



Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
Malé, Republic of Maldives

Ministry of Environment
Malé, Republic of Maldives

Number: (IUL)438-ENV/438/2019/150

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 17th June 2019. These places will be maintained according to guideline number: 2018/R-78 (The guideline pertaining to the protection and sustaining of the nature of such places). The details of these areas have been presented below.

1. Ha. Alif. Gallandhoo

a. Name of area to be protected: Ha. Alif. Gallandhoo island, lagoon. And reef area

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

Gallandhoo

Figure 1

G.P.S. coordinates that distinguish the parameters of this area.
Latitude. Longitude.

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

Gallandhoo is a 12 – hectare, rock-based island in the south corner of Ihavanddippolhu Atoll. This island has special natural and environmental features and is rich with diverse species. The richness of the nature of this island can be seen most from its flora. This island has rich soil and is verdant with trees. The lake and mangrove of this island also contribute to its natural prosperity and unique environment. Moreover, this island is frequented by birds to rest, has a large number of lettuce trees, and a vibrant reef full of marine life, and is a turtle nesting site as well.

d. Category of natural protection and sustaining:

Category 2: Strict nature reserve

e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area:

1. Dropping anchor in a situation other than an emergency, such as when a person's life is in danger
2. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests
3. Removing and taking of sand, corals, and coral rubble
4. Dumping trash
5. Taking black or white soil
6. Aquaculture/ mariculture
7. Deforestation
8. Planting any trees/ seeds from outside the island
9. Introducing any species of living thing
10. Land reclamation and dredging
11. Lighting fires and burning

f. Actions allowed with permission under an established guideline:

1. Civilians/ tourists visiting the island, the surrounding lagoon and reef
2. Tourism, leisure activities, going on picnics and sightseeing



3. Researching
4. Tourism and leisure activities, going in the ocean
5. Collecting dry coconut tree leaves, coconuts, firewood, and nuts
6. Collecting plants used for Dhivehi medicine
7. Picking, cutting down, or uprooting anything, such as fruit, that grow on the trees that grow in the lake, mangrove and wetland

2. Ha. Alif. Bilehdhoo Thila

a. Name of area to be protected: Ha. Alif Bilehdhoo Thila Area

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

Bilehdhoo Thila Region

Figure 2

G.P.S. coordinates that distinguish the parameters of this area.

Latitude. Longitude.

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

Bilehdhoo thila is a 227-hectare thila in the north side of Ihavandhippolhu Atoll. Bilehdhoo thila rea is made up of Bilehdhoo thila and Inna finolhu (sandbank). This is a popular spot among divers that dive in the northern most region of Maldives. This thila is home to a diverse variety of marine life and is a famous dive site in the country. This thila is most famous for having an array of underwater organisms, or being an "aquarium". Some important species such as Manta rays, Napoleon wrasses, sharks, turtles, and tortoises dwell here. Additionally, there is a Manta cleaning station here. Below 20 metres, different species can be seen, and even further down, there are large underwater caves. These caves are filled with Nurse sharks. In the surrounding areas of this thila, Manta rays and Dogtooth tunas can be spotted. Inna finolhu is popular among seabirds for gathering, laying eggs, and breeding.

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

e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area:

1. Dropping anchor in a situation other than an emergency, such as when a person's life is in danger
2. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests
3. Removing and taking of sand, corals, and coral rubble
4. Dumping trash
5. Agriculture
6. Taking black or white soil
7. Aquaculture/ mariculture
8. Deforestation
9. Planting any trees/ seeds from outside the island
10. Introducing any species of living thing
11. Land reclamation and dredging
12. Lighting fires and burning

f. Actions allowed with permission under an established guideline:

1. Civilians/ tourists visiting Inna Finolhu and the surrounding lagoon and reef
2. Researching
3. Bait fishing by the traditional method used by Maldivians and fishing for leisure
4. Collecting dry coconut tree leaves, coconuts, firewood, and nuts

3. Ha. Alif. Kelaa Wetlands and Reef Area

a. Name of area to be protected: Ha. Alif. Kelaa Wetland Area



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

Kelaa Wetland and Reef Area

Figure 3

G.P.S. coordinates that distinguish the parameters of this area.
Latitude. Longitude.

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

Kelaa is one of the northernmost islands on which wetland areas can be seen, and is in the northernmost corner of Ha. Alif. Atoll. Out of the total 212 hectares of the island, 22 hectares are comprised of wetlands. This area is where the most small-leaved orange mangroves can be found in the entire Maldives. This wetland is naturally rich and is closely linked to the history of the island. The small-leaved orange mangroves available from this island's mangrove were used as food by Kelaa and nearby islands during the "Bodu Thadhu", which occurred during World War II. Because of this, compared to the other islands in the Maldives, Kelaa and the nearby islands had a source of food. This is still used as food today, albeit scarcely. Moreover, it is notable that there is a large red apple mangrove tree that has stood there for more than 50 years. Numerous species of local and migratory birds can be observed here. There is a large population of watercocks in this area. Additionally, from the species of protected birds in the Maldives, Grey Herons, Cattle Egrets, Maldivian waterhens, Black-crowned Night Herons, and Asian Koels, live in this area.

d. Category of natural protection and sustaining:

Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use.

e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area:

1. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests
2. Dumping trash
3. Taking black or white soil
4. Aquaculture/ mariculture
5. Deforestation
6. Planting any trees/ seeds from outside the island
7. Introducing any species of living thing
8. Land reclamation and dredging
9. Lighting fires and burning

f. Actions allowed with permission under an established guideline:

1. Researching
2. Collecting dry coconut tree leaves, coconuts, firewood, and nuts
3. Picking, cutting down, or uprooting anything, such as fruit, that grow on the trees that grow in the lake, mangrove and wetland
4. Cutting wood or firewood from trees
5. Eco-tourism
6. Agriculture
7. Collecting plants used for Dhivehi medicine

4. HDd. Finey Thila

a. Name of area to be protected: HDh. Finey Thila

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

Finey Thila

Figure 4

G.P.S. coordinates that distinguish the parameters of this area.
Latitude. Longitude.

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



This thila is about 250 (two hundred and fifty) metres away from the island on the south side of HDh. Finey. This area is comprised of two amin thilas. The bigger of the two starts from 12 (twelve) metres, and the smaller one starts from 18 (eighteen) metres. Finey thila is an area where blue, yellow, and orange soft corals can be found in abundance. The area between the two thilas attracts a lot of attention from divers and is home to large marine species such as Eagle rays, Napoleon wrasses, and Grey reef sharks. Some small species that can be seen here include shrimp, lobsters, and different types of Nudibranch. Yellowback fusiliers and Blue trevally are said by divers to be spotted here often.

- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining:
Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use.
- e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area:
 - 1. Dropping anchor in a situation other than an emergency, or when a person's life is in danger
 - 2. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird
 - 3. Removing or taking of sand, corals, coral rubble, and seashells
 - 4. Dumping trash
 - 5. Aquaculture/ mariculture
 - 6. Introducing any species of living thing
 - 7. Land reclamation and dredging
- f. Actions allowed with permission under an established guideline:
 - 1. Civilians/ tourists visiting the lagoon and reef
 - 2. Bait fishing by the traditional method used by Maldivians and fishing for leisure
 - 3. Researching

5. HDh. Inna Fushi

- a. Name of area to be protected: HDh. Inna Fushi island, lagoon, and reef area
- b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:

Inna Fushi

Figure 5

G.P.S. coordinates that distinguish the parameters of this area.

Latitude. Longitude.

- c. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state with its unique features
Inna Fushi is a small, rock-based, 3-hectare island in the western most corner of Makunudhoo Atoll. This island is frequently visited by seabirds and is used by them to lay their eggs. The rocky beach of this island used to be the site of many shipwrecks in the past, and so, people refer to this area as "Boat Urey Muli". In the way that this island is formed, it is mostly comprised of coral rubble sand. There is also a white-sand beach in the eastern corner of the island. The shore of the island contains mussels and is also a nesting site for turtles and tortoises. Apart from the 3 coconut trees, this island is home to lettuce trees, portia trees, and coastal iron wood trees. There is a small body of water connected to the ocean on the west side of the island, to which Makunudhoo people refer to as "Fureytha Fengan'du" (Demon Pond). Since Inna Fushi reef has been witness to numerous shipwrecks, it has become a popular spot for divers. This is a large and vibrant reef teeming with fish and corals. Large fish and sharks can be spotted outside this reef.
- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining:
Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use.
- e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area:
 - 1. Dropping anchor in a situation other than an emergency, such as when a person's life is in danger



2. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests
3. Removing or taking of sand, corals, coral rubble, and seashells
4. Dumping trash
5. Agriculture
6. Taking black or white soil
7. Aquaculture/ mariculture
8. Deforestation
9. Planting any trees/ seeds from outside the island
10. Introducing any species of living thing
11. Land reclamation and dredging
12. Lighting fires and burning

- f. Actions allowed with permission under an established guideline:
1. Civilians/ tourists visiting the island, and the surrounding lagoon, and reef
 2. Tourism, leisure activities, going on picnics and sightseeing
 3. Bait fishing by the traditional method used by Maldivians and fishing for leisure
 4. Collecting dry coconut tree leaves, coconuts, and firewood
 5. Researching
 6. Tourism and leisure activities, going in the ocean

6. Sh. Bolissa Faru

- a. Name of area to be protected: Sh. Bolissa Faru island, lagoon, and reef area

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

Bolissa Faru

Figure 6

G.P.S. coordinates that distinguish the parameters of this area.

Latitude. Longitude.

- c. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state with its unique features
Bolissa Faru is an island to the south of Keekimini, that has a long sandbank. This island is 26 hectares and is frequently visited by Ainmathee birds. The sandbank of this island is also a popular site for Common Terns to gather and breed. The beach of this island is a nesting site for turtles and tortoises. Coastal iron wood trees are the most found tree on this island. Since this area has a white-sand sand spit, it is quite popular among locals.

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

- e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area:
1. Dropping anchor in a situation other than an emergency, or when a person's life is in danger
 2. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests
 3. Removing or taking of sand, corals, and coral rubble
 4. Dumping trash
 5. Agriculture
 6. Taking black or white soil
 7. Aquaculture/ mariculture
 8. Deforestation
 9. Planting any trees/ seeds from outside the island
 10. Introducing any species of living thing
 11. Land reclamation and dredging
 12. Lighting fires and burning

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



1. Civilians/ tourists visiting the island, and the surrounding lagoon, and reef
2. Tourism, leisure activities, going on picnics and sightseeing
3. Researching
4. Tourism and leisure activities, going in the ocean

7. Sh. Naalaahuraa

a. Name of area to be protected: Sh. Naalaahuraa sandbank and lagoon area

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

Naalaahuraa

Figure 7

G.P.S. coordinates that distinguish the parameters of this area.

Latitude. Longitude.

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

Naalaahuraa is a small, 2-hectare, white-sand, sandbank located to the south of Sh. Hurasfaruhuraa. This sandbank is a naturally and environmentally rich sandbank, that changes location during both seasons. This sandbank is frequently visited by Ainmathee birds for rest, and to sleep at night, in all seasons. Additionally, large flocks of Lesser Noddy birds can be seen here during the day, and some even stay on this sandbank to sleep. This is also where Common Terns come to lay eggs and breed.

d. Category of natural protection and sustaining:

Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use.

e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area:

1. Dropping anchor in a situation other than an emergency, or when a person's life is in danger
2. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests
3. Removing or taking of sand, corals, and coral rubble
4. Dumping trash
5. Taking black or white soil
6. Aquaculture/ mariculture
7. Planting any trees/ seeds from outside the island
8. Introducing any species of living thing
9. Land reclamation and dredging
10. Lighting fires and burning

f. Actions allowed with permission under an established guideline:

1. Civilians/ tourists visiting the island, and the surrounding lagoon, and reef
2. Tourism, leisure activities, going on picnics and sightseeing
3. Researching
4. Tourism and leisure activities, going in the ocean
5. Fishing for leisure

8. N. Fohdhipparu sandbank

a. Name of area to be protected: N. Fohdhipparu sandbank and reef area

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

Fohdhipparu

Figure 8

Figure 7

G.P.S. coordinates that distinguish the parameters of this area.

Latitude. Longitude.

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



Fohdhipparu and its reef are an 82.4-hectare sandbank to the north of Noonu Atoll. Fohdhoo. This sandbank is regularly visited by Ainmathee birds, as well as birds that migrate to the Maldives. Common Terns gather on this sandbank to lay eggs and breed. The white-sand sand spit of this island is popular among tourists, and the reef surrounding Fohdhipparu is one teeming with marine life. To the south of Fohdhipparu is the atoll entrance between Fohdhoo. A variety of reef fish can be seen in the lagoon and reef surrounding this sandbank.

- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining:
Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use.
- e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area:
1. Dropping anchor in a situation other than an emergency, or when a person's life is in danger
 2. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests
 3. Removing or taking of sand, corals, and coral rubble
 4. Dumping trash
 5. Taking black or white soil
 6. Aquaculture/ mariculture
 7. Land reclamation and dredging
 8. Lighting fires and burning
- f. Actions allowed with permission under an established guideline:
1. Civilians/ tourists visiting the island, and the surrounding lagoon, and reef
 2. Tourism, leisure activities, going on picnics and sightseeing
 3. Researching
 4. Tourism and leisure activities, going in the ocean

9. N. Kendhikulhudhoo Mangrove and Reef Area

- a. Name of area to be protected: N. Kendhikulhudhoo Lake
- b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:
Kendhikulhudhoo Mangrove and Reef Area
Figure 9

G.P.S. coordinates that distinguish the parameters of this area.
Latitude. Longitude.

- c. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state with its unique features
Kendhikulhudhoo is a 247-hectare island to the east of Henbudhoo in Noonu Atoll. This island is full of coconut trees and the natural diversity of it can be seen by its lake and mangrove, which are one of the largest in the Maldives. There are two big lakes at the eastern and northern sides of the island. The lake areas of the island are inhabited by species of birds such as Cattle Egrets, Common Sandpipers, Black-crowned Night Herons, Yellow Bitterns, Grey Herons, and Plovers. This island is also a popular spot for seabirds to rest. Black-naped terns and white-tailed tropicbirds can also be seen on this island frequently. The lake area of this island contains numerous types of trees, and in the mangrove area of this island, small-leaved orange mangroves, red mangroves, and yellow mangroves grow to impressive heights. Besides this, red apple mangroves used by people as food, can also be found here. Sooty terns lay eggs and breed in the lake of this island.
- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining:
Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use.
- e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area:
1. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests
 2. Dumping trash



3. Taking black or white soil
 4. Aquaculture/ mariculture
 5. Deforestation
 6. Planting any trees/ seeds from outside the island
 7. Introducing any species of living thing
 8. Land reclamation and dredging
 9. Lighting fires and burning
- f. Actions allowed with permission under an established guideline:
1. Researching
 2. Collecting dry coconut tree leaves, coconuts, firewood, and nuts
 3. Picking, cutting down, or uprooting anything, such as fruit, that grow on the trees that grow in the lake, mangrove and wetland
 4. Cutting wood or firewood from trees
 5. Eco-tourism
 6. Agriculture
 7. Collecting plants used for Dhivehi medicine

10. N. Orimas Thila

- a. Name of area to be protected: N. Orimas Thila
- b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:

Orimas Thila

Figure 10

G.P.S. coordinates that distinguish the parameters of this area.
Latitude. Longitude.

- c. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state with its unique features
Orimas Thila is a thila located 5 kilometres west of N. Felivaru. This is a prominent diving spot in Noonu Atoll and is a small but vibrant rock-based thila, rich with colourful corals. Grey Reef sharks can often be spotted here. This thila is mostly made up of large rocks. The caves on the sides of these rocks are full of corals, and soft corals. 27 species of fish were recorded to be seen here in surveys carried out.
- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining:
Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use.
- e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area:
1. Dropping anchor in a situation other than an emergency, or when a person's life is in danger
 2. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird
 3. Removing or taking of sand, corals, and coral rubble
 4. Dumping trash
 5. Aquaculture/ mariculture
 6. Introducing any species of living thing
 7. Land reclamation and dredging
- f. Actions allowed with permission under an established guideline:
1. Civilians/ tourists visiting the lagoon and reef
 2. Researching

11. N. Bodulhaimendhoo

- a. Name of area to be protected: N. Bodulhaimendhoo island, lagoon, and reef area
- b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:

Bodulhaimendhoo

Figure 11

G.P.S. coordinates that distinguish the parameters of this area.



Latitude. Longitude.

- c. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state with its unique features
Bodulhaimendhoo is a 40-hectare, uninhabited island in the southern-most corner of Noonu Atoll. It is an island possessing unique features in its formation and has a bay at its centre. The surrounding wetland area contains numerous trees that can be found in places similar to this. This island has rich soil and is lush with vegetation. The mangrove and lake of this island add to its natural richness and environmental uniqueness. The special aspects of this island can be divided into 3 categories. They are; the reef surrounding the island, the lake and mangrove area in the island, and the beach of the island where turtles come to nest.
- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining:
Category 2: Strict nature reserve
- e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area:
1. Dropping anchor in a situation other than an emergency, or when a person's life is in danger
 2. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests
 3. Removing or taking of sand, corals, and coral rubble
 4. Dumping trash
 5. Taking black or white soil
 6. Aquaculture/ mariculture
 7. Deforestation
 8. Planting any trees/ seeds from outside the island
 9. Introducing any species of living thing
 10. Land reclamation and dredging
 11. Lighting fires and burning
- f. Actions allowed with permission under an established guideline:
1. Civilians/ tourists visiting the island, and the surrounding lagoon, and reef
 2. Tourism, leisure activities, going on picnics and sightseeing
 3. Researching
 4. Tourism and leisure activities, going in the ocean
 5. Collecting dry coconut tree leaves, coconuts, firewood, and nuts
 6. Collecting plants used for Dhivehi medicine
 7. Picking, cutting down, or uprooting anything, such as fruit, that grow on the trees that grow in the lake, mangrove and wetland

13th Shawwal 1440 HC.

16th June 2019 GC.