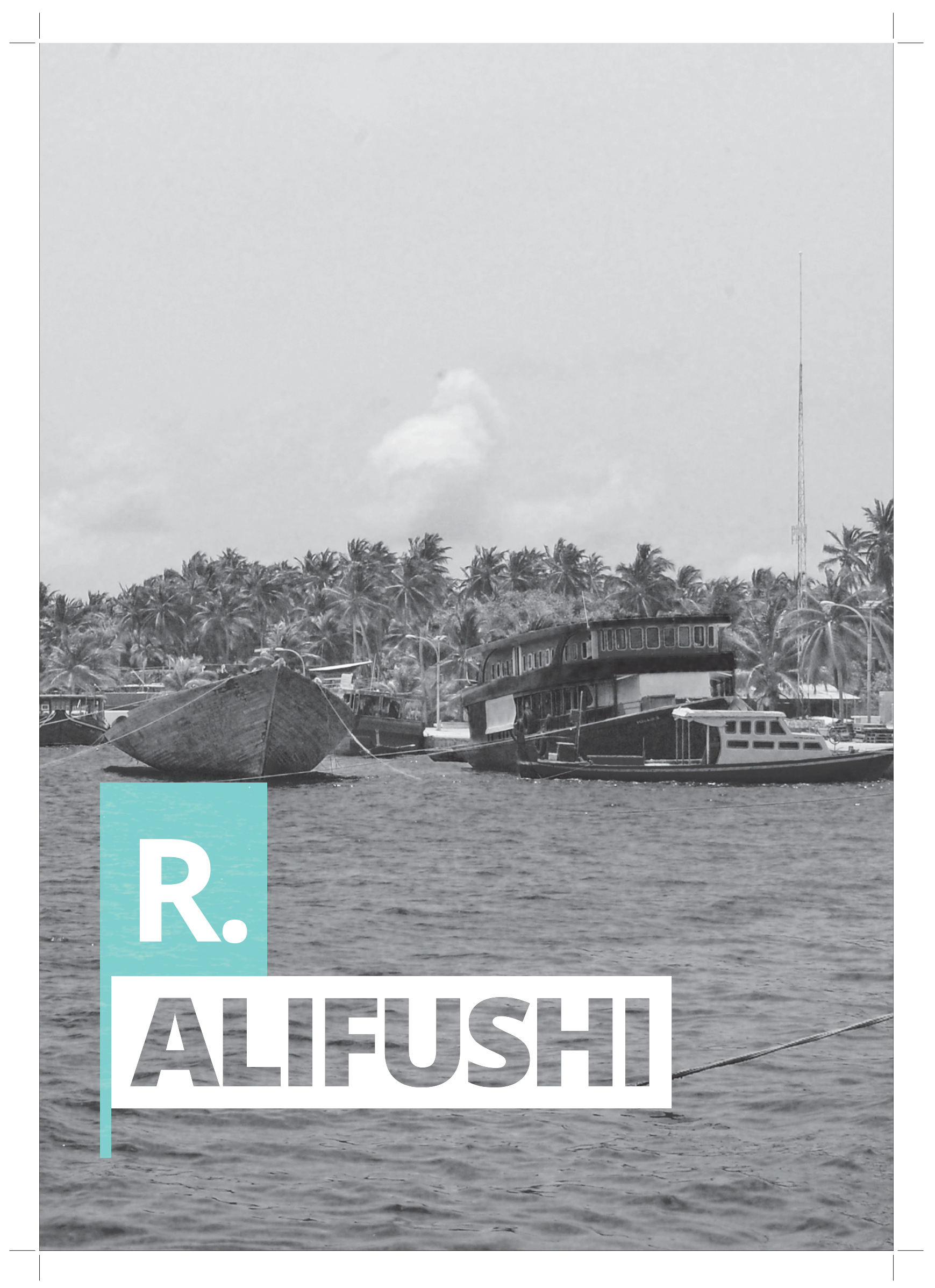




R.

ALIFUSHI

A full-page background image of a tropical beach. The top half shows several tall palm trees with green fronds against a clear blue sky. The bottom half shows a calm, turquoise ocean meeting a white sandy beach. A small white boat is partially visible in the water on the right side.

FOREWORD

The information written in this book are the compiled works of research and interviews with locals and government officials on the island of Raa Alifushi. The students were split into three separate groups, with each group given their own tasks to perform.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our appreciation to all those who provided their help in writing this book. Our seniors have also assisted us by providing photographs and advice on what to include in our work. We thank them for their valuable efforts.

Special thanks to our lecturers, Mrs. Mariyam Eman, Mr. Hassan Azan and Mr. Ibrahim Nadheem, who guided us through our works and offered us advice on what aspects to improve.

Furthermore, we would like to extend our utmost gratitude to the people of R.Alifushi for their hospitality and kindness in providing information for us.

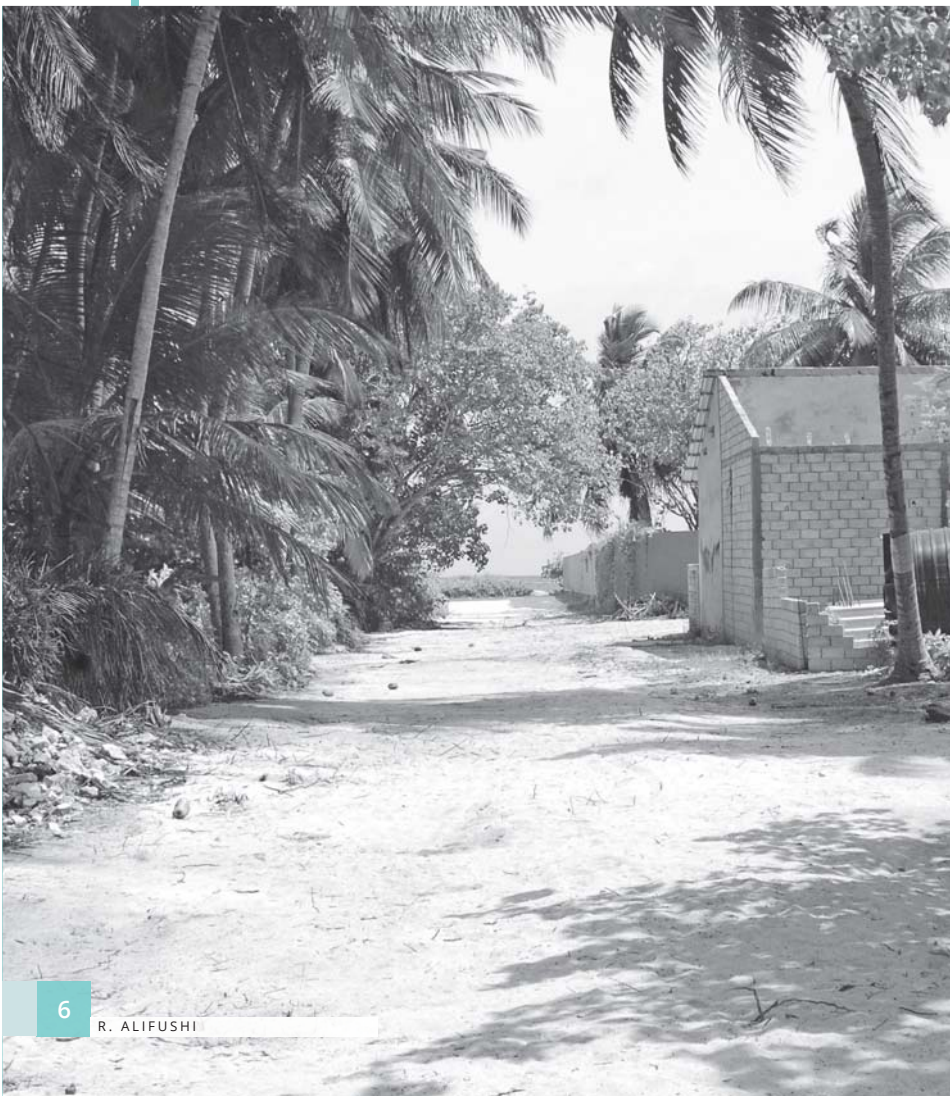
A black and white photograph of a wooden boat on water, viewed from a high angle. The boat is made of dark wood and has a pointed bow. It is surrounded by dark, rippling water. Several ropes are visible, extending from the boat towards the top of the frame. A teal-colored rectangular overlay is positioned in the center of the image, covering the upper half of the boat. The word "CONTENT" is written in large, bold, black capital letters across the middle of the teal overlay.

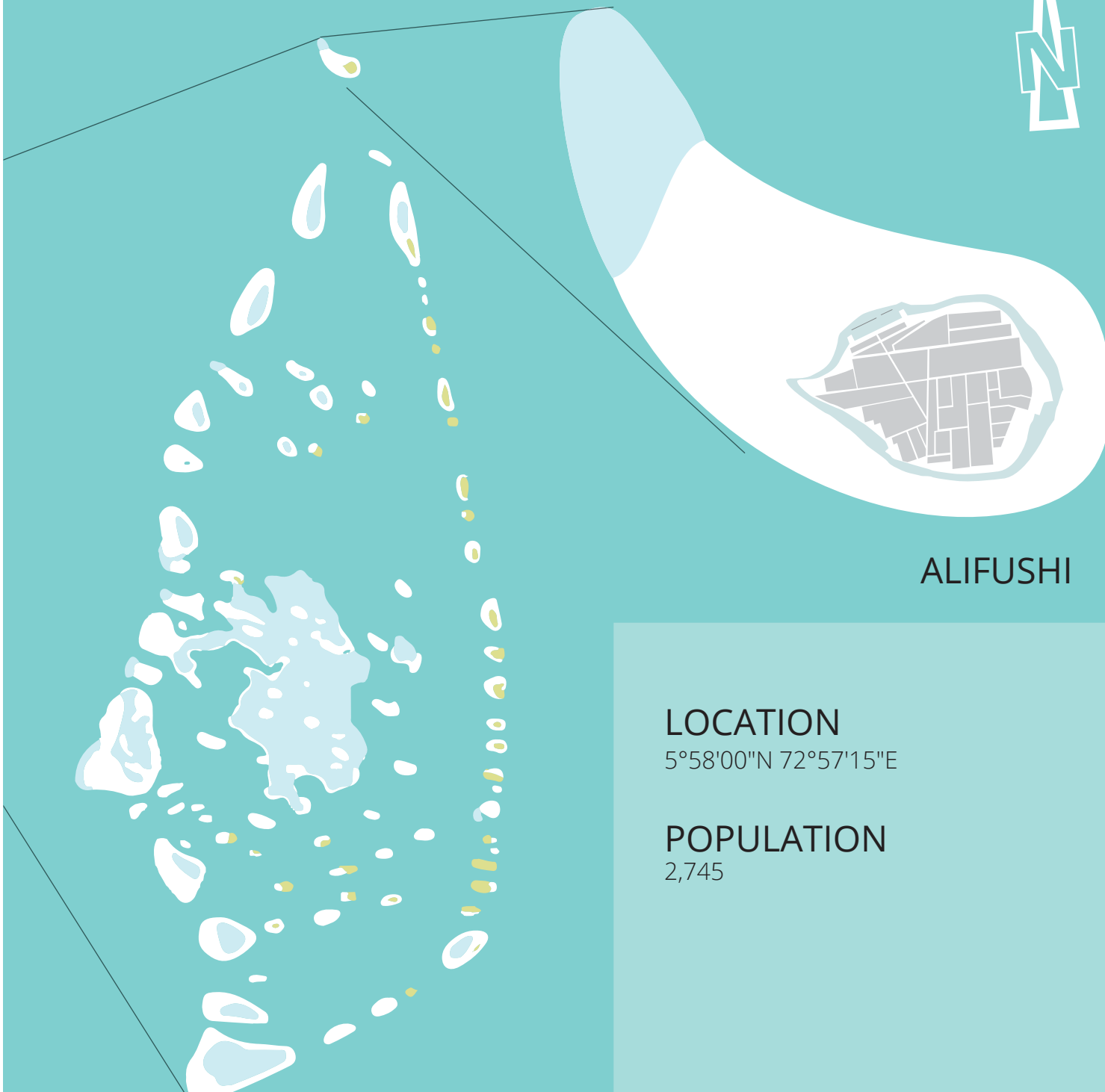
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ALIFUSHI

One of the few inhabited islands of Raa atoll, Alifushi is acclaimed for its skilled boat builders and carpenters. For this reason, the island plays a major role in the boat building industry. One of the interesting details to note, is that while Alifushi is considered as part of Raa atoll, the island itself is completely separate from the reef and sits just outside on the northern side of the atoll.





ALIFUSHI

LOCATION

5°58'00"N 72°57'15"E

POPULATION

2,745

RAA ATOLL

A black and white photograph of a cemetery. In the foreground, there is a long, low wall made of concrete or stone, featuring a series of decorative arches and circular openings. Behind the wall, several tombstones of varying shapes and sizes are visible. In the background, a tall, slender flagpole rises into the sky. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds. A large, teal-colored rectangular overlay is positioned in the center of the image, containing the text "HISTORY & CULTURE" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The overall composition suggests a historical or cultural site.

HISTORY & CULTURE

EARLY SETTLEMENT

While it is unknown when exactly the first settlers reached Alifushi, it is clear that they were from the surrounding islands. These people arrived in families and it was estimated that there were around five to six families among the very first settlers. These people built their first homes on the Northern side of the island, which is currently the oldest area of the entire island, accurately dubbed 'Old Town'.

EARLY CULTURE

The cultural aspects of Alifushi were no different than the other countries of the Maldives, activities like thatch weaving were done fairly commonly back then. Thatch weaving is a traditional work done in every inhabited island of the Maldives, and the people who settled down in Alifushi were no different. Thatch weaving was done to provide walls and roofs for traditional Maldivian houses.

Another important aspect of their culture were Bodu beru, a performance done using traditional Maldivian drums followed by a dance.

After completing Isha prayer, Bodu Beru and Dhandi-jehun would be performed as a way to end the day before all the island inhabitants went to sleep.



EARLY AGRICULTURE

During the earliest days, the island was mostly known for its agricultural providence. More than half of the island was used to grow crops. A shortage in food materials was unheard of back then. Since the locals were friendly with each other, there was no stealing of each other's crops. No barter system was used since there was enough to feed the entire island.

POST WORLD WAR II

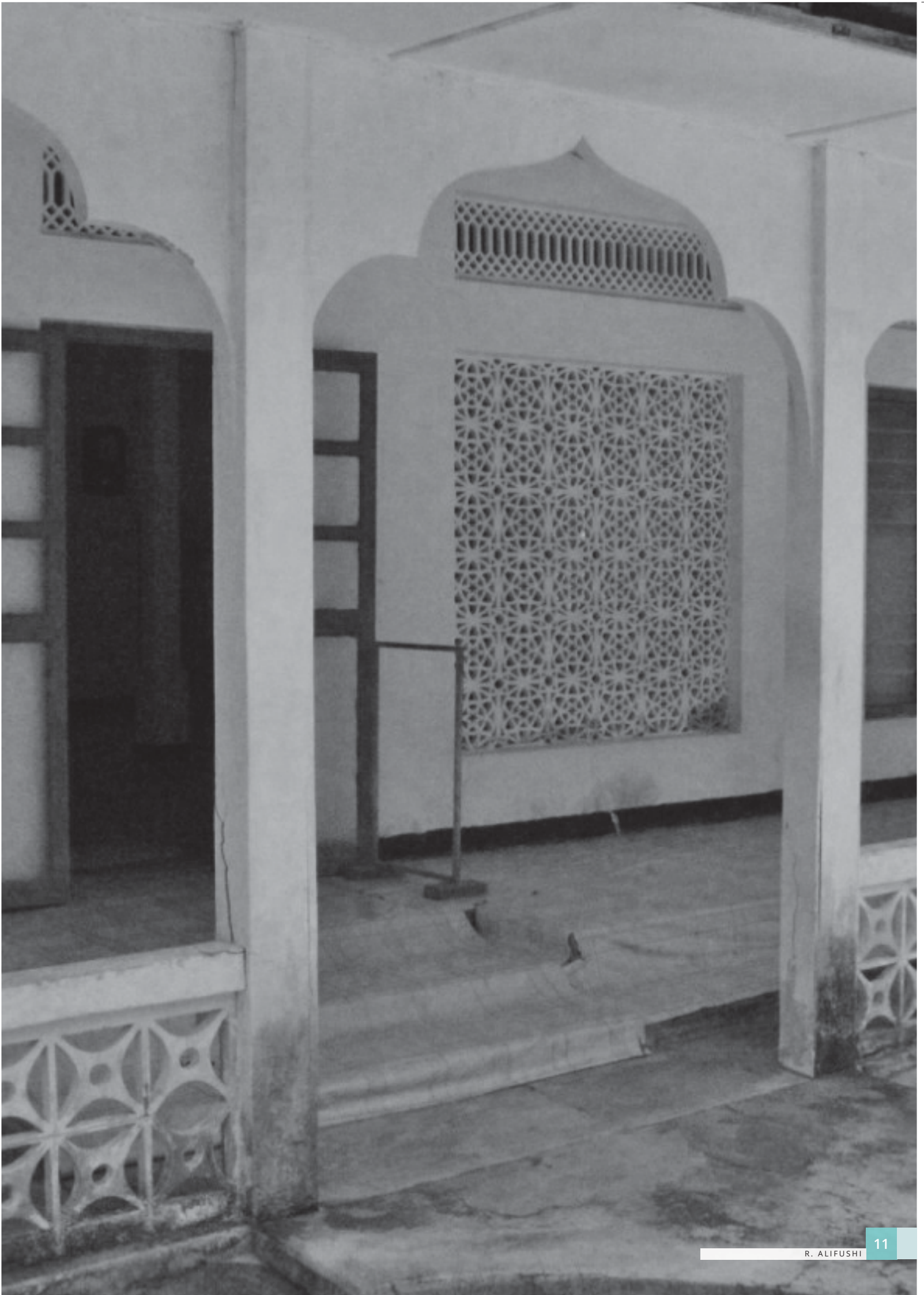
During the cold war that followed after World War II, much of the country was plunged into famine and poverty. The entire country was already agriculturally devastated by the war. In order to provide food for the top hierarchy of the country, all of the fruits and vegetables from the lands were taken to the capital city, Male', as was the law back then. This left the locals with no choice but to survive on tree leaves, namely Magoo leaves. In addition to this, fishing proved a fruitless effort and there was no fish to be available from Male' either. All imports were halted, leaving each island for itself.

It was at this point that stealing started becoming common in the island, due to scarcity of resources.

TRADING

Trading between the islands were done regularly during then. Dried fish was the main export item from Alifushi. These dried fish would be loaded up onto the boats, which would set sail to Male'. Upon arriving, they would bring back with them grains, flour and betel nuts, which the islanders were fond of chewing.



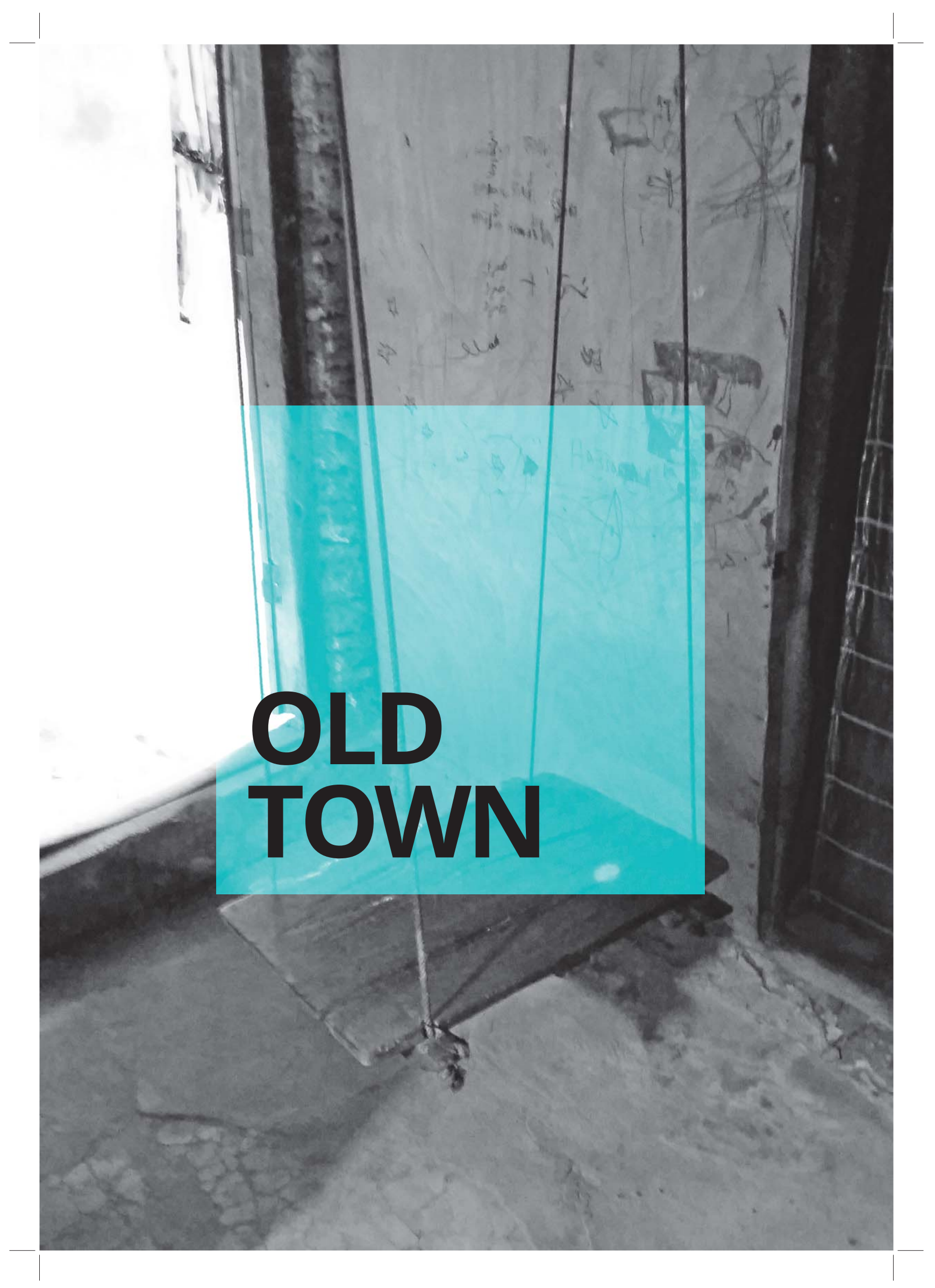






TABRIZI

This is a monument dedicated to Yusuf Tabrizi, the man who converted Maldives to Islam. While the locals on the island each have different stories regarding the place the most common one is that Yusuf Tabrizi stayed on the island and would tend to cutting fish at the exact location. Before he left he predicated that fishing would improve fter two seasons. Once it came true, the locals built a monument in his memory. Many islanders say that if the sand inside the monument is dug up, there will be fish blood discovered beneath.

A black and white photograph of a wooden door with a teal overlay. The door has a handle and a lock. The teal overlay is a semi-transparent rectangle that covers the middle part of the door. The text "OLD TOWN" is written in large, bold, black letters on the teal overlay.

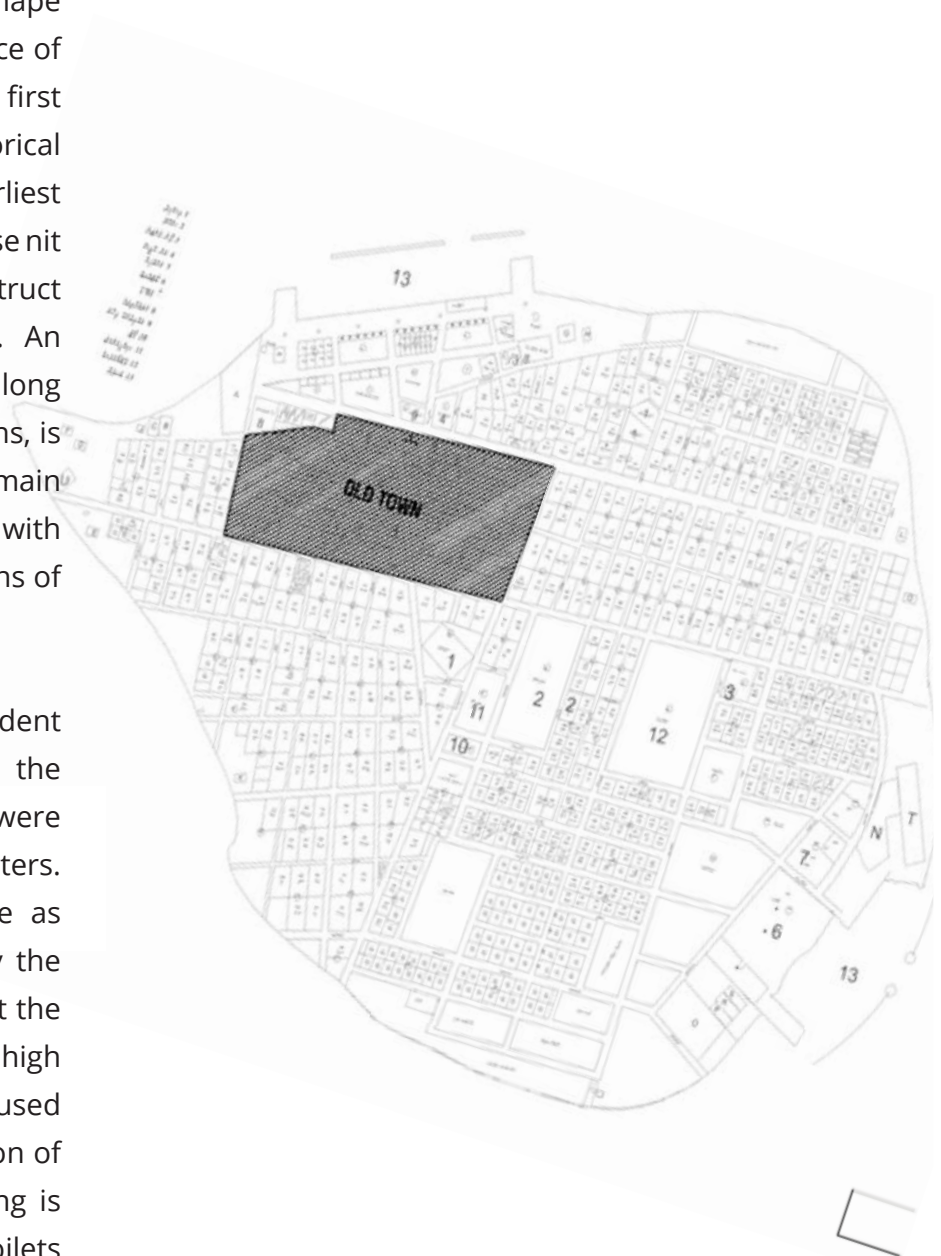
OLD TOWN

The old town, as the name suggests, is the area of the island where the first people made settlements. The settlements initially were in the form of huts made from locally available materials and is still evident with some of the old housing.

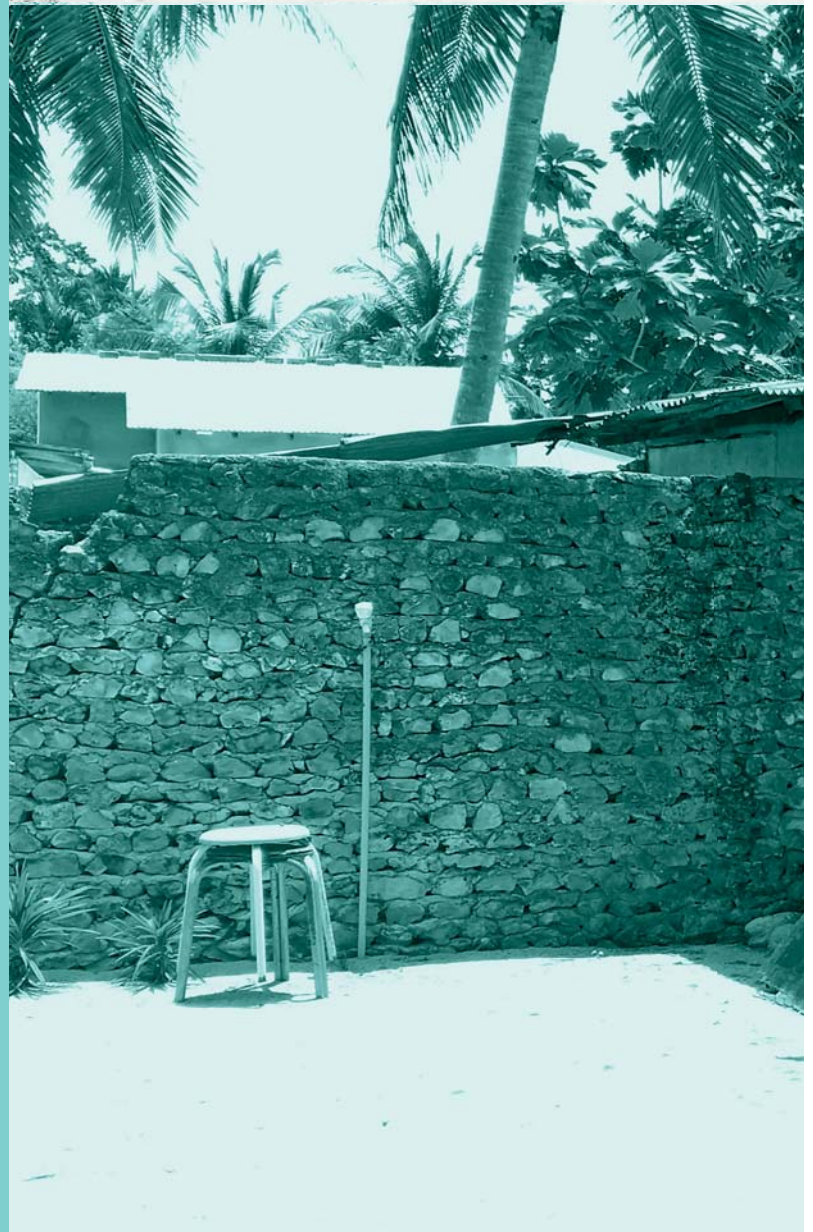
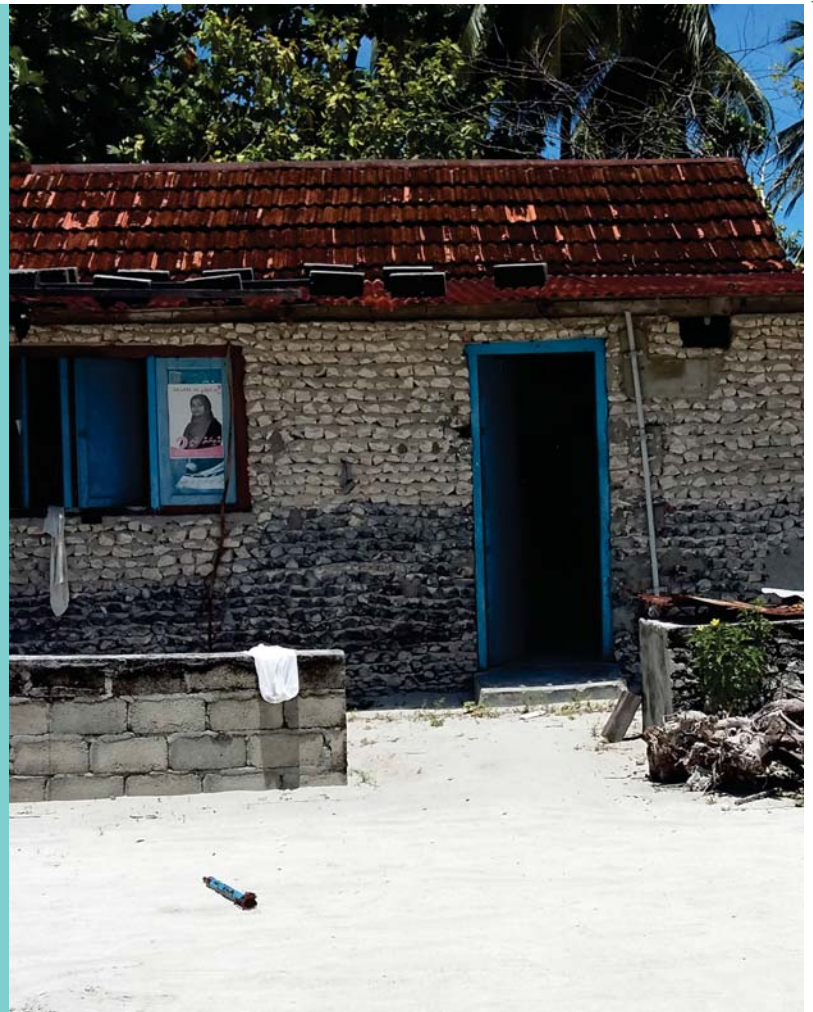
Much of the old town housing blocks were observed to be irregular in shape which might be a direct consequence of the decisions made as to how the first boundary lines were settled. Historical data records suggest that the earliest settlers had a sense of creating a close nit community, hence the need to construct their home close to each other. An unforeseen circumstance of this, along with no consideration of future plans, is that these earlier settlements still remain and future generations have to deal with the unconventional space restrictions of living space and narrow roads.

Housing plans and styles are still evident from the old town area. As such, the kitchen area known as “Badhige” were separated from the main living quarters. This was purely a safety measure as in those days, in case of fire, only the smaller kitchen would burn and not the main housing area. Fire hazard was high since dry coconut palm leaves were used as the main material for construction of walls. This modular style of housing is also true for private rooms and toilets

even, where they were separately constructed a bit of ways from the living quarters. This additional road created between the said buildings only further contributed to the confusion of the old town map separating the boundaries.



No major developments have been observed within this area since much effort would be needed to redevelop the entire area, relocating the current residents in the process. Hence, the old town area remains the same to this day with little progress in terms of housing development. Some of the older houses still remain as those residents have since moved to other islands or relocated to other areas of the island. Yet, some still remain in these old houses, majority elders, who feel a sense of home and belonging. Their children and the next generation have the daunting task of either re-location or re-development with the help of the government authorities to make the area a feasible and practical space.



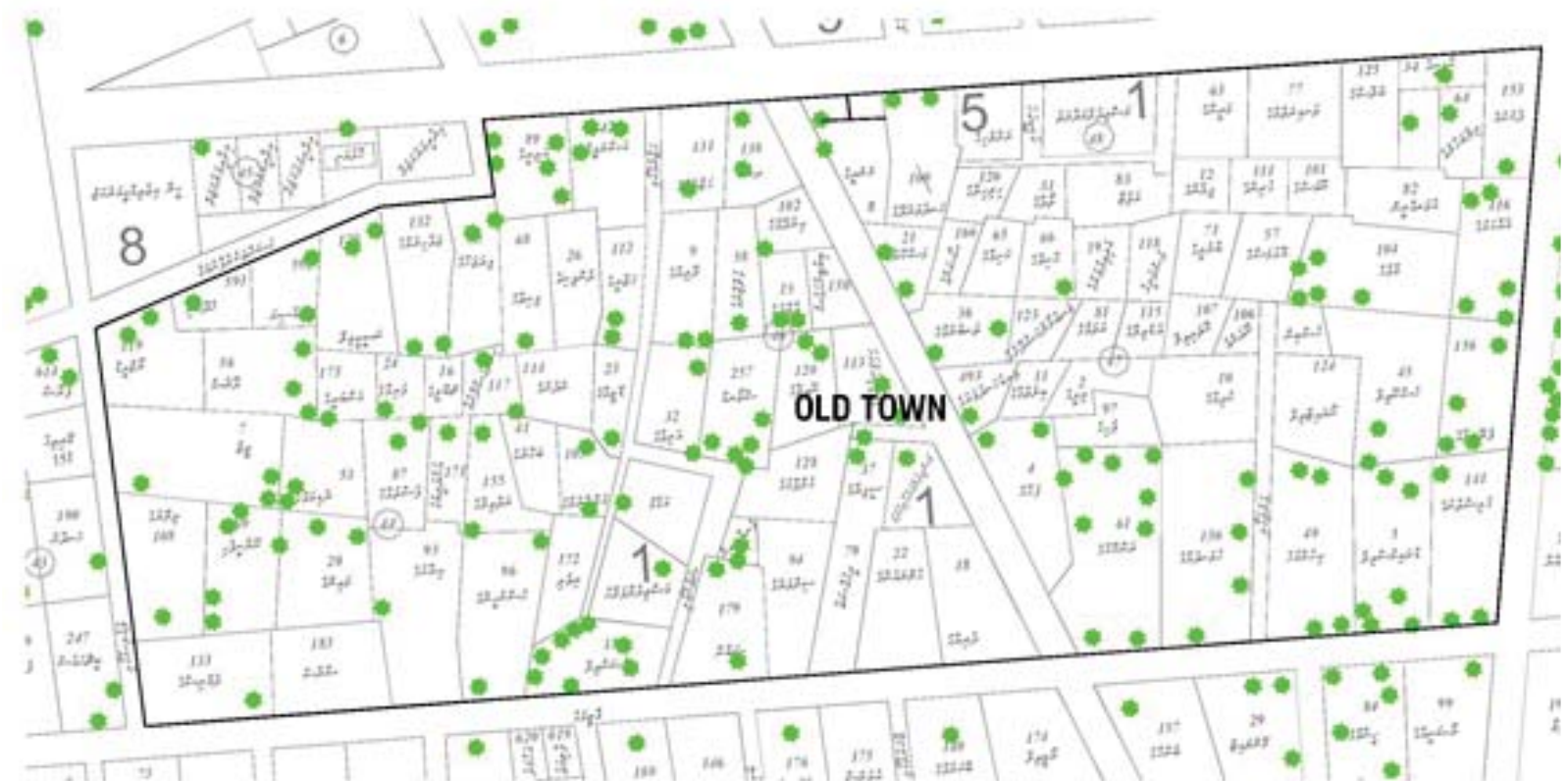


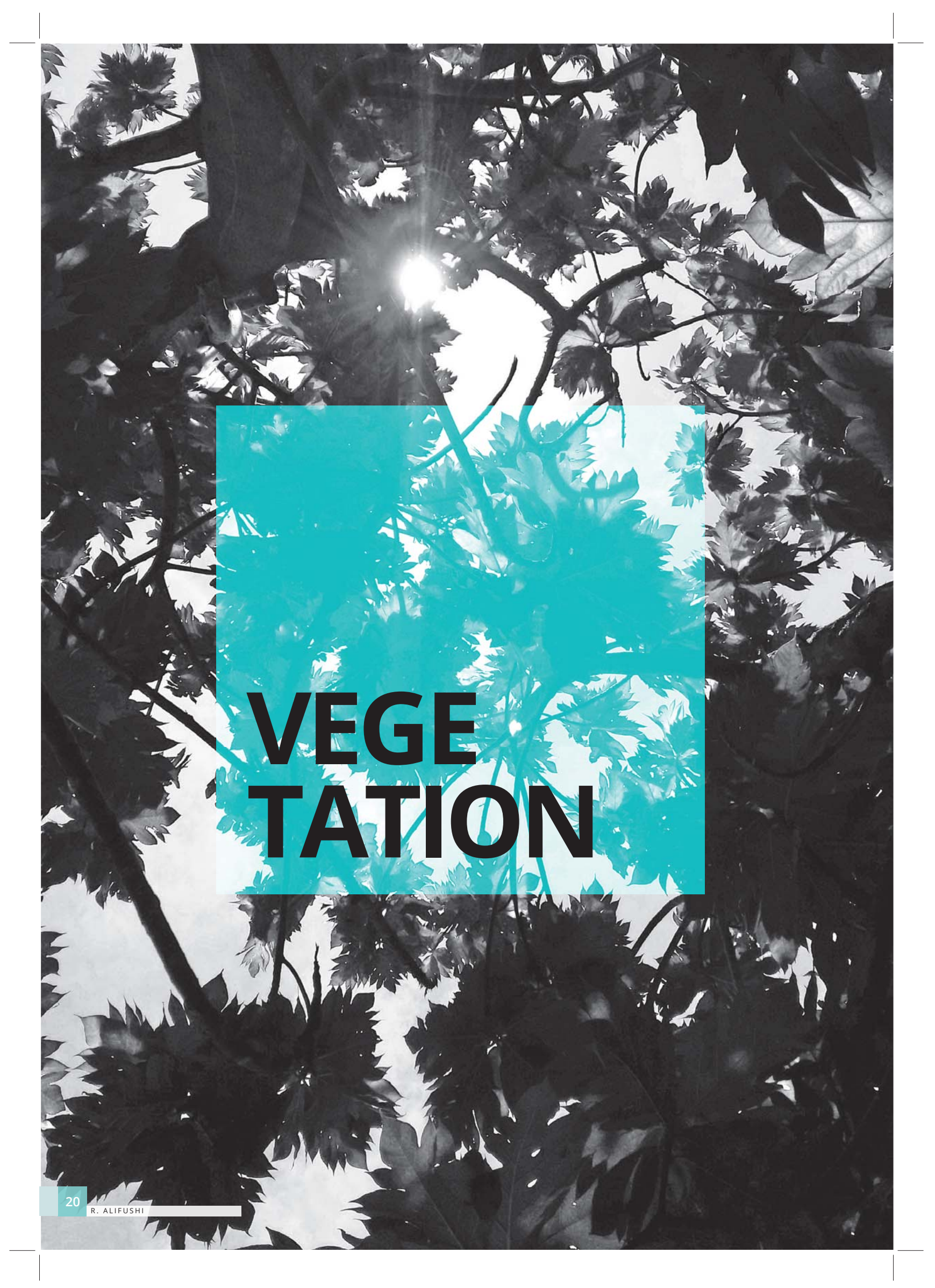


OLD TOWN VEGETATION

Vegetation was sparse within the old town area with small to medium height trees. Occasional large trees were observed, much of them being breadfruit trees.

Much of the tree line follow the boundary lines of the plots as the internal spaces were used for housing naturally. Vegetation however was thick in those plots which were either abandoned or empty altogether.

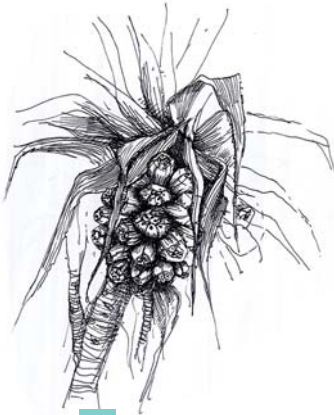




VEGE TATION



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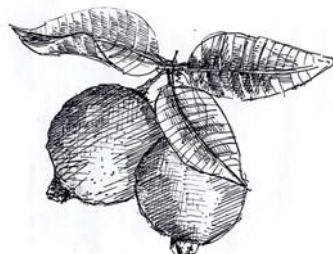
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8

1. Banbukeyo
2. Kashikeyo
3. Ruh
4. Hikandhifai gas
5. Muranga
6. Faikeyo gas
7. Nika gas
8. Feyru gas

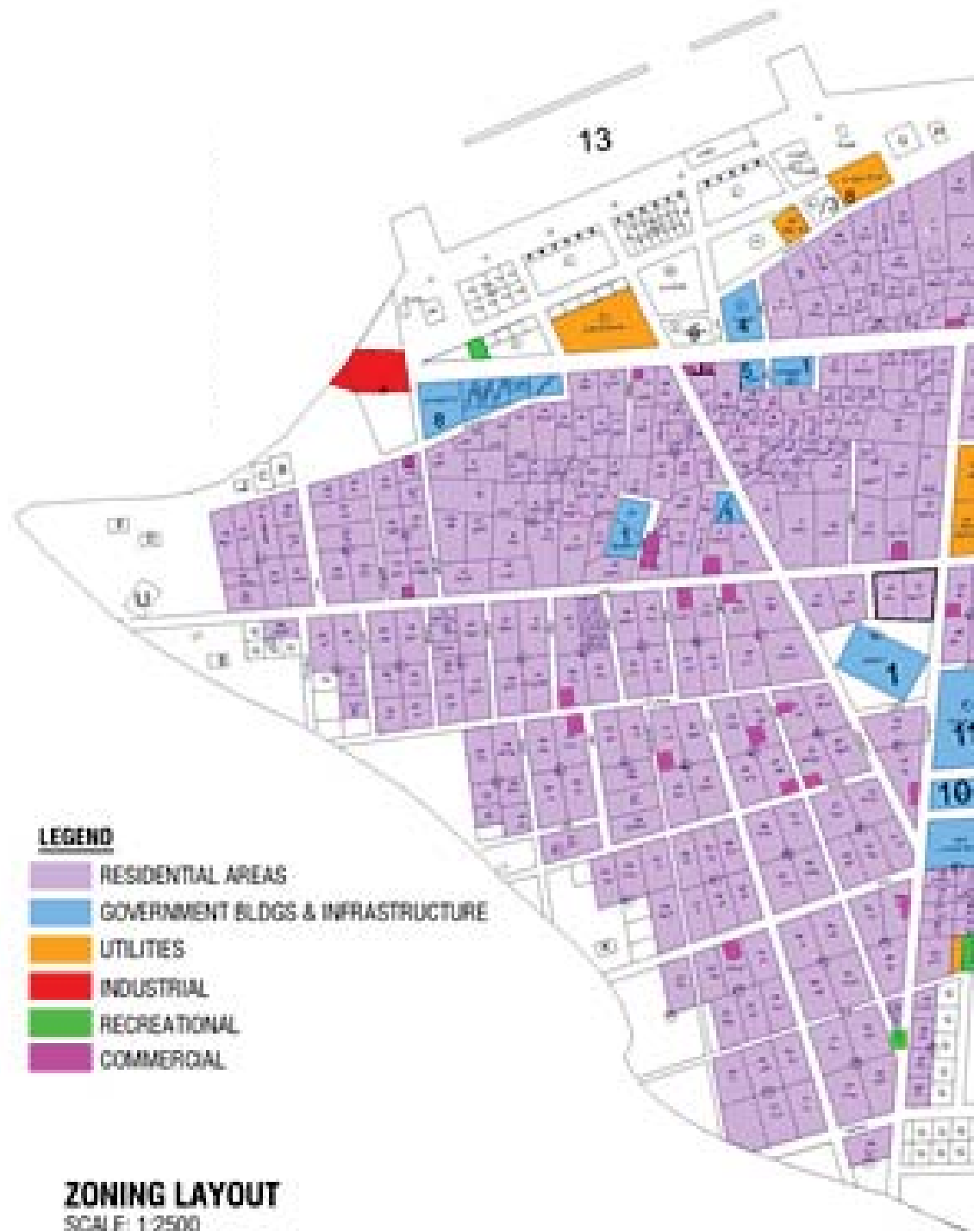
VEGETATION MAP



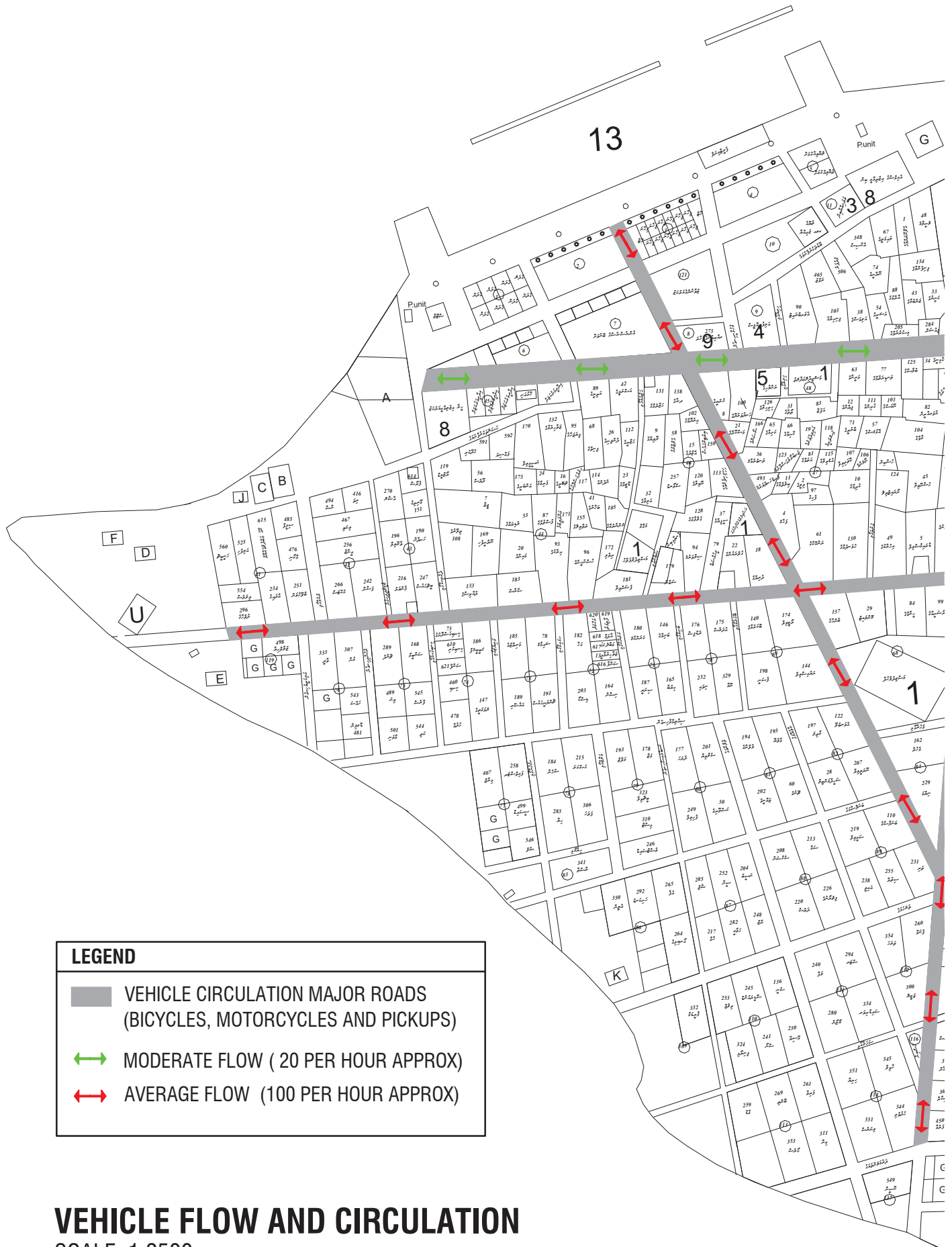


Alifushi Map
Republic of Maldives

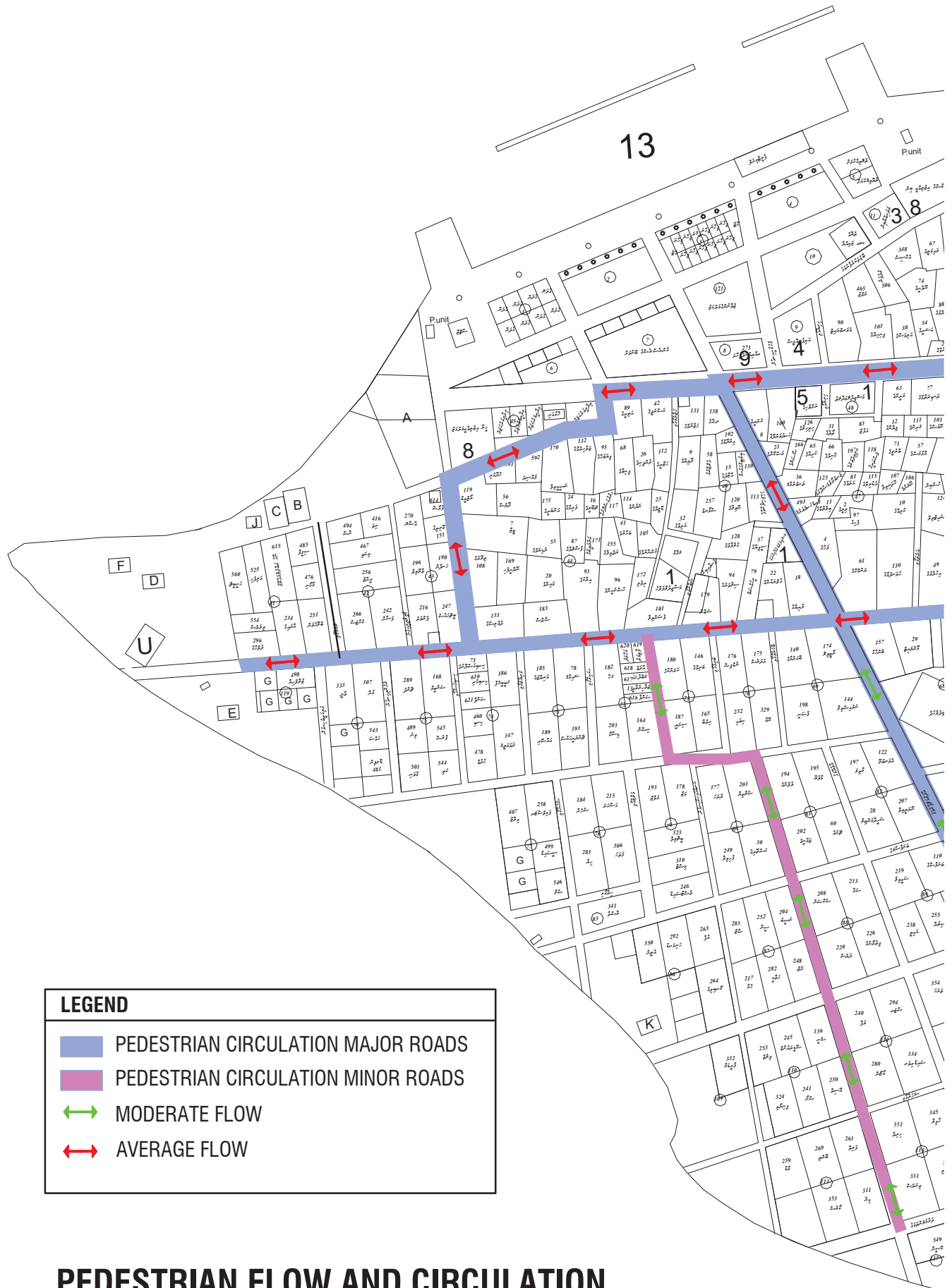
ZONING MAP





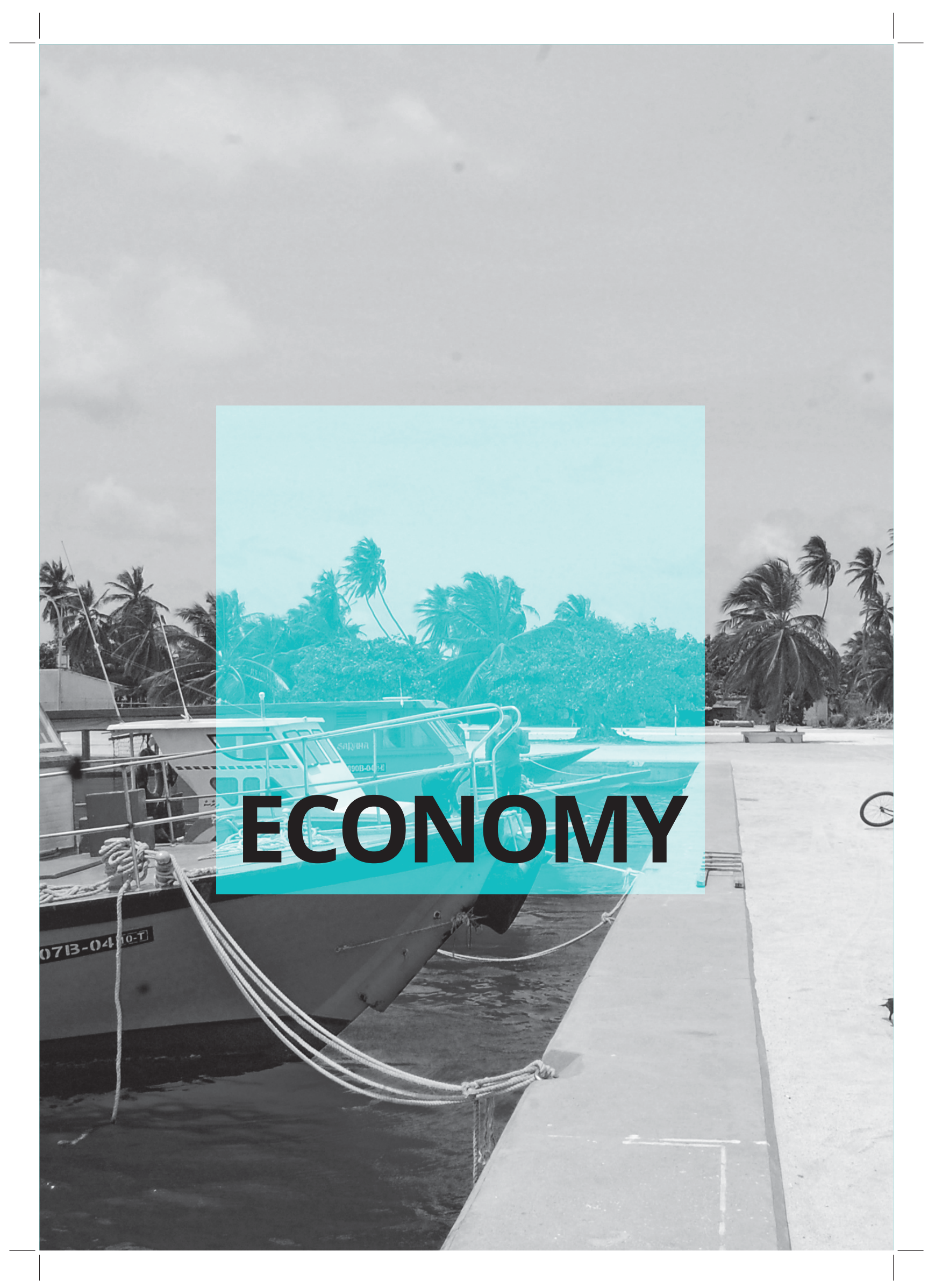








Alifushi Map
Republic of Maldives



ECONOMY



The people of Alifushi did different types of work to fulfill their needs. However some occupations have stopped due to different reasons, yet people are still involved in other occupations. Some of the works people of Alifushi did in the past include,

- Raiga Negin
- Dhiya Hakuru Hedhun
- Fangi Vinun
- Roanu Veshun
- Dhivehi Beys Verikan
- Hiriga Negin
- Kanburu Verikan
- Ruh Erun





Fishing was a major economic source which the people of Alifushi relied on 70 years back. The island had 25 fishing boats which had rooms for 8 to 10 crews. Majority of the working community was dependent on fishing for their basic needs.



In the early days most of its land was used for farming by the citizens of the island. The main types of the food they harvested were Corn, Binbi, Kudhibai and Dhonalha. The farmers used to give a percent of their harvest to the governing council of the island as tax for the land.



Boatbuilding is the industry which currently provides most of the jobs for the locals of the island. Currently around 200 locals are involved in boat building business. The island have an institute which educate people in the field of boat building, which also increases the amount of civilians involved in this industry.

SHABANA BAKERY

The famous bakery in the whole of Raa Atoll- Shabana Bakery- was founded by Mr. Mohamed Waheed, a commoner of R. Alifushi, along with his wife. The bakery got its name after a long time admiration Mr. Waheed has of an Indian actress "Shabana Azmi".

The bakery's history dates all the way back to 1987. Mr. Waheed started this business as a way of earning income and providing something for the people of his beloved island. Back then, he had no knowledge about baking so he had two people to help him out but he was eager to learn for himself. Thus, he went to the one person who he knew could help him- his dear friend, Mr. Umar Manik, who himself owned a bakery.

After three months of learning all he needed to know about baking, Mr. Waheed came back to his island to continue his business with his wife. Together they made Faaroshi and Biscuits which required 15 kilos of flour every day. These delicious snacks would always run out by the end of the day which became a motivation for him to keep

continuing his business.

Mr. Waheed started with two products but now there are more varieties with different kinds of breads, buns, cakes and biscuits. The most famous of them are the buns and biscuits. 75 kilos of buns and 15 kilos of biscuits were compulsory to make every day. Other than this, he also took orders from his customers.



A black and white photograph of a tropical beach. In the foreground, there is a sandy shore with some debris and seaweed. The middle ground shows a calm body of water reflecting the sky. In the background, a dense line of palm trees stands against a light sky. A large, semi-transparent turquoise rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the word 'ENVIRONMENT' in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters.

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

ACCUMULATION OF NON-BIODEGRADABLE WASTE

Ground water contamination

Outgassing Polystyrene winding up in ocean

Harm marine life

SOIL EROSION DUE TO EXCAVATION OF SAND FROM SEA

Beach erodes when the sand lost cant keep pace with sand added through natural processes

Reduced quality of soil

CUTTING DOWN OF TREES DUE TO ROAD DEVELOPMENT

Loss of habitat

Climate change

Loss of forest canopy

Global warming

TOXIC WASTE FROM BOATYARD

Epoxy resin, gelcoat, accelerator, catalyst, acetone, talcum powder

Irritation caused by burning of fibreglass

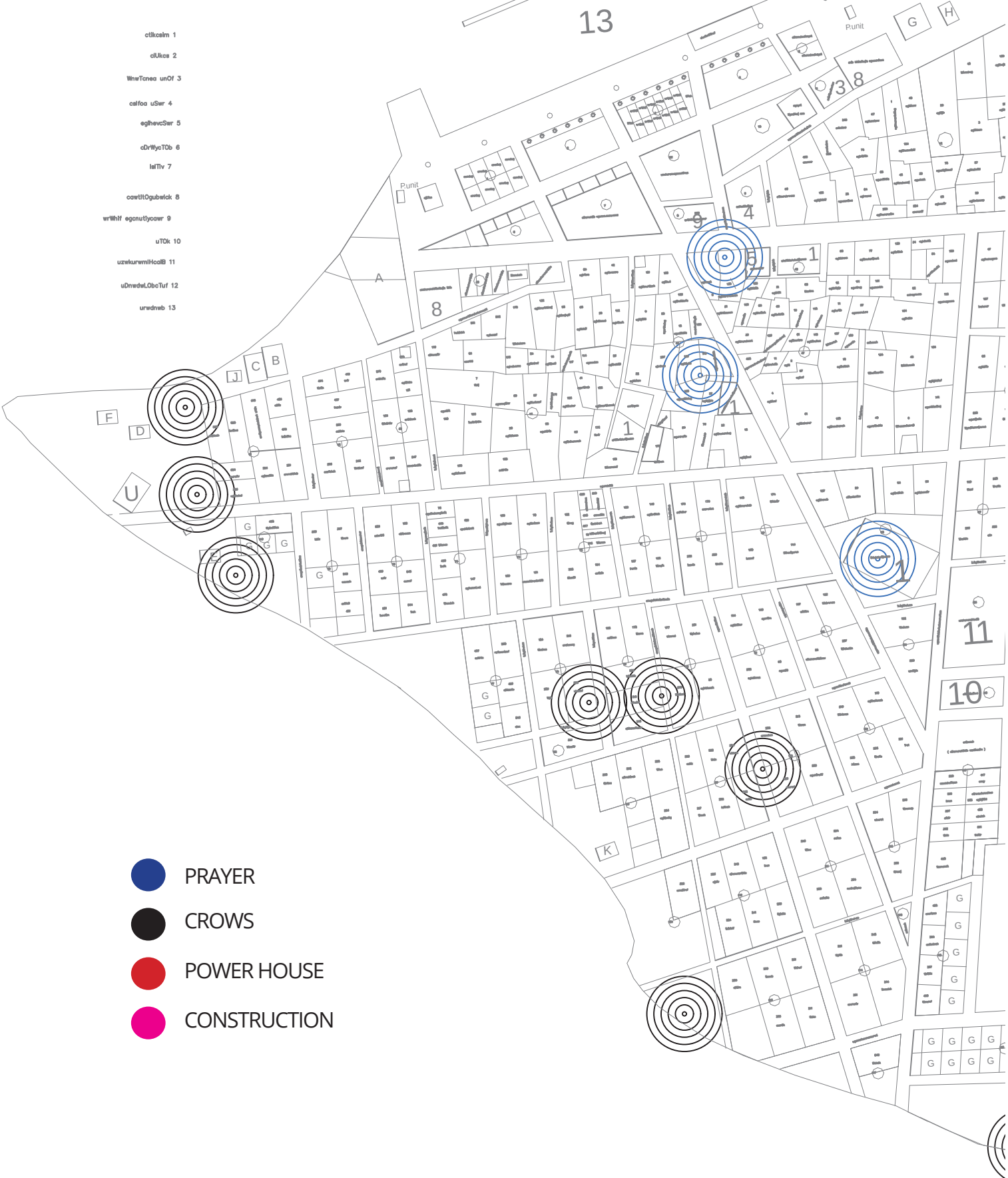
Fibreglass dust is cancer causing

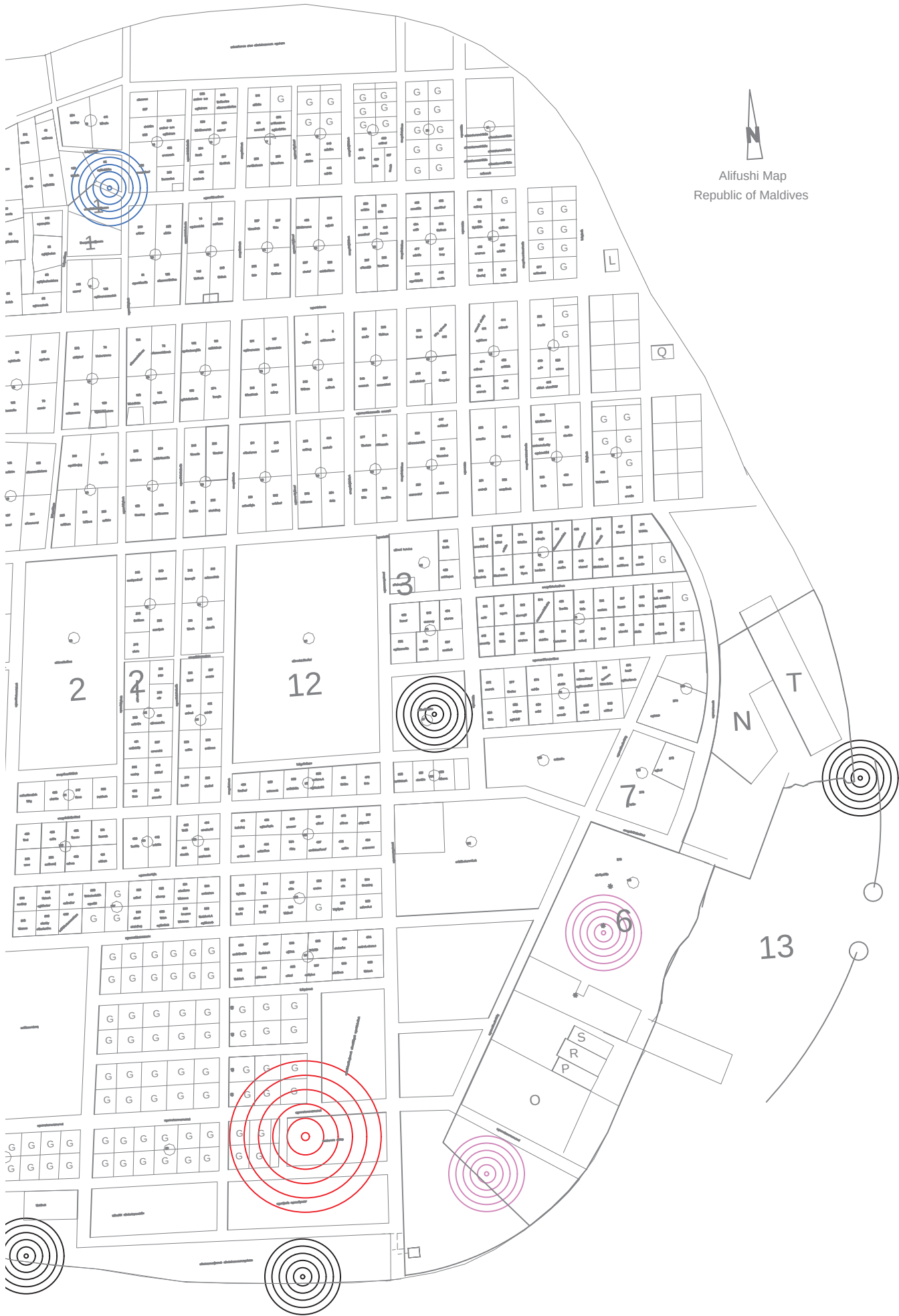
Fibre dust causes allergies It takes 100 years to degrade fibreglass mats

Causes coral bleaching



SOUND / NOISE





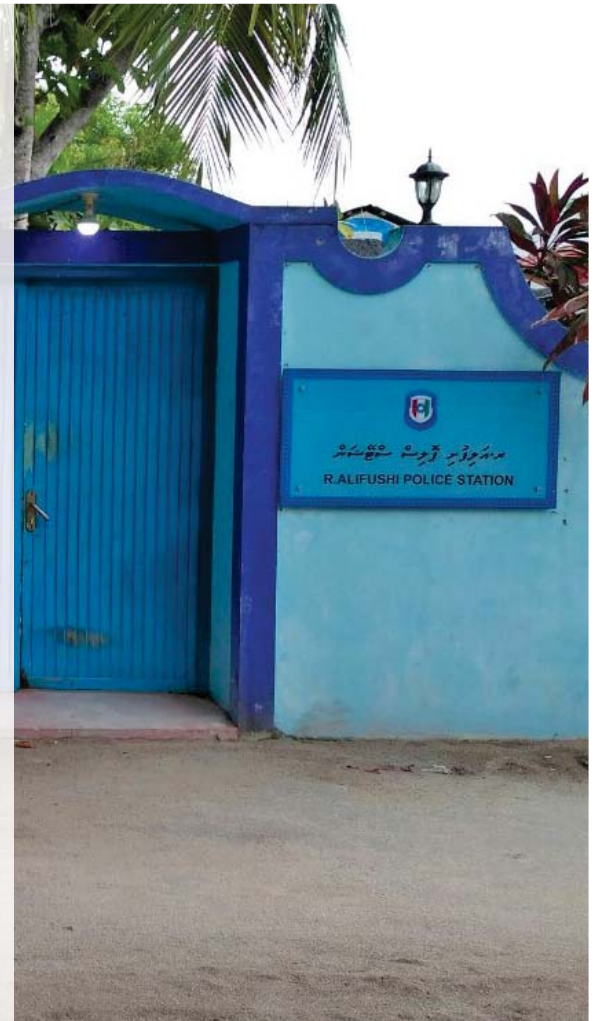
Alifushi Map
Republic of Maldives



INFRA- STRUCTURE

POLICE STATION

R.Alifushi is one of the islands among R.atoll in which the crime rate is relatively low. Its first police station was opened in 2004 temporarily. R.Alifushi Police Station was officially opened in 2005. With a total of 7 workers, the station is run by renting a house from a local in the island. Common crimes include theft and traffic problems, which are mostly committed by the people who visit the island. One of the difficulties faced by the police station is the unavailability of fire fighting mechanism.



MAGISTRATE COURT

Opened in 1996, magistrate court of R.Alifushi is currently staffed with 7 workers. Services provided by this court includes judiciary related problems and marriage and divorce. Civil matters, such as inheritance, family and other problems of islanders are dealt here. All the data processed at magistrate court are computerized and stored safely. Only administrative staffs are authorized to access the encrypted data. Main three spaces of the court includes a courtroom, magistrate room and administration room. Before the establishment of a magistrate court, all the judiciary and civil matters were taken care of by the Naibu office.



R.ALIFUSHI SCHOOL

Middle school of Alifushi has an average of 512 students attending the school in which some of the students are from other islands. Currently teaching around 246 girls and 258 boys. Alifushi school teaches from grade 1 to 12. From the interviews conducted it was known that there are 20 expatriate teachers and 60 local teachers.

Their aim is to teach children to give back to the community and let out the potential in all students. Before the construction of preschool, kindergartners were taught in the very same school.

Space limitations are among one of the many difficulties faced by this school. There are currently 25 classrooms used for teaching purposes in the school.

Due to the unavailability of space for a hall, several activities such as assemblies and indoor activities which could not be held. Furthermore, due to this Alifushi school faces difficulties conducting examinations.

There is a partition hall which is used to carry out functions like meetings. This school gives the opportunity for students to learn either science or

business stream.

With many difficulties and issues facing the school one of the improvements that the school wants to see in the near future is accessibility of an audio visual room in the school.



Among the activities held in the school are:

- Interclass quran competition
- Dhivehi week
- Children's day
- Under 13 interhouse sportsmeet
- Sportsmeet for foundation (LKG & UKG)
- Prize day
- School anniversary
- Graduation (12th Grade Students)
- Interhouse quran competition
- Interhouse volley competition
- English week

Spaces in the school include:

- 2 staff rooms
- A computer lab
- A supervisor's room
- Toilets
- A prayer room
- A Library
- Labs (currently being used as classrooms)



PRESCHOOL

A preschool institute was built in 2002. However, due to lack of space, the classrooms were shifted to a new building, under the supervision of the island council. Currently teaching around 32 boys and 26 girls, the preschool runs with 4 staff members including an administrator, 2 teachers and a worker. Currently only baby nursery and nursery classes are taken.

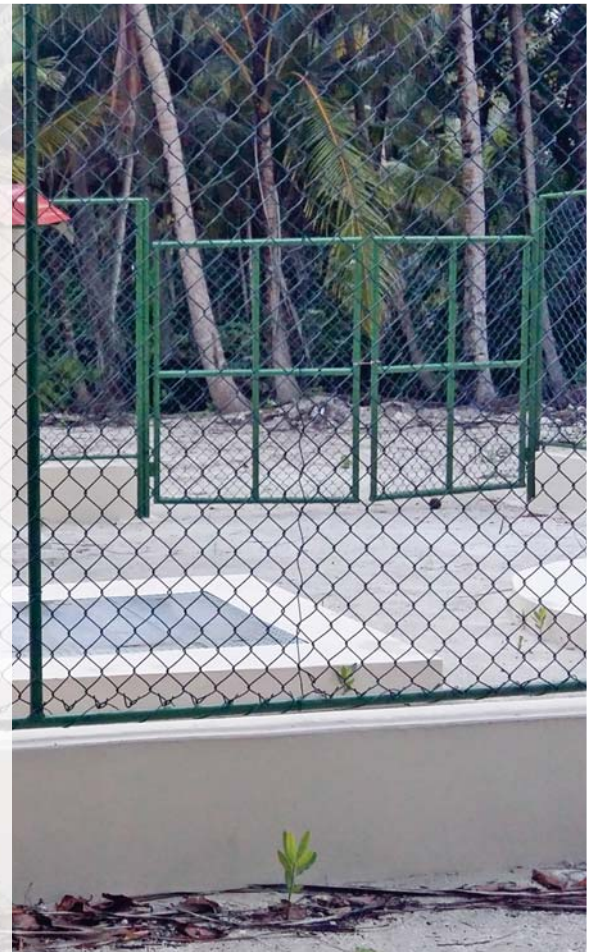
Main constraints faced by the preschool is lack of resources and finance problems. Future plans of the preschool includes introducing smart boards and more computers into classrooms.



SEWAGE SYSTEM

Present day sewage system is among one of the major issues faced by the people of this island. Currently septic tanks are being used by the islanders in every household. These tanks are emptied when they get full.

With the help of M.W.S.C, upgrading and installations of the sewage system are currently being carried out.



FENAKA

Fenaka corporation in R.Alifushi is a 100% government owned utility company which was established to provide the community with electricity, water, sewerage and waste management services. However, currently the service provided by the company is of electricity only. With the aid of two generators, electricity is supplied to every household in the island.

Currently, sewerage system works are being handled by M.W.S.C

Waste management is among one of the main issues facing the island. There is no eco-friendly and sustainable way to manage the waste in the island.



HEALTHCARE IN THE ISLAND

Before the institution of a health care center in 1999, healthcare works were carried out by the health worker in the main office of the island. Later it changed to a private clinic. With currently 32 staffs working together, one of the issues faced by the center is procuring medical supplies as it is done only via STO.

Services provided by the center include, treatment of common diseases and laboratory services.

In the center, only one ambulance is used for the transportation of the patients in emergency cases.

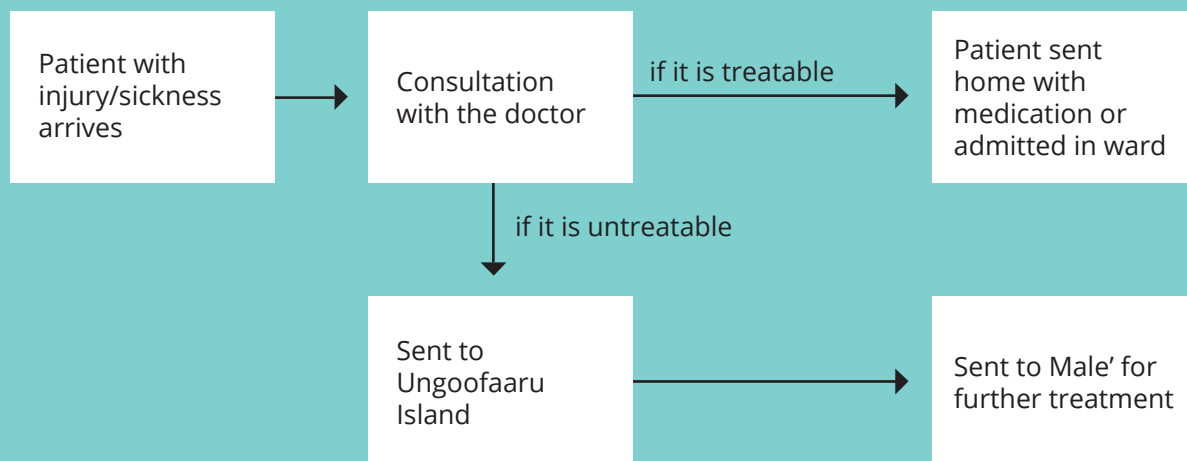
The center has future plans to expand the services provided and to find solutions for the current issues facing in the healthcare system of the island.

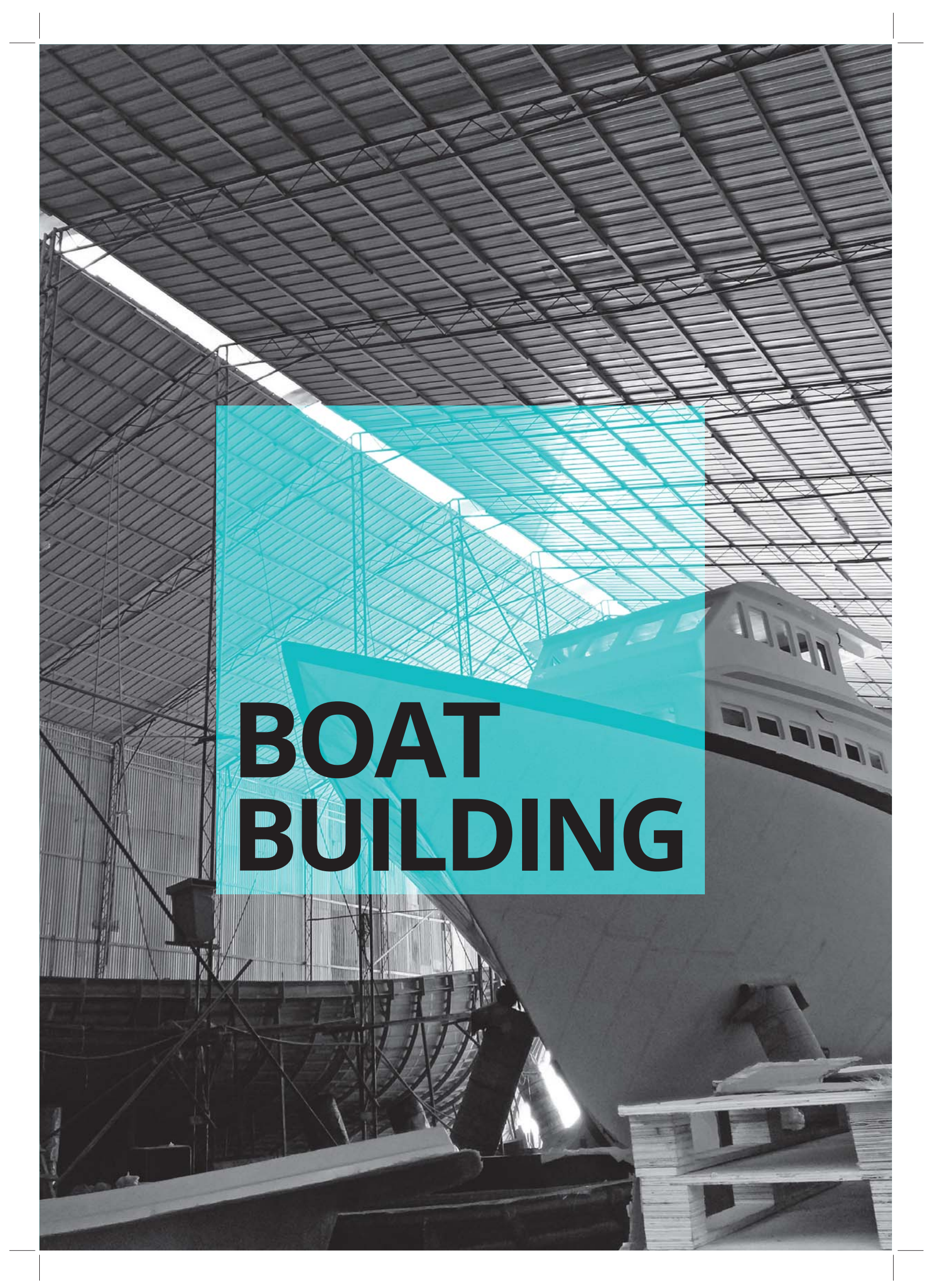
The working staffs of the center are as follow:

- 2 doctors
- 12 nurses
- 3 admin workers
- 2 drivers
- 4 receptionist
- 2 translators
- 5 janitor
- 1 laboratory technician & 1 watchman



The diagram below illustrates the healthcare process





BOAT BUILDING

BOATYARD

Boat building construction, commonly known as Kissaru Vadaan in the Maldives, is the Maldivian traditional way in which boats are constructed. The art of crafting the boats in such a way was invented decades ago in Maldives. It started as an occupation around 1982 in the island. This occupation did not become popular in the island until 1995-1997 with commencement of a building industry.

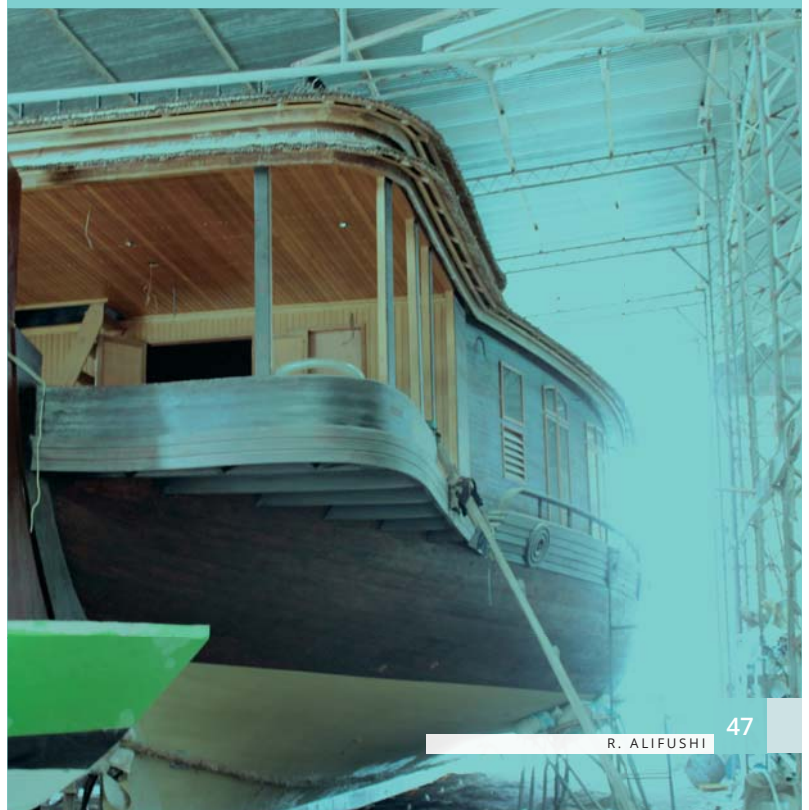
During the early days, the main material used to construct the boats were palm trees as timber, with it being readily available in the island. In order to craft these vessels no automatic tools were used and only handmade tools were used. With the introduction of new materials to build boats, the boat building industry in the Maldives took a turn to modernize their work method, by using automatic tools to work. Furthermore, more and more boats are being built using fiberglass. Regardless of the usage of these tools and materials the skills that are inherited from our forefathers brings the boats that we see in the Maldives water into existence.

The first type of boat constructed in the boat yards were "Mas Dhoani" fishing boats. Total of 12 boats can be built simultaneously in the boat yard. They used to built boats without any kind of drawing. The "Maavadi" or Head carpenter keeps the design of

the vessel in his head and with the help of some carpenters they finish the vessel. Now they are constructed by designing first and producing drawings to scale. Now the drawings are generated using AUTOCAD software application. Furthermore, 3D models are also made.

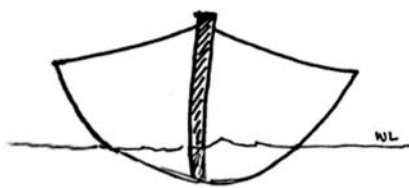
In February 2016, Go Get Maldives started managing the MMS boat yard. Previously it was owned by Mifco. During the time Mifco was in charge a total of 400 boats were built.

Boat building is a more reliable source of income for the inhabitants in the island. Due to this reason many of the upcoming youths choose boat building as their career. At the moment Alifushi has an academy which provides education in the field of boat building. Raa.Alifushi is famous for the skills of the carpenters and their craftsmanship.



CONCEPT

The shape of the dhoni or “Kissaru” is one of the most important parts of the vessel, as its shape should vary depending on the use of the vessel. The “Maavadi” knows how it should look like before starting to build the vessel.



“Kissaru” or Curve
(Ohnu Falhi Kissaru)



Thin Bandi Kissaru
(3 bends in the shape)



Kolhu Fas Kurun

“KISSARU”

“Kissaru”

Kissaru literally means curve in dhivehi. Some of these designs are inspired from organic shapes such as “a cross section of a leaf”.

- Dhigu thiyra fathah Banun (For fishing vessels)
- Gul champa fathah Banun (For fishing vessels)
- Maharah Banun (Vessels with sail)

The front is inspired from the shape of a leaf as they say, when its time to build the rear end they mirror the leaf to the other side to 180 degree.

TRADITIONAL MEASUREMENTS



Kolheh Thila

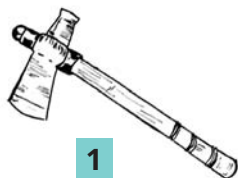


Muh

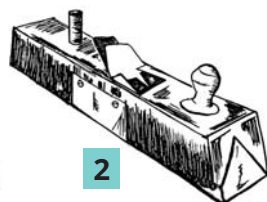


Angulu

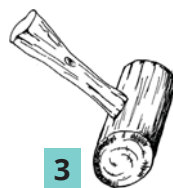
TRADITIONAL EQUIPMENTS



1



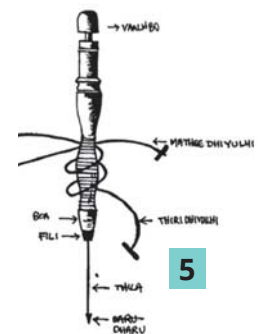
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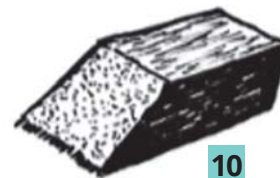
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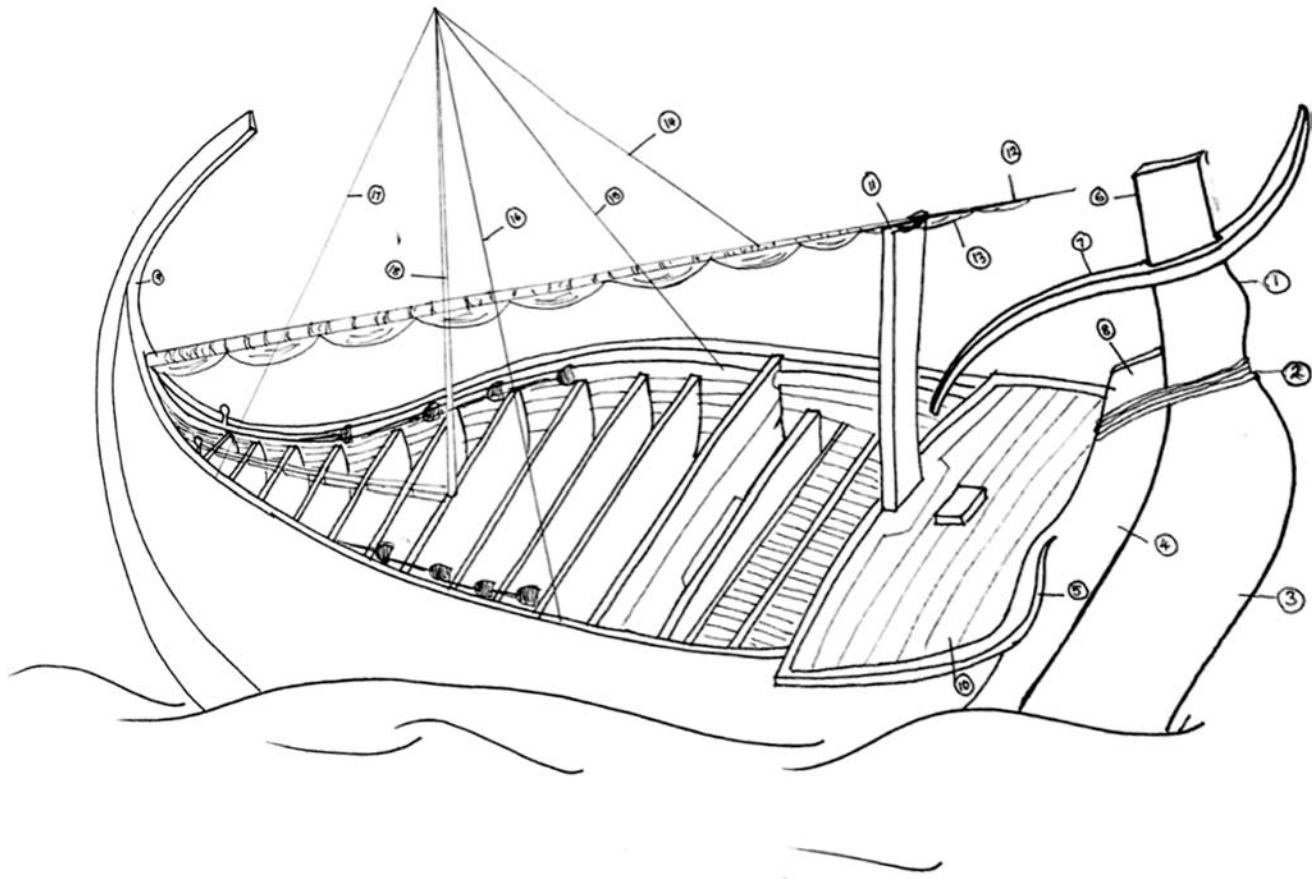
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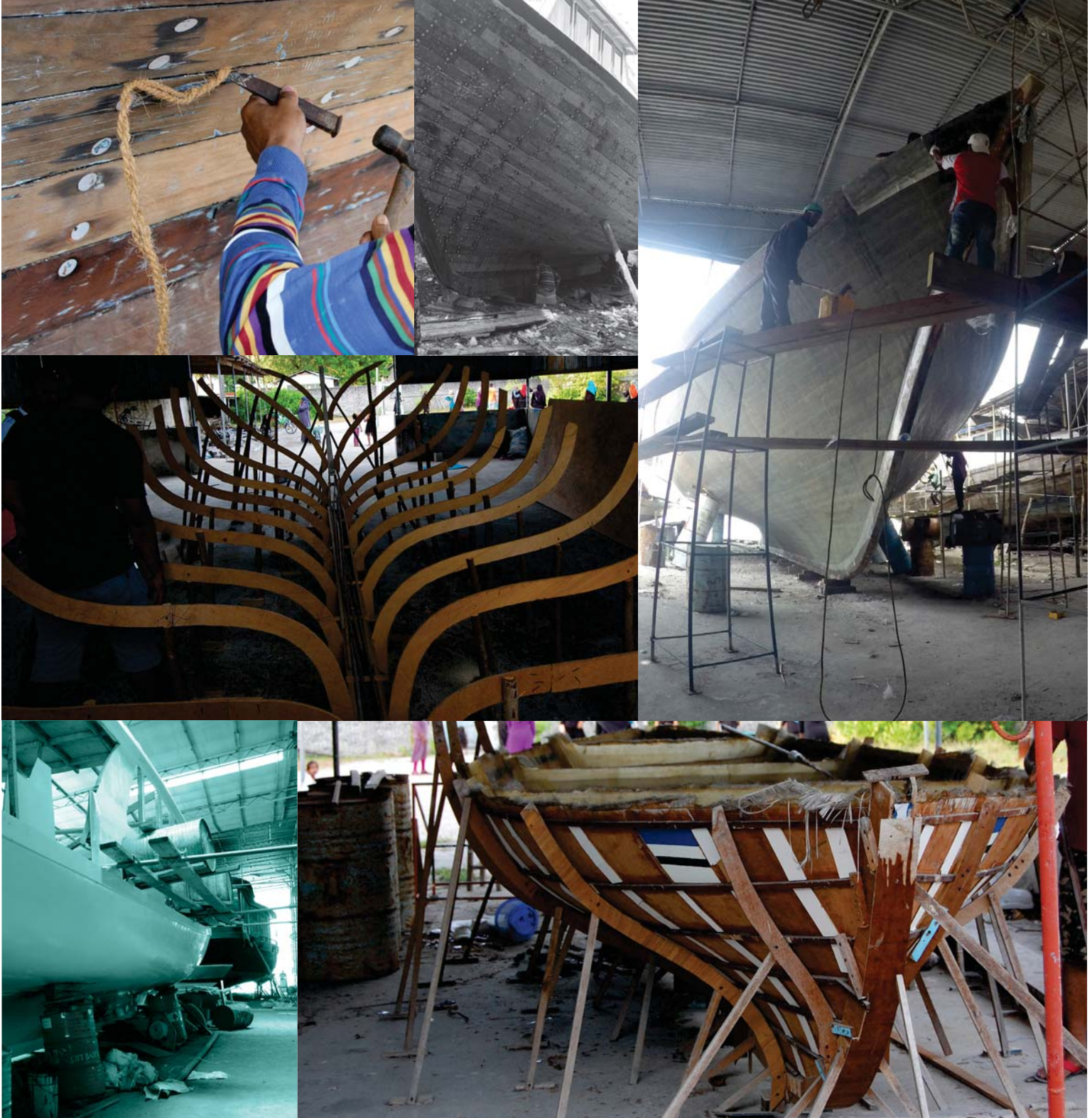
- 1- Furo 2- Ethi Gandu Rondha 3- Maa Muguri 4- Kalhi Hi 5- Fonu Mai 6- Dheli Uie
7- Dheli Umbu 8- Dheli Fihi 9- Vakaru Lafaa Dhathi 10- Bombi Kalhi hi

BOAT COMPONENTS



- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1. Rondu Kashi | 7. Hunganu Dhooni | 13. Riyaa |
| 2. Halhibain | 8. Kolhufahu Mulah | 14. Hanjaa |
| 3. Hungaanu | 9. Dhiruba Mulah | 15. Hanjaa |
| 4. KolhuFahu Mulah
Indhi Valhu | 10. Filaa Gandu | 16. Hanjaa |
| 5. Karu fila | 11. Kunbu Kafi | 17. Savaa |
| 6. Mathi Boa | 12. Dhihi | 18. Kubu |

BOATYARD PHOTOS





FUTURE PLANS

Several ideas have been planned out to improve the local resident's livelihood in different aspects. Few of these plans have already been set in motion while few are currently pending permits.

SPORTS ARENA

One of the distinguishing landmarks in the island was its football field, which served as a playground for more than one kind of sport. Currently an open ground with patches of tall grass scattered about around the area, it has been chosen for the island's largest vision of the future yet. Which is building a multi-sports complex on the grounds. With separate grounds for tennis, volleyball and especially football, which is to be built to the standards of the inhabitants.

WOMEN'S MOSQUE

The city council has no plans for renovating the women's mosque, mainly because there are no historical aspects seen in the mosque. This along with the fact that no one goes there for prayer anymore, makes the place a lesser priority than the men's mosque. The mens mosque is currently chosen for renovation.

OLD TOWN

Plans to renovate the oldest part of the island were always the top priority of the council. Due to the narrow spaces, plans to widen the roads and put more space between the currently congested buildings were discussed among the members of the council and the locals. The trust among locals are not as strong as they were back then. In addition to this, there are currently plans underway to install a proper sewerage system in the area with the aid of MWSC (Male water and sewerage company). Registry problems are also one of the issues of Old Town.

WASTE DISPOSAL

In order to avoid constant overfilling, desperate actions are taken, including throwing out all leftover waste from fish cutting into the ocean, while keeping all the metals in the site and burning all organic waste.

Plans to organize a way in which locals keep their organic, plastic and metal wastes separate have been thought through. This way, it would make it easier for sorting out the waste materials.

Furthermore, Ministry of Environment has taken action to bring a solution to this problem by contracting with a company to build a waste management centre this year.





R.Alifushi is a magazine which shows the islands rich cultural history, tradition and lifestyle. accordingly to the ever changing trends of time.

One of the few identifying attributes of the island is there craftsmanship in the boat building industry. Based on the studies conducted by the students of Faculty of Engineering Technology, Maldives National University, Semester 2, 2016.

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