



# Protected Areas of Maldives



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# Introduction of Protected Areas of Maldives

The Maldives contains some of the most globally significant coral reef and coastal ecosystems on the planet.

Its atolls are the seventh largest reef system in the world and the largest in the Indian Ocean (Conservation International, 2022).



With over 250 hard coral species and nearly 2,000 fish species, the diversity found in Maldivian reefs is unmatched and contained within a relatively small geographic area (IUCN, 2019).

These globally important marine habitats provide services essential to local livelihoods and the Maldivian economy, from tourism revenue to storm protection and shoreline stabilization (UNEP, 2021).

The atolls' seagrass meadows and mangrove forests are also among the most productive and extensive globally (UNEP, 2021). They play a vital role in carbon absorption while providing critical nursery grounds for juvenile reef species like sharks, rays and commercial fish.

Maldivian wetlands and uninhabited islands serve as vital stopover points for millions of migratory birds crossing the Arabian Sea annually between Asia and Africa (IUCN, 2020). At least 200 migratory species have been recorded in the Maldives, highlighting the global significance of these habitats for avian populations (IUCN Red List, 2022).

To date, there are over 91 protected areas encompassing more than 63,000 ha of marine and coastal environments across the Maldives. Many of these conservation efforts have been supported through international donations as well as research by local and international NGOs.

Expanding conservation efforts, the Maldives has set up management offices in four regions Addu Nature Park Office, Fuvahmulah Nature Park Office, South Ari Marine Protected Area Office, and Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve office to oversee and actively protect various ecosystems. These offices, crucial for managing the protected areas biodiversity.

On-site rangers play a key role in these efforts, tasked with monitoring the environment, upholding regulations, and promoting sustainable tourism.

This decentralized approach ensures comprehensive protection for the nation's diverse ecosystems. These conservation areas operate under a self-sustaining model where visitors contribute to the preservation efforts through an entry fee. This financial approach helps maintain the regions' natural balance while allowing continued investment in their protection and management, ensuring that both local ecosystems and visitor experiences are continually enriched.

Moreover, three atolls in the Maldives have been recognized as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves - Baa Atoll, Gnaviyani Atoll and Addu Atoll (UNESCO, 2022). This further demonstrates the exceptional global value and uniqueness of the Maldives' marine and coastal ecosystems.

By establishing an extensive network of marine protected areas and working to conserve these exceptional coastal ecosystems, the Maldives provides a model for sustainably managing and safeguarding marine biodiversity around the world.

Continued conservation efforts are crucial in the face of growing threats, as the loss of these globally important ecosystems would have profound environmental and economic impacts both locally and worldwide.



# 1.1

## About the Book

The “Protected Areas Handbook” is designed to be a straightforward resource, primarily focused on assembling all the rules, management approaches, and useful guidelines regarding the Maldives’ protected areas.

By centralizing this information, the handbook simplifies the process of accessing and understanding the specifics that individuals or organizations might require.

Inside the handbook, readers will also find a lot of important data and statistics. These numbers tell us how well we’re doing in protecting

these areas and what we need to work on. This information is really important for people who make big decisions about the environment because it helps them see the whole picture.

The handbook is for everyone. Whether you’re working for the government, studying the environment, teaching others about it, or running a business in the tourism industry, this book can help. It clearly explains where the protected areas are, what you can and can’t do there, and how they’re looked after. This makes it easier for everyone to follow the rules and help keep these areas safe.

Every five years, the handbook will get an update. This is to make sure all the latest rules, plans, and facts are included. By doing this, it also supports ongoing research and education efforts, as it gives teachers, students, and researchers the detailed information they need.

Lastly, by making this information easy for everyone to access, the handbook helps people appreciate the value of protected areas. When people understand why these areas are important, they’re more likely to support efforts to take care of them.



# Summary of Protected Areas in the Maldives

As of 2023, there are 91 designated protected areas distributed across 19 of the 20 atolls in the Maldives. This extensive network covers all geographic regions of the country, spanning from the northern Haa Alif Atoll to the southern Addu Atoll.

In total, these 91 protected areas encompass more than 63,000 hectares of globally significant marine and coastal environments.

The widespread distribution demonstrates a commitment to safeguarding critical habitats in different atolls and across the archipelago.

While the central atolls contain a higher concentration of protected areas, largely due to early tourism development in this region, efforts have been made to expand designations throughout the Maldives.

This includes remote northern and southern atolls with lower human populations but high biodiversity value.

Ensuring representation across the distinct atoll ecosystems has been a priority. The result is a nation-

wide system of protected areas that conserves critical reef, seagrass, mangrove and wetland habitats.

Comprehensive coverage increases ecosystem connectivity and allows migratory species like whales, dolphins, turtles and birds to be protected across their ranges.

With 91 protected areas spanning 19 atolls, the Maldives has established one of the most extensive marine protected area networks in the world.

Ongoing efforts to maintain and expand this system aim to fully represent the diversity of globally significant ecosystems found across the Maldivian archipelago.





# Haa Alifu Atoll

Haa Alif Atoll has four protected areas designated between 2018-2019, totaling 4,752 hectares, that showcase the atoll's ecological diversity and serve important conservation purposes.

These include the H.A. Baarah Wetland (51 ha) which is a protected mangrove/wetland area with high biodiversity and is home to rare birds like the Common Greenshank. H.A. Gallandhoo Island (251 ha) is an entire island protected as a strict nature reserve due to its natural diversity and habitat for birds.

H.A. Bilehdhoo Thila & Innafinolhu Island (4,338 ha) is a popular dive

thila and island known for its abundant marine life including sharks, rays and turtles, with an important manta cleaning station. H.A. Kelaa Kandoofaa Island (112 ha) has a large wetland containing rare mangrove species that provided historical food source and is an important bird area.

These protected areas in Haa Alif Atoll harbor rare and endangered species and serve as sanctuaries while allowing for sustainable use, showcasing the ecological richness of the atoll.

04 designated protected areas

4,752 hectares



# 1. H A. Baarah Wetland

## Lulaan Number

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

## Date of Protection

30th December 2018

## Alternative Name

-

## Type

Mangrove / Wetland

## Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

## Area

51 Ha

## Coordinates

6.81408700, 73.21189000

## Reference Page to Lulaan

Formed in the shape of the arabic letter 'ح', Ha. Baarah, even in its formation, is different to other islands, and has unique environmental characteristics.

Covering a large area on the eastern side of the island are 10 different areas of mangroves and wetlands, however, there is indication that these areas were once connected.

The total area of the island is 256.7 hectares, of which 39 hectares consist of mangroves. It is said that the mangrove area on this island is one of the places that Boduthakurufaanu travelled to on the Kalhu'ohfummi to flee the Portuguese in the 1570s.

Six types of mangroves are observed on this island, and a significant number of Small-Leaved Orange Mangrove (Kan'doo) and Red Mangrove (Ran'doo) are found. This area is home to a number of birds, and Common Greenshank (Chonchon Ilohi), a very rarely sighted bird, has also been observed in this area.

In addition to this, the area of the island where the mangrove meets the sea is a nursery for young turtles, rays, different types of fish and sharks.



## 2. H A. Gallandhoo

### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

16th June 2019

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Island

### Category of Protection

Category 2 - Strict  
Nature Reserve

### Area

251 Ha

### Coordinates

6.95193270, 72.97359091

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Based on the southern side of the Ihavandhippolhu Atoll, Gallandhoo is a 12-hectare rock-based island that has unique natural and environmental characteristics. It is home to a wide variety of species.

The natural diversity of this island is most visible through the greenery of the trees, complemented by the island's rich soil fertility.

A great number of Lettuce Trees (Lhos Gas) are found on this island. The mangroves and wetlands on the island also show the island's rich biodiversity and its environmental significance.

In addition to this, different types of birds nest on the island during the Northeast Monsoon (Iruvai Moosun). The island's reef biodiversity is vibrant, and the island is known for being a nesting ground for turtles.



## 3. H A. Bilehdhoo Thila (Including Innafinolhu)

### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

16th June 2019

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected area  
and an Island

### Category of Protection

Category 6 – Habitat/Species  
Management Area

### Area

4338 Ha

### Coordinates

7.05445035, 72.81635363

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Bileiydhoo Thila is a 227-hectare thila on the northern side of the Ihavandhippolhu Atoll and is known for being one of the most popular thilas in the Northern Maldives among divers.

This thila is home to a variety of species, and is a famous dive site in the Maldives. It is known for being an 'aquarium' where the most number of underwater species in one area is observed. Important species such as rays, Napoleon wrasses, sharks, and different types of turtles frequent this thila.

A manta cleaning station also exists in this thila. 20 meters below the sea level, a vibrant ecosystem of species can be found, and huge caves are found further below.

These caves are occupied by a great number of nurse sharks (nidhanmiyaru). Moreover, rays and dogtooth tuna (voshimas) are also found in the 'Top Reef' of this thila.



## 4. H A. Kelaa Kandoofaa



### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

16th June 2019

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected area  
and an Island

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

### Area

112 Ha

### Coordinates

6.94376130, 73.21611720

### Reference Page to Lulaan

HA. Kelaa, a 212-hectare island located in the Northern most side of the HA. Atoll, is among one of the islands in the Northern Maldives where wetlands are observed. The wetland in Kelaa has 22 hectares.

Compared to the other islands in Maldives, the wetland in Kelaa, which is environmentally noteworthy and historically significant to the island, has the most number of number of Small-Leaved Orange Mangrove (Kan'doo). During the "boduthadhu" (famine) caused by Second World War, the Small-Leaved Orange Mangroves were a reliable source of food for Kelaa and its nearby islands.

This is in contrast to some other islands which struggled with food security during the war. Small-Leaved Orange Mangroves are still sometimes used as food. A huge Kulhlhava tree, which is more than 50 years old, is also found in the wetland in Kelaa. The wetland is home to different species of birds, and migratory birds are observed in great numbers in this area.

In addition to a huge population of Common Moorhen (Kulheekukulhu), protected birds in the Maldives such as Grey Heron (Maakanaa), Cattle Egret (Iruvaahudhu), Maldivina Water Hen (Kanbili), Black Crowned Night Heron (raabondhi), and Asian Koel (Koveli) are among the types of birds which this wetland is home to.



# Haa Dhaalu Atoll

With 4 protected areas designated between 2018-2019 totaling 1,770 hectares, Haa Dhaalu Atoll showcases its rich terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

These areas include H.Dh. Finey Thila (97.5 ha), a popular dive site abundant in marine life; H.Dh. Keylakunu (236 ha), an uninhabited island with mangroves, wetlands and rare birds; H.Dh. Neykurendhoo Wetland (74.3 ha) which harbors mangroves and is an important bird area; and H.Dh. Innafushi (1,362 ha), a small island on the atoll's edge that is a seabird nesting ground with a diverse reef.

Ranging from wetlands, islands and reefs that support threatened species, the protected areas in Haa Dhaalu promote the preservation and sustainable use of the atoll's ecological assets.

04 designated protected areas

1,770 hectares





# 1.H Dh. Finey Thila

## Lulaan Number

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

## Date of Protection

16th June 2019

## Alternative Name

-

## Type

Marine Protected Area

## Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

## Area

97.50 Ha

## Coordinates

6.74466085, 73.05934310

## Reference Page to Lulaan

H.Dh. Finey Thila is located around 250 metres from the south of H.Dh. Finey, and this area consists of two distinct thilas.

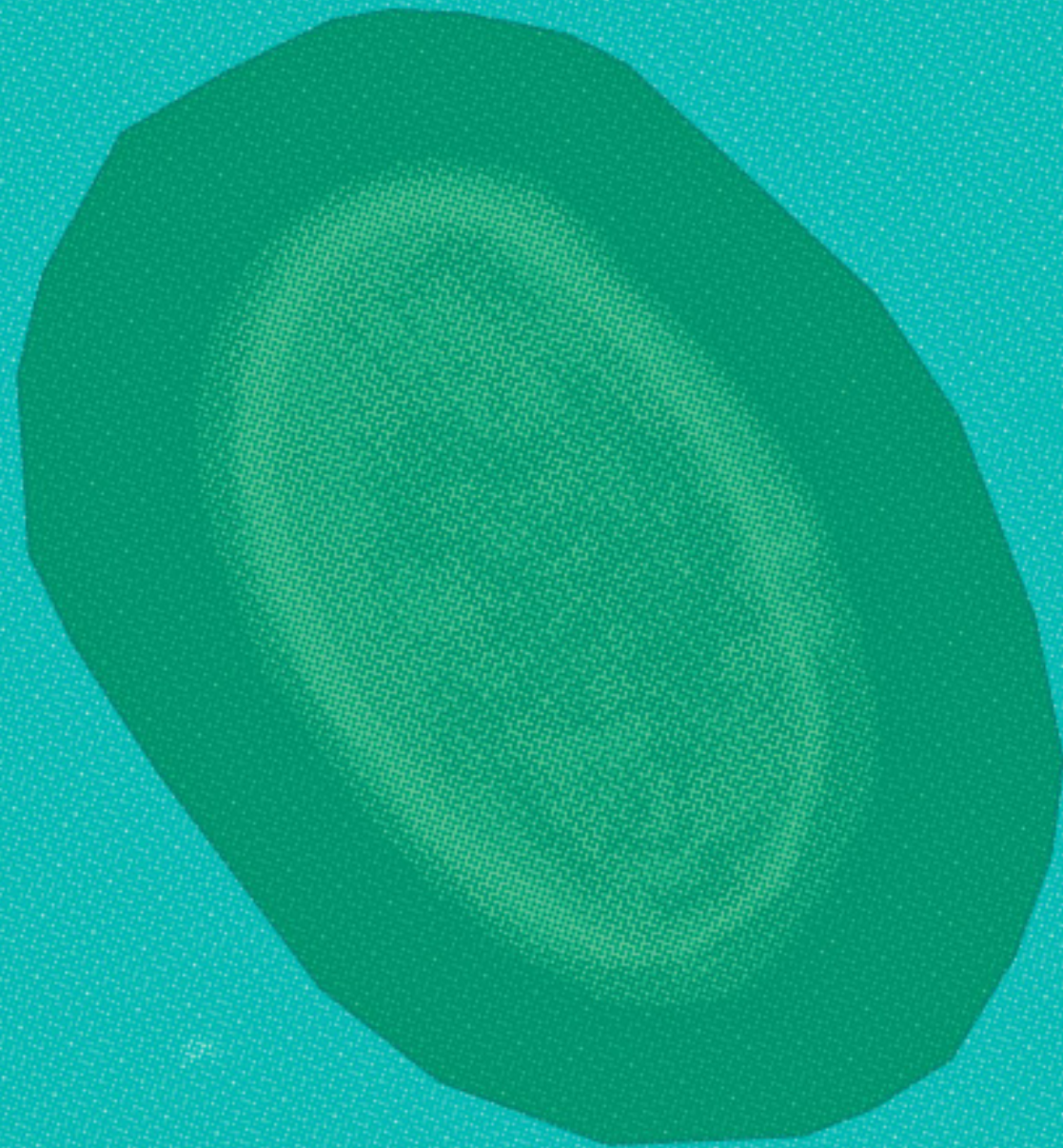
The bigger of these thilas start at a depth of 12 metres, while the smaller one starts at a depth of 18 metres. Finey thila is know for its yellow, blue, and orange soft corals.

The dive site between the two thilas, where eagle rays, Napoleon wrasses, grey reef sharks, and kawakawa are found, is very popular among divers.

Among the smaller species found in this area are Shrimp, Lobster, and different varieties of nudibranch. People who frequent this dive site also notice high numbers of Fusilier and Trevally.



## 2.H Dh. Keylakunu



### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

30 December 2018

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Island

### Category of Protection

Category 6 – Habitat / Species Management Area

Category 7 – Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

236 Ha

### Coordinates

6.60319300, 73.00937000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Keylakunu is an uninhabited island located in the south Thiladhunmathi atoll. This island is naturally and environmentally special. The island is home to a variety of species, interconnected with people's behaviour and livelihoods.

Keylakunu is comparatively greener than other islands in the Maldives, and the eastern side of the island consists of mangroves and wetlands. A vast area of the island contains small leaved yellow mangroves, bodavaki and kulhlhava. In addition to this, there is a forest made up of (barugas), which does not grow in abundance in any part of the world.

While the diameters of the trunks of (barugas), which is found in abundance on this island, are at 7.8 ft, the trees grow over 30 metres. The most significant aspect of this island is the mangrove and wetland area, formed as a jungle, located on the east side of the island. Different sized trees of small leaved orange mangrove and red mangrove can be seen in abundance, whose roots have formed a network of small wetlands.

The area is a carbon sink as well. Various species of birds regularly visit this island. 11 species of birds were observed just during the survey of this island. The rarely seen tropical white-tailed bird ("dhandufulhu dhooni") in the Maldives can be seen quite often in this island.



## 2.H Dh. Keylakunu (Contd)



### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

30 December 2018

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Island

### Category of Protection

Category 6 – Habitat / Species  
Management Area

Category 7 – Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

### Area

236 Ha

### Coordinates

6.60319300, 73.00937000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

This bird requires a special environment to populate in. It is also important to note that a significant amount of turtles nest on its beach. Keylakunu is considerably different from the typical Maldivian island.

This is because of the way trees and plants grow in this island, and it belongs to the forest category which not a lot of area in the Maldives qualify for.

Apart from this, what makes this island distinct and worth conserving is its mangroves and wetland area, as well as its reef area and the diversity in bird species.



## 3.H Dh. Neykurendhoo Wetland

### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

30 December 2018

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Mangrove and Wetland Area

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

### Area

74.3 Ha

### Coordinates

6.54235700, 72.98563000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

The island of H.Dh Neykurendhoo is formed in such a way that on the majority of its Southeast side are mangroves and wetlands.

Although the island is 162 hectares, people only inhabit 31 hectares of it. The mangroves and wetlands cover make up 28.3 hectares. From the 14 types of mangroves we see in Maldives, 6 types of mangroves can be seen in this area.

A large number of migrating birds visit this area in the Southeast Monsoon (iruvai moosun). Moreover, this area is also home to different types of crabs and other creatures.



## 4. H Dh. Innafushi

### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

16th June 2019

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected area  
and an Island

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

### Area

1,362 Ha

### Coordinates

6.41800169, 72.63721130

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Innafushi is a small 3-hectare, rock-based island situated in Makunudhoo Atoll's west edge. This island possesses naturally and environmentally rich characteristics. It is also inhabited by a diverse and abundant range of fauna. Flocks of seabirds frequent this island to nest and lay eggs. Innafushi also happens to be naturally formed on the west most edge of the Maldives.

A lot of ships have wrecked on the "futtaru" point in the past. This is why the people of Makunudhoo atoll refer to this point as 'boatu urey muli'. When we observe the formation of this island, it can be seen that the majority of its ground area is covered with coral sand (akiri veli). And a pearly white sand beach can be seen on its east side. Apart from exactly 3 palm trees, this island contains Lettuce trees (Ihos gas), Indian tulip trees (hirundhu gas) and Pemphis (kuredhi gas). The west end of Makunudhoo has a pond connected to the sea. The inhabitants Makunudhoo refer to this pond as 'fureytha fengandu,' translated as 'monster pond'. The reef surrounding Innafushi is one lush and diverse with marine life. Divers find a special interest with this reef because of the many shipwrecks.

Moreover, there is an abundance of different reef fish which can be easily caught in this area. It is also vast in size and accommodates colourful corals and fish species. A lot of fish are caught within the lagoon of the island, and whales and sharks can be observed outside of the island reef. What makes Innafushi substantial to conserve is ultimately its geophysical attributes and the fact that this island is situated on the western most edge of all Maldives.



# Shaviyani Atoll

Shaviyani Atoll has 4 protected areas established between 2018-2019 totaling 3,157 hectares.

These include Sh. Farukolhu (682.67 ha) with its mangroves, wetlands and unique island environment. Sh. Bolissafaru (954 ha) is an island significant for the seabirds and turtles that utilize it.

Sh. Naalaahuraa Finolhu (159 ha) is a small sandbank important as a seabird resting ground. Sh. Innafushi (1,362 ha) located on the atoll's western edge, is a small island that is a seabird nesting habitat and has a diverse reef.

Ranging from sandbanks, islands, reefs and wetland ecosystems, these protected areas in Shaviyani promote the conservation of the atoll's ecological diversity and its habitats for threatened species.

04 designated protected areas

3,157 hectares





# 1. Sh. Farukolhu

## Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2018/262

## Date of Protection

07 October 2018

## Alternative Name

-

## Type

Mangroves, Wetland  
and Island

## Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

## Area

682.67 Ha

## Coordinates

6.19064000, 73.29859000

## Reference Page to Lulaan

Sh. Farukolhu is an island unlike others in its formation with unique environmental features. Most of the island is lush with patches of mangroves and wetlands, and some parts of the island, due to its shape, form narrow paths and cul de sacs.

These, along with other natural, environmental features, make this island different from others. Because this island is environmentally significant, it has been included in the 'Environmental Sensitive Areas List' by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Additionally, information about the species of animal life, as well as delicate places and organisms on the island have been identified through several researches done on the island.

**The natural environment of Farukolhu is divided into 5 categories. They are:**

1. The tree lines
2. The mangrove connected to the ocean ('Finihaka Kulhi')
3. Seven salt and fresh water mangroves and surrounding wetlands.
4. The beach of the island.
5. The reef and lagoon surrounding the island.



## 2. Sh. Bolissafaru

### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

16 June 2019

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Island

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

954 Ha

### Coordinates

6.00346626, 73.11640837

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Sh. Bolissafaru is a 26-hectare island with a long sandbank attached to it, to south of Keekimini. This island is especially significant because of the seabirds that frequent the island during both monsoons, and the turtles that visit to nest on the island's beach.

The sandbank is also frequented by a large number of Roseate Terns (Valla) that gather there to lay eggs. Since Boduthiladhunmathi Atoll is home to numerous species of seabirds, it is important that the sandbanks where these birds visit to lay eggs and rest be protected.

This island is filled with Pemphis (Kuredhi) trees, and has a white sand spit (Thun'di) that is famous among locals. The birds that frequent Bolissafaru's sandbank to rest is a pleasant sight for visitors.



### 3. Sh. Naalaa Huraa finolhu

#### Lulaan Number

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

#### Date of Protection

16 June 2019

#### Alternative Name

-

#### Type

Sandbank

#### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

#### Area

159 Ha

#### Coordinates

6.12034824, 73.03818882

#### Reference Page to Lulaan

Sh. Naalaahuraa is a small, 2-hectare white sandbank to the south of Hurasfaruhuraa. This sandbank has unique natural and environmental features, and the pattern of the sand accumulation around different parts of the sandbank changes between the two monsoons.

Seabirds frequently visit this sandbank to rest during the two monsoons. It has been noted that flocks of Lesser Noddies (Kuran'gi) dwell on this sandbank at all hours of the day, and some visit the sandbank to sleep. Roseate Terns (Valla) are also known to lay their eggs on this sandbank.

Since Boduthiladhunmathi Atoll is home to numerous species of sea birds, it is important that the sandbanks where these birds migrate to, lay eggs, and rest, be protected.



# Noonu Atoll

Noonu Atoll has 4 protected areas designated between 2019-2020 totaling 1,181 hectares.

These include N. Kendhikulhudhoo Wetland (494 ha) which is known for its extensive mangroves that are habitat for diverse flora and fauna.

N. Orimas Thila (46.1 ha) is an important diving area with abundant marine life including sharks and fish. N. Bodulhaimendhoo (320 ha) is an uninhabited island recognized for its wetlands and natural diversity.

N. Foh Dhipparu Finolhu (321 ha) is a sandbank significant as a seabird nesting ground, especially for the protected Roseate Tern.

Ranging from wetlands, reefs, islands and sandbanks, the protected areas in Noonu promote the conservation of the atoll's biodiversity and its various ecosystems.

04 designated protected areas

1,181 hectares





# 1.N. Kendhikulhudhoo Wetland

## Lulaan Number

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

## Date of Protection

16 June 2019

## Alternative Name

-

## Type

Mangroves and Wetland

## Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

## Area

494 Ha

## Coordinates

5.95882788, 73.41424534

## Reference Page to Lulaan

Kendhikulhudhoo, a 247-hectare island in Noonu Atoll, is known for its lush palm-filled landscape and unique natural features.

It boasts extensive mangroves and wetlands, larger than typical in the Maldives, and is home to diverse flora and fauna. Researchers have identified various bird species, including protected ones like Cattle Egrets and Black-Naped Terns, making habitat preservation crucial.

The island's mangrove area is densely forested with species like Small-Leaved Orange Mangroves and Red Mangroves. It also supports aquaculture activities but requires careful conservation.

Kendhikulhudhoo's beach serves as a vital turtle nesting ground, emphasizing the need for protection to sustain the turtle population.



## 2.N. Orimas Thila

### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

16 June 2019

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

46.1 Ha

### Coordinates

5.84550750, 73.24995754

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Orimas thila, is a deep thila located 5 kilometres from the west of N. Felivaru. This area is an important diving spot within this atoll. This is a beautiful small rock-based thila, which is surrounded by lively corals and marine life.

A great number of grey reef sharks (vahboa miyaru) can be seen wandering in this area. The majority of this thila is made up of giant rocks. The caves on the sides of these rocks are filled with corals, soft corals and sponges.

The surveys conducted on this thila have recorded a total of 27 types of fish. This includes loads of schools of Skipjack tuna (kan'dumas), Trevally (han'dhi) and different types of other reef fish (farumas). The corals are home to a myriad of colorful small fishes. Cobia, a fish which is rarely seen in the Maldives is also seen here.

Many of the protected underwater species in Maldives are often seen in this thila. One of the most special characteristics of Orimas thila is that grey reef sharks (vahboa miyaru) can be seen here in groups of more than a 100. Apart from grey reef sharks, whitetip reef shark (olhufathi miyaru) and the lesser seen zebra shark (faana miyaru) are also seen swimming in this thila.

Lastly, protected turtles, rays and grouper fish (faana) are also seen in this area.



## 3.N. Bodulhaimendhoo

### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

16 June 2019

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Island

### Category of Protection

Category 2 - Strict  
Nature Reserve

### Area

320 Ha

### Coordinates

6.01000930, 73.30495973

### Reference Page to Lulaan

N. Bodulhaimendhoo is 40-hectare uninhabited island on the southern-most edge of N Atoll. The island is unique in its formation in that the middle of the island is in the form of a bay which is surrounded wetlands. These wetland areas are covered by different types of trees that usually grow in such environments.

Bodulhaimendhoo has unique natural and environmental features and is rich with diverse species of animals. An example of the natural diversity on this island can be seen from its lush vegetation.

Additionally, this island has fertile soil which contributes to the rich greenery. The mangrove and wetland on this island also add to the natural and environmental features that make this island so exceptional.

The distinctive characteristics of this island can be categorized into four: the reef surrounding the island, the mangroves, wetland areas, and the beach where turtles nest.



## 4.N. Foh Dhipparu Finolhu

### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

16 June 2019

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Sandbank

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

321 Ha

### Coordinates

5.74296104, 73.20754867

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Fodhdhipparu, including the surrounding reef, is an 82.4-hectare sandbank on the north side of N. Fodhdhoo. This sandbank is both naturally and environmentally significant because of its features and is home to a wide variety of species.

Seabirds visit this sandbank in the southwest and northeast monsoons. Other species of migratory birds that visit the Maldives can be seen here as well. Roseate Terns (Valla), which is a protected bird species in the Maldives, also gather on this sandbank in large numbers and are known to lay eggs here. The Roseate Tern is also a bird that helps fishermen find schools of fish.

Since this sandbank has a stunning white sand spit, it is quite famous among tourists. The reef surrounding Fodhdhipparu is one rich with diverse species of marine life. To the south of Fodhdhipparu is the atoll entrance (Kanduolhi) between Fodhoo and the sandbank.

A considerable number of various types of fish can be caught easily from this atoll entrance. The number of reef fish found around the reef and the lagoon of the sandbank is also high.



A clownfish with orange and white stripes is swimming in a sea anemone. The background is a dark, close-up view of the anemone's tentacles.

# Raa Atoll

Raa atoll has one designated protected area which is R. Vilingili Thila (263 ha) - Established in 1999, this is a large pinnacle that is a thriving marine habitat referred to as “Anemone City” for its abundant sea anemones.

It harbors a diversity of fish, sharks, rays and other marine life amongst its coral-encrusted slopes.

01 designated protected areas

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# 1.R. Vilingili Thila

## Lulaan Number

10-C/99/38

## Date of Protection

21 October 1999

## Alternative Name

Anemone City

## Type

Marine Protected Area

## Category of Protection

-

## Area

263 Ha

## Coordinates

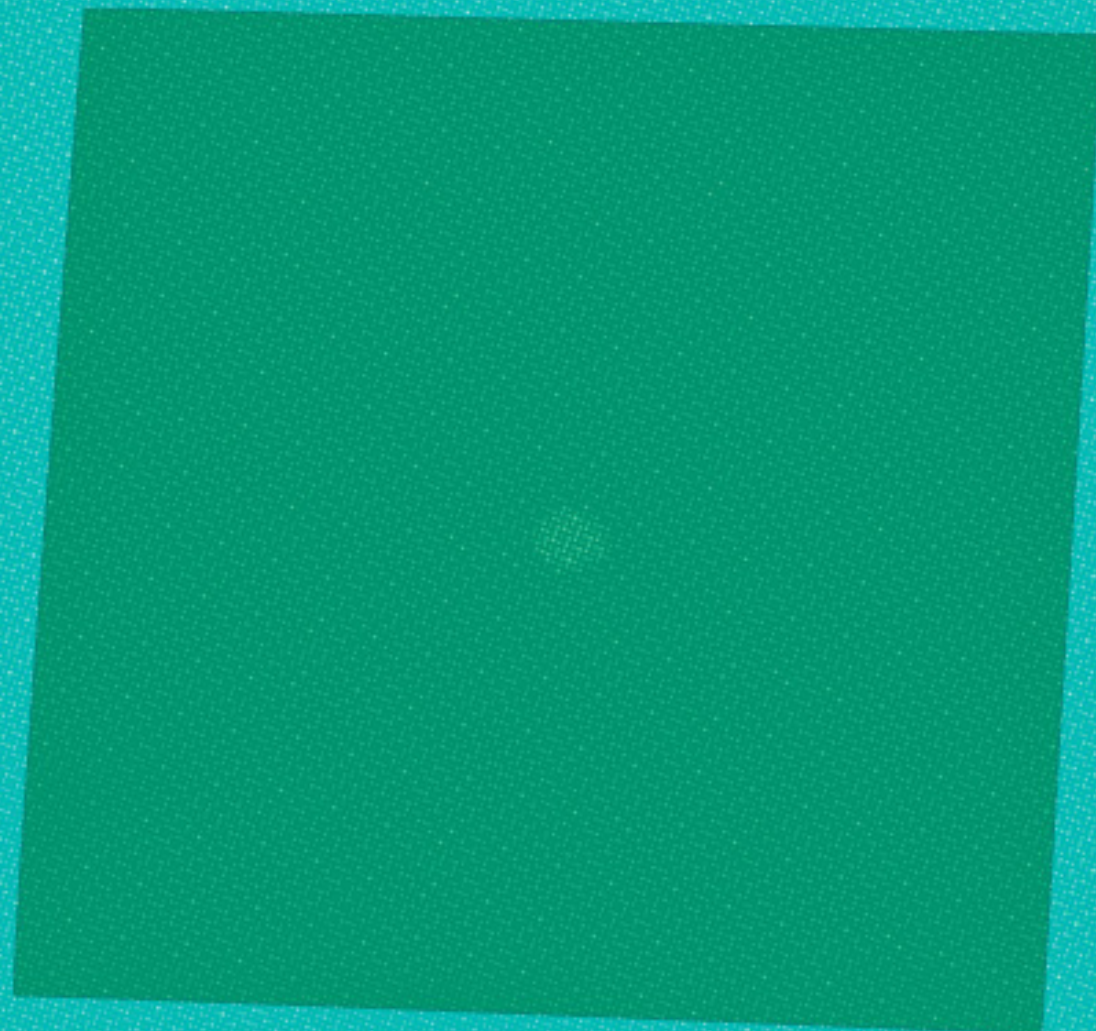
5.37916442, 72.95702000

## Reference Page to Lulaan

A huge shallow pinnacle, which able to explore ½ on a dive.

The either end of the pinnacle goes slope and side wall a drop of down to the atoll bed 120ft/40 meter. Fully live soft corals on the top platen and entire platen is a field of Anemone in variety.

Side wall full covered with patch corals, gorgonian, black corals and spongy corals. Napoleon, Red Snappers, Sting Rays, Yellow Snappers, Barracuda, Trigger fish, Needle fish, Trumpet fish, parrot fish , dimsel and gobies. Sharks and mantas are frequently sighted.





# Baa Atoll

Baa Atoll, recognized as the Maldives first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, has designated the most protected areas in the country, totaling over 8,456 hectares across 14 sites since 1999..Spanning over 8,456 hectares across 14 sites, these areas include renowned locations such as the Hanifaru Region (529 hectares), celebrated for its seasonal gatherings of manta rays and whale sharks. Other notable designations encompass diverse habitats like Dhigali Haa (125 hectares) for reef ecosystems, Angafaru Region (769 hectares) as a marine biodiversity hotspot, and Maahuruvalhi Faru Region (1,872 hectares) as another significant marine biodiversity hotspot.

Critical island ecosystems are safeguarded, such as Olhugiri (51.8 hectares), while Goidhoo Koaru (13.9 hectares) serves as a vital wetland habitat. The Mendhoo Region (1,172 hectares) encompasses marine, island, and sandbank

habitats, and Bathalaa Region (692 hectares) protects marine and sandbank environments. Mathifaru Huraa Region (54.8 hectares) conserves island and marine habitats, and the Corbin Shipwreck Site (328 hectares) is preserved as a historic protected wreck. Specific areas, like Huraafaru (694 hectares) and Nelivaru (665 hectares), are designated manta ray habitats, while Dharavandhoo Thila (132 hectares) is recognized as a manta ray cleaning station. The Innafushi Area (858 hectares) further contributes to conservation efforts by protecting island, sandbank, and marine habitats.

These numerous protected areas collectively showcase the diverse marine, wetland, and island environments within Baa Atoll, ensuring the preservation of the ecological richness of the Maldives' first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

14 designated protected areas

8,456 hectares



# 1.B. Dhigali Haa and Dhigali Giri

**Lulaan Number** 10-C/99/38,  
138-FS2/1/2011/35

**Date of Protection** 21st  
October 1999, 5 June 2011

**Alternative Name**  
Dhigali Giri / Horubadhoo Thila

**Type**  
Marine Protected Area  
and Sandbank

**Category of Protection**

-

**Area**  
125 Ha

**Coordinates**  
5.14715126, 73.04164000

**Reference Page to Lulaan 1**  
**Reference Page to Lulaan 2**

This area is a long and narrow reef characterised by a colourful reef top with overhangs. The reef top at Dhighali haa is between 12m and 16m deep, with slopes down to depths of about 32m.

Red-encrusting coralline algae are abundant and there are many colonies of digitate and branching *Acropora* spp. corals.

Previous records of grey reef sharks, white-tipped reef sharks, barracudas, jacks and turtles.



## 2. B. Olhugiri

### Lulaan Number

174-AB1/2006/13

### Date of Protection

14th June 2006

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Island

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

51.8 Ha

### Coordinates

5.00154045, 72.90589000

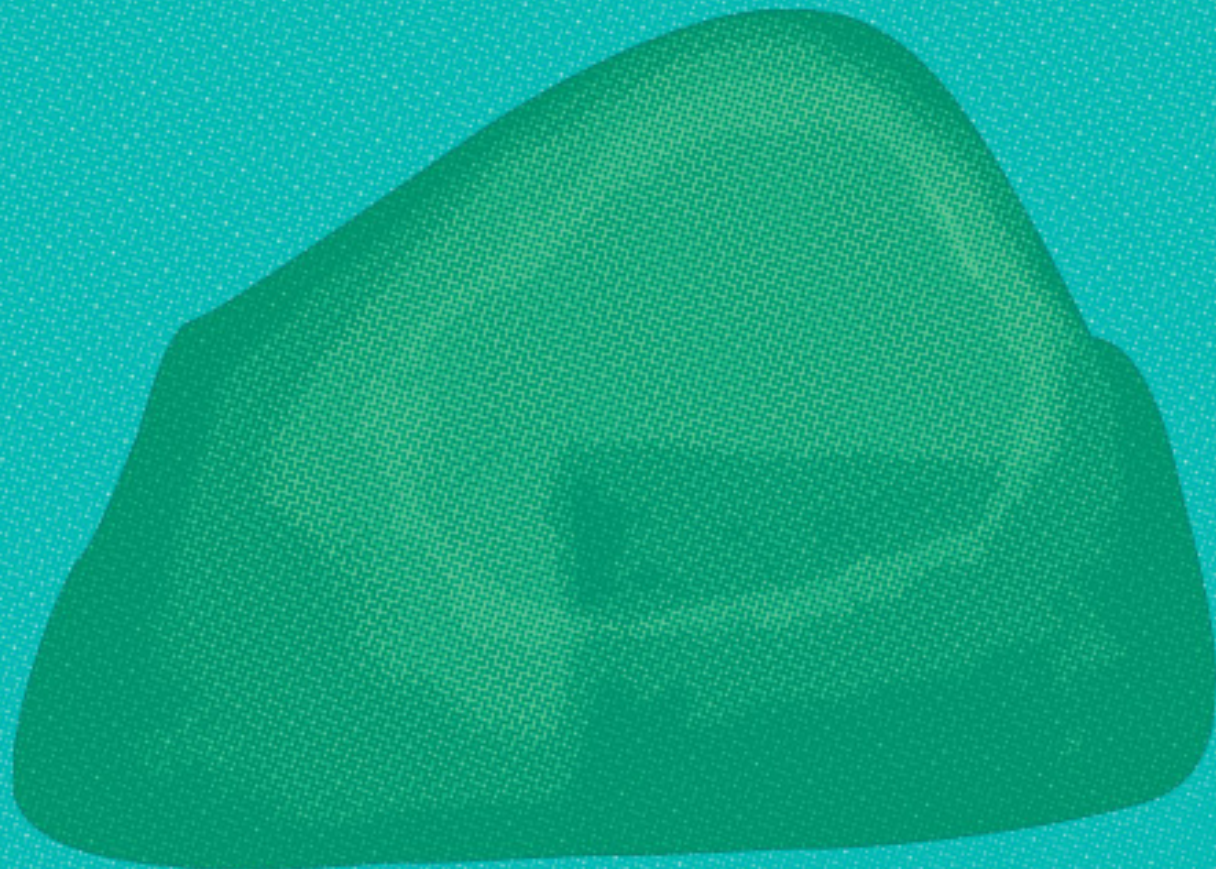
### Reference Page to Lulaan

Is registered as a terrestrial MPA, which has a high tourism value.

Has the only nesting population of Lesser frigate birds within Baa Atoll and associated vegetation.

Nest sites for green turtles.

Roosting site for fruit bats.





## 3. B. Hanifaru Region

### Lulaan Number

138-EE/2009/19

### Date of Protection

5th June 2009

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area  
and Island

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

529 Ha

### Coordinates

5.17387978, 73.14384000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

High biodiversity marine region possessing a unique dynamic water circulation system that during western monsoons, aggregated for feeding (whale sharks and manta rays) and mating (manta rays) in high numbers of endangered mega fauna animals (whale sharks and manta rays).

Therefore, this site is biologically and biodiversity significant for the Baa Atoll, Maldives and globally.

Similarly, this area has a very high tourism value for mega fauna and recreational diving and snorkeling. Nest sites for green and hawksbill turtles.

Occasional roosting site for the Black- Napped Tern, Lesser and Brown Noddy terns.



## 4. B. Angafaru Region

### Lulaan Number

138-EE/2009/19

### Date of Protection

5th June 2009

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area  
and Sandbank

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

769 Ha

### Coordinates

5.18896639, 73.08859000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

High biodiversity marine region and standing population of hard and soft corals and associated marine invertebrates and vertebrates.

Reef system is directly associated with the unique dynamic water circulation system of Hanifaru that during western monsoons aggregated for feeding high numbers of endangered mega fauna animals (whale sharks and manta rays). This reef site is therefore biologically and biodiversity significant for the Baa Atoll, Maldives and globally for mega fauna animals.

This marine area has a very high tourism value for mega fauna and recreational diving and snorkelling. This core area includes the internationally acclaimed dive site of Dhonfanu thila and "shark alley". This site located on the southern section of the Angafaru reef was renowned for the resident population of sharks.

Unfortunately the population currently of sharks utilizing this site has all but gone due to commercial fishing.

Roosting site for the Roseate and black Napped Terns.



## 5. B. Mendhoo Region

### **Iulaan Number**

138-FS2/1/2011/35

### **Date of Protection**

5th June 2011

### **Alternative Name**

-

### **Type**

Marine Protected Area,  
Island and Sandbank

### **Category of Protection**

-

### **Area**

1172.8 Ha

### **Coordinates**

5.17554644, 72.99541000

### **Reference Page to Iulaan**

The Mendhoo region comprises four lagoons, featuring distinctive elements such as two lagoons with sandbanks and one lagoon hosting an island.

The remaining two lagoons stand out for their remarkably high biodiversity, housing a thriving population of hard and soft corals, along with various marine invertebrates and vertebrates. Notably, the sandbank serves as a nesting site for both green and hawksbill turtles.

On Mendhoo island, the environment is conducive to nesting and roosting for the Lesser, Black-Napped, Greater Crested, and Brown Noddy Terns, as well as the Lesser Frigate bird.

This diverse ecosystem contributes significantly to the overall ecological richness of the Mendhoo region.



## 6. B. Goidhoo Koaru Area

### Lulaan Number

138-FS2/1/2011/35

### Date of Protection

5th June 2011

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Wetland and Mangroves

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

13.906 Ha

### Coordinates

4.87942793, 72.99846000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Highest biodiversity and largest mangrove forest within Baa atoll and one of the largest mangrove ecosystems within the nation.

High biodiversity and population of mangrove associated invertebrates and vertebrates.

Popular roosting site for local and migratory birds including the Ruddy Turnstone and Northern Shoveler during the north-east monsoon period.



## 7. B. Maahuruvalhi Faru Region

### Lulaan Number

138-FS2/1/2011/35

### Date of Protection

5th June 2009

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

1872.6 Ha

### Coordinates

5.18692800, 72.86032000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

High biodiversity and standing population of hard and soft corals and associated marine invertebrates and vertebrates (especially fin fish).

High populations of IUCN red listed species including (Napoleon fish (*Cheilinus undulatus*), Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and groupers (*Plectropomus* sp., *Variola* sp., *Cephalopholus* sp.).

It is known as a grouper may be a fish aggregation site for reproduction.





## 8. B. Bathalaa Region

### Lulaan Number

138-FS2/1/2011/35

### Date of Protection

5th June 2011

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area  
and Sandbank

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

692 Ha

### Coordinates

5.36186914, 73.07259000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Very high biodiversity, diverse habitat and standing population of hard and soft corals and associated marine invertebrates and vertebrates.

Nest sites for green and hawksbill turtles. Includes known grouper aggregation spawning sites.

Gaagandufaruhuraa Island is a roosting site for the Black-Napped, Lesser and Brown Noddy terns.



## 9. B. Mathifaru Huraa Region

### **Lulaan Number**

138-FS2/1/2011/35

### **Date of Protection**

5th June 2011

### **Alternative Name**

-

### **Type**

Island and Marine  
Protected Area

### **Category of Protection**

-

### **Area**

54.8 Ha

### **Coordinates**

4.81333333, 72.89361000

### **Reference Page to Lulaan**

Nest sites for green and hawksbill turtles.

Roosting and nesting sites for the Black-Napped,

Roseate, Lesser Noddy and Brown Noddy terns.



## 10. The wreck of "Corbin"

### Lulaan Number

138-FS2/1/2011/35

### Date of Protection

5th June 2011

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

328 Ha

### Coordinates

4.90916667, 72.90083000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

The Wreck of Corbin is a protected area in Baa Atoll. It is well-known for being the vessel that brought French sailor and memoirist François Pyrard de Laval to the country.

The Corbin was a French ship of 400 tons, which set sail from St. Malo with the Croissant on May 18, 1601, in search of trade with the east.

Along with an extraordinary dive experience, this wreck also carries a rich history that's worth discovering.



# 11. B. Huraafaru Area

## Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2023/485

## Date of Protection

9th November 2023

## Alternative Name

-

**Type** Marine Protected Area and Sandbank

## Category of Protection

Category -1 Internationally designated areas

Category 6 – Habitat/Species Management Area

## Area

694.36 Ha

## Coordinates

5.20159444, 73.16542500

## Reference Page to Lulaan

The B. Huraafaru area shares characteristics similar to the northern part of the Hanifaru Area in Baa Atoll.

It has been observed that plankton accumulates in this region, attracting a large number of Manta Rays. As of 2020, 436 manta rays were detected in the area 1,239 times.

This location serves as a crucial area for manta rays to find food and reproduce. Baa Atoll is globally recognized for having a large population of manta rays, emphasizing the importance of protecting such environments.

Additionally, Huraafaru Finolhu in this area is a significant environment for seabirds. Preserving this finolhu without altering the sea currents is essential.



## 12. B. Nelivaru Area

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2023/486

### Date of Protection

9th November 2023

### Alternative Name

-

**Type** Marine Protected Area and Sandbank

### Category of Protection

Category -1 Internationally designated areas

Category 6 – Habitat/Species Management Area

### Area

665.28 Ha

### Coordinates

5.12162500, 73.09073333

### Reference Page to Lulaan

The B. Nelivaru area is a gathering site for manta rays located to the northeast of B. Kunfunadhoo.

Similar to the Hanifaru area, it has been observed that planktons accumulate in this region, attracting manta rays.

As of 2020, 105 manta rays were detected in the area 119 times. This location is crucial for the protection of manta rays as it serves as an essential area for them to find food and for breeding.

One of the most notable features of this area is the presence of a 'cleaning station' used by manta rays.

B. Atoll is globally recognized for having a large population of manta rays, emphasizing the importance of protecting such environments for manta rays.

Additionally, the Nelivaru Finolhu in the area is an important environment for seabirds. It is crucial to preserve this finolhu without altering the current in this area



## 13. B. Dharavandhoo Thila

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2023/483

### Date of Protection

9th November 2023

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category -1 Internationally designated areas

Category 6 – Habitat/Species Management Area

### Area

132.38 Ha

### Coordinates

5.16031944, 73.12253056

### Reference Page to Lulaan

B. Dharavandhoo Thila, situated on the western side of B. Dharavandhoo, boasts numerous environmentally significant features with a naturally beautiful shape.

The area is home to a variety of corals and reef fish, making it a popular dive site among enthusiasts.

Notably, the pinnacle features a ‘cleaning station’ dedicated to the maintenance of manta rays within the reef.

As of 2020, a total of 521 manta rays have been documented at the site, recorded 1,672 times. Given Baa Atoll’s substantial global population of manta rays, preserving such environments is crucial for both the manta ray population and the popularity of the area among divers.



## 14. B. Innafushi Area

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2023/483

### Date of Protection

9th November 2023

### Alternative Name

-

**Type** Marine Protected Area,  
Island and Sandbank

### Category of Protection

Category -1 Internationally  
designated areas

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

### Area

858.60 Ha

### Coordinates

4.42975833, 72.88778889

### Reference Page to Lulaan

B. Innafushi, located to the east-north of B. Fulhadhoo, consists of an island and sandbanks surrounded by the sea. On the eastern side of the area lies the Cobin Wreck Protected Area.

The island of Innafushi serves as a crucial breeding ground for protected birds in the Maldives. The sandbanks in this area play a vital role as an environment for these birds, where they rest and lay eggs.

Preserving these sandbanks without altering them is essential to maintain the current in the area.

Innafushi and the surrounding sea area are rich in various species of corals and fish.



# Lhaviyani Atoll

Lhaviyani Atoll designated a total of 7 protected areas, covering a combined area of 5,312 hectares. These designated areas include well-known dive sites like Lh. Fushifaru Thila (1,393 hectares) and Lh. Kuredhu Kanduoilhi (392 hectares). Lh. Maagandu Thila, spanning 1,556 hectares, is notable for its abundant sea anemones and reef organisms.

Furthermore, Lhaviyani Atoll is home to island ecosystems such as Lh. Sehlhifushi & Hiriadhoo, encompassing 492 hectares, which feature mangroves and bird habitats.

Lh. Maakoa, with an area of 61.5 hectares, provides sanctuary for migratory birds in its wetland.

Lh. Vavvaru and the associated islands and reef, spanning 687 hectares, showcase a diverse range of marine biodiversity.

Lastly, the critical seabird resting and breeding ground known as Lh. Dhashugiri Finolhu sandbank, covering 330 hectares, plays a crucial role in supporting seabird populations.

These designated areas collectively represent a variety of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, effectively conserving Lhaviyani Atoll's ecological diversity and promoting sustainable utilization of its natural resources.

07 designated protected areas

5,312 hectares





# 1.Lh. Fushifaru Thila

## Lulaan Number

E/95/32

## Date of Protection

27 September 1995

## Alternative Name

Fushivaru Kandu

## Type

Marine Protected Area

## Category of Protection

Category 6 – Habitat/Species Management Area

## Area

1393 Ha

## Coordinates

5.48333333, 73.51667000

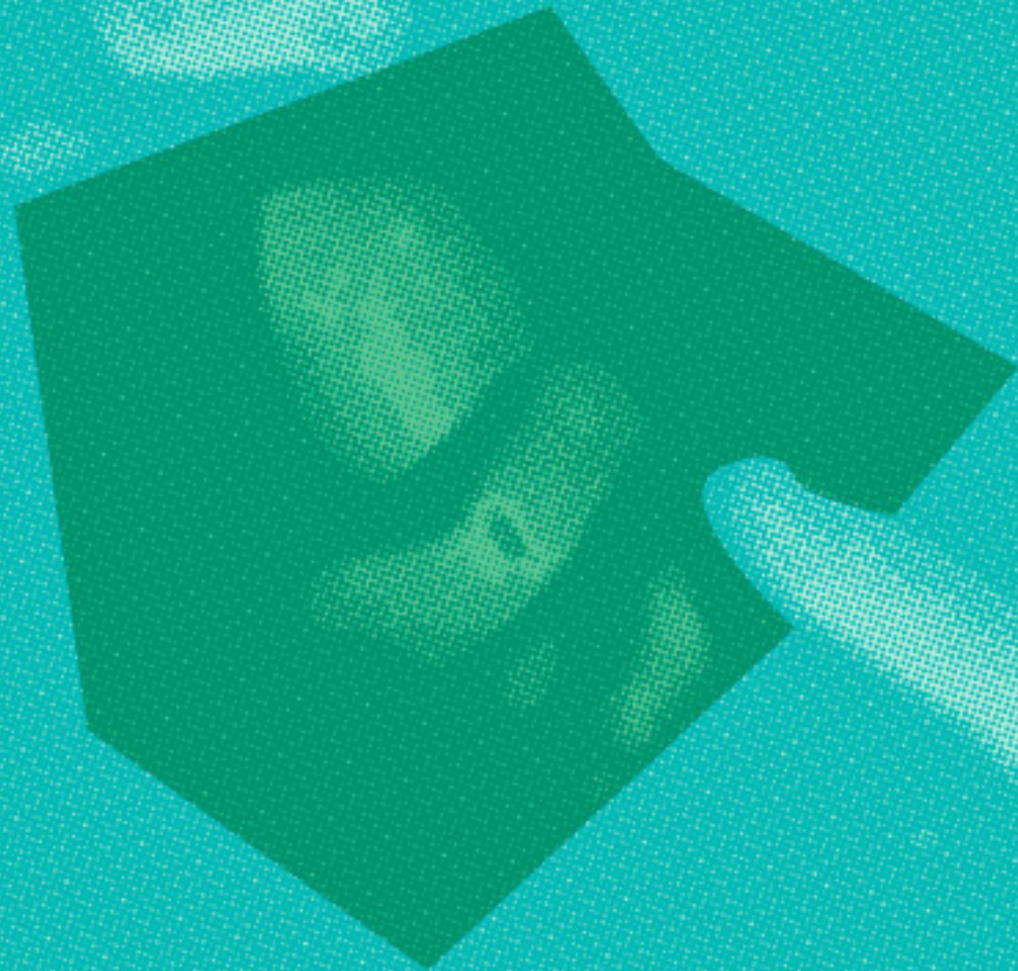
## Reference Page to Lulaan

Fushifaru thila is an elongated reef about 150m long and 70m wide at the widest point.

The top of the reef in the center is about 10m, shelving to each end. The reef is surrounded by the sandy channel floor.

At the northeastern end is the edge of the atoll rim drop off at 27-35m.

Two Manta cleaning stations and numerous other fish and fish life.





## 2.Lh. Maagandu Thila

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2020/179

### Date of Protection

08th October 2020

### Alternative Name

Anemone Thila

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 6 – Habitat/Species Management Area

### Area

1,556.47 Ha

### Coordinates

5.44194, 73.49722

### Reference Page to Lulaan

The Anemone Thila, located in the north of Faadhippolhu in the centre of the atoll, is an area rich in sea anemone (Maagandu), and soft and hard corals.

The Anemone Thila is populated with different species of anemones and Clark's Anemonefish (Maagandumas) at various depths. This spot is also world renowned for the amount of anemone that can be seen here.

The most commonly spotted anemone in this Thila is the Magnificent Sea Anemone (Heteractis magnifica). Other organisms that can be found in this area include different types of corals, sharks, and turtles.

It has been recorded that reef fish belonging to 27 different species live in this area. It is important to protect reefs and Thilas such as this as they sustain sea creatures and act as a protection mechanism against climate change.



## 3.Lh. Sehlhifushi and Hiriyadhoo

### Lulaan Number

IUL)438-ENV/438/2020/179

### Date of Protection

08th October 2020

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Island, Wetland and Mangrove

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

492 Ha

### Coordinates

5.417067, 73.642053

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Sehlhifushi and Hiriyadhoo are the 2 islands located on the northernmost side of one of the largest uninhabited islands of Faadhihpolhu, which is split into 5 administrative islands. Lh. Sehlhifushi – Hiriyadhoo wetland area is an uninhabited island on the east edge of Faadhihpolhu.

Even though historically it has been recorded that these 5 islands were separate, due to the changes in the lagoon current, the islands have seen rapid changes. The bay (kollavaani) in this area is environmentally significant.

These areas are not seen very often in the Maldives but are especially important for the reproduction of creatures living in reefs. The mangrove (kulhi) in this area is surrounded by trees consisting of 19 different types.

The keheruvah trees, which is a rarely observed type of tree in the Maldives, are also found in this island. It is important to populate this tree species. The island also includes areas where turtles lay eggs, seabirds sleep and nest.



## 4.Lh. Maakoa

### Lulaan Number

IUL)438-ENV/438/2020/179

### Date of Protection

08th October 2020

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Island, Wetland and Mangrove

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

61.5 Ha

### Coordinates

5.356865, 73.43144

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Lh. Maakoa is an island to the east of Maafilaafushi with dense greenery. Terrestrial crabs and lizards are known to live on this island.

What makes this island so special is its mangrove and the organisms that thrive in and around this mangrove. Silvery fish (Beyn'gu) live and reproduce in large numbers in this mangrove.

In addition to this small-leaved orange mangroves (Kan'doo gas) are recorded in high numbers in the mangrove and wetland area of this island.

The island's mangrove not only acts as a carbon sink that protects the coastline of the island from eroding, but it also elevates the beauty of the area.

Migratory birds that visit the Maldives, including Greater Flamingos (Gudugudaa Dhooni), are known to visit and breed in this mangrove area. In addition, 11 species of migratory birds, and 2 species of sea birds have been recorded in this area.



## 5.Lh. Vavvaru, Dhandifalhu Finolhu & Dhandifalhu Kanduoilhi

### Lulaan Number

IUL)438-ENV/438/2020/179

### Date of Protection

08th October 2020

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Island, Sandbank  
and Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

### Area

687 Ha

### Coordinates

5.409832, 73.352417

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Lh. Vavvaru is an uninhabited island located to the south of Naifaru. The reef surrounding this island is lush with marine life.

Some creatures worth mentioning include soft corals, the rarely seen yellow mouthed moray eel, different types of eels, and schools of Immaculate Soldierfish (dhanbodu) fish. Turtles, Reef Manta Rays (en'madi), spotted eagle ray (vaifiya madi) and yellowfin tuna (kanneli) are commonly seen in this reef. Some features which make this reef alluring are its caves, its overhang reef structure, and the purple corals.

The Dhandifalhu Finolhu sandbank, in the lagoon (falhu) to the south of Vavvaru, is home to multiple kinds of seabirds. Is also considered as a 'nursery' for a lot of types of fish. Between Vavvaru and Dhandifalhu Finolhu, there is an atoll entrance (kan'duolhi) named 'Dhandifalhu Kanduoilhi', which is environmentally rich with unique types of sea creatures and corals.

The marine life in this area includes numerous kinds of rays, sharks, turtles, grouper fish and barracudas (farutholhi). Gorgonian fans have been recorded at unusually high numbers in this area.



## 6.Lh. Dhashugiri Finolhu



### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2020/179

### Date of Protection

08th October 2020

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Sandbank

### Category of Protection

Category 2 - Strict Nature Reserve

### Area

330 Ha

### Coordinates

5.42414, 73.426717

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Lh. Dhashugiri finolhu is a large sandbank located to the north of Maafilaafushi, and on the east side of Veyvashu.

Although this sandbank changes its location with the monsoons, it is by far the most frequented sandbank by birds during all monsoons. Seabirds play a most essential role in bringing the nutrients and food from the ocean to land.

This location is ecologically important as birds visit there to rest during daytime, to sleep at nighttime, and to nest and breed. The protection given to this sandbank is equal to the protection given to these birds.

As a result of the protection given to these creatures, the fishing and tourism industry will benefit as well.



## 7.Lh. Kuredhu Kanduoilhi

### Lulaan Number

10-C/99/38

### Date of Protection

21 October 1999

### Alternative Name

Kurehdhu Express

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 6 – Habitat/Species  
Management Area

### Area

392 Ha

### Coordinates

5.55637984, 73.47549000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Corner dive site with shallow channel side and drop off outside.

Overhangs, soft corals, grey reef sharks and many pelagic species.

Home to globally endangered Ornate Eagle Ray.



# Kaafu Atoll

As the atoll that hosts Malé, the capital of the Maldives, along with most of the country's tourism islands,

Kaafu Atoll has designated the highest number of protected areas totaling over 3,045 hectares.

These 13 areas protected since 1995 include globally renowned dive sites like K. Guraidhoo Kandulhi (352 ha), critical marine habitats like K. Makunudhoo Kandu Olhi (308 ha) and K. Lankan Thila (263 ha), and island ecosystems like K. Thamburudhoo (318 ha) and K. Huraa mangroves (5.3 ha).

There is also the historic Maldives Victory wreck site (4.8 ha).

Showcasing the atoll's world-famous marine assets, surf breaks and island biodiversity, these protected areas promote the conservation of Kaafu Atoll's ecological resources that drive its vital tourism industry.

13 designated protected areas

3,045 hectares



# 1.K. Rasfari Region

## Lulaan Number

E/95/32

## Date of Protection

27th September 1995

## Alternative Name

-

## Type

Marine Protected Area  
and Island

## Category of Protection

-

## Area

984 Ha

## Coordinates

4.39590651, 73.35091000

## Reference Page to Lulaan

Rasfari dive site is on the outside of North Male' Atoll facing west. The main reef edge is about 10m.

The most attractive point is a separate reef at about 20m, standing up from the deeper sandy bottom, about 60m straight out from the main reef.

Underwater scenery and large fish. Grey Reef Sharks, particularly during the Southwest monsoon season. Manta Rays during Northeast monsoon season.



## 2.K. Thamburudhoo Region

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2020/209

### Date of Protection

05th November 2020

**Alternative Name** H.P Reef  
Region/ Thamburudhoo Thila  
Region/ Girifushi Thila Region

**Type** Island, Mangroves and  
Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

### Area

3 18.46 Ha

### Coordinates

4.314556, 73.584185

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Thanburudhoo Thila in K. Atoll, or “H.P Reef”, is a Thila that has been protected since 1995. Thanburudhoo Thila area’s zonation was reviewed to include the the Thanburudhoo island and the Giri sandbank to the north of Thanburudhoo since Thanburudhoo and the area that surrounds it are naturally and characteristically significant.

K. Thanburudhoo is a 3.5-hectare rocky shore island on the northeast side of K. Atoll, 17 kilometers away from Malé. The unique environmental features of this island include a 0.33-hectare wetland.

This mangrove area floods when the tide rises and dries up with low tide. Some important species that can be seen on this island include protected birds as well as migratory birds. Grey Herons (‘maakanaa’), Maldivian Water Hens (‘kanbili’), Black-naped Terns (‘kirudhooni’), and Common Terns (‘valla’) can be observed resting on this island.

It has also been recorded that Grey Herons make their nests, lay eggs and populate on the island. Moreover, small-leaved orange mangroves (Kan’doo) have been recorded in the mangrove area, and trees that can be observed on the island include Cordia (‘kaani’), Sea randa (‘uni’), Banyan trees (‘nika’), Portia trees (‘hirundhu’), Grey nickernut (‘kashikunburu’), Coconut palms (‘ruh’), Sea hibiscus (‘dhiggaa’), Pemphis (‘kuredhi’), Bay cedar (‘halaveli’), Headache tree (‘dhakandhu’), Beach plum (‘magoo’), Indian almond tree (‘midhili’), Thatch screwpine (‘boakashikeyo’),



## 2.K. Thamburudhoo Region (Contd)

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2020/209

### Date of Protection

05th November 2020

**Alternative Name** H.P Reef  
Region/ Thamburudhoo Thila  
Region/ Girifushi Thila Region

**Type** Island, Mangroves and  
Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

### Area

318.46 Ha

### Coordinates

4.314556, 73.584185

**Reference Page to Lulaan**

(‘boashi’), Great morinda (‘ahi’) and (‘thanburu’). The monstrous waves that break on both sides of this island are an “oceanographic” phenomenon seen on only a few other islands in the Maldives.

These waves are also famous among surfers throughout the world. Besides this, the sea surrounding Thanburudhoo is home to diverse varieties of marine life, including soft corals and different species of reef fish.

The Thanburudhoo Thila or “H.P. Reef” of this area is also a prominent diving spot. The H.P Reef is well-known for its soft corals, underwater caves, and overhangs above these caves. Some important species that can be observed in this area include different types of rays, eels, sharks and turtles.



## 4.K. Gaathugiri

### Lulaan Number

E/95/32

### Date of Protection

27th September 1995

### Alternative Name

Aiydhashugiri, Banana Reef

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

4.42 Ha

### Coordinates

4.23933042, 73.53187000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

The best Diving on Banana Reef is on its northern side.

Off the north-eastern tip there are a series of massive detached rocks providing spectacular underwater scenery.

On the north-western side of the reef juts out, creating a massive cavern. With strong currents from the east there are powerful eddies. Excellent table corals on the reef top.

Enormous amount of reef fish life; very good coral cover specially soft corals and gorgonians.



## 5.K. Giraavaru Kuda Haa

### Lulaan Number

E/95/32

### Date of Protection

27th September 1995

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

258 Ha

### Coordinates

4.21661458, 73.41592000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Kuda Haa is an isolated reef standing up from a sandy bottom at 30m. The reef is roughly figure -of-eight shaped, with two high points separated by a sandy saddle at 16m.

The shallowest part of the reef are at 7m and 10m. At a depth of 25 meters on the north side, a small overhang enhances the underwater landscape, showcasing an array of excellent corals.

This submerged structure is teeming with abundant marine life, featuring a variety of fish, among which the elusive stonefish can be found.



## 6.K. Dhekunu Thilafalhuge Miyaruvani

### Lulaan Number

E/95/32

### Date of Protection

27th September 1995

### Alternative Name

Lions Head

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

150 Ha

### Coordinates

4.17892817, 73.42600000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Lions Head is on the outside of North Male' Atoll facing south into Vaadhoo Channel. From the reef edge at about 8m there is a step down to a steep rubble slope where you can sit to watch the sharks.

To your right (west) as you face out there is a large overhang that leads down to over 30. To your left (east) there is a line of small overhangs in 10-15m that continues for about 150 m.

Circling above the reef are large schools of flame baslet and blue stripped snapper. There are also many freckled hawk fish, long-nose filefish, and scorpion fish, including the common lionfish on the reef top. Grey Reef shark spotted year around.



## 7.K. Gulhifalhu Medhugai onna kohlavaanee

**Lulaan Number** E/95/32,  
(IUL)438-/ENV/438/2020/102

**Date of Protection** 27th  
September 1995, 5th May 2020

**Alternative Name**  
Hans Haas

**Type**  
Marine Protected Area

**Category of Protection**  
Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

**Area**  
10.78 Ha

**Coordinates**  
4.17230860, 73.46681000

**Reference Page to Lulaan 1**  
**Reference Page to Lulaan 2**

Hans Hass Place is on the outer reef of North Male' Atoll facing south into Vaadhoo Channel. It is an area about 100m long set back in a large recess in the reef.

The reef top is at about 3m and drops vertically to a line of over-hangs at 8-10m. The western end is marked by a large cavern at 10-15m. There are further overhangs at 20-25m.

Hans Hass Place is named in honour of the great pioneer of diving in Maldives. Small delicate purple sea fans cover the ceilings of the overhangs and in the caves are many species of groupers, immaculate soldier fish and shadow-fin soldier fish.

Commonly seen on this reef are the scribbled filefish, trumpet fish and the freckled hawk fish.



## 8.K. Emboodhoo Kanduoolhi

### Lulaan Number

E/95/32

### Date of Protection

27th September 1995

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

632 Ha

### Coordinates

4.08589985, 73.53005000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Emboodhoo Channel is a narrow channel through the outer reef of South Male' Atoll. There is a long submerged reef (Embudhoo Thila) in the centre of the channel.

The top of this reef is at about 10-15m and there are overhangs on both sides. At the front (east) of Emboodhoo Thila, overlooking the atoll dropoff, sharks congregate when there is an incoming current.

Near the northeast corner of the Channel are a series of rocks with overhangs at 10-20m. There are many overhangs along the southern Channel wall.

Grey Reef Sharks (particularly in the northeast monsoon season) and other large fish, soft corals are observed in the area.



## 9.K. Guraidhoo Kanduoolhi

### Lulaan Number

138-FS2/1/2011/35,  
(IUL)438-/ENV/438/2020/150

**Date of Protection** 5th June  
2011, 03 September 2020

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 6 – Habitat/Species  
Management Area

### Area

352 Ha

### Coordinates

3.89447761, 73.46729000

**Reference Page to Lulaan 1**  
**Reference Page to Lulaan 2**

Guraidhoo Kanduo, a protected marine area in South Male, boasts multiple dive sites, with two primary channels – Lhosfushi Kanduo and Guraidhoo Kanduo – separated by Medhu Faru.

The intricate reef structure offers diverse diving opportunities and is a highlight for many, often featuring 2 to 3 dives in safari itineraries due to its rich marine life.

Medhu Faru's southern part presents a picturesque reef with excellent visibility when the current flows inward, making it ideal for spotting sharks, eagle rays, and napoleons.

In contrast, Guraidhoo Corner at the Kanduo entrance is suitable for both ingoing and outgoing currents and offers encounters with grey reef sharks, napoleons, and eagle rays, with the opportunity to explore overhangs and a vibrant reef when heading inside the channel.



# 10. K. Maldives Victory Wreck

## Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2021/24

## Date of Protection

13th February 2021

## Alternative Name

-

## Type

Marine Protected Area

## Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

## Area

4.75 Ha

## Coordinates

4.177998376, 73.52680474

## Reference Page to Lulaan

'Maldives Victory,' an 83-meter cargo boat which was travelling from Singapore to the Maldives, crashed into the Malé Atoll's Hulhule reef in 1981, and sank to south-west of the reef. It has been almost 40 years since the boat sank, its wreckage has formed into an 'artificial' reef.

Shipwrecks such as this are structures that support coral growth by acting as a 'frame' for them, and attract fish to populate the area. This area is now famous among Maldivian divers, and Maldivians in general, as the 'Shipwreck Dive' site. This site, in addition to being significant for its marine life and Maldivian dive tourism, has now become a Maldivian heritage loved by many.

Protecting sites such as this and preserving them for the future will benefit the Maldivian economy and environment.

At 37 meters deep, this 'wreck' is considered by most divers to be richer in marine life compared to other such wrecks. Since this wreck is near an atoll entrance (Kanduolhi), there is an endless supply of 'nutrients' or food for the organisms that live here. Species of marine life recorded to be living at this wreck include different types of corals, Dusky Batfish (Baiypolhimas), Yellowback Fusilier (Dhonnoomas), groupers, as well as different species of turtles which have been protected in the Maldives.

In a survey done in 2019 by the EPA, 18 genera of corals and 46 species of fish were recorded in this area.



# 11. K. Huraa Mangrove Area

## Lulaan Number

174-AB1/2006/13

## Date of Protection

14th June 2006

## Alternative Name

-

## Type

Mangroves and Wetland

## Category of Protection

-

## Area

5.32 Ha

## Coordinates

4.33410831, 73.60134000

## Reference Page to Lulaan

The mangrove in K. Huraa is the only one of its kind in the vicinity of Malé area, and is home to extraordinary species of flora and fauna.

This island is also frequently visited by school students to gather information about the mangrove.

The tourists who visit this island are also enamored by the environment there. Since mangroves like this are becoming rarer in the Maldives, it important to protect such areas.



## 12. K. Kaashidhoo Wetland

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2021/24

### Date of Protection

13th February 2021

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Mangroves and Wetland

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

42.75 Ha

**Coordinates** 4.95468838926,  
73.46888296630

### Reference Page to Lulaan

K. Kaashidhoo wetlands area is recorded to have the highest number of Black Turtle/ *Melanochelys trijuga thermalis* out of the three islands in which they are seen.

This species of turtles was given protection under the act number 4/93 (Environmental Protection and Preservation Act) on 22nd May 2003. In terms of its surroundings, this area can be divided into 3 main categories: Small leaved orange mangrove area, kuhlhavah mangrove area, and the area where palm trees and screw pines (kashikeyo) grow.

The types of trees that can be seen in this area include small leaved orange mangrove (kan'doo), bon'davaki, and kuhlhavah. Tortoises use fallen kuhlhavah and screw pines fruits as food. Therefore, this area is considered environmentally significant as it provides a food source for the tortoises.

The survey conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2019 recorded a total of 34 tortoises in this area.



## 13. K. Lankan Thila

### Lulaan Number

10-C/99/38

### Date of Protection

21st October 1999

### Alternative Name

Nassimo Thila

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

263 Ha

### Coordinates

4.28333333, 73.53333000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

The top of the thila is between 10 and 15 meters and oval in shape. The main attractions are several large pinnacles scattered randomly on the north eastern side of the thila.

The top of the pinnacles are at depths between 18 and 25 meters and most drops away steeply on the outside. on the main reef long the overhangs and caves between 15 and 20 meters extend almost entire length of the eastern side.

There is also a shallow cave and swim through leading to a narrow gutter which, cuts through to the reef top. Sharks, napoleon wrasse, mantas, barracudas, eagle rays and nice coral rock formation is seen in this Marine Protected Area.



# 14. K. Makunudhoo Kandu Olhi

## Lulaan Number

E/95/32

## Date of Protection

27th September 1995

**Alternative Name** Kuda Faru  
/ Manukudhoo channel

## Type

Marine Protected Area

## Category of Protection

-

## Area

308 Ha

## Coordinates

4.56666667, 73.38333000

## Reference Page to Lulaan

The northern side of Makunudhoo kandu is some 2km long and includes about 5 separate diving points.

Two of the most popular points are Kuda Faru (about 800m from the western corner, where a finger of reef protrudes into the Channel creating ideal conditions for big fishes), and two thilas at the eastern corner, where there is an abundance of small fishes.

White-tip reef sharks are seen resting on the sandy bottom. Lionfish and Napoleon are everywhere. Turtles are spotted frequently.



# Alifu Alifu Atoll

Alif Alif Atoll has designated 5 protected areas, totaling 2,986 hectares.

These include popular dive sites like AA. Mushimasmigili Thila (269 ha) and AA. Orimas Thila (1,306 ha) known for their marine biodiversity.

AA. Karibeyru Thila (1,317 ha) stretches along the atoll's edge, sheltering sharks and fish. AA. Maaya Thila (1,024 ha) is a reef with resident shark populations.

AA. Rasdhoo Madivaru Area (266 ha) is distinguished by year-round hammerhead sharks. Showcasing key marine habitats, these protected areas conserve Alif Alif Atoll's underwater ecological diversity.

05 designated protected areas

2,986 hectares





# 1.AA. Mushimasmigili Thila

## Lulaan Number

E/95/32

## Date of Protection

27th September 1995

## Alternative Name

Fish Headchannel

## Type

Marine Protected Area

## Category of Protection

-

## Area

269 Ha

## Coordinates

3.93694777, 72.91652000

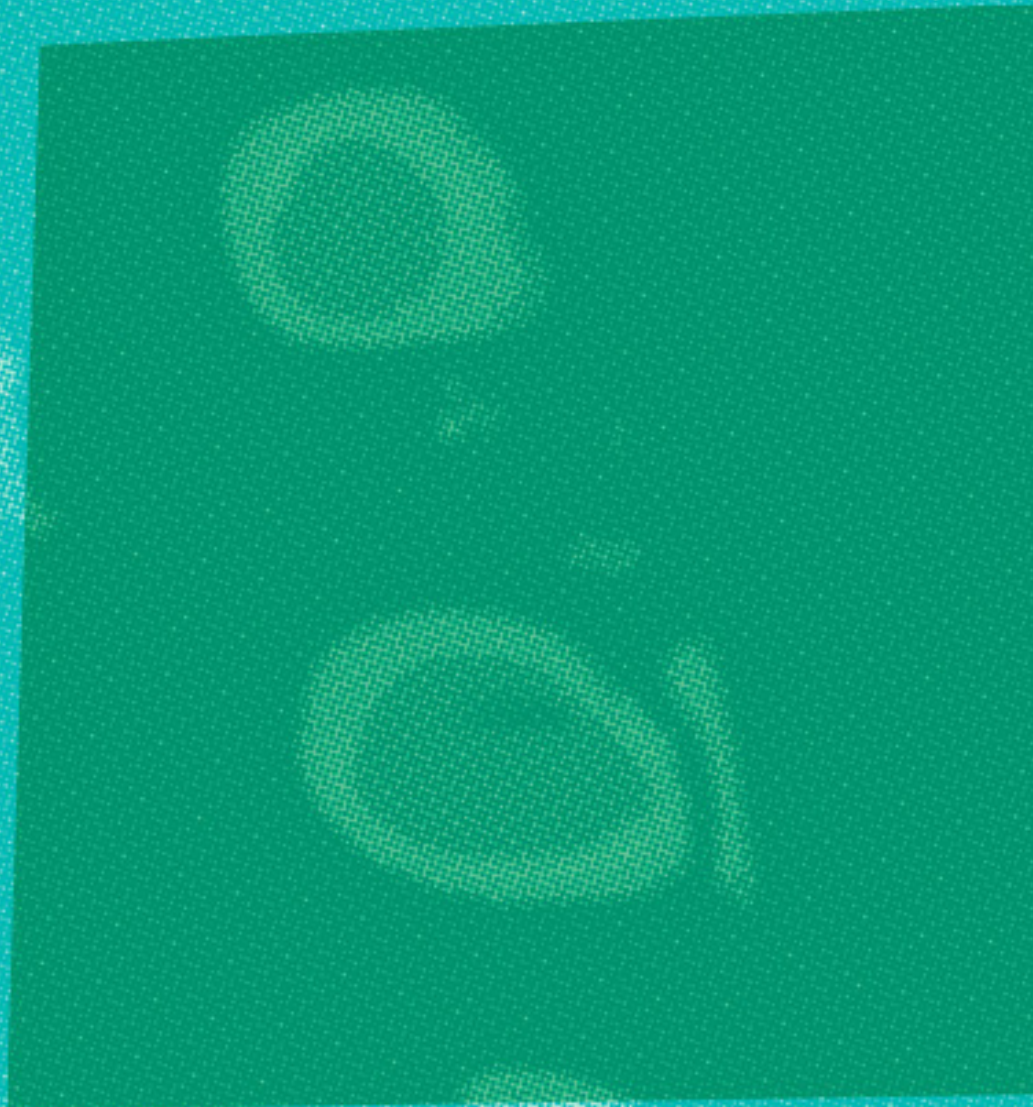
## Reference Page to Lulaan

Fish Head is a large isolated reef, with its plateau-like top at about 10-15m.

The four sides of the reef drop down steeply to the sandy atoll floor at 40-50m. Grey Reef Sharks can normally be seen at the top up-current end.



## 2.AA. Karibeyru Thila



### Lulaan Number

10-C/99/38

### Date of Protection

21st October 1999

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

1317 Ha

### Coordinates

4.09503380, 72.96140000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

A narrow thila stretching north to south down the eastern edge of the atoll. The east side slopes 30 to 25 meters with some caves down deep.

The western side slopes off 20 to 25 meters and both sides are interesting with abundant fish life. The northern end of the thila is at 10 metres sloping down to 15 meters at the southern end.

Whale sharks, mantas, grey reef sharks, white tip sharks, napoleon wrasses, schools of tunas and snappers



## 3.AA. Orimas Thila

### Lulaan Number

10-C/99/38

### Date of Protection

27th September 1995

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

1306.7 Ha

### Coordinates

3.98160035, 72.95097000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Orimas Thila is an elongated, submerged reef, the shallowest part of which is at about 5m.

There is a sea anemone field at about 15m on the eastern end. On the northern side there are superb caves, overhangs and reef cracks.

Underwater scenery, corals, soft corals, and sea anemones, small fishes. White-tipped shark and whale shark sometimes spotted. Turtle and Manta rays rarely found.



## 4.AA. Maaya Thila

### Lulaan Number

E/95/32

### Date of Protection

21st October 1999

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

1024 Ha

### Coordinates

4.08294926, 72.85335000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Maaya Thila is an isolated submerged reef lying in the centre of northern Ari Atoll. The top of the reef is at about 7m-12m. It is roughly square-shaped with all four sides dropping away steeply.

There are several outlying rocks and small overhangs around the sides. Entire reef and area within 500m radius of the centre of the reef.

Grey Reef sharks, Whitetip Reef sharks spotted, Stonefishes, other fishes.



## 5.AA. Rasdhoo Madivaru Area

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-PPIR/438/2018/262

### Date of Protection

7th October 2018

### Alternative Name

-

**Type** Marine Protected Area  
and Sandbank

### Category of Protection

Category -1 Internationally  
designated areas  
Category 6 – Habitat/Species  
Management Area

### Area

266.08 Ha

### Coordinates

4.26438200, 72.99807000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Northern Ari Atoll's Rasdhoo atoll possesses both naturally and environmentally intriguing features. It is rich with numerous types of creatures whose habitats are interconnected with human's behaviour.

In 2016, Rasdhoo Atoll's reef area was also designated as one of the Convention on Biological Diversity's "Ecological and biological significant areas". Rasdhoo Atoll is formed in such a way that it is separate and unique from the other main atolls of the Maldives.

In this regard, most significantly, it's Madivaru Sea is recorded to have the most Hammerhead sharks (kaaligan'du miyaru) throughout the year out of any dive spots in the entire Maldives in which this type of sharks are found.

Moreover, it is also home to rays (en'madi), Napoleon Wrasse (maahulhun'bu lan'daa) and different types of turtles as well.



# Alifu Dhaalu Atoll

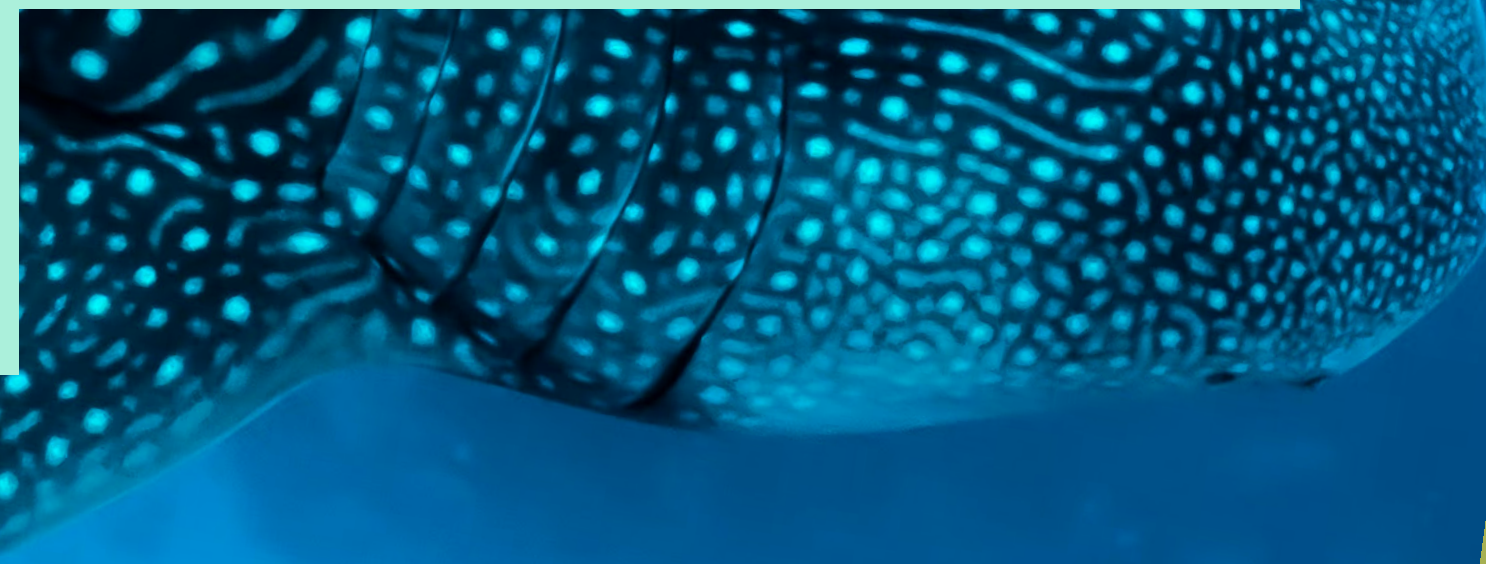
Alifu Dhaalu Atoll has designated 3 protected areas, totaling 7,152 hectares.

These include Adh. Hurasdhoo Island (21.5 ha), recognized for its unique formation and delicate environment; the South Ari Marine Park (5,140 ha), the largest marine protected area in the Maldives, world-renowned for its whale shark populations and reef biodiversity; Adh. Faruhulhualhi Beyru (861 ha), a shallow plateau hosting seasonal manta ray gatherings; and Adh. Kudarah Thila (269 ha), renowned for its underwater scenery and marine life.

Showcasing key island, reef and marine environments, these protected areas conserve Alifu Dhaalu Atoll's rich terrestrial and marine biodiversity assets.

03 designated protected areas

7,152 hectares





# 1.ADh. Hurasdhoo

## Lulaan Number

174-AB1/2006/13

## Date of Protection

14th June 2006

## Alternative Name

-

**Type** Island and Marine  
Protected Area

## Category of Protection

-

## Area

21.5 Ha

## Coordinates

3.66698271, 72.77467000

## Reference Page to Lulaan

The main purpose of protecting Adh. Hurasdhoo island is because it is unique in its formation, and it has a delicate environment.

In addition to this, the island also has remarkable geomorphological features.





## 2.Adh. South Ari Marine Park (SAMPa)

**Lulaan Number** 138-EE/2009/19,  
(IUL)438-ENV/438/2019/  
175 138-EE/2009/19

**Date of Protection** 5th June  
2009, 11th July 2019

**Alternative Name**

-

**Type**

Marine Protected Area

**Category of Protection**

Category 6 – Habitat/Species  
Management Area

Category 7 - Protected Area with  
Sustainable Use

**Area**

5140 Ha

**Coordinates**

3.45491264, 72.79942000

**Reference Page to Lulaan 1**

**Reference Page to Lulaan 2**

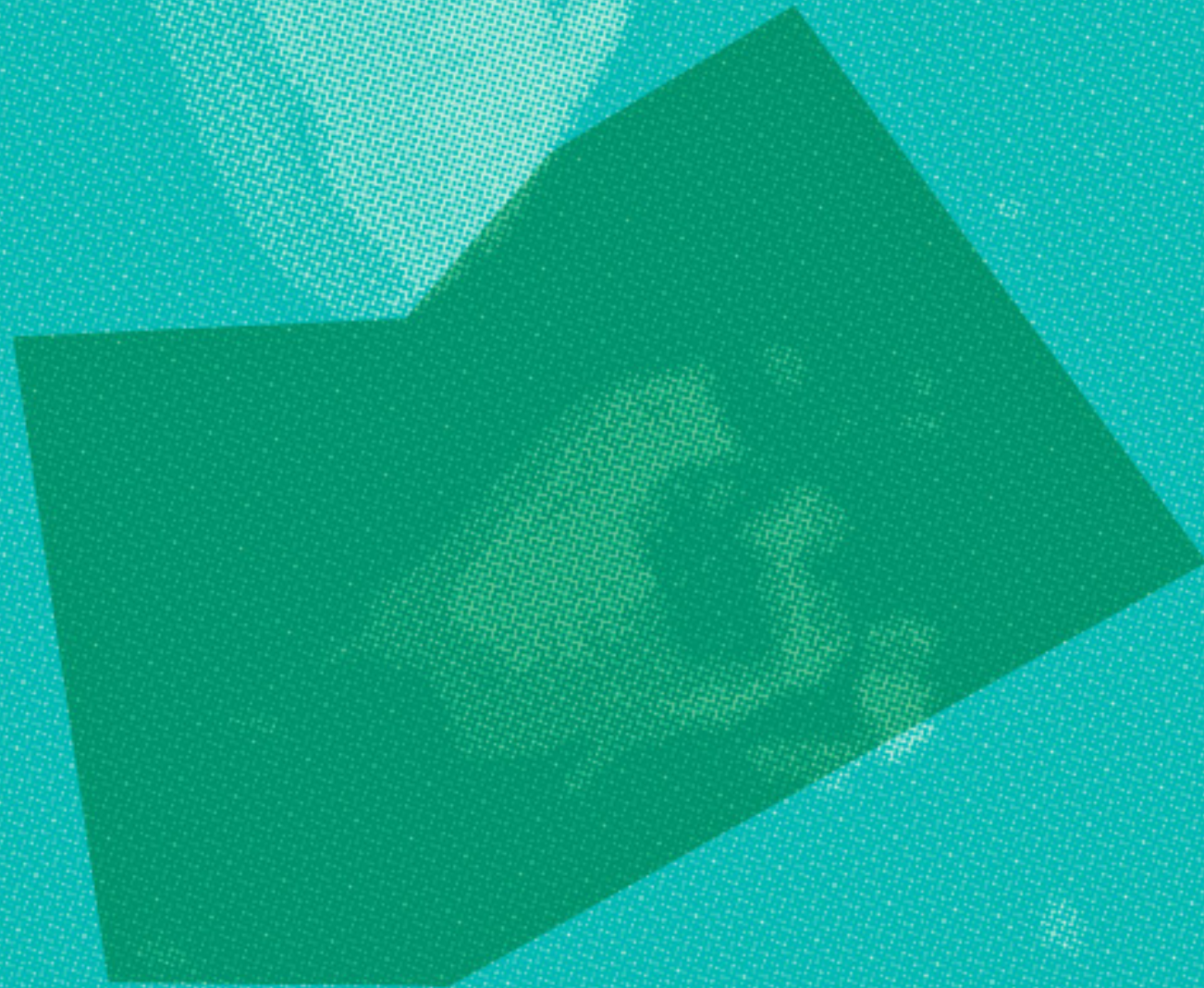
**Reference Page to Lulaan 3**

The South Ari Marine Park (SAMPa) is a world-renowned area, and the most significant feature of this area is that Whale Sharks (Fehurihi) can be seen here throughout the year.

It is also famous for its reef, which is rich with diverse varieties of corals and marine life. Important species spotted in this area include turtles, manta rays and different types of sharks.



## 3.ADh. Faruhulhuvalhi Beyru



### Lulaan Number

10-C/99/38

### Date of Protection

21st October 1995

### Alternative Name

Rangali Kandui

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

861 Ha

### Coordinates

3.57935829, 73.50064000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

A shallow platue, 10m with a drop off going down to 40m.

Manta season from December to March.



## 3.ADh. Kudarah Thila

### Lulaan Number

E/95/32

### Date of Protection

27th September 1995

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

269 Ha

### Coordinates

3.56157088, 72.91960000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Kudarah Thila is a relatively small upstanding rock, the highest point of which is in 2m. It is steep sided with great clefts, overhangs, caves and swim-throughs.

Underwater scenery, Fish including occasional sharks.



# Vaavu Atoll

Vaavu Atoll has established 10 protected areas, encompassing a total area of over 17,868 hectares.

The conservation efforts began in 1995 and 1999 with the protection of two areas: V. Miyaru Kandu (1,383 hectares) and V. Vattaru Kandu (9,718 hectares).

In 2023, an additional eight protected areas were designated, featuring marine biodiversity hotspots like V. Kashavaru Falhu (978.6 hectares), V. Fussafaru Region (3,690 hectares), and V. Kashavaru Falhu (257.7 hectares). These protected areas also include critical island and reef habitats such

as V. Thundu Hura (3.6 hectares), V. Ruhhuri Hura (106 hectares), and V. Huraafalhu (8.8 hectares).

By showcasing diverse marine, island, and channel ecosystems, these protected areas in Vaavu Atoll play a crucial role in promoting the conservation of the atoll's ecological assets.

This encompasses a wide range of environments, from mangroves to globally threatened marine species, contributing to the sustainable preservation of Vaavu Atoll's rich natural heritage.

10 designated protected areas

17,868 hectares





# 1.V. Miyaru Kandu

## Lulaan Number

E/95/32

## Date of Protection

27 September 1995

## Alternative Name

-

## Type

Marine Protected Area

## Category of Protection

-

## Area

1383 Ha

## Coordinates

3.57935829, 73.50064000

## Reference Page to Lulaan

Miyaru Kandu is a narrow channel. Both sides of the channel have overhangs and large coral blocks festooned with soft corals.

Soft corals, Fish especially large ones such as Eagle Rays and in the Northeast monsoon season, Grey Reef and White-tipped Sharks.

Occasional Hammer head and Sail fish are seen in the area.



## 2.V. Vattaru Kandu

### Lulaan Number

10-C/99/38

### Date of Protection

21 October 1999

### Alternative Name

-

**Type** Marine Protected Area and Island

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

9718 Ha

### Coordinates

3.22198831, 73.42492000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

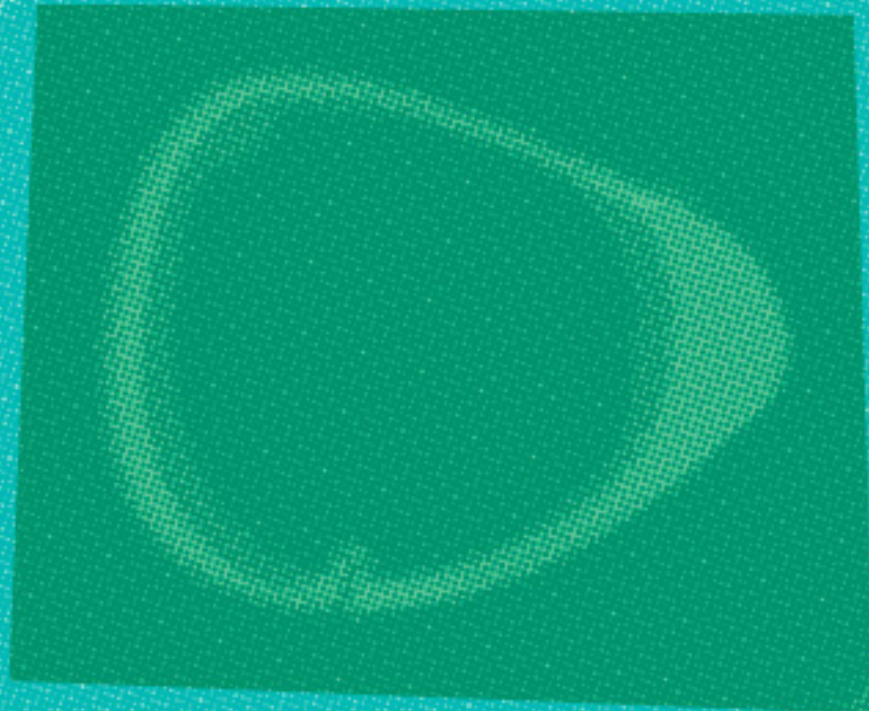
Vattaru Atoll is geographically located between Vaavu and Meemu Atolls. The island of Vattaru is 1.4 hectares and is recorded to have a total of 5 types of trees.

The wetland area on the north side of this island is considered to be a healthy environment as all sizes of *Bruguiera cylindrica* (kan'doo) trees are found growing in it. A lot of *Pemphis* (kuredhi gas) are also found in this island.

Additionally, there are also multiple types of birds seen in this island. These include, *Ardea cinerea*/ Grey Heron (Maakanaa), *Nycticorax*/ Black-crowned Night Heron (Raabon'dhi), *Charadrius mongolus*/ Lesser Sand Plover (Bon'dana), *Actitis hypoleucos*/ Common Sandpiper (Fin'dhana) and *Corvus corax*/ Common Raven (kaalhu).

Vattaru atoll's sea is recorded to have a great number of grouper fish. Therefore, it is important to preserve this area and the life in it. In order to maintain the Maldivian protected sea life, it is essential to protect this area as well.

In addition, the mangrove and wetlands areas are known to keep the freshwater lens of the island clean and help prevent flooding. They also play a key role in preventing global warming by acting as carbon sinks.





## 3.V. Kashavaru Falhu

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2023/487

### Date of Protection

1st November 2023

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

978.62 Ha

### Coordinates

3.44876389, 73.56684167

### Reference Page to Lulaan

V. Kashavarufalhu is a marine protected area located to the south of V. Keyodhoo. The wall on the outskirts of the lagoon is a dive site frequently visited by tourists. The area is renowned for the way a yellow-colored soft coral species grows on the reef wall, giving it the appearance of a golden wall.

Characterized by overhangs and a diverse array of coral species, the area is home to a large number of fish families, including numerous reef fish families. The presence of various species of reef fish is indicative of the overall health of the ecosystem.

Additionally, the area hosts a significant number of sea turtles. This environment plays a crucial role in protecting species of fish, whales, sea turtles, and coral species that are under protection in the Maldives and face the threat of extinction globally. It serves as a refuge from the impacts of climate change, safeguarding these species.



## 4. V. Huralhu Falhu

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2023/488

### Date of Protection

1st November 2023

### Alternative Name

-

**Type** Marine Protected Area and Sandbank

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

257.73 Ha

### Coordinates

3.48100000, 73.70173889

### Reference Page to Lulaan

V. Huralhu Kandu protected area is home to a diverse range of reef species. Divers report frequent sightings of various species of reef sharks and pelagic sharks in this region.

The area is also characterized by a rich variety of coral species, contributing to the presence of reef fish families such as grouper and wrasse species.

In addition to reef fish, different species of pelagic fishes have been observed in the area. The area boasts a high abundance of fish species.

This environment plays a critical role in ensuring the preservation and protection of fish, whales, corals, sea birds, and migratory birds in the Maldives, safeguarding them from the threat of extinction on a global scale.



## 5. V. Hingaakulhee Finolhu Area

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2023/489

### Date of Protection

1st November 2023

### Alternative Name

-

**Type** Marine Protected  
Area and Sandbank

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

### Area

1,175.80 Ha

### Coordinates

3.35935278, 73.58620556

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Located on the southern side of Vaavu Dhihgarufalhu, V.Hingaakulhee Finolhu protected area consists of numerous sandbanks.

These sandbanks serve as resting and foraging for seabirds and migratory birds, many of which are protected in the Maldives.

Therefore, it is crucial to preserve this environment to safeguard the breeding grounds of these birds. The marine environment surrounding the area is also vital for the protection of various species of marine life



## 6. V. Thundu Hura

### **Iulaan Number**

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2023/490

### **Date of Protection**

1st November 2023

### **Alternative Name**

-

**Type** Marine Protected Area and Island

### **Category of Protection**

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### **Area**

3.57 Ha

### **Coordinates**

3.34259167, 73.50615833

### **Reference Page to Iulaan**

V. Thundu Hura is a rocky island near Bodumohora Island where Pemphis plants have been recorded.

The island serves as a resting, foraging, and nesting spot for seabirds and migratory birds. This area plays a crucial role in the conservation of bird species.

The island, along with the marine environment around the village, is also home to various species of marine life. Such environments are essential for the preservation of endangered species.



## 7. V. Ruhhuri Hura

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2023/491

### Date of Protection

1st November 2023

### Alternative Name

-

**Type** Marine Protected Area and Island

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

106.49 Ha

### Coordinates

3.35955278, 73.49755556

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Vaavu Ruhhuri Hura is a non-inhabited island situated in a separate lagoon inside the atoll, covering an area of 0.5 hectares.

The island features a small wetland in the middle with various species of mangroves and Pemphis plants. The surrounding reef area hosts a wide variety of coral species, and different species of sea cucumbers are spotted in the reef.

However, only a few families of fish species have been found in this region, with Planktivore fishes being the most common. The lack of fish species may be attributed to poor reef health caused by coral bleaching.

This environment is crucial for the preservation of protected birds, migratory birds, and fish species in the Maldives. The wetland area on the island refreshes the water table and plays a vital role in reducing the risk of erosion.

Additionally, these wetlands act as 'carbon sinks,' storing carbon dioxide to mitigate global warming.



## 8. V. Rakeedhoo Corner

### Iulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2023/492

### Date of Protection

1st November 2023

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

6.34 Ha

### Coordinates

3.30987778, 73.47137500

### Reference Page to Iulaan

The protected area V.Rakeedhoo Corner is a deep sea on the southern side of Rakeedhoo Island. The part of the outer edge of the sea and Rakeedhoo reef meet are rich in coral life.

The area is also famous for its various species of ray and sharks in different seasons. There are also many species of reef fish and other fish life in the area.

Thus, this area is a healthy reef area, it is important to preserve this environment and maintain the life of the reef.

This environment is critical for ensuring the safety and security of protected marine life in the country.



## 9. V. Fussafaru Region

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2023/493

### Date of Protection

1st November 2023

### Alternative Name

-

**Type** Marine Protected Area and Sandbank

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

3,690.38 Ha

### Coordinates

3.48777500, 73.28583611

### Reference Page to Lulaan

V. Fussaru Faru region is an area consisting of a number of sandbank, lagoons and coral reefs. Many species of reef fish live in this area. In addition to the reef fishes, there are also a large number of other reef species living in the area.

Various species of shark species are also being seen in the area. The sandbanks in the area are important for sea birds and migratory birds. It is important to preserve this environment and maintain the survival of these reefs and sandbanks.

This environment is critical for ensuring the protection and preservation of protected marine life, sea birds and migratory birds in the country.



# 10. V. Huraafalhu Area

## Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2023/494

## Date of Protection

1st November 2023

## Alternative Name

-

## Type

Marine Protected Area

## Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

## Area

8.84 Ha

## Coordinates

3.66864167, 73.39230278

## Reference Page to Lulaan

V. Huraa Falhu is a reef area located near Fulidhoo Island. This region is known for the abundant sightings of manta rays.

It has been observed that plankton accumulates in this area, attracting a large number of manta rays in different seasons.

Thus, it is important to preserve this environment and maintain the survival of these reefs.

This environment is critical for ensuring the safety and security of protected marine life in the country.



# Meemu Atoll

Meemu Atoll has established one marine protected area - M. Lhazikuraadi (area size unspecified) in 1999.

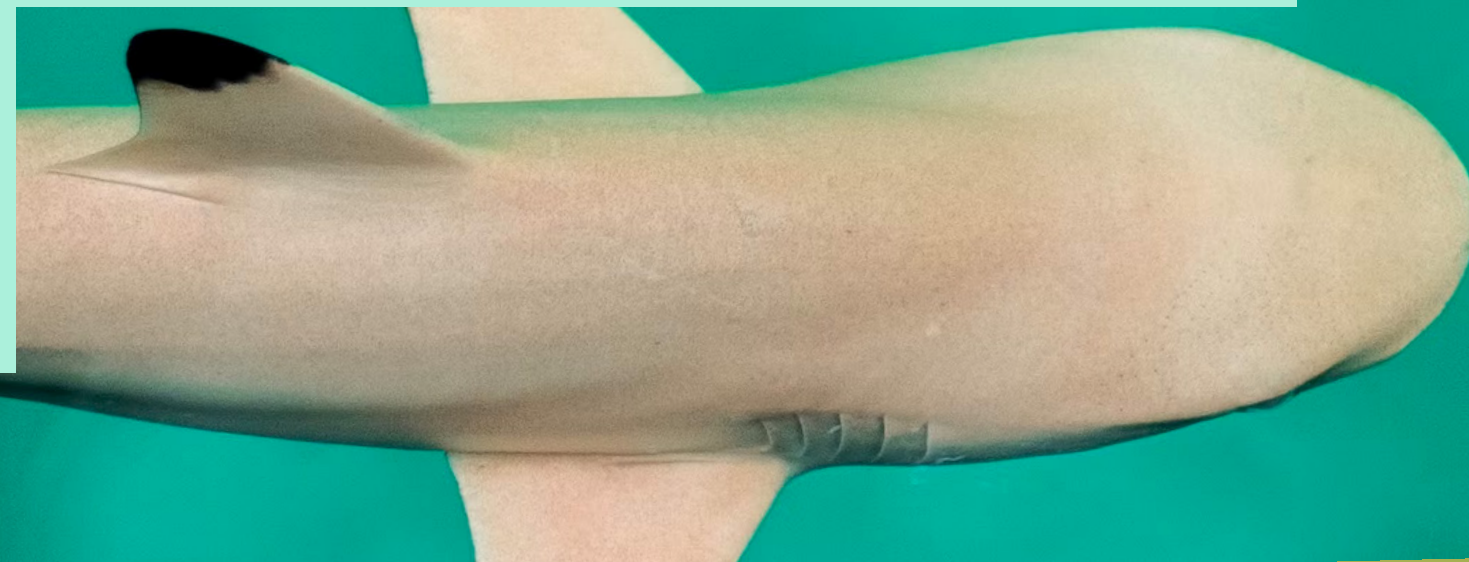
This site is a remarkable 80-meter thila characterized by overhangs, caves and coral structures that provide habitat for diverse invertebrates and fish.

Its slopes and reef top harbor grey reef sharks, rays, a variety of reef fish and offer excellent underwater photographic opportunities.

This protected area conserves Meemu Atoll's unique marine biodiversity assets.

01 designated protected area

N/A hectares





# 1.M. Lhazikuraadi

## Lulaan Number

10-C/99/38

## Date of Protection

21 October 1999

## Alternative Name

Fushivaru Kanduru

## Type

Marine Protected Area

## Category of Protection

Category 6 - Habitat/Species Management Area

## Area

1393 Ha

## Coordinates

2.94524812, 73.5464

## Reference Page to Lulaan

The protected marine area Lhazikuraadi is a remarkable thila, characterized by its impressive dimensions.

This 80-meter-long structure has a gently sloping western portion, with a peak at 3 meters, while the northeast side is adorned with overhangs, cavities, and caves, descending in small steps to a depth of 35 meters.

The largest cave, found between 10 and 15 meters, harbors an abundance of invertebrates. Currents from Mulee Kanduru attract various fish species, including grey reef sharks, eagle rays, sweetlips, needlefish, and trevallies.

Additionally, the vibrant reef top provides excellent opportunities for photography, featuring surgeonfishes, angelfish, basslets, butterflyfish, and damsels of various hues.



# Meemu Atoll

Faafu Atoll has one designated protected area - F. Filitheyo Kandu (168 ha) a marine protected area which was officially recognized in 1999.

This area encompasses Filitheyo Thila, a U-shaped reef wall with caves harboring sharks, rays and other marine life.

It also includes Dolphin Corner near Maavaru Huraa which has impressive coral formations and schools of fish that attract sharks and rays.

As the sole protected area in Faafu Atoll, it conserves key marine biodiversity assets.

01 designated protected area

168 hectares





# 1.F. Filitheyo Kandu

## Lulaan Number

10-C/99/38

## Date of Protection

21 October 1999

## Alternative Name

-

## Type

Marine Protected Area

## Category of Protection

-

## Area

168 Ha

## Coordinates

3.20129446, 73.03915000

## Reference Page to Lulaan

Filitheyo Thila, a “U”-shaped reef with depths ranging from 10 to 30 meters, experiences strong currents and is famous for its sand patch with stingrays, abundant fish schools, and numerous caves and cavities on its outer walls, where sharks, napoleons, and eagle rays are often spotted.

Filitheyo Outside, in the northern part of the kandu, features coral outcrops and hosts sweetlips.

Dolphin Corner, situated in the southern region near Maavaru Huraa, offers beautiful coral formations and the opportunity to observe grey reef sharks, napoleons, eagle rays, and bustling schools of fusilier and snappers during strong currents.



# Dhaalu Atoll

Dhaalu Atoll has designated one marine protected area - Dh. Fushi Kandu (2,358 ha) in 1999.

This channel contains five unique thilas rising from 30-40 meter depths.

The area is renowned for its Sea Fans and abundance of marine life including large schools of sharks, eagle rays and turtles.

As the sole protected area in the atoll, it preserves important marine habitats and biodiversity.

01 designated protected area

2,358 hectares





# 1.Dh. Fushi Kanduu

**Lulaan Number**

10-C/99/38

**Date of Protection**

21 October 1999

**Alternative Name**

-

**Type**

Marine Protected Area

**Category of Protection**

-

**Area**

2358 Ha

**Coordinates**

2.99671248, 72.92927000

**Reference Page to Lulaan**

Fushi Kanduu stands as the sole marine protected area within the atoll and is renowned as a premier dive site.

This channel is distinguished by five distinct thilas adorned with sea fans, emerging from depths of 30 to 40 meters, offering excellent opportunities for encountering eagle rays, turtles, and sharks in large schools.



# Laamu Atoll

Laamu Atoll has designated 6 protected areas in 2021, totaling over 2,783 hectares.

These include wetland habitats like L. Gan Boda Fengada (15 ha) and L. Hithadhoo Kulhi wetland (43.3 ha). There are rich marine biodiversity areas like L. Maabaidhoo Koaraai Fushi Kandhu (521 ha) and L. Bodu Finolhu Kandhu Olhi (706 ha).

Critical turtle nesting sites and seabird habitats at L. Gaadhoo (614.9 ha) are also protected.

Showcasing key island, reef and channel ecosystems, these zones conserve Laamu Atoll's ecological diversity.

Their mangroves, seagrass beds and reefs support globally threatened species while promoting sustainable use.

06 designated protected areas

2,783 hectares





# 1.L. Gan Boda Fengada

## Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2021/371

## Date of Protection

23rd December 2021

## Alternative Name

Paree Fengandu

## Type

Wetland and Mangroves

## Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

## Area

15.03 Ha

## Coordinates

1.8856866, 73.5337134

## Reference Page to Lulaan

L. Gan's 'Bodu Fengandu' or Big Pond is a gold-coloured lake located on the east side of Kuda Hinna. It is also known as 'Paree Fengandu' (Fairy Pond) or 'Naraka Fengandu' (Hell Pond). This lake plays a huge role in the history of this island and a lot of folktales are also attributed to it.

When we evaluate the environmentally valuable features of this island, it is worth mentioning that Red Mangrove (Ran'doo) can be seen in high numbers in its mangroves and wetlands area.

And the area is surrounded by fish poison trees (Kin'bi Gas). This area is essential in order to ensure the survival of birds that are protected nationwide in the Maldives.

One of the bird species that has been recorded as breeding and populating in this island is White-tailed Tropicbird (Dhan'difulhu Dhooni). And importantly, the mangrove and wetlands areas are known to keep the freshwater lens of the island clean and protect the island from flooding.

They also play a key role in preventing global warming by acting as carbon sinks by controlling the carbon dioxide levels.



## 2.L. Maabaidhoo Koaraai Fushi Kandhu Sarahahdhu

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2021/371

### Date of Protection

23rd December 2021

### Alternative Name

-

**Type** Mangroves, Wetland  
and Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 6 – Habitat/Species  
Management Area

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

### Area

521.08 Ha

### Coordinates

2.037604, 73.531367

### Reference Page to Lulaan

The mangrove (kulhi) on the north side of L. Maabaidhoo is a saltwater mangrove connected to the sea. Since it is linked to the sea, it acts as a nursery to multiple reef species. From the species of plants that have been recorded to grow in the mangrove and wetlands, Red Mangrove / Rhizophora mucronata (Ran'doo), and Ceriops tagal/ Yellow Mangrove (Karamana) are found here. Cleansing the freshwater lens of the island, preventing soil erosion and protecting the island from floods are some of the main functions of this mangrove and wetland area. Similarly, it acts as carbon sinks by storing carbon dioxide to reduce the effects of global warming.

The seaweed in this area provides a great food source to turtles and is essential to their survival. In addition, this area acts as a carbon sink, and contributes to the breeding and growth of reef fish. The reef and seaweed area that surrounds this island are recorded to have a total of 6 types of seaweeds and 86 types of reef fish. L. Fushikandu is an atoll entrance (Kanduolhi) located on the northeast edge of Hadhdhunmathi. This area is rich with underwater life and is popular among divers.

The reef life is known to breed and populate in this area. Some internationally endangered species, which are protected in the Maldives, that have been recorded to be seen in this area are Mobula Alfredi/ Reef Manta Rays (En'madi) and other types of rays, helonia mydas/ Green Turtles (Vela), Eretmochelys imbricate/ Hawksbill turtles (Kahan'bu), and several types of sharks. Kanuhuraa and Fushirah are known to be used by seabirds as a space for resting and breeding.



## 3.L. Bodu Finolhu adhi Vadinolhu Kandu Olhi sarahahdhu

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2021/371

### Date of Protection

23rd December 2021

### Alternative Name

-

**Type** Marine Protected Area and Sandbank

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

706.02 Ha

### Coordinates

2.021318, 73.366577

### Reference Page to Lulaan

L. Vadinolhu atoll entrance (Kanduolhi) is located on the north-west edge of Hadhdhunmathi. This Kanduolhi is rich with vibrant species of marine life and is famous among divers.

This area also acts as a breeding ground for groupers (Faana) and Napoleon Wrasse (Maahulhunbulandaa). The Reef Manta Ray (Mobula Alfredi, Enmadi), Green turtles (Chelonia mydas, Velaa), Hawksbill turtles (Eretmochelys imbricate Kahan'bu), which are recognised as endangered species globally, and also protected species in the Maldives, along with various types of sharks are some of the species recorded to be seen in this area.

The large sandbank in this area is used by seabirds for resting and as a breeding ground.



## 4.L. Gaadhoo Key Biodiversity Areas

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2021/371

### Date of Protection

23rd December 2021

### Alternative Name

-

### Type Island and Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 6 – Habitat/Species Management Area

### Area

614.88 Ha

### Coordinates

1.824888,73.448042

### Reference Page to Lulaan

L Gaadhoo, a previously inhabited island, was declared as uninhabited in 2016. The protected areas of this island are as stated below:

The southern and western shores and the surrounding reef and seagrass. This is an area in the Maldives where turtles have laid eggs and hatched for generations. Green turtles ('Vela'/Chelonia mydas) and Hawksbill turtles ('Kahan'bu'/Eretmochelys imbricate) are the most commonly recorded turtle species to lay eggs here. They are both endangered species and protected under the environmental protection act in the Maldives, and are also considered endangered globally.

The seagrass surrounding the island is an important source of food for turtles. Moreover, it is a crucial environment for reef fish to breed. It is also a 'carbon sink' which can help reduce global warming.

In the seagrass area surrounding this island, 6 types of seagrass and 91 species of reef fish have been recorded. The mangrove in this island is a freshwater lake located in the wetland area on the east side.

Areas such as this play a vital role in keeping the water lens of the island fresh and lowers the chance of flooding. Black mangroves (Burevi) can be found growing in large numbers in this area. Moreover, This island is essential for the seasonal birds and to maintain the environment of protected birds.



## 5.L. Gaadhoo Hithadhoo Kanduu

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2021/371

### Date of Protection

23rd December 2021

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 6 – Habitat/Species Management Area

### Area

777.04 Ha

### Coordinates

1.807472, 73.431615

### Reference Page to Lulaan

The Gaadhoo-Hithadhoo sea on the southern edge of Hahdhunmathi, lying between Gaadhoo and Hithadhoo has plenty of marine life species in it.

It has been recorded that reef fish lay eggs here to populate. Some significant species that have been observed here, which are protected in the Maldives, are Mobula Alfredi/ Reef Manta Ray (En'madi), Napoleon Wrasse, Cheilinus undulates (Maahulhun'bu Lan'daa) and two species of turtles.

These include Chelonia mydas/ Green Turtle (Velaa) and Eretmochelys imbricate/ Hawksbill turtles (Kahan'bu). Similarly, multiple species of sharks, whale sharks (fehurihi), and rays are also recorded to be found in this area.

As these species are internationally declared as endangered, it is of the utmost importance that this area is protected to maintain their population levels.



## 6.L. Hithadhoo Kulhi aai Vashaigenvaa Sarahahdhu

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2021/371

### Date of Protection

23rd December 2021

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Wetland and Mangrove

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

### Area

43.3 Ha

### Coordinates

1.792960, 73.384987

### Reference Page to Lulaan

L. Hithadhoo mangrove (kulhi) is a saltwater mangrove located on the southwest of Hithadhoo, and is connected to the sea.

Since it is connected to the sea, it plays the role of a 'nursery' for reef creatures as well. The plants growing in the mangrove and wetlands area recorded include Red Mangrove/ *Rhizophora mucronate* (ran'doo), Yellow Mangrove /*Ceriops tagal* (karamana) and Black Mangrove/ *Lumnitzera racemose* (burevi).

Apart from this, the mangrove and wetlands area are known to clean the freshwater lens of the island and protect the island from soil erosion. It also plays an essential role in preventing the island from flooding.

Moreover, it also acts as a powerful "carbon sink" which lessens the effects of global warming by storing carbon dioxide.



# Gaafu Alifu Atoll

Gaafu Alifu Atoll has one protected area which was designated in 2006 - Ga. Hithaadhoo (53 ha).

This encompasses Hithaadhoo Island along with its mangroves and wetlands. The main purpose is to protect the habitat of the Lesser Frigate Bird, an endangered bird species in the Maldives.

As the sole protected area in the atoll, it preserves vital habitat for this threatened bird.

01 designated protected area

53 hectares



# 1. Ga. Hithadhoo

**Lulaan Number**

174-AB1/2006/13

**Date of Protection**

14 June 2006

**Alternative Name**

-

**Type** Mangroves,  
Wetland and Island

**Category of Protection**

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

**Area**

53 Ha

**Coordinates**

0.84957298, 73.24232000

**Reference Page to Lulaan**

The key purpose of protecting this island is giving protection to the lesser frigate birds (hoara) that live there.

This is a protected bird in the Maldives.



# Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll

Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll has designated one protected area - Gdh. Dhigulaabadhoo (487 ha) in 2018.

This encompasses Dhigulaabadhoo Island and its mangroves, wetlands and lagoon.

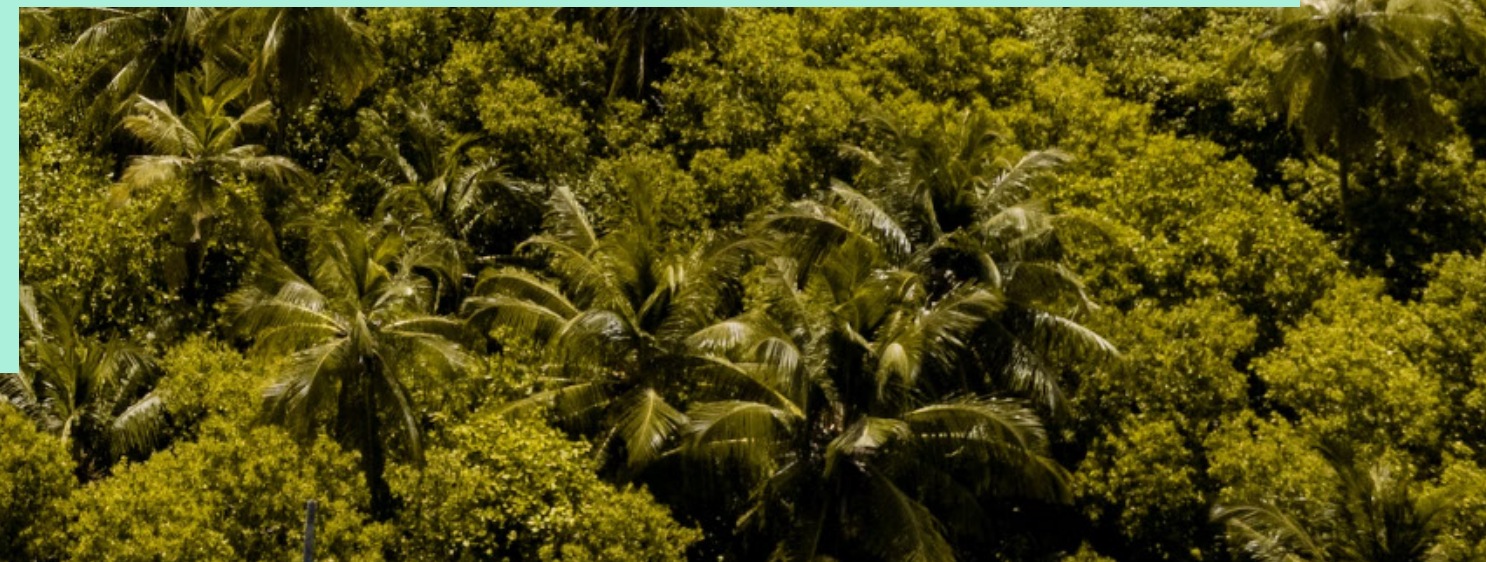
The area is recognized for its unique island formation and diverse natural habitats.

It includes mangrove areas connected to the sea, seagrass beds, beaches, and reef ecosystems.

As the only protected area designated in the atoll, it conserves key terrestrial and marine environments and species.

01 designated protected area

487 hectares





# 1. Gdh. Dhigulaabadhoo



## Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2018/262

## Date of Protection

07 October 2018

## Alternative Name

-

**Type** Mangroves,  
Wetland and Island

## Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area  
with Sustainable Use

## Area

487 Ha

## Coordinates

0.21396500, 73.15431000

## Reference Page to Lulaan

G. Dh. Dhigulaabadhoo is an island that is different in its formation compared to other islands and one that has special environmental elements. Most parts of the island are covered by mangroves and wetlands. The shape of the island also forms areas that resemble a natural cul de sac.

These, along with other natural, environmental features, make this island different from others. Because this island is environmentally special, it has been included in the 'Environmental Sensitive Areas List' compiled by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Moreover, the diverse species of animals, delicate areas and organisms on this island have been identified through research.

### The natural environments of Dhigulaabadhoo can be divided into 6 categories:

1. The island's tree line
2. The mangrove connected to the sea (Finihaka Kulhi)
3. 5 salt and fresh water mangroves and the wetlands surrounding them
4. The area where seagrass grows
5. The island's shore
6. The reef and lagoon area of the island



# Gnaviyani Atoll

Gnaviyani Atoll, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, is a unique one atoll one island atoll consisting only of Fuvahmulah Island.

It has designated 4 protected areas between 2012-2020 totaling 780 hectares that showcase its ecological diversity.

These include Gn. Bandaara Kilhi wetland (41.3 ha) which is the largest freshwater mangrove in the Maldives, harboring diverse flora and fauna. Gn. Thundi sand spit area (31.8 ha) is a unique sandy area facing

degradation. Gn. Farikede (637 ha) is a key shark and ray cleaning station.

Gn. Dhandimagu Kilhi wetland (69 ha) is another biodiversity-rich mangrove ecosystem.

Ranging from wetlands to marine areas, these protected zones conserve the unique terrestrial and marine ecological assets of the Gnaviyani Atoll a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

04 designated protected areas

780 hectares



# 1.Gn. Bandaara Kilhi and surrounding wetland area

**Lulaan Number** 2018/R-106,  
(IUL)438-PPIR/438/2012/2

**Date of Protection** 18th June  
2012, 13th September 2018

**Alternative Name**

-

**Type**

Mangroves and Wetland

**Category of Protection**

-

**Area**

41.3 Ha

**Coordinates**

-0.29958960, 73.43063000

**Reference Page to Lulaan 1**

**Reference Page to Lulaan 2**

The Bandaara Kilhi (Bandaara mangrove) and the wetland area linked to it on the south side of Fuvahmulah, is located in between Miskiyymagu ward, Dhoodigan ward and Maalegan ward.

This area has environmentally unique features and the significance of the surrounding environment is visible. This area is divided into two main areas. Bandaara Kilhi is one of the largest mangroves out of all the freshwater mangroves in Maldives.

This mangrove is 4.74 hectares, and is naturally different while also exhibiting unique features than those of the mangroves typically found in the Maldives. It is abundant with wildlife and plant species, making it a breathtaking ecosystem. With depths of up to 7- 10 feet, this area is rich with diverse wildlife. Tilapia (Thalaapiya), or as Fuvahmulah locals refer to it, 'Fenamas' and 'Bangaalhu mas', can be found in this mangrove. Silvery fish (Beyngu) has also been found here.

Various other species also contribute to the rich biodiversity of this mangrove.

The trees surrounding the mangrove are essential as they provide protection for the organisms living in it. Some types of plants surrounding the lake include Taro (Olhu ala), Thatch screw pines (Boakashikeyo) and several types of plants with medicinal purposes.

The wild life living in the trees get the nutrients they need from the mangrove's ecosystem. White-Breasted Waterhen (Kan'bili) and Common Moorhen (Valu Kukulhu) are two of most common bird species that can be found around here. Watercocks (Valu kukulhu) and Common Moorhen (Kulhee kukulhu) are only found in



# 1.Gn. Bandaara Kilhi & surrounding wetland area (Contd)

**Lulaan Number** 2018/R-106,  
(IUL)438-PPIR/438/2012/2

**Date of Protection** 18th June  
2012, 13th September 2018

**Alternative Name**

-

**Type**

Mangroves and Wetland

**Category of Protection**

-

**Area**

41.3 Ha

**Coordinates**

-0.29958960, 73.43063000

**Reference Page to Lulaan 1**

**Reference Page to Lulaan 2**

Fuvahmulah in the Maldives. A large area that surrounds Bandaara mangrove is made up of wetlands. The mud and soil of this area is full of nutrients, and due to this, multiple species of plants can be found growing here.

These include plants with medicinal values and several mangrove-associated species as well. A high number of Taro (Ala) has been grown in this area. This wetland area is also helpful when it comes to draining the excess rainwater into the ground.

Apart from being a habitat for several different plant species, this area is also home to a variety of bird species. The fact that White-Breasted Waterhen (Kan'bili) is found here in great numbers is evidence that this area is filled with important wildlife. Bandaara Kilhi and the wetland connected to it has ecologically distinct features.

Plants with medicinal values and wild life especially found in this area is worth mentioning. The fish found in this mangrove is essential for the survival of the birds that live here as well as the migratory birds that transit in this mangrove. This further contributes to the beauty and lushness of this area.

The Bandaara Kilhi and the surrounding wetland area are rather useful during rainy seasons as they absorb the rainwater. Bandaara Kilhi is known as the biggest freshwater reserve in the Maldives. Fuvahmulah is formed in the shape of a bowl, with lower elevation in the middle and higher elevation around the edges.



## 2.Gn. Thundi Area-Fuvahmulah

**Lulaan Number** 2018/R-106,  
(IUL)438-PPIR/438/2012/2

**Date of Protection** 18th June  
2012, 13th September 2018

**Alternative Name**

-

**Type** Terrestrial and Marine  
Protected Area

**Category of Protection**

-

**Area**  
31.8 Ha

**Coordinates**  
-0.27652948, 73.41637000

**Reference Page to Lulaan 1**  
**Reference Page to Lulaan 2**

The sand spit near Dhan'dimagu area is special in that it is unlike any other sand pits in the Maldives.

The area is made up of sand that light up with the sunlight, and this creates a breathtaking view that cannot be experienced in any other island in the Maldives.

People from all over Maldives visit Fuvahmulah to see this phenomenal sight. The biggest problem facing this sand spit as of now is the amount of sand that is removed from the area for construction.

Because there is no other place near the island to get sand for construction, the amount of sand taken from this sand spit has not been controlled.



## 3.Gn. Farikedede

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2020/129

### Date of Protection

22nd July 2020

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 6 – Habitat/Species Management Area

### Area

637 Ha

### Coordinates

-0.317229, 73.437688

### Reference Page to Lulaan

Fuvahmulah is a single isolated island in formed in the middle of the ocean. Unlike other such islands in the Maldives, Fuvahmulah does not have a great reef around it. Regardless, it has been observed that ocean life gathers around in this area seasonally.

Whales and multiple types of sharks are reported to be found in the outer sea of this island. Some parties say that large sea creatures, such as sharks, visit some parts of reef to clean themselves.

They claim that Farikedede area is one of the spots where different types of sharks visit to clean themselves. The types of sharks they mention as being most likely to be seen here are Blue Sharks? (Andhun miyaru) and Zebra Sharks (Faana miyaru).

A type of Reef Manta Ray (En'madi) which is rarely seen in the Maldives, is also found seasonally in great numbers. These rays usually live in the outer oceans. They visit the reefs in order to catch food or clean themselves.

Thus, this area can be considered essential for their survival. Whale Sharks (fehurihi) also visit this spot seasonally. Researchers that study whale sharks in the Maldives report that adult female whale sharks are commonly spotted in this area. They report that this is not something observed in other parts of the Maldives.

These researchers say the likely reason for female sharks visiting this area in such numbers is because they breed here. Whale shark researchers say that shallow areas such as this in the ocean are often visited by whale sharks for breeding.



## 3.Gn. Farikede (Contd)

### Lulaan Number

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2020/129

### Date of Protection

22nd July 2020

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 6 – Habitat/Species  
Management Area

### Area

637 Ha

### Coordinates

-0.317229, 73.437688

### Reference Page to Lulaan

The small fish that clean the larger species in this area are at a serious risk if the corals are destroyed. Additionally, the creatures that visit this area to clean themselves are also in danger.

As this area is important for these marine lives, any harm done to it will be an obstacle for the survival of these creatures. Therefore, in order to protect these wild lives, it is crucial to adopt sustainable ways and preserve this area.



## 4.Gn. Dhandimagu Kilhi

**Lulaan Number** 2018/R-106,  
(IUL)438-PPIR/438/2012/2

**Date of Protection** 18th June  
2012, 13th September 2018

**Alternative Name**

-

**Type**

Mangroves and Wetland

**Category of Protection**

Category 6 – Habitat/Species  
Management Area

**Area**

69 Ha

**Coordinates**

-0.28561970, 73.41771000

**Reference Page to Lulaan 1**

**Reference Page to Lulaan 2**

The mangrove wetland area connected to Dhan'dimagu Kilhi is an area that is naturally and environmentally rich. It is located to the north of Fuvahmulah, surrounded by Dhan'dimagu district, Dhiguvaagan'du district and Hoadhan'u district. This area is divided in to two main regions; Dhan'dimagu Kilhi and the wetland area connected to it. Both of these regions are significant in many ways.

Dhandimagu Kilhi is one of the two freshwater mangroves in Fuvahmulah, and has notable natural features. It is rich with different species of flora and fauna and is an excellent example of inter connectivity between organisms.

The 3-feet deep mangrove is also abundant with marine life. Tilapia fish (footumas), referred as Feynamas by people that live in Fuvahmulah, and Bangaalthumas, live in this mangrove.

Moreover, (Beyn'gu) have also been spotted here. The trees surrounding the mangrove area bring more verdant richness to it. Thatch screw pine (Boakashikeyo), and different types of grass and plants have can also be seen in large numbers. Plants used for medicinal use, as well as Taro (ala) can be found here.

Animals that make these trees their home find food from the area surrounding the mangrove. It is also a special environment for the birds that frequent here. Fuvahmulah is notable in the Maldives for being having multiple such environments.

Dhandimagu Kilhi and the surrounding wetland area have special environmental features. The area lush





## 4.Gn. Dhandimagu Kilhi (Contd)

**Lulaan Number** 2018/R-106,  
(IUL)438-PPIR/438/2012/2

**Date of Protection** 18th June  
2012, 13th September 2018

**Alternative Name**

-

**Type**

Mangroves and Wetland

**Category of Protection**

Category 6 – Habitat/Species  
Management Area

**Area**

69 Ha

**Coordinates**

-0.28561970, 73.41771000

**Reference Page to Lulaan 1**

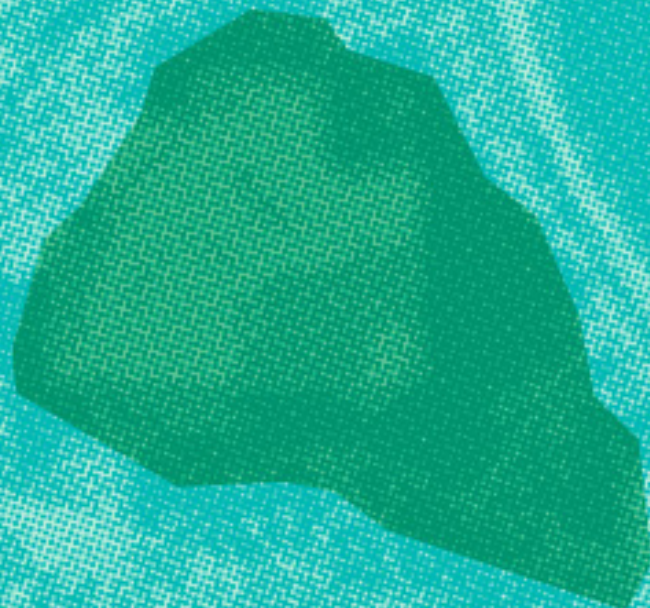
**Reference Page to Lulaan 2**

with different types of trees and organisms. Medicinal plants, grass, Thatch screwpine (Boakashikeyo) and Taro (ala) can be found amongst the vegetation.

The fish that live in the mangrove are a source of food for the animals that frequent her and, as a result, help populate the species. Consequently, this brings beauty and richness to the environment of this area.

Dhandimagu Kilhi and the surrounding wetland area help keep the island from flooding during the rainy season. Dhan'dimagu district is since considered the freshwater reserve of the Maldives.

Since Fuvahmulah is shaped like a bowl, with the middle of the island at a lower elevation than the perimeter of it, the wetland area helps the island from flooding.





# Seenu Atoll

Seenu Atoll, also known as Addu Atoll, has 7 designated protected areas totaling 2,118 hectares.

Addu Atoll is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, underscoring its ecological significance. These protected areas include wetlands like S. Eadhigali Kilhi (771 ha), an important bird habitat, and S. Maa Kilhi & Fehele Kilhi (25.5 ha) which absorb rainfall.

There are marine protected areas like S. British Loyalty shipwreck (64.7 ha) known for its coral

and fish abundance. Islands like S. Kandihera (735 ha) harbor mangroves and birdlife.

Areas like S. Mathi Kilhi wetland (54.1 ha) and S. Maafishi Kilhi mangrove (5.86 ha) face threats from invasive species and habitat loss.

Ranging from shipwrecks to wetlands and islands, these protected areas promote the preservation of Addu Atoll's rich terrestrial and marine biodiversity recognized through its UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status.

07 designated protected areas

2,118 hectares





# 1.S. Eadhigali Kilhi and Koatthey

## Lulaan Number

2018/R-105, 20-H3/2004/97

**Date of Protection** 7th Dec 2004 , 13th September 2018

## Alternative Name

-

**Type** Mangrove, Wetland and Marine Protected Area

## Category of Protection

-

## Area

771 Ha

## Coordinates

-0.58534093, 73.07795000

**Reference Page to Lulaan 1**  
**Reference Page to Lulaan 2**

The Eydhigali Kilhi and Koatthey protected area in the Maldives offer fantastic opportunities to observe nature up close.

Eydhigali Kilhi is one of the largest wetlands in the Maldives, renowned for hosting a multitude of water birds, including herons, egrets, and the unique Maldivian pond herons, which can be observed throughout the year.

In contrast, Koatthey presents an excellent location for snorkeling, providing the chance to witness vibrant, healthy coral reefs and swim alongside turtles, sharks, and numerous colorful fish.

These areas are a prime destination for nature enthusiasts and those who enjoy exploring underwater environments.



## 2.S. Kandihera and Maa Kandhu Olhi

### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

13 September 2018

### Alternative Name

Maa kandu, Kuda kandu

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

735 Ha

### Coordinates

-0.60963100, 73.15527000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

This small lagoon is located on the north edge of the atoll, between the 'Maakan'du' and 'Kudakan'du'. There are two uninhabited islands in this lagoon. Tiny islands with white sandy beaches are usually found in the Maldivian atolls. However, in Addu atoll, this is not the case as it is smaller and has fewer reefs. As a result, these two islands are popular amongst tourists who visit this atoll. Apart from its appealing appearance, this area is also rich with wild life.

Kan'dihera island in this lagoon is bowl shaped and has a small mangrove. Yellow Mangrove (Karamana) and Red Mangrove (Ran'doo) are found in this mangrove area. Although Black-naped tern (Kirudhooni) eggs have not been found on this island, it is highly likely that these birds do lay eggs here. Moreover, Grey Heron (Maakana) and Whimbrel (Bulhithunbi) have also been found on this island. Most birds abandon such areas if they experience disturbance from human activities.

This is why it is crucial to preserve this area in a systematic way in which these wild creatures are not disturbed from tourists and by other common purposes. It is also important to note that this island's lagoon is shallow all around and deep in the middle, forming a (vilu) in the middle. There are countless corals in on the (giri) found in the lagoon. Researchers note that these bowl-shaped islands and lagoons safe from high tides and strong currents play a substantial role in helping small fish species to populate.

The research done on the deeper middle part of the lagoon has found small fish and sharks in the area. Preserving such areas is an essential step towards maintaining the lifespan of the wildlife of the atoll.



## 3.S. British Loyalty

### Lulaan Number

2018/R-105

### Date of Protection

13th September 2018

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Marine Protected Area

### Category of Protection

-

### Area

64.7 Ha

### Coordinates

-0.63888360, 73.11379000

### Reference Page to Lulaan

The British Loyalty shipwreck, resting 33 meters beneath the waters between Maradhoo and Hithadhoo islands.

The 140-meter-long ship lies on its starboard side, covered in a vibrant array of hard and soft corals, serving as a habitat for numerous small fish.

The wreck can be explored through two large holes, likely resulting from the ship's scuttling by a British warship. Surrounding the wreck, are schools of blue-fin jack, turtles, and occasional sightings of Manta rays and sharks.

The Addu Atoll, including the shipwreck area, offers a rich marine life experience for divers and is a popular destination for Liveaboard diving yachts.



## 4.S. MaaKilhi and Fehele Kilhi

### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

22nd September 2020

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Wetland and Mangrove

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

25.5 Ha

**Coordinates** -0.61283319704,  
73.09225588390

### Reference Page to Lulaan

These two mangroves are formed in the wetlands that are situated on the south east side of Hithadhoo island in Addu Atoll. In the past, these two mangroves were originally one single area.

However, since there is a road formed in between them, in order to designate them as protected areas, they have been proposed as two separate mangroves named 'Medhe aara Kilhi' and 'Fehela Kilhi'.

Since it is a wetland area, it absorbs the rain water, and protects the island from flooding. As the soil of this area is rich and fertile, some people use it to for agricultural purposes as well.

When we look at the plants that grow in this environment, Black Mangrove/ Lumnitzera racemose (burevi), which is known to grow in mangrove areas, can be observed to some extent.

Apart from this, Sea Hibiscus (Dhihgaa), Portia tree (Hirudhu) and Thatch Screw Pines (Boakashikeyo) can be seen in large numbers as well. A plant named 'Kaafaruburu' is also seen growing in these mangroves.

This plant was not observed in these areas before, and has been introduced more recently. Due to the dense growth of these plants, the mangroves have been draining. This is likely to endanger the lives of the fish living in these areas.

As a result, this may reduce the numbers of birds flocking to this area. In order to protect the lives of the species living here, it is essential to clean this area. In addition, creatures which can be



## 4.S. MaaKilhi and Fehele Kilhi (Contd)

### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

22nd September 2020

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Wetland and Mangrove

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

25.5 Ha

### Coordinates

-0.61283319704,  
73.09225588390

### Reference Page to Lulaan

harmful to this environment should also be studied to prevent their introduction to this area.

Since this area is utilised for agricultural purposes, the usage of chemicals and cutting down trees should also be monitored and done systematically so that this area is protected.

Ultimately, it is important to preserve this area in order to protect the living organisms in it.



## 5.S. Maafishi Kilhi

### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

22nd September 2020

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Wetland and Mangrove

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

5.86 Ha

**Coordinates** -0.60859646437,  
73.22486837030

### Reference Page to Lulaan

These mangroves are located on the south side of Addu-Hulhudoo wetland area. In the past, Maafishi Kilhi was the only mangrove in this area.

However, due to the construction of a road in the area, the mangrove has been separated into two.

Since this area has a large wetland, the rain gets easily absorbed into the ground. This lowers the chance of flooding in the island.

One of the tree species that can be found here is Black mangrove (Burevi). Moreover, Sea Hibiscus (Dhiggaa), Portia tree (Hirun'dhu), Thatch screwpine (Boakshikeyo), Indian-almond tree (Midhili), Sea rands (uni), and Beach plum (Magoo) can also be seen in this area a lot.

Besides this, the Conger Eel, which is rarely spotted in other areas of the Maldives, has been observed in this area. Tilapia fish, along with snails that live in mangroves, have also been reported.

However, because of the road that was paved, the water on the west side of the mangrove has drained a lot.

Due to this, the marine life in this mangrove could be in danger in the future, and the number of birds that migrate here will also likely dwindle.



## 6.S. Mathi Kilhi

### Lulaan Number

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

### Date of Protection

22nd September 2020

### Alternative Name

-

### Type

Wetland

### Category of Protection

Category 7 - Protected Area with Sustainable Use

### Area

54.1 Ha

### Coordinates

-0.59248624410,  
73.23364141590

### Reference Page to Lulaan

This is a large wetland area on the west side of Addu-Hulhudhoo. Because this area is covered in wetlands, the rain that the island gets is easily absorbed into the ground, and this prevents flooding in the island.

The soil of this area is also fertile, and is used by some of the locals for agriculture. The greenery of this island includes Sea Hibiscus (Dhiggaa), Portia tree (Hirun'dhu) and Thatch Screwpine (Boakashikeyo), which grow in large numbers.

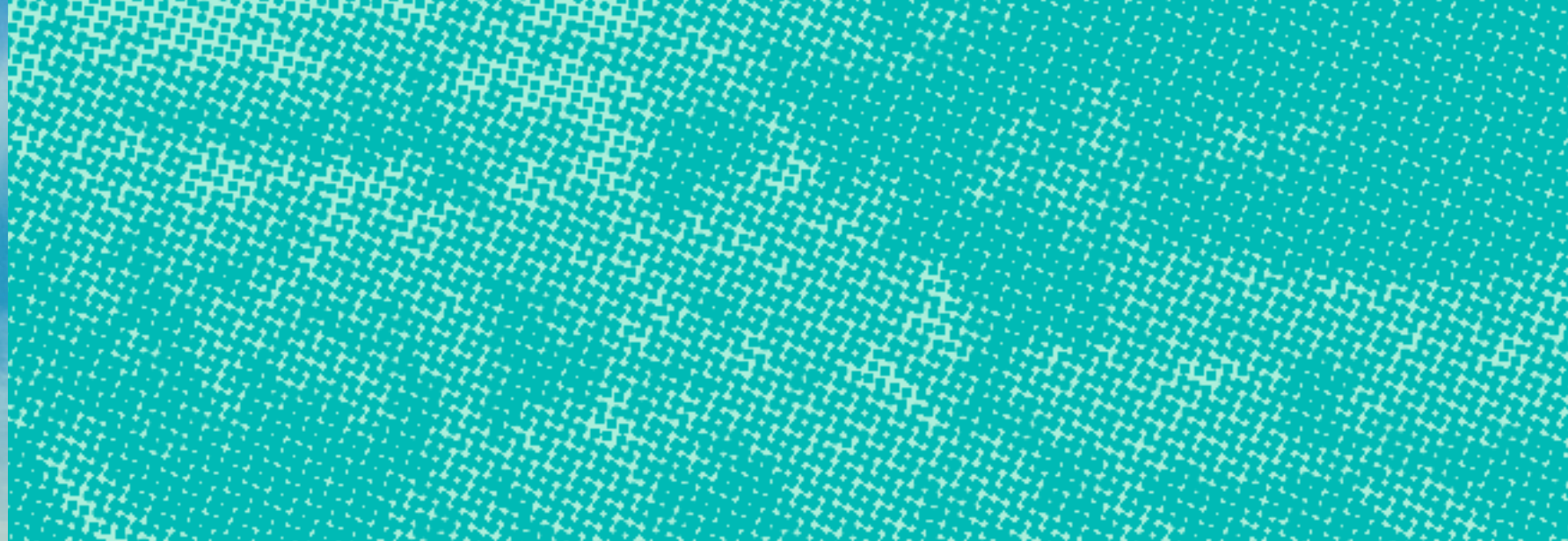
'Kaafaruburu' a type of tree that grows in water, can also be seen in large numbers. These trees have covered a large area of the wetland. These trees can be dangerous to the survival of the creatures that live here, and could ultimately reduce the number of birds that visit here.

To protect the species that live in this area, it is important to find ways to stop the spread of alien species that are not compatible with its environment.

Moreover, since this area is also used for agriculture, deforestation and the use of chemicals should be monitored and a policy should be developed to protect the area from such harms.

Hence, in order to protect the wildlife in this area, it is important to protect and maintain.





# Iulaans















































































8. ސަސަޅުކަލިމާ ޖަދުވަލުގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރޭގައި ހިމެނޭ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް:

- 8. ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް / ޖަދުވަލުތަކުގެ ތެރޭގައި ހިމެނޭ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް
- 9. ޖަދުވަލުގައި ހިމެނޭ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް
- 10. ޖަދުވަލުގައި ހިމެނޭ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް
- 11. ޖަދުވަލުގައި ހިމެނޭ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް
- 12. ރިޕޯޓްތަކުގެ ތެރޭގައި ހިމެނޭ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް
- 13. ރިޕޯޓްތަކުގެ ތެރޭގައި ހިމެނޭ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް
- 14. ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް

13 ސަފްހާތަކުގައި  
16 ޖަދުވަލުގައި



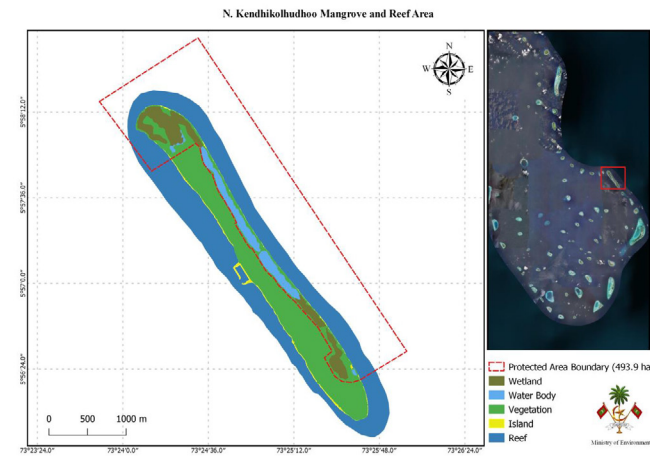
Ministry of Environment  
Male', Republic of Maldives.

ދިވެހިސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓްގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް

ނަންބަރު: (IUL)438-ENV/438/2020/20

ދިވެހިސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް

ޖަދުވަލު 4/93 (ރިޕޯޓްތަކުގެ ތެރޭގައި ހިމެނޭ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް) 4 ވަނަ ޖަދުވަލުގައި ބަޔާންކުރި 16 ޖަދުވަލު 2019 ވަނަ ރަސްމީ ޖަދުވަލުގެ ތެރޭގައި ހިމެނޭ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް (IUL)438-ENV/438/2019/150 ޖަދުވަލުގައި ބަޔާންކުރި 150 ޖަދުވަލުގެ ތެރޭގައި ހިމެނޭ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް



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ދިވެހިސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓްގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް



ނަންބަރު	ނަންބަރު	ނަންބަރު	ނަންބަރު	ނަންބަރު	ނަންބަރު	ނަންބަރު	ނަންބަރު
(Longitude)	(Latitude)	(Longitude)	(Latitude)	(Longitude)	(Latitude)	(Longitude)	(Latitude)
73° 23'50.13"	5° 58'16.4"	73° 25'14.43"	5° 56'40.9"	73° 24'59.51"	5° 57'6.34"	73° 24'37.95"	5° 57'44.8"
73° 23'50.16"	5° 58'16.4"	73° 25'12.29"	5° 56'52.5"	73° 24'54.13"	5° 57'15.0"	73° 24'37.79"	5° 57'44.7"
73° 24'31.59"	5° 58'43.2"	73° 25'10.98"	5° 56'53.5"	73° 24'53.54"	5° 57'14.8"	73° 24'36.91"	5° 57'46.3"
73° 25'59.52"	5° 56'31.4"	73° 25'9.051"	5° 56'55.4"	73° 24'51.81"	5° 57'17.1"	73° 24'34.04"	5° 57'50.1"
73° 25'39.04"	5° 56'19.5"	73° 25'7.929"	5° 56'57.0"	73° 24'47.09"	5° 57'25.1"	73° 24'33.52"	5° 57'51.4"
73° 25'36.70"	5° 56'18.4"	73° 25'6.267"	5° 56'59.4"	73° 24'47.84"	5° 57'25.5"	73° 24'32.38"	5° 57'56.9"
73° 25'32.36"	5° 56'18.6"	73° 25'4.109"	5° 57'1.43"	73° 24'44.83"	5° 57'31.2"	73° 24'31.57"	5° 57'58.0"
73° 25'29.09"	5° 56'21.0"	73° 25'3.429"	5° 57'2.30"	73° 24'43.84"	5° 57'32.7"	73° 24'30.82"	5° 57'58.5"
73° 25'24.81"	5° 56'28.7"	73° 25'2.456"	5° 57'3.01"	73° 24'42.87"	5° 57'34.6"	73° 24'30.60"	5° 57'58.8"
73° 25'28.08"	5° 56'31.4"	73° 25'1.993"	5° 57'3.47"	73° 24'40.64"	5° 57'37.8"	73° 24'12.06"	5° 57'47.2"
73° 25'22.30"	5° 56'41.2"	73° 25'0.166"	5° 57'5.32"	73° 24'39.47"	5° 57'40.3"	73° 23'50.13"	5° 58'16.4"
73° 23'50.13"	5° 58'16.4"	73° 25'14.43"	5° 56'40.9"	73° 24'59.51"	5° 57'6.34"	73° 24'37.95"	5° 57'44.8"

28 ޖަދުވަލުތަކުގައި  
23 ޖަދުވަލުތަކުގައި

2 ޖަދުވަލުތަކުގައި ހިމެނޭ



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ދިވެހިސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓްގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް

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ދިވެހިސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓްގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް، ފަދަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ނަންބަރު ބަޔާންކުރެއްވުމަށް









































• ޖ ސަންޓަރުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން ތިރީގެ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން:

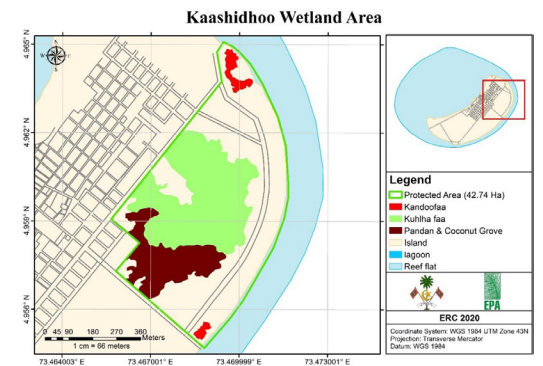
1. ޖަދު، ބުލި، ޖަނަބަ، ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން
2. ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން
3. ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން
4. ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން
5. ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން
6. ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން
7. ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން
8. ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން
9. ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

• ޖ ސަންޓަރުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން ތިރީގެ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން:

1. ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން
2. ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

2. ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

• ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން



1 ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން  
 2 ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން  
 Green Building, Handhuwaree Hingun,  
 Maafannu, Male', 20392, Republic of Maldives.  
 ޕްލާން ނުމެ ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން  
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 www.facebook.com/environment.gov.mv



އިތުރު ފަންނުގެ ތެރެއިން ތިރީގެ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

ޖަނަބަ (Latitude)	ޖަނަބަ (Longitude)
4.177998376	73.52680474
4.177687633	73.52551219
4.180773121	73.52482481
4.18099519	73.52593882
4.177998376	73.52680474

• ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން ތިރީގެ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 13 ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 1981 ވަނަ އަހަރު ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 83 ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 40 ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 37 ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 46 ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 18 ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

• ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން ތިރީގެ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

• ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން ތިރީގެ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

• ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން ތިރީގެ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

1 ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން  
 2 ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން  
 Green Building, Handhuwaree Hingun,  
 Maafannu, Male', 20392, Republic of Maldives.  
 ޕްލާން ނުމެ ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން  
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 www.facebook.com/environment.gov.mv



Ministry of Environment  
 Male', Republic of Maldives.

ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

(IUL)438-ENV/438/2021/24

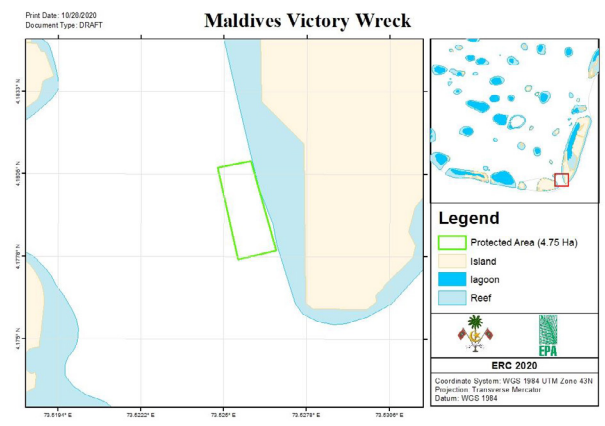
ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 4/93 (ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން) 4 ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 13 ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 2021 ވަނަ އަހަރު ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 40 ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 37 ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 46 ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން 18 ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

1. ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

• ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން ތިރީގެ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

• ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން ތިރީގެ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން

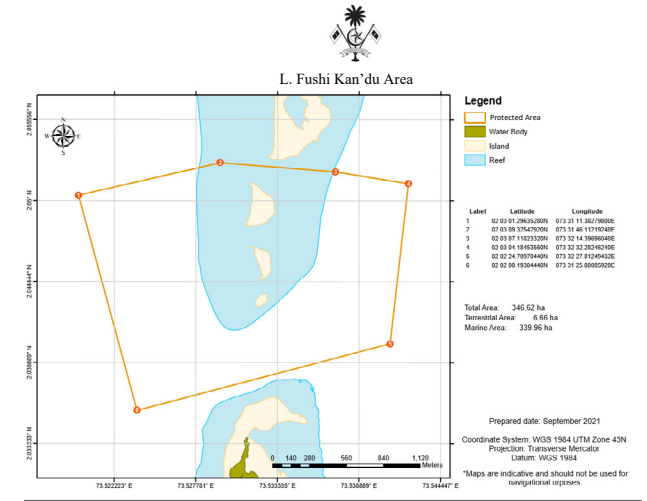


1 ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން  
 2 ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން  
 Green Building, Handhuwaree Hingun,  
 Maafannu, Male', 20392, Republic of Maldives.  
 ޕްލާން ނުމެ ޖަނަބަ ސަރަޙައްދުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިން  
 301 8300  
 www.environment.gov.mv  
 secretariat@environment.gov.mv  
 www.twitter.com/MoEnvmv  
 www.facebook.com/environment.gov.mv









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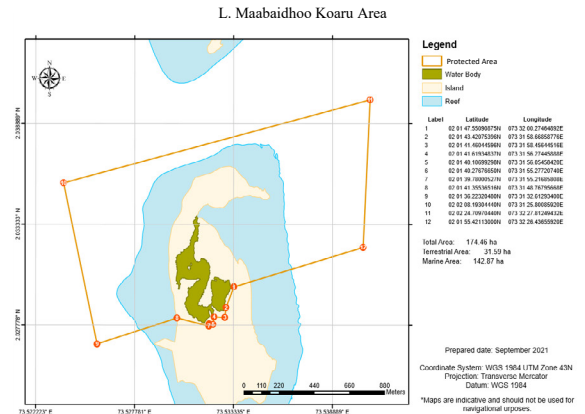
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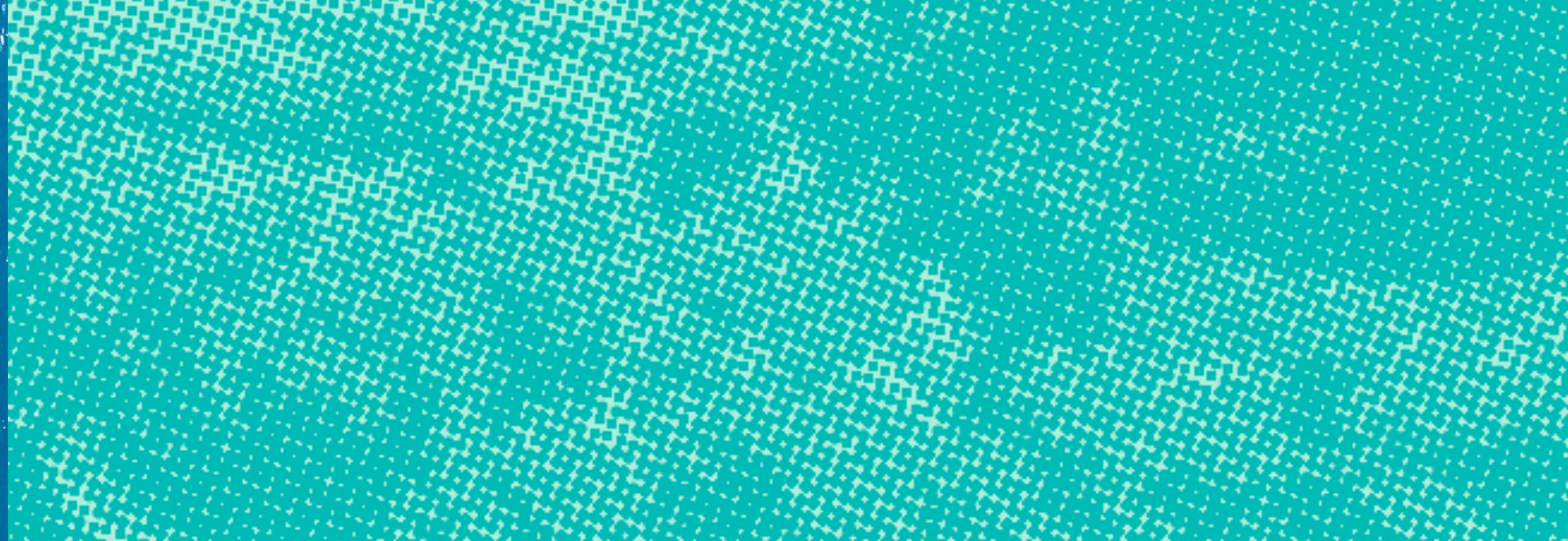












# Management Plans

























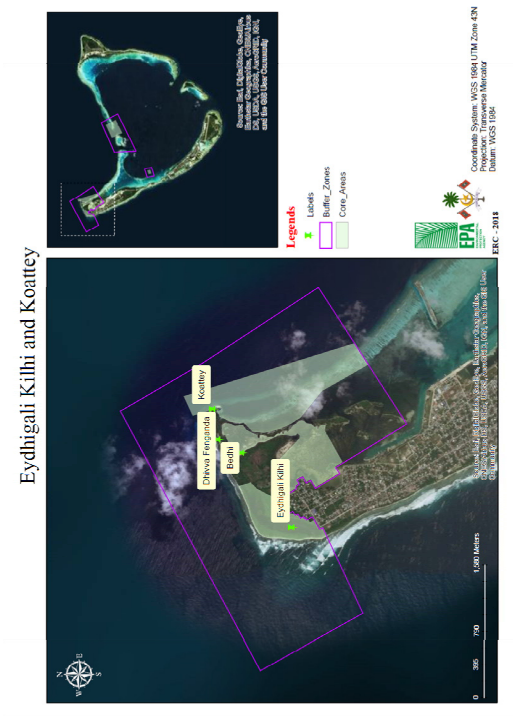


ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް

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ޖަދުވަލު 1: ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ނިޔަންމުލުގެ ތަޢުދު ސަރަޙައްދު

1- ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ނިޔަންމުލުގެ ތަޢުދު ސަރަޙައްދު



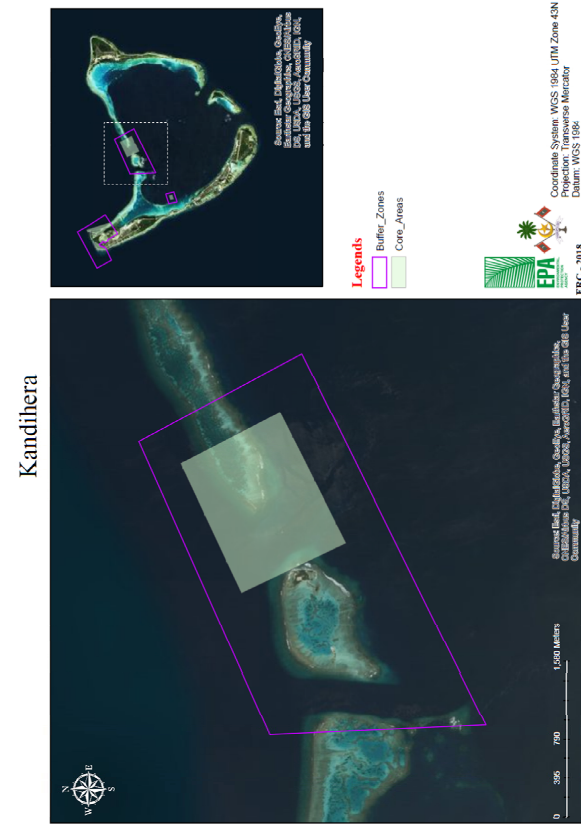
ޔަދުވަލު 28: ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ނިޔަންމުލުގެ ތަޢުދު ސަރަޙައްދު

28- ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ނިޔަންމުލުގެ ތަޢުދު ސަރަޙައްދު

- (-) ޖަދުވަލު 1: ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ނިޔަންމުލުގެ ތަޢުދު ސަރަޙައްދު
- (-) ޖަދުވަލު 2: ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ނިޔަންމުލުގެ ތަޢުދު ސަރަޙައްދު
- (-) ޖަދުވަލު 3: ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ނިޔަންމުލުގެ ތަޢުދު ސަރަޙައްދު
- (-) ޖަދުވަލު 4: ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ނިޔަންމުލުގެ ތަޢުދު ސަރަޙައްދު
- (-) ޖަދުވަލު 5: ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ނިޔަންމުލުގެ ތަޢުދު ސަރަޙައްދު
- (-) ޖަދުވަލު 6: ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ނިޔަންމުލުގެ ތަޢުދު ސަރަޙައްދު
- (-) ޖަދުވަލު 7: ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ނިޔަންމުލުގެ ތަޢުދު ސަރަޙައްދު
- (-) ޖަދުވަލު 8: ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ނިޔަންމުލުގެ ތަޢުދު ސަރަޙައްދު



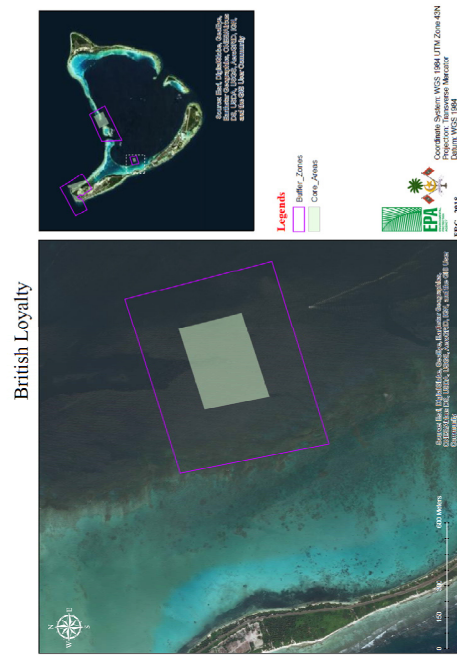
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3. ސަރުކާރުގެ ބަނޑުގެ ސަރަޙައްދު

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3. ސަރުކާރުގެ ބަނޑުގެ ސަރަޙައްދު



4. ސަރުކާރުގެ ބަނޑުގެ ސަރަޙައްދު

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| 73.1142928   | -0.6399927   |



































































































































Full Name: ID No/ Passport No: 2006 493

Permanent Address: Atoll: d

Contact No: Email: 2006 493

15 I hereby declare that the information given in this form is true, to best of my knowledge. I have read and thoroughly understood the "Wildlife Protection and Preservation Regulation" (Reg no. 23-RZ0213). I am aware of the penalties for offences, with respect to the regulation and take full responsibility for any breach by our team members.

Full Name: Signature: Date: 2020 09 15

Received by (Full Name): Signature: 2020 09 15

Received Date/Time: Form Number: 2020-17

17 Supporting Documents (Please check if you have attached the following documents, if not it will be rejected):

1 Copy of Identification Card/Passport (Applicant) [ ] 493 15 2020 09 15

2 Copy of Identification Card/Passport (Person Responsible) [ ] 493 15 2020 09 15

3 Copy of Registration Certificate (NGO / Organization) [ ] 15 2020 09 15

4 Copy of Identification Card/Passport of team members (where applicable) [ ] 15 2020 09 15

5 One page brief on project purpose (for commercial only) [ ] 15 2020 09 15

6 Payment Receipt [ ] 15 2020 09 15

18 Submission

1 The completed form must be submitted to EPA or Bas Abul UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Office, between 09:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 14:00, on government working days.

2 The form be submitted via mail or fax, two weeks prior to the date of commencement of the intended date of activity.

3 Incomplete forms and forms with false information will not be accepted.

1 2020 09 15

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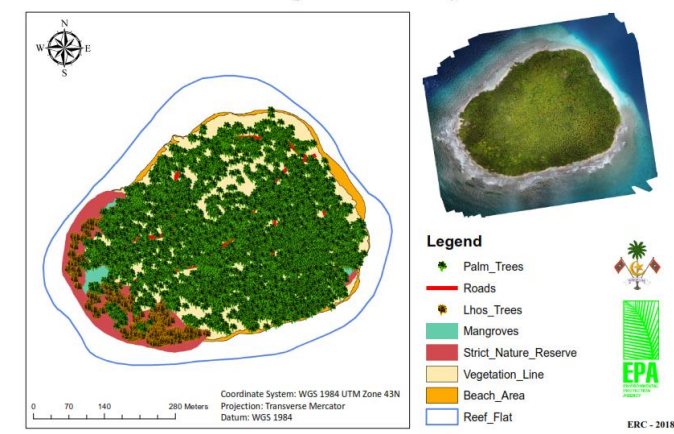






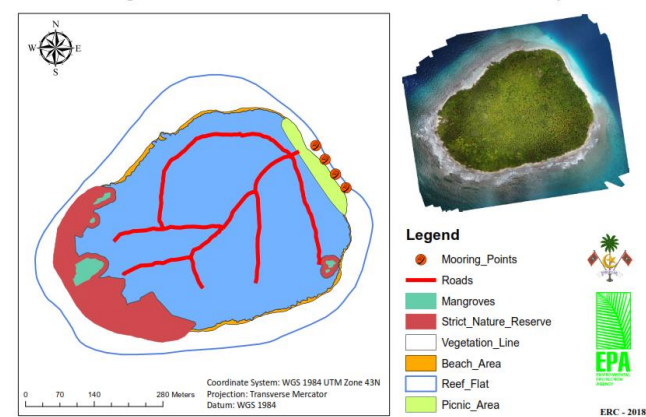


Olhugiri Resource Map



9

Olhugiri Resource Use and Strict Nature Reserve Map



10



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# Protected Areas of Maldives