OVERVIEW

- Palau National Commission for UNESCO
- Palau World Heritage Tentative List
- Rock Island Southern Lagoon case study
  - Management Overview
  - Challenges
WHY WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION?

- Palau became full-fledged 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
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
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

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
MONITORING (BIODIVERSITY)

Bird Assessment

Removal of Invasive Plants

Turtle Nest Assessment

Marine Ecology Assessment at MPA
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
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

UNESCO Grant Review Brief
Kom Kmal Mesulang!