

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND EIA CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR SAHL HASHEESH INTERNATIONAL RESORTS COMMUNITY (SHIRC), 2012



The Egyptian Resorts Company (ERC) is a touristic development company that owns the exclusive development rights to the Sahl Hasheesh International Resort City (SHIRC), on the Red Sea Coast, Egypt. The development project at SHIRC aimed at developing a fully integrated and comprehensive infrastructure network of utility services within the site, serving a range of individual sub-developers projects in Sahl Hasheesh. The project was divided into three phases, and the master plans of both phases I and II were carried out and received the approval of the Tourist Development Agency (TDA). Environics was contracted to carry out the EIA for SHIRC Phase III and develop its solid waste management strategy.

Environics designed the EIA to integrate the environmental and socioeconomic dimensions into the planning of the project, thereby comprising the following:

1. A Scoping Report that investigated the legal framework and status of the project, and collected and analyzed the available and required environmental baseline information. This baseline study covered the physical, biological, and socioeconomic environments, which entailed coastal and marine surveys as well as a full literature review. An internal document was produced to guide master planning and discuss the perceived environmental opportunities and constraints of the site.



2. A review of the Master Plan (MP) to ensure that the planning process considered environmental and socioeconomic aspects. To that end, Environics provided ERC with full and continuous technical environmental support during the planning process. Eight versions of the MP were reviewed and assessed environmentally and socially.

3. An EIA Report that documented the EIA process, including an assessment of the final MP, an analysis of the project's alternatives, an identification and assessment of potential environmental impacts, and a proposal of mitigation measures.

Environics also proposed an Environmental Management Plan (EMP), and prepared and submitted a comprehensive resource management plan and a waste management strategy. Based on systematic analysis and generation of alternatives, the strategy showed how the applied waste management practices could be improved to achieve resident welfare; cost effectiveness; environmental protection in terms of resource use and pollution control; job creation, and the desired positive image of the development project. To ensure the ease and practicality of the implementation of sound environmental measures, Environics provided ERC with environmental and solid waste management guidelines.



Environics conducted the EIA for this project as an integrated process that entailed exhaustive and comprehensive fieldwork, research, analyses, and reporting. Based on Environics's efforts, the project's MP was significantly improved to: exclude wadis and waterways that were subject to flashflood risks; apply a better landscape strategy by which local floral species were conserved; decrease the water bodies and leisure areas to better serve the sustainability of the investment both economically and environmentally, and prevent potentially harmful marine interventions of the investment.

