

# Preliminary national diagnostic for environment statistics

Country: Palau

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## National vision

- ▶ Our national vision for sustainable development, biodiversity, green economy and ecosystems for Palau is to “substantially enhance the quality of life of Palauans and future generations of Palauans”.
- ▶ The Plan recognises that protecting the natural environment is an essential component of achieving this vision. In the medium-term development strategy developed under this plan improving environmental management and data collection were listed as priorities.

# Environmental concerns

- ▶ **Adaptation to climate change:**
  - Sea level rise
  - Increased extreme weather events
  - Changes in seasonal rainfall
- ▶ **Disaster risk:**
  - Drought
  - Typhoon
  - Storm surge

# Policy priorities and policy tools

- ▶ **Sustainable development policy priorities:**
  - Increase real economic growth per capita on a sustained basis;
  - Share the benefits of economic growth on an equitable basis; and
  - Enrich and enhance confidence in the Palauan culture, raise national consciousness, and protect the natural environment of Palau.
  - Linking climate change and disaster risk to agriculture & fisheries; health; biodiversity and natural resources; society and culture; tourism; infrastructure; utilities, and fiancé, commerce and economic development.
- ▶ **Policy tools in place or planned:**
  - Palau 2020 – National Master Development Plan
  - Energy Policy
  - Water Policy
  - Palau Climate Change Policy
  - Environmental and Natural Resources Action Plan
  - EO “Zero Disposable Plastic” Policy

# Institutions

- ▶ Stakeholders in environment sustainable development:
  - Government (Office of the President and his cabinet, NEPC), NGO's, Private Sector
- ▶ Institutional mechanisms in place to make sustainability and green economy decisions:
  - National Environmental Protection Council (NEPC)
- ▶ The role of the National Statistical office:
  - Provide data for evidenced based policy making; to establish, develop and maintain a general data dissemination system that provides reliable economic and socio-demographic statistics to support developmental planning and the formulation of appropriate economic and fiscal policies and their assessment.

# Data sources

- ▶ Key documents:
  - Palau 2020 – National Master Development Plan
  - Palau Climate Change Policy
  - State of Environment Reporting
- ▶ Data sources:
  - Water & Energy – Palau Public Utilities Corporation (PPUC)
  - Water quality – Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB)
  - Coastal ecosystems – Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC)
  - Marine and coastal resources – Bureau of Marine Resource
  - Fish stocks – PICRC and SPC
  - Land cover, forest inventory – PALARIS
  - Waste management – EQPB waste survey

## Existing compilations

- ▶ SEEA Central Framework Accounts
  - Late last year we compiled & published Energy and Water Accounts (FY2014 to FY2016).
- ▶ SEEA Ecosystem Accounts
  - No plans at this stage
- ▶ Other FDES indicators
  - None

## Priority accounts

- Short-term:
  - Energy Supply/Use
  - Water Supply/Use
  - Waste
- Long-term:
  - Air Emissions, Links between the environment and tourism, Ecosystems and biodiversity, Environment, agriculture and food security, Land cover, Forest and soil.

# Challenges

- ▶ **Management & staff turn over:**
  - Slows down the process of collecting data
  - Resource limitations–competing demands
    - Ex. LFS, OVES, etc.
- ▶ **Need data development**
  - Administrative data classification, coding & validation of data
  - Information sharing & access to source data
- ▶ **Need institutional coordination or financing**
  - Use existing NEPC mechanism
  - Financing needed for supporting capacity building & data development

# Opportunities: Priority Actions

1. **Account: Water**
  - Actions: Create a data sharing agreement between OPS (compiler) & PPUC (data provider), reconciliation of raw data from PPUC against the ISIC, update & compile FY2017 Water accounts using SEEA Central Framework, consult various stakeholders including NEPC to review prior to release.
2. **Account: Energy**
  - Actions: Create a data sharing agreement between OPS (compiler) & PPUC (data provider), reconciliation of raw data from PPUC against the ISIC, update & compile FY2017 Energy accounts using SEEA Central Framework, consult various stakeholders including NEPC to review prior to release.
3. **Account: Waste**
  - Actions: In the process of requesting data from the Solid waste office/Public works and will attempt to compile Waste accounts.



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