

1. Introduction

1.1 - State Party

Palau

1.2 - Date of ratification of the World Heritage Convention

11/06/2002

1.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of Section I of the Periodic Reporting

Governmental institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage
UNESCO National Commission
External experts

1.4 - Primary government authorities responsible for the implementation of the Convention

- Alexander Dwight G.
Palau National Commission for UNESCO
Secretary General

Comment

Mr. Dwight G. Alexander is the Director of the Bureau of Arts & Culture/Historic Preservation Office under the Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs. He also serves the Secretary General for the Palau National Commission for UNESCO. Correct information would be Dwight G. Alexander Director/HPO, Bureau of Arts & Culture/Historic Preservation Office & Secretary General, Palau National Commission for UNESCO (the rest of the information is correct)

1.5 - Other key institutions responsible

- Faustina Rehuher Marugg
Minister
Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs
Domain: cultural

1.6 - Comments

The Ministry oversees preparations of nominations to the Tentative List and for inscription. It partners with science organizations and local authorities for the natural heritage. Such agencies include the Environmental Inc., Palau International Coral Reef Center, Palau Coral Reef Foundation, Bureau of Natural Resources and the Palau Conservation Society. As for Cultural nominations it works with the Bureau of Arts and Culture/Historic Preservation Office and the Belau National Museum

2. Inventories / lists / registers for cultural and natural heritage

2.1 - Cultural Heritage (Level and Status)

National	Process well-advanced
Regional / provincial / state	No process established
Local	Process commenced
Other (please provide details in 2.7)	No process established

2.2 - Natural Heritage (Level and Status)

National	Process commenced
----------	-------------------

Regional / provincial / state	Process commenced
Local	Process commenced
Other (please provide details in 2.7)	No process established

2.3 - Are inventories/lists/registers adequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage in the State Party?

Inventories/lists/registers capture some of the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.

2.4 - Are inventories / lists / registers used to protect the identified cultural heritage?

Inventories / lists / registers are frequently used for the protection of cultural heritage.

2.5 - Are inventories / lists / registers used to protect the identified natural heritage?

Inventories / lists / registers are frequently used for the protection of natural heritage.

2.6 - Are inventories / lists / registers used for the identification of properties for the Tentative List?

Inventories / lists / registers are not actively used for the identification of properties for inclusion on the Tentative List.

2.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to inventories / lists / registers of cultural and natural heritage (questions 2.1 to 2.6)

Registry of natural heritage is now being carried out under the Protected Area Network Act and serves to protect the natural sites. The cultural heritage are being registered under the Palau Historic Preservation Act or Title 19. The two measures define criterias for registration and provides management framework to protect the sites. This list is often used to identify sites for the Tentative

3. Tentative List

3.1 - Potential future nominations (Property name / anticipated year of nomination)

Rock Island Southern Lagoon (RISL) / Already nominated, 2012 /
Yapese Stone Quarry Site / 2013 /
Imeong Traditional Cultural Village / 2015 /
Oubalang ra Ngebedech, Earthwork Terraces / 2017 /
Tel el Bad (Stone Coffin) / not yet determined /

3.2 - Tools used for a preliminary assessment of the potential Outstanding Universal Value

ICOMOS thematic studies
Meetings to harmonize Tentative Lists within your region
Other global comparative analysis

3.3 - Level of involvement in the preparation of the Tentative List

National government institution(s)	Good
Regional / provincial / state / government(s)	Fair
Local government(s)	Fair

Other government departments	Good
UNESCO National Commission	Good
Local authorities within or adjacent to the property	Fair
Local communities / residents	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Fair
Landowners	Good
Local industries	Poor
Non Governmental Organization(s)	Poor
Consultants / experts	Good
Site manager / coordinator(s)	Fair

3.4 - Was the authority(ies) listed in question 1.4 responsible for the approval and submission of the Tentative List?

Yes

3.5 - If not, what authority(ies) is responsible for the approval and submission of the Tentative List?

3.6 - Do you intend to update your Tentative List within the next six years?

Yes

3.7 - Comments

The two authorities which submitted Palau's Tentative List are the Ministry of Community & cultural Affairs, mainly the Bureau of Arts & Culture and the Palau National Commission for UNESCO.

4. Nominations

4.1 - Property

Name	Date of submission	Status
Yapese Stone Money Sites in Palau and Yap	2009-01-28	Incomplete
Transboundary Nomination for Yapese Stone Money Sites in Palau and Yap	2010-02-01	
Rock Islands Southern Lagoon	2010-10-05	

Comment

1340 Transboundary Nomination for Yapese Stone Money Site in Palau and Yap was deferred in the 35th session of WHC. It is planned to be re-submitted in 2013. 1386 Rock Island Southern Lagoon will be on the calendar for the 2012 36th Session of the WHC.

4.2 - Involvement in recent nominations

National government institution(s)	Good
Regional / provincial / state government(s)	Good
Local government(s)	Good
Other government departments	Fair
UNESCO National Commission	Good
Local authorities within or adjacent to the property	Fair
Local communities / residents	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Good
Landowners	Good
Local industries	Fair
Non Governmental Organization(s)	Good
Consultants / experts	Good
Site manager / coordinator	Good

4.3 - Perceived benefits of inscribing properties on the World Heritage List

Strengthened protection of sites (legislative, regulatory, institutional and / or traditional)	Some benefit
Enhanced conservation practices	Some benefit
Catalyst for wider community appreciation of heritage	High benefit
Improved presentation of sites	High benefit
Enhanced honour / prestige	Some benefit
Increased funding	High benefit
Additional tool for lobbying / political influence	Limited benefit
Stimulus for enhanced partnerships	Some benefit
Increased recognition for tourism and public use	High benefit
Stimulus for economic development in surrounding communities	High benefit
Others (please provide details in 4.4)	Some benefit

4.4 - Comments

4.3.11 It can be a channel to develop educational materials for transmission of knowledge to the younger generation. Education on the values of natural and cultural heritage are key to sustainable protection and use of ones resources.

5. General Policy Development

5.1 - Legislation

Comment

Title 19: Historic Preservation Act PAN: Protected Area Network Act

5.2 - Legislation not listed in 5.1

Historic Preservation Act / 1982 / National / Cultural / n/a /
Protected Area Network Act / 2008 / National / Natural & Cultural / n/a /

5.3 - Comment

The legislations provide a set of criteria's required for each of the 16 states of Palau to register their cultural and natural properties to the national registry. The agencies responsible for implementing the law, developes guidelines and the process of registration and works with the state authorities to conduct research and documentation, nominations and review and eventual registration.

5.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulations) adequate for the identification, conservation and protection of the State Party's cultural and natural heritage?

The legal framework is adequate for the identification, conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

5.5 - Can the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulations) for the identification, conservation and protection of the State Party's cultural and natural heritage be enforced?

Existing capacity/resources to enforce the legal framework could be strengthened.

5.6 - Other International Conventions adhered

Comment

Section 106, Historic Preservation Law of the US and the Freely Associated States. As member of the Micronesian Endowment for Historic Preservation, we are obligated to comply with this legal legislation which is applicable to the

Micronesian region. It helps provide guidelines and resources to manage cultural properties. Micronesian Challenge: Provides incentive for the Micronesian States to set aside conservation areas to ensure sustainability of natural resources and natural heritage.

5.7 - Implementation of International Conventions into national policies

There is adequate coordination and integration.

5.8 - States Party's policies to give heritage a function in the life of communities

There are no specific policies to give heritage a function in the life of communities but this is being achieved on an ad hoc basis.

5.9 - Integration of heritage into comprehensive / larger scale planning programmes

There are no specific policies to integrate heritage into comprehensive/larger scale planning.

5.10 - Comments

The National Cultural Policy is being developed which would incorporate the traditional management of cultural and natural heritage. There is also a national policy being developed under the theme of Climate Change to improve management plans of natural sites and to involve the communities of the protection of the natural resources.

6. Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation

6.1 - To what degree do the principal agencies / institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage cooperate in the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of this heritage?

There is some cooperation between the principal agencies / institutions for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage but improvements are possible.

6.2 - To what degree do other government agencies cooperate in the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of natural and cultural heritage?

There is limited cooperation between other government agencies and the principal agencies / institutions for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

6.3 - To what degree do different levels of government cooperate in the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage?

There is limited cooperation between different levels of government for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

6.4 - Are the services provided by the agencies / institutions adequate for the conservation,

protection and presentation of World Heritage properties in your country?

There is some capacity to conserve, protect and present World Heritage properties but significant deficiencies remain.

6.5 - Comments

Mainly technical expertise and funding are a big challenge for Palau. This limits agencies from spending resources on joint activities and rely on the other to provide the resources to get things done. Thus serious deficiencies exist in the protection, conservation and presentation of the countries heritage.

7. Scientific and Technical Studies and Research

7.1 - Is there a research programme or project specifically for the benefit of World Heritage properties?

There is no research programme specifically addressing World Heritage.

7.2 - Research projects

- Scott Fitzpatrick / 2006
national
cultural
n/a
Research on the Yapese Quarry sites in Airai
- Palau International Coral Reef Center / Ongoing
National
Natural
n/a
Research on Coral Reefs and Coastal Areas
- Jolie Liston, Garcia & Associates / 2009
National
Cultural
Earthwork and Terraces
- Jolie Liston, Garcia & Associates / 2010
National
Cultural
Traditional Imeong Cultural Village

7.3 - Comments

Palau does not have a World Heritage Site but there are a number of researches that are ongoing for the purpose of gathering data used to study significant sights for purposes of identifying elements for protection and development of management and protection plans. We trust that once these sites are inscribed, the data will be used to enhance management plans to protect them as WH sites.

8. Financial Status and Human Resources

8.1 - Sources of funding

National government funds	Minor source of sustained funding
Other levels of government (provincial, state, local)	Minor source of fixed term funding
International assistance from the World Heritage Fund	Minor source of sustained funding
International multilateral funding (e.g. World Bank, IDB, European Union)	Minor source of fixed term funding

International bilateral funding (e.g. AFD, GTZ, DGCS, GEF, etc.)	Minor source of sustained funding
NGOs (international and / or national)	Minor source of sustained funding
Private sector funds	Major source of fixed term funding
Other (Please specify in 8.6)	Major source of sustained funding

8.2 - Involvement of State Party in the establishment of foundations or associations for raising funds and donation for the protection of World Heritage

Yes

8.3 - National policies for the allocation of site revenues for conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage

Yes

8.4 - Is the current budget sufficient to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively at the national level?

The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully meet the conservation, protection and presentation needs.

8.5 - Are available human resources adequate to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively at the national level?

A range of human resources exist, but they are below optimum to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage.

8.6 - Comments

A great majority of funding for the protection and conservation of heritage comes from fees against visitors to the sites. This is somewhat a deterrent to visit the sites but it is not steep enough to stop them from coming to the sites. But it is the only reliable and sustainable funding that can be relied upon to cover the cost for protection of natural & cultural heritage.

9. Training

9.1 - Formal training / educational institutions / programs

- Pacific World Heritage Training / Regional / Cultural & Natural
A regional workshop is held every biennium to train CRM and Site managers on nominations, protection and management of important heritage.
- Sustainable Land Management (SLM) / national / both provides training on sustainable use of lands and other heritage
- Protected Area Network / National / natural provides training on management of natural heritage

9.2 - Training needs

Conservation	High priority
Education	Medium priority

Promotion	Medium priority
Interpretation	High priority
Administration	High priority
Visitor management	High priority
Community outreach	High priority
Risk preparedness	High priority
Enforcement (custodians, police)	High priority
Other	High priority

9.3 - Does the State Party have a national training/ educational strategy to strengthen capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection and presentation?

There is no national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection and presentation but nonetheless this is being done on an ad hoc basis.

9.4 - Comments

There is also a need for training on information technology and to be able to develop websites for promotion and education of properties. This includes updates of data as well as posting important events relative to the properties.

10. International Cooperation

10.1 - Cooperation with other States Parties

Bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements
Contributions to private organisations for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage
Participation in foundations for international cooperation
Sharing expertise for capacity building
Hosting and / or attending international training courses/seminars

10.2 - Twinned World Heritage properties with others

No

10.3 - Comments

Palau initiated the Micronesia Challenge which is a multi lateral agreement seeking to protect natural heritage. Palau also has hosted major conferences such as the Pacific Archaeology Conference seeking to protect cultural heritage in the Pacific region.

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

11.1. Media used for World Heritage sites promotion

11.1.1 - Publications

Information
Awareness Raising
Education
National
Regional
Local

11.1.2 - Films / TV

Information

Awareness Raising
Education
National
Local

11.1.3 - Media campaigns

Not applicable

11.1.4 - Internet

Information
Awareness Raising
International

11.1.5 - Postage stamps, medals

Not applicable

11.1.6 - World Heritage Day

Not applicable

11.1.7 - Translation and diffusion of publications made available by the World Heritage Centre

Not applicable

11.1.8 - Other (please specify in 11.1.8)

Not applicable

11.1.9 - Comments

The use of media is only made possible through other agencies such as the Belau Tourism Association and the Palau Visitors Authority. Publications are only made available through other agencies as well like the Palau International Coral Reef Center, the Coral Reef Foundation, and the Palau Conservation Society.

11.2. Education, Information and Awareness Building

11.2.1 - Strategy to raise awareness among different stakeholders

There are no strategies to raise awareness about conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage but nonetheless this is being done on an ad hoc basis.

11.2.2 - Level of general awareness

Private Sector	Fair
Youth	No awareness
Communities living in/around heritage sites	Poor
Tourism industry	Fair
Decision makers and public officials	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Poor
General public	Poor

11.2.3 - Does the State Party participate in UNESCO's *World Heritage in Young Hands programme*?

The State Party does not participate in UNESCO's *World Heritage in Young Hands programme*.

11.2.4 - Level of frequency of activities

Courses for teachers for the use of the <i>World Heritage in Young Hands Kit</i>	Never
Courses/activities for students within the school programmes	Once
Youth Forums	Once
Skills-training courses for students	Never
Organized school visits to World Heritage properties/cultural and natural sites	Never
Activities linked to heritage within the framework of UNESCO Clubs/Associations	Never
Other (comment below)	Once

11.2.5 - Comments

We have not participated in the World Heritage in Young Hands program because we don't have a WH site. If we can still participate, we would like to but our understanding is you have to have a site in order to participate in this program as it involves the youth getting involved in the learning and promotion of the WH site.

12. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

12.1. State Party's implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*

12.1.1 - Identification of heritage

Identification of heritage
Inventories capture some of the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.
Inventories / lists / registers are not actively used for the identification of properties for inclusion on the Tentative List.

12.1.2 - National Inventories

National Inventories
National : Process well-advanced
Regional / provincial / state : No process established
National : Process commenced
Regional / provincial / state : Process commenced

12.1.3 - Tentative List

Tentative List
Yes

12.1.4 - Legal framework

Legal framework
Existing capacity/resources to enforce the legal framework could be strengthened.

12.1.5 - Implementation of international conventions within national policies

Implementation of international conventions within national policies

12.1.6 - Communities

Communities
Local communities / residents: Fair
Level of involvement / consultation of local landowners: Fair
Level of involvement / consultation of local industries: Good
Local communities / residents: Fair

Communities
Indigenous peoples: Good
Landowners: Good

12.1.7 - Larger-scale planning

Larger-scale planning
There are no specific policies to integrate heritage into comprehensive/larger scale planning.

12.1.8 - Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation

Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation
There is limited cooperation between different levels of government for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

12.1.9 - Scientific and Technical Studies and Research

Scientific and Technical Studies and Research
There is no research programme specifically addressing World Heritage.

12.1.10 - Financial status

Financial status
The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully meet the conservation, protection and presentation needs.

12.1.11 - Human resources

Human resources
A range of human resources exist, but they are below optimum to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage.

12.1.12 - Training

Training
Ad hoc basis for national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation.

12.1.13 - International cooperation

International cooperation
Bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements
Contributions to private organisations for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage
Participation in foundations for international cooperation
Sharing expertise for capacity building
Hosting and / or attending international training courses/seminars

12.1.14 - Education, Information and awareness building

Education, Information and awareness building
Private Sector : Fair
Youth : No awareness
Communities living in/around heritage sites : Poor

12.2. Actions for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* (identified from table 12.1).

12.2.1 - Please select the top issues (up to six)

Please refer to question 5.2

12.3. Priority Actions Assessment

12.3.2 - Priority actions assessment

2 Inventories / lists / registers for cultural and natural heritage						
		Action	Short description	Authority(ies) responsible	Timeframe	May this action require International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund?
2.3	Inventories capture some of the diversity of cultural and natural heritage.	There are many sites that have not been surveyed and documented to be included in the national registries for both cultural and natural heritage. Therefore, the inventory is poor and need to be improved.	There aren't enough experts on the island to conduct surveys and documentations for all identified sites.	The agencies responsible for these tasks are the Bureau of Arts & Culture/Historic Preservation Office and the Bureau of Marine Resources/Protected Area Network	This is an ongoing process until all sites are classified whether they are registrable or not.	This may require IA's from the WHF and also from other funding source such as the Pacific World Heritage Fund, Nordic Fund or Trust in Funds from UNESCO.
6 Status of Services for Protection, Conservation and Presentation						
6.2	There is limited capacity to adequately conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage and significant deficiencies remain.	The country needs to provide the necessary resources for proper management of their sites. This includes funding and equipment so the personnel would have capacity to perform.	We need funding to hire more personnel and proper equipment for support.	National Agencies and local governments	Ongoing project as improvements are continuous	Perhaps but also local funds must be identified to ensure sustainability.
9 Training						
9.3	Ad hoc basis for national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation.	There must be a fixed training with standards and certification for site managers.	A training institution must be established to ensure continued training with measureable achievements	national and local authorities	perpetual	Perhaps but also other international fund support. The local businesses should also contribute to the training and should send their operators and managers to also participate in the training as they are also stakeholders.

12.3.3 - Additional actions for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention

The state party must build capacity to handle changes as there are elements that must be dealt with such as emergencies, disasters, and so forth and the site managers must learn to deal with such challenges.

13. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise

13.1 - Was the questionnaire easy to use and clear to understand?

Yes

13.2 - Please provide suggestions for improvement:

Perhaps there should be differentiation between countries with WH site and countries that don't. It appears that the questions all assume that countries have WH sites. There are state parties that enjoy the trainings, participation in meetings and learn so much to help them manage their cultural and natural heritage but feel that their site don't have OUV to be on the WH list.

13.3 - Please rate the level of support from the following entities for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire

World Heritage Centre	Good
UNESCO (other sectors)	Fair
UNESCO National Commission	Good
ICOMOS International	No support
IUCN International	No support
ICCROM	No support
ICOMOS national / regional	No support
IUCN national / regional	No support

13.4 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Not all required information was accessible

13.5 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from the previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Fair
Advisory Bodies	Poor
State Party	Fair
Site Managers	Fair

13.6 - Comments

14. Thank you