

**W**hen I started editing greenhotelier ten years ago, we all knew far less than we do today about the threat that global warming and climate change pose to our global environment. Looking back, the international hotel industry was remarkably prescient in addressing energy consumption issues as well as those of water use and waste reduction.



I firmly believe that the hotel industry's lead in managing its environmental impacts laid the foundations for where we are today. Now, increasingly, every sector of the tourism industry is being challenged to find solutions to environmental issues as well as socio-economic concerns, such as poverty alleviation and human rights.

The publication of the Stern report in November was a serious wake-up call on climate change. What will the situation be in another ten years' time? In 2017 we may look back and say how little we knew in 2007, but it is pretty clear that we all need to act urgently to curb CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and reduce our footprint on the planet.

Is the tourism industry doing enough? It's a question we ask in our feature on how to protect our fragile and increasingly threatened marine

and coastal environments. If we don't all go the extra mile very soon, tourism may become a thing of the past.

This is my last issue as editor and I would like to thank our readership for your loyalty over the years. It has been marvellous to report on the progress that the tourism industry has made. I am not disappearing and hope to contribute occasional articles along with other writers in the future.

The announcement at World Travel Market that 14 November will be World Responsible Tourism Day confirmed that sustainability is finally on the mainstream tourism agenda. More than ever, industry members will be seeking ways to become more sustainable – and where better to find the answers than in this magazine?

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# Responsible Tourism for a Sustainable Future.



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