

ICH

Conference & Tour

Maldives

2020

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 2020

Illustration of Feyli*, handloom textile
 *traditional sarong

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Thaana, current Dhivehi script, written from right to left

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Dhives, Medieval Dhivehi script, written from left to right

Intangible Cultural Heritage

5	ބަންދު ދުވަހުގެ ދަވަނަ ފަދަ ދުވަސް
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Date	Program - Week 2, February 2020
Wednesday, 5th	Arrival of Foreign Participants
Thursday, 6th	Conference Day 1 / Malé Tour / Fly Kooddoo, Huvadho
Friday, 7th	Conference Day 2 / Nilandhoo Tour
Saturday, 8th	Thinadhoo, Madaveli, Hoadedhdhoo & Dhevvadhoo
Sunday, 9th	Nadalla, Rathafandhoo, Fiyoari, Mathoda, Fares & Vaadhoo
Monday, 10th	Gadhoo & Gan
Tuesday, 11th	Kanduhulhudhoo, Gemanafushi, Dhiyadhoo & Kondey
Wednesday, 12th	Kolamaafushi, Vilingili, Maamemdhoo & Dhaandhoo
Thursday, 13th	Return to Malé, stay in Hulhumale or Resort
Friday, 14th	Departure of Foreign Participants

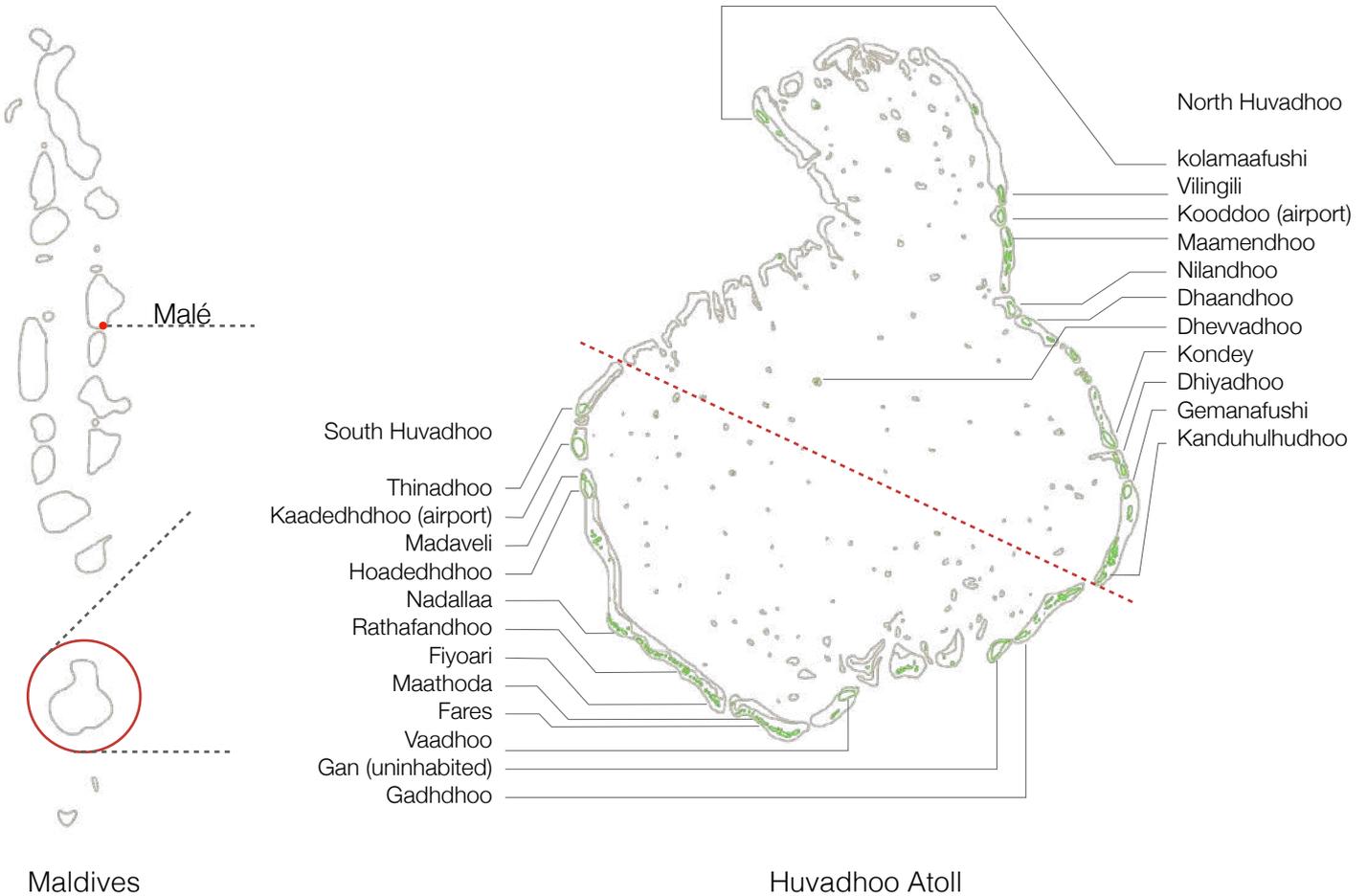
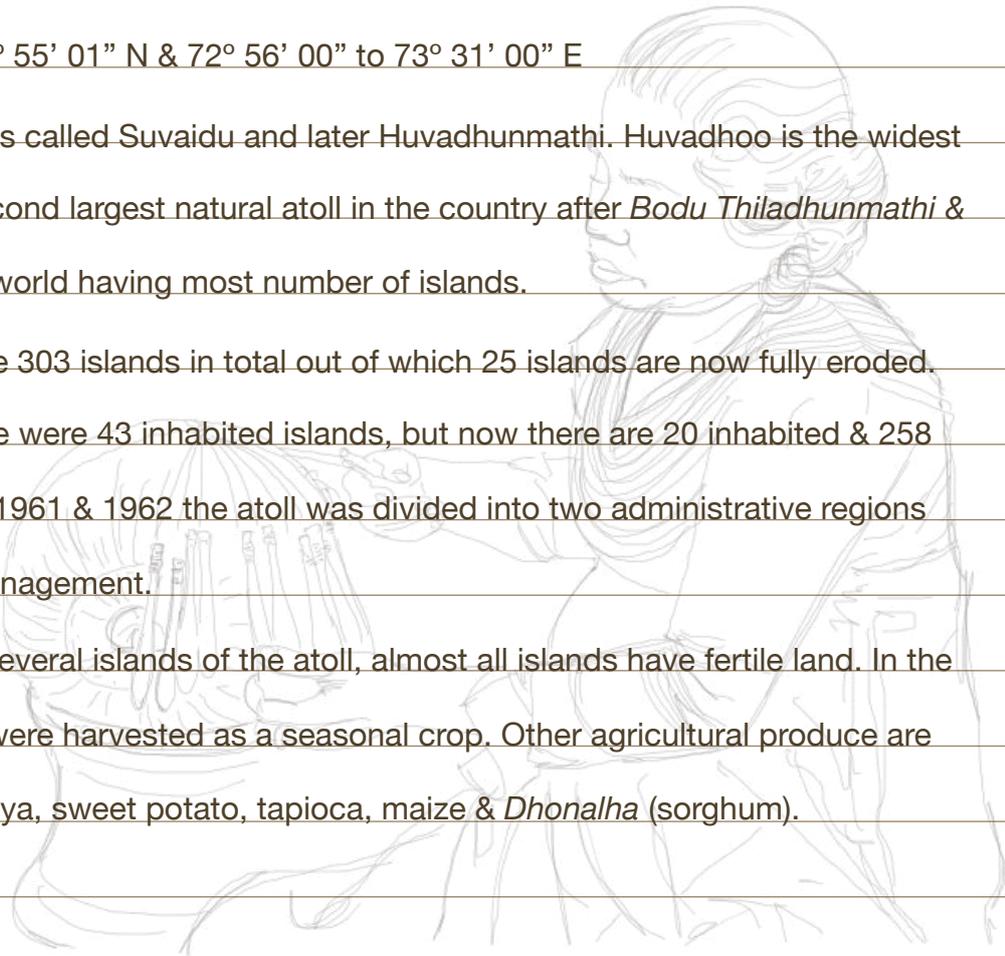
Huvadhoo Atoll Background

Location: 0° 11' 30" to 0° 55' 01" N & 72° 56' 00" to 73° 31' 00" E

In ancient times this atoll was called Suvaidu and later Huvadhunmathi. Huvadhoo is the widest atoll in Maldives. it is the second largest natural atoll in the country after *Bodu Thiladhunmathi* & the largest coral atoll in the world having most number of islands.

In Huvadhoo Atoll there were 303 islands in total out of which 25 islands are now fully eroded. During 12th century CE there were 43 inhabited islands, but now there are 20 inhabited & 258 uninhabited islands. During 1961 & 1962 the atoll was divided into two administrative regions due to the size & ease of management.

Having a lot of wetlands in several islands of the atoll, almost all islands have fertile land. In the past *Uraa* (Common Millet) were harvested as a seasonal crop. Other agricultural produce are yam, plantain, banana, papaya, sweet potato, tapioca, maize & *Dhonalha* (sorghum).



Huvadho Atoll Brief History & Culture

During Captain Moresby's survey of 1836 CE, a steel benchmark or bore hole rod was stuck in bedrock & still remains visible at Thinadhoo island.

Gan, now uninhabited, is one of the largest islands of Maldives. It was an ancient inhabited island having one of the largest pre-Islamic sites in the country. At present this site is only a coral mound, with some carved coral stones scattered around. There are some early Islamic period sites and burial grounds on this island. There are ancient folklores about *Gan* Island. It is said that the culture of mat weaving came to adjacent *Gadhoo* from *Gan* after the latter was uninhabited. Folklore says that the people of *Gan* perished after a 'cat kingdom' invaded the island in ancient past. [this could be the lion kingdom of ancient solar or lunar dynasty ?]

Dheevadhoo Dynasty, having had only one Sultan & ruled from 1692 to 1701 is from *Dheevadhoo* Island of north *Huvadho* Atoll. This is the only current inhabited island within the center of the Atoll.

Vaadho, having ancient pre-Islamic ruins, was the seat of Islamic teaching during the 16th Century. A *Sunni* scholar from Malé having rejected an offer to head the judiciary went on self exile to live and eventually teach in *Vaadho*. It is said that prior to his teachings, Maldives practiced *Maliki* sect. The coral stone mosque that he taught and his tomb adjacent to it still remains.

A unique organically dyed and pattern mat of Huvadho is famous through antiquity and still woven in the island of *Gadhdho* and some other islands. It is interesting to note that the reed for the mat is bought from *Fiyoari* Island of the atoll and not grown on *Gadhdho*, hence having a mutual trade between these two islands since the past.

Pillow lace embroidery and handloom embroidery for traditional ladies dress *Libaas* are unique to *Huvadho* Atoll. In addition handloom textile weaving was practiced in the past.

In 2004, NCLHR listed 30 heritage sites in Huvadho Atoll.



In collaboration with

Ministry of Arts, Culture & Heritage

National Centre for Cultural Heritage

Dhivehi Bahuge Academy

Lanka Decorative Arts

Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society



Illustration of *Thun'du Kuna**, organically dyed reed mat unique to Huvadho Atoll
*a typical design

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