

Beachcomber takes action to address the MV Wakashio environmental disaster

Ecology and the environment are a priority concern for Beachcomber. The Mauritian hotel group is monitoring very closely the situation arising from the oil leak caused by the MV Wakashio, which ran aground at Pointe d'Esny off the south-east coast of the island on 25 July 2020. A massive mobilisation has enabled the preservation of all beaches on the island and maintaining Shandrani Beachcomber's lagoon intact.

Solidarity above all

Recognising the environmental disaster caused, Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels has collaborated fully with the relevant authorities from the day of the MV Wakashio shipwreck in order to minimise its impact on the lagoon.

In a spirit of solidarity, the Group's Artisans have engaged with the environmental experts to limit the pollution spread.

Beaches have been spared and Shandrani Beachcomber's lagoon preserved

The exceptional mobilisation of the Mauritian people and the work done by the experts have contributed to spare the island's beaches. Situated near the wreck site, Shandrani Beachcomber Resort & Spa was not affected by the spill. The beaches and Marine Park in Blue Bay are known for their exceptional fauna and flora. They have remained intact and have been preserved by the currents which carried the oil northward and the hard work expended by all the volunteers.

Amid the COVID-19 health crisis where the borders are still closed to tourists, Mauritius is being challenged with another disaster which can have a significant impact on the tourism sector and the economy at large.

Tourism is a pillar of the Mauritian economy and remains highly vulnerable to environmental disasters. Beachcomber fully understands this and since its inception, the hotel group has been striving to preserve the island's nature and beauty while consolidating its environmental approach through implementing best practices.

The Group has obtained EarthCheck Silver certification in 2019 for all its properties and drawn up an Environmental Charter with 52 commitments. It has also implemented the Safe Place certification building upon stringent cleanliness and hygiene standards to protect its guests and Artisans, but also to meet enhanced health, hygiene and safety expectations.

Press contact:

Communication Committee – Julie Hardy Koenig - jhkoenig@beachcomber.com

T (230) 601 9315

Beachcomber House, Botanical Garden Street, Curepipe 74213, Mauritius

ABOUT BEACHCOMBER

Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels is the pioneer and long-standing leader of the Mauritian tourism industry. Since the creation of Park Hotel in 1952, a collection of eight resorts have emerged over the years, including the mythical Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury Mauritius in 1985, which is widely recognised as the industry reference for luxury holidays on the island. The collection of eight resorts offers a choice of accommodation options ranging from rooms and apartments to suites and villas. Each hotel is imbued with its own history and character, embodying an image of discrete luxury.

Corporate Social Responsibility – Fondation Espoir Développement Beachcomber

Fondation Espoir Développement Beachcomber (FED) was established in 1999. Its three main social inclusion programmes are:

1) **Projet Employabilité Jeunes**

This programme offers hospitality training to young school drop-outs.

2) **Beautiful Local Hands**

This project provides assistance and support to local craft producers.

3) **Community projects**

FED has a decentralised structure with regional committees that implement projects reflecting local needs.

EarthCheck Certification

Sustainable development and environmental protection are tangible issues for the Group, which has implemented energy-saving and renewable energy-friendly practices, among others. All Beachcomber hotels have achieved the EarthCheck Benchmarked Silver status for their ongoing commitment to responsible environmental practices.