

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 205

Establishing the National Environmental Protection Council

WHEREAS, Executive Order No.189 established the Office of Environmental Response and Coordination 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;
- Develop a broad and coordinated planning approach to all issues of environmental response in the Republic of Palau;
- Integrate all governmental environmental programs in Presidential environmental response planning;
- 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
- Permit economies of scale in the government's staffing of environmental programs funded by international agencies.

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau has established environmental programs in the OERC;, through international grant funding and pursuant to EO No. 189, to respond to the issues of climate change, desertification, biodiversity, ozone depletion and international waters, each program requiring the development of and interaction with an environmental council of public and private stakeholders;

WHEREAS, the private and public stakeholders for each of these environmental issues are generally the same and it would be non-productive to create separate councils for each environmental issue;

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau, pursuant to the Constitution and applicable laws of the Republic, it is hereby ordered that a National Environmental Protection Council ("NEPC") be created, as follows:

Section 1. Duties and Functions -- The National Environmental Protection Council shall have the following duties and functions:

- 1) To identify and prioritize national environmental issues within the context of sustainable development within the Republic of Palau;
- 2) To propose a comprehensive sustainable management plan highlighting the Republic's national priorities and policies;
- 3) To establish clear, concise, documented and endorsed national guidelines for environmental programs and projects pursuant to established priorities;

- 4) To comment on all proposed public and private development projects to ensure environmental sustainability and integrity;
- 5) To propose legislation to protect the environment; and
- 6) To serve as the focal coordinating group for all environmental initiatives at the national level.

Section 2. Membership -- The National Environmental Protection Council shall have the following members:

- The National Environmental Planner (Office of the Environmental Response and Coordination);
- The Financial Advisor to the Ministry of Finance;
- The Director of the Bureau of International Trade Technical Assistance;
- The Director of the Bureau of Agriculture;
- The Director of the Bureau of Marine Resources;
- The Director of the Bureau of Health;
- The Chief of the Division of Marine Law Enforcement;
- The Chief of the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection;
- The Manager of PALARIS;
- The Chief Executive Director of the Palau International Coral Reef Center;
- The Executive Officer of the Environmental Quality Protection Board;
- The Executive Director of the Palau Public Utilities Corporation;
- The President of the Chamber of Commerce;
- The President of the Coral Reef Research Foundation;
- The Executive Director of the Palau Conservation Society;
- The Director of the Nature Conservancy; and
- The Director of the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Section 3. Administrative Support -- The Office of Environmental Response and Coordination shall act as the Secretariat to the Council and shall coordinate staffing from other government agencies, as required.

Section 4. Agency Coordination -- The Council shall consult with representatives of appropriate government agencies, where appropriate. The Office shall also consult and interact with other appropriate international and non-profit agencies, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, where appropriate.

Section 5. Ad Hoc Committees -- The NEPC may establish Ad Hoc Committees to address special issues.

Section 6. Reporting

- a) **Annual Reports** -- The NEPC shall submit an annual report to the President.

- b) **Special Reports** -- The NEPC shall submit special reports when requested by the President.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 2nd day of January, 2002, at the State of Koror, Republic of Palau.

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