

EXECUTION ORDER NO. 231

Establishing the Palau Natural Resources Council

WHEREAS, there is a need to promote and coordinate the implementation of the national policy regarding soil, water and related terrestrial resource conservation; and

WHEREAS, in order to fulfill this goal, and to identify and access donor funding from all available resources, it is necessary to establish a broad based Council of governmental, non-governmental, and private sector representatives; and

WHEREAS, this Executive Order creates a Palau Natural Resources Council to support comprehensive coordination, promotion, analysis and implementation of appropriate methods of preventing soil erosion, improving water quality and protecting other terrestrial natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Palau Natural Resources Council created herein should work in cooperation with all government agencies to help coordinate technical, financial and educational resources to meet the needs of the local land users for the conservation of soil, water and other terrestrial natural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau, pursuant to the applicable laws of the Republic, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. There is hereby established, in the Republic of Palau, a Palau Natural Resource Council (“Council.”)
2. The Council shall provide leadership, promotion, coordination, and cooperation for the establishment and implementation of programs to protect and conserve oil, water, prime and unique farmland, woodlands, wildlife, energy and other renewable terrestrial resources.
3. The Council shall initially consist of twenty members appointed from each of the following governmental and non-governmental agencies, and the private sector. Members to the Council may be added or deleted as shall be determined by the Council.
 - (a) A representative of the Bureau of Agriculture;
 - (b) A representative of the Bureau of Marine Resources;
 - (c) A representative of the Office of Capital Improvement Program;
 - (d) A representative of the Palau Automated Land and Resource Information System (PALARIS)
 - (e) A representative of the Environmental Quality Protection Board;
 - (f) A representative of the Palau Conservation Society;
 - (g) The Vice President of PCC Land Grant Program (Cooperative Research and Extension), or his or her designee;
 - (h) The Vice President of the Education Program at PCC or his or her

designee;

- (i) A representative of the Palau Community Action Agency, Informal Employment and Sustainable Livelihood;
- (j) A designee of the Mechesil Belau;
- (k) A designee of the Governors Association;
- (l) A designee of the Council of Chiefs;
- (m) A representative of the Office of Environmental Response and Coordination;
- (n) A representative of the Palau Public Lands Authority;
- (o) A representative of the Belau National Museum;
- (p) A representative of The Nature Conservancy;
- (q) A representative of The Environment, Inc.;
- (r) A representative of the Bureau of Public Works; and
- (s) Two members of the community, selected by the other members.

4. The Council shall hold its first organizational meeting at 2:00 p.m. on May 4, 2005, at the Office of the President and at this first meeting it shall elect one of its members as Chairman and another as Vice Chairman. The Council shall also designate, from among its members, a Secretary to keep the minutes and records of the Council.

5. The Council shall hold regular meetings every other month and may hold special meetings upon the request of any member of the Council. The Council shall hold at least one public meeting each calendar quarter.

6. The Council shall adopt its rules for the conduct of its business, subject to the provisions of this Executive Order.

7. Members of the Council shall serve without compensation, but they may be paid for expenses incurred in the performance of Council business following rates and procedures for Palau officers and employees as established by law and applicable regulations, to the extent that external funding is available.

8. The Council shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) To promote and coordinate the implementation of the national policy regarding soil, water and related terrestrial resource conservation;
- (b) To recommend measures to strengthen national policy regarding soil, water and related terrestrial resource conservation;
- (c) To identify local conservation needs and develop, implement and evaluate programs and projects to meet those needs;
- (d) To help educate and inform landowners, operators and lessees, the general public and local, state and national legislators on conservation issues and programs;
- (e) To apply for and accept grants, loans, contributions, appropriations, property and assistance from any source, private or public (foreign, federal, or local);
- (f) To provide for and encourage surveys, investigations and research relating

to terrestrial resource conservation, and to publish and disseminate information concerning such subjects;

(g) To support and encourage demonstrations relative to the control and prevention of soil erosion and the promotion of conservation for the enhancement of terrestrial resources; and

(h) To create sub-committees as deemed appropriate by the Council.

9. The Council shall cooperate and coordinate its promotion, coordination, planning and implementation efforts with National and State Planning bodies and other government agencies and public entities and public interest groups whose activities impact on the conservation of terrestrial resources within Palau. Where possible, a project proposed by the Council that involves the responsibilities of another agency shall gain the agency's review and approval prior to implementation.

10. A separate account shall be established in the National Treasury of the Republic of Palau for the grant funds received by the Council. The Council shall be subject to audit according to Republic of Palau laws and regulations.

11. The Council shall operate on the same fiscal year as the National Government and shall be subject to all laws and regulations applicable to agencies of the National Government.

12. The Chairman of the Council shall submit an annual report to the President on or before October 15th of each year, on the programs of the Council and the acquisition, administration and expenditure of all funds.

13. All grant funds received by the Council shall be spent and administered in accordance with the terms of the grant(s).

14. Administrative support for the Council shall be provided through grant funding and shall be supplemented by the Bureau of Agriculture and other government agencies, as appropriate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 4th day of April, 2005, at the State of Koror, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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