



## Key achievements in Palau

- 2018: Palau begins establishing isotope hydrology capabilities to support the management of its groundwater resources.
- 2016: Palau improves the quality of its diagnostic imaging with specialized radiography training provided by the IAEA.
- 2013: Area-wide integrated pest management is introduced to reduce fruit flies.

## Atoms for peace and development

Widely known as the world's 'Atoms for Peace and Development' organization within the United Nations family, the IAEA is the international centre for cooperation in the nuclear field. The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

The IAEA's technical cooperation (TC) programme helps countries to use nuclear science and technology to address key development priorities in areas including health, agriculture, water, the environment and industry. The programme also helps countries to identify and meet future energy needs. It supports greater radiation safety and nuclear security, and provides legislative assistance.

In 2019, the IAEA established the Sub-regional Approach for the Pacific Islands (SAPI), which

includes Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, in order to promote cooperation in the field of nuclear science and technology for the attainment of national development priorities, and to provide focused IAEA technical cooperation support to the Pacific Island Member States.

## Recent project successes

### Food and agriculture

*Bactrocera dorsalis* fruit flies have caused heavy losses to Palau's fruit and vegetable production and severely damaged the country's food exports. National surveys confirmed that the fruit fly brought about a 69 per cent reduction in star fruit yields, as well as a 10 per cent reduction in banana and papaya production. In cases such as guava and mountain apples, annual losses exceeded 90 per cent.

To help address this, the IAEA and Food and the Agriculture Organization of the United Nations supported the introduction of area-wide integrated pest management control programmes to improve the quality and quantity of crops for both local and international consumption while using less pesticide.

The IAEA conducted four expert missions providing hands-on training on trap preparation and placement; fly identification, sorting and record keeping; adult fly surveillance; and, protein bait sprays. New x-ray machines were also procured to scan luggage at the country's borders to reduce the risk of introducing non-indigenous species such as exotic fruit flies.



Experts from the Palau Public Utilities Corporation and the Environmental Quality Protection Board work with the IAEA to investigate water samples from Lake Ngardok in Babeldaob, the largest natural freshwater lake in Micronesia. (Photo: O. Kracht/IAEA)

## Active national projects

- Facilitating Sustainability and Ensuring Continuity of Area-Wide Pest Management — Phase III (PLW5003)
- Upscaling the Delivery of Radiology through Local and Teleradiology Services (PLW6003)
- Enhancing National Capacities to Monitor and Assess the Impacts of Ocean Acidification (PLW7002)
- Improving the Quality of X-ray Diagnostic Radiology Imaging (Phase II) (PLW6002)
- Establishing Technical Capabilities for Groundwater Resources Management (PLW7001)
- Strengthening National Infrastructure for Radiation Safety and Security (PLW9002)

Palau also participates in 15 regional and 3 interregional projects, mostly in the area of health and nutrition, and food and agriculture.

## Previous IAEA support to Palau

The IAEA has supported Palau's biosecurity capacity, which was enhanced through introducing fruit fly suppression and surveillance mechanisms. Additional support was provided through the establishment of national radiation safety infrastructure to ensure that the existing use of ionizing radiation in medicine and industry was safe for people and the environment. In human health, support was provided through training in radiography and radiation protection, and capacity building in radiology and radiography science.

## IAEA support to Palau, 2009–2019



# 54

trained  
(including 23 women)

# 25

international  
experts  
provided

# 17

attended specialist  
meetings  
(including 5 women)

Based on data available as of April 2020

## Priority areas of support

- Improving human health and nutrition
- Enhancing the food and agriculture sector
- Protecting water and the environment
- Supporting sustainable energy development
- Strengthening radiation safety and the security of radioactive sources

## Strategic documents supported

- Country Programme Framework 2016–2021, signed in December 2015

The Ngdorch river, located along the east coast of Babeldaob, is part of the second largest area of watershed in Palau. The IAEA has supported the use of isotope techniques to more accurately delineate contributions from the different hydrological components to better understand the water balance in the catchment area. (Photo: F. Barbecot/UQAM)



[www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation](http://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation)

The IAEA collaborates with National Liaison Officers and Permanent Missions to deliver its TC programme.