

## The Dandelion Hideaway - Environmental Policy

The Dandelion Hideaway works to combine luxury tented accommodation in a sensitive environment, within an environmental and ethical framework. The Dandelion Hideaway is trying to maintain a balance between helping the environment and community in which we live and providing guests with the highest quality luxury tented holiday as possible.

We are not always perfect and we constantly strive to improve both our guests' experience and the impact of what we do on the environment and community.

### Waste Management

- To measure and look at ways to reduce our consumption of energy and water. In the first instance the measure will be in line with the Green Tourism Business Scheme of consumption per bed stay.
- We treat effluent water on site and discharge the treated water on site (via bio digesters) with consent from the Environment Agency.
- Identify and minimise and phase out the use of harmful chemicals.
- We recycle and encourage our guests to recycle materials, packaging and waste and examine ways to reduce and phase out such "waste" materials at source in the first instance.

### Environment

- Food is sourced locally where possible, e.g. meat, we only stock meat that is reared in England and adheres to the highest welfare standards.
- We have a Woodland Management Programme; this includes tree and planting such as native English Bluebells, and the control of pests, i.e. such as grey squirrel and invasive non-native plants, such as Rhododendron and Bracken.
- We have created a wildlife pond.
- We encourage wildlife and biodiversity. We plant an acre of Phacelia to encourage the bumble bee population.
- On-site shop selling basic food and drink items to reduce the need for guests to travel elsewhere for them.
- Local labour used for the construction and on-going maintenance of the buildings and gardens.
- All timber is sourced locally.
- We monitor and manage our energy use.

### Information

- To phase in where not already implemented the monitoring and measuring of the consumption of materials, type of materials and identifying areas for improvement, with targets were relevant and useful to the pursuit of improvement.
- All staff are aware of the policy, its aims and reasons for being, and environmental information is available to guests, should they wish to avail themselves of it.

### Community

- Engage with schools, neighbours, and local business.
- Pay staff more than the minimum wage.
- We are committed to support Nyakweri Primary School, Mfangano Island, North Mfangano, Lake Victoria, Kenya. We donate to support environmental and educational projects. In late 2011 we contributed to starting a library project for the school.

We can work together to make less impact on our surroundings; we ask our guests to do the following:

- Use the recycling facilities. Please Reduce, Re-use and Recycle.
- In the Canvas Cottages, please help conserve water by not flushing toilets unnecessarily.
- Use only the ecological cleaning products we supply.
- Buy local food and services whilst you are here to help the local community that you came to visit. Buy products with less packaging to dispose of.
- Leave no litter and respect the Country Code.
- We have limited public transport, however we have lovely walks using the footpaths locally, so why not leave the car behind for a day, take a picnic and explore the immediate, beautiful countryside.
- Take only photographs leave only footprints.