

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 258

Establishing a Sustainable Land Management Task Force

WHEREAS, In 1999, the Republic of Palau ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Decertification and Land Degradation (UNCCD) thus formalizing the work on land degradation in Palau; and

WHEREAS, since ratification of the UNCCD, the Republic of Palau completed its National Action Program (NAP) to combat land degradation in 2004, which established the following priority program activities for sustainable land management practices, (I) providing enabling conditions; (ii) establishing land degradation inventory and monitoring; (iii) promoting agroforestry; (iv) monitoring and mitigating the impact of drought; (v) preventing land degradation; (vi) rehabilitating degraded lands; (vii) improving water delivery system and increasing water conservation activities; (viii) monitoring and evaluating climatic variation; (ix) empowering local communities and local institutions; and (x) establishing sustainable land management plans; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Land Management Medium Sized Project (SLM MSP) is a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/ Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded endeavor through the Republic of Palau's membership to the UNCCD; and

WHEREAS, the SLM MSP aims to (I) develop partnerships with local institutions, community and nongovernmental organizations including gender and youth groups, the private sector, and across all government sectors, in order to effectively implement sustainable land practices and measures; and (ii) address national and state policy gaps in natural resource use and management by developing sustainable land use management plans, as well as regulatory and policy plans that equitably engage stakeholders at all levels; and

WHEREAS, the overall objective of SLM MSP is to help build capacity at the national, state, and community levels across sectors to effectively address sustainable land management and land use planning that will assist Palau in the achievement of sustainable development as outlined in the Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS); and

WHEREAS, the MTDS - described as "Actions for Palau's Future" - was prepared by the Government of Palau with the assistance of the Facility for Economic and Infrastructure Management and the support of the Asian Development Bank and sets out the key strategies and actions to help achieve economic, social, environmental and cultural goals over the 5 year period 2009-2014.

WHEREAS, SLM MSP relates to, intersects with and will have an impact on activities and discussions across the various public and private (social, political, environmental, economic, and cultural) sectors and will require extensive collaboration with key stakeholders from these sectors to achieve the key strategies and actions in the MTDS.

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 as follows:

1. **Creation of Sustainable Land Management Task Force.** There is hereby established a Sustainable Land Management Task Force ("*Task Force* ").
2. **Composition.** The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:
 - One member appointed by the President;
 - One member appointed by the Council of Traditional Leaders;
 - One member appointed by the Senate;
 - One member appointed by the House of Delegates;
 - One member appointed by the Governor's Association;
 - Minister of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce;
 - One member appointed by Koror State Planning Commission;
 - One member appointed by the Environmental Quality Protection Board;
 - One member appointed by the Palau Conservation Society;
 - Project Coordinator of the Ecosystem-Based Management Initiative;
 - One member appointed by Palau Public Lands Authority;
 - One member appointed by Palau Community Action Agency;
 - One member appointed by the Belau National Museum;
 - One member appointed by the Ministry of Education;
 - Two members appointed by Office of Environmental Response and Coordination, one representing the area of Climate Change and one representing PAN;
 - Two members appointed by the Tri-Org, one representing the Chamber of Commerce and one representing the tourism sector;

- Two members appointed by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce, one representing the Bureau of Public Works and one representing the Bureau of Commercial Development;
- Two members appointed by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, one representing the Bureau of Agriculture and one representing the Bureau of Marine Resources;
- Two members appointed by the Ministry of Health, one representing the Bureau of Public Health and one representing the Division of Environmental Health;
- Three members appointed by the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs, one representing the Bureau of Arts and Culture/Historic Preservation Office, one representing the Division of Youth and one representing the Office of Gender;
- The Project Coordinator, SLM MSP or his/her designee; and
- Other members as determined by the Task Force.

The initial Chair of the Task Force shall be the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce. The SLM MSP Coordinator shall serve as the permanent Secretariat for the Task Force. The Task Force shall elect a permanent Chair and Vice-Chair for the Task Force at its initial meeting.

- 3. Powers and Duties of the Task Force.** The powers and duties of the Task Force are as follows:
- (a) Provide policy and technical advice, and guidance to the Office of PALARIS, Project Coordinator and consultants in the implementation of the SLM MSP.
 - (b) Ensure project activities are carried out in accordance with SLM MSP work plan and budget.
 - (c) Facilitate and participate in national consultation workshops involving SLM stakeholders.
 - (d) Meet on a bi-annual basis to review progress in the implementation of the project.
 - I. Report to/from agencies or affiliates regarding various activities related to SLM being carried out or conducted.
 - (e) Facilitate inter-agency sharing of information and experience relating to capacity building and land management.

- (f) Oversee and direct the preparation of:
 - I. Recommendations on the institutional structure and processes for SLM
 - ii. Sector policy recommendations and legislation for SLM
 - iii. A National Land Use Policy for the ROP
 - iv. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for various development activities
 - v. Unified National Building Codes
 - vi. State and national zoning codes
 - (g) Provide quality control of reports and publications produced under the project.
 - (h) Review SLM reports to UNDP and GEF.
 - (i) Help identify other potential sources of support for the implementation of SLM MSP.
 - (j) Help evaluate the success or otherwise of SLM MSP activities.
 - (k) Other duties as agreed by the Task Force from time to time.
4. **Meetings.** The initial Chair of the Task Force shall call a meeting of the Task Force on or before May 1, 2009, and shall meet on or before the second week of December and June every year thereafter. A quorum shall constitute 60% of the Task Force composition.
5. **Administrative Support.** Administrative support for the Task Force shall be provided through grant funding and, where appropriate and approved by the Task Force, from PALARIS and other partner governmental and nongovernmental agencies and affiliates.
6. **Reporting.** The Task Force shall submit a copy of the Inception Report and issue bi-annual reports to the President delineating the progress of the Task Force in pursuing the

duties of the SLM MSP as set forth herein. The Task Force shall also provide a final report of its findings and recommendations.

7. **Duration of Task Force.** The Task Force shall remain in existence until terminated by the President and for the duration of the SLM MSP.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 9th day of April, 2009.

/s/

Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau