

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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Photos

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recommendations to the World Heritage Committee.
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