

Executive Order No. 350

Reconstituting 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, Executive Order No. 205 established the National Environmental Protection Council in 2002 due to the recognition that 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;

WHEREAS, after a period of inactivity, the President recognizes the great importance of the NEPC in upholding the environmental pillar of Palau's efforts to achieve successful sustainable development;

WHEREAS, the President also recognizes the need to expand the mandate of the NEPC and to increase its membership to both reflect changes in the National Government organizational structure as well as to reflect the continuing increase in international and regional supportive environmental activity; and

WHEREAS, additional administrative procedures and reporting requirements will improve the effectiveness of the NEPC,

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 Executive Order 205 is repealed and that the National Environmental Protection Council (“NEPC”) is reconstituted 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 support the development of comprehensive sustainable management plans highlighting the Republic’s national priorities and policies;
- 3) To assist the National Government to establish clear, concise, documented and endorsed national guidelines for environmental programs and projects pursuant to established priorities;
- 4) To comment on public and private development projects, as appropriate, to ensure environmental sustainability and integrity;
- 5) To propose legislation to protect the environment; and
- 6) To assist in mobilizing support and building consensus for environmental initiatives.

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

- The Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism;
- The National Environmental Planner (Office of Environmental Response and Coordination);
- The Director of the Bureau of Budget and Planning;
- The Director of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- The Director of the Bureau of Marine Resources;
- The Director of the Bureau of Agriculture;
- The Director of the Bureau of Tourism;
- The Director of the Bureau of Public Health;
- The Director of Public Works;
- The Chief of the Division of Marine Law Enforcement;
- The Chief of the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection;
- The PAN Project Manager/Coordinator, PAN Office;
- The Manager of PALARIS;
- A representative from the Palau Energy Office;
- The Executive Officer of the Environmental Quality Protection Board; and
- The Chief Executive Officer of the Palau International Coral Reef Center.

All members shall designate alternatives to represent them in their absence. Additional members may be added by resolution of the Council.

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. OERC shall prepare all official documents for the Council and may seek the assistance of other administrative offices, as necessary.

Section 4. Chair and Vice-Chair. The Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism shall serve as the Chair of the NEPC. The Vice-Chair shall be selected by the NEPC Membership from among its members on an annual basis.

Section 5. Agency Coordination. The Council shall consult with representatives of appropriate government agencies, where appropriate. The Council shall also consult and interact with other appropriate international and non-profit agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations, where appropriate.

Section 6. Ad Hoc Committees. The NEPC may establish Ad Hoc Committees to address special issues.

Section 7. Decisions and Recommendations. Decisions and recommendations made by the NEPC shall be formalized through serialized resolutions.

Section 8. Reporting.

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

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

c) Special Reports by Ad Hoc Committees. Ad Hoc Committees shall report to the NEPC and to the President at the completion of their project and at the very least, on an annual basis.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this October 17, 2013:

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