



# Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

American Samoa  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
FSM, State of Chuuk  
FSM, State of Kosrae  
FSM, State of Pohnpei  
FSM, State of Yap  
Island of Guam  
Republic of Kiribati  
Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Republic of Nauru  
Republic of Palau  
State of Hawaii

## 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.”**

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

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

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

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

19           **WHEREAS**, Presidential Declaration No. 10-14 established a sanctuary for all  
20 marine mammals, the purpose of which is to contribute towards the protection of marine  
21 mammals by prohibiting the deliberate hunting and harassment of marine mammals; and



1       **WHEREAS**, the further intrinsic value of the sanctuary is to support non-lethal  
2 research, to be utilized in the collaboration for information exchanges, education and  
3 awareness initiatives, to assist in the monitoring of marine mammals, identifying future  
4 threats to marine mammals and taking action to counter those threats, and to develop  
5 mechanisms for the regular evaluation of management programs designed to manage the  
6 protection of marine mammals; and

7       **WHEREAS**, the Palau Declaration on the Establishment of a Marine Mammal  
8 Sanctuary was presented by Palau's Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and  
9 Tourism, the Honorable Harry R. Fritz, during the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the  
10 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 10) held in Nagoya, Japan, from October  
11 26-30; now, therefore,

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

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

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2010.**

  
**REBLUUD KESOLEI**  
**PRESIDENT**

  
**ALIK J. ALIK**  
**SECRETARY**

