



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

Ministry of Environment
Malé, Republic of Maldives

Number: (IUL)438-ENV/438/2020/162

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 22nd September 2020. These places will be maintained according to the guideline based on the protection and preservation of the nature of such places (guideline number: 2018/R-78).

1. Addu City Kuda Kandu Region

- a. Name of area to be protected: Kuda Kandu Region
- b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of its zonation:

Kuda Kandu Region

Figure 1

G.P.S. coordinates of the core area of Kuda Kandu Region

Latitude. Longitude.

G.P.S. coordinates of the buffer zone of Kuda Kandu Region

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
The Kuda Kandu Region in Addu Atoll is a vibrant area rich with corals and rocks, and abundant with diverse species of fish and marine life. Research done after the incidents of corals dying in the Maldives show that the reef in the Kuda Kandu Region is an incredibly resilient one. The important species that can be found in this region include turtles, eagle rays, and dolphins. Since these species are in danger of going extinct internationally, it is vital that this area where they come to clean themselves give birth, and reproduce be protected.
- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining
Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use.
- e. Prohibited actions in the aforementioned area (including the core area and buffer zone):
1. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird
 2. Removing or taking of rocks, sand, corals, and coral rubble
 3. Dumping trash
 4. Aquaculture/ mariculture
 5. Introducing any species of living thing
 6. Reclamation of the lake or making it deeper for the restoration of it, or for any other reason, without permission from this ministry
 7. Feeding fish
 8. Any type of fishing other than bait fishing with a vessel with a valid license for fishing skipjack tuna and large tuna with fishing lines, under the law of fishing
- f. Actions allowed with permission under an established guideline:
1. Civilians or tourists visiting the reef and lagoon
 2. Researching
 3. Diving and snorkeling



2. **Addu City Maakilhi and Fehele Kilhi**

- a. Name of area to be protected: Maakilhi and Fehele Kilhi Region
- b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:

Maakilhi and Fehele Kilhi

Figure 2

G.P.S. coordinates of the core area of Maakilhi and Fehele Kilhi Region

Latitude. Longitude.

G.P.S. coordinates of the buffer zone of Maakilhi and Fehele Kilhi Region

Latitude. Longitude.

- 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
These two lakes are in the wetland on the southeast side of Hithadhoo in Addu City. Since this is a wetland area, the rain this island gets is easily absorbed by this area. This region plays a crucial role in reducing the chances of flooding in the island. The land of this area is ideal for vegetation, and so some use it for agriculture. The species of living things in this area range from seasonal birds to black mangrove trees that grow in lakes and mangroves. Besides these, sea hibiscus, portia trees, and Tahitian screwpines can be seen in large numbers in this area. There is a plant here that grow in water called 'Kaafaruburu'. This plant is assumed to be one that was introduced to this area. Aside from this, a great deal of lotus grows in the water of this area. Additionally, since Kaafaruburu and lotus are abundant in this area, it can be observed that the water is becoming shallower. Finding solutions for such problems and restoring, as well as protecting this area will assure that the environment of the seasonal and protected birds that visit here remains unharmed. These species of birds that can be seen here include grey herons, watercocks, and white terns.
- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining
Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use.
- e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area (including the core area and buffer zone):
 1. Capturing, taking, and killing any species of birds from this area, taking their eggs, and damaging their nests.
 2. Dumping trash
 3. Removing or taking of black or white soil
 4. Aquaculture/ mariculture
 5. Cutting down, uprooting or damaging trees
 6. Planting any trees/ seeds other than the types in this area
 7. Introducing any species of living thing
 8. Lighting fire in any other area than an already established one
- f. Actions allowed in this area (including the core area and buffer zone):
 1. Taking dry coconut tree leaves, coconuts, firewood, and nuts
 2. Picking, cutting down, or uprooting anything that grow on the trees that grow in the lake, mangrove and wetland
- g. Actions allowed with permission under an established guideline:
 1. Researching
 2. Cutting wood or firewood from trees
 3. Farming
 4. Eco tourism
 5. Structural development or establishing infrastructure

3. **Addu City Maafishi Kilhi**

- a. Name of area to be protected: Maafishi Kilhi Region



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

Maafishi Kilhi

Figure 3

G.P.S. coordinates of the core area of Maafishi Kilhi Region

Latitude. Longitude.

G.P.S. coordinates of the buffer zone of Maafishi Kilhi Region

Latitude. Longitude.

- 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

This lake is in the wetland area in the south side of Hulhudhoo in Addu City. Since this area has a large wetland, the rain this island gets is easily absorbed by this area. This region plays a crucial role in reducing the chances of flooding in the island. From the organisms that can be seen here, a great number of flora can be seen.

Additionally, ironwood, portia tree, sea hibiscus, Tahitian screwpine, Indian almond, beach gardenia, and sea lettuce also grow here. In the water of this region, the conger eel, which is only found in the ocean in the Maldives, can be spotted. Tilapia and species of snails also live in this water. This region is also a popular stop for protected birds that visit and reproduce here. The birds that visit this area include tree pipits, white terns, Maldivian pond herons, grey herons, and crab plovers.

- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining

Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use

- e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area (including the core area and buffer zone):

1. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests
2. Dumping trash
3. Removing or taking of black or white soil
4. Aquaculture/ mariculture
5. Cutting down, uprooting or damaging trees
6. Planting any trees/ seeds other than the types in this area
7. Introducing any species of living thing
8. Reclamation of the lake or making it deeper for the restoration of it, or for any other reason, without permission from this ministry
9. Lighting fire in any other area than an already established one

- f. Actions allowed in this area (including the core area and buffer zone):

1. Taking dry coconut tree leaves, coconuts, firewood, and nuts
2. Picking, cutting down, or uprooting anything that grow on the trees that grow in the lake, mangrove and wetland

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

1. Researching
2. Cutting wood or firewood from trees
3. Farming
4. Eco tourism
5. Structural development or establishing infrastructure

4. **Addu City Mathi Kilhi**

- a. Name of area to be protected: Addu City Mathi Kilhi Region

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

Mathi Kilhi

Figure 4

G.P.S. coordinates of the core area of Mathi Kilhi Region

Latitude. Longitude.



G.P.S. coordinates of the buffer zone of Mathii Kilhi Region
Latitude. Longitude.

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

This is a wetland area on the east side of Hulhudhoo and Meedhoo (Hulhudhoomedhoo) of Addu City. Since this is a large wetland area, the rainfall this island gets is easily absorbed there. This area plays an important role in reducing the chances of flooding in this island. From the vegetation in this area, there is a type of grass called 'Kaafaruburu' that grows in large numbers here. Aside from this, Tahitian screwpine, screwpine, sea hibiscus, and coconut trees can also be found here in abundance. Moreover, protected birds visit and reproduce in this area as well.

d. Category of natural protection and sustaining

Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use

e. Actions prohibited in the aforementioned area (including the core area and buffer zone):

1. Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests
2. Dumping trash
3. Removing or taking of black or white soil
4. Aquaculture/ mariculture
5. Cutting down, uprooting or damaging trees
6. Planting any trees/ seeds other than the types in this area
7. Introducing any species of living thing
8. Reclamation of the lake or making it deeper for the restoration of it, or for any other reason, without permission from this ministry
9. Lighting fire in any other area than an already established one

f. Actions allowed in this area (including the core area and buffer zone):

1. Taking dry coconut tree leaves, coconuts, firewood, and nuts
2. Picking, cutting down, or uprooting anything that grows on the trees that grow in the lake, mangrove and wetland

g. Actions allowed with permission under an established guideline:

1. Researching
2. Cutting wood or firewood from trees
3. Farming
4. Eco tourism
5. Structural development or establishing infrastructure

22nd September 2020 GC.