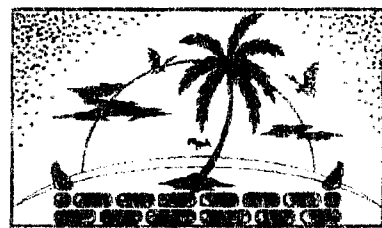


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Two volunteers assist in Hatohobei's programs

By Hatohobei State Government

Hatohobei State Government is being assisted by two volunteers in its programs managing the islands natural resources and structural buildings suited for the islands and her environment.

Dave Sapio is a Peace Corps Volunteer from Montana in the United States.



He is in Palau to assist Hatohobei State in managing its natural resources at Hatohobei Island and Helen Reef (*Hotsarihic*). He worked for the National Park Service in the United States and in the tourism industry. Mr. Sapio have been in Palau for nearly seven months and will be here for about two more years.

Janic Shelton is from California and came to Palau from Antioch College in Ohio to assist Hatohobei State in designing buildings that are good for the people and the environment. She is

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Hatohobei

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also studying the traditional building design in Palau to add to her knowledge of efficient structural design. Ms. Shelton will be here through April, working on designs for Hatohobei Island and Helen Reef.

Hatohobei State is currently working on a management program to protect the land and sea in its territory in the Southwest Islands. They have begun a monitoring program for Helen Reef and are planning different possibilities for protecting the reef from damaging fishing practices. They also hope to incorporate sustainable economic development on Hatohobei and Helen Reef into their management plan, in order to generate income for the community and pay for the protection of the environment.

The islands of Hatohobei includes Helen's Reef, the farthest island on the southern part of Palau and is one of the best and greatest diving spots, proclaimed by a Green Peace Scientific Expedition in 1992. About 382 miles from Koror past Sonsorol State, Hatohobei's life makes the island a natural sanctuary for many species of turtles and various seabirds.

JeRome Temengil and Letis Alonz, local young entrepreneurs, have chartered Hatohobei's ship to visit the southwest island from February 23rd and return on March 3rd. The field-trip will visit the islands of Sonsorol, Fanna, Pulu Anna and Merir on its way to Hatohobei and Helen's Reef and will make a straight return trip back to Koror.