

ANGAMA

ANGAMA MARA AWARDED GOLD ECO-RATING BY ECOTOURISM KENYA

MAASAI MARA – JUNE 3, 2019: Angama Mara is honoured to have been awarded a Gold Eco-rating by Ecotourism Kenya. This is the highest level of certification, awarded to tourism accommodation facilities that demonstrate “outstanding best practice” in the use of resources, working with local communities and the management of waste and emissions.



Eight Maasai women are employed by Angama Mara to create bespoke beaded items for guests, creating employment and opportunities for cultural interactions.

"We are proud of this achievement, which is testament to the efforts of our dedicated team. Just two years ago, and just two years of being open, we were delighted to be awarded a Silver Eco-rating, so it is encouraging to see the impact small and meaningful differences can make over time" said Nicky Fitzgerald, CEO of Angama Mara.

Angama Mara joins an esteemed list of 40 Kenyan properties, such as Cottars 1920's, Mara Plains and Solio Lodge, to be awarded Gold certification following a rigorous assessment process which adheres to the standards of the [Global Sustainable Tourism Council](#). According to Ecotourism Kenya, Gold-rated properties must have “achieved superior



and replicable levels of excellence in responsible resource use, environmental conservation and socio-economic investment”.

Central to Angama Mara’s socio-economic and environmental efforts is the [Angama Foundation](#) – a non-profit predominantly funded by small nightly donations by the lodge’s guests.

Since its establishment four years ago, the Angama Foundation has built an on-site clinic to service guests, staff and the surrounding community; built classrooms and teachers’ accommodation at neighbouring schools; purchased and funded the running costs of an rhino anti-poaching vehicle for the Mara Conservancy; and provided financial support to the Reserve’s livestock compensation programme, to name just a few projects.

When it comes to responsible resource use, almost two years into its journey to be [single-use plastic-free](#), the lodge has put programmes in place to repurpose unavoidable plastic waste. An example of this is the creation of EcoBricks, which are made by filling plastic water bottles with single-use plastic until they are firm enough to be used as building material. To date, more than 1,500 EcoBricks have been created, some of which have been used to construct the raised beds in the [Angama Shamba](#).

Additionally, all recyclable waste is sent back to Nairobi for proper disposal, while a reverse-osmosis water-bottling plant and reusable glass bottles has prevented the waste of nearly 100,000 plastic water bottles over the past four years.

In terms of creating local employment opportunities, all but three staff members are Kenyan. Of the 129 lodge staff, 23 started as builders when Angama Mara was being constructed in 2013 and are still with the company today after being upskilled to take on new roles, from *askaris* (security) through to chefs, butlers and even [a fully qualified safari guide](#).

Furthermore, eight Maasai women from the neighbouring community are employed to work in Angama’s Beading Studio. These women, affectionately known as the Maasai Mamas, make bespoke items for guests and teach them the art of Maasai beadwork, all the while creating opportunities for meaningful cultural exchanges between guests and local community members.

“It has always been our belief that when you put the guest first, the rest will follow. This esteemed endorsement for Angama Mara’s approach



serves to reaffirm our commitment to running a profitable business in order to make a sustainable difference to the communities that neighbor the lodge, and the wildlife and land that surround it,” adds Fitzgerald.

For more information about Angama Mara, visit: www.angama.com

ABOUT ANGAMA MARA:

High above the Maasai Mara where some of the most romantic scenes from Out of Africa were filmed, Angama Mara comprises two separate and intimate camps, each encompassing 15 tented guest suites. Built on the edge of the Great Rift Valley on one of the most sought-after sites on the continent, this lodge offers heart stopping views as far as the eye can see. The lodge, helmed by industry veteran Nicky Fitzgerald (formerly of &Beyond), boasts outstanding game viewing 12 months of the year, with private access to the reserve. Inspired by the Swahili word for 'suspended in mid-air,' Angama Mara floats 1,000 feet above the Maasai Mara, where, every morning, hot air balloons sail past the 30-foot-wide floor-to-ceiling glass fronts of each suite. In addition to consistently excellent game viewing, including Africa's Big Five, guests enjoy walking safaris, garden-to-table lunches in the shamba, editing their images in the Photographic Studio a fitness center, a 40-foot-long swimming pool, a curated gallery of African art, clothing and jewelry, and a sun-filled studio where local Maasai women work at beading bespoke items. Angama Mara was named #1 Safari Lodge in the World by Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards 2018.

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