

Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation  
Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs

## World Heritage Workshop – Opportunities in the Pacific

# ROCK ISLAND SOUTHERN LAGOON

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

02 – 06 December 2019  
Territory of Guam, U.S.A

# OVERVIEW

- Palau National Commission for UNESCO
- Palau World Heritage Tentative List
- Rock Island Southern Lagoon case study
  - Management Overview
  - Challenges



Part of the Rock Islands Management Area, called Mecherechar

# WHY WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION?

- Palau became full-fledge Member State of UNESCO on October 22, 1999
- Palau National Commission was created through Executive Order No. 175 on March 10, 2000
- Ratified the 1972 World Heritage Convention in 2000
- Members of Palau National Commission:
  - Chair – Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs
  - Secretary General – Director of Education
  - Members - Minister of Education, Minister of Natural Resources, Environment, and Tourism, Minister of State, Director, Bureau of International Trade & Technical Assistance, Director, Bureau of Cultural & Historical Preservation, Director, Bureau of Environment, CEO of Palau International Coral Reef Center, and Koror State Government.

# WORLD HERITAGE TENTATIVE LIST

- Beluu er a Imengus, Ngeremlengui
- Tet el Bad, Ollei, Ngarchelong
- Oublallang er a Ngerkelalk, Imeliik
- Chelechol er a Orrak ma Uet el Chutem ma Uet el Daob, Irrai
- Rock Island Southern Lagoon, Koror – Listed 2012 as a UNESCO Mixed Site





# OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE (OUV)

Outstanding universal value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so **exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.** As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole.

# ROCK ISLAND SOUTHERN LAGOON



*Photo by Patrick L. Colin*

# WHY NOMINATE THE ROCK ISLANDS TO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST?

- Identity and Pride
- Becoming a world heritage site will help better adapt management to address complex challenges and issues that are constantly changing.
- For the preservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.
- Recognition – demonstrating OUVs

# KOROR STATE ROCK ISLANDS SOUTHERN LAGOON AREA

## Legend

- UNESCO Submission Boundary (approx. 1002 sq km.)  
 Shoreline Perimeter (approx. 287 km)  
 Percentage: Marine 57%, Land 4%
- Excluded Urban Area (approx. 58 sq km.)
- Koror State Protected Areas (approx. 21 sq km.)
- UNESCO Submission Area Buffer zone (1/2 nautical mile, approx. 1940 sq km.)
- Special Mgmt. Zone - Ngelmalak (approx. 125.5 sq km.)
- Special Mgmt. Zone - Sand Mining (approx. 0.029 sq km.)
- Special Mgmt. Zone - Dolphins Pacific (approx. 0.05 sq km.)
- Special Mgmt. Zone - Marine Aquaculture (approx. 0.08 sq km.)
- Marine Lakes
- Koror State Boundary
- Cultural Sites in the Nomination Dossier
- Koror Place Names

## Legend

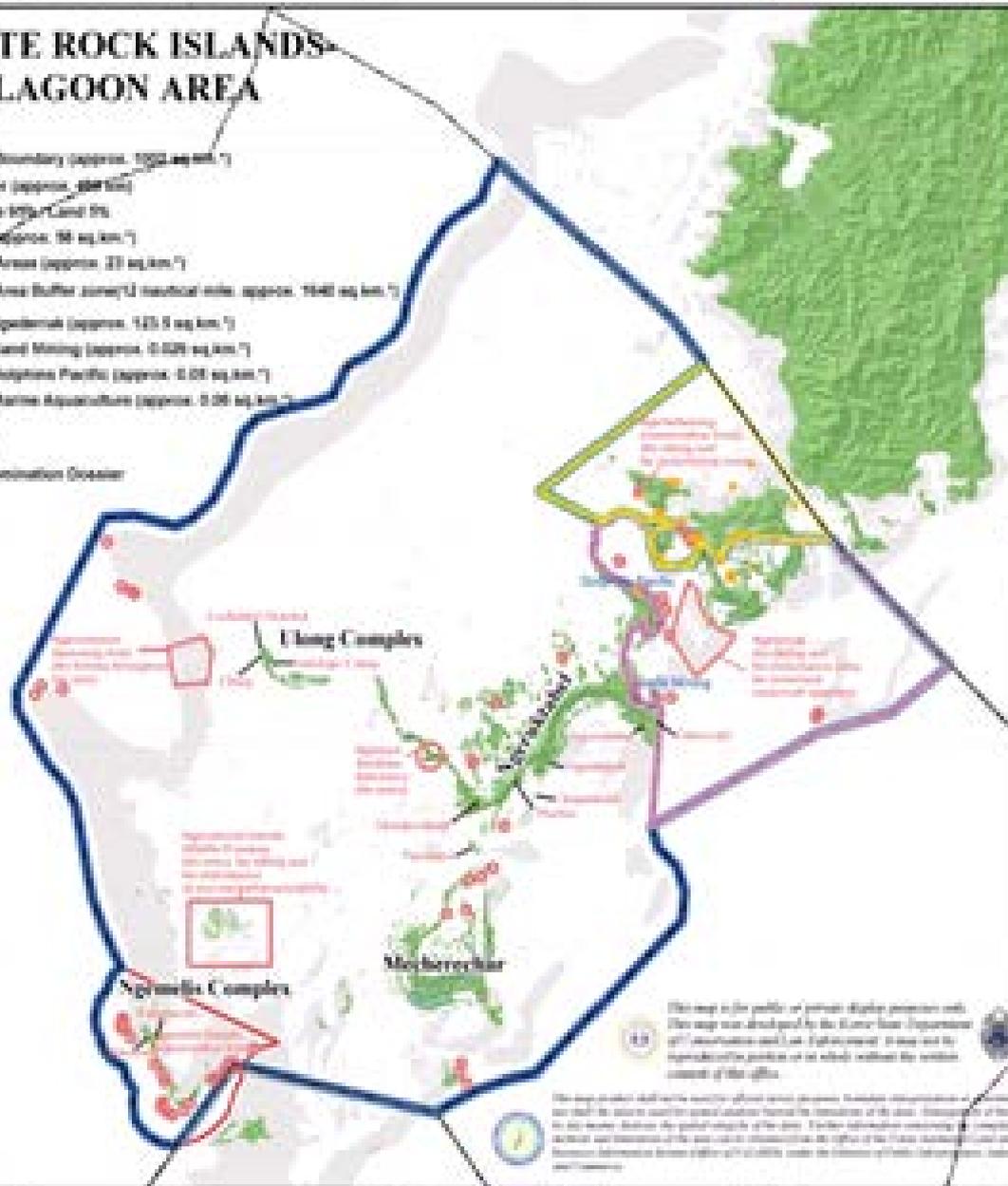
- UNESCO Submission Boundary
- Buffer Zone
- Excluded Urban Area
- Koror State Boundary



120°00"E 140°00"E 160°00"E



20°00"N 10°00"N 0°00"N



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# WORLD HERITAGE CRITERIA SELECTION FOR RISL

- **Cultural** criteria:

- I. Masterpieces of human creative genius
- II. Monumental arts, technology, town-planning or landscape design
- III. **Exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or civilization**
- IV. Building, architectural, or technological ensemble of significant stage in history
- V. **Traditional human settlement, land-use or sea-use, representing human interactions with the environment**
- VI. Artistic and literary works

- **Natural** criteria :

- VII. **Natural phenomena or exceptional beauty**
- VIII. Significant geological processes
- IX. **On-going ecological & biological processes**
- X. **In-situ conservation of biodiversity, threatened species**



# ROCK ISLANDS SOUTHERN LAGOON MANAGEMENT PLAN

## *Vision:*

To maintain the spectacular beauty and the abundant and diverse **natural, cultural and historical resources** of the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, so that it can continue to be used and enjoyed by **current and future generations** of the people of **Koror** and Palau and remain a central part of our culture and lifestyle, and for the current and future **enjoyment of the world.**



## Rock Islands Southern Lagoon Management Plan 2012-2016



Koror State Government  
Republic of Palau

# ROCK ISLANDS SOUTHERN LAGOON MANAGEMENT PLAN



## Rock Islands Southern Lagoon Management Plan 2012-2016



Koror State Government  
Republic of Palau

### *Management Goals:*

1. Biodiversity/Natural System Health Enhancement
2. Subsistence and Commercial Fisheries Improvement
3. Cultural and Historical Preservation
4. Tourism, Recreation and Economic Enhancement
5. Koror State Government Institutional Capacity Development

# MANAGEMENT

- ❑ Rock Islands Southern Lagoon Management Plan
- ❑ Legislations & Regulations
- ❑ Partnerships
- ❑ Community Engagement



## Rock Islands Southern Lagoon Management Plan 2012-2016



Koror State Government  
Republic of Palau



# MONITORING (BIODIVERSITY)



Removal of Invasive Plants



Marine Ecology Assessment at MPA



Bird Assessment



Turtle Nest Assessment

# ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE



KSG State park monitoring



Ngeanges trial biosecurity planning KSG Junior Anglers



Tour Ops dockside inspection



Ngemelis site assessment



Ngeanges Moratorium Patrol and monitoring

# MAINTENANCE



Composting toilet assessment



Cleaning beach areas & Maintaining trails



Facility Survey



Navigational aids survey

# OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS



Public Signage and School materials



Tour Guide Training



Volunteer organization for beach cleaning



KES Malii Starz at KSG Constitutional Performance

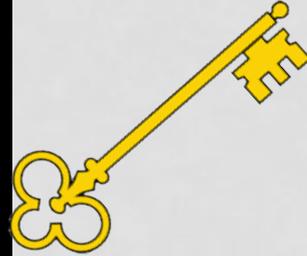
# CHALLENGES

- Tourism
- Climate Change
- Pollution
- Insufficient Collaborative effort by all different users ( i.e. locals, fishermen and other relevant agencies) for comprehensive management of site



# PARTNERSHIPS (NETWORKING)

COMPREHENSIVE  
COLLABORATIVE EFFORT



## Partners

- Other KSG Depts
- KS Legislative Branch (hamlets & communities)
- KSYC (youth)
- National Government
- NGOs
- PICRC, PCS, TNC, ONE REEF, Palau Legacy
- Tourism Industry, Business Sector
- Schools
- Traditional Leaders (traditional methods/BUL)
- Community
- Civic Groups (cheldebechel)
- Etc.
- Networking
  - Local, Regional, and International



*Kom Kmal Mesulang!*