

# SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER



# Sustainability Charter

At Bel Ombre Nature Reserve, we are committed together with the Rogers group to work with our community to make Bel Ombre a leader in sustainable living and agri-tourism practices. Our purpose is to ensure that nature flourishes and people thrive – both the local communities and international visitors.

## Thriving Nature: Preserve the region and fight climate change



### We foster biodiversity:

- Raise awareness with our team and our customers about the **UNESCO Biosphere**, the last remnant of the island's endemic vegetation and ongoing conservation efforts.
- Educate our visitors on the different types of vegetation found at **Frédérica** and **l'Abattis des Cipayes** and how each is important. We also share our plans to re-introduce endemic plants in those areas.
- Organize yearly a Plant-A-Tree day, under the guidance of the National Forestry service. We invite children from nearby schools to participate and learn about the importance of preserving biodiversity.
- Support the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation in their conservation efforts for the setting up of breeding stations for endangered species.

### We track and reduce our carbon footprint:

- Monitor our energy consumption at the Welcome Centre and at the Enba Pié snack.
- Our staff are made aware of the importance of switching off lights when not in use.
- We fully adhere to green building practices that make optimal use of natural ventilation. The Enba Pié snack makes maximum use of the shade provided by the century *Ficus microcarpa* (*Arbre de L'Intendance*) under which it is located.
- We recruit team members mainly from the region.

### We encourage the development of a circular economy through:

- Plastic water bottles and single-use plastic have been banned in our operations.
- We adopt the principle of Reduce Waste, Recycling and Upcycling. For example, our guard rails are made from guava branches that are cut down as part of regular campaigns for removal of invasive species. We have also transformed an old bicycle wheel to a chandelier.

## Thriving economy: Co-create a safe and vibrant destination with and for our community



### We encourage Inclusive Development to reduce poverty:

- Recruit employees from the region to create jobs for the community.
- Internships are provided to the youth of the region studying at the various hotels and tourism schools.
- We have a plan to train and recruit our first lady-guide; this will be a first for the activities we provide. By doing this, we shall send a strong message that we believe in equal opportunities for all.

## Thriving Culture: Celebrate the Mauritian way of life



### We celebrate the Mauritian culture – its history, its people and the sense of place of Bel Ombre. We are proud of showing the uniqueness of Bel Ombre to the world:

- The Bay2Bay tour invites to discover the south, its local culture and rich history. It ensures that historical events and places live on in the minds of younger generations – both the team members but also with visitors.
- We are engaged in the preservation and safeguard of historical sites such as Jacotet River and Place du Moulin.
- We support the local economy by purchasing produce from local farmers and by sourcing landscape maintenance services from local independent workers.