

# 500 CLAMS PLANTED IN AIRAI STATE CONSERVATION AREA

A total of 500 *H. hippopus* (Duadou) giant clam seedlings have been planted in Airai State conservation area over the last two months, as part of the Airai State Clam City project.

The Palau Visitors Authority teamed up with Airai State Government on November 20, 2019 and December 30, 2019 to organize, promote, and exercise conservation related activities involving the local community of Airai.

During the first clam planting, Palau Community Action Agency (PCAA) arranged for 16 kindergarten students and their parents from the Airai Head Start center to participate in the clam planting. Additionally, there were 10 volunteers from PCAA/HeadStart including PCAA Director Kelsey Bohman, PVA Managing Director Stephanie Nakamura, Operations and Program Director Kadoi Ruluked, State & Community Manager Katarina Mad and PVA staff, five Airai State Government Rangers who are Ransel Skilang, Harold Kosam Mongami, Victor Tyson Philip, Raynald Kanai, Whitney Ngirmekur, Sheldon Rengulbai, BMR Supervisor Lawrence Sumor and staff Devon Ongerung and 2 members of the Civic Action Team that together made this mission a success, planting 200 clam seedlings.

The second clam planting included PVA management and staff, Ngaraberas men's association of Ordemel, and Airai State Rangers. Together, they planted 300 giant clam seedlings in another location within the Airai State Conservation Area.

PVA would like to express appreciation to the Office of the President, Republic of Palau and the government of India for their financial support towards this conservation activity.

This project was intended to promote sustainability through safe practices—sectoral collaboration to create conservation for community tourism concept, where tourism impact to natural, cultural and social-economic environment of Airai State are mitigated through sustainable management of natural resources for the common good, while satisfying the requirement of local communities whom have lived off the land and depended on it for their traditions.

PVA also would like to thank Bureau of Marine Resources, Airai State Governor, Tmewang Rengulbai, Airai State Rangers, and Ngaraberas men's association of Ordemel for their assistance; as well as, Dolphin's Pacific for donating life jackets for the children, and BIOTA and Nature Grace Resort for the use of their boats and other equipment. Thank you all!



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