

Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in Palau

Presentation to the MASG

Sept. 5/12





Impact

- The full scale of the problem remains unknown and presents a wide-spread danger
- A door to door survey in Peleliu found ERW in 26% of households
- Power plant in the capital damaged by a self-initiating ERW, causing 6 months of outage
- 1,000lb bomb found 20m from the capital's water supply tank
- On 'Helmet Wreck', a popular dive spot, explosives are leaking dangerous chemicals into the surrounding environment











ERW a National Priority

- Eradicating ERW a national priority in Palau
- Early accession to the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty and the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions
- ERW problem highlighted by Palau's President Toribiong at the UN General Assembly
- National Plan on priority communities, tourism, fishing grounds, etc.
- ERW Government Working Group established in 2010 and formalized by Executive Order

Action on the Ground

- 'Demining' done in partnership with Cleared Ground Demining (CDG), an expert NGO, according to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)
- National Plan
- Building Risk Awareness
- Increasing Technical Capacity
- Centralizing Information & Data Management
- Expanding Financial Resources

Building Risk Awareness

- Local surveys
- National media campaign
- School programs – every Palauan school child has attended an ERW risk awareness program taught by local teams
- Community meetings
- Government coordination and agency meetings

Building Capacity

- Developing sustainable local capacity for ERW surveying and removal
- Building a Regional Training School, with plans to train other Pacific Small Island State nationals
- Since 2009, 21 local personnel have worked with 3 expats to remove more than 15,000 ERW (from grenades to 17,000lb aircraft bombs)

Information and Data Management

- ERW Hotline for public reports
- National Reporting Procedure
- IMSMA standard international recording formats
- National Data Base – location, types of ordnance
- Gathering historic data

Eradicating ERW in Palau

- Eradicating ERW in Palau is possible within a 3-5 year time frame
- A framework for activities and clearance infrastructure are already in place
- Local teams, in partnership with CGD, have proved successful
- Additional financial resources required to undertake the work sustainably, especially the local teams

An aerial photograph of a tropical island chain, likely in Palau. The islands are lush green and surrounded by shallow turquoise water with visible coral reefs. The water transitions to a deep blue as it extends towards the horizon under a cloudy sky.

Thank You

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for further information