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Minister

REPUBLIC OF PALAU

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

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April 3, 2019

Mr. Vineet Bhatia
Resident Representative
United Nations Development Program
Pacific Office, Suva, Fiji

Dear Resident Representative,

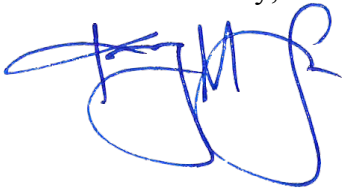
I am writing to you as the GEF Focal Point for the Republic of Palau, and on behalf of the President's Office, to confirm the status of our STAR (System for Transparent Allocation of Resources) allocation under GEF 7 and to inform you of Palau's intentions to allocate part of this to a new Medium Sized project.

Palau is currently urgently in need of funding at the Medium-Sized Project level (\$2 million) to support the institutionalization and implementation of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary. This is one of the largest 'no-take' marine protected areas in the world which, along with a designated domestic-only fishing area encompasses some 600,000sq km. Palau has made considerable advances in securing the long-term sustainability of this PNMS including a substantial visitor's fee for all persons visiting the country. This will help to build an endowment fund over the coming years.

Therefore, there is an urgent requirement now to secure immediate funding from either or both the STAR Climate Change and Biodiversity portfolio funds for Palau in order to create and implement the institutional arrangement to ensure the function of the sanctuary and its associated monitoring, control and surveillance.

I am pleased to enclose a short Concept Note that describes a set of activities and deliverables which has been endorsed by the President's Office in Palau. We would now wish to formally allocate those resources to this undertaking pending our development and submission of an MSP Project Identification Form and Letter of Endorsement. We would envisage allocating the full \$2 million as allowed under the Medium Sized Project mechanism and would wish to develop this as soon as possible and submit it at the earliest convenience. Assuring you of our highest commitment to collaboration and interaction with UNDP in this process.

Your Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'K. Petrini', written in a cursive style.

Enc. Concept Note

CC. Kevin Petrini
Winifereti Nainoca