THE Sands KENYA

Thinking Green.

A CONSERVATION JOURNAL

Our Vision

We envision a coastline where nature is not only admired, but deeply respected. Where ancient forests remain untouched by time, where sea turtles return to safe shores, and where coral gardens bloom quietly beneath the waves.

Our vision is one of balance. A harmony between barefoot luxury and ecological responsibility. Between the comfort we offer our guests and the care we show the land.

We believe conservation is not about control. It is about protection, patience, and presence. It is the decision to plant trees whose shade we may never sit under. To preserve habitats not for today, but for generations yet to come.

At The Sands Kenya, we walk forward with purpose. Guided by nature, grounded in community, and committed to creating spaces where wild beauty can thrive.

This is our vision. And it begins with every thoughtful step we take.

Introduction

At The Sands Kenya, conservation is not a programme or a promise. It is a way of being.

From untouched forests to living reefs, we are surrounded by beauty that cannot be replicated. Protecting it is not only our responsibility. It is our privilege.

Across each of our properties, we honour the natural world through quiet acts of care. We protect fragile ecosystems, support threatened species, and create space for nature to thrive alongside people. Every guest who visits, every child who learns, every team member who acts with intention becomes part of this living story.

This journal is an invitation. To look more closely. To walk more gently. And to discover how conservation is not something we talk about, but something we live.

Welcome to The Sands Kenya Conservation.

Where We Work

From the island forests of Chale to the coral-fringed shallows of Diani, The Sands Kenya is more than a collection of properties. It is a network of living, breathing spaces where hospitality and conservation move as one.

Across each of our locations- Nomad Beach Resort, Chale Island Resort, Nomad Beach Bar and Restaurant, Diving the Crab, and Nomad Private Villas, you will find the same quiet commitment to place. A shared philosophy rooted in care, balance, and the belief that true luxury is found in the preservation of wild beauty.

Whether it is a refillable glass bottle at the beach bar, a dive guided by reef-safe principles, a shaded trail through indigenous forest, or a private villa designed with minimal impact, each detail is part of a larger promise. We do not segment our sustainability efforts. We live them. Everywhere.

Together, these properties form a coastal sanctuary. One that welcomes guests not only to relax, but to connect with the land, the sea, and the rhythms of nature that surround them.

This is where we work. And it is where our purpose takes shape, one thoughtful step at a time.

Guardians of the Sea

Coral Restoration

Beneath the surface, a quiet recovery has begun.

In the warm shallows surrounding Chale Island, fragments of coral have been gathered from the reef and carefully replanted in underwater nurseries. These small beginnings, launched in November 2024, are part of a long-term vision to restore what has been lost to warming seas and unsustainable practices.

Suspended on tables just below the tide, nearly one hundred coral fragments now sway gently in the current. Each one is monitored and cared for by our team, growing steadily toward maturity. In time, these fragments will be out-planted onto the reef itself, helping to rebuild natural coral structures and revive the biodiversity that depends on them.

This is restoration with purpose. A healing process rooted in science, hope, and patience.

Guests are invited to learn about the reef's delicate balance through guided briefings and marine talks. Locals, too, are part of the conversation, engaging with us in efforts to promote sustainable fishing and reef stewardship.

The reef is not just a dive site. It is a living, breathing world. And it is beginning to bloom again.

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught."

- Baba Dioum

Turtle Conservation

Along the quiet shores of the Kenyan coast, sea turtles return to nest in the same places their mothers once did. Their journey is ancient, delicate, and increasingly threatened.

At The Sands Kenya, we are proud to protect this cycle of life through two long-standing conservation partnerships. Each one plays a vital role in safeguarding these gentle creatures, not just in theory, but in daily practice.

Olive Ridley Project

Through our collaboration with the Olive Ridley Project, we contribute to Kenya's first in-water turtle monitoring programme. Marine biologists join our boats and briefings, offering insights into sea turtle behaviour, health, and threats. At Diving the Crab, interns supported by ORP receive dive training and gather critical research data during guided dives at Nomad and Chale Island.

Guests can adopt a turtle through our app, directly supporting conservation efforts and forging a personal connection to the ocean's story. These adoptions aren't symbolic. They are real contributions to an ecosystem in recovery.

Turtles remind us that nature endures through memory, return, and resilience. We are here to ensure they always have a home to come back to.

Diani Turtle Watch

Based at Nomad Beach Resort, Diani Turtle Watch has been a part of our story since 2012. With a focus on green and hawksbill turtles, the project monitors nesting activity, protects vulnerable eggs, and relocates nests when necessary to safer ground.

It is a programme built on quiet care and close observation. Guests are often invited to witness hatchling releases, moments that leave lasting impressions of wonder and hope.

Where the Community Leads

Conservation is most powerful when it belongs to the community. Across the coast, we stand alongside local champions who protect the ecosystems they call home. These partnerships are rooted in respect, shared purpose, and the belief that lasting change begins close to the ground.

Colobus Conservation Centre

Set along a forested path near Lazy Days, Colobus Conservation is dedicated to protecting the endangered Angolan colobus monkey, a striking, gentle presence in Diani's treetops. Their work includes rescue, rehabilitation, and habitat restoration, helping ensure that these unique primates continue to thrive in one of their last strongholds.

Guests from all our properties can visit the centre, meet the team, and learn about the delicate web of life that connects the colobus to the greater coastal ecosystem. It's an opportunity to witness conservation in action — and to see how even small forests carry great importance.

Gazi Women's Mangrove Boardwalk

Just beyond the mangrove-fringed waters near Chale Island, a group of 27 women leads one of Kenya's most inspiring conservation efforts. The Gazi Women's Mangrove Boardwalk is a living classroom, where guests can walk among the tangled roots, plant seedlings by hand, and learn how mangroves protect shorelines, absorb carbon, and nurture marine life.

Through planting, education, and the sale of verified carbon credits, these women have restored vast stretches of coastal forest. Their work brings together tradition, resilience, and innovation — and we are honoured to support their mission. Guests at Chale and Nomad are invited to visit, volunteer, and walk the boardwalk with those who know the forest best.

These projects remind us that the future of conservation lies in shared hands. We are proud to support their work and invite our guests to do the same, not just as observers, but as participants in something truly meaningful.

Community Engagement & Education

Conservation begins with connection. When people feel seen, heard, and included, they begin to care more deeply for the places they call home, and the ecosystems that surround them.

We believe that protecting nature is not the work of a few. It is a shared journey, made stronger through collaboration, education, and trust.

"A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit." - Greek Proverb

Local Partnerships

We work hand in hand with environmental organisations, community leaders, and local government to support conservation projects rooted in local wisdom. From forest protection to marine research, these partnerships bring people together for a common purpose.

Training and Team Empowerment

Our team is our front line. Every staff member receives ongoing training in sustainability and conservation, from reef-safe behaviours to wildlife awareness. With each interaction, they carry the message forward, confident, informed, and deeply connected to the work we do.

Guest Experiences

Our conservation efforts are open to all. Guests are invited to take part in guided walks, hands-on workshops, and meaningful volunteer programmes that offer more than a glimpse behind the scenes. These are experiences that stay with you. Quiet, powerful moments that turn visitors into guardians.

Community is not a separate thread in our story. It is woven into everything we protect. And when we grow together, nature flourishes too.

How Guests Can Get Involved

Every guest at The Sands Kenya becomes part of something larger. For those who wish to engage more deeply, we offer a range of immersive experiences that invite you into the rhythm of conservation. Whether your heart lies beneath the waves or in the forest canopy, there is a place for you here.

Marine Conservation

Coral Restoration

Join our marine team at Chale Island for a guided visit to the coral nurseries. Here, coral fragments sway gently in the current, growing into future reef systems. Learn how restoration works, then take part in an environmental course at Diving the Crab to become a citizen scientist. With every dive, you help protect what lies beneath.

Turtle Conservation

At Nomad's Marine Centre, visit Diani Turtle Watch and discover how sea turtles are monitored, protected, and nurtured. Guests may join guided beach patrols, assist in nest relocations, or witness the delicate moment of hatchlings making their way to the sea. You can also support the Olive Ridley Project by contributing to turtle identification or adopting one through our guest app. These are not symbolic gestures. They directly support real-world conservation.

Eco-Conscious Diving

Take part in a Dive Against Debris with Diving the Crab. These dives help remove marine litter while contributing vital data to international research on ocean health. It is conservation in action, experienced beneath the surface.

Land-Based Conservation

Mangrove Planting at Gazi

Wade into the shallows and plant new life at the Gazi Women's Mangrove Boardwalk. Walk beside the women leading this vital project and learn how mangroves stabilise coasts, absorb carbon, and protect marine life.

Colobus Conservation

Stroll through the coastal forest near Lazy Days and meet the team at Colobus Conservation. Learn how they protect the endangered Angolan colobus monkey, help restore habitats, and care for rescued animals. Guests are welcome to support their reforestation and daily conservation work.

Community Clean-Ups

Join us on the beach or in the shallows for one of our regular clean-up events. With hands in the sand and hearts in the right place, these efforts help keep our coastlines clean and thriving.

These are not staged experiences. They are real invitations to take part in something meaningful. Even a few hours can leave behind something brighter, something lasting, and something deeply worthwhile.

Looking Ahead

We believe that awareness is the beginning of change. When people understand the delicate balance of life beneath the waves and within the forest, they begin to see the world differently. And from that place, conservation becomes personal.

Guests are invited to join our resident marine biologists and conservation partners for workshops that explore everything from sustainable fishing to reef ecology. These are not lectures. They are conversations in the open air, often surrounded by the very ecosystems we are working to protect.

Interactive sessions offer a closer look at the challenges facing marine life today. From coral bleaching to plastic pollution, guests learn about the real issues shaping our seas, along with the quiet innovations offering hope.

We encourage guests to share what moves them. Whether it is a hatchling release, a dive against debris, or a quiet moment in the mangroves, these stories help build a ripple effect of awareness. Word of mouth, shared photos, and thoughtful conversations are powerful tools for change.

For those who want to stay connected, our conservation newsletter offers regular updates and ways to get involved. Through our website and social platforms, the journey continues long after the footprints in the sand have faded.

Living Lightly

Conservation does not begin with grand gestures. It begins with how we live. With quiet, thoughtful choices made day after day, often behind the scenes, yet felt throughout the landscape.

We believe in using only what we need and giving back wherever we can. Whether it is energy, water, or waste, we treat every resource with respect. The sun powers our rooms and warms our showers. Our gardens are nourished by harvested rainwater and cared for with sustainable irrigation. Kitchens compost what they can, and what was once discarded is often reborn. Glass becomes building material. Plastics are sorted and repurposed. Food scraps return to the soil.

In early 2025, Chale Island joined the national grid. Kenya's electricity now comes from more than ninety percent renewable energy, primarily from geothermal and hydropower. Across all our properties, energy-efficient systems quietly reduce our footprint without ever touching the guest experience.

We keep track of what we use and how we use it. Not to impress, but to improve. Independent audits guide us, measuring our impact honestly and helping us grow in the right direction. Just as importantly, we listen. Guest feedback, local insight, and team reflection all shape how we move forward. Thoughtfully, transparently, and with care.

Living lightly is not a finish line. It is a daily practice. A promise to ourselves, to our guests, and to the land and sea that make everything we do possible.

For a closer look at how we manage energy, water, and waste across all properties, see our annual Sustainability Journal.

Conclusion

At The Sands Kenya, conservation is not a campaign. It is a way of life. A quiet presence in the way we build, serve, and care.

From the slow revival of coral gardens to the return of nesting turtles, from the rustle of colobus monkeys in the canopy to the voices of local women restoring mangrove forests, each act of protection is part of a larger promise. To live with balance. To give more than we take. To honour the beauty of this coastline in every detail.

We are proud to walk this path. But we know the journey is more meaningful when it is shared.

To our guests, partners, and neighbours — thank you. For your curiosity. For your care. For the steps you take alongside us.

For more information or to take part in our conservation work, please contact our marine team at
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Together, we can keep this coast wild, generous, and alive for generations to come.