

Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, Palau

Facts

- Recommended by IUCN for inscription on the World Heritage List in June 2012 at the World Heritage Committee in Saint Petersburg, Russia, for its exceptional variety of habitats within a relatively limited area; its 52 marine lakes at different stages of geological and ecological development; and its exceptional marine biodiversity.
- The Rock Islands Southern Lagoon is located in Palau, within Koror State and is a 100,200 ha marine site characterized by coral reefs and a diversity of other marine habitats, as well as 445 coralline limestone islands shaped over time by weather, wind and vegetation.
- The Rock Islands Southern Lagoon contains 52 marine lakes, more than at any other site in the world.
- With low fishing pressure, limited pollution and human impact, as well as an exceptional variety of reef habitat, the resiliency of the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon's reefs makes it a critical area for protection and climate change adaptation.

Quote

"The Rock Islands Southern Lagoon is an outstanding example of how marine ecosystems and communities develop," says Tim Badman, Director of IUCN's World Heritage Programme. "Its marine lakes are 'natural laboratories' where new species discoveries continue to be made."

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