The Republic of the Maldives

By Elizabeth Feller

Image 1

Location Recommendation for U.S. Embassy in Maldives

Image 2

Primary Location Recommendation

- The Northern region of Malé, co-locating with the British High Commission, is the optimal location for the new U.S. Embassy in the Maldives
- This recommendation is based on the area's proximity to government buildings, and the practicalities associated with Malé's dense urban environment where available land is limited (1)
- Building materials such as concrete, wood, and metal should be used for longevity
- Additionally, a potential contractor, with a background in building government offices, is AMIN Construction PVT LTD

Security Recommendations

- Security measures to mitigate risk from known ISIS-affiliated and al-Qa'ida terrorist cells, located in Addu City, must be implemented
- Climate change has increased risks from floods and tropical storms, requiring security measures such as emergency response plans for natural disasters and installing a flood protection system

1

Location & Infrastructure

- The Northern region of Malé, the capital of the Republic of the Maldives, is viable for an embassy because it's central to the President's Office, government buildings, and embassies (1)
- Malé is a densely populated city, with transportation options for the embassy staff
- A cost-effective option is co-locating the embassy in the British High Commission building
- AMIN Construction PVT LTD is a potential contractor, as the company has worked on numerous government projects (2)

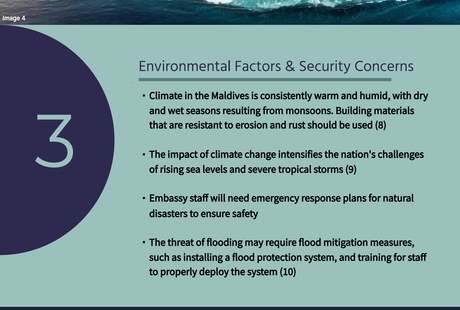

Image 3

2

Local Community Dynamics

- **An ISIS-affiliated cell, and an al-Qa'ida cell are located within Addu City (3)**
- **Pro-US communities in the Maldives are difficult to locate, but an American Center in Male, is tasked with educating youth on the United States, and teaching the English language (4)**
- **USAID has presence in the region, investing millions to provide resources that will help build and support democracy (5)**
- **Modern buildings are made from steel, glass, and concrete. Traditional building materials, often used outside urban areas, are coral stone and timber. Coral stone erodes fast, whereas concrete, metal, and wood hold up for long periods of time in the humid environment (6, 7)**

Image 4

3

Environmental Factors & Security Concerns

- **Climate in the Maldives is consistently warm and humid, with dry and wet seasons resulting from monsoons. Building materials that are resistant to erosion and rust should be used (8)**
- **The impact of climate change intensifies the nation's challenges of rising sea levels and severe tropical storms (9)**
- **Embassy staff will need emergency response plans for natural disasters to ensure safety**
- **The threat of flooding may require flood mitigation measures, such as installing a flood protection system, and training for staff to properly deploy the system (10)**

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Image 1: Sourced from https://www.state.gov/countries-areas/maldives/
Image 2: Atolls Of Maldives Map, Sourced from https://www.worldatlas.com/maps/maldives
Image 3: Sourced from https://www.budgetmaldives.com/maldives/maldives-capital/
Image 4: "Addu Atoll", by Aishath Naj, Sourced from https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/may/23/maldives-plan-to-reclaim-land-for-tourism-could-choke-the-ecosystem