

Waldorf Astoria Seychelles Platte Island is enveloped by vibrant wildlife and marine ecosystems. Recognising the fragility of the island's ecosystems, the resort has implemented innovative processes and systems aimed at restoring and conserving its natural habitats. These initiatives encompass a range of practices designed to minimize environmental impact while maximising sustainability. Combined with five-star luxury, the resort offers an unparalleled guest experience which simultaneously safeguards the environment and fosters scientific research.

# Marine and Wildlife

Situated just over 130km South of Mahe, Platte island acts as a sanctuary for a rich variety of marine creatures; from migratory seabirds, baby sharks, rays, bottlenose and spinner dolphins and humpback whales - with mothers and calves seen from July to November during breeding season. Protected by its own lagoon, the waters alongside the island act as a nursery for juvenile marine life, including stingray, eagle ray, blacktip and lemon sharks. It is also home to one of the largest populations of Hawksbill and Green turtles in the Seychelles (estimated at over 700 individuals). Hawksbill turtles nest from September to March while Green turtles nest from January to September. Additionally, it is estimated that the island is surrounded by 11,274 ha / 113 km2 total seagrass habitat - approximately 8% of the total seagrass habitat in Seychelles. This equates to approximately 1.3 Million Tonnes Carbon absorbed yearly.

The island's unique environment attracts both resident and migratory bird species, including the world's only pure white terns and red tailed tropic birds, which can be observed during breeding season from October to July, along with brown noddy, lesser noddy, and lesser frigates.

# **Turtle Protection & Monitoring**

Platte island serves as a sanctuary and natural breeding ground for Hawksbill and Green Turtles. Through the ongoing monitoring of nesting activities of nesting females, tagging protocols, and translocating nests from unsafe to safer locations, the resort plays a pivotal role in safeguarding these critically endangered species.

### **Environmentally & Eco-Friendly Infrastructure**

The resort's infrastructure is designed with sustainability in mind, utilizing eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient technologies to minimize its carbon footprint. In a bid to facilitate sea turtle nesting, which takes place from September to March, all resort structures are strategically positioned at least 30 metres away from the high tide mark, safeguarding the beach from any potential light pollution.

### Waste Management

Comprehensive waste management systems are in place to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste generated by the resort, ensuring that minimal impact is made on the surrounding environment. Advanced recycling initiatives are in place to segregate, sort and process all recyclables on the island and food waste is used to generate compost which, in turn, is used as nourishment for the island kitchen garden, plant nursery and vegetation. Additionally, the resort has adopted a zero-plastic policy, this extends to the onsite glass bottling of drinking water.

### Solar Farm

The resort has equipped all its rooftops with solar panels, harnessing solar technology to produce clean energy across the property. With a total capacity of 2.5 megawatts, this solar farm stands as the largest in the Indian Ocean region. As a result, the resort is able to fulfil 95% of its operational energy needs solely through solar power.

# **Desalination & Water Conservation**

The resort has implemented advanced water recycling initiatives to ensure responsible water usage. This includes desalination of sea water to be used across operations as well as facilitating effective treatment and purification of water generated in the resort.

The desalination process begins with four boreholes drilled three meters deep into the sea, drawing seawater that's then pumped into storage tanks. From there, it undergoes filtration through four desalination filter systems before being stored in tanks holding up to one million litres. Subsequently, it's pumped through a booster pump and subjected to UV treatment, ensuring its quality for consumption across the resort. Once utilized, the water returns to our Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) where it undergoes thorough cleaning, rendering it suitable for purposes like irrigation, flushing toilets, and fire prevention.

No rainwater is deliberately harvested, this allows vegetation to naturally utilise rainwater, contributing to a sustainable ecosystem within the resort.

#### **Education & Research**

By balancing luxury with pioneering scientific research and environmental responsibility, the resort offers guests a truly immersive experience that promotes education whilst simultaneously celebrating and protecting the natural wonders of Platte Island. With a resident environmental manager and marine biologist, conservation efforts are integrated into every aspect of the resorts operations, placing it as a leader in sustainable and environmentally conscious tourism. The Discovery Center acts as a hub for educational activities and hands-on conservation efforts, providing guests with the opportunity to participate in initiatives such as coral gardening, marine life monitoring, and beach cleanups. Additionally, the kids club offers age appropriate, tailored programmes to actively engage and educate the younger generation in learning about the islands diverse ecosytems and the importance of wildlife conservation. Moreover, due to its unique ecosystems and diverse array of marine life, the resort is steadily becoming a site of academic interest and research. Actively hosting programs and partnering with local and international organisations and institutions to further understand the islands ecosystems and marine life. This includes, the Island Conservation Society, a local non-profit organisation who have implemented conservation initiatives aimed at ensuring the long-term preservation of Platte Island's natural environment; the Manta Trust for guest engagement in Manta Ray identification, the Wildlife Act for volunteer recruitment to support environmental programmes and research and Sheffield University for turtle research.

### **Mosquito Control Programme**

Working with a local Seychelles based company, the resort has implemented a mosquito control program that operates without the use of chemicals. Utilising mosquito traps equipped with eco-friendly attractants, including carbon dioxide produced through yeast and sugar fermentation, along with lactic acid that replicates human skin, the resort effectively manages mosquito populations in an environmentally conscious manner.