



**Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy**  
Male', Republic of Maldives

**Ministry of Environment**  
Malé, Republic of Maldives

Number: (IUL)438-ENV/2018/322

**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 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018. 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 are presented below.

1. HDh. Keylakunu

a. Name of protected area: HDh. Keylakunu

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

**HDh. Keylakunu**

Figure 1

c. Actions allowed and prohibited in this area:

Table showing actions allowed and prohibited in HDh. Keylakunu: Tick mark (✓) where actions allowed and cross mark (x) where actions prohibited. Dash (-) where actions unsuitable for this area.

Actions	Buffer zone	Core area
Tourism and leisure activities, going in the ocean (without oxygen tank)	✓	-
Tourism and leisure activities, going in the ocean and diving with oxygen tank	✓	-
Tourism and leisure activities, going on picnics and sightseeing from ashore	✓	✓
Fishing – float fishing	✓	-
Tourists fishing – tourists float fishing	x	-
Bottom fishing	x	-
Tourists bottom fishing for reef fish	x	-
Bait fishing by the traditional Maldivian way	✓	-
Catching fish by casting nets	x	x
Fishing where fish reproduce	x	x
Spearfishing and using guns to catch fish	x	x
Fishing for reef fish using fishing rods/ by bottom fishing	✓	-
Fishing that harms the environment (using chlorine, dynamite, cyanide, or the like, to fish)	x	x
Dropping anchor on reefs and corals	x	-
Collecting shells from reef/ taking shells – for commerce	x	x
Collecting shells from reef/ taking shells – for livelihood	x	x
Taking sea cucumbers	x	x
Shark fishing	x	-
Catching small fish	x	x
Aquarium trade (all species – for commerce)	x	x



Taking lobsters for any purpose	x	x
Taking turtles, tortoises, and their eggs	x	x
Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests	x	x
Taking sand – for commerce	x	x
Taking sand – for use in daily life	x	x
Taking rocks – for commerce	x	x
Taking rocks – for use in daily life	x	x
Dumping any kind of waste	x	x
Collecting dry coconut leaves	✓	✓
Collecting coconuts	✓	✓
Collecting firewood	✓	✓
Collecting nuts	✓	✓
Collecting small leaved orange mangrove, red mangrove, and red apple mangrove	✓	✓
Agriculture	x	x
Aquaculture	x	x
Deforestation	x	x
Land reclamation and dredging	x	x
Lighting fires and burning	x	x

d. Category of natural protection and sustaining

Core area: Category 6 – Habitat/ species management area and Category 7 – Protected area with sustainable use

Buffer zone: Category 7 – Protected area with sustainable use

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

Keylakunu island, belonging to HDh Atoll, is an uninhabited island gifted with extraordinary natural and environmental features, and is abundant with diverse species of living things, the subsistence of which are interrelated to human activity. This island is remarkably green, and contains a lake, mangrove, and wetland area on its eastern side. Small-leaved orange mangroves and red apple mangroves cover a large portion of the island, along with a jungle of 'grey mangroves', which are a rare occurrence globally, and give this island unique environmental qualities. The largest grey mangrove trees on this island have a circumference of 24 feet, and a height of 40 feet, and grow in masses.

The most special feature of this island is the mangrove on its eastern side. Small-leaved orange mangrove trees that grow tall in large numbers, red mangrove trees that grow to varying heights, and the network made by their roots, in which small lakes are formed, and large grey mangrove trees grow, creating a beautiful habitat, rich with an array of living things. This area is not only environmentally distinct, but it is also a 'carbon sink'. This island is regularly visited by many species of birds. On trips made for a survey, 11 different types of birds were spotted. Additionally, the white-tailed tropical bird, which is an uncommon bird in the Maldives, can be seen in throngs on this island. This bird requires a special environment in which to reproduce. The beach of this island is also notable as it is a popular turtle nesting spot.

It is crucial that this island be protected as it is one of the few areas in the Maldives that can be identified as a forest or a jungle with huge trees, and has vegetation that is different from other islands, and is home to a lake, mangrove, and wetland area, as well as rare species of birds.

2. HDh. Neykurendhoo

a. Name of protected area: HDh. Neykurendhoo

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



**HDh. Neykurendhoo**

Figure 2

c. Actions allowed and prohibited in this area:

Table showing actions allowed and prohibited in HDh. Keylakunu: Tick mark (✓) where actions allowed and cross mark (x) where actions prohibited. Dash (-) where actions unsuitable for this area.

Actions	Buffer zone	Core area
Tourism and leisure activities, going in the ocean (without oxygen tank)	✓	✓
Tourism and leisure activities, going in the ocean and diving with oxygen tank	✓	✓
Tourism and leisure activities, going on picnics and sightseeing from ashore	✓	✓
Fishing – float fishing	✓	x
Tourists fishing – tourists float fishing	x	x
Bottom fishing	x	x
Tourists bottom fishing for reef fish	x	x
Bait fishing by the traditional Maldivian way	✓	x
Catching fish by casting nets	x	x
Fishing where fish reproduce	x	x
Spearfishing and using guns to catch fish	x	x
Fishing that harms the environment (using chlorine, dynamite, cyanide, or the like, to fish)	x	x
Dropping anchor on reefs and corals	x	x
Collecting shells from reef/ taking shells – for commerce	x	x
Collecting shells from reef/ taking shells – for livelihood	x	x
Taking sea cucumbers	x	x
Shark fishing	x	x
Catching small fish	x	x
Aquarium trade (all species – for commerce)	x	x
Taking lobsters for any purpose	x	x
Taking turtles, tortoises, and their eggs	x	x
Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests	x	x
Taking sand – for commerce	x	x
Taking sand – for use in daily life	x	x
Taking rocks – for commerce	x	x
Taking rocks – for use in daily life	x	x
Dumping any kind of waste	x	x
Collecting dry coconut leaves	✓	✓
Collecting coconuts	✓	✓
Collecting firewood	✓	✓
Collecting nuts	✓	✓
Collecting small leaved orange mangrove and red mangrove	✓	✓
Agriculture	x	x
Aquaculture	x	x
Deforestation	x	x
Land reclamation and dredging	x	x
Lighting fires and burning	x	x

d. Category of natural protection and sustaining

Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use



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

A large region on the southeast side of HDh. Neykurendhoo is covered in lake, mangrove, and wetlands, in the way that the island is formed. 31 hectares of the 168-hectare island is inhabited by people. The lake, mangrove, and wetland area cover 28.3 hectares. Out of the 14 types of mangroves found in the Maldives, 6 of them can be seen in this lake area. A number of migratory birds visit this region in the northeast monsoon. Besides this, this area is also home to different kinds of crabs and other species.

3. Ha.Alif Baarah

- a. Name of protected area: Ha.Alif Baarah

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

**Ha.Alif Baarah**

Figure 3

- c. Actions allowed and prohibited in this area:

Table showing actions allowed and prohibited in HDh. Keylakunu: Tick mark (✓) where actions allowed and cross mark (x) where actions prohibited. Dash (-) where actions unsuitable for this area.

Actions	Buffer zone	Core area
Tourism and leisure activities, going on picnics and sightseeing from ashore	✓	✓
Bait fishing by the traditional Maldivian way	✓	x
Catching fish by casting nets	x	x
Fishing where fish reproduce	x	x
Spearfishing and using guns to catch fish	x	x
Fishing that harms the environment (using chlorine, dynamite, cyanide, or the like, to fish)	x	x
Dropping anchor on reefs and corals	x	x
Collecting shells from reef/ taking shells – for commerce	x	x
Collecting shells from reef/ taking shells – for livelihood	x	x
Taking sea cucumbers	x	x
Shark fishing	x	x
Catching small fish	x	x
Aquarium trade (all species – for commerce)	x	x
Taking lobsters for any purpose	x	x
Taking turtles, tortoises, and their eggs	x	x
Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests	x	x
Taking sand – for commerce	x	x
Taking sand – for use in daily life	x	x
Taking rocks – for commerce	x	x
Taking rocks – for use in daily life	x	x
Dumping any kind of waste	x	x
Collecting dry coconut leaves	✓	✓
Collecting coconuts	✓	✓
Collecting firewood	✓	✓
Collecting nuts	✓	✓
Collecting small leaved orange mangrove, red mangrove, and red apple mangrove	✓	✓
Agriculture	x	x
Aquaculture	x	x
Deforestation	x	x
Land reclamation and dredging	x	x



Lighting fires and burning	x	x
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- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining  
Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use
- e. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state with its unique features.  
Ha. Alif Baarah is an island with unique features and has a different environment from other islands in its formation. Formed in the shape of the Arabic letter 'ب', this island has a large region containing 10 lake, mangrove, and wetland areas on its eastern side. 39 hectares of this 256.7-hectare island is a lake region. It is believed that the lake area of this island was used by Bodu Thakurufaanu in the 1570s to hide from the Portuguese aboard the Kalhuohfummi. Even though this island has 10 lakes today, it is believed that in the past, this area was one big lake. It is notable that this island is home to 6 species of mangrove trees, and that small leaved orange mangrove trees and red mangrove trees, grow here in large numbers. Many species of birds can also be observed in this area, and the rarely spotted Common Greenshank bird also lives here. Besides this, the lake connected to the sea of this island is a nursery for young turtles, Manta rays, fish, sharks, and other species.

23<sup>rd</sup> Rabi Ul Akhir 1440  
30<sup>th</sup> December 2018