



Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy

Malé, Republic of Maldives

Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology

Malé, Republic of Maldives

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Announcement

Pursuant to Article 4 of Law no. 4/93 (The Environmental Protection and Preservation Act), by the power vested in this ministry, the following areas have been proclaimed as protected as of 23rd December 2021. These places will be maintained according to the guideline pertaining to the protection and preservation of the nature of such places (guideline no: 2018/R-78).

1. L. Gan Boda Fengan'du Area

a. Name of area to be protected: L. Gan Boda Fengan'du Area

b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:

1. L. Gan Boda Fengan'du Area

Figure 1

c. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state and its unique features:

L. Gam Boda Fengan'du is a 'golden' body of water on the east side of Kuda Hinna. It is also known as 'Paree Fengan'du' (Fairy Pond) or 'Naraka Fengan'du' (Hell Pond). This body of water is closely linked to the history of this island, and has many folk tales related to it. It is notable that out of species of trees that grow in lakes, mangroves and wetlands, red mangroves grow here. Moreover, fish poison trees also grow in the areas surrounding it. This environment is crucial to the safety of protected and seasonal birds that visit the Maldives. It has also been recorded that white-tailed tropic birds lay eggs and breed in this environment. Additionally, the lake, mangrove, and wetland area help keep the water layer of the island fresh and plays an important role in reducing the chances of flooding in the island. It is also a 'carbon sink' that traps carbon dioxide there, and contributes to lowering global warming.

a. Category of natural protection and sustaining
Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use

b. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned region:

Actions prohibited in all areas of this region:

1. Any action that could damage or bring changes to anything/ anywhere
2. Taking, killing, harming, or capturing anything/ any living thing
3. Taking the eggs of any living thing and/or damaging their nests
4. Dumping trash
5. Using any light that could illuminate this area at night
6. Making noises that could disrupt the routine of the living things here
7. Introducing any species of living thing
8. Feeding or leaving food for any species of fish or birds

Actions prohibited in the sea area of this region:

9. Researching or mining for oil, gas, or any other type of mineral
10. Land reclamation and making the lagoon deeper
11. Dropping anchor
12. Structural development or establishing infrastructure
13. Aquaculture/ mariculture
14. Removing or taking of rocks, sand, corals, and coral rubble



15. Releasing any “pollutant” and/or building outflows that may release them
16. Driving a vehicle with engine on the muddy path designated to Boda Fengan’du

Actions prohibited in the land area of this region:

17. Cutting down, uprooting or damaging trees
18. Taking black or white soil
19. Planting any trees/ seeds other than the ones already in this area
20. Lighting fires
21. Agriculture

c. Actions allowed with special permission under an established guideline:

1. Civilians/ tourists visiting the protected area
2. Eco-tourism
3. Researching
4. Any action for the purpose of restoration or rehabilitation
5. Taking dry coconut tree leaves, coconuts, firewood and nuts
6. Picking, cutting down, or uprooting anything that grow on the trees that grow in the lake, mangrove and wetland
7. Cutting wood or firewood
8. Structural development or establishing infrastructure

2. L. Maabaidhoo Koaru and Fushi Kandu Area

- a. Name of area to be protected: L. Maabaidhoo Koaru and Fushi Kandu Area

- b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:

L. Maabaidhoo Koaru Area

Figure 2

L. Fushi Kan’du Area

Figure 3

- c. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state and its unique features:

Zone 1 – Maabaidhoo Koaru Area:

The Maabaidhoo Koaru Area is a saltwater lake connected to the ocean on the north side of L. Maabaidhoo. Because this lake is connected to the ocean, it plays the role of a nursery for reef life to populate. Out of trees that grow in lake, mangrove, and wetlands, red mangroves (*Rhizophora mucronata*) and yellow mangroves (*Cerriops tagal*) have been recorded to grow here. The seagrass in this zone provides food for the turtles and tortoise species here and is a vital area for their survival. It has been recorded that the reef and seagrass area of this island contains 6 types of seagrass, and 86 species of reef fish have been observed. Besides this, the lake, mangrove, and wetland area help keep the water layer fresh, prevent the island from eroding, and plays an important role in reducing the chances of flooding in the island. Additionally, it is also a ‘carbon sink’ that traps carbon dioxide there, and contributes to lowering global warming.

Zone 2 – Fushi Kandu Area:

I. Fushi Kandu is an atoll entrance in the northeast of Haddhunmathi. This atoll entrance is home to a diverse variety of marine life, that use its reef to reproduce, and is famous among divers. Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), Reef Manta Rays (*Mobula Alfredi*), other types of rays, and species of sharks that are in danger of going globally extinct, and are protected in the Maldives have been recorded to be seen here.

Zone 3 – Kanihuraa and Fushirah



Ainmathee birds come to this island to sleep and breed.

- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining
Zone 1 – Maabaidhoo Koaru area: Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use
Zone 2 – Fushi Kanduu: Category 6: Species/ habitat management area
Zone 3 – Kanuhuraa and Fushi island: Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use

- e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned region:
Actions prohibited in all areas of this region:
1. Any action that could damage or bring changes to anything/ anywhere
 2. Taking, killing, harming, or capturing anything/ any living thing
 3. Taking the eggs of any living thing and/or damaging their nests
 4. Dumping trash
 5. Using any light that could illuminate this area at night
 6. Making noises that could disrupt the routine of the living things here
 7. Introducing any species of living thing
 8. Feeding or leaving food for any species of fish or birds

- Actions prohibited in the sea area of this region:
9. Researching or mining for oil, gas, or any other type of mineral
 10. Luring in protected species at night by using light
 11. Land reclamation and making the lagoon deeper
 12. Dropping anchor
 13. Structural development or establishing infrastructure
 14. Aquaculture/ mariculture
 15. Procuring rocks, sand, corals, and coral rubble
 16. Releasing any “pollutant” and/or building outflows that may release them

- Actions impermissible in the land area of this region:
17. Cutting down, uprooting or damaging trees
 18. Removing or taking of black or white soil
 19. Planting any trees/ seeds other than the ones already in this area
 20. Lighting fire in any other area than an already established one

- f. Actions allowed with special permission under an established guideline:
Actions allowed in all areas of this region with special permission:
1. Civilians/ tourists visiting the protected area
 2. Eco-tourism
 3. Researching
 4. Any action for the purpose of restoration or rehabilitation

- Actions allowed in the sea area of this region with special permission:
5. Diving and snorkelling
 6. Surfing and water sports
 7. Fishing

- Actions allowed in the land area of this region with special permission:
8. Taking dry coconut tree leaves, coconuts, firewood and nuts
 9. Structural development or establishing infrastructure in a lake, mangrove, or wetland area
 10. Picking, cutting down, or uprooting anything, such as fruit, that grow on the trees that grow in the lake, mangrove and wetland
 11. Cutting wood or firewood
 12. Structural development or establishing infrastructure
 13. Taking/ capturing crabs
 14. Softening coconut husk
 15. Agriculture

1. L. Bodu Finolhu and Vadinolhu Kandoolhi Area



- a. Name of area to be protected: L. Bodu Finolhu and Vadinolhu Kandulhi Area
- b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:
L. Bodu Finolhu and Vadinolhu Kandu Olhi Area
Figure 4
- c. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state and its unique features:
The L. Vadinolhu atoll entrance is an atoll entrance in the northwest of Haddhunmathi. This atoll entrance hosts a variety of marine life and is popular among divers. This area is also frequented by groupers and Napoleon wrasses to breed. Moreover, Reef Manta Rays (*Mobula Alfrede*), Hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), and Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), and different species of sharks that are in danger of going globally extinct, and are protected in the Maldives have been recorded to be seen here. Ainmathee birds come to the island to the big sandbank in this area to sleep and lay eggs.
- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining
Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use
- e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned region:
Actions prohibited in all areas of this region:
1. Any action that could damage or bring changes to anything/ anywhere
 2. Taking, killing, harming, or capturing anything/ any living thing
 3. Eco-tourism
 4. Dumping trash
 5. Using any light that could illuminate this area at night
 6. Making noises that could disrupt the routine of the living things here
 7. Introducing any species of living thing
 8. Feeding or leaving food for any species of fish or birds
 9. Structural development or establishing infrastructure
 10. Agriculture
 11. Damaging, cutting, or picking anything from the trees or coconut trees of the sandbank
- Actions prohibited in the sea area of this region:
12. Researching or mining for oil, gas, or any other type of mineral
 13. Luring in protected species at night by using light
 14. Land reclamation and making the lagoon deeper
 15. Dropping anchor
 16. Aquaculture/ mariculture
 17. Procuring rocks, sand, corals, and coral rubble
 18. Releasing any "pollutant" and/or building outflows that may release them
- Actions prohibited in the land area of this region:
19. Cutting down, uprooting or damaging trees
 20. Taking black or white soil
 21. Planting any trees/ seeds other than the ones already in this area
 22. Taking the eggs of any living thing and/or damaging their nests
 23. Lighting fires
- f. Actions allowed with special permission under an established guideline:
1. Civilians/ tourists visiting the protected area
 2. Researching
 3. Any action for the purpose of restoration or rehabilitation

2. **L. Gaadhoo Turtle Nesting Area, Mangrove, and Seagrass Area**

- a. Name of area to be protected: L. Gaadhoo Turtle Nesting Area, Mangrove, and Seagrass Area



b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:

L. Gaadhoo Turtle Nesting Area, Mangrove, and Seagrass Area

Figure 5

c. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state and its unique features:

L. Gaadhoo is an island that was declared uninhabited in 2016, which was previously populated.

1. South and west beach: This is an area that has been visited by turtles to lay eggs and reproduce for many years in the Maldives. Hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricate*) and Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) are the species of turtles that have been recorded to lay the greatest number of eggs here. They are both species that are protected in the Maldives and endangered globally.

2. The reef and seagrass area surrounding the island: This is an important area that supplies food to species of turtles and aids their survival. Moreover, the seagrass area is used by reef fish as an environment for reproduction. It is also a 'carbon sink' that traps carbon dioxide to lower global warming. The seagrass area surrounding this island has been recorded to be home to 6 types of seagrasses and 91 species of reef fish.

3. Lake, mangrove, and wetland area: This lake is a freshwater lake located in the wetland in the east side of the island. Places such as this help keep the water layer of the island fresh and reduce the chances of flooding in the island. Black mangrove, which is commonly found in lake and mangrove areas like this, also grow here in large numbers. Moreover, this area is crucial for the preservation of environments of seasonal and protected birds that visit this area.

d. Category of natural protection and sustaining
Category 6: Species/ habitat management area

e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned region:

Actions prohibited in all areas of this region:

1. Any action that could damage or bring changes to anything/ anywhere
2. Taking, killing, harming, or capturing anything/ any living thing
3. Taking the eggs of any living thing and/or damaging their nests
4. Dumping trash
5. Using any light that could illuminate this area at night
6. Making noises that could disrupt the routine of the living things here
7. Tourism
8. Introducing any species of living thing
9. Feeding or leaving food for any species of fish or birds
10. Any action that could disturb turtles nesting, or breeding

Actions prohibited in the sea area of this region:

11. Researching or mining for oil, gas, or any other type of mineral
12. Land reclamation and making the lagoon deeper
13. Dropping anchor
14. Structural development or establishing infrastructure
15. Aquaculture/ mariculture
16. Fishing
17. Removing or taking of rocks, sand, corals, and coral rubble
18. Releasing any "pollutant" and/or building outflows that may release them

Actions prohibited in the land area of this region:

19. Cutting down, uprooting or damaging trees
20. Taking black or white soil
21. Planting any trees/ seeds other than the ones already in this area
22. Lighting fires
23. Cutting wood or firewood



24. Agriculture

f. Actions allowed with special permission under an established guideline:

Actions allowed in all areas of this region with special permission:

1. Civilians/ tourists visiting the protected area
2. Researching
3. Any action for the purpose of restoration or rehabilitation

Actions allowed in the sea area of this region with special permission:

4. Diving and snorkelling

Actions allowed in the land area of this region with special permission:

5. Taking dry coconut tree leaves, coconuts, firewood and nuts
6. Structural development or establishing infrastructure in a lake, mangrove, or wetland area
7. Picking, cutting down, or uprooting anything, such as fruit, that grow on the trees that grow in the lake, mangrove and wetland

3. **L. Gaadhoo – Hithadhoo Kan'du Area**

a. Name of area to be protected: L. Gaadhoo – Hithadhoo Kan'du Area

b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:

L. Gaadhoo – Hithadhoo Kan'du Area

Figure 6

c. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state and its unique features:

Gaadhoo – Hithadhoo Sea in the south corner of Haddhunmathi, and between Gaadhoo and Hithadhoo, is home to an array of living things. This area has been recorded to be visited frequently by reef fish to release their eggs and reproduce. Out of the important species that can be seen here, those that are protected in the Maldives include Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), Reef Manta Rays (*Mobula Alfredi*), and Napoleon Wrasses (*Cheilinus undulates*). Besides this, various types of sharks, Whale sharks, and rays have also been recorded to be seen here. These species are in danger of going extinct internationally, and so it is crucial that this area be protected to maintain their population.

d. Category of natural protection and sustaining
Category 6: Species/ habitat management area

e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned region:

1. Any action that could damage or bring changes to anything/ anywhere
2. Dumping trash
3. Luring in protected species at night by using light
4. Introducing any species of living thing
5. Feeding or leaving food for any species of fish or birds
6. Researching or mining for oil, gas, or any other type of mineral
7. Land reclamation and making the lagoon deeper
8. Dropping anchor
9. Structural development or establishing infrastructure
10. Aquaculture/ mariculture
11. Removing and taking of rocks, sand, corals, and coral rubble
12. Releasing any "pollutant" and/or building outflows that may release them

f. Actions allowed with special permission under an established guideline:

1. Fishing
2. Researching



4. **L. Hithadhoo Wetland and Surrounding Marine Area**

a. Name of area to be protected: L. Hithadhoo Wetland and Surrounding Marine Area

b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:

L. Hithadhoo Wetland and Surrounding Marine Area

Figure 7

c. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state and its unique features:

The L. Hithadhoo Lake Rea is a saltwater lake connected to the ocean on the southwest side of Hithadhoo. Since it is linked to the ocean, it provides an nursery for reef life to populate in. Out of trees that grow in lake, mangrove, and wetlands, red mangroves (*Rhizophora mucronata*), yellow mangroves (*Ceriops tagal*), and Black mangroves (*Lumnitzera racemose*) have been recorded to grow here. Additionally, the lake, mangrove, and wetland area help keep the water layer fresh, prevent the island from eroding, and plays an important role in reducing the chances of flooding in the island. It is also a 'carbon sink' that traps carbon dioxide and therefore contributes to reducing the effects of global warming.

d. Category of natural protection and sustaining
Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use

e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned region:

Actions prohibited in all areas of this region:

1. Any action that could damage or bring changes to anything/ anywhere of the protected area
2. Taking, killing, harming, or capturing anything/ any living thing
3. Taking the eggs of any living thing and/or damaging their nests
4. Dumping trash
5. Making noises that could disrupt the routine of the living things here
6. Introducing any species of living thing
7. Feeding or leaving food for any species of fish or birds

Actions prohibited in the sea area of this region:

8. Researching or mining for oil, gas, or any other type of mineral
9. Land reclamation and making the lagoon deeper
10. Luring in protected species at night by using light
11. Dropping anchor
12. Structural development or establishing infrastructure
13. Aquaculture/ mariculture
14. Removing or taking of rocks, sand, corals, and coral rubble
15. Releasing any "pollutant" and/or building outflows that may release them

Actions prohibited permissible in the land area of this region:

16. Cutting down, uprooting or damaging trees
17. Taking black or white soil
18. Planting any trees/ seeds other than the ones already in this area
19. Lighting fire in any other area than an already established one
20. Agriculture

f. Actions allowed with special permission under an established guideline:

Actions allowed in all areas of this region with special permission:

1. Civilians/ tourists visiting the protected area
2. Eco-tourism
3. Researching
4. Any action for the purpose of restoration or rehabilitation
5. Using any light that could illuminate this area at night

Actions allowed in the sea area of this region with special permission:

6. Diving and snorkelling
7. Surfing, and water sports



8. Fishing

Actions allowed in the land area of this region with special permission:

9. Taking dry coconut tree leaves, coconuts, firewood and nuts
10. Structural development or establishing infrastructure in a lake, mangrove, or wetland area
11. Picking, cutting down, or uprooting anything, such as fruit, that grow on the trees that grow in the lake, mangrove and wetland
12. Taking/ capturing crabs
13. Cutting wood or firewood
14. Softening coconut husk

23rd December 2021