

## **The Sustainable Land Management Policy of The Republic of Palau**

### **Executive Summary**

The Sustainable Land Management Policy of the Republic of Palau sets forth the people of Palau's vision for sustainable land management and a foundation for integrated land use and management. This policy forms the basis for a strategic action plan to ensure that the policy vision becomes a reality. Palau's vision for Sustainable Land Management is as follows:

*Sustainable Land Management (SLM) is the wise management of natural and cultural resources to meet changing human needs and benefit the people of Palau while protecting the long-term productive potential and cultural value of these resources for future generations.*

In order to achieve our goal for sustainable land management, effective protection, management and use of our assets and values, and reduction of threats and constraints, this policy establishes three top priorities and ten comprehensive policy elements.

This policy establishes three top priorities for policy makers to pursue immediately:

1. **Nationwide Coordination:** The national government should establish a national coordinating body with the responsibility, authority and funding to coordinate and support national and state efforts to implement SLM.
2. **Development Guidelines:** States should complete master plans, land use plans and zoning systems. The national government should adopt a national building code.
3. **Sustainably Financed Agencies:** The national agencies that implement SLM should charge market rates for their services.

The policy includes ten comprehensive policy elements, with the understanding that implementing some of these policies will take more time:

1. Improve Institutional Arrangements
2. Increase Capacity for Land Use Planning and SLM
3. Establish Zoning and Development Guidelines
4. Strengthen Enforcement Capacity across agencies
5. Raise Public Awareness
6. Balance Culture with economic development
7. Develop and Implement Climate Change Adaptation Strategies
8. Diversify funding and create revenue stream for SLM
9. Create Incentives and Economic Opportunities to promote SLM
10. Actively Participate in International Conventions

Finally, this policy calls for the development of a comprehensive SLM Action Plan to develop and enact these policies and top priorities. The development and implementation of this Action Plan is included as part of Top Priority 1: Nationwide Coordination and Policy 1: Improved Institutional Arrangements.

The basis for these proposals, and the proposals themselves, are discussed in greater detail in the pages that follow.

## The Sustainable Land Management Policy of The Republic of Palau

### Background

The Sustainable Land Management Policy of The Republic of Palau sets out the nation's policy vision for unified and integrated land use and management, and sets forth the foundation for Palau's future land use and management. It forms the basis for a strategic action plan to ensure that the policy vision becomes a reality. The policy was developed in an inclusive and participatory process to ensure that the stakeholders' vision is reflected.

The Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Task Force has led the process under the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce as part of the larger SLM project. The SLM Task Force includes representatives of the Senate and the House of the 8th OEK; the Governors' Association; Traditional Leaders; Women's Groups; national agencies, private-sector companies and organizations; and non-governmental groups involved in the development, use and management of Palau's land and natural resources. Stakeholders from all of these groups participated in the development of this policy.

### Vision

Palau's vision for Sustainable Land Management is as follows:

*Sustainable Land Management (SLM) is the wise management of natural and cultural resources to meet changing human needs and benefit the people of Palau while protecting the long-term productive potential and cultural value of these resources for future generations.*

With this vision in mind, Palau's land use policy emphasizes the need for sustainable development. The Sustainable Land Use Policy **provides guidance to enable the nation to wisely use its land to meet current and future needs that benefit all.**

### Assets & Values

The Sustainable Land Use Policy seeks **to guide the nation on sound management of its land to ensure that key assets and values are protected as Palau positions itself competitively in the global market.** Fifteen assets and values were identified by stakeholders in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> SLM Policy Workshops in February and May 2011. Each asset or value provides different benefits for the people of Palau and are listed below.

1. Land
2. Cultural Heritage Sites
3. Palauan Traditional Knowledge & Identity
4. Community Welfare
5. Soil
6. Terrestrial Ecosystems:
7. Coastal Areas
8. In-shore marine resources
9. Biodiversity
10. Water
11. Non-renewable resources

12. Aesthetic values
13. Renewable resources
14. Infrastructure
15. Human resources

## **Constraints & Threats**

Fourteen inherent constraints and threats to land use sector development and economic growth were identified from the Policy Review Workshops, Best Management workshops and meetings with community leaders, traditional leaders (both men and women) and other key stakeholders. These constraints are faced by other small island developing states and are listed below:

1. Limited capacity for land use planning
2. Unclear land ownership and property rights
3. Climate change
4. Population Growth and Urbanization
5. Threats to Water Quality and Quantity
6. Wildfire
7. Loss of Biodiversity
8. Narrow resource base
9. Small domestic market
10. Remoteness from major markets
11. Heavy dependence on trade and foreign assistance
12. Vulnerability to external shocks such as price volatility
13. Need for a transparent regulatory framework and clear institutional arrangements
14. Lack of funding for data acquisition and analysis, equipment, training, and personnel.

These constraints and threats are addressed in greater detail in the SLM Policy Review.

## **Top Priorities and Comprehensive Policy Elements**

In order to pursue our vision for sustainable land management, to effectively protect, manage and use our assets and values, and to address the threats and constraints for effective development and management of our land, this policy establishes three top priorities and ten comprehensive policy elements.

This policy establishes three top priorities for policy makers to pursue immediately:

1. Nationwide Coordination
2. Development Guidelines
3. Sustainably Financed Agencies

These priorities are discussed in greater detail below.

This policy establishes ten comprehensive policy elements, with the understanding that implementing some of these policy elements will take more time:

1. Improve Institutional Arrangements
2. Increase Capacity for Land Use Planning and SLM

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9. Create Incentives and Economic Opportunities to promote SLM
10. Actively Participate in International Conventions

These policy elements are discussed in greater detail below.

Finally, this policy calls for the development of a comprehensive SLM Action Plan to develop and enact these policies and top priorities. The development and implementation of this Action Plan is included as part of Top Priority 1: Nationwide Coordination and Policy 1: Improved Institutional Arrangements.

## Top Priorities

1. **Nationwide Coordination:** Palau's current systems for sustainable land management and policy proposals for additional systems and processes indicate a clear need for an overall coordinating function between the various national and state agencies involved in Palau's land management.

The coordinating body should be responsible for the following functions:

- 1) Facilitating and ensuring communication and coordination between the national and state and non-government organizations involved in land use planning and management (especially state master planning)
- 2) Collecting and disseminating land use information (e.g., geographical and scientific data, land use plans, development standards, etc.) to the organizations involved in land use planning and management
- 3) Supporting the development, implementation, and coordination of land use and development standards (such as zoning, building codes, etc.)
- 4) Providing a central point of access for land use information to the public
- 5) Developing and implementing an SLM Action Plan to implement Palau's National Land Use Policy. The SLM Action Plan should include goals, objectives, actions, tasks, specific roles, responsibilities, timelines, financing strategies, deliverables and outcomes.
- 6) Reporting regularly on their annual work plan using a standardized format that can be updated and used for other reporting purposes to the government and the public on the implementation and effectiveness of Palau's policies on sustainable land management.
- 7) Assisting all entities involved in land use planning and management to develop and report to the coordinating body strategic plans and annual work plans that include activities, tasks, key personnel, budget, time lines and data

The coordinating body should report to an SLM Steering Committee tasked with oversight of the nationwide implementation of the SLM policy. This SLM Steering Committee should include representation from the OEK, the state governments,

traditional leaders, national agencies, national and state land authorities, and key non-governmental and private sector organizations. PALARIS should be considered for this coordinating role. It already has some capacity to take on the nationwide coordination roles and responsibilities, given the agency's expertise in managing geographical data and experience in developing land use policy. However, for PALARIS to be a fully effective coordinator between the various state and national agencies, PALARIS should have additional authority and budget for staff, equipment, supplies and training.<sup>1</sup>

**2. Development Guidelines:** Previous studies and recent workshops have emphasized the need for comprehensive land use planning on a state-by-state basis, and coordination between states, the national government, traditional leaders and civil society, in order to optimize Palau's development and use of its land for multiple purposes.<sup>2</sup> The development guidelines should address three elements of planning: 1) master plans and land use plans, 2) zoning systems, and 3) building codes.

- 1) State master plans and land use plans (including disaster plans) will assure residents and investors, guide land owners and developers, protect natural and cultural resources, and enable coordination between states. Several States have master plans and many States have initiated the planning process.
- 2) Zoning systems should be developed to provide in-depth guidance and harmonization on a State by State basis.
- 3) A Task Force that includes a certified engineer and architect should develop building codes that ensure minimum standards for safety and quality development. State specific alternatives will be addressed but should not diminish the overall safety or quality standards of the national building code.

National funding and technical support through a national coordinating body should ensure nation-wide sustainable land use planning. A national certification program for inspectors should build capacity in each state to ensure compliance to state and national laws. The Resource Management and Development Suitability Study (RMDSS) provides guidelines that National and State planners should build upon. Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statements provide mitigation measures that should serve as guidelines for specific development projects.

**3. Sustainably Financed Agencies:** Through the SLM project's consultations with the government agencies involved in Palau's land management, three recurring themes emerged for most agencies: 1) agency missions could be more effectively achieved with a larger budget; 2) mechanisms to raise revenues to support an increased budget have been identified and 3) constraints to raising revenues have been identified. Policy measures can address these three recurring themes for most agencies. Most agencies involved in land management provide services at rates that are far below market value (in many cases, for free). Therefore in order to have sustainably financed agencies the following should be required:

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<sup>1</sup> Discussed further in the SLM PALARIS Capacity Assessment and the SLM Sustainable Finance Plan.

<sup>2</sup> See SLM Policy Review, SLM Policy Workshop Reports, and SLM State Government Workshop Report.

- 1) Agencies should charge market rates for their services, to create a much larger and more stable revenue base for their activities. In many cases, they will be able to expand their services to more effectively support and guide sustainable land management.
- 2) Agencies should be provided with the authority, incentives and direction to achieve these revenue increases.

## Comprehensive Policy Elements

### 1. Improved Institutional Arrangements for Land Use Management

**Policy Summary:** Create the necessary structure with the authority and support required for effective and transparent implementation of The Sustainable Land Use Policy that ensures coordination across agencies as follows:

- 1.1 Establish and support a central body to ensure nationwide coordination of all Land Use Planning activities, including National–State cooperation on zoning, land use planning and other policies affecting the use and management of the land. As the central hub for Palau’s geographical information systems, the Palau Automated Land and Resource Information Systems Office (PALARIS) should be given additional authority, responsibility and resources to fulfil this role.
- 1.2 Consolidate all land use information in a central database; increase funding for data acquisition and analysis; and mandate that any major construction survey, scientific research, essay, or geospatial data should be submitted to PALARIS (with exceptions or protection for proprietary information). As state databases are developed, support networking and coordination between the central database and state databases should be addressed. As the central hub and repository for Palau’s geographical information systems, the Palau Automated Land and Resource Information Systems Office (PALARIS) should be given additional authority, responsibility and resources to fulfil this role.
- 1.3 Ensure adequate resources for State land planning agencies, in particular State Planning Commissions and State Public Lands Authorities.
- 1.4 Consolidate the formal register of land titles to a single, efficient and reliable source. As the key authority for land title disputes, Palau’s Land Court should be given the authority, responsibility and resources to fulfil this role.
- 1.5 Conduct a feasibility study for land easements as a component of land use management on all levels.
- 1.6 Develop clear guidelines for interaction between the SLM Coordinating Office and existing agencies and state governments, in particular how the SLM Coordinating Office’s role in the current permitting/development process.

Responsible authorities/collaboration agencies include: Executive Office, OEK, Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Industries and Commerce (PALARIS) MOJ Judicial Branch (Palau Land Court), MOS (Bureau of Domestic Affairs, Bureau of Foreign Affairs, Bureau of International Trade and Technical Assistance), MCCA, State Governments, Public Land Authorities, Traditional Leaders

## **2. Increase Capacity for Land Use Planning and Sustainable Management, at the National and State levels**

**Policy Summary:** Establish and coordinate state master plans and land use plans, and increase institutional capacity to facilitate economic development while preserving environmental and cultural values..

- 2.1 Support comprehensive land use planning on a state-by-state basis. The national government will provide technical and financial support to individual states to develop state master plans and land use plans. The national coordinating body will coordinate the development of individual state plans to promote consistency and collaboration and reduce conflicts.
- 2.2 Create a nationwide land use map for SLM, updated regularly, to assist in decision-making process and monitoring of natural resources and development to illustrate optimal dedication of the land (e.g. steep slopes, soil types, vegetation, watersheds, zoning, infrastructure and other available data). Authorize and direct PALARIS to create and update this national map, in consultation with the States and relevant agencies and organizations that is available for all planning initiatives.
- 2.3 Based on state master plans and land use plans, create a single land use plan for Palau that would enable management of resources along a watershed/water catchment line based upon existing State planning initiatives and the conservation action planning initiatives of the Belau Watershed Alliance (BWA). This plan should include watershed management, integrated coastal zone management, disaster management and preparedness, and climate change adaptation. Provide state governments the responsibility, guidance and resources to fulfill this role. Ensure participation from community and traditional leaders. Provide PALARIS and other relevant agencies the responsibility and resources to provide guidance and assistance to the States in producing this plan.
- 2.4 Priority and resources for master/land use planning should be given to States where intensive development or large scale national projects exist or are being planned to serve all States (e.g. landfill, sewerage treatment, national ports, national capitol) and is likely in the near future (e.g. national landfill in Babeldaob ) and States most vulnerable to sea level rise (e.g. Kayangel, Hatohobei, Sonsorol) in order to prepare comprehensive master/land use plans. There should be training for all States and flexibility for all States to determine master/land use plans that are appropriate for their state of development.
- 2.5 Align the National vision of Sustainable Development with State visions which in turn are aligned with visions at the village level. This is an essential component of land use planning and could be addressed through annual State Visits as part of the land use planning process coordinated with the Ministry of State (MOS) Bureau of Domestic Affairs (BDA) with allocated funding to develop state master plans to ensure that the visions are aligned at each level. All development policies, projects and plans should consider and account for social and environmental impacts.
- 2.6 Increase institutional capacity through additional training and hiring of qualified professionals in the areas of land use planning, climate change adaptation and sustainable land management. Specifically, Palau needs the knowledge and expertise to assess land degradation, assist states and communities develop land use and SLM plans, and provide alternatives for sustainable livelihoods.
- 2.7 When a state asset is nationalized, the nation will fund the maintenance of the asset through usage fees. Fees must be used for asset maintenance and states should agree to usage fee structure through established legal agreements between all parties.

Responsible authorities/collaboration agencies include: MPIIC ( PALARIS), EQPB MOF, MOS (BDA) MNRET (BoA,BMR), MOH, State Governments, Traditional Leaders, BWA

### **3. Zoning and Guidelines for Rural, Urban, Commercial and Industrial Development**

**Policy Summary:** Put in place appropriate zoning regulations by State to include all types of development and conservation measures (e.g. watershed protection); adopt guidelines for development and; a national building code.

- 3.1 Develop of zoning regulations for each state as part of the state master planning process. Zoning should include constraints, soil types, hazardous potential, solid waste management, protected areas, projected population growth, projected infrastructure needs and cultural sites. Zoning regulations should consider existing regulations to avoid overlap or less rigorous standards. Provide state governments the responsibility, guidance and resources to fulfill this role. Ensure participation from community and traditional leaders. Provide PALARIS and other relevant agencies the responsibility and resources to provide guidance and assistance to the States.
- 3.2 Adopt a national building code for the Nation which incorporates safety regulations and promotes energy efficiency. The Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce's Safety Office may serve as the focal point for this. Enable states flexibility to supplement national building code with state-specific elements by providing certification programs for State Safety Officers and Inspectors.
- 3.3 Create and adopt guidelines for urban, commercial and industrial planning to include: tourism considerations (i.e. aesthetic values), safety and health of the community, recreational considerations, access to services; cultural considerations (i.e. promote community centers); energy efficiency and renewable energy. Include these guidelines within state master planning, zoning, and building codes.
- 3.4 Strengthen national coordination of infrastructure support for state development (public water systems, sewer lines, roads to sea port) under the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce.

Responsible authorities/collaboration agencies include: MPIIC (PALARIS,CIP, BPW) MOH, State Governments including State Public Land Authorities and State Planning Commissions and State Economic Authorities, EQPB, FIB, MNRET(BOA, BAC), Traditional Leaders, PALARIS

### **4. Strengthen Enforcement Capacity Across Agencies**

**Policy Summary:** Support effective Best Management Practices (BMPs) and regulations where they exist; and create new BMPs and/or regulations to address gaps in forestry, agriculture and mineral exploration. Strengthen institutional capacity and clarify roles and responsibilities between agencies to implement BMPs and regulations.

- 4.1 Review and revise the roles, objectives, functions, governance arrangements, and specific regulatory requirements ( including but not limited to the Palau

National Code) of all relevant agencies; including review of criteria for requiring environmental impact assessments and thresholds that require immediate mitigative action and subsequent follow up to ensure standards (e.g. water quality ) are restored. Ensure efficient monitoring, evaluation and enforcement of regulatory requirements and strengthen partnership and communication between relevant agencies.

- 4.2 Identify, review, revise and where necessary create BMPs for all key agencies and where necessary integrate BMPs and regulations to ensure coordination across agencies. Create a guidance handbook that lists agencies and processes for permits that is available on an existing or new national website. Consolidate all permit functions ensuring coordination across agencies and increase capacity of other agencies involved in permits (e.g. EQPB, BOA, BAC, BMR, BPW, CIP, and states) to ensure that each permit is thoroughly reviewed. Increase capacity of States by developing a certification program to enable them to review permits based upon their capacity. Give states with qualified personnel a greater role in reviewing and approving small scale projects, ensuring their alignment with land use plans, zoning and national permits. Provide states with oversight and support from EQPB, BAC, Bureau of Public Health, and proposed Building Code Commission to address cumulative impacts of small scale projects and large scale development.
- 4.3 Provide needed resources based upon work plans with clear objectives, activities, tasks budgets, needed personnel, time lines, and activities and deliverables. Support is performance based in order to determine if an increase in budget for personnel and technical capacity for enforcement is effective. Evaluate and monitor all state and national agencies involved in BMPs and regulations. Increase state authority for enforcement of national land use and environmental regulations. Establish minimum qualifications and processes (such as deputizing) for state officers.
- 4.4 Enact BMPs identified as necessary to address gaps proposed through SLM Project. Reassess BMPs annually to ensure that all BMPs adequately address community concerns and impacts.

Responsible authorities/collaboration agencies include: MOJ, MOH, EQPB, MNRET (BoA, BMR), BAC, MPIIC (BPW, CIP), MOF (Customs Office) State governments, Traditional leaders, and Building Code Commission.

## 5. Raise Public Awareness

**Policy summary:** Increase public awareness and education to take action and responsibility for sustainable land management, incorporating new and traditional knowledge, to reduce threats caused by human actions and natural causes, encourage responsible actions, and reduce enforcement needs.

- 5.1 Support State and community efforts to raise awareness about the need for formalized land use planning, ensuring their involvement in developing state master/land use plans and laws. Enable strategic meetings between community members and policy makers.
- 5.2 Develop and implement targeted awareness campaigns at community levels to reduce threats caused by human actions and natural causes such as: wildfires, typhoons and storms, sea level rise, invasive species, solid waste, erosion and sedimentation, and biodiversity conservation. Model campaigns based on State priorities. Consult with traditional leaders in planning and execution of awareness campaigns.

5.6 Develop and implement public education and awareness campaigns for new and traditional BMPs, model programs, community trainings and “how-to-guides” associated with BMPs to address land degradation within the context of sustainable land management in sectors relating to agriculture, aquaculture, agroforestry, residential and commercial development, nature and culture based tourism, foreign investment, and natural threats (including climate change, sea level rise, tsunamis, droughts). Secure funding and technical resources to support such programs, trainings and how-to- guides. Establish a central agency (e.g., Palau Community College (PCC) or Ministry of Education MOE) to act as a central repository for educational materials. Provide such agency with additional authority, responsibility and resources to fulfil this role. Develop a sustainable development curriculum for elementary, high school and community college in coordination with the Small Business Center (SBC) to promote the creation and implementation of SLM projects for fund raising events. Encourage and assist resource-owning communities to document their traditional knowledge of sustainable land management and develop local strategies

Responsible authorities/collaboration agencies include: MOE, PCC, SBC Traditional leaders, MPIIC, MNRET, and private elementary and secondary schools, local Radio and Television and Publishing Companies,

## **6. Balance Culture with Economic Development**

**Policy summary:** Maintain, preserve, protect and promote Palauan traditional practices, history, and the value of the land for future generations

- 6.1 Formally incorporate traditional practices into best management practices and regulations adapting them to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges. Implement the traditional process that requires consultation with chiefs by the National and State and Public Land Authorities for use of public lands or resources.
- 6.2 Identify cultural and historical sites that need to be set aside for strict protection. Review eligibility guidelines for site registration. Provide the National Bureau of Arts & Culture (BAC) the responsibility, authority and resources to review development projects and require cultural assessments. Increase public awareness and education on registration process for cultural and historical sites.
- 6.3 Develop a certification program through the BAC for States to build capacity to conduct cultural assessments and conduct site restorations under the supervision of the national archeologist and staff.
- 6.4 Create a mechanism to add value to land which is dedicated to traditional uses (e.g. taro patches) to discourage development or transfer
- 6.5 Develop a directory of contacts of State Historians and clan experts for specific land oral histories. Set up a database to access existing information of oral histories that have be released by the clans through either court cases or anthropological studies.
- 6.6 Enact and/or strengthen legislation to provide for effective protection of important cultural sites.

Responsible authorities/collaboration agencies include: MPIIC, National and State Public Land Authorities and Planning Commissions, BAC, Traditional leaders, MNRET (BoA)

## 7. Develop and Implement Climate Change Adaptation Strategies

**Policy Summary:** “Mainstream” climate change adaptation strategies into all aspects of land use planning, disaster risk management, economic development plans, and environmental management plans including those related to health, well-being and safety, food security, and sustainable livelihoods. At the same time strengthen institutional capability to understand the effects of climate change for Palau, the degree of vulnerability, the national capacity to adapt and to develop and implement appropriate response strategies to climate change.

- 7.1 Implement the National Disaster Management Framework that has clearly defined roles to ensure the coordination, development and effective implementation of appropriate adaptation options and strategies for disaster risk reduction. Ensure coordination with states in implementing the framework.
- 7.2 Strengthen PALARIS capacity as a coordinating body to coordinate national resource survey data, review indicators and monitoring programmes, and consolidate the involvement of stakeholders in terms of data collection and information dissemination. Information requirements include the following:
  - identification of sensitive areas and ecosystems;
  - information on land use changes and practices;
  - information on natural ecosystems including forests, mangroves and coral reefs;
  - development of fine resolution contour data;
  - better understanding of the present effects of social and economic change on the environment; and
  - more current satellite imagery.
- 7.3 Develop integrated assessment methods - there is a need for new and improved tools and methodologies that would facilitate integrated assessment of the effects of climate and sea-level change in Palau.
- 7.4 Improve communication and dissemination of useful and relevant information to the public, policy makers, and other decision makers on vulnerabilities and adaptation.
- 7.5 Implement full scale adaptation and mitigation projects based upon successful pilot programs funded through Global Environment Fund for climate change, biodiversity and land degradation.

Responsible authorities/collaboration agencies include: MPIIC, National Public Land Authority, MNRET, OERC, NEMO, State government, State public land authorities and State planning commissions

## 8. Create Incentives and Economic Opportunities to Promote SLM

**Policy Summary:** Maximize attractive economic incentives to encourage land owners to realize the benefits of Sustainable Land Management; at the same time, expand and diversify sustainable economic development activity to increase employment and revenues from appropriate development.

- 8.1 Increase tax incentives, access to low-interest loans, and Public-Private Partnerships to encourage landowners to sustainably develop their properties in the following sectors:
  - Agroforestry
  - Taro patches
  - Home gardens
  - Urban forests

- Community-based tourism
- Revitalization of coconut groves
- Reforestation
- Restoration of traditional water systems

Tax incentives should include tax holidays for new development and tax-free status for farming activities.

- 8.2 Develop incentives to support local produce and products and marketing opportunities. Support domestic demand for local foods through education and awareness programs and government purchasing (e.g. school lunches).
- 8.3 Support eradication of fruit flies and establish controlled export standards and mechanisms to conform to import standards of partner countries.
- 8.4 Implement and support the Tourism Action Plan for Babeldaob and outer-islands as tourism is the largest economic opportunity for the country. Include awareness and education programs to support sustainable tourism. Support studies to determine carrying capacity of key natural resources and sites.
- 8.5 Promote value-added strategies for local made products. Re-establish the New Product Development Committee to authenticate and endorse Palauan products. Increase utilization of existing memberships such as the Pacific Islands Trades & Investment arm of Pacific Island Forum. Provide support for packaging food products for export.

Responsible authorities/collaboration agencies include: Ministry of Finance, Chamber of Commerce, Palau Visitors Authority, Belau Tourism Association, MPIIC, MNRET, state governments, Traditional Leaders

## 9. Diversify Funding and Create Revenue Streams for SLM

**Policy Summary:** Create a solid financial base to implement the Land Use Policy and Best Management Practices by creating revenue streams from existing activities and actively seek strategic partnerships to attract funding for remaining activities

- 9.1 Support the development of business plans for all partners as part of their work plan related to SLM in partnership with Small Business Center and Palau National Development Bank.
- 9.2 Enable agencies involved in land use management functions and have the capacity to generate revenues to recuperate costs and generate additional revenues matching international standards (i.e. PALARIS, BLS, EQPB, etc.)
- 9.3 Dedicate resources to identify potential funding agencies (national, regional and international) from which grants could be sought for the higher priority elements of the Financial Plan in partnership with the Office of Environmental Response and Coordination's Office of Grants Coordinator.
- 9.4 Consolidate functions and services to reduce costs; apply economies and avoid redundancy (i.e. database management, data collection) as indicated throughout the policy.
- 9.5 Strengthen linkages with state and national development planning and budgetary processes.

Responsible authorities/collaboration agencies include: MPIIC, OERC, MOF, FIB State Governments, Chamber of Commerce

## **10. Participate in International Programs Related to the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources**

- 10.1 Review existing international programs Palau is party to that relate to SLM and do a cost benefit analysis for membership.
- 10.2 Enable participation of key partners in important subregional, regional and international environmental, climate change, sustainable land management program.
- 10.3 Ensure that steering committees and bodies established to implement requirements for international conventions are actively engaged, compensated, and minutes from meetings are available to interested partners.
- 10.4 Ensure timely submission of land-based information and reports to support national reporting to international conventions and adequate review period for committee members and interested parts is given to ensure comprehensive coverage is given and to ensure transparency; and
- 10.5 Support effective exchange of information and expertise within the Palau, the subregional, regional and international communities.
- 10.6 Ensure that local expertise is given priority for implementation of convention obligations and all agencies are properly compensated for their contributions.
- 10.7 Ensure that all proposals for funding are available for partners to review and ensure activities are implemented as proposed.
- 10.8 Strengthen linkages/alignment with national millennium development goals and indicators.

Responsible authorities/collaboration agencies include: Ministry of State, Office of Environmental Response and Coordination, MNRET, MPIIC, OEK, traditional leaders

Additional materials, including a list of relevant national legislation/policies or development plans relevant to this policy, are provided in the policy review and other documents for this report, and are available from PALARIS.