

### What is a moratorium?

A moratorium is a temporary suspension of activities.

### How long is Ngeanges moratorium?

Ngeanges moratorium begins March 2017 and ends September 2017 (six months). Ngeanges Island will be closed for all activities and public access during a rat eradication operation and monitoring period.

### Why is Ngeanges being put under a moratorium?

As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ngeanges Rock Island is the initial site for Koror State Department of Conservation and Law Enforcement, in partnership with Island Conservation and several relevant agencies, to pilot an invasive vertebrate eradication operation. The goal of this eradication is to restore and protect the biodiversity in the rock islands and build capacity for Koror State. This operation involves the use of toxic bait containing brodifacoum. The bait will be distributed throughout the island twice, with 21 days in between. The bait on the island will remain for a period of time. During this moratorium, it is advisable not to go near or land on Ngeanges.

### Is Brodifacoum dangerous?

Brodifacoum is highly toxic to rats, but not to crustacean species like land crabs and coconut crabs. When land crabs or coconut crabs eat the bait, the toxicant remains in their system. When humans eat the crustaceans, they can have an adverse reaction. Brodifacoum does not pose an immediate threat to human life, however if humans ingest a large amount of it, they can get sick.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

**Koror State Department of Conservation and Law Enforcement**

- 488-4001/8738
- Rangers 24/7 Line 488-2150

**Island Conservation**

- 775-3290

**Environmental Quality Protection Board**

- 488-1639/3600

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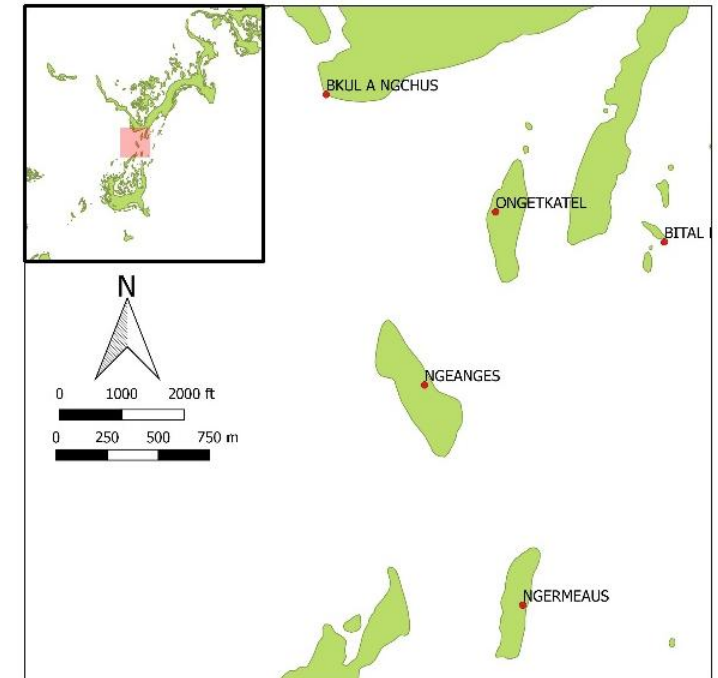


### NGEANGES ROCK ISLAND



# Ngeanges Rock Island Moratorium

The island is closed to public access and activities from **March - September 2017**



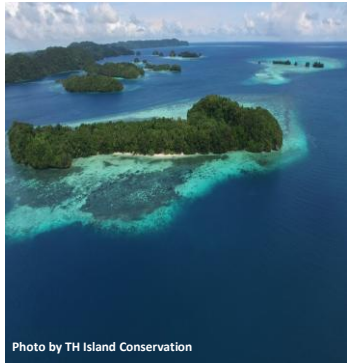


Photo by TH Island Conservation



Photo by TH Island Conservation



Photo by TH Island Conservation



Photo by TH Island Conservation



## Why is it important to protect Ngeanges Rock Island?

Historically, Ngeanges Island, like many of the Koror State Rock Islands, was inhabited by indigenous Palauans before the migration to the bigger islands, Koror and Babeldaob. Remnants of the presence of early Palauans can still be found today and there is an identified cultural site on the island. These habitats host a wide variety of unique plant and animal species critical to protect for cultural and subsistence value to the Palauans as well as for ecotourism ventures for the visitors.

As climate change continues to affect the world, low lying islands like the Koror State Rock Islands are susceptible to sea-level rise. The need to protect breeding habitats is increasingly important.

The Koror State Government acknowledges the importance of supporting biodiversity and management of invasive species, and has identified it as a strategic goal in the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon Management Plan (KSG 2012). The goal of this plan is to ensure sustainability of natural resources for future generations.

Planning and consultation are ongoing with key partners. The rat eradication operation is consistent with legislation, and relevant strategies and actions. The rat eradication operation will be beneficial to the

local communities as it offers an opportunity for capacity building through education and training. In the long-term, rich biodiversity, food security, and ecotourism ventures can be restored, sustained, and managed.



Photo by TH Island Conservation

## About Ngeanges Rock Island

Ngeanges Island sits in the middle of the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2012. It is near to Ngeruktabel Island South Tip, Bkul a Ngchus rock island. The island has two beaches, one along the east side of the island and the other along the west side. Ngeanges supports a limestone forest habitat that is characteristic of Koror State rock



islands.

Ngeanges is home to a population of important ecological habitats, including an inner lagoon, sea grass beds, coral reef channels, and outer slopes.

## Biosecurity- Help keep Ngeanges pest free!

Invasive species, such as rats, can be very damaging to sensitive island ecosystems. Please help keep Ngeanges pest free by practicing good biosecurity. Try to avoid using open cardboard boxes to carry food and supplies, check your equipment and supplies for rats and other pests before loading or unloading the boat, and always check the boat for stowaway pests. If you think you have found a non-native species, report it to your guide, a ranger or conservation officer. Help spread the word, share this information with others!