

IN-HOUSE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY IN NGEREMLENGUI STATE: PART ONE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

The In-house Archaeological and Ethnographic Reconnaissance Survey in Ngeremlengui State was conducted in early to mid 2012 to identify, evaluate and prioritize regions for future intensive archaeological and ethnographic surveys. Elders, oral histories, and WW II experiences associated with the state's interior along with observations regarding demographic and other changes in the state over time were identified and evaluated for prioritization of future research. A special component for this survey was the addition of needed staff training through a three week visual documentation program, which brought together staff from national and state governments to participate.

Survey and Inventory and Project Review/Archaeology Section & Oral History and Ethnography Section, Bureau of Arts and Culture/Palau Historic Preservation Office, Republic of Palau

September 2012



IN-HOUSE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY IN NGEREMLENGUI STATE: PART ONE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

Grant Number 70-11-31964

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

This publication is a product of the Palau Bureau of Arts and Culture also known as the Historic Preservation Office in partnership with the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, United States of America. However, the contents and information contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of Interior.

The contents and information contain herein, document cultural and historical resources of Palau and may be used for education and research purpose only. The information is provided without warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied. The Bureau of Arts and Culture shall not be liable for any errors, inaccuracies, omissions, or other defects in the information contained in this report. No part of this book may be reproduced for any commercial purpose without written permission from Bureau of Arts and Culture, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs, Republic of Palau.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Palau Bureau of Arts and Culture/Historic Preservation Program receives U.S. Federal financial assistance for recording of histories and traditions, and identifying and protecting cultural, traditional and historical properties. The U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Director of Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

©Copyright 2012 Bureau of Arts and Culture
Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs, Republic of Palau
Contact: bac_arch@palaunet.com or palauoh.ethno@gmail.com

Or send correspondence to: Palau Historic Preservation Office
Bureau of Arts and Culture
P.O. Box 100, Koror, Palau 96940



Figure 1: BAC/HPO staff and other participants of the visual documentation survey training workshop in Ngeremlengui State, May-June 2012.

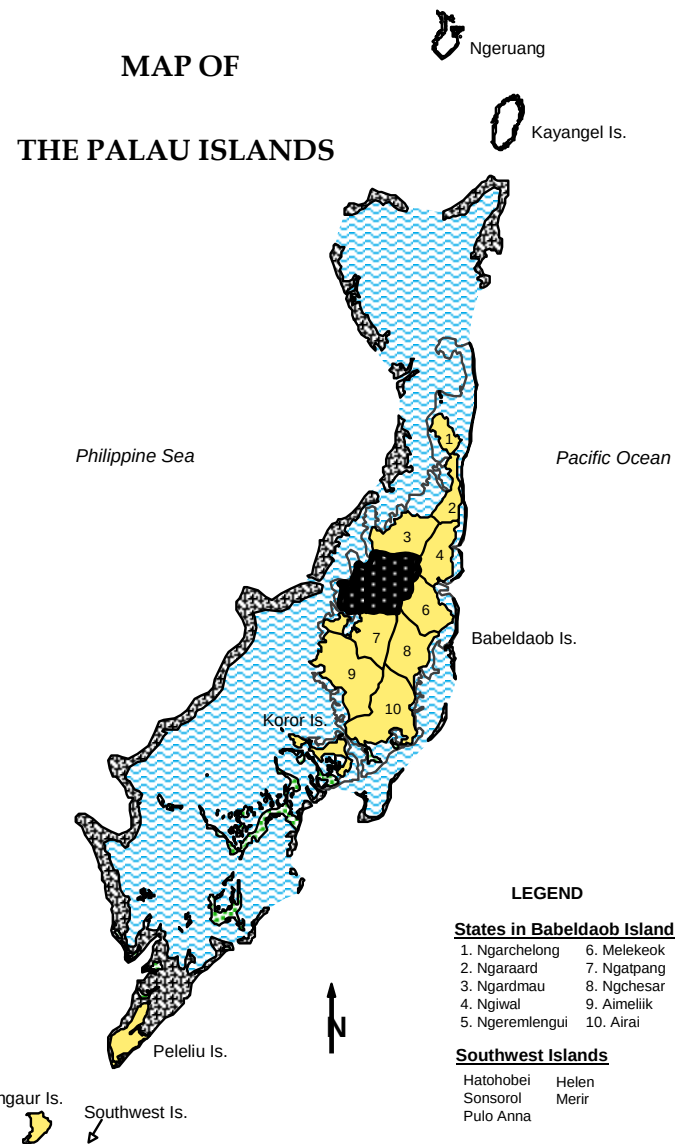


Figure 2: Map of Palau showing the ten states on Babeldaob. Ngeremlengui is shaded.
Source: Bureau of Arts and Culture.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (for Part One)

This report would not have been possible if not for the assistance and contributions of Ngeremlengui State. We would like to thank the Honorable Wilson Ongos, Governor, for his support of the survey and assistance with recommending a guide, Gener M. Sangalang, who was experienced both in navigating the areas we wanted to survey and in archaeological fieldwork. We were very fortunate to have Gener join us in the visual documentation training.

Allan Burns (University of Florida) prepared an excellent and very useful visual documentation training course that was well received by all the participants. We would also like to thank Alba Burns for her voluntary contribution to the training.

Feliciano Yanru assisted us during the visual documentation training and we appreciate his generous support.

Dave Tuggle, Archaeologist (retired) reviewed an earlier draft of this report and provided us with valuable comments which we greatly appreciate. Jolie Liston of Garcia and Associates (GandA) also generously reviewed an earlier draft and provided comments.

THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED BY

PART ONE:

Suzanne S. Finney, Ph.D., Archaeologist

Errolflynn T. Kloulechad, Preservation Specialist as Preservation Compliance Officer

and

PART TWO:

Kelly G. Marsh, M.A., Cultural Anthropologist/Ethnographer

Sylvia Kloulubak, Historic Preservation Specialist as Ethnographer's Assistant

Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (for Part One)	3
THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED BY	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
Introduction	9
Survey Boundaries	10
Reconnaissance Level Surveying	11
Additional Considerations	13
Methodology	15
HISTORIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT	17
History and Traditional Position of Ngeremlengui	17
Geography of Ngeremlengui	18
Previous Archaeological and Ethnographic Studies	18
Site Types and Site Numbering	19
Archaeological Regions of Ngeremlengui	22
SURVEY RESULTS	23
Introduction	23
Survey Boundaries	24
Visual Documentation Training	26
FINDINGS	27
Introduction	27
Safety and Accessibility Issues	32

UXO (Unexploded Ordnance).....	32
Bauxite Test Pits	34
Topography.....	34
Discussion	35
RECOMMENDATIONS	37
Introduction	37
Collaboration	38
Training	39
State Protocol.....	39
Safety, Accessibility, and Related Issues	39
UXO (Unexploded Ordnance).....	39
Bauxite Test Pits	40
Topography.....	40
Survey Schedule	41
Draft Reports	41
CONCLUSION	43
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	44
Palau Register of Historic Places	47
APPENDIX A: REGISTERED SITES FOR NGEREMLENGUI STATE (NM).....	48
APPENDIX B: VISUAL DOCUMENTATION SURVEY TRAINING REPORT	50
Introduction	50
Venue.....	50
Themes: Still photography and video production.....	51

Training Format	54
Results.....	55
Next Steps: Continued Training as Capacity Building	55
APPENDIX C: EXCERPTS FROM THE VISUAL DOCUMENTATION SURVEY TRAINING WORKBOOK	59

List of Figures and Tables

Figure 1: BAC/HPO staff and other participants of the visual documentation survey training workshop in Ngeremlengui State, May-June 2012.	1
Figure 2: Map of Palau showing the ten states on Babeldaob. Ngeremlengui is shaded. Source: Bureau of Arts and Culture.	2
Figure 3: Map of Ngeremlengui State showing previously surveyed areas.....	11
Figure 4: Portion of Babeldaob showing Japanese activity in Ngeremlengui, overlaid with site locations recorded during 2002 survey (Map from Tellei, Basilius and Rehuher 2005, p. 31, site information from Olsudong et al. 1998).....	14
Figure 5: Map of Ngeremlengui, provided by the Palau Conservation Society, showing the location of the rivers, mangrove and Ngermeskang Nature Reserve. Boundaries are approximate.....	18
Figure 6: Map of Ngeremlengui State showing archaeological regions within the state, as well as previously recorded sites. Boundaries are relative to the archaeological regions and should not be considered as applicable beyond this use.....	23
Figure 7: Map of B:NM-3, Imeong. Inset is a close-up of B:NM-3:1, Imeungs Traditional Village. Information from Olsudong et al. 1998, overlaid onto topographical map using Google Earth.....	26
Figure 8: Close up of region B:NM-3 with significant sites marked. The dark circle is the area of interest for an intensive level survey.....	29
Figure 9: Map of B:NM-3:1, Imeungs Traditional Village, from Olsudong et al. 1998, page 53. This was also one of the sites for the visual documentation training exercise.....	33
Figure 10: Examples of current development in Ngeremlengui. (a) Public restroom on municipal dock in Ngermetengel; (b) Coconut Plantation Project; (c) Dock and buildings in Ngermetengel. The area to the right was dredged so deeper draft vessels could have access; (d) Regional health center.....	36

Figure 11: Terrain of B:NM-3, Imeong. (a) The hill on the right is the location of B:NM-3:25, Ii er a Ngebesek; (b) Example of the landscape showing terraces and hills in the distance.	37
Figure 12: Example of using diagonals and documentation from the training exercise. (a) A piece of machinery from the Japanese pineapple cannery circa 1920s; (b) Remy Rengulbai and Jordean D.O. Remengesau (l-r) photographing Temael Kloulechad and Alan Burns (l-r) investigating how the machine might have operated; (c) Temael Kloulechad “demonstrates” how the machine was operated.	57
Figure 13: Examples of changing perspective to help highlight a feature. (a) Kelly Marsh kneels on the grass to take a photo of the stone trail at Imeungs Traditional Village (B:NM-3:1); (b) A view of the trail from this perspective; (c) Feature B:NM-3:1 f1, the Omeroel Bad/Iliud er a Elsechei. In addition to use of the “Rule of Thirds,” this photo also illustrates some of the challenges of taking photographs in areas with mainly green and brown hues.	58
Table 1: List of protected areas in Ngeremlengui.....	24
Table 2: Ngeremlengui FY 2011 Reconnaissance Survey Schedule.....	27
Table 3: List of identified sites from Olsudong et al. 1998, p 50. The list includes cross-referencing information from other sources.	30

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the completion of the Compact Road in the last decade accessibility to and interest in Babeldaob is growing. In an effort to mitigate the effects of increased traffic and development on the cultural and historic resources of Palau's largest island, the Bureau of Arts and Culture/Palau Historic Preservation Office (BAC/HPO) has been conducting a state by state survey of cultural and historic sites. Those sites which were already known or previously recorded in fieldwork and publications have been identified and evaluated by the BAC/HPO in all 16 states, including the 10 states on Babeldaob. The BAC/HPO is currently investigating those areas within each state on Babeldaob where there has been no prior survey or investigation. This report contains the results of a reconnaissance survey conducted in and about an important and potentially threatened region of Ngaremlengui State, on the western side of the island. The survey findings confirm that this area contains a number of culturally significant sites requiring more intensive level survey fieldwork before they can be safely and responsibly developed into tourist destinations to benefit the State. The findings also confirm that there are unexpected hazards and other conditions that will need to be adequately addressed before such surveys can be safely undertaken.

A consideration that needs to be factored into future archaeological and ethnographic surveys in Palau is the immensity of the land that comprises each state. The unrecorded areas of each state, predominantly located in the interior portion of Babeldaob, were previously scheduled to be surveyed in their entirety on the order of one state per year. This older schedule was overly ambitious and did not factor in several issues such as a practical amount of time to conduct the surveys, especially as the Republic of Palau is a young, developing nation and the expertise of the BAC/HPO archaeologist, ethnographer, and historic preservation specialists must necessarily be divided between several types of historic preservation tasks, each imperative to saving the cultural and historic resources of the nation and Peoples of Palau. Nor did it factor in possible priorities each state may have to develop certain regions for tourism, agriculture, housing developments, etc., necessitating a thorough archaeological and ethnographic investigation to assist the states in protecting their cultural and historical heritage. A new survey schedule is being developed by the BAC/HPO that the office hopes will incorporate the need to inventory cultural and historic sites throughout Palau with the goals and expectations of the states for the protection, preservation and promotion of their cultural resources.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Introduction

Title 19 of the Palau National Code (PNC) empowers the BAC/HPO to work toward preserving the historical and cultural heritage of the Peoples of Palau. In order to accomplish this mission the BAC/HPO, through its five sections (Survey and Inventory and Project Review/Archaeology (Archaeology), Oral History and Ethnography, Palau Register, Public Education, and Administration) engages in projects designed to protect and preserve Palau's tangible and intangible historical and cultural heritage through archaeology surveys and oral history collections, nomination of significant sites to the Palau Register of Historic Sites, development and dissemination of educational materials to teachers, students and the public at large, and the ongoing development of a strong regulatory framework to protect these sometimes fragile and vanishing properties.

To accomplish all of these goals, one of the main tasks of the BAC/HPO is to conduct a nationwide, state by state survey to collect information on all tangible and intangible sites, features, objects and/or areas and their associated ethnographic information in order to

assist the BAC/HPO and the states with future development goals. Specifically, PNC Title 19 requires that the BAC/HPO “develop a nationwide survey to identify documents and gather information on actual or potential historical sites, tangible or intangible cultural properties, and living national treasures...[§ 131 (d)].” Whether plans include construction, preservation or tourism, it is vital that this information is collected so that the Peoples of Palau can benefit from the most complete amount of knowledge prior to any work.

A systematic survey of the identified sites in each state was initiated by the Division of Cultural Affairs (the precursor to the BAC/HPO) in the 1980s and completed by the BAC/HPO in the 2000s. The last publication from this phase of the survey project was published in 2004. The second phase, the survey and inventory of previously unidentified or undocumented sites began around this time. To date, seven (7) of the states, Hatohebei, Kayangel, Melekeok, Ngaraard, Ngarchelong, Ngiwal, Sonsoral (in alphabetical order) are considered completed. It should be noted, however, that this does **not** imply that the BAC/HPO considers every cultural or historical site in these states identified, or every oral history or life story collected.

Within the parameters of the field survey methodologies and technologies of the time, and given logistical and geographic considerations, as well as the availability of Elders in the community to interview or who were willing to share information, there is still information that can and should continue to be collected as the BAC/HPO conducts its various activities. The finalization of the survey portion of fieldwork in each of these states means that the first round of systematic investigation of sites and the collection of interviews has been completed, but further information will be collected as opportunity arises.

The ability to survey on a state-wide level, versus focusing on hamlets, archaeological regions, or another smaller geographical or regional subset, created some additional challenges for the office, but for the most part conducting surveys on such a large scope had been successful and was considered by the office to be key to defending against some of the more serious threats to Palauan heritage by development. However, recent changes in the management of professional staff by the U.S. National Park Service, which oversees the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) that funds these projects, and changes within the BAC/HPO concerning

survey methodology has led to a reconsideration of the scope of the surveys, which will lead to a shift from conducting one state-wide survey a year to spreading the survey of a state across multiple years. This means each of the remaining four states on Babeldaob (Ngchesar was surveyed in 2011-2012 and the final report was completed in 2012) will take several years to complete.

Ngeremlengui was the first state the BAC/HPO approached using the revised survey methodology, itself a work in progress. The attempt with the new methodology is to rework the survey schedule and goals to incorporate changes in how the office conducts survey work and how the funding agency for the surveys, the U.S. National Park Service, assesses survey work.

Survey Boundaries

According to the schedule developed by the BAC/HPO in years previous, the survey boundaries for the investigation of the unrecorded sites in any state began with an examination of the areas already surveyed in previous work. Any area not already recorded in the previous survey was considered part of the scope of work for the secondary-level investigation.

Since many of the traditional Palauan villages and historic sites occur close to the shore, these were the areas most intensively surveyed in previous work and the BAC/HPO considered the second phase of surveying largely an interior survey of each state, although in fact the survey area initially covered any unrecorded area regardless of its location.

Once the unrecorded areas were identified the next step was to determine which areas were likely to contain traditional or historic sites, and which areas may be considered inaccessible either due to the terrain or other factors which make it impossible to survey. For example, areas which are restricted such as watersheds or bird sanctuaries may be excluded from the survey area.

Figure 3 shows a map of the state of Ngeremlengui including those areas already surveyed (highlighted). The map was created using Google Earth and overlaid with information from the GIS database that has been built up over time by the BAC/HPO. The line running along the right side of the image is the Compact Road, which runs through all the states on Babeldaob. The initial areas under consideration for survey in Ngeremlengui were all those areas not highlighted.



Figure 3: Map of Ngeremlengui State showing previously surveyed areas.

Reconnaissance Level Surveying

A reconnaissance level survey is designed to collect as much information as possible in order to determine the best course of action for a possible intensive level survey. Intensive level surveys have been conducted in all the states which are considered completed in the formal survey process. The initial goal for this survey

was to prepare a list of suspected sites and key priority areas which could be investigated in intensive level surveys at later dates and to establish recommendations of the necessary considerations for conducting the surveys efficiently, effectively, and safely.

Interior surveys had been conducted in four states on Babeldaob when the Ngeremlengui survey was conceived for FY11 (2011-2012 field season). For the first three states the survey was conducted with staff relocating to the state for an extended period up to one month, conducting research during the day and discussing the results and future survey areas at night. The fourth state, Melekeok, was the first state to be inventoried with the staff commuting to and from the office along the Compact Road. This was also the last survey conducted by National Archaeologist Rita Olsudong before she passed away in 2009.

The transformative impact Ms. Olsudong's passing had on the function of the office cannot be overemphasized. At the time of her death the inventory was in a state of flux. Normally, following traditional custom, after Melekeok Ngardmau would have been the next state scheduled for survey, with

Ngchesar and then Ngeremlengui to follow. However, due to the availability of additional funding a request was made to alter the schedule so that the state of Peleliu could be considered out of order and surveyed after Melekeok. The BAC/HPO, including Ms. Olsudong agreed to this and prepared to change the schedule. This was to take place in 2009, but unfortunately Ms. Olsudong became ill and passed away before the survey could begin.

The reason this is mentioned here is to better explain how the shift in conceptualizing survey boundaries and survey levels did not occur until the in-house surveying began after the hiatus brought about by the loss of the archaeologist on staff. The archaeology section, in tandem with the oral history/ethnography section, was scheduled to conduct three interior surveys of three separate states during the 2011-2012 field season, three times the normal workload for the office. The staff archaeologist was new to the office, without any institutional knowledge of how other surveys had been conducted. It was clear from the start that however surveys had been conducted in the past, the combination of a hugely intensive survey schedule, and the change from working on site within the state versus commuting to and from the survey

state each day would require a reorganization of survey techniques and survey boundaries.

Ngeremlengui was the first project generated since the new archaeologist began in June 2011 and it is the first state to be surveyed using the new survey methodology. This new methodology begins with the development of a reconnaissance level survey to determine whether an intensive level survey is justified of one or more of the unrecorded areas within each state, and if so, which areas should be considered priorities for intensive level surveying in the future. While the initial goal was a reconnaissance survey of all the regions, time and budget constraints, the absence of the full complement of section staff during the research and survey periods, a preliminary assessment of threatened areas within the state, and unexpected cultural issues concerning land boundaries led to a re-evaluation of that goal. The revised goal for the reconnaissance level survey of Ngeremlengui was to choose a potentially high risk region¹ and identify areas of interest by collecting information from local guides from the state, hunters who were familiar with the interior, Elders who could share stories of cultural

¹ Region in this context refers to one of the archaeological regions within the state.

and historic sites that had not yet been collected in previous research, and government officials who could discuss possible development or improvement projects in that region.

Additional Considerations

Three additional complications during the 2011-2012 survey season have reinforced the decision to revise the state surveys as a multi-step process, which include a separate reconnaissance survey component. The first was the unforeseen material consequences of World War II, which has left a significant and largely unrecorded landscape of unexploded ordnance (UXOs or ERWs, environmental remnants of war) in many areas, most famously on the island of Peleliu, but also in large numbers in areas such as Ngardmau State, where the Japanese mined bauxite. The bauxite mines were a target for bombing by the U.S. and were heavily defended by the Japanese during the war (1944-1945)². The amount of UXO material in Ngardmau was unexpected. The dangerous nature of these materials was brought to the BAC/HPO survey team's attention by the UXO experts of Cleared Ground Demining who strongly recommended that

² Shuster (1982) writes that there were 25,000 "fully equipped Japanese troops" on Babeldaob and Koror circa 1944. (pp. 77-78)

portions of Ngardmau be avoided until cleared of UXO and that other portions of the state be professionally surveyed for the presence of UXO prior to further investigation. The lack of full appreciation of the dangers to the survey team and a lack of knowledge as to the likely locations of these materials necessitated a revision of the original survey methodology early on during the fieldwork in Ngardmau.

Ngeremlengui shares a border with Ngardmau and was also a location for Japanese activity, including bauxite mining, during the war years. Evidence collected during this reconnaissance survey confirms that UXO material has also been seen in the interior area of this state. Figure 4 shows the location of bauxite mining in Ngeremlengui as well as areas of agricultural intensification during the Japanese administration.

The second complication resulted from an internal set of circumstances between the BAC/HPO and the U.S. National Park Service, which has oversight over the management of the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) that funds the surveys, which led to a freezing of all funds to the office for three months during the time

when the survey team was scheduled to conduct the Ngeremlengui survey.

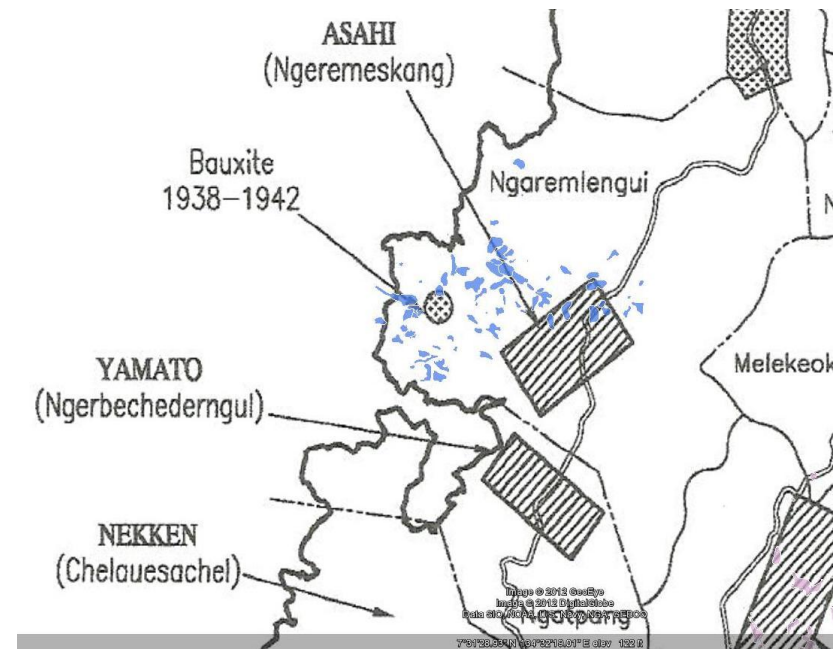


Figure 4: Portion of Babeldaob showing Japanese activity in Ngeremlengui, overlaid with site locations recorded during 2002 survey (Map from Tellei, Basilius and Rehuher 2005, p. 31, site information from Olsudong et al. 1998).

The frozen funds, which included salaries and benefits for six of the eleven staff as well as all project funds, meant that the office was unable to pay for guides, gas for transportation to the field, or any supplies. In a year when the office was scheduled to conduct three

surveys in three different states (three times the normal workload), the loss of three months to conduct fieldwork could have been crippling. Moreover, the office had planned to conduct much needed training for the staff as part of this particular project, and had negotiated with Dr. Allan Burns from the University of Florida to come to Palau during our Ngeremlengui survey. Fortunately, thanks in large part to the cooperation of the Palau Community Action Agency (PCAA), which was able to temporarily offset the cost for this portion of the project, this complication did not adversely affect the successful implementation of the visual documentation training, which was able to move forward on schedule.

The third complication was the absence of one of the Section staff for essentially the entire project. The section consists of three individuals, all of whom are important to the successful and efficient conduct of survey work. The absence of one staff member for the survey left the section shorthanded, which hampered the survey team's ability to perform in the field.

Delays to the survey schedule are not unusual and in previous years an attempt might have been made to extend the survey schedule including a request to

extend the project, but recent proposed changes to the management of professional staff by the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) has led to a reconsideration of the scope of the surveys, which has led to a shift from conducting one state-wide survey a year to spreading the survey of a state across multiple years.

Methodology

[Special Note: The methodology for the Ngeremlengui reconnaissance survey was conceived as a jointly planned and implemented project between the archaeology and the oral history/ethnography sections, making this the first time the two sections worked together rather than in tandem on a project. For nine months, from the time the project was approved by the NPS in January 2012 until September, when the project cycle ended, the two sections worked together conducting research, determining locations within the state to conduct the survey and visual documentation training that would be of value to each section, and writing and producing a final report that would include information on both the survey and the training.

For reasons that were never explained, the NPS notified the office in the second half of September 2012, days before the close of the project cycle for the fiscal year, that different reports would need to be produced for this project other than what was specified in the project notification from January; at least one but possibly two from the archaeology

section and the same from the oral history/ethnography section, rather than the joint report that had been drafted and worked on for months. The ensuing confusion about what products for this project were actually expected by the NPS continued long after the September deadline and was still unresolved at the time of the printing of this report in December 2012. Both sections had literally no time to prepare the newly required reports without working well beyond the end date for the project. Because of this last minute change there is a slight re-invention of some of the methodology and research results to focus more on the archaeological aspects of the research, and there may be more repetition and overlap both within and between the two parts than would normally be found were these originally conceived as separate reports.]

An initial assessment of the methodology for investigating the archaeological regions focused on three main areas:

1. An investigation of previously recorded areas to see what if anything might have been overlooked or discovered since the last survey;
2. An analysis of which areas are most likely to be developed or improved in the near future; and
3. An analysis of information collected through interviews with informants of areas which may contain cultural or historically significant sites.

In addition, information concerning some areas of particular sensitivity led the survey team to reconsider the whole unsurveyed portions of the state and focus instead on Regions 1 through 5. The collection of information on regions 6 and 7 will be deferred until such time as these issues are resolved.

Based on these considerations the survey team determined that the need for an intensive level survey must include a series of priority areas designed to meet the needs of collecting information for both the BAC/HPO inventory of sites and the state of Ngeremlengui.

Once the assessment was made the survey team was able to visit the state to determine which areas were most accessible, and which areas would need additional investigation, particularly regarding UXO and other potential hazards.

Photographs, GPS coordinates when possible, and interviews with informants were all collected either during visits to the state, or through talking to people in Koror, where the majority of the population resides.

The visual documentation training also provided excellent photographic and video documentation

within the state. Some of these photos are used in this report to illustrate both the training and the types of sites encountered in Ngeremlengui.

Since this is a reconnaissance level survey, information collected was not applicable for inclusion in the GIS database. Instead, the priority areas recommended for future research have been overlaid on a map using Google Earth. This will be used as the starting point for any intensive survey work in the area.

HISTORIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT³

History and Traditional Position of Ngeremlengui

Ngaremlengui⁴ is one of the children of Milad, the legendary woman who gave birth to the four corner

³ This section is extracted largely from the 1998 BAC/HPO publication, *Inventory of Cultural Sites and Oral History in Ngeremlengui and Aimeliik States: Volume I: Inventory of Cultural Sites*, prepared by Rita Olsudong, Calvin T. Emesiochel, and Errolflynn T. Kloulechad [Olsudong et al 1998], and from the 2005 publication *Palau Compact Road Archaeological Investigations, Babeldaob Island, Republic of Palau, Phase I: Intensive Archaeological Survey, Volume III: Oral History Documentation*, by Julita Tellei, Umai Basilius and Faustina K. Rehuher [Tellei, Basilius, and Rehuher 2005].

posts of Beluu er Belau (Palau Islands). After Milad gave birth, she went to the top of a hill called Ometochel and threw four small islands in front of her children as their markers. She threw Ngemolei in front of Imiungs (Ngaremlengui), Ngerutoi in front of Melekeok, Okerduul in front of Ngerbung (Imellik), and Ngetmeduch in front of Oreor. Imiungs is the oldest son, Melekeok is the second son, Imellik is the only daughter, and Oreor is the youngest son. Ngemolei off the coast of Ngaremlengui and Ngertutoi off the coast of Melekeok are the reference points use to designate *babeldaob* (upper sea), the north half of the island, and *eouldaob* (lower sea), the southern portion. (Tellei, Basilius and Ruhher 2005, p. 131)

Ngeremlengui occupies an important position within Palauan culture because of the story of Milad and contains some very important and highly valued cultural sites, including Ii ra Ngebesek (B:NM-3:25), the cave where Milad gave birth to her children. This site was added to the Palau Register of Historic Places in 1997.

During the Japanese occupation, Ngeremlengui was also a site for bauxite mining, although not on as large

⁴ The spellings Ngeremlengui and Ngaremlengui are both used depending on the publication.

a scale as Ngardmau. There was also extensive agriculture development in the state during this time. During World War II the Japanese fortified Ngeremlengui, and there are stories of UXO/ERW identified in the interior area. (Liston et al. 2002)

Geography of Ngeremlengui

Ngeremlengui is situated on the central west coast and stretches east to *Rael Kedam* (the long ridge that bisects the island into east and west). Total land area is 64.26 square kilometers, making it one of the largest states in Palau. “Its highest elevation reaches...213 meters above sea level at Etiruir Mountain (Rois Mlengui) which is one of the highest area[s] in Palau. A [m]angrove swamp border[s] the coastal area with low rolling hills behind them. Most of the hill[s] are covered with savanna.” (Olsudong et al. 1998, p. 15).

Figure 5, provided by the Palau Conservation Society (PCS), identifies the rivers, mangrove and boundaries of the Ngermeskang Nature Reserve within the state.

Previous Archaeological and Ethnographic Studies

The earliest maps of traditional villages were drawn by Krämer (1919) during an early 20th century



Figure 5: Map of Ngeremlengui, provided by the Palau Conservation Society, showing the location of the rivers, mangrove and Ngermeskang Nature Reserve. Boundaries are approximate.

ethnographic expedition (1909-1911). Hijikata, a Japanese ethnographer, documented sites in the state during the Japanese administration (Hijikata 1995). However Lucking noted that he spent very little time there and focused on monoliths. She writes, “At the time of his survey, the Japanese administration was actively confiscating stone images in an effort to suppress the “old” religion.” (Lucking 1981, p.44) Publications by Osborne (1966), Gumerman et al. (1981), Lucking (1981, 1984), Lucking and Parmentier (1990), Blaiyok and Metes (1986) and Snyder and Butler (1990, 1997) include information about archaeological fieldwork and the investigation of traditional villages, terraces and other unique sites within the state. These were also the basis for the survey of Ngeremlengui conducted by the Division of Cultural Affairs (the precursor to the BAC/HPO) in 1998 (see Olsudong et al. 1998, p. 15). Van Tilburg (1991) recorded stone monoliths in many states including Ngeremlengui during her research. Liston (1996) also monitored work for the Palau Telecommunication Project.

The development and construction of the Compact Road has led to some excellent archaeological research. The 13 volume *Palau Compact Road*

Archaeological Investigations, Babeldaob Island, Republic of Palau (Compact Road Report) contains an impressive amount of archaeological and ethnographic information for each state on Babeldaob, but is understandably limited to the narrow corridor of the Compact Road.

The first intensive level survey was conducted by the Bureau of Arts and Culture (formerly the Division of Cultural Affairs) in 1998. A total of 70 sites were identified, including 19 traditional villages, 30 terraces, eight historic remains, seven stone features, four taro patches, one scattered sherd and one landmark. This survey investigated areas where sites were already known; those already identified by other researchers, published in articles or reports or through information collected in interviews with the local population. (Olsudong et al. 1998)

Site Types and Site Numbering

The use of site types to record areas, features, sites or objects is an important component of archaeological data collection. Over the years the sites types identifying Palauan traditional and historical sites have been developed with the help of many specialists. The following is the list of approved site types and

definitions developed by the BAC/HPO to identify sites located throughout the Republic of Palau. This list should not be considered the final word on site types in Palau, it is continually refined and discussed, and site types can be added at a later date. The list is in alphabetical order.

Site Type	Definition
Bathing Area	A bathing area typically identified with a stone platform adjacent to a stream.
Bathing Pool	A bathing area that is carefully shaped and paved.
Burial: <i>Historic</i>	A non-Palauan burial of an individual.
Burial: <i>Traditional</i>	A single burial of a Palauan, usually identified in at least one oral history. These do not include multiple burials, or burials associated with platforms (<i>odesongel</i>).
Cave Site: <i>Historic</i>	Cave that was used during the historic period, including those used in association with the Yapese stone quarry. Those used by the Japanese during World War II are listed as Historic Remains: WWII.
Cave Site: <i>Traditional</i>	Cave that was used by Palauans prior to the historic period

Site Type	Definition
Crown	Stand alone mound feature, not part of a terrace. Not all mounds are defined as crowns.
Dock: <i>Historic</i>	Dock constructed during one of the historic administrations in Palau (Spanish, German, Japanese, TTPI) to non-traditional specifications.
Dock: <i>Traditional</i>	Dock that is traditionally constructed of paved stone.
Historic Remains: Administration	Material associated with one of the historic administrations in Palau (Spanish, German, Japanese, TTPI).
Historic Remains: WWII	Material associated with World War II (1939-1945), usually either Japanese or American in origin.
Landmark	An area associated with a specific, significant event in Palauan history, usually without tangible remains.
Monoliths	Upright stones, found singly or in groups.
Scattered Artifacts	Artifact fragments.
Scattered Sherds	Pottery fragments.
Shell Midden	Shell fragments found in a pile and associated with human activity.

Site Type	Definition
Stone Face	Monolith with one or more carved faces.
Stone Feature: <i>Traditional</i>	Stand alone stone artifacts such as resting platforms, monoliths, stone faces, etc.
Stone Feature: <i>Historic</i>	Stand alone stone artifacts such as pottery kilns, cooking hearths, etc.
Taro Patch	Wetland area for growing taro.
Terrace Set	A complete set of terraces including a crown.
Terraces	Earthworks created by notching existing ridge or hills to create a stepped hillside.
Traditional Village	A complete stone work village containing stone paths which connect to all stone platforms, docks, as well as other stone features, i.e. resting platforms, bathing pool, etc. Only sites containing a noteworthy number of identifiable village features will be identified as a Traditional Village. Otherwise the site will be listed as a component of a traditional village (bathing pool, dock, etc.).
Trail	A path or series of connecting paths used by Palauans, typically found in

Site Type	Definition
	the interior of Babeldaob. A trail may be slightly elevated from the surrounding area; it may be paved or lined with stone. It usually has multiple oral histories associated with the area and/or cannot be associated with one particular traditional village.
Underwater: <i>Historic</i>	Sites that can be found underwater, including shipwrecks and aircraft losses, dating to one of the historic administrations (Spanish, German, Japanese, TTPI). Underwater may also refer to sites which are only partially or periodically submerged.
Underwater: <i>Traditional</i>	Sites that are traditionally made underwater or partially underwater, such as fish traps. Underwater may also refer to sites which are only partially or periodically submerged.
Water Well	Water well constructed using stone. Can be historic or traditional.

Each site documented within an archaeological survey receives a site number and site type designation. The name of the site, when known, is also included. In previous surveys investigators typically assigned their own numbering system to site and features. This has resulted in confusion when trying to compile or compare results of different archaeological studies. In

order to develop a uniform numbering arrangement an in-house system was developed in 1981 to organize a cataloging system. Cultural and historical sites are assigned numbers following the BAC site numbering system. Each site number is a four part code.

For example, the designation **B:NM-1:1** is identified as

B	Belau
NM	Ngeremlengui State
1	Ngchemesed Region
1	Ioulbeluu Terraces

B is the designation for Belau (Palau) and represents any site in the Republic of Palau. The second designation (NM) is a two letter code for the state, the third is the number for the village or region within the state, and the fourth part is the number designating the site in the village or the region. A feature number for a feature inside the site is sometimes added as a fifth code, designated by the letter **f** followed by a number in the text.

Archaeological Regions of Ngeremlengui

For purposes of these surveys each state is separated into archaeological regions. The boundaries between

the regions are archaeological boundaries and not official village boundaries. Ngeremlengui is divided into 7 archaeological regions:

- B:NM-1 Ngchemesed
- B:NM-2 Ngermetengel
- B:NM-3 Imeong
- B:NM-4 Ngermeskang
- B:NM-5 Ngerdesiur
- B:NM-6 Ngerchelechuus
- B:NM-7 Ngerbechedrengul

These archaeological regions, unlike the contemporary villages, comprise the entire land area of Ngeremlengui State. Archaeological regions were chosen instead of contemporary villages in order to account for all accessible land within each state boundary. These regions were generated in the field based on informant interviews and the collection of archaeological information. The boundaries between regions are not fixed and are subject to change as more information about the state is collected.

Figure 6 shows a map of Ngeremlengui, identifying each region and the inventoried sites within each region as of the 1998 survey.

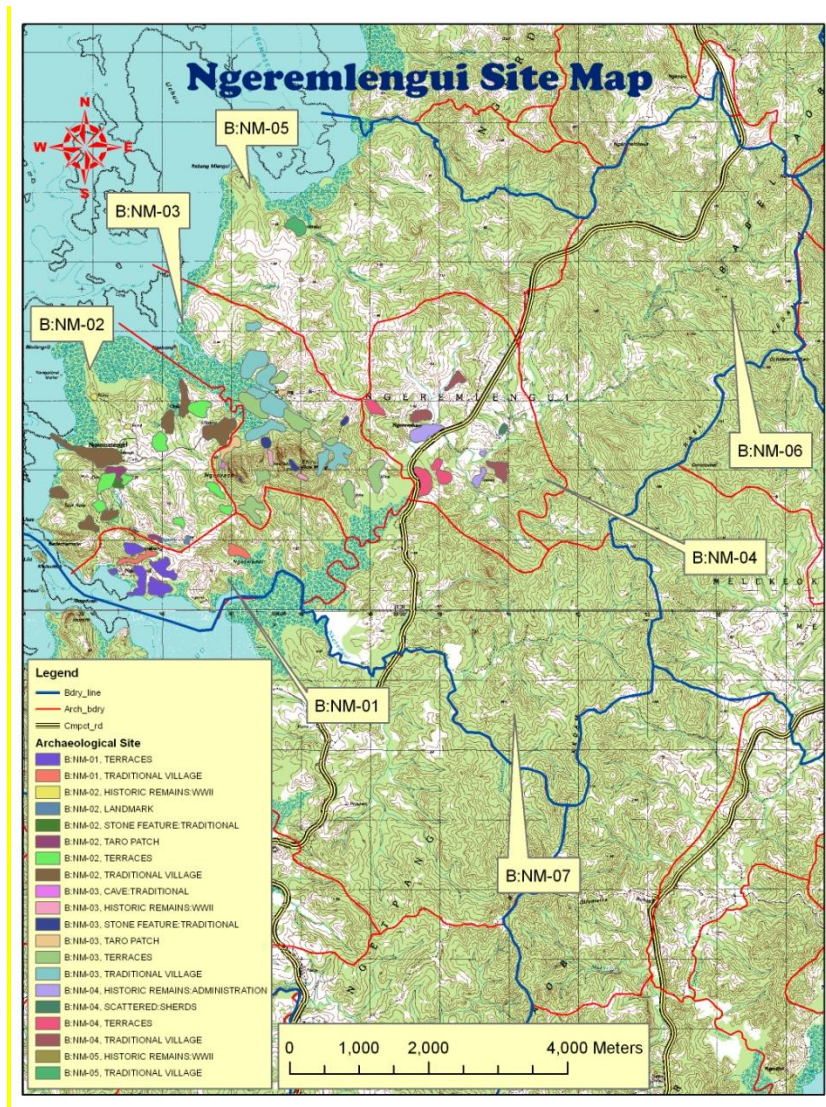


Figure 6: Map of Ngeremlengui State showing archaeological regions within the state, as well as previously recorded sites. Boundaries are relative to the archaeological regions and should not be considered as applicable beyond this use.

SURVEY RESULTS

Introduction

The Ngeremlengui survey was scheduled to begin in spring 2012, after the surveys of Ngchesar and Ngardmau had concluded. The survey was coordinated with the schedule of the visual ethnographer, Dr. Allan Burns who was conducting the visual documentation training portion. This occurred between May 22nd and June 7th.

In addition to the fieldwork conducted as part of the visual documentation training, the archaeology and oral history/ethnography sections conducted fieldwork in the state to determine which areas should be considered priorities for intensive level survey. The criteria for determining priority areas included the following considerations:

1. Unsurveyed areas currently under assessment for development by the state (housing projects, tourist sites, agriculture, etc.);
2. Unsurveyed areas around currently inhabited villages;
3. Unsurveyed areas identified through interviews considered significant by the Elders and/or government officials in the state;

4. Unsurveyed areas adjacent to culturally or historically significant areas already surveyed and which are suspected of yielding additional information.

Survey Boundaries

A reconnaissance level survey is designed to collect pertinent information in order to determine the best course of action for a possible intensive level survey. The NPS defines these surveys as follows:

Reconnaissance Level Survey. Reconnaissance survey entails archival research and a field visit to determine the identity and location of resources present in an area. Such surveys should be designed so that a determination can be made from the results as to when it is worthwhile to obtain the additional level of documentation (through an Intensive Level Survey) necessary for a National Register nomination. (HPF Grants Manual, page 6-16)

Intensive Level Survey. Intensive level survey is the systematic, detailed field (and archival) inspection of an area designed to identify fully architectural, archeological, and historic properties; and calculated to produce a level of documentation sufficient, without any further data, to evaluate National Register eligibility. (HPF Grants Manual, page 6-15)

Intensive level surveys have been conducted in all the states which are considered completed in the formal survey process. The goal for this reconnaissance survey was to prepare a list of suspected sites and key priority areas which could be investigated in intensive level surveys at later dates and to establish recommendations of the necessary considerations for conducting the surveys efficiently, effectively, and safely.

Table 1 lists the protected areas in Ngeremlengui. Survey in these areas might be curtailed or prohibited depending on accessibility.

Table 1: List of protected areas in Ngeremlengui

Name	Ecosystems or species	Year established	Approximate Size (km ²)
Ngermeskang Nature Reserve	Upper watershed, river, forest	2008	8.86
Ngermeskang Bird Sanctuary	Swamp forest, forest	2008	1.50
Ngaremeduu Bay Conservation Area	Estuary, mangroves	1999	98.00

Table extracted from the Protected Areas in Palau listing by the Palau Conservation Society (PCS); not an official government listing. Sizes are approximate. (SOURCE: http://www.palauconservation.org/cms/images/stories/resources/pdfs/ProtectedAreas_PANSites_Nov2011.pdf).

Based on previous survey work during the 2011-2012 field season and the development of a new research design for the interior of portion of Babeldaob, there were two approaches considered for determining survey boundaries for the Ngeremlengui reconnaissance survey. The first was to investigate the interior landscape, using informants experienced with the area and previous research in other states to determine the best areas to focus survey efforts. This area is predominantly located within regions 6 and 7, areas that were determined off limits to investigation due to cultural considerations, so focusing on the interior area was not recommended.

The second approach was to look for areas where development or improvement projects in the near future might mean added pressures to the cultural and historical resources. This includes areas around significant inventoried sites that may benefit from additional research around the surrounding areas. With this in mind the survey team looked at areas within Ngeremlengui that might be considered high risk for such activity and narrowed the focus down to region B:NM-3, Imeong, specifically the area between B:NM-3:1, Imeungs Traditional Village and B:NM-3:25, Ii ra Ngebese (Milad's Cave). These two very

significant sites are of importance to all Palauans. Plus, it is the location of two contemporary villages, and the subject of possible development to increase tourism.

In 2004 a portion of this area, designated the Imeong Conservation Area, was recommended to the UNESCO World Heritage List as a mixed use site, containing significant natural and cultural components. It is currently on the tentative list⁵. Interest in World Heritage sites is very strong within the Pacific, which is underrepresented on the list. Palau's first World Heritage site, the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon Monument, was inscribed in 2012. The possible development of this area as another World Heritage site for Palau adds to the interest in obtaining more research about the cultural sites in the area, and the inscription of the first Palauan site to the list this year increases the pressure to develop additional nominations for Palau's cultural and natural heritage. Since Ngeremlengui does not currently have the resources to conduct this type of research on its own it remains for the national office to assist them with

⁵ See whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/1931/ for more information about this site. There are currently four sites in Palau on the tentative list.

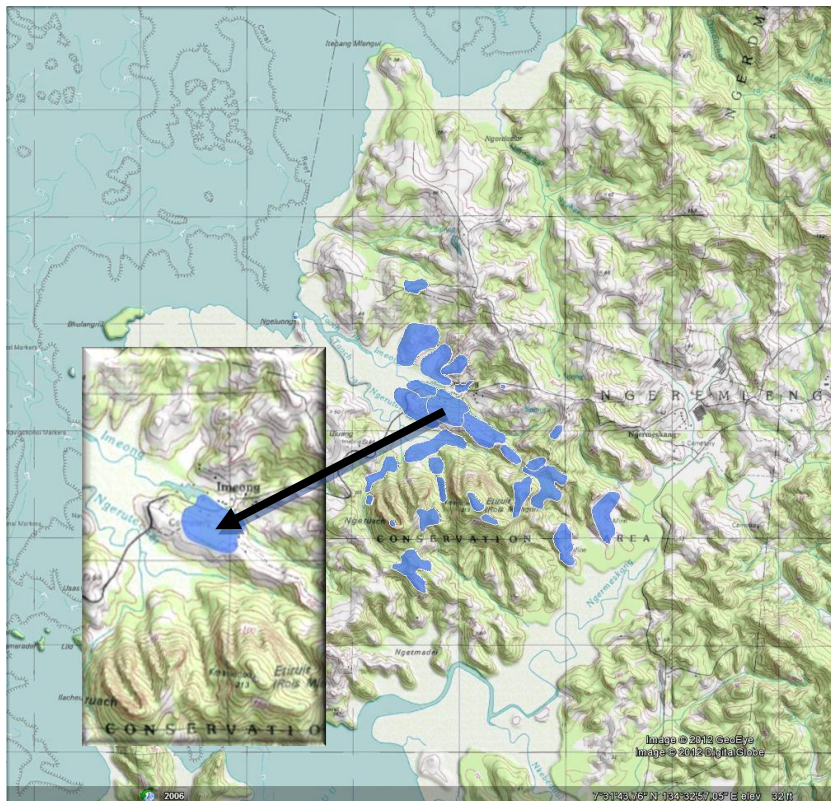


Figure 7: Map of B:N3, Imeong. Inset is a close-up of B:N3:1, Imeungs Traditional Village. Information from Olsudong et al. 1998, overlaid onto topographical map using Google Earth.

researching and recording the information they will need for any future nomination considerations.

Figure 7 identifies the focus of this reconnaissance survey, B:N3, Imeong, with an inset showing the location of B:N3:1, Imeungs Traditional Village.

Visual Documentation Training

A central component to conducting this survey was to also fold in three weeks of training to build the capacity of both the archaeology and oral history/ethnography sections to more effectively collect information in the field. This training developed skills and abilities that will continue to enhance the level and type of information that can be gathered and add to the documentation record of each state within the Republic of Palau. It was an intensive three-week training course. Skills for some of the BAC survey team members had to be built from some very basic levels. Some of the survey team members had not operated a camera or a video recorder for survey work before. Skills learned ranged from:

- learning the techniques of how to operate visual documentation equipment such as digital cameras, digital video cameras and microphones;
- learning to think about the number and types of visual evidence that can be documented with archaeological and ethnographic goals and

creating strong documentation records using this evidence;

- learning the different tasks involved in creating visual records and the roles needed to carry out each task effectively;
- learning tricks of the trade that optimize the capturing of significant features of both tangible and intangible resources.

FINDINGS

Introduction

The goals of the survey were two pronged: (1) to identify a priority area based on the in-house developed criteria for intensive level surveying in the future, and (2) conducting visual documentation training as capacity building for BAC/HPO staff. Preparation began months before the actual fieldwork took place. This section focuses on the results from the reconnaissance survey. Appendices B and C discuss the results of the visual documentation training in more detail.

Phases of the Ngeremlengui survey took place between January and September 2012 with fieldwork elements schedule to begin in spring 2012, after the surveys of

Ngchesar and Ngardmau had concluded (see Table 2). The survey was coordinated with the schedule of the visual ethnographer, Dr. Allan Burns who was conducting the visual documentation survey training portion. That three-week training occurred from May 22-June 7, 2012.

Table 2: Ngeremlengui FY 2011 Reconnaissance Survey Schedule⁶

Date	Survey Activity
January-May	Develop training scope of work
	Call for and select instructor
	Meet with state governor
	Initiate background research
	Preliminary fieldwork
May 22-June 07	Arrange logistics for training
	Training
June-September	Fieldwork
August-September	Conduct interviews
	Write report

Much of the justification for why this area was chosen, and its significance and need for further in-depth investigation can be found in part two of this report, which discusses the ethnographic results of the survey. The archaeology section determined that there were

⁶ Note: This schedule is only for the Ngeremlengui project and does not include schedule information for the fieldwork, reporting and finalization of the other two surveys which took place simultaneously during this period.

several sites within the region that were recorded but not thoroughly investigated. For example, some of the terraces near Imeungs are recorded in the inventory but there is little detailed information concerning their structure or construction. Also, the hill where Milad's Cave is located has not been entirely investigated.

The 1998 report describes this region as follows:

The region is located north of Ngermetengel region. It contains the most rugged terrain in the State. Three rivers drain into a long channel of Imeong. The residential area occupies both sides of the channel. Behind the residential area to the south are series of rugged ridge systems with four peaks called (from southwest to northeast): Ngeruach, Sechedui, Tmerou and Etiruir. Imeong is the paramount village of the State. It includes a number of important sites relating to cultural practice which are still being observed today. The region includes different types of sites including traditional villages, terraces, caves, stone platform, taro patches, monoliths, and historic remains. (Olsudong et al. 1998, p. 49, lightly edited for readability)

Many of the terraces in the region have been investigated in previous works (see for example Lucking 1984 and Snyder and Butler 1990), and Olsudong et al. (1998) noted that more than one had already been impacted by more modern activity. For

example B:NM-3:4, a terrace set, was damaged by a bulldozed road.

During the 1998 survey several areas around Milad's cave (B:NM-3:25) were considered too fragile or sensitive to disturb (Olsudong et al. 1998, P. 80-81), yet this area is speculated to be one of the areas of interest for increasing tourism to the state. Of the 15 sites currently on the Palau Register of Historic Places for the state, ten are in this region. **It is important to ensure that all current and potential sites in the area are well-documented before any type of development that may impact these fragile and very significant sites is undertaken.**

Figure 8 shows a close up of the region with all previously recorded sites shaded (blue). Imeungs Traditional Village, Milad's Cave and the area considered to be the first taro patch in Palau are all the areas marked with dots (in red). The circle around these areas is the recommended focus of an intensive level survey of the region.

This circled area includes the entire hill where Milad's Cave is located, the adjoining hill and any unsurveyed areas around the traditional village of Imeungs. The area is considered very rugged, yet accessibility to

A topographic map of the Ngereng Conservation Area in Kenya. The map features contour lines indicating elevation, with labels such as 'x 40', 'x 60', 'x 80', 'x 100', 'x 120', 'x 140', 'x 160', 'x 180', 'x 200', 'x 220', 'x 240', 'x 260', 'x 280', 'x 300', 'x 320', 'x 340', 'x 360', 'x 380', 'x 400', 'x 420', 'x 440', 'x 460', 'x 480', 'x 500', 'x 520', 'x 540', 'x 560', 'x 580', 'x 600', 'x 620', 'x 640', 'x 660', 'x 680', 'x 700', 'x 720', 'x 740', 'x 760', 'x 780', 'x 800', 'x 820', 'x 840', 'x 860', 'x 880', 'x 900', 'x 920', 'x 940', 'x 960', 'x 980', 'x 1000'. The map also shows several rivers and streams, including the Taach, Imeer, and Ngereng. A large black circle is drawn around a central area, which contains a red patch with white dots and a blue patch. The text 'NGERENG CONSERVATION AREA' is visible at the bottom. The map is credited to 'Map by © 2012 Google' and 'Map data © 2012 Google'.

In addition to the fieldwork conducted as part of the visual documentation survey training, the archaeology and oral history/ethnography sections conducted

1. Areas currently under assessment for development by the state (housing projects, tourist sites, agriculture, etc.), especially unsurveyed but including surveyed areas;
2. Unsurveyed areas around currently inhabited villages;
3. Unsurveyed areas identified through interviews considered significant by the Elders and/or government officials in the state; and/or
4. Unsurveyed areas adjacent to culturally or historically significant areas already surveyed and which are suspected of yielding additional information or which have significance that may be altered through development.

29

considered extremely significant to all Palauans, not just those from Ngeremlengui. It is also thought by some in the community to be under consideration as a tourist destination in the next couple of years, although the state leaders did not mention it in their interviews.

Table 3 identifies the sites already recorded in region B:NM-3 (Imeong). Three sites, Imeungs Traditional Village (B:NM-3:1) (Figure 9), Ngeruuchel Taro Patch (B:NM-3:24) and Ii ra Ngebesek [Milad's Cave] (B:NM-3:25) are among the most significant sites in all of Palau. The significance of sites in this region made the need to follow proper protocols of paramount concern. Proper protocol coupled with the intent to investigate an area that might be under consideration for development led the archaeology section to rely more heavily on the results from the oral history/ethnography section through interviews with Elders and state leaders. This was also one of the considerations that led the office to initially request that this project be considered a joint report by the two sections. After the NPS approved the project in January 2012 as a joint project, the development and implementation of the survey and fieldwork reflected a more interconnected methodology between the two.

Table 3: List of identified sites from Olsudong et al. 1998, p 50. The list includes cross-referencing information from other sources.

Name	New Site Numbers	Division of Cultural Affairs 1996 Database	Gumerman, Snyder and Masse, 1981, 1990	Lucking 1981, 1984	Osborne 1966	Van Tilburg, 1991
Imeungs Traditional Village	B:NM-3:1	B:NM-3:1	B:NM-3:1	B:NM:2	B1	
Nglebang Traditional Village	B:NM-3:2	B:NM-3:2	B:NM-3:2		B1	PN 2
Terrace Set	B:NM-3:3	B:NM-3:3	B:NM-3:3		B1	
Terrace Set	B:NM-3:4	B:NM-3:4	B:NM-3:4	B:NM:3	B1	
Terrace Set	B:NM-3:5	B:NM-3:5	B:NM-4:5	B:NM:4	B1	
Ngerutechei Traditional Village	B:NM-3:6	B:NM-3:6	B:NM-3:6	B:NM:10		
Ulechotong Traditional Village	B:NM-3:7	B:NM-3:7	B:NM-3:7		B1	
Terrace Set	B:NM-3:8	B:NM-3:8	B:NM-3:8	B:NM:4	B1	
Ibaberong Terrace Set	B:NM-3:9	B:NM-3:9	B:NM-3:9	B:NM:5	B1	
Roisbefuu Traditional Village	B:NM-3:10	B:NM-3:10	B:NM-3:10	B:NM:11		
Trenches	B:NM-3:11	B:NM-3:11	B:NM-3:11			
Stone Features	B:NM-3:12	B:NM-3:12	B:NM-3:12			
Ngesisech Traditional Village	B:NM-3:13	B:NM-3:13	B:NM-3:13	B:NM:6		
Btelulachang ra Dechor	B:NM-3:14	B:NM-3:14	B:NM-3:14			
Terrace Set	B:NM-3:15	B:NM-3:15	B:NM-3:15	B:NM:7		
Terrace Set	B:NM-3:16	B:NM-3:16	B:NM-3:16	B:NM:8		
Terrace Set and Taro Patch	B:NM-3:17	B:NM-3:17	B:NM-3:17			
Kerekur Traditional Village	B:NM-3:18					
Terraces and Stone Features	B:NM-3:19					
Terraces	B:NM-3:20					
Historic Features	B:NM-3:21					
Steps	B:NM-3:22					
Ngerutoel Area	B:NM-3:23					
Ngeruuchel Taro Patch	B:NM-3:24					
Ii ra Ngebesek	B:NM-3:25					
Ngeruach	B:NM-3:26					
Iechadeluolu	B:NM-3:27				B1	PN 27
Stone Platform	B:NM-3:28					

Ngeremlengui State is one of the states in the Republic of Palau where traditional protocol maintains a strong foothold in many ways. This was demonstrated early on in the survey process. Interviewees deferred to and recommended that the ethnographic portion of the survey team make sure to meet with the High Chief of Ngeremlengui, Ngirturong who is also the High Chief of Imeong.

Chief Rechididerong in Ngeremlengui expressed concern that the BAC/HPO follows appropriate protocol for communicating with traditional leaders and asking permission during his interview (see Part II of this report, Kloulubad and Marsh 2012 for details). This adds to the amount of time that must be spent securing permission, but demonstrating respect and willingness to follow proper protocol is essential to maintaining the support of the people in any community in Palau.

Additionally, as an office meant to promote the preservation and maintenance of both tangible and intangible aspects of Palauan culture, the office has put into place and continues to observe traditional protocols in many ways. This has meant that prior to entering the field the BAC/HPO meets with the

Governor to obtain authorization to conduct research in their state for the year. The Governor may then set up one or more meetings between the office and the state community (though that did not occur for this survey).

The importance of continuing to observe the traditional protocol were confirmed by other interviews conducted for this reconnaissance survey. An extremely important consideration for Ngeremlengui State generally, and Imeong village specifically, confirms that these approaches are still considered relevant by the state governors and the community members themselves. Surveyed community members continued to recommend that the researchers must speak with the High Chief of the hamlet or state and it is clear that they only feel comfortable after they understand that this step is to be part of the research process. It is important to note the strength and continuity of these protocols as in recent years the researchers have heard many of those of the younger generations in Palau are not remembering such protocols any longer or are thinking that traditional protocols may be bypassed.

The type of information which needed to be gathered to make recommendations, including safety issues, and about the information that should be collected from an intensive survey, as well concepts that may have been overlooked in previous work is described in the following section. Additional detail can be found in Part II of this report.

Safety and Accessibility Issues

Certain safety issues have more recently come to the forefront when conducting BAC/HPO surveys. The survey of Peleliu State in 2010 and the survey conducted in Ngardmau State in 2012 highlight the potential dangers of surveying interior areas of Palau's states. For Ngardmau State, the conditions were so unsafe that the survey had to be halted and limited to a reconnaissance survey (see discussion in Finney and Kloulechad 2012 and Marsh and Kloulubak 2012). Such issues are important to the archaeology and ethnography sections as both sections comprise the survey team.

UXO (Unexploded Ordnance)

The BAC/HPO Oral History and Ethnography staff queried two hunters (one of whom had also been an archaeological surveyor for a resident senior

archaeologist for a couple of years) to gather their first hand experiences and other understandings of the location and amount of UXO that might pose as a danger to those conducting a survey.

According to the two hunters surveyed, Gener M. Sangalang and Feliciano Yanru, many areas of Ngeremlengui's interior and village areas contain UXO (Sangalang, Interview, 21 Sept. 2012; Yanru, Interview, 25 Aug. 2012). Parts of Imeong village and areas around Ngeremetengel village are said to contain UXO though certain UXO may have been cleared over the years according to one informant. It appears to be highly likely that UXO continue to exist within and around those village areas.

Feliciano Yanru, noted that large bombs had been seen in the area around Milad's Cave, (B:NM-3:25) in the past and was unsure if those bombs were still there (Yanru, Interview, 25 Aug. 2012). Both hunters agreed that some bombs are still there as well as numerous hand grenades and other smaller UXO. One informant noted that the UXO was not too close to the Cave itself and also shared that some farm tools remain there, left behind by the Japanese during their administration of Palau (Sangalang, Interview, 21 Sept. 2012).

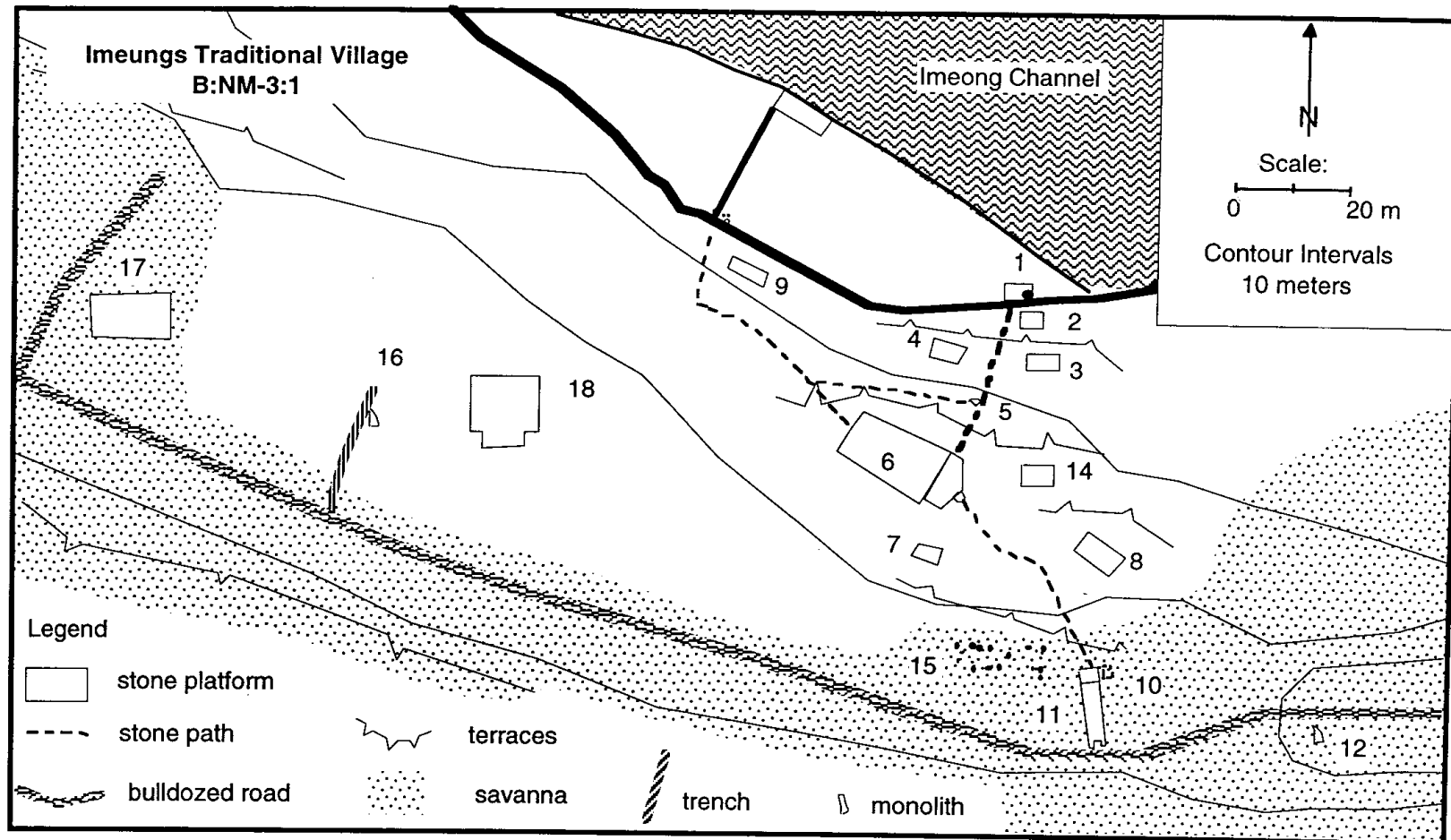


Figure 9: Map of B:NM-3:1, Imeungs Traditional Village, from Olsudong et al. 1998, page 53. This was also one of the sites for the visual documentation training exercise.

For archaeological region 4, Ngermeskang, and region 5, Ngerdesiur, Ngermeskang was said to have UXO mostly in the forest areas while Ngerdesiur was stated by one hunter to also have UXO present though the other hunter had not heard of any (Sangalang, Interview, 21 Sept. 2012; Yanru, Interview, 25 Aug. 2012). An airplane that crashed during World War II exists in region 5 (Sangalang, Interview, 21 Sept. 2012).

Regarding the final areas inquired about, regions 6 and 7 where three Japanese homesteads and farming areas existed during the Japanese administration, UXO were said to exist around the homestead areas. One hunter noted that also around the homestead areas are traditional blai (clan house) stone platforms as well as Japanese administration-era gates, river dam generator, trucks, bottles, concrete posts and concrete house foundations associated with the Japanese settlements (Yanru, Interview, 25 Aug. 2012). As mentioned earlier, however, regions 6 and 7 were not considered options for more intensive survey work until certain cultural considerations, which cannot be discussed in this report, are resolved.

Bauxite Test Pits

The presence of bauxite and bauxite mining in the past means that bauxite test pits do occur in Ngeremlengui's State's landscape. These test pits are randomly distributed and often impossible to see until one is literally on top of them. To fall into such a pit that may be 8 meters or more deep (Wickler et al. 2005, p. 344), which has occurred in at least one previous archaeological survey, could result in serious injury. Though the two hunters had heard of the existence of these pits, they did not have any information as to where the pits were specifically located.

Topography

A very real challenge to completing any survey of the interior is the topography, and the need for experienced guides to safely and efficiently navigate through the dense forests and savannas that define these regions. While it is certainly possible to investigate some areas around the villages of B:NM-3 without guides, it can severely curtail the amount of time that can be spent surveying, since much of the day would be spent navigating into and out of the regions without getting lost or stuck in an inaccessible area. Experience has shown that a knowledgeable

guide who can find the hunting trails, or negotiate an easier way back to the Compact Road near where the vehicle was parked is far more efficient than finding oneself miles from the car, or stuck in a swamp and having to climb out to reach an exit point. All of this limits the amount of area that can be effectively surveyed. Fortunately, for the reconnaissance survey, an experienced guide was available. However, he may be going off-island to continue college in the near future and may not be available for a future intensive level survey. Working with the state government and with experienced hunters to ensure the best guides are available will be key to a successful survey.

Discussion

The need to observe proper protocols, maintain important safety standards and collect information of value concerning tangible and intangible cultural heritage led the archaeology section to focus on one region within Ngeremlengui as the top priority for intensive level surveying. Evidence suggests that there is much more information to be collected throughout the state.

Figure 10 shows examples of some recent development in the area. Despite receiving no specific information

concerning development for the region, there are steps being made to improve the area through small projects such as coconut plantations and public restrooms. Figure 11 identifies some of the as yet undeveloped land within B:NM-3. Much of this area is considered unsurveyed and is recommended for more intensive surveying during future fieldwork.

Currently only three villages are inhabited. Olsudong et al. (1998) recorded 19 villages in the first survey of the state. Prior research suggests that many more villages remain unexamined. Kramer (1919) recorded eight inhabited villages and 26 that were deserted (p. 136). Lucking, referencing Parmentier, suggests that there may have been 40 villages during the peak of occupation within the state. (Lucking 1981, p.43)

If one considers based on this information that the state held between 34 and 40 villages at some time, then there must be between 15 and 21 villages unaccounted for in the archaeological record. Whether or not any of these can be found in the priority area remains to be seen, but to begin with the areas around some of the most significant sites in Palau would seem a plausible goal for more in-depth investigation.



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Figure 10: Examples of current development in Ngeremlengui. (a) Public restroom on municipal dock in Ngermetengel; (b) Coconut Plantation Project; (c) Dock and buildings in Ngermetengel. The area to the right was dredged so deeper draft vessels could have access; (d) Regional health center.



(a)



(b)

Figure 11: Terrain of B:NM-3, Imeong. (a) The hill on the right is the location of B:NM-3:25, Ii er a Ngebesek; (b) Example of the landscape showing terraces and hills in the distance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

It is evident that there remains great potential for the discovery and identification of both traditional and historic sites within the undocumented areas of Ngeremlengui State. Although this reconnaissance level survey focused primarily on region B:NM-3, information collected regarding the other regions suggest that there is great potential for recording additional cultural and historic sites throughout the state. We strongly recommend that a series of intensive level surveys be the next steps to documenting the cultural and historic heritage of Ngeremlengui and that this information be incorporated into the ongoing state by state survey project that is of primary importance to the Republic of Palau. Prior to the commencement of the intensive level survey the Bureau of Arts and Culture/Historic Preservation Office (BAC/HPO), and the Historic Preservation Fund grant managers need to consider

the following measures to ensure that the safety of the survey team is addressed, and that the optimal amount of terrain can be covered given the ever present time and budget constraints of doing this level of survey work.

Collaboration

The development of the Ngeremlengui State reconnaissance survey in a year when the office was trying to clear a backlog of projects that resulted in the need to conduct three state surveys and the production of multiple reports and other products necessitated a revision not just of how surveys were conducted, but of how the office understands and perceives the survey process.

Of the three state surveys conducted this year (Ngchesar, Ngardmau and Ngeremlengui) only Ngeremlengui was developed by the office to be jointly researched, surveyed and reported between two sections, archaeology and oral history/ethnography, rather than in tandem, which is how prior surveys had typically been conducted. For tandem surveys the archaeology team begins surveying first, then the oral history/ethnography team begins to collect information based both on their list of goals and also on the results

of the archaeology team in the field. This joint project was more of a collaborative effort between the two sections. For nine months, from the time the project notification was approved by the NPS in January 2012 until two weeks before the end of the project in September 2012, the archaeology and the oral history/ethnography sections worked together to conduct background research, prepare for the visual documentation training and collect information for the jointly produced final report.

Unfortunately, for reasons that have never been made clear, the NPS revoked their approval for a joint report in September, days before the end of the project cycle, forcing both sections to produce last minute individual reports. This has led to more overlap between the two reports than would otherwise be encountered were the projects and reports produced in tandem as are other surveys that are conducted in the office. The success of this project despite the last minute alteration from outside the office suggests that future projects of this type, combining resources, conducting research and providing training opportunities for capacity building for office staff, should be considered and is one recommendation to result from this experience.

Training

The inclusion of training as part of the survey was extremely beneficial in building capacity among local staff of the Bureau of Arts and Culture/Historic Preservation Office (BAC/HPO). Additionally, the exercise allowed for team building among staff from the different sections of the BAC/HPO and allowed for survey team members to see how they might assist each other in conducting survey work.

Furthermore, the training was cost effective. For approximately the cost of sending one BAC/HPO staff member off-island, the BAC/HPO was able to bring an expert to Palau where all staff had the ability to gain experience with their ability to document effectively. In this case, staff members from both the archaeology section and the oral history and ethnography section were able to attend and benefit from this training. For these reasons, it is highly recommended that training when feasible continue to be part of future surveys.

State Protocol

The conduct of an intensive level survey in Ngeremlengui State should continue to follow standard BAC/HPO protocols and traditional Palauan protocols. Permission to conduct a survey within the

state should be sought from the state Governor and traditional leaders. Further, for the ethnographic portion of the survey, researchers should seek guidance from the Ngeremlengui State Member of the Klobak er a Ibetel a Cherechar (Society of Historians) as to the appropriate measures necessary to observe in conducting a survey within the state. Recommendations as to those Elders and others considered both appropriate and knowledgeable from whom to gather information should be sought from these three sets of state leaders. Attempts should be made to start the survey process with the relevant traditional titleholders or the titleholders' representatives.

Safety, Accessibility, and Related Issues

UXO (Unexploded Ordnance)

Some UXO is known to exist within and in areas surrounding Imeong traditional and modern village. Working with local guides and informants will be important in understanding where these UXO exist. Areas known to have UXO under consideration by the survey team to investigate should either be first cleared of UXO, or individuals with a specialization in the detection and clearance of UXO should be contracted and allowed to accompany the survey team

to alert them of potential hazards. Cleared Ground Demining, for example, a not for profit NGO originating in the United Kingdom, has done considerable clearing in the Republic of Palau since 2009 and has been very effective in assisting archaeologists in the past with their survey needs. During the BAC/HPO Peleliu State survey conducted in 2010 Cleared Ground Demining was contracted to accompany the archaeological portion of the survey team specifically to detect any dangers and ensure the safety of the BAC/HPO survey team. So, there is already precedent in Palau to incorporate some type of UXO assessment into archaeological surveying.

An assessment of such conditions of portions of Ngeremlengui State would provide information to the state that could assist it in applying for funding to clear some of the state's unexploded ordinance.

Bauxite Test Pits

Bauxite test pits were found to exist in Ngeremlengui State. However, these exist outside of Imeong traditional and modern village. It is strongly suggested that should the survey venture beyond Imeong village or conduct intensive level surveys in the state's northern or eastern regions, the survey team be

allowed to locate and hire local guides who can safely and accurately lead the survey team around these obstacles and who already have experience navigating the forests and savannas around the state. Even if such guides did not have knowledge of specific sites to visit, the ability to follow an experienced guide through the rugged terrain Babeldaob is key to a successful intensive level survey.

Topography

A request to the state government for guides has always been an important component to conduct the archaeological survey. During the course of the 2012 reconnaissance survey, the survey team was extremely fortunate to have a guide who had experience both as a hunter and as an archaeological surveyor within his state.

Based on recent experiences with less experienced guides from other states, it is recommended that the request for guides be improved from past practices by respectfully requesting guides with experience with the interior area, and also with guiding people through difficult terrain, or, if such guides are not available during the time scheduled for the survey, a request could be made to invite an experienced guide from

another area to assist with the survey. This is not the ideal, since as mentioned previously it is important to have people from the state be the voice for the state. However if the surveys need to proceed according to scheduling requirements from outside the office (i.e. the granting agency) this may be the only solution to maintaining an acceptable survey schedule.

Survey Schedule

With changes in the management and job descriptions of professional staff this past year a revised survey schedule that reflects the realities of working in Palau needed to be generated. The revised survey schedule tries to take into account the many absences due to illness or family obligations that left the archaeology section without one or both of its technical staff for 25-50% of this past survey season. There are also the responsibilities that most of the BAC/HPO staff has outside of the survey work, such as Section 106 compliance or other historical clearance permitting, all of which reduces the amount of time a survey can reasonably be conducted. This project, with its focus on one region, will hopefully allow the archaeology and oral history/ethnography sections to adequately prepare and implement a survey that will yield valuable information without creating unrealistic

expectations on anyone's part. Conducting a survey of a village or a portion of a region in a few months is a far more realistic pursuit than conducting a survey of the interior of a state, especially in light of the safety hazards that may be encountered anywhere in Palau.

Draft Reports

Palau is a thoughtful nation and the loss of the development and review of a draft report in the year prior to the submission of a final report, one of the decisions made by the NPS this year, reduces the amount of time Elders, Chiefs, government officials and others can digest and consider the information in the archaeological inventories, and runs counter to the professional standards noted in various NPS policies and other guides for professional standards. This is especially true for the conduct of ethnographic research in which it is imperative for the affected communities to be provided opportunity to review. In the Principles of Ethnographic Research section of the NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline⁷ it states that researchers will “review their draft research designs and reports with the affected communities and revise the drafts as appropriate”

⁷ (Source: http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/nps28/28chap10.htm)

(Chp 10 B.1.b). For Palau as with other indigenous communities, there are inherent difficulties in documenting oral forms of history and other traditions, and also with including information about archaeological sites and features in documents that are then disseminated outside of Palau, and potentially around the world through the Internet.

Community review allows for the community to determine what is allowable or considered appropriate and correct as public information and what should be maintained as confidential owing to the information being sacred, owned, or under the purview of the state or members of the state. For a reconnaissance survey such as this perhaps such extended review is not necessary, but the intensive level surveys need to be produced in such a way that the people who need the information the most, and are the most affected by it, are allowed the time to reflect on what the public dissemination of newly documented information will mean for their future. Additionally, this review process cannot be rushed. Titleholders in Palau have been assessed to be “in a sense the busiest individuals in the community” (Barnett 1949, p. 211). Although many socio-cultural changes have occurred in the years since Barnett’s initial assessment it appears to hold true

today as in many ways Palauan traditional systems maintain a strong presence. This truism of being the “busiest individuals in the community” may also apply to modern day leaders such as state governors as well since within Palau, leaders are both respected but also accessible and highly obligated to meeting community needs and desires.

A balance should exist between the needs of the granting agency and the needs of the communities and the people who live there. Furthermore, to remove adequate time for review of a draft report, which has traditionally taken place the fiscal year after the conduct of the annual survey or surveys, would be to jeopardize the professional standards which call for review of research by the affected communities. It is therefore recommended that the BAC/HPO and the NPS develop a project review timeline that takes into consideration the realities of the fiscal year and granting requirements with the need to conduct research in a culturally appropriate and professional manner by allowing an adequate amount of time for Palauan community review of the reports that concern the cultural, historical, and archaeological heritage of the Republic of Palau and its communities.

CONCLUSION

The shift from large scale reconnaissance and intensive level surveys to ones involving smaller geographical areas and fewer components means that the survey schedule for Palau will take more time than might be ideal for potential development and improvement projects that may be proposed in the coming decade or so. However, this shift has also led to a reconsideration of research designs and methodologies that may ultimately yield more in-depth analysis of the survey results. It remains to be seen if such a shift can also maintain the balance between the expectations of Palauans concerned with the preservation and accurate interpretation of their cultural heritage and outside granting agencies that have their own goals to meet. It is hoped that the recommendations of this survey will continue positive dialogue between all who are concerned with the significant historical and cultural heritage of Palau.

BIBLIOGRAPHY⁸

Barnett, Homer G.

1949 Palauan society: a study of contemporary native life in the Palau Islands (2nd printing ed.). Eugene: University of Oregon.

Blaiyok, K. Vince and W. R. Metes

1986 An Archaeological Survey Report of the Paving of Ngeremlengui Road and Water Distribution System, Ngeremlengui State, Republic of Palau. Division of Cultural Affairs, Republic of Palau.

Gumerman, George, D. Snyder and W. B. Masse

1981 An Archaeological Reconnaissance in the Palau Archipelago, Western Caroline Islands, Micronesia. Research Paper No. 23. Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Hijikata, Hisakatsu

1995 Collective Works of Hijikata Hisakatsu: Gods and Religion of Palau, Edited by Endo Hisashi. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Tokyo.

⁸ NOTE: These references are a compilation of references used for the 2011-2012 survey and those found in the 1998 report, which is referenced for background information in this report. Some of the references from the 1998 report are no longer available or were not found in the office in 2012 and cannot be verified. Others that are listed as draft may be available as a final version, for example with the series of reports on the Compact Road, but since the drafts were used for the older report they have been kept in the list without updated information.

Historic Preservation Fund Grants Manual, June 2007 release. U.S. National Park Service, Washington, DC, 408 pages.

Kesolei & Associates

(n.d.) Bureau of Arts and Culture (BAC) integrated planning process 2006-2008 (draft). Manuscript on file at Bureau of Arts and Culture/Palau Historic Preservation Office.

Kloulubak, S. and K. G. Marsh

2012 In-house Archaeological and Ethnographic Reconnaissance Survey in Ngeremlengui State, Part Two: Ethnographic Findings. Bureau of Arts and Culture, Republic of Palau.

Krämer, Augustin

1919 Ergebnisse der Sudsee-Expedition, 1909-1910. GM. Thilenius, de., II. Ethnographie, B and 3. Augustin Krämer,: Palau, Teilband 2. Siedelungen und Demographie. L. Friederichsen, Hamburg.

Liston, Jolie

1996 (draft) Archaeological Inventory Survey PNCC Telecommunication System - Babeldaob, Peleliu, Angaur, and Kayangel Islands, Republic of Palau. Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division. International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc., Honolulu, Hawaii.

Liston, Jolie

1999 (draft) Archaeological Data Recovery for the Compact Road, Babeldaob Island, Republic of Palau. Historic Preservation

Investigation Phase II Volume V: Lab Analysis, Synthesis and Recommendations. Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division, International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc., Honolulu, Hawaii.

Liston, Jolie, T. M. Mangieri, D., Grant, M. W. Kaschko and D. H. Tuggle

1998 (draft) Archaeological Data Recovery for the Compact Road, Babeldaob Island, Republic of Palau, Historic Preservation Investigations Phase II, Volume II: Fieldwork Reports. Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division, International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc., Honolulu, Hawaii.

Liston, Jolie, J. Tellei, U. Basilius, F. K. Rehuher

2002 Archaeological Survey, Monitoring, and Oral History of Bore Holes, Rock Quarries, and Coral Dredging Locations for the Compact Road, Babeldaob Island, Republic of Palau. Prepared for U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu by International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc., Honolulu, Hawaii.

Lucking, Laurie J.

1981 An Archaeological Investigation of the Prehistoric Palauan Terraces. Prepared for the Historic Preservation office of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the Palauan Historical and Cultural Preservation Commission. Manuscript on file in the BAC/HPO.

1984 An Archaeological Investigation of Prehistoric Palauan Terraces. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Lucking, Laurie J. and R. J. Parmentier

1990 Terraces and Traditions of Uluang: Ethnographic and Archaeological Perspectives on a Prehistoric Belauan Site. In *Micronesian Supplement*, edited by R. Hunter-Anderson, Vol 2: 125-136. University of Guam.

Olsudong, Rita, C. T. Emesiochel and E. T. Kloulechad

1998 (draft) Inventory of Cultural Sites and Oral History in Ngeremlengui and Aimeliik States. Vol. I. Inventory of Cultural Sites. Division of Cultural Affairs, Republic of Palau.

Osborne, Douglas

1966 The Archaeology of the Palau Islands: An Intensive Survey. Bishop Museum Bulletin 230, Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu.

Shuster, Donald R.

1982 Islands of Change in Palau: Church, School, and Elected Government, 1891-1981. Dissertation for Doctor of Education, University of Hawaii, Honolulu.

Snyder, David and B. M. Butler

1990 Archaeology and Historic Preservation in Palau. Final report prepared for the Micronesian Resources Study, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

1997 Palau Archaeology: Archaeology and Historic Preservation in Palau. Edited by William Hampton Adams. Micronesian Endowment for Historic Preservation, Republic of Palau and U.S. National Park Service, San Francisco.

Tellei, Julita., U. Basilius and F. K. Rehuher
2005 Palau Compact Road Archaeological Investigations,
Babeldaob Island, Republic of Palau, Phase I: Intensive
Archaeological Survey, Volume III: Oral History Documentation.
Prepared for the Department of the Army, U.S. Army Engineer
District, Honolulu, Hawaii by International Archaeological
Research Institute, Inc. Honolulu, Hawaii.

Van Tilburg, Joanne
1991 Anthropomorphic Stone Monoliths on the Island of Oreor
and Babeldaob, Republic of Palau, Micronesia. Bishop Occasional
Papers, vol. 31. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu.

Wickler, Stephen K., D. J. Addison, M. W. Kaschko, and T. S. Dye
2005 Palau Compact Road Archaeological Investigations,
Babeldaob Island, Republic of Palau, Phase I: Intensive
Archaeological Survey, Volume II: Section Survey Reports.
Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, Honolulu by
International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc. Honolulu,
Hawaii.

Palau Register of Historic Places

A main goal of the inventory of cultural and historic sites is the addition of new sites to the Palau Register of Historic Places. The information collected during archaeological and ethnographic fieldwork is an essential component to identifying potential new sites for inclusion to the register.

Eligibility for the Palau Register of Historic Places requires that the following conditions are met:

Significant districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects are those that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and

1. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Palauan history; or
2. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in Palauan History or Culture; or
3. That are associated with lyrics, folklore and traditions in Palauan culture; or

4. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

5. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Since this is a reconnaissance level assessment there are no recommendations for inclusion of any new sites at this time. However, this region has a number of significant sites, several of which are already on the Register so it is likely that the results of an intensive survey will yield additional sites eligible for nomination to the Register.

Appendix A contains a list of current registered sites in Ngeremlengui State.

APPENDIX A: REGISTERED SITES FOR NGEREMLENGUI STATE (NM)

As of August 2012, 15 sites have been registered on the Palau Register of Historic Places. The list below is organized by site number.

Site Number	Site Name	Site Type	Date Registered	Notes
B:NМ-2:2	Beluu er a Uluang	Traditional Village	October 4, 1989	
B:NМ-2:4	Hodai	Historic Remains, WWII	April 28, 2000	
B:NМ-2:9 f14	Oublallang	Terrace/Monolith	February 14, 2001	
B:NМ-2:19	Olbatel (ked)	Terrace Set	May 25, 2005	
B:NМ-3:1	Beluu er a Imeungs	Stone Platform	October 4, 1989	
B:NМ-3:2 f12	Chilong	Monoliths	May 24, 2005	
B:NМ-3:6 f4	Diong er a Imeched	Bathing Area	May 8, 1996	Part of B:NМ-3:6, the Ngerutechei Traditional Village
B:NМ-3:6 f10	Bai er a Ibangellei	Stone Platform	May 8, 1996	Part of B:NМ-3:6, the Ngerutechei Traditional Village
B:NМ-3:6 f15	Olekull er a Ruchel	Stone Platform	May 18, 1996	Part of B:NМ-3:6, the Ngerutechei Traditional Village
B:NМ-3:6 f23	Uchul a Rebong	Iliud (stone platform)	May 8, 1996	Part of B:NМ-3:6, the Ngerutechei Traditional Village
B:NМ-3:10	Roisbeluu	Traditional Village	July 6, 2001	

Site Number	Site Name	Site Type	Date Registered	Notes
B:NМ-3:13	Beluu er a Ngesisech	Traditional Village	September 21, 2000	
B:NМ-3:25	Ii er a Ngebeseκ	Cave	May 21, 1997	
B:NМ-3:27	Iechadeluolu	Stone Feature	May 14, 2010	
B:NМ-4:4	Asahi Plantation	Historic Remains, Administration	May 14, 2010	

APPENDIX B: VISUAL DOCUMENTATION SURVEY TRAINING REPORT

Introduction

A central component to conducting the survey for Ngeremlengui State was to fold in training to build the capacity of both the archaeology and oral history/ethnography sections to more effectively collect information in the field. This training developed skills and abilities that will continue to enhance the level and type of information that can be gathered and add to the documentation record of each state within the Republic of Palau. It was an intensive three-week training course. Skills for some of the Bureau of Arts and Culture/Historic Preservation Office (BAC/HPO) survey team members had to be built from some very basic levels. Some of the survey team members had not operated a digital still and/or video camera for survey work before or had done so with very little training. This training taught the staff the photographic and video skills needed to better record archaeology sites, including their socio-cultural and environmental contexts, in as much detail as possible. The training addressed the question of how best to

record and document these sites in a manner that can offer a more detailed accounting of the sites and provide compelling visual evidence to bolster the Bureau of Arts and Culture/Historic Preservation Office's commitment to protect significant cultural and historical sites.

The training also focused on the staff's need to raise awareness of the importance of cultural and historic heritage in Palau which is one of the largest threats to preserving Palau's cultural and historic resources. This was to build on the investigation of ways to generate interest and support within both the public and government sectors for the potentially fragile and significant cultural and historical sites.

The three week training occurred between May 22 and June 07, 2012. The workshop consisted of one week of classroom instruction, one week of field work in Ngeremlengui, and one week of post-field processing of video and photographs.

Venue

The visual documentation survey training was originally conceived as an integral component of the Ngeremlengui reconnaissance survey. All of the field

sites were carefully chosen over several months by the archaeology and oral history sections in order to provide opportunities for staff to experience different environments and documentation styles. After careful review three sites were chosen for the training:

1. The remains of a pineapple cannery and other artifacts that have been collected as a sightseeing location for tourists;
2. The Imeungs Traditional Village (B:NM-3:1), which had been recently cleaned; and
3. An area in the interior of B:NM-3 containing overgrown platforms and historic caves.

The first site was an excellent location for testing out all of the themes learned during the training, practicing video documentation and still photography using a wide range of artifacts.

The second site was used for more still photography experience as well as learning how to video interview members of the community in an efficient and respectful manner.

The third site gave the participants the chance to learn about visual documentation techniques useful in archaeological surveying, including how to take

optimal photos in low contrast environments (i.e. monochromatic areas where there is difficulty distinguishing between features).

Themes: Still photography and video production

Many considerations regarding survey visual documentation were shared during the training. An important aspect of the training was to be able to hear the considerations in person and have the ability to ask for further clarification. This was crucial in that, as noted earlier, some of the BAC/HPO survey team members had not operated a digital still and/or video camera for survey work before or had done so with very little training. Another important element in this training exercise was the ability to implement these considerations in the field under the guidance of an expert. Time was also spent in the classroom with the instructor post field assignments, examining the results of the assignments in order to better understand to what degree the considerations had been successfully implemented and what might allow for even more meaningful documentation. The following themes were addressed in the training:

Point of View: Considering the point of view that the camera is capturing and presenting to the audience

Observer. These shots consist of pictures or video taken from outside the realm of action.

Participant. Taking pictures or video from within the realm of action. For example, capturing the image from over the shoulder of a participant to ‘see’ what they see while performing the activity. Talking to participants can be key to understanding what their point of view is which then provides insight into documenting in a more accurate or thorough way.

Object/Activity. Taking pictures or video that focuses in on the object or activity itself. When placed with other documentation, capturing these images can highlight particular aspects of the object or activity but place it within context as well as make the material more interesting.

Composition: The composition of a photograph can make a difference in how engaging the

photograph is and how well it captures the elements of the feature or activity

Rule of thirds. The subject of much documentation is not centered but rather follows a rule of thirds wherein the subject somewhat off-center.

What not to do. For example, do not capture the backside of people, try not to document under the midday sun, do not remain too far away from the subject, do not take single shots of a subject only, and try not to take ‘flat’ shots of a subject (with no diagonal).

Diagonals. Visual documentation that is not ‘flat’ but is taken at a diagonal from the subject or captures a diagonal line within the subject itself.

Distance. Get closer to the subject so that it is better highlighted.

Horizontal versus vertical shots. Horizontal shots read better to the audience than vertical shots. More venues are available in this format as well.

Lighting and Background

Time of day. Morning and evening lighting is best versus mid-day.

Cloudy lighting. Cloudy lighting is better than sunny lighting as it can create an environment wherein there are no shadows.

Position of the sun. The sun should be behind the photographer or videographer.

Solid backgrounds. Solid backgrounds allow the subject to be highlighted versus busy backgrounds which distract or compete with the subject.

Dark backgrounds. Dark backgrounds better allow the subject to appear lighter with more clarity to the subject's features than a light background.

Context

Scales. Professional scales are important tools to incorporate in the visual documentation of a

subject. For certain subjects or when professional tools are not available or applicable, human scale is an effective tool (i.e., using a person for scale).

Demonstration. Demonstration of a subject can provide for better comprehension of the subject being captured. For example, historic machinery related to a pineapple cannery in Ngeremlengui State is difficult to comprehend in photographs. However, when someone was placed at the machinery as if performing the action of operating the machine, the different components of the machinery became much easier to distinguish in the photograph and video (see Figure 12).

Multiple pictures/videography shots. Some of the types of multiple pictures or videography shots are to take photographs or videography shots from a distance, the 'middle,' and up-close; from a cause and effect perspective; from the perspective of telling a story in chronological or spatial order; and so forth.

Video Production

Roles. Plan for and assign director/producer and other roles as feasible.

Create a sense of teamwork but with a clear division of roles to ensure that all tasks are taken care of.

Sound. Sound is a very important consideration, even when capturing cultural and historic resource features.

Given the situation, capture some elements of natural sound, however, have the subject be miked so that the information being shared is not competing with the sounds of the environment in which the activity is taking place.

Training Format

The training lasted three weeks and included three distinct components: 1. Camera and video recorder basics; 2. Field photography and videography; 3. Formatting and layout techniques. The training itself was comprised of class lecture as well as field assignments that provided opportunity to implement capturing processes discussed in the classroom.

Week One: Camera and video recorder basics. This included learning how to use the various digital cameras and digital video recorders in the office, photography and videography basics. Discussion also focused on affordable, or ideally freeware, software options for enhancing or manipulating photos and video to maximize their effectiveness.

Week Two: Field photography and videography. This included learning the basics of photography and videography in the field but instruction also included outlining contextual considerations when selecting a shot and how to take an engaging or compelling photo to better promote or illustrate the significance of a site or feature. Time was spent in various types of field environments in Ngeremlengui State—in the jungle as well as at maintained traditional and historic sites. The training explored the documentation of cultural and historic features as well as the capture of oral history through the conduct of interviews and guided tour of cultural resources.

Week Three: Formatting and layout techniques. This portion of the training explored the types of products that can be generated from the work and how to produce a final product for public dissemination by

learning photo and video selection and editing considerations. A draft of the public awareness booklet was the final product of this portion of the training exercise. The instructor also provided guidance in developing the outline for this summary report of the training.

Results

Skills learned ranged from:

- learning the techniques of how to operate visual documentation equipment such as digital cameras, digital video cameras and microphones;
- learning to think about the number and types of visual evidence that can be documented with archaeological and ethnographic goals and creating strong documentation records using this evidence;
- learning the different tasks involved in creating visual records and the roles needed to carry out each task effectively;
- learning tricks of the trade that optimize the capturing of significant features of both tangible and intangible resources.

One of the challenges of working in overgrown or heavily forested areas is that visual documentation of sites and features can be limited by the lack of contrast to be found where there are only shades of greens and browns. The visual documentation survey training provided enormous benefits to learning new techniques to photograph in regions with little contrast. In addition to understanding basic photography techniques the archaeology section was introduced to the value video documentation can have recording sites, especially in areas where features are difficult to identify. This is compounded by the time constraints the survey team often finds itself under.

The ability of each staff member to document cultural and historical features as well as capture oral history and ethnographic content visibly increased as evidenced in their comfort and ease in working with equipment but also in their class assignment products.

Next Steps: Continued Training as Capacity Building

The inclusion of training as part of the survey was extremely beneficial in building capacity among local staff of the Bureau of Arts and Culture/Historic

Preservation Office (BAC/HPO). Additionally, the exercise allowed for team building among staff from the different sections of the BAC/HPO and allowed for survey team members to see how they might assist each other in conducting survey work.

Furthermore, the training was cost effective. For approximately the cost of sending one BAC/HPO staff member off-island, the BAC/HPO was able to bring an expert to Palau where all staff had the ability to build capacity in their ability to document effectively. In this case, staff members from both the archaeology section and the oral history and ethnography section were able to attend and benefit from this training. For these reasons, it is highly recommended that training continue to be part of future surveys.

Figures 12 and 13 offer some examples of the photographs and photography techniques learned and used during the training. Additional photographs were used for the public awareness booklet, a 12 page publication titled, “Rolel e kede Mo medengei a ureor er a bek el rak” or “*The pathway to understanding annual surveys*,” that was produced as part of this project.

INDIVIDUALS COMPLETING THE TRAINING (in alphabetical order)

Apol Adelbai, Koror State
Sylvia Bekebekmad, BAC/HPO
Suzanne S. Finney, BAC/HPO
Temacl Kloulechad, BAC/HPO
Sean Kyota, Belau National Museum
Kelly G. Marsh, BAC/HPO
Gener Moon, Ngeremlengui State
Jordean D.O. Remengesau, Belau National Museum
Remy Rengulbai, Airai State
Elsa Sugar, Airai State
Lynda Dee Tellames, BAC/HPO



(a)



(c)



(b)

Figure 12: Example of using diagonals and documentation from the training exercise. (a) A piece of machinery from the Japanese pineapple cannery circa 1920s; (b) Remy Rengulbai and Jordean D.O. Remengesau (l-r) photographing Tmael Kloulechad and Alan Burns (l-r) investigating how the machine might have operated; (c) Tmael Kloulechad “demonstrates” how the machine was operated.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 13: Examples of changing perspective to help highlight a feature. (a) Kelly Marsh kneels on the grass to take a photo of the stone trail at Imeungs Traditional Village (B:NМ-3:1); (b) A view of the trail from this perspective; (c) Feature B:NМ-3:1 fl, the Omeroel Bad/Iliud er a Elsechei. In addition to use of the “Rule of Thirds,” this photo also illustrates some of the challenges of taking photographs in areas with mainly green and brown hues.

APPENDIX C: EXCERPTS FROM THE VISUAL DOCUMENTATION SURVEY TRAINING WORKBOOK

Each participant in the visual documentation survey training workshop received a workbook compiled over many years and many trainings by Professor Allan F. Burns of the University of Florida. The workshop consisted of one week of classroom instruction, one week of field work in Ngeremlengui, and one week of post-field processing of video and photographs. The excerpts included here highlight some of the important information and useful hints provided during the workshop. For the most part the participants were not experienced photographers or videographers and this training allowed everyone to build an essential set of skills that will be useful for all future archaeological and ethnographic projects conducted by the offices that participated.

Excerpts from the workbook: “Documenting Culture: Photography, Video, and the Uses of Visual Anthropology: A Workbook for Combining Photography, Oral History, Video, Multi Media

and Cultural Preservation for Cultural Resistance,” by Allan F. Burns, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida. Used with permission.

Introduction

Remember how exciting it was to hear an elder person tell you something truly amazing about the old days? Remember the interesting way some older person you once knew had to do something like weave, make a basket, or fish? Remember the knowledge and wisdom that people talk about as being so important to previous generations? Remember the skills people once had at oratory, at singing, at playing games? It is sad that so much of this knowledge and wisdom has been lost just because no one took the time to record things well for future generations. This workshop will help you find important local knowledge that can and should be preserved for the future.

Of course not everything should be recorded. The first rule of documentary work is to respect the wishes and ethics of the people and not record when people ask you not to do so. Likewise, documenting your community's traditions ever take the place of really *doing* those traditions. But sometimes the attention

that is paid to a tradition by photographing it, videorecording, and making it public is a way to encourage more people to carry out the tradition. The use of videorecorders, computers, cameras, and other technologies can also attract young people with technical interests and training to help in the conservation of traditions and their continuing use in a community.

Some people argue that photography, video, or audio recording some event or ceremony diminishes its importance. This workshop takes the opposite view. By bringing modern technology in to serve the messages of oral historians, performers, and other community experts, photography, video, and audio recording can highlight this wisdom and make it even more interesting for others.

One of the most critical needs of Historic Preservation Offices, American Indians, Micronesians, and others is to document and preserve the knowledge and activities of elders, ceremonies, art forms, and oral traditions before they are forever lost. As camcorders and good quality audio recorders have become more available, many people are preserving these traditions on digital media. While digital video recording has enjoyed great

popularity for recording dances, cultural events, and traditions, professional quality work has often been left to outsiders rather than becoming part of the skills of people who work in local museums, archive offices, and culture centers. This workshop is designed to develop skills in using professional equipment, to conduct culturally appropriate interviews, and to create high quality programs for use in communities. The emphasis is on still photography, audio recording, and video. Digital editing will be discussed as one of many ways to produce materials that are useful to your community that are of high quality.

While the newest and highest resolution cameras and camcorders are nice to have, spectacularly good productions can be made with any good camcorder or camera. Knowing how to compose, use lighting, and document an entire process is much more important than the cost of the equipment used. The lowest consumer level equipment today is better than professional equipment used 30 years ago. It is the person behind the camera who creates compelling and useful work, not the equipment.

Purposes and goals

The purposes of this workshop are to (1.) develop skills in using still cameras, professional audio recording equipment, and video for documenting oral histories, cultural events, and other cultural activities, and (2.) Plan and complete a documentation project that can be completed in during the time of the workshop.

In addition, participants will become familiar with working with visual materials created by participants as well as those created by others and will develop skills in the interpretation and content analysis of photos and video.

At the end of the workshop each of the groups will have completed a multi-media project, consisting of still photographs, audio materials, and video. The video production will be a ten to fifteen minute documentary with titles, special effects, and credits. The quality will be such that it can be immediately used in your museum or culture center.

Expectations

Participants are not expected to be familiar with equipment, editing, or production, although some of you may have these skills. Instead you will have

hands-on training on the equipment. While some of you may enjoy working with a particular type of equipment, all participants are expected to become familiar with all equipment.

The workshop is intensive. We will work long days and nights, but the work will be enjoyable and creative.

What you will learn

- How to prepare for a documentation project
- How to document an archaeological site and processes of excavation
- How to operate still and video cameras
- How to use a professional audio recorder
- How to document oral traditions, performances like dances or crafts, music, and other cultural activities
- How to document people in a variety of settings--studio, home, outdoors.
- How to inventory and manage a collection of photographs, audio, and video
- How to prepare photographs, and other materials for use in your project or community

- How to incorporate what you learn in the workshop in to grant proposals

Other portions of the workbook included sections on:

- Working with Documentary Video and Photography
- Technique and Content in Video Programs
- How to Get a Good Picture
- Placement of Subject in Natural Context
- Division of Labor on a Video Crew
- Interviewing and Archiving
- Cultural Heritage Inventories
- Using still cameras to document cultural heritage
- The Importance of Cultural Context Interviews
- Production, Editing, and Review

Questions about the workshops or visual anthropology can be addressed to:

Allan Burns

Professor of Anthropology

University of Florida

Gainesville, FL 32611

Email:AFBURNS@UFL.EDU

© Allan Burns, May 20, 2012 Portions of this workbook may be reproduced and used for non-commercial purposes.

Author's note: This workbook has been prepared through my experience with National Park Service sponsored training projects in the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Mexico, El Salvador, the state of Florida, Eagle Butte, S.D., and in Washington, D.C. The workbook has also benefited from the help of students at the University of Florida where I teach visual anthropology.

