

**LAKE OF STARS**

**Sustainability Policy**

This sustainability policy has been prepared for the Lake of Stars Malawi Arts Festival held in September at Nkopola, Lake Malawi. It is based on an environmental appraisal of the premises made during the build up to the event, liaison with the event promoters before the event and on site during the festival, and through including a voluntary Sustainability Manager in the team working throughout the festival in Malawi.

Sustainability has many different aspects and this policy will focus on the socio economic and community aspects of sustainability in addition to the environmental issues which will be covered in some detail.

**Our Sustainability Mission**

We will aim to promote a festival which leaves a positive impact on the local community and which leaves such a minimal impact on the environment that one week after the event is cleared it should not be possible to detect that a festival had taken place.

**Our commitment to the environment**

Our commitment to the environment takes many different forms.

*Firstly,* we are aware that we are located in a beautiful and sensitive part of nature. Lying on the shores of Lake Malawi means that we will make sure we do our best not to damage or have an undue negative impact on this important area of natural beauty and fragile habitats. We will aim to leave the area as we find it, and within one week of Lake of Stars finishing we will aim to make it difficult to spot that a festival ever took place at our location. We will also ensure that before, during and after the event we:

* do not pollute water courses or soils,
* do not undertake practices that could cause habitat damage and
* do not have a detrimental impact on the environment through leaving litter or pollutants, through oil spillages or contamination or through graffiti or vandalism.

*Secondly,* we will aim to run a festival with as little generation of greenhouse gas emissions as possible. We will develop initiatives to reduce landfilled waste, reduce the use of diesel and other pollutant fuels and consider the monitoring and control of noise pollution and air quality.

*Thirdly*, and of greatest importance in our location, we will work with the local community and provide them with opportunities to benefit from the festival on their doorstep. Where possible we will use local suppliers and services and aim to recycle as much of our expenditure in the local economy as possible.

*Fourthly*, we will start the process towards winning A Greener Festival award and work with music industry organisations such as Julie’s Bicycle to help us keep the environment and the means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the forefront of our planning.

Overall we will promote the concept of environmental respect to our customers. We will use the most appropriate means available to communicate our message to all ticket holders.

**The scope of our Sustainability Policy**

Our sustainability policy has three clear sections:

**Our environmental policy will cover**:

* Fuel use onsite and getting to the site
* Protection of the lake and other water courses, water bodies and drainage channels
* Protection of flora and fauna
* Reduction of waste and increases in reuse and recycling of waste materials
* Collection of food waste for distribution to local composting schemes
* Reduction of pollution risk and positive incident response
* Procurement and back office behaviour carried out in the spirit of sustainability and in line with this policy

**Our economic policy will cover:**

* Promoting the Festival Internationally such that new foreign income is introduced to the area
* Encouraging visitors to stay in Malawi and contribute to the economy over and above their contribution through attending Lake of Stars
* Working with local accommodation providers to ensure they benefit from the presence of the large crowd staying in the area
* Encouraging overseas based staff to volunteer such that festival expenditure can be focused on paying Malawi staff rather than UK or European staff
* Attracting International Sponsorship to help make the festival economically viable
* Encouraging visitors to contribute to the local economy, through promoting local suppliers

**Our social and community policy will cover:**

* Use of local labour to help build the site
* Purchase of local supplies
* Purchasing local food and drink where possible
* Supporting local services
* Engaging with the local council to ensure we comply with local rules, customs and expectations
* Engaging with the local village Chief to ensure that we meet her expectations and to offer her villages the opportunity to benefit from the event
* Engaging with local agencies to determine how we can leave a positive legacy
* Encouraging outreach work and facilitating local community wishes where practical

According to ISO20121 – the international standard for sustainable event management – the sustainable development principles each organisation should subscribe to are

* Integrity;
* Inclusivity;
* Stewardship; and
* Transparency.

We will ensure that we aspire to these principles and treat them seriously in the planning, development and operation of Lake of Stars.

**Measuring success**

We will measure success each year where practical. Unlike a UK based festival, recording figures for waste and recycling rates, water and waste water, fuel use, public transport use and car parking, will be difficult. Monitoring and measuring will largely be anecdotal although where an issue can effectively be measured, we will do so.

**Communicating Achievements**

Our achievements will be communicated via the official Lake of Stars website and as advised by the event’s media advisors. There may be a distinction between local and international audiences and any communications will have to bear this in mind.

The event social media manager will be made aware of sustainability successes, environmental requirements and community opportunities before the event starts. He / she will then publicise this in line with their normal social media channels.

**Working with Supply Chains and ensuring support office compliance**

We are aware that protecting the environment starts in our promoter’s office and our partner’s premises. We will aim to work with suppliers who also take the environment seriously and who have appropriate environmental and ethical policies in place.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Steve Taylor for Lake of Stars, September 2014.

**Appendix A: Environmental Checklist**

**Based on qualification for a ‘Green’ discount, on festival insurance. In the UK festivals will have to demonstrate compliance with 5 of the following in order to qualify for an insurance discount.**

**Those highlighted in Green are those which Lake of Stars should aim to comply with as a priority. Those in amber are areas where compliance in future might be achievable.**

* We have an environmental policy which extends to waste and recycling, energy use, water, environmental protection and transport which extends to both on-site and offsite activities - and which all senior management are aware of and
* We have compost toilets on-site.
* We encourage festival goers to minimise water wastage by using taps which turn off automatically when not in use, e.g. pump powered taps or similar systems.
* We minimise water use by providing toilets which re-use grey water to flush toilets.
* We ensure traders use only eco-friendly cleaning products.
* We promote recycling on-site and actively promote the recycling of paper, card, plastics, metals and glass   .
* All caterers on site are required to use bio-degradable and / or reusable food utensils and containers?  This extends to traders, crew catering, hospitality & sponsors and non-recyclable disposables are banned.
* We provide a waste management facility that separates waste for recycling.
* We give all organic waste to local farm(s) to convert to compost, or provide an on-site composting or anaerobic digestion area.
* We measure greenhouse gas emissions from our event and seek to reduce our carbon footprint year on year.
* We ensure that at least 25% of the power used at the festival is supplied by bio diesel and/or solar power.
* We have adopted environmentally friendly practices for audience transport including the provision and/or promotion of public transport and carpooling.
* We apply car park charges or a charge per vehicle brought to the festival.
* We ensure that the use of electricity and power is minimised, and that energy saving equipment and lighting is used on site.
* We actively campaign to promote good environmental practice (for example by banning plastic water bottles or sauce sachets, by supporting local wildlife or tree planting schemes, by eliminating no recyclable disposables, by inviting environmental groups to the festival, by promoting local foods, drinks and suppliers).

**Appendix B Community Outreach 2014**

**Onsite**

**1.** There is a space outside the Festival (by the gate) where members of the local community can sell curios. The village chief will coordinate this.

**2.** There will be a store inside the festival where two representatives from the community will be selling arts & crafts made by the local community. This will also be where LOS visitors can sign up for the Village Tours and MOET Tours described below.

**3.** LOS will provide the local community with about 30 tickets for them to attend the festival.

**Offsite (Nearby Community Soccer Pitch)**

**1.** 6 aside LOS Soccer tournament (Saturday 27th, 10.00 – 13.00)

• Featuring Bilingo Stars – Local community team.

• Teams from sponsors.

• Teams from local businesses.

**2.** LOS Outreach Concert (Saturday 27th 14.00 – 16.00)

• Featuring Bilingo Stars Acrobatics team.

• Artists from the LOS Festival.

**3.** Village Tours (All Weekend on the hour)

• People can sign up at the village stall inside LOS Festival

• Highlight: Nyau/Gule wa Nkulu Dancers at the chief’s house.

• Run by Cesar (0888 171 866)

**4.** MOET Tours (All weekend)

• People can sign up at the village stall inside LOS.

• Tour of the local MOET orphanage ([www.fomoe.org](http://www.fomoe.org)).

• Participants get to meet students & get walked through the program.

• Participants can also join students in activities: computer training, gardening, Library, Drawing.