



Republic of Palau
Office of the President

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PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 19-261

*Declaring the Week of April 18-26 as National Earth Week for the Republic of Palau in
Observance of Earth Day 2019*

*“Protect Our Species: Our Lands, Our Ocean, For Our Children”
Oudeluus ra Kerremelel a Rokui el Klengar ra Beluu ma Daob el Kirel a Telcheroll el
Merael Mei*

WHEREAS, April 22nd is recognized as Earth Day around the world, highlighting the urgent need to conserve the Earth’s resources and protect our planetary environment; and

WHEREAS, plant and animal populations have declined on average by more than half and the Earth is facing an era of mass extinction; and

WHEREAS, all species provide important services to an ecosystem such as generating oxygen and purifying the air; controlling other animals considered pests or that spread disease; pollinating plants and crops; providing recreation opportunities and well-being, and livelihoods.; and

WHEREAS, in response, Palau is dedicating a week in observance of Earth Day 2019 with the theme of “Protect Our Species: Our Lands, Our Ocean, For Our Children” (Oudeluus ra Kerremelel a Rokui el Klengar ra Beluu ma Daob el Kirel a Telcheroll el Merael Mei) to provide information and inspiration needed to fundamentally change human behavior and attitude, and

WHEREAS, sustainability will only be achieved by being able to meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations; and

WHEREAS, sustainability needs innovation and innovation needs sustainability and innovations in learning about our lands and our ocean is crucial in understanding the ecosystems around us that provide food, oxygen, and water; and

WHEREAS, there is increasing scientific evidence that natural systems are now at a level of stress locally and globally that could have profound negative effects on human societies. In order to avoid these effects, technological and developmental transitions will need to take place through transforming processes of eco-innovation, which have complex political, educational, institutional, cultural, and economic dimensions; and



WHEREAS, the Republic is calling for more innovative solutions to address the ecological impacts of development and how to protect the biodiversity of many plants, wild animals, and pollinators; and

WHEREAS, our efforts during National Earth Week are fundamental in fulfilling our commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals No. 14 and 15: to conserve and sustainably use the Oceans, Seas, and marine resources for sustainable development (SDG14) and to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (SDG15), and

WHEREAS, it is more important than ever to cooperate locally and internationally to defend the environmental progress that has been heretofore gained; and

WHEREAS, all are encouraged to partake in actions, as individuals, families, communities, and as a Nation, to take responsibility for the protection of our unique species and look for opportunities to minimize further declination of their populations; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day is an annual reminder of the constant need for environmental activism, stewardship commitments, and sustainability efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, and in the interest of protecting the health of the Palauan people and our environment from the impacts of declining species populations, I hereby declare the week April 18-26, 2019 as Earth Week.

SO PROCLAIMED this 17th day of April 2019 at the National Capitol in Ngerulmud, Republic of Palau.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau