



## Frequently Asked Questions

October 5, 2023

### 1. Why have the study findings changed since they were preliminarily shared with the public in 2020?

The NPS initiated a public review of the study's preliminary findings in 2020 in order to fully evaluate the feasibility of a national park unit on Rota and the need for NPS management. This was necessary given the public support and engagement of the CNMI government that would be needed for a park unit to be feasible. These preliminary findings indicated that Rota's natural and cultural resources are nationally significant, that areas of the island are suitable for inclusion in the national park system, that areas are conditionally feasible, and that NPS management could fill an important need.

The alternative concepts presented to the public in 2020 included a no-action alternative; a 1,300-acre national historical park managed collaboratively with the CNMI and focused on Chamorro archeological sites; and a 4,400-acre national monument, also managed collaboratively with the CNMI and encompassing archeological sites, historic World War II fortifications, and limestone forests. Based on public input received in 2020, the larger national monument alternative was dismissed from further consideration in view of community concerns about the size of a potential unit. The smaller national historical park concept was retained for further consideration given the community support that was expressed for a smaller unit.

However, additional NPS evaluation of the smaller national historical park unit and comparison with existing management has demonstrated that NPS management of the study area is not needed at this time. The CNMI government is already providing robust resource management and sufficient visitor access opportunities to significant sites on Rota.

### 2. Why did the NPS analyze a national park unit alternative (included in the appendix) if the study's findings indicated that there is no need for NPS management of Rota's significant sites?

The NPS considered several approaches to preservation and interpretation of Rota's significant resources. This was required by the study's authorizing legislation, which directed the NPS to "identify alternatives for the management, administration, and protection" of the study area. The study therefore evaluated a potential national historical park alternative to help illustrate how a unit on Rota could be established, how it could function, how the NPS and CNMI could collaborate on stewardship and management, and what the implications might be of managing the study area as a unit of the national park system. Because of the legislative requirement, the NPS included the alternative in the study appendices.

### 3. Will the NPS make copies of the study available?

A digital copy of the study is available on the study website at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/rotastudy>. Limited printed copies will also be available within the next few months.

**4. What are other resources or avenues that the people of Rota and the CNMI can pursue to provide additional support for significant sites in the study area?**

There are a number of different federal grants available that the CNMI may explore to enhance technical support and/or federal funding assistance for resources on Rota. These include grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Office of Insular Affairs, and the Historic Preservation Fund. Rota and CNMI may also choose to pursue designation as a world heritage site, national heritage area, or NPS affiliated area.

**5. If the CNMI and the people of Rota are interested in pursuing a national park unit in the future, what options might be open to them?**

The people of Rota and the CNMI could work through their congressional delegate to pursue conservation options. Conservation options could include designation as an NPS unit, as described in Appendix B of the study report.