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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 2026

Ngchesar State Becomes the 5th State to Join the Investment Partnership Project to Strengthen Conservation Financing

Ngchesar, Palau - July 16, 2026 – Ngchesar State has taken a major step forward in protecting its environment by signing onto the Investment Partnership Project (IPP) with the Protected Areas Network Fund (PANF). Governor Jackson Doktok and Ms. Brengyei Katosang, Chairperson of the PANF Board of Directors, formalized the agreement during a ceremony attended by state leaders and representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Environment (MAFE).

The IPP was created through collaboration between the Protected Areas Network Office (PANO), PAN Fund, PAN member states, and MAFE. The project is designed to strengthen financial sustainability while building the capacity of PAN member states to invest in long-term conservation.

Under the program, participating states commit to an initial contribution of \$25,000, followed by annual contributions of \$5,000. PAN Fund matches the initial investment in full and provides matching contributions up to \$25,000 per year thereafter. All funds generated through the IPP are directed toward the management of each state's protected areas.

The agreement sets out two key goals:

- Advance pooled investment schemes by building on PAN Fund's unrestricted reserve funds
- Expand member state investment capacity through collaboration with PAN Fund and professional advisors

Ngchesar's IPP contribution was made possible with the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), as well as the Palau Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment (MAFE).

This milestone marks Ngchesar's dedication to building a sustainable future where conservation is not only a responsibility but an investment in the well-being of its people. Through the Investment Partnership Project, Ngchesar joins a collective effort to ensure that Palau's protected areas remain a source of pride, resilience, and prosperity for generations ahead.



From left to right: Ms. Kyarii Kazuma, PAN Coordinator with the Bureau of Environment, MAFE; Mr. Regis Emesiochel, PANF General Manager; Ngchesar State Councilwoman Isikl Benjamin; Ms. Brengyei Katosang, Chairperson of the Protected Areas Network Fund Board of Directors (PANF); Governor Jackson Doktok; Ms. Lukes Isechal, Marine Spatial Planning, MAFE; and Ngchesar State Government Treasurer Eunice Ngotel.