

Sustainable Destination Award Good Practice Story

Creating a Noah's Ark on North Island

North Island's goal was to restore the unique biodiversity of the Seychelles to the island, by reintroducing endangered endemic species on the verge of extinction. North Island has been alternatively neglected and exploited throughout its history. Many alien species of plants and animals remained behind after the copra plantation, greatly impacting the indigenous species. In tandem with creating a world-class private island resort, North Island has worked hard to restore North Island to its former glory. Recognising the opportunity to marry conservation and ecotourism, North Island embraced a comprehensive rehabilitation plan that was soon dubbed "the Noah's Ark" project, to create a sanctuary for endangered species. North Island removed alien species including rats and feral animals. The land is being cleared of invasive species and replanted with native trees. The rare Seychelles White-eye was successfully reintroduced and other bird species returned of their own accord. Sea turtles nest on North Island's shores in ever increasing numbers and giant tortoises breed successfully in complete freedom. North Island was awarded the African Responsible Tourism Awards (Best for Aquatic Species & Habitat Conservation) in 2018, the National Geographic Legacy Awards (Conserving the Natural World) in 2017, and the Energy Globe Award for Seychelles in 2016.

