

Vilamendhoo Island Resort and Spa

Sustainability Report 2017-2018

Introduction

Vilamendhoo Island Resort, surrounded by a beautiful lagoon, an excellent house reef and long stretches of white, sandy beach, is the only Resort of Vilamendhoo, South Ari Atoll. It is 900 meters long by 250 meters wide, about 55 acres.

Vilamendhoo being part of CCR, we adhere to the guidelines set out by the [corporate sustainability report](#). As such below are the areas which Vilamendhoo will strive to achieve so as to meet the corporate sustainability expectations.

Energy management

Vilamendhoo Energy saving in numbers

Target reduction : 60KWH per guest night (End of year average of 2014)

Actual EOY 2017 : 53KWH per guest night

Overall reduction : 11%

Target 2018 : 15% reduction on the baseline of 2014

We have been changing the lighting to LED and in purchasing new equipment looking for lower consumption equipment. Also we have been training the staff on the proper usage of the equipment.

Water management

Vilamendhoo water saving in numbers

Target reduction : 891 Litres per guest night (End of year average of 2014)

Actual EOY 2017 : 709 Litres per guest night

Overall reduction : 20%

Target 2018 : 22% reduction on the baseline of 2014

Water management have been a very key area of concern for us and we have been adjusting the flow rates, calibrating the equipment for optimum water usage. Also one huge area that we have been concentrating on, is the Laundry, where we have trained the staff on the best usage of the equipment to reduce the water and energy consumption.

Waste management

Vilamendhoo Waste reduction in numbers

Target reduction : 7.83 Kg per guest night (End of year average of 2015)

Actual EOY 2017 : 6.11 Kg per guest night

Overall reduction : 22%

Target 2018 : 25% reduction on the baseline of 2014

In purchasing, we are looking for less packaging, larger containers and also more recyclable packaging where packaging is absolutely necessary. In local fruit and vegetable purchases, we are packaging free. All of these are brought in on plastic crates which are taken back by them when they leave.

Chemical management

We have committed ourselves to purchasing environmentally friendly chemicals and thus we are buying all cleaning chemicals from Ecolab.

Also to note is that from 2017, we have stopped the purchase of R22 gas and have since started to replace it with r417a, which has a zero ozone depletion potential. Also we are recovering and re-using the R22 from the units to replenish the gas in the units.

We have replaced the use of fertilisers for the gardens by starting to use the green waste from our own gardens to make our own compost. This is done using the shredder installed and also the sludge from the Sewage treatment plant.

Environmental awareness

To achieve the sustainability goals, we had to make our staff more aware about the issues that we had on hand. To this end, a lot of the credit goes to the Training department for raising the awareness of the staff towards the matter. Till end of year 2017, we have conducted Environmental awareness training for a total of 208 staff, which is 50% percent of all staff. Target for 2018 is to get 65% of staff to attend this training.

We have also organised and conducted activities to mark special events like the world environment day, earth hour and world tourism day, etc. which are designed to sensitise the guests and staff towards our fragile environment.

Supporting local community

Vilamendhoo supports the local community in different ways. The biggest being employment. Of all our staff, over 60% are locals, and all have the opportunity to work their way up the ladder. This can be seen from the senior management team which is also comprised of a majority of locals.

Another way in which we support the local community is by purchasing the fish locally from the fishermen themselves. This cuts out the middlemen, and the fishermen are given the market price for their product. All our fish come from fishing boats from our neighbouring islands, and are fished using pole and line, which is one of the most sustainable fishing methods. The money as such this goes directly to the local fishermen from nearby islands.

Fish purchases, Total 2016: USD 191,798.56

Fish purchases, Total 2017: USD 199,591.73

Also all the hired boats used for excursions at Vilamendhoo are hired from the Neighbouring island of Dhangethi. There are in total 7 boats with their own crew. The amounts paid is exclusive of the diesel fuel, engine oil and all cleaning items are provided to them by us free of charge.

Boat hires, Total 2016: USD 355,335

Boat hires, Total 2017: USD 361,755

We also give away the coconut leaves that we are cutting off from the coconut trees to locals. They use this to make the traditional thatch roofing, which is a commodity bought by tourist resorts. We in turn buy thatch from them whenever required at the market price. We will continue to maintain this relations with the local community, and also try to find other areas in which we can get the participation of the local community.

Moving forward

We are constantly striving to find greener, better, more responsible and sustainable solutions / methods to implement in our daily operations. For this end, continuous monitoring is going to be done and areas of improvement are going to be identified. Our aim is to meet and / exceed, our corporate expectations expressed in the corporate sustainability policy and to make our resort a model for sustainability and in doing so, uphold the high regard that the CCR maintains as the most sustainable hotel management chain in the Maldives.