

## PROTECTED AREAS OF MALDIVES 2019

#	x	y	Name	Date	Directive No:	Area/ ha	Description
1	73.38333	4.56666667	Makunudhoo Kandu	1st October 1995	E/95/32	310	Makunudhoo Kandu Olhi is one of the diving highlights of the north west. The reef top has good range of hard and soft corals and on the outer slopes are sponges, seawhips and seafans. Eagle rays can be seen here between November and May. Turtles and Napoleon are also usually seen.
2	73.35091	4.39590651	Rasfari Region	1st October 1995	E/95/32	2447	Rasfari Island is a roosting site for migratory birds and the beaches are known for Sea Turtles Nesting. The surrounding reef of the island is known to rich in marine biodiversity. In the northwestern end of the wide Rasfari lagoon is a shallow plateau surrounded by a steep slope reef. The plateau is covered with hard corals and hosts a cleaning station for <i>Manta alfredi</i> (Manta Ray/ Enmadi) during the outgoing currents of the northeast monsoon.
3	73.58333	4.31666667	HP Reef (Thanburudhoo Thila)	1st October 1995	E/95/32	146	The entire length of the reef on the south west side is filled with outcrops of reef, caves and crevices. The ceiling of the cave is adorned with blue corals. Large schools of big-eye trevally and blue-fin jack, rainbow runner, barracuda, and dog-toothed tuna are seen commonly in this site. <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> (Grey reef Shark) and <i>Triaenodon obesus</i> (Whitetip Sharks) are also seen with the other pelagic species.
4	73.53187	4.23933042	Banana Reef (Gaathu Giri)	1st October 1995	E/95/32	178.5	The site is a famous dive site, with rich marine biodiversity. The northeastern end of the reef is arguably the best place to dive with plenty of large caves, fascinating overhangs and deep gutters along the majestic rock face. There is a large cave between 1m- 15m of the western end of the site, with plenty of fishes.

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5	73.41592	4.21661458	Giravaru Kuda Haa	1st October 1995	E/95/32	260	The pinnacle in a shape of a camel's hump. The site features steep slopes, a ridge and two "thila"s full of diverse marine species. Famous for its macro life, such as nudibranchs leaf fish, flat worms and small crustaceans. <i>Cheilinus undulatus</i> (Napoleon Wrasse) a protected species, also listed on the IUCN red list, is reported to be sighted.
6	73.426	4.17892817	Lions Head (Dhekunu Thilafalhuge Miyaruvani)	1st October 1995	E/95/32	151	The site is flushed with clear water from the 500m deep channel making it ideal for viewing the <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> (Grey reef Shark) that patrol the area. To the east of Lions head is a long straight section of the reef with caves and overhangs. Invertebrates such as lobsters, octopus
7	73.46681	4.1723086	Hans Hass Place (Gulhi Falhu)	1st October 1995	E/95/32	102	Small delicate purple seafans cover the ceilings of the overhangs and in the caves are many species of grouper. The caves are also full of the immaculate soldierfish and shadow-fin soldierfish.
8	73.53005	4.08589985	Embudhoo Kandu Olhi	1st October 1995	E/95/32	635	Also known as Embudhoo Express. The currents at the entrance of the channel attract pelagics, large napoleon and eagle rays. <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> (Grey reef Shark) are seen in the South corner. There are many caves and long shallow overhangs. Under the overhangs are numerous snout-spot grouper.
9	73.46729	3.89447761	Guraidhoo Kanduolhi	1st October 1995	E/95/32	352	The site is well known for sightings of <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> (Grey reef Shark) and <i>Aetobatus narinari</i> (Eagle ray). Most of the pelagic action can be seen on the ocean drop-off, where the oceanic water enters the channel. Inside the channel there are overhangs with plenty of sea fans and black coral bushes.

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10	72.85335	4.08294926	Maaya Thila	1st October 1995	E/95/32	1028	There is a remarkable amount of variety of marine life, including <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> (Grey reef Shark) and <i>Triaenodon obesus</i> (Whitetip Sharks), <i>Chelonioida</i> (Turtles), <i>Synanceia verrucosa</i> (Stonefish), <i>Antennariidae</i> (Frogfish) and many more. There is a large overhang full of bright orange <i>Tubastrea</i> corals.
11	72.95097	3.98160035	Orimas Thila	1st October 1995	E/95/32	1315	Topography is unusual with caves, gulleys, crevices and large coral outcrops. Large and small species of marine life in a confined area. Huge numbers of Anemones (clown fish) and stunning coral tables can be seen.
12	72.91652	3.93694777	Fish Head (Mushimasmigili Thila)	1st October 1995	E/95/32	270	Home to <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> (Grey reef Shark), <i>Cheilinus undulates</i> (Napoleon wrasse) and Schools of <i>Caesionidae</i> (fusiliers) and <i>Haemulon sciurus</i> (Yellow grunt). There is a large overhang commonly known as the Fish Head, there will find huge schools of thousands of blue-lined snappers.
13	72.9196	3.56157088	Kudarah Thila	1st October 1995	E/95/32	270	The topography is quite complex with four large coral heads of varying sizes that sit on the plateau. There are caves jammed with soft corals, gorgonians and whip corals. A stunning amount of marine life can be seen, including the thousands of schools of blue-lined snappers. <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> (Grey reef Shark) and <i>Triaenodon obesus</i> (Whitetip Sharks) can be seen on the current positions.
14	73.51667	5.48333333	Fushifaru Kanduu	1st October 1995	E/95/32	1400	There are 5 thilas in this area, which are long and narrow and rise from a sandy bottom. <i>Selachimorpha</i> (Sharks), Eagle rays and other big fish can be seen. There are sandy channels where <i>Myliobatoidei</i> (Stingrays) and <i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i> (Nurse Shark) can be spotted. The thila attracts many schools of fishes and eels.

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15	73.50064	3.57935829	Miyaru Kandu (Dhevana Kandu)	1st October 1995	E/95/32	1391.9	The reeftop starts at about 60m and slopes gently down in a series of ledges to a sandy plateau at 35m. This area of the reef and ledges are packed with life, and there are many shallow caves. On the edge of the reef are great schools of fishes such as red snappers, surgeonfish. Myliobatoidei (Stingrays) and <i>Triaenodon obesus</i> (Whitetip Sharks)
16	72.92927	2.99671248	Fushi Kandu	21st October 1999	10-C/99/38	2366	High diverse area with mega fauna such as <i>Cheilinus undulates</i> (Napoleon wrasse/ Maa hulhubu lan'daa), <i>Chelonioidea</i> (Turtles/ Velaa kahanbu), <i>Muraenidae</i> (Moray eels). Consists of Caves and overhangs, with numerous sightings of reef fishers. Famous dive site among guests and locals.
17	72.95702	5.37916442	Vilingilee Thili	21st October 1999	10-C/99/38	266	Stunning colors of fish life can be seen. The small thila is fringed with overhangs and terraces that are home to Blue Stripe snappers, trevallies, shrimps, glass fish and crabs. Nurse Sharks can be seen occasionally. Anemones and clownfish resides on the reef top.
18	73.47549	5.55637984	Kuredhu Express (Kuredhu Kanduolhi)	21st October 1999	10-C/99/38	393	The northwest reef faces the deep "Baraveli Kandu". The reef drops steeply down to 40m, where gradient changes to become a sandy slope. The reef top is populated with massive corals. Excellent shallow caves and overhangs. Rare sightings of pelagic species are observed.
19	73.53333	4.28333333	Nassimo Thila (Lankan Thila)	21st October 1999	10-C/99/38	267	Also known as Nassimo Thila. Long overhangs and caves between 15 and 20m extend almost the entire length of the eastern side. Blue corals and nurse sharks are often seen in the caves. On the reef top, many species of grouper including the large flower grouper, white-lined grouper and peacock rock-cod are seen.

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20	72.9614	4.0950338	Kari Beyru Thila	21st October 1999	10-C/99/38	1323	There are many interesting caves rich in corals. Fish life is varied with Tuna, Snappers, <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> (Grey reef Shark) , <i>Triaenodon obesus</i> (Whitetip Sharks) and <i>Cheilinus undulatus</i> (Napoleon Wrasse). Manta alfredi (Manta rays) are also seen at times with String rays and Stone fishes.
21	72.72116	3.59388064	Rangali Kandu (Madivaru)	21st October 1999	10-C/99/38	865	During the north-east monsoon <i>Manta alfredi</i> (Manta rays) feed on the plankton-rich waters that generally flow with the currents out of the atoll. There are many cavities in the reef, some overhangs, caves and two swim through all with seafans.
22	73.42492	3.22198831	Vattaru Kandu	21st October 1999	10-C/99/38	9780.7	The 150m wide canal presents a bright white sandy bottom, a vertical wall on its west side, and a gently sloping reef on its eastside, and an edge at the south. May <i>Myliobatoidei</i> (Stingray/ Madi) are present at the bottom, while fish are concentrated on the eastern reef. During currents mega fauna such as <i>Selachimorpha</i> (sharks/ Miyaru) and <i>Manta alfredi</i> (Manta rays/ Enmadi) are observed.
23	73.5464	2.94524812	Lazikuraadi (Hakura Thila)	21st October 1999	10-C/99/38	489	The “thila” is about 75m in length rising to 2m, with many attractions on every side of the reef. The eastern ridge houses a larvae cave between 10m and 15m with loads of invertebrate life. This is a stunning location and a favorite of the divers.
24	73.03915	3.20129446	Filitheyo Kandu	21st October 1999	10-C/99/38	168	The main channel in F atoll, with a 2km areas consisting of 3 dive sites; filitheyo kandu, filitheyo outside and dolphin corner. Big schools of fishes are commonly seen and mega fauna such as <i>Selachimorpha</i> (Sharks/Miyaru), <i>Cheilinus undulates</i> (Napoleon wrasse/ Maa hulhubu lan'daa) and <i>Myliobatoidei</i> (Stingrays/ Madi).

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25	73.04164	5.14715126	Dhigali Haa and Dhigili Giri	21st October 1999	10-C/99/38	91.44	After declaring Dhigali Haa as a protected area in October 1999, the boundaries were revised to include the area of Dhigali Giri on 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2011. The area consists of rich coral colonies, including colourful reef tops with overhangs. Red-encrusting coralline algae is abundant in this area. At the time of Protection, sightings of sharks, Sea Turtles and barracudas were very common; However, the numbers has been decreasing.
26	73.07795	-0.58534093	Eedhigali Kilhi	7th December 2004	20-H3/2004/97	771	Located in the northern tip of Hithadhoo, Eidhigali kilhi, one of the largest wetland areas in the country is a breeding and roosting site for numerous birds, including the many migratory birds. The surrounding reef consists of rich marine biodiversity, which is the reason for its popularity among the divers. The area also includes the british loyalty ship wreck.
27	73.60134	4.33410831	Hura Mangrove	14th June 2006	174-AB1/2006/13	6	A large mangrove area with the common mangrove associated vegetation and other species can be found.
28	72.77467	3.66698271	Hurasdhoo	14th June 2006	174-AB1/2006/13	515	The island is unique in the formation and has a special geomorphological feature. The migratory birds roost in the island. The island is to have a vulnerable and rich biological diversity.
29	72.90589	5.00154045	Olhugiri	14th June 2006	174-AB1/2006/13	573	The island is one of the two known islands where <i>Fregata ariel</i> (Lesser Frigate bird/Hoara) is found to be roosting in the Maldives. The island has a vast area covered by <i>Pisonia grandis</i> (lettuce Tree /Lhos gass), which is identified to be the attraction for the <i>Fregata ariel</i> . The island has a wetland surrounded by common mangrove vegetation, which were traditionally used for medicinal purposes by the locals.

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30	73.24232	0.84957298	Hithaadhoo Island	14th June 2006	174-AB1/2006/13	803	One of the two known locations where where <i>Fregata minor</i> (Great Frigate bird/MaaHoara) is found in the Maldives.
31	72.79942	3.45491264	South Ari Atoll Marine Protected Area	5th June 2009	138-EE/2009/19	5595	South Ari Marine Protected Area (SAMPA) is a globally significant aggregation site for <i>Rhicondon typus</i> (Whale Shark/ fehurehi). The deep waters just offshore are ideally suited for the large pelagic species. The Area is stretched to 42km around the southern base of the atoll and extends to 1km from the shoreline of the islands. The MPA coincides with 4 inhabited islands; Dhigurah, Dhidhoo, Fenfushi and Maamigili, and 3 Resort Islands; Conrad Rangali, Holiday Island Resort and Sun Island Resort.
32	73.14384	5.17387978	Hanifaru Area	5th June 2009	138-EE/2009/19	1168.87	Hanifaru bay which is also known as "Vandhoomaafaru Adi" is famous worldwide for the concentration of enigmatic and charismatic <i>Manta alfredi</i> (Manta ray/ Enmadi), which is seen feeding in the plankton rich waters of the area. This is one of the few known sites where <i>Rhicondon typus</i> (Whale Shark/ fehurehi) congregate for mating. Hanifaru bay is also known as a nursery ground for <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> (grey sharks) and <i>Myliobatoidei</i> (stingrays)
33	73.08859	5.18896639	Anga Faru	5th June 2009	138-EE/2009/19	1320	The area includes Dhonfanuthila, Dhiguthila and Mahaanagaa. This high biodiversity rich area with large colonies of soft and hard corals and associated other marine living beings. This area is a breeding ground for <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> (Grey Sharks) and <i>Triaenodon obesus</i> (White tip shark).

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34	72.99541	5.17554644	Mendhoo Region	5th June 2009	138-FS2/1/2011/35	2140	This area consists of Mendhoo Island and reef, Mendhoo binmatheefaru, kaburu faru, Nibiliga Islanda and reef. This is a known nesting site for <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (Green Turtle/ Velaa) and <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> (Hawksbill Turtle/ Kahan'bu). Nibiliga island is a roosting site for many migratory birds including; <i>Anous stolidus</i> (Brown Noddy/ Maaranga), <i>Sterna bergii</i> (Great crested Tern/ Bodu Gaa Dhooni) and <i>Sterna sumatrana</i> (Black – Naped Tern/ Kirudhooni)
35	72.99846	4.87942793	Goidhoo Koaru	5th June 2009	138-FS2/1/2011/35	171	This is the largest Mangrove forest in Baa Atoll with high diversity of mangrove associated vegetation, vertebrate and invertebrates. A common roosting site for migratory birds including <i>Arenaria interpres</i> (Ruddy Turnstone/ Rathafai) and <i>Anas clypeata</i> (Northern Shoveler/ Reyru).
36	73.07259	5.36186914	Bathala Region	8th June 2009	138-FS2/1/2011/35	3399	Bathalaa region includes Bathalaa reef and the islands including the channels. Nesting site for <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (Green Turtle/ Velaa) and <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> (Hawksbill Turtle/ Kahan'bu). And an aggregating and spawning site for Epinephelinae (Grouper/ Faana) and the islands are a roosting site for <i>Sterna sumatrana</i> (Black – Naped Tern/ Kirudhooni).
37	72.89361	4.81333333	Mathifaru Hura	5th June 2009	138-FS2/1/2011/35	748	The Protected area includes Mathifaru hura Island and reef (outside and inside atoll- Dhoru Kanduu). Nesting site for <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (Green Turtle/ Velaa) and <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> (Hawksbill Turtle/ Kahan'bu) and a roosting site for migratory birds such as <i>Sterna sumatrana</i> (Black – Naped Tern/ Kirudhooni), <i>Anous stolidus</i> (Brown Noddy/ Maaranga), <i>Anous tenuirostris</i> (Lesser Noddy/ Kurangi)



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38	72.90083	4.90916667	The Wreck of "CORBIN"	5th June 2009	138-FS2/1/2011/35	330	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. Plagued by misfortunate and ill-discipline, the Corbin was destined for disaster and met its end on Goidhoo, or Horsburgh Atoll, on July, 2, 1602. It was carrying a cargo of Silver and attempted salvage at the time of loss was unsuccessful because of deep water. The area is now a famous dive site for the locals and tourists.
39	72.86032	5.186928	Maahuruvalhi Reef Region	7th June 2011	138-FS2/1/2011/35	3474	The protected area includes Maahuruvalhi Reef and the channels of Ahivahfushi kandu and Maahuruvalhi kandu. High population of IUCN red list marine species such as <i>Cheilinus undulatus</i> (Napoleon Wrasse/ Maa hulhubu Landaa). A grouper and other fish aggregating site for spawning and breeding.
40	73.43063	-0.2995896	Bandaara Kilhi	18th June 2012	(IUL)438-PPIR/438/2012 /2	53	One of the largest Fresh water wetland area with rich biodiversity. Traditionally used by locals for Agricultural purposes. Bounded by dense vegetation of ferns (locally known as "lonsi"). Common moorhen, which is an endemic species to fuvahmulah can be seen in the wetland area. Maldivian white-breasted waterhen which is only found in Maldives I also sighted in this area and other common trees, such as screwpine, Banana tree, coconut palms and taro.

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41	73.41771	-0.2856197	Dhandimagu Kilhi	18th June 2012	(IUL)438- PPIR/438/2012 /2	63	Fresh water wetland areas with rich biodiversity. Traditionally used by locals for Agricultural purposes. Bounded by dense vegetation of ferns (locally known as "lonsi") and other common trees, such as screwpine, Banana tree, coconut palms and taro. Common moorhen, which is an endemic species to fuvahmulah can be seen in the wetland area. Maldivian white-breasted waterhen which is only found in Maldives I also sighted in this area.
42	73.41637	-0.27652948	Thoondi Area	18th June 2012	(IUL)438- PPIR/438/2012 /2	166	Beach area on the North of Fuvahmulah, formed by white small pebbles, which are unusually smooth and shiny. This kind of pebbles is found only in Fuvahmulah and they possess a unique feature to shine even after being taken from beach. An annual phenomenon, locally known as "Bissaaveli" to form at this area, when part of the sand of the beach moves away from the shore towards the edge of the reef, thus creating a lagoon, enclosed by sand and shore of the island.
43	73.11379	-0.6388836	British Loyalty Shipwreck	13th September 2018	2018/R-105	64	The 5.583 oil tanker British loyalty was built in 1928 and the ship was torpedoed in Addu atoll harbour on 9th March 1944. The ship was damaged during the and it was towed and finally sunk to its current location by the guns of British warship. The total length of the wreck is 140m and its beam is 20m. Coral growth is excellent with large clumps of hard coral all over and a good covering of soft coral. On several places on the railing , big balls of coral look like natural fenders.

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44	73.15527	-0.609631	Kandihera-Maakandu Channel (Manta Point Addu)	13th September 2018	2018/R-105	724	A cleaning station where large Manta Rays gather in morning for few hours when the incoming currents makes conditions just right for the majestic creatures. This is one of locations where Manta rays can be spotted throughout the year and the only location where large Mantas of more than 5m wingspan can be spotted. Frequent sightings of eagle rays, sharks and turtles are also observed in these waters due to the abundant biodiversity.
45	72.99807	4.264382	Rasdhoor Madivaru Area	7th October 2018	(IUL)438-PPIR/438/2018/262	676.11	Rasdhoor Madivaru has been identified as a Natural and Environment significant area due to the high biodiversity of the area and the close relationship between human activities and the ecological diversity of the area. This area was declared as an Ecologically and Biologically significant area by "Convention on Biological Diversity" in 2016. The area is known to one of the few dive sites, where (Hammerhead sharks/ Kaali gandu miyaru) can be seen throughout the year.
46	73.15431	0.213965	Dhigulaabadhoo	7th October 2018	(IUL)438-ENV/438/2018/262	545.57	The island caters to all the different natural and environmental habitats that can be found in an island, including mangrove/wetland areas and bay areas formed due to the unique formation of the island. This island has a very rich biological diversity and is different from most of the Maldives Islands, in formation as well as the rich biodiversity.
47	73.29859	6.19064	Farukolhu	7th October 2018	(IUL)438-ENV/438/2018/262	682.67	The island has a rich biodiversity due to the mangrove/wetland areas that covers most of the land area of the Island.

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48	73.21189	6.814087	Baarah Mangrove Area	30th December 2018	(IUL)438-ENV/438/2018/322	50.77	Baarah Mangrove area has 6 out of the 14 mangrove vegetation found in Maldives, with <i>Bruguiera cylindrica</i> (Small Leaved orange Mangrove/Kandoo and <i>Rhizophora mucronata</i> (Black Mangrove/Randoo) being the most common. Common Greenshank (chon chon ilolhi) which is a rarely found bird in Maldives, is found in the Mangrove areas of HA Baarah.
49	73.00937	6.603193	Keylakunu	30th December 2018	(IUL)438-ENV/438/2018/322	235.54	The only island of Maldives to have vegetation features of a forest. <i>Avicennia marina</i> (Grey mangrove/Baru gass) found in the mangrove areas of this island is a rarely found true mangrove species throughout the World. A rare bird throughout Maldives, <i>Tringa nebularia</i> (White tailed tropical bird/Dhandifulhu dhooni) is found in the island. Beaches are identified to be common Sea Turtle nesting areas.
50	72.98563	6.542357	Neykurendhoo Mangrove Area	30th December 2018	(IUL)438-ENV/438/2018/322	71.84	Neykurendhoo Mangrove area has 6 out of the 13 mangrove vegetation found in Maldives. This includes the most common mangrove species such as <i>Bruguiera cylindrica</i> (Small Leaved orange Mangrove/Kandoo and <i>Rhizophora mucronata</i> (Black Mangrove/Randoo). Migratory birds, mangrove crabs and other mangrove species are found within this area.