

## EVERY DROP COUNTS AT WATER WISE SUN INTERNATIONAL

### Sun International group effort to save water

With the current emphasis on using water sparingly, especially in drought stricken parts of the country, Sun International has implemented various water wise measures to reduce the amount of potable water used at its properties.

Mandy Clifton-Smith, Sun International Group Environmental Manager said: *“The hospitality industry has to achieve a fine balance between keeping guests happy and not being inconvenienced, while still effectively saving scarce resources.*

*“For the past few years we have amplified our efforts to conserve these natural resources, be it water, energy or waste going to landfill. But an education campaign is just as important. Guests at our properties come from across the world and aren’t always aware of our environmental pressures, so our guest-interfacing staff engage with them around our resource issues. When they become aware of the issues they are mostly happy to assist, for example many of our guests willingly opt to reuse their towels more than once or to shower rather than to take a bath.”*

Although the Group first implemented water saving initiatives some years ago, they have subsequently partnered with water experts to further raise the level of water saving efficiency. By assessing water consumption, risk and management at a group level, it was possible to develop a new water saving programme that has led to the establishment of new baseline data for goal and target setting.

Since 2015 Sun International has achieved a 2.8% reduction in water withdrawal in their South African operations, and recycled an additional 221 megalitres of water (a 6.6% increase in recycling of water).

While each of the properties is unique and faces different challenges and opportunities, certain common initiatives could be introduced to each unit. These include tap fittings, low flow showers, dual flush toilet systems and pressure reducers.

Outdoor water saving initiatives used across Sun International properties include using indigenous plants in landscaping projects, relying on recycled or borehole water to irrigate gardens where possible, treating water leaks as a matter of priority and introducing drip irrigation.

According to Clifton-Smith: *“We have also achieved significant water savings through, for example, installing water harvesting systems, smart metering, and air-conditioning water recycling.*

*“In 2016 we recycled 945 megalitres – that is enough water to fill 6-million bath tubs. Our climate change programme is based on achieving complete water stewardship by 2020, where we will have a closed-loop system and every drop will count.”*