


1. 1. Introduction

- a) Rep. of Maldives
- b) 22 May 1986
- c) National council for Linguistic and Historical Research.
- d) 2 April 3, 2003
- e) Mohamed Waheed, Special Advisor, NCLHR
- f) 

1. 2. Identification of Cultural and Natural Heritage Properties

As Maldives consists of a scattered group of islands, cultural as well as natural heritage sites are found on various islands. Air travel is possible only to certain islands. Hence numerous obstacles confront the government in its efforts to integrate these heritage properties into comprehensive planning programs.

a) The National Council for Linguistic and historical Research and the Environment Section of the Ministry of Home Affairs are the two government institutions in charge of the preparation and keeping up-to-date these National Inventories. At present, we are not in possession of an up-to-date National Inventory. We require the expertise of a professional, well qualified in heritage management, to execute this task.

b) Tentative list

The National Council for Linguistic and Historical Research and the Environment Section of the Ministry of Home Affairs has prepared a tentative list of Heritage sites. This list is enclosed herewith.

c) Nominations

The government of the Republic of Maldives had submitted 5 nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List, and was informed that the documentation provided on each property was insufficient to determine its "out standing universal value". There is a need for preparatory assistance in reformulating the nominations. The nominations include:

- 1) Male' Hukuru Miskiiy with minaret and other monumental tombs.
- 2) Utheemu Gan'duvaru
- 3) Eid Miskiiy

- 4) Vaadoo Hukuru Miskiiy
- 5) Fenfushi Hukuru Miskiiy

1.3 Protection, Conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

a) General Policy Development

The Maldivian government is doing its utmost towards heritage protection, and is keenly aware of this issue and does its best to instill a sense of awareness in the people about the seriousness of heritage protection. Maldives faces several severe problems in this field such as geographical isolation of a scattered group of islands, difficulty of transport, the lack of know-how leading to inability to conserve certain heritage sites and many more. The government has a policy of trying to involve the people of the islands, where heritage sites are found, in protecting their own heritage.

b) Certain cultural and natural sites are defined as protected areas and they are looked after by the members of the community living on that particular island. Conservation and protection of these sites pose numerous problems due to the fact that in Maldives, conservation is still a very young field and adequate facilities are yet to be developed.

c) Archaeological excavations of a Buddhist temple, by a research team, from the University of Oslo, Norway, was begun in 1996, on the island of Kaashidhoo, away from Male', the capital. These excavations were continued in 1997 and 1998. The team was led by Professor Egil Mikkelsen of Norway. After the excavations, the ruins were covered by plastic, sand and stones to protect them from destruction. Financial constraints and lack of expertise hinders permanent preservation of the site.

Two mosques, the Friday Mosque in Male' (built in 1153 A.D.) and Fenfushi Mosque (built in 658 AD.) on the island of Fenfushi are two cultural heritage sites that have been conserved by a team from the National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow, India.

d) Maldives has a law which states that any site considered to be of cultural significance to be protected. The law is stated thus:

Law No. 27/79 of July 1979

**Law Relating to Sites and Property in the Maldives of
Antique/ Archaeological and Historical Value**

Sites and property of antique/ Archaeological and Historical value located within the territory of the Maldives may not be destroyed, dismantled or damaged in any manner.

Note:

1) Property of Antique/ Archaeological and historical value covered by this Law include any item or material which had been used in the past by Maldivians and/or foreigners residing in the Maldives, and which sheds light on the lifestyles and lives of any people who had inhabited the Maldives at any time in the past.

2) Sites of antique/ Archaeological and historical value covered by this Law include any edifice constructed in the past by Maldivians or foreigners residing in the Maldives for the purpose of dwelling or worshipping or to immortalize a person, or any structure built for other similar purpose, and which sheds light on the history of the Maldives.

3) The Law does not proscribe the dismantling of any site or property for the purpose of archaeological study, provided that prior approval of the concerned government authority had been obtained, and that such action is undertaken in a manner that does not impair or alter the original form of the site or property.

Information on the presentation of heritage is provided in publications, films, stamps, books etc. At present this Council is in the process of designing an office website, which will include information on heritage. Publications includes the following:-

- 1) Artifact is in the National Museum.
- 2) The national Museum.
- 3) Male' Hukuru Miskiiy
- 4) Archaeological Excavation of Kaashidoo.
- 5) Heritage (booklet issued twice a year)
- 6) Archaeology in Maldives.
- 7) Several books written in Dhivehi concerning the Heritage of Maldives.

To commemorate the golden jubilee of the National Museum, a set of stamps were issued depicting cultural artifacts.

e) Training

Heritage protection is still in its infancy in the Maldives. There are no professional conservators or archaeologists. Nor are there any well-qualified heritage-management personnel. Opportunities for training are very few and one realizes the acute need for specialized training in the different branches of heritage. Again financial obstacles hinder young people from going abroad for higher studies, in these fields. Under a World Bank Loan, the government grants scholarship to students, with the greatest priority levied on health and education, as should be in a developing country. Up to now only one person is undergoing higher studies in heritage management.

During the few times that foreign experts were engaged in conservation work of mosques, and museum artifacts, the staff of this Council had the opportunity for "on-site-training". Recently a short course organized by the University of Kelaniya in Sri Lanka and UNESCO was attended by Maldivians for training in Conservation. Such a course would create awareness at the official level, and lead to eventual public alertness.

1.4 International Co-operation and Fund Raising

In order to identify, protect, conserve and preserve heritage sites, international co-operation is essential. Without financial and technical support, developing nations like the Maldives cannot undertake such a task. Under an agreement reached between the governments of India and Maldives, in 1986 three teams from the Indian National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property visited the Maldives. Three teams of experts worked in the renovation of the Friday Mosque.

Under the India Maldives Joint Commission, a project was formulated to conserve the Fenfushi Mosque on the island of Fenfushi, which is about 59 miles away from Male', the capital. This mosque was built in 658 AD. In 2001 a team from the National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow, India, carried out the work of conservation of this small but beautiful mosque.

Another ancient mosque in the capital Male' is "Dharumavantha Rasgefaanu" mosque. It is the earliest place of worship in the entire Republic. It depicts the craftsmanship of the earliest Maldivian artisans. The condition of the mosque has deteriorated terribly and therefore requires immediate conservation treatment. With financial and technical assistance from the Government of India, a project has been formulated to conserve the mosque. Such project as this would create awareness among the public to appreciate preserve, and promote the cultural and natural heritage of the country.

1.5 Education, Information and Awareness Building

The National Council for Linguistic and Historical Research is doing its utmost to raise the awareness of the general public about the preservation and conservation of cultural and natural heritage. Where education activities are concerned, although there are no extensive programs being undertaken, there are a few small- scale activities in progress to help educate the public. Most of these activities revolve around various schools of the Maldives where clubs formed by history students of these different schools organize various events to help increase awareness. The mass media also has its role in increasing the number of awareness programs. Television and radio are utilized to ensure that the public is well informed about the importance of protecting Maldivian heritage. Several programs focusing on this issue are broadcast. Each week a topic about heritage is selected with the aim of educating the public about its background and relevance. In addition to these regular shows, special programs were made for days that are of historical and cultural significance in the Maldivian calendar. These programs are created in the form tele-dramas broadcast over television and radio. The awareness programs cannot be extensive because the National Council for Linguistic and Historical Research lacks space, expertise, funding and facilities.

1.6 Conclusion and Recommendation

The identification, protection, conservation, presentation of cultural and natural heritage is tremendously important to the Maldives. As Maldives consist of about 1,200 islands scattered to an area of 90,000sq.kms. , heritage sites too are found on different far flung islands. As air travel is limited it is tremendously arduous to travel to these remote islands where heritage sites found. Moreover Maldives is very much inexperienced in the field of heritage management due to insufficient economic, scientific human and technological resources. Time is needed to increase the awareness of the public in the importance of one's own heritage and training of personnel in all aspect of heritage management. Last but not least is the difficulty of securing funds to execute projects concerned with heritage protection, training and conducting awareness programs.

Protected Marine Areas of the Maldives

Raa Atoll

- Villigili Thila

Baa Atoll

- Dhigalihaa/Horubadhoo Thila

Laviani Atoll

-Kuredhdhoo Kandu
-Fushivaru Thila

Male' Atoll

-Makunudhoo Kanduolhi
-Rasfari Faru
-Giraavaru Kuda haa
-Dhekunuthilafalhuge Miyaruvani
-Gulhifalhu/Kollavani
-Thamburudhoo thila
-Gaathugiri/Adhhashugiri
-Emboodhoo Kanduolhi
-Guraidhoo Kanduolhi
-Lankan thila

Alifu Atoll

-Maya Thila
-Orimas Thila
-Mushimasmigili Thila
-Karibeyru Thila
-Faruhulhuvaru Beyru
-Kudarah Thila

Vaavu Atoll

-Miyaru Kandu
-Vattaru Kandu

Meemu Atoll

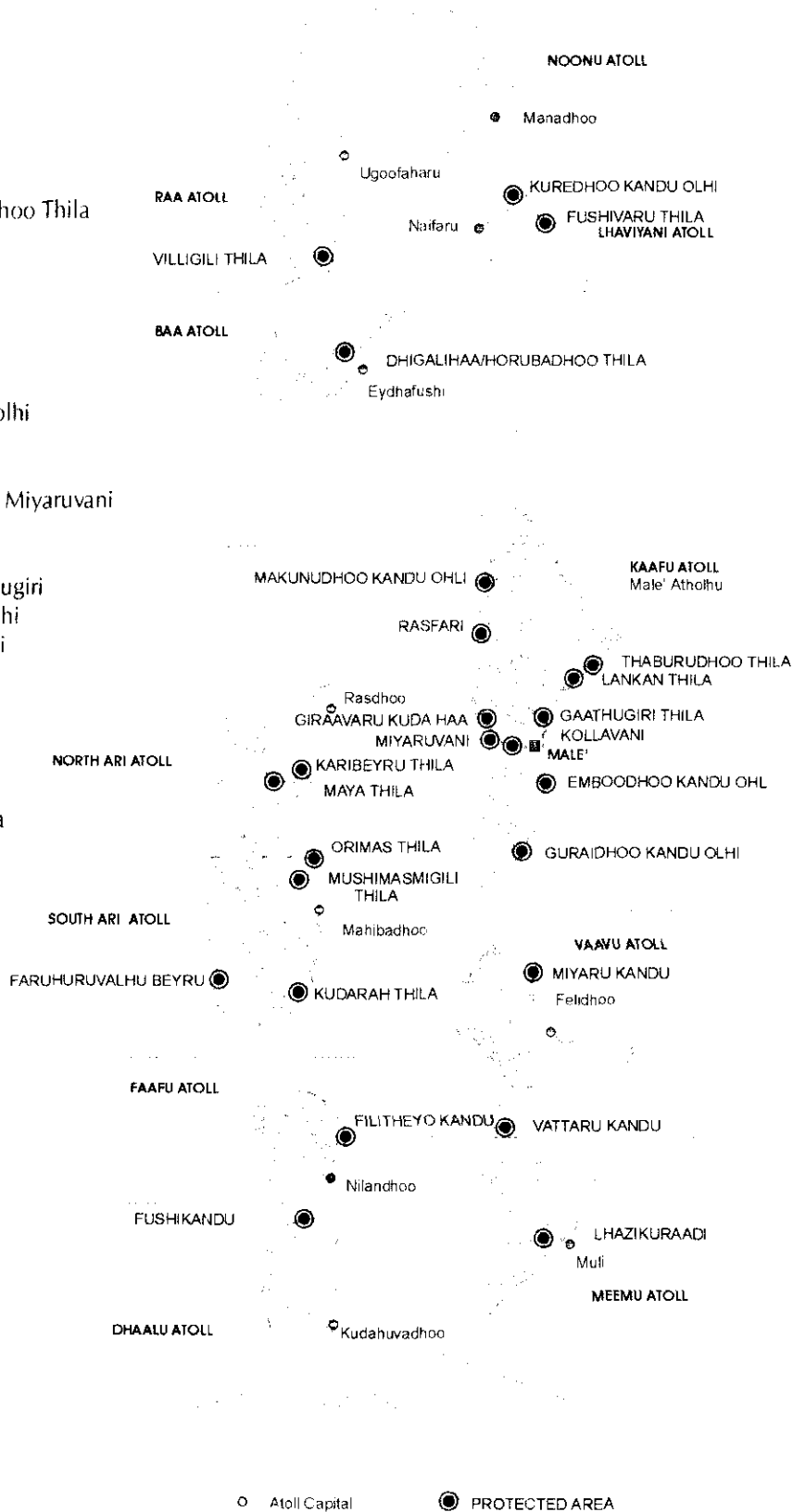
-Lhazikuraadi

Faafu Atoll

-Filitheyo Kandu

Dhaalu Atoll

-Fushi Kandu



The following areas are protected under the Environment Protection and Preservation Act (4/93). Anchoring (except in an emergency), coral or sand mining, waste disposal, removal of any natural object or living creature, fishing of any kind (example: for sharks, reef fish or aquarium fish) with the exception of traditional live bait fishing, capturing of birds, any activity which may cause damage to the area or its associated marine life are prohibited in these areas.

APPENDIX 1:

LIST OF HERITAGE SITES ON ISLANDS OF MALDIVES

1. BAARAH: Haa-Alif Atoll.

1. Ruins of what looks like an old minaret at the south-western corner of the main mosque.
2. Old stone slab at the southern end of the uninhabited area.
3. Remains of two wells, said to have been constructed by Utheemu Brothers. One of these is octangular with a diameter of 3 feet and the other is 2 feet 2 inches square.

2. DHAPPARU: Haa-Alif Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 14 feet 7 inches square.
2. On the eastern side of the island ruins of what looks like another mosque measuring 25 feet 8 inches X 20 feet 8 inches. There is a large cemetery with many tomb-stones. This island was inhabited.

3. DHONAKULHI: Haa-Alif Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque, measuring 22 feet 11 inches X 7 feet 11 inches with a cemetery nearby.

4. HUVAHANDHOO: Haa-Alif Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque, measuring 17 X 26 feet.

5. UTHEEMU: Haa-Alif Atoll.

1. The house of Utheemu Brothers who liberated the country from Portuguese rule in 1573 with many relics of the period is preserved.
2. The area called "*Badi Fasgadu*".

6. INNA FINOLHU: Haa-Alif Atoll.

1. A mound of gravel, under which according to legend there are some ruins.

7. KELAI: Haa-Alif Atoll.

1. In front of the mosque there are the ruins of a minaret, the base of which has a circumference of 18 feet 2.5 inches and the top has a circumference of 9 feet. The height of this is 5 feet and it has 5 steps.

8. MADULU: Haa-Alif Atoll.

1. Ruins on the south-west measuring 5 feet in diameter and about 2 feet in height.

9. VAGAARU: Haa-Alif Atoll.

1. Ruins of a mosque measuring 22 feet 5 inches wide and 17 feet in length. A well and tomb-stones nearby.

10. FENEY: Haa-Dhaal Atoll.

1. On the south of the island, east of Ziyaaraiy Magu, there are ruins measuring 176 feet 7 inches in circumference and 8 feet 6 inches high.

2. Also on the south of the island, west of Ziyaaraiy Magu, there are ruins measuring 167 feet 7 inches in circumference and 8 feet 6 inches.
3. Where the old mosque once stood, there are ruins measuring 124 feet in length and 8 feet 10 inches in width. It is 6 feet high.

11. KUMUNDHOO: Haa-Dhaal Atoll.

1. There are ruins called "*Us Kunna*" with two circular bases on the eastern side of this island. One is 156 feet in circumference and 10 feet in height. The other is 100 feet in circumference and 4 feet in height.

12. MAKUNUDHOO: Haa-Dhaal Atoll.

1. On the northern periphery there are ruins of a circular foundation 18 feet 10 inches in diameter. Near this, on the area now eroded by the sea there was a well with a diameter of 3 feet 5 inches.

13. MUIRI: Haa-Dhaal Atoll.

1. Part of what appear to be a wall, 69 feet long remain.
2. Ruins of what appear to be mosque and a cemetery remain.

14. VAIKARADHOO: Haa-Dhaal Atoll.

1. On the western periphery of the island there is a mound which is called "*Jaadi Valhuli Than*". This measures 55 X 75 feet and is about 4 feet high.
2. On the western periphery there is another mound.

15. VAIKARAMURADHOO: Haa-Dhaal Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 16 feet square, with a cemetery and a large well near by.

16. THEEFARIDHOO: Haa-Dhaal Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 15 feet 9 inches in length, 11 feet 5 inches in width and 1 foot 4 inches in height.

17. HIRUBADHOO: Shaviyani Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 10 X 13 feet with a cemetery.

18. FARUKOLHU FUNADHOO: Shaviyani Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque, measuring 22 X 13 feet with a large cemetery.

19. LHAIMAGU: Shaviyani Atoll.

1. On the southern periphery, about 1,000 feet away from the shore, are the ruins called "*Lhaimagu Fageeru Odi Baiy Than*". It is about 400 feet in circumference and 4 feet high.

20. MADI KUREDHDHOO: Shaviyani Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 10 feet 10 inches X 13 feet 9 inches with a cemetery near by.

21. MAROSHI: Shaviyani Atoll.

1. A KAANI tree (*Cordia subcordata*) dating from the days of the struggle against the Portuguese rule by the Utheemu Brothers (1565-1573) is on this island.

22. NALANDHOO: Shaviyani Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Us Fas Gadu*" is on the north of the island in the area called Gabulhifushi. This measures 50 feet in circumference and 3 feet in height.
2. Ruins called "*Happathigadu*" is on the north-east of the island. This measures about 20 feet in circumference and 4 feet in height.
3. On this island there are heaps of shells the flesh of which is said to have been consumed by the legendary "*Redhin*".

23. NEYO: Shaviyani Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque, measuring 16 X 14 feet. This is on the eastern shores.

24. KUDADHOO: Shaviyani Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a very low house, measuring 5 feet 2 inches in length, 3 feet 4 inches wide on the west, 2 feet 10 inches on the east and 1 foot 7 inches in depth.
2. On the south-east of the island there is a depression 4 feet 11 inches long, 3 feet wide and 2 feet 3 inches deep.

25. IGURADHOO: Noonu Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 23 X 15 feet. There are tombstones and a well nearby.

26. LANDHOO: Noonu Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Maabadhige Haiy Haitha*" is on the north-east of the island. The circumference of this is 292 feet and the height is 28 feet. In 1900 Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner, who was on a Scientific Expedition to the Maldives visited the island. He says "*One, in Landu, appears to have had a kind of pit, or well, in the centre, formed by squared blocks of Porities, and covered by two large flat masses. Within this, in 1848, were found a number of gold or brass ornamental discs. These were unfortunately all melted or destroyed.*" The late Mr. H. C. P. Bell spoke of this in his monograph of 1940. According to him "*this ruin is called by the Islanders Hat-ka.*" Since then no further investigations have been undertaken of this site.

27. LHOHI: Noonu Atoll.

1. On the southern shore of this island there are the ruins called "*Haguraama Fas Gadu*". It measures 100 X 65 feet.

28. MILADHOO: Noonu Atoll.

1. A mound called "*Us Gadu*".
2. Another mound called "*Redhinge Gaafuni*".

29. VELAVARU: Noonu Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 21 feet square with a well and a cemetery near by.

30. MAAFARU: Noonu Atoll.

1. There is a heap of gravel, which has not been investigated, on this island.

31. GOABILI VAADHOO: Noonu Atoll.

1. Ruins of a mosque measuring 12 X 15 feet with tomb-stones and a well nearby.

32. GIRAAVARU: Raa Atoll.

1. A number of ceramic plates were unearthed on this island in 1980. This island was inhabited.

33. FUSHUVERI: Raa Atoll.

1. On the south-west of the island there are ruins of what looks like to have been a mosque measuring 22 X 23 feet with two wells and a cemetery near by.

34. GAAUOODHOO: Raa Atoll.

1. On the southern periphery of this island there are ruins measuring 74 X 37 feet.
2. On the south-east of the island there is a mound 111 feet 6 inches in circumference and 5 feet in height.

35. BODUFUSHI: Raa Atoll.

1. Ruins of what looks like to have been a mosque, measuring 25 X 16 feet, built of coral slabs. There are two wells and the remains of a minaret and a cemetery. This island was inhabited in the eighteenth century.

36. IFURU: Raa Atoll.

1. On the north-eastern side of the island there are remains of what appear to have been a minaret, measuring 7 feet 2 inches in circumference at the base and 2 feet 10 inches in height.

37. KOTHAIFARU: Raa Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 24 X 23 feet. There are two wells and a cemetery.

38. LUBOAKANDHOO: Raa Atoll.

1. Ruins what appear to be a mosque, measuring 16 X 13 feet with a bathing tank near by. There is also a cemetery.

39. MAAMIGILI: Raa Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 22 X 16 feet. There are two wells near by. This island was inhabited.

40. UGULU: Raa Atoll.

1. There is a mound called "*Redhinge Usgadu*" which is 160 feet in circumference and 8 feet 8 inches in height.

41. HULHUDHUFFAARU: Raa Atoll.

1. Ruins of a mosque measuring 16 X 13 feet.
2. There are more ruins on this island.

42. MURAVANDHOO: Raa Atoll.

1. On the south-west of the island there are ruins of what appear to have been a mosque. It measures 15 X 6 feet and has coral slab mouldings.

43. VANDHOO: Raa Atoll.

1. Ruins of a mosque measuring 20 X 18 feet with a cemetery nearby.

44. MAARIKILU: Baa Atoll.

1. On the southern end of the island there are ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 14 X 12 feet with a well near by.

45. FINOLHAS: Baa Atoll.

1. On the eastern end of the island there are ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 23 X 19 feet with a cemetery and a well near by.

46. DHARAVANDHOO: Baa Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Kaffalu Gau Funi*" is on the north-east of the centre of the island and measures 63 feet in circumference and has a height of 3 feet 6 inches.

47. FUNADHOO: Baa Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to have been that of a mosque measuring 20 X 17 feet with a well.

48. GOIDHOO: Baa Atoll.

1. There is a mound almost in the centre of this island, measuring 41 feet in circumference and 3 feet in height.

49. MENDHOO: Baa Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 22 X 18 feet. There is a well near by.

50. MUDHDHOO: Baa Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 18 X 13 feet with a well and a cemetery near by.

51. VAKKARU: Baa Atoll.

1. Ruins of a mosque measuring 15 X 12 feet with a well near by.

52. HURUVALHI: Lhaviyani Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 17 X 14 feet with a well near by.
2. Ruins called "*Huruvalhee Tharaa Gadu*" is to the east of the centre of the island. This measure 17 feet north-south direction and 14 feet 6 inches east-west. The height is 2 feet.

53. FELIVARU: Lhaviyani Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appeared to have been a mosque measuring 18 X 15 feet with a well near by was found on this island before the construction of the canning factory.

54. KUREDHDHOO: Lhaviyani Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Tharaagadu*" measuring 132 X 80 feet with a height of 2 feet.

55. MAAFILAAFUSHI: Lhaviyani Atoll.

1. Ruins of a mosque measuring 21 X 11 feet and a cemetery measuring 188 X 164 feet almost at the centre of the island.

56. MADHIRI GURAIIDHOO: Lhaviyani Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 12 X 12 feet with a well near by. There are many other ruins.

57. DHIFFUSHI: Lhaviyani Atoll.

1. Ruins of a mosque measuring 12 feet 4 inches long and 11 feet 6 inches wide with a well nearby.

58. MAABINHURAA: Lhaviyani Atoll.

1. There are ruins of what appear to be a mosque with two wells and a cemetery nearby.

59. KAASHIDHOO: Kaaf Atoll.

1. On this island there is a mound called "*Kuruhinna Tharaa Gadu*". This was dug in 1927.

60. THULUSDHOO: Kaaf Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Ran Dhai Ran Foi Gaagadu*", which is about 100 feet in circumference and 4 feet in height is on this island.

61. THODDOO: Alif Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Thoddoo Dhaagaba*" was investigated by the late Mr. Mohammed Ismail Didi in June 1958. A report with photographs was published. In an account, accompanying the report given by the late Dr. S. Paranavithana of the University of Ceylon it was stated that "*the stupa, consequently has preserved a very archaic feature in its internal arrangements which is of great importance for a proper understanding of the significance of early stupas.*" He also stated that "*the discovery is of unusual interest for the study of Buddhist art.*" (For the full report see *Dhivehi Thaareekhah Au Alikameh*, Volume 11).

62. KURAMATHI: Alif Atoll.

1. A mound almost at the centre of the island measuring 14 X 14 feet. Investigation of this mound was undertaken by the National Centre for Linguistic and Historical Research on 27 April 1987. A relic pot was revealed. According to the report "*clues were found to establish the fact that this was a major religious centre.*"

63. ERIYADHOO: Alif Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Ariyadhoo Haitha*", on the south-west of the island, along with two smaller mounds were investigated by the late Mr. Mohammed Ismail Didi starting on 2 February 1959. Among the objects found was phallus measuring 1 foot 3 inches in height and 1 foot in circumference at the base. This was made of coral stone. A manuscript report with drawings and some photographs was compiled. No preservation work was undertaken.

64. NILANDHOO: Faaf Atoll.

1. Ruins in the east of the centre of the island measuring 146 feet in circumference and 4 feet in height.
2. Ruins called "*Nilandhoo Foamathi*" (also called *Nilandhoo Foavvalhi*) is about 250 feet away from the eastern shores of the island. (Thor Heyerdhal, along with a team of archaeologists and a film crew investigated some of the ruins in 1983-84. A film and a book was produced).

65. BILEIYDHDHOO: Faaf Atoll.

1. On the south-east of the old Friday Mosque, about 300 feet away there are ruins measuring 89 X 51 feet with mouldings and a well nearby.

66. HULHUDHELI: Dhaal Atoll.

1. On the southern periphery of this island there is a mound of gravel and sand with a circumference of about 250 feet and a height of 4 feet.
2. On the north-west, about 300 feet away from the shore there are ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 35 X 70 feet.
3. Remains of an old mosque constructed with coral slabs is found on the north-east of the island.

67. MAADHELI: Dhaal Atoll.

1. Ruins of what appear to be a mosque measuring 12 X 12 feet. This is about 360 feet from the eastern shore of the island.
2. To the south-west of the above, about 200 feet away are the foundations of what looks like to have been the remains of dwellings.

68. HIRILANDHOO: Thaa Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Munnaaru*" 158 feet in circumference and 7 feet high.

69. KIBIDHOO: Thaa Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Veyru*" is on the southern periphery of this island. It has a circumference of 245 feet and a height of about 29 feet. The late Mr. Mohammed Ismail Didi investigated this on 23 September 1958. A full report with drawings and many photographs was published. Some of the artifacts found are in Male' National Museum. (For the full report of the excavations see *Dhivehi Thaareekhah Au Alikameh* Volume 19).

70. VANDHOO: Thaa Atoll.

1. At the centre of this island there is a mound with a circumference of 225 feet and a height of 6 feet.

71. HITHADHOO: Laamu Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Maru Beenaa Us Gadu*" is on the eastern shores. It is 140 feet in circumference and has a height of 8 feet.

72. GAADHOO: Laamu Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Bodu Bunbaru*" is at the centre of the land area called *Etheredhoo*. This has a circumference of 150 feet and a height of 6 feet. In 1966 the outer rim of this was dug for stones. Then, nothing was found.
2. About 50 feet away from the above there were the ruins called "*Bodu Bunbaru*". This too was dug for stones in 1966.
3. Two statuettes made of brass were found on this island on 10 January 1970. Both these were 4 inches high and were enclosed in an earthen pot.

73. DHABIDHOO: Laamu Atoll.

1. On the southern periphery of the island is located the ruins called "*Dhabidhoo Bodu Budhu Koalu*", the circumference of which is 112 feet 6 inches and the height 5 feet 7 inches.
2. On the eastern side of the island is "*Dhabidhoo Kuda Budhu Koalu*", measuring 105 feet 9 inches in circumference and 3 feet 4 inches in height.

74. GAN: Laamu Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Gamu Haiytheli*" is situated on *Mudhin Hinna* in the *Mukurimagu* ward of the island. It is 300 feet in circumference and 24 feet in height.
2. Ruins called "*Munbaru*" in an area called *Kuruhinna*. This was investigated by the late Mr. H. C. P. Bell in 1922 and a report with photographs was published in his monograph of 1940.

75. ISDHOO: Laamu Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Isdhoo Bodu Haiytheli*" is on the north of the island, about 450 feet from the shore. This has a circumference of 360 feet and a height of 45 feet.
2. "*Isdhoo Kuda Haiytheli*" is 463 feet from the shore and 112 feet to the west of the former. This has a circumference of 216 feet and the height is about 14 feet

76. MUNDOO: Laamu Atoll.

1. There is a mound called "*Budhuge*" on the west of the island. This is 244 feet in circumference and about 4 feet in height. The late Mr. H. C. P. Bell investigated this in March 1922. A report is included in his monograph of 1940.

77. DHEVVADHOO: Gaaf-Alif Atoll.

1. Mound called "*Dhevvadhoo Usgadu*" is on the north-east of the island, about 285 feet from the shore. It is 200 feet long, 96 feet wide and 4 feet high.

2. Ruins called "*Usgadu*", measuring 96 X 64 feet with a height of 4 feet is on the north-west, about 485 feet from the shore. Almost next to this there is another mound 116 feet long, 52 feet wide and 4 feet high. Within this area there is a third mound 69 feet long 47 feet wide and 4 feet high.
3. On the north-west there is another "*Usgadu*", measuring 120 X 49 feet with a height of 4 feet. It is about 385 feet away from the shore.

78. KODEY: Gaaf-Alif Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Kodey Haviththa*" is on the east of the island, about 800 feet from the shore. It is 47 feet square and 4 feet high.
2. On the south-west of the island, about 500 feet from the above, there is another "*Haviththa*" which is 50 feet square and 4 feet high.
3. On the southern periphery, about 400 feet away from the shore there is another "*Haviththa*" measuring 60 feet square and 6 feet in height. It has a depression at the centre which is 7 feet in diameter and 2 feet in depth.
4. Besides the above there are ruins scattered all over the island.

79. KOODDOO: Gaaf-Alif Atoll.

1. On this island there are ruins of seven mosques. The island was inhabited.

80. NILANDHOO: Gaaf-Alif Atoll.

1. There is a mound called "*Nilandhoo Galufuniyaa*", measuring 20 X 15 feet with a height of 4 feet on the north-east of the island.

81. FIYOARI: Gaaf-Dhaal Atoll.

1. Ruins measuring about 32 feet in circumference and 3 feet in height is found on the western periphery of the island.

82. FARES: Gaaf-Dhaal Atoll.

1. On 26 February 1940 when a well was being dug an earthen pot with following artifacts in it was discovered.
 1. 94 pieces of copper coin.
 2. 2 pieces of silver coin.
 3. 5 pieces of cowrie.

83. GAN: Gaaf-Dhaal Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Gamu Haviththa*" which is at the centre of the island is 240 feet in circumference and 60 feet in height.
2. Another mound 180 feet in circumference and 5 feet in height is situated on the western shores of the island.
3. Another mound with a circumference of 48 feet and a height of 3 feet is on the north-western shores of the island.
4. Another mound with a circumference of 190 feet and a height of 30 feet is on the south-eastern shores of the island.

5. On the north-west of the centre of the island is a mound with a circumference of 140 feet and a height of 20 feet. There is another mound near this one with a circumference of 120 feet and a height of 10 feet. (Thor Heyerdhal along with a team of archaeologists and film crew investigated some of these in 1983. A book and a video film were produced).

84. HULHUVARULU: Gaaf-Dhaal Atoll.

1. There is a mound 84 feet in circumference and 4 feet in height. This is on the south-western shores.

85. KAADEDHDHUVAA: Gaaf-Dhaal Atoll.

1. At the centre of this island there is a mound the circumference of which is 30 feet and the height is 2 feet 6 inches.

86. MAAVARULU: Gaaf-Dhaal Atoll.

1. There is a mound 116 feet in circumference and 15 feet in height. This is situated a little east of the centre of the island.

87. VAADHOO: Gaaf-Dhaal Atoll.

1. Ruins called "*Vaadhoo Haviththa*" is on the north-east of the centre of the island. It is 280 feet in circumference and 32 feet in height.
2. On the north-east of the centre of the island is another mound which is 128 feet in circumference and 15 feet in height.

88. FUA-MULAH: Gnaviyani Atoll.

1. On the periphery of the island, about 448 feet away from the northern shore is "*Haviththa*". The base circumference of this is 230 feet and the height is about 60 feet. There are many smaller ruined structures in the vicinity. The late Mr. H. C. P. Bell visited this island and investigated this "*Haviththa*" in 1922. A full report was published in his monograph of 1940 which include photographs. No preservation work was undertaken. In 1946 this site was again excavated by the late Mr. Adam Naseer Maniku, when three stone caskets were found. No preservation work was undertaken.
2. In February 1988, a coral stone coffin with a human skeleton in it was discovered and investigated by Prof. Prematilleke of the University of Peradeniya (Sri Lanka). This was in the *Funaadu* division of the island. A report was submitted to the National Centre for Linguistic and Historical Research.

89. HITHADHOO: Seenu Atoll.

1. At the northern extremity of the island are the ruins of the fort, which according to legend date to the Portuguese era. The late Mr. H. C. P. Bell investigated this in 1922 and a report is included in his monograph of 1940. This was destroyed during the Second World War, when RAF had fortifications here.

90. MEEDHOO: Seenu Atoll.

1. On this island there is the cemetery in *Koagannu*, where there are the tomb stones of learned people and some very old mosques.

Male'

1) Dharumavantha Rasgefaanu Mosque

The name of the mosque is attributed to Sultan Mohamed Ibn Abdullah Siribavanaadeetha Mahaaradhun or Dharumavantha Rasgefaanu, who according to ancient records was the ruler of the country when it embraced Islam. The original mosque was built by this king. Later renovation was done in 1694. This mosque is reputed to be the first mosque built in Male'. The ceiling consists of wooden beams and rafters, supported on wooden columns. The beams are painted with verses from the Holy Quran and the columns are carved and lacquered. The mosque is in a very serious condition of deterioration and needs urgent conservation treatment.

2) Eid Mosque

This is one of the traditional mosque in Male', built in 1620.

3) Baa Mosque

This mosque is about 250 years old.

4) Male' Hukuru Mosque

This mosque is a building of great historical significance and also serves as a monument to the Islamic faith of the Maldives. Built in 1656, it has intricate carvings on coral stones and the woodwork is lacquered and richly decorated. One of the things that distinguish this mosque from other mosque is the presence of the great coral stone blocks that has been skillfully carved and engraved. These coral stones were put together without mortar or lime or any building material. The blocks were closely bound together by means of hewn grooves.

5) The Minaret adjacent to the Friday Mosque

The minaret was constructed in 1668 by Sultan Iskandar I after his return from his pilgrimage to Mecca. The minaret closely resembled the minarets of Mecca at that time. Earlier they would go up the minaret five times every day to call the believers to prayer. In 1964 loudspeakers were installed, so that the

Muezzin could call for prayers from inside the mosque. Around the Minaret were inscribed the words of the call for prayer.

6) **Kalhuvakaru Mosque**

The mosque was first built in the same period as the Hukuru Mosque. According to inscriptions, beams and some white timbers had been replaced 215 years ago. This mosque had once been dismantled and removed to one of the tourist resort islands in the north. Later it was re-erected in its present position.

7) **Bihurose Mosque**

This mosque was built in 1585. In the mosque there is a shrine containing four tombs. No writings are visible on them. However a copper plate outside the shrine states that the tombs belong to the two brothers who fought to liberate the country from the Portuguese.

8) **Esjehige**

This is an old palace dating back to more than 119 years. According to inscriptions carved on a copper plate above the entrance gate, the palace was first inhabited in 1872. the construction was done by teak and other different kinds of wood. Intricate carvings adorn the woodwork. Esjehige is the only building of its kind, existing in the country at present. Hence it needs to be preserved.

9) **Medhuziyaarai**

This is the monumental tomb of Abdul Yoosuf Al Barbaree, a Moroccan who brought Islam to the Maldives, in the year 1153.

10) **Ali Rasgefaanu Ziyarai**

The shrine containing the tomb of Sultan Ali (VI). He was martyred by the Portuguese in a battle to liberate the country in 1558. The tomb was erected exactly on the spot he fell dead while fighting the invaders. Earlier this was part of the lagoon around Male' but now it is reclaimed land.

11) The Museum

The present museum building has considerable historical significance, as it is the only remaining structure of the old palace complex in Male'. This building was constructed at the beginning of the 20th century, and is therefore more than a hundred years old, and should be preserved in its original state as part of the nation's heritage.

12) Funadoo

This small island, which is very close to the capital, Male' is mentioned frequently in Maldivian history. Armies of invading forces used the island from where they fired guns at Male'. History relates that a national hero, by the name of Ali Thakurufaanu who fought the Portuguese occupiers, was beheaded and the head was brought to Male', to be shown to the Portuguese Commander. This head was buried on this island. His body was buried on an island further north.
