

Apiculture: Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels launches the Bee Sustainable programme

In keeping with its commitment to the environment, Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels has launched Bee Sustainable. This initiative aims at supporting sustainable beekeeping by installing hives in specific areas of hotel compounds. The programme was first introduced at Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury, and later extended to other hotels within the Group.

"This initiative is part of the Group's Sustainable Engagement Policy and Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels' 52 commitments to our planet," says the Group's Head of Quality Assurance, Jason Hardy. "It has the dual aim of contributing – through providing a habitat – to the conservation of bees, which play an essential role in the functioning of ecosystems as well as serving our guests with quality honey from our gardens. Beachcomber hotels have beautiful gardens harbouring a very diverse flora and largely composed of endemic species. The hives have also been installed in specific areas."

The Bee Sustainable project is implemented with the support of two beekeeping enthusiasts, Etienne de Senneville (Bee Works) and Christian Ritter (Laribeets). They assist the Beachcomber Group in setting up the hives and harvesting the honey.

The programme launched just a few months ago at Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury is a real success. There are currently five hives in the hotel's gardens, each producing an annual average of 12kg of honey, which is served at the breakfast buffet. "The nectar's raw multifloral characteristics are highly appreciated by our guests," says the Commercial Executive, Béatrice Descroizilles. The next step will be to pot and market the honey at the hotel's boutique.

The programme will be rolled out in all hotels of the Group. Conclusive trials have been conducted at Paradis Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa and Dinarobin Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa. The ultimate goal is to have a dozen beehives on Le Morne Peninsula. They will also be installed by late October at Mauricia Beachcomber Resort & Spa, Canonnier Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa, Victoria Beachcomber Resort & Spa and Trou aux Biches Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa.

The Bee Sustainable initiative also has a significant information and awareness component to highlight the importance of bees and the observed global population decline.

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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
- 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 all of our hotels recently obtaining the EarthCheck Benchmarked Silver accreditation for their ongoing commitment to environmentally responsible practices