Responsible Tourism Policy

The Livingstone Tanzania Trust believes that tourism should aspire to bring benefits to both the host community and those who are visiting it. We believe that the host community must to be fully engaged in the decision as to whether visitors are welcome, the numbers, duration, activities included in and frequency of such visits. We are committed to working with hosts and visitors to maximise the positive impacts of any visit and minimise the negative ones whilst providing the visitors with an enjoyable, rewarding and high-quality experience. We do this through pre, during and post visit meetings with hosts and visitors.

We are committed to addressing the economic, social and environmental impacts of each visit through various strategies.

Social Impacts

We acknowledge that when people from different cultures meet there will similarities and differences between them. It is our responsibility to work with hosts and visitors to ensure that and differences are explained and understood prior to arrival and to create a safe space in which similarities and differences can be discussed and cultural exchange take place. We achieve this through: -

- Providing briefing sessions to the hosts about the visitor, their age and background and their desire to always be respectful. We explain that they may each come from different countries and may each have their own cultures. We work together to co-create safeguarding guidelines to ensure that the visitors do not behave or dress in a way that is offensive.
- Providing briefing sessions to the visitors outlining how geography, history, religion, education, and politics have contributed to the rich culture of the community we are visiting. During these sessions we discuss acceptable and unacceptable behaviour and dress.

- We provide a safe structured stime at arrival and departure gatherings and at a community lunch to engage with each other as equals and discuss topics that either side wish to discuss. We ensure that a local translator is available to facilitate this. Should the community wish to bring drums to the events we would encourage all to engage in community dances as a celebration of friendship and not as a show.
- Our school volunteers are not permitted to drink, smoke, take drugs or engage in sexual activities whilst on their visits, while our adult volunteers are permitted to drink responsibly in the evenings and smoke cigarettes but never on school grounds.
- Our volunteers are permitted to bring gifts for schools but must present them publicly and to the Head Teacher or Community Leaders and never to individuals.

We also recognise the importance of avoiding 'visitor fatigue' and so we therefore manage the number of teams visiting on community to a maximum of 2 teams per year and they never stay for more than 2 weeks at any one time.

Environmental Impacts

We acknowledge that the act of travel and being away from home can have a negative environmental impact and we seek to manage that through the following strategies: -

- Discuss with visitors the importance of self-regulation, making sure that each person adopts an environmentally friend approach to their trip, including careful packing, sharing goods, using environmentally friendly soap and shampoo, using refillable water bottles for purified water, using solar power to recharge electrical goods.
- We have established a tree nursery at our office and we continually provide trees for schools to plant in their environment.
- We ensure that any school that provides accommodation to schools are provided with a fuel-efficient stove and how to use it so that firewood consumption is reduced. We are working with schools to create self-sustaining supplies of firewood.
- We train the visitors on how to manage with less water than they are used to so that local supplies are not affected by their presence.

Economic Impacts

We acknowledge the economic benefits that visitors can bring to their host community and we work to maximise the exposure of local business and services to the visitors. We seek to maximise the opportunities for economic benefit by: -

- Ensuring that building materials are bought as locally as possible and transported using local service providers.
- Ensuring that local services (builders, security guards, chefs, taxi drivers and painters) are hired from within the community.
- That volunteers work alongside and not instead of local builders and that their wages are not impacted by the addition of the volunteers.
- Local artisans are provided with a structured means why which they can sell their produce to the visitors.
- The food consumed by the visitors is locally grown.