

**LAKE OF STARS**

**Sustainability Action Plan 2014-15**

This Sustainability Action Plan has been prepared for the Lake of Stars Malawi Arts Festival held in September at Nkopola, Lake Malawi. It is based on the Sustainability Policy for the Festival and provides an outline of the measures required to implement that policy.

Colour coding:

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|  | Achieved/should be achievable in future |
|  | Partially achieved, priority to be implemented in future |
|  | Not achieved, difficult to implement without further work in future |

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|  |  | 2014 | 2015 | When funding allows |
| Community Outreach |
| 1.1 | Sales stalls for village sellers outside main entrance |  |  |  |
| 1.2 | Community sales outlet inside festival |  |  |  |
| 1.3 | Pre event meeting with village Chief |  |  |  |
| 1.4 | Tours of villages and local MOET Orphanage[[1]](#footnote-1) |  |  |  |
| 1.5 | Provision of free tickets for community representatives |  |  |  |
| 1.6 | Football tournament in the village |  |  |  |
| 1.7 | Encourage staff to contribute unwanted clothing to village stall[[2]](#footnote-2) |  |  |  |
| 1.8 | Local children given opportunity to perform on village stage |  |  |  |
| 1.9 | Artists visit and perform for orphan schools and village |  |  |  |
| 1.10 | Outreach concert in the village |  |  |  |
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| Waste Management |
| 2.1 | Collect food waste from caterers in village back of house and transport to MOET permaculture site for composting |  |  |  |
| 2.2 | Collect plastic bottles from all areas and take to street vendors or street children outside gate[[3]](#footnote-3) |  |  |  |
| 2.3 | Collect glass bottles from beach. Return to Star Bar, or beach bar or Sunbird bar[[4]](#footnote-4) |  |  |  |
| 2.4 | Organise litter pick, take bagged waste to waste storage area, regular Sunbird removal[[5]](#footnote-5) |  |  |  |
| 2.5 | Provide bins for separate waste in staff offices, with daily removal[[6]](#footnote-6) |  |  |  |
| 2.6 | Provide adequate bins for general waste collection throughout site. Ensure daily removal and cleansing |  |  |  |
| 2.7 | Communicate benefits of litter removal and recycling to staff and audience |  |  |  |
| 2.8 | Highlight benefits of initial waste successes in literature |  |  |  |
| 2.9 | Organise wood and metal waste collection during derig |  |  |  |
| 2.10 | Encourage caterers to use compostable plates and packaging[[7]](#footnote-7) |  |  |  |
| 2.11 | Potential litter pick in village by volunteers (subject to community approval)[[8]](#footnote-8) |  |  |  |
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| Biodiversity and Environmental Protection |
| 3.1 | Protect any sensitive local species and vulnerable habitats |  |  |  |
| 3.2 | Implement habitat improvement project[[9]](#footnote-9) |  |  |  |
| 3.3 | Prevent any pollution from entering Lake Malawi |  |  |  |
| 3.4 | Install drip trays under taps to prevent pooling or flooding |  |  |  |
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| Sustainable Transport |
| 4.1 | Organise shuttle buses to bring volunteers and staff to site |  |  |  |
| 4.2 | Set up lift share section on web site for those staff who do not get buses |  |  |  |
| 4.3 | Organise bus travel to site for artists |  |  |  |
| 4.4 | Organise and encourage bus/shared travel to site for guests[[10]](#footnote-10) |  |  | ? |
| 4.5 | Work with local travel providers and agencies to increase bus options to site for guests and staff[[11]](#footnote-11) |  |  |  |
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| Power and Energy |
| 5.1 | Aim to use solar power for lighting installations |  |  |  |
| 5.2 | Consider potential to install small wind turbine at Sunbird site to help power future festivals[[12]](#footnote-12) |  |  |  |
| 5.3 | Aim to ultimately use solar generators for at least 25% of power demand |  |  |  |
| 5.4 | Encourage all staff to follow a save energy / lights off policy |  |  |  |
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| Water conservation and quality |
| 6.1 | Introduce a don’t waste water policy to staff[[13]](#footnote-13) |  |  |  |
| 6.2 | Introduce taps with automatic turn off[[14]](#footnote-14) |  |  |  |
| 6.3 | Turn off garden sprinklers during festival[[15]](#footnote-15) |  |  |  |
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| Sanitation |
| 7.1 | Ensure toilet provision is removed without creating pollution to the environment |  |  |  |
| 7.2 | Minimise water and materials wastage associated with sanitation |  |  |  |
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| Procurement |
| 8.1 | Purchase as many services from local suppliers as possible during build, running and derig periods |  |  |  |
| 8.2 | Ensure all staff office purchases are bought from ethical suppliers[[16]](#footnote-16) |  |  |  |
| 8.3 | Purchase low energy items where practical[[17]](#footnote-17) |  |  |  |
| 8.4 | Consider disposal of purchase before buying - avoid buying things that will only end up in landfill where possible |  |  |  |
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| Communications |
| 9.1 | Use official web site and social media to promote other issues in this plan |  |  |  |
| 9.2 | Work with communications manager to highlight sustainability successes |  |  |  |
| 9.3 | Work with communications manager to promote interest in sustainability and engage with customers and suppliers |  |  |  |
| 9.4 | Use effective communications to encourage staff and public to become involved in Community Outreach[[18]](#footnote-18)  |  |  |  |
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| Climate Change |
| 10.1 | Encourage staff awareness to ensure that energy and materials are not wasted |  |  |  |
| 10.2 | Consider reducing CO2 emissions through using low energy products and raising staff awareness |  |  |  |
| 10.3 | Attempt to alleviate carbon footprint by developing a festival forest planting programme[[19]](#footnote-19) |  |  |  |
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1. Worked well in 2014, but room for greater participation, better communication and more formal organisation [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This was encouraged, but not promoted. If staff are aware beforehand, they might travel in clothes they do not intend to take back [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This is a form of recycling as children collect bottles, sell for kwa20 for reuse. There is no can recycling in Malawi so no opportunity to do anything similar with cans. Giving bottles to children helps local community and helps reduce waste. Bottles must not be crushed. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Bottle collection worked well due to kwa50 deposit on all bottles. However, this could be better organised to keep the beach clear of glass (difficult after dark, but easy during day) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. A more professional and organised waste management system is required, and should be prepared in advance in future. Writing a waste management operational plan will clarify roles, responsibilities and expectations. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Plastic bottles and glass should be collected. Outlet for paper waste to be sought [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. This is a huge benefit, but more expensive and currently impractical. But companies are currently introducing compostable packaging into Africa so it may be practical in future. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. This may or may not be a priority with villagers, but the village is badly littered (by western standards) with plastic bag waste. Volunteers may be encouraged to help clean up. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. There are many ways to do this, but might include using waste water to develop a flower bed in a currently dry area [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. This may not be easy but there may be options to reduce car transport by encouraging car share or taxi share [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. It is understood that working with the bus companies is not easy, and this may be a longer term goal [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. We could seek funding for a feasibility study and financial support from Scotland [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. This would start with a policy to ensure bottled water is drunk – there was substantial evidence of half-finished bottles being wasted in all staff areas – in a country where many people have inadequate water [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. May have to investigate how feasible this is in Malawi. Suppliers unknown. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. This could be unpopular with hotel, but would be a means to compensate for the additional water usage during the festival. The plants will survive with less frequent water for a short spell. Feasibility/ level of automation of system is unknown, so may be difficult to implement [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Difficult to ensure that e.g., T shirts are not made by child labour, but some efforts should be made to check. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Consider seeking funding to distribute LED lighting to hotel and venue [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Take up amongst festival goers was limited, suggesting better communications might be needed [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Festivals in the UK have the opportunity to contribute to the creation of festival wood. Given the significant tree cover loss in Malawi, this would be a valuable means of offsetting our CO2 emissions. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)