



**From before the first grain of sand was laid, through the reclamation stage and on to present day, Nakheel has conducted a wide range of studies, developed and implemented policies, guidelines and standards and taken appropriate actions to ensure that The Palm Jumeirah contributes positively to the environment.**

Whilst dredging does affect the sea bed, Nakheel aims to ensure that if any negative impact is made, it is only in the short-term. During the preliminary stages of planning, Nakheel engaged over 20 local, regional and international world class institutions and global authorities to conduct a range of detailed baseline investigations and prepare a comprehensive environmental impact assessment.

The objectives of these studies were to identify, assess and mitigate any potential damage, to enhance where possible the existing marine and terrestrial ecosystems, to simulate potential impacts that might arise post-completion, and to ensure that safe and healthy conditions are maintained for residents.

Prior to reclamation commencing, baseline surveys were conducted for the marine environment of both the proposed borrow area (where the sand is taken from) and the proposed reclamation site.

One example of how environmental impact assessments feed into the design process is the breakwater openings on The Palm Islands. Specialist water quality studies found that openings in the breakwater would provide the necessary water circulation to maintain a high standard of water quality within The Palm.

Ecosystem improvement through the application of acquired and researched technologies, selection of appropriate practices, implementation of strict guidelines and policies are key directives in corporate operations. Robust monitoring programs are in place to ensure compliance.

Continuous audits of contractors are carried out on a regular basis to ensure that all their practices are done with the utmost responsibility towards the environment.