.Cl | mana | Gleicheniaceae |
| Guamia mariannae (Safford) Merr. | paipai | Annonaceae |
| Guettarda speciosa L. | panao | Rubiaceae |
| Hedychium coronarium Koen. | | Zingiberaceae |
| Heritiera littoralis Dry. | ufa | Sterculiaceae |
| Heritiera longipetiolata Kaneh. | ufa halom tanó | Sterculiaceae |
| Hernandia labyrinthica Tuvama | ura matomi tano | Hemandiaceae |
| Hernandia sonora L. | momole | |
| | nonak | Hemandiaceae |
| Hibiscus rosa-sinensis L. | | Malvaceae |
| Hibiscus tiliaceus L. | pago | Malvaceae |
| Histiopteris incisa (Thunb.) J. Sm. | | Polypodiaceae |
| Inocarpus fagifer (Park.) Fosb. | budu (buoy) | Fabaceae |
| Intsia bijuga (Colebr.) O. Ktze. | ifil/ifit | Caesalpiniaceae |
| Ipomoea batatas (L.) Lam. | kamute | Convolvulaceae |
| Ipomoea pes-caprae ssp. brasiliensis | alalak tasi | Convolvulaceae |
| (L.) v. Ooststr. | | Convolvulaceae |
| Ipomoea spp. | gomtos: - | |
| Ixora casei Hance | santana | Rubiaceae |
| Ixora sp. | | Rubiaceae |
| Jasminum marianum DC. | hasmin | Oleaceae |
| Jatropha gossypifolia L. | | Euphorbiaceae |
| Jatropha sp. | | Euphorbiaceae |
| Laportea interrupta (L.) Chew | palilolia | Unticaceae |
| Laurentia longiflora (L.) Endl. | star of Bethlehem | Lobeliaceae |
| Leucaena insularum var. guamensis | | Mimosaceae |
| Fosb. & Stone | | |
| Leucaena leucocephala (Lam.) de Wit | tangantangan | Mimosaceae |
| Lycopodium cernuum L. | | Lycopodiaceae |
| Lycopodium phlegmaria var. | kotdon di San Francisco | Lycopodiaceae |
| longifolium Spring | Sail Francisco | |
| | | |

| Genus, species, and author | Chamorro name | Family |
|--|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Macaranga thompsonii Мет. Maesa sp. | pengua | Euphorbiaceae Myrsinaceae |
| Mammea odorata (Raf.) Kosterm. | chopak | Guttiferae |
| Mangifera indica L. | _ | Anacardiaceae |
| Manihot esculenta Crantz | mangga mendioka | |
| | | Euphorbiaceae |
| Maytenus thompsonii (Merr.) Fosb. | luluhot | Celastraceae |
| Medinilla medinilliana (Gaud.) Fosb. & Sachet (ined.) | gafos | Melastomataceae |
| Melanolepis multiglandulosa var. glabrata (MuellArg.) Fosb. | alom | Euphorbiaceae |
| Melochia spp. | sayafi | Sterculiaceae |
| Merrilliodendron megacarpum (Hemsl.) Sleumer | Taniok | Icacinaceae |
| Mikania scandens (L.) Willd. | | Compositae |
| Mimosa invisa Mart. | singbiguin sasa | Mimosaceae |
| Miscanthus floridulus (Labill.) Warb. ex K. Schum. & Lauterb. | nette | Gramineae |
| Momordica charantia L. | atmagosu | Cucurbitaceae |
| Morinda citrifolia L. | lada | Rubiaceae |
| Moringa oleifera Lam. | malungay (katdes) | Moringaceae |
| Mucuna spp. | | Fabaceae |
| Musa spp. | choda | Musaceae |
| Myrtella bennigseniana (Volk.) Diels | | Myrtaceae |
| Neisosperma oppositifolia (Lam.) Fosb. & Sachet | fagot | Apocynaceae |
| Nephrolepis spp. | | Polypodiaceae |
| Ochrosia mariannensis A. DC. | langiti | Apocynaceae |
| Ochrosia mariannensis var. crassicarpa Fosb. & Falanruw | langu | Apocynaceae |
| Operculina ventricosa (Bert.) Peter | alalag | Convolvulaceae |
| Osmoxylon mariannense (Kaneh.) Fosb. & Sachet (ined.) | alalag | Araliaceae |
| | | D |
| Pandanus dubius Spreng. | pahong | Pandanaceae |
| Pandanus tectorius Park. | kafu | Pandanaceae |
| Passiflora foetida var. hispida (DC.) Killip | dulce | Passifloraceae |
| Pemphis acidula Forst. | nigas | Lythraceae |
| Pennisetum spp. | boksu | Gramineae |
| Persea americana Mill. | alageta | Lauraceae |
| Phragmites karka (Retz.) Trin. ex Steud. | karisu | Gramineae |
| Phyllanthus acidus (L.) Skeels | ibbá | Euphorbiaceae |
| Piper betle L. | pupulu | Piperaceae |
| Piper guahamense C. DC. | pupulon aniti | Piperaceae |
| Pipturus argenteus (Forst. f.) Wedd. | amahadyan | Urticaceae |
| Pisonia grandis R. Br. | amumo | Nyctaginaceae |
| Pisonia umbellifera (Forst.) Seem. | aniumo | Nyctaginaceae |
| Pithecellobium dulce (Roxb.) Benth. | kamachile | Mimosaceae |
| | | |
| Plumeria spp. | flores mayo | Apocynaceae |
| Polypodium scolopendria Burm. f. | | Polypodiaceae |
| Polyscias grandifolia Volk. | | Araliaceae |
| Pouteria obovata (R. Br.) Baehni | lala | Sapotaceae |
| Premna obtusifolia R. Br. | ahgao | Verbenaceae |
| Psidium guajava L. | abas | Мупасеае |
| Psychotria spp. | aplokating | Rubiaceae |
| Saccharum officinarum L. | tupu (sugarcane) | Gramineae |
| Saccharum spontaneum L. | | Gramineae |
| Scaevola taccada (Gaertn.) Roxb. | nanasu | Goodeniaceae |
| Sechium edule (Jacq.) Sw. | chayote | Cucurbitaceae |
| Serianthes nelsonii Merr. | tronkon guafi | Mimosaceae |
| Spathoglottis sp. | HOHROH BUAH | Orchidaceae |
| | | |
| | | (continued) |

| Genus, species, and author | Chamorro name | Family |
|--|-------------------|---------------|
| Stachytarpheta spp. | | Verbenaceae |
| Swietenia sp. | | Meliaceae |
| Tarenna sambucina (Forst.) Dur. | sumak | Rubiaceae |
| Terminalia catappa L. | talisai | Combretaceae |
| Thespesia populnea (L.) Sol. ex Correa | banalo | Malvaceae |
| Thevetia peruviana (Pers.) K. Schum. | | Apocynaceae |
| Tournefortia argentea L. f. | hunig | Boraginaceae |
| Triphasia trifolia (Burm. f.) P. Wils. | limon china | Rutaceae |
| Vigna marina (Burm.) Merr. | akankang manulasa | Fabaceae |
| Wikstroemia elliptica Merr. | gapetatayaki | Thymelaeaceae |
| Xanthosoma spp. | suni-n-Honolulu | Araceae |
| Xylocarpus moluccensis (Lam.) Roem. | lalanyok | Meliaceae |
| Zoysia matrella (L.) Merr. | chaguan hapon | Gramineae |

¹Scientific names of Dicotyledonae are from Fosberg and others (1979), of Pteridophyta and Gymnospermae from Fosberg and others (1982), and of Monocotyledonae from Fosberg and others (1987). Common names are from Stone (1970) and Topping and others (1975).

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Forest Class

The native forests of the Marianas are a unique natural heritage, being rich in endemic species. Native forest has however been altered by agricultural and wartime activities, bulldozing, animals, and replacement by introduced species such as *Leucaena leucocephala* and *Acacia confusa*. Because of their threatened status, descriptions of native limestone forests are the most detailed.

Native Limestone Forest (LI)

The species composition of limestone forest varies with habitat conditions and the amount of previous disturbance. The forests of Rota (figs. 4, 5) and southwest Tinian (figs. 6, 7) are the best examples of native forest, while the forests of Saipan (figs. 8, 9) show the greatest effects of wartime and other human activities. A generalized description of the native limestone forests of each island are given below.

Rota—A number of phases of limestone forest occur within this type. Forests located at Sabana are often shrouded in clouds and mist. Occurring in patches in the formerly mined Sabana area is an association of the endemic Hernandia labyrinthica and Elaeocarpus joga interspersed with Pandanus thickets. Mixed in with the Elaeocarpus/Hernandia are a few Ficus spp., Artocarpus spp., Hibiscus tiliaceus, and Osmoxylon mariannense. Understory species include Macaranga thompsonii and Pipturus argenteus. Epiphytes are abundant and include Freycinetia reineckei, Asplenium nidus, Davallia solida and other ferns; Coelogyne guamensis and other orchids; and mosses.

In general the native forests of the interior Sabana terrace are shorter than those nearer the cliffs on the southern border of the area. The cloud forest on the rocky southern edge of the plateau consists of widely spaced trees of medium height, covered with a luxuriant growth of epiphytes. There is little undergrowth other than herbaceous ground cover and mosses growing over the limestone boulders.

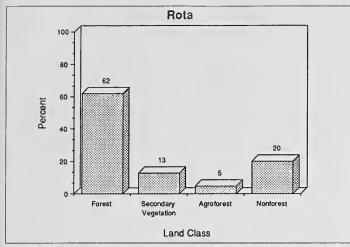


Figure 4—Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is the least disturbed of the mapped islands. The forest class is by far the largest land class.

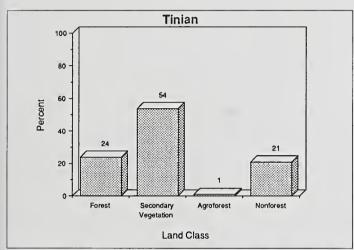


Figure 6—Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is the most heavily disturbed island mapped, with secondary vegetation being the largest land class.

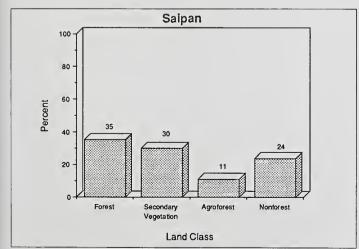


Figure 8—Four land classes were mapped on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Although the forest land class is the largest, it consists mostly of thickets of introduced trees.

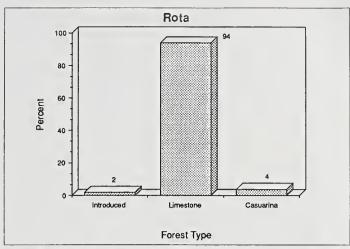


Figure 5—The native limestone forest type on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is the major forest type. The atoll forest type contains less than 1 percent of the total forest area and is not included here.

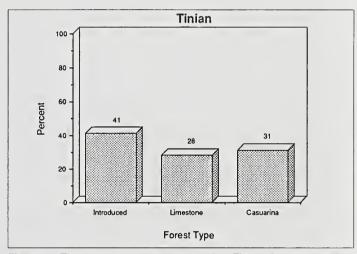


Figure 7—Three forest types were mapped on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. As on Saipan, the native forests of Tinian are limited.

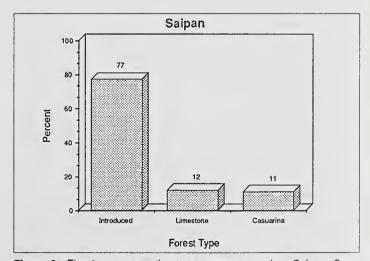


Figure 9—Five forest vegetation types were mapped on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Both the mangrove and atoll forest types are excluded due to their small total area. Saipan is in a state of constant change, and there are few remnants of native forest.

Forests on the western and northern slopes of the Sabana terrace are a rich mix of species including in the overstory: Artocarpus spp., Elaeocarpus joga, Hernandia labyrinthica, Pisonia spp., Guettarda speciosa, Neisosperma oppositifolia, Claoxylon marianum, Ficus prolixa, and Serianthes nelsonii. Understory species include these: Barringtonia asiatica, Discocalyx sp., Guamia mariannae, Annona reticulata, Aglaia mariannensis, Melanolepis multiglandulosa var. glabrata, Morinda citrifolia, Triphasia trifolia, Maytenus thompsonii, Cycas circinalis, Polyscias grandifolia, Psychotria sp., Eugenia palumbis, Pandanus spp., Ficus tinctoria var. neo-ebudarum, Pipturus argenteus, Laportea interrupta, Macaranga thompsonii, Pisonia umbellifera, Maesa sp., Premna obtusifolia, Tarenna sambucina, herbs such as Piper guahamense, and many ferns. Climbers and vines include Freycinetia reineckei, Alyxia torresiana, Mucuna sp., and Flagellaria indica.

Of the two species of *Hernandia* found in the native forests of Rota, *H. labyrinthica* occurs mainly in the Sabana area while *H. sonora* is more common in coastal areas and higher parts of interior cliffs. *Elaeocarpus joga* is especially abundant in upper areas.

Stands of the endangered tree *Serianthes nelsonii*, endemic to the southern Mariana Islands, occur about the Gayaugan cliffs in the Isang area and on steep slopes in the Uyulan hulo area to the northwest and west of the Sabana terrace. At one time, only two specimens of this tree were known to exist, both on Guam. The population on Rota is now known to include at least 84 trees with diameters estimated to range from 6 inches to 47 inches (15 cm to 120 cm). One tree we measured had a diameter of 41 inches (103.5 cm) and a height of 77 feet (23.4 m). There were few seedlings and no saplings of *Serianthes* in the areas we visited. A patch of *Merrilliodendron megacarpum* occurs at the base of Mananana cliffs between the Santa Cruz and Inayan areas.

Native forest with larger trees (coded LI2) are generally located on steep areas or where the terrain is especially rocky and uneven. Overstory species common to these forests include *Artocarpus mariannensis*, especially in the interior, with *A. altilis* more commonly located on the coast.

In the drier forests of northeast Rota, where the terrain is more level and less rocky, small to medium size *Intsia bijuga* are common. Some of these forests are relatively low and scrubby with *Hibiscus tiliaceus* and *Pandanus* spp. being common. Other species include *Guamia mariannae*, *Guettarda speciosa*, *Eugenia* spp., *Morinda citrifolia*, *Maytenus thompsonii*, *Triphasia trifolia*, *Polyscias grandifolia*, *Cycas circinalis*, *Flagellaria indica*, and *Caesalpinia major*.

Taller forests with canopies from 22- to 45-feet (7- to 14-m) high include Intsia bijuga, Guamia mariannae, and larger trees such as Artocarpus spp., Ficus prolixa, Elaeocarpus joga, Hernandia sonora, and Pisonia grandis. In more coastal forests, Neisosperma oppositifolia, Cynometra ramiflora, Pouteria obovata, Cordia subcordata, Erythrina variegata var. orientalis, Hernandia sonora, and Casuarina litorea are more common.

Tinian—The only limestone forest remaining on Tinian occurs on the steep cliffsides. A remnant forest occurs about Mt. Lassu, mixed with secondary vegetation including Leucaena leucocephala at its edges. A small forest dominated by Cynometra ramiflora trees occurs along cliffs to the southeast of the Lassu shrine. Other species include large Erythrina variegata var. orientalis trees,

Neisosperma oppositifolia, Cerbera dilatata, Psychotria sp., Eugenia sp., Guamia mariannae, Pandanus spp., and Terminalia catappa.

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Native forest is also found on the lower, drier, and narrower terraces of Laderan Lasu and consists of *Cynometra ramiflora* and *Pisonia grandis*. Smaller trees and shrubs in these dry forests include *Pouteria obovata*, *Pandanus* spp., *Erythrina variegata* var. *orientalis*, *Aglaia mariannensis*, *Melanolepis multiglandulosa* var. *glabrata*, and *Morinda citrifolia*. There is little undergrowth on the dry rocky ground. The forests along the Mahalang and Manapang cliffs are similar with the addition of some *Ficus* trees.

Aerial photographs show an extensive forest with a distinctive texture of light colored crowns amid darker vegetation occurring southeast of the Kastiyu terrace of southern Tinian. Most of this area now consists of weedy grasses and tangantangan (*Leucaena*). A remnant of the type occurs near the gate of the Bar K Ranch. This forest is dominated by large *Pisonia grandis* trees with huge gnarled compound trunks. This tree is adapted to typhoons in that its weak limbs are easily broken off by high winds. The trees then regrow repeatedly from their massive trunks. The light colored crowns on the aerial photos appear to be the once emergent crowns of *P. grandis*. The forest texture was not seen elsewhere in the CNMI, and the small patch of *Pisonia* forest may be a remnant of a once more extensive native forest type.

This remnant forest consists of large Pisonia with an understory of Guamia mariannae, some Intsia bijuga, Neisosperma oppositifolia, Pandanus spp., Psychotria spp., Premna obtusifolia, Ficus sp., Eugenia sp., Melanolepis multiglandulosa var. glabrata, the climbing shrub Jasminum marianum and climbing vines, Flagellaria indica and Abrus precatorius.

Limestone forest occurs along cliffs around the Kastiyu and Pina plateaus in southeast Tinian. One area of this forest, along the cliffs east of the Kastiyu pasture area, consists of a low forest, approximately 33 ft (10 m) high, growing on a substrate of clay and bare rock. Common species include Ochrosia mariannensis, Psychotria sp., Neisosperma oppositifolia, Guamia mariannae, Pandanus spp., Cynometra ramiflora, Maytenus thompsonii, Pisonia grandis, Aidia cochinchinensis, Aglaia mariannensis, Erythrina variegata var. orientalis, Polyscias grandifolia, Capparis cordifolia, Ficus prolixa, Jasminum marianum, and Abrus precatorius. At the edge of the cliff a crevasse shelters a large specimen of Heritiera longipetiolata with a d.b.h. of about 28 inches (70 cm), and height of 76 ft (23 m). A native forest also occurs on the narrow terrace below.

Saipan—The native limestone forest type is very limited and disturbed on Saipan. A few areas remain in scattered pockets on the Bañadero cliffs, Kagman plateau and penninsula, near Mt. Tagpochau, on small plateau terraces along the east coast, and mixed with secondary vegetation along the cross island road.

Most of the remaining stands of limestone forest are largely scrubby. Common species include Pandanus dubius and P. tectorius, Ochrosia mariannensis, Guamia mariannae, Psychotria sp., Hibiscus tiliaceus, Premna obtusifolia, Morinda citrifolia, Pouteria obovata, Cynometra ramiflora, Ficus spp., Claoxylon marianum, Ixora sp., Aglaia mariannensis, Polyscias grandifolia, and Flagellaria indica. Capparis cordifolia occurs on exposed coastal areas and Bikkia tetrandra on exposed cliffs.

Remnant limestone forests along roads and in protected inland areas are dominated by Artocarpus mariannensis. The major large species in the Kagman plateau forest is Pisonia grandis with diameters from 41 to 47 inches (105 to 120 cm). Guamia growing to 30 ft (9 m) tall can also be seen in this forest. Other trees include Erythrina variegata var. orientalis, Ficus spp. Melanolepis multiglandulosa var. glabrata, Barringtonia asiatica, and Cynometra ramiflora with admixtures of introduced trees.

Trees growing in forests nearer the coast include: Neisosperma oppositifolia, Barringtonia asiatica, Terminalia catappa, Heritiera longipetiolata, Cynometra ramiflora, Cordia subcordata, and Casuarina litorea.

Introduced Trees (IF)

A number of trees have been introduced to the CNMI and have become naturalized including: *Acacia confusa*, flame tree (*Delonix regia*), *Albizia lebbeck*, and *Pithecellobium dulce*. In places, these trees form thickets and are dense enough to be classified as forests. Such stands are given the designation IF for introduced trees to distinguish them from native limestone forest. The type is most common on Saipan and Tinian.

Rota—The highest point in the Sabana area of Rota is "a knoll of volcanic material protruding up through the limestone terrace" (Fosberg 1960, p. 51). In this misty area is a dense low forest of the introduced tree *Acacia confusa*. A number of native and endemic species grow in the understory or as epiphytes in this forest. They include the giant fern *Angiopteris evecta*, the magenta flowered *Medinilla medinilliana*, pendant *Lycopodium phlegmaria* var. *longifolium*, and *Coelogyne guamensis*—an orchid with large white blossoms. The large fern *Histiopteris incisa* also occurs in this area.

Other areas of the introduced forest type on Rota include thickets of *Delonix regia* especially in cleared areas along the road in the Sinapalu area where dense stands of saplings occur.

Tinian—On Tinian, the Introduced Tree type includes low forests of Acacia confusa on volcanic soils between the Banaderon Lemmai and Banaderon Nunu areas. These forests consist of a single story of Acacia trees with d.b.h. generally not over 18 inches (45 cm), growing over weedy growth including the noxious Eupatorium odoratum and Mimosa invisa, as well as Mikania scandens, Momordica charantia, Passiflora foetida var. hispida, Centrosema pubescens, and Stachytarpheta spp. Adjacent open areas are filled with tall Pennisetum grass.

Other components of the IF type include groves of *Delonix regia*, especially along the road between Taga Beach and Bar K Ranch. Throughout the island, especially the northern two-thirds, groves of *Acacia confusa*, *Albizia lebbeck*, *Casuarina litorea*, *Delonix regia*, *Ceiba pentandra*, and *Bauhinia monandra* occur amid thickets of secondary vegetation, mostly *Leucaena leucocephala*.

Saipan—On Saipan, the IF type is extensive, including groves of *Acacia confusa* and patches of *Albizia lebbeck* mixed in with other vegetation, especially *Leucaena*. *Delonix regia* is common along roads and grows in stands in many areas. *Pithecellobium dulce* is also common.

Mangrove Forest (MN)

Mangroves are marine forests with specialized roots inundated at least periodically by sea water. The mangrove type is represented by very small patches of *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*, *Heritiera littoralis*, and *Xylocarpus moluccensis*. While the only mappable mangrove stands were on Saipan, Fosberg (1979) does list mangroves occuring on Tinian and Rota.

Casuarina Thickets (CA)

Casuarina litorea trees are fairly distinctive on aerial photographs and easily identified. Casuarina typically occurs along the coast, in bands too narrow to be separately delineated, in which case they are often typed with strand (S) or atoll forest (AT). They are also common in quarry sites and areas of secondary vegetation where they are classified as CA/SV, or mixed in with limestone forest vegetation (CA.LI), with atoll forest vegetation (CA.AT), or scattered in grassy areas (CA/G.G). Stands of Casuarina are common on all three islands.

Atoll Forest (AT)

Along the coast, the strand type merges with the atoll forest type. Rota has the most extensive stands of atoll forest, the type is quite limited on Saipan and Tinian. Dominant canopy species in these coastal forests on Rota are large Hernandia sonora and Artocarpus sp. Generally, the understory consists of Guettarda speciosa, Neisosperma oppositifolia, Pandanus spp., and occasionally Mammea odorata. The "fadang" (Cycas circinalis) may occur in the lower understory and the fern Polypodium scolopendria is quite common. Casuarina trees are often associated with the atoll forest type and where they predominate the type is coded as CA.

Secondary Vegetation Class

The secondary vegetation land class is intermediate between forest and nonforest. Secondary vegetation occurs in areas where the natural vegetation has been disturbed and replaced by fast-growing weedy species. The most common species in this class is the introduced *Leucaena leucocephala*, which forms dense thickets and is typed as SV.L. Extensive stands of *Leucaena* occur on Saipan and Tinian.

Introduced trees common in areas of secondary vegetation include Albizia lebbeck, Acacia confusa, Delonix regia, and Pithecellobium dulce. Tall grasses include Pennisetum spp. and Saccharum spontaneum. The noxious climbing shrubs Mimosa invisa and Eupatorium odoratum were common. Other woody secondary species include Dodonaea viscosa, Jatropha sp., and Melochia spp. Vines include Mikania scandens, Momordica charantia, Mucuna sp., Operculina ventricosa, Ipomoea spp., and Passiflora foetida var. hispida. Bidens spp. and other herbaceous weeds also occur.

Agroforest Class

Agroforest (AG)

The agroforest land class category is applied to areas of mixed growth including trees, managed for fruit, food, wood, and other products such as formerly occurred in Chamorro "ranches" and villages. The area along the road to Lake Susupe on Saipan approaches this definition of the agroforest type. The agroforest type, at this writing, is quite limited in the Mariana Islands. Major food tree species in this area include the following: coconut (Cocos nucifera), breadfruit (Artocarpus altilis), tropical almond (Terminalia catappa), mango (Mangifera indica), Citrus spp., betel nut (Areca catechu), buoy nuts (Inocarpus fagifer), "apples" (Eugenia spp.), papaya (Carica papaya), custard apple (Annona reticulata), sour sop (Annona muricata), sweet sop (Annona squamosa), bananas (Musa spp.), star fruit (Averrhoa carambola), pickle fruit (Averrhoa bilimbi), iba fruit (Phyllanthus acidus), guava (Psidium guajava), star apple (Chrysophyllum cainito), horse-radish tree (Moringa oleifera), and avocado (Persea americana).

Other food plants growing in the understory include these: sugar cane (Saccharum officinarum), taro (Cyrtosperma chamissonis, Colocasia esculenta, and Xanthosoma spp.), cassava (Manihot esculenta), bittermelon (Momordica charantia), pumpkin (Cucurbita spp.), wax gourds (Benincasa hispida), "chayote" (Sechium edule), yam (Dioscorea alata), and sweet potato (Ipomoea batatas). Common ornamentals include Hibiscus rosa-sinensis and other species and hybrids of hibiscus, Plumeria spp., Clerodendrum spp., croton (Codiaeum variegatum), chain-of-love vine (Antigonon leptopus), ti plant (Cordyline fruticosa), Araucaria sp., white ginger (Hedychium coronarium), Job's tears (Coix lacryma-jobi), bush Ipomoea, kapok tree (Ceiba pentandra), crown of thorns (Euphorbia milii var. splendens), gardenia (Gardenia spp.), mahogany (Swietenia sp.), ornamental aroids, Thevetia peruviana, Catharanthus roseus, Ixora casei, and a number of semi-wild species useful for medicinals, cordage and other purposes, such as "lada" Morinda citrifolia, "pago" (Hibiscus tiliaceus), Piper betle, and Ficus spp. When there are at least 20 percent coconuts, the area is typed as AG.CO. The designation AG.CI is used when at least 20 percent Citrus trees are present.

Coconut Plantations (CO)

Dense groves of coconut trees that were originally planted for commercial reasons are designated as CO. When mixed with secondary vegetation, they are typed as CO/SV, with elements of limestone forest (CO.LI), atoll forest (CO.AT), and introduced forest (CO.IF).

Nonforest Class

Strand (S)

Strand vegetation is common along coasts of all three islands but is generally too narrow to be separately demarcated and is often included with Atoll Forest, Native Limestone Forest, or other types. Species characteristic of beach strand include the small trees Tournefortia argentea, Thespesia populnea and Scaev-

ola taccada. Vines such as Ipomoea pes-caprae ssp. brasiliensis, Vigna marina, and Cassytha filiformis may be present. Patches of Crinum asiaticum occasionally occur in more open areas. Pemphis acidula occurs in rocky areas along with normal and dwarfed Scaevola taccada. The native species Leucaena insularum var. guamensis is occasionally present, and further back from the shore, Ochrosia mariannensis var. crassicarpa, Barringtonia asiatica, Pandanus dubius, Neisosperma oppositifolia, Erythrina variegata var. orientalis, and Cordia subcordata may be present.

When *Pandanus* is a dominant feature, strand vegetation is typed as S.P. The type S/DV characterizes the dwarfed windswept vegetation of exposed coastal areas. Denser stands of *Mammea odorata* occur on rocky windswept coasts and stands of dwarfed *Scaevola taccada* also occur in such areas on Rota and Saipan. There are also open patches of *Zoysia matrella* occurring in flat areas.

Savanna/Grasslands (G)

Areas dominated by grassy and low herbaceous vegetation occur on both limestone and volcanic soils. Open areas in the formerly mined Sabana area of Rota are covered with herbaceous growth which is meadowlike and quite different in aspect and species composition from the vegetation of volcanic savanna areas of other parts of Micronesia. Pennisetum spp. are common, as well as patches of Eupatorium odoratum and areas of mixed ferns with Gleichenia linearis, Nephrolepis sp., and Blechnum orientale being prominent. Often mixed in with the ferns is the ground orchid Spathoglottis sp. and the morning-glory vine, Ipomoea spp. Miscanthus floridulus occurs on both limestone and volcanic soils on Saipan. On Rota, the savanna/grassland type on volcanic slopes was reported to include species characteristic of the savanna/grasslands of southern Guam such as Gleichenia linearis, Lycopodium cernuum, Myrtella bennigseniana, Geniostoma micranthum, Wikstroemia elliptica, and Scaevola taccada (Fosberg 1960). In the limited area of volcanic soils on Tinian, these species have been replaced by introduced weeds such as Pennisetum spp. and Mimosa invisa.

On Tinian, the savanna/grassland type includes some pastures planted to *Panicum* at the Bar K Ranch. Other pastures consist of *Leucaena leucocephala* which had been bulldozed to form a dense low forage. A number of toxic weedy species seen in pastures included *Jatropha gossypifolia*, *Laurentia longiflora*, *Crotalaria retusa*, and *Abrus precatorius*.

Subtypes of the savanna/grassland type include:

G.G — grasses or sedges

G.S — shrubs

G.B — areas of exposed (bare) soil

G.P — Pandanus

G.CA — abandoned agricultural areas

G.C — Casuarina trees

G/C — pasture land

Marsh (M)

Marshes are areas of grasses, sedges, and herbs growing in standing water most of the year. Marshes occur in the area of Lake Susupe on Saipan and Lake Hagoi on Tinian.

Barren Areas (B)

The designation, barren areas, is applied to areas that lack natural vegetation, because of factors such as rocks, sterile soil, and bulldozing.

Cropland (C)

Croplands are areas of cultivated lands without tree cover. Many areas in the Northern Marianas under cultivation are below the minimal size to be typed and are included with the agroforest or secondary vegetation classes.

Urban (U)

Towns, villages, and other inhabited areas are classified as urban.

Water (W)

Lake Susupe and Lake Hagoi in northeast Tinian are the only mappable bodies of freshwater on the surveyed islands. They are coded W.F.

GLOSSARY

- Agroforest: An area of mixed growth including trees, cultivated for fruit, food, wood, and other products.
- **D.b.h.**: Diameter at breast height. Tree diameter outside bark measured at breast height, 4.5 ft (1.3 m) above the ground.
- Forest land: Land at least 10 percent stocked by live trees or land formerly having such tree cover and not currently developed for nonforest use.
- Land area: Land area includes dry land and land temporarily or partially covered by water, such as marshes, swamps, and river flood plains; streams or sloughs.
- Land class: A classification of land by major use or major vegetative characteristics, i.e., forest, secondary vegetation, agroforest, and nonforest.
- Nonforest land: Land that has never supported forests or was formerly forested and is currently developed for nonforest use.
- **Secondary vegetation:** A vegetative type characterized by small, fast-growing trees, shrubs, and vines: usually weedy invaders.
- Vegetative type: An area delineated on the maps as having similar plant composition to one of the types described in the section on type classification.

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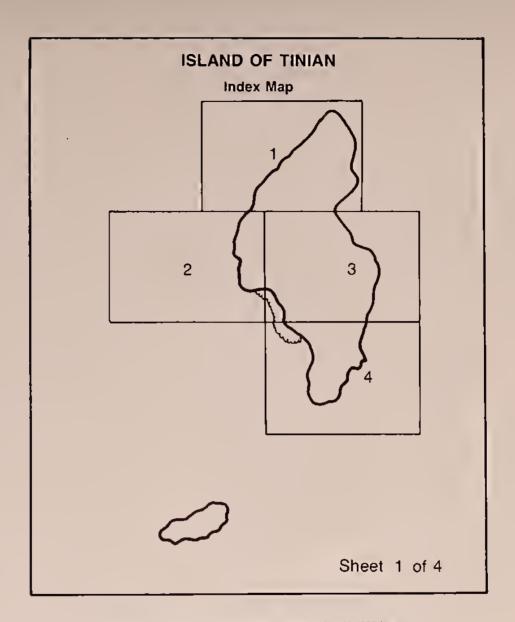
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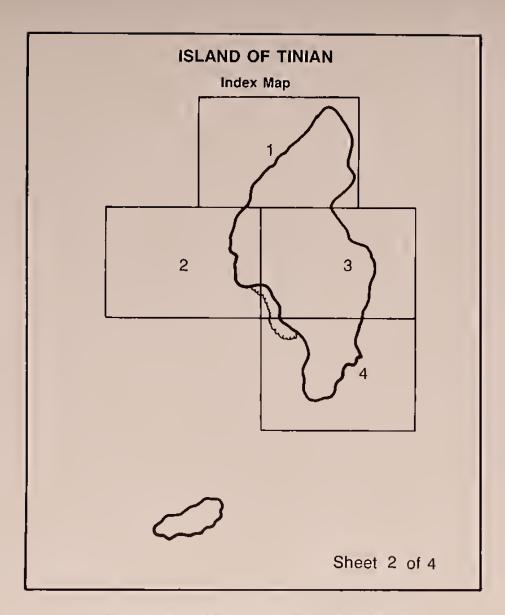




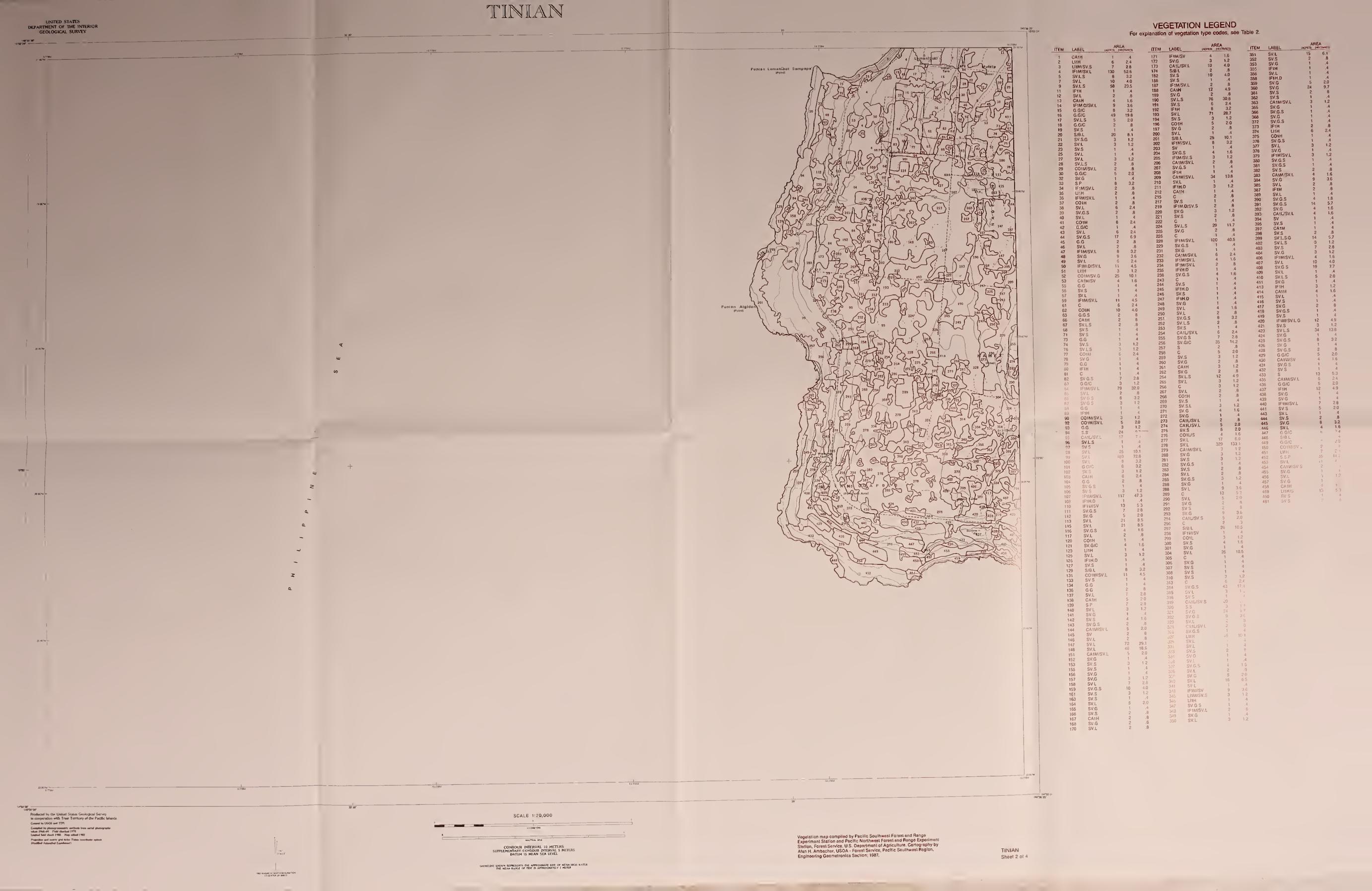


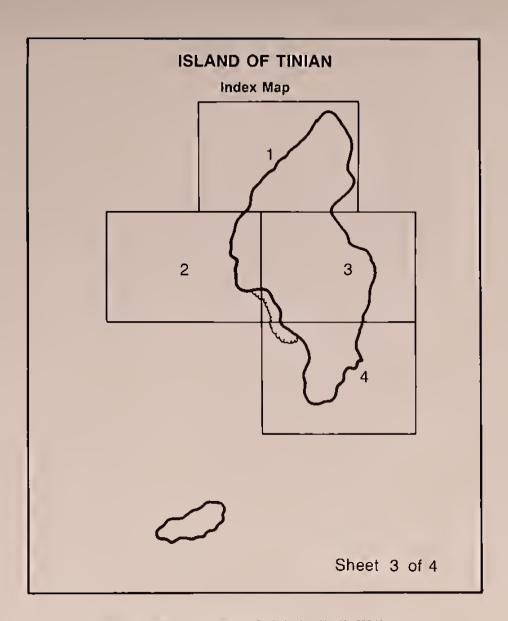
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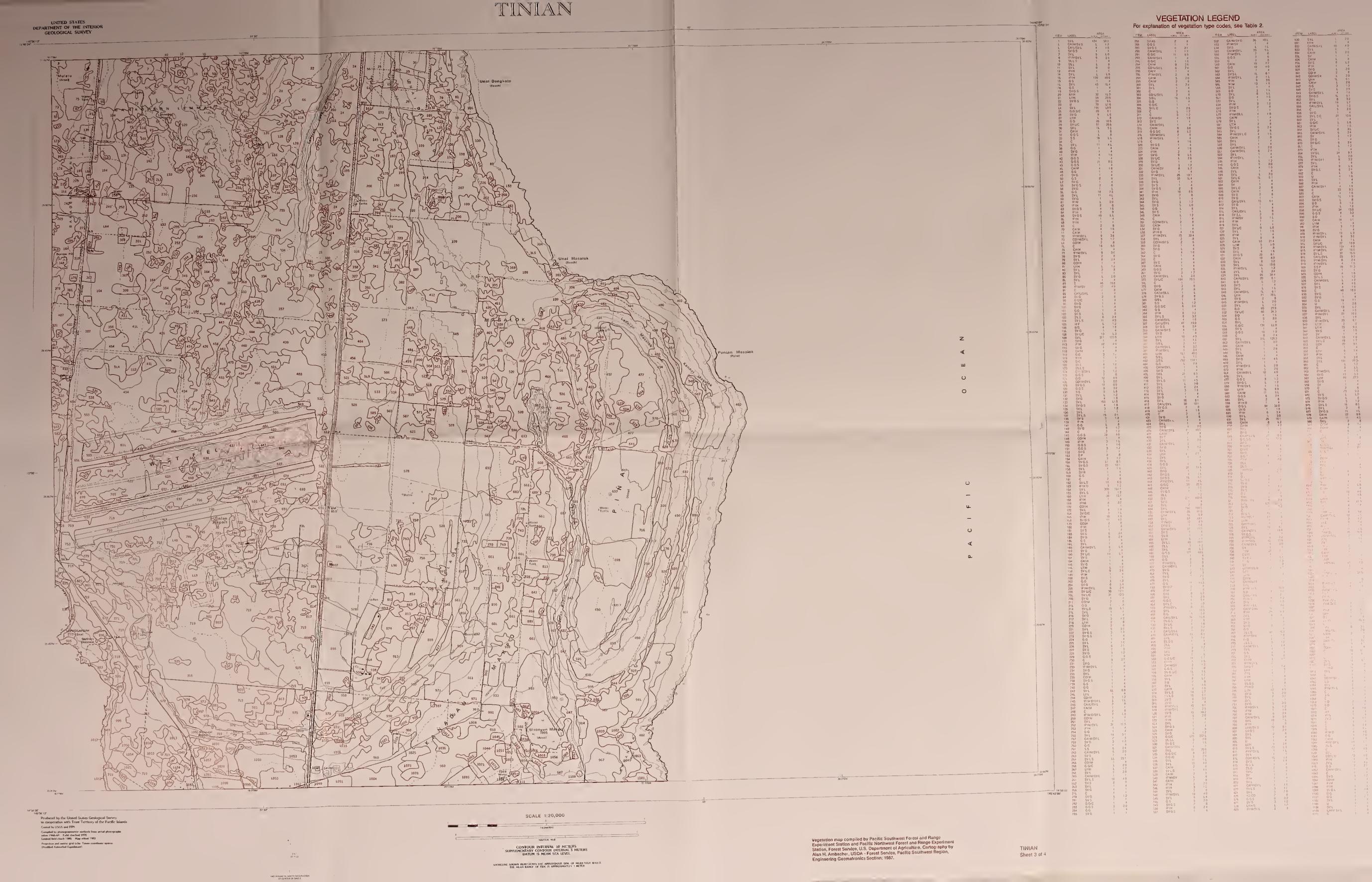


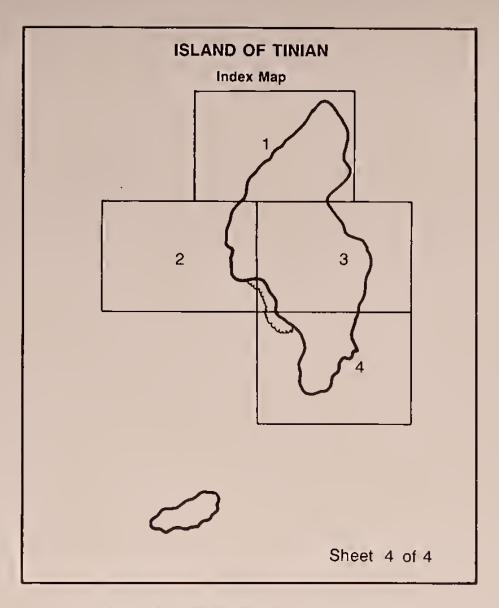
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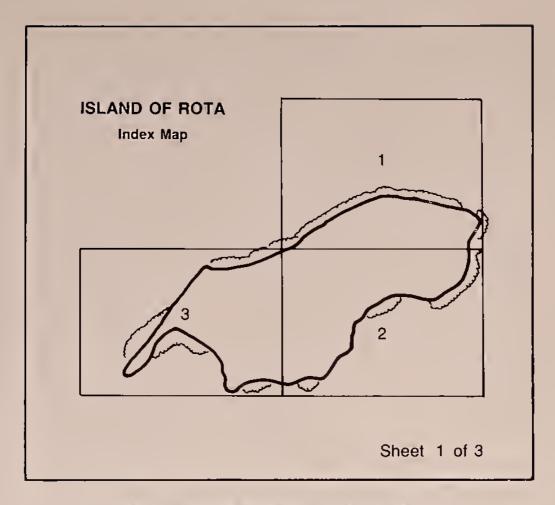
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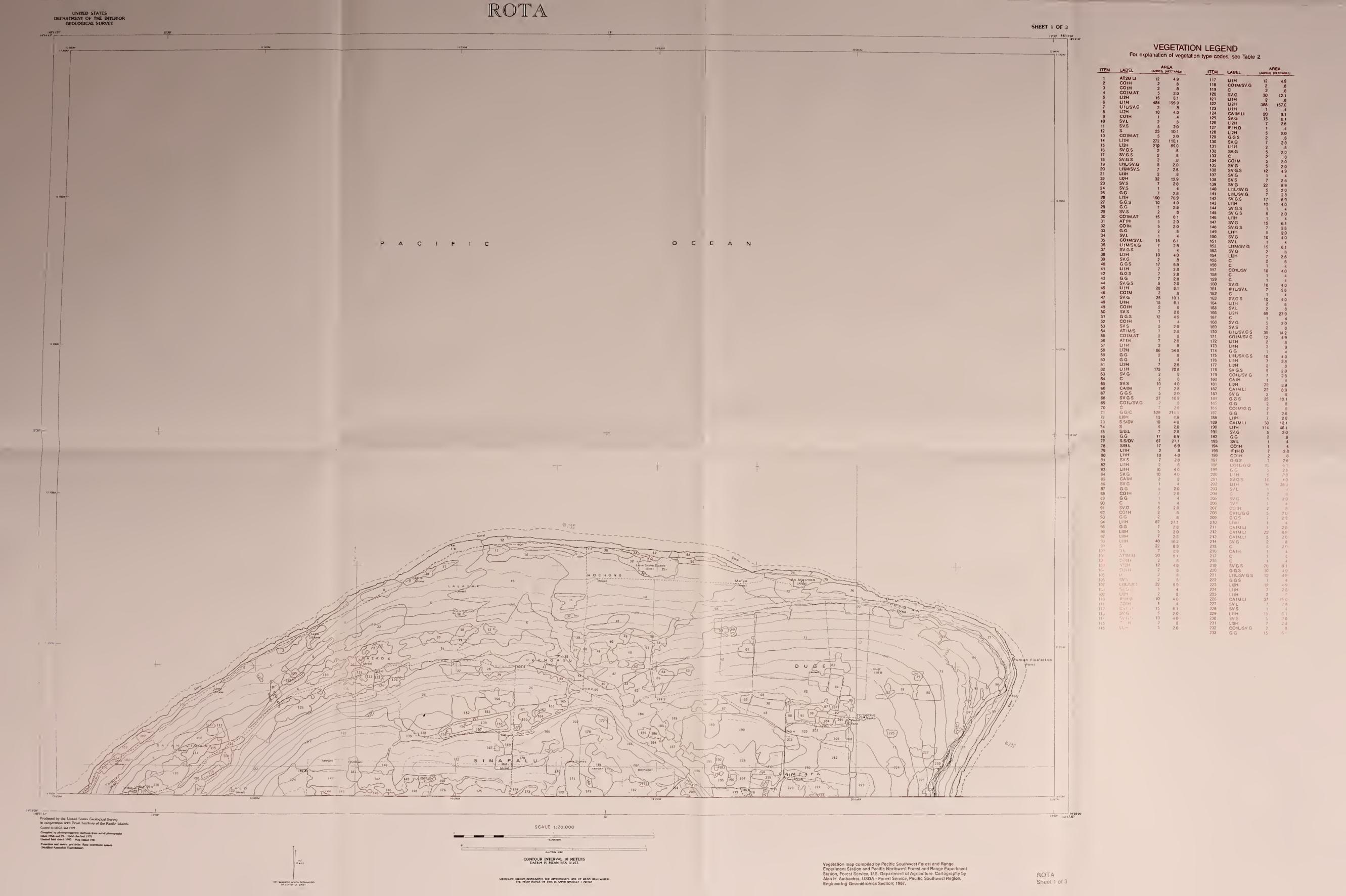


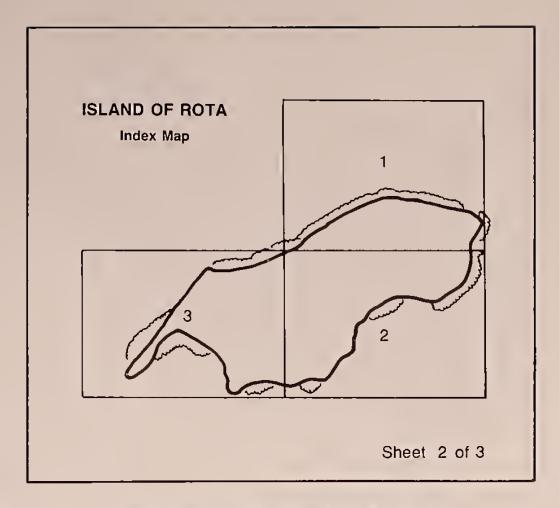
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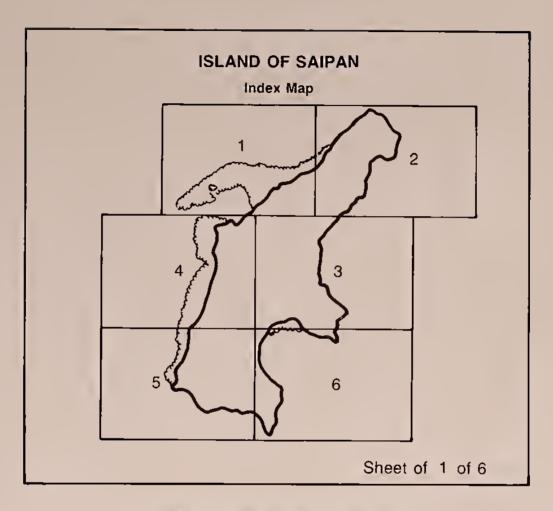
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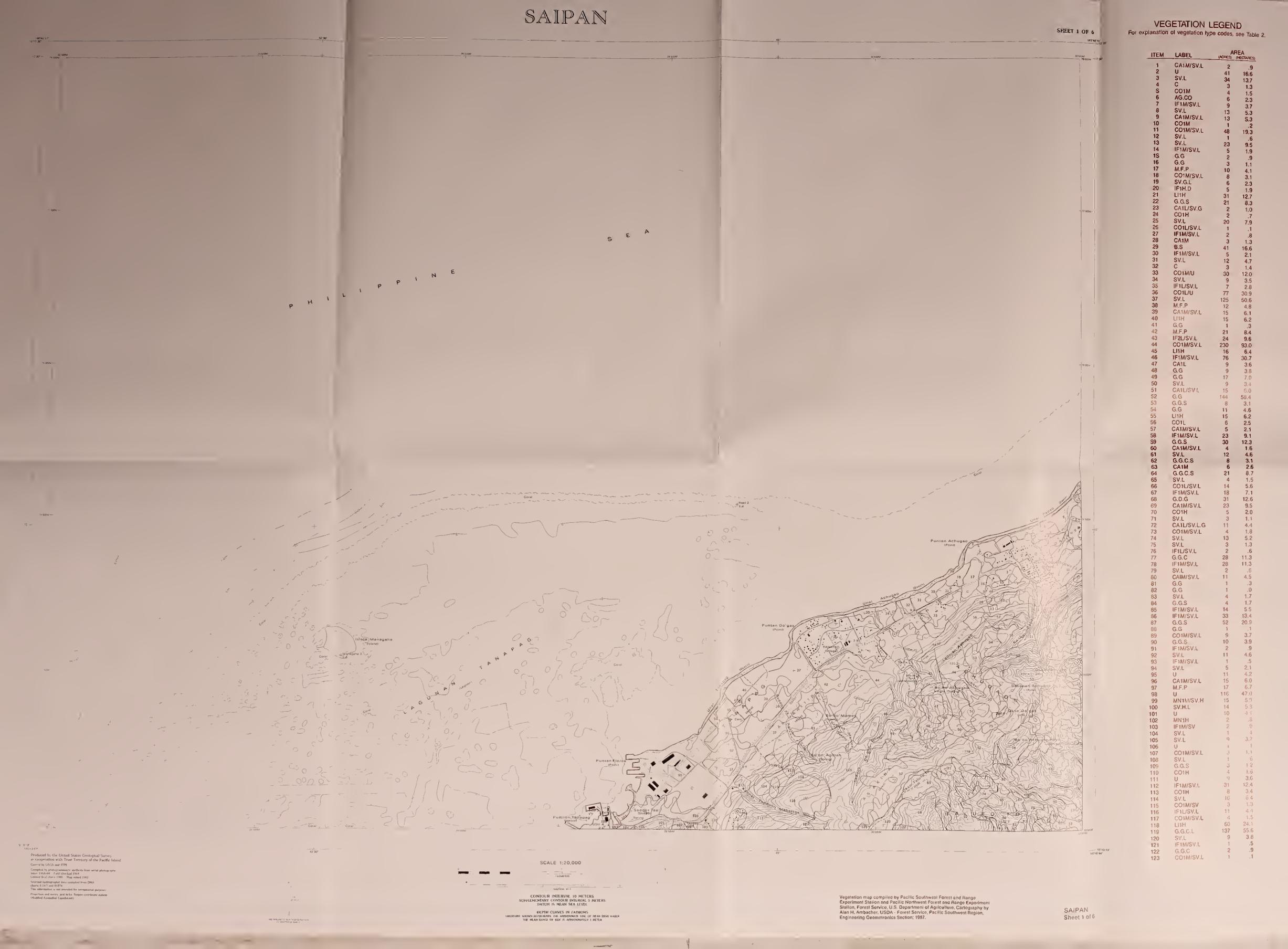


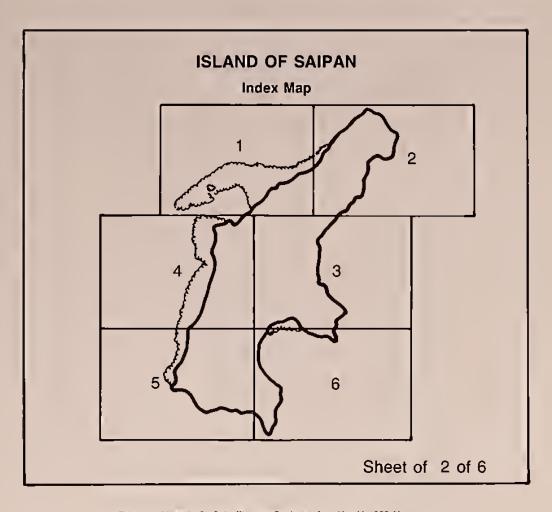
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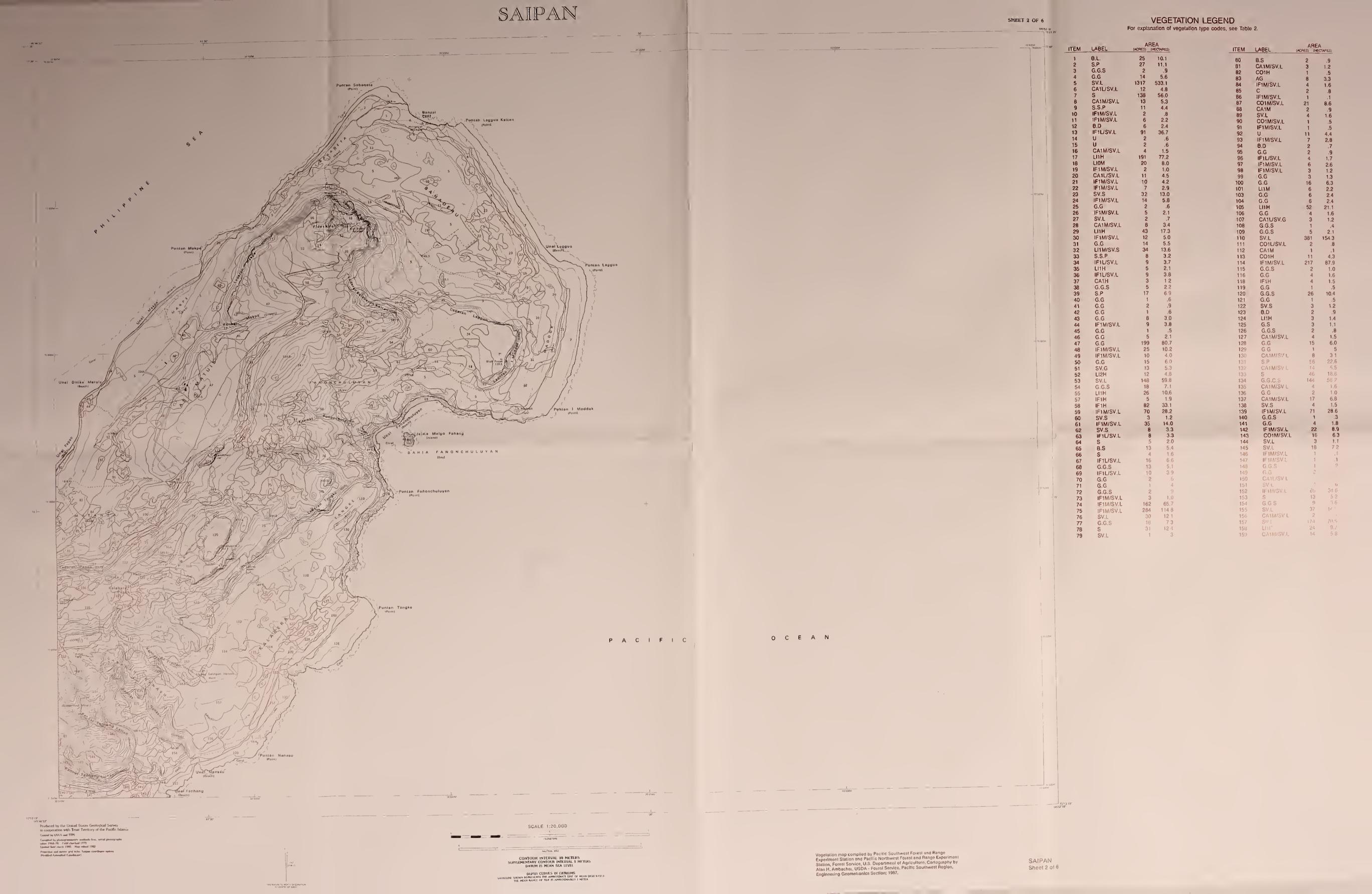


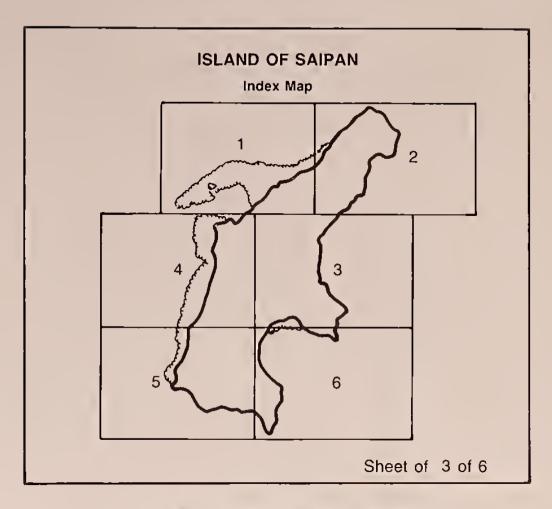
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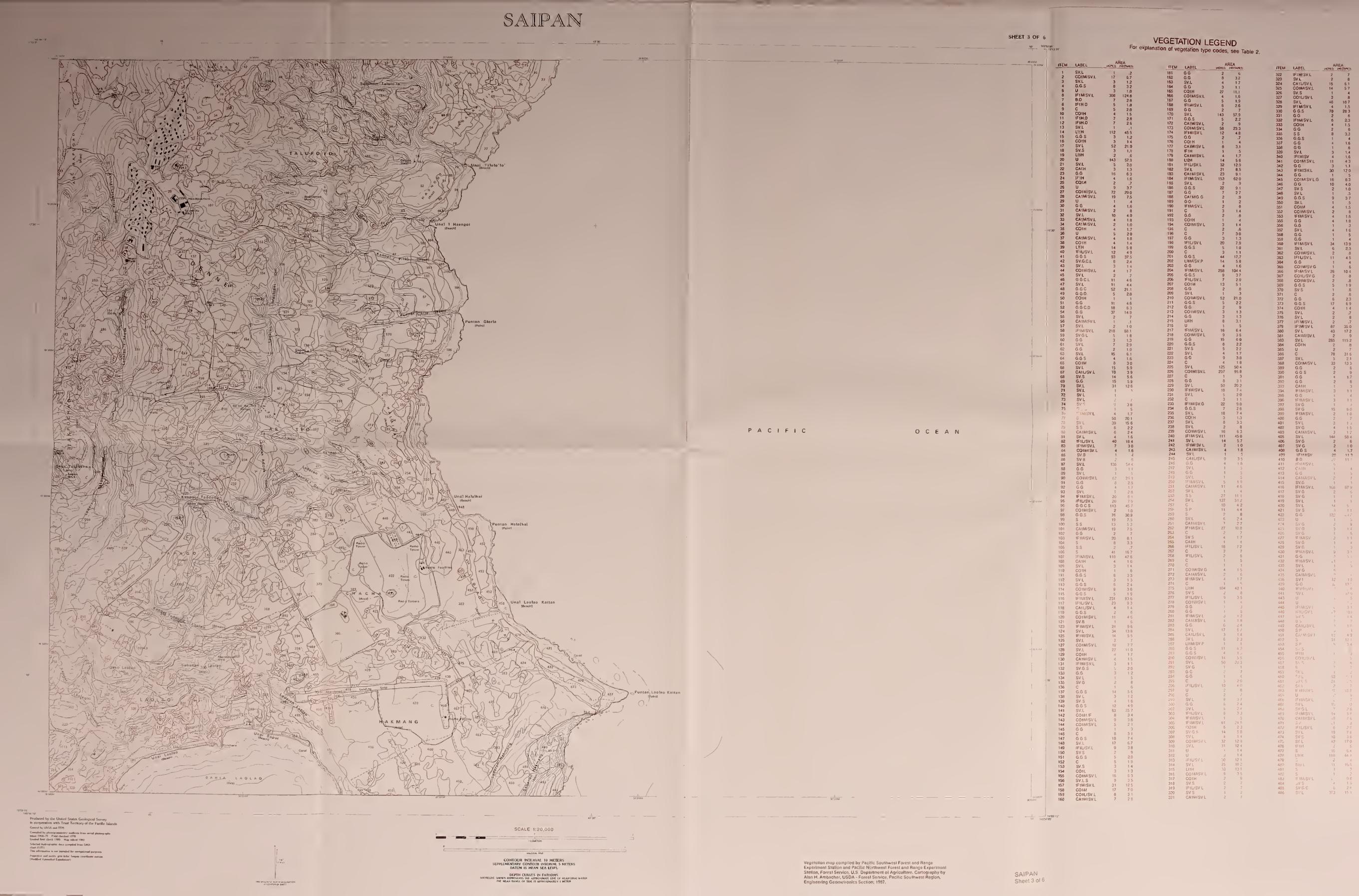


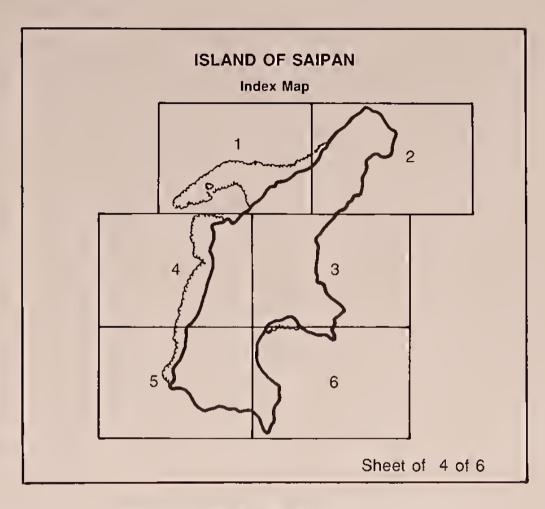
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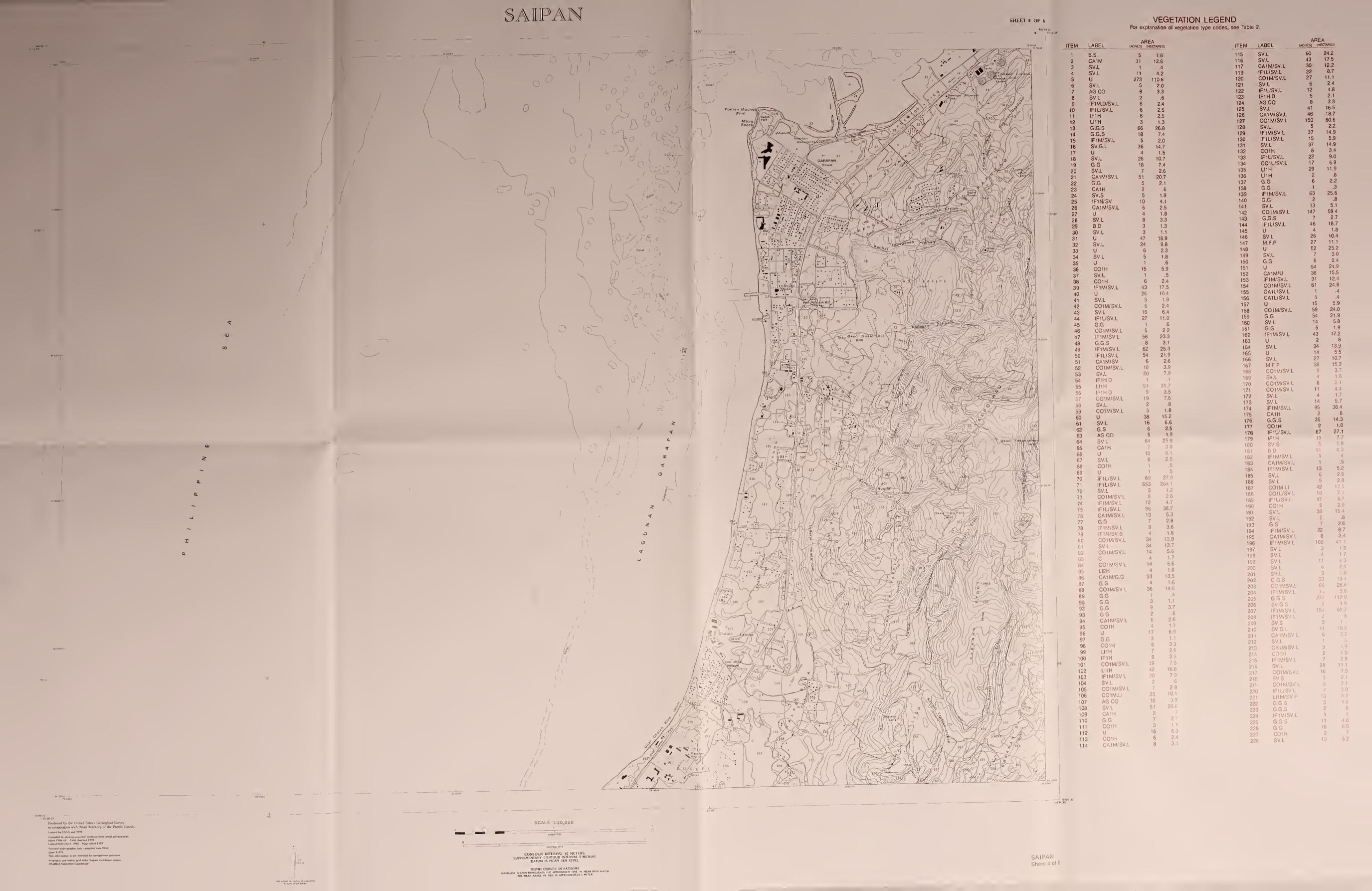


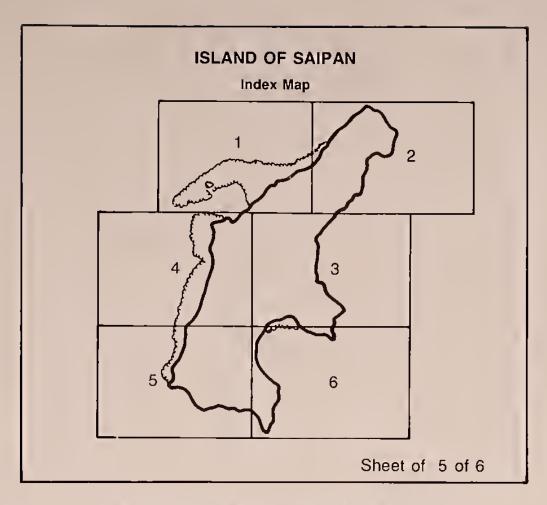
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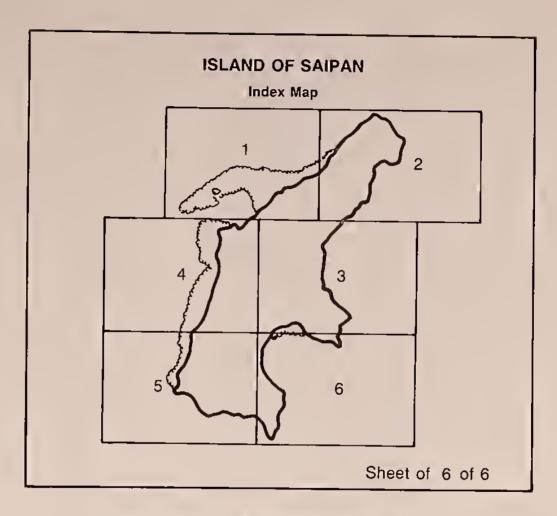
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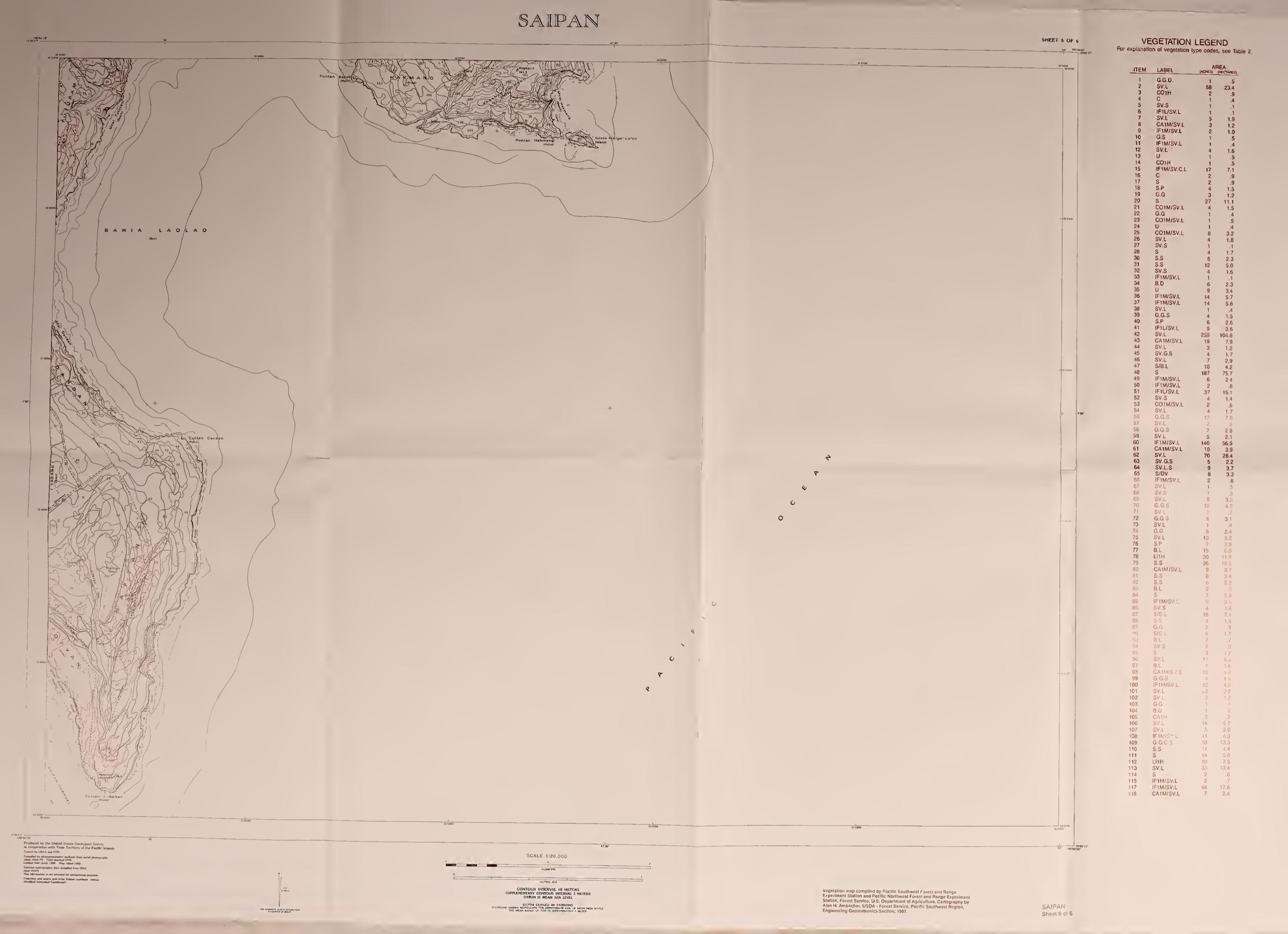


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