



# 2020 TOP 100 GOOD PRACTICE STORY

**Title of the Story:** Tackling Waste Management on North Island

**Destination Name:** *(include any state, province or region)*

North Island, A Luxury Collection Resort

**Country:** Seychelles

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**Position:** Environment Manager

**Nomination Category:** *(Please check the boxes that indicate the focus of your story)*

- Culture & Communities
- Environment & Climate
- Nature & Ecotourism
- Islands & Seaside
- Immediate responses in dealing with the COVID -19
- Post COVID -19 recovery
- One of the 17 SDGs\* *(if yes, which one)* Click or tap to choose

\*The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The 17 SDGs are integrated—that is, they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. What are the Sustainable Development Goals? <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

For further information on Tourism for SDGs: <http://tourism4sdgs.org/>

Find detailed instructions for submitting good practices [here](#)



# DESCRIBE YOUR GOOD PRACTICE STORY

Address each aspect of your good practice story in the different sections being specific including relevant quantitative and qualitative information.

## Issues faced

Waste production and management has become an issue of global concern. It is estimated that approximately 5,25 trillion pieces of plastic debris are in the world's oceans. The world's coral reefs play a pivotal role in regulating ocean processes, and the abundance of plastic waste within these systems is threatening the existence of all oceanic species. Waste management in Small Island Nations is a large challenge, due to the isolated location of many islands and the shortage of effective recycling channels. North Island, A Luxury Collection Resort, understands its role within the Luxury Tourism Market as a leader in conservation and sustainability efforts and is committed to lead by example in the global fight against oceanic plastic debris. North Island has strived to minimize our impact on the environment and in line with this, the island has committed to reducing our waste production and ensuring that the waste produced on the island is dealt with in a responsible manner, utilizing every recycling mechanism within our reach.

## Methods, steps and tools applied

The first step in analysing North Island's role with regards to waste management was to fully understand firstly, what waste is produced on the island; and secondly, how to deal with that waste responsibly. North Island has always taken care to prioritize conservation and strives to run all its operations in the most environmentally friendly and sustainable ways as possible.

Even though North Island is a small (201ha) island within the Seychelles archipelago, we have become glaringly aware of the threats posed by ocean pollution. Plastic debris can be seen floating in the turquoise waters and washing onto the otherwise pristine beaches. Awareness of the problem, not only from an aesthetic point has been a pivotal point of North Island's methodology for tackling the problem. Taking advantage of Marriott International's strong training philosophy and through North Island's Training Department, a training program was created with both a theory and practical part. Each associate is required to attend the mandatory training twice per year. The training program covers the types of waste one would encounter on the island and goes through the process of how to separate and dispose of the waste in the correct way.

Understanding the waste produced on the island has also been an important part of the process. The island carefully identified the types of waste produced, and analysed the best methods for dealing with each type of waste. In order to ensure that waste is separated in the correct manner, North Island has many bin stations, both in the workplace and Associate Village, with bins that are signed and labelled to easily identify what waste items should be placed into each bin. The island has a dedicated waste removal team who are responsible for emptying and consolidating the waste types at a centralized waste storage site, and cleaning the bin stations. The storage of waste in a safe environment to allow for easy separation and to make sure that it does not have an adverse affect on the environment is important in any waste management plan. North Island stores all its general waste in a centralized area on the island known as The Poleyard. All recyclable waste that is collected from the bin stations across the island is stored in the respective recycling zones; namely Paper/Plastic, Glass, Metal. Wet waste generated in the kitchens is separated into Compost Material and waste for Incineration. These bins are clearly marked in the Kitchens and ensures an easy separation of the wastes. All Paper waste is burned together with meat/fish and dairy waste from the kitchens in an incinerator. Glass bottles are also crushed into fine powder,



*which allows for easier transport off the island and/or it is used as aggregate within cement. All the hazardous waste, namely batteries, chemicals and used oil are stored separately in a bunded area to prevent spillage into the environment.*

*The bin stations in the workplaces are arranged to ensure easy separation of waste in those areas. As an example, a separate bin for used batteries is placed in the Maintenance Workshop while bins for Compost Waste and Incinerator Waste are placed in the Kitchens.*

### Key success factors

*Understanding the problem and the limitations was a key component of North Island's goal of reducing waste production and dealing responsibly with the waste that was produced. Several mechanisms, working seamlessly together aided the island in pursuing our goal. The first was ensuring that there were practical and self-explanatory mechanisms in place to aid in the disposal of waste. The second was providing training opportunities to all associates to ensure that those waste disposal mechanisms were used correctly. Thirdly, the island needed to make use of all the Recycling streams available to us within the Seychelles; and lastly, the active support of the North Island Management team. This last component was the most important of the mechanisms as taking responsibility and leading by example communicated our goal to the island's associates who were eager to follow in the footsteps of our leaders.*

*What helped you tackle the issues? Click to add your text*

### Lessons learned

*Waste Separation, whether in the workplace or at home, needs to be a simple task. It is not something that is new to North Island, but has provided some challenges in the past. Through open discussions with the island's associates, we discovered that many of the adversions to the recycling process lay with the perceived difficulties of waste separation. The Seychelles as a whole has limited recycling opportunities where the vast majority of households and buisenesses are not required to recycyle their waste, thereby placing the responsibility of waste separation on waste collection companies instead of individuals.*

*Through improved training programs and awareness raising initiatives, we have been able to demonstrate that each individual, both guests and associates, can play a role in reducing, re-using and recycling waste. In this line, it has been very clear that a small change can have a big impact in the long run and that the responsibility of protecting our oceans and all its diversity can be shared by us all.*

*While implementing the Good Practice what challenges were faced, and how were they overcome? Click to add your text*

### Results, achievements and recognitions



What were the qualitative and quantitative results of the good practice? Has it received any rewards?  
Click to add your text

North Island has received several awards over the last five years as a result of its commitment to conservation and sustainable practices; 2018 African Responsible Tourism Awards (Best for Aquatic Species & Habitat Conservation); 2017 National Geographic World Legacy Awards (Conserving the Natural World); 2016 Energy Globe Award for Seychelles; and the 2015 Silver World Responsible Tourism Award.

Plastic waste is sent to Mahe where it is put in landfill due to a lack of plastic recycling streams within the Seychelles. As this is not a sustainable or responsible method of dealing with plastics, and because of its slow degradation (hundreds of thousands of years), the island has been working towards removing single use plastic from its operations. North Island banned plastic straws and is in the process of reducing the use of other single-use plastic goods. For example, the island only uses eco-friendly compostable food containers for activities around the island. Guests receive a glass straw as a small gift on arrival to use during their stay, which they can take home to extend the impact of minimizing the use of single-use plastic beyond North Island. North Island no longer uses plastic water bottles, but now only uses glass water bottles around the island. Furthermore, guests (and associates) receive aluminium water bottles to use during their stay. In keeping North Island's private beaches perfectly pristine, resident Environmentalists and eco-tourist volunteers collect and record all waste debris that is found on the beach while searching for nesting sea turtles. All the collected beach waste is then weighed and entered onto an online database. From the period of April to July 2020, North Island has collected > 350kg of plastic pollution from its beaches. The island is committed to removing beach pollution to ensure it enters the proper recycling channels thereby safeguarding the beaches as important nesting grounds for sea turtles. North Island's beach protection over the last two decades has safeguarded the nesting sites of critically-endangered Hawksbills and endangered Green Turtles which has seen a remarkable increase in the number of turtles utilising the island.

#### Additional references

*Provide links to further information. Pictures and videos should be available for download either from Youtube, Vimeo or other Cloud-based (Google/ One Drive) download URL.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cst83YiA9As>

