

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 10-20

Declaring 2010 as the Palau Year of Biodiversity (PYOB 2010)

WHEREAS, The UNITED NATIONS proclaimed 2010 its the International Year of Biodiversity (**IYOB 2010**), where people all over the world are working to safeguard this irreplaceable natural wealth and reduce biodiversity loss. This is vital for current and future human wellbeing. We need to do more. Now is the time to act, and

WHEREAS, The International Year of Biodiversity is a unique opportunity to increase understanding of the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining life on Earth, and

WHEREAS, Humans are part of nature's rich diversity and have the power to protect or destroy it, and

WHEREAS, Human activity is causing the diversity of life on Earth to be lost at a greatly accelerated rate. These losses are irreversible, impoverish us all and damage the life support systems we rely on every day. But we can prevent them, and

WHEREAS, 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, let us reflect on our achievements in safeguarding biodiversity of island nation and while we continue to focus on the urgency of our challenge in the future, the time to act is now, and

WHEREAS, The United Nations and Convention on Biodiversity have worked together to develop a united IYOB Messaging Campaign, and

WHEREAS, IYOB 2010 will be a year-long campaign of events and initiatives hosted by governments, individuals, corporations, schools around the world to promote conservation action and strengthen long-term constituencies for biodiversity conservation; and

WHEREAS, ever since becoming a signatory to the International Convention on Biodiversity, the Republic of Palau has taken a proactive approach to protecting its biodiversity through many domestic, regional and international actions, including the establishment of the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC), funded in response to and as a result of the 1997 declaration through a tri-partite commitments of the Governments of Japan, the United States and Palau,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim 2010 as the Palau Year of Biodiversity (**PYOB 2010**) and for the organization responsible to implement this Proclamation; to serve as the focal point and national representative for all activities relating to this Proclamation, I designate the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC)

SO PROCLAIMED this 19th day of May, 2010 at the National Capitol in Ngerulmud, Melekeok State, Republic of Palau.

for _____ */s/* _____
Johnson Toribiong
President of the Republic of Palau