



REPUBLIC OF PALAU  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SURANGEL WHIPPS, JR.  
*President*

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**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 463**

*“Organizing the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment.”*

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article VI of the Constitution, the national government must take positive action to conserve a beautiful, healthful and resourceful natural environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Title 2 of the Palau National Code establishes eight Ministries, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment as described by Section 121; and

**WHEREAS**, as the national chief executive, the President is empowered, pursuant to Section 109 of Title 2 of the Palau National Code, to provide for the subdivisions of the Ministries and to prescribe their duties, responsibilities, and functions; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 2 PNC § 121, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment is responsible for supporting the livelihoods of Palauans through the increase of production in fisheries and agriculture to enhance their prosperity in a sustainable manner that protects the environment of the Republic of Palau;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau, pursuant to the applicable laws of the Republic, I hereby order the organization of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment as follows:

***MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, AND THE ENVIRONMENT***

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment shall be headed by a Minister who shall be responsible for sustainable food production, food security, and wise stewardship of our marine and terrestrial resources to enhance the wellbeing and economic livelihoods of all people in Palau. The Minister shall provide clear direction on Ministry initiatives and leadership in natural resource management that optimizes benefits for all Palauans, the economy and the environment. Such initiatives shall include promoting and strengthening the local agricultural and fisheries sectors, increase the engagement of subsistence farmers and fishers in the food production sector and promote policies that safeguard the environment and resource users.

The Minister shall coordinate the activities of this Ministry with appropriate authorities, boards, commissions and public corporations. The Minister shall act as the focal point for the formulation, coordination and development of conservation and management measures and strategies in



conformity with internationally approved agreements, conventions and treaties, including regionally harmonized fisheries laws and policies. The Minister shall be responsible for the following offices, bureaus and divisions:

#### Section 1. Bureau of Agriculture

The Bureau of Agriculture's mission is to promote, develop, protect, and conserve Palau's land-based natural resources and to assist families to have the skills, resources, and opportunities to ensure sustained food production, nutrition, food security and wise stewardship of ecosystems.

The Bureau of Agriculture shall be headed by a Director who shall be responsible for the promotion, development and conservation of the natural resources of Palau including agriculture, mineral and other land-based resources. The Director shall also be responsible for matters involving animal husbandry, inspections and enforcement. Within this context, the Director and staff shall:

1. Promote and increase production (yield and area) of traditional and non-traditional crops to increase sustainable livelihoods and food security for Palau;
2. Promote consumption of locally grown agricultural products, and improve the quality and quantity of horticulture services;
3. Promote beneficial animal waste management in Palau;
4. Enforce the "Export Meat Inspection Act" (Section 2101; Title 34 of the PNC);
5. Strengthen collaboration with Division of Customs, importers, and the public to prevent introduction of pests and invasive species.

Division of Horticulture. The Division of Horticulture shall be headed by a Chief and provides advice and conducts trainings and demonstrations on proper methods of cultivating agricultural crops. The Division shall be responsible for the following:

1. Provision of plant materials and tilling and chipping services;
2. Technical support for local farmers;
3. Nursery operations;
4. The seed bank for fruit tree seedlings;
5. Working with partners to conduct horticulture and best agricultural practices;  
and
6. Conducting regular extension and farm visits.

Division of Livestock. The Division of Livestock shall be headed by a Chief and services shall include the following:

1. Designing suitable livestock facilities;
2. Providing proper animal feeding instructions and veterinary services;



3. Provide livestock technical support to farmers;
4. Breed livestock and sell;
5. Conduct livestock artificial insemination at the MAFE facility; and
6. Develop certification systems for livestock products.

## Section 2. Bureau of Fisheries

The Bureau of Fisheries shall be responsible for exploring, surveying, developing, managing and conserving all near shore marine resources for the benefit of the people of Palau. The Bureau, in collaboration with the states and other partners, provides support and a favorable environment for the management and sustainable use of marine resources of Palau by subsistence, commercial, aquaculture and recreational fisheries sectors, while acknowledging the effects of climate change and other stressors on the marine environment, for the benefit of the people of Palau.

Division of Aquaculture. The Division of Aquaculture shall be headed by a Chief and will maintain and operate national aquaculture facilities to enhance aquaculture research and development, and provide seedlings and fingerlings for partners and states to promote and support sustainable aquaculture in Palau. The Division shall:

1. Explore and research sustainable development of fisheries resources;
2. Maintain and operate national aquaculture facilities;
3. Conduct aquaculture research and development;
4. Produce seedlings and fingerlings;
5. Maintain a Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) program; and
6. Facilitate the development of sustainable and economically viable aquaculture fisheries.

Division of Coastal Fisheries. The Division of Coastal Fisheries shall be headed by a Chief and, in collaboration with the states, ensure that an ecosystem approach to fisheries and conservation is applied to the planning, development, management and enforcement of coastal fisheries, aquaculture, and vulnerable/endangered species to ensure long-term sustainability and enhanced food security. The Division shall:

1. Plan, develop, manage and enforce regulations on coastal fisheries;
2. Develop management plans;
3. Collect data on key coastal fisheries; and
4. Assist and participate in research and monitoring activities related to all coastal marine resources.

Division of Oceanic Fisheries. The Division of Oceanic Fisheries shall be headed by a Chief. The Division shall establish standards to ensure the long-term sustainability and health of



Palau's living and non-living resources throughout all internal waters, contiguous zones and exclusive economic zones. The Division shall:

1. Explore, survey, develop, manage and conserve offshore living and non-living resources;
2. Set limits to establish the total allowable level of catch and fishing efforts;
3. Allocate and sell fishing days;
4. Negotiate and issue fishing agreements;
5. Support the development of offshore domestic fisheries; and
6. Engage, as may be necessary, foreign fishing agreements, limits, and allocation.

### Section 3. Bureau of Environment

The Bureau of Environment shall be headed by a Director, who shall be responsible for the protection of Palau's natural environment, conservation of our precious resources, and promotion of sustainable development through regulatory oversight and enforcement.

Division of Protected Areas & Species. The Division of Protected Areas & Species shall be headed by a Chief who shall be responsible for the following:

1. Conserve biodiversity, maintain critical ecosystem functions, and sustain cultural and natural resources through a network of protected areas with representation of key areas defined by science and traditional knowledge;
2. Engage state programs and relay relevant and appropriate tools to further enhance effectiveness of protected areas;
3. Promote research and management of key indicator species;
4. Promote protection of endangered species through collaboration with key partners;
5. Control and if possible, eradicate Palau's priority invasive species through collaboration with the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) and other relevant MAFE Divisions and non-government organizations (NGOs);
6. Serve as the Secretariat for the National Invasive Species Council Office;
7. Liaise with the PAN operating entities as necessary and support the states as needed with any issues related to PAN Fund obligations.

Division of Forest, Land, & Water Management. The Division of Forest, Land, & Water Management shall be headed by a Chief and be responsible for sustainable management of forestry resources including native forest, planted forest, watersheds and mangroves. The Division shall be responsible for the following:



1. Provide advice, services, and conduct trainings/workshops to farmers, groups, schools and communities;
2. Develop a national forest program based on cooperative management between the national and state governments and NGOs through a broad stakeholder and intersectoral participation to ensure the effective management and sustainable use of Palau's forests and land-based resources;
3. Promote sustainable forest-based sources of livelihoods, including ecotourism, agroforestry, and sustainable harvesting to landowners and developers;
4. Sustain forest health by preventing, controlling, and eradicating priority invasive species, and develop and implement a fire hazard reduction program;
5. Conduct environmental education programs directed at preserving our forests;
6. Plan, oversee and conduct community forestry beautification programs;
7. Improve the understanding, use, management, and protection of natural resources;
8. Protect land and water through reforestation and rehabilitation actions;
9. Promote best practices and integrated approaches; and
10. Mainstream biodiversity, food production, and natural resource concepts into land and seascape planning.

Section 4. Office of Strategic Support Services. The Office of Strategic Support Services shall be headed by a Manager. The Office of Strategic Support Services will provide support across the three Bureaus in the Ministry and will be established directly under the Office of the Minister. The Office shall be responsible for the following:

1. Communications and partnerships that engage all relevant sectors with the vision and priorities of the Ministry;
2. Monitoring and evaluation of programs and activities through central data management;
3. Bureau coordination and budget support; and
4. Coordinating and facilitating policy and regulatory matters including adherence to United Nations Conventions as well as international and regional partnerships and commitments.

Effective Date and Duration. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall continue until it is rescinded or until it is superseded in a future reorganization of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment.

Previous Orders. Previous orders, including Executive Order 381 involving the functions of the reorganized Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment, are hereby superseded to the extent that they conflict with this Order.



*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, I have hereunto set my hand this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021, in Koror, Republic of Palau.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.  
President of the Republic of Palau