A RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 51-BOD-01

"Requesting the governments of the member entities of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to recognize the Republic of Palau for its efforts in promoting environmental awareness due to the Republic declaring its Exclusive Economic Zone as a sanctuary for all marine mammals."

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau, through Presidential Declaration No. 10-14, has declared Palau’s exclusive economic zone an official marine mammal sanctuary, joining eleven (11) other Pacific Island Forum members who have taken steps to effect protection of whales, and also joining two (2) entities (Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands) in fully protecting marine mammals within their respective territorial waters; and

WHEREAS, Palau’s population of Dugong are the most isolated and endangered population in the world, and there are at least eleven (11) species of whales and possibly as many as thirty (30) species of marine mammals that utilize Palau’s Exclusive Economic Zone as a breeding ground; and

WHEREAS, Palau has continually worked to develop its economy within the parameters of a proactive policy of environmental and animal protection, and one such way Palau may continue to do this is through the implementation of a whale watchers program for tourists, thereby developing its tourism sector of the economy while maintaining a strong protective policy towards whales; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau has a long standing position in support of biodiversity conservation, the use of sanctuaries to encourage such conservation, and the use of protected areas to achieve sustainable development goals; and

WHEREAS, Presidential Declaration No. 10-14 established a sanctuary for all marine mammals, the purpose of which is to contribute towards the protection of marine mammals by prohibiting the deliberate hunting and harassment of marine mammals; and
WHEREAS, the further intrinsic value of the sanctuary is to support non-lethal research, to be utilized in the collaboration for information exchanges, education and awareness initiatives, to assist in the monitoring of marine mammals, identifying future threats to marine mammals and taking action to counter those threats, and to develop mechanisms for the regular evaluation of management programs designed to manage the protection of marine mammals; and

WHEREAS, the Palau Declaration on the Establishment of a Marine Mammal Sanctuary was presented by Palau’s Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, the Honorable Harry R. Fritz, during the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 10) held in Nagoya, Japan, from October 26-30; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 51st Board Meeting, December 1-3, 2010, Colonia, Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, that the Board of Directors, on behalf of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, hereby requests and encourages the APIL member entities to promote, recognize, and support the efforts of the Republic of Palau to protect marine mammals in its Exclusive Economic Zone and particularly the Republic of Palau’s efforts to protect the endangered Dugong, which are amongst the most isolated and endangered marine mammal population in the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL Secretary shall attest, to the adoption of this resolution and that copies of the same shall be thereafter transmitted to the President of the Republic of Palau, the Speaker and the Senate President of the Palau National Congress (Olbiil Era Kelulau) and to the Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member legislature of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 3RD DAY OF DECEMBER, 2010.

REBLUUD KESOLEI
PRESIDENT

ALIK J. ALIK
SECRETARY