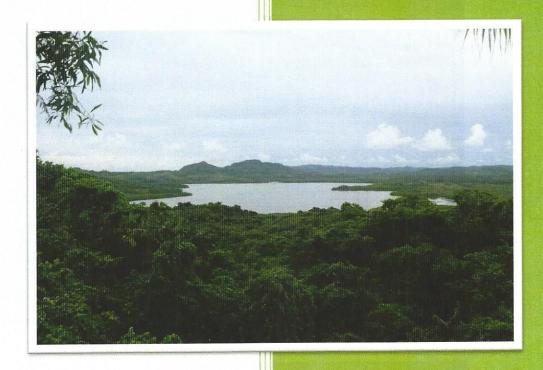


Ngatpang Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use Management Plan 2016 - 2021







Developed by the Ngatpang Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use Planning Team (CASRUPT) with assistance from Palau Conservation Society 2016



Quick Peek at the Plan

What this plan covers

Ngatpang Conservation Areas and Sustainable Resource Use Management Plan, 2016—2021





This plan was developed by the Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use Planning Team (CASRUPT) of Ngatpang State with assistance from Palau Conservation Society



Peek at the Pla

Why manage these sites?

The Ngatpang conservation areas offer biologically rich mangrove, seagrass, and coral reef systems. The ecosystems at Oruaol Ibuchl, Chiul, and Olterukl provide highly productive grounds for targeted conservation resources which include fish, mangrove crab, and clams. Together the sites cover seagrass beds, coral reefs, swamp systems, mangrove forests, and an islet that is a roosting site for the Little Pied Cormorant *deroech* and the Rufus Night Heron *melebaob*. Other nationally protected resource are found in the areas such as rabbit fish, turtles, groupers, and dugongs. The areas provide locals with fascinating historical, natural and cultural history, and legends for the people of Ngatpang and Palau.

Management of these sites is necessary because of threats from overharvesting, poaching, soil erosion and others. Management is feasible due to access, leadership and community support by the people of Ngatpang.





Quick Peek at the Plan

What we want:

5-year Vision

"At the end of five years, there is an established conservation office fully implementing the management plan. The Ngatpang community is aware, accept and support the conservation areas and the plan. The conditions of targeted resources for conservation are improved and benefitting the people and community of Ngatpang".

Goal 1. Community is aware, practice conservation measures and fully support the conservation areas and the plan.

Goal 2. Institutional capacity for conservation management is established as part of state structure.

Goal 3. Protected areas rules and regulations are established and fully implemented.

Goal 4. Conservation personnel have developed capacity to conduct biological and ecological monitoring and evaluation of resources.

Goal 5. Threats to targeted conservation resources have significantly reduced.





Who is in charge?

Management Authority

This Management Plan proposes the continuation of the Ngatpang Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use Team (CASRUPT) to act as a board. The board will provide direction and oversight over implementation of the management plan and act as advisory body to the governor for state resource conservation matters.

Composition of the Board

- The Board shall have at least five (5) members with 2-year terms
- Members shall be named by the Governor, Legislature, Traditional Chiefs, Public Lands Authority, and Community (comprised of women, youth, and user groups)

Duties of the Board

- Self-organization
- Recruitment of the protected areas site manager (coordinator)
- Supervises the protected areas site manager
- Provide oversight over successful implementation of management objectives and achievement of five year goals
- Assist the Governor in promulgation conservation areas rules and regulations
- Conduct annual planning meetings with the site manager
- Review and approve quarterly and annual reports to the Protected Areas Network (PAN)
- · Review and approve annual work plan and budget
- Initiate five year review with the Governor, state leadership, and community

Duties of the Governor

- · Recruitment, hiring, and termination of conservation personnel
- Jointly responsible for successful implementation of the plan with the board
- Chief enforcer and may designate officers to have authority to enforce NSPL No. 2-14-17 and this management plan
- Promulgation of conservation areas rules and regulations or may assign the board to assist in the development of rules and regulations
- Procurement of goods and supplies to facilitate conservation management actions in a timely manner
- Provide final approval of annual Reports and work plans and submits to the state legislature
- Review and approve new plans every five years and call for public hearings

Conservation Areas Site Manager (Coordinator)

- Lead discharge of daily management activities
- Supervise conservation staff
- Understand, interpret, and communicate five year conservation goals and management activities to the community, all other stakeholders, and visitors
- Develop and proposes annual work plan with corresponding budget to the board
- Develop quarterly and annual reports to the board for PAN
- Lead in seeking relevant opportunities for capacity building of conservation staff, board, and state leaders in conservation governance and management
- Ensure socio-economic and biological monitoring and evaluation are carried out on an annual basis
- Coordinate enforcement response
- Seek to produce daily/routine enforcement patrol and surveillance procedures





Quick Peek at the Plan

Management Personnel

Under this Plan, four staff will be hired in 2016:

Ngatpang Conservation Areas Site Manager (Coordinator)

Conservation Officer (1)

Conservation Rangers (2)

This Plan also proposes to utilize the services of existing State personnel, including the:

State Attorney State Administrative Staff State Maintenance Staff State Finance Officer Governor





Strictly Prohibited, Not Allowed At Any Time

Marine conservation Areas

*No Entry

Aquaculture

Catch and Release Sports Fishing

Commercial Fishing

Mineral Extraction (dredging/mining)

Netfishing (subsistence)

Subsistence fishing

Trochus Harvest

Possession of gillnets

Taking Green Turtles

Vessel grounding

Terrestrial conservation Areas

*No Entry

Camping (including fires, possession of fires, etc.)

Commercial photography

Cutting trees

Excavating, earthmoving, or digging

Hunting of native animal species

Leasing for agriculture or non-ecotourism related development

Littering/Dumping of trash

Possession of Airguns/or chainsaws

Residence on permanent or long-term basis

Spilling and/or dumping of pollutants

Hunting of Coconut crab/land crab

Permitted, Allowed with Permission, FEE etc

Terrestrial Conservation Areas

Educational activities

Enforcement

Regular monitoring

Research

Marine Conservation Areas

School tours

Regular monitoring

Research





at the Pla

What work needs to happen?

Year 1

- Establishment of office and recruitment of personnel
- Development of Conservation Areas Rules and Regulations
- Community outreach and education
- Establish enforcement system
- Baseline socio-economic and biological survey

Year 2-3

- School-based education
- · Ongoing adult outreach
- Ongoing community-based activities
- · Ongoing surveillance and enforcement
- Ongoing biophysical monitoring
- Ongoing maintenance and on-the-ground activities

Year 4 -5

- Ongoing activities
- Surveillance and enforcement
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Five year review of plan and evaluation of conditions of conservation areas from monitoring data



of this cost is ost of repair Other minor sover the five ear depending the first year, ated, the state of income to could include rement, and

Quick Peek at the Pla

Costs and funding

It will cost \$269,547 to implement all activities in the first year. The bulk of this cost is investment of major assets such as a patrol boat, a vehicle, and cost of repair construction of a state building at the Mechebechubel Dock for an office. Other minor initial investments include office equipment and supplies. Recurring costs over the five years are estimated at \$109,409 per year. One-time costs will vary per year depending on the activities.

A sustainable financing plan calls for funding by the Palau PAN during the first year, with additional funding in following years. As activities are implemented, the state government with the board will need to look for alternative sources of income to diversify sources for sustainable financing. Alternative source of income could include development of ecotourism, aquaculture, fines associated with enforcement, and through grants or other fundraising efforts.

5 Years Budget Projection

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1. PERSONNEL	\$61,698	\$64,166	\$66,733	\$69,402	\$72,178
2. ASSETS	\$142,399	\$0	\$3,500	\$0	\$0
3. ASSETS MAINTENANCE	\$300	\$312	\$324	\$337	\$351
4. OCCUPANCY	\$3,600	\$3,744	\$3,894	\$4,050	\$4,211
5. SUPPLIES	\$10,600	\$11,024	\$11,465	\$11,924	\$12,401
6. COMMUNICATION	\$6,250	\$6,500	\$6,760	\$7,030	\$7,312
7. ACTIVITIES	\$17,505	\$17,505	\$17,505	\$17,505	\$17,505
8. MISCELLANEOUS	\$27,195	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL COST	\$269,547	\$103,251	\$110,181	\$110,248	\$113,958

Table of Contents

FOREWORD	Т
SPECIAL MESSAGE	2
INTRODUCTION	3
PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN	4
VISION	4
FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC GOALS	5
FIVE YEAR ACTIONS AND THE PALAU PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK CRITERIA	7
PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE MANAGEMENT PLAN	10
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY	10
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY NGATPANG CONSERVATION AREAS NETWORK OFFICE	10
BUDGET	10
YEAR ONE BUDGET AND FIVE YEAR PROJECTION	11
SITE DESCRIPTION	12
BIOPHYSICAL SETTING	12
0.772	13
On the levels	13
CHIUL (IUUL)	13
CONSERVATION TARGETS	14
RESOURCE USE AND MEASURES	15
CAPACITY BUILDING	
KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL BUILDING	10
ACCESS TO TRAINING TIMING AND APPLICATION OF NEW SKILLS	
TIMING AND APPLICATION OF NEW SKILLS	17
REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS	47
CONFLICT RESOLUTION	
LEGAL AUTHORITY	
STATE LAWS	17
NATIONAL LAWS	18
BACKGROUND INFORMATION	19
SWOT ANALYSIS	
LEGISLATIVE CONFLICTS, IF ANY	21
CONCLUSION	The Control of the Co

FOREWORD

It is with great privilege as Governor of Ngatpang to present to our community the Ngatpang Five Year Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use Management Plan, 2016 - 2021. Together, we are now able to put into action, real management of our conservation areas and our very limited resources. We do this with the aim to secure important food resources for ourselves such as fish, crab, and clam. But as we take the various measures moving forward to protect these important resources, we also recognize the resources cannot be protected or conserved if we do not work together to protect the critical ecosystems and habitat for such resources. Therefore, we must recognize that it is equally important that we manage ourselves and the activities we do to minimize threats to our resources. Our goals for economic development, land uses, and



protection over our water supply are also important for sustenance and healthy livelihoods. Like every other community in Palau, we too have economic desires. I challenge us, moving forward, to take a cohesive stand to reconcile our conservation goals with our economic aspirations. I believe only then, can we strike the balance of using our resources to meet our economic endeavors in a sustainable manner. We would then be able leave behind the same legacy of *omeliuks* as our forefathers gave to us, and as we should - give to our children and their children to come.

The plan itself provide guidance for us over the next five years to establish, build capacity, and situate ourselves into a position where we can truly manage our own resources. The plan is meant to be practical for us and adaptive by nature. As we see areas necessary for adjustments or improvements, I urge you to bring these observations to the state government so we can work together to address such areas.

On behalf of the community and the state government, I express my deepest gratitude to the members of the Ngatpang Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use Team (CASRUPT) who took their time to develop this plan. The process was truly community-based and engaging. We appreciate the time they took to consult with us at community meetings, of which they brought our sentiments and expressed them as they deliberated to identify viable strategies into the plan. With this plan, we can now seek sustainable financing from the Protected Areas Network on an annual basis. The support will help us implement our plan as we strive to conserve our critical and limited natural resources.

Sincerely yours,

Governor Jersey Iyar State of Ngatpang

Special Message

The Ngatpang Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use Planning Team (CASRUPT) is proud to present this Ngatpang Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use Management Plan, 2016-2021. This management plan for our state of Ngatpang marks the beginning of management actions needed to ensure that our important natural resources are protected and safeguarded.

The plan ensures that the state of Ngatpang's desires and aspirations for Ngatpang's natural resources are taken into consideration. It puts forth a roadmap of actions needed to ensure that these natural resources will not be diminished. This management plan is an active document and can be adjusted and improved in the years to come.

We express our most sincere gratitude to the support that was given to ensure that the development of this plan was a success. We would like to thank the following:

- Governor Jersey Iyar
- Ngimis, Rubekul Ngatpang
- Ribil, Remechesil Ngatpang
- Olbiil er a Ngatpang
- Delegate Lee Otobed
- Resident Community of Ngatpang
- Palau Conservation Society

We look forward with confidence that this plan will provide the much needed management effort for the conservation areas of Ngatpang. We appreciate all of the support received from the community and leaders of Ngatpang and for entrusting us with this task. We will remain committed to achieving the goals and objectives set forth in the plan as we all work together to ensure that the quality of conservation is improved and the people of Ngatpang can benefit today and tomorrow.

Siles Ngiraremiang, Chairman

Mayleen Ngiriou, Secretary

Rideph R. Emesiochel, Member

Ngelechel Etpison, Vice Chairman

John Techitong, Member

Christina Osilek, Member

Introduction

Palau has set the bar high in terms of conservation and preservation of both marine and terrestrial ecosystems. In 2006 five island nations in Micronesia, including Palau made a commitment to preserve 20% of terrestrial environments and 30% of marine resources called the Micronesian Challenge.

In Palau, individual states work towards achieving this national goal. Ngatpang state, known popularly for their rich biodiversity and mangrove forest filled with most of the nation's supply of mangrove crab (*chemang*), shares the weight of reaching the national goal. This challenge is not new to Ngatpang. In 1997, during the construction of the compact road, Ngatpang partnered with Aimeliik and Ngeremlengui to create the Ngermeduu Conservation Area (NCA) with the goal of minimizing the impact of the construction to the bay. In addition, they passed a law protecting certain habitats that house the Palauan mangrove crabs, fish nursery or aggregation sites, and clams that include the near extinct Palauan giant clam (*Otkang*). In 2005, the NCA was nominated to the biosphere reserve under the UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB). In June of 2005, the MAB International Coordinating Council approved the nomination and the Ngermeduu Conservation Area made a historical leap into planet Earth's "best of the best" designated areas for conservation.

Presently Ngatpang is working towards management of its three conservation areas: Olterukl, Oruaol Ibuchel, and Chiul (Iuul). These three ecosystems are both a sanctuary for marine species including threatened and endangered species as well as important birds. On July 8, 2015 the Ngatpang State Government appointed a Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use Planning Team (CASRUPT). The purpose of the CASRUPT is to create a management plan for the proposed PAN sites in Ngatpang state.



Figure 1: Ngatpang Protected Areas, Office of PALARIS

Table 1: Ngatpang Protected Areas

Site	Size (km²)	Primary Habitat	PAN (IUCN) Use and Management Category
Olterukl (Blil a Omengereomel Ngikel)	0.026	Marine	IV-A, restricted non-extractive uses
Oruaol Ibuchel (Clam Farm Conservation Area)	0.067	Marine	IV-A, restricted non-extractive uses
Chiul (Iuul) (Blil a Omengereomel Emang)	0.032	Marine	IV-A, restricted non-extractive uses

This management plan is a legal document that describes the protection and use of the Chiul, Oleterukel, Oruaol Ibuchel. It gives a background to this individual conservation areas and its unique cultural and biological significance. It outlines the main threats to the water quality, individual species, and the integrity of the Conservation Areas as well as the actions towards combating these threats. The plan also includes an outline of allowable and non-allowable activities within these Conservation Areas. The state place conservation measures over activities of the key marine and terrestrial resources and sites through *a*) control of access into the protected areas, *b*) prohibited activities and harvest inside of the protected areas and outside, and *c*) condition for development of alternative livelihood opportunities. The management plan has the full force and support of the law, as provided with NSPLA 01-07-07-10 "Authority".

Purpose and Scope of the Management Plan

This management plan's main purpose is to express the community's feelings and prime concern on Ngatpang's marine and terrestrial resources. This plan also provides the governor of the state and the protected areas personnel a set of management guidelines for the protected areas and priority resources of the state.

The plan gives a clear response to the following pilot questions: what, where, why, how, who is responsible, and at what cost. It provides information for the people of Ngatpang and anyone else with a stake in the state's resources. The scope of the plan consists of Ngatpang State Protected Areas Management Concept identifying conservation targets and the threats to those targets. It also consists of strategies to address such threats with regards to the order of priority based on what the state and the nation finds important. Following are management goals, objectives, budget estimate, background information, the legal framework (state and national), conflict resolution, and site ecological monitoring. The management objectives proposed under the plan are intended to support progress to the achievement of the five year goals.

Vision

"In the end of 5 years there is an established unit that implements the management plan with an office. The Ngatpang community is aware, accept and support the conservation areas and the plan. The quality of conservation is improved and provides benefit to the community of Ngatpang".

- Ngatpang Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use Planning Team, 2016



Five Year Strategic Goals

This section outlines five year goals to guide management actions over the first five years of managing Ngatpang's conservation areas. The goals primarily reflect creation and establishment of a dedicated conservation management unit to be integrated into the state government system with personnel and resources to implement the plan, and to provide personnel with trainings to be able to carry out activities in an effective manner. Secondary to establishment of the conservation unit, is raising community awareness of the plan and the development of protected areas rules and regulations that will provide enforcement to control measures imposed over the protected area sites by state law. Another area of priority to which the planning team and community deemed necessary within the first five years, is to minimize soil erosion into the protected areas through development and implementation of a storm water management plan.

Goal 1: Within the five years, the Ngatpang community is fully aware, accept, adopt and practice conservation measures, and support the management plan for the conservation areas.

This goal's aim is to have the Ngatpang community as well as anyone who has a stake on the Ngatpang resources to be aware of state laws and regulations over the conservation areas, the reasons why there are conservation areas and the benefits of conservation. At the same time, the aim of this goal is to also prevent further damage to the environment from the Ngatpang community and to strengthen the culture of conservation that is already embedded in the Palauan traditional practices.

Objective 1.1 By the end of year one, the Ngatpang community understand and is aware of conservation areas and their benefits.

Objective 1.2 By the end of year one, there is communication and outreach planning that includes communicating traditional *bul* systems.

Goal 2: By the end of five years, Ngatpang state has institutional capacity incorporated into state government structure that effectively implements the conservation areas management plan, successfully enforcing conservation measures while promoting community awareness of the conservation areas.

The target of this goal is to create an immediate unit that is responsible for the daily management of the conservation areas and natural resources. This unit is authorized by the state and enforces the state laws and traditional laws

regarding the conservation area. With this unit the state and the community can have the reassurance of knowing that
the conserved resources are protected and at the same time provide job opportunities to the people of Ngatpang.
Objective 2.1 By the end of year one, Ngatpang State Government acquire PAN Funding to provide sustainable financing for implementation of this plan.
Objective 2.2: By the end of year one, the Ngatpang PAN site Office is established with staff, and in full operation.
Objective 2.3: By the end of year one, a full conservation board is established to provide oversight over effective implementation of the management plan and advise the Governor of conservation matters.
Goal 3: By the end of the five years, protected areas and resources rules and regulations are established to support
enforceability of conservation controls over protected areas and resources.
The aim of this goal is to have a set of guidelines that detail the conditions and/or activities permitted or prohibited
within or in the range of any protected area. It also gives authority and guidance to the appointed enforcement
personnel.
Objective 3.1: By the end of year one, conservation areas rules and regulations have been developed.
Objective 3.2: By the end of year one, conservation personnel are trained to enforce conservation areas rules and regulation.
Objective 3.3: By the end of year one, the boundaries of the protected areas have been demarcated and are completely visible and recognizable to the naked eye.
Objective 3.4: By the end of year five, there is effective enforcement on the Conservation Areas and state laws.
Goal 4: Throughout the five years, conservation personnel will have increased capacity in skills, techniques,
knowledge and understanding to advance conservation activities with ample resources and trained in biological
monitoring and evaluation of the natural resources, gathering data that help inform the health of the Conservation Area.
The target of this goal is to establish adequate capacity in understanding the need for monitoring and evaluation, learn
survey methods, and proper data collection in conservation practices. With this improvement, the conservation area,

community and the state can all benefit from effective conservation management.

Objective 4.1: By the end of year one, the Ngatpang State office has established baseline surveys of protected areas and specially managed species.

Objective 4.2: By the end of year one, the Ngatpang Conservation office has established site protocols over monitoring and evaluation of the protected areas.

Objective 4.3: By end of year two, conservation personnel have successfully acquired at least 75% of different basic trainings suggested in the management plan.

Goal 5: By the end of year five, threats to targeted conservation resources have significantly reduced and the community's benefits from conservation of such resources have increased.

The target of this goal is to decrease the threats and damages inflicted to the protected areas and the environment in general. Increase in surveillance and patrol as well as decrease in pollution and threats would greatly benefit the natural resources and the community that depend on them.

Objective 5.1: By the end of year one, a Storm Water Erosion Control Plan is in place and implemented.

Objective 5.2: By the end of five years, the number of illegal entry into conservation areas and poaching incidents have decreased.

Five Year Actions and the Palau Protected Areas Network Criteria

The state of Ngatpang is working towards being a member of the Palau Protected Areas Network (PAN) and yet to receive the sustainable financing needed from the Protected Areas Network Fund through development of their protected areas management plan. In order to be a participating member in the PAN, the Ngatpang state must attain qualifications with requirements of the PAN rules and regulations including management criteria. The criteria include administrative & regulatory, research & monitoring, education & awareness, enforcement & surveillance, and maintenance and on-the-ground. This section of the plan outlines the management objectives, as stated in the previous Five Year Strategic Goals, to be carried under each of the five criteria.

Criteria 1: Administrative and Regulatory Requirement Strategies

Administrative strategies include those activities necessary to authorize and support management actions taken by the state government in order to successfully achieve management goals and sustain long term management. Actions include immediate investment in conservation personnel, major asset and equipment purchases, capacity building, and filling in regulatory gaps. The plan proposes few goals under this criterion to articulate short term development and

cultivation toward a robust management institution backed by sound governance, sufficient regulatory framework, and active enforcement.

- **Objective 2.1** By the end of year one, Ngatpang State Government acquire PAN Funding to provide sustainable financing for implementation of this plan.
- Objective 2.2: By the end of year one, the Ngatpang PAN site Office is established with staff, and in full operation.
- **Objective 2.3:** By the end of year one, a full conservation board is established to provide oversight over effective implementation of the management plan and advise the Governor of conservation matters.
- Objective 3.1: By the end of year one, conservation areas rules and regulations have been developed.
- **Objective 4.3**: By end of year two, conservation personnel have successfully acquired at least 75% of different basic trainings suggested in the management plan
- Objective 5.1: By the end of year one, a Storm Water Erosion Control Plan is in place and implemented.

Criteria 2: Education, Awareness, and Outreach Strategies

The Education, Awareness, and Outreach Strategies under this plan aims to increase public awareness of management measures, provide general education through participatory activities with local residents, resource users, visitors, students and school children. The plan also aims to complete a full public outreach and awareness plan under Year 2 that will call for programmatic activities expected to be recurrent thereafter.

Objective 1.1 By the end of year one, the Ngatpang community understand and is aware of conservation areas and their benefits.

Objective 1.2 By the end of year one, there is communication and outreach planning that includes communicating traditional *bul* systems.

Criteria 3: Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation under the plan aims to be able to have a set of site monitoring protocols carried out regularly by the conservation personnel and report back to the community on a consistent basis the conditions of the resources. It involves biophysical monitoring, socioeconomic monitoring, and targeted research. The state as it begins to establish itself will rely on technical assistance from local agencies to help develop the plan and train conservation area staff. It is expected that local conservation personnel in the short term can be trained to carry out field surveys and collect data, but analysis of data will remain the role of technical agencies.

Objective 4.1: By the end of year one, the Ngatpang State office has established baseline surveys of protected areas and specially managed species.

Objective 4.2: By the end of year one, the Ngatpang Conservation office has established site protocols over monitoring and evaluation of the protected areas.

Criteria 4: Enforcement and Surveillance Strategies

Enforcement and Surveillance goals include the establishment of Standard Operational Procedures that will provide protocols, guidelines, and standards of enforcing rules and regulations of the protected areas and key resources. The

strategy will significantly strengthen and improve the state's ability to guard its protected areas from violators, poachers, and non-compliant visitors or users.

Objective 3.2: By the end of year one, conservation personnel are trained to enforce conservation areas rules and regulation.

Objective 3.4: By the end of year five, there is effective enforcement on the Conservation Areas and state laws.

Objective 5.2: By the end of five years, the number of illegal entry into conservation areas and poaching incidents have decreased.

Criteria 5: Maintenance and On-the-Ground Strategies

Maintenance and On-the-Ground Strategies include activities that require physical labor such as erection or installation of signage or billboards, demarcating boundaries, other protected area infrastructures, etc. The results of such strategies are most of the time tangible.

Objective 3.3: By the end of year one, the boundaries of the protected areas have been demarcated and are completely visible and recognizable to the naked eye.



Parties Responsible for Implementing the Management Plan

Implementation of the management plan is led and coordinated by the protected areas coordinator for the state. Effective and successful implementation of the plan will depend greatly on the support of the whole of the state including the office of the Governor, state legislature, traditional leadership, and the community. Actions to be carried out will also need close collaboration with technical agencies from the national government, such as the Bureau of Agriculture, Bureau of Marine Resources, Office of PALARIS, PAN Office, and NGOs.

Management Authority

The ultimate executive authority of this plan is the Governor of the state. The success or failure to achieving the goals of the plan rely heavily on the commitment and willingness of the top executive and his creativity to exploit the potential of this plan to bring the state to its desired vision at the end of these five years (2016 - 2021). The governor may also retain the Conservation and Sustainable Resources Use Planning Team (CASRUPT) as an advisory body for all matters that relate to the conservation and protection of the state's natural resources. CASRUPT can also be designated as a fully functional board to serve as both advisor to the governor and provide oversight to implementation of the management plan for Ngatpang's conservation areas.

Ngatpang Conservation Areas Network Office

With the Governor's leadership and guidance from CASRUPT the state aims to establish a state conservation office dedicated to implementing the conservation areas management plan and enforce all applicable conservation laws, both state and national laws. The state intends to hire a protected areas site manager with a conservation officer and two conservation rangers whose primary responsibilities are patrol and surveillance of protected areas. The main responsibility of this office is to successfully implement the five year management plan for the protected areas of Ngatpang. The office is responsible for the daily administration, enforcement, planning, resourcing, budgeting, and report to the Governor, CASRUPT, and community of their work. Thus, the effective implementation and enforcement of the plan will require considerable commitment, time, resources, certain skills, and knowledge. Some of the specific responsibilities of the office are as follows:

- Developing the annual work plan with associated budget
- Coordinate law enforcement incidents with the Ministry of Justice
- Produce reports to the Governor and state leadership, community, and the Protected Areas Network Office
- Pursue ongoing capacity building and training programs for conservation personnel and other state assisting personnel.

Budget

Ngatpang recently gained its membership in Palau's Protected Areas Network (PAN). As a new member to the PAN, Ngatpang is now eligible for sustainable financing to support implementation of their five year management plan. The budget reflects support for the first year of Ngatpang to begin active management over their conservation areas. This budget support concentrates around hiring personnel, establishing an office, and including investment in major assets such as refurbishing a state building at the Ngatpang port to serve as their office and enforcement station, a vehicle, and a patrol boat.

Year One Budget and Five Year Projection

Total Network and PA Cost by Program

				Programs				
Budget Item	Finance & Administration & Management	Education & Outreach	Maintenance & On-the-ground	Surveillance & Enforcement	Monitoring & Special Studies	Tourism Management	Capacity Building	Total
	1	2	8	4	5	9	_	
1. PERSONNEL	\$15,740	\$9,391	\$7,992	\$7,992	\$6,994	\$5,595	\$7,992	\$61.698
2. ASSETS	\$14,717	\$12,793	\$11,793	\$67,570	\$11,943	\$11,793	\$11,793	\$142,399
3. ASSETS MAINTENANCE	\$120	0\$	\$180	0\$	0\$	0\$	\$0	\$300
4. OCCUPANCY	\$3,600	0\$	0\$	0\$	0\$	0\$	\$0	\$3.600
5. SUPPLIES	\$1,800	\$400	\$1,800	\$6,050	\$550	\$0	\$0	\$10,600
4. COMMUNICATION	\$0	\$6,250	0\$	0\$	0\$	80	\$0	\$6,250
7. ACTIVITIES	\$2,516	\$12,128	\$2,862	0\$	0\$	\$0	\$0	\$17.505
8. MISCELLANEOUS	\$48	\$27,100	0\$	\$48	0\$	0\$	0\$	\$27,195
TOTAL COST	\$38,540	\$68,062	\$24,626	\$81,660	\$19,487	\$17,388	\$19,785	\$269,547

5 Years Projection

Budget Item	Year 1	% Cost Increase	Cost	Year 2	% Cost Increase	Cost	Year 3	% Cost Increase	Cost Increase	Year 4	% Cost Increase	Cost Increase	Year 5
	\$61,698	4.0%		\$64,166	4.0%		\$66,733	4.0%		\$69,402	4.0%		\$72,178
	\$142,399	4.0%		80	THE COLUMN TO SECURE A SECURE OF THE SECURE		\$3,500	4.0%		\$0			\$0
3. ASSETS MAINTENANCE	\$300	4.0%	And the second s	\$312	4.0%		\$324	4.0%		\$337	4.0%	e de la compression della comp	\$351
	\$3,600	4.0%		\$3,744	4.0%		\$3,894	4.0%		\$4,050	4.0%		\$4,211
	\$10,600	4.0%		\$11,024	4.0%		\$11,465	4.0%		\$11,924	4.0%		\$12,401
6. COMMUNICATION	\$6,250	4.0%		\$6,500	4.0%	Total Annual Ann	\$6,760	4.0%		\$7,030	4.0%		\$7,312
	\$17,505			\$17,505			\$17,505			\$17,505			\$17,505
8. MISCELLANEOUS	\$27,195			\$0			S			0\$			\$0
	\$269,547			\$103,25			\$110,181			\$110,248			\$113,958

Site Description

Biophysical setting

Ngatpang State is located on the western side of Babeldaob Island. It borders Aimeliik state to the south, Ngaremlengui state to the north and Ngchesar state to the east. The state is approximately 3,900 ha (9,700acres) in size, with the state capital located in Mechebechubel Village. Ngeremeduu Bay and its associated features dominate Ngatpang state; the bay and the watershed are the largest in the Republic. Much of Ngatpang's coastal area is fringed with mangroves. It is the only state with noncontiguous state lands which are located on the Ngereklmadel peninsula and inland from Ngermeduu Bay. Ngatpang relies on the roads with Aimeliik to reach the extension of Ngatpang's state lands on the Ngereklmadel peninsula. The principal land uses in Ngatpang include residential, subsistence agriculture, and some small scale commercial agriculture and aquaculture (MWM Architects 2003).

Wetlands in Ngatpang state account for 4% (158 ha) and occur mostly in the low lying areas of the Ngkebeduul River drainage and inland of the mangroves at Ngermeduu Bay. Some of the wetlands are used by the village women for farming taro, a subsistence and commercial crop; a few other wetlands are abandoned because they have either been impacted by sedimentation resulting from the construction of the compact road. Ngatpang has a mangrove forest area of 476 ha (12%) fringing the Ngeremeduu Bay. Much of the mangrove is still in relatively good condition, however, in the early 1990 about 14 ha of the mangrove was degraded as a result of the construction of roads and small boat harbors. The degraded mangrove forests have been integrated to serve as an aquaculture farm for milkfish. Other types of ecosystems within the Ngatpang state include a forest system and savannahs.

In 2014, the Ngatpang state, through state laws, designated three sites to become protected areas with the aim to protect habitats for fish, crab, and clam for the community. Although they are significantly apart as well as being a individual unique habitat they are connected by the species that thrive within them. Some key species such as Rabbit fish, spend a certain amount of their lives on each of the habitat. Beginning from the chiul's mangrove roots where they hatch to Olterukl's seagrass bed and Oruaol Ibuchel patch reefs where they aggregate, breed, and feed.



Olterukl

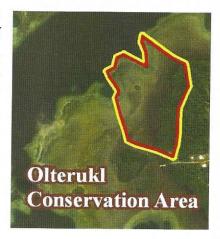
Olterukl site is mostly a sea grass ecosystem (70%) with some surrounding rock islands and mangrove forests. The sea grass bed is rich and dense comprising of different sizes of sea grass encompassing most of the site. It is a healthy sea grass ecosystem based on the high density of sea grass growth and majority of the sea grass being large in size. The marine species population within this ecosystem is rich in diversity. It provides a nursery habitat for fishes such as rabbit fish, parrot fish, and white snapper. The area is also home to invertebrates and crabs, and serves as a feeding ground for turtles and dugongs. The surrounding rock islands (10%): Medalabai, Uchuladenges, Orachel towards the south of the site are roosting sites for water birds such as the Little Pipe Cormorant and Rufus Night Heron. The presence of the birds in itself is a distinct signal for positive fish development and population. The mangrove forests (20%) are what transition the edge of the land to the sea grass bed ecosystem. In the middle of the mangrove forests protrudes a small dock. The site is vulnerable to direct and indirect anthropogenic caused damages which include pollution, damages from boat engines, overfishing etc. The area of the site is 278, 924.23 Sq. meters (0.026 km²) and has 50 feet (15.24 meter) buffer zone.

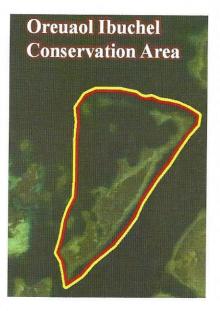
Oruaol Ibuchel

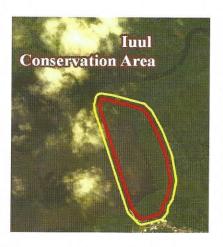
Oruaol Ibuchel site is a sea channel open water ecosystem. This site consists of open water shallows and a patch reef that transition to the deep. It consists of coral beds, clams and other invertebrates. This patch reef is isolated and a relatively small reef projection that is surrounded by sand and sea grass. It is an ideal ecosystem for key food demand invertebrates such as sea urchins, sea cucumbers, and clams. This is also home to reef fish, stingrays, manta rays, and sharks. This site is partially damaged due to past exploitation and is recovering. The site is near the center of the mouth of the Ngermeduu bay. It is 716,255.89 Sq. meters (0.067 km²) with a 50 feet (15.24 meter) buffer zone.

Chiul (Iuul)

Chiul (Iuul) site is an estuary ecosystem with a crown of mangrove forests that provides a rich habitat for numerous organisms. This site is where freshwater from the rivers meet the sea. It is ideal for fish and crab spawning as well as grazing grounds for dugongs, turtles and salt water crocodiles. The mangrove trees are dense being a sanctuary and a nesting ground for fishes such as Snappers as well as other fishes such as eels and bull sharks. Other key species that live in this ecosystem are fruit bats that roost on the mangrove trees. This site has been a targeted area for mangrove crab harvest. It's water is murky green which shows algae bloom due to sediment deposit from the rivers and may be contributed by nearby development that causes erosion and providing additional input of sediments. The site is at risk of permanent damage but quickly recovers because of its resilience from the mangrove forests. The site is 353, 737.40 Sq. meters (0.032 km²) with a 50 feet (15.24 meter) buffer zone.







Conservation Targets Direct Threats to targets Management Strategies Ngatpang Conservation Targets Institutionalizing Overfishing; Vessel grounding Fish natural resource :Boat traffic; Illegal fishing management in (poison/chemical, net) (under 3"); Ngatpang State Undersized fishing; Invasive species sedimentation Overfishing, erosion, pollution, vessel grounding, boat traffic, removing corals Marine and rocks, anchor, tourist destruction, Habitats climate change (warming, extreme low tide), extreme weather events. Overfishing, destruction of habitat, Crab undersized, illegal fishing, Develop a sedimentation, climate change, pollution, communications potential invasive plan and conduct outreach programs to the Stign Ray, Ngatpang local Destruction of habitat, illegal fishing, community Manta, sedimentation Sharks Overfishing, destruction of habitat, Turtle (melob, undersized, illegal fishing, sedimentation ngasch) Overfishing, destruction of habitat, Invertebrates undersized, illegal fishing (vinegar, chemical), sedimentation Develop and expand capacity of conservation Coastal office birds: methodologies melebaob, that includes deroech, monitoring and sechou, etc. evalaution Poaching, habitat loss, fire Marine birds: kerkirs, bedaoch, sechosech, roall, dudek Improve Forest birds: Poaching, habitat enforcement belochel, loss, fire, invasive laib, olik species

Resource Use and Measures

Activities, Permit, Permitted and Prohibited

Control Measures						
		Protected Area	s			
Activity	Olterukl	Oruaol Ibuchel	Chiul(Iuul)			
Entry	Permit	Permit	Permit			
Camping (including fires, possession of fires, etc.)	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Commercial photography	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Cutting trees	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Ecotourism-development	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Ecotourism-visitation	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Educational activities	Permit	Permit	Permit			
Enforcement	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted			
Excavating, earthmoving, or digging	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Hunting of native animal species	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Leasing for agriculture or non-ecotourism related development	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Littering/Dumping of trash	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Possession of airguns/or chainsaws	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Regular monitoring	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted			
Research	Permit	Permit	Permit			
Residence on permanent or long-term basis	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Spilling and/or dumping of pollutants	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Coconut crab/land crab	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Aquaculture	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Catch and Release Sports Fishing	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Commercial Fishing	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Mineral Extraction (dredging/mining)	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Netfishing (subsistence)	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
School tours	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted			
Scuba Diving	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Snorkeling	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Subsistence fishing	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Trochus Harvest	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Possession of gillnets	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Regular monitoring	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted			
Research	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted			
Taking Green Turtles	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			
Vessel grounding	Prohibitted	Prohibitted	Prohibitted			

^{*}Note: Green cells are terrestrial activities and blue cells are marine activities

Capacity Building

Knowledge and Skill Building

The development of basic understanding in conservation and management skills is fundamental for sustaining effective conservation measures. Capacity building required for the authority responsible for implementing this plan can be approached both from the top down and bottom up. The decision-makers, who often are responsible for creating conducive policy and legal environment and leadership, can be equipped with general knowledge and basic understanding that form the basis for conserving natural resources.

At the management level, the acquisition of basic technical and administrative skills is important to effectively implement this plan. Thus, successful implementation would require cultivating a professionally ran department committed to building capacity for its leadership, personnel and other support staff. The plan also offers new employment opportunities for the State. Therefore, management approach must take into account the following areas of basic skill building for all of the conservation personnel:

Basic Technical Skills	Administrative and Reporting Skills	General Knowledge and Understanding
Basic Law Enforcement Academy	Integrated Strategic and Financial Work plan	Understanding Biodiversity
Basic CPR Certification	Quarterly and Annual Reports	Understanding Ecosystems and Ecosystems Services
Open Water SCUBA Certification	Basic Facilitation and Communication Skills	Understanding Climate Change
Basic Writing Skills in English/Palauan	Organization and Time Management Skills	Species Management: Fish, Birds, Coconut Crabs, Trochus, Clams
Basic Principles of Island Biosecurity	Monitoring Management Effectives	Cost of Protecting Biodiversity and Sustainable Financing
Basic Monitoring & Evaluation: Marine Measures, Bird Measures as Indicators	Basic EXCEL	Knowledge of Palau Environment Legal Framework (National & State)

Access to Training

At this time, access to training can be mostly opportunistic. However, it is critical to begin training as soon as possible. Opportunities for trainings can be pursued by contacting any of the resource agencies in the Palau Conservation Consortium. Trainings can come in the form of actual voluntary fieldwork to help out an agency or another state, in the form of a workshop, or through fee for services. From time to time, regional trainings are offered and will cost the State. For this reason, the plan's budget line items include Capacity Building & Training, Travel, and Per diem / Subsistence.

Timing and Application of New Skills

Each time employees undergo training, it increases the likelihood for a successful management. It is understandable that organized protected area management is a new experience for the State Government. In this instance, the earlier new skills are gained the more room there is for practice and refinement of skills through experience.

The Office of the Governor must be conscious of encouraging personnel to share and apply newly acquired skills whenever and wherever possible. The best training grounds for such is at the home state, where staffs are comfortable to make mistakes and not be shy or discouraged.

Review and Approval Process

PAN regulations require a written Annual Work Plan with corresponding budgetary requirements. Annual reviews of this management plan are also necessary, as well as a thorough review and revision at the five-year mark. Thus, this plan includes the establishment of a permanent Consultative Board.

The PA Coordinator shall be responsible for generating annual reports that convey the progress of objectives in this plan. The annual reports must include a financial report and shall incorporate all relevant monitoring and evaluation data and information.

Based on these reports, the PA Coordinator shall draft annual work plans and a budget request to be forwarded to the Consultative Board for review. The PA Coordinator shall also forward any recommendations for changes to this management plan to the Consultative Board.

The Consultative Board shall review, change, and approve the work plans and any changes to the management plan. Once the Consultative Board has approved the annual work plans and any changes to the management plan, they shall be forwarded to the Governor in the form of a proposal for review and approval. Once the Governor has approved the annual work plans and changes to the management plan, the Governor's signature and date is affixed on the revised plan with the annual work plan and budget.

Conflict Resolution

In the case of conflicts between any parties in this plan, the Governor shall ask the Traditional Leaders for their advice. If necessary, any party may initiate facilitated meetings (with advice and facilitation provided by technical partners such as PCS, TNC, or any other impartial body) to assist with conflict resolution. The state attorney shall be consulted on any conflicting legal matters.

Legal Authority

The Constitution of the Republic of Palau delegates specific powers to state governments, and reserves all other powers to the national government. The states have been specifically granted "ownership" of its water resources within the water area surrounding its land (to 12 nautical miles). The Constitution specially and significantly expand the scope of this ownership right b allowing the states to collect revenues with regard to the state's water territory.

This plan is given authority by laws of the state and the Ngatpang State Constitution. The plan is also supported by the Palau Protected Areas Network Act and various other national laws.

State Laws

Ngatpang State Public Law No. 1-08-06 created the conservation areas of the state. A latter Ngatpang State Public Law No. 2-14-17 is an amendment providing for expansion of the conservation areas to include buffer zones and to provide official boundaries of Chiul (Iuul), Olterukl, and Oruaol Ibuchel conservation areas.

A related Ngatpang State Public Law No. 3-15-07, later amended by NSPL No. 3.16-02, created the Conservation and Sustainable Resources Use Planning Team (CASRUPT). The team consisting of seven members is tasked with the development of a protected areas management plan for the conservation areas. It is recommended in this plan that the team be made permanent to provide oversight of implementation of the management plan and act as an advisory body to the Governor for use and protection of the state's natural resources.

National Laws

The Palau Constitution pronounce that state power lies only where specifically granted to the states or where specifically denied to the national government. Article XI, Section 2 of the Constitution reads

"All governmental powers not expressly delegated by this Constitution to the states nor denied to the national government are powers of the national government. The national government may delegate powers by law to the state governments"

This plan is in line with National Laws. The following is a list of national laws that impact the scope and implementation of this management plan:

The Marine Protection Act of 2007 (27 PNCA §1201-1211)	Limits domestic fishing limit the take, sale, purchase, and export of many species closed seasons for grouper and rabbit fish, minimum sizes for parrotfish, wrasse, crabs, and lobster gear restrictions (prohibition on fishing with SCUBA gear and minimum and prohibitions on certain types and sizes of nets) restricts the taking of aquarium fish requires labeling of exports authorizes additional regulations to protect certain species
27 PNCA §§ 101-207	Limits foreign fishing within the 200 mile EEZ. Prohibits foreign fishing within Palau's territorial sea and internal waters (generally 3 miles from a land baseline).
Endangered Species Act (24 P.N.C. § 1001-1012)	Prohibits any person from taking, engaging in commercial activity with, possessing, or exporting any endangered or threatened species of plant or animal.
Protected Sea Life-Turtles (24 PNCA § 1201)	Limits seasons and size for sea turtle harvesting. Prohibits taking of eggs or harassment of females during egg-laying.
Hawksbill Sea Turtle Law	Places a 5-year moratorium on all harvest of Hawksbill Sea Turtles, extended moratorium from December 2015 extended through April 2021.
27 PNCA §§ 101-207	Limits foreign fishing within Palau's 200 mile extended fishery zone. Foreign fishing is generally prohibited in Palau's territorial sea or internal waters (waters up to three miles from the baseline).
Control of sponge harvesting (24 P.N.C. § 1211)	Limits harvest of sea sponges.
Mother-of-Pearl (24 P.N.C. § 1221)	Prohibits harvest of mother of pearl.
Dugong (24 P.N.C. § 1231)	Prohibits harvest or harassment of dugongs.
Trochus (24 P.N.C. § 1241-1246)	Controls trochus harvest.
Protected Land Life Act (24 PNCA § 1401)	Prohibits harvest or harassment of all but four bird species.
24 PNCA The Environmental Quality Protection Act	Establishes general standards for environmental review and regulates earthmoving, water quality, air pollution, and environmental impact.

Background Information

The development of the Ngatpang Management Plan was created over a series of different activities in a 3 month time frame. It began with the familiarization trip, then a community meeting, then a three day workshop and then a month of management plan drafting.

From June 6 to June 8, 2016, the Ngatpang Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use Planning Team (CASRUPT), in collaboration with Palau Conservation Society (PCS), met for a 3 day Conservation Management Planning Workshop. CASRUPT, the conservation management committee of Ngatpang composed of community representatives, worked in collaboration with Palau Conservation Society to develop the Ngatpang Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use Management Plan (2016-1021).



Ngatpang CASRUPT Members	PCS Facilitation Team
Siles Ngiraremiang, Chairperson Ngelechel Etpison, Vice Chairperson Mayleen Ngiriou, Secretary John Techitong, Member and representing youth Rideph R. Emesiochel, Member Christina Osilek, Member	Lolita Gibbons-Decherong Heather Ketebengang Joab Kanai

CASRUPT, with support and guidance from Palau Conservation Society, aimed to develop a management plan for the conservation areas of Ngatpang State. Such plan is needed to establish a financial mechanism through the Protected Areas Network (PAN) to help manage and protect the natural resources that are valuable to the people of Ngatpang.

On June 6, 2016 at 6 am, CASRUPT, PCS staff, and special guests from the PAN office and the Belau National Museum had a familiarization tour of the Ngatpang Conservation sites. Chairman Siles Ngiraremiang as well as the CASRUPT members spearheaded the tour, explaining the ecological importance and value of each site visited. Afterwards at 6 pm, the group met again at the Ngatpang State Center for a Community Meeting with the people of Ngatpang. This key part of the management plan development is an opportunity to inform the community that the work is beginning, get input from the community, and answer the community's questions and concerns. The meeting showed that the majority of the community was strongly supportive of the work that will be starting and also provided some important information needed in the management planning development.

From June 7-8 2016, CASRUPT and PCS had intensive all-day workshops at the Ngatpang State Office to build understanding of the Ngatpang Conservation Areas and to develop the necessary requirements of a management plan. Facilitated by PCS, the group began with an open discussion on developing a vision for a 5 year management plan for the three key conservation sites: Olterukel, Oruaol Ibuchel and Chiul. The discussions throughout the workshop included identifying the conservation targets, threats to the targets, developing management objectives and strategies, and budget. At the end of the workshop, CASRUPT and PCS parted with a well established outline of the management plan that includes a vision, objectives, strategic goals, and a budget for the first year.

From June 13 to July 31, 2016 was the development of first draft of the management plan for the Ngatpang Conservation Areas that will be presented in an interim community meeting with Ngatpang state on August 04,

2016. The management drafting required taking the priorities and concerns of the community, a step by step walk through of the state laws, consideration of the PAN criteria and prior state Conservation Action Plan. The discussion and comments from the community will be needed to further finalize the management plan for the three conservation areas of Ngatpang State.

SWOT Analysis

Analysis of the key factors influencing the Conservation Area can provide a picture about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats operating on the Conservation Area. These in turn influence management policies.

Planning Consultant	STRE	NGTHS			WEA	KNESSES	Leadership
Resource Ownership	Diversity	Commitment	Commu	nication	Lack of Human Resource	Awareness	Enforcement
Community Support	CASRUPT	Team work		State Gov't	Absence of SLM	Non Compliance	Funding
	OPPOR	FUNITIES			TH	IREATS	Neighboring states
PAN Funding	Improved Livelihood				Nons Deve		Foreigners
Community Engagement	Sustainable Harvesting	Education				Politics	Poaching
Employment	Save the Chemang	Networking					

Strengths

The Ngatpang state has strong support from the local community, CASRUPT, and the Planning consultant (PCS). They have an affirmative knowledge of their ownership towards the marine and terrestrial resources. They have a strong commitment and teamwork towards conservation from these three groups. The resources that are targeted to be conserved are rich and diverse.

Weaknesses

The Ngatpang state has weaknesses that include lack of human resource, awareness, enforcement, and funding. Communication is also weak and needs strengthening.

Threats

There are also threats that may deter the work towards conservation. These include lack of sustainable development, foreigners, politics, poaching and neighboring states. Each of these threats risk the obstruction and/ or destruction of the movement towards conservation.

Opportunity

There are many opportunities that conservation may bring to Ngatpang state that includes PAN Funding, improved livelihood, community engagement, sustainable harvesting, education, employment and networking. Another opportunity, perhaps for outreach and community engagement, is Save the Chemang.

Legislative Conflicts, if any

So far, there are no apparent conflicts between state laws, or state laws with relevant national laws.

Conclusion

The community of Ngatpang, through its state government, have put forward in this plan their desires and intentions for protecting selected critical areas of habitat for their priority resources. The community, through this plan, is not limiting exploitation of their resources. Rather, they put in motion their intentions to exploit state resources in a sustainable manner. The management plan reflect such intention.

The successful implementation of the management plan ultimately lie with the Governor and the support from the state legislature, traditional leaders, and residents. To a large extent, the support of sustainable financing and assistance in enforcement from the Palau Protected Areas Network is also critical to the success of effectively managing the conservation areas.

The community and state government are committed to the implementation of the plan, and look forward to seeing improvement in their conservation areas with noticeable increased abundance of fish, mangrove crabs, and clams.

