

## MALDIVES

### 1.1 Introduction

**Year of ratification** 1986

#### Organisation submitting the report

- National Council for Linguistic and Historical Research

### 1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

#### The status of national inventories

- 90 sites have been inventoried by the National Council for Linguistic and Historical Research and the Environment Section of the Ministry of Home Affairs, but there is no up-to-date national inventory,

#### The preparation of a Tentative List

- 12 sites have been included on the Maldives Tentative List, revised in 2003.

#### Nominations and the nomination process

- 1987 5 nominations (deferred)
  - (a) Utheemu Gan'duvaru (home of the Maldivian Sultan Mohamed Bodu Thakurufaanu)
  - (b) Eid Miskiy (mosque)
  - (c) Fenfushi Hukuru Miskiy (Friday mosque)
  - (d) Vaadoo Hukuru Miskiy (mosque)
  - (e) Male Hukuru Miskiy with minaret & other monumental tombs (mosque)

### 1.3 Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

#### Integration of heritage and planning

- The Maldives Government co-ordinates excavations of foreign experts and archaeologists due to a lack of expertise and financial constraints.
- National Heritage is protected under the 1979 Law on Sites and Property of Antique, Archaeological and Historical Value.

#### Participation of local communities

- A Government policy has been implemented to involve people in conservation and management of the heritage found on their islands.
- Certain cultural and natural sites are defined as protected areas and tended by local communities.

#### Tourism Development

- \* No information received.

#### Financial measures and budget allowance

- No regular government budget for heritage conservation and management.
- \* No figures supplied.

#### Professional

- National conservators and archaeologists are lacking, as well as qualified heritage management staff. Until now, only one person in the Maldives has been undergoing higher studies in heritage management.
- Foreign conservation missions to Maldives allow local staff to get temporary "on-site training".
- Recently, some Maldivians attended a short training course on heritage conservation held at the University of Kelaniya in Sri Lanka.

#### New and improved services

- Special TV programmes were created to raise awareness among the public on days that are of historical and cultural significance in the Maldivian calendar.

#### Issues to be addressed

- Maldives faces several severe problems in heritage conservation, related to its geographical condition as an archipelago: the islands are scattered and some are difficult to access other than by sea; no permanent heritage conservation structures can be set up in such remote places.
- There is a general lack of skilled expertise, of conservation and management facilities, and of funding.

### 1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

#### National and International Fund Raising

- India and Norway have been organizing archaeological excavations on national heritage sites and providing on-site training to local staff.
- \* Cooperation & assistance from "friendly countries" and other SAARC nations has been requested by the authorities in 1997.
- \* International Assistance from the WHF as follows: 1989 \$5,245 Preparatory, Cultural nominations

### 1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

- Information and awareness measures
- Local History students are encouraged to create clubs to help increase public awareness of heritage issues.
- TV and radio broadcast several programmes related to Maldivian heritage.
- The National Council for Linguistic and Historical Research, which is supervising these programmes,

## Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties

lacks space, expertise, funding and facilities to further enhance heritage awareness among the Maldivian public.

### *1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions*

#### **Conclusions and proposed actions**

- “The identification, protection, conservation, presentation of cultural and natural heritage is tremendously important to the Maldives.”
- Securing funds and raising awareness will need time before heritage conservation and management is implemented successfully in the Maldives.