Ref.ª F/SOSERS

# Environmental Responsibility Statement

**Associação F/SOS – Fotografia, Solidariedade e Obras Sociais**
**F/262 – Festival Internacional de Fotografia**

## Introduction

The world is facing interconnected environmental challenges, including the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and increasing pressure on natural resources. These challenges require urgent and collective action across all sectors of society.

The cultural sector has an important role to play in this transition. Cultural organisations not only have a responsibility to reduce their own environmental impact, but also hold a unique position to inspire reflection, dialogue, and change through artistic practice and public engagement.

Associação F/SOS – Fotografia, Solidariedade e Obras Sociais recognises the importance of contributing to a more sustainable future through its cultural activities, particularly through its main programme, **F/262 – Festival Internacional de Fotografia**.

## Our Organisation

Associação F/SOS is a non-profit organisation dedicated to photography, culture, education, and social engagement. Through artistic programming, exhibitions, and educational initiatives, the association promotes dialogue between photography, territory, memory, and community.

The **F/262 – Festival Internacional de Fotografia** is the organisation's flagship project, developed across multiple locations in Portugal, particularly within the Centro region. The festival brings together artists, communities, institutions, and audiences through exhibitions, workshops, talks, and collaborative projects.

Because our work is deeply connected to landscape, territory, and local communities, environmental responsibility is a fundamental part of how we develop and produce our activities.

## Understanding Our Environmental Impact

Like many cultural initiatives, the activities of the association and the festival have environmental impacts. These may include travel associated with artistic and cultural programming, transportation of artworks and materials, exhibition production, energy consumption in venues, and the use of temporary infrastructures.

Recognising these impacts is an important step in improving how we work. Our goal is to progressively measure, understand, and reduce the environmental footprint of our activities while maintaining strong artistic programmes and accessible cultural experiences.

## Our Commitments and Actions

Associação F/SOS and the F/262 Festival are committed to integrating environmental responsibility into the planning and production of cultural activities. Our actions include:

### Commitment to the Gallery Climate Coalition

- Joining the Gallery Climate Coalition (GCC) and committing to align our practices with its principles and guidance for reducing environmental impact in the visual arts sector.
- Working towards measuring and monitoring the carbon footprint of our activities to establish a baseline and identify opportunities for reduction.

### Circular Economy and Regional Collaboration

- Participation in the **Pacto para a Economia Circular da Região Centro**, through the initiative **F/262 Circular Culture Lab – Fotografia, Território e Economia Circular**.
- This initiative promotes circular production practices in cultural programming, including the reuse of exhibition structures, reduction of material waste, and the promotion of environmental awareness through photography and community engagement.

### Sustainable Cultural Production

- Prioritising the reuse of exhibition structures and display systems across multiple editions of the festival.
- Choosing durable, recyclable or reusable materials whenever possible in exhibition design and communication supports.
- Reducing unnecessary printing and favouring digital communication tools where appropriate.

### Local Collaboration and Reduced Transport

- Working closely with local municipalities, organisations and cultural spaces in order to reduce transportation needs and strengthen regional cultural networks.
- Prioritising local and regional production whenever possible.

### Education and Community Engagement

- Developing educational programmes, workshops and public activities that promote environmental awareness, responsible consumption and dialogue around sustainability.
- Engaging communities, schools and young creators through initiatives such as the **NextGen educational programme** and other participatory activities linked to the festival.

## A Continuous Process

We recognise that becoming more environmentally responsible is an ongoing process. Our practices will continue to evolve as we gather more information, measure our impact and learn from our partners and collaborators.

We aim to approach this work with transparency, responsibility, and openness to improvement. We welcome dialogue and feedback from artists, audiences, partners, and communities as we continue developing more sustainable ways of producing culture.

**João Carlos**
Director and Curator – F/262 Festival Internacional de Fotografia
President – Associação F/SOS – Fotografia, Solidariedade e Obras Sociais

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