Palau

IAEA Member State since March 2007

Selected achievements

2023: Palau continues to improve the quality of its diagnostic imaging services and gets ready to introduce teleradiology services.

2018: Palau establishes capabilities in isotope hydrology to better manage groundwater resources.

2013: Area-wide integrated pest management is introduced to reduce fruit flies.

Belau National Hospital, Koror, Palau received a shipment of technical equipment from the IAEA in July 2020 to assist in the fight again COVID-19. (Photo: S. Erungel/Bureau of Foreign Affairs & Trade of Palau)

National priorities

- Radiation safety and the security of radioactive sources
- Food and agriculture
- Human health and nutrition
- Water and the environment

Main areas of IAEA support

- Biosecurity capacity
- Fruit fly suppression and surveillance mechanisms
- National radiation safety infrastructure
- Human health

Project successes

Food and agriculture

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

To address this situation and improve the quality and quantity of crops whilst using fewer pesticides, the IAEA and FAO helped Palau to introduce area-wide integrated pest management control programmes.

IAEA led expert missions and provided hands-on training in the collection, identification and surveillance of fruit flies. New X ray machines were also procured to scan luggage for non-indigenous species of pests such as exotic fruit flies at the country's borders.

Radiology

Since 2013, the IAEA's technical cooperation programme has played a vital role in helping Palau to improve its healthcare infrastructure.

In particular, the IAEA has been helping the country to strengthen its diagnostic radiology capacity by introducing teleradiology services.

Procuring a Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) in 2023 facilitated the transition to digital imaging as a prerequisite for the effective use of teleradiology. This has addressed the shortage of radiologists in the country, ensuring that the interpretation of all non-invasive imaging studies can be done on an ongoing basis.

Nuclear science and technology

Launched in January 2022, the Sub-regional Approach for the Pacific Islands (SAPI) promotes nuclear science and technology sharing among Pacific Island nations, including Palau.

The objective of this initiative is to promote cooperation in the field of nuclear science and technology to address national development priorities, and to provide focused IAEA technical cooperation support to Pacific Island Member States.

Scientists from Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu participate in a two-week-long regional training course to improve crop resilience to climate change through mutation breeding. (Photo: M. Matijevic/IAEA)

RCA

IAEA support received in the 21st century

11
national TC projects implemented

24 (11 women)
fellows and scientific visits

37 (16 women)
training participants

97 (41 women)
meeting participants

28 (10 women)
expert missions received