



## OUR COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP Cape Whale Coast

**Ecotourism:** defined by The International Ecotourism Society (TIES)

*Uniting conservation, communities and sustainable travel, and promoting responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment and improve the well-being of local people.*

**Ecotourism:** defined by Martha Honey, Co-founder of the Center for Responsible Travel.

*Travel to fragile, pristine, and usually protected areas that strive to be low impact and (often) small scale. It helps educate the traveler; provides funds for conservation; directly benefits the economic development and political empowerment of local communities; and fosters respect for different cultures and for human rights.*

### The Heart of MOSAIC:

Following what we believe are fundamentals of environmental integrity, social justice and economic development is at the heart of what we do at Mosaic.

- Active conservation and part of the Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy
- Our guests' experience and appreciation of the natural environment
- Involvement in environmental and needs of the disadvantaged community in Stanford and its transformation.

### Restoring our ecosystem:

We have cleared over 300 hectares of land (much of it on the lagoon front) densely infested with Rooikraans, Port Jackson and Myrtle, and continue in our clearing efforts. As part of the Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy, we also work with the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative (ABI), and the Working For Water and Working For Fire initiatives with alien vegetation clearing. This has brought back indigenous plant, bird, and insect and mammal life, and restored the balance of the eco-system. Our management staff are trained conservationists and wildlife guides. Management along with the owners, Breese and Kathryn Johnson, are passionate about restoring our environment.

### Nature based tourism:

Educational activities for a guest's stay on Mosaic focus on the spectacular natural beauty of the Cape Whale Coast and Cape Floral Kingdom:

- Guided birdwatching and nature walks to learn about our ecosystem.
- Fynbos gardens and 1000 hectares of fynbos to explore.
- Whale watching from the Walker Bay Nature Reserve and Beach
- Kayaking and boat cruises on the Hermanus Lagoon for birdwatching
- Library in the restored 1892 Stanford Spookhuis with Roberts Birds of Southern Africa and nature DVD's

### Environmental and Community involvement and support:

- **Stanford Peace & Netball Project 2019:** Empowering girls for peace and strong futures with PeaceJam and Netball. Kathryn Johnson submitted and received approval for a Global Grant from Rotary International to build a Netball court in Stanford, which will be completed in 2019. The grant included hosting a Netball Coaching and Peace workshop for young local women in Stanford, which took place in March, 2019. Five coaches from Netball America facilitated a week long Netball workshop and PeaceJam South Africa facilitated a weeklong Peace workshop. A goal is to use Netball as a platform to teach peace building concepts for positive community change. The project was enormously successful by training additional coaches in Stanford and the Overstrand, and the current Stanford Netball coach has started a PeaceJam Chapter in Stanford.
- **Rotary Club of Stanford, South Africa:** Assisted in establishing this club, which is now a sister club to the Rotary Club of Knoxville (RCK) USA, where Mosaic's owner is a member. Mosaic facilitates visits from Rotarians from the RCK to volunteer in the disadvantaged community in Stanford and raise funds for projects: [www.rotaryclub.org.za](http://www.rotaryclub.org.za)
  - Solar Jar Project – provide a solar jar for every child in Stanford living without electricity.
  - Soup Kitchens – meals are served to over 450 disadvantaged people per day.
  - Bags of Love – bags of food are provided to those in need at Christmas when soup kitchens are closed.
  - Winter Warmth Project – winter blankets are provided to every person in need.
  - Stanford Youth Soccer Team – transportation, uniforms and equipment are provided for youth.
- **National Christian Foundation:** Established a USA based non-profit fund to assist with financial needs of the Stanford community, several pre-primary schools, soups kitchens, and the Stanford Football Club.

- **University of Tennessee:** Established a partnership with the African Studies Department, Knoxville, Tennessee that sends groups of university students to Stanford to work with disadvantaged people and facilitate projects.
- **Serve A Village Foundation:** Established a partnership with this organization that has sent groups of volunteers to work in the community. Many of these are medical volunteers. [www.serveavillage.org](http://www.serveavillage.org)
- **Youth Camps 2005 - 2010:** Organized and facilitated camps for disadvantage youth in Stanford.
  - Teen Leadership Camp – teach hospitality skills training & environmental education & sports (4 years).
  - Day Camp for all ages – games, art, sports (4 years).
  - Organized a soccer coach training clinic and student camp for area teams (Stanford, Hermanus & Gansbaai) before the 2010 World Cup. Brought in Premier League coaches and adults from the USA, and Grassroot Soccer, a non-profit organization that teaches about HIV/AIDS on the soccer field. [www.grassrootsoccer.org](http://www.grassrootsoccer.org)
- **Food 4 Thought Pre-Primary School & Garden:** Financial and volunteer support of a school for disadvantaged children. We have donated to their projects, running costs and teachers support. [www.food4thought.org.za](http://www.food4thought.org.za)
- Organize opportunities for American students or postgraduate individuals to volunteer in several community projects: Food 4 Thought Pre-Primary school, 5 soup kitchens, an orphanage/school and a soccer program.
- **Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy:** Member and active participation. [www.fynbos.co.za](http://www.fynbos.co.za)
- **Stanford Tourism Bureau:** Membership and active participation.

Mosaic was honored as part of Premier Helen Zille's "100% Green Initiative in 2013.



#### Sustainable Building and operating practices that we have implemented and the benefits:

Below is a summary of our beliefs and practices.

- The following building materials have been sourced from Mosaic, and the resulting community benefits:
  - All of the building stone used is from Mosaic's land, using local labor to rip it.
  - The thatch used (a renewable material) was sustainably harvested from Mosaic using local labor.
  - Dead Milkwood branches (reusable material) were used as building supports at the Lagoon Lodge and also for furniture.
    - Natural materials so no pollution from manufacturing
    - No pollution for transportation of material
    - Good weather insulators
    - Provided local jobs
- The furniture and countertops at the Lagoon Lodge were made from a dead tree that we bought, which washed up on the Milnerton Beach. A cargo shipment of Gaboon Trees from Gabon Africa lost the cargo at sea and the trees washed up on the coast of West Africa. 13 meters long x 1 meter in diameter. We used a local furniture maker in Hermanus to make the furniture
  - Bed platforms & headboards at Lagoon Lodge
  - Dressing tables at the Lagoon Lodge
  - Beds & headboards at Mosaic Cottages
  - Large bar countertop at the Lagoon Lodge
  - 2 large dining tables & bases

- Coffee tables & bases
  - Small benches/tables
- Lagoon Lodge rooms are heated with environmentally friendly, high tech fireplaces that use biofuels.
- We have used local, natural, durable materials for flooring, countertops, showers, etc.
  - Eliminates pollution from manufacturing of synthetic materials
  - Durability eliminates replacement of materials
- The windows in the cottages have small transom windows that keep airflow to a maximum for cooling.
  - Helps eliminate need for air conditioning.
- Radiant heating (under floor heating) used in cottage.
  - More environmentally friendly than central heat.
- Our outdoor picnic tables & trash receptacles are made from recycled lumber (natural color–no dyes)
  - Keeps plastic out of landfills!
  - Reusable material, so no pollution from manufacturing
  - Saved on other trees being needed to make wood tables, etc.
  - Provided local jobs
- 1892 Spookhuis restoration:
  - Magnificent historic build was in a complete state of ruin.
  - Restoration work completed in 2008.
- We are very proud of our Organic Vegetable, Herb garden and worms.
  - No pollution for transportation of food from other areas or overseas.
  - Provides local jobs
  - Healthier for our guests at Mosaic and the Lagoon Cafe in the 1892 Spookhuis.
  - We provide our staff and local soup kitchens with healthy vegetables.
- We use local suppliers, fair trade companies and South Africa companies who are focused on local job creation initiatives:
  - Rain Africa - Located in nearby Swellendam, they produce handmade body products and hand-crafted home wares using natural ingredients with African origins. We are proud to be a Rain Spa and exclusively use their spa products and room amenities. [www.rainafrika.com](http://www.rainafrika.com)
  - Bean There Coffee – We exclusively use their coffee products. They are South Africa’s first roaster of Certified Fair-Trade coffee. [www.beanthere.co.za](http://www.beanthere.co.za)
  - Mungo Designs - Located near Plettenberg Bay, Mungo is a fabric weaver that embraces the philosophy of environmental and social responsibility and Fair Trade. We use natural linen and cotton Mungo guest towels, cotton bathrobes and linen throws. [www.mungo.co.za](http://www.mungo.co.za)
  - Curios – We purchase only African made products to sell in our curio shop.
  - We source our meat, fish & seafood, cheese, beverages and other products from local producers.
- We use LED lamps exclusively in lighting fixtures.
- We have been very careful to keep lighting adequate where needed, but not over light.
  - Light pollution has been proven to change migratory patterns – most important.
  - It reduces energy used and the number of light bulbs that go into landfills.

Living in our modern cultures today we all simply produce a lot of waste, but we can take steps to

**Reduce**-our consumption

**Reuse**-when we can

**Recycle**-as much as we can