

Nature and music to meet at Lake St Lucia festival

2 THE MERCURY
Friday, November 19, 1999

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ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

LAKE St Lucia will thump to the sounds of musicians from around the world next month during a new festival of culture, music and nature.

The two-day Living Treasures festival from December 15 to 16 will be held at the picturesque St Lucia estuary, where a huge bandstand will be erected on the beach, framed by a backdrop of the Indian Ocean and the lake mouth.

Musicians and performers from more than 20 countries have been lined up for the event, which is expected to coincide with an announcement by the United Nations giving World Heritage Site status to the St Lucia Wetland Park.

Home-grown talent such as Ray Phiri, Vusi Mahlasela, Wendy Oldfield and Nico Carstens will join up with a host of international and African talent which will include Gito Baloi of Mozambique, Young Ba'Cuba from Congo, Pedro Espi-Sanchis of Spain, Drums Across from Denmark and Bob Grosman from the US.

Organiser Dave Marks, who was closely involved with the Splashy Fen festival, said the new Living Treasures festival at St Lucia would become an annual event to boost tourism and promote the music of KwaZulu-Natal.

He is hoping that 8 000 people will attend the festival, where they will also have the opportunity to explore the cultural and natural



PICTURE: TONY CARNIE

NATURAL BEAT: Youngsters from the Newcastle-based Zamani dance club pound the beach sand at Lake St Lucia yesterday, the site of a new music festival next month which includes more than 20 local and international artists. Festival organisers also hope to encourage up-and-coming local talent such as the Zamani dancers, who toured Italy earlier this year.

beauty of the area.

A special fence will be erected to separate revellers from the dangers of the hippos and crocodiles in the nearby estuary, while a team of

Durban rickshaw pullers will help to ferry visitors from the car park to the festival site.

Musicians will also be livening up St Lucia village in the evenings,

with performances at local restaurants and other venues.

☐ Tickets, at R50 a day or R80 for both days, are available from Ticketline.

Phone Third Ear Music at (031) 207-5314, Awesome Africa at (031) 206-2494 or Ms Ida Scheepers, of the Mtubatuba Publicity Association, at (035) 550-4265.