

An underwater photograph of a diverse coral reef. The scene is dominated by large, flat, light-colored table corals on the left and center. To the right, there are more complex, brain-like corals and smaller, colorful species. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from above, creating a bright and vibrant environment.

Achieving The Micronesia Challenge: Palau Protected Areas Network

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Protected Areas Network

Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism

OVERVIEW



1. Palau Protected Areas Network (PAN)
 - a. Enabling legislation
 - b. Current structure and procedures
 - c. Sustainable financing mechanism

2. Achieving the Micronesia Challenge by Year 2020
 - a. 30% near-shore marine resources
 - b. 20% terrestrial resources

3. Challenges
 - a. Sufficient funding
 - b. Capacity building

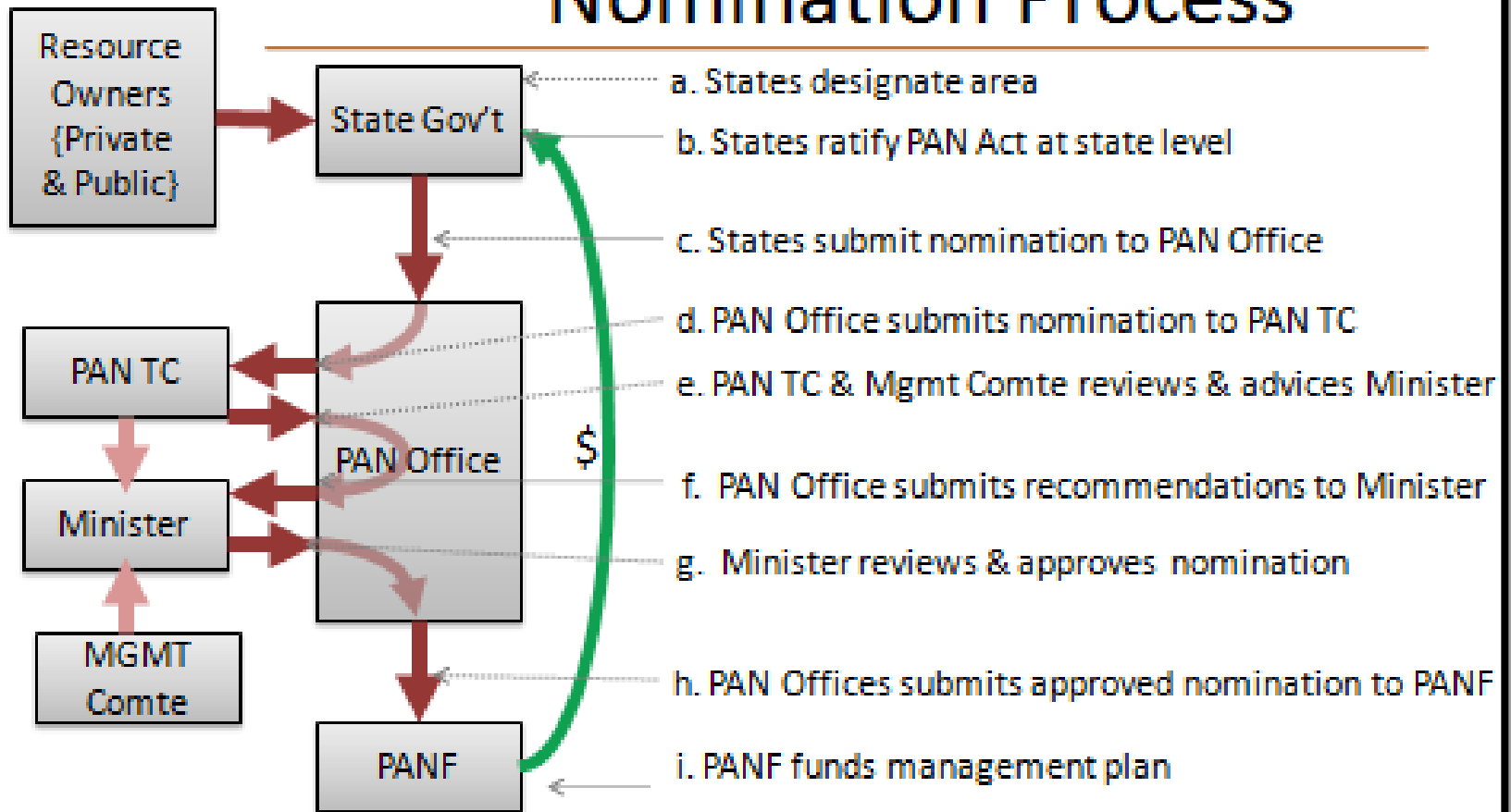
4. Opportunities & Steps Forward

PAN Timeline



- 1998 – global bleaching event affected about 90% of Palau’s coral reefs; locally with mortality of over 50%
- 2003 – signing of the PAN act; framework bill to support state conservation efforts in establishing a resilient network of protected areas **
- 2008 – revised PAN act creating the sustainable financing mechanism, recognizing the Micronesia Challenge
- 2009 – collection of Green Fee commences: \$15.00

Nomination Process



Protected Areas Network Office (MNRET)



Structure

- Program Manager
- Senior PAN Advisor
- Scientific Officer
- Budget & Finance Officer
- Administrative Officer

Duties

- Direct communication with all resource owners (States)
- Receive, Review, Assess & Accept Applications and Management Plans
- Monitoring and Evaluations of Mgmt Plan Implementations

PAN Management Committee



Structure

- Minister of MNRET
- Minister of Finance
- 1 Individual representative - states with PAN sites
- 1 Individual - Governor's Association
- 1 Individual - PPLA
- 2 Independent individuals
 - Require 2/3 vote

Duties

- Advise MNRET Minister on:
 - Structure & Operations of PAN Office
 - Applications and other issues
 - Monitor implementation of PAN work plan & Budget
 - Annual system wide management & sustainable development plan

PAN Technical Committee



Structure

- PAN Program Manager
- Palau International Coral Reef Center
- Palau Conservation Society
- Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs
- Bureau of Marine Resources
- Bureau of Agriculture
- Bureau of Land & Survey
- 3 Individual Experts

Duties

- Advisory Committee to Minister of MNRET on Technical Matters
 - Review nomination applications
 - Review mgmt plans
 - All others as designated by the Minister of MNRET

Protected Areas Network Fund



Structure

- Board of Directors
- General Manager
- Accountant
- Administrative Officer

Duties

- Administration, Management, Investment, Monitoring and Disbursement of Funds

PAN Sustainable Finance Mechanism



GREEN FEE

- Since November 2009, \$5.6 million has been collected and disbursed for management of sites
- Funds are non-lapsing but any carryover must be obligated at the end of each quarter
- Funds are allocated on a cash basis

Micronesia Conservation Trust

- Current total is \$6.6 mill
- 2:1 matching
 - Palau: \$4 million
 - TNC: \$2 million
- Interest to be used to support PAN sites
- Actual investment earnings: \$600,000 - still too low to draw down

Process Timeline



- **Nomination**

- Requirements**

- Complete Application
 - State resolution
 - ✦ State Law/Bul
 - Clear Resource Ownership
 - HPO Clearance
 - If available, Mgmt Plan
 - If available, site specific data

- **Processing Timeline**

- 120 Days Rule
 - Letter of acknowledgement by the Minister

- **PAN Membership Agreement**

- Official Acceptance of site
 - Agreed Program of Work

Reporting

- **Financial Reporting**

- Quarterly expenditures
 - ✦ Verifiable expenditures
- Annual comprehensive
 - ✦ Verifiable expenditures

- **Programmatic Reporting**

- Status of Activities
- Issues with implementation
- Assessment of Implementation
- Expansion of opportunities

Achieving the Micronesia Challenge



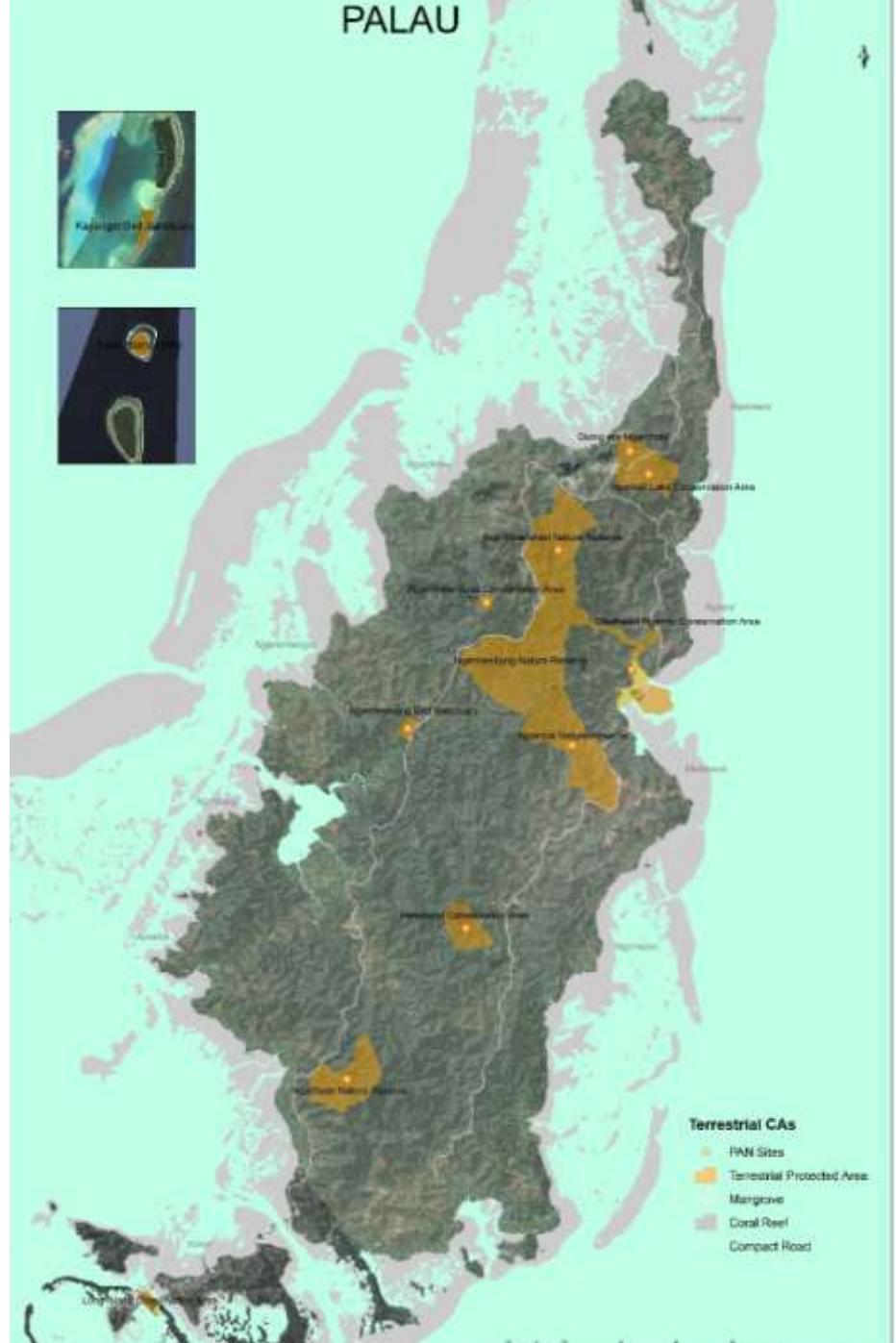
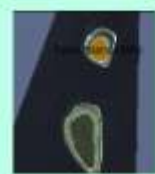
PAN Sites

- 13 States are members
- Marine Sites
 - 58% (Total Cons. Areas)
 - 16.98% (PAN Sites)++
- Terrestrial Sites
 - 20% (Total Cons. Areas)
 - 6.45% (PAN Sites)++
- Remaining 3 States are preparing their applications
- Focus now is “Effective Conservation” of existing sites

PALAU



PALAU







Challenges



1. Sufficient Funding

- Sole reliance on Green Fee to support PAN sites.
- Variability in funding dependent on number of annual visitors to Palau.

2. Capacity Building

- Beginning stages of implementation
- Need to build capacity for effective management

Opportunities & Steps Forward



- **System-wide Management Plan**
 - PAN Design
- Streamlining PAN process
- Enhancing the sustainable finance mechanism

KOM KMAL MESULANG
(Thank You Very Much)



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