

North Bahrain - Creation of an archipelago of artificial islands

Maritime development works



Country

Bahrain

Client

Ministry of Housing

Date

2004-2008

Sogreah's services

- ▶ Preliminary studies
- ▶ Environmental impact assessment
- ▶ Project coordination and management (preliminary design, detailed design, tender documents, assistance with works contract)
- ▶ Supervision of works

Context

The Emirate of Bahrain has decided to create an archipelago of artificial islands covering a total of 690 ha on reclaimed land between 100 and 2000 m from the coast of northern Bahrain. This huge coastal development scheme is intended to increase the Emirate's housing capacity and create a new town of about 70 000 inhabitants. The maritime studies required to design this project were carried out by an integrated team of consultants including engineers, urban planners, architects and landscape designers, environmentalists and economists. Coordination was an essential feature from the feasibility studies

through to the definition of the Master Plan for the new town. The environmental aspects were particularly important, as the area in question is claimed by fishermen and part of the bed is covered with coral reefs.

Sogreah's services

These concerned the maritime development works, namely backfilling, dredging, coastal protection and beaches, and included:

- ◆ all preliminary studies (waves, currents, specifications for the measurement campaign),
- ◆ the environmental impact assessment,
- ◆ definition of the design criteria,
- ◆ the preliminary design,

- ◆ the detailed design,
- ◆ preparation of tender documents for the works,
- ◆ evaluation of bids and preparation of the works contract,
- ◆ supervision of works.

The islands are currently being built by hydraulic deposition of sand taken from the sea. The works were started at the beginning of 2006 and are being monitored on site by a team of specialists and technicians with support and regular technical verification by the engineers responsible for the studies based in France.

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