

# WiseOceans and Four Seasons Resort renew their commitment

**In January 2013, Four Seasons Resort partnered with the marine conservation company, WiseOceans, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ministry of Environment and Energy, an event which marked a significant step forward for the country's marine environment. They recently decided to continue their cooperation.**

The MoU brought the three organisations together for the benefit of the marine environment. Encouragingly, the Four Seasons Resort recently renewed its commitment to support WiseOceans, which will be responsible for the collection of data on coral reefs and the coastal environment of Petite Anse, Baie Lazare, where the resort is located. Once compiled, the data will be handed over to the ministry of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, thus contributing to research and conservation efforts. In return, the ministry will also offer its support to the conservation group, particularly in the field of training.

WiseOceans commemorated the event with the release of a report highlighting the findings of the first two years since the first MoU was signed. The director of resort development at WiseOceans, Lindsay Sullivan, noted that, "what is extra special about this coordinated effort is that it allows for the education of tourists, resort staff and the local community of Seychelles' unique marine and coastal environment".

Ms Sullivan further noted that, "the conservation team has arranged talks, presentations, community-based



**Representatives of Four Seasons Resort, WiseOceans and the ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change seal the partnership.**

events and free scuba diving and snorkelling experiences over the last 24 months with

the aim of getting as many people as possible into the sea so they can better under-

stand the need to preserve Seychelles' incredibly diverse marine life."

For his part, the general manager of Four Seasons Resort, Alex Porteous, remarked

that, "the marine education programme is an important part of a larger project to continue supporting sustainability in our little piece of paradise here in Petite Anse. We realise that we are just a small part of this ecosystem, but we could have a larger negative impact on it if we didn't provide checks on ourselves," said the general manager, who added that the resort also provides a green option for its guests who can opt to have their linens refreshed less frequently to save water and biodegradable body wash and sun lotion at to ensure that they don't add chemicals to the ocean that could bleach the coral. "We have also introduced the Green Fund, which allowing guests to donate towards the work undertaken by WiseOceans", he said.

Mr Porteous also confirmed that the resort will continue working closely with WiseOceans and the ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, opining that, "it is important to us as a company, and we know that it is important to our guests."

In addition to reef conservation, WiseOceans is also involved in beach surveys, sea turtle monitoring and beach cleaning campaigns.