

Minutes of the LPAC Meeting

Subject	Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting for CB2/CCCD project in Palau: “Mainstreaming global environmental priorities into national policies and programmes”
Date	February 25, 2015
Time	12:00pm – 1:00pm
Venue	Palau Conservation Society Conference Room

Participants	
Ms. Umai Basilius	Palau Conservation Society
Dr. Yimnang Golbuu	Palau International Coral Reef Center
Dr. Joel Miles	Bureau of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism
Dr. Ann Kitalong	The Environment Inc.
Ms. Charlene Mersai	Office of Environmental Response and Coordination (OERC)
Ms. Sharon Sakuma	UN Joint Presence Office (UNDP)

Objective: To provide an opportunity for the projects stakeholders to articulate comments or questions prior to signing of the Prodoc between the Republic of Palau, UNDP and GEF.

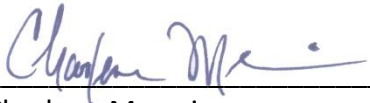
The Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting for the CB2/CCCD Medium Size Project (MSP) In Palau was held on February 25th, 2015. The meeting was opened by Charlene Mersai, National Environment Planner and GEF Operational Focal Point. As participants were familiar with the Prodoc, no formal presentations were given.

In the Prodoc, the Office of Environmental Response and Coordination (OERC) is identified as the Executing Agency (as depicted in the organogram on page 58) as well as the Implementing Entity. The reason for this is that OERC’s national coordination role made it the most suitable and appropriate entity to take up this role. As stated in the Prodoc, the Implementing Partner (OERC) is the entity that is “...responsible and accountable for managing the project, including the monitoring and evaluation of project interventions, achieving project outputs, and for the effective use of GEF/UNDP resources.”

However, there is an ongoing effort to streamline the national government’s organizational structure, which will impact OERC. More specifically, OERC will be terminated while its various functions will be distributed to appropriate ministries. The new location of OERC’s coordination functions will be determined within the next few weeks.

Most of the discussion revolved around the uncertainty of the new Implementing Entity (IE). Suggestions for potential IEs were provided, including PALARIS (Palau Automated Land and Resource Information System) and the Bureau of Planning and Statistics. The former is currently placed in the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce (MPIIC) while the latter is in the Ministry of Finance. A third suggestion was a semi-government agency, the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC).

At the conclusion of the discussion, the meeting participants acknowledged the anticipated changes and that further discussions to clarify roles and responsibilities will be needed after the national government has finalized its new structural arrangement. There was consensus that by the time we hold the Inception Meeting for this project, we would be able to clarify roles and responsibilities and approve the new management arrangement.



Charlene Mersai
National Environment Planner/
GEF Operational Focal Point
Office of Environmental Response and Coordination
Office of the President

March 13, 2015

Date