

## **Southern Sun champions sustainable practices with Earth Month initiatives**

As we commemorate the close of Earth Month, Southern Sun's commitment to responsible utilisation of natural resources and waste reduction remains as strong as ever. Southern Sun hotels are managed with meticulous attention to environmental preservation, reflecting a dedication to long-term sustainability.

Central to our environmental management objectives is the promotion of awareness and education. Through strategic partnerships with organizations such as a two-decade partnership with Miss Earth South Africa, whose values resonate with ours, we effectively extend our reach to the broader community, amplifying our efforts through collaborative initiatives.

### **Making Earth Hour count**

Southern Sun hotels actively participated in Earth Hour by not only switching off all non-essential lights and other non-essential facilities, but through other initiatives. An impressive 22 Southern Sun hotels embraced Earth Hour through innovative approaches to environmental stewardship, exemplified by the following initiatives:

Embracing the charm of candlelight dinners in our hotel restaurants, fostering an ambiance of sustainability and elegance.

Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa proudly embraced the ethos of "local is lekker" with an off-grid South African dinner braai, infused with the distinctive Arabella flair.

Public spaces were illuminated by energy-efficient battery-operated LED lamps, supplemented by locally sourced sustainable candles where feasible.

Staff members were equipped with glow sticks to illuminate their duties, fostering an atmosphere of vibrancy and excitement.

Sun Square Cape Town Gardens hosted a family-friendly "glow in the dark" evening, featuring neon finger painting for children, a nostalgic write a letter station, ambient candlelight, and glow-in-the-dark face paint, fostering unforgettable memories while minimising environmental impact.

### **Making a difference on Earth Day**

In celebration of Earth Day on Monday, 22 April Southern Sun teams around the country mobilised volunteers in planned activities to benefit the environment in their immediate vicinity. Trees were planted at Southern Sun Hazyview and at Garden Court uLundi trees and food gardens which will supply the hotel kitchen were planted, Southern Sun The Marine is reducing their carbon footprint, one Spekboom at a time by planting a Spekboom garden at the entrance to the hotel. Multiple hotels tapped into the #planetvsplastics2024 theme for Earth Day this year which calls for a 60% reduction in the use of plastic by 2040 by participating in clean ups of beaches and other public areas in their area.

### **Year-round environmental awareness**

There are many on-going initiatives in place at all Southern Sun hotels which include water preservation, waste separation, Bokashi projects, biodegradable straws, LED light bulbs, gas stoves and recycling. As an illustration of Southern Sun's commitment, let's review the impactful results achieved by Garden Court uMhlanga. Since November 2023, this hotel has achieved remarkable environmental savings, including 13,781m<sup>3</sup> of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, conserving 97,123 litres of water, preserving 63 trees, saving 77,310kWh of energy, and recycling an impressive 77% of all waste. Plans are also underway to build a hydroponic garden on the property.

At Southern Sun The Cullinan the kitchen and housekeeping teams are collaborating in a joint vermiculture project involving a worm farm where the worms eat and digest the organic kitchen waste. Castings remain after digestion and the liquid, vermitea, is collected from the drip trays of the worm farm, vermitea. Both castings and the vermitea are used as an odourless fertilizer that is five times richer in nutrients than topsoil.

The initiatives implemented by our hotels reflect our dedication as Southern Africa's leading hospitality group to sustainability and inspire us to continue pioneering eco-conscious practices across our portfolio.



Caption: Cabana Beach Resort mobilised their team in support of a 60% reduction in the use of plastic by 2040 by participating in clean ups of beaches and other public areas.