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Greetings!

Stepping up eco-game in Kenya-the case of Emboo River Camp

While tourism contributes positively to national economy, there has also been increased negative impact on the environment in the form of generation of greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution among others. The degradation of vital life supporting ecosystems through human activities including tourism puts all of us at risk. We must therefore take transformative action to reverse these trends and make a difference! One way is through implementation of innovative approaches in tourist accommodations, for instance, eco lodges.

Eco lodges are part and parcel of ecotourism. In the Kenyan context, ecolodges have very distinct characteristics. Some of these include: location in a pristine natural environment, use of ecofriendly energy resources such as solar, reduced noise pollution among others. In a nutshell, ecolodges or camps are designed and operated to reduce [ecological footprint](#). An example of such a lodge or camp in Kenya is the latest addition to our collection of Gold rated properties in the Masai Mara, Emboo River Camp.

This week we will highlight some of the measures they have implemented.

Use of electric vehicle in game drives

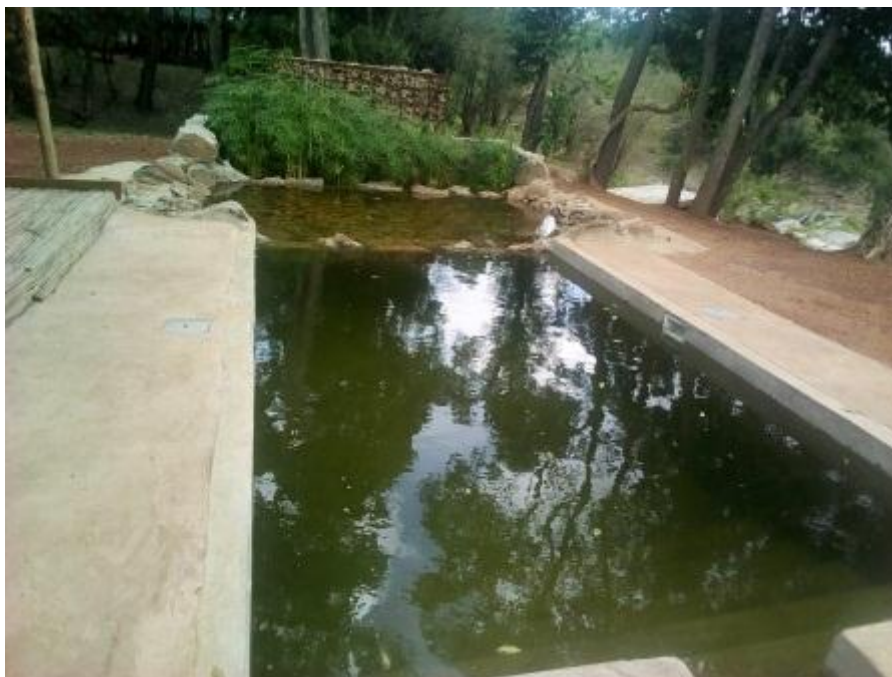
Electric vehicles for game drives is still a novel concept in the world of the automotive industry. However, in Kenya, Emboo River Camp has taken huge steps towards the realisation of use of electric vehicles. Although the cost of acquiring an

electric vehicle is high, the positives outweigh the negatives. Electric vehicles lead to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and noise pollution. In addition, they also require less maintenance due to the fact that they run on electrically powered engines and hence no need for lubrication. During the ecorating audit of the camp in November 2019, the ecorating team had the rare opportunity to see and understand how the vehicle operates (see illustration below of the vehicle).



Natural swimming pool

Have you ever come across a natural swimming pool? A swimming pool that uses no chemicals. Such is the swimming pool at Emboo River Camp. Natural types of swimming pools are self-cleaning through use of constructed wetlands. Natural swimming pools work differently to conventional swimming pools, in that there is a plant zone around the edge of the pool acts as a natural filtration system. When water passes through the plants' root structure, micro-organisms remove the contaminants, eliminating waste buildup and clarifying the pool. It is also important to note that the types of plants are a critical component of a natural swimming pool, and appropriate species will depend on the climate. Some of the plants that can be used include: typha and water lilies among others. By using a natural swimming pool to meet the recreational needs of its guests, the camp has ensured no chemicals are discharged into the environment, eliminating soil and ground water contamination. The illustration below is that of a natural swimming pool at Emboo River.



Treatment and reuse of wastewater

Emboo River Camp has ensured that both grey and black water generated by its operations is treated and re-used. The treated wastewater is reused in the toilets rather than being discharged into the environment. This has been achieved through a constructed lagoon that naturally filters the wastewater through a process of [phytoremediation](#), before being passed through an electrolyte chamber where it undergoes [electrolytic treatment](#). The illustration below is that of a constructed lagoon system in use at the facility.



In the near future, the facility intends to explore the possibility of using the treated wastewater in the showers as well, thereby further reducing its water consumption levels.

In addition to the above, the facility is also fully solar powered. Due to these great innovations and application of technology, Emboo River has gained huge publicity both at the local and international level. For instance, the camp was featured in

[K24's programme Ukwasi wa Kenya.](#)

The world today needs to make a radical shift to a more sustainable future, where innovation and technology is harnessed to tackle the environmental challenges. We hope that you have gained one or two ideas through this article on how you can contribute towards a better planet for us all!

What's latest on EK Eco-rating Certification?

Next month the Eco-rating team will be conducting audits in the Masai Mara and Samburu regions. If you would like your facility to be featured in these sets of audits, please contact the secretariat through ecorating@ecotourismkenya.org.

**Compiled by
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