

**Conservation Education Program:** The purpose of this program is to provide support for implementation of conservation education programs that support the needs of the diverse human and natural communities of the Pacific Islands. Working in partnership, the program promotes opportunities for citizens of all ages to develop an awareness and understanding of environmental issues, so they will act responsibly by caring about and conserving natural and cultural resources. The program fosters awareness of the interdependence of humans and the natural world, develops knowledge about the environment and natural/cultural resources, and empowers citizens to make informed decisions and take actions to solve environmental problems.

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Last but not least, we are all human beings so we DO make mistakes and have probably made some in this calendar. We welcome any needed corrections or comments.

**Cover Page (center picture of big tree):** This is a picture of the dort that is standing in the village of Ngerubesang in the state of Melekeok. The legend behind this tree, as told by Ms. Yaeko Rdiall is as follows: Legends say that this dort was planted long ago by the god Uchellechelid from Uchelbeluu. Long ago the people of Ngerbeched lived on Uchelbeluu but the tides took this village so the people moved to Ngerengchol. From there they split and some went to live in Ngerbeched while the others went to live in Ngerubesang. Uchellechelid went to the highest point on Ngerengchol and got the seed for this dort and planted it in Ngerubesang and told the people that this tree will be the mark of this village. To this day the tree still stands and Ms. Rdiall, who is in her 60s says that ever since she was a young girl this tree has been the same size. It's a special tree that links the people of Ngerubesang and Ngerbeched.

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