



Fairmont ZIMBALI LODGE

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts' Green Partnership Program

In 1884, Fairmont Hotels & Resorts was founded on an enduring connection to the land and communities where we do business. In 1990, we proactively launched our industry-leading Green Partnership program, a comprehensive approach to reducing our impact on the environment. This commitment to minimizing our hotels' footprint on the planet is a key component of our operating philosophy, which is formalized in our Environmental Policy.

The Green Partnership allows Fairmont to meet and exceed guest expectations of operational sustainability and responsible tourism, because the environment isn't just something that's "out there"—it's where we live, work and play each day.

Fairmont's Green Partnership focuses on improvements in the areas of energy and water conservation, waste management, and innovative community outreach programs involving local groups and partnerships—please read below for this hotel's initiatives that operate under the Green Partnership program.

Leadership Through Innovative Programs

Eco-Meet: Fairmont's Eco-Meet program offers planners the opportunity to minimize the ecological footprint of meetings and events through the reduction of waste and conservation of valuable resources. The program can be tailored to the individual needs of the client through four key components—Eco-Accommodation, Eco-Cuisine, Eco-Service and Eco-Programming.

At The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge:

- Self guided/ guided walking trails through one of South Africa's last remaining coastal forest habitats. The Estate and Lodge grounds consist of approximately 60Ha of rehabilitated Coastal Forest. The walk begins at The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge and passes through "Holy Hill", aptly named during construction as a no-building zone earmarked as a conservation area.

Carbon Management Program: Fairmont has introduced an Energy and Carbon Management Program in support of our Climate Change Strategy, that allows us to monitor, track, and report on our progress toward achieving significant CO2 reductions at all of our locations worldwide. We also partner with like-minded companies who provide products and services that improve our operational efficiencies. These proactive steps will reduce carbon output and help mitigate the effects of global warming.

Greening our Greens: All Fairmont-managed golf courses are enrolled with Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuaries, an organization which sets guidelines for an international system of wildlife and environmental conservation. Through our participation, we have developed an extensive integrated management plan for ongoing improvements to our golf courses called “Greening Our Greens”. The program offers practical ways for our courses to make positive changes, while working toward the larger goal of achieving certification from Audubon International.

At The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge, grounds naturalization projects include:

- All planting was done in accordance with researched information supplied. Only those species which are both indigenous and endemic to the area were sourced. Great efforts have been placed on the removal of historically planted Gum Trees and other invaders, which deplete water availability to indigenous species, as well as out compete with respect to light, those species which are native to this geographical area.
- During the development phase of the golf course, the water minimization was of paramount concern. All water irrigation on the golf course is made available by means of “Grey Water” supply. Grey water consists predominantly of water emanating from basins, sinks, baths, etc. The water quality is suitable for use in irrigation, and contributes a tremendous saving to fresh water, and places less stress on the environment as a result
- The plant types chosen for planting at The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge during the development phase were sought for their ability to be self sufficient. Constituting 95% of the flora, these endemic species are less reliant on chemicals for sustenance and survival. This reduces the need to herbicides and pesticides.
- All wildlife in Zimbali Coastal Resort are managed and controlled. Regular Duiker, Bushbuck and other mammal counts are done in order to ensure that the eco-system is controlled, and at optimum efficiency. Regulations and controls on food availability and resources, are continually managed to ensure that the flora and fauna are both protected and well balanced

Green Cuisine: Fairmont is committed to purchasing local, organic, Fair Trade and sustainable food products wherever possible, including utilizing organic or biodynamic wines, local purveyors and on-site herb gardens.

At The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge:

- The introduction of waste recycling, vermicomposting (wormery) and a herb garden has provided The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge with incredible savings in the volume of waste and creates a complete recycling event. All disposed fresh leaves (vegetable and fruit produce), cardboards, eggshells and other unwanted items are placed in one of our two worm beds. The worms (Red Wigglers; *Eisenia foetida*), create both a liquid fertilizer and solid compost, which is in turn used to enrich the on-site herb garden which provides our kitchen with fresh herbs daily.
- Only sustainable marine species, locally caught, are sourced for the preparation of seafood at The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge. This has been done in the attempt to minimize the pressures placed on an ever growing list of endangered species in South Africa.

Waste Management

Paper, packaging and garbage are a reality of our lives, and of any business. Fairmont has consistently cut these side effects of our operations. While effective waste management comes with challenges, such as operating in communities without recycling facilities, we continue to reduce and divert waste and identify other eco-friendly opportunities.

Initiatives at The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge include:

- All waste is recycled on site at The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge. The different recyclable items (paper, cardboard, plastics, tins and many others), are carefully retracted from the general waste earmarked for landfill sites.
- Each room at The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge has reduced, by means of waste recycling, the volume of waste to landfill sites by between 55 and 60% each month since its inception in July 2008.
- A recycling bin in place
- All offices have paper bins to pre-sort all office paper

- Redistribution of disposable items has been greatly reduced; staff handouts, redistribution to local charities and projects, have further reduced the need to utilize landfill sites.
- Our pest management program includes only internal areas. There is zero impact on external flora and fauna
- E-Waste (i.e. unwanted computer equipment) is a major environmental hazard. The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge has partnered with one of only two regional landfill sites which contain a hazardous dumping facility. All legal transportation and disposal is done in accordance with National Environmental Regulations and safe disposal certificates are received for record purposes.
- A program is in place for the recycling of kitchen grease. Local bio-diesel suppliers purchase the used oil in order to manufacture bio-diesel, which is used to power tractors and other diesel powered farm machinery. Purchasing initiatives have largely reduced the volume of excess packaging material which ordinarily would have increased the volume of waste material generated on the property. Open boxes or crates delivered, instead of cling wrapped containers greatly reduced the volume of plastics used. Additionally, suppliers were requested to provide their B.E.E. (black economic empowerment) statuses in an attempt to promote nationwide compliance to supporting the empowerment of local upliftment.
- The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge is involved in a social upliftment program with Noah's Ark. Noah's Ark is a community based program Nationwide, which targets those children which are affected by H.I.V./ A.I.D.S. The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge has partnered with a local community initiative known as the Shaka's Head Ark. Unwanted cups, cutlery, bedding is redistributed to this Ark to sustain this very valuable initiative. Fund raising and assistance with maintenance and other needs is additionally provided for this project.

Energy and Water Conservation

To conserve energy and cut greenhouse gas emissions, Fairmont has introduced compact fluorescent light bulbs where possible. Most hotels now have water-efficient showerheads and tap aerators, and we continue to replace all toilets that have a flush capacity over 2 gallons (7.6 litres). Guests can do their part by choosing to participate in the towel and sheet exchange program offered at all Fairmont properties.

At The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge, energy and water conservation projects include:

- All light bulbs, where possible at The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge, have been retrofitted with energy saving light bulbs. An initiative to switch off unused offices, and guest room lights was implemented recently to reduce energy consumptions.
- Grey water re-use is used in the irrigation of the Golf Course
- All rainwater is directed into an on-site attenuation facility (dam) at The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge. This dam provides water for all water features and ponds.

Partnerships and Affiliations

Our affiliations highlight our commitment to the environment, and also help promote unique Fairmont eco-experiences. The growing number of partners and associations who share our vision include The World Heritage Alliance for Sustainable Tourism, WWF (Climate Savers Program), The International Tourism Partnership, The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, The United States Environmental Protection Agency (ENERGY STAR® program), The Hotel Association of Canada (Green Key Eco-Rating Program) and the National Geographic Society.

Local projects are tailored to address environmental issues specific to the hotel's location, and showcase each Fairmont's unique environmental strengths and connection to their community.

On a local level, The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge, partners include:

- Donations of goods/food etc to the local Noah Ark Project as well as a feeding scheme for an associated Ark in a neighbouring district (Groutville)
- The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge takes part in an annual clean up of the coastline parallel to the resort in the aim to minimize litter volumes.
- Purchasing of Local/Organic foods from locally sourced vendors

Awards & Accolades

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts' Green Partnership Program continues to be recognized by a number of international organizations including the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), *Ad Age* and *Strategy* magazines.

The Fairmont Zimbali Lodge has received the following certifications/ratings:

- Imvelo (F.E.D.H.A.S.A.)
Responsible Tourism: Finalist 2003/04
Responsible Tourism: Runner-up 2008
- Heritage Environmental Program
Gold Classification: 2003- 2008
- P.M.R. AFRICA
Growth and Development: Diamond 2004 - 2008

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Explore Fairmont's responsible tourism activities or request our *Green Partnership Guide* book at www.fairmont.com