



Executive Summary

State Party

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

State, Province or Region

Kingdom of Bahrain, territorial waters

Kingdom of Bahrain, Muharraq Island, Muharraq Governorate

Name of Property

Pearling, testimony of an island economy

Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

Name of property	No.	Longitude	Latitude	UTM Easting	UTM Northing
Hayr Bū-l-Thāmah	1	50°54'42.84"E	26°47'25.44"N	491243.3	2963224.3
Hayr Bū'Amāmah	2	50°48'13.14"E	26°48'27.036"N	480486.4	2965131
Hayr Shtayyah	3	50°48.55.836"E	26°36'40.896"N	481633.8	2943404.9
Bū Māhir Seashore	4a	50°36'47.916"E	26°14'26.952"N	461421.2	2902397
Qal'at Bū Māhir	4b	50°36'48.636"E	26°14'28.608"N	461441.1	2902448
Al-Ghūṣ House	5	50°36'51.084"E	26°14'38.364"N	461510	2902748
Badr Ghulum House	6	50°36'48.348"E	26°14'44.592"N	461434.8	2902940
Al-Jalahma House	7	50°36'49.14"E	26°14'45.528"N	461456.9	2902969
Al-Alawi House	8	50°36'47.808"E	26°14'49.2"N	461420.2	2903082
Fakhro House	9	50°36'38.592"E	26°14'51.9"N	461165.2	2903165
Murad House	10	50°36'48.996"E	26°14'58.632"N	461485.9	2903371
Murad Majlis	11	50°36'48.996"E	26°14'57.696"N	461454.4	2903343
Siyadi Shops	12	50°36'36.216"E	26°14'59.784"N	461100.1	2903408
Amārat Yousif A. Fakhro	13a	50°36'33.156"E	26°14'59.892"N	461014.6	2903412
'Amārat Ali Rashed Fakhro (I)	13b	50°36'34.38"E	26°15'0.612"N	461048.7	2903434
'Amārat Ali Rashed Fakhro (II)	13c	50°36'33.912"E	26°15'1.224"N	461036.1	2903452
Nūkhidhah House	14	50°36'39.42"E	26°15'16.488"N	461190	2903922
Siyadi House	15a	50°36'46.404"E	26°15'19.332"N	461384.4	2904009
Siyadi Majlis	15b	50°36'45.396"E	26°15'19.296"N	461356.1	2904007
Siyadi Mosque	15c	50°36'45.072"E	26°15'18.612"N	461346.9	2903987

In the above table and all further parts of the nomination dossier the reference UTM projection datum is Ain al-Abid and the geographic projection datum is WGS.84

Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated property

The boundaries of the 15 properties and the primary as well as secondary buffer zones are introduced in textual descriptions below. All geographical references are given as UTM Northing and Easting with projection datum Ain al-Abid. Since some of the boundaries are rather complex or can only be defined by their geographical coordinates in lack of other visible geographical markers (as for the marine properties) it is advised to read the descriptions with assistance of the relevant maps provided.

Property boundaries:

Oyster beds

The three oyster beds are located north of *Muharraq* Island. They are called *Hayr Bū 'Amāmah*, *Hayr Bū-l-Thāmah* as well as the larger bed *Hayr Shtayyah*. *Hayr Bū 'Amāmah* and *Hayr Bū-l-Thāmah* have similar sizes and are located close to each other in the northern territorial waters of Bahrain. *Hayr Shtayyah*, the largest oyster bed, is located between the other two and the northern shores of *Muharraq* Island.

Property 1: *Hayr Bū-l-Thāmah*

Hayr Bū-l-Thāmah has an oval shape which is significantly tapered from the southern side. Its boundaries can be described starting from the most western point (485362.3 E/2960416 N) and then going northwards until coordinate (487823.3 E/2966090 N), the most northwestern corner of the bed. Moving horizontally towards the east, through coordinates (492599.2 E/2966334 N) and (494160.2 E/2966269 N) which define the northern most limit of the bed until coordinate (496537.5 E/2965139 N), where the direction changes slightly south until (497755 E/2963647 N), the most eastern point of this oyster bed. The boundary then goes slightly south-westwards, returning to (485362.3 E/2960416 N).

Property 2: *Hayr Bū 'Amāmah*

Hayr Bū 'Amāmah has an overall rectangular shape, with curved corners. Its boundary is described starting from the most western point (475627.3 E/2964205 N), which reaches northwards until (477054.8 E/2967770 N), where it curves eastwards until (478877.4 E/2968653 N). The boundary then extends straight towards the eastern end of the bed, which is defined by the coordinates (483981.4 E/2967626 N) and (484478

E/2967029 N), before extending south towards (483962.6 E/2962280 N) where it connects to (482950.5 E/2961366 N) and (481775.4 E/2961358 N) at the southeastern corner through a curve. The boundary continues north-westwards and closes when reaching (475627.3 E/2964205 N).

Property 3: *Hayr Shtayyah*

Hayr Shtayyah is round with an exclusion zone in the southern centre. The oyster bed's boundary is described starting from (470543.5 E/2942681 N), the most western point, continuing north-eastwards where it reaches the northernmost point (481515.5 E/2952191 N). The boundary then follows a curved eastward line with a southward inclination towards (492093.7 E/2943250 N), the easternmost point of the bed. From there, the boundary continues south-westwards until (483391 E/2935377 N) and (481450 E/2935397 N). At these points, the boundary takes a 90 degree direction change towards the centre of the bed, occurring at points (481082.4 E/2943916 N) and (478977.2 E/2944118 N), before moving back to (477492.7 E/2934589 N), the boundary's southernmost point. The boundary then curves back to (470543.5 E/2942681 N), the origin of the description.

Property 4a: *Bū Māhir* Seashore

The oval property encompasses both sea and land. The boundary description starts inland at point (461467.6 E/2902496 N), the northern most point of the property, and lies southwards and eastwards, following the limits of the garden area, which are included in the property. Going past the coast guard's cantina, the boundary continues south beyond the beach to point (461500.4 E/2902432 N), located in the *qirāḥ* zone of shore. From the *qirāḥ* zone, the boundary describes a curve around the *haddrah*, reaching the deepest sea at point (461389 E/2902312 N). The curve continues then north-westwards to coordinate (461336.9 E/2902354 N) the most western point of the property, before arriving back on land at (461399.1 E/2902466 N), the edge of the existing peer. Further eastwards, the boundary reaches (461420.7 E/2902470 N), to the immediate left of one of *Bū Māhir* fort's tower footprints. The boundary closes north-eastwards at (461452.8 E/2902493 N) and back to (461467.6 E/ 2902496 N).

Property 4b: *Qal'at Bū Māhir*

The property boundary of *Qal'at Bū Māhir* follows the exact outline of its standing remains. From the northernmost point (495193.2 E/2976844 N) the boundary follows the inner elevation to (498856.5 E/2976171 N). Going slightly eastwards, the boundary encloses the remains of the southern wall (500110.4 E/2972920 N) and

(500195.9 E/2969394 N). From (500195.9 E/2969394 N), the boundary takes its turn westwards, in a circular shape, surrounding the only remaining tower of the fort. At (495889.9 E/2937890 N), the boundary meets the outer elevation of *Qal'at Bū Māhir's* west wing, where it then continues northwards until (492859.9 E/ 2934648 N). The distance between (492859.9 E/2934648 N) and (495193.2 E/2976844 N) represents the northern short end of the remaining wing.

Property 5: *Al-Ghūṣ* House (Road 1615, house no. 972)

Al-Ghūṣ House is the first urban property to the north of *Qal'at Bū Māhir*. Its boundary follows the exact limits of the plot where it is situated (plot 13571). The boundary's southeastern limits are defined by the intersection of Road 1615 and Road 1612. From these roads, the boundary extends northwards until (461501.7 E/2902756 N), then eastwards until (461509 E/2902756 N), and southwards until (461509 E/2902752 N), before joining Road 1615 at point (461519.5 E/2902752 N).

Property 6: *Badr Ghulum* House (Lane 1622, house no. 1256)

Directly north of *Al-Ghūṣ* House lies the *Badr Ghulum* property, which is composed of the *Badr Ghulum* House and, next to it, part of the *Turabi* House. The boundary includes plots 13308 and 13307, and parts of plot 13306. Lane 1622 borders *Badr Ghulum* House at its southern and eastern façades. At point (477627.6 E/2968509 N), the property's western limit, the boundary start stretching from Lane 1622 perpendicularly to point (478877.4 E/2968653 N), where it runs eastward in the direction of Lane 1622 to (475627.3 E/2964205 N).

Property 7: *Al-Jalahma* House (Road 1624, house no. 1321, 1319)

Al-Jalahma House lies to the northeast of the *Badr Ghulum* House. The property's boundary includes the two parts of the house on plots 10155 and 24633, and parts on plot 24631. The connecting element on the first floor, which covers part of Lane 1622, is also included in the boundary. The northern façade is bordered by Road 1624. Starting from (461470.1 E/2902985 N) at Road 1624, the property extends southwards to (461475.5 E/2902966 N), and westwards to (461458.8 E/2902960 N), where it meets Lane 1622. Following the house's street façade, the boundary is defined northwards until the *ṣabāṭ* (the connecting element), crosses Lane 1622 and follows the façade southwards to the corner of the building (461457.9 E/2902952 N). The property extends westwards until (461448.6 E/2902950 N), and northwards until (461446.8 E/2902956 N), following the boundary wall of the property until (461447.7 E/2902980 N) on Road 1624.





Exchange of pearling memories in the Muharraq coffee shop

Property 8: *Al-Alawi House* (Abdulrahman Al-Fadil Avenue, house no. 414)

The property boundary of *Al-Alawi House*, which is located north of *Al-Jalahma* complex, follows, exactly, its square-shaped façade outline which at the same time fills plot 13751. The property's southeastern façade is adjacent to Abdulrahman Al-Fadil Avenue, between points (461429 E/2903080 N) and (461419 E/2903073 N). The other two corners of the square property are defined by the coordinates (461411.7 E/2903084 N) and (461421.2 E/2903090 N).

Property 9: *Fakhro House* (Shaykh Abdullah Bin Ahmed Avenue, house no. 252)

Situated northwest of *Al-Alawi House*, the *Fakhro House* boundaries are defined by the remains of the old house and the boundary walls of the property with its garden. The property includes plot 13074 and a large part of plot 13975. To the southeast, the property's boundary is defined by Shaykh Abdullah bin Ahmed Avenue, which starts from the façade corner at coordinates (461209.7 E/2903178 N) running towards the following corner at (461178.1 E/2903152 N). From there, the boundary follows the limits of the old peer up to (461131 E/2903127 N) and further north towards (461119.4 E/2903149 N). The property boundaries are closed by returning to the remaining house's corner at (461160.6 E/2903184 N), and along the façade to (461187.3 E/2903208 N).

Property 10: *Murad House* (Road 1308 no. 62 and 64, Road 1313 no.169)

Murad House is located on the intersection of Lane 1308 and Lane 1313, which defines the southwestern corner of the trapeze shaped house. From there, the boundaries follow the building's façade; from point (461462.4 E/2903377 N) towards the second visible corner of the building, and then north-eastwards until (461501.8 E/2903388 N), before turning back to lane L1308.

Property 11: *Murad Majlis*, (Road 1308, no 70)

The rectangular shaped *Murad Majlis* is located facing *Al Murad House*, across Lane 1313. The southeastern façade of *Murad Majlis* is defined at Lane 1306. From Lane 1306 the boundary takes direction towards coordinate (461450.1 N/2903333 E) and then extends north-westwards until (461445 E/2903346 N). The boundary then extends further northeastwardly towards (461456.6 E/2903353 N) and follows the Muawdah Mosque limits to Lane 1308.

Property 12: *Siyadi Shops, Tujjar* (Avenue, no. 1653, 1655, 1667 and 1669; *Sūq al-Qaysariyyah*, no. 81, 83, 87, 67, 68a, 68b, 68c, 68d, 91 and 93)

The *Siyadi Shops* are located in the area locally named as *Sūq al-Qaysariyyah*. The property comprises two buildings, including the street separating them, and is bordered by Bu Maher Avenue to the east. From Bu Maher Avenue the property's boundaries, starting with the corner of the eastern building (489765.9 E/2948338 N), extend westwards to the corner at (481515.5 E/2952191 N). On the other side of *Sūq al-Qaysariyyah's* main street, the western complex runs from (478661.4 E/2951135 N) northwards to the building's corner, and follows the building's façade on Tujjar Avenue until the southern visible corner at (478977.2 E/2944118 N). The boundary further follows the building's elevation to (481082.4 E/2943916 N), and from this point returning to *Sūq al-Qaysariyyah* at (479309.1 E/2940643). The eastern complex of the property extends south until (461452.8 E/2902493 N) where its boundary runs, along the façade, towards (461336.9 E/2902354 N) which is situated at Bu Maher Avenue.

Property 13: *'Amārat Yousif A. Fakhro*, and *'Amārat Ali Rashed Fakhro (I)* and *'Amārat Ali Rashed Fakhro (II)*, (Tujjar Avenue, no. 1622, 1626, 1632 and 1640; Lane 1551, no. 1524, 1506, 1496, 1494, 1490, 1502 and 1504)

The *'Amārat* complex includes *'Amārat Ali Rashed Fakhro (I)* and *(II)*, including the street between them (lane 1551), and *'Amārat Yousif A. Fakhro*. *'Amārat Ali Rashed Fakhro (II)* optically merges with the building structures to its north and east. The complex, comprising the three properties, is bordered by Tujjar Avenue to the east, from *'Amārat Ali Rashed Fakhro (I)'s* southeastern corner (461074.9 E/2903428 N), following the building's contours until (461050.4 E/2903442 N). At this point, the boundary crosses Lane 1551 and meets *'Amārat Ali Rashed Fakhro (II)'s* elevation at (461049.9 E/2903446 N), and then continues, along the Lane 1551, following the *'amārah's* boundary wall and the exact limits of plot 11368 until returning again to Lane 1551. The boundary then follows the *'amārah's* elevation southwards until the southernmost corner, (461023.7 E/2903443), where it crosses the lane once again at (461024.4 E/2903438 N). From there, the property's boundary runs southwards following the western division wall to point (461022.6 E/2903424 N), indicating the separating wall between *'Amārat Ali Rashed Fakhro (I)* and *'Amārat Yousif A. Fakhro*. The boundary then turns westwards to point (460968.3 E/2903417 N), after which it crosses through plot 02018986 to (460974.1 E/2903389 N) on the southern plots boundary. Finally, the boundary turns eastwards following the plot's limits and the course of Tujjar Avenue (461076.2 E/2903424 N).

Property 14: *Nūkhidhah* House (Lane 920, no. 365)

The *Nūkhidhah* House is located in *Farīj Shaykh Abdallah*. Its boundary coincides with the exact built structure, which is square shaped and bordered by Lane 920 on three sides (north, east and west) and a neighbouring house to the south, on plot 12820.

Property 15: *Siyadi* complex: *Siyadi Majlis* (Lane 910, no. 79), *Siyadi* House (Lane 914, no. 203) and *Siyadi* Mosque (Lane 914)

The *Siyadi* complex is the northernmost property and is composed of three buildings including a portion of narrow Lane 914 between the two houses. The property, comprising the three architectural structures, is bordered by Lane 910 to the north and Lane 914 to the south. The buildings form an L-shape with the long side (*Siyadi Majlis* and *Siyadi* House) directed east-west, and the short side (*Siyadi Majlis* and *Siyadi* Mosque) directed north-south.

The property boundary extends from the northwestern corner of *Siyadi Majlis* (461348.4 E/2904018 N), then passes eastwards along the building's façade towards the corner (461365.4 E/2904016 N). From there, the boundary line crosses Lane 914 to the *Siyadi* House corner, and continues along the façade until point (461395.4 E/2904024 N), the northernmost point of the house. From here the property's boundary turns south-eastwards, following the separating wall, until the limit of plot 17127, at (461403.9 E/2904013 N), further following the plot limits until (461398 E/2903999 N). Along *Siyadi* House's elevation towards its southwestern corner (461366.6 E/ 2903997 N), the boundary crosses Lane 914 a second time; this time towards *Siyadi Majlis'* southeastern corner, and follows its façade further to the connecting point with *Siyadi* Mosque's boundary wall. Towards the south, the property's boundary corresponds to the contours of plot 13060083 on which the mosque sits. The boundary follows the mosque's eastern and southern façade and its western wall until it connects again with *Siyadi Majlis* along the northern wall at (461349.4 E/ 2904000.5 N). Finally, the boundaries connect again to the origin of the description, following the *Majlis'* separating wall towards Lane 910, at (461348.4 E/2904018 N).

Buffer zone boundaries:

Oyster beds buffer zone:

The buffer zone completely surrounds the three oyster beds in an oblong shape that also includes the marine protected reserve of *Bū-l-Thāmah* reef. The

boundary line is described starting from its most northern point (495193.2 E/2976844 N), and extends eastwards and southwards around the *Bū-l-Thāmah* reef until point (500195.9 E/2969394 N), at which point the boundary evolves southwards until (495889.9 E/2937890 N). Following this, the boundary describes a semicircular shape around *Hayr Shtayyah* until point (465614.8 E/2943649 N), before turning northwards towards point (473840.4E/ 2971821N), where it curves northeastwards to (476195.1 E/ 2973331 N). Following an eastern direction, the boundary extends to (490773.9 E/2974203 N) before again curving around *Bū-l-Thāmah* reef where it ends back in point (495193.2 E/2976844 N).

Bū Māhir Seashore and *Qal'at Bū Māhir* buffer zone:

The northern part of the primary protection zone is bordered by the Khalifa Al-Kabeer Highway, which also separates it from *Muharraq* city. The boundary then runs, following the pedestrian walk at the southern side of the highway, from (461295.3 E/2902575 N) to (461717E/ 2902574 N). It includes west and eastward parts of the *Muharraq* fishing harbor and the Coast Guard's territory in the centre, with the seashore property with *Qal'at Bū Māhir* laying south. The territorial waters in the south of the seashore and *Qal'at Bū Māhir* are as well enclosed within the primary protection zone. This semicircular area with a radius of 742 metres is defined starting from the northernmost point (460709.4 E/2902559 N) towards its southernmost (461448.3 E/2901692 N) and the westernmost point (462174.1 E/2902310 N).

Primary protection zone boundaries:

Al-Ghūṣ House buffer zone:

The zone begins at the north-eastern corner point (461529.6 E/2902785 N) on Road 1612. The buffer zone then descends southwards through building blocks and across Lane 1616 until it borders the adjacent building block. From there, the boundary crosses Road 1615 and, passing through another building complex, reaches coordinates (461546.3 E/2902715 N) in the south-east. The zone continues through the same building block westwards, passing through Road 1612, and traverses another building block to reach point (461492.4 E/2902721 N) on Road 1611. From there, the zone expands north alongside the same building block, crossing again Road 1615 as well as another building block, until it reaches coordinate (461488.4 E/2902780 N) on Lane 1616 in the north-west. The zone outline turns east along Lane 1616, passing through another building block, until the point of origin (461529.6 E/ 2902785 N) is reached, again after crossing Road 1612.

Al-Jalahma buffer zone:

The so-called *Al-Jalahma* buffer zone encompasses three properties: *Al-Alawi* House, *Badr Ghulum* House and *Al-Jalahma* House. The buffer zone begins north-east of *Al-Alawi* House at coordinate (461437.2 E/2903125N) on Road 1417. The zone boundary then turns southwards and runs closely along a building block that borders east on Road 1417. The line then crosses this road and meets coordinate (461479.5 E/2903103 N), where it turns south again, while cutting through a larger building block until it meets (461500.2 E/2903049 N). From there the zone continues its course westwards along Road 1626, traversing south through another building block, then crossing Lane 1624 and continuously descending south until the zone meets with (461505.7 E/2902967N) on Lane 1622. The outline keeps descending, following the course of Lane 1622 while bordering two more building blocks and cutting through a third, until it ends on the most southern point in coordinate (461455.6E/2902909N) in the centre of another building block. The zone boundary line then continues slightly north-westwards, going through the same building block, until it reaches Road 1611 and then turning north and crossing Lane 1622. From there, the buffer zone follows the westward outline of another building block and continues north, alongside Road 1611, to meet (461392.7 E/2902973 N). Towards

the east, the zone follows the road along the same building block and then turns north, bordering further building blocks, up to coordinate (461368 E/2903080N), where Lane 1527 crosses with Bu Maher Avenue. From this point, the zone cuts north-eastwards through another building block and then crosses Lane 1421 and continues to expand north-eastwards, bordering and cutting through a larger building block, until point (461437.2 E/2903125N) on Road 1417.

Fakhro House buffer zone:

The *Fakhro* House buffer zone includes the building blocks and streets that surround the house. The boundary is described starting at coordinate (461203.3 E/2903252 N), where Lane 1325 crosses with Bu Maher Avenue. The zone borderline descends south, along the building blocks on Bu Maher Avenue, until it crosses Shaykh Abdullah bin Ahmed Avenue, where it then turns east along the building blocks and reaches coordinate (461297.7 E/2903232 N), the point where Lane 1421 crosses Shaykh Abdullah bin Ahmed Avenue. The zone line further takes a southern course through Lane 1421 and along the building blocks until it ultimately intersects (461322.5 E/2903189 N) and turns west through another building block, crossing Bu Maher Avenue. From here, the boundary turns north-westwards to border a few larger building



Performance of pearling songs on the dhows

blocks situated in Road 1519. The boundary takes a turn northwards at coordinate (461189.7 E/2903112 N) on Road 1519, through blocks of buildings, and again crosses Shaykh Abdullah bin Ahmed Avenue until (461100.8 E/2903089 N). From this point the boundary crosses several buildings as well as crossing Lane 1513, where it reaches the coordinate (461071.4 E/2903131 N). Finally, the boundary continues east to include part of a building block and reaches coordinate (461087.4 E/2903187 N) on Road 1511. The zone continues alongside Road 1511 up to (461203.3 E/2903252 N).

Murad buffer zone:

Murad buffer zone includes the surrounding areas of two properties: *Murad House* and *Murad Majlis*. The description starts at point (461495.7 E/2903424 N), which is the corner of a building where the zone expands south along the building's facade across an open space until it reaches another building block. From this point, the zone turns south-east through another open space that is connected to Road 1349 and Lanes 1308 and 1311. Following Lane 1311 southwards, the boundary ends in coordinate (461550.8 E/2903365 N) and turns west in a right angle crossing through several buildings located on Shaykh Abdulla Bin Ahmed Avenue. From this point the line is headed towards (461511.5 E/2903327 N). The boundary continues westwards along the same

avenue until it turns north at coordinate (461443.3 E/2903302 N). The property line then crosses a building block and exits on Lane 1308, where it directly enters into Lane 1318 towards coordinate (461425.6 E/2903351 N). The boundary continues in a north-eastern direction, crossing a dense building block, until it reaches coordinate (461432 E/2903390 N). At this point, the boundary turns east and crosses Lane 1313; ending again in the origin of the description (461495.7 E/2903424).

Sūq buffer zone:

The *sūq's* buffer zone is composed of the surroundings of four architectural structures, the *Siyadi Shops* and three *'amārāt*: *'Amārat Yousif A. Fakhro*, and *'Amārat Ali Rashed Fakhro* (I) and (II).

The boundary description starts at point (461093 E/2903502 N) on Shaykh Hamad Avenue and continues southwards to Road 1123 alongside the building blocks. From here, the buffer zone crosses the same street again and turns eastwards to pass along a building located in Lane 1337. From this building, the boundary continues southwards along the border of an open space, slightly turning south-west along buildings, and crosses Bu Maher Avenue. The boundary then follows the street line westwards and crosses Tujjar Avenue.



Details of window frames in Al-Jalahma House

After crossing Tujjar Avenue, the line continues through coordinate (461073.2 E/2903354 N), on Road 1502, further north along a large building block parallel to Road 1557. After the boundary stretches north, to cross Road 1557, it turns westwards on the other side of the road until reaching coordinate (460964.6 E/2903371 N). Finally, the zone moves straight north through an open space and cuts through a building block to meet coordinate (460936.5 E/2903465 N), on Shaykh Hamad Avenue. The northern boundary of the *sūq* buffer zone follows, from this coordinate, the buildings alongside Shaykh Hamad Avenue to the east. The boundary then crosses, once again, Tujjar Avenue and follows the façades of another building block, along the avenue, until it finally meets coordinate (461093 E/2903502 N).

Nūkhidhah House buffer zone:

A smaller-sized buffer zone surrounds the *Nūkhidhah* House. From the northeastern point of the primary protection zone (461206.1 E/2903959 N), the boundary turns south through building blocks and enters Lane 920 before it traverses through another building block to end in coordinate (461220 E/2903902 N). From this coordinate, the boundary line turns west through the same building block and moves south again to reach Lane 932; following its course to the west until point (461196.3 E/2903884 N). This part of Lane 932 represents the southern border of the primary protection zone. From coordinate (461196.3 E/2903884 N) the boundary line moves north within Lane 932 and later follows its course to the west. Crossing another building block, the boundary then turns again at (461168.2 E/2903906 N) to the north, crossing Lane 934, and follows its course north alongside a building block up to point (461157.8 E/2903944 N). The northern border of the *Nūkhidhah* House's primary protection zone is limited by Lane 934, which connects (461157.8 E/2903944 N) eastwards to (461206.1 E/2903959 N).

Siyadi buffer zone:

The *Siyadi* buffer zone consists of the three northern *Siyadi* properties' surrounding urban environments: *Siyadi Majlis*, *Siyadi* House and *Siyadi* Mosque. The properties are situated in the centre of the primary protection zone. The most northern point in the primary protection zone, (461410.1 E/2904069 N), is found within a building block that is situated along the western side of Shaykh Isa Avenue. The boundary line descends south through this building and eventually crosses Lane 905. The boundary then traverses further south through an empty space and finally reaches coordinate (461428.4 E/2904024 N). The line continues south along Shaykh Isa Avenue and meets coordinate (461433.5 E/2902310 N). After crossing Road 911, from which it turns westward, the boundary traverses large building blocks

and crosses Road 911, for a second time; continuing further west until (461348.2 E /2903940 N). From this most southwestern coordinate, the boundary ascends north through several building blocks, crossing Lane 914, and moves along this lane towards the west side until it finally turns north along the boundary of a corner building. It then reaches coordinate (461297.9 E/2903980 N) on Lane 912. The boundary then passes north through Lane 912 and turns east, traversing several building blocks, before it turns again - north, east and north - to cross Lane 910. From this point, the boundary continues north alongside Lane 937 until it reaches coordinate (461301.9 E/2904050 N). A horizontal line that passes from west to east through many building blocks and empty spaces specifies the northern border of the primary protection zone. This northern line ends at the coordinate (461337.9 E/2904067 N), which is of the same level as coordinate (461410.1 E/ 2904069 N), after the boundary has crossed Lane 905.

Secondary protection zone boundaries:

The secondary protection zone surrounds all urban properties and their primary protection zones and constitutes a shared buffer zone of the 12 properties located on *Muharraq* Island. Starting at the seashore and *Qal'at Bū Māhir*, the buffer zone crosses straight ahead over Khalifa Al-Kabeer Highway and reaches into the urban fabric of *Muharraq*. The buffer zone stretches north and crosses Road 1601 at the level of *Al-Ghūṣ* House. From there, the buffer zone surrounds its primary protection zone and heads north crossing Road 1612 and proceeds northwards along Road 1625. The zone then follows the course of Lane 1627 which is located eastwards of *Al-Jalahma* House primary protection zone. To the north, the boundary crosses Road 1630. After crossing Road 1630, the line stretches further north, with a slight western inclination, until it crosses the intersection of Abdulrahman Al-Fadil Avenue with Road 1415, at the level of *Al-Alawi* House. The course of the buffer zone subsequently takes several turns westwards while continuously moving north, crossing Road 1414, east of the *Fakhro* House. The boundary then joins, in an eastern direction, along Road 1415.

The zone here follows an irregular contour and turns further east to run parallel to Shaykh Abdulla Bin Ahmed Avenue at the lower level of *Murad* House. The boundary line crosses Road 1411, Lane 1409 and Road 1405 and ultimately joins Lane 1401. The course turns northwest just before the major intersection of Shaykh Isa Avenue/ Al Khalifa Avenue. From here boundary stretches north and parallel to Shaykh Isa Avenue, crossing Lane 1308. The line then turns west and follows the course of the *Murad* cluster's primary protection zone. The boundary of the secondary protection zone then further



Historic photograph of diver inspecting his pearls



Southern façade of Siyadi complex from courtyard of Siyadi Mosque



moves west and turns north; passing through several buildings blocks in an irregular manner until it reaches Lane 1335. After crossing Lane 1335, the boundary line continues, east of the *sūq*, and crosses Lane 1339 at the *sūq*'s northern edge.

The buffer zone continues northwards, crossing: Shaykh Hamad Avenue; Lane 1120; Lane 1138; Lane 1137; and further up, Shaykh Abdullah Avenue. The buffer zone then surrounds, northwards, the primary protection zone of the *Nūkhidhah* House parallel to Road 916. The zone joins, eastwards, Road 911, which borders the southern primary protection zone boundaries of *Siyadi* complex. The buffer zone then turn eastwards and surrounds the primary protection zone of *Siyadi* complex. The boundary passes through Road 913 and crosses Shaykh Isa Avenue; passes along Lane 623. The boundary further stretches north, parallel to Shaykh Isa Avenue, to the east of *Siyadi* complex. At the point where the secondary protection zone crosses Shaykh Isa Avenue and continues its course westwards, we note the northernmost boundary. Towards the south, the buffer zone turns away from the primary protection zone of *Siyadi* complex and bends westwards to meet parallel with Wali Ahmed Avenue and the northern boundary of the *Nūkhidhah*'s primary protection zone. From here, the secondary protection zone continues south along Road 931 and crosses Lane 932. It descends even further south, crossing: Lane 918; Lane 919; Shaykh Abdulla Avenue and ultimately Shaykh Hamad Avenue.

In the vicinity of *Sūq al-Qaysariyyah*, the buffer zone widens southwest to include the primary protection zone of the *sūq*. It follows Avenue 10 southwards, turns east along Road 1502 and then meets Road 1504 heading south; following its course to cross Tujjar and Bu Maher Avenue. After including the *sūq*'s primary protection zone, the buffer narrows once more to surround the *Murad* complex. Since the *Fakhro* House's primary protection zones lays far to the west, the buffer zone changes its direction to the west as well; surrounding the *Fakhro* primary protection area. To reach this destination, the boundary is defined, moving westwards, from *Murad* House and crossing Lanes 1319, 1321, and 1323, where it joins Lane 1325. The boundary eventually crosses Shaykh Abdullah Bin Ahmed Avenue and, afterwards, Tujjar Avenue at the northern end of the primary protection zone of *Fakhro* House. The boundary's course further turns south, in an almost straight contour along Avenue 10, until it meets and eventually follows Road 1523 in its direction eastwards. Further to the south, the zone's boundaries widen, once again, and include the primary protection zones houses of the *Alawi* and *Jalahma* families. While moving south, the buffer zone crosses Abdulrahman Al-Fadil Avenue at the level of *Al-Alawi*'s primary protection zone. It continues south and crosses Road 1611, crossing several building blocks parallel to

the primary protection zone of *Al-Jalahma* House, and turns at the southwestern end of *Al-Jalahma's* primary protection zone, which lies to the east, to join Shaykh Isa Avenue. Here the zone is again narrowed and later widens again, after a short distance southwards, to include the area surrounding *Al-Ghūṣ* House's primary protection zone. The secondary protection zone boundary continues south, in a straight line, passing through several building blocks until ultimately crossing Khalifa Al Kabeer Highway. After crossing Khalifa Al Kabeer Highway, the protection zone boundary meets with the origin of description, at the *Bū Māhir* Seashore and *Qal'at Bū Māhir's* seashore buffer zones.

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value is proposed for the property:

Factual summary

Pearling, testimony of an island economy is a serial nomination of 15 sites. These encompass 3 oyster beds as marine sites located in the northern territorial waters of Bahrain, one seashore site located at the southern tip of *Muharraq* Island and 11 architectural properties, encompassing 17 architectural structures, embedded in the urban fabric of *Muharraq* city. In terms of categories of cultural property set out in article 1 of the 1972 Convention, the serial site consists of 4 sites, 9 monuments and 2 groups of buildings.

Brief synthesis:

Pearling is an outstanding example of a traditional sea-use, which shaped the single product economy and cultural identity of an island society. This millennia-long practice is the most significant example globally of a natural pearl-collection tradition and is based on the Arabian Gulf oyster beds north of Bahrain, which are the best-known source of pearls since ancient times.

Although the pearling economy collapsed as a result of irreversible economic change in the 1930s, many of its characteristic features and practices survive. The natural resource remains in the surviving oyster beds *Hayr Bu-l-Thamah*, *Hayr Bu am'amah*, and *Hayr Shtayyah*. The architectural testimony in *Muharraq* is the last remaining example which comprises residential and commercial structures that are tangible manifestations of all major social and economic roles and institutions associated with the pearling society and acts as a memory marker for the cultural identity it produced and still maintains.

Beyond the World Heritage context place names, family names, social hierarchies, surviving legal systems, songs, stories, poetry, festivals and dances are associated with these physical resources and assist in transmitting the grand narrative of the pearling economy.

Criterion (iii): The spatial and architectural testimony of the pearling economy in *Muharraq* and the northern waters of Bahrain reflect the culmination and final expression of more than six millennia of pearling history in the Arabian Gulf, the global centre of natural pearl collection. It is the last remaining, and therefore outstanding, example that represents the complete narrative of the cultural tradition of pearling, which dominated the Arabian Gulf between the 2nd and early 20th century, and the related human system established in a single-product island economy. While the economic system subsided, the remaining testimony continues to carry the grand narrative it produced, which is still the most significant source of Bahraini cultural identity.

Criterion (v): Pearling, and the testimony it brought forth in *Muharraq* is an outstanding example of traditional sea-use and human interaction with the environment, which shaped the economic system and cultural identity of an island society. The oyster beds and the architectural testimony of this socio-cultural and economic system are representative of a tradition that became vulnerable and was gradually abandoned in the 1930s. The collapse of the international natural pearl market value in face of the global economic crisis and the introduction of large-scale cultivation of pearls have irreversibly impacted the system's viability and vitality.

Integrity and authenticity:

As a serial nomination, the site conveys a complete understanding of the cultural tradition of pearling and the related human system established in a single product economy. The oyster beds and architectural properties selected represent the testimony of this economic system and are of adequate size to contain all major features required to embody the grand narrative it produced. The site's integrity suffered from adverse effects of insensitive housing development and neglect for decades. This is now counteracted by a special zoning arrangement which ensures the compatibility and control of new developments and urban upgrading schemes which reduce the negative impact of earlier additions.

The authenticity of the site is related to its ability to convey the shared memory and historical experience of all major social and economic roles and processes



Days on the dhow – second home of divers and traders

that constituted the human and economic system of pearling. While the oyster beds truthfully testify to the outstanding quality of pearls and have maintained the potential of economic pearl collection, the architectural properties are credible memory markers of the grand narrative. In maintaining reference to the traditional uses and functions and in illustrating traditional building techniques and designs, the architectural properties demonstrate an acceptable degree of authenticity. Over time elements of these structures were modified or changed, but later additions show architectural continuity with earlier buildings. Since the authenticity of the attributes acting as memory triggers is considered fragile, the management system gives special emphasis to their preservation and promotion.

Management and protection requirements:

The management of the serial property is governed by a Steering Committee which comprises 12 different governmental bodies as well as representatives of the property owners and businesses in the buffer zones. The day-to-day management process is, following the directives of the Steering Committee, translated into strategies by five technical and thematic subcommittees and implemented by task forces in different departments under the practical coordination of a site administration unit in the Ministry of Culture and Information. The participatory and transparent character of the management system ensures adequate cooperation between all stakeholders.

The marine properties are in the process of designation as marine protected areas under the Decree (2) of 1995 with respect to the Protection of Wildlife. The seashore and architectural properties are registered as monuments under the Decree Law No. (11) of 1995 Concerning the Protection of Antiquities.

The urban setting is regulated through the stipulations of a "Special Protection Zone" established by the Ministry of Municipalities and Agriculture in line with the Resolution no. 28 of the year 2009 regarding the specification of the regulatory stipulations for the development in different areas in the Kingdom. In addition the Ministry of Culture and Information and the mostly private traditional owners of the architectural properties have signed legal agreements covering the long-term understanding of use and conservation requirements. Conservation and restoration projects are underway for several of the properties and are guided by an integrated conservation plan as part of the management system. They are predominantly aimed at improving the presentation and interpretation of the sites and their narratives.

Criteria proposed

Criterion (iii): The spatial and architectural testimony of the pearling economy in *Muharraq* and the northern waters of Bahrain reflect the culmination and final expression of more than six millennia of pearling history in the Arabian Gulf, the global centre of natural pearl collection. It is the last remaining, and therefore outstanding, example that represents the complete narrative of the cultural tradition of pearling, which dominated the Arabian Gulf between the 2nd and early 20th century, and the related human system established in a single-product island economy. While the economic system subsided, the remaining testimony continues to carry the grand narrative it produced, which is still the most significant source of Bahraini cultural identity.

Criterion (v): Pearling, and the testimony it brought forth in *Muharraq* is an outstanding example of traditional sea-use and human interaction with the environment, which shaped the economic system and cultural identity of an island society. The oyster beds and the architectural testimony of this socio-cultural and economic system are representative of a tradition that became vulnerable and was gradually abandoned in the 1930s. The collapse of the international natural pearl market value in face of the global economic crisis and the introduction of large-scale cultivation of pearls have irreversibly impacted the system's viability and vitality.

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Tawwāsh boat visiting dhows to buy pearls

