

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 207

[repealed by Executive Order 219]

Establishing a National Task Force on Invasive Animal Species

WHEREAS, invasive animal species compete with and at the expense of the unique animal species indigenous to Palau; and

WHEREAS, invasive animal species represent a threat to both the unique animal species and the unique plant life found in Palau; and

WHEREAS, invasive animal species have a negative impact on agricultural production, bio-diversity, the health of the inhabitants of Palau and the environmental integrity of Palau; and

WHEREAS, several invasive animal species, including the Long-Tailed Macaque Monkey, the Musk Shrew, and feral pigs, now exist in Palau; and

WHEREAS, the populations of the invasive animal species now existing in Palau are thriving. and

WHEREAS, the threat of additional, new invasions by animal species not indigenous to Palau is real and will increase as more visitors arrive in Palau from more destinations; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau must establish a comprehensive, workable plan to reduce or eliminate the existing populations of invasive animal species in Palau and to prevent additional, new invasions in order to protect and preserve the unique animal and plant species of Palau, maintain and restore bio-diversity, and reduce the negative impact invasive animal species have on agricultural production, the health of the inhabitants of Palau and the environmental integrity of Palau,

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, I hereby order that a National Task Force on Invasive Animal Species (hereinafter "NTFIAS") be, and hereby is, established with the following characteristics, functions, and responsibilities:

1. Composition. The NTFIAS shall be comprised of the following:

Minister of Resources and Development, who shall be chairman;
Minister of Justice, who shall be vice-chairman;
Director of the Bureau of Agriculture or his designee;
Director of the Bureau of Domestic Affairs or his designee;
a member appointed by the Office of Environmental Response and Coordination; and two members appointed by the Association of Governors.

In addition, at its organizational meeting, the NTFIAS may choose to invite the Palau Conservation Society and the Nature Conservancy to each appoint one individual to the NTFIAS,

which individual(s) shall have full membership status and all rights and duties appurtenant thereto. In the event that any member of the NTFIAS is removed or resigns, the entity which nominated the removed or resigned member shall appoint a replacement.

2. Organizational Meeting. The NTFIAS shall hold an organizational meeting no later than fifteen (15) days after the entry of this Order. At such meeting, the NTFIAS shall set procedures for scheduling and holding meetings, allocate responsibilities among the membership, determine whether or not to invite the participation of the Palau Conservation Society, the Nature Conservancy, or both, and take such other action as appropriate to organize itself and carry out its functions.

3. Inventory of Invasive Animal Species. The NTFIAS shall conduct an inventory of the invasive animal species present in Palau. The inventory shall identify each invasive animal species and, for each, estimate the scope (either in terms of estimated populations or in terms of estimated area of the territory invaded) of the invasion. To the extent practicable, the inventory shall also specify how each species was introduced to Palau.

4. Evaluation of Responses to Invasive Animal Species. The NTFIAS shall investigate methods to reduce and contain or eradicate each invasive animal species existing in Palau. In doing so, the NTFIAS shall consult with knowledgeable individuals in the private sector and officials of the State and National Governments. The NTFIAS may also consult appropriate representatives of foreign governments or international organizations. The NTFIAS will evaluate the various responses to invasive animal species in terms of effectiveness, cost, potential collateral impacts on plant and animal species indigenous to Palau, and potential impacts on the environmental integrity of Palau.

5. Evaluation of Barriers to Invasive Animal Species. The NTFIAS shall investigate methods to prevent the introduction of invasive animal species to Palau. In doing so, the NTFIAS shall consult with knowledgeable individuals in the private sector and officials of the State and National Governments. The NTFIAS may also consult appropriate representatives of foreign governments or international organizations. The NTFIAS will evaluate the various barriers to invasive animal species in terms of effectiveness, cost, potential collateral impacts on plant and animal species indigenous to Palau, and potential impacts on the environmental integrity of Palau.

6. Development of Comprehensive Strategic Response to Invasive Animal Species. Based on the evaluations described in paragraphs 4 and 5, *supra*, the NTFIAS shall develop a comprehensive strategic plan to reduce and contain or eradicate invasive animal species existing in Palau and to establish barriers to the introduction of invasive animal species to Palau. In developing the plan, the NTFIAS shall explore sources of funding and technical assistance for the implementation of the plan. In doing so, the NTFIAS may consult appropriate representatives of foreign governments or international organizations. Options for funding the implementation of the plan shall be described in the plan.

7. Compensation/Support from the National Government. No member of the

NTFIAS shall be compensated for participating as a member of the NTFIAS. However, all Ministries, offices, and agencies of the Executive Branch are hereby ordered to fully cooperate with and, as appropriate, lend assistance to, the NTFIAS. Such assistance may include providing the NTFIAS with space for its offices or meetings, detailing support staff to the NTFIAS, and providing access to supplies and equipment, as appropriate, for NTFIAS functions.

8. Reporting. The NTFIAS shall report to the President on a quarterly basis, fully describing the status of its efforts and its conclusions as of the date of the given report. The final report shall consist of the comprehensive strategic plan described in paragraph 6, *supra*.

9. Term. Unless terminated earlier by Executive Order, the NTFIAS shall terminate forty-five (45) days after delivery to the President of the comprehensive strategic plan described in paragraph 6, *supra*.

SO ORDERED THIS 30th DAY OF APRIL, 2002,

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