




TOPHOTELNEWS Influencer: Climate emergency & biodiversity collapse – 5 hotels lead the way with sustainable changes

by Willy Legrand | 27 Nov 2019 | Experts

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#Sustainability expert Prof Dr Legrand highlights five hotel brands and their dedication to green operations. Check them out for inspiration! 

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Chumbe Island's breath-taking landscape and pristine waters. (Photo: Peter Bennet)

Since sustainability covers the environmental, social and economic pillars, it is difficult to settle for a few examples of best practices in the hotel sector. Prof. Dr. Willy Legrand brings us the 5 hotel brands that do sustainability best.

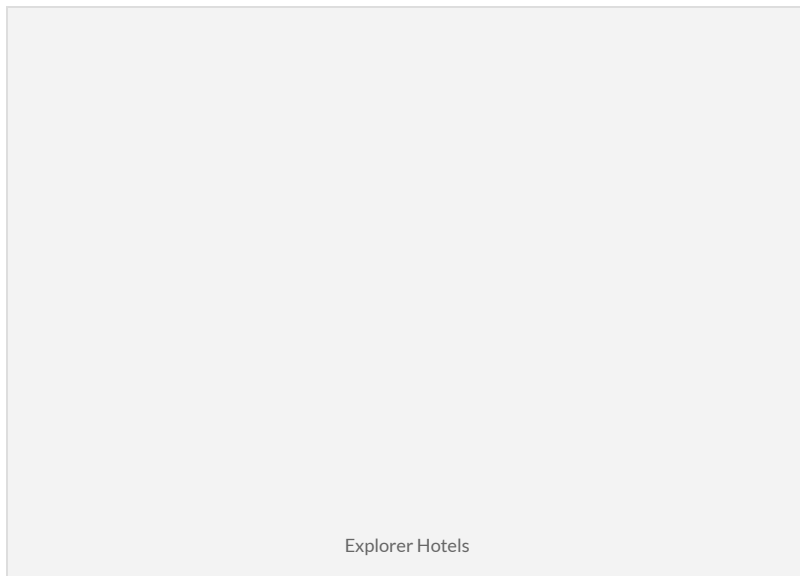
Many players are pushing the boundaries of what and how a sustainable hotel should be.

Large hotel operators are scaling up initiatives to thousands of properties across the globe (think: **Marriott**, **InterContinental Hotels** and **Hyatt** removing plastic toiletries and bottles) and every small change in operating procedure has a relatively large impact when implemented across a global chain.

However, when exploring strategies of how to develop and manage operations in line with ambitious climate goals (e.g. the Paris Agreement) or have a net positive impact on their surroundings (e.g. biodiversity preservation), the list of best practices shortens greatly.

Some dedicated entrepreneurs have made sustainability an integral part of their business venture. The hotel brands below have been selected for their endeavours towards mitigating impacts in times of climate emergency and biodiversity collapse.

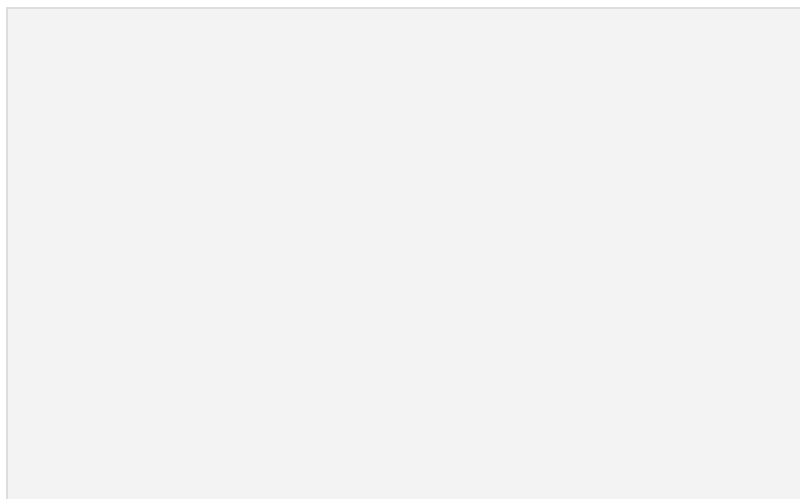
The Explorer Hotel Group



With nine hotels in mountainous regions of southern Germany and Austria, the **Explorer Hotel Group**'s operation is entirely carbon neutral. It is based on a combination of certified passive house concepts and renewable energy production.

The buildings are highly insulated and extremely energy efficient which results in a 70% decrease in energy consumption. The surplus energy produced by photovoltaic panels is fed into the grid and sold to energy providers during the high season. Over the course of a year, this results in a slight net positive energy balance. 40 hotels are planned to open by 2027 – all will be carbon neutral.

The Boutiquehotel Stadthalle in Vienna, Austria



Boutiquehotel Stadthalle

Carbon neutrality is also possible within an urban setting: The **Boutiquehotel Stadthalle in Vienna** was Europe's first zero-energy balance hotel. It also uses the passive house approach combined with renewable energy and hot water production.

The property offers an organic breakfast with zero packaging, upcycled furniture in public spaces and the rooms and a rooftop with a lavender garden and beehives. The hotel has also integrated the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into its operations.

Inkaterra, Peru

Inkaterra

Inkaterra is a pioneer in combining hospitality services, nature conservation, education and local community involvement. Inkaterra's scientific initiatives and studies have helped uncover an abundant number of birds, butterflies, ants and mammal species.

The group is committed to mitigating the effect of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest through the preservation of more than 10,000 hectares of virgin rainforest allowing for carbon sequestration. All seven properties contribute to biodiversity inventories in their surrounding areas.

Chumbe Island Coral Park Ltd. (CHICOP)

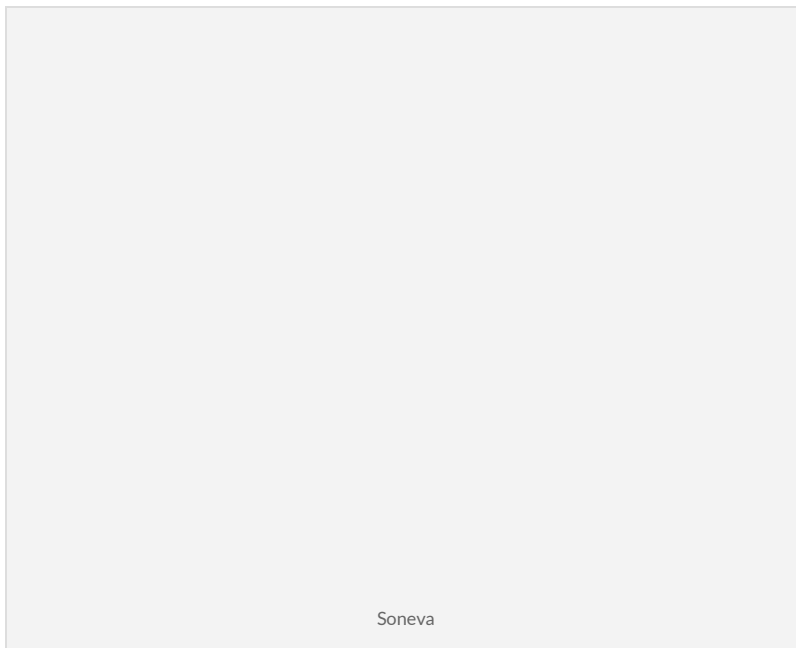
Chumbe Island Coral Park Ltd. Photo by: Peter Bennet

Chumbe Island Coral Park Ltd. (CHICOP) is a not-for-profit private nature reserve developed for the conservation and sustainable management of Chumbe Island off Zanzibar. 90% of it are covered by an undisturbed tropical dry forest with a 'reserve' status.

Similar to Inkaterra, CHICOP tourism income supports conservation, research and environmental education programs for local schools. The seven bungalows are designed and operated to have a near zero-impact. Initiatives include rainwater harvesting, renewable energy production via photovoltaic panels, solar water heating, composting toilets and greywater filtration systems.

The nearby 55-hectare Coral Reef Sanctuary is also protected and represents one of the most beautiful and diverse shallow reefs in the region.

Soneva



Soneva's hotels are in pristine locations where a mandatory environmental levy is added to guests' bills to raise funds to offset travel emissions. Soneva has invested in its own photovoltaic systems, carbon mitigation projects, funding windmill installations, tree planting and efficient energy supply for stoves.

The company replaced plastic water bottles with reusable glass bottles filled with their own filtered water a decade ago and measures carbon emissions in three 'scopes' as classified by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

Scope one: direct emissions from the hotels such as fuel combustion for on-resort energy production.

Scope two: indirect emissions from purchased electricity consumed by the hotels

Scope three: other indirect emissions from outsourced activities, such as the emissions from food procurement and guests' travel.

Scope three emissions are usually the largest portion of a hotel's total carbon footprint but rarely assessed and measured. In Soneva's case, indirect emissions accounted for 81% of a total of 60.377 tonnes for 2018. All emissions are offset.

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Dr. Legrand is also the Guest Chief Editor of the Hotel Yearbook Special Edition
Sustainable Hospitality 2020.



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