the matanivusi philosophy

The primary goal was to develop Matanivusi Beach Eco Resort as a surf resort with sustainability as its DNA.

With a keen sense of environmental, social and economic responsibility, Matanivusi was established on the philosophy of—

‘If you are not a part of the solution, you are a part of the problem’
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sustainability @ matanivusi

The owners and developers, Brian & Donna McDonald, discovered this amazing piece of coastline around 13 years ago. Around the kava bowl with Vunaniu Village elders, they mentioned it would be a great place for a surf resort. There were some great breaks on the reef fringing the turquoise waters of the lagoon. The natural forest to the white sandy beach line, the creek and the untouched beauty indicated that a responsible development philosophy was needed.

Brian, an experienced surfer who has travelled the world in search of perfect waves, had also experienced numerous instances where unplanned surf tourism development had resulted in negative impacts on both local environments and communities at remote surfing locations around the world, and was determined to ensure a much more sustainable approach to Matanivusi’s development.

Sustainability has been a key priority at Matanivusi from the very start, and has been incorporated into all facets of the resort, from design through to daily operations. Matanivusi continually strives to refine and increase its level of understanding of sustainability and periodically evaluates its sustainability credentials in order to implement improvements where possible.

what is sustainable surf tourism?

Global tourism has emerged from a fledgling industry in the 1950’s, to one of the world’s largest industries in the early 21st century, estimated to account for 10.2% of global GDP. The trend of accelerated tourism growth since World War II appears set to continue, with increasing numbers of remote destinations being discovered and incorporated into the global tourism system, and mass tourism destinations becoming mega tourism destinations. Such intensified global tourism activity has the capacity to effect profound environmental, economic and socio-cultural change on destinations, as well as origin and transit regions.

Recent decades have also seen unprecedented growth in the sport of surfing’s global participant base, and a corresponding growth in commercial surf tourism. Surf tourism often plays a role as a colonising activity within the global tourism system as surfers tend to seek out perfect, uncrowded waves. This search often opens up remote destinations, commonly within developing nations, to new systems of development and large scale industrialised tourism. Such destinations, often with limited access to basic services, resources and infrastructure are regularly ill-prepared to handle such profound change, with deleterious environmental, economic and socio-cultural impacts a common result.
The concept of sustainable tourism has emerged as a way in which to ensure that tourism is managed in a sustainable manner. Sustainable tourism may be best described as the application of ‘sustainable development’ ideals to the tourism sector – that is:

‘Tourism development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.

Essentially, sustainable tourism involves the minimisation of negative impacts and the maximisation of positive impacts arising from the tourism industry.

The support of tourism operators is key to ensuring tourism is managed in a sustainable manner, and given surf tourism’s role as a ‘colonising activity’ within the global tourism system, it could be argued that surf tourism and surf tourism operators hold a particularly salient responsibility to ensure that more sustainable paths of development are followed from the outset. Sustainable surf tourism is the concept of sustainable tourism applied within the context of the surf tourism sector.

CSR Sustainable Surf Tourism Certification

Matanivusi is currently seeking Sustainable Surf Tourism Certification (SSTC) from the Centre for Surf Research (CSR), in an attempt to improve its sustainability evaluation procedures and identify areas in which it can improve in regards to sustainability. Certification will also provide an opportunity to confidently promote Matanivusi’s sustainability credentials and its position as a leader in sustainable surf tourism.

Certification is based on the universally agreed best practice standard represented by the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria (GSTC). The GSTC were developed by an international collaboration of experts across a broad range of multilateral conservation and development agencies and refined over several years, to provide a benchmark for tourism operators seeking sustainable tourism certification. The GSTC are however necessarily broad to encompass the length and breadth of the tourism industry from the largest hotels in the developed world to the smallest tour operator in developing settings. The CSR certification program tailors this globally accepted standard of operation to the unique context of the surf tourism industry.

The surf tourism industry is typically constrained by the nature of surf tourism itself, which is primarily dictated to by the self-limiting nature of surf resources e.g. there is no such thing as a large scale surf resort, cruise ship, or tour. As a result of the often small scale of businesses within the surf tourism industry, there are constraints on the industry in relation to the adoption of capital or technology intensive fixes to many of the GSTC. In addition, surf tourism operations are commonly based in remote locations or developing countries, a factor which can pose significant constraints in relation to the practicality of addressing various GSTC. The CSR certification program was developed in conjunction with surf tourism industry partners committed to sustainability to formulate criteria, metrics, and reporting procedures which represent sustainability best practice given the constraints of the surf tourism industry.

Existing certification programs suffer from credibility issues as all are ‘for profit’ programs and a great many of these are examples of ‘green-washing’ requiring little more than payment of a fee in order to claim ‘eco’ certification. The CSR certification program is based in a non-profit research centre at San Diego State University. There is no ulterior motive. Certification is earned, not paid for.
about the plan

The Sustainable Management Plan (SMP) has been developed to act as an introduction and point of reference for employees, guests and the general public in regards to Matanivusi’s sustainability philosophy, policies, efforts to date and goals for the future.

Encompassing environmental, socio-cultural and economic sustainability, the SMP’s structure reflects the SSTC criteria and is divided into five broad sections:

1. Sustainable Management
2. Social and Economic Impact Management
3. Cultural Heritage Impact Management
4. Environmental Impact Management
5. Surf Tourism Specialisation

Various examples of Matanivusi’s sustainability efforts are provided under each criteria, however it should be noted that the plan is not intended to act as a comprehensive documentation of all of the resort’s sustainability initiatives.

The SMP informs management decisions, is publicly available, and subject to annual review.
Sustainable Management

Legal Compliance
Matanivusi ensures it is in compliance with local environmental, health, safety, labour, insurance, tax, licensing, & construction laws.

Employee Training in Sustainability
Employees receive ongoing training on their role in contributing to Matanivusi’s sustainability efforts and are familiar with environmental policies and objectives in the following areas:

- energy
- water
- waste management
- emergency response
- social/cultural information
- environmental interpretation

Employees are encouraged to actively participate in devising new sustainability initiatives, and to pass on their knowledge to guests and the local community.

Customer Satisfaction
Along with sustainability, customer satisfaction is at the centre of Matanivusi’s concern, and as such, the resort provides guests with comprehensive surveys to measure satisfaction across a range of service areas. Results are analysed to provide a clear picture of service gaps and satisfaction issues. Corrective actions are taken and the results of such actions are monitored.

For example, it has become apparent through guest surveys that interpretation of Matanivusi’s sustainability philosophy was lacking. This has now been addressed through staff training, and the development of the Sustainable Management Plan which is publically available both online and as a hard copy in all guest rooms and public areas at the resort.

In response to non-surfing guest’s requests for activity diversity, Matanivusi offers a continually expanding range of non-surfing related activities, such as snorkelling, diving, stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking, volleyball, plantation walks, village visits, waterfall excursions, zip lining, white water rafting, kava ceremonies, etc. A yoga centre is also currently under construction at the resort to cater for a more diverse clientele.

Accuracy of Promotional Materials
Matanivusi aims to ensure that all marketing and promotional materials are truthful, accurately reflect the type and level of services offered, and are publically accessible.
Sustainable Design/Construction/Maintenance

Matanivusi has been designed by award winning architect, Paul Uhlmann (www.pua.com.au), a surfer from the Gold Coast, Australia. From design through construction and maintenance, sustainability was/is a key priority.

- Local residents have not been displaced involuntarily or without compensation to make way for the development.

- An environmental impact report was performed and environmental risk factors were identified prior to commencement of construction.

- Matanivusi has been designed to integrate with the local environment rather than transform it. For example, minimal clearing was undertaken to allow for construction, buildings were constructed around significant trees, not on top of them. Raised walkways and construction minimises disturbance, prevents erosion and retain wildlife habitat. The natural course and flow of the creek has been left untouched.
- Local labour was/is used in construction and maintenance

- Renewable and recycled materials are used where possible & appropriate in construction and maintenance. For example, the majority of timber used in construction is sustainably grown plantation pine and mahogany.

- Passive solar design principles were incorporated throughout the design/development to avoid the need for artificial cooling and lighting. For example, buildings were sited so as to take full advantage of shade provided by established trees, and windows do not face direct afternoon sun but allow ample light to infiltrate. Large expanses of louver windows allow the breeze to naturally cool interiors.

- Rainwater collection has been built into the design. All roof tops at the resort are designed to collect rainwater and there are numerous large rainwater tanks located throughout the resort. Except in unusual periods of extended dry weather, Matanivusi is self-sufficient in regards to fresh water, provided that staff and guests adopt a conservative approach to water use. Numerous water saving features have been incorporated into the design of the resort.

- All wastewater is treated in Biolytix Wastewater Systems located underground at various points throughout the resort. Filtered wastewater is then used as irrigation and natural fertiliser for landscaped gardens. See the Biolytix website for specifications and environmental safety (http://www.biolytix.com)

**The Biolytix® Wastewater System**

**How the Treatment Bed Works**

- The solid waste is separated from the liquid waste immediately. Macro-organisms, such as worms, move in and quickly convert the solids into humus.

- The organisms live in the humus, naturally aerating it as they create kilometres of meandering tunnels. The wastewater is efficiently cleansed as it trickles through these tunnels.

- The effluent is now treated. A geofabric layer filters out all particles larger than 80 microns.
Interpretation

Employees are trained in, and are required to provide quality interpretation of the local environment, culture and heritage as Matanivusi believes interpretation to be key part of the visitor experience.

For example, the ‘Plantation Walk’ activity, and plant identification signs located throughout the resort introduce guests to many of Fiji’s native plants and their traditional uses. On the guided walk to Biausevu Waterfall guests, learn about Fijian tribal history. Matanivusi’s fishing guide, Wais, provides a wealth of information about local marine life, and regular kava ceremonies introduce guests to Fijian customs.

Matanivusi utilises the services of local environmental experts from various organisations to train employees in an effort to constantly improve the quality of interpretation provided to guests.

Communication Strategy

Matanivusi aims to ensure that its sustainability philosophy, policies, practices and initiatives are effectively communicated to all employees, guests, and stakeholders.

For example, employees receive regular training on the resort’s sustainability philosophy, policies, practices and initiatives and are encouraged to convey this to guests.

The Sustainable Management Plan is publicly available both as hard copy (guest rooms/public areas at resort) and online.

In future, the resort will offer a ‘Sustainability Tour’ of the resort that will showcase Matanivusi’s sustainability commitment and initiatives.

Social and Economic Impact Management

Community Development

Matanivusi supports the sustainable development of the surrounding community and continues to explore opportunities in which to provide further support in areas such as the local economy, education, health, infrastructure, culture and sport.

Where possible, the resort utilises the services of local entrepreneurs and complementary businesses. For example, it encourages guests to purchase locally made handicrafts, purchases local produce, and facilitates excursions to Biausevu waterfall where admissions fees are used for community development projects in the local village.
In regards to education, Matanivusi regularly provides supplies (e.g. books, pencils, and paper, building materials) and ongoing support to Vunaniu Village Kindergarten, and has donated 10 computers to the secondary school in Korovisiliou. The resort encourages guests to make a monetary or educational equipment donation when visiting local educational facilities.

Matanivusi is continually exploring practical ways in which to help improve the health of the local community. The resort recently donated $2000FD for water pipes in Vunaniu Village which are used to transport water from a mountain reservoir to the village in order to provide clean potable water. Matanivusi has also donated a one week stay for 2 people at Matanivusi ($8-10,000 value) to Surf Credits, which uses proceeds to support the Loloma Foundation in its efforts to provide clean water to Fijian communities. Matanivusi periodically provides medical supplies/equipment to Korovisiliou Health Clinic.

Matanivusi has made inroads into improving basic sanitation and waste management within the local community. The resort has provided recycling information for Korovisiliou School and Vunaniu Village Kindergarten. The resort also collects recyclables from a station it has provided at Vunaniu Village Kindergarten and takes them to a recycling facility in Suva. A re-imbursement per bottle/can is then donated back to the kindergarten. Matanivusi is currently exploring the feasibility of assisting in the installation of a suitable waste water/sewerage system in Vunaniu (similar to the resort’s Biolytix systems) to prevent waste water from entering the local river and estuary.

Matanivusi has a track record of making donations to various community groups seeking to improve basic infrastructure. For example, the resort has donated funds to the Yanuca Island Women’s Group that aided the construction of footpaths throughout the local village.

Matanivusi aims to facilitate the maintenance of culture within the local community in many ways, such as encouraging guests to participate in kava ceremonies in the local village and attend various cultural events as they arise. Guests are encouraged to make donations at such events and these funds regularly go toward various community development projects.

Matanivusi aims to facilitate community participation in sporting activities. In the past, the resort has assisted in fundraising for local athletics at Korovisiliou high school, and has taught local children from Vunaniu how to surf. The resort is currently in the process of developing a ‘Learn to Surf’ activity for guests, and this will be extended to the local community.

The resort intends to maintain its track record in assisting community development into the future. Plans are being made to provide a periodic health clinic at the resort for staff, their families and local villagers, along with a number of other community development projects currently under consideration.
Local Employment
Matanivusi only employs Fijians, and priority is given to prospective employees from local communities. Matanivusi strives to support employee’s professional growth, and provides ample opportunities for staff to train for other positions and work toward promotions. For example, Tony Karan started out as a barman and is now the resort manager. Emori and Lesi started in resort maintenance and have since been trained as boatmen and surf guides. Both received training to get their boat master certifications.

Local purchasing
Where quality and price are commensurate, Matanivusi purchases only locally produced goods and services. The resort is constantly exploring opportunities in which to substitute imported products for those that are made in Fiji. For example, the restaurant menu is tailored to incorporate the use of as much Fijian grown/made produce as possible.

Support of local entrepreneurs
Where possible, Matanivusi supports local sustainable livelihoods by supporting local entrepreneurs and providing a market for sustainably produced local goods and services.

For example, Matanivusi encourages guests to purchase handicrafts from local sellers, and sells Fiji made handicrafts/products in the gift shop.

The resort facilitates visits to various Fijian owned and operated tourism activities and complementary businesses, such as Zip Fiji (zip-line tours) and Eco Cafe (environmentally responsible dining).
Exploitation
Matanivusi does not condone commercial exploitation at any level and will not knowingly engage in business with those that do. This policy is communicated to the resort’s direct suppliers, and research is often undertaken to ensure secondary suppliers within Matanivusi’s supply chain do not engage in commercial exploitation.

Equitable Hiring
The resort does not discriminate along gender, ethnicity, sexual preference, or disability lines in its hiring of employees.

Employee Protection
Employees at Matanivusi are protected according to national standards and full-time employees are paid above minimum wage and superannuation. Employees also enjoy many other benefits such as ample opportunities to train for other positions/promotions, and basic medical care. A number of employees receive onsite accommodation/board, and transport to (and sometimes from) work, etc.

Basic Services
Matanivusi does not jeopardize the provision of basic services such as water, power, sanitation, transport, education, & health services etc. to surrounding communities. In fact, from the resort’s inception there has been a strong focus on community development and actually increasing the quality and provision of basic services.

The resort has a self-sufficient water supply in the form of a rainwater collection system, and as such does not have any impact on local water supplies. In addition, Matanivusi has enhanced the supply of potable water to Vunaniu Village by providing $2000FD for a water pipe project.

Matanivusi has a self-sufficient power supply in the form of its generator, which also provides power for surrounding properties free of charge.

Wastewater is managed onsite using Biolytix Wastewater systems. As such, no wastewater enters the surrounding waterways.

Cultural Heritage Impact Management

Code of Conduct
A code of conduct for activities in local communities has been developed, with the consent of, and in collaboration with the community, to avoid causing offence in everyday life and for visiting culturally or historically sensitive sites, in order to minimize visitor impact and maximize enjoyment. This code of conduct is made available to guests in written form and is verbally highlighted by staff.

Historical Artefacts
Historical and archaeological artefacts are not sold, traded, or displayed, except as permitted by law.

Protection of Sites
Matanivusi seeks to contribute where possible to the protection of local historical, archaeological, culturally, and spiritually important properties and sites, and does not impede access to them by local residents.
For example, Matanivusi facilitates visits to Biausevu waterfall, which is a significant historical/cultural site for the local villagers of Biausevu. The village uses admission fees and donations for conservation work around the waterfall and for projects in the village. Guests often participate in planting a tree at the Youth Tree Nursery located along the walk to the waterfall. Once advanced, the trees are sold and proceeds go toward youth group initiatives.

**Incorporation of Culture**

Matanivusi aims to incorporate elements of local art, architecture, or cultural heritage in its operations, design, decoration, food, and gift shop wherever possible; while respecting the intellectual property rights of local communities.

Some of the ways in which Matanivusi facilitates guest’s exposure to Fijian cultural heritage include encouraging participation in kava ceremonies at both the resort and the local village of Vunaniu, basket weaving demonstrations, and encouraging participation in **lovo** nights where they are introduced to traditional Fijian methods of cooking. Employees are encouraged to introduce guests to their way of life and history.

Matanivusi aims to incorporate as much local produce and traditional recipes into its menu as possible. Local fish, chicken, eggs, dairy, coconuts, papaya, rice, taro, and cassava are all commonly used ingredients in a variety of dishes.

Waste baskets in all bathrooms are made locally with local resources. Flower arrangements made with native species are used for decoration in the main building and guest rooms.

The resort gift shop sells a variety of locally produced products, including handicrafts, cosmetics, and sulus.
Environmental Impact Management

Purchasing Policy & Consumable Goods
Matanivusi favours locally produced environmentally friendly products for building materials, capital goods, food, and consumables. The resort avoids over-packaged, single use and disposable goods wherever possible.

For example, the majority of the timber used in construction at the resort is plantation grown pine or mahogany grown in Fiji.

The resort does not use imported fruit and vegetables. It encourages local farmers to supply fresh produce to the resort, in addition to purchasing fresh produce at the Suva market. When in season, an extensive range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown on the resort property are utilised by the resort’s chefs.

When available, Matanivusi purchases fresh locally caught fish for the restaurant from local villagers, however fish is routinely supplied by Fiji Fish or Hangtons, both based in Suva. Fiji Fish and Hangtons supply fish harvested from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified sustainable fishery, the Fiji Albacore Tuna Longline Fishery.

Instead of using imported, individually packaged soap for use in guest rooms, the resort uses locally produced, unpackaged natural soaps bought in bulk.

All toilet paper at the resort is made in Fiji by a company that collects and recycles waste paper from offices throughout the country to manufacture its toilet tissue.

Energy Consumption
Matanivusi’s energy costs, usage, and savings are recorded and reported with efforts in place to move toward more sustainable forms of energy supply, and measures to decrease overall consumption.

While approximately 65% of Fiji’s electricity is from renewable sources, it is cost prohibitive (at this stage) for Matanivusi to connect to the main power supply as the closest access point is kilometres away. At present, the resort is powered by a 70kva diesel generator. The output of this generator is sufficient to power the resort under peak demand. The generator supplies the same amount of power at all times regardless of demand, meaning that at least at the present time, there are no sustainability gains to be made in regards to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by practicing energy saving measures at the resort.
Matanivusi is currently exploring more sustainable forms of electricity supply, and aims to be operating completely on renewable energy sources at some point in future. The resort is currently researching the feasibility/practicality of installing a solar power generation system, and aims to switch the generator over to Fijian made bio-diesel in the near future. Matanivusi is also researching an innovative Fijian made biofuel that consists of a high percentage of locally produced coconut oil. Should the resort switch over to this particular fuel, it will offset its generator emissions by approximately 60-80%.

Despite it not being necessary at this point in time to conserve electricity use at the resort, Matanivusi aims to use only energy efficient appliances and lighting throughout the resort and will gradually phase out any non-efficient appliances and lighting in readiness for its transition to more renewable forms of power supply. The resort has phased out all incandescent light globes and is currently transitioning from CFL globes to LED’s.

Instantaneous gas hot water units are installed, which use far less energy than ‘storage’ type hot water systems.

Regular maintenance is undertaken on all appliances, especially fridges and freezers in order to ensure their continued efficiency.

The resort has almost completed transitioning all its outboard motors to four stroke engines, which are far more energy efficient (and produce less CO2 emissions) than two stroke engines.

Water Consumption
Matanivusi is particularly proud of its sustainability credentials in relation to water supply and consumption, and has a strong commitment to water conservation.

All fresh water at Matanivusi falls as rain from the sky overhead, onto the rooftops, and into rainwater catchment tanks. Every building, including staff quarters has rainwater catchment tanks. Except in unusual periods of extended dry weather, Matanivusi is self-sufficient in regards to fresh water, provided that staff and guests adopt a conservative approach to water use. Employees are regularly trained in the importance of water conservation, and guests are made aware of the need to conserve water.

Matanivusi employs various water saving measures, such as only dry sweeping decks, paths and walkways, and only washing linen/towels, when necessary. All toilets at the resort are dual flush and use less than 6L per flush.
Reducing Pollution
From its inception, Matanivusi has strived to have as little negative impact on the local environment as possible, and attempts to reduce or eliminate pollution from wastewater, waste, energy generation, chemical products, noise, light, runoff, erosion, and air and soil contaminants wherever possible.

All wastewater is treated in Biolytix Wastewater Systems located at various points throughout the resort. Filtered wastewater is then used as irrigation and natural fertiliser for landscaped gardens. Treated wastewater is tested annually during routine annual systems checks. See the Biolytix website for specifications and environmental safety (http://www.biolytix.com).

The resort has a ‘Reduce, Re-use, Recycle’ policy in regards to waste management, meaning that it makes every attempt to reduce consumption (especially of packaged, or single use items), re-use items as much as possible, and recycle any recyclable waste/materials. Preparing meals that contain a high percentage of fresh produce in lieu of canned or packaged foods, using multi-use plastic containers for food storage instead of plastic wrap/foil/disposab le containers, recycling aluminium cans, glass, egg cartons, paper and cardboard, and giving food scraps to employees for pig feed are all examples of how Matanivusi’s ‘Reduce, Re-use, Recycle’ waste management policy is followed. Employees are well versed in this policy and, along with management are constantly on the lookout for innovative ways in which to improve resort waste management, such as using broken surfboards as wall art.

The resort undertakes a weekly beach clean-up in which guests are encouraged to participate. All collected rubbish is sorted and recycled where possible.

The use of harmful chemical substances, such as certain pesticides, herbicides, swimming pool disinfectants, paints, and cleaning products is minimized or substituted with natural or innocuous products wherever possible and all chemical use is properly managed. For example, Matanivusi routinely uses a vinegar solution and bi-carb soda as cleaning products, burns citronella based candles to control mosquitoes in the bar/restaurant area, and minimises the use of chlorine in the swimming pool and spa. Matanivusi hopes to convert the swimming pool and spa to a salt water system in future.

Outdoor lighting at Matanivusi has been kept discrete in an effort to reduce light pollution, and guests are encouraged to switch off outside lights at night.

Runoff and erosion is reduced or eliminated due to the fact there are very few impervious areas within the resort (such as paving) which allows water to naturally penetrate the soil. Development of the resort
involved very little clearing, and an extensive and ongoing planting regime is in place which, along with raised boardwalks also helps to prevent runoff and erosion.

Matanivusi is currently exploring ways in which to reduce its CO2 emissions, and aims to be operating on renewable energy sources at some point in future. The resort is currently researching the feasibility/practicality of installing a solar power generation system, and aims to switch the generator over to bio-diesel in the near future. Matanivusi is also investigating an innovative Fijian made biofuel that consists of a high ratio of locally produced coconut oil which would offset the generator emissions by approximately 60-80%. The resort’s two vehicles currently run on diesel, and it is highly likely they will be switched over to bio-diesel in the near future. Almost all two-stroke outboards on the resort’s vessels have been phased out and replaced with four-stroke outboards, which emit far fewer emissions.

Conserving Biodiversity, Ecosystems, and Landscapes
Matanivusi places a very high importance on conserving biodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes within the local area, particularly within the confines of the resort.

The resort itself was designed and constructed in a way that has had as little impact on the local environment as possible. Minimal clearing was undertaken to make way for the development. Raised boardwalks and bure mean that life on the forest floor experiences very little disturbance. Biolytix wastewater systems prevent any wastewater from entering the local waterways. With the exception of fruit trees, vegetables, herbs and a few specimen plants, only native/indigenous vegetation is planted around the resort, which aids in conserving biodiversity and local plant species, while providing habitat for local fauna.

Matanivusi also contributes to biodiversity, ecosystem and landscape conservation beyond the resort by encouraging guests to visit the Biausevu Waterfall. Admission fees are used for local community development and conservation.

The resort is currently in the process of developing mangrove rehabilitation and coral planting programs in the local area, and hopes to have these up and running in the near future. These efforts will aid in rehabilitating damaged areas within the local ecosystem.

The resort is also exploring the possibility of developing a carbon offsetting program in which the operation’s CO2 emissions will be offset through local tree planting/revegetation programs.
**Surf Tourism Specialization**

**Safety**
Matanivusi places an extremely high importance on the safety of its guests.

- Surf guides/skippers are all highly experienced, and aim to quickly ascertain guest’s skill level so as to ensure surfers are not placed in conditions they are not capable of handling.
- Surf guides/skippers are trained in surf lifesaving, emergency first aid and CPR.
- First aid kits are located on board every vessel and the resort has extensive medical supplies.
- The largest vessel is equipped with a spinal management board and an EPIRB
- Minor injuries are treated at the resort, and guests with injuries requiring professional medical attention are transported to either Korovisilou Health Centre or Pacific Harbour Medical Centre (10-30 minutes from the resort). Guests with serious medical issues are transported to either Navua or Suva.
- Procedures for medical emergency and evacuation, along with procedures in the case of earthquakes and tsunamis are formalized into a written policy and communicated to all guests and employees. Employees undertake regular training and drills to ensure comprehension of these procedures. Guests are informed of their role in an emergency and of escape routes in the case of an earthquake or tsunami.

**Communications**
Matanivusi has a strict communications policy requiring surf guides and boatmen to routinely ‘check in’ with the resort upon arrival and departure at surf breaks. The resort is equipped with the following communications equipment:

- 6 VHF radios
- Multiple mobile phones specifically for use on Matanivusi’s fleet of vessels
- Telephone
- Broadband Internet
- EPIRB

**Equipment**
The resort aims to only purchase quality, durable equipment and maintain it to the highest standard at all times. Sustainability is a key factor in the decision making process surrounding any purchase of equipment at Matanivusi.

Matanivusi’s fleet of small vessels are all equipped to minimum safety requirements as per Maritime Safety Authority Fiji (MSAF) standards for commercial vessels under 15m.
Skilled Guide/Skipper/Instructor

Matanivusi places a very high importance on ensuring its surf guides/skippers/instructors are highly skilled.

- Matanivusi’s surf guides are experienced surfers and know the local breaks better than anyone.
- All guides are trained in driving vessels at sea, surf life-saving procedures and emergency first aid.
- Guides quickly ascertain guests’ surfing ability and will never place guests in conditions they are not capable of handling.
- Guests are informed of the many idiosyncrasies of each break upon arrival, and are given a briefing on surfing etiquette, and safety signals/procedures.
- Guides are also trained to provide quality interpretation of the local marine environment and its conservation.

Marine Environment

Matanivusi aims to act as a caretaker of the local environment, rather than damage it. Some examples of Matanivusi’s marine environmental conservation initiatives are listed below:

- Moorings have been installed at the popular surf breaks which prevents continual damage to coral reefs from the use of anchors. Other operators in the area are educated about how to use the moorings properly. Guests are educated about the moorings and reef conservation.
- Guests at Matanivusi are provided easy access to plastic bags in which to collect rubbish from the beach should they wish to do so while on a walk. The resort also does a weekly beach clean-up and guests are encouraged to participate.
- Matanivusi has a solid revegetation program in place along the foreshore which has aided in preventing erosion
- The resort has negotiated with local fisherman to create a fishing exclusion zone directly in front of the resort

Matanivusi is currently in the process of developing a coral planting program which will aid in rehabilitating damaged sections of reef, but also act as an activity for guests to take part in and learn about coral and reef conservation. The resort is also developing a mangrove rehabilitation program that will improve the ecosystem health of the nearby estuary.