

## **Environmental protection under palm trees**

Solar energy, natural wellness and biological vegetables at Severin Touristik in Kenya

Sundern/Kenya, March 2009 – How to care for the environment in a developing country shown by Severin Touristik in Kenya. Biological purification plants in line with European standards, vegetables from their own farm and African wellness – the German company leaves a green mark within the safari country.

These commitments have been recently honoured by TÜV Rhineland, who featured the Severin Safari Camp in Tsavo West National Park and the Severin Sea Lodge at the Indian Ocean near Mombasa with their certificates for service efforts and spa quality during ITB Berlin in March 2009. The TÜV auditor especially mentioned the “sustainability and the careful use of resources“ in the four-star property. For the first time, TÜV audited holiday facilities in Kenya, the popular destination in Africa.

Both the hotel and the camp distinguish themselves in their extraordinary efforts towards environmental protection. They dispose waste by way of biological purification plants, a closed circuit recycling system for waste and solar energy for warm water. A hotel-owned bio farm in Kikambala near Mombasa cares for vegetables, fruits, chicken and eggs without using artificial fertilizer. The Severin Sea Lodge was the first hotel in Kenya to employ an environmental issues manager.

### **Background: Environmental protection in Kenya – It works like this**

“Especially in Third World countries, a private initiative for environmental protection is necessary“ says Severin Schulte, 55, who founded the Severin Touristik Ltd. 30 years ago and runs it up to now: “It would be some kind of dissipation not to make use of the sunny climate in Africa.” Additionally, staff, inhabitants and guests are trained on company property. “We use specifically organized seminars to tell the Kenyans as well as our guests about the environmental threat and the protection at Kenya’s coast and within the national parks.” With illustrated charts which have been designed together with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) tourists get to know a lot about Africa’s natural treasures, e.g. that the roots from the Acacia “Commophora Africana” are used against fever.

"Sustainable tourism is our future, especially in Africa, where so many great natural treasures awaits the whole world“ says Severin Schulte.

### **Severin Safari Camp: Safari with ecological comfort**

The **Severin Safari Camp** was opened in 2001 and extended in March 2009 with the new wellness spa. It is the first holiday camp in Kenya to possess a biological waste water treatment plant amidst the bush. The luxurious camp with 21 tents and 6 suites in an elegant natural design offers a unique scenery with view to Mt. Kilimanjaro within Kenya’s largest national park, the Tsavo National Park. It is world-famous for its more than ten thousand “red” elephants.

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Fresh water is brought to Severin Safari Camp by using their own pipeline which comes directly from Mzima Springs whose water also serves the Kenyan coast with drinking water. Waste water from tents and the kitchen is collected and filtered in a natural way with lava stones, gravel and sand. It is then used for watering the 25 hectare lawn within the camp: "Wasting as little water as possible is an important fact to protect the environment in East Africa. It is a region which has to endure long dry seasons again and again" explains hotel owner Severin Schulte.

Hot water for showering is gained day and night exclusively by solar energy and heat recovery of the power generators. "To heat the water we don't need any diesel or electricity" stresses Severin Schulte. Special lamps with low energy bulbs light the camp and at the "Out of Africa" restaurant the lights ensure that insects are not attracted to them. The power generators are high efficiency and take care of the voltage supply and use less than 8 to 9 litres Diesel per hour. With this, exhaust gas and pollution are kept at a low level within the national park.

Keeping away monkeys is a special environmental task in Africa. At Severin Safari Camp organic waste is dried in so-called "monkey cages" which can't be entered by the animals and then burned in lava ovens and composted. All glass bottles as well as plastic waste are brought outside the national park and recycled. "We do everything so as not to disturb the National Park's ecological balance" says Severin Schulte.

### **KENBALI SPA: Africa's green beauty secrets**

Also the recently opened **KENBALI SPA at Severin Safari Camp** strictly adheres to the green concept. In this first wellness oasis amidst the bush, guests can enjoy traditional African beauty treatments and relaxation massages like „African Dream“. The specially trained therapists exclusively use natural oils like coconut oil from the fruits of the elephant tree. The first Ying-Yang pool in Kenya is also filled with water from the neighbouring Mzima Springs.

The modern environmental technique from Germany and Switzerland remains invisible for the guests of the Severin Safari Camp. If the water level within the drinking water tanks hidden in a „Service Manyatta“ drops for example, a pump at Mzima Springs will start automatically. Natural scientists have proven that hundreds of hippos and crocodiles keep Mzima Springs in a appropriate ecological balance.

### **Severin Sea Lodge: Beach hotel on environmental track**

For more than a decade **Severin Sea Lodge** has now been the champion in environmental protection of Severin in Kenya. The beach hotel with its 200 rooms was again featured "TUI Environment Champion" at the end of 2008, an appreciation by the biggest German tour operator for the hundred environment-friendly holiday hotels worldwide, was awarded for the eleventh time.

The Severin beach hotel ensures the warm water supply with 300 sq. M. of sun collectors. A biological purification plant in line with European standards cleans up to 150,000 l. of waste water daily from the rooms, the kitchen and the laundry. Laundry bags have been converted from plastic to paper, fences were replaced by hedges to support the birds' nest-building. Even in the hotel rooms, waste is separated. Remaining food is forwarded to pig breeders, batteries are sent to Germany for disposal. Severin Sea Lodge was founded in the early 70s by Rudolf Schulte and is known as a classic in Kenya's tourism.

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*In the early Seventies, the German industrialist Rudolf Schulte sen., fascinated by freedom and adventure, acquired a grove of palm trees on the Indian Ocean in Kenya – the foundation for Severin Touristik. His son Severin Schulte has carried on the company for over 30 years now. The African specialist offers the beach hotel Severin Sea Lodge\*\*\*\* at Bamburi Beach in Mombasa, Severin Safari Camp\*\*\*\* with its KENBALI SPA in Tsavo West National Park, Severin Tours & Safaris, the tour operator my\_africa, a TUI travel agency and the Sunderland Hotel\*\*\*\* in Germany with African allure as well.*

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