

## **PALAU – Country Data Dossier for Protected Areas Summary Sheet**

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### **Estimated current PA coverage (Source: DOPA, see footnote on next page)**

11.93% Terrestrial (55 km<sup>2</sup>)

0.23% Marine (1 142 km<sup>2</sup>)

### **Terrestrial and Marine Ecoregions**

Palau has 1 terrestrial and 1 marine ecological regions.

### **Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)**

Palau has 7 IBAs: 4 IBAs have no protection, 3 IBAs have partial protection. Bringing some IBAs that have no protection or having partial protection under protected areas and improving the management effectiveness of all IBA PAs are priority actions.

### **Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in Danger**

Out of the 1 IBA in danger impacted by agriculture/aquaculture, human disturbance, fire and fire suppression, and hunting and trapping, 1 IBA has some protection. Although 3 IBAs are fully protected, they face a number of threats. Bringing unprotected IBA PAs under protection either by expanding existing PAs or establishing new PAs and improving management effectiveness through addressing threats are priority actions.

### **STAR GEF-5 Allocation and Utilization**

All focal areas are still within budget for Palau. Allocation not utilized is -800,000 USD.

### **STAR GEF-6 Allocation and Utilization**

Total Biodiversity GEF-6 Allocation is 1,923,183 USD. Allocation remaining to be programmed is -676,817 USD. For undertaking implementation of the identified actions above, countries can request the use of their GEF-6 allocations, as agreed upon in COP 11 decision XI/24 paragraphs 1 (a) (b) (g) and paragraph 3. Specifically, in BD1 “Improving Sustainability of Protected Areas Systems”, both Program 1 “Improving Financial Sustainability and Effective Management of the National Ecological Infrastructure” and Program 2 “Nature’s Last Stand: Expanding the Reach of the Global Protected Area Estate” as well as in BD2 “Reduce Threats to Globally Significant Biodiversity”, Program 3 “Preventing the Extinction of Known Threatened Species”.

## **PALAU – Terrestrial and Marine Ecoregions, Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas in Danger, Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites, Overlaps between unprotected and partially protected IBAs and AZEs and candidates Ecoregions for further protection, Actions Identified in the PoWPA Action Plan, and GEF Allocations**

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### **Terrestrial and Marine Ecoregions<sup>1</sup> (all PAs) (2)**

Palau has 1 terrestrial and 1 marine ecological regions.

Name	T/M	% in country	% protected in country	% protected worldwide	% country covered	Country contribution
West Caroline Islands	M	61.11	26.99	16.49	100.00	100.00
Palau tropical moist forests	T	100.00	11.93	11.93	100.00	100.00

### **Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)<sup>2</sup>**

Palau has 7 IBAs.

- 4 IBAs have no protection
- 3 IBAs have partial protection

Bringing some IBAs that have no protection or having partial protection under protected areas and improving the management effectiveness of all IBA PAs are priority actions.

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<sup>1</sup> The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) has updated the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas which presents information on the coverage of terrestrial and marine ecological regions under existing protected areas using the 2014 World Database of Protected Areas in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). [http://dopa-explorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa\\_explorer/](http://dopa-explorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa_explorer/)

<sup>2</sup> BirdLife International has coordinated the identification of over 12,000 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) worldwide. <http://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/programmes/important-bird-and-biodiversity-areas-ibas>; also see the database at <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/country>

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Site Number	Site Name	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	%Protected	Protection class	Latitude	Longitude
23542	Ngeriungs, Palau	0.38	0.00	None	8.1	134.7
23560	Fana Island, Sonsorol	0.41	0.00	None	5.4	132.2
23561	Helen Island, Hatohobei	0.02	0.00	None	2.9	131.8
23551	Peleliu	19.03	1.40	None	7.0	134.2
23543	Middle Ridge, Babeldaob	138.57	6.77	Partial	7.5	134.6
23548	Western Ridge, Babeldaob	26.25	9.68	Partial	7.6	134.6
23550	Rock Islands, Palau	49.44	96.35	Partial	7.3	134.4

### Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in Danger<sup>3</sup>

Out of the 1 IBA in danger impacted by Hunting & trapping, Residential & commercial development, and Invasive species, 1 IBA has little/none protection. Bringing unprotected IBA PAs under protection either by expanding existing PAs or establishing new PAs and improving management effectiveness through addressing threats are priority actions.

Site name	Year of assessment	Pressure	State	Response	Protection	Threats	Area (ha)	Central coordinates
Peleliu and Angaur Forests	2014	high	not assessed	very low	little/none	Hunting & trapping, Residential & commercial development, Invasive species	1,891	10° 20.00' East 6° 7.00' North

### Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites (AZEs)<sup>4</sup>

There are no data for AZEs in danger.

<sup>3</sup> BirdLife International has coordinated the identification of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) worldwide, and has recently highlighted a subset of 356 IBAs in Danger that face the most severe threats. <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/ibaidites>

<sup>4</sup> The Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) has identified sites supporting the last remaining populations of one or more Endangered or Critically Endangered species (as listed on the IUCN Red List), thereby providing a tool to focus conservation efforts to prevent potential imminent global extinctions, consistent with Aichi Biodiversity Target 12. <http://www.zeroextinction.org/>; also see the database at <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/siteprotection>

### **Overlaps between unprotected and partially protected IBAs and candidates Ecoregions for further protection<sup>5</sup>**

There are no data for overlaps between unprotected and partially protected IBAs and candidates Ecoregions for further protection.

### **Overlaps between unprotected and partially protected AZEs and candidates Ecoregions for further protection<sup>6</sup>**

There are no data for overlaps between unprotected and partially protected AZEs and candidates Ecoregions for further protection.

### **Actions Identified in the PoWPA Action Plan<sup>7</sup>**

Action	Timeline
Institutionalize management effectiveness assessment towards assessing 60% of the total areas by 2015 and ensure that the results of the assessments are implemented	2015
Diversification of governance types and recognition of ICCAs including through acknowledgement in national legislation or other effective means, formal inclusion in the national systems	2012 – 2020
Integration of protected areas into wider land and seascapes to showcase mainstreaming of biodiversity with other sectors and ecosystem based approaches to adaptation to climate change adaptation and leading to mitigation through carbon sequestration	2015
Development and implementation of sustainable finance plans for protected area	2012 – 2020

<sup>5</sup> These data come from the superimposition of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) identified by BirdLife International and terrestrial and marine ecological regions under existing protected areas recorded by the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) using the 2014 World Database of Protected Areas in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). [http://dopa-explorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa\\_explorer/](http://dopa-explorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa_explorer/); <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/country>.

<sup>6</sup> These data come from the superimposition of Alliance for Zero Extinction sites (AZEs) and terrestrial and marine ecological regions under existing protected areas recorded by the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) using the 2014 World Database of Protected Areas in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). [http://dopa-explorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa\\_explorer/](http://dopa-explorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa_explorer/); <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/siteprotection>.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/>

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systems.	
Assessing the values and contribution of protected areas to the national and local economies and to achieving MDGs	2015

**STAR GEF-5 Allocation and Utilization (All amounts in US\$)<sup>8</sup>**

All focal areas are still within budget for Palau.

Focal Area	STAR GEF-5 Indicative allocation	Allocation utilized	PIFs cleared by CEO awaiting approval	Allocations remaining to be programmed
Biodiversity	1,920,000	4,020,000	0	-2,100,000
Climate Change	2,000,000	450,000	0	1,550,000
Land Degradation	500,000	750,000	0	-250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,420,000</b>	<b>5,220,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-800,000</b>

**STAR GEF-6 Allocation and Utilization (All amounts in US\$)<sup>9</sup>**

Focal Area	Indicative allocation	Allocation utilized	PIFs cleared by CEO awaiting approval	Allocations remaining to be programmed
Climate Change	2,000,000	0	0	2,000,000
Biodiversity	1,923,183	88,969	2,511,031	-676,817
Land Degradation	500,000	20,531	579,469	-100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,423,183</b>	<b>109,500</b>	<b>3,090,500</b>	<b>1,223,183</b>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.thegef.org/gef/country\\_profile](https://www.thegef.org/gef/country_profile) (accessed April 15, 2016)

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

**Paragraphs 1 (a), (b), and (g) and paragraph 3 of decision XI/24 on protected areas**

1. *Invites* Parties to:
  - (a) In line with paragraph 1(c) of decision X/31, integrate national action plans for the programme of work into updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans, which, in line with paragraphs 3 (c) and (d) of decision X/2, should be adopted as policy instruments and used as a primary framework for implementation and as the basis for securing the necessary financial support, including from national budgets and from bilateral, multilateral and other sources;
  - (b) Consistent with national circumstances, undertake major efforts, with appropriate support, to achieve all elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, and, in particular, to improve marine protected areas in all areas within their jurisdiction and to ensure that networks comprising both such marine protected areas and terrestrial protected areas are: representative (by completing ecological assessments and implementing the results); inclusive of areas important for biodiversity; managed effectively and equitably; connected and integrated into wider land- and seascapes; and inclusive of diversified types of governance for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;
  - (g) Align the protected area projects approved in the fourth, fifth and sixth replenishment periods of the Global Environment Facility, as well those supported by bilateral and other funding sources, with the actions identified in national action plans for the programme of work, so as to facilitate systematic monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and related Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies to facilitate the alignment of the development and implementation of protected area projects with the actions identified in national action plans for the programme of work, for example by clearly articulating the linkages with elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in project documents, with a view to facilitating the systematic monitoring and reporting of the results of those projects as they contribute to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and other related targets by Parties, and to maximize the contribution of such projects to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020;

**Relevant GEF-6 Programmes under Biodiversity Focal area for seeking funding for PA projects**

- BD1: Improving Sustainability of Protected Areas Systems
  - Program 1: Improving Financial Sustainability and Effective Management of the National Ecological Infrastructure
  - Program 2: Nature’s Last Stand: Expanding the Reach of the Global Protected Area Estate
- BD2: Reduce Threats to Globally Significant Biodiversity
  - Program 3: Preventing the Extinction of Known Threatened Species
- BD3: Sustainably Use Biodiversity
  - Program 6: Ridge to Reef+: Maintaining Integrity and Function of Globally Significant Coral Reef Ecosystems
- BD4: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in to Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors
  - Program 9: Managing the Human-Biodiversity Interface
  - Program 10: Integration of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Development and Finance Planning