

St Helena International Airport; St Helena, South Atlantic  
*Client: UK Department for International Development*  
Faber Maunsell has been employed to provide environmental services for a proposed airport for the small island of St Helena in the south Atlantic. These include an EIA and Environmental Statement, an Environmental Management Plan and environmental supervision for the construction phase for works including access roads and an upgrade of St Helena's harbour facilities for the importation of construction materials.

The only feasible site for an airport in St Helena is an area of semi-desert habitat. The desert supports a range of indigenous and endemic insects, higher plants and lichens, and provides the ancestral habitat for St Helena's only remaining endemic bird, the wirebird, a species notified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN. The desert is part of the network of National Protected Areas in St Helena.

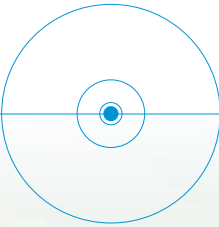
The airport buildings have been sited so as to largely avoid the most sensitive area. Advance works with respect to habitat restoration are ongoing with seed collection and propagation of endemic plants of the arid zone for habitat creation and landscaping works. Landscape design will seek to create sheltered desert terraces on new landforms on the edge of the runway. A control programme for alien predators will be put into effect by the airport operators to protect breeding wirebirds and coastal seabird colonies and access will be controlled in order to protect the sensitive desert ecosystem.

**About AECOM**  
AECOM is a global company providing professional, technical and management support services in the transportation, facilities and environmental markets.  
Through the combined efforts of 41,000 people, AECOM offers a unique blend of global reach, local knowledge, innovation and technical excellence that enhances and sustains the built, natural and social environment – and creates a better world in which to work and live.

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# Desert Ecology Services



“Our philosophy is to create memorable places for people today and tomorrow.”

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For 25 years, Gary has worked on a wide spectrum of projects all over the world, ecological survey and assessment, nature conservation management, habitat creation and site design. Recent desert experience includes: Qatar in Spring and the master planning of Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi.

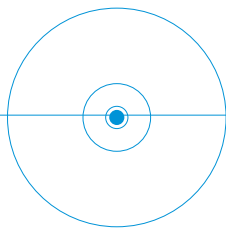
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With 30 years experience as an ecologist William has worked on a wide range of projects, including desert projects in Australia, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Oman and St Helena in the south Atlantic on behalf of both private and national authorities.



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Faber Maunsell and EDAW, two companies of the AECOM group, can provide senior ecologists with particular experience of project work in the arid and semi-arid regions of the world. Together with colleagues in other teams including environmental impact assessment, transportation, transportation planning, architecture, masterplanning, geo-environmental and coastal management, we can provide a full complement of services in support of development and resource management projects throughout the world.



Desert Biomes

Deserts are by definition lands which receive less than 250mm of rain per year. Large deserts typically have exposed soil and low vegetation. Organisms living in these areas show amazing adaptations for survival under the harsh environmental conditions. Deserts are mainly found in tropical areas, in both hemispheres. They occupy almost one quarter of the land surface and vary greatly in character, representing a fragile and valuable component of the earth's biodiversity.

Adjacent marine biomes are typically clean, clear-water ecosystems of sea-grass or coral with productive inshore fisheries. However, over-exploitation in many desert and semi-desert biomes is leading to habitat loss, pollution and resource depletion, compounded by climate change and resulting in loss of biological diversity.



Sustainable Use of Natural Assets

Finding the balance between man and nature is not always easy but this is the aspiration at the heart of both the work of EDAW and Faber Maunsell. It is with pride that we emphasise our ability to transform complex challenges and conflicts into opportunities.

Our specialist professionals in a diverse range of fields can provide a broad range of skills combined with the will to learn from individual sites. We respect local traditions, culture and heritage in seeking to protect and restore natural resources, to the benefit of local communities.

Because the most precious asset of any place is its local distinctiveness, the core of our planning and design work is the celebration of this sense of place. Long-term and sustainable solutions are our goal and our success is confirmed when we see designs mature into thriving places and exemplary and sustainable environments.

Why Choose Us?

Our clients benefit from an unparalleled knowledge and experience in development projects and the management of natural systems. We are ready to take up projects and challenges adopting a wide spectrum of approaches while embracing every aspect of sustainability throughout.

Ongoing projects:

Saadiyat Island; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Client: Tourism Development & Investment Company (TDIC)

EDAW is working closely with TDIC, Abu Dhabi's leading tourism development and investment company, to produce the master plan for Saadiyat, a new 2700 hectare signature urban quarter, to be built on a natural island directly adjacent to Abu Dhabi city. Saadiyat, will feature seven unique districts integrating high art, extraordinary waterfront resorts, regional corporate headquarters, extensive residential development, and a vibrant new marina district with a dynamic retail and commercial area.



Saadiyat Island  
Abu Dhabi

Saadiyat will be an example for the next generation of smart-growth planning in the Middle East. The island, will be home to around 150,000 residents and a working population in excess of 220,000.

Sustainability is a key feature of the design work; the EDAW master plan aims to restore most mangrove and beachfront eco-systems using native plants, mandate energy-efficient urban densities, introduce mass transport systems and education facilities, and provide housing for a broad range of income groups. The overall development of the island will be phased over 15 years, with the first phases becoming operational in 2012.

...finding balance between man and nature.



At the forefront of the latest thinking in development design, environmental protection and enhancement, our focused, cross-disciplinary and integrated teams ensure an efficient and coordinated approach which benefits from our experience in ecology, economics, resource management, urban design, master planning, sustainable development, architecture and landscape design.

Project Experience

Past projects undertaken include:

- Bahrain - EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) of aggregate extraction from the coastal zone, implications for terrestrial and marine ecology and coastal zone processes
- Bahrain - EIA of a power generation plant in the coastal zone, marine and terrestrial ecology
- Egypt - environmental and ecological policies for a Regional Plan
- Jordan - water pipeline EIA
- Oman - EIA and Hazard Assessment of operational oil pipelines and harbour operations for ISO 14001 registration

Education City; Doha, Qatar

Client: Qatar Foundation

EDAW is revising the masterplan and providing landscape architecture and planting advice for this important new university campus. The client has expressed the wish that native planting is used whenever possible in this project in order to promote local distinctiveness, conserve biodiversity and reduce water consumption. In common with most of the Gulf states, currently native plants are rarely used in new planting.

Ecologists at EDAW in London and desert specialists at EDAW's Phoenix office worked with colleagues at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to undertake fieldwork in Qatar and review the literature with a view to identifying native plants which have potential to be taken into cultivation. A planting list has been prepared and we are now working with local experts to collect native plant material and establish native plant nurseries.

