

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 189

### *Establishing the Office of Environmental Response and Coordination*

**WHEREAS**, Palau's environment is a unique and extraordinary resource, both to the People of Palau and to the World Community; and

**WHEREAS**, Palau's culture is intricately united with the surrounding environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Palau's future efforts at effective economic development are directly tied to the retention of this unique environment into the future; and

**WHEREAS**, global climate changes have resulted in dramatic environmental impacts throughout the world and in the Republic of Palau; and

**WHEREAS**, the biodiversity of species unique to Palau are under severe pressure due to a multitude of natural and human impacts worldwide on the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, The Government of the Republic of Palau must develop a far reaching strategic plan and support such plan with strong governmental institutions in order to preserve Palau's environment and to work with the world community of nations to combat world-wide environmental degradation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau is in a unique position to fund environmental response structures and programs through international initiatives such as the United Nations Framework on the Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Framework Convention on Biodiversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification,

**NOW THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President, pursuant to the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Palau, it is hereby order that the 'Office of Environmental Response' be created in the Office of the President in order to accomplish the following:

- To provide coordinated planning and staffing for the Nation's response to issues of global climate change, biodiversity, desertification, land degradation and other internationally identified and funded environmental initiatives;
- To develop a broad and coordinated planning approach to an issues of environmental response in the Republic of Palau;
- To integrate all governmental environmental programs in Presidential environmental response planning;
- To establish a coordinated grant writing capacity on all environmental issues faced by the Republic and to assist environmental support agencies in the development of funding assistance for environmental programs in Palau; and
- To permit economies of scale in the government's staffing of environmental programs funded by international agencies.

**1. Repeal** -- Presidential Directive No. 01-99, locating the Office of Climate Change in the Office of the Vice-President, is hereby repealed.

**2. Duties and Responsibilities** -- The Office of Environmental Response and Coordination shall include management and support staff sufficient to accomplish the following:

- Develop a National Communication setting forth the Republic of Palau's vulnerabilities and domestic response to Global Climate Change;
- Develop a National Communication setting forth the Republic of Palau's vulnerabilities and domestic response to threats to domestic biodiversity;
- Establish a national strategic plan for environmental response;
- Assist the Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB) and the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) in its planning efforts related to environmental emergencies;
- Assist the Palau International Coral Reef Center in identifying funding sources and programs related to both climate change and biodiversity;
- Assist all environmental programs in developing initiatives and identifying and producing grants to fund such initiatives; and
- Organize and maintain a collaborative, multi-agency effort to provide planning and response capacities to environmental issues in the Republic of Palau.

**3. Staffing** -- The Office of Environmental Response and Coordination shall be staffed with appropriate personnel, with the necessary knowledge and skills, within grant requirements, and subject to future program developmental needs.

**4. Agency Coordination** -- The Office of Environmental Response and Coordination shall consult with, and may create committees, made up of representatives of appropriate government agencies, where appropriate, to include, but not to be limited to the following:

- The Office of the Vice-President;
- The NEMO;
- The National Weather Station;
- The Palau International Coral Reef Center;
- The Bureau of Natural Resources and Development;
- The EQPB;
- The Palau Conservation Society;
- The Bureau of Foreign Affairs;
- The Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK);
- The Palau Tourism Association; and
- The Palau Visitor's Authority.

The Office shall also consult and interact with other appropriate international and nonprofit agencies, governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, including the Coral Reef Research Foundation, where appropriate.

**5. National Communications** -- The Office of Environmental Response and Coordination shall, in compliance with grant requirements:

- Prepare a National Communication, as funded by the United Nations, immediately upon the appointment of a Climate Change Coordinator, and shall include the following:
  - A Greenhouse Gas Inventory;
  - A Mitigation Plan (to reduce greenhouse gas emissions);
  - A renewable Energy Plan;
  - A Vulnerability Assessment; and
  - Proposed Adaptation Measures to respond to the future impacts of climate change.
  
- Prepare a National Communication, as funded by the United Nations, immediately upon receipt of grant funding and the appointment of a Biodiversity Coordinator, which Communication shall follow the guidelines and requirements of the Biodiversity grant.

**6. Annual Report** -- The Office of Environmental Response and Coordination shall issue Annual Reports to the President and the Olbiil Era Kelulau. The Annual Report shall include an assessment of the Republic's environmental strategic planning efforts, the status of the Climate Change and Biodiversity National Communications, a review of expenditures, a summary of achievements and proposed legislation on other matters requiring Presidential or Legislative action.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2001, at the State of Koror, Republic of Palau.

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
President of the Republic of Palau