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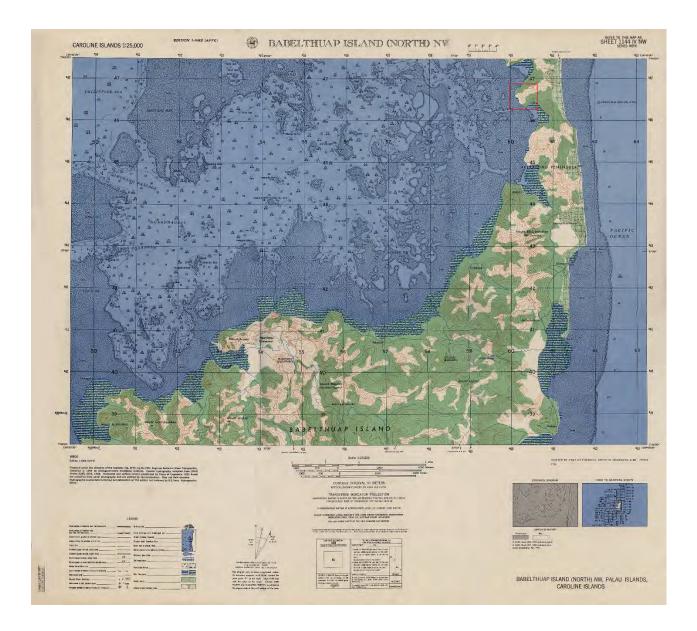


Photo No. 1 – 1954 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers topographic map of northern Babeldaob.



Photo No. 2 – 19 October 2004

Adjacent and east of the subject property showing the Compact Road. Photo compliments of Dr. Pat Colin. Ngaraard Tx Site.



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Photo No. 9 – 1946

Map produced from 1944 aerial photographs for the U.S. Navy and War Department. Photo compliments of the University of Texas. Angaur Rx Site.



Photo No. 10 – 07 January 1970

Adjacent and west of the subject property. The Angaur airfield is on the right side of the photograph. U.S. Navy aerial photo compliments of Dr. Pat Colin. Angaur Rx Site.

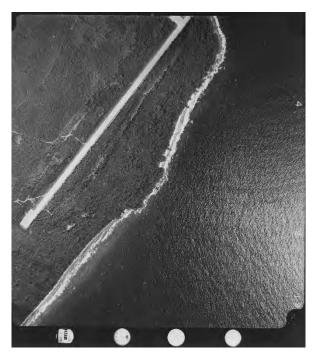


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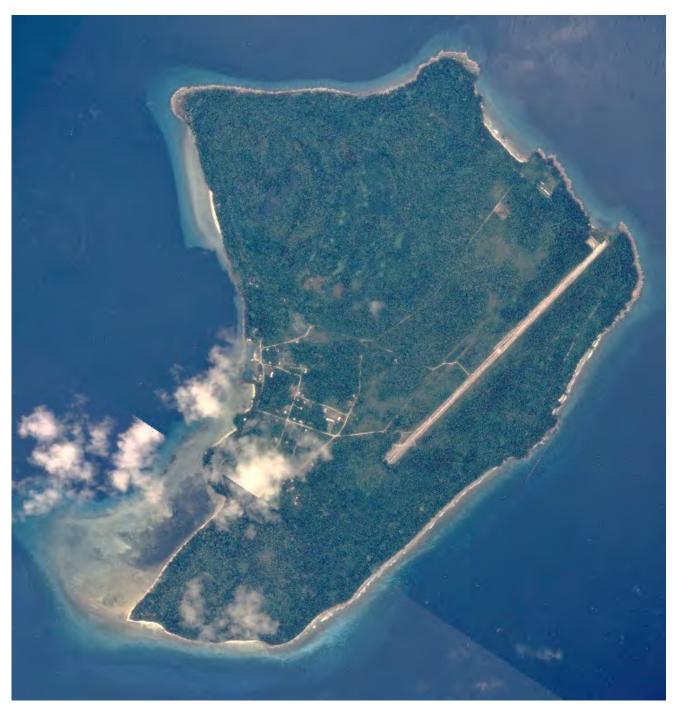


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Photo No. 16 – 14 December 2012 North-central subject property. Photo compliments of Dr. Pat Colin. Angaur Rx Site.



Photo No. 17 – 14 December 2012 South-central subject property. Photo compliments of Dr. Pat Colin. Angaur Rx Site.



Photo No. 18 – 14 December 2012

Southern end of the subject property showing Rocky Point on the coast. Photo compliments of Dr. Pat Colin. Angaur Rx Site.



Photo No. 19 – 14 December 2012 Northwest of subject property showing the local power generator building and former Loran Station. Photo compliments of Dr. Pat Colin. Angaur Rx Site.

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Photo No. 20 – 04 April 2013

Oblique aerial photograph showing the northern end of the subject property. Photo compliments of Dr. Pat Colin. Angaur Rx Site.



Photo No. 21 – 04 April 2013 Oblique aerial photograph showing the southern portion of the subject property. Photo compliments of Dr. Pat Colin. Angaur Rx Site.



Photo No. 22 – 04 April 2013 Northern portion of the subject property and Angaur runway. Photo compliments of Dr. Pat Colin. Angaur Rx Site.

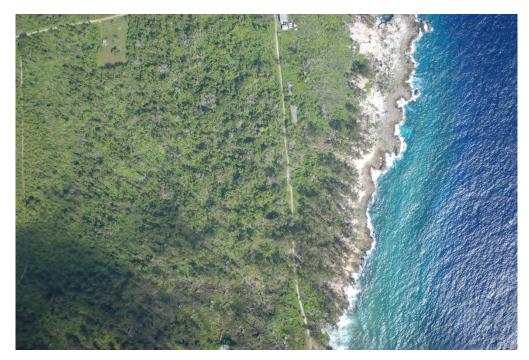


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Northwest of the subject property showing the local power generator building and former Loran Station. Photo compliments of Dr. Pat Colin. Angaur Rx Site.



Photo No. 25 – 06 December 2014 Subject property and surrounding properties. Photo from Google Earth. Angaur Rx Site.



Photo No. 26 – 10 July 2018

Center of the Ngaraard Tx Site showing the eastern portion of the subject property and adjacent property east of the subject property in the distance. Looking northeast.



Photo No. 27 – 10 July 2018 Central portion of the Ngaraard Tx Site showing the edge of the dense vegetation located on the southern portion of the subject property. Looking south.



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Photo No. 46 – 12 July 2018

Cut bank in limestone from the geotechnical investigation. These paths were used for the VSI at the Angaur Rx Site. Looking northwest.



Photo No. 47 – 12 July 2018 Regrowth over cleared trails generated during the geotechnical investigation at the Angaur Rx Site. Looking west.



Photo No. 48 – 12 July 2018 Large piece of frag identified during MEC avoidance activities at the Angaur Rx Site.



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Photo No. 55 – 14 July 2018 Deteriorated drums in the drum dump at the Angaur Rx Site.



Photo No. 56 – 14 July 2018 Additional deteriorated drums in the drum dump at the Angaur Rx Site. Looking southeast.



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Photo No. 59 – 17 November 2019 Demarcating step-out samples with survey tape and measuring tape from 2018 sample locations at the Angaur Rx Site. Looking east.

Supplemental Environmental Baseline Survey – Republic of Palau



Photo No. 60 – 17 November 2019 Collecting a survey point from sample location 19PA-ANG005-20E at the Angaur Rx Site. Looking northwest.



Photo No. 61 – 17 November 2019 VSI of the northern extended footprint at the Angaur Rx Site. Looking southeast.



Photo No. 62 – 19 November 2019 Digging a hole to locate a suitable water source for sampling at the Angaur Rx Site. Looking north.



Photo No. 63 – 20 November 2019 Collecting soil sample and GPS point of 19PA-ANG-002 at the Angaur Rx Site. Looking northeast.



Photo No. 64 – 20 November 2019 Collecting water sample 19PA-SW-02 adjacent to the landfill on Angaur Island. Looking southwest.



Photo No. 65 – 20 November 2019 Sample point 19PA-SW-02 looking southeast to the landfill on Angaur Island. Looking southeast.

Supplemental Environmental Baseline Survey – Republic of Palau



Photo No. 66 – 20 November 2019 WWII era well used to supply Angaur with running water. Sample location 19PA-GW-01. Looking southeast.



Photo No. 67 – 21 November 2019

U.S. Coast Guard well adjacent and west of the Angaur landing strip approximately 65 feet from the Angaur Rx Site. Collecting sample 19PA-GW-02. Looking west.

APPENDIX D References

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APPENDIX E Interviews

EBS Interview Questionnaire

	Interview D	etails
Name:	<u>Mark Vereen</u> □ Government Employee	_ Date: <u>July 19, 2018</u> Time: <u>12:00</u> □ Adjacent Property Owner
Affiliation:	\Box Owner of the subject property	
Email address (optional):	as safety offi	cer and equipment operator hone Number (optional):
Site Location	Babeldaob (Ngaraard)	🕅 Angaur (Ngeaur)
	Interview Qu	estions
1 - <u>How lon</u>	g have you been a resident of the Re	public of Palau?
□0-5 ye	ars	□10-20 years
□5-10 y	ears	🖾 20+ years
🗆 I am n	ot a resident:	

2 - Are there any local landfills on or near the subject property?

□ No ⊠ Yes (list address or general location):

150m NW of property USCG use of community land fill was limited and maybe some auto batteries were disposed there. No other concernes

3 - Are you aware of any spills or releases to the environment having occurred on the subject property? For example, oil or gasoline spills, overfilling automobiles or storage tanks, tank or drum leaks, paint spills and similar.

X No

□ Yes (list approximate date, type of spill, and general location)

Are you aware of any spills or releases to the environment having occurred on adjacent properties? For example, oil or gasoline spills, overfilling automobiles or storage tanks, tank or drum leaks, paint spills and similar.

□No

 \mathbf{X} Yes (list approximate date, type of spill, and general location and distance from the subject property)

<u>A diesel fuel storage tank was overfilled in mid-1975 and a sizeable "pond" of fuel resul</u>ted off the generator building on what was the camp baseball field at the time.

4 - Are you aware of any offsite gravel, topsoil, or backfill being brought onsite from an offsite source?

ХNо

□ Yes (list quarry or borrow pit if known):

5 - Are you aware of any aboveground storage tanks (AST) currently or formerly located on the subject property?

☑ No
 ☑ Yes - Formerly
 ☑ Yes - Currently
 (list the contents if known, and location on the subject property)

Are you aware of any ASTs located on adjacent properties?

No
 Yes - Formerly
 Yes - Currently
 (list the contents if known, and approximate distance from the subject property)
 Four 10,000 gallon fuel storage tanks were part of the LORAN facility

6 - Are you aware of any underground storage tanks (UST) currently or formerly located on the subject property?

☑ No
 ☑ Yes - Formerly
 ☑ Yes - Currently
 (list the contents if known, and location on the subject property)

the camp did have a below ground water cistern for storing rainwater catchment

Are you aware of any USTs currently or formerly located on adjacent properties?

☑ No
 ☑ Yes - Formerly
 ☑ Yes - Currently
 (list the contents if known, and approximate distance from the subject property)

7 - Are you aware of any illegal dumping having occurred on or adjacent to the subject property?

☑ No □ Yes (list general location where illegal dumping occurred for all properties):

8 - Are you aware of any permanent/temporary buildings being currently or formerly located on the subject property?

□ No □ Yes (list building type and general location):

9 - Are you aware of any hazardous substances such as oil, gasoline, solvents, coolant, paint or similar products ever being stored on the subject property?

ΧNο

□ Yes (list substances stored on the property):

10 - Has the subject property or adjacent properties ever been utilized for commercial (business/services) or industrial use?

XNo □Yes (list all known uses for each property):

11 - Are you aware of any injection wells (including floor drains and septic tanks) on or adjacent to the subject property that were used to dispose of wastewater directly to the subsurface?

 \mathbf{X} No \Box Yes (Note the known locations)

12 - Have you ever witnessed any action or event on or adjacent to the subject property that might be considered hazardous to the environment? For example, an overturned car or ATV, a vehicle catching fire, target practice with a firearm, or burying metal debris to name a few.

XNo □Yes (please provide details below)

13 - Was the subject property ever sprayed with oil (used or new petroleum products, cooking oil, mineral oil or transformer oil) for dust control?

☑No □Yes (list type of oil if known)

14 - Were pesticides or herbicides ever sprayed on the subject property?

⊠No □Yes

15 - Were drums ever stored or buried on the subject property?

□No

X Yes (note the contents of the drum and location if known)

mostly drums of bitumen

16 - Was the subject property ever used for refueling operations such as refueling boats, airplanes, automobiles or heavy equipment?

the hardstand area at the north end of the runway was used for off loading fuel

17 - Aside from a few abandoned vehicles or appliances, was the subject property ever used as a junkyard or for salvage operations?

 \square No \square Yes (list all that apply)

18 - Was the subject property ever used for burning or incinerating garbage, building debris, or other materials?

 \mathbf{X} No \Box Yes (list all that apply)

Additional Information

Please provide additional information that you deem important and is not otherwise listed above. This may include contact information for other knowledgeable individuals, sketches, maps, as-built drawings, details or firsthand accounts of encountering hazards (munitions or hazardous substances) on the property, or seeing sheens or other staining while on the property.

EBS Interview Questionnaire

		Interview De	tails	
Vam	e:	CLEOPHAS N. ROBER		
Affilia	ation:	 Government Employee Owner of the subject property Other (describe): 	 Adjacent Prope Nearby Residen 	
mai	laddress	E other (describe).		
opti	onal):	Ph	one Number (optional):	488-8498
ite l	ocation	Babeldaob (Ngaraard)	🗆 Angaur (Ngeaur)	
		Interview Que	stions	
-	How lon	g have you been a resident of the Rep	ublic of Palau?	
	□0-5 ye	ars	□10-20 years	
	□5-10 y	ears	20+ years	
	🗆 l am n	ot a resident:	-	
-	Are there	e any local landfills on or near the sub	ject property?	
	No			
		st address or general location):		
			1	
			ł.	
-	property	aware of any spills or releases to the e ? For example, oil or gasoline spills, or leaks, paint spills and similar.		

No

□Yes (list approximate date, type of spill, and general location)

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Are you aware of any spills or releases to the environment having occurred on adjacent properties? For example, oil or gasoline spills, overfilling automobiles or storage tanks, tank or drum leaks, paint spills and similar.

No

□Yes (list approximate date, type of spill, and general location and distance from the subject property)

4 - Are you aware of any offsite gravel, topsoil, or backfill being brought onsite from an offsite source?

□No □Yes (list quarry or borrow pit if known):

MASON ROCKS QUARRY: BASECOURSE ON DRIVEWBY ENTRANCE

5 - Are you aware of any aboveground storage tanks (AST) currently or formerly located on the subject property?

☑No
 □Yes - Formerly
 □Yes - Currently
 (list the contents if known, and location on the subject property)

Are you aware of any ASTs located on adjacent properties?

✓No
 □Yes - Formerly
 □Yes - Currently
 (list the contents if known, and approximate distance from the subject property)

3 | Page

6 - Are you aware of any underground storage tanks (UST) currently or formerly located on the subject property?

No

□ Yes - Formerly □ Yes - Currently (list the contents if known, and location on the subject property)

Are you aware of any USTs currently or formerly located on adjacent properties?

MNO

□Yes - Formerly □Yes - Currently (list the contents if known, and approximate distance from the subject property)

7 - Are you aware of any illegal dumping having occurred on or adjacent to the subject property?

No

□Yes (list general location where illegal dumping occurred for all properties):

8 - Are you aware of any permanent/temporary buildings being currently or formerly located on the subject property?

No

Yes (list building type and general location): 1st HOUSE: CONCRETE/HOLLOW BLOCKS W/ TIN ROOF 2NO HOUSE: CONCRETE/HOLLOW BLOCKS BUT EVENTUALLY BE A 3.5TOKY BLOG.

9 - Are you aware of any hazardous substances such as oil, gasoline, solvents, coolant, paint or similar products ever being stored on the subject property?

No

Yes (list substances stored on the property):

4 Page

٠

10 - Has the subject property or adjacent properties ever been utilized for commercial (business/services) or industrial use?

■ No ■ Yes (list all known uses for each property):

11 - Are you aware of any injection wells (including floor drains and septic tanks) on or adjacent to the subject property that were used to dispose of wastewater directly to the subsurface?

□No □Yes (Note the known locations)

2 SEPERATED SEPTIC TANKS FOR THE TWO BUILDINGS ON THE PREMISES

12 - Have you ever witnessed any action or event on or adjacent to the subject property that might be considered hazardous to the environment? For example, an overturned car or ATV, a vehicle catching fire, target practice with a firearm, or burying metal debris to name a few.

☑No
□Yes (please provide details below)

5|Page

13 - Was the subject property ever sprayed with oil (used or new petroleum products, cooking oil, mineral oil or transformer oil) for dust control?

No Yes (list type of oil if known)

14 - Were pesticides or herbicides ever sprayed on the subject property?

No □Yes

15 - Were drums ever stored or buried on the subject property?

MNO

□Yes (note the contents of the drum and location if known)

16 - Was the subject property ever used for refueling operations such as refueling boats, airplanes, automobiles or heavy equipment?

☑No □Yes (list all that apply)

17 - Aside from a few abandoned vehicles or appliances, was the subject property ever used as a junkyard or for salvage operations?

VNo Ves (list all that apply)

٠

6 | Page

18 - Was the subject property ever used for burning or incinerating garbage, building debris, or other materials?

□No □Yes (list all that apply)

OLD PALLETS AND DEBRIS SUCH AS LEAVES BUT NOTHING HAZARDOUS.

Additional Information

Please provide additional information that you deem important and is not otherwise listed above. This may include contact information for other knowledgeable individuals, sketches, maps, as-built drawings, details or firsthand accounts of encountering hazards (munitions or hazardous substances) on the property, or seeing sheens or other staining while on the property.

MR. ROBERT IS SURE AND INSISTED TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS SITE HAS NOT BEEN EXPOSED TO ANY HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS OR SUCH THAT MAY HARM THE ENVIRONMENT & NATURE. HIS AWARE OF THE SITE & ADJACENT PROPERTIES HAS NOT BEEN TOUCHED TO ATS AND UST OR WAR REMAINS THAT MAY HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

Cleose the t

EBS Interview Questionnaire

	on 🛛 Babeldaob (Ngaraard)	e Adjacent Property Owner property Property Resident Market Component Number (optional): Angaur (Ngeaur) view Questions		
(optional): Site Locatio 1 - <u>Hon</u> DS	on که Babeldaob (Ngaraard) Inter w long have you been a resident	Angaur (Ngeaur) view Questions		
1 - <u>Hor</u> 	on 🛛 Babeldaob (Ngaraard) Inter w long have you been a resident	Angaur (Ngeaur) view Questions		
	w long have you been a resident			
		an al-sautras bits		
□5)-5 years	of the Republic of Palau?		
	i-10 years am not a resident:	□10-20 years ⊠20+ years		
N V	lo 'es (list address or general location	n):		
pro	Are you aware of any spills or releases to the environment having occurred on the subjec property? For example, oil or gasoline spills, overfilling automobiles or storage tanks, tan or drum leaks, paint spills and similar.			
	lo es (list approximate date, type of	spill, and general location)		

Are you aware of any spills or releases to the environment having occurred on adjacent properties? For example, oil or gasoline spills, overfilling automobiles or storage tanks, tank or drum leaks, paint spills and similar.

No

□Yes (list approximate date, type of spill, and general location and distance from the subject property)

4 - Are you aware of any offsite gravel, topsoil, or backfill being brought onsite from an offsite source?

No Yes (list quarry or borrow pit if known):

5 - Are you aware of any aboveground storage tanks (AST) currently or formerly located on the subject property?

☑ No
 ☑ Yes - Formerly
 ☑ Yes - Currently
 (list the contents if known, and location on the subject property)

Are you aware of any ASTs located on adjacent properties?

No

□Yes - Formerly □Yes - Currently (list the contents if known, and approximate distance from the subject property)

6 - Are you aware of any underground storage tanks (UST) currently or formerly located on the subject property? ☑ No ☑ Yes - Formerly ☑ Yes - Currently

(list the contents if known, and location on the subject property)

Are you aware of any USTs currently or formerly located on adjacent properties?

No

□Yes - Formerly □Yes - Currently (list the contents if known, and approximate distance from the subject property)

7 - Are you aware of any illegal dumping having occurred on or adjacent to the subject property?

X No

□Yes (list general location where illegal dumping occurred for all properties):

8 - Are you aware of any permanent/temporary buildings being currently or formerly located on the subject property?

No

□Yes (list building type and general location):

9 -

Are you aware of any hazardous substances such as oil, gasoline, solvents, coolant, paint or similar products ever being stored on the subject property?

No

□ Yes (list substances stored on the property):

4	1.7	S	έ.	5.7	
•			2.8	5.1	2

10 - Has the subject property or adjacent properties ever been utilized for commercial (business/services) or industrial use?

No

□Yes (list all known uses for each property):

11 - Are you aware of any injection wells (including floor drains and septic tanks) on or adjacent to the subject property that were used to dispose of wastewater directly to the subsurface?

No Yes (Note the known locations)

12 - Have you ever witnessed any action or event on or adjacent to the subject property that might be considered hazardous to the environment? For example, an overturned car or ATV, a vehicle catching fire, target practice with a firearm, or burying metal debris to name a few.

■No Yes (please provide details below)

5 | Page

13 - Was the subject property ever sprayed with oil (used or new petroleum products, cooking oil, mineral oil or transformer oil) for dust control?

☑No □Yes (list type of oil if known)

14 - Were pesticides or herbicides ever sprayed on the subject property?

Ves

15 - Were drums ever stored or buried on the subject property?

XNo

□Yes (note the contents of the drum and location if known)

16 - Was the subject property ever used for refueling operations such as refueling boats, airplanes, automobiles or heavy equipment?

No Ves (list all that apply)

17 - Aside from a few abandoned vehicles or appliances, was the subject property ever used as a junkyard or for salvage operations?

⊠No □Yes (list all that apply)

Pise (list all that apply) Additional information that you deem important and is not otherwise listed abort is may include contact information for other knowledgeable individuals, sketches, maps, as-Idawings, details or firsthand accounts of encountering hazards (munitions or hazardous substances) on the property, or seeing sheens or other staining while on the property.	es (list all that apply) Additional Information de additional information that you deem important and is not otherwise listed above. Idude contact information for other knowledgeable individuals, sketches, maps, as-built estails or firsthand accounts of encountering hazards (munitions or hazardous on the property, or seeing sheens or other staining while on the property.	18 -	Was the subject property ever used for burning or incinerating garbage, building debris, or other materials?
Adduct of the second se	Additional information that you deem important and is not otherwise listed above. to de additional information for other knowledgeable individuals, sketches, maps, as-built to a see in the property, or seeing sheens or other staining while on the property.		
lease provide additional information that you deem important and is not otherwise listed abo his may include contact information for other knowledgeable individuals, sketches, maps, as- rawings, details or firsthand accounts of encountering hazards (munitions or hazardous ubstances) on the property, or seeing sheens or other staining while on the property.	de additional information that you deem important and is not otherwise listed above. dude contact information for other knowledgeable individuals, sketches, maps, as-built etails or firsthand accounts of encountering hazards (munitions or hazardous on the property, or seeing sheens or other staining while on the property.		
his may include contact information for other knowledgeable individuals, sketches, maps, as- lrawings, details or firsthand accounts of encountering hazards (munitions or hazardous ubstances) on the property, or seeing sheens or other staining while on the property.	Iude contact information for other knowledgeable individuals, sketches, maps, as-built etails or firsthand accounts of encountering hazards (munitions or hazardous on the property, or seeing sheens or other staining while on the property.		Additional Information
		his n rawi	nay include contact information for other knowledgeable individuals, sketches, maps, as-built ings, details or firsthand accounts of encountering hazards (munitions or hazardous

SEBS Interview Questionnaire

Interview Details						
Name:	KENNOSUKE A. SUZUKY De Government Employee	Date: 12-16-19 Time: 9:00 AM				
Affiliation:	 Owner of the subject property Other (describe): 	Nearby Resident				
Email address (optional):	Ph	one Number (optional): (680) 775-3887				
Site Location	🗆 Babeldaob (Chol, Ngaraard)	Angaur (Ngeaur)				

Interview Questions

- 1 Did you complete an interview questionnaire in 2018 as part of the initial EBS?
 - ⊠No □Yes

If you answered "No" proceed to question number 2. If you answered "Yes", to your knowledge, have any activities or events occurred at the subject property or adjacent properties since completing that interview that could cause any adverse impacts to the environment? For example, illegal dumping or burying trash, oil or gasoline spills, pesticide or herbicide application, discovery of old drums or dump sites, or similar. Please list all items below to complete and conclude this SEBS questionnaire

2 How long have you been a resident of the Republic of Palau?

0-5 years
5-10 years
I am not a resident:

□ 10-20 years 10-20 years

3 Are there any local landfills on or near the subject property?

□No Pres (list address or general location):

tacing north at the end of the runway, its on the left side.

4 Are you aware of any spills or releases to the environment having occurred on the subject property? For example, oil or gasoline spills, overfilling automobiles or storage tanks, tank or drum leaks, paint spills and similar.

No

□Yes (list approximate date, type of spill, and general location)

Are you aware of any spills or releases to the environment having occurred on adjacent properties? For example, oil or gasoline spills, overfilling automobiles or storage tanks, tank or drum leaks, paint spills and similar.

No

□ Yes (list approximate date, type of spill, and general location and distance from the subject property)

5 Are you aware of any offsite gravel, topsoil, or backfill being brought onsite from an offsite source?

No

□Yes (list quarry or borrow pit if known):

6 Are you aware of any aboveground storage tanks (AST) currently or formerly located on the subject property?

Vo Yes - Formerly

Yes - Currently

(list the contents if known, and location on the subject property)

Are you aware of any ASTs located on adjacent properties?

No
Yes - Formerly
Yes - Currently
(list the contents if known, and approximate distance from the subject property)

7 Are you aware of any underground storage tanks (UST) currently or formerly located on the subject property?

☑ No
 □ Yes - Formerly
 □ Yes - Currently
 (list the contents if known, and location on the subject property)

Are you aware of any USTs currently or formerly located on adjacent properties?

DNO

□Yes - Formerly □Yes - Currently (list the contents if known, and approximate distance from the subject property)

8 Are you aware of any illegal dumping having occurred on or adjacent to the subject property?

No-

Wes (list general location where illegal dumping occurred for all properties):

9 Are you aware of any permanent/temporary buildings being currently or formerly located on the subject property?

No

□ Yes (list building type and general location):

4 | Page

10 Are you aware of any hazardous substances such as oil, gasoline, solvents, coolant, paint or similar products ever being stored on the subject property?

☑No☑Yes (list substances stored on the property):

11 Has the subject property or adjacent properties ever been utilized for commercial (business/services) or industrial use?

☑No □Yes (list all known uses for each property):

12 Are you aware of any injection wells (including floor drains and septic tanks) on or adjacent to the subject property that were used to dispose of wastewater directly to the subsurface?

☑No □Yes (Note the known locations):

13 Have you ever witnessed any action or event on or adjacent to the subject property that might be considered hazardous to the environment? For example, an overturned car or ATV, a vehicle catching fire, target practice with a firearm, or burying metal debris to name a few.

□No. Pres (please provide details below):

site is full of WWII relids.

14 Was the subject property ever sprayed with oil (used or new petroleum products, cooking oil, mineral oil or transformer oil) for dust control?

☑No □Yes (list type of oil if known)

15 Were pesticides or herbicides ever sprayed on the subject property?

No Ves

16 Were drums ever stored or buried on the subject property?

No

□Yes (note the contents of the drum and location if known)

17 Was the subject property ever used for refueling operations such as refueling boats, airplanes, automobiles or heavy equipment?

☑No
☑Yes (list all that apply)

18 Aside from a few abandoned vehicles or appliances, was the subject property ever used as a junkyard or for salvage operations?

□No □Yes (list all that apply)

19 Was the subject property ever used for burning or incinerating garbage, building debris, or other materials?

☑No □Yes (list all that apply)

Additional Information

Please provide additional information that you deem important and is not otherwise listed above. This may include contact information for other knowledgeable individuals, sketches, maps, as-built drawings, details or firsthand accounts of encountering hazards (munitions or hazardous substances) on the property, or seeing sheens or other staining while on the property.

EBS Interview Questionnaire

Interview Details					
Name:		Roxanne Y. Blesam	Date: 072418	Time:	
		□ Government Employee	Adjacent]	Property Owner	
Affiliati	ion:	□ Owner of the subject property	J J J J		
		□ Other (describe): EQPB EO	•		
Email a	ddress				
(optional): eqpb@palaun		eqpb@palaunet.com	Phone Number (option	nal):	
Site Location		Babeldaob (Ngaraard)	X Angaur (Ngeaur)		
		Interview Qu	iestions		
1 - How long have you been a resident of the Republic of Palau?		epublic of Palau?			
	□0-5 year	`S	\Box 10-20 years		
	□ 5-10 yea	ars	X20+ years		
	□ I am not	a resident:			
2 -	Are there a	any local landfills on or near the su	bject property?		

X No □ Yes (list address or general location):

3 - Are you aware of any spills or releases to the environment having occurred on the subject property? For example, oil or gasoline spills, overfilling automobiles or storage tanks, tank or drum leaks, paint spills and similar.

 \Box_{No}

 \Box Yes (list approximate date, type of spill, and general location)

Are you aware of any spills or releases to the environment having occurred on adjacent properties? For example, oil or gasoline spills, overfilling automobiles or storage tanks, tank or drum leaks, paint spills and similar.

X No

 \Box Yes (list approximate date, type of spill, and general location and distance from the subject property)

4 - Are you aware of any offsite gravel, topsoil, or backfill being brought onsite from an offsite source?

X No □ Yes (list quarry or borrow pit if known):

5 - Are you aware of any aboveground storage tanks (AST) currently or formerly located on <u>the</u> <u>subjectproperty</u>?

X No
□ Yes - Formerly
□ Yes - Currently
(list the contents if known, and location on the subject property)

Are you aware of any ASTs located on adjacent properties?

X No
□ Yes - Formerly
□ Yes - Currently
(list the contents if known, and approximate distance from the subject property)

3 Page

We are not aware

6 - Are you aware of any underground storage tanks (UST) currently or formerly located on the subject property?

No
Yes - Formerly
Yes - Currently
(list the contents if known, and location on the subject property)

We are not aware

Are you aware of any USTs currently or formerly located on adjacent properties?

X No
□ Yes - Formerly
□ Yes - Currently
(list the contents if known, and approximate distance from the subject property)

7 - Are you aware of any illegal dumping having occurred on or adjacent to the subject property?

🗆 No

 \Box Yes (list general location where illegal dumping occurred for all properties):

We are not aware

8 - Are you aware of any permanent/temporary buildings being currently or formerly located on the subject property?

X No

- □ Yes (list building type and general location):
- 9 Are you aware of any hazardous substances such as oil, gasoline, solvents, coolant, paint or similar products ever being stored on the subject property?

 \Box_{No}

 \Box Yes (list substances stored on the property):

10 - Has the subject property or adjacent properties ever been utilized for commercial (business/services) or industrial use?

X No □ Yes (list all known uses for each property):

11 - Are you aware of any injection wells (including floor drains and septic tanks) on or adjacent to the subject property that were used to dispose of wastewater directly to the subsurface?

X No □ Yes (Note the known locations)

12 - Have you ever witnessed any action or event on or adjacent to the subject property that might be considered hazardous to the environment? For example, an overturned car or ATV, a vehicle catching fire, target practice with a firearm, or burying metal debris to nameafew.

X No □ Yes (please provide details below) We are not aware

13 - Was the subject property ever sprayed with oil (used or new petroleum products, cooking oil, mineral oil or transformer oil) for dust control?

□ No □ Yes (list type of oil if known)

We are not aware

14 - Were pesticides or herbicides ever sprayed on the subject property?

□ No □ Yes We are not aware

15 - Were drums ever stored or buried on the subject property?

 \Box No

 \Box Yes (note the contents of the drum and location if known)

We are not aware

16 - Was the subject property ever used for refueling operations such as refueling boats, airplanes, automobiles or heavy equipment?

X No □ Yes (list all that apply)

17 - Aside from a few abandoned vehicles or appliances, was the subject property ever used as a junkyard or for salvage operations?

□ No □ Yes (list all that apply) We are not aware

18 - Was the subject property ever used for burning or incinerating garbage, building debris, or other materials?

X No □ Yes (list all that apply)

We are not aware

Additional Information

Please provide additional information that you deem important and is not otherwise listed above. This may include contact information for other knowledgeable individuals, sketches, maps, as-built drawings, details or firsthand accounts of encountering hazards (munitions or hazardous substances) on the property, or seeing sheens or other staining while on the property.

EBS Interview Questionnaire

		Interview I	Details	
Name:		Roxanne Y. Blesam	Date: 072418	Time:
		□ Government Employee	□ Adjacent	Property Owner
Affiliat	ion:	□ Owner of the subject property	0	· ·
		□ Other (describe): EQPB EO		
Email a	address			
(option	nal):	eqpb@palaunet.com	Phone Number (optio	nal):
Site Lo	cation	X Babeldaob (Ngaraard)	🗆 Angaur (Nge	eaur)
		Interview Qu	uestions	
	·· ·			
1 -	How long	have you been a resident of the Ro	epublic of Palau?	
	□0-5 yea	rs	\Box 10-20 years	
	□ 5-10 ye		X20+ years	
	•	t a resident:	•	
2 -	Are there	any local landfills on or near the st	ubject property?	
	X No			
	□ Yes (lis	t address or general location):		

3 - Are you aware of any spills or releases to the environment having occurred on the subject property? For example, oil or gasoline spills, overfilling automobiles or storage tanks, tank or drum leaks, paint spills and similar.

X No

 \Box Yes (list approximate date, type of spill, and general location)

Are you aware of any spills or releases to the environment having occurred on adjacent properties? For example, oil or gasoline spills, overfilling automobiles or storage tanks, tank or drum leaks, paint spills and similar.

X No

 \Box Yes (list approximate date, type of spill, and general location and distance from the subject property)

4 - Are you aware of any offsite gravel, topsoil, or backfill being brought onsite from an offsite source?

X No □ Yes (list quarry or borrow pit if known):

5 - Are you aware of any aboveground storage tanks (AST) currently or formerly located on <u>the</u> <u>subjectproperty</u>?

X No
□ Yes - Formerly
□ Yes - Currently
(list the contents if known, and location on the subject property)

Are you aware of any ASTs located on adjacent properties?

X No
□ Yes - Formerly
□ Yes - Currently
(list the contents if known, and approximate distance from the subject property)

6 - Are you aware of any underground storage tanks (UST) currently or formerly located on the subject property?

X No
□ Yes - Formerly
□ Yes - Currently
(list the contents if known, and location on the subject property)

Are you aware of any USTs currently or formerly located on adjacent properties?

X No
□ Yes - Formerly
□ Yes - Currently
(list the contents if known, and approximate distance from the subject property)

7 - Are you aware of any illegal dumping having occurred on or adjacent to the subject property?

X No □ Yes (list general location where illegal dumping occurred for all properties):

8 - Are you aware of any permanent/temporary buildings being currently or formerly located on the subject property?

 \Box No

× Yes (list building type and general location): There are two residences located on the property

9 - Are you aware of any hazardous substances such as oil, gasoline, solvents, coolant, paint or similar products ever being stored on the subject property?

X No

 \Box Yes (list substances stored on the property):

10 - Has the subject property or adjacent properties ever been utilized for commercial (business/services) or industrial use?

X No □ Yes (list all known uses for each property):

11 - Are you aware of any injection wells (including floor drains and septic tanks) on or adjacent to the subject property that were used to dispose of wastewater directly to the subsurface?

X No □ Yes (Note the known locations)

12 - Have you ever witnessed any action or event on or adjacent to the subject property that might be considered hazardous to the environment? For example, an overturned car or ATV, a vehicle catching fire, target practice with a firearm, or burying metal debris to nameafew.

X No □ Yes (please provide details below) 13 - Was the subject property ever sprayed with oil (used or new petroleum products, cooking oil, mineral oil or transformer oil) for dust control?

X No □ Yes (list type of oil if known)

14 - Were pesticides or herbicides ever sprayed on the subject property?

X No □Yes

- 15 Were drums ever stored or buried on the subject property?
 - X No

 \Box Yes (note the contents of the drum and location if known)

16 - Was the subject property ever used for refueling operations such as refueling boats, airplanes, automobiles or heavy equipment?

X No \Box Yes (list all that apply)

17 - Aside from a few abandoned vehicles or appliances, was the subject property ever used as a junkyard or for salvage operations?

X No □ Yes (list all that apply) 18 - Was the subject property ever used for burning or incinerating garbage, building debris, or other materials?

X No □ Yes (list all that apply)

Additional Information

Please provide additional information that you deem important and is not otherwise listed above. This may include contact information for other knowledgeable individuals, sketches, maps, as-built drawings, details or firsthand accounts of encountering hazards (munitions or hazardous substances) on the property, or seeing sheens or other staining while on the property.

Interview of 2 Former USCG Employees about Angaur From: STOWERS, JOHN E CTR USAF AFMC AFIMSC Det 2/CEB <john.stowers.ctr@us.af.mil> Monday, August 13, 2018 12:08 PM Sent: McClure, Andrew (Drew); Neptun, Kristina TO: Cc: Stowers.John@live.com; FARRIS, JAMES R GS-13 USAF AFMC PACAF/AFIMSC Det 2/CEB [EXTERNAL] FW: Interview of 2 Former USCG Employees about Angaur Subject: Attachments: 3450901-LORSTA Angaur PDS.2012_09_10.docx Kristi, Drew, Just received the below email. Have you seen this? Any problem with included in the EBS? Thanks. John Stowers AFIMSC Det 2/CEB Contractor (Cherokee Nation Businesses) DSN 448-2543 work (at Hickam AFB) 210-325-7778 cell (in Hawaii) From: INGOGLIA, J M GS-14 USAF PACAF/AFCEC/CFPE Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 8:26 AM To: STOWERS, JOHN E CTR USAF AFMC AFIMSC Det 2/CEB <john.stowers.ctr@us.af.mil> CC: GRANNIS, WILLIAM E GS-13 USAF PACAF/AFCEC/CFPE <william.grannis@us.af.mil>; HERBST, GEORGE A GS-13 USAF PACAF/AFCEC/CFPE <george.herbst@us.af.mil>; FRAZER, BRETON B GS-13 USAF PACAF/AFCEC/CFPE <breton.frazer.1@us.af.mil>; CIBOCH, BRENT M GS-13 USAF PACAF/AFCEC/CFPD <brent.ciboch@us.af.mil> Subject: FW: Interview of 2 Former USCG Employees about Angaur John, This info should be included in the Palau EBS for the Angaur site as appropriate. We queried two former USCG civilian environmental staff persons (Jay Silberman and Dennis Mead) about their recollections of the Ngaraard location where the EBS found the abandoned drums. The USCG previously had a LORAN station at this location. Following is an account in their words, dated 9 Aug 18: Jay reported that " Me and Dennis [copied above] went out there in the mid-90s to take a look. We poked around the grounds and inside the main station building, and my recollection is that they just walked away from the station when they left. [e.g., all of the transformers and capacitors, of which there are ~200, were still in the transmitters]. The station was also using an unlined landfill along with the residents. And then there was the huge transformer [~65 gallon dielectric fluid capacity] we saw sitting on someone's porch. We…walked over there to check it out. Turns out they were using catchment... Over the course of the next few years, we negotiated the right with our lawyers and with USCG HQ to investigate/cleanup these remote stations. The ruling was basically that places like Palau had been

Interview of 2 Former USCG Employees about Angaur independent too long to provide any statutory authority for us to clean it up. Гwe were able to investigate/cleanup Yap, but that's a very long story]. Based on the other loran cleanups we've done, you can expect a big one. Attached and below is some additional info. " (I have an attachment that I will forward when I can retrieve it from my personal email) http://www.loran-history.info/angaur_island/angaur_island.htm "Any plot plans we might have had would have been trashed long ago by our office. The only thing I can offer you is a map found by a quick google search. The station is easily seen at the top of the map. " https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f6/Angaur_State_map-fr.svg http://www.loran-history.info/angaur_island/angaur_island.htm "No site map but google maps can show the location of the northern Dennis reported: site, no records of the older southern site. Locals complained of two invasive species brought by the CG, one is a nettle found in the antenna field and the other is a shrew species. We only walked around the northern site visited the landfill and the launch point (near north end of the runway). Orengas Thomas was our guide, he claimed ownership of the land but I heard later his ownership was contested. His son (grandson?) was in the CG and stationed at MSO Honolulu when I retired. Nice guy but probably retired now. Because of the vegetation you could only see the water if you were near the ledge over by the diesel storage tanks." Thanks, mi



U.S. Coast Guard Real Property Environmental Liability Project Documentation Sheet



A. PROJECT INFORMATI	ON									
A1. Project Data										
RPUID: TBD	Project Nan Angaur	ne: Env Rest F	Former LORSTA	Project No.: 3450901						
ATU: 33	OPFAC: 512	292		Servicing CEU: Honolulu						
Common Unit Name:			Common Locat	tion Name:						
CG CEU HONOLULU			Former LORST	A Angaur (Palau)						
Street Address: N/A		Location City	/: Angaur Island	Location State/Terr.: Republic of Palau						
Project Manager: Dennis MeadManaging Unit (CEU, HQ, etc.):Phone No.: (808) 535-3464CEU HonoluluEmail: dennis.j.mead@uscg.milCEU Honolulu										
Identification Method										
□ Due Care □ Construction/Demolition ⊠ RP Transfer/Due Diligence □ Unit Field Report □ Inherited □ Other										
Date Identified: June 2006	Prioritizatio	n Risk Rankin	g Score: 19.5	ELE: \$110K						
Source of Contamination:										
Potentially contaminated so	l and/or groun	ndwater due to i	improper historic o	disposal practices.						
A2. Project Description										
1945 as a monitoring station 1945. The station was rebuted transmitting station operated	n only. The mo uilt as a trans	onitoring statior smitting station	n operated until it between Octobe	ct and began operation in June was disestablished in November er 1965 and August 1966. The in January 1978.						
operations at this site. CE confirm the current physical investigation is complete.	Ŭ Honolulu Ei	nvironmental B	ranch personnel	The USCG no longer conducts have not yet been to the site to cription will be gathered once the						
EL Description:										
environmental office conduct AOR. During this review, for historical activities associal containing debris was impro-	cted a desktop ormer LORAN ted with LOR operly dispose	p review of the N Station Angai RAN station op ed at the Site.	former LORAN s ur was identified. perations, it is lik In addition many	In June 2006, the CEU Honolulu Stations located within the D-14 Due to its remote location and kely that contaminated or PCB small capacitors are thought to ons and identify further actions						
groundwater samples from there are any areas with la	the site. Addit arge accumula , the contractor	tionally, a magr ations of iron b or will contact l	netometer survey puried in the vicin ocal inhabitants v	face and sub-surface soil and will be conducted to determine if ity that may represent a buried who may know of the disposition						



U.S. Coast Guard Real Property Environmental Liability Project Documentation Sheet



A3. Regulatory/Legal Driver(s)
DoD Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document, Compact of Free Association
A4. References
1. CEUH General Scope Work
2. www.loran-history.info
3.
B. BASIS OF ESTIMATE (BOE)
B1. Liability Status Phase:
 Not Reasonably Estimable – Recognize cost to study Remediation Not Reasonably Estimable – Recognize cost to contain Reasonably Estimable – Recognize best estimate
B2. Cleanup Strategy:
The following investigation strategy is based on the CEU Honolulu experience at similar facilities.
 Contact former USCG personnel or local inhabitants that may have specific knowledge of where landfill or disposal areas are located.
Take on site and near shore biota samples to test for PCB migration off site.
 Divide the area into 20 decision units (approximately 0.5-2 acres each) and conduct MI/DU sampling of the surface soil samples. 20 MI/DU PCB surface soil samples 20 MI/DU Metals surface soil samples
 Surface scan of the area with a magnetometer and sub-surface soil and water samples taken from four sites. Soil samples will be collected from four borings in 2-foot depth increments until water is reached or refusal is encountered using portable drilling equipment. 20 PCB subsurface soil samples
 20 Metals subsurface soil samples 4 PCB Groundwater samples 4 Metals Groundwater samples
 A summary report will be prepared to present the findings of the SI and recommend any future investigation and/or remedial actions necessary.
B3. Key Assumptions :
Uncertainties:
• The presence of contaminated debris, soil, groundwater, or sediments has not been assessed at this point. Therefore, the need for further investigation or remediation beyond a Site Inspection is unknown cannot be classified as "probable".
Assumptions:
Assume groundwater is at 10 feet bgs.
• Assume that logistics challenges (such as travel to site and shipping of equipment) make the site a "Moderate" complexity in RACER.



U.S. Coast Guard Real Property Environmental Liability Project Documentation Sheet



Contingencies:			
-	ingency factor has been assumed	l across all future phases.	
B4. Cost Estimate	Source :		
🛛 RACER 🗌 A	opproved Remedy Selection Docu	ment (FS/RAP/ROD/PP/etc	c) 🗌 Historical
	L		
	her:		
C. COST ESTIMAT	TE SUMMARY		
	umentation for detailed estimat	te)	
		S)	
Fiscal Year Basis o	of Estimate: <u>2012</u>		
Future Phase #1:	Site Inspection	Estimated Cost:	\$96K
Future Phase #2:		Estimated Cost:	
Future Phase #3:		Estimated Cost:	
		10% Contingency	\$10K
Total En	vironmental Liability (Rounded	Up to the Nearest \$5K):	\$110K
D. SIGNATURE AI			
Estimator			
Name/Title (Print):	Robert Singer, PE/Contractor	Telephone: 207-828-2643	3
Signature/Date:	A A A		
//	What My	09/11/2012	
Reviewer			
	nas reviewed this RP EL Projec eness, and compliance with the Guide.		
Name/Title (Print):	Dennis Mead	Telephone: 808-535-3464	4
Environmental Prote	ction Specialist		
Signature/Date:			

APPENDIX F Field Logbooks VISUAL SITE INSPECTIONS AND SOIL SAMPLING. EBS - REPUBLIC OF PALAU

AUTHORS :

ANDREW MCLURES



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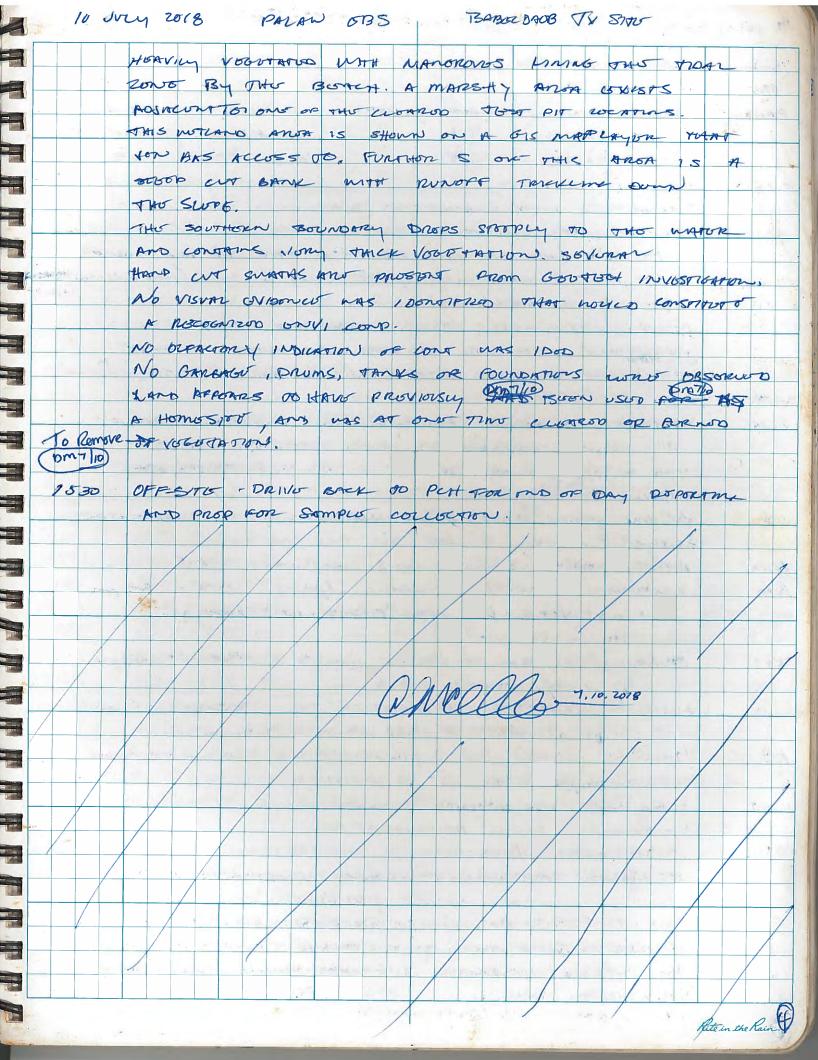
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1235	1 state	- 009	A. 6	<u> </u>	1200	By 552 WING
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1600	Ser Sing	-018	MAR SUNE	· ····	4×902	RUSTED DRUM TICHNEGET TO B.S.
1610	By the With 4	-019		and the same	2×902	"STOPOUT" FROM 018 BUSTED DRUM TRANSECT to B-3
1625	V	V -020	N	DUP	4x 902	NO PROIO AUCCOTIDES
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TIME	10#	Pip	NOTES	and the		
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1435	SC-AM	1 1.6	By I	3-11 - NATIUU	Vog - SA	MPLEH 18PA-ANF-016
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1845	SC-AP	2.8	TRANSI	T TO B-5	DRUM -	# 18PA - ANG-018
1600	SC-AQ	1.7	TRANS	SET TO B-5	DRUM -	# 18 PA-AWG-019 -01
1625	SC-AR	0.64	TRANS	Sper TO B-3	Davin -	# 18PA-ANG-020+000
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	P. SIMT
/4	JULY 18 PALANERS ANGANZ ROSITU
conit -	METAL DOBRIS, Some LARGO BIGGES OF FRAG WORD FOUND
	MONTO W/ A SPORT 0.50 CAL CAPTRIDGE (SIES DIHON LOGBOOR).
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in a barrie	WAS ACTIVITY STATUD. NO BAI CXISIS. A WOATHOR STATION W/ Solar WAS PROSONT CONSISTE SITE
Sec. 1	SUPPOUNDING PROPORTIES
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	NORTH AND BAST, UNDEVELOPED LAND TO THE SOUTH AND
S. 20-	THE AIRPORT TO THE WEST. FURTHOR WEST OF THE RUNNING
12.45	AND OLD LIMOSTONE BORROW PITS THAT WORKE USUD AS
	A LANDFILL UNTIL A NOW LANDFILL WAS OPENDO TON
7	THE NW SIDE OF THE ISLAND. THE USCO CORAN
THE COM	STATION WAS LOCATED FURSHER NW OF THE PUNNAY.
	BASID ON THIS INTERVION WITH THE GOVERNOR AND HIS COUSIN,
- Solar Cont	THIS LOFT OVOR GUNS ARMS WERE STOCKPILLED AT 71-15 N OND
•	or the Runny And Pustos into ocome sovere
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0937	THE "DRUM" DENOTHTIM OUR SITE FIGURE 15 NONE OXTONSIVE
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a mine the	~ 10 feet shy of THE NORTHERN EXTENT. CONSTING SAMPLES
	FROM VARIOUS BROAS BYTHO DRUMS. PROST DRUMS
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	LICOLY THE DRUM DUMP THAT JUS GOVERNON AUTODOD TO.
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addel station	Any DRUMS THAT LUTERS Sound GROUGH TO CONTRAM CONTONTS.
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0900	18Pa-pro-024 - 24902 " " " h S
1005	18PA - ANG-025 - 2×902 N - RUSTON TAR DRUMS
1020	18PA - ANG-026 - 2×902 FURTHOR N = 5 post RUSTOD DRUMS
1015	18PA - ANG-027 - 2×902 Mys-OF Drums - TAR
	CX / CC MAN - OF DWINS - TAK
2 1030	18PA-ANG-028 - 2×902 Soutont of Drums 18PA-ANG-029 - BAG TAK SAMPLO

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15 JULY 18 PALAN EBS IN KOROR - PROP FOR SAMPLIES WOWTHOR : SCATTOROD HOAVY RAIN, BOS, VARIABLES WIND TO 20 mpt MOD LOYGE D FOR SITE WORK ppo PORIONNOZ: DRON MCCURO (AVINOR) JACES JIM FARAIS (AP MUSC) POTE Roomono MIKE SNBINE OBJOLTINGS ; COLLECT & ADDITIONAL MARS FROM TX SITS FOR MS/MSD QUANTITES - SAMPLE - 18PA-BAB-006 · DOWNLOAD AND BACKUP DATA (GPS / PHUTOS) · MOUT W/ CTSI AT 1500 TO COORDINATIS SAMPLE SCHEMOUTS 0630 GROAK FAST AND TAKGATO - JALOBS ONZY MOT JIM FARRIS & KRISTON GEORGE (JENERP) IN WBBY TO 0730 AISCUSS DRILD WORK. TO NARRARD TA SITE TO COLOCE ADDITIONAL MS/MSD QUANTITIOS 0800 ONSITO TO COLLOCT & - 902 Jars For MS/MSP 0950 -18PA-BAB-006 - ADDITIONAL QUANTITY COLLOCTOD FROM SAME LOCATION BACK TO PALAN CONTRAL HOTEL FOR SAMPLE MANAGEMENT 1150 MUSSTING WITH VOHN DIAZ AT CTSI - SAMPLE SHIPMONT 1500 - 3MD PARTY PODEX. COMPLOTOR PAPORLORK AND AUTHORIZATION LOTTER. - FOLLOW UP TOMORROW W/ BOSUCURITY PAPORNORFEO FINALIZES SHIPMONT BACK to PLH TO FINISH SAMPLO MARAGOMONT 1600 or por cono 15,18

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16 Juny 18 PALAU GB5 - SHIP SAMPLES Jon VOGT - POVION OR AUSTORIC DOCUMENTS. CONT HO WILL PROVIDU US AN OF THOSS VIA-Brume PANS FOR ROVION. 0955 MOUTANE Conclupor AT POLAN DUPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE / BIOSOCURITY 1048 OFFICE TO OBTAIN CONTIFICATO OF ORIGIN PAPORMONEK. 1137 BACK AT CTSI TO FINAUZE PAPER MURIL · SHIPPORS ACCOUNT NUMBER -LETTER FROM CTSI TO FODEX IN GUAM FOR APPROVAL - INTORNATIONAL AIR WAYBILL - 1 FOR SHIPMONT - Commancial INVOICE - 1 For Stupmen LOPICO FOR JFA. COOLOR CONT OF ORIGIN - I FOR ON, COOLOR - PERMITTOO NAMO (LAB) LABER I For EA CODOR - Pormy # - Propon LARSCING 1230 BRCK TO PCH _ - SIT ROP AND PONORPOINT SLIDUS FOR CHIRIS CORTOZ - OVUNVIUN OF PROJUCT ANOAS - SAMPLE COCATIONS -VSI. COVERAGE AND ARLITROODDRY / MEC NOTOS 1545 PROPARE SAMPLOS POR SHIPMONT SU LAB 1620 PROPPOD OFF COOLORS AT CASI FOR SHIPMONT onor product togen For DINNESK & PROJUCES URAP-UP 1700 AT AIRPORT TO DORART TO QUAM -> HONOLULU -> 2355 ONWARD. Ports KODMOND & DROW MECLURO DUMOBO. MUKO SOUBLACE IS ON TOY PTO UNTIL 21 W24, THON MILL KOTIKIN to ARIZONA KND or DAY

USALIS	PALAU SOBS & PHASE II 15 Nov 2019
= MEATHOR: 80-90°E ,	MOSTLY SUNNY, LIGHT BROOZES
	meczines (MALOBS - TOCH LISTO)
PISTIS R	SOMOND (UNURS - SUKOS & SM)
	STEINKAMP (JACOBS - ARCHAUDLOGIST)
PRS: CIVILIAN CLOTH	
	WITH JON VOGT TO DISCUSS COGISTICS & SCHOOULING
· Inven	STORY GLASSWARD
	I WITH NOTAL DIAZ TO DISCUSS SAMPLES SHIPMONT
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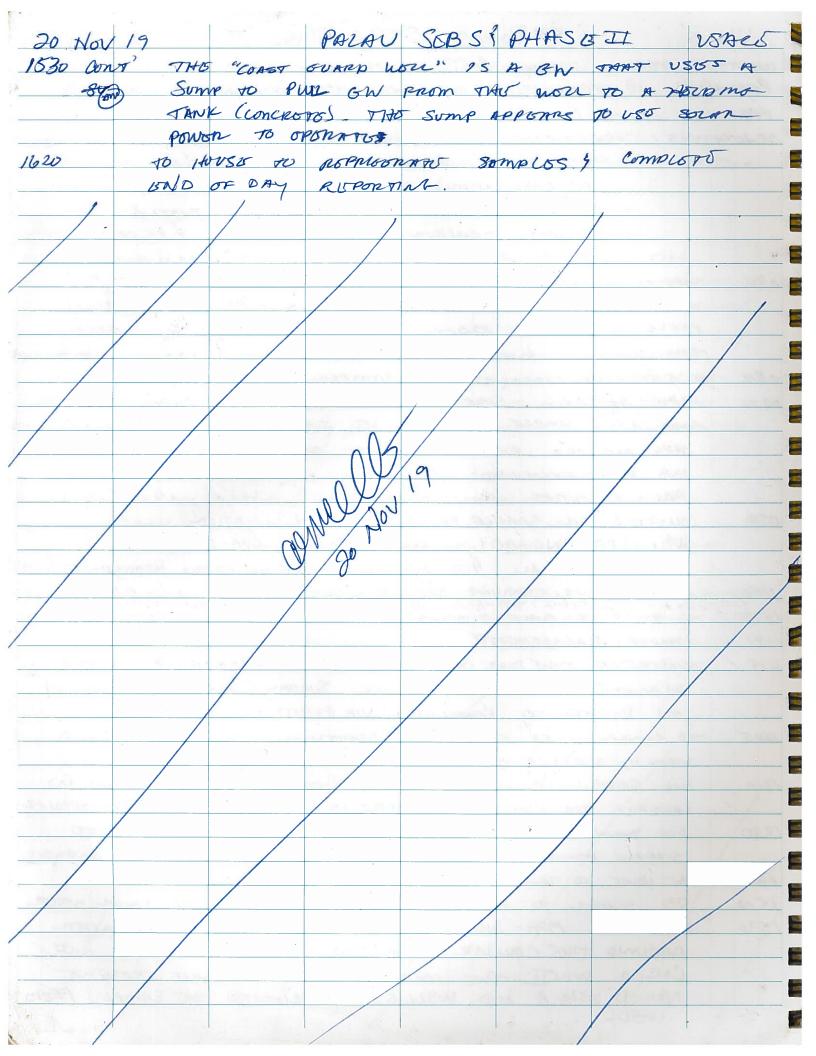
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TIME SAMPLE		LOCATIONS	
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0925	- 505	+ 90ft 5	LUND SW60ZO
0930	-20W	+ 2057 W	
0936	-50W 1	+ 50ft W	
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DALAU SEBS PHASE II USACO 17 NOV 2019 1542 CONT' AN ABANDAROP US COLOT GUARD DOLON WAS OBSOULD IN THE LUNGLE BETWEN THE CANDPILLAND OCEAN (NOV) or madere sions w/ various woom poperis, ASSOSSOD ALLOSS DONTO DOWN JOVOZ P BORROW 1600 PIT TO THUS W OF THE REPUBLICE. TO BURCH HOUSE FOR SAMPLIC ANANAGOMONT 1635 OND OF DAY poporting.

MERSHAR :	oyoning	T, BOSF	216	TRS PARSEI		Lov 13
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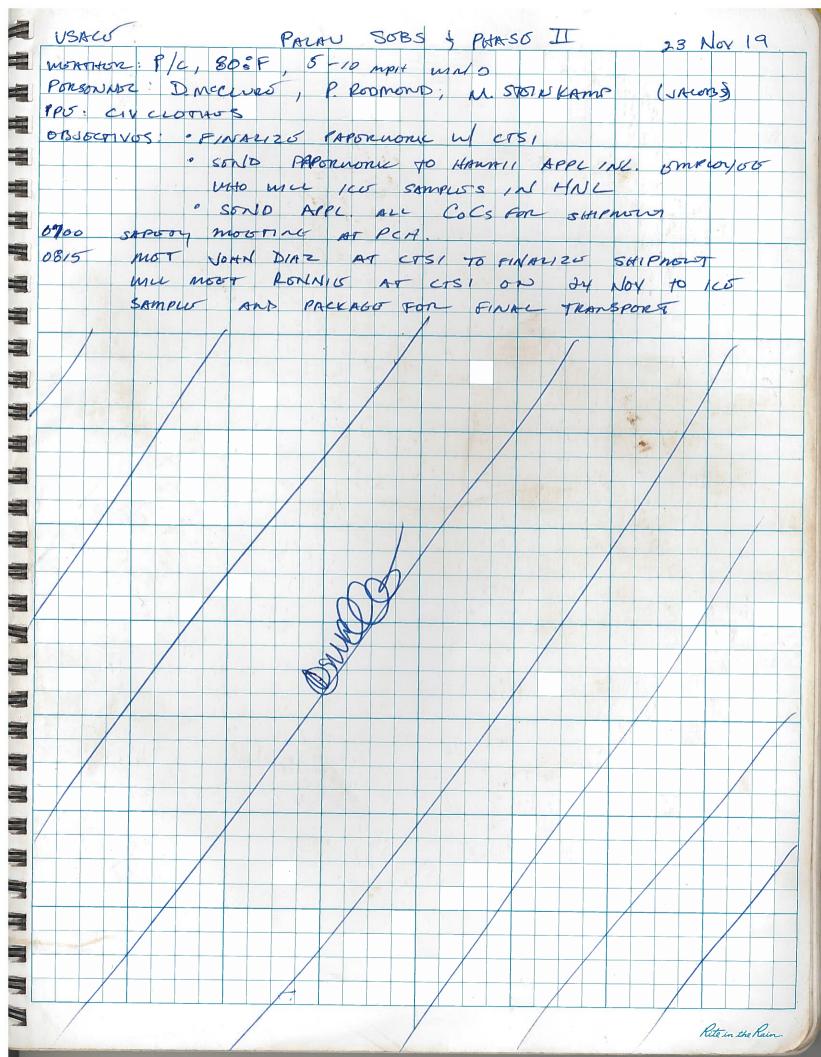
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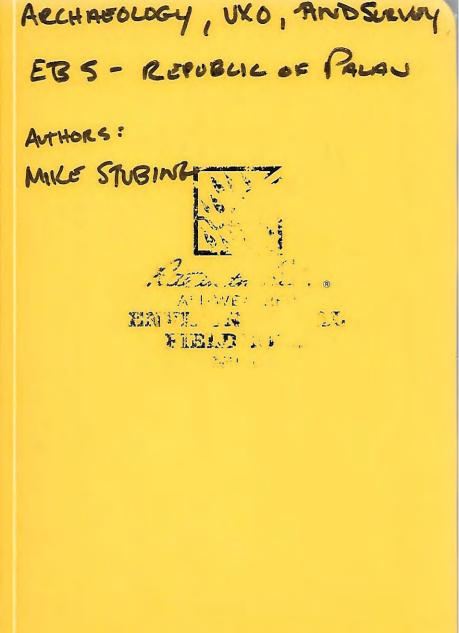
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		TO HOMOLYL	
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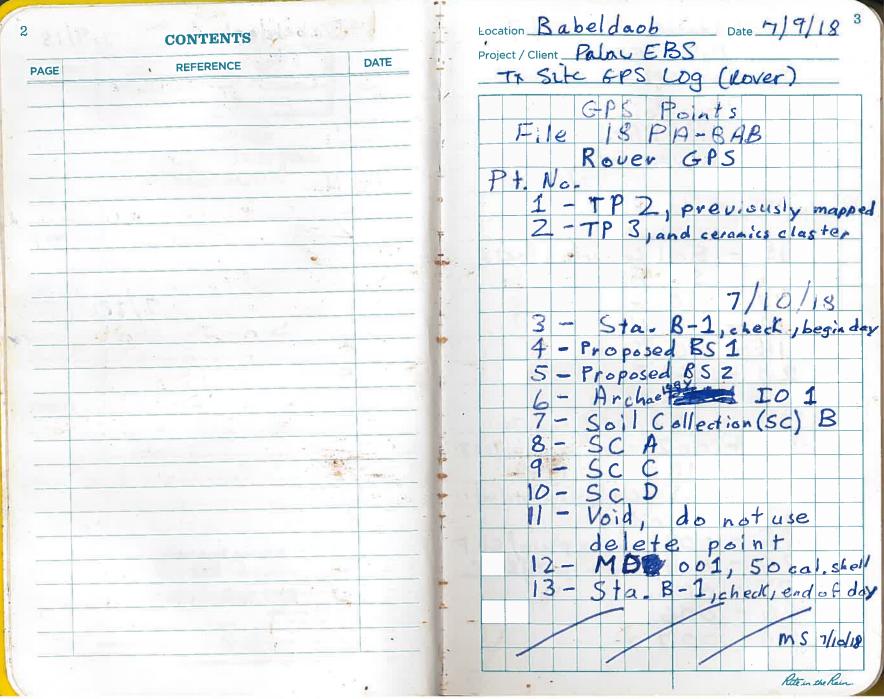
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PORSONAS	2: D. MCCLURG, P. RODMOND, M. STOINKAMP
PPUS: NOD	LOYOZ D
OBJOCTIX	55: · COORDINATO WICTSI FOR SHIPMONT OF SATURDS
	0 60 TO TX SITE AND COMPLETE VSI
1.1.2.4.2	D LOLLISOT 2 SOIL SAMPLUS FROM TX SITUS
	· COORDINATIO PAYMENT W/ ANGAUR STATE OFFICE.
0700	SAFETY MOSTING AT PLH. COMPLUTUR COCS AND
0.	GUT IN TOUCH WITH ISON (ANCAUR BOARD HOUSE) AND JAN ME
1 Summer	(CUSTOMS KROKOZ) TO CODEDINATES PAYMONT
1030	Home No FRAND PLAY TO TU SIOS
1142	MIST GUORDE HORBST (AF) & JON VOOT (PROJECT LIASKIN) AT
1.10	T _x SITS.
13/1-	Consister Son SAMPLE 19PA-BAB-001 FROM
1345	DOMNATIL OF TERRACO COMPLEXA, THIS AROA HAS BEEN
	DOWN ALL OF DOUTE COMPLEX . THE MILL AND AND THE CONTROL
	CUSAROD AS PART OF THO ARCHAGOZOGICAL INVOSTIGATION,
1310	THE DOLO VOI ARUN NIPOTTIS SIMICIAN OPTICAL
	OBSORVOD DUNING INITIAL VSI. NO NOW DISTURBED
1	ANONS, DUMP SITES, BTC. WAS NOTOD. THE RESIDENTIAL
	PROPERTY APPOTANOD SIMILAR TO 2018. THO NOW
	CONSTRUCTION FROM 2018 HAD BOOM COMPLOTOD TO A
1	TWOSTOM RESIDONTIAL UNIT W/STAIRS TO THE ROOT
	THREE OTHER AWILDINGS NONS NOTED ON THE PRINCESY.
1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1	SIMILAN TO 2078, NO ANOAS MONO IDENTIFIED THAT
	WOULD CONSTITUTE & RECOGNIZOD BUVIRONAUONTAL
13 Martin	CONDITION.
1340	SOIL SAMPLIS 19PA-BAB-002 COLLECTED
	~ 20 FT OFF OF ROADWAY DOWN ORADIONT OF
	THE RUSIDONTIAL PROPONDY.
1400	DRIVING TO KORER TO MOST ADMIN AT ANGAUR STATIS
1100	OFFICS.
1530	PAID ANGINE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR REWTAL CAR ?
1000	SITTE NORKER.
1100	TO POIT FOR SAMPLO MANAGOMENT & OND OF Day REPORTING
1600	TO FOR POR SATURCO THAT GOTTANT. 7
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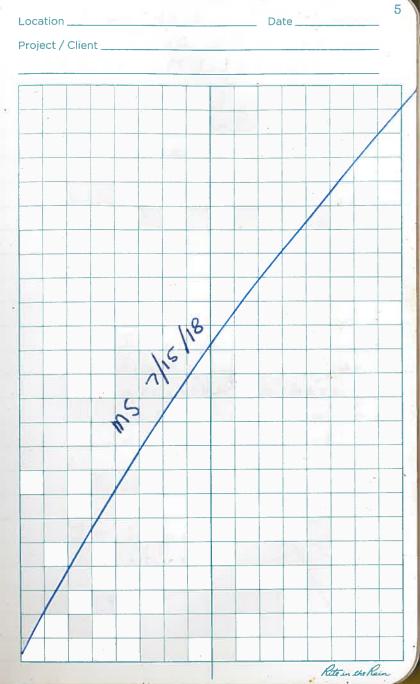


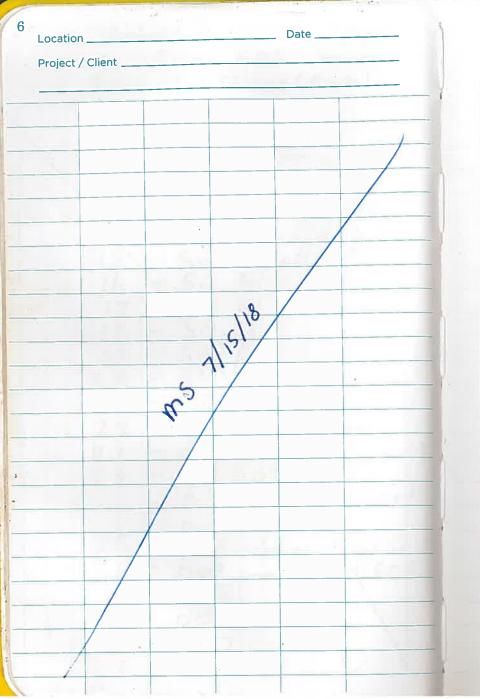


AF1-J07-5FGA6502-H04-0002



Location Babeldaob Date 7/11/18 Project/Client Palau EBS TX Site GPS Log (Rover) GPS Points File 18 PA-BAB Rover GPS 7/11/18 Pt. No. 142 - Sta. B-1, check at start of day 15 - Soil Collection (SC) E - SC F - SC G 16 17 - SC H - SC I 18 19 20 - SC J 21 - SC K 22 - 001, soil sample 23 - 002, same as pt. 20/SCJ 24 - MD 002, 1943 0,50 cal, expended 25 - 003, same as pt.16/SCF 26 - 004, some as pt. 9/SCC 27 - 005, 28 - 006 29-007





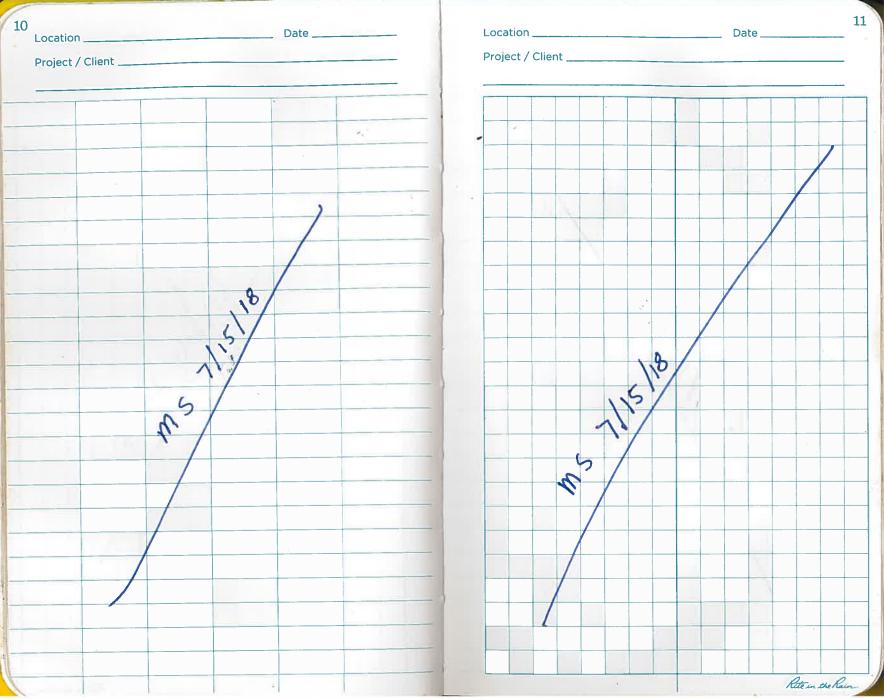
Location Babeldaob Date 7/10-11/18 Project / Client Palay EBS TX site GPS Log (Base) GPS Points File 18 PA-BAB Base GPS P Pt. No. 7/10/11 1 - Proposed BS-1. Point was established prior to fieldwork as an offset base station. It was staked in the field using the rover gps, then the base gps unit was left in place during fieldwork. 18 2-Same Vn5 7/11/18 Rete in the Rain

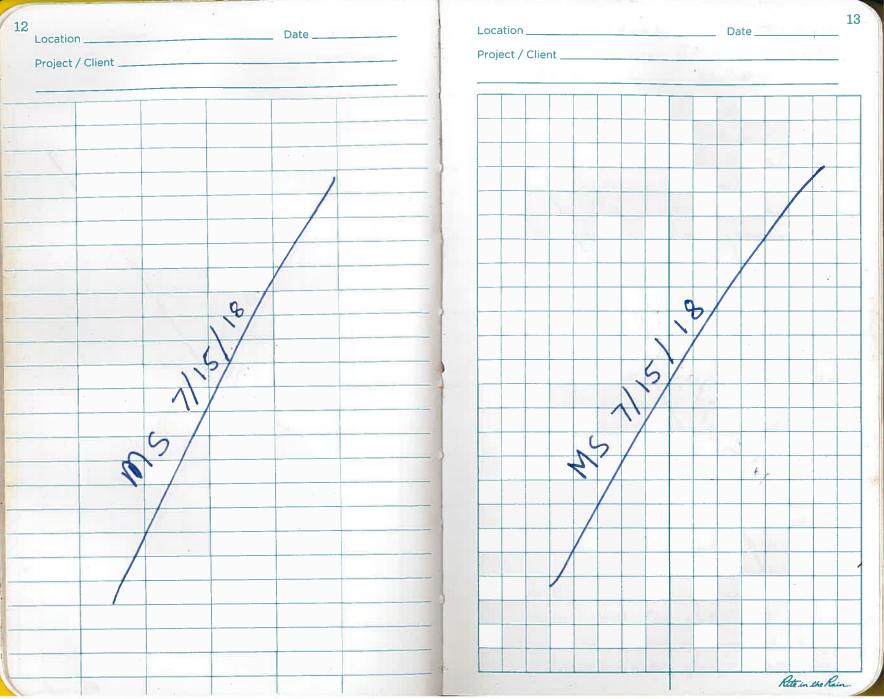
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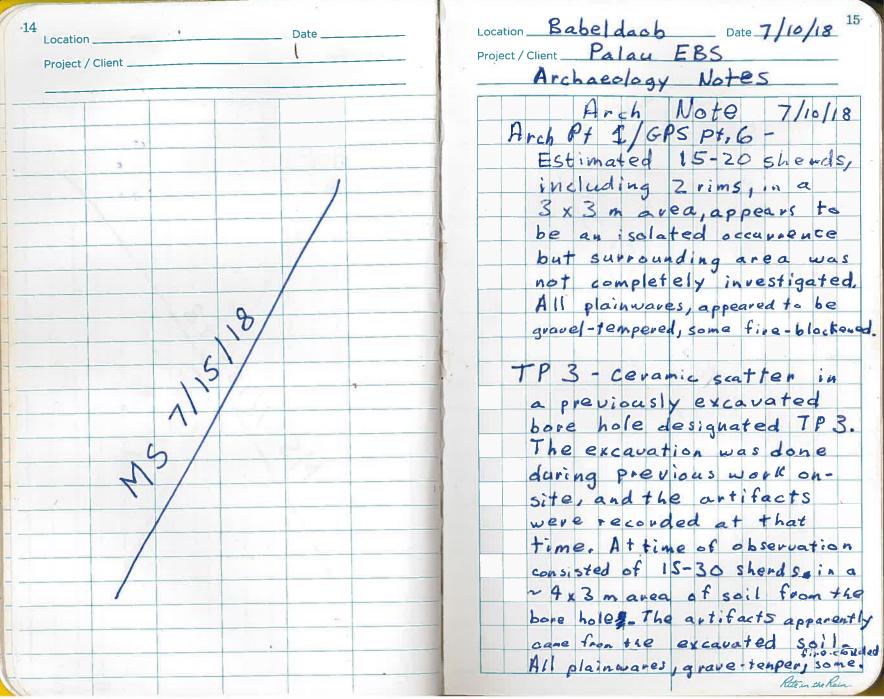
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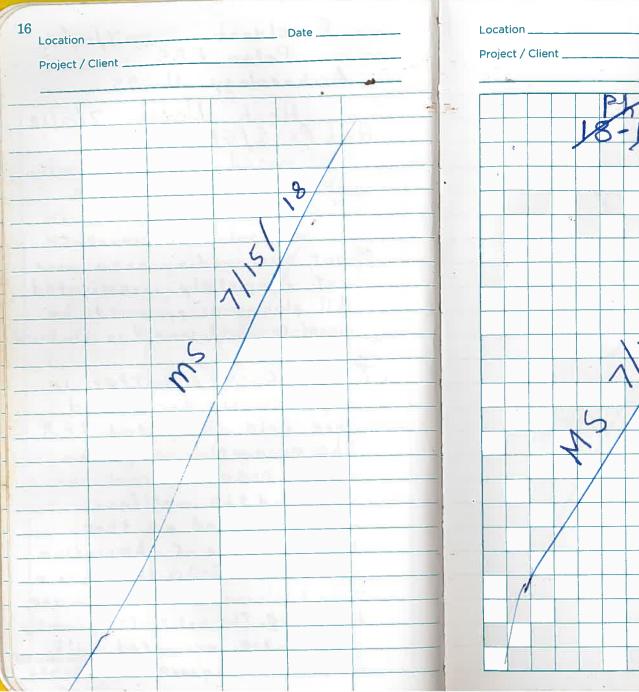
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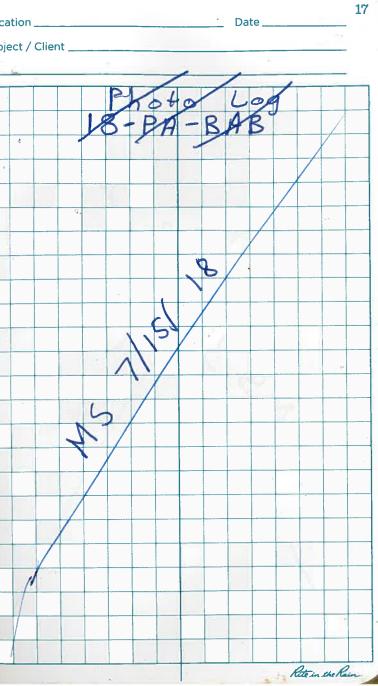
Rite in the Rain

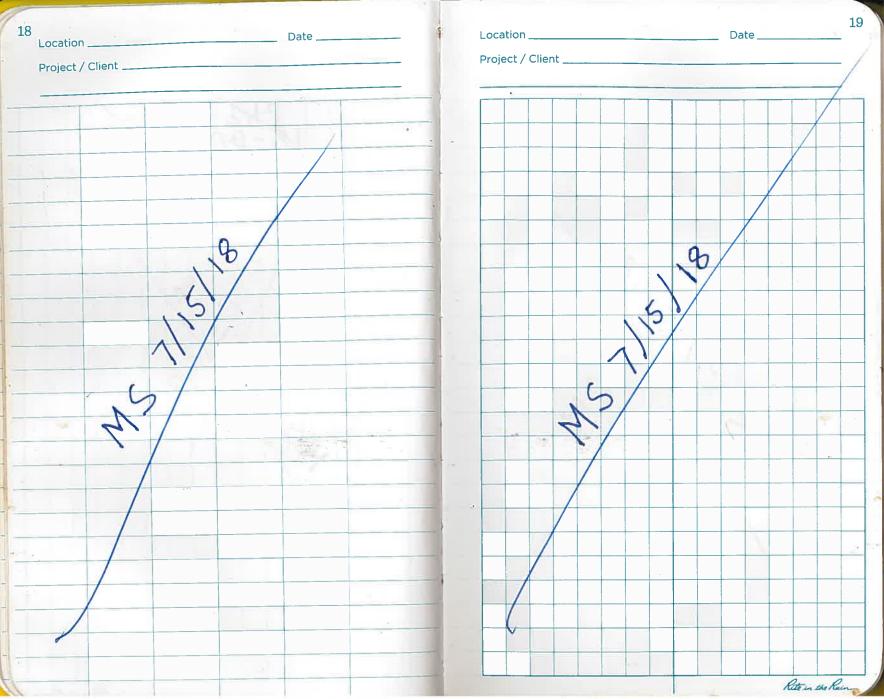


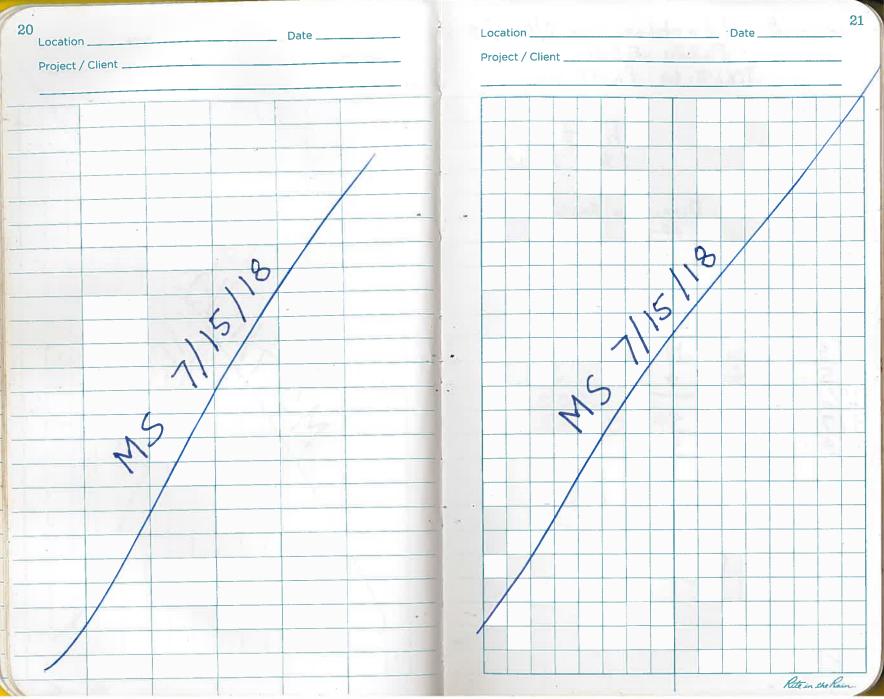




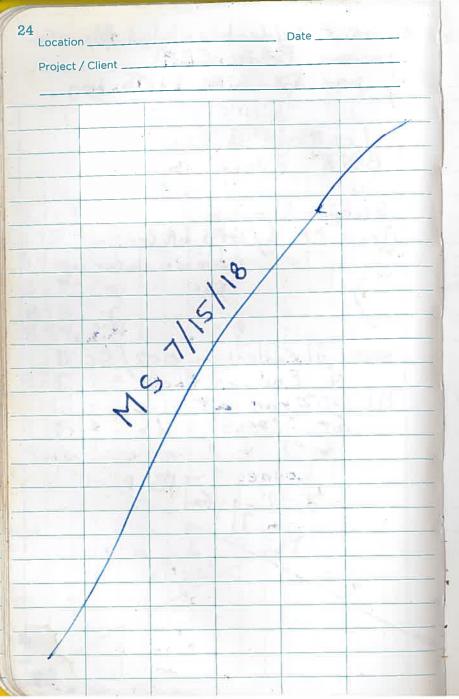








Location Babeldach Date 7/10-11/1823 22 Location Babeldaob Date 7/10-11/18 Project / Client Palau EBS Project / Client Palau EBS TX Site Photo Log TX site Photo Log Photo 18 PA-BAB Subject Arch Pt. 1/GPS pt. 6 Divection Facing Photo No. 895 Cevamic close - 4p 896 897 898 899 Soil Collection 002/SC J 914 915 MD 002, 916 004 SI 917 L 918 115/18 ms 7/15/18 1 MS Rete in the Rain

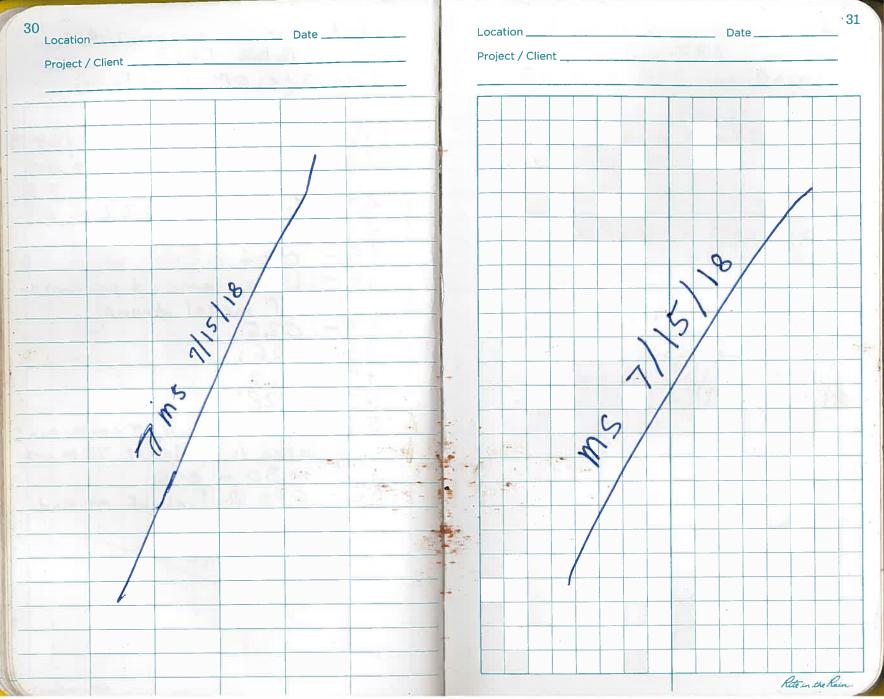


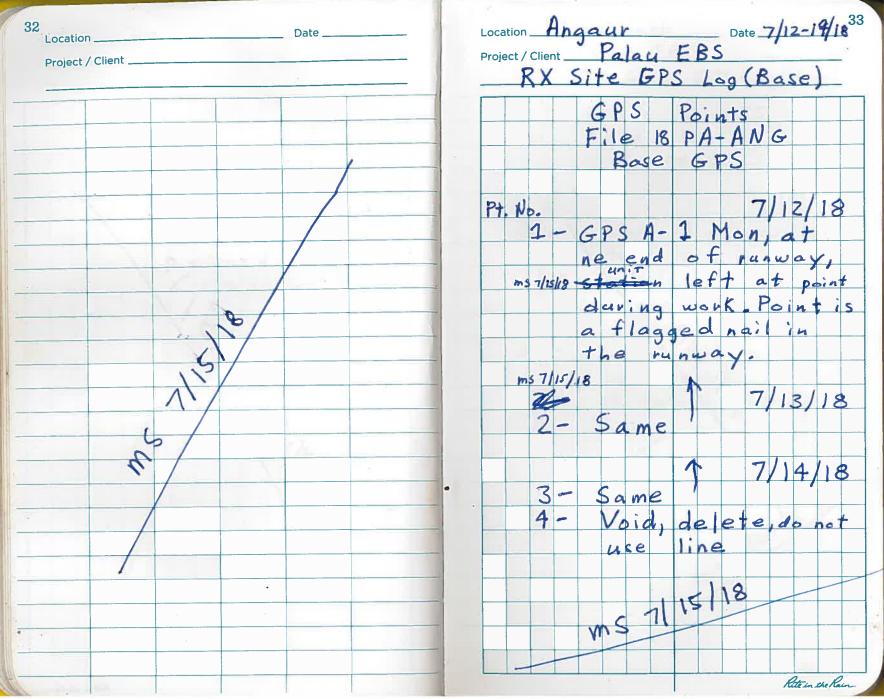
Location Angaur Date 7/12/18 25 Project/Client Palau EBS RX Site GPS Log (Rover) GPS Points File 18 PA-ANG Rover GPS 7/12/18 Pt. No. - GPS A - 1 Mon, at 1 ne end of runways check shot at start of day. Point is a flagged nail in the VUAWay. Z - End of Rocky Pti trail at coast 3 - Opposite end of Kocky Pt. trail on main road, connects with pt. 2 Note- Two sightings of a megapod were made along the Rocky Pt trail 4 -Soil Collection (SC) AA 5 - SC AB-also large metal Arch PALE IO 1 Prags SCAC MANNE IO 1 6-SC AD-alse largo m

26 Location Angaur Date 7/12/18 Project/Client Palau EBS RX Site GPS Log (Rover) GPS Points, cont. Pt. No. IO 9 - Arch = 2 - 5 - 10 sherds mo 1/12/18 in a 5×5 m area. in the greater vicinity AE) 10- SC of these points is a Significant concentration 11-50 AF of metal and concrete. AG / 12 - 50 Very overgrown, probably from historic mining 13 - SC AH 14 - SC AI  $15 - SC AJ ms^{1/2}$ 16 - SC AK, stat metaldrum 17 - metal shrappel fragment 18 - 5 5 19 - SC AL, in asphalt deposit 20 - GPS A-1, check at end of day ms 7/12/18 S. 45 AL

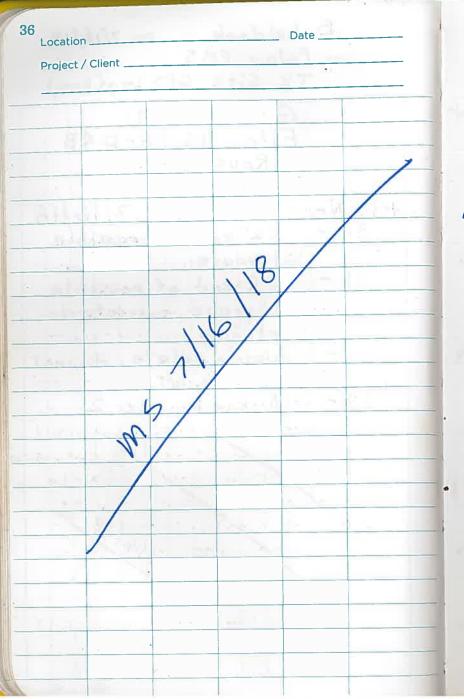
Location Angaur Date 7/13/18 27 Project/Client Palau EBS RX Site GPS Log(Rover) GPS Points Pt.No. 7/13/18 ZI- GPS A-I, check at start 22 - 001, soil sample Void, delete, do not use point 23-001, so il sample 24-010, same as gips 14 SC AI 25-011, same as gps 15/ SC AJ 26 - 012, same as gps 16/SCAK 27 - 013 28-014, near gps 19/SC AL 29-007, 36-008 31-009 32-MD 003 33 - SC AM/015, both samples from the same location 34-SC AN/016 35-SC A0/017 36 - Void, delete, do not use point 37 - Partially buried metal plate Rite in the Rais

Location Angaur Date 7/14/18 28 Location Angaur Date 7/13/18 Project / Client Palay EBS Project / Client Palau EBS RX Site GPS Log (Rover) RX Site GPS Log(Rover) GPS Points GPS Points, cont. Pt No. 7/14/18 7/13/18 PtNo 42 - GPS A- 1, check at shot 38 - SCAP/ DIS 43 - Sample 022 39 - SC AQ/019 40 - GPS A-1, check at end 4 023 of day 41 - SC AR/ 020 4 5 -46 - Line, around perimeter of metal drams - 025 48-026 13/18 9-OZ7 50-028 51 - local land fill, ~ centerpant, ms area is at least 75 m n-s × 30 m e- w GPS A- I icheck at end 52 of day ms THALLYB Rete in the Rain





34 Location Project / Client	Date		Project / Client	alay EBS
	1. 193 Add Add 2 /	<u>X</u>		X Site GPS Log(Rover)
				GPS Points File 18 PA-BAB
				Rover GPS
			Pt. No.	7/16/18
1	1		30-	NW end of possible
				terrace
C. C. Sandard I. Street F		- R	31 -	SE end of possible
				terrape, connects to
	0			pt. 30
			32-	Void, delete, do not
	10/			use point
			33-	Archaeology IO Z
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	and, she			1116/18
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J. S.S.			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	TT/ IP S			
				Rite in the Rain



Location Babeldaob Date 7/16/18 37 Project / Client Palay EBS TX Site Archaelogy Note Auchaeology Notes Visited a potential terrace in the vicinity of TP 14. The ms -/ will rentine was found by a previous archaeologist, and designated as a possible terrace. It consists of a raised avea, somewhat vectangular in shape, priented nw-se. The feature appears to be made of soil and nocks, and is somewhat level on the top cueface. It is thens thele mostly covered by vegetation, and actual dimensions could not be obtained. The feature could be either natural or cultural, due to the plant coven it could not be determined which st the it is . IO 2 - Two plainware sheeds 2 m nw-se from each other. Rite in the Rain

Location ANSCRIPTIAN Date 11/16/2019 38 Project / Client MATT STEIN KAMP 7:30 AM - Crew Deported Hotel APTER lossing obvioret And HEADED to Dockes to BOARD BOAT TO ANCANT. MOT with Bost Captain And Gource of Amporce ONDE BOOT AND HODED South to ANGAN FROM Roror. Milo sens, Arrives @ 9:10 Am and unlined Bang no nor Finnk (local) who is an armer, lower truck me here to send itorse where we organized our Field Gear For the any, they have out to antino of 18 pg ANG sample months. Mile weather, yet hat + humis. we were ade to perveture juncte without atting, this Bypacety recently at AFOR3. Junde 73 hummo dy will corry lime store istorps Any Barbors, carof threship Fronts And thick, low visibility vacchatin. Hum Desis consists of lots of liver mo platy steel (Oxiones) mmy structure debris. NO Historic or pre-contrat ArtiFacts observes, though visibility was low they prototes or Goos (e 50%) up Also 032000. - methods consisted of pere lending crewing Juscie For MEC ANODATE Wille Drews, Myselve my Forth Follows to only single bout , NO MELLERE ENcontered

Location ANGAR Project / Client

Date 11/16,11/17/1939

A La - - - -

impter T	10 P	699	
DATE	Simple #	RECORD	
1/16/19	19-PA-AUG02-201		
1	19PA-ANGOOD-20W		Le zero
	19PA-ANGOOD-5CW.	2:17	
	19PA-ANX002-205	2:22	1 and
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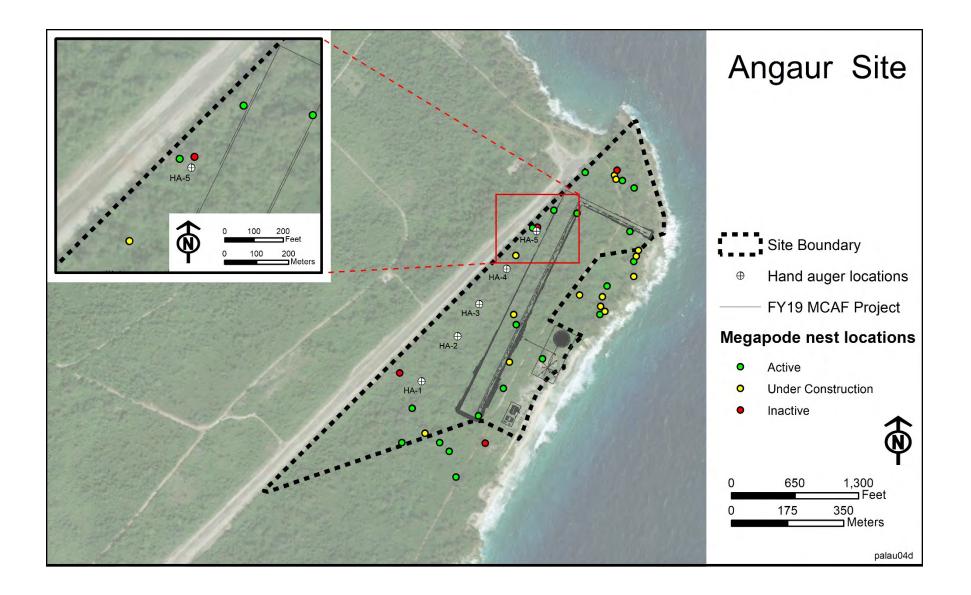
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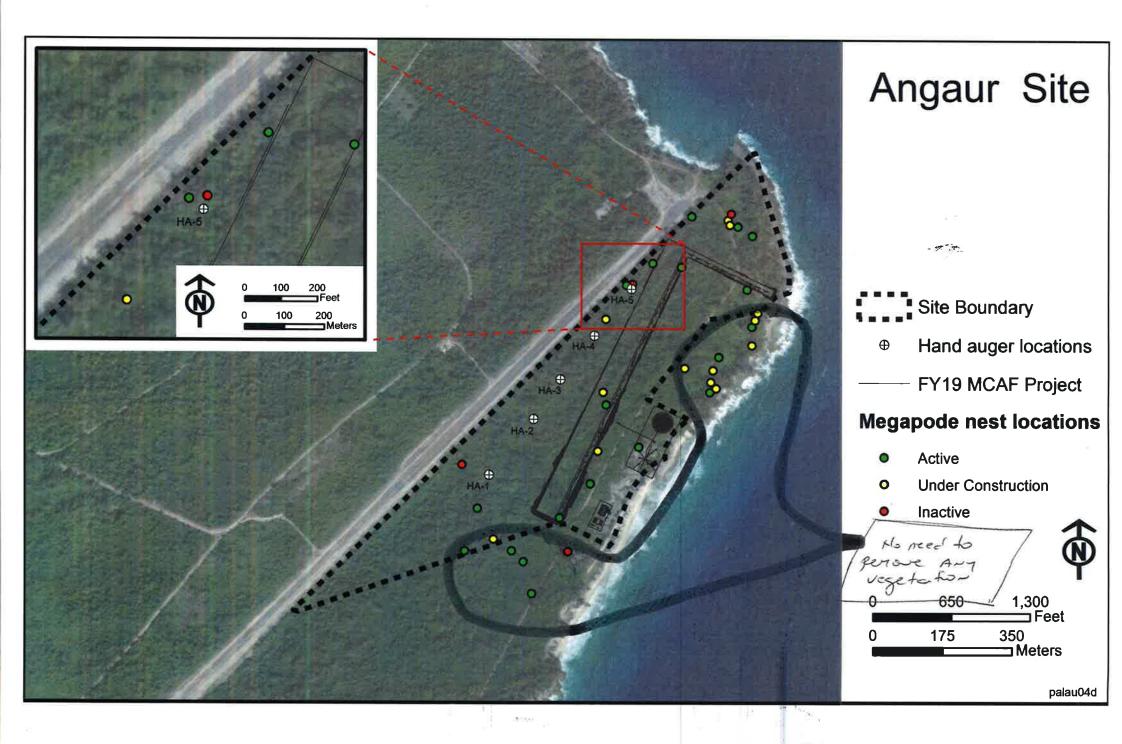
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## Megapode Nest Locations Angaur Island, Palau, Jan 22-26, 2019

ID	Status	Ν	E
N001	А	N6.91245	E134.15162
N002	А	N6.91130	E134.15139
N003	А	N6.91139	E134.15074
N004	I	N6.91091	E134.15028
N005	С	N6.91012	E134.14967
N006	С	N6.90846	E134.14961
N007	А	N6.90818	E134.14968
N008	А	N6.90639	E134.14932
N009	А	N6.90562	E134.14862
N010	А	N6.90462	E134.14780
N011	А	N6.90487	E134.14753
N012	А	N6.90583	E134.14676
N013	С	N6.90713	E134.14949
N014	C	N6.91237	E134.15244
N015	-	N6.91251	E134.15251
N016	C	N6.91226	E134.15248
N017	A	N6.91222	E134.15266
N018	A	N6.91201	E134.15299
N019	A	N6.91089	E134.15014
N020		N6.90485	E134.14881
N020	A	N6.90722	E134.15042
N021	A	N6.90846	E134.15203
N022	c	N6.90855	E134.15205
N023	C	N6.90901	E134.15146
N024 N025	c	N6.90869	E134.15140
N025	c	N6.90896	E134.15205
N020 N027	A	N6.90926	E134.15210
N027 N028	C A	N6.90928 N6.90953	E134.15225 E134.15298
N028 N029	A	N6.90995	E134.15298
N029 N030	A C	N6.90995 N6.91010	E134.15298 E134.15305
		N6.91010 N6.91026	E134.15305 E134.15311
N031	C	N6.91028 N6.90487	E134.15511 E134.14647
N032	A C	N6.90487 N6.90513	E134.14647 E134.14712
N033 N034	A	N6.90513 N6.91079	E134.14712 E134.15287
			E134.15287 E134.14641
N035	l	N6.90682	
ON001	A	N6.89445	E134.13800
ON002	A	N6.89267	E134.13646
ON003	A	N6.88911	E134.12969
ON004	A	N6.88919	E134.12882
ON005	A	N6.88913	E134.12846
ON006	A	N6.88884	E134.12865
ON007	A	N6.89061	E134.12320
ON008	A	N6.89028	E134.12260
ON009	A	N6.89015	E134.12274
ON010	A	N6.89624	E134.12954
ON011	A	N6.89175	E134.12754
ON012	A	N6.89071	E134.12530
ON013	A	N6.89620	E134.12755
ON014	C	N6.89573	E134.12797
ON015	A	N6.89644	E134.12835
ON016	А	N6.89645	E134.12838
ON017	А	N6.89630	E134.12873
ON018	I	N6.90067	E134.14611
ON019	А	N6.90390	E134.14799

IDs starting with "N" are onsite nests, those starting with "ON" are offsite nests
Status: A=active, I=inactive, C=under construction
All nests were flagged in the field with yellow tape flagging and labelled with nest ID



## Natural and Cultural Resource Investigations to Support Construction of Air Domain Awareness Radar Facilities in the Republic of Palau

**Natural Resource Surveys** 

**Final Survey Report** 

Prepared by:

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and

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Submitted to:

Breton Frazer Environmental Program Manager, Pacific Division

June 2020

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Natural resource surveys were conducted at the proposed locations of two Tactical Multi-Purpose-Over-the-Horizon Radar (TACMOR) facilities, one on Babeldaob Island in the state of Ngaraard (the Ngaraard transmitter [Tx] site) and one on Angaur Island (the Angaur receiver [Rx] site) in the state of Angaur. Natural resource surveys were conducted January 14–18, 2019, at the Ngaraard site and January 22–26, 2019, at the Angaur site. Survey staff from Argonne National Laboratory and from the Belau National Museum surveyed both sites in order to characterize the plant and animal communities prior to any future project construction. Particular focus was on determining whether rare or protected species occur at the sites and the locations of sensitive resources (e.g., bird nest sites, rare or endemic plants) that should be protected or avoided. Of concern was the potential occurrence of 14 rare or protected plants, 28 rare or protected animals, and the Micronesian Megapode, an endangered bird known to nest on Angaur Island. Standardized survey protocols were used at both the Ngaraard Tx and Angaur Rx sites.

Common Name	Scientific Name	International Union for Conservation of nature (IUCN) Red List ^{b, c}	Palau Proposed List ^b	U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) ^b	Ngaraard Tx Site	Angaur Rx Site
	1	Plants				
Indian Mangrove	Ceriops tagal	NL	Т	NL	X	
Mesecheues	Aglaia mariannensis (palauensis)	VU	Т	NL	Х	
		Birds				
Micronesian Megapode (Bekai)	Megapodius laperouse	EN	Е	Е		Х
Palau Fruit-Dove (Biib) ^a	Ptilinopus pelewensis	LC	Т	NL	Х	Х
Palau Nightjar (Chebacheb)	Caprimulgus phalaena	NT	Т	NL	Х	
Palau Owl (Chesuch) ^a	Pyrroglaux podargina	LC	Т	NL	Х	
Palau Kingfisher (Cherosech)	Todiramphus pelewensis	NT	NL	NL	Х	
Morningbird (Tutau)	Pachycephala tenebrosa	LC	Т	NL	Х	
Palau Fantail (Melimdelebteb) ^a	Rhipidura lepida	LC	Т	NL	X X	
Palau Flycatcher ^a (Charmelachull)	Myiagra erythrops	LC	Т	NL	Х	
Palau Bush Warbler (Wuul) ^a	Horornis annae	LC	Т	NL	Х	
		Mammals				
Pacific Sheath-tailed Bat (Chesisualik)	Emballonura semicaudata	E	NL	NL	Х	Х
Palau Fruit Bat (Olik) ^a	Pteropus pelewensis	NT	Т	NL	Х	Х

TABLE ES-1 Rare or Protected Species Observed at the	Ngaraaro	l Tx and Angaur Rx Sites,
January 2019	$\overline{\mathcal{O}}$	

^a Endemic species; occurs only in the Republic of Palau.

 b  NL = not listed; NT = near threatened; VU = vulnerable; LC = least concern; T = threatened; E = endangered.

^c The IUCN listings apply to a species throughout its range, including any occurrence in the Republic of Palau.

The Ngaraard Tx site has a rolling terrain and includes savanna/grassland and a variety of forest habitats. None of the habitats that occur on the site are unique or uncommon, and all may be found in other areas of Babeldaob Island. The expansive, centrally located savanna/grassland is ecologically affected as a result of forest clearing from traditional Palauan terracing activities of the area that occurred prior to Western contact. More than 198 plant species were found among these habitats with at least 159 species being native to Palau and 21 of these endemic, occurring only in Palau. Two of the species are proposed by Palau for designation as threatened, and one of these is designated as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. A total of 28 bird species were either observed or heard during the avian surveys at the site. Nine of these species have an IUCN Red List and/or proposed Palau designation. None of these species requires a unique habitat, and with the exception of the Palau Nightjar, these species were regularly seen or heard throughout the survey period. Likely nesting areas for the Black Noddy and White Tern were identified in the north and southwest forest. Both species of bat (Pacific Sheath-tailed Bat and Paulau Fruit Bat) were reported from the site, and a roost for the Palau Fruit Bat was found in the northern forest at the site. Survey efforts for the Pandanus Skink (IUCN Red List designation of near threatened) failed to find any individuals.

The Angaur Rx site is quite different from the Ngaraard site. Angaur Island is a relatively flat, raised, limestone plateau. The site of the proposed Rx facility was the location of a major World War II (WWII) battle and before that had phosphate mining, both of which had an impact on the ecology of the island. Supertyphoon Bopha also had an impact on the island in December 2012. All these have resulted in the area being quite disturbed, especially compared to the Ngaraard site. Surveys of the Rx site found more than 148 plant species, 92 of which are native and 8 of which are endemic to Palau. No plants with IUCN Red List, Palau, or ESA designations were found during the survey. Two culturally important plant species, one a critical component of Angaur's first birth ceremony and the other associated with childbirth, were found within the Rx facility footprint. A total of 18 bird species were documented during the surveys, 3 of which have an IUCN Red List or Palau-proposed designation. The Palau Fruit-dove is proposed for listing by Palau as threatened, while the Palau Kingfisher is IUCN Red List designated as near threatened. Neither of these species has habitat requirements unique to the Rx site.

The third rare or protected species found at the Angaur Rx site was the Micronesian Megapode. The species is designated as endangered on the IUCN Red List and under the ESA; it is proposed for listing as endangered by Palau. The megapode was the second most observed or heard bird species during the avian surveys at Angaur. It was reported during all survey activities and each day of the surveys. More importantly, 32 active megapode nests were documented within the Rx site footprint. An additional 19 nests were found south of the site and outside of the project footprint. The density of nests within the site falls within the upper range of nest densities previously reported across the rest of Palau. It is clear that the Rx project area provides quality nesting habitat for this endangered species.

On the basis of the survey results, a number of potential mitigation measures are identified (but are not limited to): collecting fruit, seed, cuttings, and entire specimens of endemic, rare, and protected species (if small) for propagation and transplant in areas with active nesting; delaying project activities until fledging has occurred; minimizing vegetation clearing to the extent practicable; implementing project activities in a manner that provides continual escape

routes for adult and juvenile megapodes to unaffected habitat; collecting megapode eggs for artificial incubation and subsequent use in reintroductions elsewhere on Palau; and capturing adult megapodes for reintroduction elsewhere on Palau.

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#### 1 INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Air Force has proposed construction of two Tactical Multi-Purpose Over-the-Horizon Radar (TACMOR) facilities (one transmitter [Tx] facility and one receiver [Rx] facility) in the Republic of Palau for air domain awareness. The agency is evaluating the potential adverse impacts of that construction on natural and cultural resources within the project footprints and adjacent areas. The Tx facility site is located on the northern end of Babeldaob Island, within the state of Ngaraard (Figure 1). The Rx facility site is located on Angaur Island, at the southern end of the archipelago in the state of Angaur (Figure 1). Facilities to be constructed include electrical utilities, reinforced concrete pads and foundations, tiedowns for equipment, water and wastewater facilities, access roads, paved parking and turnaround areas, and two levels of security fencing to support the installation of TACMOR equipment. Construction of these facilities will require extensive site work.

To assist the U.S. Air Force in identifying potential environmental impacts and mitigation options, environmental surveys were conducted at each of the two proposed facility sites. Surveys were conducted at each site to provide baseline information regarding the nature and condition of natural resources at each location. The surveys characterized the plant and animal communities at each site, including their distribution, relative abundance and occurrence, and status under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2018) and the Republic of Palau's threatened and endangered species list. This report presents the results of these surveys, as well as mitigation options to be considered for addressing impacts on the natural resources that may be incurred with project development at each site.

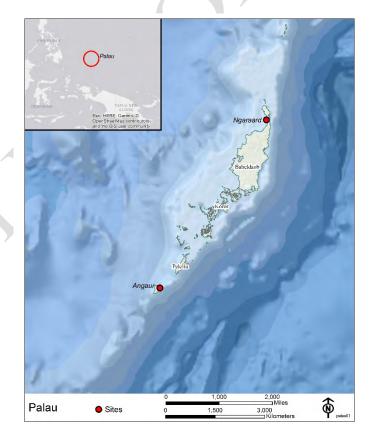


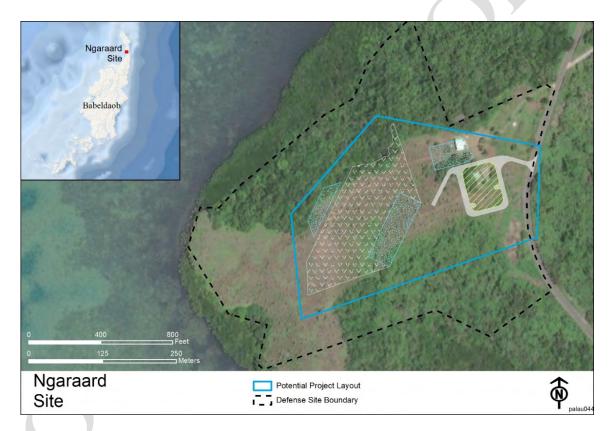
FIGURE 1 Project Locations for TACMOR Facilities on Babeldaob and Angaur Islands, Republic of Palau.

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#### **2** SITE DESCRIPTIONS

#### 2.1 NGARAARD SITE

The Ngaraard site is located on the top and slopes of a hill adjacent to the ocean on the northern end and western side of Babeldaob Island (Figure 2). Compared to the Angaur site, which was the location of a major World War II (WWII) battlefield as well as of phosphate mining that began in the late 1800s, the Ngaraad site shows limited evidence of recent human disturbance. Currently there is a small dryland taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) field in the easternmost portion of the site, adjacent to the Compact Road. Immediately to the west of this field are several outbuildings and a homestead. Besides a gravel drive from the Compact Road to the homestead, there is no evidence of any further recent human disturbance at the site.



**FIGURE 2** Proposed Tx Facility Location, Ngaraard, Babeldaob Island. (The proposed Tx facility may occur within the site boundary as shown).

The site exhibits considerable topographic relief within the project area. The highest elevation (50 meters [m]) occurs on the east side of the site. The site gradually slopes westward to about 40 m in elevation before steeply decreasing to near sea level to the north, west, and south; about one quarter of the site is occupied by the hilltop. Most of the hilltop and westward slope is open savannah dominated by grasses, ferns, scattered shrubs, and small trees. An

emergent marsh, approximately 1,500 square meters  $(m^2)$  in area, is located on the south-central portion of the hilltop. A small seep emanates from the downslope portion of the wetland and flows to the south. Areas of bare clay soil and of exposed volcanic bedrock are scattered across the hilltop.

A narrow strip of tropical hardwood forest and a small patch of mangroves at the coastline are just outside the western edge of the project area. To the immediate north and within the project area is a very steep slope (approximately 45%) of unbroken dense tropical hardwood forest. A steep slope also occurs at the southern edge of the project area, but this slope is less steep and more irregular in topography and includes a small stream formed by the wetland seep on the hilltop. Tropical hardwood forest with a dense understory of shrubs, small trees, and vines dominates the south slope. An extensive mangrove forest is just outside of the project area at the bottom of the south slope of the hill.

#### 2.2 ANGAUR SITE

Angaur Island is a relatively flat, raised, limestone plateau with minimal soil overlying fractured limestone. The proposed facility would be located in the northeast portion of the island, between the island's airplane runway and the coast; a semipaved road runs through the site paralleling the coast (Figure 3).



FIGURE 3 Proposed Rx Facility Location, Angaur Island.

The Angaur site is located on a major WWII battlefield (September 17–October 22, 1944), and portions of the site were subject to phosphate mining beginning in the late 1800s. As a result, the site is much more disturbed than the Ngaraard site. More recently, in December 2012 Supertyphoon Bopha struck Palau as a Category 4 storm, with its eye passing 35 miles south of Angaur Island. Along the eastern facing coast of the island (which includes the Rx site), the storm surge caused extensive damage, pushing several hundred feet inland in some areas and resulting in considerable damage to coastal habitats. Evidence of this damage is readily evident from the coast road south of the Rx site.

As a result of the past phosphate mining, the WWII battle, and most recently Supertyphoon Bopha, the site and surrounding areas have been extensively disturbed and now support dense secondary vegetation growth. This secondary vegetation is a mix of tropical hardwood trees and shrubs, with grasses and forbs in the understory and open areas. Numerous large trees emerge from the surrounding lower canopy within the project footprint. The adjacent coastline is rocky and does not support mangrove.

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#### **3 METHODS**

#### **3.1 LITERATURE REVIEW**

Prior to the surveys, Argonne performed a thorough literature review of the ecosystems of Palau, with a focus on Babeldaob and Angaur Islands and the species of concern that could be found in the habitats at the Ngaraard and Angaur sites and their immediate surroundings. The species of concern are those identified on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species; those identified by the Palau government as threatened, endangered, or rare; and those listed under the ESA. The literature evaluated during this review included scientific journals, federal agency reports, reports from the Belau National Museum, and scholarly books, as well information from local natural resource experts.

The review resulted in a list of rare, threatened, and endangered species that occur in Palau and that could occur in areas affected by the two proposed facilities (Table 1). To develop this list, we reviewed (1) the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2018); (2) a list of species being considered for listing as threatened and endangered by the government of Palau (provided to the U.S. Air Force Civil Engineer Center [AFCEC] by the Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board [EQPB]; and (3) the ESA list, which includes a number of foreign species, several of which occur on Palau.

TABLE 1         Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species That Could Occur in Potentially Affected	
Habitats in the Ngaraard and Angaur Project Areas.	

		IUCN Red	Palau Proposed	ESA	
Common Name ^a	Scientific Name	List ^b	List ^c	List ^d	Habitat
		Plants			
Caroline Cinnamon tree (Ochod)	Cinnamomum carolinense	NL	Т	NL	Forest; reported to occur on Babeldaob Island
Cinnamon Tree (Ochod)	Cinnamomum pedatinervium	NL	Т	NL	Forest
Palau Palm (Esbuuch)	Ponapea (Ptychosperma) palauensis	NL	Е	NL	Forest
Rock Island Palm (Bochelauchererak)	Hydriastele (Gulubia) palauensis	NL	E	NL	Forest
Xylocarpus (Meduulokebong)	Xylocarpus moluccensis	LC	Т	NL	Mangrove swamp; reported to occur on Babeldaob Island; mangrove swamp is adjacent to Ngaraard project area.
Tilol	Garcinia matsudai (matudae)	NL	Т	NL	Forest; reported to occur on Babeldaob Island
Esemiich	Terminalia samoensis	NL	Т		Forest; reported to occur on Babeldaob Island
Esemiich	Terminalia crassipes	NL	Т	NL	Forest; reported to occur on Babeldaob Island
Rhizophora hybrid	Rhizophora x lamarckii	NL	Т	NL	Mangrove swamp; mangrove swamp is adjacent to Ngaraard project area.

### TABLE 1 (Cont.)

Common Name ^a	Scientific Name	IUCN Red List ^b	Palau Proposed List ^c	ESA List ^d	Habitat
Indian Mangrove	Ceriops tagal	NL	T	NL	Mangrove swamp; reported to
indian Mangrove	certops tagai	112	-	112	occur on Babeldaob Island;
					mangrove swamp is adjacent to
					Ngaraard project area.
Mesecheues	Aglaia mariannensis	VU	Т	NL	Understory, thickets, and
	(palauensis)				secondary forest; reported to
<b>T</b> 1		EN			occur on Babeldaob Island
Fadang	Cycas micronesica	EN	NL	NL	Closed canopy forest; reported to occur on Babeldaob Island
Nandu Wood (Amansis)	Pericopsis mooniana	VU	NL	NL	Coastal forest; reported to
					occur on Babeldaob Island
Parkia (Kmekumer)	Parkia parvifoliola	VU	Е	NL	Forest canopy; reported to
					occur on Babeldaob Island
		vertebrate			
Trumpet Shell (Debusech)	Charonia tritonis	NL	Е	NL	Marine
Helmet of Conch Shell	Cassis cornuta	NL	Е	NL	Marine
(Omuu)	Cussis comuna	112	2	T L	- Marine
Giant Clam (Keratel,	Tridacna gigas	VU	Т	NL	Marine
Otkand)					
Giant Clam	Tridacna derasa	VU	Т	NL	Marine
Giant Clam (Ribkungel)	Tridacna squamosa	NL	Т	NL	Marine
Giant Clam (Kim)	Hippopus hippopus	NL	Т	NL	Marine
		Reptiles			1
Green Sea Turtle (Melob)	Chelonia mydas	EN	Т	E ^e	Marine
Hawksbill Sea Turtle	Eretmochelys imbricata	CE	Т	Е	Marine
(Uel)					
Olive Ridley Sea Turtle	Lepidochelys olivacea	VU	Е	T	Marine
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Caretta caretta	NT	Е	$E^{f}$	Marine
Leatherback Sea Turtle (Bekuu)	Dermochelys coriacea	VU	Е	Е	Marine
Pandanus Skink	Lipinia leptosoma	NT	NL	NL	Pandanus trees; reported to
					occur on Babeldaob and
					Angaur Islands; pandanus trees
					were observed in Ngaraard
					project area during site visit.
		Birds			
Palau Gray Duck (Debar)	Anas superciliosa pelewensis	NL	E	NL	Fresh and salt water wetlands
Micronesian Megapode	Megapodius laperouse	EN	Е	Е	Limestone and beach strand
(Bekai)	megapoatus taperouse	LIN	Ľ	Б	forest; observed in Angaur
(Dekal)					project area during site visit
Palau Ground-dove	Gallicolumba canifrons	NT	Е	NL	Forest
(Omekrengukl)					
Nicobar Pigeon (Laib)	Caloenas nicobarica	EN	Е	NL	Forest
Palau Fruit-Dove (Biib)	Ptilinopus pelewensis	LC	Т	NL	Forest; heard in Ngaraard project area during site visit
Micronesian Imperial-	Ducula oceanica	NT	Т	NL	Forest
Pigeon (Belochel)	Diana occanica	.,,	1	111	
Eurasian Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	LC	Т	NL	Wetlands
(Debar)	- 1	-		·	
Purple Swamphen (Uek)	Porphyrio porphyrio	LC	Т	NL	Wetlands
Palau Nightjar	Caprimulgus phalaena	NT	Т	NL	Forest
(Chebacheb)					

#### TABLE 1 (Cont.)

Common Name ^a	Scientific Name	IUCN Red List ^b	Palau Proposed List ^c	ESA List ^d	Habitat
Far Eastern Curlew (Delerrok)	Numenius madagascariensis	EN	NL	NL	Shore and near-shore
Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica	NT	NL	NL	Shore and near-shore
Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa	NT	NL	NL	Shore and near-shore
Great Knot	Calidris tenuirostris	EN	NL	NL	Shore
Curlew sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea	NT	NL	NL	Shore
Red-necked Stint	Calidris ruficollis	NT	NL	NL	Shore
Gray-tailed Tattler	Tringa brevipes	NT	NL	NL	Shore and near-shore
Japanese Night-heron	Gorsachius goisagi	EN	NL	NL	Wetlands (vagrant)
Palau Owl (Chesuch)	Pyrroglaux podargina	LC	Т	NL	Forest
Palau Kingfisher (Cherosech)	Todiramphus pelewensis	NT	NL	NL	Wetlands, streams
White-breasted Woodswallow (Mengaluliu)	Artamus leucorynchus	LC	Т	NL	Forest and adjacent openings
Morningbird (Tutau)	Pachycephala tenebrosa	LC	Т	NL	Forest
Palau Fantail (Melimdelebteb)	Rhipidura lepida	LC	Т	NL	Forest; observed in Ngaraard project area during site visit
Palau Flycatcher (Charmelachull)	Myiagra erythrops	LC	Т	NL	Forest; observed in Ngaraard project area during site visit
Palau Bush Warbler (Wuul)	Horornis annae	LC	Т	NL	Forest; observed in Ngaraard project area during site visit
Blue-faced Parrotfinch	Erythrura trichroa	LC	Т	NL	Forest
Mammals					
Pacific Sheath-tailed Bat (Chesisualik)	Emballonura semicaudata	E	NL	NL	Forest
Palau Fruit Bat (Olik)	Pteropus pelewensis	NT	Т	NL	Forest; observed in Ngaraard project area during site visit
Dugong (Mesekiu)	Dugong dugon	V	Е	Е	Near-shore

^a Palau common names are in parentheses.

^b IUCN Red List status: NL = not listed, LC = least concern, VU = vulnerable, NT = near threatened, EN = endangered, CE = critically endangered (IUCN 2018).

^c Proposed for Palau's threatened and endangered species list: NL = not listed, T = threatened, E = endangered.

 d  Listed on the ESA list of threatened and endangered species: NL = not listed, T = threatened, E = endangered.

^e Central West Pacific Distinct Population Segment (DPS).

^f North Pacific Ocean DPS.

In addition to species listed in Table 1, there are numerous snail species that are listed as endangered and are limited in distribution to specific islands in Palau (Rundell 2005); further research will be needed to determine whether any could occur at either the Tx or Rx sites.

#### 3.2 NATURAL RESOURCE SURVEYS

The possible occurrence of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) on both sites was an important consideration, with greatest concern at the Angaur site. At both sites, MEC technicians from the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) accompanied survey staff during each of the natural resource surveys, at times using magnetometers to detect the presence of MEC to ensure safety during surveys. Natural resource surveys were conducted at each site by two survey crews comprising staff from Argonne and the Belau National Museum (BNM) working under contract with Argonne. The wildlife survey crew consisted of two Argonne wildlife ecologists and a BNM avian specialist. The vegetation survey crew consisted of an Argonne plant specialist and several BNM plant experts under the supervision and direction of Ann Kitalong, Acting Manager of the BNM Natural History Section.

#### 3.2.1 Plant Survey Methods

The major plant communities at each site and their immediate surroundings were surveyed using a pedestrian survey protocol at the Ngaraard site, January 14–18, 2019, and at the Angaur site, January 22–26, 2019 (Figure 4).

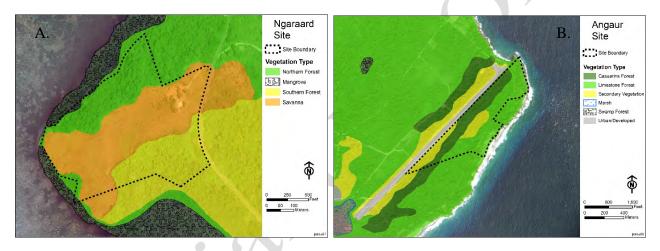


FIGURE 4 Major Plant Communities Surveyed at the Ngaraard Tx (A) and Angaur Rx (B) Sites.

Plant communities were identified and characterized based on dominant species in each height stratum and mapped on aerial imagery of the sites. Reference photographs of each community were taken to record species composition, structure, and density. All plant communities were surveyed, and plant species were recorded along with their relative abundance and status as endemic, rare, threatened, or endangered. All listed or endemic plants encountered were documented, and the plant communities of the site mapped. Listed or endemic plants suitable for salvage were marked for potential mitigation. The quality of each community was assessed based on the level of disturbance and on the presence of invasive and non-native species. Any individual protected or rare plants that could be candidates for removal and transport to another location were photographed and flagged, and Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates of their locations obtained. Unidentified plants were similarly documented. The survey team also measured diameter at base height (DBh) and estimated heights of any large dominant trees in each habitat.

#### 3.2.2 Wildlife Survey Methods

Each site was surveyed for terrestrial vertebrate animal species, with the primary focus on the rare, threatened, and endangered species listed in Table 1. Specifically, the surveys targeted birds, bats, megapode nests, and the Pandanus Skink. The survey approaches for each of these target biota are described in the following paragraphs. Weather conditions (air temperature, wind direction and strength, cloud cover, and precipitation) were recorded during each survey.

#### 3.2.2.1 Avian Surveys

Two survey approaches were employed to assess the composition of avian communities at the two sites, daytime point-count surveys and traveling-count surveys. Evening travelingcount surveys were also conducted for owls (and other nighttime birds) and bats. Additional surveys were conducted for megapode nests on the Rx site, and for megapodes and their nests elsewhere on Angaur. The bat and owl survey and the megapode nest survey methods are described later in this section.

Avian Point-Count Surveys. Each site was surveyed daily using the EQPB point-count protocol for bird diversity surveys. This protocol calls for 15-minute surveys to be conducted at specific locations in the morning between 06:30 and 07:30 hours and under rainless conditions. At each point-count location, all birds directly observed or heard were documented during each 15-minute interval. Recordings were also collected during each point-count for later use to confirm the birds heard and to identify any birds not readily recognized in the field by their calls.

Ten point-count locations were identified at each site encompassing all habitat types present. At the Ngaraard Tx site, three point-count locations were established in the northern savanna (NG001–NG003), two in the southern savanna (NG004 and NG005), one in the northern forest (NG009), and four within the southern forest (NG006–NG008 and NG010) (Figure 5). Point count locations NG001–NG008 were surveyed daily, January 14–18. Point count NG009 was added on January 16 and NG010 on January 17. At the Angaur Rx site, five point-count locations were established within the forest along the runway (AN001–AN003, AN009, and AN010), two within the forest along the northeastern coast (AN005 and AN006), and three within the forest along the coast road (AN004, AN007, and AN008) (Figure 6). At both the Tx and Rx sites, the point-counts were surveyed in groups of 3–4 by individual survey staff, and the groupings were alternated daily among the staff to minimize surveyor bias.

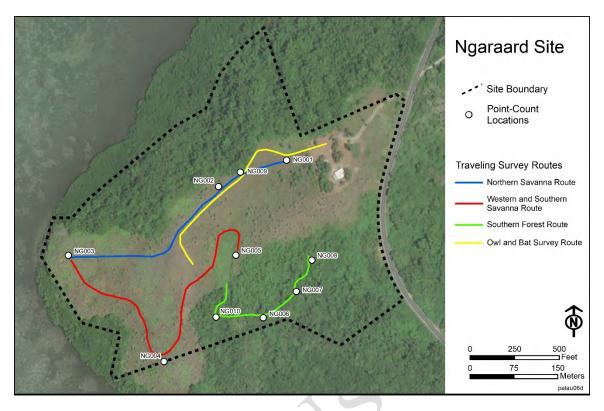


FIGURE 5 Avian Survey Point-Count Locations, Traveling-Count Routes, and Owl and Bat Night Surveys at the Ngaraard Tx Site.

**Avian Traveling-Count Surveys.** Each site was also surveyed daily using the eBird traveling count protocol (eBird 2018), which involves walking a predetermined route and documenting all species observed or heard along the route. At the Ngaraard Tx site, one route was through the northern portion of the savanna, one through the western and southern portion of the savanna (and including the wetland in the south-central savanna area), and one through the southern forest (Figure 5). At the Angaur Rx site, one route was along the western site boundary and the runway, and a second route passed through the northern and eastern forest following the coast road (Figure 6). At the Tx and Rx sites, the routes were walked daily following completion of the point-count surveys, each route by an individual survey staff, and the routes were alternated daily among staff to reduce surveyor bias.

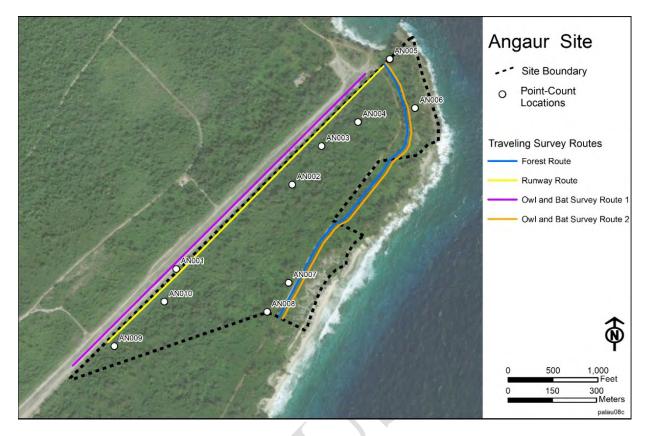


FIGURE 6 Avian Survey Point-Count Locations, Traveling-Count Routes, and Bat and Owl Night Survey Routes at the Angaur Rx Site.

#### 3.2.2.2 Megapode Nest Survey

The Micronesian Megapode is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List and the ESA (Table 1). This megapode is a pigeon-sized bird of the forest floor. The Micronesian Megapode is omnivorous, taking a variety of plant and animal foods available on the forest floor, including seeds, beetles, ants, other insects, and plant matter (USFWS 1998). During nesting, this species constructs nesting mounds of sand (in coastal areas) or leaf litter and other debris (in more inland areas) (USFWS 1998; Olsen et al. 2016).

Based on previous surveys conducted on Palau, it appears unlikely that megapodes occur on the Ngaraard site. Megapodes occasionally have been seen or heard on Babeldaob Island, but only one nesting mound (in the northern part of the island) has been reliably documented and described (Olsen et al. 2016). Olsen et al. (2016) documented nest mounds on islands adjacent to Babeldaob but not on the main island itself. They stated that megapodes observed on Babeldaob are likely commuting from nearby islands to forage on Babeldaob. The rugged terrain with high topographic relief and lack of flat, coastal strand habitat at the Ngaraard Tx site decreases the likelihood of megapodes on site. In contrast, the Micronesian Megapode is known to occur on Angaur Island, and several individuals, as well as two nest mounds, were observed at the Angaur Rx site during a presurvey site visit in October 2018. In addition, one of the MEC technicians, who is a resident of Angaur, identified 13 nests within the project footprint prior to our surveys. For the megapode nest survey, all areas of the Angaur Rx site were intensively surveyed for nests by walking all portions of the site, documenting all nest mounds encountered (including those previously reported by the MEC technician) with regard to location (GPS), size, and status (active, under construction, inactive). In addition to the Rx footprint, a small forested area immediately

adjacent to the Rx site along the northeast coast was similarly surveyed (Figure 7).

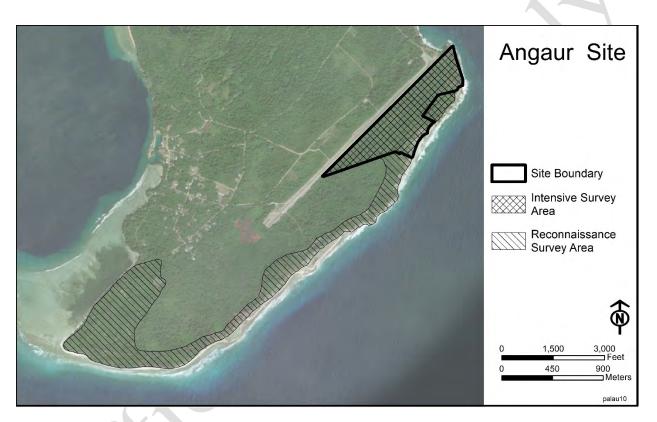


FIGURE 7 Megapode Nest Survey Areas at the Angaur Rx Site.

Besides the intensive walking nest surveys of the Rx site and adjacent eastern coastal forest area, we surveyed areas of Angaur south of the Rx site for both megapodes and their nests. Areas along the coastal road south of the site that appeared to be suitable for megapodes, or from which megapodes were heard calling, were briefly surveyed on January 26, 2019, for nest mounds. Observations from this area of adult megapodes and their nests, as well as the presence of actively calling adults, will provide insight into the status of megapodes and their habitats elsewhere along the southern portion of Angaur, outside the Rx footprint.

#### 3.2.2.3 Owl and Bat Night Surveys

Two bat species occur on Palau, the Pacific Sheath-tailed Bat (chesisualik) (*Emballonura semicaudata*) and the Palau Fruit Bat (olik) (*Pteropus pelewensis*). Both species are on the IUCN Red List: the Pacific Sheath-tailed Bat is designated as endangered and the Palau Fruit Bat as near threatened (Table 1). The Palau Fruit Bat is also proposed for listing as threatened on Palau's threatened and endangered species list. The Palau Owl (chesuch) (*Pyrroglaux podargina*) is listed as least concern on the IUCN Red List but has been proposed for listing as threatened on Palau's threatened and endangered species list (Table 1).

Surveys for the Palau Owl and the two bat species were conducted at the Tx and Rx sites. At each, the survey staff walked a route beginning at approximately 18:00 hours (about 30 minutes before sunset) for a period of 45–50 minutes, until complete darkness, counting all bats observed along the route. The staff also played recordings of the Palau Owl at various locations along the route and listened for individuals to answer the recorded call. Because of the nature and setting of each site, a single route was followed at the Ngaraard Tx site and two routes at the Angaur Rx site (Figures 5 and 6, respectively). At the Angaur site, only one route was surveyed each evening, alternating the routes each day. While both the Palau Owl and the Pacific Sheath-tailed Bat are nocturnal species, the Palau Fruit Bat is a daytime species. Thus, observations of this species were also recorded during the avian point-counts and traveling-count surveys.

#### 3.2.2.4 Pandanus Skink Survey

The Pandanus Skink is designated as near threatened on the IUCN Red List (Table 1). The preferred habitat for this species is in the axils of leaves of the Pandanus palm, and both the skink and the palm have been reported from Babeldaob and Angaur Islands. Numerous Pandanus palms occur in the savanna portion of the Ngaraard Tx site, and survey staff examined individual palms (Figure 8) for the occurrence of this skink. These surveys were conducted for 2–3 hours daily, January 14–17, 2019; no survey was conducted on January 18 because of heavy rains. No Pandanus palms occur on the Angaur Rx site, and thus no surveys were conducted for this skink at the Angaur site.



FIGURE 8 Pandanus Palms at the Ngaraard Tx Site.

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#### 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 NGARAARD TX SITE

Between the two sites, the Ngaraard Tx site has a greater variety of habitat types and a more diverse flora and avifauna than the Angaur Rx site. Neither the plant communities nor the avifauna identified during the survey are unique to the site, and similar habitats, plant communities, and avifauna occur in other parts of Babeldaob Island. The following paragraphs discuss the distribution, condition, and status of the vegetation and wildlife observed during the surveys of this site.

#### 4.1.1 Vegetation

At the Ngaraard Tx site, plant surveys were conducted daily from January 14 through January 18. Seven plant community types were identified through these surveys: volcanic forest, mangrove forest, riparian forest, agroforest, savannah and grassland, freshwater marsh, and freshwater swamp forest.

#### 4.1.1.1 Terrestrial Plant Diversity

More than 198 species of plants were observed during the survey, at least 159 of which are native. Of these, 21 are endemic species, 4 are endemic varieties, and 2 are natives that can become invasive. Of the 198 species, 2 have IUCN or Palau designations. The mesecheues tree (*Aglaia mariannensis [palauensis]*) is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and, along with the Indian Mangrove (*Ceriops tagal*), is proposed for listing as threatened on Palau's Threatened and Endangered list (Table 1). One mesecheues tree was found in the northern forest, while the Indian mangrove was found in the mangrove forests in the northwest and southwest portions of the site. Two 20-foot (ft) -tall specimens of *Rauvolfia insularis* (omechidel), a small evergreen tree, were found within the northern forest. This species has been considered vulnerable because of its restricted range (Costion et al. 2009), although it is not listed as such on the IUCN Red List. Figure 9 shows some of the endemic orchid species found at the Ngaraard Tx site.

A total of 41 introduced species were found at the site; 2 have become naturalized and 7 are considered to be invasive. The northern forest had more plant species (80) compared to the southern forest (59). The northern forests had at least 18 endemic species, including 10 endemic species that were found only in the northern forest and 3 of which are endemic orchids. The southern forest had 8 endemics, but these were also found in the northern forest. The savanna had one endemic species, *Hedyotis tomentosa* (leblebul), and this species was found only in the savanna.



FIGURE 9 Native and Endemic Orchids Found from Forest and Savanna Habitats at the Ngaraard Tx Site (Source: Kitalong et al. 2019)

#### **4.1.1.2 Plant Communities**

**Volcanic Forest**. Volcanic forests occur on basalt soils; these lowland forests are dense, multilayered, and structurally complex encompassing distinct subtypes of forest in undisturbed ecosystems (Republic of Palau, 2010). The volcanic lowland forests are considered the most species rich in Micronesia and have the highest rate of endemism (Stemmermann 1981).

The northern and southern forests at the Tx site are largely volcanic forests. In these forests of the site, the largest trees (in both diameter and height) encountered during the surveys were *Campnosperma brevipetiolata* (kelelacharm), *Calophyllum inophyllum* (btaches), *Maranthes corymbosa* (bkau), and the endemic *Fagraea ksid* (ksid) and *Ficus microcarpa* (lulk). Other large trees included *Canarium hirstuum* (mesecheus), *Elaeocarpus joga* (dekemerir), *Ormosia calavensis* (chedebsungelked), *Pterocarpus indicus* (las), and *Rhus taitensis* (eues) (Figure 10). The uncommon endemic understory trees *Rauvolfia insularis* (omechidel) and the native threatened *Aglaia mariannenis* were also found. The palm *Heterspathe elata* (demailei) was common along steep rock slopes. Overall, the forests along the northern boundary were less disturbed from human activities and exhibited higher biodiversity than the southern volcanic forest.

**Mangrove Forest.** Mangrove forests are dense forests that grow in brackish to salty water along a narrow strip of the tidal zone near the shore. Mangrove forests are widespread around Babeldaob, found in the low-lying, coastal, muddy seashores, quiet bays, and estuaries (Republic of Palau 2010). Mangrove forests are also found in the Rock Islands, commonly along the edge of marine lakes. Mangroves are very important in buffering the effects of storms and waves along coastal areas. They also provide nursery habitat for marine life and filter runoff exiting terrestrial ecosystems; these actions help to sustain coral reef and fish habitat by reducing siltation. The species-rich mangrove forests of Palau include more than 24 different mangrove species and are the second largest forest type in Palau (Republic of Palau 2010).



FIGURE 10 Large Trees of the Northern and Southern Forests at the Ngaraard Tx Site.

At the Tx site, the mangrove forests occur along the western boundary of the site (Figure 11). These forests are dominated by two mangrove species, *Sonneratia alba* (urur) and *Rhizophora mucronata* (tebechel), which occur along the outer margin of the forest. Inner mangrove forest trees include a number of mangrove species, including the threatened Indian mangrove, *Ceriops tagal* (biut), *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* (kodenges), *Xylocarpus granatum* (medulokebong), and *Lumnitzera littorea* (mekekad).



FIGURE 11 Mangrove Forest at the Ngaraard Tx Site.

**Riparian Forest.** Riparian forests occur along forested streams, and two such forests were found in the northern and southern forests of the site. In the northern forest, a relatively steep sloped stream flows westward into the mangrove forest (Figure 12), while in the southern forest a stream flows westward through the southern portion of the Tx site. In contrast to the stream in the northern forest, this southern stream has less slope and a wider wet zone (with saturated soils) throughout its path through the southern forest. In both riparian forests, the dominant upper-story tree is *Colona scabra* (chuchab). The palm, *Heterospathe elata* (demailei), is also common. A variety of understory plants were found, including the wetland plant, *Donax canniformes* (terming).

**Agroforest.** Agroforests are areas under cultivation for fruit and food crops and trees and wood products and, as a result, are often a mosaic of manmade landscapes that

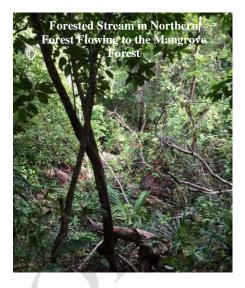


FIGURE 12 Riparian Forest at the Ngaraard Tx Site.

are integrated into the natural landscape (Republic of Palau 2010). At the Tx site, agroforest occurs in the eastern portion of the site, from just west of the homestead eastward to the Compact Road. Two areas are in active cultivation of dryland taro, *Colocasia esculenta* (kukau). Other plants under cultivation in this agroforest area include *Acacia auriculiformis*, coconut palm *Cocos nucifera* (lius), and some fruit trees (Figure 13).



FIGURE 13 Portions of the Agroforest Area in the Eastern Portion of the Ngaraard Tx Site.

**Savanna Grasslands.** Savanna grasslands are found where the forest has been removed, typically along the ridges. Savanna grasslands with associated trees occur on volcanic soil substrates where the primary forest has been removed. There are more than a dozen endemic savanna species on Palau, suggesting that there may have been some isolated pockets of native savanna in other parts of Palau (Republic of Palau 2010). At savanna grasslands, the loss of the native forest has resulted in soil erosion and degradation, which in turn decreases the probability of forest regeneration.

The northwestern portion of the savanna is dominated by the false staghorn fern *Dicranopteris linearis*, which is indicative of highly weathered and acidic soils that have low nutrient retention and are typically nutrient deficient (Deenik 2011). The savanna systems also

persist in some areas because of repeated periodic fire caused by humans. Savanna habitat is found throughout the island of Babeldaob and in areas of Koror (Republic of Palau 2010). The vegetation typically consists of grass, sedges, ferns, shrubs, and some scattered trees.

At the Tx site, the central portion of the site is savanna grassland, extending from the homestead in the eastern portion of the site westward across most of the site to the forest along the western coast (see Figure 4). A number of small tree and shrub species were found on the savanna grassland (Figure 14). These included the *Pandanus tectorius* (ongor), which occurs throughout the eastern and southeastern portions of the savanna, *Commersonia bartramia*, (bebechelut), *Melochia compacta* (chermallucheang), *Morinda citrifolia* (ngel), and *Symplocos racemosa* Roxb. var. *palauenses* (chebtui).

In general, these small trees and shrubs are more abundant in the western and southwestern portions of the savanna. The endemic shrub, *Hedyotis tomentosus* (leblebul), is common along the savanna boundary with the northeast forest. Grasses, sedges, and ferns are the dominant vegetation in the central and western portions of the savanna. Dominant



FIGURE 14 Several Views of the Savanna at the Ngaraard Tx Site.

grasses include *Eriachne pallescens* (in more eroded soil areas) and several species of *Ischaemum* and the fern *Nephrolepsis biserrata* in areas with less eroded soils. The presence of highly eroded soils and likely chronic fires in the past have prevented reforestation on this savanna grassland.

**Freshwater Marsh.** A small freshwater marsh occurs in the south-central portion of the savanna grassland and drains southwest to the southern forest. The freshwater marsh is dominated at its upper end by a dense stand of the large perennial grass *Phragmites karka* covering approximately a 200-m² area (Figure 15). A smaller area of approximately 25 m² in the lower end of the marsh is dominated by the herbaceous perennial *Hanguana malayana* (euais). Both species are native to Palau.



FIGURE 15 Phragmites Stand in the Savanna Marsh Wetland

**Freshwater Swamp Forest.** Freshwater swamp forests tend to occur slightly inland of mangrove forest in areas of fresh or slightly brackish water and in wet lowland areas or along the riparian zone. This sensitive forest habitat represents the least amount of area of all forest types on Palau (Republic of Palau 2010). The dominant canopy species in swamp forests are relative to their proximity to saltwater and other topographic considerations, such as riparian verses lowlands near the coast or inland. There is less variation in the other layers of this forest. Typically, the forest floor growth is predominantly the seedlings of the dominant trees.

At the Tx site, a swamp forest was found downslope in the western portion of the northern forest. This swamp forest is characterized by large trees of several species, such as the endemic Calophyllum *pelewense* (chesemolech) and the native *Campnosperma* breviopeliolatum (kelelcharm) and Dolichandrone spathacea (rriu) in the upper canopy (Figure 16). Medium-sized trees in this forest include Cynometra ramiflora, (ketenguit), Quassia indica (cheskeam), and



FIGURE 16 A Swamp Forest in the Northern Forest.

*Barringtonia racemosa* (koranges), which were found in the understory along with a variety of wetland sedges. The primary understory tree of the swamp forest is *Hibiscus tiliaceus* (chermall). Ground vegetation includes *Phragmites karka* (alkelsed), *Alocasia macrorrhiza*, the sedge *Scirpodendron ghaeri* (loloi), *Donax canneformis* (temring), and the vine, *Derris trifoliata* (kemokem).

### 4.1.2 Wildlife

#### 4.1.2.1 Avifauna

At the Ngaraard Tx site, a total of 35 15-minute EQPB point-count surveys were conducted at 10 locations over a 5-day period (January 14–18, 2019). During this same period 9 eBird (2018) traveling-count surveys were carried out along 3 predetermined routes (covering about 14 person-miles). Night surveys were also conducted at the site over a four-day period (January 14–17, 2019). A total of 1,524 individuals from 28 species were counted during these avian surveys (Table 2); Figure 17 shows some of the species seen or heard at the Ngaraard Tx site.



# FIGURE 17 Micronesian Myzomela (left), Palau Flycatcher (center), and Common Cicadabird (right)

Of the 28 species documented at the site, 9 have an IUCN Red List and/or Palau designation, and 2 are non-native species (Table 2). Among the nine designated species, two were only heard, and only once during the five days of surveys. The Palau Night Jar (Palau proposed threatened) was heard on one occasion during a night survey, calling from a distance beyond the northern forest and well outside the Tx project footprint. A single Imperial Dove (IUCN Red List and Palau proposed threatened) was heard but not observed in the southern woods, calling from a distance.

Several species were only observed as flybys or flyovers or only heard from well beyond the Tx site, and these species are not likely to regularly occur within the Tx footprint (Table 3). For example, the Rufous Night-heron and the Pacific Reef Heron were only observed flying along the western boundary of the Tx site, while a Great Crested Tern was observed on a single occasion flying offshore along the western boundary of the site.

TABLE 2 Species Observed or Heard during Point-Count, Traveling-Count, and Night Surveys at
the Ngaraard Tx Site, January 14–18, 2019

		Point-Count ^b Survey $(n = 35)$		Traveling Survey		Night ^d Survey $(n = 4)$		
		Total Mean		Total Mean		Total	Mean	
Common Name	Status ^a	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	
Red Junglefowl		1	0.0	0	0	0	0	
Palau Fruit-Dove	P-T	121	2.5	85	7.1	1	0.25	
Micronesian Imperial-Pigeon	IUCN-NT, P-T	1	0.0	0	0	0	0	
Palau Nightjar	IUCN-NT, P-T	0	0	0	0	1	0.25	
Palau Swiftlet	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	2	0.0	23	1.9	0	-	
Buff-banded Rail		0	0	3	0.3	2	0.50	
Pacific Golden-Plover		3	0.1	12	1.0	4	1.0	
Swinhoe's Snipe		2	0.0	2	0.2	0	0	
Brown Noddy		2	0.0	2	0.2	0	0	
Black Noddy		45	0.9	24	2.0	1	0.25	
White Tern		92	1.9	36	3.0	1	0.25	
Great Crested Tern		0	0	1	0.1	0	0	
Yellow Bittern		1	0.0	1	0.1	0	0	
Pacific Reef-Heron		2	0.0	0	0	0	0	
Rufous Night-Heron		6	0.1	1	0.1	1	0.25	
Palau Owl	P-T	0	0	0	0	12	3.0	
Palau Kingfisher	IUCN-NT	5	0.1	2	0.2	1	0.25	
Collared Kingfisher		4	0.1	2	0.2	0	0	
Micronesian Myzomela		57	1.2	34	2.8	1	0.25	
Common Cicadabird		11	0.3	11	0.9	0	0	
Morningbird	P-T	9	0.2	13	1.1	1	0.25	
Palau Fantail	P-T	35	0.8	14	1.2	1	0.25	
Palau Flycatcher	P-T	33	0.7	11	0.9	2	0.50	
Palau Bush Warbler	P-T	105	2.3	48	4.0	0	0	
Dusky White-eye		168	3.6	86	7.2	4	1.0	
Micronesian Starling		193	4.2	122	10.2	14	3.5	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Non-native	0	0	1	0.1	0	0	
Chestnut Munia	Non-native	24	0.5	21	1.8	0	0	
Total number of birds		922	26.3	555	61.7	47	11.7	
Total number of species		23		23		15		

^a IUCN Red List status: IUCN-NT = near threatened; Palau proposed listing: P-T = threatened.

^b Daily point-count surveys at eight locations, January 14–18; one additional point-count location was added and surveyed January 16–18, and another point-count location added and surveyed January 17 and 18.

^c Daily traveling-count surveys conducted January 15–18, 2019.

^d No night survey conducted on January 18, 2019, because of inclement weather.

# **TABLE 3** Bird Species Observed Only as Flybys/Flyovers or Only Heardfrom Well Beyond the Ngaraard Tx Site Boundary.

Species	Nature of Occurrence			
Red Junglefowl	Heard on one occasion calling from well beyond the			
	northeast corner of the site.			
Palau Nightjar	Heard on one occasion calling from well beyond the			
	northeast corner of the site.			
Great Crested Tern	Observed once flying offshore of the site.			
Pacific Reef Heron	Two individuals observed, each flying along the			
	western coast and past the site.			
Rufous Night-Heron	Observed on several occasions, but in all instances			
	flying along the coast and past the site.			

Half of the 28 species reported from the site were observed and/or heard on at least 4 of the 5 survey dates, with 11 species encountered each day (Table 4). Of the 28 species reported from the Tx site, 23 were represented by 10 or fewer total individuals, with each of these species averaging fewer than 2 individuals per day. Seven of these species were represented by 2 or fewer than 4 total individuals (Table 4). The 5 most frequently reported species were, in order of total number encountered, the Micronesian Starling (329), the Dusky White Eye (258), Palau Fruit Dove (206), Palau Bush Warbler (153), and the White Tern (129).

Common Name	Jan. 14	Jan. 15	Jan. 16	Jan. 17	Jan. 18	Total	Daily Mean
Red Junglefowl	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.2
Palau Fruit-Dove	18	39	33	69	47	206	41.2
Micronesian Imperial-Pigeon	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.2
Palau Nightjar	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.2
Palau Swiftlet	0	0	0	25	0	25	5.0
Buff-banded Rail	0	1	0	2	2	5	1.0
Pacific Golden-Plover	0	4	2	7	6	19	3.8
Swinhoe's Snipe	0	0	0	0	4	4	0.8
Brown Noddy	0	0	2	1	1	4	0.8
Black Noddy	17	8	9	13	23	70	14.0
White Tern	31	34	21	33	10	129	25.8
Great Crested Tern	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.2
Yellow Bittern	0	0	0	0	2	2	0.4
Pacific Reef-Heron	0	0	0	0	2	2	0.4
Rufous Night-Heron	2	1	4	0	1	8	1.6
Palau Owl	0	2	5	5	0	12	2.4
Palau Kingfisher	0	4	2	1	1	8	1.6
Collared Kingfisher	0	0	3	3	0	6	1.2
Micronesian Myzomela	10	19	20	15	28	92	18.4
Common Cicadabird	0	0	3	8	11	22	4.4
Morningbird	1	4	5	8	4	22	4.4
Palau Fantail	7	5	9	18	11	50	10.0
Palau Flycatcher	8	6	8	17	7	46	9.2
Palau Bush Warbler	15	28	27	45	38	153	30.6
Dusky White-eye	39	53	56	55	55	258	51.6
Micronesian Starling	34	60	66	94	75	329	65.8
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.2
Chestnut Munia	2	13	10	16	4	45	9.0
Total number birds	184	284	286	435	333	1522	304.4
Total number of species	12	19	19	19	21	28	18

TABLE 4	<b>Bird Species Occu</b>	irrence by Date at	the Ngaraard Tx S	Site, January 14–19, 2019.ª
	·····			

^a Total number of birds observed or heard during the point count, traveling count, and night surveys.

Two species, the Black Noddy and the White Tern, were observed every day flying over portions of the site. A small flock of White Tern (6–10 birds) appeared to be roosting in the northern forest and likely within the northernmost forest area of the Tx footprint. Similarly, small numbers of Black Noddy (up to 4–6 individuals) regularly flew into and out of the forest along the western boundary of the Tx site, and smaller numbers appeared to use the same areas of the northern forest as the White Tern. These observations suggest that both the northern and

southwestern woods may be providing active nesting areas for the White Tern and Black Noddy (see Figure 18).

Both the point-count and traveling-count methods (see Section 3.2.2.1) include the reporting of any species heard from the survey location. As a consequence, some species may be heard from a completely different habitat type than that of the survey location. This in fact was the case for a number of species during the surveys at the Ngaraard Tx site. For example, the Palau Fruit Dove was regularly heard from all the savanna point-count and traveling-route locations as it called from the northern and southern forest habitats, but was never observed on or calling from savanna habitat. The Palau Bush Warbler was similarly heard from but also seen in the forest habitat along its boundary with the savanna. Both are forest species.

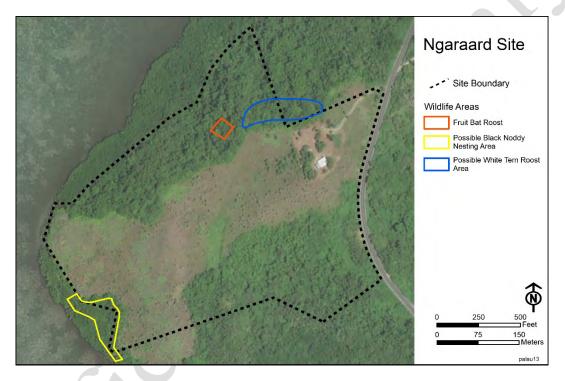


FIGURE 18 Location of Fruit Bat Roost and Areas of Potential Black Noddy and White Tern Roosting and Nesting Areas.

Similarly, both species of noddy as well as the White Tern were regularly seen from all savanna survey locations. None of these species is a savanna dweller and was only observed flying over the savanna to and from their preferred forest nesting and roosting areas. In contrast, the Micronesian Starling and the Dusky White-eye, two of the most frequently reported species at the Tx site, were regularly observed and/or heard from both the savanna and forest habitats of the site. Table 5 identifies the habitats best associated with the avian species encountered during the Tx site surveys, considering the known life histories of these birds.

		Northern	Southern	Northern	Southern
Common Name	Scientific Name	Savanna	Savanna	Forest	Forest
Palau Fruit-Dove	Ptilinopus pelewensis			X	X
Micronesian Imperial-Pigeon	Ducula oceanica				Х
Palau Swiftlet	Aerodramus pelewensis	Х	Х		
Buff-banded Rail	Gallirallus philippensis	Xb	Xc		
Pacific Golden-Plover	Pluvialis fulva	Х	Х		
Swinhoe's Snipe	Gallinago megala	Х			
Brown Noddy	Anous stolidus			X	X
Black Noddy	Anous minutus			Х	X
White Tern	Gygis alba			X	X
Yellow Bittern	Ixobrychus sinensis		Х		
Palau Owl	Pyrroglaux podargina			X	X
Palau Kingfisher	Todiramphus pelewensis	X ^d		X	X
Collared Kingfisher	Todiramphus chloris				X
Micronesian Myzomela	Myzomela rubratra	Х	Х	X	Х
Common Cicadabird	Edolisoma tenuirostre			X	Х
Morningbird	Pachycephala tenebrosa			X	Х
Palau Fantail	Rhipidura lepida	Х	Х	X	Х
Palau Flycatcher	Myiagra erythrops	Xe	Xe	X	Х
Palau Bush Warbler	Horornis annae			X	Х
Dusky White-eye	Zosterops finschii	X	X	X	Х
Micronesian Starling	Aplonis opaca	X	X	Х	Х
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus				Х
Chestnut Munia	Lonchura atricapilla	X	Х	X	

#### TABLE 5 Habitats of Bird Species Reported from the Ngaraard Tx Site, January 14–19, 2019.ª

^a Excludes species that were only heard from beyond the Tx site or only observed flying over and past but not actually visiting the site (see Table 3).

^b Seen foraging in grassy areas along the northern forest edge, north of the homestead, and in grassy areas and the taro field along the entrance road to the site.

^c Heard calling from along the southern forest and savanna border.

^d A single individual was seen at the marsh located in the south central portion of the savanna.

#### 4.1.2.2 Bats

Both bat species were observed at the Ngaraard Tx site (Table 6). A single Palau Sheathtailed Bat was observed during the morning avian point-count survey in the south-central savanna from point-count location NG005. No individuals were observed during the night surveys, times during which one would have expected to see this species if present at the site. The absence of this small bat during the night surveys may have been due to relatively strong and at times very gusty winds that occurred during all the night surveys. During the night surveys, winds were estimated at 13–18 mph (Beaufort wind scale 4) on one night and at 25–31 mph (Beaufort wind scale 6) during the other three survey nights.

In contrast, the Palau Fruit Bat was observed during the avian point-count and travelingroute surveys and on three of the four surveys (Table 6). Individual fruit bats were often observed flying across the savanna to and from the northern and southern forests, and a roost was observed in the northern forest near point-count location NG009 (Figure 18). Figure 19 shows several fruit bats roosting at this location.

			Total Count		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ^a	Point- Count ^b Survey	Traveling- Count Survey ^c	Night Survey ^d
Pacific Sheath-tailed Bat	Emballonura semicaudata	IUCN-E	1	0	
Palau Fruit Bat	Pteropus pelewensis	IUCN-VU, P-T	37	7	20

#### TABLE 6 Bat Survey Results, Ngaraard Tx Site, January 14–18, 2019.

 a  IUCN Red List status: IUCN-E = endangered, IUCN-VU = vulnerable; Palau proposed listing: P-T = threatened.

^b Daily point-count surveys at eight locations, January 14–18, 2019; additional point-count location added and surveyed January 16–18, 2019; another point-count location added and surveyed January 17 and 18, 2019.

^c Daily traveling-count surveys conducted January 15–18, 2019.

^d No night survey conducted on January 18, 2019 because of inclement weather.



FIGURE 19 Palau Fruit Bats Roosting in the Forest Immediately North of Point-Count Location NG009.

#### 4.1.2.3 Pandanus Skink

While the Pandanus Skink has been reported from the southern portion of Babeldaob Island, the likelihood of finding this species on the Tx site may be quite low. The BNM indicates that the habitat for this species is shaded Pandanus palms, where it inhabits the axils of the leaves, often along streams and swamps. More than 100 Pandanus palms were examined at the Tx site for the presence of the Pandanus Skink. The survey covered about 75% of the savanna area, where the palms occur out in the open and in direct sun. While another skink species and a gecko were observed, no Pandanus Skinks were found during the surveys.

#### 4.2 ANGAUR RX SITE

The Angaur Rx site has fewer habitat types, a less diverse plant fauna, and a less diverse avifauna than the Ngaraard Tx site. Neither the plant communities nor the avifauna identified during the surveys are unique to the site, and similar habitats, plant communities, and avifauna occur in other parts of Angaur Island. The site is notable in the presence of the Micronesian Megapode and its nest mounds, both of which are absent from the Ngaraard Tx site. The following paragraphs discuss the distribution, condition, and status of the vegetation and wildlife observed during surveys of this site.

#### 4.2.1 Vegetation

#### **4.2.1.1** Terrestrial Plant Diversity

Plant surveys were conducted daily at the Angaur Rx site from January 22 through January 26, 2019. More than 148 species of plants were observed during the survey of the Angaur Rx site, 92 of which were native species, including 8 endemics. None of the species recorded from the Rx site has any IUCN, Palau, or ESA designation. A total of 23 introduced species were also observed, 3 of which have become naturalized and 7 are now considered invasive. The distribution of native plants across the site did not show a significant difference from north to south or east to west. The coastal forest areas had plants restricted to those that tolerate exposure to open sea water spray. In contrast to the Ngaraard Tx site, no orchid species was found at the Angaur Rx site during the 5-day survey. Note that there were no herbarium specimens of orchids or records of orchids from Angaur Island at the Belau National Museum. It is unclear why the Family Orchidaceae is not represented.

#### **4.2.1.2 Plant Community Types**

Four plant community types were initially identified at the Angaur Rx site: *Casuarina* forest, limestone forest, secondary forest, and barren land (Figure 20). However, based upon the plant associations observed during the vegetation surveys, three other plant community types were found: coastal strand, agroforest, and wetland.

**Coastal Strand.** Coastal strand is a plant community of flowering plants that form along the shore in loose sand just above the high-tide line. This community typically has low species diversity, as so few plants can tolerate the harsh conditions of high winds, regular salt spray, and high summer temperatures. Plants must also be adapted to sandy saline soils with extremely low nutrient loads and low water-holding capacity. At the Angaur Rx site and surrounding areas, this community type occurs along the upper portion of the sandy or rocky beaches and is limited inland by the presence of coastal forest. This community is dominated by herbaceous creeping vines such as *Ipomoea litoralis*, grasses such as *Sporobolus spp.* and *Fimbristylis cymosa*, the salt-tolerant shrub *Pemphis acidula*, and several species of the herb *Portulaca* (Figure 21).



FIGURE 20 Major Plant Community Types at the Angaur Rx Site and Surrounding Areas (Source: Kitalong et al. 2019).



FIGURE 21 Common Vegetation on the Coastal Strand Habitat along the Angaur Rx Site.

**Limestone Forest.** In Palau, limestone forests are found on limestone islands and outcrops, mainly on Peleliu, Angaur, the Rock Islands, and Airai. In these areas, a limestone substrate of the coral rock is overlain by organic matter from the vegetation, which in places forms a thin layer of soil in which the vegetation grows (Republic of Palau 2010). Limestone forest is the major plant community type of the Angaur Rx site (Figure 17) and may be

subdivided into three forest types; coastal limestone forest, raised limestone platform forest, and *Casuarina* forest.

Coastal limestone forest occupies the easternmost half of the Rx site, primarily between the coast road and the coastal strand community along the coast (Figure 22). Large trees found in this coastal limestone forest included *Casuarina equisetifolia* (ngas), *Pisonia grandis* (mesbesibech), and *Barringtonia asiatica* (bdul). The understory included a number of smaller trees and shrubs, such as *Pemphis acidula* (ngis), *Heliotropium foertherianum* (rirs), *Pipturus micronesicus*, and *Hernandia nymphaeifolai* (doko). A *Cordia subcordata* (kelau), a culturally important tree species, was found in the northeastern portion of the coastal limestone forest.



FIGURE 22 Trees and Shrubs of the Coastal Limestone Forest at the Angaur Rx Site.

The remainder of the eastern portion as well as much of the central portion of the Rx site is raised limestone platform forest. This forest is dominated by the native tree *Casuarina equisetifolia* (ngas), which is widespread throughout this forest. A less abundant but no less obvious tree of this forest is the parasitic *Ficus microcarpa* (lulk), which is one of many *Ficus spp.*, often called "strangler figs" because of their growth pattern. The seeds of these species germinate in cracks in the tops of other trees, and as the roots grow downward toward the ground, they envelope the host tree. Several large *F. microcarpa* trees occur throughout the central portion of the Rx site, including some with root systems expanding more than 160 ft (50 m) and overtaking other large trees (Figure 23). Aerial views of the site show large areas of the upper canopy covered by this *Ficus* species.

Of note in the raised limestone platform forest is the presence of a large stand of the endemic *Buchanania palawensis* (omail), with trees reaching heights over 70 ft (22 m), in the northwest and southwest portions of the forest. This was the largest stand of *Buchanania palawensis* trees BNM staff members have ever seen in Palau. Other trees present in this forest include *Syzygium samaragense* (rebotel) (common within both the northeast coastal limestone and raised limestone platform forests), *Phyllanthus kanehirae* (kesengelngolm), *Planchonella* 

*obovata* (chelangel), and *Premna serratifolia* (chosm). Small understory trees of the raised limestone platform forest include the native *Melicope trichantha* and *Allophylus timorensis* (chebludes) and the invasive *Timonis timon* (liberal).



FIGURE 23 Large Ficus microcarpa in the Central Forest at the Angaur Rx Site.

*Casuarina* forest occurs primarily in the west-central portion, and along the entire length, of the Rx site (Figure 16) and is so named because it is dominated by *Casuarina equisetifolia* (ngas). This a coastal tree common in sand and coral rubble and often near the high-water mark, but can also be found in both limestone and volcanic soils and as part of the coastal strand vegetation. The southern states of Angaur, Peleliu, and the Ngemelis Complex are dominated by large *Casuarina* trees (Republic of Palau 2010). At the Rx site, trees reached diameters of more than 6 ft (2 m), with extensive buttressed trunks (Figure 24). While the *Casuarina* tree may occur throughout the site, from the coast to the forest interior, it is the dominant species in both size and numbers within the main *Casuarina* forest in the central portion of the site.

**Secondary Vegetation**. Secondary vegetation is the result of disturbance of primary forest habitat. The past phosphate mining, the WWII battle, Supertyphoon Bopha, and newly cut survey roads have all resulted in an extensive secondary growth forest throughout much of the western portion of the Rx site. This community type includes broad leaf, smaller stemmed shrubs, and trees such as *Clerodendron speciosissimum*, *Melochia compacta* (chermalluchang), *Melanolepis multiglandulosa*, and the *Macaranga carolinensis* (bedel), which is a dominant member of the plant community. The invasive *Timonius timon* (liberal) is also present within this secondary vegetation habitat. Figure 25 shows some of the secondary vegetation at the Angaur Rx site.



FIGURE 24 Large, Buttressed Casuarina Trees in the Central Portion of the Angaur Rx Site.



FIGURE 25 Common Secondary Vegetation at the Angaur Rx Site.

**Phosphate Quarry Vegetation**. Phosphate mining occurred on Angaur from 1909 through the late 1950s while the island was under German, Japanese, and American administration (Arnow 1961). The vegetation within the quarry sites is a mix of limestone forest, *Casuarina* forest, secondary vegetation, and wetlands (Figure 26). However, the density and diversity of plant species were much less in this highly disturbed area than in the other plant communities of the Rx site.

**Agroforest**. There was very little agroforest on the Rx site. In the north central forest of the site (Figure 27), there was a small planted tree community containing a large mahogany, *Swietenia macrophylla* (mahogani); the betelnut, *Areca catechu* (buuch); and coconut, *Cocos nucifera* (lius).

**Wetland**. There was a small wetland with *Hibiscus tiliaceus* (chermall) and the fern *Acrostichium* (okkuam) and *Areca catechu* (buuch) in the west central portion of the site. The sister of the clan chief who owns this land used to farm in this area (Gabriel 2019).



FIGURE 26 Abandoned Pit with Scrap Metal from Past Phosphate Mining and Other Activities; Vegetation Incudes *Flacourtia rukam* in the Center and *Asplenium nidus* Ground Cover.



FIGURE 27 Agroforest with Coconut, *Cocos nucidfera* (lius) (left), and *Areca catechu* (buuch) (right) in the Northcentral Portion of the Angaur Rx Site.

# 4.2.1.3 Culturally Significant Plants

Two species of plants were found on the Rx site, which, although not listed by the IUCN, Palau, or ESA, are very culturally important. Flowers of *Cordia subcordata* (kelau) (Figure 28) are a critical component of Angaur's first birth ceremony (ngasech), which is a ceremony unique to the inhabitants of Angaur. No other state in Palau requires that this flower be used during the first birth ceremony. One rubak (i.e., an elder or chief) in Angaur is responsible for the blooming of this tree for a birth ceremony (Kitalong et al., 2019). One such tree was found in flower and fruit along the northeast coast of the site. Another plant was found on site, but without fruit or flowers, by the NPA team member, Pelagia Gabriel. Other kelau trees were located further south but offsite, and none and none were in bloom. The *Syzygium samarangense* (rebotel) is a significant plant in Palauan culture. The leaves are used during a woman's hot bath

after the birth of her first child. Several large rebotel trees were found along the northeast and central coast of the site.



FIGURE 28 The Culturally Important *Cordia subcordata* and *Syzygium* samarangense.

# 4.2.1.4 Vulnerable Species

*Pisonia grandis* (mesbesibech) is considered a vulnerable species on the IUCN Red List. The flowering tree *Pisonia grandis* was found along the northeast and southeast coasts of the Rx site. In Palau, there are only two other known populations of this species, on Kayangel and on the Southwest Island of Fanna. These two islands, together with Angaur, are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Kayangel's *Pisonia* population was greatly affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

# 4.2.2 Wildlife

# 4.2.2.1 Avifauna

At the Angaur Rx site, a total of 48 15-minute point-count surveys were conducted at 10 locations over a 5-day period (January 22–26, 2019). During this same period 10 travelingcount surveys were carried out along two predetermined routes, covering about 7.5 person-miles. Five nightly surveys were also conducted at the site (January 22–26, 2019). A total of 1,528 individuals from 19 species were counted during the avian surveys (Table 7) at the site. Only three of these species have an IUCN or Palau designation, while the Micronesian Scrubfowl (Megapode) is also designated as endangered under the ESA. In contrast, there were nine IUCN and/or Palau designated species at the Ngaraard Tx site.

The bird community of the Rx site was dominated by three species, the Micronesian Starling (626 total records), the Micronesian Megapode (247), and the Collared Kingfisher (119) (Table 7 and Figure 29). These species were seen or heard daily from throughout the site proper (Table 8). The Micronesian Starling is the most common bird at the site; it was seen in flocks of as many as 10 or more individuals and was seen or heard from all areas of the site. Both the megapode and the Collared Kingfisher were also seen and heard from all portions of the site on all survey dates (Table 8).

		Point-Count ^b Survey $(n = 48)$		Traveling Survey (J		Night Survey ^d $(n = 5)$	
Common Name	Status ^a	Total Count	Mean Count	Total Count	Mean Count	Total Count	Mean Count
	IUCN-EN, P-E,						
Micronesian Scrubfowl	USESA-E	102	2.1	113	10.89	32	6.4
Red Junglefowl		18	0.4	12	1.38	2	0.4
Palau Fruit-Dove	P-T	7	0.2	12	1.38	2	0.4
Buff-banded Rail		5	0.1	6	0.75	9	1.8
Slaty-legged Crake		15	0.3	1	0.13	25	5.0
Pacific Golden-Plover		10	0.2	39	4.0	16	3.2
Swinhoe's Snipe		0	0	0	0	9	1.8
Brown Noddy		2	0.0	0	0	0	0
Black Noddy		0	0.0	4	0.50	0	0
White Tern		27	0.6	52	4.63	0	0
Intermediate Egret		0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0
Cattle Egret		0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0
Rufous Night-heron		0	0	0	0	1	0.12
Palau Kingfisher	IUCN-NT	6	0.1	0	0.0	0	0
Collared Kingfisher		62	1.3	41	3.75	16	3.2
Micronesian Myzomela		5	0.1	5	0.50	0	0
Dusky White-eye	7	4	0.1	1	0.13	0	0
Micronesian Starling		259	5.4	250	25.4	117	23.4
Chestnut Munia	Non-native	75	1.7	149	14.9	15	3
Total number birds		597		687		244	
Total number of species		14		15		11	

TABLE 7 Species Observed or Heard during the Point-Count, Traveling-Count, and NightSurveys at the Angaur Rx Site, January 22–26, 2019.

^a IUCN Red List status: IUCN-EN = endangered, IUCN-NT = near threatened; Palau proposed listing: P-E = endangered, P-T = threatened; ESA status: USESA-E = endangered.

^b Daily point-count surveys at eight locations, January 14–18, 2019; another point-count location added and surveyed January 16–18, 2019, and another point-count location added and surveyed January 17 and 18, 2019.

^c Daily raveling-count surveys conducted January 15–18, 2019.

^d No night survey was conducted on January 18, 2019, because of inclement weather.

In contrast, while the Chestnut Munia and White Tern were two of the five species most often observed or heard during the surveys, their numbers included observations from areas outside the Rx footprint or as flyovers along the coast paralleling the eastern site boundary. For example, 140 of the 239 records of this species are of birds observed in large flocks foraging on the runway adjacent to the site.



FIGURE 29 Micronesian Starling (left), Micronesian Megapode (center), and Collared Kingfisher (right).

Of the 19 species reported from the Angaur Rx site, 11 were observed and/or heard on each of the 5 survey dates, and another species was observed and/or heard on 4 of the 5 dates (Table 8). In contrast, individuals of three species, the Rufous Night-heron, the Intermediate Egret, and the Cattle Egret, were observed only on a single survey date.

Six species were observed only as flybys or flyovers, were observed only in grassy areas along the runway, or were only heard from well beyond the Rx site, and these are not likely to occur within the Rx footprint (Table 9). For example, the Intermediate Egret, Cattle Egret, and Rufous Night-heron were only observed a single time, the former two along the runway and the latter as a flyover. Similarly, the Brown Noddy was only observed flying over the eastern boundary of the site along the coast.

Common Name	Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24	Jan 25	Jan 26	Daily Mean
Micronesian Scrubfowl	36	50	53	45	63	49.5
Red Junglefowl	3	5	8	9	9	6.8
Palau Fruit-Dove	2	9	2	4	4	4.2
Buff-banded Rail	2	4	6	1	7	4.0
Slaty-legged Crake	5	5	7	12	12	8.2
Pacific Golden-plover	14	10	21	9	11	13.0
Swinhoe's Snipe	0	1	6	0	2	1.8
Brown Noddy	0	0	1	1	0	0.4
Black Noddy	0	4	0	0	0	0.8

#### TABLE 8 (cont).

Common Name	Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24	Jan 25	Jan 26	Daily Mean
White Tern	11	13	30	9	13	15.2
Rufous Night-heron	0	1	0	0	0	0.2
Intermediate Egret	0	0	1	0	0	0.2
Cattle Egret	1	0	0	0	0	0.2
Palau Kingfisher	0	0	0	3	3	1.2
Collared Kingfisher	21	23	31	20	24	23.8
Micronesian Myzomela	2	2	1	3	2	2.0
Dusky White-eye	1	1	0	0	0	0.4
Micronesian Starling	88	138	128	122	150	125.2
Chestnut Munia	5	85	48	37	34	41.8
Total number birds	191	351	343	275	334	298.8
Total number of species	13	15	14	13	13	13.6

# TABLE 9 Bird Species Observed Only as Flybys/Flyovers or Only along theRunway.

Species	Nature of Occurrence
Swinhoe's Snipe	Observed only in grassy areas along the runway.
Pacific Golden Plover	Observed only in grassy areas along the runway.
Brown Noddy	Observed only flying along the coast adjacent to the site.
Rufous Night-Heron	Observed only once, flying over the runway.
Intermediate Egret	Observed only once, in grassy areas of the runway.
Cattle Egret	Observed only once, in grassy areas of the runway.

# 4.2.2.2 Micronesian Megapode

The Micronesian Scrubfowl (Megapode) (*Megapodius laperouse*) was a primary focus of the natural resource surveys on the Angaur Rx site. This species is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List and on the ESA list (USFWS 1998, 2018), and is proposed as endangered for the Palau list of threatened and endangered species. The Palau population is currently recognized as a subspecies (*Megapodius laperouse senex*) but, on the basis of morphological, behavioral, and vocalization differences, may actually be a separate species (Olsen et al. 2016). The IUCN assessment of the megapode's status in Palau (subspecies *senex*) indicates that it is generally uncommon to rare and locally distributed (IUCN 2018). In 1991, the total population for Palau (excluding Kayangel Island) was estimated at 497 birds. In 2005, a repeat survey found stable numbers on Peleliu and Babeldaob, but evidence of declines in the Rock Islands and on Angaur Island (IUCN 2018).

**Megapode Numbers**. The Micronesian Megapode was heard and observed during all daytime point-count and traveling-count avian surveys and was heard during each of the owl and bat night surveys (Table 10; Figure 30). During each day of the surveys, an average of 2.1 megapodes was heard or observed from each point-count survey location, and an average of 10.8 megapodes was heard or observed along each traveling-count survey route. During the night surveys, an average of 6.4 megapodes was heard each evening. A number of individuals were also heard or observed during the megapode nest surveys (Table 10); the relatively small number of birds detected during the nest surveys is likely due in part to the presence of a greater number of survey staff (four staff) than during the daytime surveys (one staff per survey).

	Number Observed or Heard					Daily
Survey Type ^a	Jan. 22	Jan. 23	`Jan. 24	Jan. 25	<b>Jan. 26</b>	Mean
Point Count	10	21	23	22	26	20.4
Traveling Count, Runway Route	9	6	3	5	15	7.6
Traveling Count, Forest Route	13	11	23	11	17	15
Night Survey	4	12	4	7	5	6.4
Forest North of Runway	7	1	0	0	1	1.8
Nest Survey	3	0	6	8	0	3.4
Reconnaissance Area	na	na	na	na	23	na

TABLE 10 Number of Micronesian Megapodes Observed or Heard by Survey Type and Date.

^a See Figure 6 for point-count locations and traveling-count routes, and Figure ZZZ for onsite and offsite nest survey areas.

In addition to the birds reported from the Rx site, an additional 23 birds were heard or observed during the reconnaissance area survey conducted on January 26, 2019, south of the Rx site (Figure 30). This was the second-highest number of all megapodes reported that day from the site (Table 10). As shown in Figure 30, megapodes were observed or heard each day from areas throughout the Rx site footprint, although more so in the northern portion of the site. This is likely due to the southern portion of site having a denser understory vegetation and less developed forest habitat. In the reconnaissance survey area, a number of birds were heard or observed from the far southern end of the survey area (Figure 30). The absence of birds along the southeastern coast is likely due, in part, to the disturbed nature of this area. Heavily affected in 2012 by Super Typhoon Bopha, considerable damage to coastal habitats in this area is still evident today.

**Megapode Nest Sites**. A total of 35 megapode nests were found within the Rx project footprint (Figure 31), 3 of which were determined to be inactive. An additional 19 nest mounds (all but 1 active) were found in the reconnaissance area outside of the Rx site. Regardless of their location, most of the nests were large. The five largest nests were 10–12 m in length, had widths ranging from 6 to 10 m and heights ranging from 0.8 to 1.6 m. Table 11 summarizes the characteristics of the nests found on the Rx site and in the reconnaissance area south of the site. The sizes of the nests found at the Rx site are comparable to the sizes of 24 nests measured on Palau by Wiles and Conroy (2001).

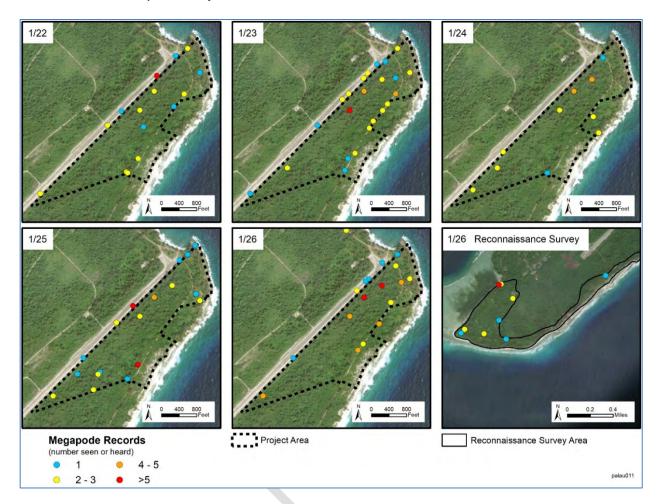


FIGURE 30 Locations of Daily Megapode Sightings and Vocalizations at the Rx Site, January 22–26, 2019 and in Reconnaissance Survey Area, January 26, 2019

TABLE 11 Nest Parameters of Megapode Nests found at the Rx Site and Reconnaissance Survey
Area, Angaur Island.

Range (m)				Mean (m)			
Nest Parameter	Rx Site Nests	Reconnaissance Area Nests	Wiles and Conroy 2001	Rx Site Nests	Reconnaissance Area Nests	Wiles and Conroy 2001	
Width	0.3–10.0	1.0-10.0	5.2-7.6	4.4 <u>+</u> 2.8	4.2 <u>+</u> 2.4	6.2 <u>+</u> 0.7	
Length	1.6–12.0	2.0-10.0	6.1–9.1	5.8 <u>+</u> 3.1	6.1 <u>+</u> 2.6	7.3 <u>+</u> 1.2	
Height	0.1–1.6	0.3–1.3	0.8–1.5	0.7 <u>+</u> 0.4	0.8 <u>+</u> 0.3	1.1 <u>+</u> 0.2	

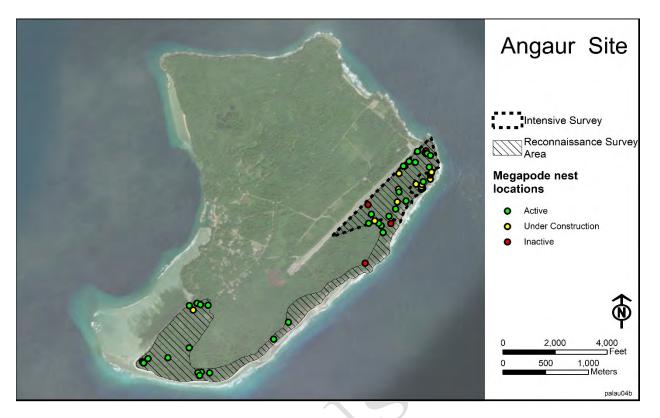


FIGURE 31 Locations of Megapode Nests Found on the Angaur Rx Site, January 22–26, 2019, and in the Nearby Offsite Reconnaissance Area, January 26, 2019

Within the Rx site, most nests (28) were found at the base of large *Casuarina* trees, with a small number against fallen logs and stumps (Figure 32). The majority of these nests were constructed of gravel and a mix of leaves, twigs, and other similar organic materials. In contrast, the majority (14 of 19) of the reconnaissance area nests were built of sand; four were built with gravel and one with a mix of sand and gravel (Figure 32).

Between 2011 and 2014, Olsen et al. (2016) conducted a field survey of megapode nests across much of Palau. They surveyed all islands inside the coral barrier reef that surrounds the Palau archipelago, as well as Kayangel Atoll, which occurs outside of the barrier reef. Their survey did not include Angaur but did include Peleliu Island and nearby islets. Among the islands surveyed, they identified approximately 800 hectares (ha) of level forested terrain they considered suitable nesting habitat for the megapode. Of this habitat, 450 ha were found to support active nest mounds. On the Rock Islands, they estimated the density of active nest mounds to range from 0.2 to 1.4 nests/ha, while at Kayangel Atoll densities ranged from 0.4 to 1.9/ha (Olsen et al. 2016). Lowest densities were estimated for Babeldaob and Peleliu Islands and their associated islets, where active nest densities were less than 0.2/ha. In comparison, the active nest density at the Rx site is estimated at 0.8/ha, which falls in the mid to upper end of the density range of Olsen et al. (2016) and well above the range estimated for Peleliu Island. The presence of 18 active nests in the southern portion of Angaur Island suggests that suitable megapode nesting habitat exists in other parts of the island.



**FIGURE 32** Megapode Nests from the Rx site (A-D) and the Offsite Reconnaissance Area (E-H). Note the Gravel vs. Sand Nest Construction Between the Two Areas.

# 4.2.2.3 Bats

The Palau Fruit Bat and the Pacific Sheath-tailed Bat are present at the Rx site; both species were observed every evening and along both survey routes (Table 12). The Pacific Sheath-tailed Bat became active each evening shortly after sunset, actively foraging along the open canopy over the coast road on the east side of the site and along and over the runway to the west. During the surveys, Palau Fruit Bats were often observed prior to and shortly after sunset, flying from the Rx site to a potential roost site in the forest across the runway from the site. In addition, a fruit bat roost site was observed in the eastern portion of the Rx site, in the vicinity of point-count location AN009 (see Figure 6). This roost was in a large *Casuarina* tree; Figure 33 shows bats roosting at this location.

# TABLE 12 Number of Bats Observed by Survey Date during Evening Surveys^a at the Angaur RxSite.

		Number Observed			Daily		
Common Name	Status ^b	Jan. 22	Jan. 23	Jan. 24	Jan. 25	Jan. 26	Mean
Pacific Sheath-tailed Bat Emballonura semicaudata	IUCN-EN	7	15	33	21	7	16.6
Palau Fruit Bat	IUCN-VU, P-T	2	6	14	4	10	7.2
Pteropus pelewensis							

^a See Figure 6 for bat and owl survey routes.

^b IUCN Red List status: IUCN-EN = endangered, IUCN-VU = vulnerable (IUCN 2018); Palau proposed listing: P-T = threatened.



FIGURE 33 Roosting Fruit Bats, Angaur Rx Site, January 25, 2019.

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November 20, 2020

Mark Ingoglia and George Herbst AFIMSC Det 2/CEV (Pacific Region) 25 E. St., Suite C-300 Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii 96853

Dear Mr. Ingoglia and Mr. Herbst,

Argonne National Laboratory (Argonne) is providing support to the U.S. Air Force in its evaluation and mitigation of potential adverse impacts that could be incurred with the construction of two Tactical Multi-Mission Over-the-Horizon Radar (TACMOR) facilities in the Republic of Palau. One of the facilities (the transmitter [Tx] facility) is located on the northern end of Babeldaob Island, within the State of Ngaraard. The attached letter report presents the results of an assessment conducted of the cultural and natural resources at two sites (Soil Disposal 1 [SD 1] and Soil Disposal 2 [SD 2]) being considered to for use as soil disposal and/or equipment laydown areas in support of construction of the Tx facility.

The assessment of the two soil disposal sites was conducted between October 25 and November 4, 2020, by archaeologist Dr. Jolie Liston of Micronesian Heritage Consulting, LLC and the Environmental Division of the Belau National Museum led by Dr. Ann Kitalong, both under contract with Argonne National Laboratory, and the U.S. Air Force Talon TACMOR Palau Site Coordinator, Jon Vogt. The objectives of the surveys at SD 1 and SD 2 were to:

- 1) assess the potential for significant cultural and natural resources concerns should these areas be used for soil disposal;
- 2) provide preliminary documentation of said features for planning purposes; and
- 3) make recommendations on the suitability of each site for soil disposal and equipment laydown activities.

During these surveys, each site was assessed with a focus on identifying flora, fauna, habitats, and cultural properties of significance present or likely to occur at each site and their immediate surroundings, and which of these resources could be impacted if the site were to be selected to support Tx construction activities.

Based on the survey findings, the SD 1 site is preferred for use as a soil disposal and staging area for the Tx Site because of a combination of: 1) SD 1 being almost exclusively savanna rather than forest habitat; 2) the presence of a single, small surface archaeological site that can be mitigated without detrimental loss to Palau's cultural landscape; 3) the close proximity to the Tx Site; 4) ownership by Ngaraard State who have intimated they are amenable to a land lease agreement; and 5) a fairly level terrain. The primary issue

for use of SD 1 is the access route that would require removal of a small amount of forest habitat and passage across a small drainage area and three small streams.

The SD 2 site has a number of factors that suggest it could be suitable for use supporting Tx facility construction: 1) the south half of the site is already leveled and developed, 2) a relatively close proximity to the Tx Site; 3) a fairly level terrain across the entire site; 4) an existing, previously constructed, gravel road providing access to the site; and 5) largely savanna and previously disturbed secondary growth habitat across the site. However, there is a significant archaeological site (NA-2:22) at SD 2 which would require extensive mitigation, as site development would destroy a portion of the archeological site. There is also the likelihood that additional archeological artifacts and features may be discovered if SD 2 undergoes development. In addition, compared to SD 1 there are potential land ownership issues. Because of these latter factors, SD 2 is not recommended for use as a soil disposal and staging area for the Tx Site.

Please contact me with any questions or comments you have on the report and its conclusions and recommendation.

Sincerely,

Ihor Hlohowskyj Principal Ecologist/Environmental Biologist Argonne National Laboratory

#### **SUBJECT:** Letter Report: Cultural and Natural Resource Assessment of Proposed Soil Disposal Areas 1 and 2 for the Tactical Multi-Mission Over-the-Horizon Radar Facilities in Chol, Ngaraard, Republic of Palau

As requested by the U.S. Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, Detachment 2 Civil Engineering Division (AFIMSC Det 2/CEV), this letter report presents an assessment of the cultural and natural resources at two potential soil disposal sites (Soil Disposal 1 [SD 1] and Soil Disposal 2 [SD 2]) that may support construction of the Tactical Multi-Mission Over-the-Horizon Radar (TACMOR) facility in Chol, Ngaraard, Republic of Palau (Ngaraard Tx site).

The assessment is based on limited reconnaissance surveys of the proposed SD 1 and SD 2 sites conducted between 25 October and 4 November 2020 by archaeologist Dr. Jolie Liston of Micronesian Heritage Consulting, LLC and the Environmental Division of the Belau National Museum led by Dr. Ann Kitalong, both under contract with Argonne National Laboratory, and the U.S. Air Force Talon TACMOR Palau Site Coordinator, Jon Vogt. The letter report incorporates the work of all three entities.

# **1. AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT**

The areas of potential effect (APEs) include the two disposal sites as well as access routes to each from the Compact Road. The potential access routes considered a 15.2 m (50 ft) wide corridor.

The SD 1 site is a relatively flat, estimated 4-hectare (9.9-acre) parcel located 1.5 km (0.9 mi) south of the Ngaraard Tx site and approximately 300 m (0.2 mi) west of the Compact Road (Figures 1 and 2). This parcel is largely savanna and has not been historically disturbed. The landowner is Ngaraard State, with state public lands administered by the Ngaraard State Public Land Authority (Figure 2). The Ngaraard Governor stated he would be amenable to allowing the parcel to be used for a soil disposal site or as a staging area for Tx site construction. There is no existing vehicle access to the site, and construction of an approximately 300 m (0.2 mi) long access road from the Compact Road would be required. The proposed access road would stay within the boundaries of the Ngaraard State public land parcel.

The SD 2 site is a relatively flat, estimated 2-hectare (5-acre) parcel located 6 km (3.7 mi) south of the Tx Site, off the east side of the Compact Road (Figures 3 and 4). It is separated from the Compact Road by a low, elongated knoll. The SD 2 parcel is located to the north of the Ngaraard State landfill, which is currently in use. The site is within three privately owned cadastral lots (Figure 4). There are no state public lands in the SD 2 footprint. The northern half of the site is undisturbed savanna grasslands. The southern half of the site was leveled for use as a rock crusher plant and staging area in support of Compact Road construction in 2001 (Figure 5). Access roads paralleled the northern, western, and southern boundaries of the crusher plant. The southern unpaved access road remains in existence as it connects the Compact Road to the Ngaraard landfill and could be used for the proposed soil disposal.

Fill capacity in the soil disposal sites is dependent on the final disposal design and planned finished grades. The sites could be finished into flat buildable areas for landowners to utilize, or if the need for capacity drives the design, slopes could be built up, in a benched manner for stability, to higher elevations.

The coordinates of the corners of proposed soil disposals and the beginning and end of the proposed access roads are provided in Table 1.

Location	Easting	Northing
	460108.623449	846053.28667
	460155.917815	846065.192944
Access road to SD 1	460199.574152	846070.153892
	460251.829465	846065.523674
	460316.652511	846050.971562
	460137.0577	845965.9827
	459944.0836	845918
Five corners of SD 1	459867.937	846027.5258
	459985.8077	846170.431
	460051.5232	846137.0517
	459606.901492	841981.616068
	459685.565839	841972.589012
Five corners of SD 2	459708.133479	841933.256839
	459594.650487	841834.60401
	459472.785228	841888.766347
Access road to SD 2	459434	841877

Table 1. Coordinates of Soil Disposal 1 and 2 (UTM Zone 53N)

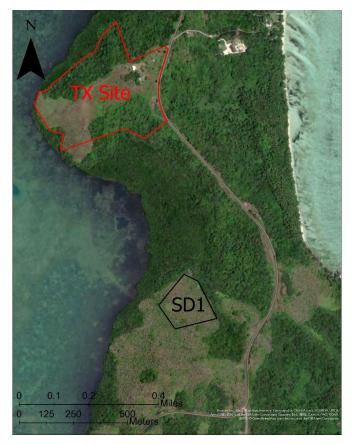


Figure 1. Proposed SD 1 in the savanna habitat 1.5 km south of the Ngaraard Tx site.

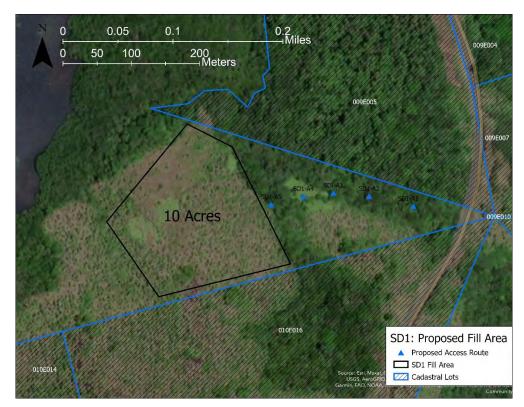


Figure 2. Proposed SD 1 and access route showing boundaries of cadastral lots.



Figure 3. Proposed SD 2 in the savanna habitat 6 km south of the Ngaraard Tx site.



Figure 4. Proposed SD 2 and access route showing boundaries of cadastral lots.



Figure 5. SD 2 on a 2001 aerial photograph showing area leveled for the crusher plant and adjacent access roads with the Compact Road under construction on the left.

# **2 OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the limited reconnaissance survey of SD 1 and SD 2 and their access routes are to:

- 1) assess the potential for significant cultural and natural resources concerns should these areas be used for soil disposal;
- 2) provide preliminary documentation of said features for planning purposes; and
- 3) make recommendations on the suitability of the sites for soil disposal and equipment laydown activities.

# **3** METHODS

The two potential disposal sites were chosen by the TACMOR Palau Site Coordinator based on numerous factors, including vegetation and distance from the Tx Site. During preparatory site visits Mr. Vogt acquired UTM locations of parcel corners and access routes that were migrated into an ArcMap environment. The waypoints were loaded into multiple Garmin GPSMAP 66 handheld global positioning systems (GPS) for use in field navigation.

Field work entailed limited reconnaissance pedestrian surveys of the proposed soil disposal areas and access routes by the archaeological, environmental, and TACMOR Palau Site Coordinator teams. When schedules permitted, the three teams conducted the surveys concurrently.

During these surveys, the teams assessed each site with a focus on identifying flora, fauna, and cultural properties of significance, habitat and bird diversity, and potential impacts of site use on wetlands and stream drainages. They recorded their observations about cultural and natural assets and the overall terrain in field books and took photographs of key points.

Presentation of the findings of the proposed SD 1 and SD 2 survey efforts are organized by individual disposal site number. Figures illustrating specific sites and features follow their respective sections.

# **4 FINDINGS**

# 4.1 Proposed Soil Disposal 1

Overall, the proposed SD 1 site is in fairly level savanna with forested terrain just outside the boundaries on the west, north, and east (Figure 2; Table 2). Ngerbailiang ridgeline rises off of the south side of the parcel. The proposed east-west aligned access road is largely under forest canopy broken in the center by a narrow segment of savanna.

The east half of the proposed access road will dissect three small streams meandering through the forested, sloping terrain. Figure 6 marks the locations of these streams with labels PIC1, PIC2, and PIC3 and corresponding Figures 7-9. The streams flow south to north, are less than a meter wide, and are incised about a meter deep. The western extent of the proposed access road, under the riparian forest, crosses a wetland drainage (Figure 10).

The initial 100-m (328-ft) eastern extent of the proposed access road (closer to the Compact Road) slopes down at approximately 30 degrees to the west, with the slope gradually lessening to 12 degrees and then 6 degrees upon reaching the savanna (Figure 11).

On the west side of SD 1, outside of the proposed disposal boundary, upland forest covers a steep, approximately 10-m (33-ft) slope, which extends down to a stream with significant flow. Mangrove forest lines the opposing side of the stream.

A traditional pottery scatter initially documented during cultural resources work associated with the Compact Road (Wickler et al. 2005:369) and subsequently by the HPO (Olsudong et al. 2006:39) is located within the SD 1 parcel. The locations of geotagged pictures are indicated in Figure 6.

Section	Terrain	Natural Resources	Cultural Resources
Access road	west sloping terrain (12- to 30-degree slopes)	forest; west end will dissect 3 small streams; east end transects wetland drainage	ephemeral landscape modification close to Compact Road
Soil disposal area	fairly level terrain	savanna grasslands	traditional pottery scatter (Site NA-3:15)

 Table 2. Sections of Soil Disposal 1

# **Vegetation**

# Savanna Grasslands

Savanna grasslands with associated scattered trees occur on volcanic soil substrates where the primary forest has been removed (Figures 12 and 13). The presence of highly eroded soils and likely chronic fires in the past have prevented reforestation on this savanna. Ground visibility in the savanna is about 20% with an approximately 40-m (131-ft) long section of dense, high *Dicranopteris linearis* (itouch) splitting the forest in the west half of the proposed access road, which reduces ground visibility to zero. There is a slight possibility cultural resources could lie beneath this thick itouch.

Small tree and shrub species occur on the savanna grassland. These plants are not threatened or endangered species. They include *Pandanus tectorius* (ongor), which occurs throughout the savanna, *Commersonia bartramia* (bebechelut), *Melochia compacta* (chermallucheang), *Morinda citrifolia* (ngel), and small trees of *Symplocos racemosa* Roxb. var. *palauenses* (chebtui) and *Alphitonia carolinensis*. The endemic *Timonius mollis* was found along the site's southeast drainage. The endemic shrub, *Hedyotis tomentosus* (leblebul), is found along the savanna boundary with the northeast forest. Grasses, sedges, and ferns are the dominant vegetation in the central and western portions of the savanna (Figure 14). Dominant grasses include *Eriachne pallescens* (in more eroded soil areas) and several species of *Ischaemum* and the fern *Nephrolepsis biserrata* in areas with less eroded soils. The ferns *Dicranopteris linearis* (itouch), *Lycopodiella cernua* (olecheiulabeab), *Lindsaea ensifolia, Blechnum orientales* (klorouikl), and *Selaginella pseudo volkensii* were found by the southeast drainage.

# Forests and Wetlands

An approximately 50-m (164-ft) wide riparian forest runs north-south along the eastern survey area, bordering the east side of the soil disposal area (Figure 15). While the soil disposal footprint does not impact the riparian forest, the east-west aligned access road will transect it. The riparian

forest terrain drains to the north and northwest. The associated wetland was dominated by large *Campnosperma brevipetiolata* (kelelacharm) (Figure 16). The largest trees observed were the endemic *C. inophyllum* with an estimated diameter of 1 m (3.3 ft) just above the stream running along the northeast and eastern portion of the riparian forest and a *C. hirsutum* with an estimated diameter of 0.6 m (2 ft) along the northern forest.

The forests outside the SD1 boundary consists of an upper canopy of the endemic trees *Horsfieldia* palauensis (chersachel), Syzygium mesekerrak (mesekerrak), Fagraea ksid (ksid), and Garcinia matsudai (tilol). Native trees include the large Cannarium hirsutum (mesecheues), Calophyllum inophyllum (btaches), Maranthes corymbosa (bkau), Elaeocarpus joga (dekemerir), Pterocarpus indicus (las), Ormosia calavensis (chedebsungelked), Planchonella obovata (chelangel), Semecarpus venenosa (tonget), Rhus taitensis (eues), Cerbera manghas (chemeridech), Alphitonia carolinensis (chelebiob), and stands of the palms Heterospathe elata (demailei), Pinanga insignis (chebouch), and Draceana multiflora (orredakl).

The lower canopy trees include the endemic trees Osmoxylon truncatum (kesiamel), Pandanus aimiriikensis (chertochet), and Timonius mollis. Native trees in the lower canopy or understory include Premna serratifolia (chosm), Eugenia reinwardtiana (kesiil), Phaleria nisidai (ongael), Cynometra racemosa (ketenguit), Ixora casei (kerdeu), Mussaenda philippica (cherecheroi), and Callicarpa elegans (keruiau). The secondary forest includes Macaranga carolinensis (bedel) (Figure 17). The largest grass, Bambusa vulgaris (bamboo) and the herb Alpinia publifora (sui) and the saplings of these trees are present. Herbs include Tacca palmata and Tacca leontopetaloides. Orchids include the native Nervilia platychila and the endemic Crepidium setipes.

The mangroves outside of the soil disposal footprint to the west consist of *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* (kodenges), *Rhizophora* spp. (tebechel), and *Sonneratia alba* (urur) (Figure 18).

#### Bird Diversity

Over 17 species of birds were either heard or seen at or near the proposed site, mainly in the offsite forest habitats around the site periphery. Species observed included the following species: a group of over 30 endemic Palau Swiftlets (*Aerodramus pelewensis*, chesisekiaid); the endemic subspecies of conservation concern, the Nicobar Pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica pelewensis*, laib); the endemic Palau Fruit Dove (*Ptilinopus pelewensis*, biib); and the threatened endemic subspecies, the Micronesian Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula oceanica monachal*, belochel). Other endemic forest birds heard or seen on site include the Bush Warbler (*Cettia annae*, wuul); the Dusky White-eye (*Zosterops finshchii*, chetitalial); the Palau Flycatcher (*Myiagra erythrops*, charmelachull) with a juvenile; the Micronesian Myzomela (*Myzomela rubrata kobaysahii*, chesisebangiau); the Micronesian Starling (*Aplonis opaca orii*, kiuid), the Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus chloris teraokai*, tengadidik), and the Palau Fantail (*Rhipidura lepida*, melimdelebteb).

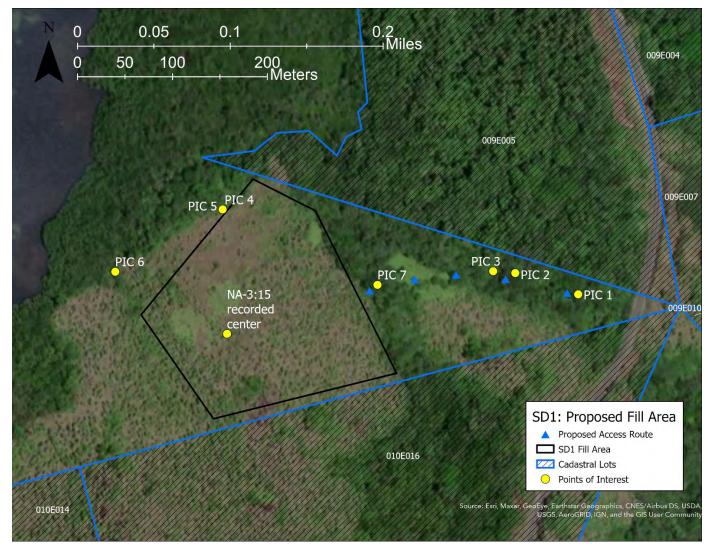
Two endemic Palau Owls (*Pyrroglaux podargina*, chesiuch), were heard on the morning of 29 October 2020, which is unusual, as the owl is usually active and vocal at night. The native Black Noddy (*Anous minutus*, bedaoch), the winter migrant Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*), the native White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*), and the native White Tern (*Gygis alba candida*, sechosech) were observed flying over the site crossing the forest and savanna. An unidentified hawk or osprey was observed circling the site. Several bats, *Pteropus pelewensis* (olik), were observed flying over the site.

#### Archaeological Site

The SD 1 site contains one previously documented archaeological site, Site NA-3:15 (Olsudong et al. 2006:39; Wickler et al. 2005:369). Site NA-3:15 is a light traditional pottery scatter extending over 20 m² (215 ft²) of the savanna. The scatter is centered at 7°39'12.553" north, 134°38'13.006" east, some 40 m (131 ft) west of the location documented on the Palau Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation (BCHP) site map (Figure 7).¹ The approximately 10 mm (0.4 in) thick sherds were fired in a reduced atmosphere and display flanged and thickened rims suggesting they date to later in Palau's cultural sequence (Figure 19). Trowel probes suggest the scatter is not associated with a cultural deposit and may result from use of the area for collecting and gathering activities or may be a product of erosion from Ngerbailiang hill to the south.

The terrain at the northeastern extent of the proposed access road, where it joins with the Compact Road, may be artificially leveled (7°39'14.051" N, 134°38'26.128" E). Landscape modification is minimal. A potential flattened ridge and step-terrace is located adjacent to a stream just outside the parcel and to the north of the proposed access road, indicating the presence of landscape modification in the vicinity. The morphology and extent of modifications does not resemble traditional earthworks, and the presence of coconut trees in the forest suggest terrain modifications may be associated with German Era coconut plantations. Regardless, the modification to the terrain is so ephemeral and limited in scope that it cannot be recorded as an archaeological site.

¹ Original site documentation, in the 1997 Compact Road investigations, occurred before accurate GPS locational devices were useable on Palau. The BCHP used the site location map provided by the Compact Road investigations in their national site map. The use of a GPS device during the current work identified the precise site location.



**Reference Images: Proposed Soil Disposal 1** 

Figure 6. Reference image showing locations of following geotagged photographs labelled as PIC and center point of Site NA-3:15 recorded during the reconnaissance survey.



Figure 7. Stream in area of access road. Image taken at PIC 1 to west-northwest. See Figure 6 for location.



Figure 8. Stream in area of access road. Image taken at PIC 2. See Figure 6 for location.



Figure 9. Stream in area of access road. Image taken at PIC 3. See Figure 6 for location.



Figure 10. Wetland drainage in riparian forest bordering east side of SD 1. Image taken at PIC 7 with view to  $110^{\circ}$ . See Figure 6 for location.



Figure 11. Slope of access route to proposed SD 1. One-meter contours are extrapolated from the 1980 USGS topographic map and are not precise.



Figure 12. Overlooking proposed SD 1 site. Image taken at PIC 4 with view to southeast. See Figure 7 for location.



Figure 13. Overlooking proposed SD 1 site. Image taken at PIC 5 with view to south. Ngerbailiang ridgeline in background. See Figure 7 for location.



Figure 14. Central section of savanna showing ferns *Dicranopteris linearis*, *Pandanus tectorius*, *Melastoma* and sedges. Left view to north, center view to northwest, and right view to west.



Figure 15. Left: Riparian forest wetlands in east flowing northeast from smaller flow at southeast. Center: Growing to northeast into large flow and pool. Right: Extending into a larger stream right that flows into the mangroves along the steep slope on the northern boundary. All outside of the soil disposal footprint.





Figure 16. Left: *Symplocus* (left) *Cannarium* (right) in the northwest forest outside of the project area footprint. Right: *Campnosperma brevipetiolata* in the eastern riparian forest that is crossed by the access road.





Figure 17. Left: Northwest corner of forest with *Symplocos* and *Macaranga*. Right: Drop to incised stream in mangroves on west edge of savanna.



Figure 18. Left: Northwest forest with *Planchonella, Campnosperma, and Sonneratia*. Center: Northern forest showing *Cannarium*, *Planchonella*, and *Macaranga*. Right: Steep slope to mangroves on west edge of savanna.



Figure 19. Traditional pottery sherds from the Site NA-3:15 pottery scatter in the savanna under SD 1.

### 4.2 Proposed Soil Disposal 2

The south half of SD 2 is on the now abandoned Compact Road crusher plant and staging area parcel (Figure 4, Lot 105E002; Figure 5), with the north half remaining in native savanna grasslands (Table 3). The SD 2 parcel is separated from the Compact Road to the west by a low, elongated knoll. The proposed access road is on the current gravel road extending onto the crusher plant parcel (Figure 20). There are no wetlands on site.

Section	Terrain	Natural Resources	Cultural Resources
Access road	previously disturbed roadbed	previously disturbed roadbed	none
Soil disposal area	south half – abandoned, levelled pad for Compact Road infrastructure north half – gentle slope to south progressively steeper to north	south half – secondary growth on Compact Road infrastructure north half – savanna grasslands	Imengel (NA-2:22); traditional meeting place; first occupied c. 800–400 BCE

### Table 3. Sections of Soil Disposal 2.

The approximately one-hectare (2.5-acre) south half of SD 2 is on land that was graded level for the crusher plant. Recently someone has begun construction on a house in the middle of this area, although it looks as though construction is currently halted (Figure 21). The Ngaraard Governor states that those who began the construction are not the rightful owners, so the home frame may not stand for long.

The savanna-covered terrain in the north half of SD 2 bears a 30- to 12-degree southeast facing downward slope. The archaeological site of Imengel (Site NA-2:22) was previously documented as on the slightly elevated terrain between SD 2 and the Compact Road and under the abandoned crusher plant. Current reconnaissance survey indicates the site extends beyond the documented boundary to the north and east across the proposed soil disposal parcel (Figures 22 and 23).

### **Vegetation**

Young trees and saplings are re-establishing in the crusher plant parcel. The disturbed area along the southern access road contains introduced and invasive weeds including *Chromolaena odorata* (ngesngesil) and *Leucaena leucocephala* (telengtungd) (Figures 24 and 25).

A linear patch of forest lines the north side of the current gravel access road, in SD 2. The forest consists of an upper canopy of the endemic trees *Horsfieldia palauensis* (chersachel) and *Garcinia matsudai* (tilol). Native trees include *Calophyllum inophyllum* (btaches), *Maranthes corymbosa* (bkau), *Elaeocarpus joga (dekemerir), Ormosia calavensis* (chedebsungelked), *Planchonella obovata* (chelangel), *Rhus taitensis* (eues), *Cerbera manghas* (chemeridech), *Alphitonia carolinensis* (chelebiob), the palm *Pinanga insignis* (chebouch), and *Draceana multiflora* (orredakl). The lower canopy trees include the endemic trees *Osmoxylon truncatum* (kesiamel), *Pandanus aimiriikensis* (chertochet), and *Timonius mollis*. Native trees in the lower canopy or understory include *Premna serratifolia* (chosm), *Ixora casei* (kerdeu), *Mussaenda philippica* (cherecheroi), and *Callicarpa elegans* (keruiau). The secondary forest includes *Macaranga carolinensis* (bedel) along the forest edge where it meets the savanna, which defines the north half of SD 2. Herbs include *Tacca leontopetaloides*.

Savanna grasslands dominate the north half of the SD 2 site (Figure 25). Grasses, sedges, and ferns are the dominant vegetation. Dominant grasses include *Eriachne pallescens* in more eroded soil areas with several species of *Ischaemum* and the fern *Nephrolepsis biserrata* in areas with less eroded soils. The presence of highly eroded soils and likely chronic fires in the past have prevented reforestation on this savanna grassland.

The small tree and shrub species found in the savanna include *Pandanus tectorius* (ongor), which occurs throughout the savanna, *Commersonia bartramia* (bebechelut), *Melochia compacta* (chermallucheang), *Morinda citrifolia* (ngel), and small trees of *Symplocos racemosa* Roxb. var. *palauenses* (chebtui) and *Alphitonia carolinensis*. The endemic shrub *Hedyotis tomentosus* (leblebul) is common on the site. The tree *Cerbera manghas* (chemeridech) was found in large numbers.

Although no wetlands or running streams were observed in SD 2, there is evidence of drainage along the central portion of the savanna portion of the site heading southeast (Figure 25). The ferns *Dicranopteris linearis* (itouch), *Lycopodiella cernua* (olecheiulabeab), *Lindsaea ensifolia*, *Blechnum orientales* (klorouikl), and *Selaginella pseudo volkensii* were found by the southeast drainage area (Figure 26).

### **Bird Diversity**

More than eight species of birds were either heard or seen at or near the proposed SD 2. The birds were mainly found in the surrounding off-site forest and included the endemic and species-of-conservation-concern Nicobar Pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica pelewensis*, laib). Also seen were three endemic Palau Fruit Doves (*Ptilinopus pelewensis*, biib); the threatened endemic Micronesian Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula oceanica monachal*, belochel); several endemic Dusky White-eye (*Zosterops finshchii*, chetitalial); several endemic Palau Flycatcher (*Myiagra erythrops*, charmelachull); and several endemic Micronesian Starling (*Aplonis opaca orii*, kiuid). The native Black Noddy (*Anous minutus*, bedaoch) and native White Tern (*Gygis alba candida*, sechosech) were observed flying over the site.

### Archaeological Site

The SD 2 site is immediately to the east of the documented archaeological site of Imengel (NA-2:22). The current recorded extent of the Imengel site is based on material evidence identified during the cultural resource investigations for the Compact Road and associated nearby crusher plant. Imengel consists of a series of earth platforms, leveled areas, and associated stonework (Liston et al. 2007:149–172; Liston and Rieth 2011:258–268; Wickler et al. 2005:362). Intact cultural deposits in the site have been radiocarbon dated to as early as c. 800–400 BCE. Imengel is interpreted as a resting place due to its location on a natural low, elongated knoll surrounded by earthwork complexes, by oral history, and by subsurface evidence.

Reconnaissance survey for SD 2 shows that the Imengel site extends to the east and north to include the extent of the SD 2 parcel. Although ground visibility in the savanna is only about 30%, exposed soil areas contain traditional pottery sherds and at least two stone alignments are present (Figures 27 and 28). Some of the pottery observed is very thin (approximately 4 mm [0.16 in]) with no surface modifications, indicating it likely dates prior to 1 CE.

## **Reference Images: Proposed Soil Disposal 2**



Figure 20. Current access road on south side of SD 2. Photograph taken at 459,572-841,832 UTM, heading 135°.



Figure 21. Framed structure being built on old crusher plant area in the south-central half of SD 2. Image taken on current access road facing north-northeast. See Figure 23 for location of structure.



Figure 22. View of SD 2 from slightly elevated terrain between the Compact Road and the soil disposal parcel. View to south-southeast.

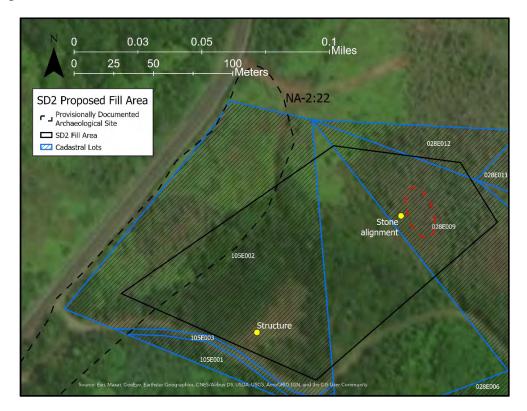


Figure 23. Location of SD 2 relative to previously documented extent of archaeological site NA-2:22 and newly documented stone alignment. Red oval indicates area of dry freshwater drainage channel, pictured in Figure 25.



Figure 24. Invasive and introduced weeds on old crusher plant parcel, southern boundary of SD 2.



Figure 25. Left: View of north-central portion of SD 2 with *Pandanus tectorius* the dominant tree in the savanna. Center: *Cerbera manghas* (chemeridech) saplings expanding into the area disturbed by the old crusher plant. Right: Evidence of freshwater drainage through savanna in central area of SD 2 but no flowing water (area indicated by red oval in Figure 23).



Figure 26. Left: View of northwest area of SD 2 dominated by the fern *Dicranopteris linearis* (itouch) with forest in background. Center: View eastward over SD 2 from low hill immediately to the east of the Compact Road. Right: Highly eroded old access road outside of northwest corner of SD 2; view to west.



Figure 27. Stone alignment, an undocumented feature of Site NA-2:22, in the savanna of SD 2 (location pictured in Figure 23). View to west.



Figure 28. Dense pottery scatter, an undocumented component of Site NA-2:22, in the savanna of SD 2. The sherd scatters occur throughout the exposed soil in the savanna.

## **5 R**ECOMMENDATIONS AND **MITIGATION**

Of the two soil disposal sites surveyed, SD 1 is recommended over SD 2 for use in supporting Tx Site construction. The recommendations and mitigation measures should the two areas be used as soil disposal and staging areas are provided in the following section.

## 5.1 Soil Disposal 1

Between the two sites, the SD 1 parcel is preferred for use as a soil disposal and staging area for the Tx Site because of a combination of: 1) SD 1 being almost exclusively savanna rather than forest habitat; 2) the presence of a single, small surface archaeological site that can be mitigated without detrimental loss to Palau's cultural landscape; 3) the close proximity to the Tx Site; 4) ownership by Ngaraard State who have intimated they are amenable to a land lease agreement; and 5) fairly level terrain. The primary issue for use of SD 1 is the access route that would require removal of a small amount of forest habitat and passage across a small drainage area and three small streams.

The following natural and cultural resource mitigation measures are recommended to accompany SD 1. Mitigation measures take into consideration primary construction impacts and secondary impacts around the disposal due to potential long-term erosion. These mitigation measures address the majority of the required Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board Earthmoving Permit which includes a permit from the Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation.

- Development: Consideration of regulations mandated by Palau's Environmental Quality Protection Board for streams and swamp forests, which include a 60-ft (18.3-m) buffer around these wetlands (EQPB, Chapter 2401).
- Development: An erosion control plan that takes into consideration the run-off effects and altered drainages in the riparian forest bordering the east side of SD 1 and the mangrove habitats off the west side of the SD 1 site. Establishment of substantial barriers between the forest edge and the soil disposal. These barriers are critical so that the forests can continue to serve as buffers for wetland and streams.
- Design: Design of the access road needs to consider the steep (c. 30%) westerly slope coming off the first 100 m (328 ft) west of the Compact Road.
- Design: Placement of culverts on the SD 1 access road to pass water flow of three small streams under the roadway.
- Pre-Construction: Removal of important plants in the construction zone for re-planting by the naturalist team.
- Pre-Construction: Archaeological collection of a sample of surface artifacts and placement of a minimum of five shovel tests to determine if intact cultural deposits are present at Site NA-3:15. Should intact cultural deposits be encountered, a 1 × 2 m controlled test unit should be excavated. The purpose of the archaeological work is to determine the presence and nature of subsurface deposits and the function and age of the site.
- Construction: Archaeological spot monitoring during grading and construction to identify and document any surface artifact scatters not identified under the thick vegetation cover and determine if cultural deposits are present.
- Construction: Presence of an environmental scientist accompanying the surveyors setting the access road alignment to suggest slight adjustments to the alignment to ensure

significant old trees are avoided.

## 5.2 Soil Disposal 2

The SD 2 parcel has a number of factors that suggest it could be suitable for use as a soil disposal site. These factors include 1) the south half of the SD 2 parcel being already leveled and developed, 2) a relatively close proximity to the Tx Site; 3) a fairly level terrain across the entire parcel; 4) an existing, previously constructed, gravel road providing access to the site; and 5) largely savanna and previously disturbed secondary growth habitat across the site. However, there is a significant archaeological site at SD 2 which would require extensive mitigation, as site development would destroy a portion of the archeological site. There is also the likelihood that additional archeological artifacts and features may be discovered if SD 2 undergoes development. In addition, compared to SD 1 there are potential land ownership issues. Because of these latter factors, SD 2 is not recommended for use as a soil disposal and staging area for the Tx Site.

The SD 2 parcel is on an archaeological site (Site NA-2:22) that has produced one of the oldest cultural dates on Babeldaob, and its preservation is recommended. If the Palau Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation allowed earthmoving on the property, a substantial amount of archaeological mitigation, as described below, would be required. The SD 2 parcel is within three cadastral lots under separate land ownership. A structure is currently being constructed in the south half of the parcel suggesting there would be concerns with acquiring land use. There appears to already be a land ownership dispute concerning placement of the structure. There could be significant issues with resolving land ownership of the three lots through the court system before negotiations for lease agreements could commence.

Should SD 2 be selected for supporting the Tx Site project, the following natural and cultural resource mitigation measures are recommended. Mitigation measures take into consideration primary construction impacts and secondary impacts around the disposal due to potential long-term erosion. These mitigation measures address the majority of the points raised in the required Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board Earthmoving Permit which includes a permit from the Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation.

- Development: An erosion control plan that takes into consideration the run-off effects and altered drainages.
- Pre-Construction: Removal of important plants in the construction zone for re-planting by the naturalist team.
- Pre-Construction: Archaeological mitigation estimated at two to three weeks of fieldwork in the north half and west edge of the parcel to hand clear the thick vegetation, identify and document the features and artifacts encountered, and to hand-dig trenches for data recovery. Although the number of data recovery trenches cannot be ascertained without first identifying the features present, it would likely be at least four trenches. Fieldwork would be followed by laboratory analysis (e.g., wood identification, radiocarbon dating, and pottery analysis), research and writing, and report production. The purpose of the data recovery is to obtain information about the significant site before it is destroyed.
- Construction: Archaeological spot monitoring during grading and construction to identify and document any cultural features or deposits not identified during data recovery.

## **6** SUMMARY

The 4-hectare (9.9-acre) SD 1 parcel is preferred for use during Tx Site construction with measures implemented to mitigate the loss of forest and an archaeological site and to minimize impacts on water quality and soil erosion. The 2-hectare (5-acre) SD 2 parcel is not recommended for use as a Tx Site disposal area due to the extensive archaeological mitigation that would be needed at the significant archaeological site (Site NA-2:22) in the parcel, and land leasing concerns stemming from three separate land owners of the site.

The primary impacts on the natural and cultural assets by the proposed SD 1 could include: 1) creation of an approximately 300 m (0.2 mi) long clear-cut corridor through forest that transects three small streams, with erosion and runoff concerns and the likely loss of some endemic and native forest and wetland plant species and 2) destruction of a traditional artifact scatter. Construction and use of the soil disposal has the potential to introduce invasive species during heavy equipment traffic and localized, temporary disturbance of bird and wildlife populations.

The SD 1 parcel is on fairly level savanna with upland forest outside all but the southern perimeter and along the access route. The 300 m (0.2 mi) long access route from the Compact Road to the disposal area is almost entirely in the forest. These forests comprise a rich diversity of endemic and native trees and provide many ecosystem services including a source of food, timber, wildlife habitat, medicine, a filtering system for water, and a buffer from storms. The trees present include many species contributing to Palau's rich biodiversity. Under the IUCN criteria, all native species on Babeldaob may be considered at risk due to land use changes over time, with endemic and native wetland species also at risk due to the relatively limited wetland forests in Palau.

Three small north-south trending streams transect the east half of the east-west aligned access road while a wetland drainage dissects the west end of the access road. With proper design and implementation of erosion and runoff controls such as culverts, water flow along the access road will not be impacted and water quality impacts will be minimized. These same measures should ensure that erosion and runoff associated with the soil disposal area does not impact the forest habitats to the north and west. Archaeological fieldwork is needed to mitigate destruction of the traditional pottery scatter in the proposed SD 1 parcel.

The natural and cultural resources specialists recommend the use of the proposed SD 1 site but not use of the proposed SD 2 site. Measures to mitigate the impacts of soil disposal construction and use on the resources are provided in this report.

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# NGARAARD STATE

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### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NGARAARD STATE GOVERNOR BENJAMIN ISKAWA AND THE NGARAARD STATE PUBLIC LAND AUTHORITY

### 1. General

a. This memorandum of understanding is entered into by Governor Benjamin Iskawa located at PO Box 6026, Ngaraard State, Palau 96940, and Chairman Robert Tutii of the Ngaraard State Public Land Authority located at PO Box 6026, Ngaraard State, Palau 96940.

b. The purpose of this Agreement, hereinafter referred to as the MOU, is to approve the request made by the US Air Force, in their December 7, 2020 letter to Governor Iskawa (Attachment 1) for consideration of the referenced public land parcel, in Elab Hamlet, identified as Soil Disposal Area 1 (SD1) for potential use by the TACMOR Project Construction Contractor, during the Transmit (TX) Site project construction (Attachment 2: SD1 Location Map).

### 2. Background

a. During the design of the TACMOR Project, the requirement for off-site soil disposal areas, resulting from TX site excavation of a substantial amount of soil, was identified.

b. The TACMOR project team, working with the Ngaraard State Governor, nominated several areas of Ngaraard State public land for consideration as potential soil disposal sites. Criteria for the nomination of sites included 1) proximity to the TX project site, 2) land topography, 3) ease of access, and 4) existing environmental resources. (Attachment 3: Letter Report on Ngaraard State Lands)

c. The site identified as "SD1" was considered most favorable given it met the aforementioned criteria areas. In addition, site "SD1" has other favorable conditions including 1) level elevations and 2) absence of significant environmental and cultural resources.

### 3. Agreement

a. It is agreed by the parties to give favorable consideration for the use of state public land, identified as SD1, located in Elab Hamlet, for the disposal of excess soil from the TACMOR Project TX Site.

b. It is understood use of the site will be available to the construction contractor as an option and at their discretion. Use of the site would be pending an agreement between the contractor and Ngaraard State Government.

c. It is understood certain improvements to the land area will include construction of an access roadway, for ingress and egress to the disposal site, from the Palau Compact Road highway. All activities will be conducted by the construction contractor and subject to the laws and regulations of the Republic of Palau.

### 4. Agreement Termination

Termination of this agreement may be effected by either party to the MOU upon 30 day written notice to the other party.

Both parties have read and agree to comply with all terms and provisions of this MOU.

Governor Benjamin Iskawa

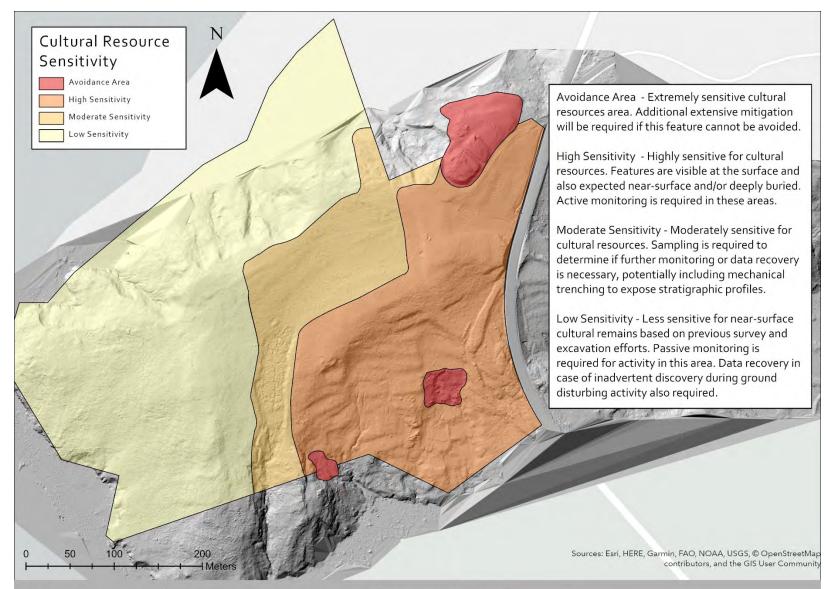
Chairman Robert Tutii, NSPLA

 $\frac{3/25/21}{Date}$ 

Attachment 1: US Air Force letter of request to Governor Iskawa

Attachment 2: SD1 Location Map

Attachment 3: Letter Report on Ngaraard State Lands



**Cultural Resource Sensitivity Areas** 

### **BIOMASS MANAGEMENT**

In preparation of project development, both the Tx and Rx sites will undergo extensive vegetation clearance. This clearance will include at both sites the sitewide removal of green and woody vegetation, some of which may be harvestable for human use, as well as some limited vegetation pruning in areas near the Anguar Rx site. Project development at both sites must consider not only how vegetation will be cleared at each site (in order to minimize impacts to soil, water quality, and ecological resources), but also how to harvest, process, and distribute any such materials for use on Anguar, Babeldaob, or other Palauan Islands. The following sections identify biomass management measures for consideration during project designs of the Tx and Rx sites. Table 4 presents some of the planning considerations for these biomass management measures.

Biomass Management Activity	Planning Considerations	Estimated Cost ^a
Harvest of useful timber from each project footprint.	Prior to vegetation clearing, survey and mark all trees for lumber, firewood, or other uses.	\$15K
project rootprint.	Bring in portable sawmill and necessary staff for timber processing.	TBD
	Location of timber processing and storage areas.	TBD
	Final disposition of processed lumber and firewood. Identify transportation needs and scheduling off-site/off-island transport.	TBD
Generation of usable	Location of compost processing and storage areas.	TBD
compost for local community use from	Bring in mobile chipper or tub grinder and necessary staff.	TBD
green waste generated at each site.	Processing of green waste, including management of compost windrows in manner that limits propagation of invasive coconut rhinoceros beetle.	TBD
	Final disposition of compost. Identify transportation needs and scheduling off-site/off-island transport.	TBD

Table 1 Biomass	Management A	Activities and	Planning (	Considerations.

^a BNM identified an estimated cost for both timber harvest and composting at \$150K (BNM 2019).

### 4.1 Harvestable Woody Vegetation

Vegetation clearing at the two sites will result in the removable of all trees within the site footprints. Some of the trees are of sufficient size to be harvested for use as lumber or firewood.

### 4.1.1 Lumber

The amount of useable lumber that could be generated from cleared trees was estimated as the number of board-feet of lumber that could be produced. A board-foot is a common measure of lumber volume, defined as a piece of wood with a volume of 144 in³ (e.g., a board that is 12 in. wide x 12 in. long x 1 in. thick). A number of methods (called 'rules') have been developed for estimating board-foot tree volumes (Cassens 2001; OSU 2016). To estimate the amount of lumber that could be produced from the Tx and Rx sites, the International 1/4-inch rule for standard board-foot volumes was used. This rule is widely used by state agencies in the U.S., as well by the U.S. Forest Service, and is generally considered the best estimate of the amount of lumber that can be sawn from a tree or log. This rule estimates the board-foot content of a tree based on the tree diameter 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet above ground (the diameter at breast-height, *dbh*) and the tree height. Grosenbaugh (1952) published a formula for this rule, and this formula was used to estimate board-foot volumes from each site.

At the Tx site, 18 species of trees were identified as potentially harvestable for lumber production, while at the Rx site 11 species were similarly identified. For project planning considerations, two approaches were used to provide an estimate of board-feet of lumber that could be produced at each site. In one approach, an estimate of harvestable lumber was generated using the total tree heights of only trees that were identified during the surveys for lumber production. This approach assumes the entire length of the tree trunk is merchantable, which is not likely. A more realistic estimate was calculated for the same trees but assuming that the merchantable height of each tree was limited to 75% of the total tree height. The number of board-feet of lumber that could be generated at each site was similarly estimated (full and 75% height) for all trees, regardless of whether the tree was identified for lumber production or not. It is important to note that the surveys were able to characterize each tree at the two sites,

At the Tx site, the amount of lumber that could be produced from trees only identified for lumber harvest ranged from approximately 14,540 to 20,984 board-feet, and for all on-site trees from 81,250 to 115,223 board-feet (Table 5). The volume of this produced lumber ranges from with an estimated volume ranging from 45 to 65 yd³ for trees marked for lumber harvest, and from 91-120 yd³ for all trees.

	75%	75% Height		Height
	<b>Board-Foot</b>	Cubic Yards	<b>Board-Foot</b>	Cubic Yards
Only Trees Identified f	or Lumber Harvest			
Tx Site	14,540	45	20,984	65
Rx Site	28,577	88	39,270	121
All Trees				
Tx Site	81,250	251	115,223	356
Rx Site	330,582	1,020	460,801	1,422

Table 2 Potential Lumber Produced during Vegetation Clearing at the Tx and Rx Sites.^a

^a Estimated following International ¹/₄-inch rule for tree volume estimation.

At the Rx site, the estimated number of board-feet that could be produced from trees marked for timber harvest ranged from 28,577 to 39,270 board-feet, and from 330,582 to 460,801 board-feet for all trees (Table 5). The volumes of lumber produced from trees marked for lumber harvest ranges from 88 to 121 yd³, and from 1,020 to 1,422 yd³ for all trees.

There are a number of uncertainties that need to be kept in mind regarding the uncertainties. First, the International ¹/₄-inch rule is based on a dbh measured internal to the bark of a tree, so a true dbh cannot be obtained until a tree is cut down. The dbh values used for the Tx and Rx estimates were measured on the outside of the bark of each tree, so the final estimates will be overestimated to some degree. Second, the trees identified by the BNM for harvest did not include a number of trees that that are, or could be used for lumber production. Thus, the board-foot estimates for each site based on BNM designation likely underestimate the actual lumber volumes that could be generated. Conversely, not all tree species reported from each site are suitable for lumber production, and thus the estimates derived using all trees overestimates the actual level of lumber that could be produced.

### 4.1.2 Firewood

In contrast to the relatively small number of trees identified at the Tx and Rx sites as harvestable for lumber production, many more were identified for harvest for firewood. A firewood cord estimator was used that derives the number of cords per tree as a function of the dbh of the tree (UNH 2005). To estimate the potential amount of firewood that could be produced at the Tx site, the calculator was applied to all trees with a dbh of 5 inches or more, excluding those identified by BNM staff for lumber production. At the Rx site, BNM staff identified trees for lumber produced was estimated for the trees with a dbh of 5 inches or more and identified by the BNM staff for firewood production but excluding those also identified for timber production. In addition, firewood production was also estimated for all trees at the site, excluding those identified for lumber production.

At the Tx site, 63 trees from three species were identified as potentially suitable for firewood production. These trees are estimated to produce as much as 50 cords of firewood, with an estimated volume of 238 yd³. At the Anguar Rx site, 62 trees from three species were identified as suitable for firewood production, although 44 of these trees were also marked for timber harvest. Excluding those identified for timber, the firewood-designated trees are estimated to produce 55 cords of firewood, with an estimated volume of about 260 yd³. Considering all trees at the site with a dbh of 5 in. or more not identified for timber production, as much as 103 cords of firewood, with an estimated volume of 288 yd³ could be produced at the Rx site. At the Anguar site, one tree in particular, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, is an especially useful firewood, having been described as the 'best firewood in the world' (Tropical Plants Database 2019). This tree was identified for both timber and firewood production by the BNM staff.

### 4.2 **Green and Brown Waste Volume and Management**

The clearing of vegetation from the Tx and Rx sites will include not only removal or harvestable timber, but also the clearing of smaller non-harvestable trees, shrubs, and all nonwoody vegetation. These activities will generate both 'green' waste (any green plant material such as leaves) and 'brown' waste (twigs, branches, root stumps) at each site, and project development will need to manage each these waste materials (i.e., on-site storage, reuse, and disposal).

### 4.2.1 Waste Volume

Waste generated during timber harvest will include leaves, branches, and the nonharvestable portions of each trunk. Estimates of the volume of these wastes are difficult to determine. For example, published estimates include 7% of harvestable volume per tree for eastern Amazonia (Gerwing et al., 1996), to 30% of harvestable volume for the U.S. (ORNL 2011). Harvesting a 40 ft tall mango tree may produce as much as 12 yd³ of waste (Hulbert 2019). These waste estimates are for aboveground residues. Belowground stumps have been estimated to add (in the U.S.) as much as 14% to the residue volume for softwoods, and up to 24% for hardwoods (McKeever 2004).

In addition to the biomass associated with the harvestable trees at each site, other sources of green and brown waste that will have to be addressed include the understory vegetation, belowground materials comprising roots the forest floor litter (e.g., dead leaves twigs, fruits, etc.), and lying and standing dead trees. Estimates of the percent of each of the total aboveground biomass of mature forests vary widely. Table 6 presents estimates of understory vegetation, forest floor litter, belowground, and dead wood biomass, as a percentage of the aboveground biomass of mature forest habitat, at each site.

Non-harvestable Forest Component	Percent of the Aboveground Forest Biomass ^a	Tx Site ^b (yd ³ )	<b>Rx Site</b> ^c (yd ³ )
Understory Vegetation	$\leq 3\%$	$16 - 18^{d}$	$47 - 51^{d}$
Belowground (stumps and roots)	4 - 230%	$53 - 59^{e}$	$156 - 171^{e}$
Forest Floor Litter	$\leq$ 5%	$23-30^{\mathrm{f}}$	$78-85^{\mathrm{f}}$
Dead Wood	5 - 40%	$132 - 148^{g}$	$390 - 427^{g}$
Estimated to	tal biomass of forest components:	224 - 255	671 - 734

Table 3 Biomass Estimates of other Forest Components Expressed as a Percent of the Aboveground
Biomass in Trees, and Corresponding Biomass Estimates for the Tx and Rx Sites.

^a Source: Brown 1997.

 $^{\rm b}$  Based on above ground biomass of 529-594 yd³ of lumber and firewood production estimated for the Tx site.

^c Based on above ground biomass of 1,561 - 1,710 yd³ of lumber and firewood production estimated for the Rx site. ^d Estimate based on assumed 3% understory biomass.

^e Estimate based on assumed 10% root biomass as the shallow soils would preclude large root masses.

^f Estimate based on assumed 5% forest litter biomass.

^g Estimate based on assumed 25% dead wood biomass.

To estimate the total amount of waste materials that may be generated at each site, biomass estimates of non-harvestable components of forests were applied to the volumes

harvestable timber (lumber and firewood) from all trees at each site (see Table 5). For estimation purposes, the harvestable timber volume is assumed to equal the total aboveground biomass at each site.

Forest Component	Percent of Aboveground Biomass	Tx Site (yd ³ )	Rx Site (yd ³ )
Harvestable Timber ^a	-	594	1,710
Green and Brown Waste Source			
Harvest Waste (leaves, branches, twigs)	7-30% ^b	25 - 107	99 - 427
Understory Vegetation	3%°	16 - 18	47 - 51
Belowground (Stumps and Roots)	10%°	53 - 59	156 - 171
Forest Floor Litter	5%°	23 - 30	78 - 85
Dead Wood	25%°	132 - 148	390 - 427
Total Gree	n and Brown Waste Biomass	263 - 362	770 – 1,161

^a From Table 5 and Section 4.1.2.

^b Gerwing et al., 1996; ORNL 2011.

^c From Table 6.

### 4.2.2 Management

Given the volumes of waste materials that may generated, development of a green and brown waste disposal plan will be necessary to effectively manage these wastes. The plan should address green and brown waste use, pre- and post-processing requirements, composting requirements, and invasive species concerns.

*Green and Brown Waste Use*. The brown and green waste generated at both sites may be used for a variety of purposes (Table 8), a both sits as well as elsewhere on Babeldaob and Anguar Islands.

and Rx Sites.		
<b>Potential Use</b>	Green Waste	Brown Waste
Project Uses		
Erosion Control	Х	Х
Sedimentation Control	Х	Х
Work Surface Stabilization		Х
Offsite Uses		
Wood Chips for Mulch		Х
Fuel		Х
Landfill Cap		Х
Sewage Sludge Composting	Х	Х
Compost for Soil Amendments	Х	

Table 5 Use Options for Green and Brown Waste from the Tx and Rx Sites.

Chipped brown waste can be used to produce mulch and fuel, as well as providing a carbon source for sludge composting. Green waste can be composted and used to amend soil health and improve productivity (e.g., added to gardens and agricultural fields). It may also be mixed with sewage waste and composted together to produce soil additives while reducing sewage disposal a treatment plants. Green and brown waste may also be used to provide a cover on landfills. Both green and brown wastes can also be used during development of the Tx ad Rx site. These materials can be used to cover exposed for exposed soils, thus reducing soil erosion. These wastes may also be used along drainage ways to reduce sedimentation risks to drainageways, mangrove swamps, and coastlines. Brown wastes (e.g., wood chips) may also be used on laydown and equipment parking areas, stabilizing exposed soils and providing initial capture of small accidental spills and leaks of fuels and other project related fluids (e.g. lubricants, paint).

*Waste Processing.* The processing of green and brown wastes generated during timber harvest and vegetation clearing at each site will likely be of two types: chipping of brown waste and composting of green waste, each with different implementation requirements. As shown in Table 7, as much as 360 yd³ or more green and brown waste may be generated at the Tx site during timber harvest and site clearing, and as much as 1,160 yd³ at the Rx site. The generation of these waste volumes will occur over some period of time, and will require some amount of short-term stockpiling, depending on how quickly these materials can be processed (e.g., chipped, shredded composted). Post-processed wastes will similarly need to be stockpiled.

Location of Green and Brown Waste Stockpiles Awaiting Processing. If processing occurs concurrently with or shortly following timber harvest and site clearing, the pre-processed waste materials can most likely be stockpiled within cleared areas of each project footprint. However, construction schedules will need to be taken into account so onsite stockpiles will not interfere with project development. If such conflicts are considered likely, then offsite stockpiling will need to be considered, as will the transport of the wastes from the project site to the offsite stockpile location. Siting of stockpiles (both onsite and offsite) should also take into account precipitation and runoff, and implement measures to avoid impacting any nearby freshwater and marine environments.

*Chipping Requirements.* The chipping of brown wastes (e.g., twigs, branches, and stumps) will require the use of a grinder or a chipper (Figure 1). As with the stockpiling of green and brown wastes, chipping may occur within the project footprint concurrent with timber harvest and vegetation clearing, or at the offsite stockpile locations. Chipping considerations should include considerations of fuel requirement, storage and accidental spills, air emissions, and noise. Management of wood chips will need to consider handling and short-term storage as the chips are generated. Long-term storage may result in decomposition, reducing the usefulness of the chips. If offsite storage is needed, siting of the offsite stockpiles should take into account precipitation and runoff, and implement measures to avoid impacting any nearby freshwater and marine environments.



Figure 1 Examples of portable grinding and chipping equipment for processing green wastes.

*Composting Requirements*. Green waste composting involves placing the waste in piles or linear windrows in which microorganisms decompose the waste materials and convert it to compost. Given the amount of green waste that may be generated at the Tx and Rx sites (125 and 478 yd³, respectively), onsite composting may not be an option, and offsite composting may be necessary. Assuming a windrow with a 5 ft height and 10 ft width (Richard 1992), a single windrow for composting the wastes for each site (Table 7) would be 138 ft in length for the Tx site and 511 ft in length for the Rx site.

Windrows composting also requires turning of the windrow to ensure internal temperatures remain optimal for decomposition (e.g., must not exceed 140°F [60°C]). Turning, typically involves flipping the original windrow and to a new windrow such that composting materials at the top of the initial windrow are placed in the bottom of the new windrow. Thus, the composting site will need to provide space for two identical side-by-side windrows for each individual windrow, as well area between the two windrows for the turning equipment (e.g., a front-end loader) to operate. Using the windrow widths and lengths identified above, together with an equipment operational width of 20 ft between the windrows, composting (whether on- or offsite may require about 0.13 acres for the Tx site and 0.5 acres for the Rx site.

*Invasive Species Concerns*. A number of invasive plant species were identified during the natural resource surveys of each project site. The production of lumber and firewood should not result in the accidental transport of any of the invasive species to other location. However, the use of mulch (from brown waste chipping) and compost produced at the two sites has the potential for spreading some of these species to other locations. While the use of mulch is unlikely to result in the introduction of any of the invasive plants to other areas, should the mulching have included branches with seedpods, it is possible that some seeds may have survived processing and thus be transported along with the mulch. Green waste collected or composting may also include seeds from some of the invasive species. While heat generated during composting kill seeds, seed mortality can vary greatly depending on species, compost temperature, and duration of thermal exposure (Dahlquist et al., 2007). Seed survival may be increased with incorrect or incomplete composting management. While examination of processed mulch or compost for seeds of invasive plants is not possible, identification during timber harvest and vegetation clearing of invasive plant species may greatly reduce the potential of their inadvertent introduction elsewhere on Palau.

Of critical concern on Palau is the coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*), which has decimated the coconut palms on Palau, and can damage numerous other plants, including betelnut, pineapple, and sugarcane. Adult beetles lay their eggs in decaying organic matter including compost piles. To minimize the transport of this beetle in compost originating from either of the project sites, the compost piles and windrows should be maintained properly. Because it may take as much as 137 to 282 days between eggs being deposited in a compost pile to when the adults first emerge, a properly maintained compost should not serve as a source of this beetle (American Samoa Community College 2005). In addition, when turning compost piles, any rhinoceros beetles found should destroyed.

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PAF 198127 TACMOR UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

> Contract No. N62742-18-D-0001 Task Order N6274218F0326 Work Order No. 1596606

# **STORMWATER PROTECTION REPORT**

# FINAL DESIGN SUBMITTAL

2 July 2021

Submitted By



737 Bishop Street, Suite 2450 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

In Association with

Wilson Okamoto Corporation

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### I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Purpose:

This report is conducted to:

- Calculate the change in stormwater runoff from pre-construction to post-construction.
- Design drainage facilities to retain the increase in stormwater runoff and, to the extent possible, release the retained storm water in a manner that restores flow distribution to pre-construction conditions.
- Preserve water quality by implementing best management practices and stormwater management features to filter and treat water quality volume flow.

### B. Project Location

The Transmit project site is located on the largest and northernmost island of Babeldaob, Republic of Palau.

The Receive project site is located on the island of Angaur, Republic of Palau.

Complying with UFC 3-210-01 Low Impact Development is not a project requirement because the project sites are located outside of the United States.

### C. Proposed Action

The purpose of this project is to grade and prepare the site for the construction of the necessary infrastructure and utilities to install the Tactical Multi-Mission Over-the-Horizon Radar (TACMOR) system as described in the infrastructure control document (ICD) for the TACMOR system, Revision 6 (Draft).

The Transmit Site will include clearing and grubbing, earthmoving activities, and the installation of Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) walls, foundations for the main TACMOR system features, fencing, and an access road from the existing Compact Road. The Defense Site area is 204,524 m² and the area that will be disturbed is 104,301 m².

The Receive Site will include clearing and grubbing, earthmoving activities, and the installation of foundations for the main TACMOR system features, fencing, and access roads from the existing coastal road. The Defense Site area is 396,238 m² and the area that is disturbed is the same, 404,671 m².

### D. Existing Topography

The Transmit project site is located on a hillside with an open grass plateau surrounded by steep and heavily forested cliffs. The site is bordered by steep forested cliffs to the north, the Compact Road to the east, steep forested cliffs and a mangrove to the south, and steep cliffs and Pacific Ocean to the west. Near the center of the site, the topography of the plateau creates a valley leading to the south. In the middle of the valley is a marsh area with an intermittent brook flowing down the southern cliffs to the mangrove. Elevations in the project vicinity range from 56m at the top of the hill in the north to less than 1m at the coast in the south.

The Receive project site is located on an area on the eastern edge of the island. The site is bordered on the east by a rocky coastline leading to the Pacific Ocean and an existing airstrip runway to the west. The area is heavily forested and mostly level, aside from existing borrow and mining pits. Elevations in the project vicinity range from about 7m at the airstrip to about 1m at the coastline.

### E. Soils and Vegetation

The soils at the Transmit Site are generally fine-grained and cohesive silt with a slow infiltration rate. The soils are potentially expansive, which may impact the volume when it gets wet. Additionally, according to the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) Web Soil Survey, the soils on the plateau area have a Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) rating of C and the forested cliffs have a HSG rating of D, which maintains the findings of the geotechnical report.

The current vegetation at the Babeldaob site consists of grass savannah on the plateau and tropical rainforest on the surrounding cliffs.

On the other hand, the soils at the Receive Site on Angaur are very different from the Transmit Site on Babeldaob. The soils at Angaur are medium dense, silty sandy limestone gravel, which are overlaying native coralline limestone. The NRCS's Web Soil Survey shows that majority of the site has a HSG rating of A.

The current vegetation at the Angaur site consists of thick forest with dense underbrush.

See Figure 1.1 for map showing the overall soil type of the country, as well as the project locations for both the Transmit Site and the Receive Site.

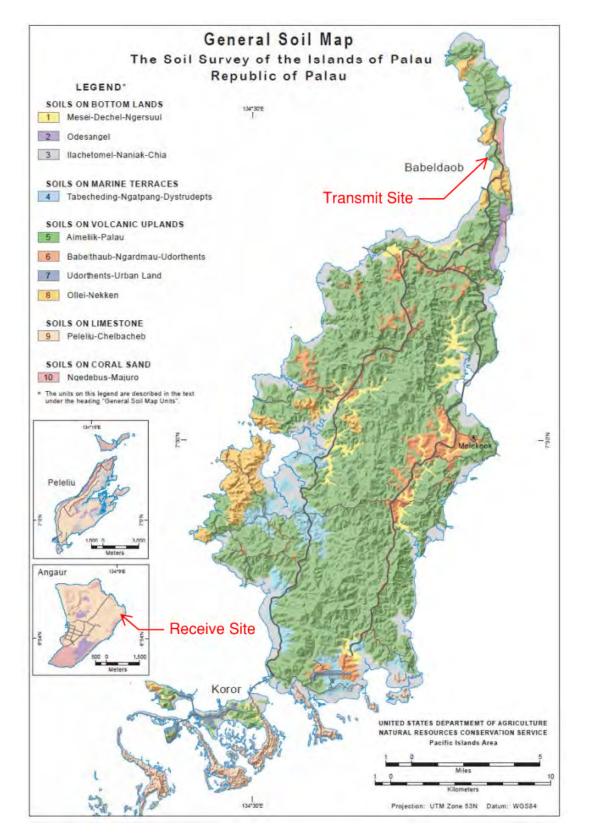


Figure 1.1: General Soil Map of Palau (NRCS 2008)

### II. **HYDROLOGY ANALYSIS**

#### Α. **Design Criteria**

The drainage facilities were designed in accordance with the Palau Stormwater Management Manual, which takes into account four different criterions: recharge volume (Rev), water quality volume ( $WQ_V$ ), channel protection volume ( $CP_V$ ), and overbank flood control volume ( $Q_{p-25}$ ). The Palau Stormwater Management Manual provides equations for recharge rate and water quality, and uses Technical Release No. 55 "Urban Unit Hydrology for Small Watersheds" (TR-55) for determining the required volumes for channel protection and overbank flood control. However, the equations in TR-55 use imperial units; since this project uses metric units, the final calculations will convert from imperial to metric.

### Β. Recharge Criteria (Re_v)

For the recharge volume, the Palau Stormwater Management Manual has two different equations, depending on the geology of the site. As shown in Figure 2.3, the country is separated into two different categories: the limestone-dominated regions (Peleliu, Angaur, the Rock Islands, and outer atolls) and the volcanic-dominated regions (Babeldaob and Koror).

The equation for the recharge volume in limestone-dominated regions is as follows:

			$Re_V = (P)(A)(I)/12$	(1)
Where:	$\text{Re}_{\text{V}}$	=	Recharge volume (acre-ft)	
	Ρ	=	Precipitation (1.2 inches)	
	А	=	Site area (acres)	
	I	=	Site imperviousness (as a decimal)	
	12	=	Conversion from inches to feet.	

The Receive Site on Angaur falls into the limestone-dominated region category. For this equation, P is constant as 1.2 inches. The calculations for the Receive Site can be found in Appendix A-6.

On the other hand, natural recharge is more restricted in the volcanic-dominated regions because only a small amount of rainfall infiltrates into the soil. The Palau Stormwater Management Manual has a different, yet similar, equation for these regions. The equation for volcanic-dominated regions is as follows:

$$Re_V = (F)(A)(I)/12$$
 (2)

Where: Rev = Recharge volume (acre-ft)

> F Recharge factor (inches) =

Site area (acres) А =

I = Site imperviousness (as a decimal)

12 = Conversion from inches to feet.

The recharge factor F is based on the Hydrologic Soil Group (A, B, C, or D), and the values of F are also provided by the Palau Stormwater Management Manual:

Hydrologic Soil Group	Recharge Factor (F)
A	0.46
В	0.27
С	0.13
D	0.06

The Transmit Site on Babeldaob falls into the volcanic-dominated region category. At the project site, the majority of the proposed building area is on areas that have a hydrologic soil group rating of C; therefore, the recharge factor of 0.13 inches was used in the calculations, which can be found in Appendix A-3.

### C. Water Quality Criteria (WQ_v)

The water quality volume criterion improves the water quality by capturing and treating annual storm events. The Palau Stormwater Management Manual provides the equation for water quality volume:

$$WQ_V = (P)(A)(I)/12$$
(3)  
Where:  $WQ_V = Water quality volume (acre-ft)$   
 $P = Precipitation (inches)$   
 $A = Site area (acres)$   
 $I = Site imperviousness (as a decimal)$   
 $12 = Conversion from inches to feet.$ 

The value of precipitation used in this equation, P, is determined by the quality of water resource that the stormwater is draining into. The Palau Stormwater Management Manual categorizes water quality into two types: "moderate quality" and "high quality." If the water resource is of "moderate quality," then the value of P is 0.7 inches; otherwise, the water resource is of "high quality" and the value of P is 1.2 inches. The project site can only be specified as an area of "moderate quality" if the area is either indicated on the maps in Figure 2.4 and Figure 2.5, or listed in the tables shown in Figure 2.6. Otherwise, the water quality of the area is considered as "high quality." Even if the project site is located in one of the areas specified by the maps or tables, the Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board should

always be consulted before designating a site as "moderate quality" because if the project site drains into a "high quality" water resource, it should be designated as "high quality" instead.

The water resource for both the Transmit Site and the Receive Site are "high quality" and therefore the value of P for both sites is 1.2 inches. The calculations for the water quality volumes can be found in Appendix A-3 and A-6, for Transmit and Receive Sites respectively.

### D. Channel Protection Criteria (CP_V)

The Palau Stormwater Management Manual uses the method from the Maryland Stormwater Design Manual to design for channel protection volume, which estimates the outflow/inflow ratio based on the unit peak flow for a 1-year, 24-hour storm event. This outflow/inflow ratio is then used in the graph provided by TR-55 to determine the corresponding storage/runoff volume ratio. Finally, the channel protection volume is calculated by multiplying the runoff volume by the storage/runoff volume ratio.

### E. Overbank Flood Control Volume (Q_{p-25})

The Palau Stormwater Management Manual uses the 25-year, 24-hour storm event to design for overbank flood control. The average precipitation of a 25-year, 24-hour storm is 12.4 inches/24 hours. The Overbank Flood Control Volume is calculated by using the ratio of the existing peak flow over the proposed peak flow to determine the corresponding storage/runoff volume ratio, then multiplying that ratio by the 25-year storm runoff volume.

### F. Retention Basin Volume Design

According to the Palau Stormwater Management Manual, retention areas should be designed using a two-year, 24-hour storm event and hold at least 75% of the Water Quality Volume. The average precipitation of a two-year, 24-hour storm is 7.2 inches/24 hours. The peak flow and runoff volume can be calculated with guidance from TR-55. The design volume of the retention basin is calculated by multiplying the storage/runoff volume ratio by the 2-year storm runoff volume.

### G. TR-55 Method

TR-55 Method for calculating the hydrology has four main steps: determining the amount of rainfall, calculating the Curve Number, measuring the time of concentration, and computing the peak flow. TR-55 also provides steps to design storage volume based on ratios of peak flows.

All of the calculations using TR-55, which include calculating the CN, time of concentration, and volume, for both the EG and FG of the Transmit Site can be found in Appendices A-1 and A-2, respectively. Similarly, the Receive Site EG and FG can be found in Appendices A-5 and A-6, respectively.

### 1. Rainfall

According to the Palau Stormwater Management Manual, rainfall is typically uniform across the entire country and it is type IA rainfall distribution. In order to design for channel protection, overbank flood control, and for guidelines listed for retention basins, TR-55 will be repeated three times for 1-year, 2-year, and 25-year storm events. The average rainfall for Palau is listed in Table 2-1.

Recurrence Interval (yr)	Frequency (%)	Average Rainfall, P (in)
1	100	5.8
2	50	7.2
10	10	10.5
25	4	12.4
50	2	13.8
100	1	15.2

### Table 2-1: Average Rainfall in Palau (in inches)

Therefore, according to Table 2-1, the value of P is 5.8, 7.2, and 12.4 inches, for the 1-year, 2-year, and 25-year storm, respectively.

### 2. Curve Number

In using TR-55, one of the most important factors in determining both peak flow and runoff volume is the Curve Number (CN). The Curve Number is essentially a measure of how much water can infiltrate the ground: the number ranges from 0 to 100, with 0 being the most pervious and 100 being completely impervious. The major factors affecting the CN are the hydrologic soil group (HSG) rating, ground cover type, hydrologic condition, and antecedent runoff condition (ARC).

After the Curve Number is determined, the height of the runoff can be calculated with the Soil Conservation Service's (SCS) runoff equation:

$$Q = \frac{(P - I_a)^2}{(P - I_a) + S}$$
(4)

Potential maximum retention after runoff begins (inches)

Where: Q

S

=

Q=Runoff (inches)P=Average precipitation (inches)

I_a = Initial abstraction (inches).

TR-55 makes the assumption that initial abstraction,  $I_a = 0.2S$ , and that the potential maximum retention is calculated by a simple equation,  $S = \frac{1000}{CN} - 10$ . Therefore, if the P (rainfall) and CN are known, then the height of the runoff, or the left over water that could not infiltrate the ground, can be calculated. Furthermore, by multiplying the height of the runoff by the area of the watershed, the total runoff volume can be calculated:

$$V_r = 53.33Q(A_m)$$
(5)  
which:  $V_r = Runoff Volume (acre-ft)$   
 $Q = Runoff (inches)$   
 $A_m = Drainage Area (mi2)$   
 $53.33 = Conversion Factor from in-mi2 to acre-ft.$ 

As such, just by determining the amount of rainfall and the Curve Number, one can calculate the height and volume of runoff, which in turn will be used to calculate the peak flow and storage volume. Therefore, it is imperative to choose an appropriate Curve Number for any given watershed.

### 3. Time of Concentration

In

Another important factor in TR-55 is the Time of Concentration ( $T_c$ ). The Time of Concentration is defined as the "time for runoff to travel from the hydraulically most distant point of the watershed to a point of interest within the watershed," which, in other words, the longest time it would take a drop of water to travel across a watershed. Time of Concentration is calculated by a summation of all of the Time of Travel ( $T_T$ ), as shown:

$$T_C = \sum T_{T_1} + T_{T_2} + \dots T_{T_m}$$
(6)

Where: T_c = Time of Concentration (hr)

m = Number of Flow segments

The Time of Travel is affected by the length of flow and the velocity, but TR-55 adds more complexity to the time of concentrating by categorizing three different types of flow: sheet flow, shallow concentrated flow, and channel flow. First, TR-55 categorizes sheet flow as "flow over plane surfaces" that "usually occurs in the headwater of streams." However, TR-55 also states that "after a maximum of 300 feet, sheet flow usually becomes shallow concentrated flow," which implies that sheet flow only occurs is specific areas and only for certain lengths at a time. In other words, even if stormwater is flowing over a plane surface, due to characteristics of water and the roughness of the surface, water usually ends up collecting into shallow concentrated flows past 300 feet. For sheet flow, TR-55 provides Manning's kinematic solution:

$$T_T = \frac{0.007(nL)^{0.8}}{(P_2)^{0.5} s^{0.4}} \tag{7}$$

Where:	$\mathbf{T}_{\mathrm{T}}$	=	Time of Travel (hr)
	n	=	Manning's roughness coefficient
	L	=	Length of Flow (ft)
	<b>P</b> ₂	=	2-year, 24-hour rainfall (in)
	S	=	Slope of hydraulic grade line (ft/ft).

While sheet flow depends more on the type of surface, shallow concentrated flow and open channel flow depend more on the slope and velocity. The Time of Travel is derived from the length divided by the velocity, as shown in equation (8) below:

$$T_T = \frac{L}{3600V} \tag{8}$$

Where:  $T_T = Time of Travel (hr)$ 

L = Length of Flow (ft)

V = Average Velocity (ft/s)

3600 = Conversion Factor from second to hour.

Velocity for shallow concentrated flow is given by Figure 2.1 given the watercourse slope. On the other hand, velocity for an open channel is given by Manning's channel velocity equation:

$$V = \frac{1.49r^{2/3}s^{1/2}}{n}$$
(9)

Where: V = Average Velocity (ft/s)

n=Manning's roughness coefficient for open channelsr=Hydraulic radius (ft) = area/wetted perimeter

s = Slope of hydraulic grade line (ft/ft).

The difference between a shallow concentrated flow and an open channel lies in the definition of an open channel. According to TR-55, open channels are officially designated as such by the United States Geological Survey (USGS); in other words, channels will be shown as blue lines on a map and can be viewed by aerial photographs. Usually, a watershed will have a combination of these three types of flows, and the Time of Concentration is a summation of all the Time of Travel. For calculation purposes, the minimum Time of Concentration is 0.1 hours.

For this project, there are no existing open channels, and because both project sites are largely undeveloped, there are not many instances of natural sheet flow either. However, large flat areas will be graded for the post-construction condition, which generate sheet flow. Since the flat areas will not be impervious surfaces, the Time of Concentration will increase for those watersheds, which in turn will decrease the flow rate.

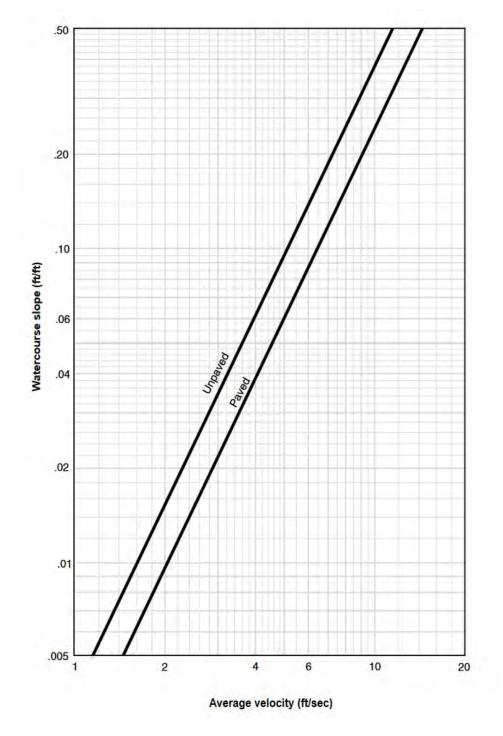


Figure 2.1: Average velocities for estimating travel time for shallow concentrated flow

### 4. Peak Flow

Calculating the peak flow can be done by either one of two methods: the graphical peak discharge method, or the tabular hydrograph method. The graphical peak discharge method is less complex, but it is limited in scope because it assumes the watershed is hydraulically homogeneous (described by one CN), has no subdivisions, and there is only one main stream and thus only one time of concentration. If the graphical peak discharge can be applied, then the equation is as follows:

$$q_p = q_u A_m Q F_p \tag{10}$$

Where:	$q_p$	=	Peak discharge (cubic feet per second [cfs])
	qu	=	Unit peak discharge (cfs per square mile per inch [csm/in])
	A _m	=	Drainage area (square miles)
	Q	=	Runoff (inches)
	Fp	=	Pond and swamp adjustment factor (coefficient)

The unit peak discharge is determined by the type of rainfall distribution, the time of concentration, and the ratio  $I_a/P$ . The pond and swamp adjustment factor are based on the percentage of pond and swamp areas, and TR-55 provides a table with those factors. As mentioned before, the graphical peak discharge method is faster than the tabular hydrograph method, but the information it provides is too limited, especially for a more complex watershed.

The concept of the tabular hydrograph is similar to that of the graphical peak discharge: multiply the drainage area, A_m, and the runoff, Q, by a unit hydrograph value to obtain the discharge value. However, instead of just the peak value of the unit hydrograph, multiple coordinates along the unit hydrograph are selected and then scaled by the product of A_m and Q to find multiple coordinates of the final hydrograph. In this way, the final hydrograph can be plotted on a graph and the area under the curve, or the runoff volume, can be calculated. TR-55 provides those coordinates of the unit hydrograph, which depend on the type of rainfall distribution, time of concentration, the I_a/P ratio, and also the total time of travel from the end of the subarea to the outlet. The tabular hydrograph method provides more information, such as the time of peak flow, and it allows greater accuracy when measuring more complex watersheds. However, it is more complex than the graphical peak discharge method and the level of accuracy is not always useful for designers, especially when designing conservatively.

# 5. Volume

Determining the storage volume is based on a chosen ratio of peak outflow discharge versus peak inflow discharge:  $q_o/q_i$ . Usually, the peak outflow discharge is equal to the existing conditions and the peak inflow discharge is the proposed conditions, but the designer can choose a different ratio to meet another requirement. TR-55 provides a figure, shown below, that relates the outflow/inflow ratio to storage/runoff volume ratio,  $\frac{V_s}{V_r}$ .

Where:

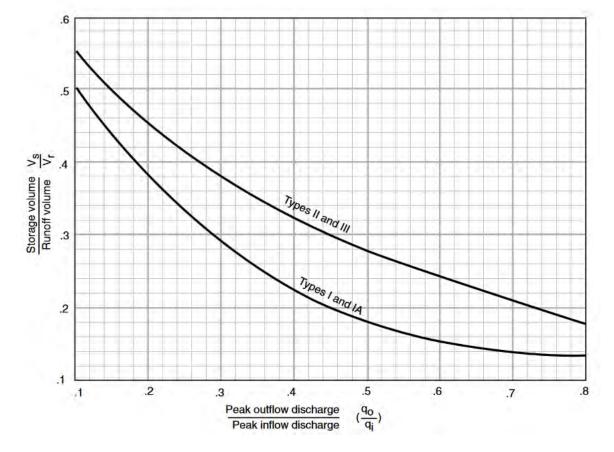


Figure 2.2: Approximate detention basin routing for rainfall types I, IA, II, and III

After the storage/runoff volume ratio is determined by Figure 2.2, the storage volume is simply the ratio multiplied by the runoff volume. The runoff volume is equal to the height of the runoff, Q, multiplied by the area, Am:

$$V_r = 53.33Q(A_m)$$
 (11)  

$$V_r = Runoff Volume (acre-ft)$$
  

$$Q = Runoff (inches)$$
  

$$A_m = Drainage area (square miles)$$
  

$$53.33 = Conversion factor from in-mi2 to acre-ft.$$

By completing these steps, the storage volume for any storm event can be calculated.

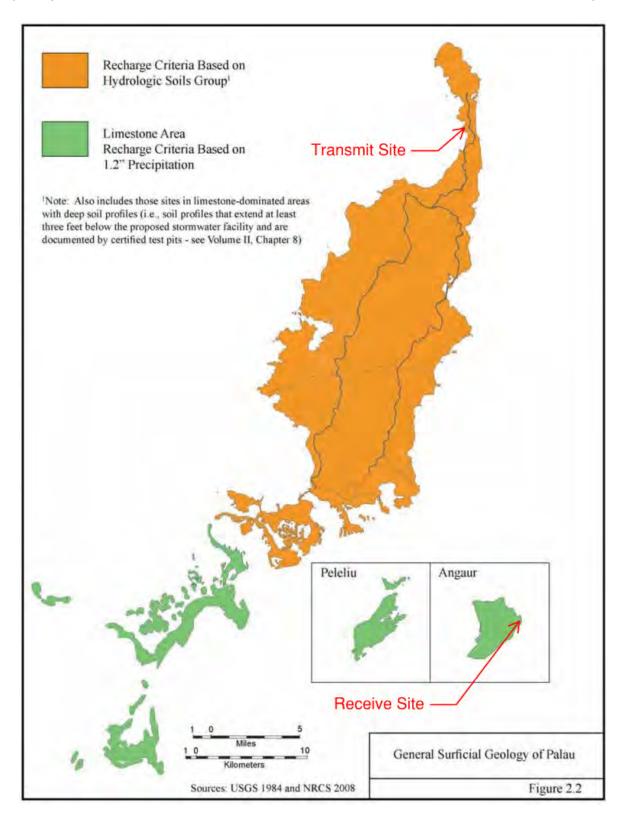


Figure 2.3: General Surficial Geology of Palau



Figure 2.4: Location of Moderate Water Quality Areas on Babeldaob



Figure 2.5 Locations of Moderate Water Quality Areas on Angaur

Land Use Classification	Resource Quali	ty Designation ¹
	High	Moderate
All Conventional Land Uses	1.2 in (90% Rule)	0.7 in (80% Rule)
Hotspots	1.2 in (90% Rule)	1.2 in (90% Rule)

# Water Quality Volume (WQ_v) Requirement as a Function of Land Use and Resource Ouality

Resource quality is defined as both freshwater resources and coastal resources. In Palau, coastal
waters are designated as AA, A (high quality) and B, BB (moderate quality). All fresh surface waters
in Palau have been designated as Class 1 (high quality). Refer to Section 1.5.1 for more specific
information regarding resource classification.

Locations of "Moderate Quality" (Class B) Surface Water Resources; all other marine waters are "High Quality" (Class AA, A) except for designated sandmining areas (Class BB) which are also "Moderate Quality" (See Figures 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5) (EQPB, 1996 - Marine and Fresh Water Quality Standards) (Class B designation applies only within 1000 feet of designated docks – see EOPB for individual project determinations)

Island	Class B Surface Waters
Babeldaob	Village docks
Koror	Malakal (Ngemelachel) Harbor
	M-Dock (Singhatoba) including S.E. of Ngerbeched Shore
	Kemangel Toachel, excluding T-Dock (Ngerkemais)
	Metukerademul to E. side of old Japanese Dock (Derromel)
	Ngereksong
	Nikko (Iwayama) Bay from the Nikko pier to a shoreline boundary approximately 1200 feet N.W. of the Nikko pier and an additional 300 feet of offshore reef flat to the N.W. of the shoreline boundary.
	Waters extending 200 meters from the shoreline of Ngerur Island.
Peleliu	Akalakul (Elochel) Dock
Angaur	Angaur (Ngeaur) Harbor

# Figure 2.6 Tables of Moderate Quality Surface Water Resources

# III. TRANSMIT SITE DRAINAGE CONDITIONS

# A. Existing Conditions

The existing transmit site is heavily forested with steep cliffs. Figure 3.1 below illustrates the different existing watersheds, numbered E1, E2, and E3.

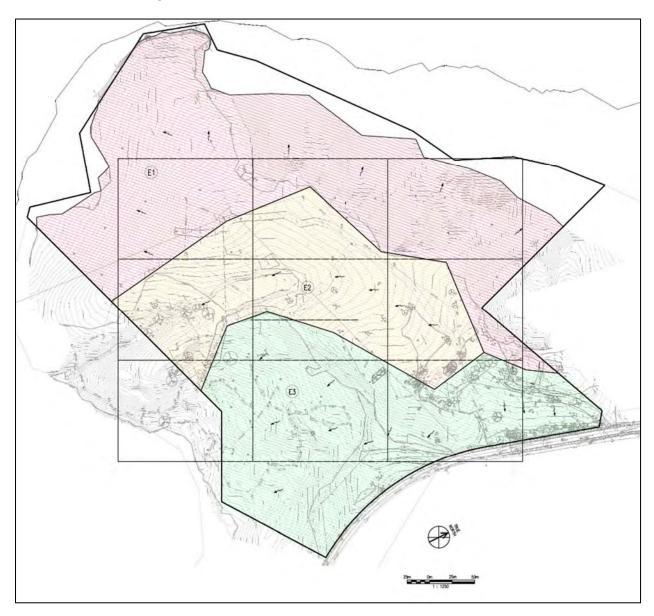


Figure 3.1: Transmit Site Existing Drainage Conditions

The existing site is largely undeveloped with isolated pockets of development including a residential complex, archaeological features, and concrete swales with a drain inlet at the Compact Road. According to the Geotechnical Investigation Report, the percolation for the site ranges from 0.03 cm to 0.09 cm, which means that runoff will percolate very slowly. Therefore, stormwater runoff will follow the contours of the natural topography. As such, the existing site is divided by natural topography into three watersheds, named E1, E2, and E3 on Figure 3.1.

The description of the drainage flow of each area is as follows:

- Area E1 is comprised of northern and western cliffs in the project site. The stormwater in this area would flow down the steep cliffs into the ocean.
- Area E2 is the central valley leading to the marsh. The marsh serves as a temporary storage for stormwater runoff before releasing it into the forested area, which in turn leads to the mangrove.
- Area E3 the southern forested area in which stormwater runoff drains to the south towards the existing mangrove. This area receives runoff from the marsh in area E2.

To directly compare the existing condition with the proposed condition, each area was analyzed separately using the TR-55 graphical peak discharge method using the 1-year, 10-year, and 25-year storm event. The results of the calculations are summarized in Table 3-1 below.

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			8	
Watershed	E1	E2	E3	Summary
Area (m2)	81,427	47,477	60,606	189,510
CN	77	82	82	N/A
TC (hr)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Q [1-yr] (mm)	77	90	90	N/A
Q [10-yr] (mm)	172	188	188	N/A
Q [25-yr] (mm)	217	235	235	N/A
V [1-yr] (m3)	6,328	4,291	5,464	16,082
V [10-yr] (m3)	14,041	8,970	11,433	34,444
V [25-yr] (m3)	17,776	11,198	14,277	43,251
qp [1-yr] (m3/s)	0.404	0.274	0.374	1.052
qp [10-yr] (m3/s)	0.896	0.572	0.783	2.251
qp [25-yr] (m3/s)	1.134	0.715	0.978	2.827

Table 3-1: Transmit Site Existing Drainage Sum	ımarv
Table 5-1. Halisilli Sile Existing Dialiage Sull	iiiiaiy

Each area was analyzed separately for Q, the height of runoff, V, volume of runoff, and qp, peak runoff discharge for each storm event. Then, the total volumes and peak flow rates were added in the Summary column of Table 3-1. The complete calculation can be found in the Appendix.

# Temporary Conditions:

During construction, erosion control BMPs will be installed to manage sediment runoff. BMPs include geotextile matting, diversion dikes and swales, check dams, sediment traps, and filter socks.

During mass grading, the contractor will leave berms along the edges of grading, with a dual row of filter sock, trapping runoff with the graded area and preventing any design storm flow to reach downstream waters. As grading advances, the berm and filter sock row will continue to move down slope with construction.

In addition, on open cleared areas, diversion dikes and swales, along with sediment traps and check dams will control flow and reduce downstream velocities. Narrow cleared areas will be covered with erosion control matting and pined to prevent erosion from wind and rain. Diversion dikes along the southern cliffs will also route stormwater runoff the sediment traps before overflowing the downstream mangrove areas.

### B. Proposed Conditions

The proposed changes will cut the existing steep cliffs to provide flat areas for the installation of radar antennas and supporting facilities. As a result, the drainage pattern of the site will change. The proposed transmit site has been separated into three watersheds, P1, P2, and P3, to compare to the existing conditions. However, watersheds P1 and P3 were further divided into subareas to study the proposed drainage features, as shown below in Figure 3.2.

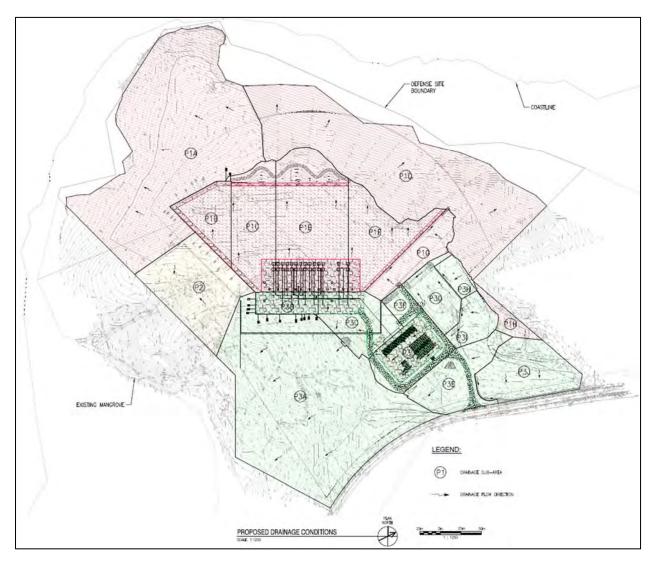


Figure 3.2: Transmit Site Proposed Drainage Conditions

As mentioned previously, the drainage pattern of the proposed condition will be different from the existing condition. Specifically, majority of the area from existing watershed E2 will instead become part of proposed watershed P1, which drains towards the west instead of south. To help balance the amount of drainage, features such as swales and culvert pipes were added to redirect some drainage to flow south in watershed P3.

The description of each area is as follows:

- Area P1 is the watershed in which stormwater runoff flows from the western and northern cliffs to the ocean. For drainage calculations, P1 is split into eight subareas to calculate drainage for new features.
  - There will be an unquantifiable amount of stormwater runoff that either infiltrates or seeps directly into the MSE wall backfill. To protect its structural integrity, the design of the MSE wall contains underdrains that connect to outlets with riprap that leads downstream to the mangrove.
- P2 has no proposed facilities, except to install security fencing along existing grades, therefore the drainage pattern will remain same as existing condition, stormwater will still flow to the existing mangrove to the south.
- P3 is divided into ten subareas which consist of part of the existing land, proposed Secure Compound, QVIS Antenna, Access Roads, and the backside of the Antenna Array. The grading in this area was designed to convey storm runoff generated from new impervious areas towards to the mangrove in the south. To accomplish this, grassed swales and a road culverts were designed to guide stormwater from the QVIS area flowing into a retention basin. Additionally, grated drain inlets that connected to drainpipes would direct stormwater from the access roads to large swale-like areas that lead excess stormwater to the south mangrove.

Each area was analyzed using the TR-55 graphical peak discharge method with the 1-year, 10-year, and 25-year storm events. The results of the calculations are summarized in Table 3-2 below.

) A / a t a walk a d				
Watershed	P1	P2	P3	Summary
Area (m2)	106,968	10,236	72,306	189,510
CN	78	82	82	N/A
TC (hr)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Q [1-yr] (mm)	81	90	89	N/A
Q [10-yr] (mm)	176	188	186	N/A
Q [25-yr] (mm)	222	234	233	N/A
V [1-yr] (m3)	8,617	917	6,405	15,939
V [10-yr] (m3)	18,814	1,920	13,469	34,203
V [25-yr] (m3)	23,729	2,398	16,838	42,965
qp [1-yr]				
(m3/s)	0.549	0.062	0.447	1.058
qp [10-yr]				
(m3/s)	1.312	0.134	0.939	2.385
qp [25-yr]				
(m3/s)	1.655	0.167	1.174	2.996

Table 3-2: Transmit Site Proposed	Drainage Summary
	Brainage Bainnary

Each area was analyzed separately for Q, the height of runoff, V, volume of runoff, and qp, peak runoff discharge for each storm event. Then, the total volumes and peak flow rates were added in the Summary column of Table 3-2. The complete calculations can be found in the Appendix.

### C. Pipe Hydraulics

As mentioned in the previous section, proposed area P3 includes several pipe culverts under the access roads. Each culvert is referred to by its outlet and each was assigned a number:

- Outlet 1 is the culvert pipe nearest the existing Compact Road. It pipes runoff from the grated drain inlet under the access road to the swale-like area that eventually leads to the south mangrove.
- Outlet 2 is the culvert pipe under the access road leading to the Main Antenna Array. It takes stormwater that exceeds the freeboard elevation of the retention basin and pipes it under the access road to another swale-like area that also leads to the south mangrove.
- Outlet 3 is the culvert pipe under the access road next to the QVIS Antenna Area. It takes runoff from the swale and pipes it underneath the access road to the retention basin and connects with the Outlet 2 system.

Calculations using the proposed hydrology were done to verify that the pipe culverts would be able to handle the 10-year and 25-year storm events. The pipes will be Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) and have a diameter of 0.6096m (2 feet). The calculations used Manning's Formula to solve for the normal depth and pipe velocity. The pipe would be considered adequate as long as the normal depth was not larger than the diameter of 0.6096m and the pipe velocity was not extraordinarily high, such as 3 m/s. The following tables 3-3 and 3-4 summarize the results of the calculations.

	Normal E	Depth (m)
Pipe	10 YR	25 YR
Outlet 1	0.117	0.132
Outlet 2	0.090	0.100
Outlet 3	0.126	0.141

Table 3-3: Transmit Site Culvert Normal Depth

Pipe Velocity (m/s)			
Pipe	10YR	25 YR	
Outlet 1	0.110	0.139	
Outlet 2	0.063	0.078	
Outlet 3	0.210	0.263	

# Table 3-4: Transmit Site Culvert Pipe Velocity

From the results of the calculations in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4, all three culverts would be able to handle the 10-year, and 25-year storm events.

### D. TX Conclusions

After analyzing the hydrology of the site in both the existing and proposed conditions, the differences in the total site were compared in the following table.

	Pre Development	Post Developent	Difference
Area (m2)	189,510	189,510	0
Impervious %	0.29%	8.85%	8.56%
TC (hr)	0.100	0.100	0
V [1-yr] (m3)	16,082	14,367	(-)1,715
V [10-yr] (m3)	34,444	32,087	(-)2,357
V [25-yr] (m3)	43,251	40,693	(-)2,558
qp [1-yr] (m3/s)	1.052	0.955	(-)0.097
qp [10-yr] (m3/s)	2.251	2.238	(-)0.013
qp [25-yr] (m3/s)	2.827	2.838	(-)0.011

#### Table 3-5: Transmit Site Comparison

Because the drainage pattern is different between the existing and proposed conditions, the site is compared as a whole. As shown in Table 3-5, even though the impervious area will increase by 8.56%, the overall runoff volume and flow will decrease slightly because the grading in the proposed condition is flatter. As such, there is no required storage as a result of changes in the proposed condition. However, the Palau Stormwater Management Manual also requires runoff storage according to four criterions: recharge volume, water quality volume, stream protection, and overbank control. These volumes are listed in the following table.

		Overbank				
	Channel	Flood	Water			
	Protection	Control	Quality	Recharge	Required	Provided
	(1-Year)	(25-Year)	Volume	Volume	Volume	Volume
Watershed	[m3]	[m3]	[m3]	[m3]	[m3]	[m3]
P1	1,073	3,128	262	262	262	303
P2	79	251	0	0	0	0
Р3	853	2,134	153	153	153	185
Total	1,152	5,513	414	414	414	488

Table 3-6: Transmit Site Required Storage Volumes

In the proposed condition, there will be sediment traps for watershed 1, which has a volume of 330 cubic meters, and a retention basin for watershed 3, which has a volume of 185 cubic meters. According to the Palau Stormwater Management Manual, stream protection and overbank control shall be waived if a project has "direct discharges (after water quality treatment) to a stream or river with contributory drainage area greater than 5-square miles, large lakes or reservoirs, or any coastal waters subject to tidal action." Since the project discharges to coastal waters and it can store the water quality volume for treatment, those two criterions do not apply. Therefore, the required storage volume will only be the water quality volume and recharge volume.

# IV. TRANSMIT SITE PERMANENT BMPS

#### A. BMP Selection

For the Transmit Site, storing stormwater for extended periods of time is undesirable because the underlying soil at the site is ill-suited for percolation. On the other hand, slowing down flow and short-term storage of stormwater is important for collecting sediment and preserving water quality. Grass swales, check dams, retention basins, and sediment traps will be used to temporarily store stormwater and to control outflow. Additionally, this site contains a large amount of earthwork; specifically, majority of the earthwork will result in cut slopes. To reduce erosion caused by stormwater, slopes will be protected with riprap, grouted rubble paving, and mulching/hydro-seeding.

# 1. Sediment Traps

There will be one permanent sediment trap at the site for watershed P1: it is located at the edge of the Earth Mat. The sediment trap is a series of three small ponds, and each of the ponds have two steps. The purpose of this sediment trap is to slow down runoff and to capture some sediment before it overflows and disperses offsite. The volume of the sediment trap is 303 cubic meters with 0.305m (1 foot) free board.

# 2. Retention Basin

At the Transmit Site, there will be one designed retention basin for Watershed P3 located between the Secure Compound and the Public Restriction Fence. It is connected to the sediment trap that is for the QVIS Antenna Area via an underground culvert underneath the Access Road. It has an outlet pipe that is underneath the road leading to the Main Antenna Array. The volume of the basin is 185 cubic meters with 0.305-meter (1 foot) freeboard.

# 3. Grass Swales

There are six major grass swales in the site: (1) at the foot of the cut slope bordering the QVIS Antenna Area, (2) at the west edge of the QVIS Antenna Area that leads to the retention basin via underground culvert, (3) at the foot of the cut slope bordering the north edge of the Earth Mat, (4) at the edge of the MSE retaining wall at the west edge of the Earth Mat and leading to the 2-step sediment trap, (5) at the area behind the Main Antenna Array which is connected to the retention basin via culvert pipe, and (6) in the area between the Compact Road and the Secure Compound, and is also connected with a culvert pipe to an inlet near the QVIS Antenna Area. The purpose of the grass swales is to redirect runoff to a different direction, either towards another stormwater drainage feature or offsite.

#### 4. Check Dams

Check dams will be installed within the grass swales to moderate velocity of the stormwater, which helps prevent erosion, and to filter out trash and debris.

# 5. Grouted Rubble Paving (GRP)

There will be Grouted Rubble Paving (GRP) installed along slopes adjacent to culvert headwalls for slope stabilization.

# 6. Riprap Slope Protection

There will be riprap (un-grouted rock rubble) placed at the end of swales, along slopes adjacent to culvert headwalls, along sediment trap spillways and at MSE wall outlets. The purpose of riprap is to spread the flow and reduce stormwater velocity, preventing erosion of slopes and downstream areas.

# 7. Mulching/Hydro-seeding

Cut slopes and any disturbed area will be mulched/hydro-seeded to promote slope stabilization and reduce erosion.

### B. Maintenance Requirements

Proper maintenance of each permanent BMP should be practiced at least bimonthly, and after heavy rainfall to assure proper facilitation of the stormwater runoff and stormwater management. Maintenance should include the following:

- trimming grassed areas,
- removing sediments and debris collected within the swales and in the sediment traps, check dams, and basins,
- inspection of grouted rubble paving and riprap lining,
- and cleaning out the culvert pipes to mitigate clogging.

# V. RECEIVE SITE DRAINAGE CONDITIONS

# A. Existing Conditions

The existing condition is separated into four watersheds, labeled E1 to E4, shown in Figure 5.1 below.

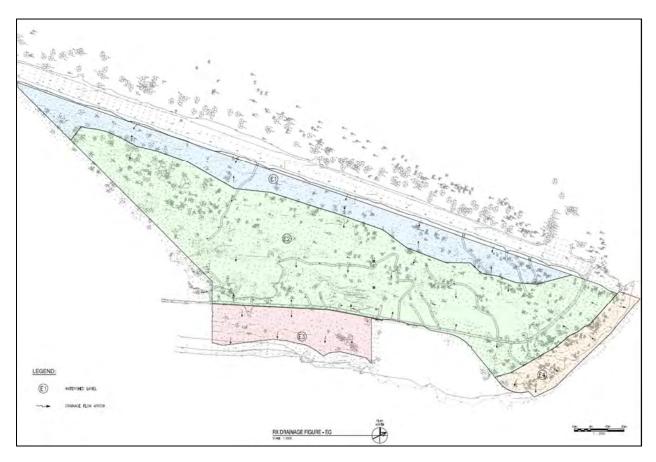


Figure 5.1: Receive Site Existing Drainage Conditions

The existing receive site is flat, undeveloped forest with only a dirt coastal road running along the perimeter. The site was previously developed and used as an airfield during WWII and is currently heavily overgrown. According to the Geotechnical Investigation Report, the percolation rates for this site range from 0.185 cm to 5.08 cm, which indicates that stormwater is more likely to percolate into the ground rather than flow offsite. As such, most of the site acts like a large basin. However, there is a small ridge encircling the project site that separates the different drainage areas. This ridge runs along the east edge of the airstrip and runs to the east of the borrow pits.

The description of each area is as follows:

- Area E1 is the area between the existing airstrip and the aforementioned ridge. In this area, stormwater collects in this valley-like area and it percolates into the ground.
- Area E2 is the central area to the east of E1. There are two large borrow pits located in this area. Because the ground is flat in this area, water tends to percolate into the ground rather than flow towards a basin or offsite. There is an existing coastal road that runs along the small ridge, which effectively makes a border for area E2.
- Area E3 is the eastern rectangular area on the side of the existing coastal road. Water tends to flow east towards the ocean, but there is a small depression along the east edge that will collect stormwater.
- Area E4 is the northern area past the existing coastal road. The area is relatively steep, and water will flow north to the ocean.

The graphical peak discharge method from TR-55 was repeated three times for three different storm events: 1-year, 10-year, and 25-year storms. Table 5-1 summarizes the results from using TR-55. The complete calculations can be found in the Appendix.

Watershed	E1	E2	E3	E4	Summary
Area (m2)	75,590	259,786	35,973	24,037	395,387
CN	58	44	43	43	N/A
TC (hr)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Q [1-yr] (m)	0.037	0.014	0.013	0.013	N/A
Q [10-yr] (m)	0.110	0.064	0.061	0.061	N/A
Q [25-yr] (m)	0.148	0.094	0.090	0.090	N/A
V [1-yr] (m3)	2,803	4,168	462	309	7,742
V [10-yr] (m3)	8,324	17,776	2,193	1,465	29,761
V [25-yr] (m3)	11,266	25,869	3,251	2,172	42,557
qp [1-yr] (m3/s)	0.137	0.108	0.011	0.008	0.263
qp [10-yr] (m3/s)	0.570	0.822	0.096	0.064	1.553
qp [25-yr] (m3/s)	0.796	1.496	0.181	0.130	2.603

# Table 5-1: Receive Site Existing Drainage Summary

Each area was analyzed separately for Q, the height of runoff, V, volume of runoff, and qp, peak runoff discharge for each storm event. Then, the total volumes and peak flow rates were added in the Summary column of Table 5-1. The complete calculations can be found in the Appendix.

# B. Temporary Conditions

During construction, erosion control BMPs will be installed to manage sediment runoff, as shown in Figure 5.2 below.

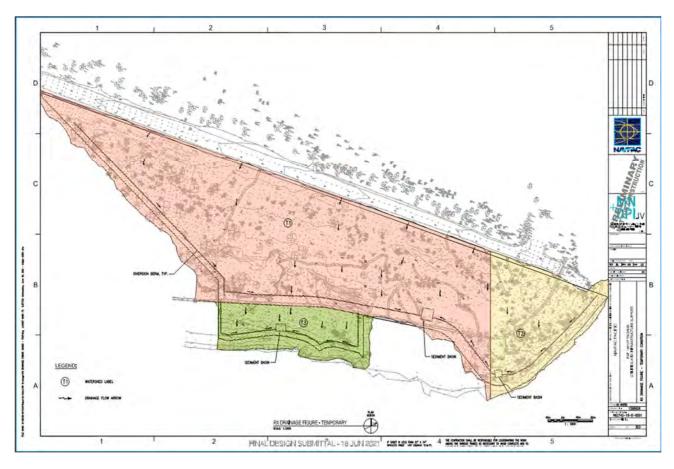


Figure 5.2: Receive Site Temporary Drainage Conditions

According to the Palau Stormwater Management Manual, a 1.5-inch storm event is used as a basis for sizing temporary sediment traps. Therefore, a storm event with precipitation of 1.5 inches was applied using TR-55 methodology to estimate the runoff storage volume required.

As shown in Figure 3.3 above, there will be 3 temporary sediment basins installed and earth dikes will be installed to convey runoff to these temporary sediment basins. Area T1 represents the area for the west temporary sediment basin, T2 is for the middle temporary sediment basin, and T3 is for the east temporary sediment basin. Table 3-5 below summarizes the data.

Drainage Area	Area (ac²)	Peak Flow (ft ³ /s)	Runoff Volume (m ³ )	Provided Volume (m³)
T1 (1.5")	80.5	1.07	1565.019	1800.000
T2 (1.5″)	18.0	0.24	349.2326	361.000
T3 (1.5″)	12.5	0.17	243.4809	468.000
Summary (1.5")	111	1.48	2157.732	2629.000

# Table 3-2: Temporary Drainage Summary

Each area was analyzed using TR-55 methodology and each sediment basin was sized to sufficiently store the runoff volume from a 1.5-inch storm. Due to the excellent on-site percolation and infiltration rate, most surface runoff is expected to percolate prior to flowing into the sediment traps.

Additional measures include a dust screen along the airstrip and dual row of filter socks along all downstream areas and along the coast line.

# C. Proposed Conditions

The proposed condition is separated into four watersheds, labeled P1 to P4, shown below in Figure 5.3 below.

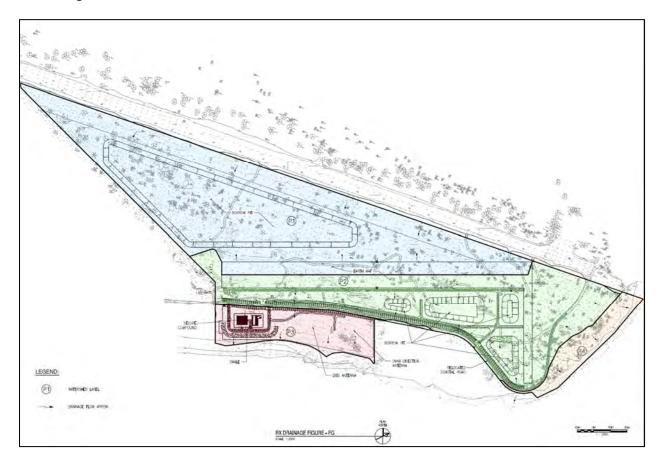


Figure 5.3: Receive Site Proposed Drainage Conditions

In the proposed condition, a completely level Antenna Area and Earth Mat will be installed at elevation 7m in the area where the existing borrow pits are located. A retention basin will be designed adjacent to the Earth Mat. East of the Earth Mat, a Secure Compound, QVIS Antenna, and OMNI Antenna will be constructed with access roads from the existing coastal road.

The description of each area is as follows:

- Area P1 is the area in between the airstrip and the proposed Earth Mat. The area is larger than area E1 because it includes the large borrow pit which also collects and disposes of stormwater runoff.
- Area P2 consists of the previous area E2 that will not travel to the proposed storage basin. Generally, water will just percolate to the ground, just as it does in existing conditions. Additionally, there will be multiple borrow pits that will also collect and dispose of stormwater runoff.
- Area P3 is the same as area E3, but it w2oads. There will also be another borrow pit added to this area, which will collect and dispose of stormwater runoff. The overall drainage pattern is still the same for this area.
- Area P4 is like area E4, with the same drainage pattern. The only difference is that because of the new access road looping around the Earth Mat, there is less area for the watershed.

The graphical peak discharge method from TR-55 was repeated three times for three different storm events: 1-year, 2-year, and 25-year storms. Table 5-2 summarizes the results from using TR-55.

Watershed	P1	P2	Р3	P4	Summary
Area (m2)	205,085	136,387	35,973	17,942	395,387
CN	53	54	46	43	N/A
TC (hr)	0.3	0.15	0.1	0.1	0.3
Q [1-yr] (m)	0.032	0.034	0.02	0.02	N/A
Q [2-yr] (m)	0.052	0.055	0.04	0.03	N/A
Q [25-yr] (m)	0.147	0.151	0.12	0.10	N/A
V [1-yr] (m3)	9,458	5,766	1,016	231	16,470
V [2-yr] (m3)	25,744	16,245	3,375	1,094	46,458
V [25-yr] (m3)	34,173	21,733	4,679	1,621	62,206
qp [1-yr] (m3/s)	0.462	0.149	0.025	0.006	0.641
qp [2-yr] (m3/s)	1.764	0.751	0.147	0.048	2.711
qp [25-yr] (m3/s)	2.415	1.257	0.260	0.097	4.029

# Table 5-3: Transmit Site Proposed Drainage Summary

Each area was analyzed separately for Q, the height of runoff, V, volume of runoff, and qp, peak runoff discharge for each storm event. Then, the total volumes and peak flow rates were added in the Summary column of Table 5-2.

# D. RX Conclusions

After analyzing the hydrology of the site in both the existing and proposed conditions, the following table summarizes the results of the calculations.

	Pre-Development	Post-Development	Difference
Area (m2)	482,376	482,376	0
Impervious %	8.33%	9.78%	1.44%
TC (hr)	0.625	0.300	-0.325
V [1-yr] (m3)	11,064	14,645	3,580
V [2-yr] (m3)	19,200	24,189	4,989
V [25-yr] (m3)	59,577	69,011	9,434
qp [1-yr] (m3/s)	0.248	0.341	0.093
qp [2-yr] (m3/s)	0.452	0.758	0.306
qp [25-yr] (m3/s)	2.402	3.021	0.619

### Table 5-4: Receive Site Comparison

For the Receive Site, the overall drainage pattern does not change; the main difference is in the amount of impervious area, which increases the amount of stormwater runoff, as shown in Table 5-3. The Palau Stormwater Management Manual requires storage volume to retain the increase in stormwater runoff, which are shown below in Table 5-4.

Symbol	Category	1	2	3	4
Rev	Recharge Volume	1,007	339	91	0
WQV	Water Quality Volume	1,007	339	91	0
Срv	Stream Protection	1,082	640	131	51
Qp-25	Overbank Control	7,286	3,635	776	347

Table 5-5:	Receive	Site	Required	Storage	Volumes
				0.00.000	

According to Table 5-4, the required storage volumes are based on the Overbank Control criteria because the volumes produced by the 25-year storm are the highest among the four criteria for all watersheds. However, because the site is flat and the percolation rates are so high, the entire watersheds themselves act as a percolation basin. Therefore, although there are no designed retention basins, there are borrow pits on the site that will collect, store, and dispose of stormwater runoff by percolation. The large borrow pit located in area P1 has a storage volume of 95,514 cubic meters with 0.3048m (1 foot) freeboard. The smaller borrow pits in area P2 have a collective storage volume of 27,635 cubic meters. Finally, the swale in P3 can hold 607 cubic meters.

In the event of a 25-year storm, the borrow pits in P1 and P2 are capable of storing the runoff. The swale on P3 would be able to account for the recharge, water quality, and stream protection volumes, but it cannot hold overbank control volume. However, according to the Palau Stormwater Management Manual, "direct discharges (after water quality treatment) to a stream or river with contributory drainage area greater than 5-square miles, large lakes or reservoirs, or any coastal waters subject to tidal action." Since P3 discharges to coastal waters, the stream protection and overbank control volumes are waived. Similarly, for area P4, because there is no increase to stormwater runoff due to increased impervious surfaces, and because runoff discharges to coastal waters, stream protection and overbank control is also waived.

In conclusion, the Receive Site comply with the Palau Stormwater Management Manual requirements because while the high percolation rates allow most of the stormwater runoff to percolate, there are additional borrow pits that can also store the required volumes for water quality.

# VI. RECEIVE SITE PERMANENT BMPS

#### A. BMP Selection

For the Receive Site, the existing area is generally flat, and the percolation rate is high; essentially the entire site is a natural retention basin. With the proposed Antenna Array Area, the ground will be raised to an elevation of 7 meters and flat. However, the finish ground will be gravel, which means it will remain pervious from existing conditions. Therefore, the addition of the Antenna Array will not alter the existing drainage pattern. Grass swales and check dams will be installed to redirect stormwater away from proposed features. Additionally, disturbed areas will be mulched/hydro-seeded to reduce erosion.

#### 1. Grass Swales

Grass swales were designed to protect the new features in the proposed condition. The swales are designed to be trapezoidal swales, with a total width of about 3 meters and a maximum of 2H:1V side slopes. The swales will be placed to direct flows around the compounds to protect them from stormwater runoff.

#### 2. Check Dams

Check dams were designed to moderate stormwater velocity and prevent erosion. It serves the purpose of trapping part of the sediment and helping filter out the trash and debris. They will be installed in grass swales throughout the project.

#### 3. Slope Protection

There will be riprap and Grouted Rubble Paving (GRP) installed where necessary to slow down the flow of stormwater prior to downstream areas.

#### 4. Mulching/Hydro-seeding

Any other disturbed area will be mulched or hydro-seeded to protect against erosion and provide slope stabilization.

#### **B.** Maintenance Requirements

Proper maintenance of each permanent BMP should be practiced at least bimonthly, and after heavy rainfall to assure proper facilitation of the stormwater runoff and stormwater management. Maintenance should include the following:

- trimming grassed areas,
- removing sediments and debris collected within the swales and check dams,
- and inspection of grouted rubble paving and riprap lining.

# VII. CONCLUSION

The installation of the Tactical Multi-Mission Over-the-Horizon Radar (TACMOR) equipment will affect the existing drainage conditions at both the Transmit Site on Babeldaob and the Receive Site on Angaur.

The earthwork will especially affect stormwater at the Transmit Site because the steep hills and valleys will be flattened, which affects the overall drainage pattern of the site. Since the drainage pattern was changed, the hydrology of the entire site was analyzed as a whole. From the results of the calculations, both the runoff volume and flow do not increase, so no additional storage is required. However, sediment traps and a retention basin were still designed to store some runoff temporarily for preserving water quality.

On the other hand, for the Receive Site, the high percolation rate of the existing soil means the site acts like a retention basin. Therefore, while the proposed condition increases the stormwater runoff because the overall drainage pattern does not change, the natural retention basin will store the increase in stormwater runoff. The natural basin stores the required volumes for recharge, water quality, stream protection, and overbank control. Additionally, there are borrow pits that also collect, store, and dispose of stormwater by percolation.

In conclusion, stormwater drainage for both the Transmit Site and the Receive Site meets the requirements for the Palau Stormwater Management Manual and the Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document (OEBGD).

# VIII. REFERENCES

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- "Web Soil Survey", Natural Resources Conservation Service, <u>https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx</u>.
- UFC 3-201-01 Civil Engineering, with Change 3, 01 May 2020

UFC 3-210-01 Low Impact Development, With Change 3, 01 March 2020

# A. APPENDIX

**Transmit Site Existing Condition Calculations**