



II.
Preserving
Our Natural
Beauty



Preserving our natural *beauty*

Monitoring of Environmental Risks and Impacts

Tourism is at the nexus of the economy, environment and community. Our hospitality & leisure activities involve multiple interactions with the local ecosystems, invariably impacting them across our lifecycle, from construction to operations. We implement monitoring systems, based on strict methodologies, across the lifecycle of our activities to measure and address audible and visual pollution effectively. The process starts with commissioning an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for each project to ensure compliance with the requirements of Mauritian Law.

At Rogers Hospitality, we are committed to protecting and preserving biodiversity by responsibly managing our natural resources. To effectively achieve this objective, we collaborate with expert partners in the field and regularly commission the collection of scientific data to ensure the environmental, and socio-economic impacts of our activities and initiatives are measured, monitored and documented.

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***If you do not measure it,
you can't improve it.***

– *W.Edwards Demming*



Case Study: Monitoring & Mitigating the Risks

to our Coastlines

Rogers Hospitality is actively addressing the risks posed to coastlines and has established a management committee to take measures and implement strategies to mitigate their impact. In Mauritius, rising sea levels have exacerbated beach erosion, particularly in Bel Ombre. Through a collaboration of external scientific parties, a study has been conducted in the lagoon of Bel Ombre to assess the extent of beach erosion. Heritage Resorts came forward with the installation of three breakwaters and one groyne in 2017 to alleviate the effects of strong waves and currents on the coast.

The lagoon and breakwaters have been regularly monitored regularly for the past five years in partnership with Reef Conservation, Daymarine, and the University of Mauritius to assess the benefits and impacts of the structures. Ten artificial reefs have been added, and the restoration of marine biodiversity in the Bel Ombre Lagoon has observed the presence of up to 20 species of fish. Concerning the mitigation of beach erosion, increase of up to 5 meters of beach area in specific areas and the stabilization of the beach slope has been recorded. Additional initiatives are being planned to further enhance the coastal and marine environment.

The RHO Group is committed to constant monitoring and exploring additional solutions to better protect the coastline and natural resources based on available scientific data. The group actively engages with local communities to discuss partnerships and potential contentions to ensure the preservation of these important natural capital for future generations. Ultimately, by monitoring and mitigating risks to coastlines, hotels not only safeguard their own properties and guests but also contribute to the preservation of valuable public domain.





Educating against *single-use plastics*

We believe education is key to encourage the adoption of sustainable habits and behaviours. We actively participated and contributed to the awareness campaign 'Ensam Cont Plastik' launched with WERecycle to fight plastic pollution and reduce utilisation of single-use plastics.

Ensam cont Plastik is a community initiative. We seek to sensitize the communities around our hotels about the dangers of plastic pollution and the solutions available to recycle the plastic through our partner, We Recycle. The first campaign was launched at Veranda Pointe aux Biches and around 70 households have been reached; 77 kg of plastic was collected. The community members together with team members also conducted a beach clean up.



Yellow Submarine at *Heritage Awali*

The Yellow Submarine is an invitation for all children staying at the resorts to learn about the ocean ecosystem, marine ecosystem. It has been designed by the NGO Reef Conservation and offers children a fun and interactive way to learn.



Yellow submarine Edulab at Heritage Awali



Bis *Lamer*

Bis Lamer is a mobile marine education unit, which has seen the day with the collaboration of Reef Conservation and Rogers Group. Bis Lamer is regularly solicited in our business units and gives our team members the opportunity to learn more about the marine biodiversity which surrounds us.





Beach Clean-Up:

Preserving the natural state of our habitats

In its fight against the waste and plastic pollution endangering the beach and marine ecosystems, Rogers Hospitality participated in several clean-up initiatives to preserve the integrity and natural beauty of these habitats:

- 10 cleaning campaigns around Rogers Hospitality hotels = 2 tonnes wastes collected
- Collaboration with Odysseo Oceanarium and 22 volunteers from Veranda Pointe aux Biches for a beach clean-up and 50kg of waste was collected.



Protecting Local

Species & Habitats



Natural beauty and resources are key levers of attraction for the travellers' community.

Preserving this natural wealth is critical to building a sustainable tourism sector that serves the interest of visitors, local communities and future generations.

At Rogers Hospitality, we partner with experts to ensure that all development and infrastructural projects are designed around ecologically conserved spots, allowing us not only to blend in, but also to preserve and support nature.



Creating

a Buzzy



Bees are a critical part of our biodiversity, and as pollinators, directly contribute to our food security. To protect this essential species and support their role in our plant ecosystems, dedicated beekeeping training was delivered by Micael Lafrance to Veranda Paul & Virginie team members.



UNESCO Man & Biosphere
Label awarded to Maccabee-
Bel Ombre

**“
It combines the natural and
social sciences with a view to
improving human livelihoods
and safeguarding natural
and managed ecosystems,
thus promoting innovative
approaches to economic
development that are socially
and culturally appropriate
and environmentally
sustainable.**

Source: UNESCO.org

Bel Ombre :

Lamer. Later. Lavi

Bel Ombre, one of the most preserved areas of Mauritius, is also the territorial brand of Rogers Hospitality where consequential biodiversity conservation work are being undertaken. The UNESCO Man and Biosphere label recognizes the collaborative work done with local authorities such as National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS) and other stakeholders.

The operations of Rogers Hospitality, in the region of Bel Ombre are located in the transition zone of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere label. Rogers Hospitality has collaborated with the National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS) to obtain this label. The Bel Ombre Nature reserve covers an area of almost 3000 hectares and includes a range of ecosystems, from coastal areas to forests and wetlands. The reserve is home to a variety of plant and animal species including several endemic and endangered species. Bel Ombre Nature reserve promotes research, education, and awareness raising activities related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land use and the conservation of cultural heritage.

The territory of Bel Ombre embodies Rogers Group vision for what is a necessary route for our nation and for our species. The creation of the territorial brand of Bel Ombre - Lamer, Later, Lavi, responds to the objective of a clear and integrated roadmap with Bel Ombre as a reference as a sustainable tropical lifestyle destination for a better future. A sustainable future.





Sustainable Golf Management:

With 2500 hectares of land, the Heritage Golf Course is the sole 45-hole golf destination in the Indian Ocean region. Located in the UNESCO Man & Biosphere transition zone, the golf club is nestled in a preserved environment and has been operating sustainably since its establishment. The Golf commitment to sustainability is reflected in its use of responsible land management practices, which is aligned the objective to preserve the local ecosystem while providing a unique golfing experience for visitors.

One of the primary areas of focus at Heritage Golf Club is **responsible water management**. We recognize that golf courses can be water intensive, we therefore strive to use it as efficiently as possible. To achieve this, the golf course uses the 'seashore paspalum grass', a species that is both salt and drought resistant, thereby reducing its need for intensive water consumption. In addition, **a water-efficient irrigation schedule** has been devised such that irrigation is done only where it is needed and when it is needed. To reduce stress on water resources, potable water is not used for irrigation. Instead, treated wastewater from our operations and canal water is used for this purpose. The amount of water used for irrigation is carefully monitored.

Chemicals usage at the Heritage Golf Club is limited and controlled. To minimize the use of herbicides, the club adopts a **range of sustainable practices such as using coarse salt to eliminate certain weeds and manual weeding**. In addition, organic fertilizers are prioritized over other chemical products. We understand that the health of the nearby river is important to the local ecosystem and the community. To ensure that there are no chemicals runoff, the **water quality is regularly tested** by an independent third party both upstream and downstream.

The golf course landscaping promotes the local ecosystem; **over 5000 endemic trees and palms have been planted**, including the local Crinum in wetland areas. These plants have adapted to the local environment over time and are better suited to survive in the local climate, soil, and other conditions than non-native species.

The Heritage Golf Club's is committed to inclusive employment practices. The golf club mainly recruits and hires employees from the local vicinity, providing job opportunities to individuals within the community. A total of 51 employees are currently under employment, out of which 43 are from the region of Bel Ombre and neighboring villages.



Jacotet River:

Reforestation Program

Rogers Hospitality is engaged in the regeneration of a local forest cover at Jacotet River since 2021, by planting over 1000 endemic trees to support the growth and propagation of native flora along 1km of river.



Voluntary Marine

Conservation Area

Heritage resorts and neighbouring hotels recently signed an agreement to create a Voluntary Marine Conservation Area in Bel Ombre. The goal of this project is to protect marine life in the lagoon. This is the first agreement of its kind, where all signatories support the use of non-motorised boats in the lagoon to conserve biodiversity.





Raising Awareness

for Positive Impact

Effective storytelling creates awareness and motivates action as it impacts both the heart and mind.

We were proud to support two such heartfelt initiatives, produced to inspire, engage and leave an imprint on generations to come.

- #ZistwarNouLosean, a Global Youth Collective inspired by National Geographic Education and Adobe series 'Story Telling for Impact', which invites the youth from 8-25 years to tell impactful stories of our oceans without plastic pollution, using photography, video or digital graphics. The initiative is led by Danielle Zelin, a National Geographic educator and Prashant Mohesh, Nat Geo Young Explorer 2021 and was launched in March, in Mauritius and Rodrigues.
- 'Tomorrow, the Race is on', a documentary by produced by Prashant Mohesh focusing on marine ecosystem degradation and initiatives done by Veranda Resorts to protect the marine biodiversity in Mauritius.



Case Study: Coral Squad Program at Veranda Resorts (Sep-Nov 2021)

Raising awareness and sensitizing the younger generation from a very early onset on taking actions to prevent the degradation of our marine biodiversity by developing an 'explorer mindset'; this was the purpose of the Coral Squad Program, developed in collaboration with Danielle Zelin and Prashant Mohesh. Sustainability officers, based in the hotels, have been trained through the "Train the Trainer" program and the program was successfully delivered across 3 Veranda Resorts to kids aged 7-16 years, and provided them with hands on opportunity to explore, discover and learn about the local marine fauna and flora, from experts in the field.

33
Youngsters
sensitized through
Coral Squad

100%
Sustainability Officers
were trained on
The Coral Squad Program