

Uvea (Wallis and Futuna)

Coordinates: 13°17′S 176°12′W

‘Uvea (Wallisian: *‘Uvea*, French: *Royaume coutumier de Uvea*) is one of the three official chiefdoms (*Royaume coutumier*, lit. 'customary kingdom') of the French territory of Wallis and Futuna (the other two being Sigave and Alo) in Oceania in the South Pacific Ocean.

Geography

Overview

‘Uvea encompasses the whole of Wallis and the surrounding islets. The total area of the kingdom is 96 square kilometres (37 sq mi) with a population of 8,333 spread over three districts. The capital and largest village is Mata Utu, situated on the east coast with a population of 1,029.

Administrative division

The chiefdom counts 3 districts and 21 municipalities:^[1]

Districts

District	Population (Census 2018)
Hihifo	1,942
Hahake	3,415
Mu'a	2,976

Municipal villages

Uvea <div>‘Uvea</div>	
Chiefdom	
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<u>Village</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>District</u>
<u>Alele</u>	524	<u>Hihifo</u>
<u>Vaitupu</u>	406	<u>Hihifo</u>
<u>Mala'e</u>	504	<u>Hihifo</u>
<u>Vailala</u>	341	<u>Hihifo</u>
<u>Tufu'one</u>	167	<u>Hihifo</u>
<u>Mata Utu</u>	1,029	<u>Hahake</u>
<u>Liku</u>	605	<u>Hahake</u>

No. of municipalities 21

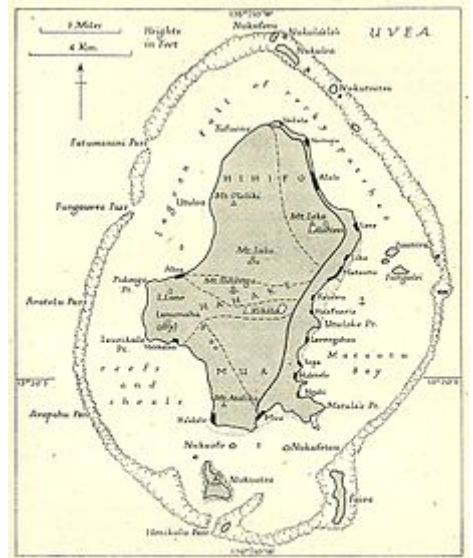


Fig. 86. Uvea (Wallis island)
 Names of districts are given in large capitals. Many paths connecting villages with the main road and the interior of the island are not shown, nor is an old native road near the coast. The reef on the south-west side of the island is shown as on the chart; its farther extent has not been precisely determined. Avatola and Avapala, in the western barrier reef, are passages used by native canoes. Based on: (1) Admiralty chart no. 987; (2) G. Grandjean, *Atlas des Colonies Françaises*, carte 36 (Paris, 1934); (3) E. G. Burrows, *Hermit P. Bishop Marston Bulletin*, no. 145, p. 9 (Honolulu, 1937).

Map of Wallis island

<u>Falaleu</u>	572	Hahake
<u>Aka'aka</u>	474	Hahake
<u>Ahoa</u>	436	Hahake
<u>Ha'afuasia</u>	299	Hahake
<u>Utufua</u>	602	<u>Mua</u>
<u>Halalo</u>	471	Mua
<u>Vaimalau</u>	371	Mua
<u>Lavegahau</u>	330	Mua
<u>Te'esi</u>	216	Mua
<u>Mala'efo'ou</u>	171	Mua
<u>Gahi</u>	249	Mua
<u>Tepa</u>	270	Mua
<u>Ha'atofo</u>	197	Mua
<u>Kolopopo</u>	99	Mua

Other villages^[2]

<u>Village</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>District</u>
<u>Alofivai</u>	437	Hahake
<u>Fineveke</u>	?	Mua

History

'Uvea has probably been inhabited by Polynesians since the 15th century CE and was then part of the Tu'i Tonga Empire. The two archaeological sites of Talietumu and Tonga Toto are remains from that period.



Talietumu archaeological site

The kingdom of 'Uvea was founded sometimes in the 15th century and the monarch was titled *Tu 'i 'Uvea* (king).^[3]

April 5, 1887 the island became a French protectorate after queen Amelia Tokagahahau Alik signed a treaty with France but keeping her royal powers.



Uvean flag between 1860 and 1896

In 1888 Sigave and Alo also signed the treaty with France thus creating the "Wallis and Futuna Islands Protectorate".

In 1961 the status was upgraded to being a French overseas territory (*territoire d'outre-mer*) and in 2003 Wallis and Futuna became a French overseas collectivity (*collectivité d'outre-mer*), but the local royal powers continue.

See also

- Wallis Island
- List of kings of Uvea
- Dance of Wallis and Futuna

References

1. "Population municipale des villages des îles Wallis et Futuna (recensement 2018)" (https://www.statistique.wf/download/43/recensement-2018/1153/pop_rp2018_villages_tranchesdag_e.xlsx). INSEE. Retrieved 21 February 2020.
2. without municipal status
3. Worldstatesmen.org - access date: 2010-10-30 (http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Wallis_Futuna.html#Uvea)

External links

- Detailed map of Uvea (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110716143816/http://www.outre-mer.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/wallis.pdf>)
- Pictures from Uvea (<http://www.pacific-picture.de/galleri/wallis/62-017.htm>)
- About Uvea (<https://web.archive.org/web/20071001001516/http://www.quid.fr/communes.html?mode=detail&id=36767&req=U&style=fiche>)
- Flag of Uvea (<http://www.fotw.info/flags/wf-w.html>) at Flags of the World

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