
Beachcomber reiterates its commitment to sustainable tourism

In line with Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels' commitment to promote responsible and sustainable tourism development, drinks have been served without a straw during a trial period, with a long term aim to remove non-biodegradable straws from the Group's hotels in Mauritius.

Plastic drinking straws are single-use and non-biodegradable. Being small and light, they are seldom recycled and have a negative impact on nature, including our oceans.

Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels is aware of the problem and has experienced serving the Beautiful Cocktail, its signature welcome drink, without a plastic straw to guests at Trou aux Biches Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa for a one-month trial period. The results proved conclusive and the hotel group aims to gradually extend the initiative to its other hotels in Mauritius to help reduce plastic waste pollution.

The NGO, *Ocean Conservancy* ranks plastic straws among the 5 most found litter items on European coasts. They not only contaminate sea water, but also pose a threat to animals. Various actions have been initiated worldwide to address this pollution. The first International No Straw Day was also celebrated on 3 February 2018 with the participation of over 35 countries.

Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels has a long-standing commitment to social and environmental responsibility. Various initiatives have already been introduced by the Group to preserve its human, natural and social capitals. This is reflected in a number of recognised certifications, such as the *EarthCheck* international sustainable tourism certification achieved by all Beachcomber Hotels in Mauritius and the Group's Head Office, Beachcomber House; the ISO 50001 energy management standard has also been successfully implemented at Beachcomber Catering.

Our commitment to reducing our environmental footprint reflects in the substantial decline in our energy and water consumption, as well as the amount of waste sent to landfill. Furthermore, over 2,000 indigenous trees have been planted on Le Morne Peninsula and over 80% of the lighting used in our hotels is of LED type.

On the social front, Paradis Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa has teamed up over the last months with the NGO, *Manzer Partazer* to recover unused food, which is offered to primary schoolchildren in the neighbouring village of Case Noyale. This initiative helps reduce food waste while providing quality food to needy children. After a 5-month trial period, a memorandum of understanding has been signed in December for a long-term collaboration.

The *PEJ* youth employability programme has trained more than 2,000 beneficiaries since inception in 2004. The products of some 55 craftworkers are also promoted through the *Local Beautiful Hands* programme. At hotels level, 23 activities organised by the regional committees of *Fondation Espoir Développement Beachcomber* (EDF) have reached some 575 people.

In addition, Beachcomber supports initiatives such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a personal development programme for young people. Our hotel guests also contribute to FED's social programmes through the Top FED initiative.

Training our Artisans is another important issue. Actions taken include an awareness campaign that is currently underway in our hotels with training sessions and the use of communication tools such as stickers to remind them of their "duties" as energy-accountable citizens.

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About Beachcomber

Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels is the pioneer and leader of the Mauritian tourism industry. Since the creation of Park Hotel in 1952, a collection of 9 resorts have emerged over the years, including the mythical Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury Mauritius in 1985, considered by everyone as the reference in hospitality for luxury holidays in Mauritius.

The Group recently expanded its collection, with the integration of the Beachcomber French Riviera, situated on the Côte d'Azur, in France.

The collection of 9 resorts affords a choice of accommodation options ranging from rooms and apartments to suites and villas. Each hotel is imbued with a particular history and cachet, embodying an image of discrete luxury.

Social responsibility – Fondation Espoir Développement (FED), by Beachcomber

Set up and financed by Beachcomber since 1999, with the participation of hotels and employees, this foundation takes care of these main projects:

- Projet Employabilité Jeunes (PEJ): professional insertion of school drop-outs through a training programme and industrial attachments.
- Collaboration with NGOs, schools and associations

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- Regional projects – youth mentoring: the “Amour et Espoir” NGO; IT initiation; youth monitoring via the “Duke of Edinburgh International Award” programme, participation of regional sports clubs in the organisation of the Beachcomber UTRB Trail 2015

Social responsibility – Local Hands

Programme launched in 2006 to support small local artisans by providing them with training and guidance as they embark upon the process of creation, production, marketing and sales.

Sustainable development – our environmental actions – EarthCheck label

Sustainable development and environmental protection constitute real considerations within the Group, which has set up, amongst other initiatives, practices that ensure energy savings and favour renewable energy sources. These initiatives in favour of sustainable development have been recognised and rewarded, with two of our hotels recently obtaining the EarthCheck Benchmarked Bronze accreditation for their ongoing commitment to environmentally responsible practices.