



Ngiwal State Protected Areas | PAN Site Ngemai Conservation Area and Ngerbekuu Nature Reserve

January 2016 | Fact Sheet

Ngiwal State

Located along the north eastern shoreline of Babeldaob, the State has a relatively small flat land area of less than 30% slope, which accounts for only 30% of the whole State land area. Main residential areas are on this flat slope along the coastline in the villages of Ngercheluuk and Ngermechau. The main State's infrastructure (school, state office, and docks) are located in the village of Ngermechau. The village of Ngercheluuk supports majority of subsistence agriculture activity within the State. Much of Ngiwal farmable land (69%) can support agro-forestry while only 2% is suitable for agriculture.

Vision

“The people of Ngiwal State want to improve their livelihood through sustainable developments (including promotion of eco-tourism) and conservation of its natural resources to ensure healthy communities and ecosystems for future generations.”

Ngemai Conservation Area

The Ngemai Conservation Area was established in 1997 through Ngiwal State Legislature KAK (*Kelulul a Kiuluul*) Bill No. 7□ 004 for the purpose of recovery of depleted fish and invertebrates. The entire area is a patch reef at the south end of Ngiwal State. The reef is fringed by corals at the edges around the reef, on the ocean side and the side along the channels on the north and south, except the landward side where it is fringed by a strand of mangrove forest. The reef is mainly sandy bottom with sparse and patchy sea grasses and gets exposed during low tides. Dugongs *Mesekiu (Dugong, dugon)* have been sighted feeding on sea grass beds in the area. Ngemai is historically known for its abundant sea urchin *Ibuchel (Tripneustus gratilla)*. However, this species has been depleted from the area.

(Ngemai Conservation Area is considered as category 1a under IUCN, because it is strictly closed with limited visitation).



Ngerbekuu Nature Reserve

The Ngerbekuu Nature Reserve includes Orsolkesol Waterfall which was established in 2008 through KAK Bill No. 13□ 1S□ 002 for the purpose of protecting the forest and to reduce soil erosion in order ensure clean water for the people of Ngiwal. The surrounding watershed has an area of 1,056,890 m² and it is the smallest of the five major watersheds in Babeldaob Island which is still relatively in pristine condition.

(The Nature Reserve is considered as category II under IUCN): Large natural or near natural areas set aside to protect large-scale ecological processes, along with the complement of species and ecosystems characteristic of the area, which also provide a foundation for environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities.

While Ngerbekuu Nature Reserve is a protected area, there is allowed visitation with permit obtained through the State Governor's Office in Ngiwal. Plans are underway to provide necessary recreational infrastructure for locals and visitors to enjoy the Nature Reserve.

Credits: The Nature Conservancy, Babeldaob Watershed Alliance, Ngiwal State Planning Team, Palau International Coral Reef Center and Palau Conservation Society.



**For permit and tour information, contact Ngiwal State Governor's Office at tel. (680) 679-2967.
For more information, email Palau Protected Areas Network Fund at info@palaupanfund.org**

or

visit www.palaupanfund.org.

*Other information can be obtained from the following partner agencies:
Palau International Coral Reef Center at tel. (680) 488-6950
Palau Conservation Society at tel. (680) 488-3991*

