

## **UTRB 2018: Running for a Cause**

Since 2015, the Ultra Trail Raidlight Beachcomber has attracted Mauritian and foreign runners with a love for nature through its tracks across the island's beautiful landscapes. Willing to help in the protection of the Mauritian biodiversity, the organisers of this year's Ultra Trail have decided to partner with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation. Indeed, Rs50 out of each registration fee of the UTRB will be redirected to the association, supporting their cause.

The MWF is the only association in Mauritius to focus exclusively on the protection and preservation of the country's endangered flora and fauna. According to Arianne Devienne Bellepeau, Leisure & Events Manager of Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels, "this initiative represents yet another of Beachcomber's efforts to help preserve Mauritius' biodiversity."

She also explains that "this is an opportunity for trail-runners to help MWF with its work to preserve biodiversity hotspots and areas of natural beauty, such as Ile aux Aigrettes. The islet's location next to Shandrani Beachcomber, where the UTRB village will be sited, encouraged us to support the MWF's excellent work."

The UTRB's four races are planned for July 28th and 29th this year. The races will consist of a 100 km, which will start at Paradis Beachcomber at 5am, as well as a 47 km, 25 km and 10 km. A great opportunity to combine fitness with supporting a good cause!

For more information about the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation's campaigns or to donate to the NGO directly, please visit the foundation's website at [www.mauritian-wildlife.org](http://www.mauritian-wildlife.org).

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