

III.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Club Med Taba project aims to create a world class resort that will provide quality tourism and recreation services for both domestic and international tourists. The resort will cater for various sporting, entertainment and recreational activities. The project site is located about 14 km south of the Egyptian border, on the north-western coast of the Gulf of Aqaba. The total area of the site is 253,486.6 m², extending for about 900 m south-east of the coastal highway. The project will be built on the northern boundary of the existing Taba Heights Resort, which is owned by Orascom.

Sites several kilometres to the south of the project area are currently developed as resorts and have been operational for some time. Existing developments within the Taba Heights Resort, to the south of the proposed Club Med, and separated by hills, include hotels operated by Hyatt Regency, Sofitel, Casino & Beach Club, Marriott, and Inter-Continental.

The general layout of project master plan is shown in Figure 1. The figure presents the main components of the proposed project and their spatial relations. Some minor details of these components, however, might need to be changed as the development of final designs of the project progresses. It is not expected that such changes, if found necessary, will have no significant social/environmental implications.

The project total built up footprint area is 42,581.6 m², representing 16.8% of the total, allocated land area. The resort consists of 390 residential units (4 different sizes) spread over 9 zones of the south-western block of the site to accommodate the guests. Further northeast along the beach lies the main hotel building, with the reception, dining halls (there will be 3 other restaurants in the resort), courtyards, and a diving centre. The main building also includes the kitchens, an infirmary, a hotel operations/storage area with a car park; a pool to the south, a diving center and terraces to the east. At the northern extremity of the building lies the manager's home, as well as an area specifically designed for children's activities. The residential area and the main building are separated by the central wadi channel and will be linked by a wooden, pedestrian bridge. Further up the wadi's northern boundary will be a clubhouse surrounded by sporting areas (7 tennis courts, 1 small soccer pitch, 1 climbing wall, 3 squash courts, archery areas, and 2 badminton courts). The resort's staff lodging area and the sewage treatment plant lie in succession beyond the sports field, in the upper reaches of the wadi. The northeastern extremity of the resort will be a "Bedouin garden", which will consist in very light structures for a restaurant and landscaping elements. On the southwestern side of the wadi, opposite the staff building will be a maintenance building with 3 parking areas; a golf course will occupy the length of the wadi on the western side of the main road, opposite the sporting grounds and children's area, all the way down to the residential area. In addition the resort will include a spa/fitness building at the wadi delta's southernmost tip, a specialty restaurant on the opposite side of the shore line, and a jetty extending out from the main building. The latter two will be built above the rocky/sandy intertidal/subtidal area to provide a safe and environmentally sound access to suitable swimming areas or vantage points. The spa may require a little grading work as part of it will lie on a slope.

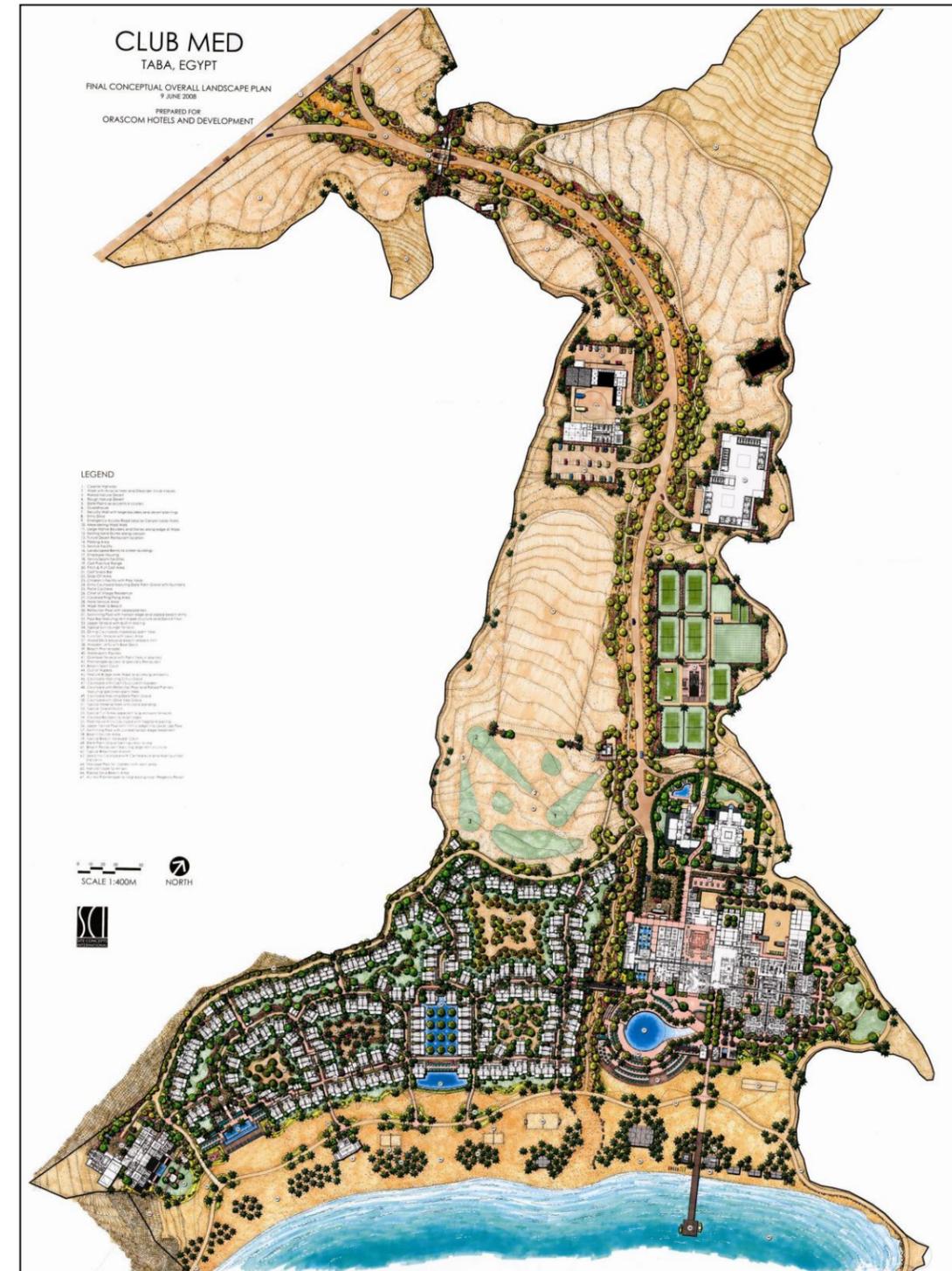


Figure 1 General layout of the project.