



**Idube proudly participates in a number of projects aimed at improving the sustainability of South Africa's people and environment.**

## Lodge Upgrade

During the demolition and subsequent lodge upgrades, we made sure to recycle building materials where possible, use local staff, retain existing core building structures, add new environmentally-friendly solar and heating, and of course, restore the bush in the lodge construction area to good condition.

## Saving Electricity

A huge aim during the upgrade was to address energy usage by generating electricity from solar panels, as well as reduce our energy consumption.

Our solar panels serve a dual purpose and the majority serve as covered spaces for lodge vehicles, equipments and guests' cars, reducing environmental impact. With 380 panels, the forecasted power generation is 395 mega watt hours per year, the equivalent of burning 180 tons of coal. So far, we have remained off grid.

Another big energy saving change is that our water heating is much more energy efficient. Excess heat from the solar plant is fed into our centralised water heating system during the day, rather than it being wasted. Idube stores 4000 litres of water and the central plant, with one set of machines, also ensures that the system is efficient, water is cheaper to store and maintenance is kept to a minimum (rather than running a unit for each individual suite).

We also have used more energy efficient lighting and consideration of the future has been taken into account, where electric vehicle charging can be added easily to our new system.

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## Reusable Drinking Bottles

Idube uses reusable drinking bottles to reduce our plastic consumption, as well allowing us to give every guest staying with us a memento that they can continue to use long after their trip is over. Our plastic bottle usage is reduced by at least 3x plastic bottles per guest per night.

## Raised Walkways

We have expanded the walkway that led to the Makubela suites to reach all suites, from one side of the lodge to the other, reducing the amount human and animal contact, increasing safety for not only our guests and staff, but also for our animals. The pine wood used to build these walkways is locally sourced, from existing plantations and durable. The walkways also reduce erosion by drastically reducing the amount of foot traffic on the natural grass and allowing rain water to follow its natural course.





## Refuse

Weekly our refuse is removed from the property and taken for recycling by specialised recycling companies. During our lodge upgrade we used recycled building materials, such as bricks and window frames, to build a dedicated recycling storage room, free from animal interaction.

## Grey Water Recycling

Idube utilises a reed bed system into which all our grey water is channelled and recycled, then used to water our beautiful green lawns and gardens. This water-saving technique has, in fact, been in place since the late 1980s, as Idube has always been involved in the water conservation effort.

## Osmosis Plant

Idube has installed an osmosis plant at the lodge and this filtered water is used within the lodge.

## Food Sourced Locally

Food is sourced locally, and only viable, fresh food sources and products are used.



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## Conservation

As Idube Game Reserve is a privately owned lodge within the Sabi Sands Nature Reserve, it is ultimately our responsibility to protect the precious resource of this beautiful African bush and the animals that live within it, and we have conservation efforts and game viewing protocols in place to make sure this happens.

"In every area of our operations – and those of the luxury lodges within the Sabi Sand Nature Reserve – we look to minimise our environmental footprint whilst still contributing to the green economy." Source: [sabisand.co.za](http://sabisand.co.za)

## Local Support

The lodge supports local cultural initiatives and businesses in many ways, including buying curios from local artisans and crafts people, and employing local dancers and singers for our guests' entertainment, events etc. During our lodge renovation, we employed a large number of people from the local community, some of which were unskilled. We were able to train these individuals with skills that they can use later, such as building, painting, roofing and other job experience.

## Staff

The majority of our staff are from the local community, we'd estimate that at any given time they make up 80% of the team. We try to employ students during their internships and train them in the relevant departments to enable them to complete their qualifications and become more employable in the future. If our Field Guides wish to complete higher education to aid them in their work, they are encouraged to do so and reimbursed on completion of that qualification. We also made sure, during our 6 month lodge upgrade, that staff remained employed and busy, even if temporarily not in their field, and many new skills were also picked up by the team.