

**PERIOD REPORT  
OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION  
FOR PACIFIC ISLAND STATES PARTIES**

SECTION 1: APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION BY  
THE STATE PARTY

**1.1 Introduction**

**(a) State Party:**

Republic of Palau

**(b) Year of ratification or acceptance of the Convention:**

Palau has signed the acceptance in 2002 but has not ratified the Convention.

**(c) Organization (s) or entity (ies) responsible for the preparation of the report:**

Presently, Palau National Commission for UNESCO

**(d) Date of the report: (date of submission before the 28 March, 2003)**

March 26, 2003

**(e) Signature on behalf of State Party**

Chairman, Palau National Commission for UNESCO

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**Mr. Masa-Aki Emesiochl**

## **1.2 Identification of Cultural and Natural Heritage Properties**

### **(a) National Inventories:**

Palau had already taken the initiative to conduct a national inventory list of its cultural and historical heritage. The Historical & Preservation Office under the Division of Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs is tasked with this responsibility.

### **(b) Tentative List (c) Nominations**

Palau has not yet conducted its nominations nor has it come up with its tentative list to the World Heritage List. Palau has just become a signatory to WHC and has yet to put together a Committee.

## **1.3 Protection, Conservation and Presentation of the Cultural and Natural Heritage**

### **(a) General policy development**

The Palau National Code Title 19 addresses Cultural Resources

Chapter 1	Historical and Cultural Preservation Act
Chapter 2	Palau Museum dba Belau National Museum
Chapter 3	Palau Lagoon Monument
Chapter 4	Palau National Archives

The Palau National Code Title 24 addresses Environmental Protection

DIVISION I	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Chapter 1	Environmental Quality Protection Act
Chapter 2	Trust Territory Environmental Quality Protection Act

DIVISION II	WILDLIFE PROTECTION
Chapter 10	Endangered Species Act
Chapter 11	Fish and Game Commission (repealed)
Chapter 12	Protected Sea Life
Chapter 13	Illegal Methods of Capture
Chapter 14	Protected Land Life

DIVISION III	PRESERVES AND PROTECTED AREAS
Chapter 30	Ngerukewid Island Wildlife Preserve
Chapter 31	Ngerumekaol Spawning Area
Chapter 32	Natural Heritage Reserve System

- **Note:** There are several policies that have been promulgated for the above laws. For this report, we will not discuss the policies. When the Palau Committee for WHC is formalized, the next report will have the reporting agencies deal with the policies.

**(b) Status of services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation**

Once the Committee for the Palau WHC is organized the reporting agencies will detail their work program.

The Palau National Commission for UNESCO will organize the first meeting of the Committee to be composed of the following potential agencies.

- Ministry of Resources and Development
- Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs
- Ministry of State
- Ministry of Education
- The Traditional Council of Chiefs (Rubekul Belau)
- The Traditional Council of Women (Mechesil Belau)
- Palau Governors Association
- Koror State Government
- Palau Visitors Authority
- Palau Community College
- Belau National Museum
- Palau International Coral Reef Research Center
- Palau Conservation Society
- Office of Environmental Response Coordination

The proposed functions of this committee are:

- To formulate issues regarding the planning implementation, maintenance, development and sustainability of heritage conservation,
- To seek ways and means of obtaining financial support,
- To ensure relevant and correct information is made available and accessible,
- To negotiate with affected parties, individuals, organizations, guardians or anyone on matters pertaining to any information, knowledge or access to heritage resources,
- To assist and encourage on-going awareness programs on the importance of sites identified for World Heritage Listings and also enhance an understanding of natural and cultural sites in Palau,
- To encourage and assist on matters for research of heritage conservation and other duties relevant to the project.

**(c) Scientific and Technical Studies and Research**

National, regional and international experts have conducted a number of scientific and technical research studies in Palau.

Following are some examples of the studies conducted:

Natural Sciences

Birkeland, C. & Manner, H. (eds) 1989. Resource Survey of Ngerukewid Islands Wildlife Preserve, Republic of Palau: SPREP and IUCN.

Birkeland, C. Richmond, R.H. Matso, E.A., Holthus, P. & Convard, N.S. 1989. Visual Survey of the Coastal Marine Communities of Babeldaob and Koror: East-West Center, SPREP, and University of Guam, Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board.

Canfield, J.E. 1981. Palau: Diversity and status of the native vegetation of a unique Pacific island ecosystem. Hawaiian Botanical Society.

Cassell, J., Otobed, D. 1992. Comprehensive Conservation Strategy for the Republic of Palau. Koror, Republic of Palau.

Cole, T. G., Falanruw, M.C., MacLean, C. D., Whitesell, C.D. & Ambacher, A. M. 1987. Vegetation Survey of the Republic of Palau. US Forest Service, US Dept. of Agriculture: UC Berkeley Press.

Cook, C. & Maragos, J.E. 1991. The Palau Islands Bioreserve. Draft. The Nature Conservancy: Koror, Republic of Palau.

Engbring J. 1988. Field Guide to the Birds of Palau. Division of Conservation and Entomology, Koror, Republic of Palau.

Fosberg, F. R. Otobed, D., Sacher, M. H., Oliver, R.L. Powell, D.L. & Canfield, J. E. 1980. Vascular Plants of Palau with Vernacular Names. Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution.

Government of Palau/US National Park Service. 1988. Beliliu (Peleliu) Historical Park Study.

Johannes, R. 1991. Words of the Lagoon: Fishing and Marine Lore in the Palau District of Micronesia. UC Berkeley Press.

MacLean, C.D., Cole, T.G. & McDuffie, K. E. 1988. Timber Resources of Babeldaob, Republic of Palau. US Forest Service & US Department of Agriculture.

Maiava, I.A., 1994. Republic of Palau National Environmental Management Strategy. Palau Bureau of Natural Resources and SPREP. UNDP.

Maragos et al. 1994. Palau Rapid Ecological Assessment, Part 2: Marine and Coastal Areas of the Main Palau Islands. The Nature Conservancy, Republic of Palau.

Marsh, H. et al. 1991. An Assessment of the Status of the Dugong in Palau: A Report to the Palau Government. IUCN.

Nichols, P. V. 1991. Republic of Palau marine resources profiles. Draft Report. Forum Fisheries Agency, Solomon Islands.

Otobed, D. O. 1974. Development for Entomology Service. Unpublished manuscript. Koror, Republic of Palau.

Otobed, D. O. & Maiava, I. A. 1994. Palau: State of the Environment Report. SPREP.

Owen, R. 1977. Terrestrial vertebrate fauna of the Palau Islands. Unpublished manuscript. Koror, Palau.

1970. Animals of Palau Islands. Belau National Museum.

Pulea, M. 1994. Environmental Legislation Review—Republic of Palau, 1994. SPREP.

Smith, C. w. 1983. Soil Survey of the Islands of Palau, Republic of Palau. US Soil Conservation Office, US Dept. of Agriculture.

Thomas, P. E. J., Holthus. P. E., & Idechong, N. 1989. Ngerukewid Islands Wildlife Preserve and Management Plan. SPC, New Caledonia.

### Social Sciences

Barnett, H. G. 1949. Palauan Society: A Study of Contemporary Native Life in the Palau Islands. University of Oregon.

Bryan, E. H. 1971. Guide to Place Names in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (the Marshalls, Caroline and Mariana Islands). Bishop Museum.

Davis, J.E. & Hart, D. 2002. Government of Palau: A Nation That Honors Its Traditions. Ministry of Education, Republic of Palau

Force, R. W. 1960. Leadership and Cultural Change in Palau. Chicago: Natural History Museum.

Force, R. W., & Maryanne Force. 1972. Just One House. Description and Analysis of Kinship in the Palau Islands. Bishop Museum.

Goodenough, W. H., Smith, D. R. 1980. The Impact of Imported Legalistic Systems on Palauan Land Tenure. National Science Foundation.

Hayakawa, S., & Takayama, J. 1979. Archaeological Investigation of PAKr-3 in the Palaus. In Report: Cultural Anthropological Research on the Folk Culture in the Western Caroline Islands of Micronesia in 1977. Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

Kaneshiro, S. 1958. Land Tenure in the Palau Islands. IN Land Tenure Patterns in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Kesolei, K. 1977. Restrictions to Freedom of Inquiry: Palau Strains. Association of Social Anthropology in Oceania.

Lucking, L. J. 1984. An Archaeological Investigation of Prehistoric Palauan Terraces. PhD. Dissertation, University of Minnesota.

Masse, W. B. 1984. Rock Island Village Settlement Systems: A Preliminary Report on the Analysis of Archaeological Remains in the Coralline Limestone (Rock) Islands, Republic of Palau. Southern Illinois University.

Masse, W. B., & Snyder, D., Gumerman, G. J. 1984. Prehistoric and Historic Settlement in the Palau Islands, Micronesia. New Zealand Journal of Archaeology.

Nero, K. 1987. A Cherchar a Lokelii: Beads of History of Koror, Palau, 1783-1983. A Dissertation for a PhD in Anthropology. UC Berkeley.

Osborne, D. 1966. Archaeology of the Palau Islands. Bishop Museum.

Palau Visitors Authority. 1993. Palau: Your Future in Tourism. Pacific Asia Travel Association.

Palau National Master Development Plan. 1994. Palau 2020. Government of the Republic of Palau.

Ramarui, A.N., Tamael, M.K. 1999. Kerresel A Klechibelau: Palau Language Lexicon. Palauan words, usage and meaning. Belau National Museum, Republic of Palau.

Rechebei, E. D., McPhetres, S.F. (ed) Masa-Aki Emesiochl. 1997. History of Palau: Heritage of an Emerging Nation. Ministry of Education, Republic of Palau

Smith, D.R. 1983. Palauan Social Structure. Rutgers University, New Jersey.

Snyder, D. 1983. The Role of Indigenous Communities in the Management Cultural Resources. 15<sup>th</sup> Pacific Science Congress.

1983. Evaluating the Significance of Sites: An Example from Palau. 15<sup>th</sup> Pacific Science Congress.

Snyder, D., Masse, B., Gumerman, G.J. 1983. Palauan Community Archaeology. 15<sup>th</sup> Pacific Science Congress.

**(d) Measures for Identification, Protection, Conservation, Presentation and Rehabilitation.**

As listed on 1.3 (a), the listings of laws pertain to culture and nature.

**(e) Training**

There has not been training on heritage issues related to WHC. Palau is still at the beginning stage of WHC development. When Dr. Elspeth Wingham was here in July 2001, we began to discuss WHC with several people within the governmental entities as well as meeting with NGOs.

Since Palau is now a signatory to the Convention, we hope through the assistance of UNESCO and the World Heritage Center to conduct training in Palau once the Palau Committee is organized.

Following the recommendations from the Pacific Regional Workshop for Capacity Building on World Heritage in February 2003, held in Apia, Samoa, the need for UNESCO and all other regional organizations to assist the Pacific Region on their training needs.

**1.4 International Co-operation and Fund raising**

It was agreed upon between participating Pacific countries to the mentioned workshop of the need for co-operation and sharing information on identification, protection, conservation and preservation of the World Heritage located on their countries, such as the case of East Rennell in the Solomon Islands, the only site from the Pacific Region that is already inscribed in the World Heritage List.

**1.5 Education, Information and Awareness Building**

There are newsletters put out by the various above-named potential agencies to be members of the Palau Committee on WHC. These newsletters maybe used to disseminate information.

In addition to the newsletters, local media (radio, TV, newspapers) could also be utilized as well.

Local annual event could also serve as other avenues for public awareness and information sharing such as:

- Olechotel Belau Fair (a cultural event organized by the Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs)
- Earth Day
- Green Fair (organized by the Palau Visitors Authority)
- Summer Tree Planting

## **1.6 Conclusions and Recommended Action**

### **(a) Main conclusions:**

Palau has not ratified the World Heritage Convention. The ratification documents are presently under review by our Olbiil Era Kelulau (National Congress) in the Committee of Tourism Development and Cultural Affairs. However, Palau had already begun work program dealing with preservation and conservation of cultural and natural heritage sites under Palau laws or regulations.

At this early stage, Palau certainly will need assistance from UNESCO and WHC in planning, preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of sites for potentially becoming World Heritage sites.

### **(b) Proposed Future Action (s)**

Palau's plan of activities once the ratification process takes place will possibly be the following:

- Seek assistance from UNESCO and the World Heritage Center for training and public awareness activities for various sectors within the community.
- Palau Committee on WHC will have to be actively involved in the decision-making process pertaining to nominations, evaluation of possible sites to be inscribed in the World Heritage List.
- Palau will have to seek partnerships with other Pacific countries in expertise sharing and to seek financial support from relevant regional bodies.

**(c) Responsible Implementing Agency (ies)**

- Ministry of Resources and Development
- Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs

**(d) Timeframe for Implementation**

- The Palau Committee for WHC will deal with timeline in coordination with the implementing agencies.

**(e) Needs for International Assistance**

- Palau will be requesting assistance from international experts and relevant bodies.