



# Commitment To Sustainability At The Palm River Hotel

The stunning 73-roomed Palm River Hotel sits on a sprawling tract of land on the shores of the great Zambezi River, only a few minutes' drive from the bustling Victoria Falls town center. Distinctive in its architectural design, and a perfect display of when manmade creativity comes together in perfect harmony with nature, a stay at one of Victoria Falls' most prolific addresses is sure to invoke relaxation and a profound appreciation of unsurpassed luxury in an idyllic setting.

**B**ut behind the charming hospitality on offer for guests at The Palm River Hotel, are operations that embrace sustainable practices and environmentally conscious initiatives where possible. The hotel is committed to protecting local wildlife and their habitats as well as preserving the rich cultural heritage of Victoria Falls. Its pledge towards a sustainable footprint includes energy saving via use of solar power and hydroelectricity, sustainable borehole water sourcing, waste reduction and an extensive recycling programme. Most recently the Palm River Hotel launched its Vegetable Plantation, where home-grown vegetables, fuelled by organic fertiliser produced on-site, will ensure a fresh, consistent, and self-sufficient supply for direct use within the hotel's restaurant.

## *A Genesis of Environment and Habitat Preservation*

During the hotel's construction, contracting teams found ways of minimising the destruction of the land and adapting where necessary to accommodate the changing water levels while, at the same time, preserving the many indigenous trees and natural wildlife habitats with which the property is blessed. Over 150 individual trees and shrubs were identified and carefully protected during the development of the hotel. The care taken to preserve the indigenous trees now allows wildlife and guests alike to enjoy the cooling shelter of dappled shade and natural habitats that pepper the hotel's lush gardens.

As an additional onsite activity for guests and nature lovers is the hotel's Indigenous Tree Walk. Guests may embark on a gentle meandering through the natural surrounds of the hotel grounds and identify the variety of indigenous trees that have been carefully marked with a discrete plaque and details of each individual species. From the buffalo-thorn tree to the crocodile bark tree, guests have much to discover with over 150 trees or shrubs to identify within the hotel grounds.

## *Energy Conservation*

The hotel is powered on a unique hybrid system combining hydroelectricity with solar power. The hydroelectricity is sourced from by Kariba Dam, located some 350 kilometres downstream of the Zambezi River. The hotel's hot water is powered by solar heated water tanks that heat-exchange with the air conditioning plants for maximum efficiency. There is an allowance for future

addition of a solar farm on the site to cater for the hotel's power needs; ensuring that the Palm River Hotel is truly a green entity.

## *Water Conservation*

With consideration for its surroundings, the Palm River Hotel water supply is made up of a large borehole system, designed to extract a sustainable water sources from deep within the ground. Furthermore, the ever-flowing waters of the Zambezi River, located alongside the hotel grounds, ensure the deep water sources always remain consistent. Water passes through a purification system before use throughout the hotel.

Guests are encouraged to utilise the hotel's water refill stations, placed within the hotel restaurant. The hotel is also equipped with a Natura Water Purification System



enabling the re-use and refilling of still and sparkling water for guests. The Natural Still or Sparkling water is served in reusable and sealed glass bottles to help minimise use of single-use plastic.

To further reduce wastage, the hotel also encourages guests to choose to re-use bath towels where possible, and to place towels on the floor when refreshing is required. As an optional initiative for guests, the initiative aims to minimise water wastage in daily laundry on all towels throughout the hotel.

### *Recycling and Waste Reduction*

Where possible, the hotel endeavours to reuse the amount of single-use plastic, plastic bottles and aluminium cans throughout. The hotel's Natural Water Purification System supplies safe and clean drinking water in glass bottles as a reusable and refillable water supply. The hotel's recycling efforts include a glass crushing machine to allow for re-use, while plastics, aluminium and paper are sorted into correct waste and passed on to the Victoria Falls Recycling Project for processing and re-use.

Recycling and waste reduction is also an important consideration beyond the Palm River Hotel, the hotel is often asked to provide packed lunches for guests' onwards travel, and when doing so the hotel ensures these requirements are met with biodegradable and recyclable packaging and cutlery.

### *Sustainability in food*

Sourcing local and seasonal products for the hotel's restaurant menu marks a shift to more sustainable food supply. All biodegradable waste matter is carefully sorted and placed into an on-site composting system, for organic breakdown and re-use as organic fertiliser for self-grown food products.

### *The Palm Vegetable Plantation*

As its latest endeavour towards better sustainability and self-sufficient food chain supply the Palm River Hotel has developed an on-site vegetable production plantation, consisting of a series of onsite greenhouses and herb troughs.



The hotel is blessed with rich soils that have been nourished by the waters of the Zambezi River, in addition to the supply of a consistent water source and a warm and sun-filled climate. Together, these factors enable an idyllic location in which to establish a productive on-site vegetable plantation.

Fertilized with the hotel's organic compost (also produced on site), the Vegetable Plantation enables the production of home-grown vegetables, herbs, and spices, for use as a fresh, consistent, and self-sufficient supply to the hotel's restaurant.

### *Palm Hospitality Group's Corporate social responsibility at the heart of operations*

#### **PALM HOSPITALITY GROUP (PHG) GREEN TEAM**

The Palm Hospitality Green (PHG) Green Team committee is made up of Palm River Hotel and Ilala Lodge Hotel staff members who are passionate about meaningful and practical solutions for more environmentally conscious practices. The PHG Green Team was first established 2019 at Ilala Lodge Hotel and has assisted with multiple corporate social responsibility projects over the years, these include but are not limited to:

#### **WASTE MANAGEMENT: GREENLINE AFRICA TRUST AND THE VICTORIA FALLS RECYCLING PROJECT.**

Among many achievements, the team proudly introduced a sustainable waste management initiative, presented to the Greenline Africa Trust and the Victoria Falls Recycling Project. This community initiative is made up of various events and projects that endeavour to better the future of green development within Victoria Falls.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION: MONTHLY CLEAN-UP & LITTER BIN INSTALLATION**

Every first Friday of the month, hotel staff take to the local town streets, carparks and public areas as part of a



community clean up. The teams collect litter and sweep these areas in a bid to maintain and preserve the wonderful tourist town of Victoria Falls.

With care for the wonderful natural habitats in Victoria Falls, the organisation takes great pride in ensuring that the surrounding national park is free from harmful litter. Not only does this aesthetically spoil natural surroundings, but litter can also be exceptionally harmful to the wildlife and birdlife that roam Victoria Falls. In a bid to combat the spread of littering and as part of the staff's community involvement, Palm Hospitality Group have installed over 20 steel litter bins throughout the town and within the pathways along the Victoria Falls Rainforest walk. The bins enable a safe place for guests to discard of litter, while also deterring

baboons and monkeys from foraging and tipping out items from the previous plastic bins.

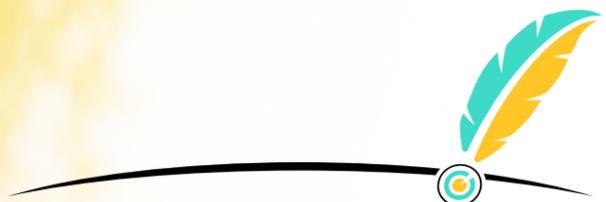
#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT: WITH THE HELP OF MUMMY'S ANGELS

The organisation also endeavours to supporting the wonderful and dynamic organisation, Mummy's Angels, as they make positive changes to the Maternity and Paediatric Art & Play therapy ward at Victoria Falls Hospital. Palm Hospitality Group has assisted with multiple donations over the years including truckloads of pre-used linen, curtains and mosquito nets, having been recently upon to support with donations of towels and bathmats which will be used for nappies, facecloths or donated to those in need.

#### WILDLIFE: VICTORIA FALLS ANTI-POACHING UNIT - GOLF DAY FUNDRAISER

Palm Hospitality Group also supports the Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit (VFAPU) - a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of local wildlife and natural resources in Victoria Falls. VFAPU tries to protect wildlife and habitats from poacher pressure (subsistence and commercial), rescues and rehabilitates animals injured by human interference and educates schools and communities on human and animal conflict.

The Palm River Hotel makes monthly donations towards the organisation as well as supports in major fundraiser events, such as annual golf days. Most recently, the hotel took part in a sponsored Golf fundraiser event which raised a record amount of US\$ 44, 290. Money raised from the event goes directly to the Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Units, dedicated to the pertinent conservation of wildlife within Victoria Falls. 🌿



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